

Our Third Year!



Vol. 3 No. **6** NOV/DEC. 1963

GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS, TORONTO, CANADA



THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS

(CANADIAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONS 1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963)

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The Toronto Optimists
Drum & Bugle Corps
Newsletter
GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS



G.C.C. NEWSLETTER Vol.3 Number 6 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1963 Our Third Year---

GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS: Official publication of the Toronto Optimists Drum Corps/Published six times per year/ Available through membership in the Toronto Optimists Booster Club ...membership fee \$2.00 per year (November to November) For memberships write--A.J. Peczeniuk, Director, Optimists Booster Club, 85 Clendenan Ave., Toronto 3, Ontario, Canada. G.C.C. Editor- Don Daber, Suite 302, 205 Keele Street, Toronto 9, Ontario, Canada

The Corps' DINNER
Closes off '63 Season
Report by DON DABER

TORONTO, Nov. 23, 1963: The 1963 Season for the members of the 1963 Optimists Corps came to a close this evening as 73 members of the Corps, their Executive, and representatives of the Optimist Club joined together in a "Victory"---Thank Your--- and "Tribute-to-those-leaving" Banquet in the Hunting Room of the King Edward Sheraton Hotel.

At the head table was the President of the Downtown Optimist Club, Mr. R.H. Stainton, Mr. H.N. Jordan, Chairman of the Corps' Committee of the Optimist Club, Mr. A.W. Baggs, the Club representative to the Corps, Mr. Bill Shepherd of Whaley, Royce and Company and the Corps Executive which included the Director, Don Daber; the Music Director, Barry Bell; the Drum Instructor, Lorne Ferazutti, Drill and Guard Instructor, Ivor Bramley; Doug McPhail (Corps Drill), Richard Boehnke (Treasurer and Transportation), Phil Hennings, 1963 Equipment and Bernie Thompson, 1964 Equipment Manager.

Following the banquet meal the Corps' Director gave a short review of the year, announced some new Executive appointments, and thanked the Corps, their Executive and Instructors for their hard work and efforts throughout the 1963 Season. He reminded the Corps that there were certain defects in the 1963 Season and hoped these would be remedied in 1964.

Large "Off-the-line" photos of the Corps were presented to Mr. Jordan and Mr. Baggs as a thank you for their efforts in representing the Corps within their sponsoring Club.

Mr. Bill Shepherd, of Whaley Royce and Company was then presented an Honorary Membership in the Optimist Corps "in recognition of his continued interest in the Canadian Drum Corps Movement and his leadership in the development of Corps Instruments through Whaley Royce and Company Limited". With this presentation, Mr. Shepherd received the standing ovation of the evening from every member of the Corps.

In accepting this membership Mr. Shepherd told the Corps that in developing horns his Company must have a corps to develop them for...in the past Corps haven't been ready to accept new ideas, both in the United States and Canada. Now Corps have progressed and are accepting new ideas and to this end Whaley Royce are there to work with these Corps as evidenced with three new bugles introduced to the Corps-scene this year.

Following the presentation to Mr. Shepherd; Rich Boehnke gave a short address by review of the transportation in 1963 with the Corps 32 appearances. A highlight of his address was the story of his blowout on the left rear tire of the station wagon on the "Q.E." and the events that followed. He reminded the Corps that throughout the thousands of miles traveled by the Corps through the years there has never been a serious accident.

Each member of the Corps was then presented with a certificate acknowledging their 1963 "Year of Service" spent with the Optimists. These were presented by the Instructors of each section to the members of their section and gave the Instructors a chance to say a few words to the Corps.

The first certificates were presented to Canada's Champion Junior Colour Guard by their Instructor Ivor Bramley. Before addressing the Corps Ivor reminded them that there was a member of DE LA SALLE Corps at the head table...this came as a surprise to everyone when it was announced the Mr. Baggs was made an Honorary Member of the De La Salle Corps

(Continued next page.....)

THE 1963 OPTIMIST CORPS DINNER (continued)

at a recent ceremony. Mr. Baggs reminded Ivor that as an M&M Judge in the Association he could be assigned nothing but street parades in 1964...At this point no more was said of the Del Membership as Ivor went on to congratulate the Corps and Guard in their 1963 wins...not to forget their losses...and to look forward to 1964. He reminded the Corps of their 1958 traditions and told them that this coming season of 1964 will be the first year that there won't be a member in the Line from the original Corps of 1958, when the Corps first came out in the green blouses.

Lorne Ferrazutti then kept things "rolling along" by presenting certificates to the drum line and during the proceedings reminded the Corps of the excellent showing the Drum Line made during the recent Canadian National Individuals.

Barry Bell, the Music Director, made the largest group presentation to the Horn Line. Mr. Bell opened his remarks by reminding the Corps that this is the usual season for "wild rumours"---and he went on to illustrate a few---he also expressed amazement at the gentlemanly appearance of the Corps when they get "all dolled up"and he didn't realize that so many owned ties. He noted in passing that there were still a few not used to their surroundings---Glover got his tie into something at the table---Dick Ward put cream and sugar in his consomme....Mr. Bell gave his best wishes to those leaving...those leaving Corps, those instructing other Corps, those moving into Senior Corps...and reminded those left have a real job ahead of them in '64 to "DRIVE ALL THE WAY"!!!!

At the close of Barry's presentations of certificates to the horn line, Mr. Jordan, the Chairman for the dinner, commented on the spirited remarks by the members of the Corps as each of their fellow members went forth to receive his certificate....almost every member received some comment. He said it reminded him of some Optimist Club dinners.

Mr. Jordan then introduced Mr. Dick Stainton, the President of The Optimist Club, Before presenting the top awards of the year, Mr. Stainton reminded the members of the Corps that they were entrusted to the talent of music to use wisely and well...to continue to use and develop ---with the end reward "the sense of achievement."

Mr. Stainton reminded the Corps of their past Championships and of the part of the Optimist Club Creed "To think only of the Best, to work only for the Best, and to expect only the Best."

As the Corps celebrated their sixth year as Canadian Champions; 1963 also served as the first year of the new Awards policy. At this Corps Dinner two new awards were announced. These were the Corps Lapel Pin---given to those leaving the Corps at the age of 21 who served under three full years of consecutive service. The Graduation Ring---given to those leaving the Corps at the age of 21 with a minimum of three full years of consecutive service and the traditional Five Year Ring, given to members of the Corps who have served for five full consecutive years, the year extending from January till September.

Mr. Stainton then presented lapel pins to JIM BEDFORD, rifleman with the guard; CHARLES CLUTTERBUCK, also a rifleman with the guard; and FRED LOMBARD who carried the Optimist Corps flag with the guard, Al Peczeniuk who carried the Jr. Championship Flag and Richard Robida, representing the horn line.

Graduation Rings were presented to Karl Bossert, Howard Davies, Robin Weatherstone Richard Ward; all from the horn line.

Five Year Rings were presented to Ross Colville, from the Soprano section and special awards were presented for their long years of service with the Corps; to Barry Bell, Lorne Ferrazutti and Mr. Baggs, for his year's of service as past Director of the Corps.

The Presentation of the Pins and Rings concluded the formal ceremonies of the 1963 Dinner. The Corps and their guests then relaxed to a showing of slides taken of the Corps during their 1963 trips, including the complete drill as taken the top of the stands at the afternoon prelims of the Canadian Nationals.

Following the showing of the slides the Corps was then entertained by the "Singing Three" called THE RIVERSIDE THREE. This group was begun about the time of the 1962 Dinner by Ronn Prokop and Dave Johns who entertained the Corps with their Folk Songs then. All during the 1963 summer season they added to their repertoire and picked up a third member of the group, Bill Whiteside and banjo. Next they went "semi-professional" with several engagements around town encouraged by their manager, Mr. Rod Koss. The Riverside Three entertained the Corps for a lively half-hour, concluding with "Special requests" of some of the numbers sung on the bus during the summer and appropriately ending off a memorable evening with everyone joining in with the Corp's Song.

Notes on the Corp's Dinner---courtesy of Barry Bell's "Little Gem " tape recorder. Yes, fellows, Everything you said was recorded on tape (well almost everything). This tape will be added to the corp's archives along with the tape of last year's first Corps dinner.

Footnotes to The Riverside Three. At the conclusion of the 1963 Corps Dinner the Corps unexpectedly bid a reluctant goodbye to two members of the drum line, Ronn Prokop and Dave Johns (The Alan Brinker of Canada) who announced their decision to leave the Corps and enter the Folk Music field. The Optimists snare section won't be the same without Ronn and the Bass Drum team of Frank Rood and Dave Johns is finally broken.

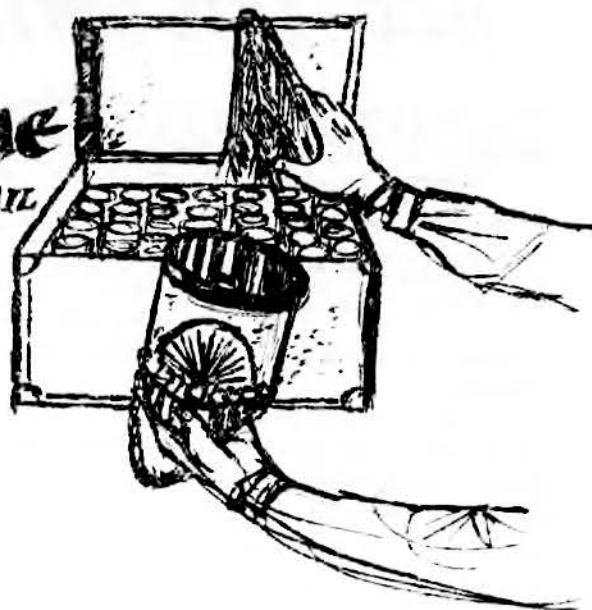
From all the Optimists THE VERY BEST TO THE "RIVERSIDE THREE"...Ronn Prokop, Dave Johns and Bill Whiteside.

MR. THOMPSON::"What's the idea of bringing my daughter home at 7A.M. on a Saturday Morning?"

BOB KEENAN::"I have to be at work at eight!!!!"

the last time

BY DOUG McPHAIL



The heat of the season, the trips and the big shows had passed and the Grape Festival was as cold as usual. Besides the cold, the wind blew in October and the confusion that follows and surrounds the last contest of the year.

For too many, it was your last show with the Corps, your last show. But there wasn't any sentiment to speak of; not yet. No remorse, no sighs, no drama; just Optimists and their casual indifference that preceded "another show". There was the normal amount of crabbing and whining, not about anything in particular, just something to crab and whine about. There was no regret. You were Optimists and the time for remembering wasn't even in sight yet.

It was cold on the line, but you'll remember it only as good. Time, besides aging mellows the past, and the nagging instructors, the tired lips, stiff wrists and sore feet on a hot drill field will have been worth it. You'll remember crab-apple fights, grape fights, water fights or just plain fights. Everybody fought because they liked to win, and winning is better when you fight for it. Maybe you'll remember contests and the winning; or maybe card games and the losing. Or perhaps you'll remember a girl. But you will remember the Corps. It was good then. You were in it.

By now you were coming out of concert. The grass moved deftly under you. Your feet turned, stepped out and pivoted with the thoughtless instinct of confidence. With a mean snap of intent the horns came down, a roll-off and just as meanly the horns came up... "I Believe".

I believe it's good to be a part of something that's worth while; and something that strains for your best is worth the while.

Rear march! Horns up!! "The Party's Over."

Yes, now the party was over. "Take off the make-up, all games must end. The Party's over, my friend." Your eye's were watering a bit then, Joe. The wind was cold a mean. Seven years is a long time.

On to retreat, off with the trophy and into the box went the plumes.

When you hung up your blouse you pulled the sleeve down so it wouldn't get creased and you smoothed down the shoulders almost with a little reluctant affection. But that'd silly; imagine getting sentimental over a piece of cloth. A little piece of green cloth; green satin cloth; a smooth green satin cloth that shimmered with pride beneath the lights and heard the cheers that made it strong. You mused at their missing it; it'd be nice to keep.

But they'd miss it. They'll give it to some new guy who's greener than the pinnacles of his optimistic aspirations and who'll end up beating the corps that made you leave the field muttering... "Next time....!"

Along with your year's of work, your uniform was packed away.

The stands were empty and the wind pushed bits of paper across the field. The bus was revving up and the guys were waiting.

They had grapes.

COVER COMMENTS:

Photos by D. Daber.

Front Cover, top left to right...Last M & M Show of the year, The Grape Festival Competition at St. Catharines, September 28th...On the finish line. Last salute by Andy Henderson, Colour Guard Captain.

Set of Whaley Bugles featuring Joe Palanica, Soprano; Mike Thys, French Horn; Peter Burton, Bass and Dave Watt, the big "Eu".

Barry Bell, Music Director in the line at Retreat with the Gold bugle. In this picture with Barry is Terry McKolskey, Noel Bramley and Bob Rivers.

Bugle Line at end of show with Gene Chepswick taking the salute.

The Bass Drum line with Paul Thompson at centre.

The bottom two pictures are taken during the field show.

Back Cover, MARK WICKEN, of The Optimists receives the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association Challenge Trophy from Bronko Saban, Secretary Treasurer of the Association.

JOE GIANNA, of The Optimists, receives the Police Association Challenge Trophy from Syd Brown, President of the Police Association for top Junior Bugler.

RONN PROKOP, of The Optimists is congratulated as 2nd. high overall drummer.

D. FELLION, of De La Salle receives an award as top Junior Baritone.

All the winners pose for a group picture.

G. ROBERTS of Conqueror and ROSS CATION of Optimists tie for Junior French Horns...ED LAW of Jesters, Senior Snare Drum...a group "backstage" and The Judges.

G.C.C. - LATE EDITION

For the first time during the three years of publication of GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS this is the first issue that has not come out to meet the deadline...yet the world hasn't stopped turning, although we did get a few letters wondering what happened to G.C.C.

Future issues will still try to meet a deadline, there will still be six issues per year to keep you "up to date" on the activities of Canada's Junior Champions.

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE BOOSTER CLUB:

Toronto, Nov. 23rd: Don Daber, Director of The Optimists Corps announced tonight the appointment of Al Peczeniuk as the 1964 Director of the Corps' Booster Club. In addition to serving as Director of the Club Al will also be the Corps 1964 Treasurer.

Al joined The Optimists in February of 1962 and worked with the Guard during the 1962 and 1963 seasons. Al came to The Optimists from St. Mary's Drum Corps when that Corps disbanded at the end of 1961. With St. Marys he played soprano horn for one year; previous to that he played baritone horn with St. Michael's School Band for two years while attending that school.

TWO NEW CORPS PAPERS IN TORONTO; HAMILTON PAPER FOLDS-

They say the only real way to get the news, views and activities of the Corps scene is to subscribe to the various Corps papers in existence---the Canadian scene is graced with the birth of two new papers during November and December.

From the very active YORK LIONS DRUM CORPS, a Toronto Corps entering the Junior "A" Division this year (1964) comes "ESPRIT DE CORPS". The December issue (Vol. 1 #2) has a very neat format. Printed by the offset method the December issue features many columns and several very amusing cartoons revolving around Corps activities. We note that York's membership has increased from 51 in September to a present roll of 96!!! They are presently working with about 50 bugles, 15 in the drum line and a guard of 30 (???) Wow!!! On the field in 1964 York plans to use 30 bugles, a drum line of 12 and a guard of 17. The guard will feature 13 flags, 4 rifles and a Guard Captain. Their drum line will have 3 snares, 3 tenors, 3 cymbals and 3 bass, one rudimental. Fred Johnson, of Ambassadors fame, is the Drum Instructor, Doug Saunders is the bugle instructor and Music Director of the Corps.

Some of York's music for 1964 will include "Hi Neighbour" fanfare, "King of Kings", "Sunrise", "Lawrence of Arabia", "Without a Song", "Temptation", "Whispering", "I will Follow Him", and exit with "Only You." "The High and The Mighty" will make up part of the Color Presentation along with possibly "Land of Milk and Honey."

The second Corps' paper comes from THE JESTERS....a paper with the memorable title of "THE MOUTHPIECE". Their first issue was released this month, in the form of a seven page bulletin. An editorial on "The Individuals" sets the pace on page one; followed by a review by Bill Rider on that Contest. Barry Bell, their Horn Instructor continues the Editorial pace....Bob Bond follows with a colourful report on the Jesters Banquet. In this issue of "The Mouthpiece" Jester's 1964 Repertoire was announced as follows....

OFF THE LINE---"Carnival"...into the manoeuvre "Love Me or Leave Me"...into Concert "Softly, As a Morning Sunrise" CONCERT--"Walk Right In" (Dixieland)...out of Concert---"Besame Mucho"...to Colour Presentation, "The Great Escape March" and exit to "Tangerine."

Bliss Daley is editor of "The Mouthpiece"; Ken Easby is Editor of "Esprit de Corps". No subscription rates are announced in the first issue of the Jesters paper...the York Lions edition comes out monthly and a yearly subscription may be had for \$1.00 by writing the Editor, Ken Easby at 118 Glebe Mount Ave., Toronto, 6.

The very colourful "EXPRESSION" from Hamilton Conquerors has terminated publication. To close off their paper the Editors have issued a thirty page Review of the '63 Year complete with photos of the Corps and all bound in a high class cover. EXPRESSION began as "CONKYTATOR" in May of 1961....switched to the 4 times yearly EXPRESSION during 1962. From the beginning their Editor-In-Chief Donn Truman made his artistic talents known with the high class presentation of this publication. Completely printed by the Offset method, generous with photographs, it looked like EXPRESSION had the good support of several local advertisers, especially in later issues, and we expected it would be around for a long long time....so it was somewhat of a shock to receive "63, A YEAR IN RETROSPECT", the Conqueror Yearbook and the last issue of Expression.

Unfortunately, on the production level RETROSPECT '63 doesn't live up to the high class of past issues of EXPRESSION, with some of the inside pages a bit difficult to read. Overlooking this aspect, much work has been put into the writing of this issue and gives a good view into the inner workings of a Drum Corps. To the casual "fan" in the summer stands reading this publication will certainly provide an education into the extent and organization of a Canadian Junior Corps....a look at their "Top Brass", Drum Major, Guard Captain and the history of a Corps from the very beginning of an idea on the part of a few....the efforts to obtain a sponsor...the first uniform....the first time on the field...the first Competition...the sweet taste of first victory...the unfortunate series of events that seemed to follow this Corps at times....its all covered here in eight closely typed pages.

The 1963 Year is then covered, event by event, contest by contest from their first show in February to the November 11th. "Last Post" It closes with the Corps complete

Membership Data.
A copy of this publication may be obtained through the publicity department of The Conqueror @ \$1.50 by writing Donn Truman, 561 Cochrane Rd. S. Hamilton, Ont.

CAVALIERS BLOW OUT 15 GREEN CANDLES!!!

CHICAGO, Illinois Dec. 7: The famed Cavaliers, past and present, glanced back over the years tonight as they celebrated fifteen years on the Drum Corps scene. At a Testimonial Dinner dedicated to their founder, and President, Don W. Warren the Corps looked back to 1948 to the years as a Boy Scout Corps....to 1950 under the sponsorship of The American Legion Post 712 when they first went M&M in red and blue "band" style uniforms....to 1951 and their present style of green, black and white uniform....to 1952 when they won their first important contest and later that year placed seventh at The American Legion Championships in New York City...to 1954, when they placed 10th....to 1955 when they came in 5th....added to their Instruction Staff, took on a new look of polish and precision--were dubbed The Green Machine...1956, when they won The Prelims at the V.F.W. Nationals but came in third in the finals...and finally 1959, when they journeyed to Miami Florida to return home the new new V.F.W. National Junior Champions and the first Midwest Junior Corps to obtain the title. The Cavaliers were on the move! A good example of the high calibre of this Corps was illustrated when they amassed an unbroken total of 25 CONSECUTIVE M&M VICTORIES...a record unequaled by any major Junior Corps.

Through the 15 years of their existence The Cavaliers have built up a collection of over two hundred first place trophies!

Your Editor had the honour to represent The Optimists Corps at the Cavalier Dinner and Reception as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lindberg. Arriving in Chicago early Friday evening I was driven from the airport to a reception at The Lindberg residence that lasted till the early hours of Saturday morning.

Saturday evening at a large hall a few doors down the street from Cavaliers headquarters on North Kedzie Avenue Cavaliers members past and present, parents and friends of the Corps met at a pre-dinner cocktail hour. People from all over the mid-west and as far East as the Jersey coast were at this reception. At 7:30 the Cavaliers' uniformed colour guard directed everyone downstairs to the banquet of the evening where an estimated 500 people sat down to a meal that lasted well over an hour. Rather than the usual type of serving where all plates are pre-set everything was served "family-style" where everyone could help themselves to what they wanted...including four different types of meat.

During the desert session, Mr. Jim Jones, Vice President of The Cavaliers opened the Testimonial part of the evening by first introducing Bruce Teitgen, Cavalier Drum Major 1957-1960. Bruce was the power behind the organization of the Dinner.

Representatives of The Cavaliers Sponsors were then introduced...followed by the reading of seven congratulatory telegrams, including one from their District Congregational Representative in Washington. ...the VFW Music Chairman....The VFW Department Commander....the Mayor of the City of Woodstock, Ill....the First National Bank.

Mr. Jones then introduced the head table and acknowledged the presence of past Executive of the Corps as well as the 1964 Executive which included MILDRED MAGEE, The Cavaliers Corresponding Secretary; ROBERT FDLSON, Corps Treasurer; JAMES KROPID, the Business Manager; RICHARD (MONK) WAWRZNIAK, Equipment Manager; PEARL MIX, past Secretary; SAL FERRERA, Music Director; ART MIX, Brass Instructor; LARRY McCORMICK, Drum Instructor; LEN PIEKARSKI, M&M Instructor; BRUCE TEITGER, Personnel Manager, ROBERT HOENN Jr., JAMES ZIENTARA, LOU FEIBEL, Assistant Equipment Managers; TIM HEERES, Assistant Horn Instructor, SAM GEATI, Assistant Drum Instructor, PAUL LITTEAU, Guard Instructor and PATT LINDBERG, Public Relations Director.

The Four past Drum Majors were then introduced along with ALAN BRINKER, the current D.M. Mr. Jones then introduced FRANK ARSENAULT, past Drum Instructor; the Ways-and-Means Chairman, the President of the Booster Club....Mr. Sie Lurye of The Royal Air Drum Corps; Mr. Larry Grabouski of Custer's Brigade, representatives of The Vanguard, Ottawa Crusaders, Mr. Bill Kemmerer of The Garfield Cadets along with five representatives of The Cadets; The Executive Director of Madison Scouts, Mr. Beebe, who presented Don Warren with a plaque in recognition of his "Service to Youth", and Don Daber who presented Don Warren with a certificate of Congratulations on behalf of The Optimists.

With the introduction of guests, reading of telegrams and presentations of awards a full hour had passed before Don Warren, the President and Founder of The Cavaliers was introduced. Just before Mr. Warren was introduced the present members of The Cavaliers acknowledged with rousing cheers, their presence....this was continued with a standing ovation on the introduction of Don Warren.

Mr. Warren mentioned that several times he had attempted to "write a speech" for that evening but he knew he would end up "Ad libbing"....he mentioned he enjoyed the past 15 years with the organization, if he didn't he would be a fool to be in it...he acknowledged the indulgence of his wife, Jan and hoped he would be able to remain President of Cavaliers for the next 15 Or 30 years....even if he had to fix the elections.

Mr. Warren mentioned that 41 thousand dollars was spent in 1963 compared with about 30 dollars in 1948...he mentioned the Cavaliers first rehearsal hall and the fact that they were fortunate enough to find a person who didn't turn away when first approached with the prospect of renting to 80 teenagers with drums and bugles. When they first obtained their hall he tried renting it out over weekends for danced and receptions but ended up losing 35 lbs and a three week rest in a hospital.

Mr. Warren acknowledged the terrific work of the parents and Booster Club and mentioned that "not being a teen-ager, he still loved his parents". He closed off his remarks by thanking the Cavaliers Management and staff for arranging this testimonial...Jim Jones then mentioned that things would probably get tougher rather than easier....but to make things a little "easier" for The President the Corps had a presentation to make. They then presented Mr. Warren with a portable "Bar" for his recreation room. No, none of the supplies that

THE CAVALIERS DINNER continued

might come along with this bar were included, this being a Junior Corps.

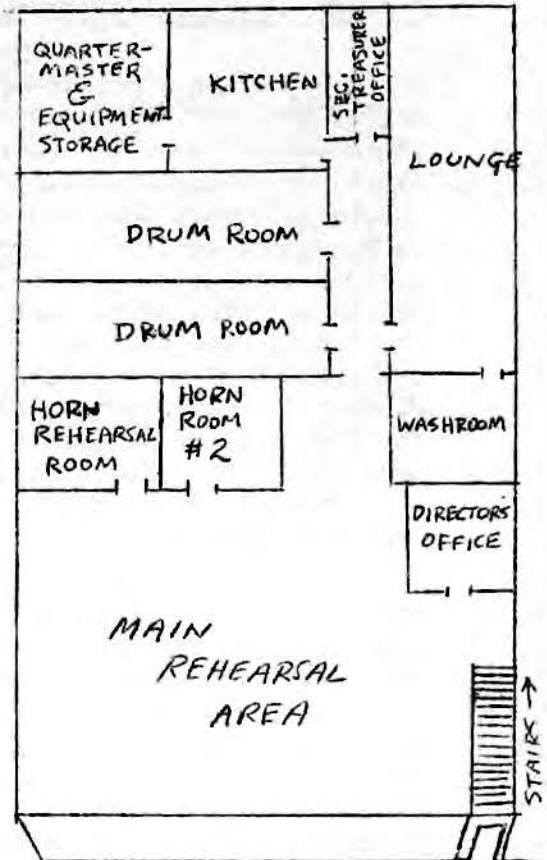
Following the Dinner the various Corps' Directors gathered with Mr. Warren for group pictures while everyone moved upstairs for an evening dance.

Later on in the evening I was very kindly shown the Cavalier rehearsal hall by Mr. Bob Hoehn, Jr. I was very impressed with their facilities and took the opportunity to make a "plan sketch" included here, "Cavalier Hall" is on a second floor above a delicatessen. I noted, as we entered, that the front door leading upstairs was painted with a "souvenir" of the summers Corps battles. A hastily drawn blue hatchet was etched on the wooden door...placed there by some rival Corps.

About 1 A.M. we joined the last group of stragglers to say good bye to Mr. and Mrs. Warren as we headed "around-the-corner" to The Cavalier's Pizza-Palace as guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Opager and John Jr. (former columnist for GCC). John has left the Cavaliers Guard, is currently working with Truman Crawford's SOUNDS AND SONGS and looking forward to leading SKOKIE INDIANS on the field this summer.

Sunday afternoon was spent at a meeting of the Midwest Guard Circuit before racing to the military section of the airport to witness a rehearsal of the Skokie Indians. Unfortunately we arrived there just as the rehearsal finished so didn't hear any actual music. At 7:30 I caught the TCA flight out of Chicago and was home by 10:30. Flying TCA certainly beats Gray Coach Lines.

CAVALIER HALL
2507 North Kedzie Blvd,
Chicago 47.



Boosters of the Month

By Al. Peczeniuk,
Director,
Optimists Booster Club

We want to know more about the Boosters of the Corps...there are many members of the Booster Club who have been following the Corps for years...or just since 1963. We want to know more about you, how you became interested in Drum Corps, in The Optimists...the times you have seen the Corps; what you like or don't like about Corps shows, your favourite shows and contests; details on trips you have taken, etc. etc. The most interesting letters will be published under "BOOSTERS OF THE MONTH" in this paper.

Write about yourself to: Mr. A.J. Peczeniuk,
Director, Optimists Booster Club,
85 Clendenan Ave., TORONTO 3.



We were Optimist Fans on the move. It all began the mid-season of 1962 when Don Norman and myself, John Gibson first began our trek.

The 1962 Canadian National Exhibition gave me the first opportunity to view The Optimists in competition; indeed, a moment to remember. Only a week later we were off to Pittsburgh, arriving about 5 in the

morning. After a very expensive breakfast, a few faulty directions we reached the park where the Corps was to perform. The all night rain that continued on into the morning dampened the field so that none of the Corps could attempt a full M&M Show so all the Corps ended up on stage. The Corps put on a show that at the time seemed to make the trip worth while but it was only an exhibition so that the trip home was indeed long and dreary.

The Pittsburgh Show brought to an end my year of watching Corps although Don was fortunate to see the Optimists again at the 1962 Canadian Nationals.

1963...a new season and we were off to Welland, Brantford and Chicago. Chicago? Why not?? There were only three of us in a Triumph TR2 as we zoomed through Windsor, Detroit and on to Chicago arriving with eight hours to spare. Nothing to do but get sunburnt and wait till showtime....and what a show it was, one of the greatest Junior Shows we had the pleasure to witness. Naturally we didn't agree that Optimists came fifth.

The Optimists Corps was soon on their way back to Port Hope and Canada and although we intended to make this event too, we did not quite succeed when TR2 broke down just outside of Toronto. To end the year we both attended the Canadian Championships...then decided to join the Corps...it would be much more exciting and we hope, less expensive.



COLUMNISTS,
SPECTATORS,
ALL SELF-
APPOINTED AND
CERTIFIED
JUDGES !!!

by Dave Watt.

A noon-hour trip to Toronto's Corp's Haven, Whaley, Royce Music Store, to pick up the latest Corps Papers.... a quick glance through, and the rest of the day is spent in mixed frustration and anger.

From the spectators and columnists are coming a new type of corps fan---exactly as named in the heading of this column, the worst of which are the so-called "impartial" columnists who condemn judges with such niceties as "prejudices", "bias", "blind and deaf", "mockery", "incompetent", and others that I believe should not really be printed (if the readers and publishers would fully understand it's meaning).

These "Self-appointed" Judges can scream for as long as they like about so-called incompetent judging by men who have never played in any type of corps while they themselves would most likely have about a 5% chance of passing the test every judge must take before receiving his papers, even while presently playing in a corps, or even thinking themselves qualified enough to dispute the results of a contest.

Many of these writers should most definitely study score-sheets once in a while, very carefully, and note that in many cases of "upset victories", the fault will not lie with any single judge, and most usually instructors or even corps members will verify where the most mistakes were made.

Any corps member, who is truly interested in corps, is often infuriated to read some columnist complaining about judges who have never played in a corps, and then in the next paragraph use the words "execution" over and over again to describe a corps' performance, even though it is very obvious that the writer knows very little about what he is talking about. Very few corps are still in the class where bad execution is so very obvious to an untrained ear or eye, and few spectators can honestly say that they can match a judge on the field, tenth for tenth.

Far too many writers have taken the trouble to even examine a score sheet closely and I think very few could give even $\frac{1}{2}$ of the sub-captions that a judge could deduct for. With six year's Corps experience, I myself could not honestly admit to knowing much more than half of these, and certainly any inexperienced writer would be an out-and-out liar to approach me in the coming season and say "I knew".

The complex score sheets of all captions, with so many tiny things that any unwary out-of-district corps may be trapped on are a mystery to most of the loyal supporters. Thus the visiting Corps often works with this disadvantage, while in their own home area they may reign supreme.

This "Spectators-columnists" situation certainly is not confined to Canada, in fact it seems to be even more pronounced in the United States. At the World Open Contest, which I attended, the crowd was most definitely "pro-St. Kevins", and even more definitely "anti-Blessed Sacrament". To have Blessed Sacrament win by five full points was ridiculous in the eyes of a crowd who had seen them win far too often, and they voiced their displeasure long and loud. Although I'm a St. Kevin's--Garfield fan, I must admit that I have rarely seen Blessed Sacrament better, and as many know, they are usually the nearest Corps to perfection. A DRUM CORPS NEWS reader, in commenting on this show, mentions that St. Kevins and Boston Crusaders received a standing ovation while Blessed Sacrament, on the other hand, received a like amount of booing---"They (the crowd) knew who should have won." At almost precisely the same time at the Toronto Senior Internationals, the stadium roared with the cheers of an estimated nine thousand fans for the defeated Interstatesmen. Says one writer---"Gentlemen of the CDCA...here are 9,000 potential Judges!!!" It seems to me that audience reaction was never, is not, and very likely will never be used to judge any Corps contest.

General Effect, and the Judges of that caption are another popular target of these armchair observers. True, general effect is a caption in which there can be a great variance in scores from one week to the next, but what most writers fail to see is that one reason why it varies is the fact that the scores are based upon the performance of the first corps on the field, and each of the following corps can affect this score to a surprising degree. A perfect example of this was the surprisingly high score that the Toronto Optimists received at the '63 Canadian Championships. Few people realized that the Optimists were, in fact, hoping that De La Salle, foremost rivals for the Junior Championship, would do a top job so that the Optimists might take advantage of the zooming G.E. Scores to attain their season long goal of 90. It might be conceded that they were not worth exactly an 89.0...but the general effect caption said that their credits for difficulty, repertoire, showmanship and execution were of a calibre to merit a high score in that caption to bolster only just above average field scores nearly to the goal of 90.

General Effect may be a varied caption, but a judge can rarely be blamed for the order of the corps on the field, although once in a while one may be unfortunate enough to give the first corps on the line too good a score and then find out that the following corps have a show that is so superior to the previous corps, that the credits are then far

(continued page 9)

THE MAIL BOX

Toronto, Ont.,
Oct. 12, 1963

Dear Mr. Daber:

As you may, or may not know, I have been a fan of The Optimists for one year. With the end of this season at hand, I have been prompted to write my opinions of a drum corps. The following passage is the result.

The coming of October brings with it the end of another Drum Corps season. Many new fans have been added to the ever increasing number during the months between May and October. Those who have not yet caught the "Drum Corps Bug", which is raging into an epidemic, often wonder; "How can these people survive the sweltering heat and the blistering cold? What is it that compels these fans to attend every competition? Just what is a Drum Corps?"

To me, a drum corps is a combination of mighty musical power, a colourful spectacle, and exact marching and manoeuvring. The blarring of the horns and the pounding of the drums swells in the heart of any listener until he wishes that he could go out and join the line.

The brilliant colours of the uniforms worn by the boys and the somewhat odd combination of coloured flags combine to make an impressive picture which remains in the mind of the spectator for many weeks.

Last, but by no means least, the precision of the marching and manoeuvring carried out by the Corps presents a very intricately patterned picture.

These three things...power, colour, and precision all combine to make a truly great drum corps.

Yours in Drum Corps,
Miss Elaine Carell.

Momonde Park, California,
October 18, 1963

Dear Mr. Daber:

Thank you for your booster material in reply to your column in Drum Corps World. There are a few Drum Corps "nut-type" girls here in California who would like to correspond with a few drum corps "nut-type" boys (15 or 16 yrs.) in the Champion Optimists. Here are the names and addresses of the girls:

Miss Jackie White, 232 Maronde Way, Monterey Park, California.

Miss Peggy Juliano, 12029 San Rio, El Monte, California.

Miss Chris Armenta, 420 W. Algora St., Monterey Park, California.

Miss Bobbi Sugimoto, 1580 Lunar Dr., Monterey Park, California.

Miss Phyllis Crow, 4529 Amber Pl., Los Angeles 32, California.

Miss Chris Hamilton, 100 Maronde Way, Monterey Park, California.

Yours in Corps,
Chris Hamilton.

Rochester, N.Y.
November 13, 1963

Dear Don:

My daughter received the picture of Vic today and would like to thank you very much. It is a good picture. We were very sorry to hear that Vic and Jim McConkey will not be with you next year.

We look forward to receiving GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS each issue. Do you have a section in your paper for Booster Buttons? Like---Buttons, Buttons, whose got the buttons??? What Buttons??? THE WAVETTES BUTTON OF course!!! Features a white background with a true Navy anchor of black with black lettering. Priced at 50¢.

WRITE: Mrs. Betty Conover at 1245 Beach Ave., Rochester 14612, N.Y.

Yours in Corps Spirit,
Mrs. Betty Conover, Publicity, Wavettes.

Allen Park, Mich.
Nov. 30, 1963.

Dear Mr. Daber:

If any of the guys in the Corps would like to write to a "fellow-Corps-man", I'd appreciate it if you would give him my address.

I'm a member of the Royal Lancers of Wyandotte, Michigan and have recently become a "Drum Corps Nut". I'm in the drum line so I would prefer corresponding with a drummer. Thanks a lot....and the best to the Optimists in '64.

Gregg Marr,
14595 Thomas,
Allen Park, Michigan, USA.

too high for the type of show that is performed.

It is hard enough to buy a corps newspaper or magazine three or four times a month and have to read columns by writers who do little more than view their own personal opinions, but to read six or eight of this type a month for a number of years might shake anybody's faith in a great pastime. Drum Corps is a hobby, basically for the young, but open to graduate members who so not wish to drop out. Fans are nice to have, and it is nice to read about the many other contests that we cannot see BUT--the Judges and the Corpsmen won't ruin our hobby. Who will??? Consult your editorial pages and many columns of Corps papers and read the names at the end of these columns. THAT'S WHO WILL!

OPTIMISTS NEW DRUM MAJORS..

Canada's Junior Champions will field two new Drum Majors come the 1964 Season, fast approaching. They will be Andy Henderson and Vern Johansson.

It is certainly no understatement to say that Andy Henderson is the most popular and one of the most respected individuals in the Corps. Ivor Bramley said much the same thing at the Corps banquet this year and the Corps gave its approval in no uncertain terms. Andy is now into his fifth year as a member of The Optimists. When he started out, the middle of the 1959 season, Andy was in the guard on flag...later he moved to rifle and worked out to be one of the best rifle men that the Corps has ever had. He then moved to the position of guard Captain, replacing Ivor Bramley, and brought forth one of our better guards.

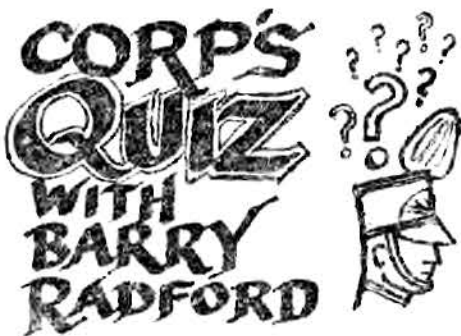
And now, going into the 1964 Season he will again change uniform to lead the Corps on the field as the new Drum Major. With his patience and knowledge its no trick to see why even the newest members of the Corps can appreciate him.

The assistant to Andy on the field in '64 will be Vern Johnasson, the sharp young Drum Major from the Optimists Bantam Corps.

Vern joined the Bantams in 1960 where he started out on tenor drum...moved up to snare after a year but found he couldn't keep up the practice here so moved into the Bantam's guard and went on rifle and from there to guard captain and on to the position of Drum Major for the Bantam Corps where he received much favourable comment at the several M&M Shows where the Bantams and Junior A Corps both made their appearances....notably the Junior International, the Optimist Convention and the Canadian Championships in September.

Vern's big ambition is to someday lead the Junior Champions as their number one Drum Major. As Assistant Drum Major he is fast approaching his ambition.

notes on Andy Henderson by Gene Chepswick,
Vern Johansson by Don Daber.



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THE OPTIMISTS CORPS?? IF SO, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER EVERY QUESTION IN THIS QUIZ (answers on next page...)

- (1) How many Drum Majors have the Optimists had since 1958 and who were they?
- (2) What were the scores for The Optimists at the Canadian Championships for 1961 _____ . 1962 _____ . 1963 _____ .
- (3) How many styles of uniforms has the Optimists had since 1952? _____ .
- (4) At what competition did Optimists first beat Scout House? _____ .
- (5) What year did the Optimists first enter the famed Preview of Champions in Jersey City? _____ .
- (6) How many Corps buttons has the Corps produced? _____ .
- (7) At what contest did the Optimists first meet the Cavaliers? _____ What year? _____ .
- (8) How many wins and loses did the Optimists have in the 1962-'63 Seasons? _____ .
- (9) How many records have there been of the Optimists released in Canada? _____ .
What other Corps were on the records?
Where were they recorded?
- (10) When were bayonets first used by the Optimists guard?
- (11) Is Sadie MauNau a member of the Corps?
- (12) When was the last time Barry Bell, the Music Director of the Corps played a bugle with the Corps?
- (14) How many uniforms has Jim McConkey had with the Corps since 62?
- (15) Who first worked rifle drill with the Optimists?

TO THE BANTAMS

A group of young recruits in sway,
Did a hoary veteran hold,
As he, his full score years and one
Into their ears unfold.

He told them how he first had heard
The trumpets clarion call,
And whispers of his travels,
Sent shivers through them all.

He stopped, and looked at eager eyes,
Which seemed to beg for more,
And then in voice of reverent awe,
He told them of the Corps.

Our fame is known throughout the land,
In city, town and village,
Our victories are likened to
Attila on his pillage!

For like this Hun, we sweep before,
The foes who would oppose us,
Our standards too, we carry high,
And recognize few o'er us.

But unlike he, with violence,
Who cruelly ravaged all,
Good music is our Vanguard,
Precision is our call.

Our horn line is all powerful,
Our drum line's better still,
But it's the colour guard, they say,
Who finishes the kill.

So if you feel this Corps; it's for you,
From all you've heard and seen,
Step up and make your mark
And we'll enroll you in the Green.

For that's the colour you will wear,
When you step out to battle,
As a Toronto Optimist,
When next the drum rolls rattle.

So there's the tale, as you can see,
On no one shall we lean,
We know you will be happy,
In this, the Mighty Green!

Ed Shaw.

TO THE NEW MEN

As I sit and watch "The Optimists"
With my Corps or from the stands,
I see the most fantastic sight
From each and every man.

The urge to drive, the urge to win,
Is in the minds of all;
How must it feel to be in Green
And march like ten feet tall!

The desire to be in this Great Corps,
Came to mind a thousand times,
But what great talents must one have
To make this long green line?

For two long years I held a spot
That was tops in a small time Corps,
When I decided I needed a change--
I loved green more and more.

End of Season came at last,
A release I obtained with good will;
I said good-bye to all my friends
And started up the hill...

At last I'm in The Big Green Corps
That swells my heart with pride;
To think that I might make the Line
With hard work as a guide.

It's easy to see a Corps as this
How it's been on top for so long,
A swell bunch of guys; Great Corps Spirit,
How could one joining go wrong?

Bill Holloway.

WINNERS OF THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS 1963
CHRISTMAS TURKEY DRAW, held Dec. 18th.

.....
Ticket # 4344
Mr. W. Morton, 259 Boston Ave. Toronto.

Ticket # 242
Mr. V.F. Vance, 32 Castleknock Rd. Tor.

Ticket # 3035
Miss Edna Crewe, 40 Bonniewood Rd. Scar.

ANSWERS TO THE OPTIMIST QUIZ

- (1) There have been 5 Drum Majors of the Corps since 1958...
1958-Phil Hennings, 1959-Don Chisholm & Phil Hennings, 1960-Barry Bell and Phil Hennings, 1961-Al Morrison, 1962-Jim McConkey, 1963-Jim McConkey and Glen Durish.
- (2) Optimists scores at Canadian Championships: 1961--33.55, 1962--88.40, 1963--89.00.
- (3) Optimists had 4 styles: 1952--Official Scout Uniform; 1957--Blue Uniform;
1958-1961--Dark Green blouse, white stripe, black trousers. 1962-'63--Brighter green blouse, white stripe with black trim, black trousers, new shakos.
- (4) 1958 Canadian Championships in Galt.
- (5) 1959.
- (6) A total of six buttons have been produced associated with the Corps---First Official button (Green profile outline on white background)---Second "Official" button-- White profile outline on green background.---The Five Year Championship Commemorative button,---The Six Year Championship Commemorative Button, The Junior International Competition Button, and The Bantam Optimists Corps.
- (7) The Preview Of Champions---1959 in Jersey City.
- (8) 8 wins, 6 loses.
- (9) There has been a record released every year since 1958---a total of six in Canada.
1958--Optimists, Scout House (National Records) released in USA.
1959--Optimists, Royalaires (Optimist Corps Record) recorded at Canadian Champ.
1960--Optimists, Royalaires (Optimist Corps Record) rec. at Internationals.
1960--Optimists, Royalaires, Ambassadors, DeLaSalle (Sunhill) "
1961--Optimists, DeLaSalle (Sunhill Records) recorded at Canadian Championships
1962--Optimists, Les Diplomates (Flectwood) recorded at Canadian Championships
1963--Optimists, Cavaliers (Optimist Corps Record) recorded at Mundelein, Ill.
- (10) In 1961 by Henderson & Miller.
- (11) Does anyone really know?
- (12) 1963 Grape Festival (see cover)
- (14) He had 4 main uniforms with variations on these.
- (15) 1959--Ivor Bramley and Len Perrin.

Optimists Top CANADIAN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

