

THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM & BUGLE CORPS

YEARBOOK 1975

\$3.00





camp





THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS YEARBOOK 1975



Dedicated to the Members
of the 1975 Corps,
who made this year
a good one to remember.



CANDID CAMERA





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in this issue:

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

by PAUL McCUSKER.

Paul McCusker, the talented contributor to GCC is a marching member of the Optimists. The 1975 year is his fourth in the corps. As well as writing "The Year In Review" he has also illustrated this yearbook with several of his cartoon impressions of the activity during the year.



NATIONALS '75

by VERN JOHANSSON.

Vern is a past Drum Major of the Optimists whose interest in the progress of the corps still remains high, even though he has not marched in a corps for years. As a professional writer, Vern has attended many corps events over the past two years and his keen observations of the Optimists at Nationals '75 is a classic in the day of the life of a corps.



THE '75 BANQUET

by PETER PRICE.

When asked to submit his impressions of the 1975 Corps Banquet, Peter Price, a rookie member of the Optimists this year, took no chances with hasty notes jotted down on a paper napkin. Taught right by Ron Kaiser, he took along his tape recorder instead, so he was able to sit back and enjoy the evening with the rest of the corps.



I JOINED THE OPTIMISTS TWICE!

BY MARK FODEN




When I first saw the Optimists I thought of them as just another drum corps, but better than the average corps. But neither the Optimists or Oakland's ever really turned me on to want to join right away.

I first came down to join in 1973 in the winter when the corps was practicing in the Armories. At that time most of the members of the Optimists were older than me and at that time the spirit seemed down. Very few members "mixed it up" and talked to newcomers who came down to join. Well, one practice night I was sitting at home and got to thinking of what was going to happen at practice that night. I figured it was going to be the same dull routine so I didn't bother to go any more after that.

Two years later, in 1975 I thought about joining but didn't want to go through the same routine as in '73. After a number of hassels with the corps I was in at the time I decided to drop down to one of the Optimists practices.

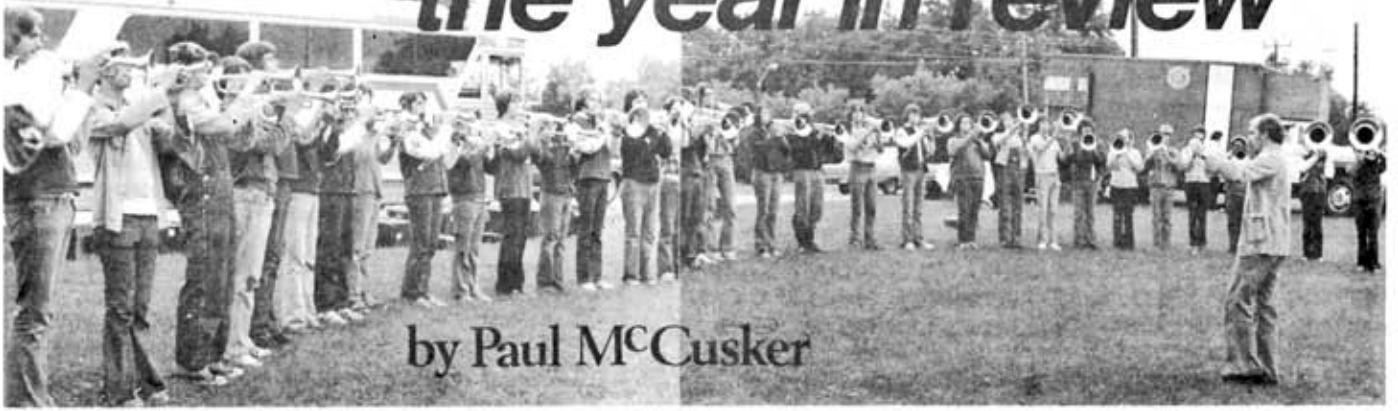
How things had changed! Now people were coming up and talking about the corps and corps life in general, I ended up signing, getting a bugle...everything happened pretty fast.

What do I think of the corps now? Well, really, there's only a few words than can explain the difference. That's "fantastic" and the spirit in everyone was "wanting to win, no seconds!" The practices were great, the corps was run nice and smooth, the trips were unbelievable and the spirit was really turned on trying to reach for the top. The year 1975 was really very successful.

Since Nationals things haven't changed, they've just gotten better still. Next year will be even a better year!



the year in review



by Paul McCusker

The '75 season started last September 2nd., approximately one half hour after the '74 season had ended as a downhearted group of rain-soaked corpsmen sat huddled around Doug MacKenzie and he announced to the corps that he had been appointed the new corps Director! During his short talk Doug laid out some plans to the corps and vowed that the upcoming year would be a more successful one. Throughout the parade and exhibition appearances that followed the '74 Nationals the Optimists pulled their corps together into a solid unit in preparation for 1975.

An ex-marching member, Peter Byrne, took control of the bugle line after Terry McKolsky suddenly left; Jack Roberts and Greg Oxenham went to work on the M&M, as written by "Chops" and Ron Kaiser was to, once again, handle the drum line. Winter rehearsals went well for the bugle line and the section was built up; the colourguard was lacking in numbers through this period and the drumline, although large enough did not put in a good winter's hard work and this would show up later in the season. But all in all, things looked good! Too good.

Early in the spring we heard DeLaSalle was on the verge of folding and we heard that neither The Crusaders or Seneca were getting that great

turnouts at rehearsals...then Del finally went and did it...they folded. But this only caused them to form a merger with the Crusaders and they would come out later in the year stronger than ever.

Then, finally the competition season arrived and it hit with a bang with the Optimists winning the opener in Welland by a three point margin! The Crusaders were not yet ready and blamed their loss on this fact. The date was June 7th.

SEAGRAM STADIUM, WATERLOO, JUNE 14: As predicted, the Crusaders closed the score gap at this one to .2 and were beginning to show signs of the powerful corps they would produce. The scores: Optimists 72.8 to Crusaders 72.65.

AJAX, JUNE 21st: For the Optimists this place is "loser city"...in four years they have yet to win a contest here. The Crusaders won their first contest here for '75 with a 72.1 to Optimists 71.75. The only good thing about this day was the Booster Club party back in T.O. afterwards.

YORK STADIUM, JUNE 28th: A week of bad rehearsals brought the Optimists to the old "Porter Stadium" but that night things looked up and the corps was hot, hotter than they'd been in years... maybe it was the fact that we knew the Crusaders were leaving immediately after this contest on their first mid-west tour and WE wanted the win. And we got it, 77.65 to 76.35.





BRANTFORD, TUE. JULY 1st: With the Crusaders out of the country this was an easy win on the usual terrible baseball field. Our tour "One" began the next day.

"TOUR ONE", July 3rd to July 6th: A series of unfortunate events riddled this tour from bus breakdowns to some very incompetent judging. Needless to say the corps placed badly in most of the contests but they DID manage to defeat the Mounties by .3 in MA. And the boat trip back across the lake was interesting and nobody fell overboard.

BIRCHMOUNT, SAT. JULY 12: This contest was an interesting one as it was the first meeting of the two big rival "A" Corps after their midwest tours. And, that night there was a record crowd at this stadium and the stands were packed. The Cardinals had really done a job selling tickets!

Rehearsal that day tended to be somewhat relaxed with new hornwork and drill added to the show. Come show time though, the corps just wasn't mentally ready and the performance, though seemingly a hyper job, was ragged and lacking in any execution. When the dust had cleared the Crusaders had jumped ahead by 3 points with a deadly show!

The Optimists were in a slump now with a 3 week void till the next contest in Toledo. Unlike some of the past years, though, the rehearsals were consistent and turnouts were good. Finally the lull was over and the Friday night rolled around when the corps left beautiful west west-end Toronto for Toledo. Amazingly enough we encountered no bus problems on the way there but for a short tour around one of the more colourful sections of town before finally finding our way to the residence building.

We occupied the 15th and 16th floors which proved to be a hassle getting up and down the elevators as all the other corps were in the same

building too. It proved to be an even bigger hassle for two American corpsmembers who decided to crash our floor while we were hunting down our rooms.

The corps was up not so bright and early for a gruesome breakfast, although it was a feast compared to the previous year there...and then we stumbled to a nearby parking lot for the rehearsal. Considering everything the practice was one of our best of the year and the corps then happily retreated back to the complex to get into uniform for the prelims.

For some reason the corps did not put on the show that was expected but it was as hot as Hades in the stadium and this could have been a major factor. The stadium, a bowl type, soaked up the heat like a sponge and it was like marching on a grill.

Due to the rain that began shortly after our performance most of the afternoon was spent hoisting mattresses and protecting your own! The rules of the game were simple...don't go on to anyone else's floor to get a mattress and DON'T GET CAUGHT TAKING IRVINE'S MATTRESS, if you value your life, that is.

Optimists placed third in prelims with a 75.5 2 points behind the Crusaders and the Crusaders who tied, the other Crusaders being the Finleyville corps. That night the Optimists put on a gutsy "crowd-pleasing" show, much better than the afternoon event but the final score dropped when the Crusaders, as Kevin Martin put it, "were deadly" and jumped up to an 81.

The Corps got to sleep early and woke up to head for Cleveland after breakfast at a local Big Boy. We hit Cleveland in time for lunch and an afternoon rehearsal. There was a very tight atmosphere in the corps with almost everyone on one another's backs...even the Instruction staff seemed uptight. But, thank God Elf and a few members of the Buckeyes showed the corps that they were not totally unknown in the area and provided some badly-needed comedy relief after a very strained rehearsal. We got into uniform again, and hit the stadium, another bowl with a carpet of Astro-turf.

We just begun our warmup when the rain began and it came down hard enough to hold the show up for a considerable length of time. We retreated to our dressing rooms and got out of our drenched blouses. Actually, the rain couldn't have come at a better time. Being stuck in the dressing room gave the corps a chance to loosen up, and get hype for the contest. The strained nerves seemed to be



washed away with the rain and it resulted in one of the best shows that the corps put on all year. Scorewise, we were still behind the Crusaders but the 6 point spread was cut down to 2.

The bugle bus pulled into the Humber College parking lot around 10:00AM on Monday, Aug. 4th, a Civic Holiday but the second was later due to an accident with one of the station wagons in which 8 snare drummers were killed, at least, we understand that what was reported at the US Open the following weekend. Just to set the record straight, no one was hurt.



NORTH TONAWANDA, N.Y., Aug. 12th: This journey, that was to be called "Tour 2" started off in fine style when the bus broke down before we even left Humber College, something to do with the air bags. So, instead of leaving about 6:30AM we left at 8:00 and arrived at the stadium just in time to change in a field and enter the prelim 'Field of Battle' to be greeted enthusiastically by all 10 spectators. This show was the worst performance all season and we still placed 3rd with a 75, 2 points behind The Rebels and The Freelancers. It was mainly a lack of preparation and over-confidence that caused this crappy performance.

But that afternoon we settled down, had a good horn rehearsal, ate and went through the show a few more times. We then went to the fire-hall where we changed into uniform and warmed up (Firehall???) Our bugle man, Peter, gave a short speech, following the events of the day, and everyone finally began to get their heads into the show and we headed for the stadium. For once we arrived early, like about an hour and a half early. Some members went through their drill sectionally, others talked up the show, but by the time the corps took the starting line everyone was ready.

The show was the kind that Championship corps are made of, drive, spirit, execution and excitement that brought the crowd to their feet screaming for MORE! The contest ended with the

Optimists on top with an 83.5! After the scores were given and the corps was leaving the field there was an announcement of a tabulation error and everyone stopped dead, but it was between the 2nd and 3rd place corps, and we were OK.

We went back to the Firehall and a half hour beer break was brought in for those of age, which we appreciated; for those underage there were cold cokes. The next day came fast, and we were on our way again, to Philadelphia and the DCI Nationals.

The bus maintained up for most of the day as fortunes were won and lost at the card tables, and we were all somewhat humbled by some breathtaking scenery in the Catskill Mountains.

Finally, about supertime the corps pulled into Valley Forge and the Sheraton Hotel, our retreat for the rest of the week. Some retreat!



This place made last year's Ithica accomodation, which up to that time, was the best we ever had, look like a flophouse. The only problem was that we couldn't rehearse inside and the food there was quite expensive so we went to a nearby large shopping complex to eat. It was raining when we got back to the hotel, so the Exec gave us the rest of the night off, to relax in luxury.

Thursday, August 14th: We were up at 7:00AM for breakfast, then walked over to a nearby field for rehearsal which turned into an all day event, and as night came on it became too dark to see. Rehearsal had ended well and we went back to our rooms to relax and clean our instruments.

Friday, August 15th, DCI Day: Most of us were up at 5:30AM thanks to a change in schedule that placed us on an hour earlier than previously stated. Warmup commenced at the rehearsal field in uniform and a runthrough the OTL. There wasn't time for much more

The ladies on the tour did an excellant job of ironing the regalia with one mishap. Drummer Bruce Thomas thought Santa Claus had granted his wish for a new uniform while Dave MacKinnon searched frantically through the Hotel for his uniform but things finally got straightened around and we were finally on our way.

The Friday morning rush hour traffic into Philly and much road construction really slowed us down and we arrived at the Stadium just as the



first corps was going on. We were the second corps on.

After the performance, nobody could really say what happened, why the corps didn't perform the way they were supposed to. Maybe we choked; or maybe it was the fact that we were all somewhat scared...but the show did lack the kind of drive that we needed to place us in the 80's... that fact, that fact plus a low unwarranted -GE drum score gave us a '75', not very encouraging



considering the last place corps in finals last year received a 79.9.

As we were standing around, outside the stadium, after our show we noticed Don Whitely, the publicity Director for DCI talking to Doug, and a few of the Executive. The next thing we knew we were walking a few blocks down the street from the stadium to the Philadelphia Sick Childrens Hospital to do a show for some of the critically ill kids there.

After waiting around in the lobby for a while while the final arrangements upstairs were being made, we finally took the elevators up top.



Instructions were to keep it soft because in the enclosed, cramped balcony we were only about five feet away from our audience. There was something about these tykes, some of them were retarded, some deformed, and some with not too much time left, but there was a type of magic quality that surrounded them; they seemed to make one forget about all the petty problems and disturbances in life and look inside. Like the old adage says, "I cried because I had no shoes, then I saw a man with no feet..." These kids conveyed that idea, not pity, but the idea that no matter what you are, you've got to live with it, and make the best of it. It was an experience I shall not soon forget.

After getting the corps in and out of the Hospital and our show(s) there it was almost noon, so we went back to the hotel to get out of uniform. Most of the corps went back to the stadium in the afternoon to see the rest of the Friday



Prelims, then back to the hotel for another night off. The results didn't look good. We were now in the 11th position and if more than one corps beat us on the Saturday prelims, we were out!

Saturday breakfast was at 7:00AM and we practiced till the news was phoned in that we had just been put out of the night show. It was unfortunate because the way the hornline sounded on that Saturday rehearsal day I'm sure we could have nabbed the 9th or 10th spot in the finals! The biggest blow came when we found out that we were dusted by the Precisionnaires, a corps we had beaten in 4 previous shows by not less than 10 pts each contest! Oh well, maybe they turned on; or the judges turned on, anyway, the scores on the second day of prelims were higher on average by 3 points over the first, which really showed when all the corps that placed in the finals on the 2nd day drop in positions at night where the other corps went up.

Anyway, somewhat disheartened, we had supper and drove into Philly again, to watch the night finals. For most of us these were not too enjoyable due to the fact that we had to watch the show from the back stands, although some members did manage to sneak around to the front stands about half way through the show. We found out later that a few guys missed the bus from the plaza restaurant and returned to the hotel, where they enjoyed the whole show in the comfort of their rooms watching it performed LIVE on the colour TV.

After the contest, back at the hotel, there were private parties in the rooms and a lot of discussion about why we failed and plans for the next season.

Mid-sunday morning we were packed to leave for Toronto and after breakfast the corps had a meeting with the Executive and Doug MacKenzie talked a bit about the '76 season, Jack Watt, our Business Manager, who arranged for the hotel told us he was pleased with our conduct there, as was the management, and they hoped we would be back next year.

DCI Nationals were over, and even if we didn't make finals, we jumped from about 36th position in '74 to 16th this year...that's more than anyone else did.

The trip home was something else! The air conditioning broke down and the bus took on the proportions of a miniature Hell. In half an hour there wasn't a dry shirt in the place...and the driver refused to let anyone open the windows!

ETOBICOKE, WED. AUG. 20th: This was the Crusaders Wednesday night show and a lot of people found it difficult treating it like a contest! Unfortunately it was a contest, and an important one. If we could have turned on this night, the Canadian Nationals a few weeks away might have been a different story, as it was, neither the Optimists or the Crusaders did a great show. The results, Crusaders 84, the Optimists 80.

ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIPS (?) LONDON, AUG. 23rd: This so called contest, that was to be the Ontario Championships yet, had to be one of the biggest farces in all my years in corps activity.

The day started out OK, we had deluxe buses to transport us to London, which no other corps there had, but as we neared the city it started to rain and this was the first sign that it was going to be another one of THOSE days. We drove directly to the stadium, expecting some activity here, as it was now about 10:30AM and the contest was an afternoon event. There was nobody around that knew anything about the show and if there weren't those two posters on the gate announcing the show, we would have thought we were at the wrong stadium. The field was a baseball diamond, and we discovered later that it had been marked off wrong; then to top it off, when the show did start we found there was only a half panel of judges...



Under overcast skies, our show was a bit better than Wednesday night but it was still not that good. The Crusaders performance was nothing to scream about either but the results were a bit out of proportion, an 84 to a 77. Because of the rain there was no retreat, thank God, and we were on our buses and heading out of the stadium even as the results were being announced. At the main gate we were held up a few minutes as some guy's car was in the way, but after a few of the stronger guys exited the bus and moved it, we were on our way.

SUNDAY, AUG. 24th: A Church parade and outdoor exhibition in East Toronto. Once again, we finally turned on, but perhaps too late. It was only one week to Nationals.

keating field:



The Optimists vs. the baseball teams for rightful possession of Keating.



Top photo: A hot Saturday afternoon rehearsal.

2nd photo: Break time with, left to right, Wayne Dillon, Ray Bassett, Mark Decloux and George Nasello of the top soprano line.



“Better than we ever did...”

by Vern Johansson

11:00 a.m. Cold. Standing on a hill. Looking. Down on the field the corps was going through motions. Someone yelled at them. The response came fast from eyes not mouths: "Shove it! We don't need that kind of crap at this time of year."

It was August. But it could well have been December. Or March. Damn weather. It was Canadian Nationals. But it could well have been the Pontypool Open for Tambourine and Fife Corps.

Apathy: 100. Excitement: Zip.

Had a coffee with Wendy. "What's wrong," I ask.

"They're down after DCI," I'm told.

"Oh."

But this is Canadian Nationals. How can you be down? Especially if you wear a green uniform. I don't understand.

Walk to car with Pete. "What's wrong," I ask.

"I don't know. Weird, isn't it?"

"Yeh."

Had lunch with Calvin, Mike and Eileen. "What's wrong," I ask.

"Waddya mean?" replies Calvin. (He always says that to me.)

"The Corps," I say, "They're as loose as a pig in 40 feet of wet mud."

"Waddya mean?" says Calvin (again).

Example: Corps finishes rehearsing. Going for lunch. Fellow in a car says,

"Why don't you play something?" Decloux says, "Sure. Got 10 bucks?"

That's loose. Funny, but loose.

"Oh, that's just Decloux," I'm told.

And so it goes.

After lunch. Section rehearsals. Hornline sounds fine. Always does in a semi-circle. Lots of joking going on. My subconscious is juggling around some black thoughts. "They're gonna blow it. Cripes. They're too loose. They don't even care that it's Nationals." I keep these thoughts to myself. No sense getting everyone screwed up.

Drill rehearsal. Blah. Doesn't look good. They try a little hype in the march-past. Trying to get the whole corps to swing with the drum beat. Looks like hell. What a time to find out half your corps ain't got no rhythm. As fast as this great idea was born, it died.

Supper. Too close to lunch. Donuts and coffee. "What ever happened to that fiery ball of tension that used to hit the corps in the guts like a medicine ball?"

"It's not the same anymore," I'm told.

"Why?"

My answer comes as a shrug.

Over to the school. Check out the dressing rooms. Breath in the quick-lime fumes of buck polish mingling with the gaseous smells wafting from the little room that everyone is lined up to get in. Go outside for some fresh air. Feel sorry for myself. Figure I'm like a war veteran locked up in Sunnybrook. Can't compete anymore. Can only watch.

Over in a corner of the school lot, two kids from the Tidewater Buccaneers are pounding each other's face with fists that look like canned hams. "Well," I think, "at least they're up tight about this contest." I'm wrong. They're fighting over a girl. Chivalry lives.

Corps lines up to head over to the stadium. Looks like a giant religious cult out for a Sunday stroll. Pete's mad. Figures it looks totally Bush League. He's right.

Arrival at the stadium. Corps splits up. Hornline gambols off through a wooded thicket. Lights from the stadium look like a huge sunlamp off in the distance. Vinegary sounds of an inadequate hornline sail out of the stadium. Optimists horns whisper through a few exercises. Something unusual happens.

Pete, in his quiet but effective way, says something to the hornline. And this is what he said: "I didn't think this contest would mean very much to me. I was wrong."

The looseness dropped like a snake's skin in moulting season. There it was. The thing I'd waited for all day. That fiery ball of tension that used to hit the corps in the guts like a medicine ball.

Back to the stadium. Can't do drill. The practice field looks like spinach soup. The tension grows. Like a weed gone berserk. It's your last Nationals, Calvin. Your's too, Mike. And your's too Randy and Rita. It looks like you're all in the last stages of bleeding to death. I can see it in your eyes. You want it to be the very best.

Time for the Corps Song. I grabbed someone's shoulder and sang along. I don't normally do that. This was no time to be normal.

We check in at the stadium. I do my best to look like a member of the organization,

sneaking through the barricades, done up in a Corps jacket, pretending I'm the assistant to the assistant to the guy who washes out the water buckets. It works. I'm in. With the Corps.

I want to shake everyone's hand. Hell, I feel like kissing everyone. No sense overdoing it. So I stick to hand clasping. I reach into my ice-bucket head for something significant to say. All that comes out is, "Do your very best." ARRRGGGHHHH. What an asinine thing to say. Of course they'll do their very best. I slink off in search of a brain transplant.

"On the starting line...." Pete and I stand at centrefield. Boxed in by video-tape recorders, microphones and scads of electrical wiring. But there was nothing there that had as much electricity as the Corps on the field. Most of the show was a blur. I spent a lot of time yelling, raising my fist in the air and hopping up and down on the spot like a wounded kangaroo. So did Pete. It was Nationals. And The Optimists were the best part of it.

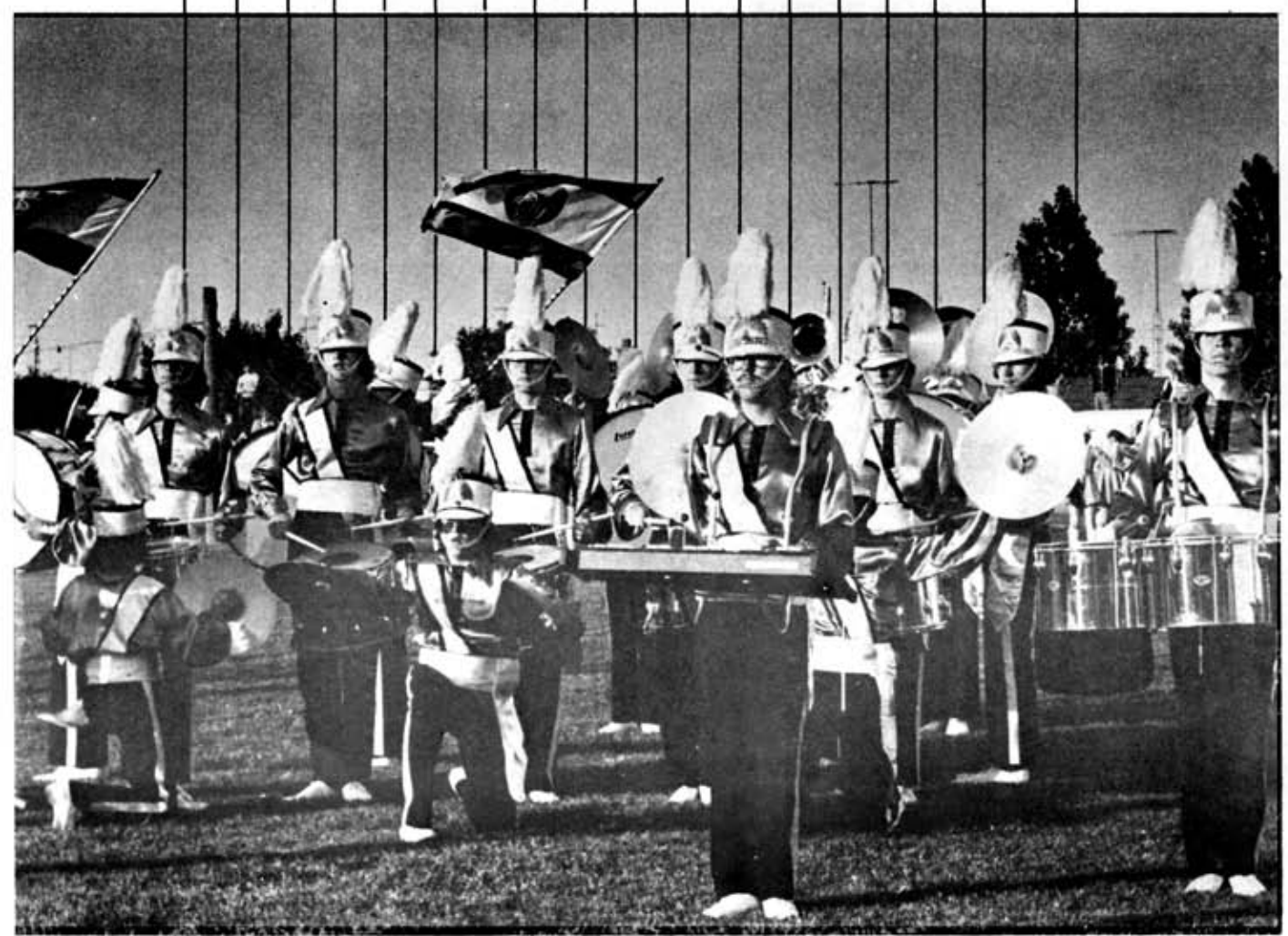
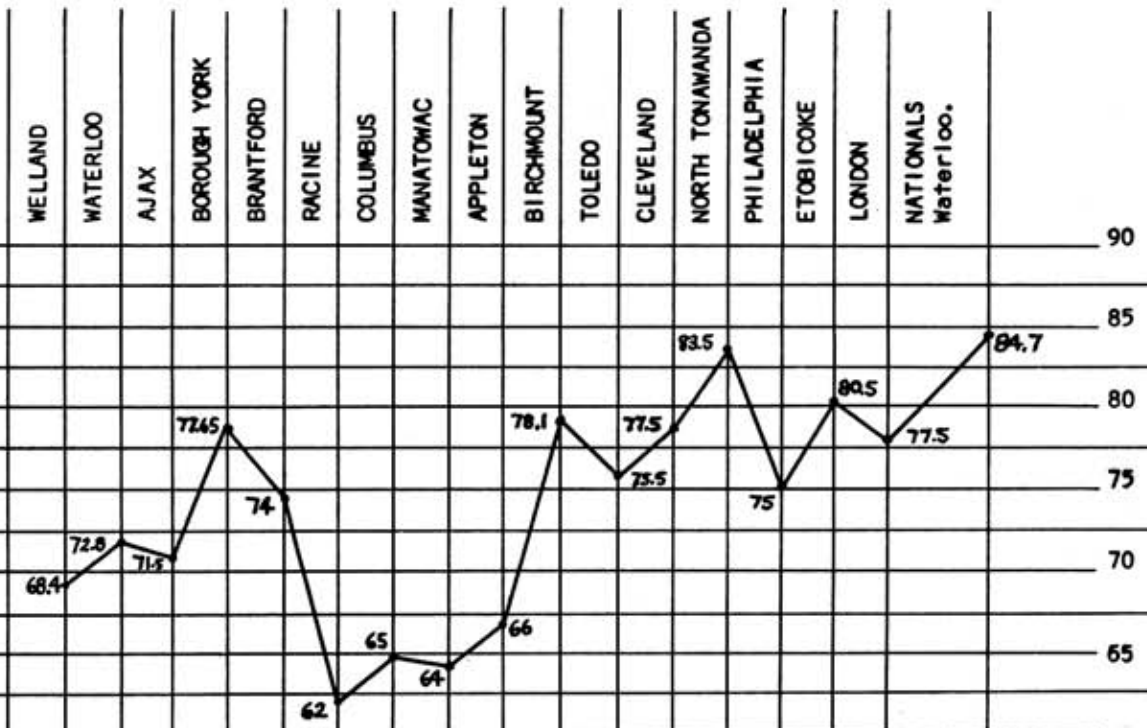
There's a fellow named Donleavy. He writes novels.
This is what he writes:
Happiness
Is
A big cat
With a mouse
On a square mile
Of linoleum.

That's fine. If you're a cat. I'm not. So:
Happiness
Is
Seeing The Optimists
At Nationals
Pounding over a carpet of grass
With care in their hearts
And belief in themselves.

On retreat, they played "I Believe."
Better than we ever did.



1975 scores»



THE
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
OF
PHILADELPHIA

FOUNDED 1855



August 18, 1975

ONE CHILDREN'S CENTER
34th STREET AND
CIVIC CENTER BOULEVARD
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19104
(215) EV 7-6000

Toronto Optimists Drum and
Bugle Corps
c/o Doug MacKenzie, Director
44 Wortham Drive
Scarborough Ontario Canada

Dear Mr. MacKenzie:

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to you and the members of the corps for entertaining the patients of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Your efficiency and warmth carried throughout your performance to result in a most enjoyable morning for all.

By the way, the patients loved the music and costumes, but were simply delighted in seeing a "parade" in a hospital.

Sincerely yours,

Frances Ritter, Director
Children's Activities Department
Play Therapy Program

photos»

All photos in this yearbook are by Don Daber, John McCullough, Peter McCusker and Eric McConackie.

FRONT COVER: Top photos by Don Daber. The corps in concert by Peter McCusker.

INSIDE FRONT COVER: "Camp" Photos by Don Daber and John McCullough.

PAGE 1: Photos by John McCullough. The large photo, taken by candlelight without flash is one of the most dynamic ever taken of the corps and shows some of the 1975 "Rookies" signing in at the "TAS" Night at camp.

PAGE 2: Photos by John McCullough and Don Daber taken at camp, at rehearsal at Keeting and at the first contest in Waterloo in June.

PAGE 3: Photos by Don Daber.

PAGE 4: Photos by John McCullough & Don Daber.

PAGE 5: Photos by Don Daber. Top photo taken at rehearsal before the Ontario Championships in London.

PAGE 6: Candid shot by McCullough taken in Waterloo at Seagam Stadium at the June contest.

PAGE 7: The hotel at Valley Forge taken by Don Daber.

PAGE 8: At the DCI Prelims, photos by D.Daber.

PAGE 9: The corps performs in the Hospital in Philadelphia. Photos by D.Daber.

PAGE 10: Changing outside the bus at the London contest, and Keeting rehearsals. (D.Daber.)

PAGE 11: The Bass Drum section on the "Ready Line at Nationals!" (D.Daber)

PAGE 13: The Soprano section in Concert at Nationals. (D.Daber)

PAGE 14: The drum line in Ajax. Photo by Eric McConackie.

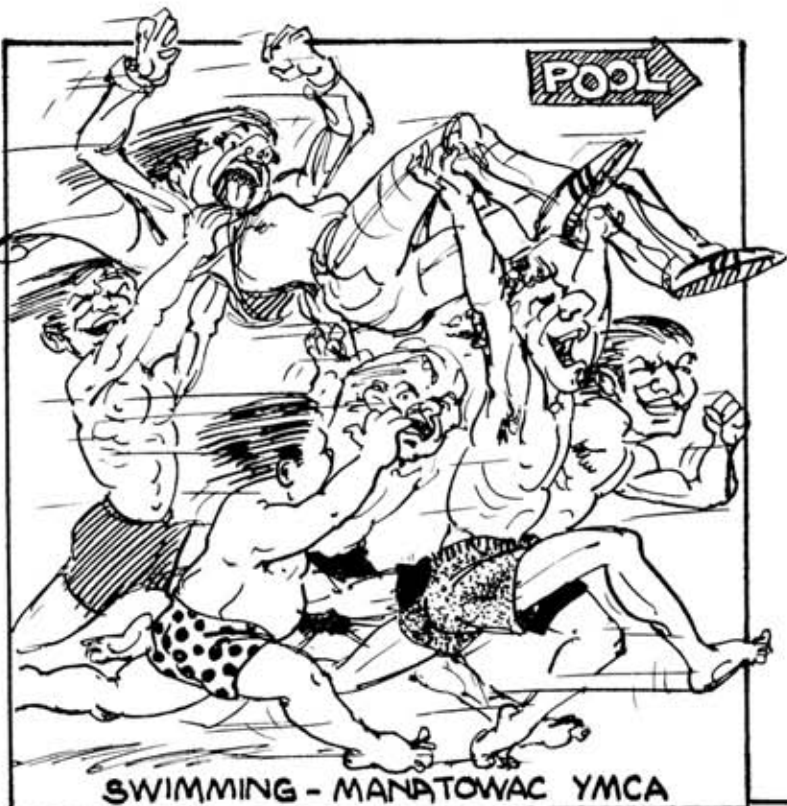
PAGE 17-34: Corps members photos by D.Daber.

PAGES 35-36-37-38-39: Photos at the 1975 Banquet by D.Daber.

PAGE 40: Photos at "On to '76" Rally by D.Daber.

BACK COVERS: Photos at Nationals '75 by D.Daber.

Artwork on pages 6-7-10-16 and back cover by Paul McCusker.



corps comments:

#31...MIKE ARSENAULT, Drum Major...BEST & WORST SHOW: "No bad shows, they were all good. MOST ENJOYABLE NUMBER: "Concert" and "Solero" a close second. OVERALL OPINION OF THE '75 but the North Tonawanda show we have had in years. I was a little doubtful at first 6 straight weeks." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes! We reached almost every goal we set and the corps was really 'together' NICKNAME: "Sir!" OTHER COMMENTS: "Not marching for have something special and the people that stuck it through and made it this years have something to be proud of...Believe that you have it and you have it..."

#1...MIKE WILLIAMS, Drum Major...BEST '75 SHOW: North Tonawanda. Worst: DCI. MOST ENJOYABLE NUMBER: "Indian Lady." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "My uniform falling apart at a corps concert. NICKNAME: "Smiley."

#3...CRAIG NELSON, FAVOURITE INSTRUCTOR: "Ron Kaiser." BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda" WORST: "Racine." BEST NUMBER: "Solero." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Listening to Dillon's solo in "Indian Lady..." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "No, not enough marching bodies." NICK NAME: "Ring, Anus, Zit and or Leper" OTHER COMMENTS: "I feel if the corps gets a lot more dedicated experienced members for '76 we will do very well in '76."

#4...PAUL McCUSKER, Baritone. FAVOURITE INSTRUCTOR: "Pete." WORST SHOW: "Etobbicoke." BEST: "The Nationals, it always is". BEST NUMBER: "Solero." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "After 11 years of Drum Corps (Jr.) I'm finally overage at the end marching-wise." WAS THIS YEAR SUCCESSFUL: "Yes, we jumped up 20 spots at DCI." NICKNAME: "Chuster."

#6... DAVE BARRETT, Baritone. FAVOURITE INSTRUCTOR: "Pete." BEST SHOW: "North Tonna" WORST: "Etobbicoke, Aug. 20th." BEST NUMBERS: "Solaro & Man That Got Away." OPINION ON THIS YEARS SHOW: "It was well put together, the music was great but the drill wasn't that difficult. I enjoyed marching this year's show mainly because of the music." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Missing the bus for the DCI trip." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes!". NICKNAME: "Spot!"



#9...DAVE MacKINNON, Mellophone. FAVOURITE NUMBER: "Soulero" OPINION ON THE '75 SHOW: "We had a good variety of music that was performed especially well by the middle voices, specifically the mellophones. Also the drill was well designed." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "All of Tour One!!" OTHER COMMENTS: "I believe the inconsistency in winning this year was due to the lack of experience on the part of most of the corps...wait till next year!!!"

#10...GREG WARDLE...BEST & WORST SHOW: "North Tonawanda and Birchmount."

#11...CHRIS WHITE...BEST & WORST SHOW: "The Borough of York and Birchmount" ENJOYED PLAYING: "The Judy Garland medley." MOST BIZZARE HAPPENING: "Staving in a hotel." NICKNAME: "Chickie."

#12...CORRIE BRANTON...BEST SHOW: "Tonawanda at night." WORST: "Tonawanda Prelims." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero..." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Getting brutally cut to pieces to mere nerve strands by J.P. and E.M. in the Toledo Dorms." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR?"Very much so, but it would be hard to get worse than last year, can't wait till next year!" CONTEST I ENJOYED WATCHING THE MOST: "Madison's beautiful male species and 27th Lancers really decent show."

#13...RICK CARRICK: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda." WORST: "Birchmount." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "yes, because Peter really knows what he's doing." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert."

#15...CHRIS RYAN: 3rd Soprano...BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda" WORST: "DCI Prelims." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "I can dig everything but the "Off-the-line..." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "That I cleared my room in Philly by playing dead..." NICKNAME: "Chunk King!" OTHER COMMENTS: "This year has been a drag with Decieux!"

#16...MIKE DONALDSON, Mellophone. WORST SHOW: "Our first contest" THE BEST: "Nationals!" ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "I didn't think thedrill fit the music properly!" MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Camp" WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "yes, because of the publicity the corps received and the position at DCI."



#19...BILL PULLIN, French Horn: BEST SHOW: "Borough of York...I ripped my pants from the ankle out of the crotch..." WORST SHOW: "The DCI Prelims. I was shaking so bad I could hardly get a sound great. We did not perform it consistently well and consistency is what makes a show great." NICKNAME: "Jesus" (Till I got my hair cut.)

#20...JIM HAYES, 2nd Soprano: BEST SHOW: "North Tonna" WORST: "Manatowac" ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENINGS: There are 3 (you know me) Breaking my leg; lending my watch to Peter Byrne and sharing a room with Mike Reid twice!!" NICKNAME: "Isaac!" OTHER COMMENTS: "I'll miss some of the people who are leaving this year."

#21...VIC SCORE: BEST SHOW: "North Tonnawanda" WORST: "Ajax." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Rick Carrick walking into my window at the corps party." NICKNAME: "C.N."

#23...SHAUN McCULLOUGH: WORST SHOW: "Toledo Prelims." BEST: "North Tonnawanda." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero and Indian Lady." THIS YEARS FIELD SHOW: "Probably the best the corps has ever had." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes, because the corps has improved greatly since '74." NICKNAME: "Culla."

#24...TIM WATT: Contra...BEST SHOW: "North Tonna." WORST: "Ajax." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero and the concert." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Getting beat by Precisionnaires at DCI's" WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes, we did what we set out to do..." NICKNAME: "What?"



#25...ALAN GILLIES: BEST SHOW:"Nationals." WORST:"Racine." ENJOYED PLAYING:"Soulero" and the "F" Articulation exercise." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW:"The music was kind of neat to play and march to." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING:"That first tour!!" WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR?"Yes, it was a good rebuilding year."

#26...STEVE NOBLE: BEST SHOW:"North Tonawanda!" WORST:"Toledo!" NUMBER I ENJOYED PLAYING MOST: "Soulero..."

#28 MARK FODEN, Baritone: WORST SHOW: "North Tonawanda Prelim. It was like a bad practice." BEST SHOW: "The Tonawanda night finals, we were really turned on!" ENJOYED PLAYING:"Soulero and Concert." OPINION OF THIS YEARS FIELD SHOW: "I like this year's field show a lot; there's good music that you can really turn on to." WAS THIS A GOOD YEAR?"Yes, because the attitude was good."

#29 SIMON CROOK, Baritone: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda" WORST:"Ajax." ENJOYED PLAYING: "The Off-the-line." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR: "Yes, I would believe it was, however, this was my first season and its hard to compare to other seasons."

#30 SANDRA KONSTANTINOU: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda." WORST SHOW: "The Wednesday night Crusaders contest in August." MOST ENJOYED PLAYING: "Off-the-line and Concert." NICKNAME: "Shortie."

#34 VICTOR DECLoux: BEST SHOW:"Borough of York" WORST:"Birchmount Stadium. ENJOYED PLAYING: "Beautiful People." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Finding out what my brother is really like..." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes!"



#32 RONALD SOKOLL, Flugel: BEST SHOW: "Nationals. WORST: "Toledo. I went to the wrong spot in drill during the drum solo..." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero." NICKNAME: "Trooper!"

#33 KEN SOKOLL, Soprano: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda" WORST: "Birchmount." LIKED PLAYING: "Soulero." OPINION OF THIS YEARS SHOW: "Animal!!" MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Trying to get some sleep on a bus trip." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? Yes, because the corps improved 100% OTHER COMMENTS: "I think Pete Byrne did an excellent job this year with the horn line."

#35 MARK DECLoux, Soprano: BEST SHOW: "Borough of York!" WORST: "Any prelim show we did this year. Arrgh! All of them were awful." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert and Soulero." OPINION OF THIS YEARS SHOW: "The '75 show is the most original and different that I have ever had the pleasure to perform. But. I hope next year's is better!"

#36 BARRY WOODS: BEST SHOW: "Borough of York; my first show." WORST: "Brantford, because I couldn't find Bentley in the drill." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "Great! It seemed the members of the corps wanted to do it, they cared more." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Where's Bentley??" WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes. If you marched in '73 you'll know why!!" OTHER COMMENTS: "I'd like to thank the guys in the corps for making this the BEST year of my drum corps life!"

#38...JEFF DOBBIN, Baritone: BEST SHOW: "Borough of York." WORST: "Toledo prelims." Also Great, North Tonawanda. ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero and Concert." OPINION OF THIS YEARS DRILL: "Great charts, but the drill let me down in parts." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? It was a fanstastic year and although we didn't make DCI's people know who we are now!" OTHER COMMENTS: "Doug said he'd do it and he did! Its a great feeling to be good!"

#39... SEAN WILLIAMS: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda. I enjoyed the excitement projected by the corps. It felt good!" WORST: "The Crusaders show in Etobicoke. Gord hit my horn and I cut my lip." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Indian Lady!" THIS YEARS FIELD SHOW: "Difficult!" I cut my lip." OTHER COMMENTS: "Room 415 at the DCI Hotel..." NICKNAME: "Chunk." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING:



#40...LLOYD KING: BEST SHOW: "Nationals, what else?" WORST: That 1st Tour!!"
ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert!" NICKNAME: "Floyd."

#41...JOHN CARRICK: BEST SHOW: "Nationals!" WORST: "Birchmount." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert."

#42...BOB DOYLING, Baritone. BEST SHOW: North Tonna... WORST: "Birchmount!"
ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "Real Cool!" MOST BIZARRE
HAPPENING: "The hole in the hotel wall..." WAS THIS YEAR SUCCESSFUL? "Yes, because everyone
put their heads into the year."

#43...RICHARD BRITON, Contra... WORST SHOW: "prelims at North Tonawanda" BEST: "Nationals."
ENJOYED PLAYING: "Beautiful People!" OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "pretty good, however
I would have preferred updating the '73 version of 'Le Coq Dor' for a big production
number."

#44...CRAIG HALL, Flugel: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert."

#45...DOUG MAY, Baritone: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda, the corps was 'on' that night..."
WORST SHOW: "Ajax." ENJOYED PLAYING: "The Garland O.T.L." NICKNAME: "Eddie."
OTHER COMMENTS: "I would like to see more rehearsal discipline; more than one concert in
the winter months, lots more fund raising and tougher instructors."





#57 GEORGE NASELLO, Soprano.



#37 STEWERT BENTLEY, Soprano.

#8 KEN MULCREW, Soprano.

#17 GERRY CHILTON, Soprano.

#22 MIKE REID, Contra.
BEST SHOW: "The Nationals!"
ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert."

WORST: "North Tonawanda Prelims."
MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "All of Tour One."
#56: RAY BASSETT, Soprano.
MY BEST SHOW: "Columbus, would you believe?"
ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert."
OPINION OF FIELD SHOW: "It accomplished what it set out to do, an easier drill than what I expected."
WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes, we made the top 16."

#51 WAYNE DILLON, Solo soprano.
BEST SHOW: "Nationals!!!"
WORST SHOW: "Manatowac, June."
ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert."
OPINION OF THIS YEAR: "OK but not as great as it should be."
MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "In Brantford getting my uniform out of Bill Pullin's car at the last minute, almost when the corps was ready to go on the field."
OTHER COMMENTS: "The rifle line was terrific this year!"



#47...CALVIN JOHANSSON: BEST AND WORST SHOW THIS YEAR: "I hesitate to make such value judgements about something as difficult as this. Some of my best shows were also my worst and visa versa. In essence, all of the shows were my best and worst at the same time." Enjoyed Playing: "THE JUDY GARLAND MEDLEY." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S DRILL: "Excellent! The best I ever marched!" MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Getting my hair cut twice." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes, because of the improvement over previous years."

#48. MIKE GRIMES, 2nd-Soprano: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda, because we finally broke 80." WORST: "Racine, on that first tour." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Indian Lady." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S DRILL: "Fantastic!!" WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes, because we did so well with most of the members of the corps being Rookies."

"Bubbles."

#65: RICK JEMMETT
BEST SHOW: "Nationals."
FAVOURITE NUMBER: "Indian Lady."
WORST: "Welland."
NICKNAME: "Bubbles."

#66 DON McDONALD, Bass Drums: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda, because I was in a perfect relaxed condition..." DID NOT LIKE: "Beautiful People" number (last year's music). MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Striptease bar in Manitowac, then going swimming at the afterwards." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "...Yes, very successful. Like two years of work into one!" Nickname: "Mac!" COMMENTS: "I think '76 will be twice as successful as this past year."

#70 STEPHEN SHIMSKI, Bass Drums: BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda, because of the drum line talk before the show." WORST SHOW: "Racine...rotten judging!" ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Staying with 'Chunk King Ryan' at the Sheridan at DCI's." #75 PETER PRICE, Bass Drum: BEST AND WORST SHOW OF THE YEAR: "Jaws was easily the best Show, but then I didn't get out to too many show because of drum corps activity on the bass drums." WORST SHOW: "The worst show, in my opinion, had to be 'Starlost'. This was a cheap TV show on Channel 11 with the guy from 2001." I ENJOYED PLAYING: "#7, the Concert." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "Good, because I liked it." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Having Don McDonald and Rick Brown on the same line this summer, and living!" NICKNAME: Yes. "Menanderfoll Gord." OTHER COMMENTS: "I would like to thank Gord Robinson for those nifty Corps green baseball caps. They sure kept the sun out of my bloodshot eyes. The crests on the front were neat too."





#60 RICK WIGLE, Snare: THE BEST SHOW: "North Tonna, the judges were nt ticking." WORST: "Racine!!" ENJOYED PLAYING: "Soulero." OVERALL OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "I'd like to see it from the stands." #82 MIKE O'CONNOR: Snare! BEST & WORST SHOW: "I always do a perfect show!" ENJOYED PLAYING: The drum solo!" MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Finding out how great I am."

#77. KEN BAIN, Snare.
No comments received at time of publication.

#77 BRUCE THOMAS: Snare: Best & Worst Shows this year: "They were all good." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Indian Lady!" NICKNAME: "Horse!"



#84 SHAWN WATT: Snare: BEST SHOW: "North Tonnawanda, because it was right on." WORST SHOW: "For myself, the Toledo night Generally great but a boring OTL." THIS YEARS SHOW DRILL: "The corps parties." NICKNAME: "Twatt."



RICK BROWN, Bass Drum Section: "No comments without my lawyer."
#79: STEPHEN O'CONNOR, Bass Drum: BEST SHOW: "North Tonnawanda."
 ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert." OPION OF THIS YEARS SHOW: "Good." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR?
 "Yes, because we did good at DCI's." NICKNAME: "Oakie."



#83: THOMAS SAMS, Cymbals: BEST SHOW: "North Tonnawanda, because the corps had the feeling we were going to win." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Rolling stone." OPINION OF THIS YEARS SHOW: "It was OK from the bottom, but I didn't see it from a high view." NICKNAME: "Sambo." OTHER COMMENTS: "I think the corps is doing good since I joined and I think that is all because of the Director."

#78: KEVIN O'CONNOR, Cymbals: BEST SHOW: "North Tonna. The drums were excellent."
 WORST SHOW: "DCI Prelims. The drums were rotten!" ENJOYED PLAYING: "Off the line!"
 WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes. The instructors were satisfied with us." NICKNAME: "Oakie."
 OTHER COMMENTS: "I plan on staying next year and I am happy with the corps, and I think they did very well and I can't wait till next year. I enjoyed the tours the most and the parades the least."



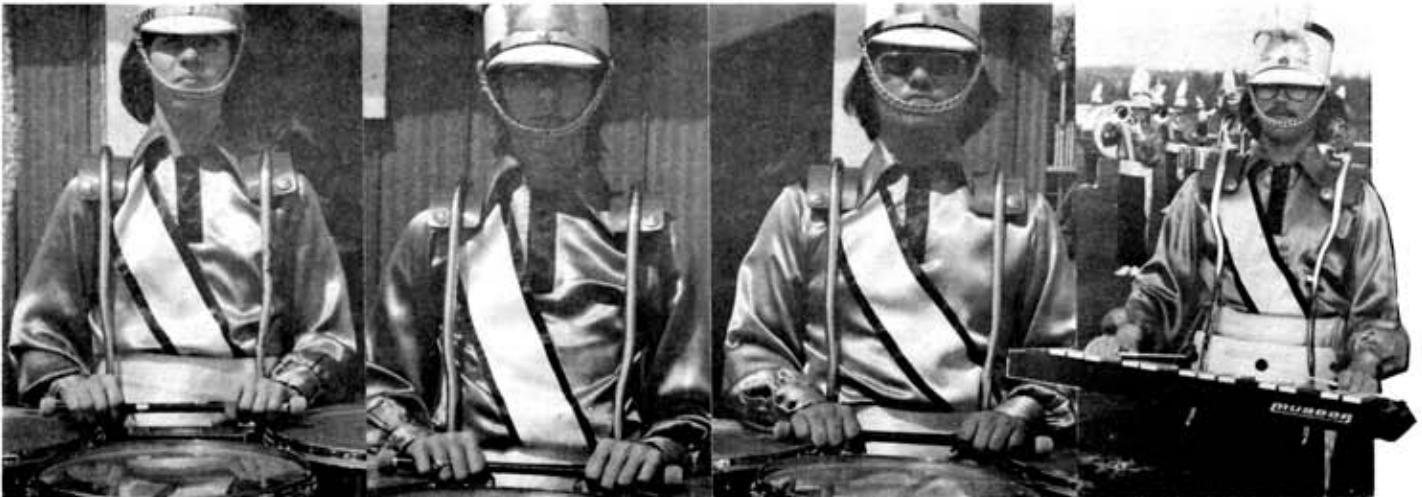
#71: RAY SKYVINGTON: BEST SHOW: "Welland."
 "Soulero." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "The Manitowac strip joint!" ENJOYED PLAYING:
 SUCCESSFUL? "It was successful as a building year but we d-dn't win any titles!"
 WORST: "DCI's" WAS THIS YEAR

#73: MARTY McVEIGH: Triples:
 BEST SHOW: "York Stadium because this was the first "0" tenth show ever done by the Optimist triple line." WORST SHOW: "Ajax, because Irvine marched with St. John's triples." ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert." THIS YEARS FIELD SHOW: "Entertaining and more exciting than other years." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Waking up in a squash court in Wisconsin." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR: "Yes, it was far more organized."

#95: JIM KANE:
 BEST SHOW: "Nationals!" WORST SHOW: "Racine." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Getting beat by Precisionnaires at the DCI's" FAVOURITE NUMBER: "Concert."

#80: MITCH GOTO:
 BEST SHOW: "Borough of York, we got a perfect triple score!" WORST SHOW: "Racine," MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "That perfect show," FAVOURITE NUMBER: "Solero."

#68: ROR SCOTT: Bells... Comments: "Ding! Ding! Ding!!!!!!" Our section (2) were great, as the corps columnists recognized..."



#87 STEVE RYAN: Tymps:

BEST AND WORST SHOW THIS YEAR: "I have had no best or worst, they have all been good! This year the Tymp Line was the Ultimate in Percussion...we are all professionals. I have visions of one day being Drum Major and being even more respected and loved!" ENJOYED PLAYING: "Concert, because I could really let go and FEEL the music." OVERALL OPINION OF THIS YEAR: "Compared with past years everything jells this year, the corps was like one big family. MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "The trip home from Ohio when 7 drummers and myself were killed." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR: "By all means, once again the Optimists are the spotlight." NICKNAME: "Sexual Superman." (natural talent.) OTHER COMMENTS: "We could go even higher if we really had a drum and bugle corps in '76 instead of a horn line and a drum line, and too much blame was put on the guard this year. LETS GET TOGETHER IN '76!!!"

#81 PHIL MORIN: Tymps:

BEST SHOW: "All of 'em." WORST: "Chunks across the border!" ENJOYED PLAYING: "Street Beat!" MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Duncan Green. He made the tymp line!" WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "No, because Morowitz made tymp too!" NICKNAME: "Sir!" OTHER COMMENTS: "Morowitz should have never left the Cadets!" #88: RICHARD MORAWIETZ: Tymps! Misc....a wipeout!" ENJOYED PLAYING: "The Off-the-line." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "The music was good and I liked doing the show."



#61: DUNCAN GREEN: Tymps. BEST SHOW & WORST: "North Tonawanda was the best; never had a bad show. ENJOYED PLAYIN' & "Beautiful People." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Meeting Phil Morin." MOST

#64: RANDY COCHRANE: Tymps.

BEST & WORST SHOWS: "Best, North Tonna...Worst, DCI Prelims. and everyone knows the reasons." **ENJOYED PLAYING:** "Indian Lady." **OPINION OF THIS YEARS FIELD SHOW:** "An excellant step forward...a great improvement over any of the shows we've played in the past 5 years." **WAS THIS YEAR SUCCESSFUL?** "Yes, because bhe corps became competitive in the US of A." **NICKNAME:** "Chi." **OTHER COMMENTS:** "With the addition of more people and some new instructors your corps should have the best year in '76, ever!"



#96: STEVE DELINE, Nationals!"

BEST SHOW: "Borough of York...we beat Okies again." **ENJOYED PLAYING:** "The-Off-The-Line." **MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING:** "Ask Cheryl." **OTHER COMMENTS:** "Although I joined the corps in the mid-season, I have been able to make new friends as well as realizing the competitive aspect of drum corps."

#97: EILEEN MacKINNON, Flag.
BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda, Flag."
"I can't decide." **ENJOYED MARCHING TO:** "Indian Lady." **MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING:** "Being held hostage suspended by my running shoe laces, while I was also Corries pillow fights." **NICKNAME:** "Mac."

#98: DALE ANN BURDEN, Flag.

#110: DIANE TENAGLIA, Flag.
WORST SHOW: "Racine." **BEST SHOW:** "North Tonawanda, why I don't know."
ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "The Man That Got Away..." **OPINION OF THIS YEARS FIELD SHOW:** "I loved it, I thought it was sexy." **MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING:** "Finding a 12 ton whale in my uniform bag! What kind of question is this?" **WAS THIS YEAR SUCCESSFUL?** "Yes, cause we get better every year!" **NICKNAME:** "Tenag."

#100 LAURA KING

WORST SHOW: "Brantford." All the rest were about even." **ENJOYED MARCHING TO:** "The Off-the-line." **WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR?** "Yes, we attained most of our goals and proved we were able to come back strong from a bad previous year."



#106: CARIN CHADDOCK

BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda." WORST: "That first tour in Wisconsin. ENJOYED PLAYING: "The bump and grind number at the end." OTHER COMMENTS: "I can't understand why some of the corps should be disappointed about our standing at DCI's. We did a lot better and accomplished more during this year than we ever thought possible."

#109:

#109: WYNN ANN HANLON

BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda." WORST SHOW: "Toledo, because it was my first contest." ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "Beautiful People." OPINION OF FIELD SHOW: "Music and drill matched well and it was very entertaining." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Six drummers walking into our hotel room at DCI's."

#101: SUE SKLAR, Lazer Squad.
WORST SHOW: "Racine." BEST: "North Tonawanda."
ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "Solero." NICKNAME: "J.S.S."

#108: BARB CARDWELL, Flag.
BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda...everybody turned on!"
WORST SHOW: "DCI. No feeling on the field, everyone seemed dead."

#102: CATHY PARROTTI, Flag.
BEST SHOW: North Tonawanda." WORST: "DCI" ENJOYED MARCHING TO:
"The O.T.L." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S FIELD SHOW: "Great, because we had great instructors."

#104: MARGARET RUELENS, Flag.
BEST SHOW: "The prelims in Toledo, because I was relaxed, calm and thinking clearly." WORST: "Ajax, because it was my first show."
ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "Beautiful People." NICKNAME: "Chippy."
OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "The flag work matches with the music with many distinct music cues in the show." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR?" Yes. For a rebuilding year we exceeded all the goals I thought possible."

#105 BERRALETTE SCHIEBEL, Flag.
BEST SHOW: "The exhibition show we did at Centennial Stadium for the Cadet-Lancers because there was no tension." WORST SHOW: "The DCI's because every little mistake seemed so big because this show was one of the ones we worked for all year." MOST ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "The Man That Got Away." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes. To me the Optimists will always have a successful year." OTHER COMMENTS: "Being an Optimist has made me feel very proud. This year was my last year with the corps and I'm really going to miss the members, the hard work, the laughs and the togetherness. Optimists will always be my corps!"



#121: KAREN FOX

ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "The drum solo." OPINION OF THIS YEARS SHOW:
"Great, everyone had their heads into it." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING:
"Running off the field in Waterloo."

#120 TAMI FISHER.

#107: LORETTA MOORE, Flag.

BEST & WORST SHOWS: "Toledo was the best, we were determined to win. Ajax was the worst, we needed more time." ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "The Man That Got Away." OPINION OF THIS YEARS SHOW: "The field show matches perfectly with the music." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Sherry running off the contest field in Waterloo in June." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes, we've come a long way since last year in rebuilding the corps." NICKNAME: "Toad or Gina."

#129: LORRAINE PRICE, Flag.
BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda because the guard did one of their best shows here."
WORST: "Columbus." ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "The Man That Got Away." NICKNAME: "Bass."
OPINION OF THIS YEARS SHOW: "A good show but far from perfected. Next year should prove a lot better and I hope be at the DCI Finals in uniform which will be excellent."

#112: CHRISTINE FAIRBROTHER, Flag.
BEST SHOW: "North Tonawanda. We were ready for that show for some reason."
WORST SHOW: "Brantford. I didn't have a clue what I was doing. I had learnt the show in a two run through."
THIS YEARS SHOW: "I think it was a very good show but with a couple more months practice it could have been excellent."
MUSIC ENJOYED: "Concert, Indian Lady." OPINION OF Michigan on a ferry after Tour One."
MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Crossing Lake

#113: ROBIN GILDNER, Lazor Squad.

BEST SHOW: "Borough of York." WORST: "Cleveland." ENJOYED PLAYING: "The Finale, the sexy part." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Fellow Lazor exits from the field in Waterloo just before the first gun." NICKNAME: "Tweety Bird." OTHER COMMENTS: "George did a good job on my thing."



#117 VALERIE LORD, Flag.
WORST SHOW: "The Argo football game because we just learned the rest of the concert that day." BEST: "North Tonnawanda." BEST NUMBER: "The drum solo."

MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Beating the Oakies for the first time."



#129 LORRAINE PRICE, Flag.

#118 CAROL GUNTHER, Flag.
WORST SHOW: "The Argo football game." BEST: "The first contest on the last tour." NUMBERS LIKED: "The drum solo and The Man That Got Away."

MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Meeting Sue Bowles for the first time." OTHER COMMENTS: "The Green is great and next year will be greater."



#119 JANICE PARROTT, Flag.
BEST & WORST SHOW: "The Etobicoke Show, Aug. 20th."

#125 CATHY PARROTT, Flag.

#122: CHERYL TASKER, Flag.
NUMBER I ENJOYED: "Solero."



#126 BRENDA TASKER, Flag.

#128 MARIE WATSON, Flag.
WORST SHOW: "Toledo, because my flag was wet and it was in my face all through the show." BEST SHOW: "North Tonnawanda." ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "Solero." OPINION OF THIS YEAR'S SHOW: "The Best because you can really get into the music."

#111 JANICE ARSENAULT, Rifle.

#123: JODI MARTIN, Rifle.
WORST SHOW: "Toledo Prelims." BEST: "Nationals." ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "Beautiful People." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "Doing the dance at the end of the show."

#130: LOUANNE NIMAN, Flag.
BEST SHOW: "North Tonnawanda." WORST: Welland, because it was my first contest." MUSIC ENJOYED: "Rainbow." OPINION OF THIS YEARS SHOW: "It was good but I liked last years music best." WAS THIS A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? "Yes, for my first year."

#7: RITA JOHNSON, Bugle.



#114 DEBBIE MILLER, Lazor Squad.
 BEST SHOW: "Porter Stadium, York. Loved beating the Oakies just as they left on their tour." WORST: "DCI's. Not allowed to give excuses." ENJOYED MARCHING TO: "The Finale, Rainbow." MOST BIZARRE HAPPENING: "The fastest gun in Toronto makes a quick and spectacular exit at Seagram Stadium."

#115 KAREN MARTEL



#124 JOAN O'BRIEN
 #103 SUE BARRETT





14th. Annual Awards Banquet



by Peter Price

The West-end Boys (Yea!) arrived at the banquet scene about seven o'clock. I was kept occupied on the way there writing my speech for the evening and didn't realize that we had driven 15 minutes out of our way thanks to a Don Daher map.

There were a handful of corps members gathered around in groups, with the 'of age' members making a mad dash to the bar with a good supply of tickets. At first I thought I was in the wrong place because I wasn't used to seeing the other corps members out of blue jeans, T-shirts and football jerseys and in suits, ties and dresses and their hair neatly messed...I felt as though the animals I knew had somehow become civilized that was to last through the dinner.

Just before we sat down at about 7:35 everyone was walking around and discussing last season's effort and the season coming up. When we were all finally seated, Gord Robinson, the Master of Ceremonies and the comedian for the evening asked us to stand for Grace and the "Toasts." We then proceeded to the buffet for a great dinner of cold cuts, salads, spare ribs and meat balls, salmon, potatoe salad etc. The horn line once again demonstrated that they had hollow legs and tried to fill them with great speed and gusto; while the drum line, with their impeccable good manners, behaved like the gentlemen they always are...the guard was dusted to the rear of the line...

Photos:
Doug MacKenzie, Corps Director presents his first "state of the Corps" message.
Rex Martin presents a Rookie Pin to Ron Sokoll.

Photos:
Right--Lord Athol Layton at the
1968 Shriners International
Competition.
Below---He speaks to the corps
about the "International."



Dave MacKinnon presents Bruce
Thomas with his GCC Certificate Award
for good uniform theft.



Josephine Petek announces Shaun Watt as the 1975 "Rookie Of The Year".



After enjoying an excellent meal, everyone sat back over coffee while Gord Robinson proceeded with the ceremony.

He first introduced the Head Table, which I understand is getting bigger every year, then asked Mr. Jemmett (Bud) to do the honours of introducing our Guest Speaker of the evening, Lord Athol Layton. As part of his opening remarks, Mr. Layton spoke about his roll as a participant in drum corps shows in the 60's as associated with the famous Shriner's contests in Toronto. I think many of the corps members missed this part of his speech because we were too busy guessing his height and weight... (he looked about 6' 11 and 5' wide!) He was a real gentleman and a very interesting speaker with the outside form of a neanderthal man with the inside understanding of a really decent guy. He told of his earlier days in Australia and travelling the far East and how he first got involved in wrestling. Near the conclusion of his talk he mentioned the upcoming '76 season and mentioned how he would like to get more involved with drum corps promotion in the future. I hope we see more of him around the scene next year.

Next on the agenda was thanking the Guest Speaker, which was my big debut! After nervously stumbling through the "thanks" and presentation to Lord Athol, I went back to my table and sat down on a bun that had mysteriously found its way to my chair. Then, Mr. Watt introduced the President of our sponsoring Club, Mr. Gianna, who reviewed a few activities about the Club, invited those over 21, who were not playing members of the corps

now, to consider being members. Many members of the Club now are, or were, marching members of the Corps. He then presented the Corps Membership rings, and at this point the rank-and-file members of the corps, seemed to come alive. This year corps rings were presented to the Drum Major, Mike Williams, and Dave Barrett, Wayne Dillon, Marty McVeigh, Cheryl Miller, Paul McCusker, Ray Skyvington, Chris White and Randal Wyse.

Immediately after this presentation, our Fearless Leader, Doug MacKenzie spoke to his corps about last season and how successful it was and the changes he plans to make in '76. In connection with this, three things he mentioned which caused quite a discussion among the members were, he expected more exposure to the big American corps in '76, we were going to beat the Blue Band more often, and new uniforms were high on the agenda for '76.

Next, and much to the delight of the "over 21s", Gord Robinson brought back the famous '21 steins'. These were presented to Bernadette and Barry (Ace-Civil-War-Boot-Card-Player) Woods, Calvin Johansson and Mighty McCusker.

Now it was the Corps Members turn to make a presentation, and soloist George Nasello pushed his spaghetti and meat balls aside for a moment, and on behalf of the rest of the corps presented Mr. Mrs Score with an engraved silver service tray for their hard work on the Booster table over the years.

Next the CDCA President, John Robins, was to be introduced to make a few remarks, with Gord Robinson reminding the corps how much they "loved" the CDCA. Mr. Robins wasn't there but the CDCA



Alan Gillies receives "The Most Improved Bugler Of The Year" Award from the 1974 winner, Dave MacKinnon.



Eileen MacKinnon receives the "Guard Of The Year" trophy from Laura King.

Secretary-Treasurer was, and Mr. Al Tierney, a former President of our Optimist Club, made a very good "off-the-cuff" speech congratulating the corps on their fine 1975 season just completed and he looked forward to seeing the corps place in the 'top 12' at DCI's in '76.

Mr. Rex Martin, the President of our Booster Club next took a moment to present to Mr. MacKenzie on behalf of the Club, a cheque for \$1,500 they raised over the past few months through the rummage sale, dance etc. and reminded the corps how proud the Booster Club was of the corps performances over the '75 season. Mr. Martin also presented the Rookie Pins to the 36 or more Rookies this year, again courtesy of Mr. Robinson. To save time, this was done a little later in the program when the 1975 Membership certificates were handed out.

Now a bit of humour was in line when in honour of the GCC 15th Anniversary this year, the first GCC "Awards of Merit" were presented to some of the more active 1975 staff, Ray Bassett, Dave MacKinnon

Vern Johansson and Paul McCusker and the staff, in turn presented to certain corps members some special awards...to "Bruce Thomas" of the snare line, "The Steal-Your-Uniform-Two-Minutes-Before DCI-Prelims" Award Certificate...to Debbie Miller the "I-Don't Bitch-At-all" Award...to Bugle Instructor Pete Byrne, "The-Once-In-A-Lifetime-Drum-Major" Award for his outstanding appearance in Brantford this past year and last, but not least, to the Corps Director, Mr. MacKenzie for "THIS-IS-MY-LAST-YEAR!!" Award Certificate.

One of the unexpected highlights of the evening was "The GCC Most Dedicated Corpsman Award" as presented by Dave MacKinnon to Frank Unbehauen of the soprano section, who joined the Crusaders midsummer. The surprise was that Frank turned up in person to accept the award....

Now, on to the serious highlights of the evening...the presentations of the corps



Dave MacKinnon is
 cogratulated by Drum Major
 Mike Arsenault as the
 1975 "Corpsman Of The Year."

trophies of the Year...The Rookie of the Year was presented by last year's winner, Josephine Petek to snare drummer Shaun Watt. Shaun was a former member of the famous Burlington Teen Tour Band where he moved backwards from a band to the Optimists snare line.

Guard Captain Laura King next presented the top Guard Award to a first year corps member, Eileen MacKinnon (no relation to Dave of Hamilton) and as a good observant reporter I predict that the next award she will win will be "The Penthouse Pet Of The Year" Award.

The Derek Branton "Most Improved Bugler Award" went to soprano Alan Gillies. As this Award is traditionally chosen by the bugle instructor, Alan was as surprised as everyone else was, when his name was announced by last year's winner, Dave MacKinnon.

Finally, the Corpsman-of-the-Year Award, went to Dave MacKinnon of the mellophone section. This didn't come as a great surprise because I expect most of the corps voted for Dave.

To raise the first of thousands of dollars for new uniforms, Gord Robinson announced a \$100.00 hamper of perfume and junk (from Elizabeth Arden) to be drawn that evening from \$1.00 tickets as sold by members of the girl's guard. This proved very successful and by the end of the evening well over \$100. was raised. Berradette Schiebel of the guard won this prize. Knowing Bernadette she doesn't need Elizabeth Arden so I undersatand she may be passing it on to boyfriend Barry Woods who will be reselling it to pay off his

Philadelphia gambling debts.

After a 15 minute intermission the corps film of "Nationals '75" was screened again and proved to be as popular as ever.

The rest of the evening was pretty decent with many corps members feeling no pain and the rest of them out to lunch. They danced the early ending night away at this year's Banquet. For the author this was a great evening considering this was my very first Optimist Banquet and the only complaint that I generally heard from the corps members was that the evening ended too early...what a letdown. ...But good showbusiness dictates "leave em hanging for more..." If this is any indication of the corps of '76 we'll be flighing through next year with hardly any problems at all!!!



"ON TO '76..."

What about next year?

The Executive and members of the corps got part of their answer late in September on a Sunday morning when most of the corps members and a good number of guests interested in joining the Optimists arrived at the Rameses Shrine building on the Lakeshore. Some of the Optimist 1976 programme was outlined to those present, the Executive and Instruction staff for 1976 was introduced and they then met with their sections of the corps. Before everyone went upstairs for refreshments the 1975 sound and colour film of the corps at Nationals '75 was screened, much to the delight of most of the members present who, up to now, didn't realize a film of the corps was made that memorable night.

May we take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the corps who first turned up at this meeting and the many others who have joined since. May 1976 be even better than 1975. We know you'll help make it so.



"Nationals '75"



