



Profile of the **CORPS!** BY GENE CHEPSWICK

SADIE-MAU-MAU Award as the “Most colourfully dressed” and at this time expected to meet Sadie Mau Mau as Joe doesn't go steady, but he's looking. That is why he attends Central Commerce \ High School which has 1500 girls, 400 boys, and Joe. The real reason for going to this school is because he wants to be a Business Administrator (so he says) but I can remember being told, “the girl I want --- she has to be beautiful, gorgeous, a debutante, have money and a car”. --- Joe, obviously, does not have a car. One of his good habits, besides being a great Corps member, is that he is our own Fashion Plate; being a real gone nut for clothes and expensive things: such as women, women, and women. Next issue we are considering a feature on “the Many Loves of Joe Palanica.”



Richard Robida, Ronn Prokop, Fred Lombard and Joe Palanica

Montreal as an exchange clerk. Unfortunately, this is his last year with the Corps but rumours, are that Jesters will have --- guess who? --- on the line in '64 .

RONN PROKOP: Ever since his introduction to a sea cadet band in 1957 and drum corps the following year, Ronn Prokop has been known as “Mr. Energy”. This very active individual joined Scout House as a snare drummer in '58 and stayed with this till the fall of 1959, when he came to the Optimists. “I left Scout House at 5 one evening and was at an Optimists rehearsal at 7” --- he says. In those early days, Ronn played a part in the birth of The Conqueror, then The Hamilton Cadets, when he took the position of Drum Major at a few events of this young Corps. Now in 1963, with drumming and corps as advanced as they are he actually finds the time to actively instruct, hold a good job with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department and also head a folk singing group known as The Waysiders. This, plus the fact that he likes jazz and symphonies, shows his diversified interest in music. At present, Ronn has his heart set on a jaunt to Boston's Berklee College of Music, to attain a Bachelor of Arts in Music and to major in percussion. So, if his energy doesn't run out and all goes well, he should finish off his three remaining years with the Optimists. I hope so --- because in many circles he is rated as one of the best snare drummers in Canada.

FRED LOMBARD: At one evening, in the fall months of 1961, a big, blond, barrel-chested, well-groomed individual walked into The Optimists guard. Now, two seasons later, this figure has become a legend, you know, like Wyatt “Urp”! **FRED LOMBARD**, alias Fred Flintstone, Fred the Toad, “Gromitz” (plus a few spicy but censored names) was once a refugee of Malvern Collegiate, where he flexed, his muscles on the gridiron toward the thundering foe. (He says he came to The Corps, to nail a few Judges.) Though still in the guard, he did try bass drum, but the new style collar harness and Freddy's chest, just didn't go together . . . he couldn't see where he was going. So this determined soul hopped from drum line to guard, from guard to drum line, all the while screaming at the top of his lungs --- “C'mon you guys” --- and, as Robin Weatherstone once said, “The darn nearest thing to perpetual motion.” --- that's Fred. Both on and off the field he is a mean-looking specimen . . . and how he snags so many women, I'll never know. Just the same, Fred is a nice guy and everybody likes him . . . even Ol' jellybelly himself (Fred). Too bad this is his last year with the Corps but rumours are that Jesters will have --- guess who? --- on the line next year --- Gromitz!!

JOE PALANICA: Joe came to the Optimists in January of 1962 after 8 years service with St Mary's Drum Corps. This kid blows a sweet horn (every once in a while) --- this horn being first Soprano, of course. On the field he is know as “Mr. Smooooth”. At a January rehearsal, Joe won the

RICHARD ROBIDA: Here is another boy working hard for that pension. In the fall of 1953 Rich started with the Grantham Police Boy's Band and continued with this Corps till the fall of 1961. During part of this time he was a member of “The Conchos” --- Grantham's famed Baritone Trio --- he was member number II. This group was also known as the “Tarzan Trio” . . . they were all big boys and could really throw their weight around! During the summer season of 1962 he was not an active Corps Member, instead he followed the Optimists through their summer schedule and joined the Corps as 2nd baritone in September. This change of corps called for a change of cities, from Merritton to Toronto where he now shares an apartment, better known as “the Cage” with three buddies. Rich, when not with the Corps is with the Bank of