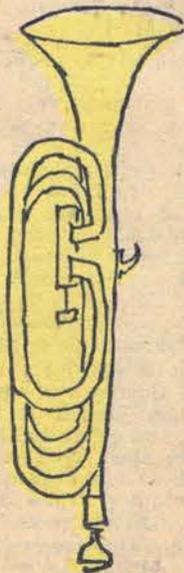
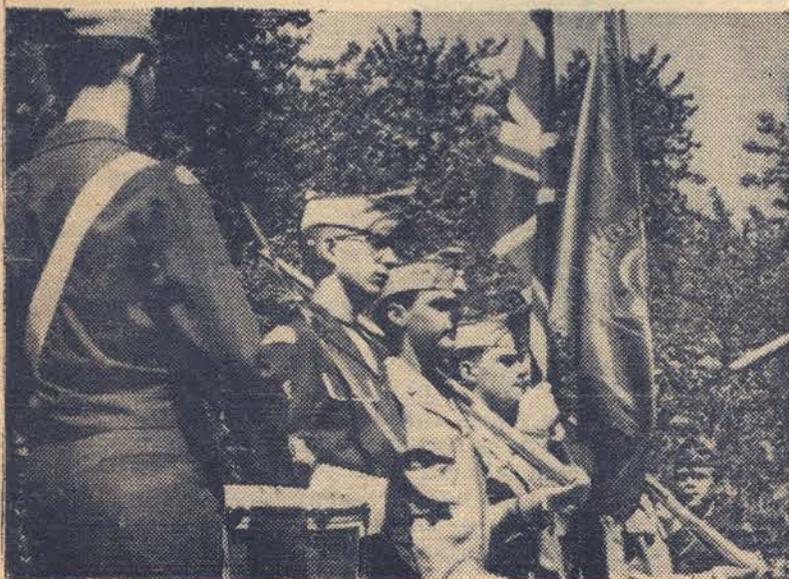


# Youth

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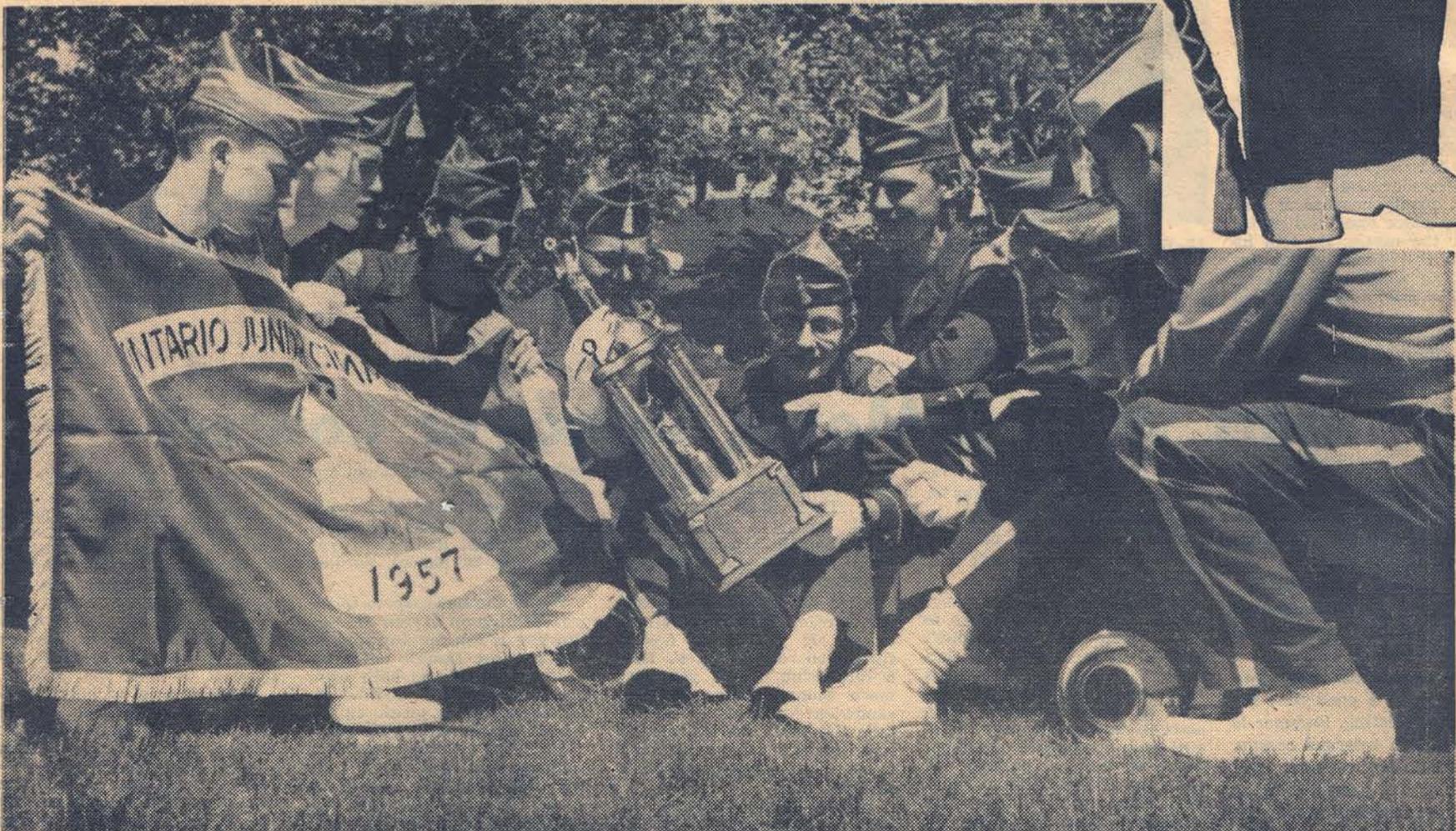


## **BANDSMEN** on **PARADE**

—See Page 11



A color party carrying flags, swords and rifles adds brisk color to the Opti-Corps for parade appearances. Forty members, all under 21, make up the trumpet band.



Drum Major Phil Tachauer (top), who plays both drum and trumpet, leads the corps on parade appearances. His uniform and baton lend color and interest to bandsmen. Winners of the junior championship trumpet band contest will be given flag and trophy, gift of Opti-Corps.

## Opti-Corps of Toronto

# The Accent Is on White Shoe Polish When Young Trumpeters Go on Parade

## Six Top Bands Compete For Championship Title

BY KAY KRITZWISER

When 40 young members of the Optimist Club of Toronto Trumpet Band turn out full strength on parade, the white shoe polish in their respective homes goes down like this . . . bzzzzt!

The bandmen, all under 21 and averaging 16, wear white bucks. It takes no fewer than three coats of polish to bring them up to parade requirements.

Apart from immaculate shoes, other parts of the uniform must be correct. Arm creases in gold jackets must appear knife-sharp. Brass buttons must shine. Wedge caps must be worn, dead on, just so. Sideburns are unthinkable, of course, and no ducktailed hairline may touch a collar.

This disciplined regard for appearance on parade is one reason why the trumpet band, formed little more than two years ago, claims championship trophies.

Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Toronto (Downtown Club) the players have lifted shining trumpets to victory. At Merriton in 1956, they won the Canadian Junior Novice championship. They placed first in the Welland Chamber of Commerce parade last year, and third in the Maid of the Mist Festival at Niagara Falls, N.Y.

In April, they were third in the Parade of Champions held in Stouffville. But what made the boys tootle their happiest notes that day was the special trophy awarded the band having made the most progress to date.

Now new challenges await



Member of the Optimist Club of Toronto (Downtown Club), Alan Baggs is business manager for the trumpet band. The Optimist Club is an international boys' service club with a program dedicated to boys' interests.

the Opti-Corps, shortened version of the band's official title.

On July 6, the white-gloved hands of the bandmen will lift their trumpets high to launch Ontario's first annual junior championship trumpet band contest. The contest is sponsored by the Optimist Club. The event will run off at 7:30 p.m. at the East York Memorial Stadium.

Six top bands of Ontario will compete for the provincial title. They include Leaside Lions, 180th Sky Raiders, Danforth Crusaders, Preston Scout House, Western Technical School Trumpet Band, and Grantham Township Police Boys' Band.

The six bands will try for cash awards and trophies presented by the Optimist Club and a provincial flag will be awarded to the winner.

An international flavor will be added to the evening in the exhibition by St. Joseph's bandmen of Batavia, N.Y. The band holds the New York State Veterans of Foreign Wars championship. It will be accompanied by an all-girl color guard.

The Opti-Corps, as host band will not compete for the provincial title. But bandmen will watch with critical interest as competing bands try for the title in march and manoeuvre routines in which the Opti-Corps as a band excels.

This particular test requires a minimum of 13 minutes and a maximum of 15 minutes of marching and manoeuvring to band arrangements.

The Opti-Corps has its own color party. Bandmen march with flags, swords and rifles their smart formations adding an extra fillip.

The corps, with its balance of drum and trumpet is led or field by Drum Major Phil Tachauer.

Phil, Toronto-born, has played drums since he was nine and divides his interest now between drum and trumpet. Out of his drum major's uniform with the tall plumed helmet he is on the engineering staff of a construction company.

The bandmen turn out for practice three times a week, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sundays. In the summer they drill on the CNE grounds. In the winter, they practice at Jarvis Junior Vocational School.

Drum instruction is given by Don McVicar. Rolly Formica directs the trumpeters. Musical arrangements are written by Drum Sergeant Harry Clark.

Staunchest band supporter is a man who admits he does not know one note from another. He is Alan Baggs, the band's business manager. "I've been interested in boys' work for years," he explains. Mr. Baggs is a member of the Optimist Club, which is an international boys' service club.

Saturday's championship competition is under the direction of the Canadian Bugle and Trumpet Band Association.

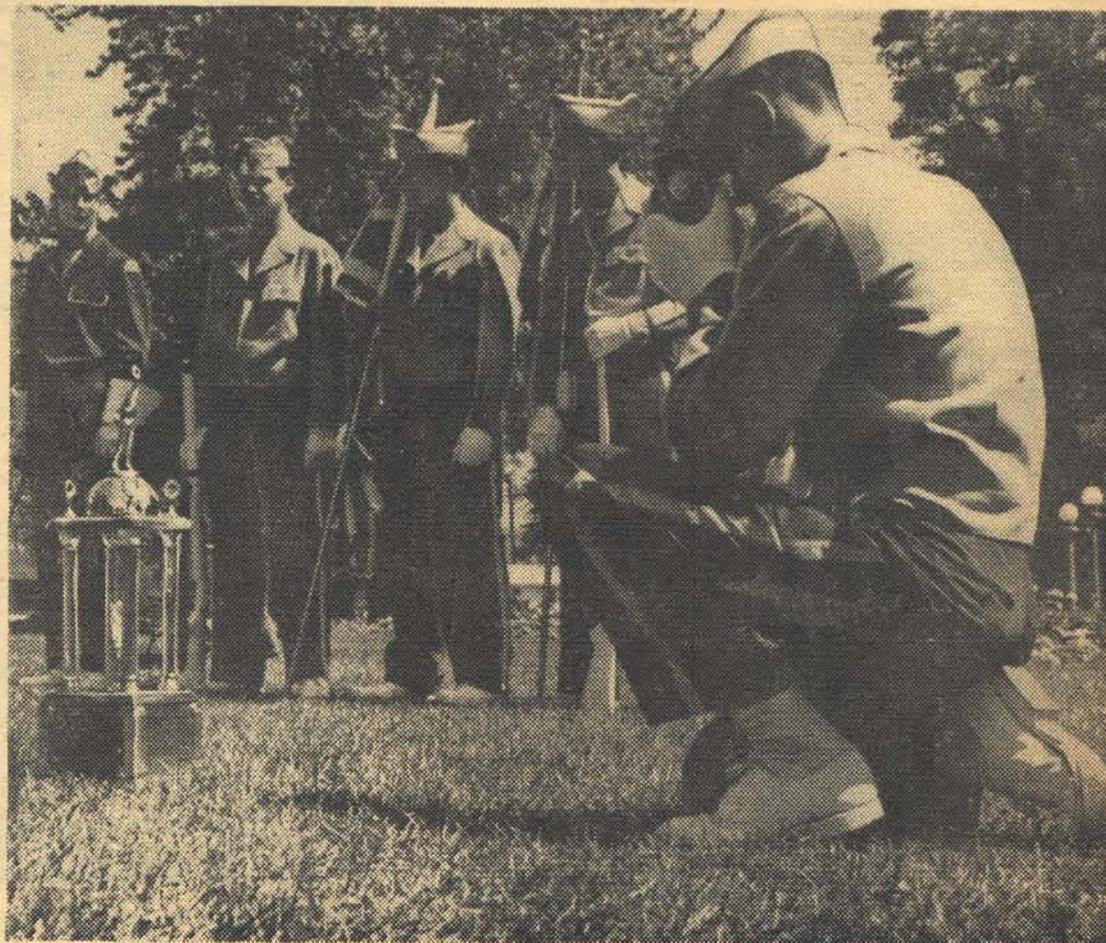


Trumpeters of the Optimist Club of Toronto Trumpet Band lift their instruments high in preparation for the first annual junior championship trumpet band contest to be held next Saturday. Known as the Opti-Corps, the band will sponsor the evening event.

# PRIZES REWARD BANDS



Precision is a big factor with parade appearances for the Opti-Corps. Marching and manoeuvring require long hours of rehearsal, young trumpeters discover.



At ease, during rehearsal, young bandsmen pose for an informal picture. The Opti-Corps at present holds the Canadian Junior Novice Championship.