



THE TORONTO  
**Optimists**

Canadian Jr. Champion

*Drum & Bugle Corps*

# GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS



# THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS  
DRUM & BUGLE CORPS.

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The Incorporation-"The Bus."

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Calvin Johansson-"Cadets Viewpoint."

Terry Kirkpatrick-"Chessmen Chatter."

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Doug McPhail-"Whats A Corps To A Boy?"

SPECIAL FEATURES

"What Is A Champion?"

Letter from Governor of Massachusetts.

Letters To The Editor.

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## PASSING COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

The tremendous response shown by Corps members to the ad of last issue for more Corps writers was greatly appreciated. We used to be lucky if we had one or two individuals writing from the Corps. We have now boosted that number 100%

You will notice in this issue that the majority of articles were written by The Optimists.

Since I took over the Editors job my secret ambition was to have 90% of G.C.C. written by Corps members. I can honestly say that we are fast approaching this objective.

We don't want to discourage writers from other Corps, but since this is a publication produced entirely by members of the Corps we feel that they should play the major part in material printed.

This is not to say that we can't use more Corps writers. This paper will always be open and ready to consider printing anything you send in. This is your paper, and if you wish to express an opinion on anything at all, don't complain to others about it. Write it down and have it printed.

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INTRODUCING: "THE INCORPORATION."

If you have been following this magazine for several years, you may remember a while back, the ancient drum beat and quick pen of SADIE MAU MAU. Sadie has now gone into retirement. During her absence she has been instructing a group of misfits, whom she classifies as "Her Litter." They go under the alias of "The Incorporation."

If you will remember, they were responsible for that mesterpiece article on the Corps Camp, in the last issue.

They are as insane as their Mother and their style of writing is sheer idiocy, but never-the-less it makes for some very enjoyable reading. Anything goes when you read "The Incorporation."

After you read their chronicle parody on "The Bus" in this issue, we are sure that you will be amazed at the trials and tribulations of a Bus Trip.

So for sure seat-belt suspense and 100% buffoonery turn to page 5 of this issue and "Hang Loose." One warning, we cannot be responsible for lose of life while laughing. You are on your own and best of luck.

After reading this you will understand why they have to remain anonymous.

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THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

# Newsletter

"GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS"



**inside  
THE  
Corps!**

Brotherly love is what we have. The people above are all "Cuddleing up to a FRANK "CUDDLES" ROOD photo. Pictured above are all the brothers in the Corps. No, they're not all in the same family. There are COOPERS, TIERNEYS, CHRISTIES, BYRNES, TAMAKIS, SHEARERS, ROODS, ROBERTS, ROUSSELS, VILLENEUVES and JOHANSSONS. Its too bad that none of them are photogenic. Lets give them a hand for the wonderful cover-up job they are doing, all smiles and everything. They really hate each other which is only normal. Next thing you know ROOD will be taking family photos and putting Whitehall Studios out

out of business. Oh well, On with the show.....

HURRAH for us!! We broke the jinx and won our first contest in Batavia, N.Y. June 10th. Understand that BRIAN BYRNE almost had a small scale war on his hands at this one. He picked up a young damsel in distress with his swash-buckling, suave ways. Its too bad her boyfriend was there. Besides that Brian is ugly.

GEORGE THOMPSON our very own friendly "Newfie" spent a few weeks in his home province, Newfoundland. I know being born there is something you can't help, but when you return for a visit there is nothing we can do for you. I overheard GEORGE WRIGHT asking George Thompson "What is the loudest noise on the beach?" After George gave him the standard Newfie reply of HUUUUUHHHHHHH??? He was told its a Newfie and a seagull fighting over a dead fish!

Drum Corps have been hit with a minor plague so far this year. RAIN. On the day of the Shrine Show GORD ROBINSON prayed to Noah all day, but alas Noah said the show should go on RAIN or SHRINE! Unfortunately he overdid it and all the Corps loaded up with two of everything they had and left the rest to drown.

Back at the Hotel, the Lobby looked like an Indian Reservation with CLAYTON KEATS, LUMPY, RAY ROUSSEL all doing a "Stop the Rain" dance while everyone else was gathered in a circle singing "Don't Let It Rain On Our Parade." Their sing song worked and it didn't rain, it POURED!

The next day it didn't rain because it was Sunday, the day of rest, and the Rain Makers Union require one day a week off for all their employees. Congratulations to The Boston Crusaders for their win. A very impressive job.

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, its off to Welland we go. You didn't go swimming in the canal TERRY WARBURTON. Whats the matter with you? Scared of boats??? Everybody smelt like a rose for The Rose Festival Parade in the afternoon. The School we changed in was condemned to death and it looked like sentence had already been carried out. Understand our man about Scotland was doing the Highland Fling, fell through the floor, punctured his stomach, flew around the room backwards for thirty seconds and landed flat as a pancake. It sure looks funny having a Skinny Scot!! Now he doesn't even have enough air left to play his Goat Horn. Toooo Bad!!

70 Green Kisses go to Mr. Ernie (007) Christie and Mrs. (Maw) Christie. They, along with the Welland Optimist Club set up a chicken diner for the Corps. We ate like Kings. I have never seen food devoured more quickly. Even Attila the Hun and his swathing band couldn't have done a more thorough job.

AL TIERNEY our Assistant Corps Director, also Director of Cadets, Canadian Editor for Drum Corps News, Editor of The Yearbook (He's got so many titles we'll soon have to Knight him.) Anyway, he has even got his sons in the act. The littlest one DAVE TIERNEY grabbed the piece of cake with the cherry in it and won himself a Corps Cardigan. He doesn't even like cherries! FINK!! The reason we didn't do a very SWAG show in the night was because we had our annual SCUNNING Contest in the afternoon. EMILIO RUSSO, DAVE HARRIS, JOHN ROOD had their faces SCUNNED right to the bone. The winning team with a combined weight of 112 pounds was TOM FELTS and DAVE TIERNEY.

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday Dear Canada, Happy Birthday to you. July 1st. North Toronto and Port Hope as per usual. Canada's Centennial came on with a Bang. As a matter of fact there were a few crashes that day followed by Would You Believe RAIN!??!

The contest field in Port Hope was wonderful. The stands were two miles from the field, and the field would have been terrific if we had construction boots. We won this one but only a point up on LaSalle Cadets.

The next weekend we unlocked the chains and let the Corps go for a weekend. I think the majority of the Corps went into hibernating for the whole weekend, but being the true Drum Corps Nut that I am I went to Boston along with Corps Director Don Daber. RON COOPER heard mumbling about Guard Captains being prejudiced upon because he couldn't go. Assistant D.M. next year eh Ron???

MARCEL SMOLINSKI, WAYNE DEAN, ALAN ACCORN, RICK COOPER, STEVE COOPER and PETE RINGLER all ended up in Brantford. They claim its just for fresh air. HA HA HA!!

Chemical Valley Festival where you can inhale all sorts of good things for your teeth but not so good for your lungs. Three cheers for the parade that was only 2½ hrs late.

MIKE THYS put the proverbial boots to our "Leave on Time" schedule, so NEANDERTHAL clubbed him to death, but left his lip unharmed. We all had to pack a lunch for this one. BARRY STINSON packed extra for those who didn't. He thought he would make a killing but nobody wanted to buy six month old chicken!! MAD magazines and PLAYBOYS were the highlight of the trip.

UNCLE DON really sweating it out all day Sunday because we lost the Corps flags. Thats right we lost all the flags. UNCLE JACK arrived at Mondays rehearsal and had them in his car. He fined us \$2,000 for leaving them behind.

This contest made it four in a row. MARCEL SMOLINSKI really appreciated the stop to eat on the way home. He bought a jar of olives.

IN CASE OF RAIN DON'T LET THIS MAGAZINE GET WET. IT BECOMES HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS AND TURNS EVERYTHING IN ITS WAKE GREEN. UNLESS YOU ARE OVERLY FOND OF GREEN--BEWARE!!

I'll be back next issue providing I haven't drowned by then. "Goodnight IGOR."  
"AARRRRRRUUUURRRRRRHHH!!"

EDITORIAL

# THE TRUE CHAMPION



- A Champion is humble.
- A Champion stands tall and silent and lets his deeds speak for him.
- A Champion respects the rights of others because in his exalted position he has more of a chance to step on those rights.
- A Champion respects the rules of society, because in truth they are the same rules which created the atmosphere in which he was given the chance to attain his championship.
- A Champion must wear his crown with pride, but be big enough to tip it to his opposition because without this opposition he would be a champion of nothing and, in fact, their effort to achieve forced him to greater heights.
- A Champion's words and thoughts must be wise, because they are the words and thoughts of a teacher. All watch to pattern themselves after a Champion. Therefore, also, a champion's actions must be above reproach.
- The respect for the game and its worth is directly affected by the dignity and approach of its best players.

# WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

## AGENT 9

WOULD YOU BELIEVE...BOB MONTGOMERY of the Guard had help cleaning up the dressing room in London from the Guard Sargent of Scarborough Firefighters??...The drummer in a Rock Group known as THE PAUPERS, RONN PROKOP was formerly a drummer with The Optimists??...RUSS BLANDFORD a former instructor of DeLaSalle is now on our equipment staff??...Two of our Rookies missed the initiations and will have to be held over until next years camp, TOM FELTS and RON HARKNESS??...For a quick loan see BOB CHRISTIE who now works for Niagara Finance in Brampton, Ont.???...JOE BRUNELLE has moved to Suite 606, which is the latest in suites, only one room???...JOHN TIERNEY attends J.J. Lynch High School which is run by the Christian Brothers who also run DeLaSalle and LaSalle???...MARCEL SMOLINSKI and ALAN ACRON were members of The Guard in 1965??...JOE GIANNA, horn instructor was instructor for several years with Sarnia Lionettes and before that Hamilton Conqueror??...JOHN CHRISTIE on Euphonium, once played drums with Mighty Grantham??...PETER BARCLAY played in the Niagara Falls Canadaires before joining the Optimists??...For help on the Stock Market see JOHN MacDONALD who works for the Toronto Stock Exchange??...Brothers DAVE and BRIAN BYRNE have two more brothers who play with The Chessmen of St. Catharines?? VINCE FERRARO was very friendly with a girl behind the stands after The Sarnia Show???...THAT..We'll see you next issue???

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### GARFIELD: THE REAL SPIRIT OF DRUM CORPS

Friday evening July 21, The Optimists loaded up for their second trip to Garfield, one of the most friendly towns our Corps have had the privilege of visiting.

Saturday morning at about 10:00 am 2 busloads of tired, haggard Optimists pulled into Garfield and were accepted with overwhelming hospitality. As they told us "The Town Was Ours" and it truly was. All the members went home to get freshened up for the parade in the afternoon. Back at the school and into uniform. As we marched in the parade, the crowd applauded us as soon as they saw the Canadian flag come into view.

Its a wonderful feeling to travel 600 miles and have so many people recognize you. The parade was long and hot but the graciousness of the people took the friction from the air. Another mode of hospitality was shown when free food and drinks were supplied after the parade. To carry this even further they supplied us with transportation back to the dressing rooms.

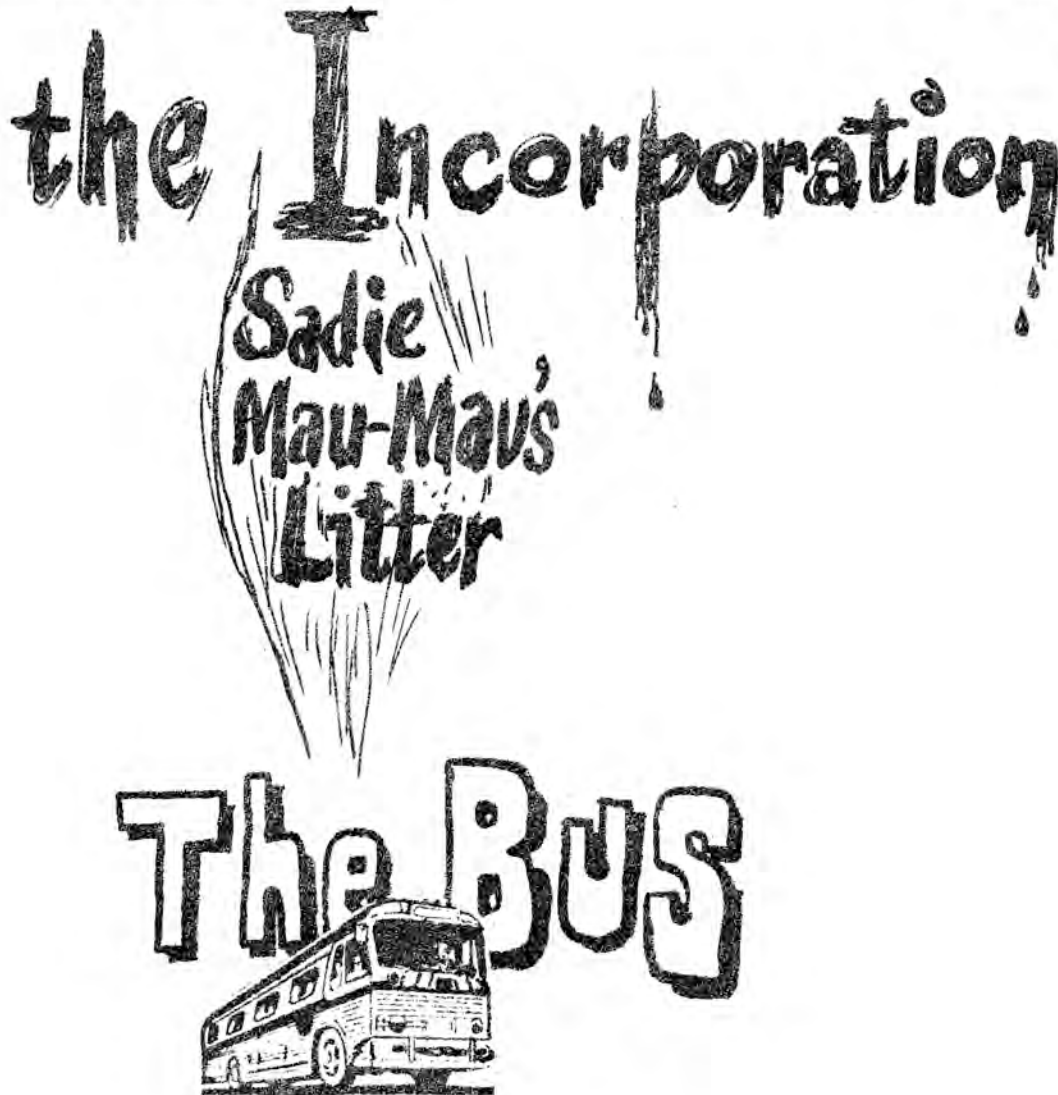
Due to rain our rehearsal was cancelled briefly, but our hosts stayed with us and waited until we were finished. The majority of them stood in the rain and cheered us on.

In the evening show we were flabbergasted when our hosts organized cheering sections for us. It wasn't as if they were trying to play hosts, they were all but accepting us into their families.

Sunday morning our hosts were up early preparing substantial meals for us before we left and also packing us lunches for the long trip home.

PEOPLE OF GARFIELD AND MEMBERS OF THE GARFIELD CADETS...We now understand why you will always be rated as tops in anything you do. We of the Optimists send you our heartfelt THANKS for showing us THE TRUE SPIRIT OF DRUM CORPS.

SHORT STOPS: I had the opportunity to talk to JIM McKONKEY in Garfield. He is still all for Drum Corps and whether in the Corps or not can still be called one of the best Drum Major's in the history of Drum Corps....We have two pairs of white bucks for sale..have only been worn once, on the green fields of Garfield. Contact #15 DOUG MACKENZIE and #23 BOB BURMAN. Only \$14.00 (\$15.00 when new). These are genuine orthopedic shoes. Don't miss out on this fantastic bargain...."Rumble on the Docks" had nothing on The Optimists on the way home from Garfield. Just ask the Drum Major!



We were going to write a fantastic introduction but our inferior intelligence failed us once again. So here we are, the Sons of Sadie Mau Mau--"THE INCORPORATION."

Since a lot of you newer members of the Corps have just experienced your first long trip on the Bus, we have decided to explain to you more of the finer points of a Bus ride or better known as "Hell-Warmed-Over!!"

A BUS: "A happening from Bay & Dundas referred to as Don's Donkey Wagon." "A vehicle where unless the inside is gloriously ablaze, the use of the emergency exit is strictly prohibited. "

It conveys us in semi-luxury (very semi). From the 10th? greatest city in the world, to the residence of some poor misguided individuals be they friend or fool!?! Included in these luxuries are such racing options as SIDNEY GRIMP "The Wheeler", to the laymen, the driver, a four speed stick shift, six square wheels and four spares (which makes you know what). Incidentally, spares don't walk, they just come along for the ride. A racing stripe comes as standard equipment more commonly known as windows. There are many more but too numerous to mention.

Standard options are an "O" frame, a green tin roof and early American "Orange Crate" interior (Imported from Israel). It also has collapsible Bucket Seats, imported from the oldest wells in Ontario.

To play Bus Ride you must find eighty five crazy green guys who are "Eager as Beavers" to rearrange the upholstery. The rotten air cleanerouter is put to use to dispose of all sorts of nasty things after Can-Jams.

(Continued Over)







JOHN A. VOLPE  
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

August 1, 1967

Mr. Don Daber  
Toronto Optimists  
205 Keele Street, Suite 302  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

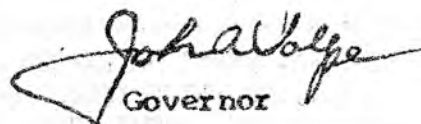
Dear Mr. Daber:

I am indeed pleased to extend my personal congratulations and those of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to you, on your selection for competition in the Fourth Annual National C.Y.O. Drum and Bugle Corps Contest to be sponsored by the Boston Archdiocese Headquarters on August 29, 1967.

Having attended last year's contest, I know the tremendous amount of spirit generated by this event, both among the participating corps and the spectators. But more importantly, behind this spirit lie the great Youth Organization and its members, helping to insure our future progress and stability through good citizenship.

I know that this contest will be an exciting and most worthwhile event and, as Governor of Massachusetts, may I wish you every measure of success and fulfillment in competition.

Sincerely,

  
Governor



# 23 31 REPORT



Hi Sports fans, I say sports fans \*  
because that is what I am going to talk \*  
about. Once in awhile in my column I will \*  
get completely away from Drum Corps talk \*  
and discuss something that I hope will be \*  
of interest to you. \*

About a year ago I read a newspaper \*  
clipping concerning hockey. This column \*  
disturbed me so much that I was going to \*  
write a letter to the Editor but naturally \*  
I never got around to it. But if you are \*  
kind of a Patriot to Canada and our great \*  
sport of hockey, I'm sure this column will \*  
disturb you to. You will find it humorous \*  
in parts, but after you have read it you \*  
will feel slightly cut down and insulted. \*  
AN OPINION ON HOCKEY: From-Los Angeles Times

This fall a new game is going to come \*  
to Los Angeles, "MURDER ON THE ROCKS". The \*  
polite name for it is hockey, but there is \*  
no polite way to play it. Its a combination \*  
of "Ice Capades" and "The Untouchables." \*  
It's the type of a game where the mere \*  
news of a new franchise being opened is \*

enough to send surgical supply stocks soaring. There is a bull market in sutures and \*  
surgical supplies going on overtime. The local mortician is almost always in the \*  
front row surreptitiously going over the program notes in case he has a few words \*  
to say over one of the players later in the week. \*

Much is made of the mayhem in pro football where two 250 pound human bulldozers \*  
crack into one another at the snap of a ball. In hockey, the bulldozers come into \*  
each other at 45 miles per hour. Thats a closing speed of 90 mph and if they did it \*  
without protective armour there would not be enough left for the mortician to say a \*  
few words over. \*

A hockey player wears 30 pounds of equipment just to qualify for life insurance. \*  
This includes gloves so heavy that you have to be in shape to put them on. \*

The puck travels 90 to 100 mph and the war of 1812 was fought with more humane \*  
weapons. If things weren't, some Dracula on skates perfected the slap shot some \*  
years ago. This is hockey's answer to the beanball. The puck leaves the ice in a \*  
low, rising trajectory, usually in the direction of an opponents teeth. Sometime \*  
there is so much crockery on the ice it looks like someone accidentally sat down \*  
on his dentures. Even the spectators have to wear mouth-pieces. \*

To get the picture, imagine what would happen to Wally Moon if he sneaked a bat \*  
down the first base line some night and then suddenly brought it down over Frank \*  
Robinson's ears. Wally would be through in baseball. So would Frank Robinson for \*  
that matter. In hockey you would be through if you didn't do it. To be sure they \*  
frown on drawing blood. It messes up the ice. For that you get five minutes in the \*  
penalty box. If you kill somebody, then you are out of hockey. \*

The game is played by a bunch of rough-neck Canadians who say "oot" for "Out" \*  
and "aboot" for "about" and who didn't know there was such a thing as summer until \*  
they grew up. They just thought there was six weeks in the year when the ice was \*  
kind of slushy. \*

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IF THERE ARE ANY COMMENTS ON THIS PIECE OF LITERATURE PLEASE SUBMIT THEM TO ME ON \*  
A PIECE OF PAPER AND I WILL ENTER THEM IN THE NEXT ISSUE. \*

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NATIONALS? WHERE? OTTAWA. WHEN? SEPTEMBER 9, 1967. HOW? THE OPTIMIST BOOSTER BUS  
THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL. ONE PRICE INCLUDES BUS FARE AND RESERVED SEAT TO THE NIGHT  
FINALS. SEE FULL PAGE AD THIS ISSUE. GET ALL THE DETAILS AND GO...  
\*\*\*\*\*

# BOSTON THE GREAT! (THE CITY THAT IS)

BY VERN JOHANSSON

For most of the Corps the weekend of July 8th was a holiday. Time to get away from it all and just relax. But there are a few people in the Corps that are stricken so severely with the "Drum Corps Bug", that the only natural thing for them to do was fly to the heart of the "Drum Corps World, Boston, Mass.

It will be a trip that is long remembered, not for any one instance but for the whole weekend in general. The people, the food, the girls, the Corps, the girls, girls, GIRLS, GIRLS..G---I---R---L---S!!

The Jet left Toronto International Airport at 2:50 p.m. Friday afternoon. This was my first trip via big silver bird. I packed a gross of rabbits feet and a dozen barf bags, even before I got on the plane I had a bottle of Green tranquilizers. The most disturbing part was that you couldn't smoke until you got off the ground. "Good afternoon, thish ish youse pilot shpeaking!" "Oh Boy, let me out of this thing!:" Then came the waitresses pardon me, stewardesses. I don't even remember being on a plane. STEWARDESS: "Would you like a drink Sir, while were in the air?" ME: "Are we in the air?" STW.: "Well of course. Where else would you expect the plane to be?" ME: "What plane, you sweet thing!" Theres that sign again telling me I can't smoke. "Welcome to New York." "We will be making a fifteen minute stop before flying on to Boston." "off we go into the wild blue yonder." "Welcome to Boston." "We hope you enjoyed flying with us." "You mean we're here already?" "But I don't want to get off, I like it here." "But the Stewardesses are gone." "Well why didn't you say so?"

Mr. Dick Blake, Editor of Drum Corps News met Mr. Daber and myself at the airport. We drove into town and played "Ring Around The Rosie" with The Statler Hilton Hotel. After screaching to a halt at the main entrance we checked in, got organized and had a very interesting talk with Mr. Blake. He was supposed to leave at 7:30 but as par usual with Drum Corps people, didn't leave until 9:30. We presented him with a Centennial ashtray to give to his wife, thus easing the blow.

Later that evening I had one of the greatest meals ever. Mr. Blake advised us to go to Durgin-Park and I will never forget it. It is something that cannot be described you have to go there and see for yourself. The setting is the same as a boarding house. If you come late you get put at a table without anyone you know. The red checkered table cloths, the sawdust on the floor, the dishwashing machine and stove right beside you, its just absolutely amazing. I'll tell you right now you will never find a better place for food quality or quantity wise. If any Corps members want a rare treat CYO time pack an extra \$4.50 and eat their. You won't regret it.

Saturday morning we were up early because I wanted to do some shopping also some girl watching. We hurried through breakfast then tried to phone Joseph Dowling to find out what the Crusaders were doing. We didn't get an answer until later that day. We also called everybody's good friend, Ed Rooney. He gave us a whole afternoon of his time and took us on a tour of Boston. A most amazing idea was a trail laid out according to the streets that were around in revolutionary days. All these streets are marked with a red line. This takes up such points as Paul Revere House, Faneuil Hall, Old North Church and the site of the Boston Massacre. Mr. Rooney covered all these plus many others. For historic sites you can't beat Boston.

BOSTON THE GREAT (continued)

That night, off to Arlington. The event, a CYO Band and Drum Corps Competition. I was overwhelmed with the size and enthusiasm of the crowd. The contest alone was about 5 hours long, and the people didn't budge. To close off the contest The Boston Crusaders gave an exhibition. If this is how they present their show in exhibition no wonder they haven't lost a contest this year! Thanks to Mr. Dowling for allowing us to travel back to Boston with The Crusaders. They drove the bus right to the front door of the Hotel. Another example of the tremendous hospitality shown us during our stay.

Sunday morning it was up early, pack our gear, and down to the lobby where we met Mr. Blake. The people in Boston are very punctual. When they say they will be somewhere at such and such a time, you can expect them. He drove us to Fleetwood Record Company in Revere, Mass. and gave us the Solid Gold Tour. They have a terrific set-up and Drum Corps can be thankful that we have a fulltime recorder. We then went through the offices of Drum Corps News and he explained how the paper is put together. After seeing what he has to do I feel that all my grumbling is for nothing.

Ever been let loose in a record store with the statement "HELP YOURSELF"? In this case it was the basement of Fleetwood Records. I have never seen so many Corps records. I bet they have never lost as many Drum Corps records as they did when they turned me loose. After this little rampage in the basement he drove us to the airport, just in time to take off and watch Boston become just a speck on the map, but a large part of our memories.

On to New York City for a quick 3/4 day tour...Empire State Building...Time Square The Girls, UGGGHH!...Bus Tour of Greenwich Village, China Town, Wall Street. "Theres The Statue of Liberty, way out there." Back to Times Square and a rush to the airport Board the jet at 10:10, home in Toronto at 11:05. Just thinking about returning to the area in Garfield by Bus...ll hours!

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# LETTERS

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

On July 22nd I attended a Drum & Bugle Corps Competition in Garfield, N.J. and The Toronto Optimists competed. I thought they were terrific.

I am interested in the 1967 Optimist Booster Kit. I would also like to know if it would be possible if I can correspond with someone from The Optimists. I would really appreciate the name of someone who would like to write. I wish The Optimists the best of luck in the world in future competitions. MISS MARY ANN JANUSKA, 57 LINDEN STREET, BAYONNE, N.J. 07002.

Dear Sir,

I am sending for your free advertising folder for 1967. I am stationed in Vietnam south of Saigon. I still receive the Drum Corps newspapers which list all the contests and scores. Best of luck to all of you this year. PFC DONALD YAXLEY Jr., A FORMER ALBION GRENADIER.

Dear Sir,

I am an old fan of your Corps, The Toronto Optimists. I have watched your beautiful show with all your other fans, for over five seasons. The other fans and I think you are the greatest thing to hit the earth. Perhaps the eighth wonder of the world. The other fans and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your Corps the best for this season.

If at any time you feel you need more fans just drop me a line. You see, I deal in fans. RED FANS, BLACK FANS AND WHITE FANS.

Sincerely,  
CHUNG HO LEE,  
24 PEACH BLOSSOM LANE,  
HONG KONG.

P.S. We even have a special which was designed especially for your Corps.  
GREEN BLACK AND WHITE Fan Combinations.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\* HI THERE. I'M SIDNEY GLICK..READ MY LETTER TO THE EDITOR NEXT ISSUE\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*



Before commencing this column in my unabashed form, I must lash out at an unforgiveable incident. There is a movie in town under the name of "The Big Mouth." This infuriates me! If any of you have seen this movie and if its terrible, just remember, I had nothing to do with it. So for this great injustice, you can expect a little more "GARGLE" to the tongue lashing you are about to read.

P...A...Y \*\* A...T...T...E...N...T...I...O...N..

THE CURVED TONGUE OF SPY R.B. AT THE SARNIA SHOW, JULY 15th

The following views are very personally my own.

The Spectacle City Mariners have without a doubt one of the most brilliantly conceived uniforms I have ever seen. Besides looking extremely neat, the white trousers give an illusion of great width, particularly when the Corps approaches the crowd as a front.

They had fairly good field coverage and presented a simple drill in a smooth manner. I felt that their horns were weak in places and the duet horn finale was a little thin. However, the baritone solo in concert was excellent.

I must confess that I, having never seen The Racine Explorer Scouts was somewhat disappointed. Their opening was very quiet and unfortunately the remainder of their performance remained so. Their field work was very simple, but very well executed. They had a very effective Guard but why didn't they unfurl one half of the flags? You may shoot me down in flames, but I do not like the "Chrome-Domes" as a helmet regardless of their cost.

Optimists looked good, especially at the start and all through their show maintained fair quality. There were a few very obvious errors by the duets and trios and quite a handful of other music errors by the rest of their hornline.

The drill did not look much better than the rehearsal in the afternoon and the chronic errors were there as usual. Optimists definitely had the best ending routine of the show and the Guard performed very well.


Marching Angels got off to a very weak start, but they regained their composure by the concert number. I felt that they had more volume than the first two Corps except in their drumline. Their concert was well done, though simple, but the presentation of the colours was weak.

The LaSalle Cadets had a very effective opening routine, reminiscent of Optimists in 1963. Their ending also looked familiar and the number "Brazil" appears to have been borrowed. However, they had a great deal of drive and their extra effort to catch Optimists is showing. I do not grasp their concert number nor do I like the soloists part in the second number. The drill was quite pleasing and was executed with some determination, which was lacking in every other Corps.

Overall I felt that the use of the spotlights should be dropped unless the operators have rehearsed it with the Corps. The cloak and dagger routine to introduce the Sertomanaires was a little overdone. They appeared a little tired but still did a smooth show with a good sound.



# The Cadets



by CALVIN JOHANSSON

Well here we are again, me writing and you reading. Nothing much has happened this month. In other words all is quiet. The big news to come to our camp is that our "Big Brothers" have placed 4 firsts and a third so far this year. They have beaten their closest rival LaSalle Cadets four times this year.

The Cadets are still practicing at Keating and will be for the whole summer. Other tid-bits are that we are gaining in numbers as new recruits show up to every rehearsal.

For the first time in months we haven't learned any new music. We are still working on "Born Free" and "Battle Cry of Freedom."

The Cadets are also advancing further in their drill and are beginning to march around the field. I think what most of us are waiting for is the present Optimist Schedule to end so we can try out to make the line. We had better practice hard because the number of contests on the schedule are rapidly depleating.

I said in the last issue that some of The Cadets had gone on trips with the Optimists. Again this issue more Cadets have travelled to such places as Port Hope, Sarnia and Welland. In closing I will say, "BINKY" we are practising hard although it may not show, and also remind you to read the Cadets and news from our Camp in every issue of G.C.C. See you in September.

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\*\*\*\*\*CHESSMEN CHATTER\*\*\*\*\*  
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Summer will be over in a month or two and with it will go the busiest time of a Corpsmans year. Think about that.

It has again been a very busy year for the Chessmen. On June 3 Chessmen put on an exhibition for a Senior show in Hamilton sponsored by The Commanders. This was our first field show of the year and it was noticeable.

Our first competition was in Batavia, N.Y. on June 10. The competing Corps were: Optimists, Magnificent Yankees, Appleknockers and Marion Cadets. The finishing line-up was in that order. The Chessman came fifth. St. Joes and St. Joes Brothers put on exhibitions. Congratulations to The Optimists for winning this contest plus the Guard trophy.

The following weekend was free for us so we chartered a bus and had an all day rehearsal in Hamilton after which we went on to Toronto for The Shriners International. The Saturday show was cancelled because of rain but the show was well worth the days wait.

On June 24th we went to Geneva for the show sponsored by The Appleknockers. We did the best show since May 13, but it proved not good enough as we came third, behind St. Joes and Utica Yankees.

July 1. Happy Birthday Canada! We remained in St. Catharines for our Centennial Parade. It couldn't have been hotter. First place in the Junior BAND division was ours this trip.

All that week we had been doing concert shows for the Pen Center Plaza for their support as a sponsor.

July 15th found us in Rochester, N.Y. for The New York Canadians. The weather wasn't too promising for the afternoon preliminaries. Every time it rained the performing Corps had to stop and start their show over again. Michael Power Knights had to start their show three times. I'm glad we didn't. My nerves wouldn't hold out.

When the afternoon contest was over we placed second out of 18. By the time the evening finals rolled by, the rain had stopped and in its place was the sun and a cool breeze to ruffle the flags. Perfect weather for a show. Quite the opposite to last years 94 degrees.

The Corps that we were up against were St. Joes, Yankees, DeLaSalle and Appleknockers. We placed fifth in the finals. Any questions? Drop me a line and I will be glad to answer you.. Terry Kirkpatrick, 46 York Street, St. Catharines.



HERE IT IS ...out of the depths of SUZZ, SCUM, and other assorted VERMIN which habitate this miserable abode comes none other than me: "THE HAPPY POLLACK" In this my premier issue, I lash out with terrible ferocity at my pet peeve... "NO, EH??" How about-- "With fervor somewhat resembling that of a DOLT swishing a wet noodle to the winds. Now that my topic is out and the Editor appeased (note: the Senior Editor is the Corps Director so I tread gently.) I proceed in my protest against that unthinkable atrocity

labeled: "GOURMET'S DELIGHT---D.C. STYLE."

TIME: 6:37 a.m.

PLACE: On a bus,

SITUATION: On a Bus with 44 other half sane animals. You've travelled 500 bone-jarring miles. Your clothes are wrinkled. You have "Jungle Mouth". Your blood shot eyes open to a disheveled and haggard, but still smiling (I think he's insane too) Corps Director.

Then you find yourself stopped at one of those places less than a millionaire diner....a Thru-Way Restaurant Chain.

"There it is, in all it's soiled and littered splendor, just waiting to milk you of your bread."

As you come round to your senses you realize that there is another bus load of semi-human bodies---the second Corps Bus! They are also wanting to gorge themselves.

Like a well programmed ZOMBIE you jump up and start to kick, shove and crawl, over all the obstacles to that FOOD!

The line-up is next to the mounds of trays and silverware falling to the floor, the whimperings of the poor guy just told "that they are out of BOAR's LEG"---the spectacle of the "Toasted Danish with Gravy" with Strawberry Jelly on it.

So much for the "PRE-MEAL" entertainment.

If you get to the food before its all gone you can "help promote insanity," with the following gems... "What do you mean 60¢ for three slices of brown bacon--- "Alright then, gimme all you got." "My pancakes are cold!" "There's a fly in my egg!" "Whats that stuff caked on the bottom of my glass?"

Just as you sit down to eat--the inevitable always happens--The Director announces "Everyone on the bus, we're pulling out." On that happy note I'll end this first column with a contest.

\*\*\*\*\*CONTEST\*\*\*\*\*

THE POLISH RESERVE POST # .010 IS HOLDING A CONTEST OPEN TO ALL READERS OF THIS PUBLICATION (EVEN SECONDARY READERS WHO BORROW SOMEBODY ELSE'S COPY.)

GIVE US (ME) A SUITABLE CORPS TOPIC FOR MY NEXT COLUMN.

THE WINNER RECEIVES

1 (ONE) EXTRA LARGE TAKE OUT BAG OF CHOICE TABLE SCRAPS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE "POLE" PERSONALLY, IN HIS BRAND NEW G.T. (GARBAGE TRUCK)

DEADLINE--ONE WEEK AFTER YOU RECEIVE THIS PUBLICATION

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Until then keep those delightful scraps coming. My boys are out picking up in your district early Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please don't let them starve. Throw out any old things you might have. They will thank you, I will thank you, the whole damn Polish Nation will thank you..... "DOBRA NOE" "THE POLE."



# cadet Viewpoint

by CALVIN JOHANSSON

THE SHRINERS SHOW: Oh the rain, the rain, THE RAIN!!! That's the whole story for Saturday, June 18th, and for the first time in its three year history, they had to use their rain date.

Oh well, at 1:00 p.m. Sunday the show got under way, with O'Canada and The Star Spangled Banner as played by the Shriners Concert Band. The show started under partly cloudy skies. (Bite my Tongue.) LaSalle Cadets marched onto the field of battle as the first competing Corps. I can remember this Corps from the 1966 Ontario Championships when they placed second to the Optimists and the crowd almost rioted when they failed to win. Although it wasn't the same at this show LaSalle sure opened the contest with a BANG! To me they seemed a little under par from last year but still a crowd pleaser. They should again this year be hot contenders for The National Title.

Next on the line came DeLaSalle of Toronto. I have seen this Corps many times before. I heard that they prepared hard for this opener, but this was not enough for them to gain sufficient standing. I felt that their concert was the highlight of their show. Their music is far superior to their drill, but with a little more work they could be a tough contender.

Now on the field is the first of the American Corps. From Garfield, N.J. The Garfield Cadets. This was the first time I had ever seen Garfield so I didn't know what to expect although I had heard much about them. Their off the line was very exciting and their uniforms were SUPER! After seeing them I knew the show was going up step by step.

The second American Corps to take the field were The Racine Kilties. The first thing that came to mind was "Look at their uniforms!" I had seen pictures but the real thing is better. There were two other things that remained utmost in my mind they were the off-the-line and the Drum Majors dance. At the end of their show I stood up and cheered as they passed the stands. Racine overwhelmed the crowd and put on a standing ovation show.

Next on the line came the CYO Champs of 1966 from Boston, The Crusaders. This is the Corps my brother Vern and Ron Kaiser are in love with (next to The Optimists) and I can see why. This is the first time I have ever seen them and everything about them is original. Their double bass drum, their field show, their music and their quick finish. I think this Corps is doing to the Drum Corps World what the Beatles did for pop music. As my brother would say the Boston Crusaders are all "Collective Originality." And this is A GOOD THING!

Next on the line the Canadian National Champions, The Toronto Optimists. Ahhh, "Born Free", The Big Green put on a magnificent show. Their off-the-line simply amazed the crowd as it does in every contest. Their style of drumming, their beautiful music and field show made them the outstanding Canadian Corps and earned them the number three spot.

Next came the last competing Corps. From Chicago, The Cavaliers. The most outstanding thing about this Corps was their fantastic hornline. Their soloist gave an excellent performance as they stepped off the line. They put on a well executed show and were a tough Corps to beat for the number one spot at this one.

Now the standings. Best Drum Major..GARFIELD CADETS, Best Drum Line..CRUSADERS, Best Colour Guard..RACINE KILTIES, Best General Effect..CRUSADERS, Best M&M.. CRUSADERS, BEST Horn Line..CAVALIERS, Best Canadian Corps..OPTIMISTS.

Seventh with 70.18 DeLaSalle, 6th with 71.95, LaSalle Cadets. 5th with 76.00 Racine Kilties. 4th with 76.83 Garfield Cadets. 3rd with 79.21 Toronto Optimists. 2nd with 81.65 Cavaliers of Chicago. 1st with 85.28 Boston Crusaders.

In closing off this article I would like to thank The Toronto Optimists for providing tickets for this show and the people and organizers of the Shrine for providing a great variety of great Corps which to write about and I hope that next year the Shriners International will not have rain and will be better in 68. Which would make it "Out of This World!"

G.C.C. 5 STAR PICTURE!



GCC  
MOVIE  
OF THE  
MONTH

# The Dirty Dozen

LEE MARVIN CHARLES BRONSON  
DAVE HARRIS DOUG MACKENZIE  
RON COOPER GORD LEFEVRE  
RUSS JARVIS EMILIO RUSSO  
VINCE FERRARO JIM TAYLOR  
BILL ANDREWS DENNIS ROBERTS  
TERRY WARBURTON

METRO  
*Cobra!*



Two minutes after I got into the theatre I discovered the title was misleading. I had in mind "The Dirty Dozen"-1 MARCEL SMOLINSKI, 2 DAVE HARRIS, 3 DOUG MACKENZIE, 4 RON COOPER, 5 GORD LEFEVRE, 6 RUSS JARVIS, 7 EMILIO RUSSO, 8 VINCE FERRARO 9 JIM TAYLOR, 10 BILL ANDREWS, 11 DENNIS ROBERTS, 12 TERRY WARBURTON. Instead I had to settle for a pack of Hollywood's finest (and in some cases, newest.)

Excitement from the first opening sequence (the hanging) which I missed to the build up climax packed this movie to the hilt.

A standout performance by LEE MARVIN as Major Reisman could lead him to the top of the list for another Academy Award.

The assortment of actors in their respective roles seemed to be chosen for their individual merit and fit the bill according to the part they were portraying.

Of the twelve men there were two definite Grade "A" performances. CHARLES BRONSON who was sentenced to death and was the only convict to make it back alive, and TELLY SAVALAS as a religious fanatic and Rapist wrapped up in one. Both these actors seemed aware of their parts and dressed them to the teeth.

The humour aspect is supplied with hair curling lines that due to censorship I cannot repeat here. The battle scenes amply supplied with "no quarter shown" suspense would require pages of detail.

The photography was very well designed overall. However in some scenes you found yourself floundering like a fish out of water trying to adjust to the quick change of photographic occurrence.

I can't remember off hand the name of the actor but the role he played was that of the M.P. Sargent. His part was overplayed and it stood out like a sore thumb. He was obviously a newcomer and not fully adjusted to character roles.

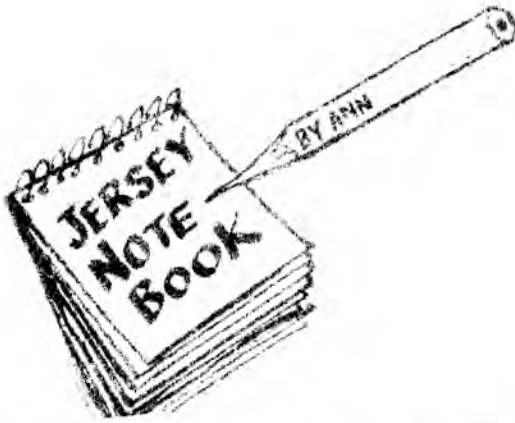
If its action and nerve racking suspense you want this movie is the one to see. Scene after scene of undying, teeth-grinding, stomach-ripping, suspense along with some extraordinary acting make this movie the war thriller of the year. The last movie of its kind was The Great Escape and anyone who saw that certainly won't want to miss this one.

The New York Film Critics gave it full A-1 reviews and so does GCC. With this much backing we are sure that it will be a successful box office attraction.

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DON'T MISS IT-----ITS MADE FOR DRUM CORPS

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Well, whats new in the crazy world of Drum Corps? And judging from some of the contests I have seen, I do mean crazy!

I enjoyed the Shrine Contest very much. Usually, to see Corps of such calibre all together you have to wait until the end of the season at Nationals. Despite the rain date all the Corps put on fine shows. However, I still disagree with the scores and positions for first and second place. I undoubtedly feel the Cavaliers should have won this contest.

What I am discussing here is not whether

Boston is a good Corps or not. Boston is definitely one of the best Corps on the field today, but I do not feel they are four points better than the Cavaliers or five points better than St. Lucy's and three points better than Blessed Sacrament which is what happened on June 11 in Bridgeport, Conn. Nor can I see them beating Muchachos by 18 or St. Kevins by 20. In fact, I find their show on the dull side. Although they probably concentrate on execution rather than general effect, execution is only one part of a show. If execution is their strong point, they were still beaten in execution horns by The Cavaliers. The only caption I can see the Crusaders winning with little trouble is execution drumming and in some cases G.E. drums.

Cavaliers, on the other hand, have a balanced show. No one caption is particularly stronger than the others. Thus, they present an overall pleasing performance in both execution and general effect.

On the local scene, Blessed Sacrament won the V.F.W. State contest on June 24, beating St. Lucy's 88.9 to 87.5 Blue Rock was third and Garfield fourth. On July 1 Blessed Sac. and St. Lucy's were in Pompton Lakes and Little Falls, N.J. and exchanged 1st places.

July 2nd put St. Lucy's, Blessed Sacrament and Bronx Kingsmen together in Cranford N.J. Blessed Sac won with 75.41. The Kingsmen defeated St. Lucy's 74.65 to 74.00. This is the second defeat St. Lucy's has suffered at the hands of the Kingsmen this season. At this contest it was a low drum score and the time before it was G.E. bugles. Blue Rock was 4th with 73.15, 5th Garfield-71.41, 6th O.L.P.H. Ridgemen--62.8 and 7th Royaleers all girls Corps with a 57.8. Trophies were presented to the Kingsmen for Best Colour Guard and to Blessed Sacrament for Best Drum Major. Blue Rock took high drums, Blessed Sac high M&M and G.E. drums, St. Lucy's high G.E. Bugles and G.E. M&M and Kingsmen high execution bugles.

The annual 4th of July contest in Union City was cancelled because of rain. This was the first time in 21 years that the contest was called off. The rains came down when Garfield was on the field, during the last part of their show.

St. Lucy's and Blessed Sacrament were looking forward to another match with Boston on July 15th in Bridgeport but this show was also cancelled because of rain, along with a contest scheduled for Hackensack on the 16th. It seems to me there has been a lot of rain on the weekends this season.

I finally had a chance to see a senior contest, on July 8th sponsored by The Hawthorne Caballeros and Muchachos. First Corps on the line were The Hurricanes of Conn. They have kept some of their music from last year but one new addition is their concert, "Rhapsody in Blue" It is the culmination of five years of hard work and effort and truly a credit to them. Next on the line were The Sunrisers. This is a Corps that puts on a spirited and driving show and are very pleasing to watch.

Someone in Baltimore must like the Chicago Royal Airs, because Yankee Rebels this year are playing the same arrangement of "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines" and "Watermelon Man" as used by The Royal Airs, even down to some of the same drum parts.

From all reports Skyliners put on one of their better performances of the season at this contest. I haven't seen them in competition this year before this so I can't compare it to any other show.

The Reading Buccaneers are definitely the Corps to watch. They have a well rounded show in all captions and just barely missed winning this contest by .2. The scores were: 1. Hurricanes-80.266 2. Reading-79.983 3. Skyliners-76.683 4. Sunrisers 76.10 5. Yankee Rebels-75.95.

The list of future events include O.L.P.H's contest in Union City to be held the night before the Dream. It will feature St. Lucy's, Blessed Sacrament, Cavaliers and Boston Crusaders.

Included in "The Dream" this year are The Crusaders, LaSalle Cadets and DeLaSalle. The Kingsmens contest on August 18th includes St. Lucy's, Blessed Sacrament, The Optimists, Utica Yankees and St. Joes of Batavia. And thats all for this column.

Ann Tennissen,  
306 Armstrong Ave.,  
Jersey City, N.J. 07305.

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CENTENNIAL IN BRASS      JULY 22, 1967      LINDSAY, ONTARIO      RICHARD BOEHNKE  
\*\*\*\*\*

LASALLE CADETS: The first Corps on the field was LaSalle and they looked fairly impressive, at the beginning. After their first number they seemed to slack off a bit and the crispness was lacking from both their music and drill. A very noticeable feature was that both they and The Optimists have an "avant-guard" style of moving as opposed to the more reserved form of DeLaSalle and Les Metropolitans. As the results turned out, they received 82.06 for first place. I personally thought that they were not as good as at Sarnia the previous week and I also picked DeLaSalle to take them in this contest. Their concert still leaves me cold as does the soloist in the "Johnny One Note" routine. However, it is very obvious that winning this contest was very important for their morale and they are gunning for Optimists next. Take heed.

DELASALLE: Del looked very confident from their entrance to their exit. The horns sounded fairly solid and clean and their slower pace has resulted in more accuracy in their drill. I must confess that I chose them to win the show but they placed second with 80.5. They were obviously determined to win, particularly since Optimists were absent but no such luck. They are definitely in the running for the National Title.

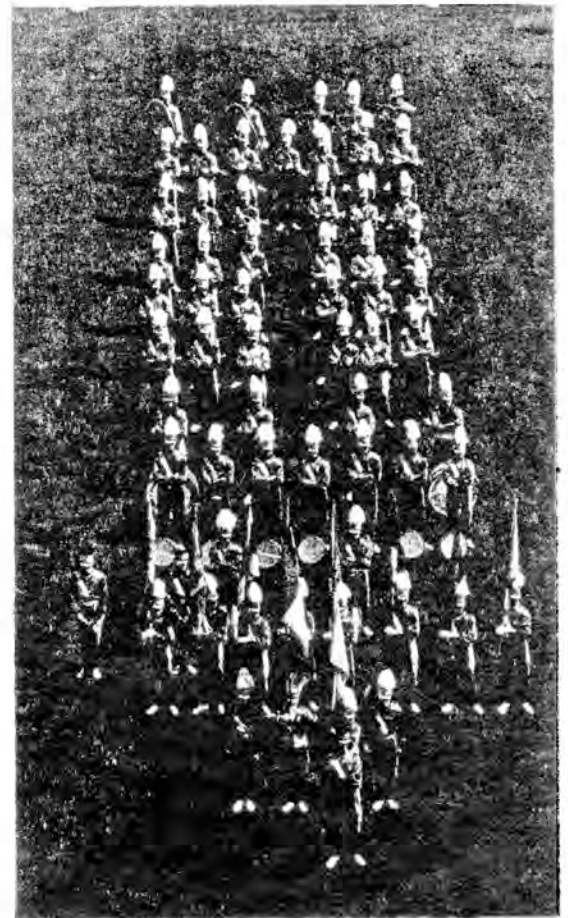
LES METROPOLITANS: This was the third place Corps and they are a real "Dark Horse." Their show was familiar and pleasing with well-known music and straight forward arrangements. Their M&M was very cautious and they seemed to follow BILL HOOTEN's adage of "never going more than 20 paces from the drumline." From my position they looked and sounded fairly clean and the 30-odd horns had sufficient power to be heard. Their score was 79.366.

ST. JOHNS GIRLS: The girls have their usual large Corps with all the inherent accuracy problems that come with it. Their show was entertaining but hardly exciting. They scored 71.1.

MICHAEL POWER KNIGHTS: Both the music and drill patterns of this Corps would have been in style 5 years ago. They do have an attractive uniform. They scored 66.866.  
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AUGUST 5th...LEROY, NEW YORK...ASSOCIATED JUNIOR CORPS CHAMPIONSHIPS....  
1ST TIME EVER...COMPETING...ST. JOES, UTICA YANKEES, OPTIMISTS, APPLEKNOCKERS,  
CHESSMEN...DON'T MISS IT.

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...the story of a  
Drum and Bugle Corps  
---the boy inside and  
the men outside...

by  
**Douglas McPhail**

Ten years ago, in Toronto, Canada, the Downtown Businessmen of the Toronto Optimist Club formed and sponsored a boys' Drum & Bugle Corps. They had no idea at the time that they would soon have more than they bargained for, and more than they could have ever hoped to build.

The Corps was called The Optimists.

If you had visited Toronto ten years ago and passed the vacant lots down by the docks on a Monday or Wednesday evening, you most likely would have seen (and heard) a pyramid of arms and legs thrashing inside a circle of horns and drums. Halfway through a stiff, three-hour rehearsal, The Optimists usually relaxed with their customary fight-break.

At that time, the boys in the Corps were not what you would call nice upstanding lads, nor did many of them come from the more respectable districts of Toronto. Most of them came from the downtown and surrounding districts where they were quite used to fighting. Besides, they enjoyed it.

By mid summer, with much patient prodding and cajoling, more of this energy was being diverted into work. The Corps show, the maneuvers they performed and the (cont.)

numbers they played, got better. In fact, they got good. The lines at times, were straight and the music, although harsh and brassy to the non-Corps fan, was full and strong with punch and bite. Like closed-fist determination, the Corps had drive.

But a coiled spring in a just-adequate harness does not need much prompting to explode.

A line in a maneuver would be almost straight except for one man. A voice from somewhere else in the line would shout, "Get back into line, stupid!" and with the shouts that would follow, the harness would weaken. "Who's stupid?" "You, stupid!" "I'll show you who's stupid!" and the Corps would instantly jump into its thrashing pyramid with the horns and drums waiting in a circle.

Near the end of the Corps season, September, The Optimists headed for Galt, Ontario fighting all the way on the bus. The event in Galt was an afternoon contest, the 1958 Canadian National Championships in which The Optimists would compete in the Junior A Class.

Something happened that afternoon in Galt. The green satin blouses flashed and snapped, the music was strong and clean like polished brass and the lines were straight.

Something else happened and within a second of its happening The Optimists, after punching and kicking each other all year, were shaking hands, dancing, jumping, and hugging and crying at the same time. An announcement, doubtfully awaited, came over the P.A. system in the park:....."And the new Canadian Junior Champions... The Optimists."

But the story did not end there, despite all the odds against starting at the top, nor has it ended yet. The Optimists are still on the top. Since its beginning, the "Fight of 58", the Corps has won the Canadian National title every year since, nine years in a row.

Before 1958, as most things have small beginnings, the Optimist Club of Toronto had successfully sponsored, as had many other clubs in many other cities, a boys' parade Corps. The decision to go into marching and maneuvering class was a big step. It meant more members in the Corps, more instructors, more instruments and more money.

(Just a word about Marching and Maneuvering.) The M&M Class differs from the parade Corps in that the former rehearses a single 13-minute field show in order to compete against other Corps of similar intention and the latter, the parade Corps, is concerned mostly with street parades. In a Drum Corps contest, half a dozen or so M&M Corps are invited to compete, each puts on a show of maneuvers designed to enhance their musical repertoire, and judges pick the best performance on the basis of accuracy and appeal. Each Corps puts on a different show, designed to make full use of a football field, before crowds of up to 45,000 (Allegheny State Fair, Penn.)

Now, as a successful and entertaining M&M Corps, The Optimists publicize Optimists boys' work by bringing the club name and leaving a lasting impression wherever they go. In many small towns, where there is no local Optimist Chapter, people have seen and enjoyed the Corps. They remember The Optimists.

To promote Drum Corps as a dynamic youth activity and also show the fruit of one Optimist Chapters' labour, The Optimists Drum Corps presented their show to Optimist International Convention in Toronto in 1963. At the conclusion of the show John M. Grimland, then Optimist President was made an honorary member of the Corps.

In 1965 the Corps made a movie, Fanfare of Bugles and Thunder of Drums. This 16mm film, with The Optimists as example, explains the function and operation of this type of youth movement to those wishing to learn more about Drum Corps.

In the past ten years, besides having done much to further the word of Optimism, the Corps, now a successful institution of determination, has had a lasting effect on all the boys who have passed through its ranks. But before the effect comes the cause and before the Corps comes the boy.

Boys will most likely always be the same unless, perhaps one day, they will be expected to grow into something other than a man. But despite the Seven League Strides of Science, I doubt it.

A gentleman once wrote to the effect that the boys in his town had no respect for their elders or parents, conducted themselves disgracefully in public, and showed no regard for traditional dress or carriage. This observation was not from the editorial page of a recent newspaper but was written by a Greek philosopher over two thousand years ago.

The advent of the portable radio (hand-held like half an ear muff) and the Honda has not changed the boy, he just plays with different toys.

But the boy, as he grows, is changing in himself faster than things are changing around him. He notices soon after leaving his mother's side that skirts are not only on aunts and sisters. Often uncomfortably, he has become aware.

Like an up-ended question looking for the most plausible answer that will suit his nature, the boy is aware of a need to prove himself; to be accepted by a group whose goal he will accept; and to be an equal, at least, with those he feels most equal. This is the boy in need of a measuring stick, a challenge, and a friend.

This is the boy who joins The Corps.

Unlike hockey or baseball, the Corps continues through all seasons and the boy joins in the fall. The boy is thirteen or maybe sixteen, ideally, and he will be able to stay in the Corps until he is twenty one.

For the first few months in the Corps the boy is learning and quiet, and so, he finds, he must be. To the veterans in the Corps, ones with a years to eight years experience, there is nothing more despicable than a belligerent recruit who will not learn.

The boys learn fast.

By the time he has made "the line," and learned the Corps thirteen minute field show, he is well aware of the Corps' sole purpose. It is to win contests.

All sportsman's cliches aside, in the Corps, between the boys, it is not how you play the game, its whether you win or lose. The boy learns there is only one standard of performance allowed: The best he can do. He is not expected to "play the game" any better than that.

Before each contest, off in a corner, a huddle of green renews its pledge to itself and sings the Corps song in a restrained, determined pianissimo. The song begins: On, March On,

Our battles not yet won,

We'll march and sing,

Defeat shall never come,

March On....

When the Corps wins, the boy wins too and he is proud of it. When the Corps loses, the boy learns the difference between the necessary minimum and "his best" and he tries again, harder.

This approach to winning and losing, this lesson on "being good enough to win" has been taught to all the Corps members for the past ten years by the Music Director of The Optimists, Barry Bell.

A drummer, on graduating from the Corps, once said, "Mr. Bell, you are the most moral man I know." The drummer, a boy, was not philosophical moralist. He observed one of the essential aspects of leadership, a quality rare in its uncompromised form: Honesty.

As a group is only as good as its leader, The Optimists, a championship Corps, ably reflects the qualities that filter down from the top and result in a sincere desire to do better.

It would be wrong to say that the Corps is a recreational refuge for "bad" boys. But boys of questionable character and beginnings have joined, stayed, and on leaving were not so bad after all.

Behind the Front

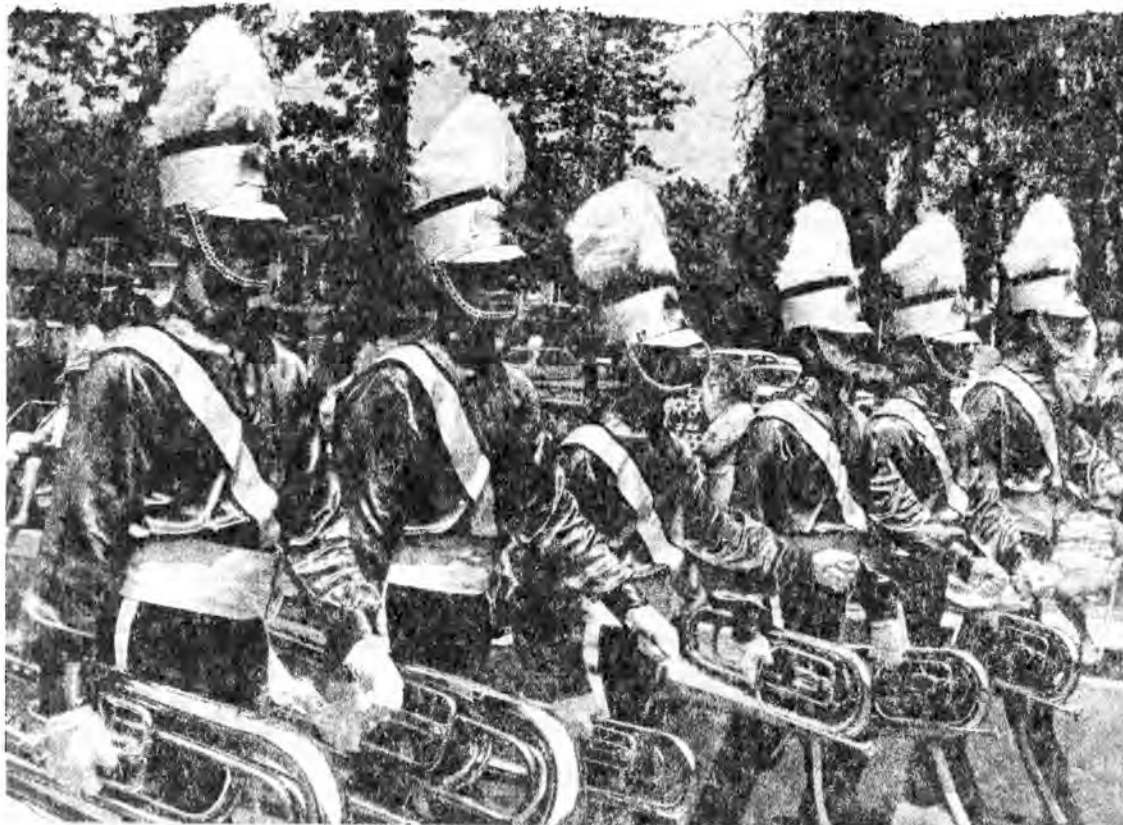
As the long green line of The Optimists ends their show and crosses the finish line in a company front, the boys luxuriate in applause. The men behind the scenes the Corps sponsors, applaude too but no one applaudes for them.

Over the past ten years, The Optimist Club of Toronto has continuously financed trips (for the 70 boys in the Corps) to contests as far apart as Boston, Chicago and Quebec. They bought new uniforms for the Corps, purchased new instruments and spent thousands of dollars making it possible for the Corps to uphold its reputation, and retain its Canadian title. With the Corps substantial winnings and through the sale of peanuts, chocolate bars and fertilizer, the boys themselves have met a good portion of the expenses.

But for the most part, thanks goes to the Optimist Club members themselves, particularly Optimists Al Baggs, Hank Jordan and Dr. Skilling, the gift of their time and effort has been generous and often.

Although when, through the club, a boy in the Corps gets a new flag, a new contra bass horn or a new bass drum, he is not overwhelmed with thanks. He is, truthfully, the epitome of receivers; he just takes it. Nor is the boy unduly concerned with the source of the horn or the drum or for that matter the Corps. It's just there. He takes it and uses it and it makes him a better man.....

THE END.....DOUGLAS McPHAIL  
\*\*\*\*\*





# RESERVE NOW FOR THE OPTIMISTS BOOSTER BUS TO THE NATIONALS!

BUS LEAVING TORONTO EARLY SATURDAY, SEPT. 9th TO ARRIVE IN OTTAWA IN TIME FOR THE JR. "A"

PRELIMS. LEAVE OTTAWA FOR TORONTO MIDNIGHT, SEPT. 9th.



TOTAL COST \$13.00 FOR THE ROUND TRIP!!!

This includes your \$3.50 centre reserved seat for the night show

Only 49 seats available. First come, first reserved. RESERVE YOURS TODAY by sending \$13.00 cheque or money order to: Mr. C. Billington, Manager, Toronto Optimists Drum Corps, 24 Amesbury Drive, Toronto 15. phone: 244-3146.

SALUTING CANADA'S CENTENNIAL IN CANADA'S CAPITAL



1967  
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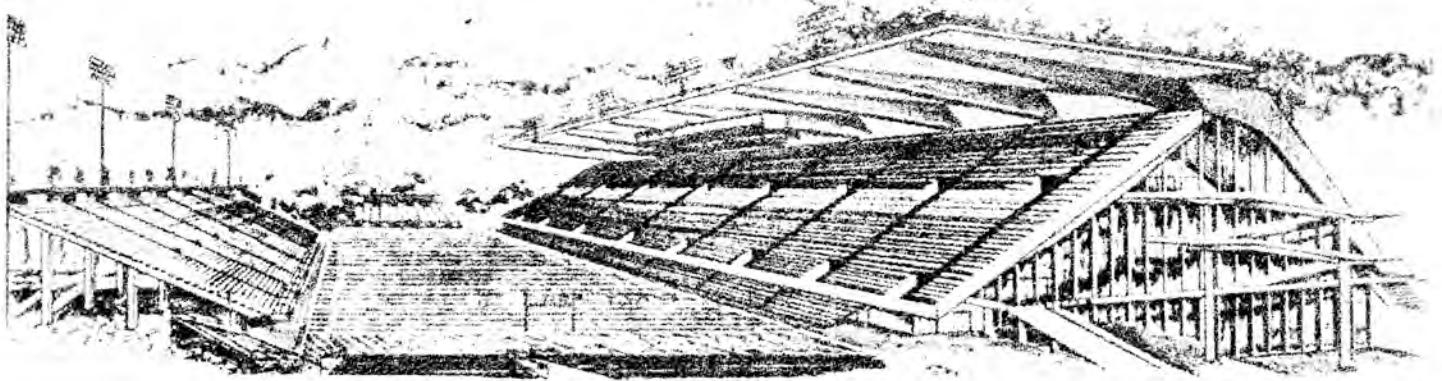


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