



green capsule comments



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the
Toronto
Optimists

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YEAR
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Publication
1960-1968



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JUNE 15

1968!

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DRUM & BUGLE CORPS PAGEANT

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JUNIOR CORPS
IN COMPETITION!

THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS



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on this exciting record.

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THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

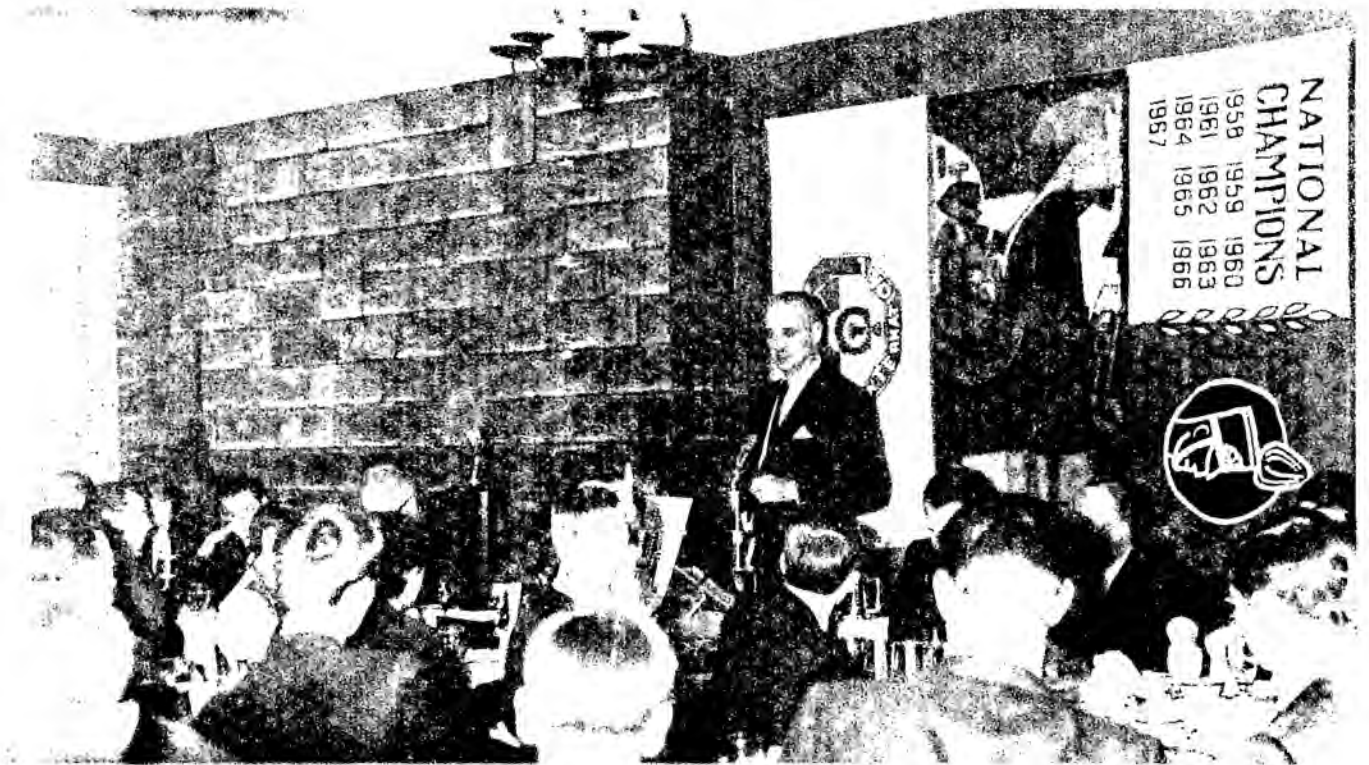
Newsletter

"GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS"

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OPTIMISTS TENTH CHAMPIONSHIP DINNER THE HIGHLIGHT OF OCTOBER!

Toronto, Saturday evening, Oct. 21: In the grandiose "Cavalier Room" of one of Toronto's outstanding culinary delights, The Ports-Of-Call, The Optimist Club of Downtown Toronto this evening honoured their corps with their sixth Annual Victory Banquet.

The evening was opened by Grace by Paul Thompson; a Toast To The Queen by Vern Johansson and the Introduction of the Head Table by the Chairman for the evening, Mr. A.W. Baggs.

The atmosphere was enchantingly comfortable as the Canadian Champions and their guests sat down to a feast of Roast Ontario Turkey with all the delectable paraphernalia that comes along for the ride.

Following the meal, Barry Bell, the Music Director of the corps introduced Mr. Clare Reid, the President of The Canadian Drum Corps Association and our Guest Speaker of the evening. During his introduction, Mr. Bell passed along some interesting anecdotes about The President that we hadn't heard before. Mr. Reid's informal talk ranged from the earliest days of The Optimists (which he was fully up-to-par on) to our later history and achievements and then continued with a short history of our Association.

Mr. Reid passed on an interesting assessment of the C.D.C.A. and gave us his views on bettering the situation. He feels that the drum corps movement has become too technical-minded and unless all corps make a change we will never grow any further than our present status. He was inclined to think that the corps are playing to the Judges rather than the audience. Therefore we are not presenting as entertaining show as we could for the general public.

***** (continued page -2-) *****

BANQUET (continued)

This is more than likely why we have to fight tooth and nail to have the public see our contests. Once the public have seen two or three contests they are inclined to think that they are all the same. This could also be a reason why more drum corps are not formed. To start a Corps takes a lot of money and too many Corps aim their sights too high for the first year of operation. They have to hire top notch Instructors to teach on a technical basis. Therefore we are losing our objective which is to have more people attend D.C. contests so the sponsor can make money to pass on to us in order for Corps to survive.

Mr Reid then outlined some of the achievements set by The Optimists which proved of particular interest to newer members. His speech closed off with a formal congratulations to the Corps for winning their tenth consecutive National Title. Mr. Reid's speech gave many of the newer members a much greater theory of the Corps world in Canada.

Mr. Al Baggs then introduced to the Corps the President of the Optimist Club of Toronto, Mr. Bill Johnston. Before doing so, however, Mr. Baggs filled us in on some of the earlier antics of the Corps which led to a period of enlightenment for all.

Mr. Johnston kept his remarks short and, as a matter of fact he told more jokes than he talked. He then performed the "Ceremony of Corps Rings." Seven three year rings were awarded and seven five year rings were also presented.

Mr. Daber then made a special presentation to Barry Bell and Lorne Ferrazutti for their many years service in the Corps. Both these men have been with the Corps since their first National Title. I am sure they plan to be on hand for many more.

Membership Certificates were then presented to every member of the Corps but alas, the poor Rookies got set back again. Their Rookie pins had not come across the border yet so they weren't presented. Just another part of being a new member.

I was the next orator to step up to the lecturn. My silver spoon slipped from my mouth as I rambled on incoherently and fumbled through my oration of "21 Club" mugs for Corpsmen that have to leave because of the "Corps Draft." I was doing so well that they wouldn't let me sit down, so I presented awards to our two heroic bus drivers Sam Laktin and Neil Slater. They stuck with us through thick and thin. They were really overwhelmed with the awards and are looking forward to having us back again. They certainly are gluttons for punishment.

We were then down to the big ones. The tension mounted. The cigarettes and handkerchiefs came out, the envelope please..... "And the award for the best Guardsman of the Year goes to... Bob Ledwards." A little violin music please. This years "Rookie of the Year" goes to...JOHN CHRISTIE. And now the moment you have all been waiting for...(a drum roll) The spotlight on GEORGE WRIGHT, last years Corpsman of the Year. "Gentlemen, I will not hold you on the edge of your seats any longer..."This years Corpsman of the Year is presented to.....RON COOPER Guard Captain. It can truly be said that there wasn't a more deserving person in the place. It can also go on record that there was no more surprised person in the Ports of Call Restaurant.

The formalities had ended. The projector was brought out and we witnessed our Preliminary show at the Nationals in Ottawa, captured by Jack Roberts Productions. We then ran through some slides taken by FRANK ROOD at various trips we embarked on last season.

Thus ended the Corps Banquet '67.

written by Vern Johansson.

by Vern Johansson

INSIDE THE CORPS



Ho, Ho, Ho, and a belated Merry Christmas to you all. Be of good cheer people we are late but we are here. Bet you thought Santa forgot to deliver you GCC this month didn't you? He didn't forget, we just didn't trust him. After we saw him jump onto his sleigh, whip his reindeer, finish off his 26er of Vodka and yell "CHRISTMAS, HUMBUG!", well, we lost all faith in the bearded wonder... Lets start off on a different angle and come up with a bit of memory strolling back to the great and glorious, December 1966...

REMINSICING ALONG THE GREEN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS... This time last year the Guard was busy prepering for their first season in the Colour Guard Circuit... We all remember the cries from Ryerson Pub (thats short for Public) "Don't hit me Uncle Jack, I promise I won't trip over the starting line any more!"

The COBOURG PARADE was our special Christmas treat... From the side of the road we heard the war cries of Uncle Don yelling PLAY, PLAY, PLAY, as our lips fell to the road and froze into the cement.

JOHN SHEARER (now happily married) was in the hospital throwing his weight around while back at H.Q. JOE BRUNELLE was holding up the equipment department as well as his pants. (May we add that Joe has done a superb job this season.)

DON DABER was on one of his "trips" reading MAD Magazine... while BARRY BELL was luxuriating in the laurels received after having a song named after him.

JOHN MacDONALD was screaming about more help instructing the drumline of the Cadets. He is still screaming only now his cause is greater.

AL TIERNEY was just moving up the green ladder and making his presence known... Hitler started the same way... His Cadets had all of 30 members, now Al's "Green Shirts" number 160!

JIM WARBURTON slaved with me and Uncle Don in the production of the "new look" for GCC. Jim has now moved into better pastures playing his flute????

RON KAISER was busting his motley crew with a super duty drum stick... Bless their little hearts.

The New Year of 1967 came in with a THUD as the baby tripped over his diaper and fell into the month of January, and the rush was on....

Welcome back to the spirit of Christmas present or past depending on how you look at it... Whats happening this year?? No, its not a secret, I can tell you. After all you paid \$2.00 for this sheet so read on.....

Every year about this time it is a common rumour that The Optimists are definately down, well that all depends on what you call down..at least when you go down you are given the count of TEN to get back up again...something to think about...

ONTO OTHER THINGS AND FACTS... Optimists sporting new crests featuring 10..... CONGRATULATIONS to the members of the Corps helping out with the Clubs Christmas Trees at the lot north of Toronto...

Hey, theirs a real cool Rookie in the Corps this year...his name is HARRIS?... speaking of cool Rookies we have a natural in our midst....His name...JOHNNY COUL, hows that for a handle???

Nice to see an ex-Optimist back in the rank and file...GORD O'HALLARAN working with the Cadets drumline...Rumour has it that the Italian Santa Claus (JOE GIANNA) WILL shave off his beard for the New Year. Maybe he better not, I think everyone has forgotten what he looked like. The only reason he grew it was so he could get the job of working as Santa Claus at Honest Ed's...

Yours truly is very happy these days. I found out that our EXEC'S recommendation on over 21 Drum Majors be outlawed was turned down at the Rules and Bylaws meeting.

RON KAISER'S SECRET on the NEW drumline item, we understand isn't that much of a secret any more...but we're still not talking...

AAAAAAAAARRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHH...Where the 'ell are the '67 Fleetwood Records at Whaley Royce???...Whaley doesn't know, we really don't like sending for them by mail....Speaking of RECORDS...OPTIMISTS and AMBASSADORS have come out with a 12 inch (yes, GEORGE WRIGHT that's 12") LP on the Nationals in Mono or Stereo.. Fling us three dollars and pick up this little gem...PS..also for the first time THE CHAMPIONSHIP OPTIMIST QUARTETTE featuring WAYNE DEAN, GEORGE WRIGHT, DOUG SPARKES and PAUL THOMPSON as recorded at the Ontario Individuals last spring... THIS IS FESTER HEWNPIT AND WELCOME TO HOCKEY NIGHT IN TORONTO....Hockey??? Thats right sweeties, hockey...Optimists and DeLaSalle traded in their shakos for helmets, horns for sticks and switched uniforms for the Ice Follies....The birds weren't even up when the game got under way at three (thats 3) A.M. in the wee hours. How does that grab your lil ole bunions! Before the game some of the Optimists were counted in attendance at the Ambassadors "Raise em, Christmas Turkey Roll." They were down to get the bird from Harv, (thats Harv Partridge, dummies) The Ambassadors are getting smarter in their old age (with MacKenzie in there its old age) by having two (count em, 2) chicks at the door, all in black tights (should have been the Corps colours Harv, but who was looking at colours) selling tickets for the turkeys (no stupid, thats the dead turkeys up at stage front, not the ones coming in the front door.)....But back to the hockey game...It was WOOD AGAINST WOOD when Optimists D..M.. got his head tangled into the boards...he went on a "trip" for a few minutes....We understand that Marcel Smolinski did a solo on the starting line by singing his National Anthem (NOT Poland's, CARLINGS)...DEL was dead silent for a moment...later in the game M.S. got his finger "smashed" for that one, and we understand that wasn't the only thing smashed....RON COOPER helped referee with ED JACKO of DEL but Ron thought he was still commanding the Guard for indoor drill rehearsal and was confused when the team didn't dress off the line so, in the second half he swallowed his whistle and grabbed a hockey stick...oh yes, the results we will come to them presently...You ask who was on the Optimists Championship team?? To give the "ice cubes" to the right players there was BERNIE ROELCKE (and his S.S. Division) MARCEL SMOLINSKI and his cool cans...JOHNNY COUL and his green and white sweater...VERN JOHANSSON minus his helmet...RON HARKNESS minus his teeth NEIL HAWTHORNE with his fedora and his FLYS....RICK COOPER AND HIS rusty skates... STEWART YOUNG and his shatter-proof glasses...LUMPY and his war club...BILL BRADLEY and his warped stick...and the JOHANSSON family cheering us on from the front row blues...You ask for the results of the game...Be patient! We didn't win. "WHAT?" "WHAT DO YOU MEN MEAN , WE DIDN'T WIN!" "WE ALWAYS WIN!" No, we didn't win this one. Anyway after, THAT'S AFTER THE GAME, GORD ROBINSON played Aunt Jemima with the pancake bit...Each guy ate 11....Thats the score....11 to 4...

The game is over...the year is over...and better things are yet to come (I hope) The Corps is plowing through the winter season and an icy clip as most of last years repertoire is being changed and BARRY BELL is turning into a twentieth century Beethoven with some superb arrangements of GOIN OUT OF MY HEAD, TEMPTATION, and ONTARIO to name a few..

The drumline is coming out with an entirely new concept in drumming and being as how we have the same drumline people wise as last year, you can expect great things on percussion.

Booster Club tickets are the big money makers this year. Each member of the Corps has to sell a minimum of four tickets a month...This is a standard fee set and every Corpsman has to pay either \$4.00 or sell four tickets a month.

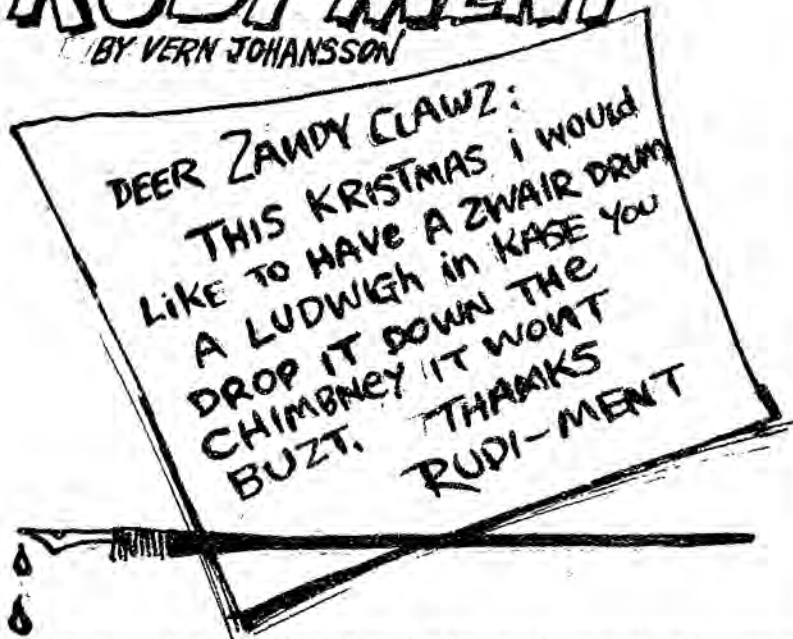
For the first year in the history of the corps we are not taking any winter parades. We are more concerned this year with learning a new show for the contest season.

Three Chinese cheers to ALAN GURR who led the morbid warriors in ticket sales last month and procured a Corps cardigan, but since he is a Rookie he had to DONATE his sweater to an older member in compensation for his LIFE!:

Sorry group, my pen is out of ink and I'm at the bottom of the page...See you next year.

BEGINNING...**THE MISADVENTURES OF
RUDI-MENT**

BY VERN JOHANSSON



The request at the left was made by Rudi-Ment when he was six years old. The drum was obtained by Rudi (it didn't break) and he began his long haul to the top of the percussion world. At this early beginning Rudi's chief ambition was to be able to play for the Champion Drum & Bugle Corps.

He practised every day from the time he came home from school until it was time for him to invade the world of the "Sand-man." He would race up to his room after invading the ice-box

for an all night "seige" and pounded away on his Ludwig drum with the tough plastic head.

Rudi would talk to no one except his drum. He wouldn't even take time out for a social breather. He would save his money furiously and buy up every book on drumming he could find. Once a month he would also have enough money left over to buy a Drum Corps record.

By the time Rudi was eight he was recognized as a certain classification of "hermit" by the people around him. People also thought it strange that this young lad with the short-cropped hair, firm set jaw and clear blue eyes was forever tapping with his fingers and humming a type of music that was as uncommon as the "Twist" in 1920.

Rudi was the talk of the block. People classified him as everything from "weirdo to Neurotic." Their comments did not interfere with Rudi's ultimate objective. He tackled drumming much to the same degree a 250 lb. football player would tackle a 95 lb. basket weaver. The standout thought in his mind was--DRUM--STICKS--PLAY!

When Rudi reached the terribly old age of ten he decided it was time to visit the Champion Drum Corps. He considered it to be the ideal time being as how it was winter and new music and drumming were being taught. He trudged along through the snow and the wind whipped through his small, underdeveloped frame. He had on an old pair of sneakers appearing somewhat "swiss-cheese" in style. He wasn't interested in his shoes, he was interested in drumming. Nothing bothered Rudi. He had his drum sticks in his back pocket, his drum and case over his left shoulder and he was on his way to join the Champions. THAT was all that mattered.

However, as confident as Rudi was there was one thing he overlooked, one thing he hadn't bargained for. The one thing that stopped him from achieving his ultimate goal.....HE WASN'T OLD ENOUGH!!

"What can I do now?" "For years I have worked for this moment and now this abrupt halt!" "Whats the use!" "Were my four years of caloused fingers and mind-bending drum patterns in vain?" "NO!!!" "I won't give up!" "I won't lose what I have worked so hard to achieve!"

Rudi took on an entire new outlook. He arose every morning at six ran through a series of rigorous physique developing exercises, ate three meals a day containing the right amount of proteins, calcium, vitamins, etc. He also stepped up his drumming and vociferously engaged in six-hour bouts with his drum and sticks. RUDI WAS DETERMINED!

As a precautionary step he studied bugling to fully round out his "Drum Corps Dream" musically.

He attended every contest he could during the summer months and prepared notes and a vigorous schedule for learning drill, determined not to let his "Drum Corps Dream" be depleted in any way, shape or form.

Undaunted by his previous encounter at being accepted he waited until he was sixteen before trying again. Rudi had developed both physically and mentally to the proportions of a self-made man. His mind was keen and full of answers for obstructive questions that might be hurled at him. He had filled out to a well-proportioned youth with the gait of a panther, the assurance of a lion, the steadiness of a hawk and a look of determination.

He stalked the rehearsal hall a few times, keeping his mind open and clear. He had waited ten years for this moment and would not be upset again by minute details.

He cantered up the steps, took a deep breath and pulled open the large glass door. "Where may I find the Director regarding an application form?" "Second door on your right, kid." "Thank you." As he walked down the hall he noticed the rude yet inquisitive looks he was receiving. "Sir, I have come to apply for the drumline." "I was here six years ago but was not acceptable at that time because of age." "How many years have you been drumming?" "I have taught myself since my kindergarten years of six." "Would you please go down the hall and meet with the drum instructor?" "OK, thanks very much."

Your half way there Rudi! Keep calm the big test is yet to come!

"I have been sent to see you regarding drumming." "Are you here to join?" "Yes I am." The tests Rudi played were as far as he was concerned too easy. He had gone over things like that and unthinkable number of times....."You play very well Rudi." "Thank you sir." "Suppose you go into the drum room and work out with the snare drums."

"YES SIR!".....RUDI-MENT HAD MADE IT!!

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NEXT ISSUE.....RUDI-MENTS METEORIC RISE IN THE DRUM CORPS WORLD
AND THE PROBLEMS HE UNDERGOES DURING HIS FIRST YEAR IN THE
CHAMPIONSHIP CORPS...
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This you just gotta hear

OPTIMISTS ★ & ★
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by Don. Daber

1961-62 63-64 65-66



looking back!

TORONTO, May 29, 1961: The Optimists returned home today with many pleasant memories of their three day trip that began Thursday night when the corps left Toronto, arriving in Phillipsburgh, N.J. about 10:00a.m. Friday where they were taken directly to their billets at the Easton Hotel by a police escort.

The corps participated in the Phillipsburgh Centennial Parade Saturday afternoon and then went directly to Jersey City and their accomodation at St.Pat's Parish Hall, as guests of The St.Patrick's Cadets. Within minutes of their arrival the complete corps sat down to a hot beef dinner provided by the ladies of the parish. During the supper hour the optimists had the pleasure of awarding



BLIND CHILDREN, GUESTS OF ST. PAT'S MEET DAVE HANKS, OF THE OPTIMIST SOPRANO LINE.

Father Gaffney, Moderator of St. Patrick Cadets, an honorary membership in the Optimists Corps. Earlier that day, boys from the Garfield Cadets offered their services as guides to the Optimists who wanted to visit New York on the Saturday evening. The contest, the famed Preview Of Champions took place on Sunday afternoon at Roosevelt Stadium, Jersey City, under sunny skies and an enthusiastic crowd of 15,000.

"Report on the Show" by Jack O'Brien of Drum Corps World's 'Jersey Jottings'...In the Jr. division Sacrament retained their title with a score of 86.05, winning out over Garfield with 82.475 and Queensmen's 80.4. Last 3 scores were: Bracken:79.55, The Optimists 77.3 and Boston Crusaders 74.5. The 15,000 judges in the stands picked the Optimists and gave them a thunderous ovation! All these boys have to do is line up at kick-off and walk away---the crowd is with them all the way. Their bass drummers must use hammers. I have never heard such a strong beat. Repertoire includes "Cock-eyed Optimist", "Meadowlark", "Manhattan Beach". During their concert the cymbal player got carried away & slipped on the grass. The horns do a real snappy 'head chopper' with bugles swinging like mad. The boys received a wonderful ovation which they justly deserved. THE BOSTON CRUSADERS: A snappy looking corps---used "West Side Story"---"Coming Up Roses", "Johnny Comes Marching Home", "3 Coins"...a very fine corps but somehow they were not taken by the Jersey crowds---I like their overall show, but can't put my finger on it---somethings missing. SACRAMENT: Their 1961 numbers are:"Ben Hur", "Vanishing Army", "Put On A Happy Face", and exit "To The Still of the Night." GARFIELD: Attired in the full splendor of the original Garfield uniform, the Cadets have plenty of sock and polish in "Besame Mucho", "West Side Story", "Exodus",...exit to "Sounds Of Music". Watch them climb!!!

"SONS DE TRUMPETTES '61"...On June 10th.in Ottawa, Drum Corps of today came face-to-face with corps of yesteryear at Troubadors"OUNDS OF TRUMPETS '61" was presented at Lansdowne Park, Ottawa. The show was divided into 2 parts---the 1st.half was a contest between 3 local trumpet bands featuring the straight bugle, rope drums, and the mace-bearing drum majors. In competition were LaSalle Academie, Ottawa, College Notre-Dame, Hull and Ecole Secondaire D'Embrun. LaSalle's score was 96.25; Embrun:89.6 and College Notre-Dame:92.25. The Notre-Dame unit had 85 members and no guard---all on instruments. In exhibition in the 2nd half of the show were The Optimists, Grantham, Midtown Lions and Keweenaw Keweenaw.

by Al Tierney



cadet report



As most of you know we have been instrumental in starting a second corps; a corps to be known as The Cadets...a corps that will supply the new personnel that The Optimists need each year.

The Cadets are not a completely new venture, in fact they had their beginning in 1959 when they were known as the Bantam Optimists. They are pictured above with the Junior Corps as taken at the Optimist International Convention in Toronto in 1963. Some members of that corps are presently with the Optimists, such as the Cooper brothers. Due to management difficulties the Bantams were forced to discontinue for a short time late in 1963 but in 1965 the Cadets were reorganized but operated as a school only, teaching both bugles and drums.

By 1967 a new problem developed. Because of the difficulties in recruiting and keeping up the interest in the cadets as a class it was decided to expand the corps and raise it to the parade class level as the Bantams were. In order to do this it was necessary to look for a new area to operate from. The corps was moved to Scarborough when the assistance of the Knights of Columbus was obtained with the use of their building.

The first recruiting drive was carried forth in September and the Junior Corps aided the drive by putting on a parade and a show. When the dust settled the afternoon of Sunday, September 17th we had a very satisfactory start with 42 names on the application list. The following Saturday we held our first rehearsal at the K.ofC. Hall and to our surprise 140 boys turned up. The following week the final total reached 180 before we stopped applications.

Then the problems started; first of all we had very little equipment as the horns were on order so we had to stall for a time by running classes in reading music and teaching basic drill. Then, at one point we had over 110 members who wanted to be drummers and very rarely did we have more than one drum instructor available. This state of confusion lasted for several weeks but the new horns did arrive and colour guards were started for some of the new members. The drum line settled down.

We now have 60 bugles, and despite the inevitable loss of some of the recruits, we still have over 70 boys who want to learn the bugle. We might mention here that the Cadets are using largely straight bugles...no valves. This restricts the repertoire but is still excellent basic training for young buglers. In addition to the above we are also using 9 regular soprano bugles and 6 baratonnes which are equipt with valves only.

RON COOPER

1967 CORPSMAN OF THE YEAR



JOHN CHRISTIE

1967 ROOKIE-OF-THE-YEAR



To receive an exemplary award for outstanding effort is a "dream" few people achieve. Thus when you receive an award for merit that is decided upon by the people around you it is an even bigger achievement. You have not only scaled lofty heights but you have also been popularized by your fellow man.

Ron Cooper was one of the "Dreamers." His "dream" started back in the vicinity of 1962 when he entered the entertainment world via the Bantam Optimists. He really didn't know what he wanted to do but decided that if his younger brothers could make it so could he.

His term in the Bantams was short lived. He dreamily set his eyes on the Junior "A" Corps. Early 1963 caught Ron in the Optimists carrying the National Colours, a meager start but he was started. His memories of that year were the many lectures and if necessary, stronger action that reigned upon him due to his incessant talking.

Ron no longer is a belligerent Rookie. He learned and he now expects people to do likewise. His soft spoken manner has earned him total respect and popularity in the Corps. Few people can claim to have respect and leadership qualities of his degree.

In 1964 Ron met his first disappointment. He tried out for the rifle line and failed to make the grade. To others it was a failure, to Ron it was a temporary setback. Hard work and a dash of determination gained him a rifle the following year.

The years of 1965-66 are probably memory packed for Ron. He became known for his work with a rifle and his outstanding military carriage that earned him the title of THE Rifleman. His painstaking care in doing rifle work resulted in a various degree of scars and bruises that he received in the line of duty. His rifle days were almost ended in 1966 when his knee and the rifle didn't quite agree on one of the spins. He received hospital duty for that one and wasn't able to march for several weeks. Ron also has the unique record of the only member of the Corps with a bayonet sacrificial scar. The ironical part was that he wasn't even a member of the rifle squad at the time.

The beginning of 1967 found the Colour Guard without a Guard Captain. Ron wasn't sure whether he wanted the responsibility of the position or not but he definately was the logical choice. You might even say that Ron was scared when he took over the position and didn't quite know what was expected of him. After many questions and some post graduate work in instructing he stepped out front and helped produce an overly successful winter competition guard. Now came a twist in Ron's Corps story.

All the years he had spent in the Corps were with the Colour Guard. When he started out he knew that something was wrong but was baffled as to what it was. It finally hit him after hearing a few of the professed saviours of the Corps (a horn and drum man) talking about throwing all their rejects in the Colour Guard. This dismayed Ron and he decided that something would have to be done to rectify the situation. Thus in 1967 when the Circuit Guard was produced and they were a great success he nipped at the bud any further uprisings against the Guard. That was one of Ron's finer moments.

At the end of 1967 Ron was looking forward with glee to the Corps Banquet where he would receive his five year ring. To Ron this would be his greatest moment since joining. He received his ring and was totally overjoyed. In his mind nothing could top that moment. But something did. The 1966 Corpsman of the Yr. Geo. Wright stood up and announced the winner of the trophy for 1967. Ron was all set to stand up and give the most deserving fellow an ovation when he heard his name announced.

Ron no longer "Dreams" he faces reality and looks on his Drum Corps years as the greatest in his life.

A Drum Corps Family is a real rariety. Fortunately there are a few around and they will never really go extinct. The Christie Family is one such group that will keep extinction years away.

In 1966 Bob Christie decided to live his last junior year in a green uniform while younger brother John travelled around with his parents and supported the Corps. However, 1966 was just a lay-off period for John. In the years previous to that he spent most of the time with Drum Corps in and around Welland which is his home town. When John was 14 he was playing a drum for a SENIOR Corps!

In 1967 John, like his brother donned a green uniform and commuted to Toronto for rehearsals. He was a Rookie but he was a happy Rookie because he was in the Corps where his heart had been for many years. His work through the year was hard and done to the best of his ability. John was never to busy to help in any way he could. He went quietly on his way and did what was expected of him. For a first year member his perseverance was amazing.

His original plan was to be in the drumline but openings were very scarce when he joined so he reversed the situation and ended up on euphonium bugle. Producing, was his idea of getting ahead and he produced far better than average. His only terrifying experience was whether or not he would make the hornline taking into consideration that he had never played a bugle in his life before!

He did make the line and this gave him incentive to push on. His attendance and Corps spirit was matched by few and I doubt if anyone loved his job more than John.

John Christie is the type of person that doesn't do things just to be rewarded. He does them because as far as he is concerned that is what he is there for. His reward was being where he wanted when he wanted.

At the Banquet this year John was honored as Rookie of the Year. All he could say was "Why me ???". The only truthful answer can be that you deserved it John, and you can bet he will deserve many more things before his Optimist days are through.

GCC THEN AND NOW



A conventional idea in the mind of one Don Daber came into light in the year 1960. It was his job as Publicity Director of the Corps to keep expanding on ways of publicizing the Corps. The big booster shoot came in the form of Green Capsule Comments with a three page issue to give birth to the magazine which has been circulating longer than any individual Corps paper. GCC has been going continuously with Don Daber as anchor man for all of the seven years of its life.

We are now going into the eighth year of publication and the end is far from sight. The paper has undergone several renovations and face lifts but it still remains GCC. All the work that has been put into the paper since its beginning was certainly not in vain. To many, the Corps paper has become an institution. The Optimist Corps members wait patiently every two months and then if the paper is late they want to know why.

In the beginning the paper was small in size but the style and talent of writing was well above normal. Articles written by such people as Sadie Mau Mau (who to this day is non-identifiable) The Magnet, From the Sidelines, Ed Rooney Says and various feature articles have been replaced by new names and new styles. The only person who can judge the paper calibre wise is Don Daber. After all he has been around since its inception and he can evaluate the writing and styles through the years.

As Editor of GCC it is my duty to see that the paper constantly seeks improvement. During the past year I am sure we have given our readers many enjoyable moments and you can also note and I say this with pride that the Corps paper has definitely expanded and blossomed to a degree that is sometimes frightening. The only sad note I can reflect on is the fact that even though the paper has become bigger and more newsworthy, subscribers have become fewer. You can not really lay the finger on the source of this discouragement but as Mr. Daber once told me, the prime objective of the Corps paper is to entertain and educate our Corps members and to this I can say we have done our part.

As we start another year of production and I have a full year under my belt I am sure you can all look forward to another transition in GCC. Many new ideas and concepts are brought to light and there are many new things we would like to attempt this year.

If you had the opportunity to glance through some early editions of the paper you will have noticed many changes. The format of the paper has changed. The new issues are more colourful and easier to read and as I mentioned previously each edition has gotten larger in volume. This however, is to be expected. You can only naturally enlarge on something once you have gotten it off the ground.

The "Inside the Corps Column" has been with the paper since its beginning. Different writers but the same style has prevailed through all these years. It is not always easy to keep the paper on a par with previous issues. There are many behind the scenes difficulties that can and will happen but there is really nothing you can do to prevent them. However, it must be said that any Corps that can keep a magazine running for seven years and yet still raise the level almost each time we print can truly say they have accomplished something.

We hope that in the years to come the paper will prove as valuable as it has in the past and present. New people and ideas will come into force but if my guess is right Don Daber will always be at the helm to reassure us that the articles and work put into GCC is of the best level we can produce. After each issue has been stapled and they are all ready for mailing the only logical step is to start immediately planning for the next one and keep your sights high.



LETTERS & MISC.

Nov. 20, 1967

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the staff and editor of The Lionettes "Golden Copy." We would like to have a history of The Optimists. This would be very much appreciated as The Optimists are the most liked outside corps in Sarnia. Another reason is that you are, have and will continue to be Canadian Champions.

Yours Truly,
Miss Lee Haslip, Sarnia Lionettes.

Oct. 6, 1967

To the Optimists (The best Junior Corps I have seen all year.)

I've just read your very wonderful letter (about your trip to the CYO's) In this weeks issue of Drum Corps News and all I can say is, Massachusetts was certainly very proud to have a Corps that is as polite, fantastic and very well mannered as you all are.

Your appearance in Boston for the CYO Nationals was something many of us here waited for for a long time. Your performance here was just great and we certainly hope we can see you in and around Boston again next year.

Yours sincerely,
Mr. G.R. Charpentier, New Bedford, Mass.

Dear Sir,

As you have probably heard, we had one of the finest Garfield Cadets with us in a parade a short time back.

We enclose two pictures of Vern Johansson in the Garfield uniform along with the negatives. We thought Vern might like to use these in one of his stories.

Sorry for the delay in sending these to you, but time has been very scarce and fall activities are many.

Hope everything is moving along fine with the Optimists.

Regards to all,
Johnny Zink, President, Garfield Cadets.

Dear Editorial Staff,

Je suis un admirateur de "Les Diplomates de Quebec." Maintenant et pour toujours!

You are correct...the boeing of The Diplomates did have an effect on all Corps present--Optimists, Ambassadors, etc. as well as Commanders. But, I believe that the point you were making in your Editorial (GCC Oct/Nov) was that Diplomates have damaged their image. Peut-etre. Mais.....consider this point for a moment.

There was a certain senior Corps at Lansdowne Park who did not agree with the decission of the judges. To them, sportsmanship means throwing instruments and shakos to the ground, stomping from the field, cursing and swearing at the judges and receiving a ten point penalty for same. I'm given to believe that a person wearing the flourescent orange of a senior Corps also broke a window in Dips bus.

Has the above senior Corps not damaged its image....and image which many former Opti members helped to build?

In all fairness to Les Diplomates (who had their behaviour aired) to Canadian Commanders (who deserve to have their behaviour written about) and to the many fans of Drum Corps pre se, please, when you are writing a critical article, include ALL parties. Ommission is just as serious a wrong as uncalled for behaviour.

Bon chance a votre Corps,
Mlle Elaine Carell, Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir,

We have watched with great interest and enthusiasm, your splendid Corps and wish you all continued success in 1968. As an ex-British soldier, and retired member of RCMP it is known to a large extent the perfection required by one and all.

Sure would like to see the Optimists put on a show in London, England. How about it, the British would love this.
Yours Sincerely, R.L. Trolowe



DRUM & BUGLE



Sponsored by AMERICAN LEG
VFW POST 2

A Day in MAROON

by
VERN JOHANSSON

The "coffers" of my Drum Corps experiences reached an all time high last Nov. A rare privilege was accorded me and I shall never forget the way I felt that day. My green Corps jacket was removed for a moment and I fitted myself into the maroon, gold, and white of the Garfield Cadets. I was "mouth agape" when I was asked if I would march with the Cadets in a parade. The astounding part wasn't just in that I was marching with them but I was also accepted as a Garfield Corpsman even if it was only for one occasion. When you are placed in front of Garfield with the Corps resounding their masterful "When Johnnie Comes Marching Home" you can do nothing but march proud.

The Corps went out of their way to see that I was having a superb time. My meals were paid for by the Corps and the Corps members themselves kept me preoccupied with the heritage and history of their fine outfit. It was a clear cut case of what Drum Corps can truly represent. All the conflict of being competitors was eliminated and a new breed of good sportsmanship prevailed.

This year when The Optimists go to Garfield it won't be Corps against Corps, it will be friend visiting friend and with this simple process Drum Corps will advance and have a much "finer tuned" meaning. Many more "bugs" will be eliminated in the future but one sure thing is that The Garfield Cadets have done more than their share. As a member of The Toronto Optimists I doff my shako to Garfield and will always look back nostalgically to my "Day in Maroon."

by Ann Tennissen

Jersey notebook



DECALOGUE OF DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS By Mr. Bill Price

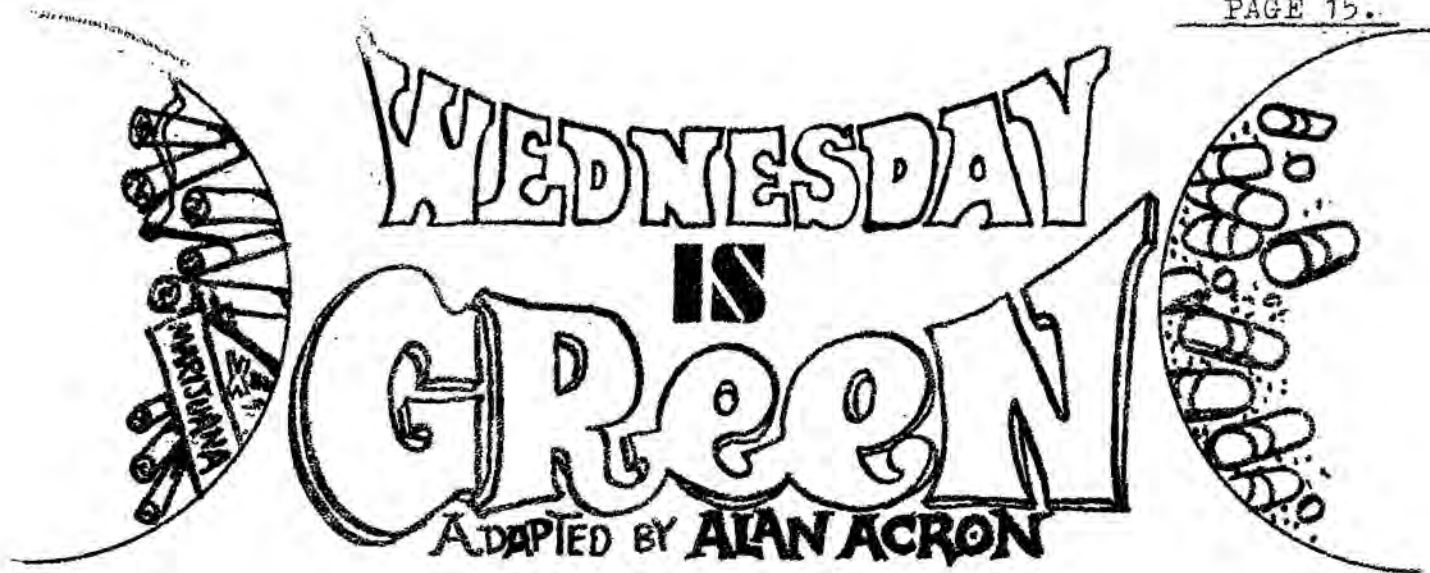
1. Thou shalt attend all regular and specially called practices, and on time, unless thou hast a darn good excuse. Thy brother tooters and beaters will get mad as heck at too many holes in the horn and drum lines and they may call down fire and brimstone upon thy head.
2. Thou shalt learn thy parts on horn and drum promptly and with perfection. Discrdent notes and off beats are an abomination to the ears of all judges. And that ain't good.
3. Thou shalt render prompt and cheerful obedience to every wish and command of thy Drum Major. He's the guy that takes the gaff and he may become wrathful.
4. Thou shalt "fall in" promptly when the clarion call of thy Drum Major sounds, signalling the time is at hand. Then and there, not sœ time hence from then.
5. Thou shalt desist from all merry-making while thou art in formation. Thou art there to do as thou art jolly well told, keep thy trap shut and perfect thyself in thy drill.
6. Thou shalt fix firmly in thy mind the goings and comings and the turnings about of thy drill so that thy marks for Marching and Manouvering and General Effect may excell. Hesitation, anticipation and proceeding six ways from Sunday don't help none.
7. Thou shalt place thyself firmly abreast of thy brother at thy right hand and thy brother at thy left hand, when thou art in line, and not suffer this positån to vary, no not so much as by a hair's breadth, and in proper season (when thou art in column) follow directly after thy brother who hast been placed before thee. This is neither the time nor the place for rugged individualists.
8. Thou shalt take unto thine hearts, as a balm and an healing ointment, the scores of judges and from them strive to improve thyself. Mayhap they DO know what they are talking about.
9. Thou shalt be loath to leap upon thy brothers back and beat his brains out when he hath erred. Keep ever in the forefront of thy mind that if none erred thine score would be an hundred and thine would be the best danged Corps in the whole country.
10. Thou shalt remember ever that each of thee art a member of the one body and shalt not let internal strife, dissention and bickerings possess thee. Dumb head, that is just what thine adversaries want. It will help them to lick the living day-lights out of thee.

As far as local Corps go, the only two Corps that I know of that are hard at work are St. Lucy's and the Skyliners. Guard Contests and Individuals usually start around the first of the year. St. Lucy's have acquired John Flowers as Drum Instructor They will keep the second half of there show from last year and Ell Conquistador is planned for off the line.

Mr. Walt Winkleman is now the Director of the Skyliners and already the Corps is showing a lot of promise for next year. "Mention my Name in Sheboygan" will be their off the line and they will bring back "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue." They are planning to enter the New Jersey State Legion next year. Since their Legion Post is in New Jersey they are eligible to compete. At last, Hawthorne will have some competition for their State title.

I believe Blessed Sacrament has lost a few members and are now rebuilding for next year. The Corps also has a new moderator. Father Garner, previous moderator has been transferred to another parish. Not much else has been heard from that area yet.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Editors of GCC for allowing me to write for them this past year. My best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



WEDNESDAY IS GREEN

ADAPTED BY ALAN ACRON

Monday is blue. Some people may say it's yellow or red or sometimes they may even say it's orange. But, according to all trends, surveys, and also's, it is blue; sometimes turning purple about five, five thirty, six or even six thirty, as the case may be. However, Wednesday is definitely green---all day.

Now you may say, "Why?" Why is Monday blue? Why not Tuesday blue or Thursday blue or Friday blue or even Saturday or Sunday blue? "Why?" (You'll notice I left out Wednesday but everyone who knows, knows that Wednesday is green.)

Now you may say, why is Wednesday green? But that is a very ridiculous question and you shouldn't even ask why. Wednesday is green, green, green and sometimes even four times.

SUMMARY: MONDAY

Q: Why is it blue and purple after five, five thirty, six or six thirty as the case may be?

A: Blue Monday; (a) It sounds correct. (b) Tuesday is brown (c) the main reason: Wednesday is green!

SUMMARY: Tuesday.

Tuesday is brown. It fits. There is no browner day than Tuesday. Some uneducated people may tell you Thursday is brown, but these people are uneducated. Educated people the world over will tell you Tuesday is brown, brown, brown. (Also maybe four times)

Therefore Brown Tuesday: (a) It sounds correct. (b) Monday is blue. (c) As we all know, Wednesday is green.

SUMMARY: Wednesday.

Wednesday is green and there is not any reason to go further. Wednesday is definitely green---That is a fact---Green Wednesday.

SUMMARY: Thursday.

Thursday, Thursday.

You may think, What colour could Thursday be? Or maybe you never thought about it. But, if you did, you surely would be in a quandary as to what colour Thursday would be. Monday wasn't tough---most people know Monday is blue. Tuesday might have been confusing as some uneducated people confuse it with Thursday, but most educated people know it's brown. Wednesday, we all know, is green. But Thursday.....Thursday?? What colour---? According to most O.L.D.S. it is white. Most Y.D.R.'s say aqua. But the fact is, Thursday is definitely orange; sometimes tannish-orange.

Orange-Thursday; (a) It sounds correct---tannish-orange Thursday. (b) Monday is blue, sometimes turning purple after five, five-thirty, six or six-thirty. (c) Tuesday is brown. (d) Wednesday is green, as we all know.

SUMMARY: Friday.

Friday is Black. Why? Because Wednesday is green and we'll go no further.

Black Friday: Friday Black. No need for further summary.

SUMMARY: Saturday.

Saturday is red. A bright red...a beautiful red...a swinging red... red...red. What a beautiful red Saturday is. You may be questioned as to which red Saturday is or why Saturday is red. The only reason Saturday is red (besides the fact that Wednesday is Green) is because you believe it. If you don't believe Saturday is red, there is no point to believing that Monday is blue (sometimes turning purple after five, five-thirty, six or six-thirty, as the case may be.) Or believing that Tuesday is brown or Thursday is tannish-orange or Friday because of Wednesday's being green, is black. Saturday is red. All day. There is no change at five, five-thirty, six or six-thirty. It's red and there is no way out. Saturday is red because of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday-Green, Thursday, Friday; it has to be red... bright, beautiful swinging red.

Sunday is white...

Not the same white that people who believe Thursday is white but a white that only Sunday could be...A white that Saturday couldn't be because it is red, or Thursday because it is tannish-orange, or Wednesday because it is definately green. Or--even Monday--though it is so close it's blue...sometimes turning purple after five, five-thirty, six or six-thirty (as the case may be.) Sunday is white because it's white. And white it is. However, it does have a bearing on the fact that Wednesday is definately green.

And green, Wednesday definately is---since January is Orchid!

WEBSTER (Abridged)--Thursday--Thurs'day: Definately orange; however in Southern United States it sometimes appears tannish-orange.

THURSDAY, according to the Greek Philosopher, Aremetheous: THURSDAY--Thur--eous--day--eous; definately orangeous (sometimes appears tannish in Southern Greece.)

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news of the corps

THE BIG MOUTH!



You there over in the corner put that Christmas spirit away and pay attention. If you think I'm letting you off just because it is supposed to be The Holiday season forget it! After all Scrooge Marley was my idol and compared to me he looks like Mary Poppins! So if you will all kindly CLAM UP and quit the celebrating we'll get down to business. So move your feeble eyes along with me and continue the greatest contribution to this magazine since Sadie Mau Mau....THE BIG MOUTH....

FROM A GREGARIOUS EXCAVATION...Hold onto your fedoras kiddies, here comes a very important commercial as sent to me by Lee Clutterbuck of The Chessmen.....

"For better, for worse" well, thats how you've got me. I'm the new reporter for the Chessmen. Terry Kirpatrick has now turned in her pen and rifle for a pair of white grannie boots and a dozen bed pans (Heaven help Hamilton.)

We do miss her already and although I know you will to, I'll try my best to fit my size 8's into her size 7's.

Now for the gossip revue...First to dispel any flowing rumours: The Chessmen have not folded nor are they going to. We have, instead, recruited about thirty new players which are producing quite well. They all seem to be enthusiastic about Drum Corps and can't wait to be fitted with a uniform and drill.

This year we hope to field sixty men at minimum: thirty three horns, twelve drums, twelve flags and four rifles. I learned that these new guys already have half the show in their belts. Two of the new numbers for this year are Ben Hur and Lost Chord.

Since the last edition the Corps has participated in the Niagara Peninsula Grape Festival Parade, which, no thanks to the weatherman, was a success after all.

Then after a two week break we ended the season with our annual banquet. A little different this year, there were no long speeches because it was just for Corps members. But although the populace was predominately Chessmen, somehow two Optimists got in. You will never guess who they were but their initials are R.C. (a certain Guard Captain) and D.V. (who tells us he has never been initiated.) Well, I know that they will agree that the food and entertainment were great and I hope they enjoyed themselves. Here's a toast to the Kanda Club who organized the whole shingiling.

For while after the banquet things became slow, so to pick us up we did a Santa Claus parade in Grimsby. This excursion also gave our recruits a little experience and they certainly came through.

December 16 meant another parade for Santa. The majority of the Corps members got hot water bottles for Christmas after doing all thos frigid parades.

The Guard has alos had their fair share of new comers, and although I may sound prejuduced, these kids are exceptional. They practice hare and take basics seriously.

As you may remember, we lost our Guard Captain last year. Although she's hard to replace we think Nancy Osborne can fill her roll. She's already proven herself in parades and rehearsals. She seems to have the know-how to take over and help these new kids along. Dorothy MacDonald, who is Guard Lieutenant is also a remarkable. In the rifle line, Judy Murphy is Sargeant at Arms. So here's to three months of basics and here's to the end of the column. Cheers.....

OK stick around. If you think that was something read on and see what other little goodies the tonsils have come up with for this ish. HEY, QUIET or I'll shove your face into the bell of a contra bass. If its a pre release on whats comin on the next page you want forget it. You think I am going to give you any special favours just because its "Be of good Cheer" time?? Well, just lock your teeth together don't bite your lip and read on.....TURN THE PAGE STUPID!:

SERTOMA SPIRITS OUT WITH.....The Sertomanaires have been labelled "CANADA'S MARCHING DIPLOMATS" by many organizations across United States and therefore will carry this title into their incorporation by being known as "Canada's Marching Diplomats." All correspondence and invoicing will bear this name.

The move to incorporate has been necessitated by new Government regulations regarding Charitable Organizations. The incorporation will also establish the "Diplomats" as a community project, dedicated to the development of youth. Directors of Canada's Marching Diplomats are: Dr. R. M. Williams, Executive Director, Mr. John Bond, Corps Director, Mr. Ron Morphew, Secretary-Treasurer and Mr. Wm. Dunlop, Publicity Director.

As their 1968 goal, the "Diplomats" have set their sights on the Canadian Junior "A" Championship. An all out effort is being made to bring this title to Sarnia. In this vein the following additions to the instructional staff are announced: Mr. Gary Lichty of Toronto will be the new Drum Instructor and is well qualified, having been on the staff of The Ambassadors, current Canadian Senior Champions and has worked with many Corps in Canada and New York State. Mr. Lichty is also a member of The Canadian Judges Association.

Mr. Ted Keys who along with Mr. John Bond are considered to be among the top arrangers in the Drum Corps World will combine their talents to produce one of the finest sounding Drum Corps in the Junior "A" Circuit. Mr. Keys who writes for and instructs The Ambassadors is a teacher of music in Toronto's secondary school system.

Other members of the staff are: Mr. Ron Yorke and Mr. Jack Tracey, Drill Instruction, Mr. Ed Taylor, Equipment, Mr. Rhoden Case, Personnel.

The Directors feel that with the additions to an already capable staff and a highly enthusiastic membership, the next Canadaia Junior "A" Championship will come to Sarnia.....

Well mouthies it sounds like good times are happenin in Sarnia. We will definately have to keep one eye trained on "Canada's Marching Diplomats."

SCREAMING ACROSS THE BORDER.....The man responsible for the coming of St. Joes 36 years ago has passed on. Father Kelley will never again lead the Corps with his shilielagh, but his spirit will always be with them. As to the Drum Corps viewpoint Father Kelly was GUNG HO, A OK, PUTS OUT and everything else we apply to a person who gives it everything he has. He was completely wrapped up in his Drum Corps: even sometimes when it became a jeopardy to his job. We cannot justly criticize him for this, for aren't we all guilty of the same thing? This is difficult to explain to someone outside of Drum Corps work, and most of us have forgotten about trying.

Father's reward will come next Memorial Day when a small boy will get up at 6:00 in the morning to get ready for a parade scheduled at 10:00. He will have scrubbed his face and hands for the tenth time, will have shined his shoes for the tenth time and polished his horn for a like amount. He will be the first boy in the school yard anxiously awaiting us "ole sleepy heads" to get there and "get the show on the road."

This is an intangible reward to be sure, but in heaven it is the intangibles that build up the score. Believe me, Father Kelly, the kind and gentle priest who came to teach us the virtues of charity, mercy, patience and understanding, has gathered in a lot of "intagibles" in his lifetime.....

Many thanks to Bob Bishop who wrote the above passage about Father Kelly. Although we never had the opportunity to meet him we are sure he was a complete Drum Corps man and the name Father Kelly's Boys will go down in history.

SNACK TIME OR STUFFING THE PAGE.....News from St. Joes--their annual Midwinter Concert is announced for Sat. Feb. 17 at the Batavia Senior High Auditorium. The curtain climbs at 8:00 p.m. Again this year as last, the special guest will be the Hawthorne Caballeros. All seats are reserved @ \$2.75 by writting to "Tickets" c/o Wm. Bishop, 139 North Spruce Street, Batavia, N.Y. 14020.....Don Daber kept busy in recent months playing Daniel Webster. His silver tongue flowed at Midlanders Banquet as guest speaker and then an instant replay at Guelph Optimists Banquet.... LASALLE looked big BIG in the Grey Cup Parade but they were beaten out by the KAVALIERS (no grannie not those Cavaliers, the Lindsay contingent).....then, during half time expected to see LASALLE doing the field but Lindsay again, oh well, we should talk.....TAKE A POWDER AND A YAWN....SEE YOU WHEN YOU WAKE UP!



To the many people and organizations who have assisted the Optimists Drum Corps during our 1967 Season.....THANK YOU.

The Rameses Shrine Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Toronto.
 Mr. Gord Robinson, Recorder, Rameses Temple/ for the many assists.
 Shriner, Lord Athol Layton, M.C. of the Optimists first Guard Championship.
 Mr. Keith Morgan...for his many assists behind the scene,
 Mr. Syd Brown, President of thr Metropolitan Toronto Police Association.
 Mr. Bill Johnston, President of The Optimists Club of Toronto , Inc.
 Mr. Bill Shephard, Whaley Royce & Co. Ltd., for work on new bugles.
 Mr. Bob Hunter, Drum Corps photos, New Britain, Conn.
 Mr. Dave Shano, Eastern Sound Ltd., for his work on Optimists '67 record.
 Mrs. Alice Bradley for her work on our practice flags.
 Mr. Clare Reid, President of the Canadian Drum Corps Association.
 Our bus drivers, Sam Lacktin and Neil Slater...who got us there on time.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Christie...A rose from the Rose Festival Dinner to the Corps
 Mr. McPherson, President of the Welland Optimist Club..assists in hosting the Corps supper.
 Drum Corps Digest and Drum Corps News for their publicity items.
 Mr. Harv Partridge, The Ambassadors.
 Mr. A.W. Baggs, Chairman of the Corps Committee, Optimist Club.
 Mr. D. Payne, Past-Chairman Corps Committee, Optimist Club.
 Mr. John Zink, President, The Garfield Cadets and The Garfield Cadets for their hospitality to The Optimists.
 Mr. Ralph Shapiro, Director, BSA Troop 12 Indians and the members of the Corps for their hospitality at their contest.
 Father Donnelly and the families of his Parish in South Weymouth, Mass. for their hospitality at the 1967 CYO Nationals.

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