

The Toronto Optimists  
Drum & Bugle Corps

# Newsletter

**GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS**



Vol. 4 no. 1

January - February 1964

our fourth year!



**“THE CORPS THAT  
DARED-TO-BE-KNOWN  
-BY-COLOUR-ALONE  
NOW WANTS A  
PERMANENT SOBRIQUET\*”  
CONTEST!**

## 4 FREE TICKETS!!!!

**TO THE 1964 CANADIAN NATIONALS  
the BEST centre seats at Varsity Stadium**



**CONTEST CLOSES ST. PATRICK'S DAY - MARCH  
27<sup>th</sup>**



# The Corpsman

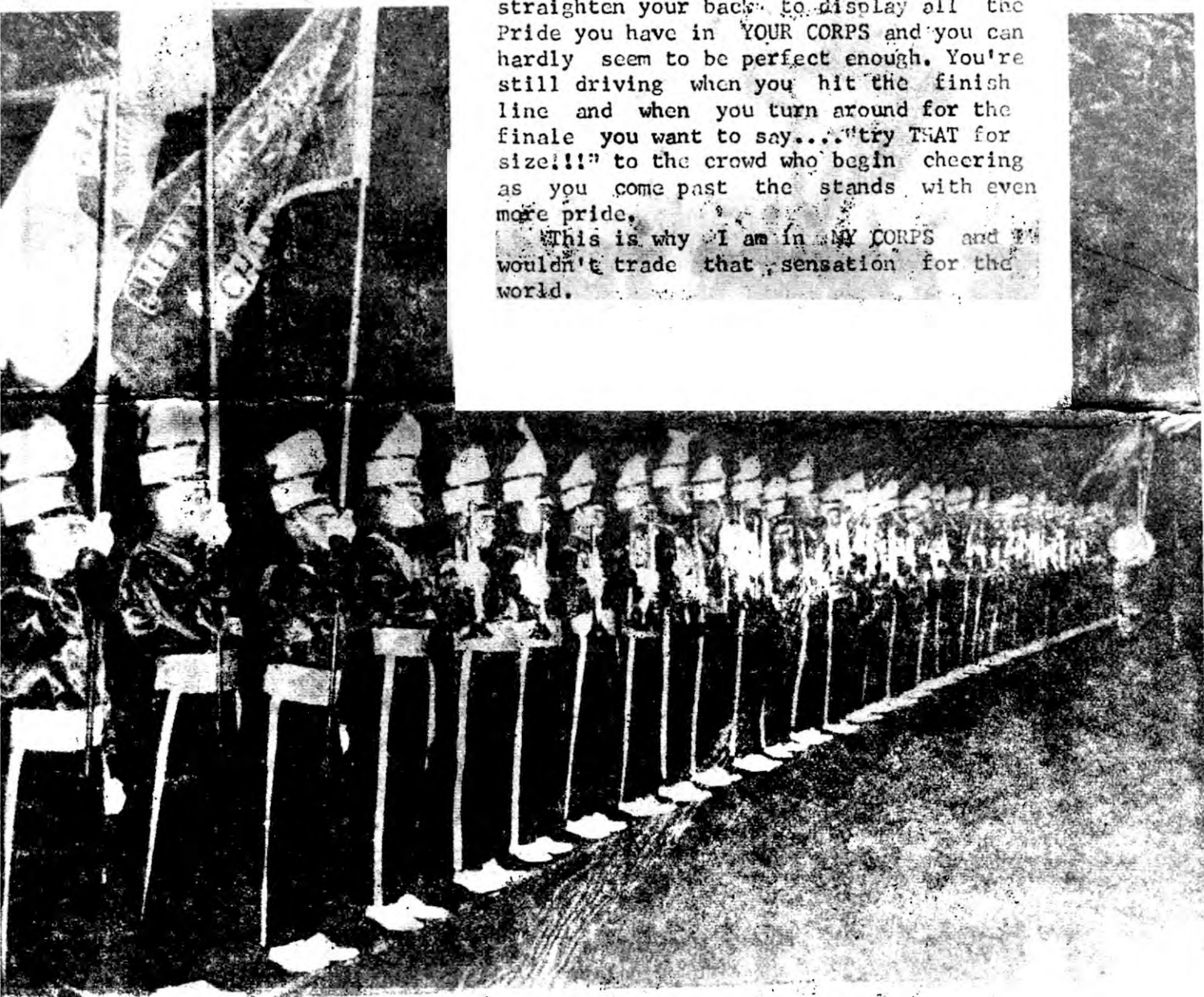


Your horn is poised for the fanfare... over the gleaming bell you see the crowd; expectant faces filled either with hope or animosity; and they are watching you. You see the Drum Major positioning himself and you catch fleeting glimpses of polished brass, spotless white gloves, shimmering satin, the determined faces beside you.

You hit the first note and it comes out clear, full and powerful; you're off the line and the front is straight; you feel the man beside you marking time and you can tell by the drive that they are there, as you are, to thrill the crowd and please the judges.

For these fantastic few moments on the Contest Field you griped about horn rehearsals, soundly cursed your Drill Instructor, stayed awake half the night from excitement, but above all you practiced! You check your horn angle and straighten your back to display all the Pride you have in YOUR CORPS and you can hardly seem to be perfect enough. You're still driving when you hit the finish line and when you turn around for the finale you want to say... "try THAT for size!!!" to the crowd who begin cheering as you come past the stands with even more pride.

This is why I am in MY CORPS and I wouldn't trade that sensation for the world.





## OPTIMISTS APPOINT NEW DIRECTOR

TORONTO, Jan.23,1964: Mr. H. N. Jordan, Acting Chairman of The Corps' Committee of The Optimist Club of Toronto, announced tonight the appointment of a new Director to take charge of The Toronto Optimists Bantam Drum Corps.

The new Director is Mr. S.H. Butler. The appointment is effective immediately. Mr. Butler brings with him a fine background of Drum Corps experience dating back to his High School days, when he was a member of a Sea Cadet Corps who often competed against the then powerful Western Tech Drum Corps...the Corps that gave the Music Director and the Drum Instructor of the present Jr. "A" Optimists their early experience in Drum Corps.

Mr. Butler was a member of The Queen's Own Trumpet Band for six years and currently is a member of The Second Signals Regiment Trumpet Band. He has been a member of this band for the past three years.

Mr. Butler has a son in the Bantam Corps...Stan Jr. Stan has been a member of the Bantam Corps for the past 1½ years. With his son as a member of the Bantam Corps, Mr. Butler has closely followed the progress of the Bantam Organization through the years of triumph and near disaster.

Following his appointment, Mr. Butler stated--"There is no finer hobby than Drum Corp...especially as an activity for Youth, and as the new Director for the Bantam organization I shall endeavor to make the members of this Corps have every opportunity to pursue this hobby to the full, and above all while doing so, to THINK GREEN!"

The Assistant Director to Mr. Butler for The Bantam Corps will be Mr. Fred Lombard. Fred was a member of the Optimists Jr. A Corps for two years; leaving them at the age of 21 in 1963. During the summer of 1963 Fred worked with the Bantam Corps on drill---continuing with them in this capacity through the fall months.

Equipment Manager for the Bantam Corps will be Mr. Jim Connell. The Music Director for the Bantams is Joe Gianna...one of the star Sopranos of the Optimists and a member of the Optimist Corps since 1957. Mr. Gianna is assisted with bugle instruction by Richard Boehmke. Drum Instructor is Mr. Bill Walker. Mr. Fred Lombard is Drill Instructor.

With the appointment of Mr. Stan Butler as Director of The Bantam Optimists, Don Dabe was able to resign his position as Acting Director of the Bantam Corps.

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DETAILS INSIDE---CORPS SOBRIQUET CONTEST !!!!!!!

# TO YOU IN THE STANDS

BY JEFF SHIMO



The scene is Waterloo Stadium. The time, 10:30PM. September 7, 1963. You look from the stands at the sight below, at the four Junior Corps who have just presented their Field Show and now await with anticipation the decision of the judges.

You think back to the past hour of colour and precision that has so impressed the crowd, and you are unable to decide the winner. Suddenly there is a blast from the microphones, a loud cheer from the crowds, a blast of bugles, a pounding of drums, and now only one corps remains at the 55 yard line.

As the drums sound the roll-off, 36 horns suddenly snap up and you wonder how each man knew at what instant to lift his instrument with such precision. Was it a certain beat of a drum, or an undetected signal from a drum Major? Your question is quickly forgotten as the horn line, in rows of six turn and send forth the opening chords of "I Believe". As you watch the Corps fade into the distance, you realize that this is the real reason why you enjoyed this, your first Corps Show so much. It was the sound of those bugles! Suddenly, at that instant, you long to play a horn, to be one of those thirty-six who have so impressed the audience and retained the Championship for five years.

A nudge from a companion suddenly brings you to your senses and you laugh at yourself for having thought that you, a novice, unable to even blow a note could have desired such a goal. You tuck the souvenir program into your jacket pocket, being careful not to crease the pages, and descend the stairs, trying to convince yourself that it was a foolish and impossible dream, yet wondering how those thirty-six chosen young men did make the line.

Yes, how did thirty-six men, some of whom have only played a bugle for one or two short years, how did they make this Championship line?

The horn player is a special breed of person, a man willing to sacrifice time, money and energy for his corps. I'll admit that to pick up a bugle with no playing experience and make the line that same year is quite an accomplishment, yet it is not impossible. If you are one of this "breed", if you are willing to practice regularly, if you are determined not to call it quits, your chances of making the line are very good. You must be interested in the Corps. This is imperative. Your keenness must make up for your musical inability.

You must be willing to sacrifice at least one hour each day in practicing rudamental exercises, exercises which will become almost second nature to you. This lengthy practice is essential to build up the lip and cheek muscles which must be able to endure that long thirteen minute show during the summer. It takes time and practice to develop your lip. There are stages when you will think that you are accomplishing nothing. It is then you should remember that good horn players, particularly those in the solo line, took time to develop. Many in our line have been playing for five or six years!

At the beginning the novice usually plays second soprano, where the range is low and the student gets excellent basic exercise to develop his lip. As he becomes better, he graduates to first soprano, where the range is higher and playing technique more advanced. Eventually, when he has mastered playing technique and lip control, he reaches the solo line ---the backbone of the hornline. It is through this system that each individual has members with playing ability better than his own above him; he has a goal to strive for and with such a system the individual is bound to improve.

As you watch the top Corps perform and listen to it's bugle line; to the sticatto tonguing of its lead sopranos, or the even mellow chords of its bass line, or perhaps the melodic runs of the French Horn section you may indeed think to yourself that this is "perfection personified". The Line may sound as if it is flawless, as if each individual is playing his part perfectly. But such is not the case, for it is impossible for 36 men to each play a perfect show. Minute flaws in playing technique such as releasing a note before its full value has been played; playing sharp or flat or just playing the wrong note are lost as the sound of the bugle line passes from the field to your ear. Also, the novice is usually affected by the sights and sounds of the moment so that his full attention is not focused upon picking out individual bugle errors.

If you get a chance, listen to a recording of any contest you have observed. Your favourite corps, who sounded so flawless at the contest now plays well on the recording, yet makes mistakes, undetected at the field show. Your full attention is directed towards the horn line on a recording and you are able to detect errors. So never be deceived by the seemingly flawless sound of a top horn line...everyone makes mistakes.

The Corps movement in Canada is growing...in fact Canada has produced several Corps of equal or better calibre to many of the top United States Corps. The fellows in The Optimists experienced several heart-breaking defeats last year across the border and are determined this year to avenge themselves. Only by increasing the quality of Corps here, and by so doing increase the competition may we as Canadian Corps improve our quality. If we get more people off the bench and into corps then we have begun the cycle which produces such rewarding results.

The opportunity to enter this fascinating hobby is at hand. To you, the individual who has ever longed to be in a Corps, the next move is yours.



...FROM THE GREEN CAMP----  
NEWS AND VIEWS ON THE  
CANADIAN SCENE.....

## FROM THE SIDELINES

BY:  
DON. DABER.

FROM THE SIDELINES---IN AND AROUND HAMILTON TOWN...As everyone knows by now---and as the rumours go-go-go there has been a big shakeup with the Boys in Gold from the steel city. The first concrete news as to a change in their Executive was the unexpected wind-fall in added membership to THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS over the Christmas rehearsals with a transfer of membership (with releases) of Hamilton Optimists to Toronto Optimists. Mr. Gord Bottrill moves from the position of Director to Optimist Club representative to the Corps. The new Director is Mr. Tom Brown. Mr. Al Wilson is the new Business Manager. Dave Lumsden is his assistant. The new Corps Commander is Roy Wilson. Al Addis will be their new Drum Major with Mike Horner, Guard Captain. The "New" Conquerors plan to field 36 bugles, a drum line of 4-4-4-4 and a guard of up to 20. In the Instruction department Al Morrison and Brian Williams are still in charge.

With the change in the new Corps Executive several members of the "old" Conquerors have left the Corps along with some of their Executive, including Don MacLean (now D.M. of Ambassadors) and Donn Truman who is now working out of the Toronto area. To this reporter it came as somewhat of a surprise to find Donn Truman no longer connected with Conquerors...as he helped found the organization and it was many of his ideas that made this Corps unique and rise so fast in such a short time in the annals of Canadian Corps. His value in the publicity department of that Corps was itself a strong factor in their early rise. We will miss Donn as "front man" for Conquerors this summer. It will be a while before Conquerors are quite the same as days of old. No doubt, with a new Executive and new ideas a new Conqueror will immerge...we hope without too many backward steps before continuing on their climb upward.

IN AND AROUND HAMILTON TOWN...SENIOR DIVISION...the big news is Viscounts joining with The Toronto Jesters to form the new and big, big, BIG...CANADIAN COMMANDERS with headquarters in Toronto and rehearsals in Toronto and Hamilton. Their Director is Vince Macciocchi, Jim Inrig and Bill Dundas are the Assistant Directors, Business Manager is Fred Hawkes, Don Douglas is Secretary, Bill Rider is Treasurer. For 1964 the Commanders plan to field 48 bugles, a drum line of 16 and a guard of 21 (?) Gord O'Halloran will be the new Drum Major (former Optimists Drummer) and Bill Coy is Guard Captain. The Corps are now in the process of revamping instruments, creating a new uniform and jacket design and reorganizing their new, larger membership for what will, no doubt be an exciting '64!!!

STILL IN HAMILTON...the big CDCA Convention is scheduled there for Friday, Feb. 28 Saturday, the 29th and Sunday, March 1st...all at the Sheraton Connaught Hotel. Schedule of events:

- 9:00 AM Saturday.....displays of Drum Corps equipment open.
- 12:00-3:00 PM., Saturday....Bugle Clinic, Crystal Ballroom.
- 12:30-3:00 PM., Saturday....Drum Clinic, Sheraton Room.
- 2:00 PM.....Business Meeting, Mural Room.
- 3:30-6:30 PM.....Cocktail Party, Oriental Room.
- 6:30 PM.....Annual CDCA Dinner, Sheraton Rm.
- 9:00 PM till midnight.....Dance, Sheraton Room.

- Sunday-10:30-11:30AM--Guard Clinic--Crystal Ball Room.
- 11:30-12:30PM---M&M Clinic, Crystal Ball Room.
- 1:00PM--Exhibition by the Conqueror Small Corps.

This year, on the big Saturday night of the Convention there will also be another big event Stateside---in Rochester---SOUND OFF FOR '64!!! (see ad this issue)

TO THE WEST OF HAMILTON...Up Preston way, undersatand SCOUT HOUSE is going great guns under their new instructors---George Arnold on bugles and Norm Cardwell on drums. ....in Guelph the Guelph Optimists Corps announce their new name---"OPTI-KNIGHTS"....

down Niagara way, understand the MILITAIRES are having some problems...Norm Fach's GRANTHAM Corps going great aided by JACK ROBERTS (former Optimist)....across the border ST. JOSEPHS OF BATAVIA will no doubt still be a big threat to Optimists and other Canadian Junior Corps, even with Ratford out...look for a Corps in smart West Point Uniforms.....further west to Chicago town and The CAVALIERS. Understand they (OVER---

FROM THE SIDELINES (continued...)

as of January 12th... now have two small Corps going within the organization---the second started after the first won first place in their first All American Jr. Contest, January 12th. This brings forth the question---will they compete against each other???? In addition to their Small Corps their guard has entered the Mid-west Circuit Guard Competitions, for the first time in several years. Cavaliers began drill January 10th in a local armory....Heard the new DREAM album???...ST. KEVENS...WOW!!!...this three record set was available @ \$11.95 (Mono) but it seems Whaley can't keep supplies in stock and as usual FLEETWOOD doesn't seem to be keeping his Canadian distributor too well supplied.

FROM THE SIDELINES IN TORONTO TOWN...The Optimists looked great and COOL at their short appearance at the ICE FOLLIES, January 27th...first time in uniform for the new members....your now "in" fellows...following the ICE FOLLIES, Optimists almost scheduled to appear in Quebec City the weekend of the 8th of February as guests of the QUEBEC CITY OPTIMIST CLUB and their annual Quebec Regional Convention. The Corps would have taken part in the giant Carnival Parade and perhaps made an appearance at the Coliseum midnight show....but you know what they say..."the best layed plans etc..." INSIDE THE CORPS---the 1964 Section Sergeants have been appointed---DOUG MACKENZIE (Soprano section), ROSS CATION (French Horn section), DAVE WATT (Bass Section), RON KAISER (Drum Line), and GENE CHEPSWICK (Guard). Congratulations fellows!!!...the Corps is still accepting membership in the bugle section but any further applications to the drum line or guard will be placed on a waiting list...membership figures are raising too high for summer transportation.

THIS SUMMER look for The Optimists At SEAGRAM STADIUM at WATERLOO June 27th at the 1964 WATERLOO BAND FESTIVAL. This will be a Junior Division, Senior Division competition. ...in Competition in Sarnia July 18th at the great Sertoma CHEMICAL VALLEY FESTIVAL...at The Ambassador's JUNIOR INVITATIONAL in Toronto, July 25th...and in Rochester, N.Y. on August 8th at the Junior "BUGLES AND DRUMS" Competition.

Still with THE OPTIMISTS...note the new jacket crests---with all SIX years---the crest the large 5 inch diameter size...IVOR BRAMLEY snapping out the first drill of '64 at the Legion Hall, Sunday January 26th...understand THE RIVERSIDE THREE are now THE RIVERSIDE TWO...Holger Tiedge the model for some of the advertising for the 1964 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS...and speaking of models note our star drummer MARK WICKEN hitting that table-tennis ball in the ABITIBI "WOODGRAIN PANELS" ad in the Globe and Mail, Fri. Jan 31...the ad says that ABITIBI Panels are "kid-proof"!!!, whatever that means. By the way, that big technicolor movie that Mark appeared in a few summers back still hasn't been released. ---Wonder why????


OTHER NEWS AROUND TORONTO---Columbus Drum Corps now moved up to the Michael Power School---now called the MICHAEL POWER KNIGHTS. Understand they plan to field a bugle line of 45...14 drums...21 guard. They are planning a big indoor concert the evening of Feb. 22nd...bringing up the MAJESTIC KNIGHTS from Charleston, Mass...also featuring THE CANADIAN COMMANDERS...this event will take place at the Michael Power School, we understand. Then, on March 6th, the YORK LIONS DRUM CORPS will present their "SOUND OF '64" Concert at Vaughan Road Collegiate, Saturday March 6th., beginning at 8PM. York Lions will make their first appearance of the year, along with Ambassadors, De La Salle and the programme will be rounded out with professional Variety Acts! Hey!!! Hey!! HEY!---rumour has it that VINNIE RATFORD is in town...instructing and writing the drill for York Lions!!! If true this will be his 7th. Corps for instruction for '64, we understand.

Big Lions Club Parade in Toronto for the 47th Annual International Association of Lions Clubs on Wednesday, July 8th....parade starting at 10:00 AM. Unfortunately, this being a weekday event many Corps in and around Toronto who might have taken part if this were a weekend event won't be able to on a weekday morning...unless they are part of the Lions Club Convention, that id!

TWO BIG INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS GOBY THE BOARD IN '64!!!...It was announced by the Leaside Lions Club that they will not sponsor their famed SENIOR INTERNATIONAL this year. This contest, which usually follows the Canadian Championships in September has almost become a tradition in Toronto...but over the past two years much criticism has been heaped on this contest over the results of the winning Corps. But this was not the reason this contest was dropped. With the amount of work and promotion put into this event by the Leaside Lions Club over the years...the results in attendance and gate receipts just were not paying off in the work involved. Instead of even building up the attendance over the years attendance was standing still. Result---No Senior International this year. In the Junior International Contest, run by the Optimist Club of Downtown Toronto over the past two seasons, the decision was also made by this sponsor to drop this event in '64 for much the same reason the Lions dropped their Senior event. Will both or either of these contests be brought back in 1965? I guess that depends on the response to the CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS at Varsity Stadium on September 12th. as sponsored by the Police Association of Metro. One thing for sure, if The Police Association under the able direction of Syd Brown and Bronko Saban can't fill Varsity on that day...then no one can! Which comes down to the question....will Toronto be a lost city to the big Drum Corps shows and be relegated to having all shows and contests at fields such as East York with the capacity of only 3000???

...And that's the "View From The Sidelines" for this issue....

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The Waringer 

SOME FELLOWS TALK OF VICTORY...  
THEIR WORDS COME FAST AND THICK  
BUT WHEN THEY PICK UP HORNS AND BLOW...  
THE SOUNDS THEY MAKE ARE SICK!!! C.H.

# the green machine



BY: TIM HICKLIN

from Chicago

Since this is my first column for The Optimist's G.C.C. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Tim Hicklin and I've been with The Cavaliers for one seemingly short year. I came to the Cavaliers as a first French Horn from the Cougars Drum Corps. I've been with drum corps for about seven years, but became really enthusiastic about the whole idea in 1960 when the Cougars won the "Son's of America" Legion State Championship. Since 1960, when the Cougars won, I have been an ardent Cavalier fan and at the end of the 1962 season I joined "The Green Machine"

In 1963 we had a very successful season, winning both State Championships and our fifth VFW National Championship! In the coming year we are already planning another 1961 Season including our first American Legion National Championship and perhaps our second International Championship.

At the date of this writing (Jan. 8th) we have learned and polished our first two new 1964 numbers... "Somewhere" from West Side Story; and "Who Will Buy" from the musical "Oliver" and by the end of January we will have learned our first two manoeuvres to go along with the above two numbers.

We are dropping "Battle Hymn" unfortunately, for a new flag presentation that by all indications should be really fantastic. It is a combination of many patriotic songs.

"Bully" is being switched from our opener to concert (It hink) and of course we are keeping "Somewhere over The Rainbow" for a closer plus one other number unbeknownst to me.

(CONTINUED OVER...)

ANNOUNCING - THE FIRST BIG CONTEST  
OF '64!!

## SOUND OFF FOR '64!

7:45 PM SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29th 1964  
COMMUNITY WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING

★ ROCHESTER, N.Y. ★

IN COMPETITION:

from LONG ISLAND, N.Y. - **SELDON CADETS!**  
from SYRACUSE, N.Y. - **JUNIOR BRIGADIERS!**  
from Marion, Ohio - **MARION CADETS!**  
from Frankford, N.Y. - **The STARLIGHTERS!**  
from Hamilton, Ont. - **The CONQUERORS!**

IN EXHIBITION - BACK TO THRILL YOU AGAIN  
**THE REILLY & RAIDERS!**

AND  
The EMERALD CADETS, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

ORDER TICKETS  
NOW!!! \$2.50

RESERVED SEATS 2.00  
1.75

General Admission

\$1.25

.75¢ (children)

For 1 month only  
the \$2.50 tickets  
Advance Sale - \$2.00

FOR TICKETS WRITE: THE EMERALD CADETS, 5294 ST. PAUL BLVD. ROCHESTER, N.Y.

## THE GREEN MACHINE FROM CHICAGO (continued)

Len Pickarski, our Drill Instructor, says we are going back to our old "Green Machine" style---strictly K&M!!! Also we are fielding thirty six bugles, twelve drums (4 & 4) and a guard of eighteen. This is the biggest Corps in the history of the Cavaliers and should be power-packed!!! More on this in the next issue.

On December 22nd we held our annual Christmas Banquet. At this banquet our staff told us about the coming season....we are scheduled for a three week tour of the east coast. This tour will include the VFW Nationals in Cleveland, The World's Fair in New York in addition to other important shows.

After this tour we will return to Chicago and recuperate for a while before going on our American Legion trek.

At this Christmas banquet the Rookie Of The Year Award was presented to two of our one year members. For the first time there was a tie, and for the first time one of the awards was given to a Guard Member, Sal Capagna. The other award was given to one of the rudimental bass drummers, Tom Hartig. Both of these members demonstrated the kind of spirit that won them this award.

Surprises everywhere----especially to our Guard who recently took first place from The Phantomettes of Rockford by a margin of 1.3. Bill Allen, of our Guard, was also surprised when his house burned down! Our regrets extend to him.

A new Instructor has been added to our staff. His name is Nick Venden. Besides instructing our "B" Corps he is also a playing member of The Cavaliers.

Al Brinker, our D.M. has been going absolutely "crazy" trying to figure out exactly who Dave Johns is!!!!

Striking to my mind is that we can both play the same number WHO WILL BUY at Mundelein in the Grand Finale. I've heard many reports, or should I say rumors, about the East. What's happening out there???

IN AND ABOUT CHICAGO TOWN:::The combining of the Chi-Angles and Cougars (now The Spartans) have caused much talk in this area....it seems, from all reports, that they are a top contender.....Norwood Park Imperials are planning to have the best Corps ever, they have been working very hard this winter and have a good portion of their drill down.....The Royal Airs are also working diligently at new music and drill. It seems they are going to have a larger corps than ours, and they are coming off-the-line in two fronts! Different, anyway??!!!!

Not much else happening around Chicago at this writing so I will close with the thought...."Only fools are positive!!!"

Tim Hicklin, 6720 Palma Lane, Morton Grove,  
Illinois, 60053.

## What's in a Name ?

THEY SAY A CORPS IS MADE OF MEN AND THE NAMES BEHIND THEM (except Girl Corps) THIS IS VERY COMMON THROUGHOUT MOST CORPS, ESPECIALLY THE JUNIOR DIVISION.

IN "THE OPTIMISTS" THE MAJORITY OF OUR GUYS HAS A NAME WHICH DEPICTS HIS OWN CHARACTER AND ABILITY. ALL NAMES ARE CAREFULLY CONCEIVED BY THE CORPS' "THINKING SOCIETY" AN EXAMPLE OF THIS SUPERLATIVE THINKING IS ONE OF THE BETTER BARITONE PLAYERS..."BILL THORNE". HE IS NOW KNOWN AS "Bill Barf". THE NAME WAS DERIVED FROM THE CHICAGO TRIP OF LAST YEAR WHEN BILL WAS ACCIDENTLY SICK IN ONE OF OUR STAR DRUMMERS SHAKO BOXES. (They say some Buglers don't like drummers....but UGG!!!)

THEN THERE'S "JEFF SHIMO"...A FINE SOLO SOPRANO BUGLER....KNOWN TO THE GUYS AS "Irish" ON BUS TRIPS.

THE GRAND EXALTED OF THE BUNCH IS OUR NEW DRUM MAJOR (Who is doing a fine job, incidently) ONE "ANDY HENDERSON"...KNOWN AS "Hendergobble". NOW THAT SHOULD PROVE OUR THINKING POWER!!!!!!!

NEXT IS DOUG MACKENZIE, ANOTHER FINE SOLO SOPRANO WHO IS KNOWN AS "Mickey Mouse" (the fool bought a Mickey Mouse hat during the LeRoy trip of '63)

ANOTHER NAME?????..."Sal Mineo" THIS IS BILL HANNA, WHO PLAYS AN EXCEPTIONAL BARITONE (You can take the "exceptional" either way) BILL DRIVES THE MOST BEAT UP VOLKSWAGON YOU WILL EVER SEE. ...THEN THERE'S BILL'S PAL "Charlie Brown" (KEN THOMPSON)---a model for the comic strip under "Peanuts".

these next fellows are the two most confusing in the Corps..."DAVE WATT" (WHO PLAYS A EUPHONIUM) AND "DICK WARD" ON BARITONE. AT PRACTICE OR ON THE BUS YOU COULD BE TALKING TO "WARD" AND EXCLAIM "WHAT???" IN PUZZLEMENT, THEN "WATT" WOULD COME OVER AND SAY "WATT???" BUT NOW THAT DICK HAS LEFT US, THE SITUATION IS MORE UNDER CONTROL.

MORE NAMES OF INTEREST....."BILL GRIGG" (one of our cymbalists) BETTER KNOWN AS "Cymbal Cyman."....."JOHN WHITTING" (another "Metal Crasher") KNOWN AS "PEANUTS"....AND THEN THERE'S MY GOOD FRIEND "RON LOMBARD" KNOWN AS "Pool Hall"

ANOTHER OUTSTANDING IS "FRANK ROOD" (one of our Bass Drummers, exceptionally tall and his father owns a pastery shop) THEREFORE WE CALL HIM "he Gingerbread Man". THEN THERES OUR VERY OWN RIVER BOAT GAMBLER "BOB HARKNESS" KNOWN AS "The Mississippi River Boat King". EVERY GUY WHO PLAYS CARDS WITH HIM ON THOSE LONG BUS TRIPS WONDERS ABOUT HIS LUCK AFTER THEY GET "CLEANED".

MORE ON THE SERIOUS SIDE, THERE IS "BILL HOLLOWAY", OPTIMISTS "Ann Landers". (He helps guys with various "love problems", gets them dates and sews up broken engagements etc.) It just doesn't seem to work though, this is his only drawback. (Continued next page)



# COLOURFUL MUSIC - SPECTACULAR DRILLS

## FEATURING

### **ST. JOSEPH DRUM CORPS - BATAVIA, N.Y.**

NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONS  
NEW YORK - PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONS  
CANADIAN - NEW YORK CHAMPIONS

PRESENTING THEIR WINTER CONCERT

## PLUS

### **CANADA'S FABULOUS 48th**

The Pipe Band of the 48th Highlanders - Toronto

## AND

### **CANADA'S TOP DRUM & BUGLE CORPS**

PORT CREDIT MARCHING AMBASSADORS  
DE LA SALLE COLLEGE — TORONTO  
FLYING DUTCHMEN — KITCHENER-WATERLOO



# CANADIAN INDOOR BAND FESTIVAL

**KITCHENER MEMORIAL  
AUDITORIUM**

**February 15th, 1964  
8 P.M.**

## ORDER FORM

.....ADULT RESERVED @ \$1.50 ea. ....

.....CHILDREN RESERVED @ \$1.00 ea. ....

Cheque or Money Order Payable to:  
**KITCHENER MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM**  
400 East Avenue  
KITCHENER, ONTARIO

THIS COLUMN COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN TO ACCOMODATE MANY OTHERS, BUT DUE TO LACK OF SPACE IT MUST BE LIMITED TO THE FEW COVERED (or uncovered).

COMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE LONG BUS TRIPS ARE THE ANTIDOTES FOR DEVELOPING THESE NAMES. IN A CORPS SUCH AS OURS THESE NAMES PERTAIN TO THE FRIENDSHIP AND THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BUILT OVER THE YEARS WHICH HELPS TO MAKE FOR A STRONG CORP'S SPIRIT.

..! THIS COLUMN AIN'T A BIG LIE!!!

Written by The Now "BIG FINK"(J.D.)

# THE EUPHONIUM

BY DAVE (BIG E) WATT

BREMIOR?

For the first time in a number of years a new type of bugle has appeared on the Canadian scene and has been widely accepted. Beginning with the rough, unfinished model given to the Optimists by Whaley, Royce in the middle of the 1963 season, the new horn called A Euphonium (due to it's resemblance to the three valve euphonium) has very rapidly established itself in many junior corps as an excellent substitute for the much more expensive contra-bass.

The Euphonium itself, is somewhat of a cross between a bass horn, and a contra-bass, combining good points of each. It is carried in basically the same manner as a bass horn, it has the exact range of a bass horn, but is very nearly twice it's size. Contrary to it's appearance it is only slightly heavier than a bass horn, but unfortunately, due to it's size, balance and grip, it may feel considerably heavier until the player becomes adjusted to it.

To overshadow it's minor faults, it may be said that the Euphonium produces one of the most pleasing, truly bass sounds to be heard. It is very easy to play, once the player has had a chance to get the "feel" of the horn, and it could very possibly be put to as good advantage as a solo instrument, due to it's resonance and mellow sound in it's complete range.

When first tested by the Optimists last season it seemed to be the number one target of judges, and not only the bugle variety, who seemed to be as curious about this new instrument as were the spectators. In fact, wherever this instrument was carried, it brought questions from the judges and fans alike, as to it's make, origin, range, weight etc. By the time the Canadian National Championships were due in September, the Optimist Executive were impressed enough with the Euphonium to field two more.

On September 7th., 1963 three brand new euphoniums gleamed brightly on the starting line the afternoon of the Canadian Championships at Seagram Stadium in Waterloo, on their way to a brand new (for them) National title. As evidence to the fact that the Euphonium is not difficult to master: two of the three Euphonium players, with only one year's playing experience each, and only a few days practice on their new horns, carried them on the field to help win the Optimists' sixth title.

As the '63 Season ended, the Corps retreated to their winter hideouts to prepare for the '64 Season, and rumors that many Toronto area corps had an eye on the Euphonium spread rapidly. It seems quite definite now that at least three corps in this area will field a bass line including "Euphoniums" in '64.

I expect that from a beginning of once unfinished, semi-lacquered question-mark the Euphonium will prove to be one of the great benefits to Corp's bugle lines in the history of the Canadian Association of Drum Corps.

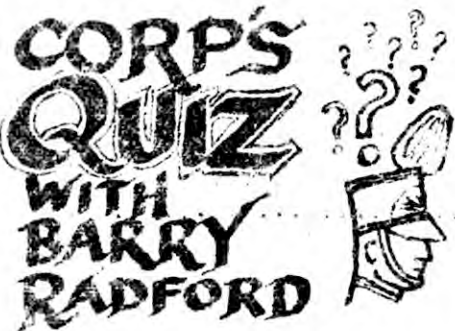
-----THE AUTHOR: Dave Watt joined The Optimists in July of 1960 on the baritone line. Midseason of 1963 he was handed the first vintage Euphonium by the Corp's music Director, Barry Bell, as a test instrument for Whaley, Royce. During the first few weeks of this period Dave reported that he had the problem of getting used to the weight of the horn over the lighter weight of the bass horn he carried previously. "I kept having to adjust the strap on by wrist watch", Dave reported, as his forearms thickened..I thought I'd end up looking like Popeye!!! At the Championships Bob Rivers and Noel Bramley were given the second and third Euphoniums manufactured in Canada...Bob is continuing in the "Euphonium Section" for 1964 and Paul Thompson is on the third one.

# OPTI-MOMS.

It must have been about 1960 when the "Opti-Moms" first began under the leadership of Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Prokop and in those four years did a great amount of work, but I don't think once they received the roaring cheer they certainly deserved. There were many a hot sunday rehearsal when the "Moms" were on hand with all kinds of sandwiches, cold lemonade and cokes for the guys. They held dances for us and raised money through their Club Dues and were at many contest near and far to lend a cheer of support.

Now, I understand, that the 1963 President, Mrs. Bossert, has had to announce that they cannot continue because of lack of support to get enough mothers interested to continue the organization as in the past. I for one, and I know a loy of the 1962-'63 Members of the Corps are going to miss "The Opti-Moms".

----Andy Henderson, Drum Major.



- (1) What was the Optimist's Concert in 1958?
- (2) When was the first formal occasion that The Optimists appeared in their present uniform?
- (3) In what year did the corps replace baritones with an all bass line?
- (4) At what show was the Optimists Euphonium first used?
- (5) When was the Optimists Paper Money first issued?
- (6) What was the greatest distance travelled by the Optimists to attend a contest? What year and from where to where?
- (7) Have the Optimists ever beaten the famed Garfield Cadets?
- (8) What number has this corps played for the greatest number of years?

THE ANSWERS: (1) 1958 Concert: "Hello Young Lovers" in the Mood". (2) The 1964 Green uniform was first worn Rome, N.Y., July XIV, 1962. At this contest the Optimists beat the Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights. (3) The year 1961. (4) The Euphonium was taken on the field for the first time by Dave Watt at an exhibition of the Corps at Waverly, N.Y., July 27, 1963. In competition the next day at Salamanca, Illinois to Fort Hope, Ont., about 700 miles from contest to contest. (5) Paper Money first issued in 1960. (6) June 30th, 1963 from Mundelein, (8) "In The Mood" played for 4 years--1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961.

# The Bantams

BY:  
KEITH ADAMS  
and  
JOE TAYLOR, JR.

...INTRODUCING TWO NEW REPORTERS FROM THE OPTIMISTS BANTAM CORPS---KEITH ADAMS & JOE TAYLOR

**THE BANTAMS by Keith Adams:** The Bantams had a bit of trouble in November when our Directors left with what seemed like "three quarters" of the corps. Then a group of Optimist "A" Corps-men came down to help us onto our feet again... Mr. Daber, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Gianna along with Mr. Lombard, Mr. Boehnke, and Mr. Walker. At first we did not have very many boys but then they started to pour in and now we have about 45, with a few more coming down every rehearsal so now there is a start at building a Corps again.

**A NEW DRUM MAJOR AND GUARD CAPTAIN:** At a rehearsal in mid-January it was announced that our new acting Drum Major will be Steve Cooper. Steve is our former Guard Captain. His brother, Ron is in the guard of the guard of the Junior A Corps.

Jim Mahoney has the position of Guard Captain. Jim was one of our former riflers. In the guard we have two former members of Columbus on rifle and they should do just great. In our Executive it was announced that Fred Lombard is the drill instructor and Assistant Director. He will be working with the guard. Assisting with the guard will be Vern Johansson, our former Drum Major of last year who has moved up to the position of Assistant Drum Major with the Junior "A" Corps. Its nice to see Vern working with us.

**THE BANTAMS by JOE TAYLOR:** In September I joined the Bantams thinking at the time that everything would go perfect with the corps. But to my amazement the Corps, during this short period has had many disappointments and heartaches when the Corps almost folded because of demands for unneeded horns. Now, that all the commotion is over the Bantams are back to a more advancing position.

We have had two promotions...in the guard and the drum majors spot...to Guard Captain Jim Mahoney, a guy we respect---and to Acting Drum Major---Steve Cooper, another fellow we need.

Our instructors now are: Joe Gianna on bugles and Bill Walker with Drums with Fred Lombard on Drill.

During the drill session of the January 14th rehearsal we had an interesting competition. This was to find the best drill section, from the whole Corps. The appointed leaders watched us carefully as we marched around the gym to different commands. I imagine all of us felt the same---anxious...yet eager to win in our sections. Finally the command "HALT" and the final decision was announced...the first drum line consisting of ED HALL, DAVE SIMMS and DAVID COLLINS received the honour of being the best at drill that rehearsal, for THE NEW Bantam Corps.

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**"THE CORPS THAT  
DARED-TO-BE-KNOWN-BY-COLOUR-ALONE  
NOW WANTS A PERMANENT SOBRIQUET\*"**



**CONTEST!**



We dared to be known by a colour alone,  
But Cavies already laid claim;  
Emerald Knights are widely known,  
They too, are known by a name.  
Cadets, Monarchs, Imperials and more...  
All good names it seems are taken,  
Why then, can we not be talked of  
With a name perhaps of YOUR makin'...

We would dearly love a suitable name,  
Rather than those we get after wins;  
There's a good prize for the lucky winner  
For a nickname when the season begins.  
You've no idea how proud we'd all feel  
If we'd be announced on the starting line  
As the same great Corps---slightly altered  
With a name that will appeal.

Enter "The Corps that Dared-To-Be-Known-By-Colour-Alone Now Wants A Permanent Sobriquet (Nickname)" "CONTEST..."

PRIZES: In **two** categories---Boosters and Fans---4 FREE TICKETS to the best centre seats at Varsity Stadium to the 1964 **Canadian Championships!!!**  
Members of the Corps---A FREE 1964 Corps JACKET or The 1963 DREAM ALBUM (3 records)---Your choice!

CONDITIONS: Your entry should contain the word "Green"...be short and to the point and symbolize The Optimists Corps. There will be a winner in only one of the above category...either Booster or Corps Member, whoever submits the best name. All entries become the property of The Toronto Optimists Drum Corps. In case of a tie the earliest postmarked entry wins. At the termination of this contest if a suitable sobriquet has not been submitted through all entries the Judges reserve the right to award no prize.

CONTEST CLOSSES TUESDAY, MARCH 17th., ST. PATRICK'S DAY (not the 27th as announced on the cover)

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

Don Daber, Director,  
The Toronto Optimists Drum Corps,  
Suite 302,  
205 Keele Street,  
Toronto, 9, Ontario,  
Canada.

If a Member of the Corps hand your entry to the Director in a sealed envelope.

CLIP AND MAIL NOW

Here is my suggestion of a Sobriquet for THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM CORPS ....  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

REMEMBER: CONTEST CLOSSES  
MARCH 17TH.

If member of Optimists Booster Club...your number \_\_\_\_\_.

# CHEPSWICK NEW GUARD CAPTAIN!

Again the sword has changed...the sword of the Guard Captain of The Optimists Corps---that hand-carved sabre with the handle the golden head of the lion.

In our corps there has been a new Captain to front the guard, almost every season...Mike Layton, Bob Cook, Ivor Bramley and Andy Henderson and now last year's Guard Sergeant, Gene Chapswick has been elevated to the position of the 1964 Captain. No doubt he will follow suit in being very successful in this spot.

Gene joined the Optimists for the 1962 season, transferring from St. Mary's Drum Corps. He immediately joined the guard and carried The New York-Canadian Championship flag that season. 1962 proved to be the year that the Optimists' Guard proved better than the guard of any previous year in the history of this Corps...beating out the guard of Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights and at the close of the year taking the Canadian Guard Championship trophy from De La Salle. Over this past year that trophy was again retained---with an even larger guard hitting the field than that of '62!!!!

At the moment, the way things are shaping up now this year's guard will be larger than ever...so, Captain G.C. your work is cut out for you. That trophy is waiting. May it be picked up a third time!!

---Andy Henderson.

## Boosters of the Month

By Al.  
Peczeniuk,  
Director,  
Optimists Booster Club

It was my pleasure and privilege recently to interview two of The Optimists' most charming and ardent boosters...Miss Cathy Cole and Miss Cathy Gale.

These two petite Misses have much in common besides their first name, and although Miss Gale has slight seniority in her interest in Drum Corps, they have both become fast friends. For hobbies, besides watching Drum Corps, they participate in the most active of sports---horseback riding and swimming during the summer and ice skating during these winter months. Both are still attending school and spend much of their spare time working to make enough money to accompany the Optimists to various contests. They have logged a total of about 5,000 miles to date!!!

The loud excitement of competition, coupled with the colour and the various styles of music, give these two enthusiasts their greatest thrills; while their pet aversion amounts to a dislike for girl guards in a boy's Corps. However, neither of them would mind being able to join an all Girl Corps.

As to contests, Miss Cole prefers the smaller contests in contrast with the larger ones. Miss Gale has great affinity for Corps which utilize the complete field and use rifles in their guard. Neither of the two particularly like the block formations as used by The Optimists Corps.

Talking with them I was attracted by the attention to detail that these two possess and that a Drum Corps has to be of a high calibre to warrant their admiration! Its nice to know that fans such as these are members of our Booster Club.

On the evening of January 27th. and for the 7th year in a row our show with the famed ICE FOLLIES went out without any slips (on the ice, that is)...we played our usual lengthy show of two numbers--- "As Long As He Needs Me" and "The Partys Over" and it was put on in pretty well the same fashion as in year's past.

We reported in to the home of The Maple Leafs about an hour before show time, got dressed leisurely, lined up in the hall for inspection by "Eagle-eye" Bell; then paced off around the Gardens to the staging area. Backstage, old Shipstad and Johnson were running around hurrying their shapely skaters through the curtain and keeping our guys in Green nailed to the walls. Boy, if I'd have had my skates done up I'd have been out on the ice with them. While waiting for the number "Highland Swing" to finish before we were on I looked around and noticed that most of the new guys were so nervous that there were enough butterflys around to start a collection!! What seemed like eternity "Highland Swing" went on and on...this was probably the most nervous show of the

year, especially for the rookies, as they stand behind the curtain for the first time, waiting for the skaters to finish and wondering about the ice. There is a stange atmosphere here, unlike a competition possibly being among pro performers and feeling amateur or because its exactly opposite from going on the ice. The bass drummers move up, just to the right of the stage entrance...the closing Highland fanfare is heard as the skaters come off the ice. They are

# THE ICE FOLLIES

AS SEEN BY THE D.M.

carrying umbrellas and putting them in racks. Great! That means they have used a rain effect on the ice again this year. Slippery!

Then, over the background noise, as the lights dim off and on, backstage we hear... "Ladies and Gentlemen, The Optimist Club of Toronto, sponsors of tonight's Show proudly presents their Championship Junior Corps...."

The stage Manager is pointing... "Let's go...GO GO GO...the curtain snaps open revealing the bright, wet, white sheet that disappears into blackness. There are at least 5000 people out there, somewhere...and they aren't a drum corps crowd. They have to be pleased in a different way! There goes the bass drum beat. Your on! Nobody has slipped, as yet. There's the guard ahead of us...at centre ice. They turn around. The lights come up...multicoloured spotlights hit the ice and bounce off the green satin of the blouses. The Corps is in position, the bugles snap up and we are into "As Long As He Needs Me..." Waves of applause. Into "The Party's Over"...the salute to the crowd and a new season is christened...christened with the hope that it will be a great season...even better than the ones before.

Another year is here, the Follies have gone by...the butterflys have been replaced with SPIRIT and we're READY for '64!!!

\*\*\*\*\*  
QUOTATION FROM "THE TORONTO DAILY STAR" (Tuesday, Jan 28) by Star staff writer Robert Reguly---"Colour and spectacle run amok in the Ice Follies of 1964, which opened a one week stand at Maple Leaf Gardens last night....At intermission Donald Jackson was presented with the Lou Marsh Memorial Trophy as "Athlete of the Year". The Toronto Optimists band also thundered onto the ice, skateless, to grace the half-time ceremony. After a decent interval, to allow eardrums to subside, the graceful ones returned as water sprites and similar fairyland dodges, as opera heroines in \$4,000 gowns. The show is a fast-paced crowd-pleaser (5,371 last night) with each of the 18 acts a golly-gee-whizzer".

\*\*\*\*\*  
S-M-I-L-E... Russel Jarvis---"Have a cigaret?" \* Sign on apartment #1---DRUMS FOR SALE.  
\* John Whiting---"No thanks, sworn \* Sign on apartment #2---HURRAY!  
\* off smoking." \* -----  
\* Russ---"Well, put one in your \* MacKenzie:"Why do mountain climbers  
\* pocket for tomorrow..." \* always rope themselves together???  
\* J. Shearer:"To keep the sensible one  
\* from going home..."  
\*\*\*\*\*

**EDITORIAL: "SOMETHING OF VALUE"** by Andy Henderson

To everyone connected with a Drum Corps each practice, trip or contest leaves a memory...a memory of a tremendous victory over rivals...a bitter defeat or a cherry, grape or water fight!

You aren't here unless you love it...it almost magnetizes you until you become a D.C.N. (Drum Corps Nut)! You experience glory, defeat, new friendships, new rivals, a physical and mental pressure and the value of TEAM CO-OPERATION en mass. Out of all this grows your pride, for you have experienced something. What for? This answer comes different from every mouth and only you know why you participate, just as only you know the value of some happening you keep as a memory.

Those of you who are fortunate, and have a long stay with the Corps, or those who have only a short term, all leave with something of value; something never forgotten and each has added his own link to the chain, glad when he leaves that the link that he has contributed will still be carried on and not be allowed to fall.

Wherever you perform no one enjoys your show as much as an ex-member. He is marching with you through the whole show, he sees himself in you and when you win so does he.

The biggest word among Corpsmen is "remember"... "Remember when..."---"Remember how we..."---"Remember the day..."and when the time is up for you and you must leave, you will have more than enough to remember. You are beginning to create your memorable moments RIGHT NOW...at every rehearsal; at your first short show, The Ice Follies...you should be able to feel all the pride in the world in our outfit because its yours! If you do your damndest we'll keep everything put into it as valuable as it ever was, and still is. You are an Optimist!!!---an unbreakable link in "The Big Green Chain" and must earn yourself a Championship!

\*\*\*\*\*  
A POEM: In '58 the Corps was great  
We beat Scout House, and not too late.  
In '59 the Corps was fine...  
We now were Champs a second time.  
In 1960 the Corps was nifty  
Were we greater than any '50?  
In '61 the Corps seemed done...  
We stayed the Champs, but Del won one.  
In '62 the Corps greatly grew  
And Blessed Sac felt the size of  
our shoe!  
In '63 we felt "Home free"...  
But St. Joe's soon cut our fee!!!  
In '64 we hope to soar and  
Mighty St. Joe's may be down a score.

