

volume 2
number 2

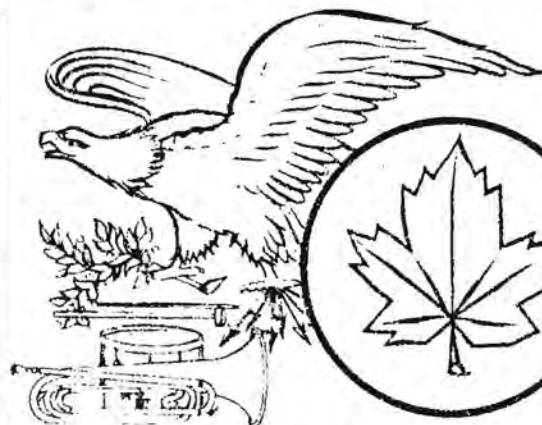
January 1962



GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS

THE VOICE OF THE CORPS

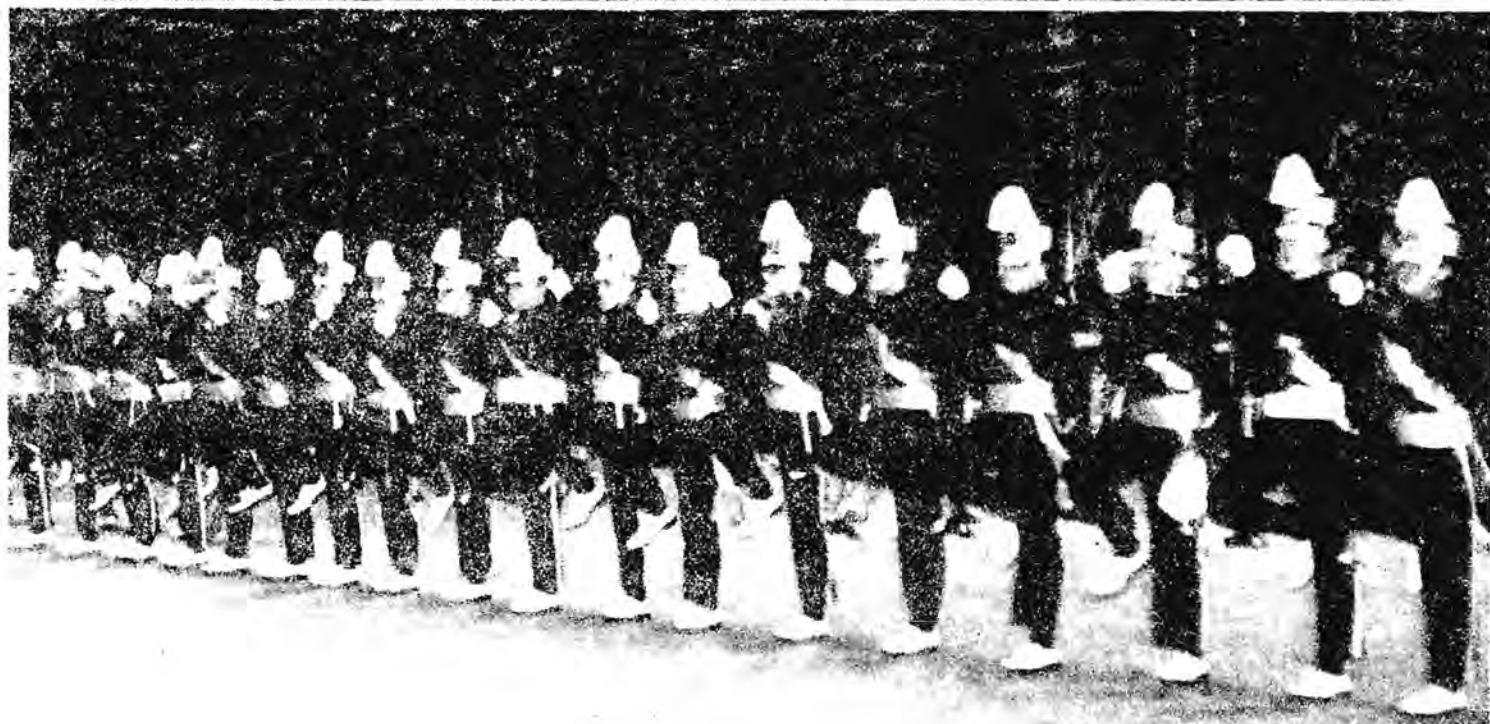
Announcing ...



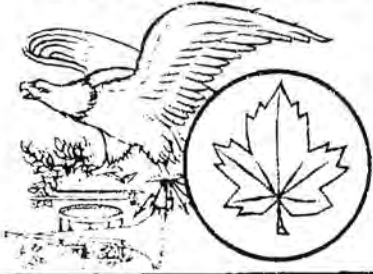
THE JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

Varsity Stadium TORONTO June 2

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF TORONTO INC.



The **BIG** in!
ONE 62!

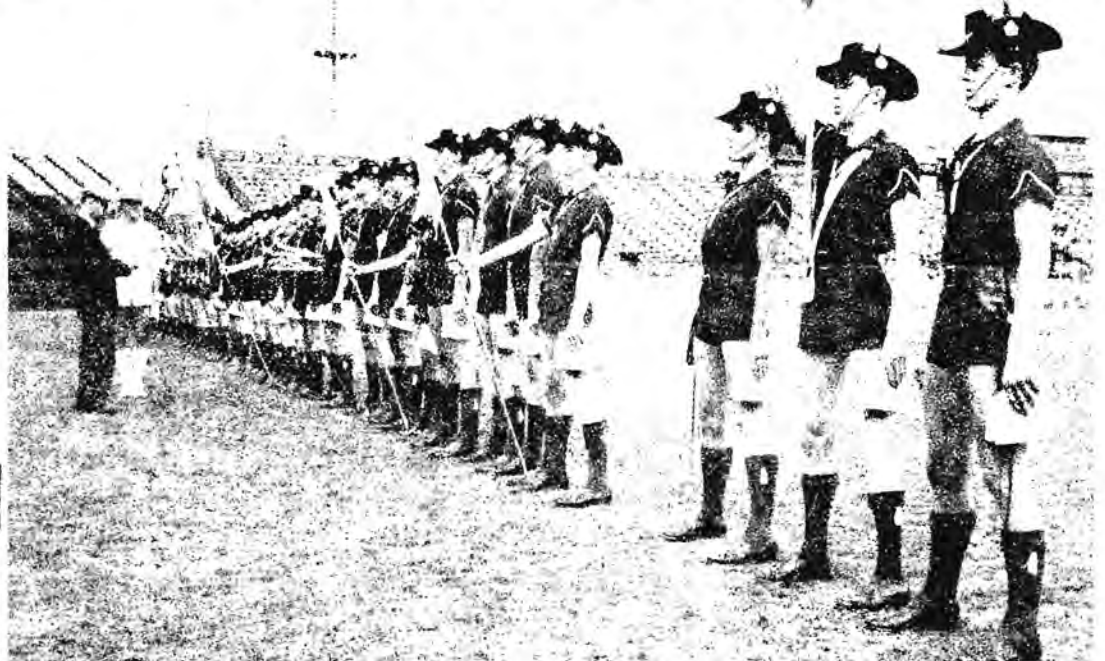


THE JUNIOR
INTERNATIONAL
PARADE OF
CHAMPIONS

VARSIITY STADIUM
TORONTO JUNE 2



among
competing
Corps



GARFIELD CADETS!

The TORONTO OPTIMISTS

SCOUT HOUSE



**PLUS 3 OTHER TOP CANADIAN
AMERICAN JR. CORPS!**

...TO BE ANNOUNCED

inside the corps

WITH-ROSS CATION * DICK WARD * DOUG YARKER

...Look, Maw...we're working under a NEW masthead...Just like Ed Rooney. So here we go "INSIDE THE CORPS" for this month...MEL DEY would like to know where to get some grade six school books...since he has gone back to school.....RUMOUR---new Optimist Concert will be THE TWIST.....AL LAVIGNE would like all the peanut money in by mid-January so he can obtain his new Austin Healy...and you notice that for a while last month COLIN HEDWORTH always broke out in a cold sweat every time someone mentioned PEANUT MONEY...Heard rumours FRANZ ROOD is making a lot of dough lately.....we are now taking donations for the KARL BOSSERT lonely-hearts club---whats the matter, Karl..don't the girls like plastic???? DOUG YARKER asks where he can buy a wig since he got his hair cut (any ideas, Mr. Beer??)

NEIL IBBITSONS new job is making licence plates up in Kingston---guess he didn't own all those cars.....RUMOUR---The JESTERS "Off-the-line" in '62 will be Jingle Bells????.....GLEN COPP and OREST BURACK headed for Jersey over the Christmas holidays to visit Corps (or girls)....JOHN SHEARER has become a full-fledged MAIL BOY as a reducing means for the oncoming year....DOUG YARKER recommends IVAN HAIR STYLISTS for the boys who like boys.....thats IVAN not "IVOR"....CONGRATULATIONS are in order to TED SHAW on his recent engagement to ANN JENNER (Ted is now with THE JESTERS...those Sr. Corps must have something).....The Opti-Mrs. have given the Corps three hundred dollars towards new uniforms ---they get A BIG THANK YOU from all the boys in the Corps...you'll be proud of us in our new uniforms in '62.....the Ladies Auxillary Dance for the Corps a great success, Dec. 8th,---everyone we talked to seemed to have a good time.....

ROBIN WEATHERSTONE, who goes "on the air" with his stock market quotations each day at 5:15 on C.F.R.B., we understand is tempted daily to add OPTIMIST MINES to his list...maybe you can sell stock in the Corps, Robin.....MIDTOWNER'S new "Off-the-line is row-row-row-your boat (as from the Gray Cup ½-time show)....and where does BILL THORNE go Friday nights...and with some of the Midtowner "crew", too.....understand the pictures of RALLY NIGHT above our column last issue started some "stupid" rumours around DE LA SALLE last month...or is this just a "stupid rumour."

NEW INVENTION:::"GLOVER'S SOAP" Bob Harkness has been using this for years and years and says:"It beautifies the skin and comes in three colours; black, brown and gray (the soap, not the skin, stupid) SEE GLOVER for orders....

Nice display of CHRISTMAS CARDS sent to the Corps...cards from: St.Pats, Bill Dragland, Chicago; St.Kevins; Willie Miller; Dennis Lyttle of Scout House; many members from Garfield; Mr.and Mrs.Harms; Donn Truman,Hamilton Optimists; Fleetwood Records & D.C.News; the "Green Hornets"; The Dutchmen; Sadie Mau-Mau, The "Magnet"; Blair Flegal,Denver Blue Knights; Sam Berdan; Ken Whittington; "Le Grenadiers De Shawinigan; Mr.&Mrs.Young,Rochester; Gerry COWAN,DCW; Bill Coy, Drum Corps World; Pat Newman "Off The Line"; Bracken Cavaliers.....

We understand Santa Claus was "real good" to many members of the Corps... Barry Bell got an extended course in Ted Shaw's School of Body Building...and a new pair of sports-car-gloves to aid in turning the corners on 2 wheels...JOE GIANNA got a year's supply of pizza-mix...you just "add water"/.....RON COOK obtained a "Sing-along-with-Cook" Record....Andy Henderson, a Roy Rogers outfit; complete with REAL BULLETS...and a good supply of NEW COMBS for PHIL CAMPBELL, BILL McNABB, and ROMAN....BILL THORNE got a new birth certificate....MIKE THYS a DEL Button....NEIL IBBITSON a new miniature Car Racer Set (all the rage this year)....OREST BURACK a direct telephone line to PASSAIC, N.J.....ROBIN WEATHERSTONE, a lifetime pass to "the Dream"....and an instruction book on "How to work a P.A. System"....Bern Beer---a road atlas that lights up in a darkened bus....."Daddy Baggs" a new beam light that that "lights up" the back seat of the bus... DON DABER---a portable Electric Razor (this was for real)....the Bochnke Brothers --two contracts to sign...one in blue, the other green...from ST. MARYS and OPTIMISTS....BARRY BELL also got a new "hat" via NIKE NICHOLS & ELAINE MAY and the O'Keefe Centre....yes, Santa Claus was very good this year.

OVERHEARD IN A BANK:::Bank Customer to RON COTTRELL..."Have I enough in my joint account to cover this cheque?" RON:"Sorry, Sir...your wife just beat you to the draw."

We hear that THE MAGNET has lots of "pull"...we understand ALEX GLOVER is giving professional TWIST lessons to anyone who wishes to drop over to his studio any Thurs or Tue.....ROSS CATION (head-sweeper in a Power Store) says:"get more power from your Optimist Dollar".... and do you get that "GOSH-I-WISH-IT-WERE-SUMMER-COMPETITION-SEASON-AGAIN" Feeling everytime you see a Gray Coach bus arriving in or leaving the city???

DEFINITION OF AN "OPTIMIST":---An 80 yr. old man who marries a 20 yr. old girl...then buys a home near a school.

We got a "quick report" from tenor drummer OREST BURACK who just returned from a 3 day holiday in the Jersey area as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ganguzza. Orest reports he was given the Green Carpet treatment everywhere he went...had an opportunity to see Garfieldrehearse drill at a local armory, and was given a tour of their home post by Garfield Director Bill Kemmerer. Orest is looking forward to having Garfield as guests when

they are in Toronto the second of June...(the whole Corps, Orest???)...Understand RON COTTRELL is running into some competition from BOSTON CRUSADERS in PARKDALE....Bostons a long way off, Ron.....

Time out for a poem----

The Optimists supported a cat last year,
Who claims his name had been permanently cleared,
To us there's a tendency to say...
Watch out the rats about to display
His premature limp as he ails away.

On to other things.....One of the social events of last month was the DE LA SALLE "FANFARE FANTASY", a formal Ball, to reward their members for their outstanding work during the past Corps season. COLIN HEDWORTH and IVOR BRAMLEY had the pleasure of representing The Optimists at this very colourful event...they escorted two young ladies (one each) from Canada's Champion Jr. "B" Corps TRAFALGAR...Miss Judy Gasson (C.G.Captain) and Miss Sandy Lowell (Drum Major). Other Ontario Jr. Corps represented were PRESTON SCOUT HOUSE, ST. MARY'S and THE MIDTOWNERS....Dancing took place in the gymnasium of the school, tastefully decorated with trophies, a huge picture of the Corps and a 40 foot (conservative estimate) model of a De La Salle Cadet in full uniform!!! The evening concluded with midnight refreshments and presentations to the Corps very capable instructors.

To "round out" our column this issue IVOR BRAMLEY handed us a report on his recent trip to MONTREAL (the PARIS of Canada). Ivor was there "on business" and he also managed to fit in some "Corp's business" Ivor reports....."Immediately upon getting settled in my hotel room, after a hectic plane (tea, coffee, milk) ride and taxi battle in the streets I phoned a member of the upper executive of Montreal's only Drum Corps THE VICTORIA RIFLES and he informed me that they were rehearsing that same night at an armories only a few steps from my hotel. I hastily proceeded to this spot to find a very enthusiastic horn line of around 30, practicing "Don't Blame Me". They also had a shot session on drill for their first contest is January 6th, at Sherbrooke, Quebec. At the conclusion of the rehearsal we proceeded to a little night spot to talk till 2 A.M. They rehearsed again the next evening and I was asked to make some comments on their drill and work with them on a few "basics"....and boy, do they work!!!! Of course I had a little trouble---some in their Corps don't speak English that well and of course I don't speak French...but we had fun. My train was due to leave for Toronto at 11 PM and at 10:40 I was still on the drill floor...a good 5 miles from the station! At this moment a former tenor drummer from De La Salle offered to drive me to the station...what a rush---through "ARRET STREETS" (Stop Streets) etc., etc...at the station the key wouldn't fit the luggage locker (needless to say I had the wrong locker) Incidentally, have you ever tried to run DOWN an UP esculator...that's what you get for being "Green". With all these difficulties I was still able to make the train with 2 minutes to spare...and all by the grace of De La Salle."

"If I dare to make a prediction it will be that Ontario had better watch out for these Quebec Corps ---they are very anxious to learn and desperately want to win and thats all you need. They are at the moment suffering from lack of instructors. Any GOOD instructors reading this who would like to work with an enthusiastic Montreal Corps might do well to contact MR. HOWARD LACY at 5846 Beurling Ave., Verdun, Quebec."

....Thanks, Ivor for your report---till next issue this is ROSS, DICK and DOUG----still "INSIDE".

THE ABOMINABLE "NO-MAN".....

(courtesy of Newsweek Magazine)

You say	You say "yes."	the affairs of your country.
"Let's--"	He says "no!"	Doesn't he know...can't he learn...
He says...	You find him in	that NO-MAN'S LAND is a wasteland
"Let's not."	families, in armies,	where nothing can grow?
You say	in companies,	
"Hey!...Here's an idea!"	in Corps, in clubs,	
He says..."It won't work."	and sometimes high in	

TO THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS...

Compliments of the Season from the staff of Jac's.

Aaron, Harvey + Murray.

Jac's SLAX SHOP

SUITS SLACKS TIES FURNISHINGS

WEAR THE JACKET THAT BEARS THE JAC'S LABEL!

FASHION FABRIC FIT



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Congratulations
SCOUT HOUSE

on your
25th Year

1937  1962



the Magnet

NEWS AND COMMENTS ABOUT DRUM CORPS IN GENERAL AND THE OPTIMISTS IN PARTICULAR. The views presented here are those of "the Magnet" and not necessarily the opinion of this publication.

.....
Best of luck to everyone in '62 and I'm still with it---my New Year's Resolution will be to bring you more and newsier news and to "get" DABER to "get" a PROOF-READER. The reason for the "proof-reader" is this---the last issue (Nov.-Dec.) I'm sure I had my readers absolutely spellbound as I wound up my dynamic spiel regarding THE BANTAM OPTIMISTS and how they should be regarded by OPTIMISTS as a highly valuable necessity and that the thinking was turning in this direction, etc., etc.,---and what happens???? The beautifully constructed (I thought) ending collapsed leaving a completely ridiculous, meaningless statement in its place. PLEASE, Mr, Editor, and G.C.C. Readers, note that this is how it should have read:...."THE STRONGER THE BANTAMS ARE ---THE STRONGER THE OPTIMISTS WILL BE...LIFE BLOOD AND ALL THAT JAZZ".....

ON TO NEWSLAND::OPTIMISTS are going great guns---and have already learned five new musical selections and are working on the sixth...and from what I hear there are several more to go? ***SCOOP!!!...the new selections OPTIMISTS are playing (but may not be using all of them) are as follows: 1.St. Louis Blues, 2.Asia Minor, 3.The Party's Over, 4.Meadowlands (revised), 5.Tabu. The names of the new concert selections have not been released as yet. All the new selections sound just great and are jam-packed with G.E. I think that the Optimists won't sound too much like last year...Barry seems to have done an about-face on his announcement of a few months ago---namely that the music would be simplified for '62. I can see, or should I say hear, the reason why---the bugles sound like they could handle ANYTHING this year of '62 and altho' I'm not a judge, it seems that the soprano line is playing higher, longer and stronger than ever before. FRENCH HORNS are definately above last year's section (Len Perrin is the big man this year) and I do mean ABOVE---WOW!!!...what RANGE!! BARITONES were good last year and are working towards keeping up the name they have established---powerful, tone-ful and deadly accurate...and on top of this they will be carrying ALL BASSES instead of BARITONES. I also hear rumours about the bugle line being 36 strong this year....using 12 basses...that would be a change altho' the instructors claim that it's impossible to develop 36 perfect buglers and this, so I'm told, is why OPTIMISTS usually stay with 30 horns.

--NOTE TO ED ROONEY of DCW and DCN ...I always envied and wondered HOW you got all your information and I have been watching like an Eagle to see if your usually s-m-ooo-t-h operating spy network would EVER break down. Well, Mr. Rooney, I think one of your agents has finally become corrupted because you were MISINFORMED about THE HAMILTON OPTIMISTS instructors. Teaching Hamilton this year are non other than JOE GIANNA and BRIAN WILLIAMS from TORONTO OPTIMISTS and not DE LA SALLE. Also there is a U.S. immigrant named JIM McCONKEY with the Corps...(I hope my spies are correct).

AL BAGGS, Chief Judge extraordinaire, has been making the Corps' Dinner circuit lately with charming MRS. BAGGS. Al was guest speaker at the KAVALIER CORPS DINNER...sat at the head table at the KITCHENER DUTCHMEN DINNER and was guest speaker at Canadian Champion's ROYALAIRES Dinner a few weeks back. Gained any weight, Al???

GARFIELD CADETS, who are appearing at the OPTIMISTS JR. INTERNATIONAL CONTEST (see ad this issue) will be making their second appearance in Canada (correct me if I'm wrong)---the first was at SCOUT HOUSE'S SPRING SHOW in 1958, when I believe they then

went under the name of THE HOLY NAME CADETS. We look forward to welcoming you back to Canada, GARFIELD CADETS!!! As the SCOUT HOUSE SHOW was only an exhibition, this will be your first contest in Canada...unless the Cadets competed at some time in Quebec.

SCOUT HOUSE...if you are really entering this contest as you say you are---then you have earned my undying admiration and respect---you have a fine outfit---don't make waste by not competing. That you are competing is GREAT, really great!!!and my "magnetized" CONGRATULATIONS on your 25th Year, this year.

***What's this...DE LA SALLE is not going to enter the above mentioned contest??? Humbug...poppycock!!!!...I don't believe it because D.L.S. knows how important it is to support the not-too-many contests for Junior Corps in this area...right? Right. Let's have no more nasty rumours like this one.

***We hear that DOUG SAUNDERS, formerly of LEASIDE LIONS, is now starting a new Corps here in Toronto, sponsored by THE YORK LIONS. The more Corps the better.

***LEASIDE is now being reformed and has as an instructor HENRY STEFANIAK (hope I have the spelling right) Henry is from THE AMBASSADORS. Best of luck, Henry.

***Still no news from MIDTOWNERS. I wonder what's going on in their camp????? What's up MR. CRAIK ???? ***The word has it that THE JESTERS have over 30 bugles on the roster---this is a far cry from last winter eh, fellows!!! They also have 4 tenors and 4 snares working out and LORNE FERRAZUTTI is really pushing them hard, I understand. Also working hard is the colour guard, with a lot of new faces in their ranks. We are looking forward to seeing big improvements from this Corps.

WOODSTOCK IMPERIALS may have broken up---is this true??? I hope not but this is what the green grapevine says.....KITCHENER FLYING DUTCHMEN are reported to have a membership up in the EIGHTYS!!!!!! Sounds like CABALLEROS coming off the line.

***THE 1962 CONVENTION of The Canadian Drum Corps Association will be held in NIAGARA FALLS this year, I am informed by Don Daber their Publicity Director. The location---under the falls---no???...Its The Brock Hotel. The dates March 31---April 1st... April 1st...APRIL FOOLS DAY...no connection.

-SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SEE, DEPT...A Hollywood Cinemascope Movie Short in full colour & Stereo-sound of The Optimist Club's June 2nd. Toronto Junior Spectacular..... ---and thanks for the flood of letters to my code "quiz" in the last issue of GCC.... CONGRATULATIONS John Shearer, of The Optimists for winning. That's one of the advantages of being in the corps...Optimists get the newsletter first.....Understand DON DABER was given a nice presentation by the Corps at their last rehearsal before Christmas.

***And my last item for this issue...The Optimists are now publishing a CATALOGUE of BOOSTER MATERIAL and its FREE, FREE, FREE...the catalogue, that is. Write this newsletter address for your copy...its Suite 302, 205 Keele Street, Toronto 9. Someday I must get inside that place and see what a SUITE looks like.

West Side Story. The bittersweet "West Side Story"—gang fights gang as boy meets girl—is told in an electrifying movie version of the stage play.



"A FILM ACHIEVEMENT!" - POST



"A CINEMA MASTERPIECE!"

-N.Y. TIMES

"★★★★★!"

FRESH AND EXCITING!"

-DAILY NEWS

"MUST NOT BE MISSED!"

-HERALD TRIBUNE

RECOMMENDED MOVIE OF THE MONTH: "WEST SIDE STORY" ***

CLYDE GILMOUR of the Toronto Telegram says: "...from the breathtaking introductory shots of Manhattan, zooming straight down from a mile in mid-air toward the teeming spires and squares and circles of the metropolis, WEST SIDE STORY tenaciously grips and holds the attention of the viewer. Few if any musicals in the history of Hollywood have told so compelling a tale with equal elegance and impact" (Tely, Nov11)

SADIE MAU-MAU of Green Capsule Comments says: "...As much fire and fury and explosive energy contained within as a Championship Drum Corps Show...I highly recommend it...even if you don't have to sneak into the Sneak Preview as I did." (GCC. DEC.28)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT***

The Editor and staff of GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS are pleased to announce that beginning with the Feb.-March issue of GCC there will be a regular column from a representative of The Garfield Cadets. Our Garfield-Jersey correspondent will be Roger Pratschler who plays French Horn when not writing. Welcome to the staff of GCC, Roger.

Roger has asked that an announcement be made through GCC...that he is

planning an American-Canadian Corps' Party in his home on April 21st. If you would like to go contact Ivor Bramley of The Optimists who will be pleased to advise Roger that you plan to "head south".

FOR SALE:.....

1953 CHEV.....see Al Miller. Some original paint still on the car...



AT MAPLE LEAF GARDENS

MONDAY - JANUARY 29th, 1962

OPTIMIST NIGHT AT THE ICE FOLLIES

Be a "FRIEND OF THE BOY" and enjoy a wonderful show at the same time.

Greens at \$2.50

Greys at \$1.50

Boxes at \$4.50

Blues, Rails and South Stand at \$3.50

All the profit on the sale of tickets, for this night only and when purchased from an Optimist Club member, is used to support our Boys' Work activities in Downtown Toronto. We will be happy to look after your ticket requirements.

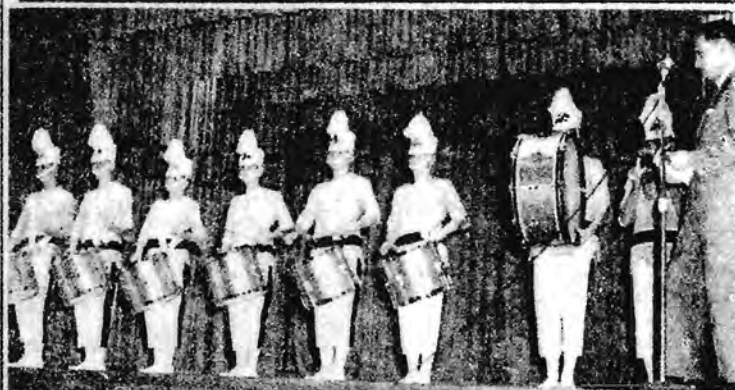
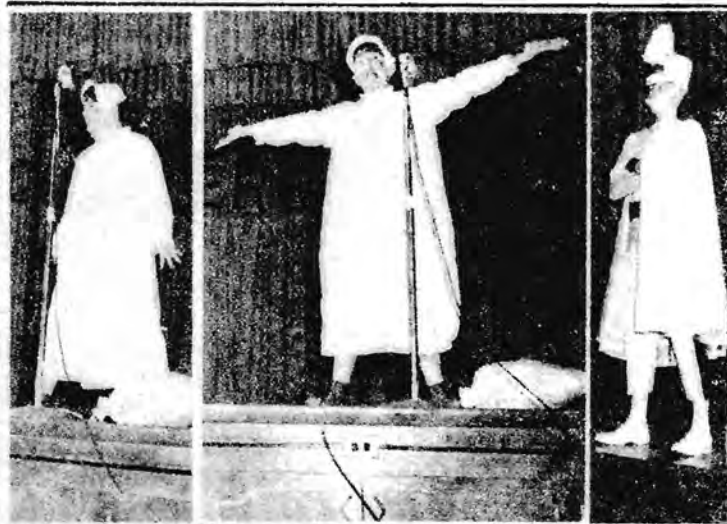
FIRST 1962 APPEARANCE OF THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM CORPS.

NEW OPTIMIST UNIFORMS ?



OPTIMIST SNAIR LINE-ONLY "DRUM CORPS" IN MILE LONG "GARDINER PARADE"... AFTER PARADE, LINE WAS OFFERED JOBS AS HOTEL BELL-HOPS. TOP PHOTO - AL MILLER THREATENS TO SHOOT. PHOTOS BY DABER.

JIM McCONKEY "WOWS" 'EM AT CONQUEROR'S CAPERS!



PHOTOS BY DABER



STORY ON NEXT PAGE →



THE OPTIMIST EMBLEM
OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

The history of the emblem of OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL goes back to 1919 when the design was selected through a contest conducted shortly after Optimist International was established that year. Whether the design was the emblem of one of the clubs or a combination of several designs is not known.

The significance of the octagonal shape is a matter of speculation, too. It may represent the original eight clubs, or the eight points of the compass. The rays, of course, are emblematic of cheer and hopefulness, the basic objective of Optimism. They have added significance in the fact that the "Friend of the Boy" projects radiate optimism into the lives of many youths.

Below the rays are the letters "O" and "I" representing Optimist International..... and also "Optimis Infinitus, symbolic of the immeasurable span of time and space, and "Opportunities Illimitable", the theory that opportunities are as vast as the infinite.

The field of the emblem is purple, for truth, loyalty, dignity, and honour. The gold lettering and figures reflect the importance of consistency and purity of purpose.

A PESSIMIST is someone who likes to listen to the patter of little defeats.

*the
Warning*

THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN WHO WAS LATE
EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING AT EIGHT...
SO THE FELLOWS ALL PLOTTED,
TO ENSURE THAT HE ROTTED
THEY CUBED HIS FACE THROUGH A GRATE !!!



McCONKEY "WOWS" 'EM AT CONQUEROR'S CAPERS !!!

notes by Don Daber.

Well known drum-corps-figure Jim McConkey was the before-the-intermission highlight at the Hamilton Jr. Optimists Corps two hour variety night held at the Hamilton Central School auditorium, the evening of December 9th. McConkey's "baby routine" certainly rated an encore but the time element said "no" in the talent-packed 17 scene programme. The entire show was MC'd by PERC ALLEN, the popular announcer of Hamilton station CHML. He introduced numbers ranging from dance routines, guitars and taps, skits, pop singing, horn duets...and a Christmas sing-song to the build up of the Junior Optimists' horn line; a drum line clinic and the feature of the second half of the programme...a demonstration by the Drum Line of Canada's Sr. Champions GUELPH ROYALAIRES. The final scene, and a most appropriate one, was the appearance of the entire Corps, centre stage, building up to an amazing solo by TED STEC of "Getting to know you".

The evening programme was only slightly marred by the clicking "on and off" of two different sets of movie lights and a flashing still camera. Although the efforts of management to have this first Variety Night recorded on film can be appreciated...couldn't this be done at a dress rehearsal so that the audience won't feel they are competing with the camera department?

Attendance was good but we couldn't help but wonder why more drum corps fans and members of other corps were not there...especially with the appearance of such guests as The Guelph Drum Line and Jim McConkey. Is wider advertising the answer?

Here's hoping THE HAMILTON OPTIMIST CORPS found this evening a financial success and plan to programme a similar show next year. CONQUEROR'S CAPERS should be a much-looked-forward-to yearly event!

(advertisement)
SUBSCRIBE TO LOURDES LEDGER and get "all the NEWS in and around PATERSON, N.J."
one year's subscription \$1.00
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CADETS drum corps button...50¢
BOTH the subscription and button sent to you for \$1.40.
WRITE: Ron Clark, "Lourdes Ledger" 643 11th Ave., Paterson N.J.

GREEN
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COMMENTS



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REPRESENTATIVES: Boston area--Willie Miller, Jersey
area--Ron Clark. ART, PHOTOGRAPHY & LAYOUT: Don Daber.

G.C.C. is published 6 to 8 times each year. 27-12-62.

A NEW ??? CANADIAN CORPS HITS TORONTO AREA...

A SATURDAY MORNING
PHOTO STORY
PHOTOS BY DON DABER-



SADIE MAU-MAU EXITS '61 - ENTERS '62 WITH THE "PEAR PICKERS"

Well, after much jollification and mirth, gorging and gaiety here we are settling back into our everyday hum'drum little lives. Oh, we still have the festivities of the "New Year" to entice us into surviving the ill effects of our Christmas folly. However, I still insist that a week is barely sufficient time in which to recoup. New Years should definitely be postponed for at least one month after Christmas.

Christmas certainly hit us with all its enormity this year. It seems that one day there was nothing...then PANIC. Unfortunately, everyone seemed to push their own little private panic buttons on the same day...all of a sudden there were CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, CHRISTMAS TREES, CHRISTMAS JACKED-UP PRICES, Christmas frantic shoppers and above all, Christmas PARADES. Yes, parades. The delight of little children (usually past their twenties) with their shining eyes and red cheeks, cluttering up the sidewalks and making any last minute shopping even more unbearable. I myself, had the misfortune (or maybe it was fortune) of accidentally becoming involved with a Santa Clause Parade.

Being a great bargain hunter, I had travelled some 40 miles to the west end of Toronto where I had been informed by a disreputable person that an even more disreputable Meat Market now had a tremendous sale of rhinoceros steaks, and rhinoceros steaks being one of my weaknesses, I partook to make the long journey. West Toronto seemed like the rest of Toronto...overrun with children, and on this day they had all been let loose from their basements in order to watch this small, annual Santa Clause Parade.

Now, I don't usually stand like an idiot, during mid-winter, on a crowded sidewalk in west Toronto, to watch a mythical old man in red make a fool of himself. However on this one day I was caught, and I did.(stand on the sidewalk and watch, that is.) Then I heard THAT SOUND...the undeniable sound of DRUM CORPS...the music was GREAT; a little unpolished, but great...so naturally I just had to find out who they were. I managed to stand on someone's shoulders for a while in order to get a good view...and one thing I will say about West Toronto, the kids here are king of weak...and so, not being able to get a little elevation, I grabbed a popsicle from a small girl and pushed my way to the front of the crowd, just in time to see The Port Credit Saints go marching smartly by. And the rest of the parade went on, and on...till, near the end, prancing down the street in all their glory can a real weird outfit. Who they were I didn't know, but if the Salvation Army had been on hand, the nearest hostel would have been put to immediate use...these boys were undoubtedly poverty stricken...their clothes hung in rags and tatters, and some had odd shoes, and some...well, I tell you, I could have cried when I saw those pathetic boys!!

AS they passed by me, and in between dabbing the freezing tears from my eyes, and licking my popsicle, I managed to look closely at those poor little souls, and believe it or not, they were happy. I tell you, HAPPINESS shone from those anemic eyes. They were completely oblivious of their shoddy dress, and my heart went out to those boys. But their Drum Major!!! If I ever felt PRIDE for a person, I felt pride for him. Dedication, I tell you there was dedication written all over that man.

Here was a lost soul, aged and bent, desperately in need of care and attention

leading his boys in their wonderful part of the parade. ...And to think, that every Christmas I have cried over the "Little Match Girl". Here was a whole Corps of "Little Match Boys". I could picture them later, burning their flag poles in order to keep warm, and then, when the flag poles were all burned, this wonderful old man, burning his treasured mace so that they might all be warm to the end. I left the scene with sadness burning in my heart.


I later learned, from a reliable source, that these were THE PORT CREDIT PEAR PICKERS. Where they came from nobody knows...or where they have gone. From the name, we can only gather that this wonderful Corps wander from orchard to orchard...gathering pears where they can!

I just pray that the "Pear Pickers" will somehow find the strength to survive the cruel winter, and may have the fortune to make themselves better known during the coming Corps season. Just a little financial help from some kind person would give these boys the encouragement they need. I say financial help, because undoubtedly, if a Corps ever needed a new uniform, the Pear Pickers do...or at least matching rags.

And so, to the "Port Credit Pear Pickers", in whatever snow-bound Orchard you may be, a Happy New Year...and may you have a wonderful and successful Corps season...and matching rags. Naturally, the same good wish is extended to the OPTIMISTS, who although wallowing in wealth, have everything Corps-wise that the PEAR PICKERS have.

---Sadie.

ANOTHER REPORT FROM CANADA'S CORPS' AMBASSADOR TO "THE ST. KEVIN EMERALD KNIGHTS"

 On Sunday, December 17th., THE ST. KEVIN EMERALD KNIGHTS closed the 1961 Drum Corps Season with their highly successful annual Dinner and Dance at which various members of the Drum Corps press learned some of the Corps plans for 1962.

One of the hi-lites of the evening was the awarding of a Special Merit Citation, "The Emerald Knight Award" to RAYMOND SAMORA, owner of Drum Corps News and Fleetwood Records. This award is presented annually to the person, who, by one means or another helps promote Drum Corps to the greatest extent possible. In a brief "thank you" address, Mr. Samora mentioned that D.C.NEWS had just received the contract for Carnegie Hall for May 6th, 1962 and his asking at this time could be considered an official invitation for St. Kevin's to participate.

THE SHOWMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD, given each year to someone in the field of entertainment was at this time bestowed upon SAL MINEO. Unfortunately, due to poor weather, he was unable to be present at the dinner, but in a short ceremony with the Corps during the following week, he accepted with heartfelt thanks, and wished the Corps "all the best" in '62.

Other presentations included KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE AWARDS (5 years of continuous service to the Corps)...this year presented to JIM CUNNINGHAM and The National French Horn Champion BUZZY BERGDOLL. Also presented was the "Green and Red Baton" signifying the position of Drum Major. This was handed over to GEORGE WALSH, of the Soprano line from FRANK BRISSENDEN, retiring major.

In a special revue "SHOWTIME '61" some of the members of the Corps put their entertainment talent to work and came up with a show even Broadway would fight for. Later each member of the Corps received his/her Christmas present...a pin bearing the Corps' Insignia. The evening concluded with dancing 'till 12 (thanks to some imported girls drill teams) and at 12 BIG ED wished us all a Merry Christmas, told us he loved us (?) and closed with the words "see you all at practice, Thursday night."

As of this writing we have received several invitations for "out of State" and the dates of the local CYO Circuit will decide on which ones we accept. If enough money is raised we will definately attend the VFW National Convention in Minneapolis, August 11-17 AND if more than enough is raised we will fly via "jet". How's that for class!

The St. Kevin Emerald Knights will have a complete new drill next year, and much new music...including "Starburst" and "There Goes My Heart". In '62 ST. KEVINS will sponsor THE NATIONAL OPEN JR. INDIVIDUAL CONTEST at a date to be announced later. During 1961 some of the top awards taken by "The Knights" include the A.L. State Championship, The VFW State Championship, The EMASS Championship, The CYO Championship, The Dream Contest and The New England Championship.

Our first contest of 1962 will be January 26th and the opening social event is The I.C. Revere "Reveries"...a Class "A" Military Ball, January 12th.

Wishing THE BEST to THE OPTIMISTS in 1962.

.....Willie Miller,
St. Kevin Emerald Knights, Boston.



CORRECTION !!!!...Elsewhere in this issue, under GCC Credits, there is an announcement of a subscription rate of \$1.00 per year. This has since been revised and GCC will continue, at the present, to be mailed out free to a very limited mailing list. Of course, if you have enjoyed GCC in the past and feel a "New Year's donation" to the paper is in order...this is always appreciated.

Don Daber, Editor, G.C.C.