

OPTIMISTS WIN NATIONALS! FOURTH STRAIGHT YEAR!!!



Phillipsburg Parade, May 27

WATERLOO, Ont. Sept. 9, 1961– An estimated crowd of 10 thousand packed Seagram Stadium here tonight for the closing events of the 1961 Canadian Drum Corps Championships.

At an electrifying retreat ceremony the results of the hotly contested battle for the Junior "A" title were announced as follows: GRANTHAM 76.95; DE LA SALLE 83.50 and OPTIMISTS 83.55, These results gave an accurate account of how close the top three Junior Corps in Canada competed on the field earlier in the evening.

In the Senior "A" Division the GUELPH ROYALAIRES held the Senior "A" title with a score of 86.35....TORONTO AMBASSADORS were second with a score of 83.275..NIAGARA third with 82.2 and JESTERS fourth with 73.3

PASSING OBSERVATIONS during the day, the "Corridor of Confusion" under the main stands as each Jr. Corps surged through the crowd trying to make the inspection line without losing part of a uniform...Sr. units fortunate to have barriers put up and inspection held under the stands ...rumours flying as to why SCOUT HOUSE wasn't there...ST. JOHN'S FIRST AID the busiest spot under the stands.... SUNHILL RECORDS booth selling Canadian labels 2 to 1 on Fleetwood ...and completely selling out of DEL and OPTIMIST buttons...DON YEAMAN'S new Optimists Truck-for-a-day...a conference of writers and P.R. types seen in knit little group in Confusion Corridor---BOB MANNHARDT, KEN WHITTINGTON, PAT NEWMAN, SAM BERDAN, DON DABER . , . Jim McKonkey wowing the crowd as AMBASSADOR'S Drum Major-...DON CHISHOLM's close inspection of the grass....NORM FACH's large white autographed Stetson...DEL'S magnificent show to start the high score of 83 for OPTIMISTS to aim at.... CLARE REID's dramatic announcing of the scores at retreat...OPTIMISTS hot dogs for dinner with no time for a downtown lunch after a morning drill on a rock-and-roll field...DEL singing a song dedicated to the Optimists as they marched on the line for the evening finals... SUNHILL'S recording director growing grey with visions of children tripping over the wires leading to that set of high mikes on that precarious pole....the tabulators trying to concentrate with their table next to Confusion Corridor...BERN BEER drawing last off the line for Optimists....NIAGARA MILITAIRES utilizing small folding chairs to sit down during RETREAT (tired boys???)... KAVALIERS BUCKET BOY WEARING FUR COAT of the 1920's as a psychological weapon against the afternoon heat... Optimists Instructors BARRY BELL and DOUG MCPHAIL joining the Corps' horn line as they march off retreat ... (your shorts would look better black with a white stripe, Doug.).... beautiful bow of awardwinning Majorette wowing the crowd and Chief Judge... WARREN BERGER weak and ill weaving on the starting line - but completing the show and march-past... BRIAN WILLIAM'S lost leg-rest in "IN THE MOOD" and fast reclip as he was being ticked !!!....TRAFALGAR PATROLMEN winning the Jr. "B" title completing the day for Optimist Instructors IVOR BRAMLEY, RON PROKOP, AL MORRISON..... likewise PORT CREDIT SAINTS taking the Sr. "B" brought smiles to instructors BRIAN WILLIAMS and JOE GIANNA...Congratulations!!!! ...HAMILTON OPTIMISTS smart new uniform shown first time M&M (is that right Donn???) ... JR. CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY in the Green washing machine in Optimists' dressing room and left behind as everyone rushes to the Optimists YEAR END PARTY...Is the trophy still there, Moe???....Optimists midnight bus led down winding back roads by DON DABER to the site of the party...that hilltop view of the Pavilion in the valley reflected in the jet-black pool...BARRY BELL thrown into this pool a 1/2 hour later ... his insistence on making a speech in the waist-deep water, declaring it was wet... cars arriving a 1/2 hour late complaining this was a hellof-a-place to find even with a map!!! Mr. Bagg's surprise birthday cake at the party...FRANK ROOD showing how it's cut....arrival of the PATROLMEN bus...added a bit of dancing.... Optimists' bus leaving the party at 2:30 with the driver insisting he knew a shortcut to Highway 401 by cutting through Preston at 3AM.