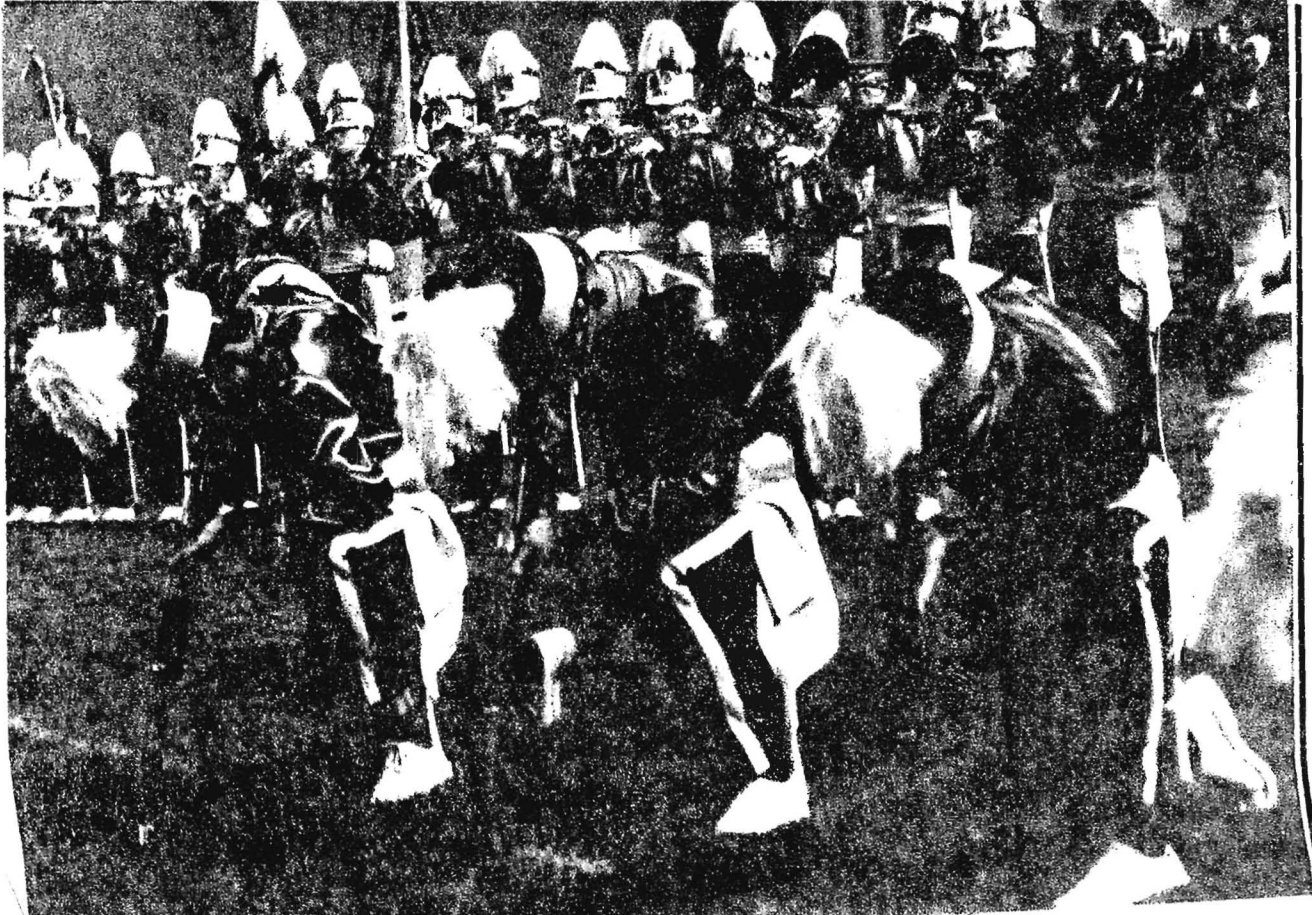
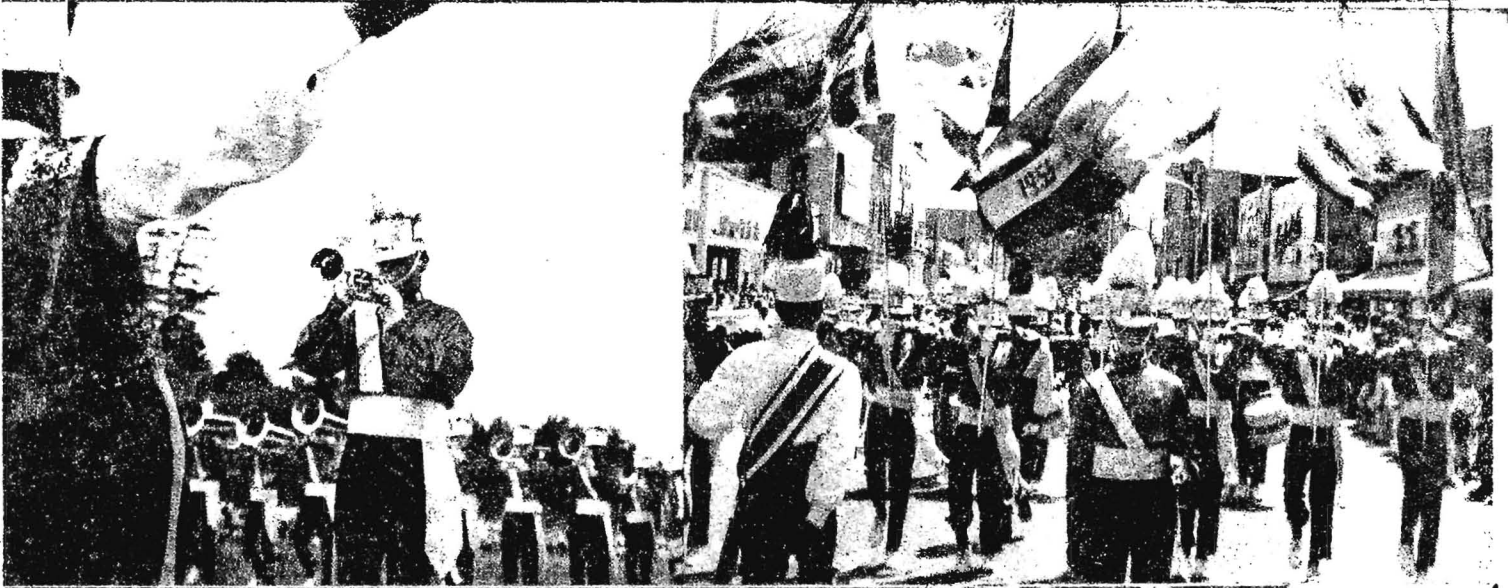


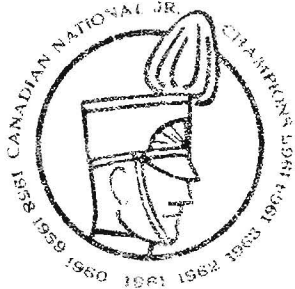
THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS 1966 GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS



Vol. 6 No. 3 20¢



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Toronto Optimists Drum & Bugle Corps*



GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS

the official publication of
THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS
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THE OPTIMISTS, SUITE 302,
205 KEELE STREET, TORONTO 9, Ont.



Vern Johansson,
Drum Major and
Doug MacKenzie,
soprano soloist at
the Shriners'
International, June 17th.

CORPS' SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

Labour Day, Monday, September 5th.....THE CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION CHAMPIONSHIPS. 6:00PM Parade from Princess gates to Dufferin park. 7:00 PM Contest starts.
Corps: Optimists, Del, LaSalle Cadets, York, Chessmen.*****

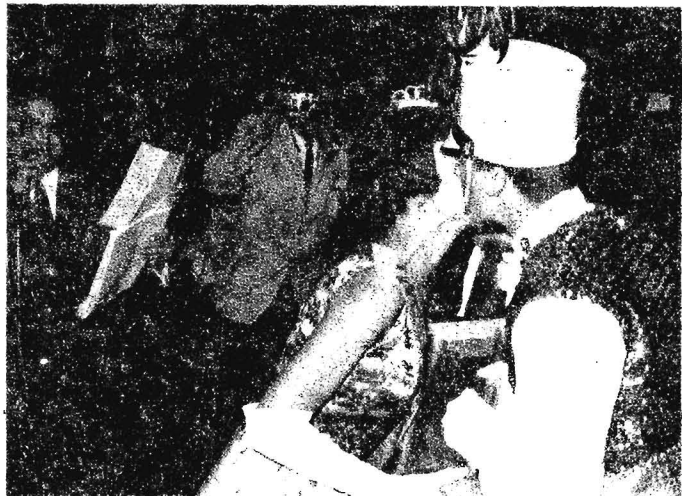
Saturday, September 10th.....Drum Corps Pageant, Civic Stadium, Hamilton, 7:45 PM. Sr. & Jr. contests. SR: Ambassadors, Royalaires, Dutchmen, Commanders; JR: Del, Optimists, Chessmen, York.*****

Saturday, September 17th.....CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Expo Stadium, Montreal. Jr. "A" Prelims begin at 1:30PM. Optimists on the field at 2:40. Evening finals start at 7:00PM.*****

Saturday, September 24th.....Grape Festival, St. Catharines. Parade 10:30AM Afternoon contest.*****



GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS



inside THE Corps!

by George Wright and
Doug Sparkes. (mostly Wright)

...When you last read this column we had exited from the spotlights of the CNE Stadium and next we were on to the Waterloo "BAND" Festival in Kitchener, June 25th.....

The Caravan got lost in the oasis of WATERloo until one of the camels spit in the right direction of Kitchener, our original campsite. The guard was overjoyed when Omar (Jack Roberts) instructed them to set up camp with their new titanium (Sand-storm-proof) tent poles. For the big test we put the corps flags on them and our boy from Barrie, Saudi Arabia (Dave Blevins) was the first to demonstrate that titanium is strong, light and never bends. Meanwhile, Vince

and Frank were showing the rest of the corps how to play, Botcha-balls. Among the players was Sam Nabitch, the captain of the Italian team.

Meanwhile, back in the guard, Bob Christie was digging himself out of bent titanium!.....John Shearer had his first tilden wagon and did a nice job.

After hours of rehearsal on Vince's soccer field we moved on to Victoria's baseball diamond for a 'once-through-dress rehearsal to the cheers (I think it was cheers) of York Lions, waiting to go on next. This was the first time we witnessed ALEX GLOVER in front of the corps...our X Soprano.

The temperature was still 90 degrees when we were given a three hour break before the parade, which led us back to the contest field for the competition. RON KAISER "Goldfinger" drew last again which resulted in another first. Hey, Ron, is Mandy still drumming? I hear she's got the Kaiser 'dog roll' down. It sounds like a good rudiment, or was that just yesterday's bread?

JULY 1st PARADE, NORTH TORONTO: To celebrate Canada's 99th birthday the corps did a double-header, first a parade in North Toronto and then the contest in Port Hope. The parade was a long hot one and as usual the equipment dept had the the cool

(over)

"aid" waiting with ice at the end of the route. After getting out of uniform and into the lunch pail, it was on to Port Hope, and despite the corps going through town and getting lost we did finally meet at the field about the right time. The Chessmen were on part of the field area rehearsing and, I understand there seemed to be some question as to if they were in the contest, regarding confirmations. At the business meeting "Goldfinger" drew last again with the scores as follows....OPTIMISTS 78.2, DEL:71.0, YORK: 70.85 and best D.M., LA SALLE CADETS:66.0 and CHESSMEN: 63.65, ARNPRIOR:54.95.

JULY 2nd WELLAND: "the happy family show"!

JULY 9th., BRANTFORD: "Music In Motion" swigin and swaying in the wind and dust bowl of the baseball field. The results: OPTIMISTS: 78.05, LA SALLE CADETS:71.8, CHESSMEN: 69.1, ANGELS: 52.5 and LES MARQUISES 51.25. For a change, there was a party after the competition in a big hay barn. The party was a real success, so Warburton says.

THE KITCHENER BAND FESTIVAL RESULTS, JUNE 25th...Optimists:82.0 DeLaSalle: 79.3, York:76.9, LaSalle Cadets:68.6 and St Johns:60.5

JULY 16th SARNIA, "CHEMICAL VALLEY": This was the first corps competition with Mighty St.Joes since our meeting in Attica last year. The corps proved its worth by winning this contest by 1.45.

We left the bus terminal at 7:20 AM and, to our amazement arrived in London at 9:30. This gave us an hour and a half for breakfast/lunch; still arriving in Sarnia by 12:30 in time for the afternoon pre contest parade. Just before the parade "Goldfinger" drew again...and last. This really boosted the enthusiasm!

Immediately after the parade we were able to cool off a bit by relaxing and watching Sertomanaires rehearse .

The contest results: ST. JOES:78.4, SERTOMANAIRES:73.95, MARCHING ANGELS:51.65 QUEENSMEN:61.45, GENEVA:66.85, DEL:77.15, OPTIMISTS#82.80.

WED. JULY 20th....This was the Optimists' first football half time show. Yes, thats right. In the nine year history of the Jr.'A' Corps this was the first time we were on a field with other uniforms. Nive to see so many people at Civic Stadium for a change.

The corps did an average show yet the crowd seemed to eat it wight up. Being a non-drum corps crowd they accepted us as a band.

Hey, I'm glad that LUMPY enjoyed the other half of the game as the bus pulled away while RUSSO and myself were locked out of his car in 50 below weather till the game was over.

FRI.,SAT. SUN., JULY 22,23,24... NEW HAVEN GARFIELD TRIPS: The loooooong ones of the season. First of all, all ready gang?.....

Lets, Hey, Lumpy? I said"all ready gang?"....OK....Lets all have a good two hour rehearsal so we'll all sleep well and then, immediately after rehearsal give the Rookies the SHOCK OF THEIR SHORT LIVES when they drag themselves on to their bus and find it decorated like New Years never was. Hey? Gill-espie? Why are the back seats by the washroom all draped off? Then, why were we 25 minutes late in leaving when everybody couldn't find their seats and the Director kept yelling "there's a seat for everyone!!!"....and the Rookies kept being shifted from their destined Initiation Bus to the second bus...and we finally did move off only to end up at the bus terminal 10 minutes later while cars were being parked (in a safe area, huh, JOHN MacDONALD) and we were kept waiting for Hide Mori to come through with his passport, while he was waitin' down the street from the terminal (where the buses usually leave) waiting for the buses???? Confusion? You'll never know?

Finally, at the stoke of 12 we pulled away from Grey Coach for Niagara Falls where we changed to our regular bus drivers (Curly and Sid) and the other two were led away in straight jackets.....Next stop 5:30 AM on the N.Y. Thruway near Utica, home of "those Magnificent Yankees" We stopped for 3/4 of a hour but we ended up staying an hour and a ½, that sounds about right. Good thinking, Don.

On to New Haven and many other cities not on our schedule, eh Glen and Bill? We finally arrived in New Haven, the home of YALE and they opened the cage doors and we were finally able to move outdoors where we sat around for about a hour watching a praying mantis eating somebody's leg. Fun! The reason for the delay was that the executive were making arrangements to enter the school to set up our dressing rooms, and so on.



NEW HAVEN (continued)

We were then given two hours to search for a half decent restaurant, and we did find a whole series 15 minutes from the school...then, back to the school and the contest field area where we rehearsed for a hour. Through the kindness of the school janitor the ice of the swimming pool was then broken for us poor eskimos from the North and we were allowed to use the pool for 15 minutes. It was announced that we were on third so we got ready as the contest started and headed across the street for the field. Surprise! The sponsor changed the schedule and put two exhibition corps up front of the show which resulted in us waiting for another half hour until it was our turn to compete. Unfortunately, for the Optimists it was a yawn show, like tired, man and there was no spark, not even any fire!

The scores:SHORELINERS:68.316, ST.RAPHAELS:74.80, OPTIMISTS:72.866, SAC:75.65 GARFIELD:73.05 and ST.LUCYS: 77.75.

After the contest, out of uniform and the confusion that regularly goes on when assigning groups of guys to billets, in this instance our hosts, The Conn. Royal Lancers. It was about 2:00 a.m. before we were really settled.

The next morning, after a good bed that wasn't going 75 around corners...the corps left on time for Garfield, as usual 2hrs late---we're improving!

GARFIELD, N.J. July 23rd. We left New Haven for Garfield at 2:00PM, went around New York City to the north and we were lined up on the starting line on the contest field at 4:00, to an audience of St.Kevins and our own fans. We ran through the show once, it took 3/4 hr., and were assigned our billets with Garfield as soon as we hit the finish line and most of the guys were off to eat, again.

About 7:00 PM, back to the field. Unlike the previous contest, the corps was well rested. We again drew third and placed 5th....scores were:(in order of draw) C.W.TOWNSMEN:66.9, MUCHACHOS:80.7, OPTIMISTS:80.116, ST.KEVINS:82.016, ST.LUCYS:83.583, BLESSED SAC: 85.866. ST.JOES PATRON: 77.133.

Congratulations to the Colour Guard on winning trophies at both contests! And the audience received us with great ovation at both contests that weekend.

Most of the guys went to a get-together in Greenwood Lake, N.Y. after the contest. I, with Doug MacKenzie, John Shearer, Joe Palanica and Frank Mendicino went direct back with our billets, Mr. Fred Koster, of Garfield's Equipment Dept., so he and John were able to compare notes.

Late the next morning we met at the Garfield High School where we played our show for the Cadets and their parents, and said our farewells, AFTER EMILIO ARRIVED. We left Garfield at 1:00 for home.....should be home in about 11 hours (estimated)

The card-clans on my bus played from 2:30 in the afternoon till we arrived in Toronto at 3:00 AM. I won \$10.00. Wowwwwwwwww! Among the group, over the hours and hours and miles and miles were Vince (lucky) Ferraro, Bill (Lumpy) Andrews, Emilio Russo, Stewart Young, Frank Mendicino, Vern (trophy) Johansson, and Terry Warburton, to mention a few. During one of the card breaks, at a stopover, the rookies were lined up and marched around (see pix above) with their clothes inside out and backwards

thanks for the idea, Garfield! This was also the area of the GREAT WATER FIGHT. We used 150 gallons of H2O in an area with a shortage! In other words we used 3 days supply. Those water pistols.

At the border site, past Buffalo, Curly and Syd were looking forward to getting relieved by new drivers around 10:15 PM, when the bus refused to make the last hill. Shortage of fuel? We turned off the thruway and headed toward Buffalo and on the outskirts pushed one bus to the side of the road while we waited for relief to arrive. The station attendant was kind enough to let us all have a drink of water. MacKenzie was greedy. He had 7 all over his shirt, pants, hair. By the way, McMillan...did you spend that dollar yet? I was busy laughing at Kaiser getting some when I was washed down. You guys could have at least taken the rocks out!

An hour later we were refueled, arriving in Niagara Falls at 1:05 and downtown Toronto at 3:00AM.

MIDDLEPORT, N.Y., July 30th...After the long weekend of the trip before, this was one of our local out-of-town-shows...only 3 hrs away. This was our second contest against ST. JOES and this time it was their victory instead of ours. They certainly did a superior show as compared with Sarnia and with the luck of the draw both they and us drew next to each other, at the end of the show, so the Judges could really compare.

The scores: in order of draw---Emerald Statesmen--74.6, DeLaSalle--80.467, Geneva--76.6, St.Joes--86.710 and Optimists--85.567.

After the contest, the only place to eat was the fire hall party. I noted Stewart Young was a bit thirsty. Thirteen bottles of soda in a hour. Isn't that right, Rookie?

SARNIA CONTEST, AUGUST 6th...At the Sarnia Lionettes Contest this was the Optimists' first appearance with Marion Cadets since 1964. Impressed with their large guard but not the DMs. After good performances previously the corps did a very poor job at this contest, and I'm sure this can be included in that class of Port Hope '65. There just didn't seem to be any drive or anything. We still won it tho...the results in order of draw---Maraders:61.8, Del:80.3, Optimists:82.8, StPats:73.2, Laneurs:64.9, Jacksons Raiders:68.1 and Marion:70.6.

KINGSTON, N.Y. AUGUST 13th... This was one of the trips that the corps was really looking forward to; after the great hospitality that we received last year.

We left Toronto at 9:30 instead of 8:15 because BRUCE VAN GOOZEN thought we were leaving the next MORNING at 8:15. When we changed bus drivers in Buffalo there was a presentation made by our guard sergeant RICK COOPER to our regular drivers, our mountain dew "two" Sam and John.

Warren Gilbert, our publicity director, took charge of the trip and was on the head bus...he is now known as RipVan Warren because he slept through the tire breakdown from 2:00AM till 4:11 and didn't wake up till we arrived in Kingston about 8:00. This also happens to be the area of the RipVanWinkle legend

Arriving at the field we were met by Ralph Shapiro, Director of The Indians, the sponsors of the contest and Steve Nekos, his assistant. They guided us on to Mrs. Wells estate in the country where her crew were awaiting our arrival with open pans, knives, forks, grills and 36 dozen eggs and 43 pounds of ham (almost the same amount as in the corps) This is what the corps went through during our two day stay there, for breakfast only. We also had corn on the cob and hot dogs for dinner.

This great lady, Mrs. Wells, and her family are certainly great boosters to put up the whole corps at her home for two days. Most of the guys slept in the large recreation room while others took over the two tractor trailers in the adjoining lot.

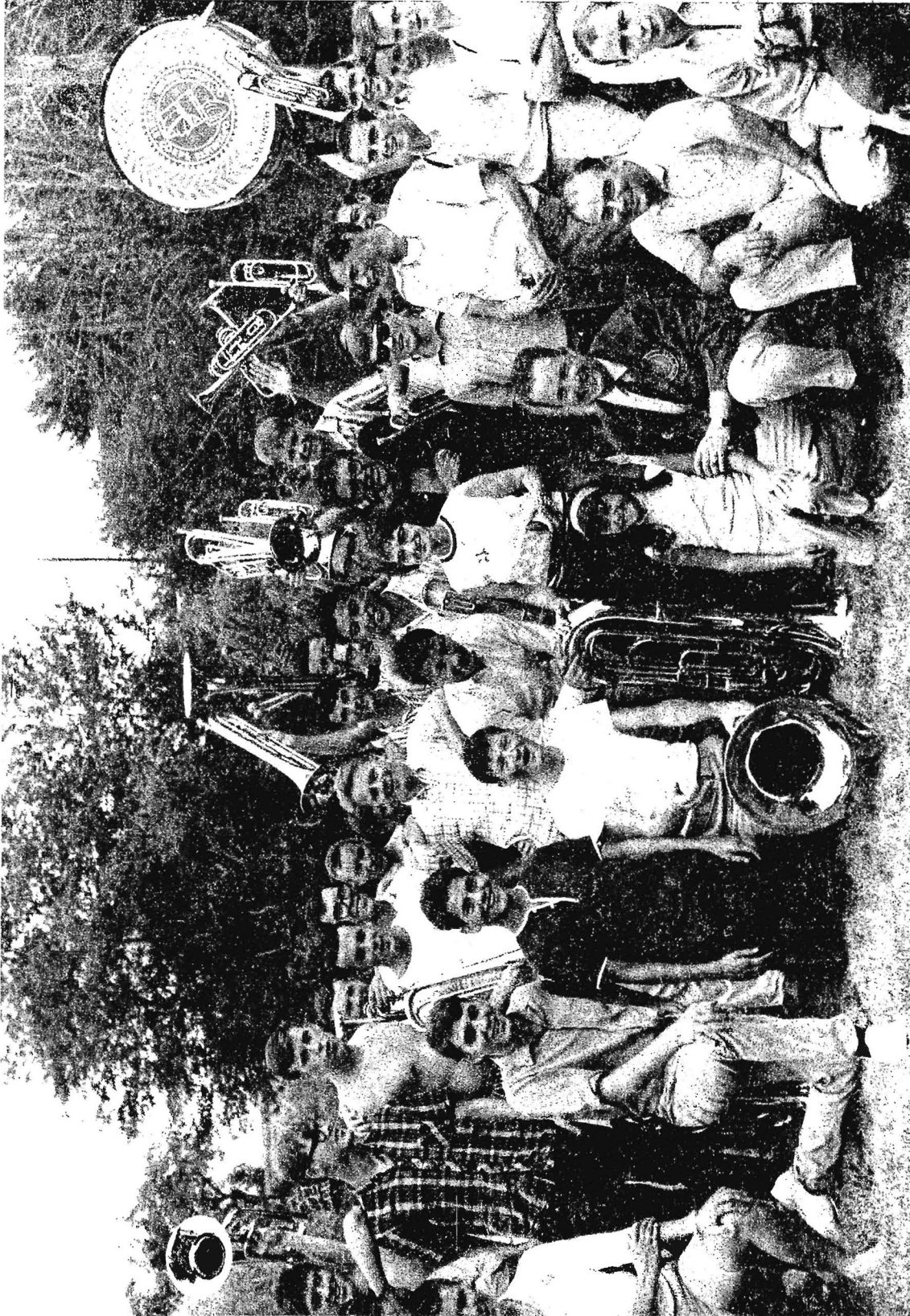
After breakfast on our arrival we relaxed, took in the afternoon circuit contest in Kingston then went to a shopping plaza and ran through the drill once only because everything "clicked" We then went back to the Wells estate while the Director and Clare Reid went to the business meeting of the contest and Clare drew last.

Results of the draw were phoned to us so we were able to take a little more time getting ready. Contest results, in order of draw: KINGSMEN NY.,79.4, ST.LUCYS:86.01 P.A.L. CADETS:85.55, GARFIELD:81.85, YANKEES:85.23, OPTIMISTS:81.76.

Some of the guys went in for a quick dip in the pool at Mrs. Wells after the contest. The next morning we were wakened by the beautiful and tantalizing scent of ham

and eggs. Mrs. Mary Wells made Lumpy and myself a boiling hot pot of tea and for once we can say we sure had a good pot o' tea in the United States.

This was also the day of the dunking. Those that were not smart and got into swim suits in the morning were thrown into the pool with their clothes on, after a warning. Two hours before we left we had a chance to dry off. All in all, it was a great weekend. This year, before we left the corps' Drum Major made a presentation to Mrs. Wells (see photo) and played for her, her family, the sponsor and guests from Garfield.



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1967 1967

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EXTRA, in and around the Corps....notes in passing---MIKE TIERNEY, rookie to RON COOPER not seen wearing his cow bell since the Sarnia trip. Ron claims he had him wear it so he wouldn't get lost.....DAVE COLLINS had the fire siren going but hasn't used it lately since someone tried to 'fix it' on the bus to Sarnia..... RON COOPER'S knee is still giving him trouble after the rifle injury in Garfield..... DANIEL VILLENEUVE was absent from The Optimists ranks in Kingston because he was in hospital with ppained chest muscles.....MIKE TIERNEY getting the centre shot by that TV Comedian in New Haven at retreat before Mr.TV presented the trophies. Seems Mike held the Nationals high while all the American Nationals stood ground level..... The big search bit being done on ED COLLINS in and around KINGSTON....At last "Those Magnificent 4 On Their Rifle Machine " have stopped dropping (fingers crossed) and have been getting some rave notices...just goes to show, if you work at it....

ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIPS, WATERLOO, AUGUST 27th... This year the Ontario Championships was The Little Nationals, at least it was rum along these lines---inspection, prelims, the works. For some reason the prelims were run as a draw so this left most corps 'up in the air' in the morning not knowing how long they had to rehearse, and eat, and get into uniform before the afternoon event. Optimists drew third at the 12:30 draw and this was phoned into the corps as they left their rehearsal site after eating picnic style from the local "Dutch Boy" super market. The result of the afternoon show wasn't announced, but it proved to be of interest later as rumour had it that Optimists were first, then Del, LaSalle Cadets, Sertomanaires..... For the night contest the draw was at 4:30 with position reading Sertomanaires, Optimists, York, LaSalle Cadets, Del. On to the night finals.....each Corps entered by the gym and as there was a delay in starting the Sertomanaires were held in the gym with Optimists ready to follow in after they exited for the starting line. The Boys In Gold were having a pep rally in the gym when TERRY WARBURTON made the mistake of crossing their territory heading fast for the washroom. From the sound he was spotted...like throwing a bone in a lions cage.

Sertomanaires exited giving Optimists a chance to warm up. On to the field. All the corps did a fantastic show that night, fitting this time of the year, two weeks from the Nationals. The stadium had a 90% attendance with the afternoon parade corps filling all the side stands.

Retreat time with the results announced by Ken Whittington, from the field..... "In 5th. with 72.95--York Lions."...."In 4th. position with 73.90---Sarnia Sertomanaires"In third position..."(pause)...from Toronto"...(pause)... "De La Salle" with 79.05.... (First time in years that Del took third. But history was still being made)"In second position, and this is close, LA SALLE CADETS with 82.40!" The heavens opened up! All hell broke loose from the stands...."In first with 82.95---Toronto Optimists." The din continued. Pounding of feet on the floorboards of the stadium sounded like 100 express trains heading for the corps, and the railways were on strike!

The sehier results were then announced...Dutchmen, Guelph, Ambassadors. The crowd had calmed down but were on their feet again when the last trophy was presented--- to THE OPTIMISTS for high score of the day. Best guard went to LaSalle Cadets.

THE SHEET breakbown between the 2 corps:

<u>AFTERNOON</u>		<u>EVENING</u>	
GE M&M---OPTIMISTS--11.9	CADETS--12.0	GE M&M-----OPTIMISTS--11.9	CADETS--11.5
GE BRASS--OPTIMISTS-- 9.0	CADETS-- 8.7	GE BRASS---OPTIMISTS--7.7	CADETS--7.2
GE DRUMS--OPTIMISTS-- 7.8	CADETS-- 7.5	GE DRUMS---OPTIMISTS--7.9	CADETS--6.9
FIELD MM--OPTIMISTS--20.8	CADETS--19.2	REELD MM---OPTIMISTS--21.9	CADETS--21.1
FIELD MM--OPTIMISTS--20.5	CADETS--19.6	FIELD MM---OPTIMISTS--20.7	CADETS--20.6
FIELD BRASS OPTIMIST-16.7	CADETS--16.4	FIELD BRASS-OPTIMISTS-16.7	CADETS--16.4
FIELD BRASS OPTIMIST-18.2	CADETS--17.3	FIELD BRASS-OPTIMISTS-17.8	CADETS--17.9
FIELD DRUMS OPTIMIST-17.2	CADETS--16.3	FIELD DRUMS-OPTIMISTS-17.4	CADETS--16.7
FIELD DRUMS OPTIMIST-17.7	CADETS--15.1	FIELD DRUMS-OPTIMISTS-16.4	CADETS--16.2
<u>TOTAL: OPT-84.25 less.2</u>	<u>CADETS 80.15 less .6</u>	<u>TOTALS--Optimists-82.95</u>	<u>Cadets--82.40.</u>

CORPS DINNER SET FOR OCTOBER 15th AT THE ROYAL YORK HOTEL

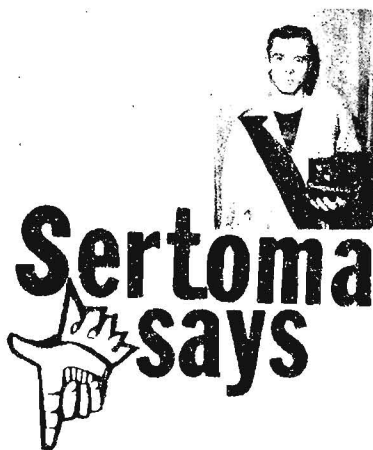
CORPS "MAN OF THE YEAR" TO BE VOTED...

The Fifth Annual Corps Dinner has been set for The Royal York Hotel at 7:00PM of Saturday October 15th. Following in the tradition of having many prominent guest speakers in the past, this year's guest speaker will be Lord Athol Layton, well-known sports personality. Dinner Chairmen will be Mr. Jim Karswick and Mr. Dave Payne, the past and present Optimist Club Corps Committee Chairmen.

This year two special trophies will be presented---"Rookie-of-the-Year" and "Corpsman-of-the-Year" The Corpsman-of-the-Year Trophy will be presented by Mr. Gordon Robinson, Recorder for the Rameses Temple.

The Corpsman of the Year Honour will be voted on by ballot by members of the corps. In addition to trophies, 1966 membership certificates will be presented to all members of the corps and special tie pins presented to the Rookies.

Ranking in honour with the Corpsman of the Year Award will be the presentation of 5 year rings by Mr. Warren Steiner, President of The Optimist Club.



Its been a long time since my last column so here goes to the up-to-date happenings of Sertomanaires.

After a disappointing performance at The Shriners' International June 17th. we travelled to Geneva, NY for a stiff competition in this area. The results: Yankees--83.5, St. Joes--82.033, White Roses of Utica--74.416, Sertomanaires--73.066, Lancers--68.433. This was the June 25th weekend.

JULY 1st to 5th--One of the most hectic weekends started July 1st. We competed in Windsor Friday night. Results: Sertomanaires-76.45, Lancers-75.75, Mauraunders 67.45, Green Hornets-64.45 and Michael Power 62.15. We stayed in Windsor that night and left early next morning for Kenosha, Wisc. This was another area where we had never competed before, and I must admit that the boys there are very friendly. This was another rigid competition--Skokie Vanguards--80.7, Norwood--77.6, Madison

Explorer Scouts 76.1, Sertoma 64.7, Ispiming Blue Notes--59.4, Sandusky Eagelettes 47.7.

Leaving Kenosha at 2:00 AM, we headed back to Algonac Mich. for a parade. Arriving about 11:00 AM we began to look for a 'chuck wagon' as there seemed to be no restaurants open. After a short swim in the St. Clair River we went on parade and a tired group piled back on to the buses and headed for Sarnia and home for a good nights sleep.

July 4th we left Sarnia at 8:00 and went to Wyandotte Mich for a competition and parade. In the parade we took best Drum Major, Best Guard and Best Corps. We would have probably have won best GE except that only half the corps was present, the second bus left at 5:30 with all the guys that had to work. Our treasurer was most delighted with the results as all the parade prizes were cash!

In the evening competition Sertoma took 75.3, Maple City Cadets 71.0, Madison Heights Mauraunders 65.2, Lionettes 64. Opti Cadets=51.55, Maumee Suns 50.07.

JULY 9th: To Michigan City, Indiana where we travelled through the cool of the night and arrived around noon for a rehearsal and waited for the night show. The scores were: Imperials--82.9, Mariners--80.3 and Sertomanaires 70.1, Marion Cadets 67.7, Bellfontain Angels 66.3, Maple City Cadets 64, Neesi 62.2 In the street parade it was Mariners, Sertomahaires and Norwood.

We left Michigan City in the early hours of the morning and came back to St. Clair Mich. for a street parade.

JULY 16th: This was the date of our own big show, The Chemical Valley Festival.

This year's contest was one of the best Jr. A Shows in Ontario. We all thought it was great to see Optimists, Del and St. Joes battle it out on the competition field. The results were Optimists 82.8, St.Joes 78.4, Del 77.15 and Sertomanaires competed and placed next with 73.95 but were not eligible for prize money.

The day after our show, Sunday, we went with Applenockers, St.Joes and Queensmen and Angels to Fraser, Mich., for one of the largest parades in the state.

JULY 22nd....a holiday weekend.

JULY 30th....The fun weekend at Grand Haven, Mich., for the annual Coast Guard Festival. We were the feature corps in the evening show Friday night and had most of Saturday to fool around till parade time at 5:00 and we were in fine spirits. Mr. Dunlop and Joe Lobsinger sold every record we had with us and accepted orders for dozens more. We left Sunday morning, arriving in Sarnia at 5:00PM.

AUGUST 9th...we played for the Police Convention here in Sarnia. Boy, do those fellows have a good time!

AUGUST 12th...At 2:00AM we took off for a weekend that we had all been looking forward to!.The trip was again to the mid-west and we appeared in 3 competitions and three parades. What a weekend! We stayed in the homes of members of the Queensmen and were treated royally. It was one of the most enjoyable times most members can recall.

The first competition was Kenosha, Wisc. with results---Vanguards 79.07, Chrome Domes 76.2, St.Paul Scouts 66.43 and Sertomanaires 63.4.

The next morning we were up and fed by our Queensmen hosts and off to Racine, Wisc. On a hot Saturday afternoon we took first place in the competition parade. At the night competition it was Norwood 76.4, Racine 74.5, Madison 73.7, St.Paul Scouts 67.9 and Sertomanaires 67.5. For us there was a 5 point penalty for being late for the manager's meeting and a flag violation.

The crowd in Racine really loved our show and gave a standing ovation after our performance, at retreat, and again when we left the field. Sure makes one feel good to please the crowd. We went back to Kenosha with our hosts after the show and next morning it was off to Wilmott for the County Fair. I have never seen such a crowd at a small town fair...the normal population is 400 and it went up to 10,000. There was a parade in the afternoon and the competition at night. We requested on first and had to leave as soon as we hit the finish line to get on the road so we could be in Sarnia Monday morning in time for work. We arrived in Sarnia at 7:15 AM. Don't have the scores for that contest but the standings were Norwood, Racine, Sertomanaires, Viscounts, Cedar Rapid Cadets and Queensmen.

All our appearances in the midwest and New York States this year have been most pleasant and we are looking forward to further engagements in that area again next year.

And in closing, and speaking of next year, our CHEMICAL VALLEY CENTENNIAL COMPETITION is really going to be something. We have the biggest part all lined up so the Canadian Corps there will have some great competition.

And that's it for this column.....Ed Buckle, Sertomanairs.

MUSIC EVENTS:

Severe criticisms are sometimes written in publications about drum corps. Sometimes these are justified...depends on who has written what and their knowledge of corps. The same elements appear in other fields of music, especially classics and the jazz scene. The most notable Jazz Critic in Toronto is Patrick Scott of the Globe and Mail, Toronto's morning newspaper. As a jazz performer, when Mr. Scott likes you he really goes all out...when he doesn't he still goes all out, as witness this review in the Aug. 30th issue of The Globe....

Jazz Scene:

WOODY HERMAN RIDES HIS SIXTH-RATE HERD...

It would be nice to be able to report that the near-capacity crowd cavorting to the sounds of Woody Herman and his Sixth-Rate Herd at the Palais Royale last night signified something positive, but I'm afraid all it really proved is that P.T. Barnum was right. It also demonstrated, for anyone still naive enough to wonder if the big bands will ever come back, not only why they won't but what killed

them in the first place.

This is not the worst big band I have ever heard live---Stan Kenton retains that distinction---but it comes closest to being the most difficult to dance to, which, after all, is what big bands were made for.

Admittedly, my main reason for going to hear it (besides the fact that I should have my head read) was not to dance but to investigate a suspicion I have long held that the Woody Herman band no longer exists except as a figment of Phil MacKellar's* imagination. And I'm still not sure. (*MacKellar is a local radio jazz disc jockey)

MacKellar himself was there, of course---all but leading the band and even holding a microphone for soloists who should not have been allowed within 10 feet of one...but I still am not convinced that Woody Herman, though I never have been his most ardent admirer, could stand there, in public, in front of a band so bad. But there was somebody up there who looked like him, and this is what made it so sad.

He has been quoted as saying that he wouldn't lead a band he didn't think was a good one, but, since he always struck me as one of the most honest men in the business, this is either one of the greatest put-ons of our time or shows how too many nights in front of a 5 man trumpet section can turn one's eardrums to jellyroll.

He features a tenor saxophonist called Sal Nistico who probably is the worst soloist on that instrument since Happy Cauldwell, and, being a pretty fair saxophonist himself, he must know the guy stinks. But he stands there grinning, and MacKellar stands there grinning, and the idiot element around the bandstand stands there grinning, and it is enough to prompt a throwup.

What gets me is the way MacKellar and all the other hippies put down the kids these days because of their penchant for the Beatles, who are every bit as musical (and perhaps not quite as loud, or even as monotonous) as the current Herman band. I'm not defending the Beatles but the kids right to choose between two evils.

And the part that amuses me most, in a grisly sort of way, is this confusion of frenzy for swing that has marked Herman's bands for the past 20 years. At one point last night, when they had not generated enough real musical heat to melt an ice-cube at 20 paces, these so-called jazz musicians had worked up such a sweat that they all took their coats off.

The least they could have done was button them over their heads.

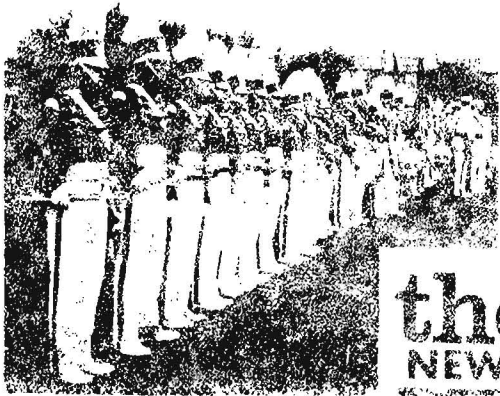


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NEWS FROM THE GARFIELD CADETS

Since this is the first of my columns for 'GCC', may I introduce myself? The name is Eugene Silvestri, also known as Gene, I have been in Garfield for eight years and have been marching in the regular line for 5 years. I'm on baritone. There is never a minute that I am not proud of the name Garfield and feel that not only Garfield, but Drum Corps in itself, is a great pastime. When a new member puts his name on the roster he is signing the name of a boy, but when the time comes to leave, he is a mature man, skilled in music and sportsmanship. The latter is the most important. This is the main purpose behind Drum Corps; and each time a boy graduates he is leaving it with pride. Drum Corps can do this to a boy, perhaps better than any other 'hobby'.

Now that I have introduced myself and given you a brief idea of my feelings about drum corps, I would like to get on with some news from Garfield.....

As you know, Garfield is not on top this year. We have been coming in fourth and fifth all year. The biggest downfall has been our solo soprano line. All year we have had only four. But, since Jim D'Amico has taken over as Director and bugle instructor, we have started our climb back to the top. As of July 25th our solo line has increased from 4 to 12 horns, our french horn line went from 5 to 7. This is the start of a great comeback.

After the contest in Brigeport, Conn on the 29th of July we have two weeks off. During this time we will be practicing continuously, and fitting the new members into the corps. The next contest we have after this will be Kingston NY when we again go against Optimists. From then on there will be a big change; music along with drill. Garfield is not going to stop halfway. Our biggest ambition, naturally, is to bring home the American Legion State and National titles. Only hard work can do this; and hard work it will be!

In closing I would like to wish your corps luck and thank you for giving me the honour of writing a column for your paper.

Yours in Drum Corps.....Eugene Silvestri, 23 Herman St., East Paterson, N.J.
07407

PHOTOS IN THIS ISSUE

COVER: top right to left---Doug MacKenzie's solo in Port Hope contest pushes back Drum Major Vern Johansson, conducting.

---Parade for Chemical Valley Festival in Sarnia, July 16th.

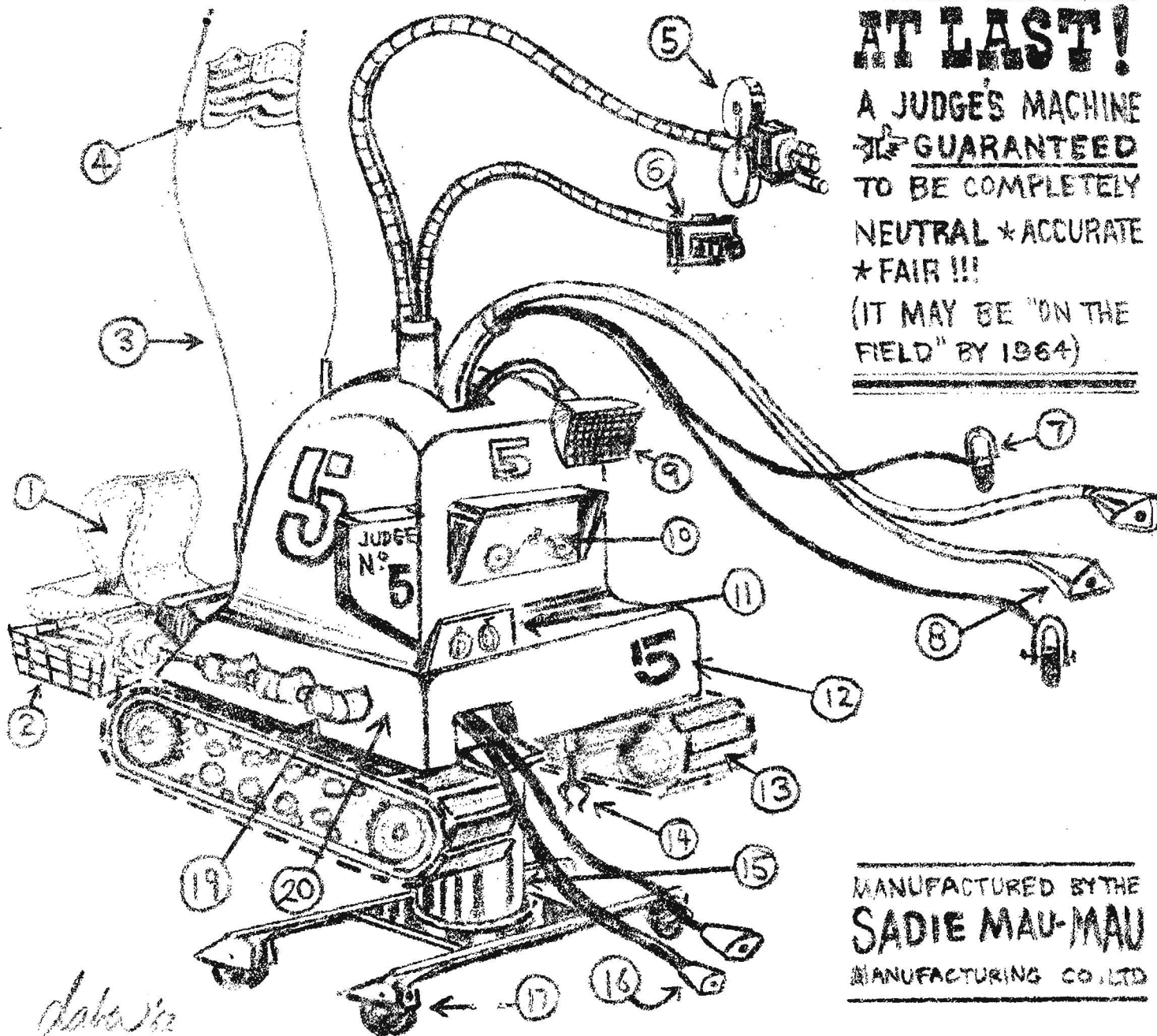
No, Guard Captain Guy Vezina doesn't always walk backwards.

---Finish line at Shrine International Contest, June 17th.

PAGE 1: Joys of a Drum Major...the winning kiss at the Chemical Valley Festival.
Back to the parade, same city.

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