





Cover photo by Don Daber,
taken in Ottawa, August 7th.



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YEARBOOK '76





DOUG COULL TIM BURRAGE
 BARRY WOODS GILLES PAQUIN BOB CARROL COLIN HEDWORTH EVERT BOTTERWEG JOHN KONSTANTINOU CHUCK SOKOLL

The rush and the Season is over, and a few Thank You's are in order...

...The Treasurer thanks the horn line for keeping breakage to a minimum.

...Larry McCormick thanks the drum line for keeping him solvent.

...Bob Carrell thanks the Color Guard and Rifle Line for restoring his faith in womanhood.

...Colin Hedworth thanks the corps for not stepping on him.

...Barry Woods thanks Bernadette for being Bernadette.

...Chuck Sokoll and John Konstantinou thank Molsons.

...Gord Parrott thanks the corps for providing him another winter's work.

...John Johnson thanks the corps for giving him his sunny disposition.

...My wife thanks the corps Director for allowing me to go home once in a while.

...And finally, I would like to thank the corps, and all the Equipment Staff for a job well done. I am proud to be associated with all of you. Lets make next year even better.

Evert Botterweg, Equipment Manager.

THE 1976 EXECUTIVE AND INSTRUCTION STAFF:

Al Tierney	Director
Wolfgang Petschke	Executive Assistant
Bernie White	Treasurer
Ric Brown	Assistant Treasurer
Jack Watt	Business Manager
Bud Jemmett	Assistant Director
John Henderson	Assistant Director
June Blakeney	Personnel
Don Daber	Publicity & Public Relations
Evert Botterweg	Equipment Manager
Wendy Byrne & Bernadette Schiebel	Uniforms
Equipment Department Staff:	
Bob Carrol, Barry Woods, Colin Hedworth, Chuck Sokoll, John Konstantinou, Gord Parrott, John Johnston.	
Vic and Florence Score	Booster Sales

Gary Czapinski	Instruction Coordinator
Marie Kas	Guard Coordinator
Wendy Paquin	Guard Instructor
Debbie Miller	Rifle Instructor
Peter Byrne & Myron Melnyk	Bugle Instructors
Sam Kays, Al Murray, Pat Irvine,	Drum Instructors
Drill Instructors:	
Greg Oxenham, Tom Furiano, Gilles Paquin, Jack Roberts, Doug Coull and Tim Burrage.	



Mike Williams



Dawn Canning



One exciting scene from the new film, "The Man Who Would Be King"

WOLFGANG PETSCHKE AL TIERNEY GREG OXENHAM TOM FURIANO

*Be brave if you lose and meek when you win,
Be better and prouder than you've ever been,
You get what you earn, be it little or great,
Regardless of luck, or regardless of fate,
Be noble and fearless in all that you do,
and honour this new name created by you.
For you are; and shall always remain,
...THE SENECA OPTIMISTS.*

1976...IT WAS A GREAT YEAR.

*Myron Melnyk,
February 1976.*



EAT YOUR HEART OUT, BRIDGEMEN....

Steve Trevor Photo

THE YEAR '76 ...THE FIRST STEP.

When the "Merger of Champions" first took place, no one would have guessed the corps we would become; the year we would be looking back upon now or, more important, the future of success that now lies within our grasp.

Many adjustments had to be made, not only to a new group of people, but to different ideas and ways of doing things. This was difficult in the early part of the year because we were without an identity to bring us together. At times I think we all felt lost, not knowing what was going to happen next. We were no longer a part of a long-established organization...we were the basis of a beginning, and although this was exciting, it was also a little frightening at times. As always, the summer seemed a long way off.

As the rehearsals settled into a pattern, I think we all gradually realized, just by looking at the people around us, that this year would require more from us than had ever been demanded before. With our size and talent, we knew that we had great potential, the only problem was where we were going to end up taking it.

During the year our instructors and consultants spoke to us many times, explaining what our aims and how we were going to achieve them. This guidance and encouragement not only showed that they cared as much as we did about the corps, it kept us



going and gave us a goal to work towards: "We were going to become a DCI Finalist; we were going to have Class, and we were going to be impressive!"

But experience was the best teacher, and with almost every show we were turning the dream into a reality.

As we went through the ritual of putting on our uniforms, the pride started like a small pulse which grew as each of us looked around at mirror images of ourselves. The people were the same ones that each of us had spent all year rehearsing with, and sharing good and bad times with; but somehow everyone began to look a little different. Oh, we were brighter alright, (yellow is the colour of confidence) but we were taller and more sure of ourselves, too.

As we formed the power block we became a united force, and as we started out onto

the field you could feel the strength of that force driving through each one of us, like an almost visible (definitely audible) current of electricity surrounding the block.

Then we were out on the line before an audience anxiously waiting with as much anticipation as we had for the gun to go off, and when it did, whether the lights were on or not...we sparkled...and don't try to tell me it was only the uniform, because there was an ocean of pride and determination inside every one of those cadets. That, combined with an amazing show made a statement...that we knew exactly who we were, and exactly how good that was...and the applause we received for every show we did said that our audience did too!

There was more of a conscious effort made this year toward doing a good job. More people cared about what they were doing, and I think that this interest that they displayed in the corps as a whole, and each other was a large factor in the success of the corps, because it made us a family. And, as a family we worked well together toward our goals. Members were even interested in the other sections of the corps, and I know that this made a difference and was appreciated...by the Guard, especially.

Such an atmosphere made us tight, and the pride that was shared in the corps and each other created the calibre of drum corps that we are proud to look back on...Gave us the Class that lives on, and is remembered and admired.

Our standard this past year was to do and be the very best that we possibly could. With what we've built I honestly don't think we've let anybody down.

If we never did before, we know the importance of hard work now, and the value of competing against ourselves. The only thing more that I could tell you about the powerful potential that the '77 Seneca Optimists have is that all of the '76 Seneca Optimists that I spoke to felt that we could have done better this year, and that they have no intention of making that statement next year.

Eileen McKinnon



THE 1976 MARCHING MEMBERS:

THE BUGLE LINE



Wayne Dillon

Mark Decloux

George Nasello

Gerry Chilton

Ray Bassett



Ken Sokoll

Bill Thomas

Sam Menexas

Brian Petschke

Shaun McCullough



Tim Watt



Mike Donaldson

Dave MacKinnon

Stuart Bentley



Steve Kelly



Steve Molloy

Mike Collins

Bill Pullin



Chris White

Ray Koch



Steve Trevor

David Agnew



"The horn line was a very solid section this past season and Peter and Myron made it that way. The Ottawa Contest when we won every caption, really started us off and we again moved upward a week later in Montreal when the bugles were only 5/10ths behind the famed Madison Scouts!

The CYO had to be the most hipped show we ever played ...it was nice and loud and had excellant tone quality; just a "right on" show!

The bugle line built a solid foundation in 1976...what will happen in 1977 ? "

— Mark Foden.



Norm Blakeney Ron Sokoll

Sue Whalley

Ken Mulgrew



John Henderson Mike Collins Phil McArthur

Pauline Kenny Craig Hall Enzo Marrella



Sean Williams Vic Score



Victor Decloux Steve Noble Robert Turner



Lloyd King Melony Sears Liz Watson



Andy Coffin Corrie Branton



Sandy Patten Pat Tunney Jeff Dobbin Mike Grimes Sandra Konstantinou



Keith Gallacher



John Haley

"OK, Keith Gallacher, you can take off your mask, we know you actually work for McDonalds...or is it John Haley acting up again?"



Drew Canning



Diane Laverdure



Greg Wardle



Dave MacFadyen



Harvey Cross



John Kulafofski



Doug Coull



Bugle Instructor Peter Byrne in his athletic instruction gear.



THE RIFLE LINE:

Wanda Roberts Sherie McKenzie Cathy Parrott Jodi Martin Janice Arsenault Kim Rossamel
Darlene Score Laura Score Susan Sklar Karin Martel

"...The '76 Gunners steadily built a reputation for discipline on and off the field. Such demonstrations, combined with some crazy stunts made them a tight squad."

"...And a special thanks to the great instruction of Debbie (Hey, you guy's!)Miller!!!"

THE SILKS:

The Seneca Optimist Guard was a highlight in Canada...the top Colour Guard with an undefeated record in every Canadian Contest...and in Montreal they took the top Guard Trophy over such favourites as Santa Clara, Madison Scouts and Troopers! ...They attained the perfect score of 10 at the Canadian National Championships in September...

Comments from the Marching Guard Members...

"The '76 Silks were a very close unit. They worked hard this year through good times and bad, to become one of the Best, under the guidance and leadership of one helluva Guard Instructor, Wendy Paquin,"

..."The Pride and Spirit of this year's Guard was a unique experience that will always be remembered as very special by the people in it..."



Wendy Paquin Laura King



Janice Parrott Lynda Baillie Michelle North Chris Fairbrother Lynne Oram Lynne Twining

Quote from Kingston, N.Y. Sheets:

"Your one of the top Guards in North America..."



Brenda Hodgins Doug May (Bugles) Diane Underwood



Eileen McKinnon



Kim McGrath Claire Molloy



Linda Woods



Diane Tonaglia Debbie Reid Nicki Groves



Anne Marie Robinson Laura Sowntan Loretta Moore Sandra Coull Audrey Harkness Janet Noseworthy



Maureen Molloy



Karen Bosworth Janice Bower Sue Dunn



Joanne McIntyre Donna Bell Carin Chaddock Mhairi Cumming

THE TYMP LINE:

GE DRUM SHEETS AT WORLD OPEN...
"BEST TYMP LINE AT THIS CONTEST..."

*Certain members, who shall remain .nameless (Phil Morin & Duncan Green)
kept us in stitxches on many a long night...(Michigan City, Pontiac, Montreal)*



Peter Yaneff



Duncan Green



Phil Morin



Rick Jemmett



Mike Lawton

SNARES:

Talk about hitting your peak...snares thought this was DCI Prelims but it was actually Ottawa Prelims...(sob).



Dave Phillips Chris Mabey



Tony Lidstone



Ken Bain



Bruce Thomas Shawn Watt Terry McCullough

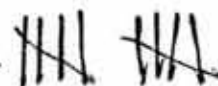




Scott Cumming Tommy Sams Rod Colligan Steve Watson Steve O'Connor

THE CYMBAL SECTION

Known as the "Big Ben" section of the line...they were ticked like a clock.....



THE BASS DRUMS:

Too many times they were known as the loudest section in the line...even by the GE Judges.



Gord Petschke Stephen Shimski Don McDonald Peter Price Randy Wyse



TRIPLES:
They're from all over...from right to left---Kitchener, Brampton, Toronto & Mars.

James Willis

Jim Kane

Bill Bula

Rod Hoffman

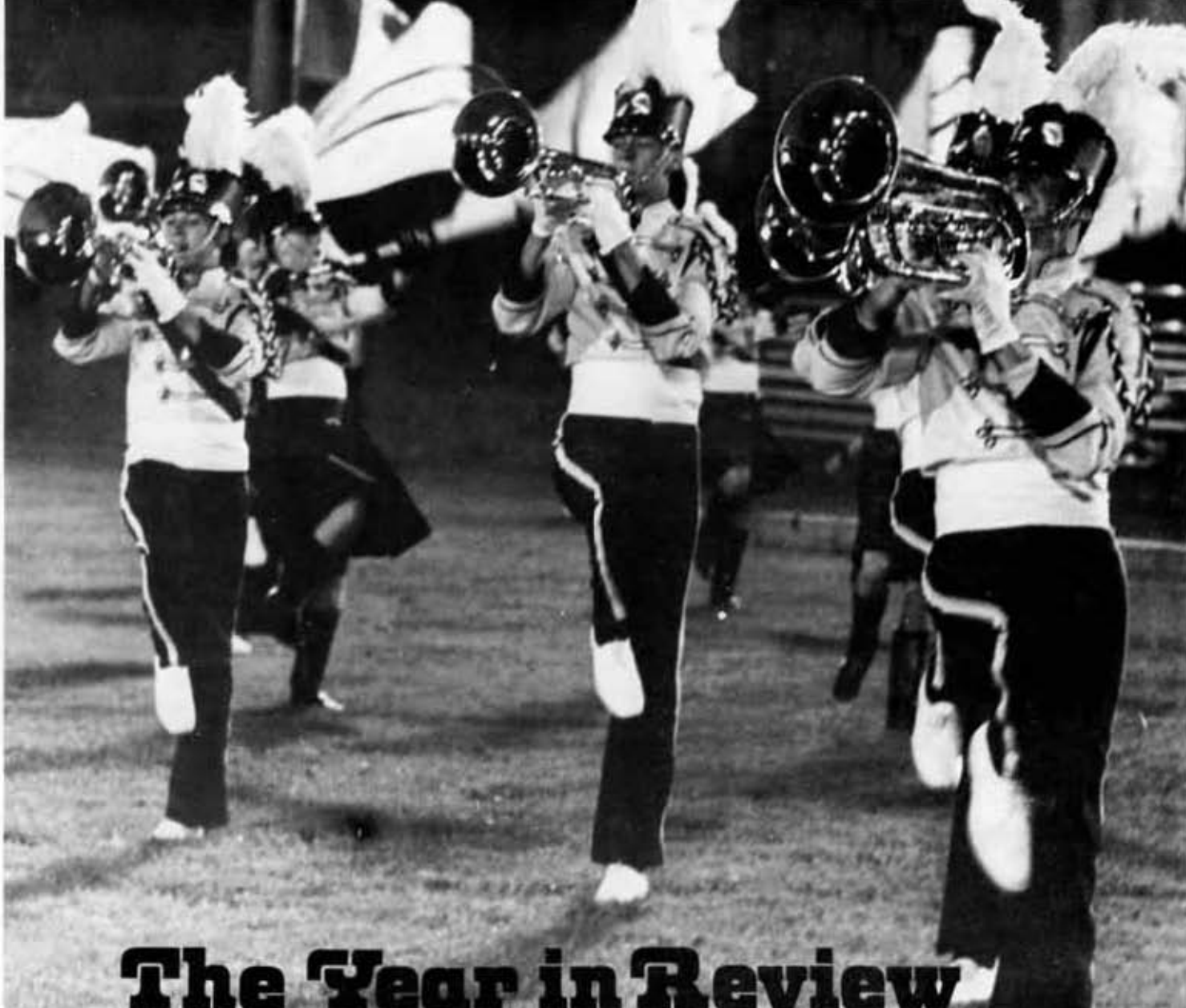


Phil Morin Rob Scott Steve Ryan

When Little 'Oakie' was sick on the bus in Ottawa, and he was taken outside...the drum line still inside the bus, commented... "Here comes Bud Jemmett with his clip board, and Don Daber to take some sick pictures..."

Kevin O'Connor





The Year in Review

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

by Dave MacKinnon

...And at the Beginning — The Merger...

About a week prior to the actual date of the Merger rumors were cycling about with no one really seeming to know the truth, until Al Tierney filled us in about the meeting both Execs were having. At this particular rehearsal he informed us of some of the problems of the merger that seemed to be holding things up...such as what the uniform would be, the staff to be maintained, and the new name for the organization. At this time the apprehension in the Princeman camp was probably the same as here. Talking to some of the members of both corps, here's what they thought at the time...

DAVE PHILLIPS —

"I knew about the discussions going on between both Executives for a long time, but I didn't think it would work out. I thought there were too many personality problems..."

ANNE MARIE ROBERTSON:

"I believed the merger would work. At the time I was in Oakies, but quite to join this new corps..."

MIKE COLLINS:

"I quite Seneca after marching 5 years because I thought there was nothing left. I was even with Oakies for a while till I heard about the merger. I thought it was the best thing for Seneca...actually for both corps!"

PETER PRICE:

"I hated it from the beginning. We used to talk in the car on the way home after rehearsal about quitting, but I never did. I changed my mind."

PHIL MacARTHUR:

"I felt the merger would be successful. I wasn't worried about the conflicts."

STEVE TREVOR:

"I never played in a corps before joining the Optimists this year. I joined because of the corps past record. I heard some of the guys, like Price talking down the merger, and I was swayed that way at first, then changed my mind..."

THE YEAR IN REVIEW...



Sunday, February 8th was the day the two corps actually and officially became one. All concerned were excited about the possibility of fielding a great DCI contender.



About a month later the first social event was held... it was the "Wearing Of The Green" Dance the evening of March 13th., as sponsored by the Booster Club. This was the first time that the new corps played in Toronto in public.

Music Camp was held the April 25th, weekend at the Seneca College Aurora Campus. Wayne Downey came in from the States to work the hornline and it was an exhausting few days for us but alot was cleaned up. Members of the drum line said it was a good weekend for jam-sessions if nothing else. Triple Jim Kane had the misfortune of receiving a verbal assault from Instructor Kays on this occasion. (Jimmy's a BAD boy.)

The Guard lacked rehearsal facilities and ending up out in the snow only gave them a couple of hours of rehearsal time for the total weekend. It was not a total loss because the guard felt it was important to be there for unity sake. Saturday night the corps returned to the Seneca College large gym to sleep but without Gerry Chilton, Al Gillies, Rob Turner and Phil Morin. This group later apologized but related to us that it was necessary to play with trucks and things.



A look at the new uniform, as modelled by DM Mike Williams...no negative comments.

After the Music Camp the next two events held were the Easter Weekend Drill followed by the May 24th weekend camp at Flesherton. The Flesherton Camp was unseasonably cold but we all bundled up and endured.

"T.A.S. NIGHT" (Tradition-Allegiance-Service) was held on the Friday night after we arrived from Toronto and looking back it was a little too much Optimist to be "Seneca-Optimists"...true...but it still was a memorable occasion. James Willis of the drum line chose to speak to the assembled multitude on his "All for One, One For All" attitude in corps; only to be followed by Bruce Thomas stirring talk "Against Society and the Evils of Parents..." That about ended TAS Night; we then got back to work with a section rehearsal before retiring for the evening.

The rest of the weekend consisted of eating, working, eating, working, eating, working (PM) and a night snack and sleep, to be followed by the same the next day, and the next. The Guard learned their flag work for concert, then the whole corps was taught the closing number drill ready for Sunday night when an Exhibition was held for the people of Flesherton...this year consisting of three corps, ourselves, the Cadet-Lancers, who came up from their camp just down the road, and the Durham Girls. We didn't have the complete uniform, but wore the new sweatshirts and the remainder of the regular uniform.

This was also the weekend that Gord Robinson presented each member of the corps with the black baseball hats that featured the new corps crest. This gesture was very much appreciated by everyone. This was also the weekend that Gord drove about 20 miles to a bakery for a nice fresh pie and I understand that Gerry Chilton ATE THE WHOLE THING !!

Camp broke up Monday afternoon, and we all felt we accomplished a great deal this weekend.

The next Saturday, May 29th was The Peanut Plaza Parade...one week before the first contest.

JUNE 5th— This was the first contest of the '76 Season and everyone was a bit on edge. The night before this event the corps put on an exhibition at a polo

1976 DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS



COMMENTS AT CORPS CAMP...

THE LAST THING I NEED IS THESE GUYS TELLING ME THE MIXED VEG SHOULD BE IN FRONT OF THE CHICKEN...



I'VE BEEN STANDING OVER A HOT STOVE ALL DAY... AND THIS CLOWN IN THE BLACK HAT THINKS HE'S AN EXPERT!



BUT PETE SAYS WE DON'T HAVE TO PLAY AGAIN TILL WE GET OUR MOUTHPIECES BACK...



ARE WE PONY-STEPPING ALL THE WAY TO TORONTO ?

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

game at Seneca College when we first wore the new uniforms complete. They looked great...but Director Al Tierney ended up giving us hell for taking so long to put them on.

The night of the contest arrived as the horn line gathered down the street from the Borough of York Stadium to warm up...we didn't realize we were in front of an old folks home till some ladies yelled down to "Shut up!!!" Chops then talked to the corps, we formed up and marched out in a block ...all feeling like a million \$\$\$...did a good show, then kept on the field following our performance while the Judges counted us a couple of times. We impressed some people, beat Oakies, and did what we came there to do.

The next day it was Church Parade time. (It was also the day the newscasters were announcing the end of the earth...so we were in the right place. Compared to last year the parade moved along at a faster pace and ended up in the Church where we received some medals. Were we THAT good ?

JUNE 12th. Seagram Stadium, Waterloo.

Writeup from June 25th Issue of D.C. World:

SENECA CONTINUES CDCA DOMINANCE
by Mac Gunter.

....The Seneca Optimists looked even better tonight, than they did last week, including their "Rode Ode" closer. They remained in first place on the basis of a strong GE show (24.4) while placing 2nd by less than 1/2 a point in both execution M&M and drums. They tied the Crusaders in execution horns and won MA 7.9 to 7.2...a reverse of last weeks MA score.

AND GOD SAID'..."ON THE 8TH DAY YOU MARCH"...

BUT DEBBIE...DON'T YOU
THINK DAWN SHOULD BE
AT THE OTHER END ?



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

AJAX CONTEST, June 19th.— This was Phil McArthur's first contest, he was ill the weekend of June 5th., so the day's events on him. We wore the yellow sweat shirts on parade before the contest to save the Cadet tops for later. But Oakies did us one better by wearing jeans...and their snare section wasn't wearing any shirts at all. They won the parade. It must have been the uniform.

Greg Oxenham, of the drill department, gave a speech in the gym prior to the contest that seemed to do more harm than good. Greg...leave the speeches to Myron who recite nice poems (re: World Open)

The Optimists have never won at the Ajax Contest. We thought that through the merger it might be different. It wasn't.

PETERBOROUGH June 20th— We seemed to be rushed for time most of this day. Gord Robinson was upset about something that happened on the drummer's bus...Animals. No dressing rooms when we arrived, and we weren't allowed to change outside so it was crushville on the bus. We arrived late at the contest...rushed on to the field...and did a great show !! We made up for the day before by beating Oakies by about 5 points!

WELLAND - JUNE 26th.—The Oakies weren't here so the Dutchmen from Kitchener-Waterloo took over the rivalry. We nipped them by a narrow 25 points and Chops yelled at us about a BAAAD show, but this could have been due to the black clouds overhead that freaked everyone out! On the way home one of the bus drivers decided to take a scenic tour of the Niagara area that wasn't appreciated. The next day, Sunday was an all day rehearsal and the Booster Club turned up to provide grilled hamburgers etc. It was great!

TOUR ONE:

First stop on the Tour was Towanda, Penn. The drummers well remember this place...it was where the bus got hanging over the cliff, or so they tell us.

The contest was held on a baseball field that was situated on the top of a hill. This was the contest that the hornline seemed to be beat by everyone and their dog...including the Squires, St. Ignatius and the Southeran Tier Grenadiers.

My Theory: "You can chalk that show up to the fact we

ALWAYS get the boots put to us in our first exposure to a new area and we usually redeem ourselves at the second outing. We left Towanda and their beautiful baseball field in the dust about 1:00AM and headed the buses toward Kingston, N.Y.

KINGSTON N.Y.—July 3rd— We arrived here about 6:00AM and were out of the parade in order to get some sleep. Most of the corps ended up watching the parade, anyway, after about 3 hours sleep.

That afternoon the corps broke early, following a good rehearsal. Rested up. Then, on to the contest field. We arrived just in time to see The Firettes get washed off the field by the downpour, while Avante Guard stood outside their busses watching them. Wierd ! This was also the show that that drunk kept yelling at us, "Mellowww YelloWWW"

This was our first major contest of the season and we did very well, coming in second to Garfield.

OSWEGO, N.Y.—July 4th.—From Kingston we headed north on the way home and dropped into Oswego to celebrate the 4th! The crowd loved the show, and the word was out that the Gouchos thought they might have beaten us, or was it we might have beaten them if we were in competition (???)

It was at this time, too that we ran into the problem of integrated buses...

The following weekend we headed west, to FORT WAYNE, Indiana. The date was July 9th when we pulled into the city early in the morning. We stayed at the Coliseum with Belleville & The Phantom Regiment. We were surprised to see the Regiment play it NOT COOL by laughing at us rehearsing as their buses drove by.

Wayne Downey, who we last saw at Music Camp way back in April, flew in with his new haircut to consult. We were pressed for time so he taught us how to breathe, brush our teeth and take showers.

At the contest, yes there was a contest, we were on early in the show and this didn't help our cause any. We were beat by both Phantom and Cavies.

SATURDAY, JULY 10th....Michigan City Ind. Again we were out of the parade and those who were wise slept outside because it was as hot as hell inside. By the time we went to eat we spotted the 27th buses. They were on a long tour and looked in rough shape. At the contest we beat 27th, Cavies and The Phantom and acted as if we won DCI !!!



CANDID CAMERA ON TOUR
 photos by
 Steve Trevor and Bob Carrol
 Text by
 Bill and Jim Kane...



IF YOU LISTEN HARD...
 YOU CAN HEAR THE GRASS
 GROW !!!



ONE CAN, AND WE'RE
 ALL RIPPED...

THE YEAR IN REVIEW...

There was a large crowd at this show and they seemed to enjoy our performance. The following morning Wayne Downey re-wrote the re-entry number. At rehearsal the sun really scorched down and most of the corps seemed exhausted after only these few days on the road. This brought a question to my mind...what would happen on the long tour coming up in a few weeks? We headed home and a contest the next weekend at Birchmount Stadium in Toronto, July 17th.

BIRCHMOUNT, JULY 17th: This was our first contest in the old home town since June 26th. The corps was anxious to see how we compared against Oakies, now that we had both been on 'tour'. Prior to the contest they split their hornline into two sections for some reason, perhaps to get us believing they had lost a group of members? Then, their guard stood at attention at the top of a hill overlooking our guard going through drill rehearsal. Shake-up tactics?

We didn't perform that well on the field that night, but not as bad as the competition may have hoped. We won but the gap was closing.

KITCHENER, JULY 18th: The next day, Sunday, we were in competition again. We couldn't lose this one...not on my birthday...We marched around in a block doing basics, during which Greg informed us all on how "Great" we looked! This always seemed to have a deteriorating effect on our performance... Greg, leave the speeches up to the 'California Kids...' (Have you ever tried writing poems)

The marching body of the corps, for some reason seemed it was necessary to play around a bit before we took to the field, so we held hands and ran around in a circle. Neat, eh? This contest was the last time we were to see Oakies again before DCI, weeks later, so it was only fitting that we should beat them...but most of us held our breath while the announcer made a point of saying, at retreat, "If you thought the scores last night at Birchmount were close, wait till you hear

these scores..."
 Anyway, we won

OGDENSBURG, N.Y., JULY 31st.

The Seneca-ites call this spot the 'Mosquito Capital Of The World' and when we arrived for rehearsal they didn't disappoint us so we went inside to an arena. The drummers made history that day, too. In the future there will be no more wars, there will be 'ROLLAR-BRUSH' This game consists of an equal number of opponents positioned at opposite ends of a classroom armed with chalk brushes, attempting to re-arrange the opponent's facial contours by rifling this scholastic projectile up his nose. A few victims of this fate, Don MacDonald, Sambo, Bill Pull-rock, Michael North (R.H.H.T.) Of these victims, Sambo seemed to still feel the full effects of this battle because the cymbal line lost some ticks 'off-the-line' in the contest that night.

Bugle Instructor Peter Byrne was noticeably impressed with the great ability of the 'Federated Judges' who thought the OTL and Concert sounded similar.

Oh yes, we won this one too.

OTTAWA, AUGUST 7th...

To open the important Month of August, we arrived in Mark's and Victor's home town. In this the capital of Canada, the home of the RCMP...some guy tried to sell the drummers some dope the moment we stepped off the buses. Disgraceful !!! The drummers quickly replied, "They had enough..." (just kiddin, there.)

Before Prelims, Diane Laverdure, our horn player from Montreal had a great time seeing some of her friends from The Chatelaines, who were also competing.

In prelims, we beat "Musical Optimiste" by 81 points.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This must have been a record for an open contest !

Our night performance was the best the corps did to this point in the season...and we paid dearly for it because it had to be the longest Retreat since the ice-age. One of the reasons it took so long was that they missed presenting us with the first place trophy and then formed up the host corps and had us march up centre field to receive the No. 1 item.

Hey, guys...remember the 'He-Man-Act' put on by Al Murray and Rob Scott in the gym that night. Just goes to prove that drummers are all "Pro-Exhibitionists."

We stayed over in Ottawa Saturday night after the contest, returning to Toronto on Sunday. The next day, Monday was the beginning of "Tour 2"....

TOUR TWO:

MONDAY, AUG. 9th: We started the day at 10:00AM at the CNE Stadium for a rehearsal. Everyone was in high spirits and it was a good rehearsal despite the fact that we had to use the front part of the field because the workers were busy getting part of the field stage ready for the CNE. They didn't believe it when we shoved the whole corps on TWO BUSES for the start of the trip to Pontiac, but we got the third bus in west Toronto. Next, we encountered a bad dude at the Border but after some hassel managed to enter the US of A and finally arrived at our school in Pontiac for the 'Drum Corps North' Contest.

The instructors wanted to get in some rehearsal time in sections but a couple of cops suggested we don't because it was getting late...the next day, at Prelims our score was lower than expected...we were out to tromp the Cavies that night but were satisfied to beat the 27th Lancers. The trophy was different, a plaque with a hub cap. This was the contest that we finally proved to the 'Big Guys' that we belonged in the same league!!!

This was also the day of the beginning of the **MENTAL BREAKDOWN OF PAT IRVINE** as induced by **DAVE PHILLIPS!**

THURS. AUG. 12th. ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Our lodging for this contest was in Batavia at the St.Mary's school. This school was remembered by the

corps as the one that had only two showers so there was a great battle each morning. The best part of Batavia, the old home of St.Joes was breakfast at "Perkins."

That night, in Rochester, prior to the contest a guy from Santa Clara said to me, "I really like your Guard Captain from the back. Hope she's as good from the front..." (It was Dianne Underwood who was carrying her sabre as we passed by her) Dianne, if you want to hear my reply to Santa Clara, consult me at a later date...

The corps performed well that night but a lot of work was still needed and it was evident on the score sheet comments. Yes, we were in the big league.

Rochester was also the contest that we were exposed to the "Madison Admirers"...Susan Whalby (Mellophone) and Karen Martel, (Rifle). Leaving the stadium our buses were held up for a while till Madison decided to move their's. Remember the guy from Santa Clara saying..."Seneca Optimists? ..who the hell are they? ... and their horn instructor remarking to Peter, "You Canadians sure wear funny underwear..."

That was the night that the drummers held a late meeting back at the school, then woke up the rest of the corps to inform them the meeting was over.

MONTREAL, FRI. AUG.13th:

Oh, ah, yes, even tho the date was bad, fond memories...This was the contest that we received the greatest crowd response all year ! Also, this was the most organized contest I've seen in awhile, complete with attractive French Usherettes and cocktails BEFORE and AFTER the contest for the Judges and staff of the corps there.

The corps made it quite evident they wished to sell the show tonight and we did...the Guard took the caption award over both Madison and Santa Clara...the hornline placed 2nd behind Madison, edging out Santa Clara.

Then there was the standing ovation of the crowd as we marched past the stands after our performance. Terrific! When do we go back, Mr. Tierney ?

After the contest, back at the arena the drummers decided to take out all their aggression on a defenceless bat up in the rafters... the avengers —Rob Scott, Phil Morin & Terry McCullough. Their chant. . . .

"A little bat with a dark grey hide,
Tempted us by flying inside,



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We coaxed it closer, without any bread...

Then we smashed it's little grey head."

The majority of the corps headed back across the border immediately after the contest, for Lynn, Mass. and the famed World Open Contest. The drummers, who were chasing bats, stayed back. They had to wait for a replacement bus.

On the bus all the talk was about "Shirley" the M&M Judge who really got to us at the Montreal Show with her Atomic Clip Board and pencil. Yes, she really did a good number on us !!

WORLD OPEN, Sat. Aug. 14th:

This began the saga of the Boston Bomb Out. In Lynn we stayed with a couple of other corps at a High School, best remembered for their showers. They were like a car wash.

When we arrived at the Stadium for our first World Open appearance I was more than a bit shocked. How could a big show like this be held in such a "pit"....to make it worse, it was a scorcher when we did prelims and our performance was less than gratifying. Bridgemen tied us in Prelims, so we flipped to see who went on first. They went on after us.

Before we performed, our Bugle Instructor, Myron Melnyk chose to read his poem and it was appropriate.

DON'T QUIT

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you are travelling seems all uphill,
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.*

*Life is weird with its twists and turns.
As everyone of us often learns.
And many a fellow turns about,
When he might have won, had he stuck it out.*

*Never give up, though the pace seems slow,
Because you may succeed with another blow.*

*Often the goal is nearer than it seems,
To a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up.
When he might have captured the Victor's Cup,
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown.*

*In essence, success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may seem near when it seems so far,
So stick to the hype when your hardest hit,
Man, it's when things seem worse,
That you must not quit.*

The Night Show was something else. While the Instructors were yelling at the Judges to give Molly back her dropped pole, the corps performed admirably. Overall we would have placed 2nd, behind Blue Devils if it wasn't for the low score by one lady M&M Judge...who incidently SCORED US 5 POINTS HIGHER the following day. This was also the first contest of the season that we were recorded.

WORCHESTER, Mass. Aug. 15th:

This was the contest we tried to pull out of because of the inconsistent judging by the "Broads". Unfortunately, this just wasn't possible, and to quote Myron, as it turned out, "You guys sucked at this one..."



Following this appearance Bruce Thomas felt it necessary to oblige his fan club and sign a few autographs. (We had a contingent from Montreal follow us to the Boston area)

With no food for 24 hours, most of the corps were happy to pig out on some "Italian Ice"

Oh, yes. Pat Irvine was now at the latter half of his mental departure, thanks to Phillips and his buddy, Rod Hoffman.

THE CYO, BOSTON:

The corps arrived at Boston College on the Sunday evening of August 15th., and we immediately discovered the accommodation set aside for the corps was more than to be expected. As it turned out, it was the best we were to have all year.

The rehearsals leading up to the contest were very encouraging and everything pointed towards performing a good show that evening. The contest was very well organized and ran very smoothly so it wasn't long till we entered the field of competition. Our performance felt very strong from start to finish and, as we made our exit it was very evident to both the marching members and the staff that this show had been by far the most well-executed and gratifying of the many contests performed to this date.

Retreat.

Due to the large number of corps participating at this event, only the colour guards were called forth for the Retreat.

Finally, the scores were announced, with the commentator stating, in what seemed a mono-tone, that we came 6th. His voice was void of any emotion, seemingly unsympathetic to the fact so much effort and emotion had been put forth by the corps. Afterward, when the horn sheets were ripped up by Peter, possibly a portion of one's self was lost, because of what the show meant to us, or so we thought it did. It was a show to be forgotten, a taste not easily done, but admirably attempted.

On Tuesday, after the Monday night CYO's we were given a free day in Boston, which couldn't have come at a better time. After the night before, we had to get away from drum corps for awhile. Numerous activities were undertaken on this day, from washing one's clothes, which by this time were ready to walk to the laundry by themselves...to touring downtown Boston and seeing the World Capital for Aqua-lungs (drunks).

That same evening most of us engaged ourselves with some

THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

social gatherings in our rooms at the College, some being more social than others.

Bill Pullin, more than most, had an eye for the situation that night, and not being content with a normal existence, wanted to make the elevator door part of his anatomy. This encounter kept us in, and cost him, a few stitches.

THE DCI CHAMPIONSHIPS, Philadelphia:

Following the free day in Boston, we boarded our buses for the final big contest of the Tour, and headed south to Philli. At about 7:00PM that evening we arrived at Valley Forge, our home location for the remainder of the week.

The corps (gulp) ate, then were shown our rooms. Bad news! The Military Academy where we stayed appeared quite habitable from the outside, but unfortunately a different story prevailed indoors. As an example, even tho everyone was fairly tired when we arrived we still wanted to rehearse that evening to avoid going back to our rooms.

Now, for a food commercial....

I asked Keith Gallacher, who is employed as a Junior Chef at the 3 Crowns Restaurant in Scarborough (plug) when not marching with the corps, to comment of the food during this tour. His reply:

"When I first started working at the 3 Crowns, I never dreamt that I would be asked to comment on the food situation that the corps faced. It takes a few words to express my feelings, being somewhat more critical than others..."

"On MacDonalds...here the food has no smell or taste but it does come in a nice wrapper and you do get a happy cup, so I guess it will do."

"In Boston, at the College, we had the opportunity to cook our own creations, which was a task in itself. We cooked all our food in frying basins but at least you only had yourself to blame for the results. And, you could eat all you wanted..."

"And then there was the famous Military Academy at Valley Forge. Here the meals looked like something we would have swept off the floors at the 3 Crowns; it smelt like something you would throw on the floor and it tasted like something you wouldn't eat off the floor. After eating here its a wonder we did as well at the DCI's as we did..."

Anyway, we all came back alive, and I guess we'll all be back next year for more..."

Rehearsals during the next couple of days at the camp were long and hot and as a result the drill was getting noticeably cleaner.

Just prior to our Prelim Show on the Friday, one of the bus drivers (satin), who was skited out about the tacometer on his bus, left us with only two buses to proceed to the contest and back. Bad news, again!

At Prelims there didn't seem to be as much of the usual jitters on the starting line possibly because we sensed we would make the night show quite easily. Well, we made the night Finals but it wasn't in the position we expected. That Friday night Chops informed us that we were outscored by Blue Stars, Bridgemen and Oakies and by Saturday this list grew to include The Guardsmen (of Chicken fame) and The Freelancers, two corps we hadn't counted on and who, as it turned out, replaced Garfield and The Troopers.

This was very frustrating but most of our people realized we were better than a few of the corps who had scored higher than us. Unfortunately we were plag-

ued with a problem that confronted the corps all year at the various DCI Contests and that was going on early.

THE NIGHT FINALS

We arrived at the stadium a little early, so we had a bit of time to relax. There was a strange atmosphere about the corps at this time. Everyone was aware of the great effort involved in getting this far, but it was difficult to know what to expect from this point on...

We entered the stadium. The lights were on as dusk prevailed and the crowd stretched infinitely in front of us.

They seemed ominous, and at a point distracting, till the gun sounded. From then on the show passed rapidly with little of the spectators felt. Before we knew it we were off the field and the usual questions were being asked by all, "How was it?" "How'd you do?" As might be expected, no one knew, so we were destined to live through the other corps performances...just 11 to go.

The Retreat seemed no different from any other, it possessed the identical monotony of a retreat in Scarborough. But it was different.

This was the DCI Championships, the object of the corps ambitions and one could not help but feel both anguish and disgust, not so much by the placing but by the score. A 78.5!

But, it was not long before we all came to realize that we had accomplished what was expected of us; and that was liberating ourselves from the bondage of being just another drum corps. We were now at least the 10th Best in The World!

The party that followed in the early morning, back at the academy was short lived. The stress of the day, and the show was just too much and left most of us out-of-it within about two hours. Prior to retiring for the evening, Director Al Tierney found it necessary to patrol the hallways, challenging everyone who dared to venture his way, ...especially "Him who wore black teeth..."

The next morning we were all tired, hung over, and in a joyous mood because we were at last leaving the famed V.F.M. Academy...and looking forward to returning to more liveable conditions.

On the way home on the Sunday, we stopped off in Hershey, Penn. for a very sweet contest and a tour of the candy factory near the stadium. THAT was all we needed.



The instructors of the drill department look over the tour score sheets.



Standstill show at Birchmount Stadium.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

BIRCHMOUNT STADIUM, August 28th:

This contest, sponsored by Oakies, got rained out so it was necessary to perform an exciting standstill for the few fans that stayed in the stands. It was a very dull evening...and the Canadian Nationals were coming up next.

THE CANADIAN NATIONALS, Seagram Stadium, Sept. 4th:

In the two weeks that followed DCI it became increasingly difficult to keep in mind that there was one major contest left. The Canadian Nationals. The Birchmount washout the week previous didn't help matters and time was running out.

Our Prelim performance at good old Seagram Stadium was faulty as might be expected as a result of the two week lay-off but this proved not to be a deterrent at night though, for when the corps departed the field the crowd acknowledged our performance worthy of commendation, as did the marching members themselves.

And...when the scores were finally announced at retreat, the corps remained ridged, though the disappointment affected everyone. This erectness typified the togetherness that the corps experienced all year.

And...when the winners were rejoicing beside us and trying to ridicule our efforts, it was the moment I think the corps felt closest. Our time was not spent in vain and we had accomplished in a short span of time what few corps could, we were 10th in world listing. And...our guard was without a doubt the finest ever to march out of Canada.

The total marching membership not only wanted due respect from the rest of the drum corps world, they demanded it! It is the acceptance of this respect that will hopefully become a trademark for the Seneca Optimists, a mark putting forth the Pride, The Class and The Dignity by those of you who were.... The 1976 Corps from Seneca.

At the Canadian Nationals...



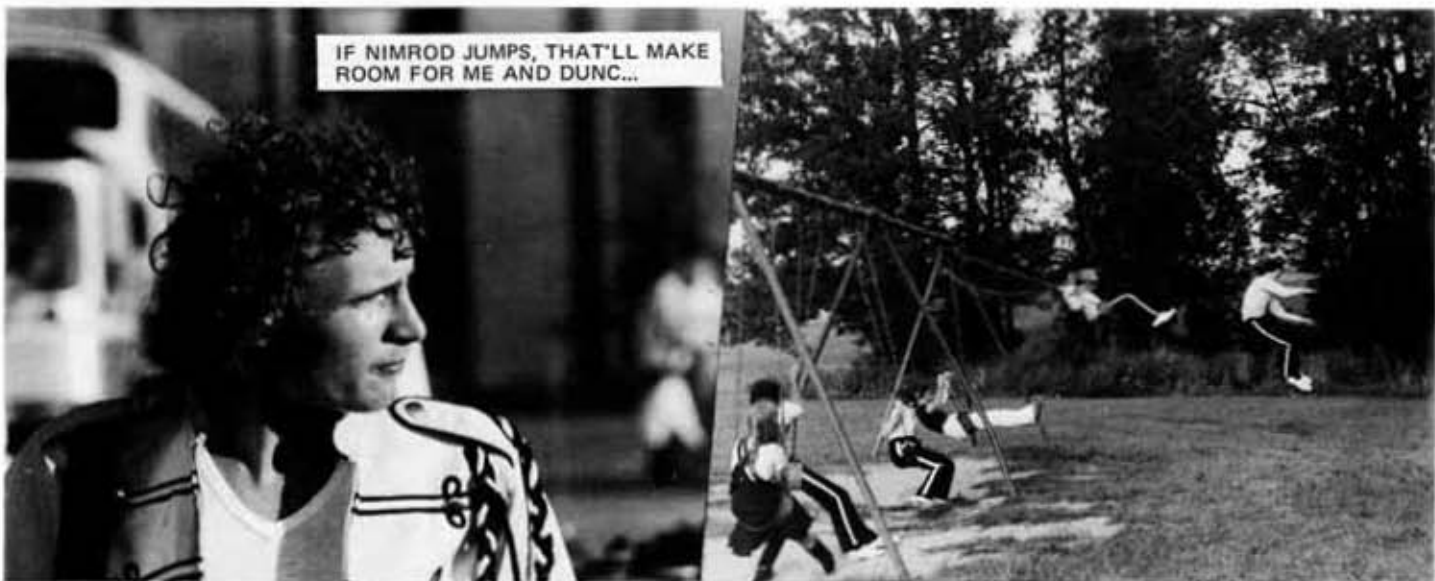
THE CANDID CAMERA
PHOTOS BY DON DABER
COMMENTARY BY
JIM & BILL KANE

YOU DON'T LOOK
LIKE HUGH HEFNER TO ME...



HOW DID THEY GET THESE
LITTLE SQUARES INDENTED
IN THIS TRAY ?

IF NIMROD JUMPS, THAT'LL MAKE
ROOM FOR ME AND DUNC...



DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD TELL
GREG THAT CONCERT IS THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE FIELD ?



GEE, WE'RE IN STEP (SIGH)
...AND WE'RE NOT EVEN IN
UNIFORM.



HEY, CHOPS I
HOW'S THIS ?



AFTER A 12 HR.
DRILL REHEARSAL
IT'S HARD TO GET
YOUR ARMS DOWN...



9



HEY...MR. BOTTERWEG...
THERE'S NO ROOF ON THE TRUCK !!!



I LIKE THE DRUM MAJOR (RIGHT BEHIND ME)
HE'S ALWAYS SO NEAT...



**CANDID CAMERA
ON TOUR...**
Text by Jim Kane.



Tom says I have
a phasing problem
in my rear legs....

I WONDER IF ANYONE
ELSE SEES THE INDIANS
COMING ?



I THINK STEVE
HAS GONE
BANANAS...

THIS LITTLE PIGGY
WENT TO MARKET...

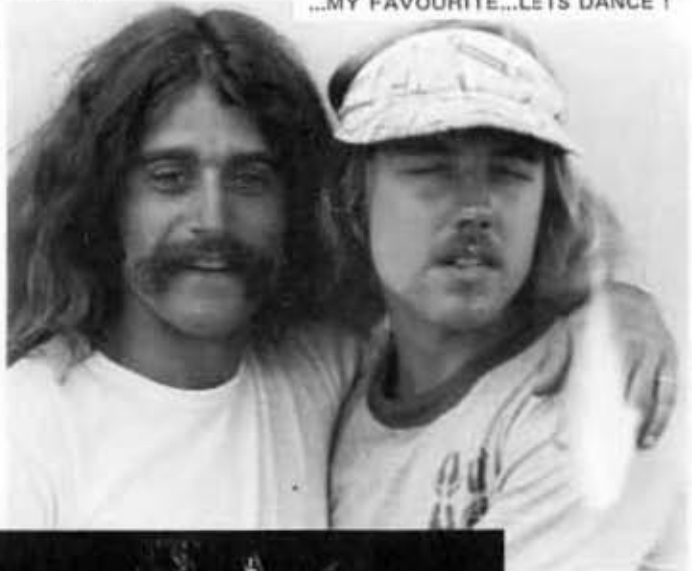
CONTEST SCORES:

JUNE 5th. TORONTO: Dutchmen—42.35/ Oaklands—67.45/ Optimists—71.30
 JUNE 12th. WATERLOO: Dutchmen—50.65/ Cardinals—47.8/ Oaklands—72.3/ Optimists—74.9
 JUNE 19th. AJAX: Optimists—73.10/ Oaklands—73.15.
 JUNE 20th. PETERBOROUGH: Dutchmen—51.80/ Cardinals—54.65/ Oaklands—73.8/ Optimists—78.05.
 JUNE 26th. WELLAND: Cardinals—49.85/ Dutchmen—52.05/ Optimists—77.05.
 JULY 2nd. TOWANDA, Penn: Grenadiers—66.95/ Squires—72.35/ Optimists—73.10.
 JULY 3rd. KINGSTON, N Y. Avante Garde—60.10/ Squires—68.45/ Muchachos—73.2/ Bridgemen—74.15/ Optimists—74.8/Garfield 79.95
 JULY 10th. MICHIGAN CITY: Kilties—56.6/ Royal Crusaders—66.0/ Blue Stars—66.7/ Cavaliers—70.80/ Optimists—71.85/
 27th Lancers—76.35/ Phantom Regiment—78.15.
 AUGUST 7th. OTTAWA: Gouchos—69.0/ Avente Garde—73.60/ Offensive Lions—74.70/ Optimists—85.65.
 AUGUST 10th. PONTIAC, Mich: Anah. Kingsmen—70.90/ Watkins Glen—72.90/ Marquis—74.55/ 27th Lancers—79.80/
 Optimists—80.05/ Cavaliers—82.50/ Madison Scouts—84.60/ Santa Clara—84.80/ Blue Devils—89.55.
 AUGUST 13th. MONTREAL: Commodors—64.0/ Pioneers—64.30/ Muchachos—69.65/ Argonne—74.30/
 Troopers—79.80/ AOptimists—81.90/ Madison Scouts—86.35/ Santa Clara—87.0.
 AUGUST 14th. WORLD OPEN Lynn, Mass: North Stars—67.40/ Boston Crusaders—69.30/ Argonne—73.70/ Crossmen—73.85/
 Muchochos—76.45/ Bridgemen—79.80/ Optimists—80.30/ 27th—81.25/ Cavaliers—81.75/ Blue Devils—88.70
 AUGUST 15th. WORCHESTER, Mass: Kilties—65.40/ Boston Crusaders—71.45/ Muchochos—72.75/ Argonne—73.9/
 Bridgemen—81.0/ Optimists—81.80/ 27th Lancers—84.25.
 AUGUST 16th. CYO, Boston: Kilties—64.55/ North Star—67.95/ Boston Crusaders—69.05/ Muchochos—74.20/ Troopers—74.20
 Optimists—81.20/ Garfield Cadets—81.40/ Bridgemen—82.65/ 27th—85.00/ Madison—86.80/ Blue Devils—90.65.
 AUGUST 21st. DCI FINALS: Guardsmen—74.25/ Freelancers—77.90/ Optimists—78.80/ Blue Stars—80.35/ Crusaders—82.10/
 Cavaliers—84.30/ Bridgemen—84.90/ 27th Lancers—85.00/ Phantom Reg—87.75/ Santa Clara—89.50/
 Madison Scouts—90.70/ Blue Devils—92.70.
 SEPTEMBER 4th. CANADIAN NATIONALS: Prelims— Dutchmen—61.60/ Cardinals—61.20/ Optimists—80.80/ Crusaders—81.85.
 Finals: Dutchmen—62.0/ Cardinals—64.10/ Optimists—83.65/ Crusaders—86.10.

THE CANDID CAMERA

PHOTOS BY
 DON DABER
 COMMENTARY BY
 JIM & BILL KANE

LISTEN, THAT'S "FARANDOLE"
 ...MY FAVOURITE...LETS DANCE !



"YES, JANICE (YAWN)
 THAT'S VERY INTERESTING"



PAT, I DON'T THINK
 YOU SHOULD BE BEATING
 UP THE LADIES...



I WISH THEY WOULD HURRY UP
 SO I CAN CHANGE INTO MY
 CLOWN OUTFIT.



FAN LETTER:

313 Reading Avenue,
Barrington, N.J.
08007

August 24, 1976

Dear Mr. Daber and
The entire Seneca Optimist Corps:

First of all, congratulations on your 10th place finish at this year's DCI Championship. When I first saw the Optimists at this year's World Open Preliminaries, I had little doubt the corps would be one of the top finalists. From the first note of music I was hooked to your show and backing you all the way. Seeing you move up from 12th to 10th was a great pleasure for me.

I would also like to thank you for reserving me a copy of your 1975 Yearbook at your Booster table during the DCI. The Yearbook was a pleasure to read and I am anxiously awaiting the opportunity to obtain a copy of the 1976 Seneca Optimist Yearbook.

Thank you also for the information on the history of the Optimists and the information on this year's program. It is greatly appreciated.

Finally, thank you for one of the most entertaining shows I have seen this year, and here's hoping next year the Optimists will be bigger and better than in 1976. I anxiously await my next opportunity to see the corps.

Yours truly,

David J. Klein.





WPTA-TV 21

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3401 BUTLER ROAD—FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46808—(219) 483-0584

July 16, 1976

Mr. Al Tierney
Seneca Optimists
P.O. Box 464, Postal Station D
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear Al:

Just a note of thanks to you and your group for participating in our first annual "Drums Across America" competition.

The applause has not died down yet, and the response from those who attended the show is still coming across my desk.

We sincerely enjoyed having you as our guests in Fort Wayne, and hope there will be opportunities for your group to return to participate in future competitions.

Good luck in Philadelphia in August.

Cordially yours,

Edwin C. Metcalfe
President/General Manager

ECM:pr
cc: D. Pesceone
D. Whiteley
B. Wigham

From
LINDA WOODS—

"I would like to thank the following people for helping me out when I needed a place to stay while I was in Toronto marching with the corps..."

Mr. & Mrs. Roberts
Mrs. Fairbrother
Debbie Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Fisher
Mrs. Tenaglia
Mr. & Mrs. Baillie
Mr. & Mrs. Sowten
Mr. & Mrs. Oram

From
ROD HOFFMAN—

"I would like to thank these people for letting me stay at their houses during the past season..."

Pat Irvine
Dave Phillips
Jim Kane
Ken Bain
Mike O'Connor
Tommy Sams
Randy Wyse
Bill Bula
Don McDonald
Steve Shimski
Mark Decloux
Bill Pullin
Chris White
Keith Gallacher
Wayne Dillon
Alan Gillies
Shawn Watt
Don Daber

Sam Kays
Gord Robinson
Bill Thomas

From
TONY LIDSTONE—

"A Special Thanks to the following people who provided me with a place to stay and made possible my most enjoyable year in drum corps. Thanks for putting me up and putting up with me..."

Mike O'Connor
Mhairi Cumming
Bill Pullin
Vic Score
Chris White
Mike Donaldson
Ken Bain
Chris Mabey
Don McDonald
Laura Sowten
Keith Gallagher
Steve Watson
Rick Brown
Gord Robinson



QUOTES FROM THE CORPS MAGAZINES & NEWSPAPERS:

DRUM CORPS WORLD:

JUNE 18th Issue:

SENECA WINS OPENER by H.F. "Lefty" O'Callian.

The big news from the big land was the awesome power of the 4 month old SENECA OPTIMISTS who, by sweeping all caption trophies in beating the impressive OAKLAND CRUSADERS by almost 4 points, served notice on the drum corps world that the big land will be there in spades come August.

The crowd came to see the Optimists. This was clear from the beginning. And the luck of the draw gave the Crusaders the coveted 5th spot, following the 4 lesser-calibre corps and the Seneca Optimists the last spot, heightening the tension. After Oakland's performance, there appeared on the sideline, marching into the field in block, the brand-new Seneca Optimists, white plumes, lemon-sherbet cadet-style jackets and black pants.

And they came with class, that 'pride of unit' that radiates professionalism that was always a trademark of the Toronto Optimist, even in the lean years. The first half was as good or better than any show we have ever seen in June. The drill was constantly changing mosaic of everything from zero to 120 cadence, fronts, arcs and a fabulous folding square.

The music was more than equal to the drill. The concert and second half were, in comparison, prosaic, yet good solid drum corps. If they can ever figure out a way to follow that first half, this corps will do more for laryngitis and chapped hands than all the dishwasher detergents and flu swine combined.

July 2nd Issue:

CRUSADERS UPSET OPTIMISTS

by H.F. O'Callian

JUNE 19th-AJAX: In a minor upset, the Crusaders beat the Optimists to retain their Championship of the Cystic Fibrosis Invitational, sponsored by the Ajax Kinsmen. The caption awards went to Seneca for horns, M&M Guard and Drum Major. High drums went to the Crusaders. The victory, a mere .05 of a point, followed victories by Seneca of 4 and 2.5 points at preceding weekend contests. This follows a pattern of last year, when the Crusaders trailed the Optimists at the beginning of June, only to pull ahead as the season progressed. This season may see a variation of last year's theme, however, since the Optimist's show is much sounder than last. In fact, the Seneca Corps has a DCI calibre show, which, with some work and a couple of forays with top class competition, should develop as the season progresses.

August 6th Issue:

SENECA SOUNDLY DEFEAT RIVAL CRUSADERS

Peterborough, June 20th: The Optimists tonight avenged last night's set-back by taking a whopping 4.25 victory over their cross-town rivals, The Oakland Crusaders, in the heart of Ontario's vacationland. Without the benefit of high stands from which fan and GE Judge alike could wax enthusiastically over their fantastic drill, the Optimists relied on their solid music to propel them into the first position. Oakland, on the other hand, seemed to come up cold for this show, giving the small, but capacity crowd, nothing to really get excited about.

DRUM CORPS NEWS, July 14th Issue:

PORTS OF CALL by J. Ian Stott, Canadian Editor.

Notes on the back of an old drum corps program... "June 20th in Peterborough, we were told that the Oakland Crusaders had, the night before, in Ajax, snapped Optimists unbeaten string by winning by .05. You couldn't tell it from Peterborough though. Seneca played like men possessed to run up their biggest margin ever over "Northern Blue"...a solid 4.25 points.

...And, with the highest seats being less than 6 ft. off the ground, the GE M&M loss was almost total. You just have to see that fantastic first half from on high. 'Chops' has made a miracle, so to speak.

Drum Corps World, July 2nd Issue:

GARFIELD TOPS OPTI AT KINGSTON POW WOW by H. Worth Ake.

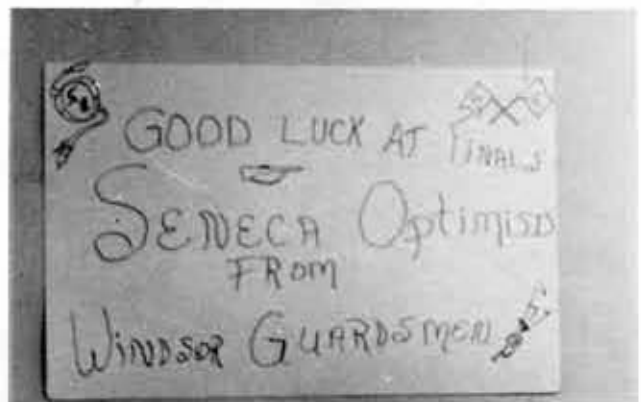
KINGSTON' N.Y., July 3rd: The Garfield Cadets continued their domination of all Eastern corps, except 27th Lancers, adding the Seneca Optimists to their list of downed corps at the Kingston Indian "Pow Wow Championships"

Opti made their own mark as they caught the imagination of the fans and were popular with a flashy GE performance.

Drum Corps World, Aug. 27th Issue:

SANTA CLARA FAVORITE AT "INVITATION QUEBEC" by Grant Weller.

...With the announcement of the next corps name, a roar went up from the spectators. The Seneca Optimists were ready to show partisan Canadian fans that they were for real. From beginning to end the crowd couldn't stop screaming and applauding and it seemed to drive the corps on. The whole show was fantastic. The horn line was extremely powerful and the guard was out of sight. When the awards were given, Seneca received the 'Best Guard' trophy. At the end of their performance the corps got a standing ovation which lasted from the time they stopped playing to the time they left the stadium.



THE 1976 AWARDS BANQUET:



GEORGE NASELLO, Corpsman-of-the-Year presented by Mike Williams.



Jim Kane presents "Oakie" with his Award.



Ann Marie Robinson, Guard-of-the-Year



Sean Williams (left) Bugler-of-the-Year



Terry McCullough (left) Drummer-of-the-Year.



Al Tierney makes a special presentation to Wolfgang.

THE 1976 CORPS AWARDS BANQUET

Report by Andy Coffin

To conclude my first year in the corps I was asked to review the 1976 Corps Banquet, held Saturday evening, October 23rd. I didn't let this assignment hamper my time at this event because I used a trusty tape recorder to tape all the activity so I could also sit back and enjoy the evening.

We started late, about 7:30 instead of 7:00 but this was not an indication that the rest of the evening would be the same. Everyone had a chance to talk with everyone else before we took our seats and none other than Gord Robinson than stood up as the MC and Host for the evening. Gord began by introducing part of the Head Table and putting a bit of humour into it before we attacked the fine roast beef dinner prepared by the ladies of the Booster Club. While we were having tea, milk or coffee Gord turned over the excellent (??) PA system to Optimist Club Past-President Joe Gianna who introduced the 1977 Club President Peter Shone.

Mr. Shone talked about our past year and how pleased the Club was to be associated with us. Next, Mr. Sklar introduced Rex Martin, the President of our Booster Club who said he had forgotten the notes for his speech, so he would keep it short. At the close of his remarks he presented a giant cheque to the Corps Director for \$3,500.00, to the delight of everyone.

The program then read that Wolfgang would then introduce Al Sisco, representing the College...but Mr. Sisco hadn't arrived yet....so....we then moved rapidly into the Highlight of the evening, the Dave MacKinnon GCC AWARDS, presented like the Academy Awards by Dave, Jim Kane, Phil Morin, Ray Bassett and Al Tierney. These framed certificates were awards presented by members of the corps to fellow members for certain "activities" during the past season.

The first Award was "THE QUICK REACTION AWARD" in the drum line, presented by Jim Kane. The Nominees were, Steve Shimski, James Willis and Peter Yaneff. And the winner was Peter Yaneff and Phil presented him with his certificate.

Next was the "GET OUT OF HERE, I WANT TO LOCK THE DRESSING ROOM" Award...presented by Mr. Tierney. Nominees were Gerry Chilton, John Haley and Mike Grimes. The winner was Gerry Chilton.

The "HITCHHIKERS AWARD" Nominees were our Kitchen crew; Mark Decloux disagreed, but the winner was none of these. It went to Mike Reid who wasn't there to accept it. Maybe he was still on the road from Philly...

Then, the Montreal "HUMANE SOCIETY" Award to a member of the drum line..."Oakie" O'Connor got it.

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC AWARD we all thought would go to John Haley. Surprise!!! It went to CHops!

BEST GROOMED IN THE DRUM LINE was next on the execution list. The Nominees were the complete drum line Instruction Staff. There were no winners this year.

Now, we were in for some real laughs with the announcement of the important "CHUNK KINK" Award. Everyone knew the nominees after Philadelphia and the winner could be none other than Ray Koch!

Then came the big one, "THE SPACE CADET AWARD" ...Nominees were Peter Yaneff, Ron Sokol, a new comer, but one of the expected favourites; but the winner in everyone's mind was James Willis...who got it and a standing ovation from everyone!

The Hygenic Award, presented by Ray Bassett, went to Wayne Downey for his exiting speech on cleanliness on Tour 1.

Now, Dave MacKinnon stepped forth with the next presentation and we could tell this would be a good one by the



Rex Martin and his big cheque...



Club Pres. Peter Shone...



Chops and Dave

THE 1976 AWARDS BANQUET:



The GCC Awards Committee

smile on his face. The Award was "For The Female With The Nicest Set" and went to, who else but Marie Kas, for the nicest set of eyes!

That concluded the GCC Awards for 1976. Then came the presentation of our Membership Certificates along with our DCI Medals. The peanut gallery really got excited when certain members of the Guard were presented with their certificates.

To conclude the Banquet events, Gord then announced the big presentations, the first of which was the "Guard Of The Year" Award, presented by Greg Oxenham. The winner was Ann Marie Robinson. This had to be a very hard decision because of all the excellant people that helped make our guard "tops" this year.

Peter Byrne then presented the trophy to the Most Improved member of the bugleline, to the person who did the most amount of work with the least bit of 'rappin-off'...The Award went to dumbfounded Sean Williams.

A new award, presented for the first time to the Most Improved Drummer of the year, presented by instructor Sam Kays. It went to Terry McCullough, who got a standing ovation from the drum line section.

To close, the Drum Major Mike Williams was announced to present the first Seneca Optimists "Corpsman Of The Year" Award, as voted by all marching members of the corps. I don't think the result was much of a surprise, as most of the members voted for him...the winner, George Nasello. After 8 Years in the corps, George was also presented with a corps gold ring by Gord Robinson.

Now everyone had a chance to stretch for the screening of the 1976 slides of the corps, the Nationals movie and the dance. Also, all those 18 and over headed for the bar. I think Ed's bargain LCBO was supplying the bar because what seemed like a few minutes and they ran out of beer. Anyway, the evening continued on the dance floor and all too soon it seemed the evening came to an end. There is now 1977 to look forward to!

Parents...Friends...BE A CORPS BOOSTER in '77
Join the Seneca Optimists Booster Club!

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Seneca College (Finch Campus)
Our projects include picnics, dances and bar-b-q socials for the corps, rummage sales, DCI Finals trip and hosting the Annual Corps Awards Banquet. We also book seats for corps contests throughout the season. For more information contact any of the following:
REX MARTIN-451-1278 or HAROLD BRADLEY-221-3986 or JOHN SKLAR-277-3890



Marie & Dave...



The James Brothers



Last Out Of The Dressing Room Award

Photos by John McCullough & Don Daber,



1976 Publicity
Department
Photos:
1. Birchmount Show,
2. CNE Exhibition,
3. Birchmount Stadium
Standstill show.





*Some of our contributors...
Dave MacKinnon,
Eileen McKinnon,
Al Tierney, Jim Kane,
Steve Trevor, Don Daber
and Myron Melnyk.*

THE LAST WORD:

At the close of the 1975 season, the Optimists published their first Yearbook as part of the corps newsletter, Green Capsule Comments. We learned a lot from publishing that book. Now, our second Yearbook is off the press, and I'm glad to say it, like this year's corps, is even better.

Our thanks to those who made this Yearbook a first class venture. To our photographers (over 100 of their pictures are reproduced)...pictures from our publicity department files, and the cameras of our tour photographers, Bob Carrol and Steve Trevor, who gave us some excellent candid shots of that trip and John McCullough for the DCI circle picture on page 20 which is a classic.

But, even if a picture is worth a thousand words, the real words in this publication are from Eileen McKinnon, who wrote the Introduction on page 5; Dave MacKinnon, who REALLY remembered 1976 and put it all together in his "Review Of The Year".....To Myron Melnyk who, besides doing an excellent job teaching our bugles also turned out to be our resident Poet Laureate. And last, but certainly not least, what's a Yearbook without some classic humour? To cover this we again turned to the fantastic Kane brothers, Jim and Bill, who just need to glance at a photo to make it talk funny. At an off moment, Jim also captioned our Movie Reviews and comments on the drum line.

We thank all of the above for making this book a success, and we thank the writers of the drum corps publications who had nice things to say about the Seneca Optimists.

And, lastly...to our Director, Al Tierney who gave us the yellow-green light to go ahead with the production, despite the corps bank balance. He echoed Daber's plea of "Art is more important than money..." But just to be on the safe side PLEASE buy as many copies as possible. Our treasurer would appreciate it. It also solves the problem of what to read in the can.

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