

**My Drum Corps Scrapbook – Winter of 1971**

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## COLOR GUARD; WHAT IS IT?

by Ungey

So the question is raised, Color Guard; what is it? One could easily get off the hook by answering, just a bunch of flags 'n rifles!

In a narrow sense, that's true. Yet to those who march in it and to those who know it, it's much, much more. After all, if it really were just carrying poles and heavy sticks, why would so many people be in them? (Granted, many from the Drum and Horn sections are now saying, "It's because the dummies can't do anything else." But that just isn't so!! Many, including myself, have marched in other sections, but have still liked Color Guard best!

Before I launch into a defense of Color Guards, let me say that there are basically two different types: them that march with a Drum Corps or band, and them that march by themselves. Each association, each area, and even each unit varies in style - but generally they are one or the other of these two types.

In the beginning, Drum Corps Color Guards were used just to get an American flag plus the unit's colors on to the field with proper guards. Since then, corps have developed color guards of up to more than fifty people that are used to add size and color, aid in forming drill patterns, accentuate the music, add to the General Effect (G.E.) scores, as well as to get an American flag and the unit's colors on the field - with the proper guard. When a Color Guard competes by itself, it can run into many variations of rules and requirements. With various associations or contests, Color Guards march on fields 40 x 60 feet, 50 x 70 feet, 40 x 60 yards, or, in the case of the Illinois State Fair Contest, 100 x 25 yards. The contest can be held indoors or outdoors.

The maximum number of marching members allowed is usually 17 indoors and 21 outdoors. Only 9 of these may carry weapons (rifles, sabres, pistols, boomerangs, or anything else you can talk a judge into.) The rest carry flags.

The time allowance is either 4-6 minutes, or 5-7 minutes. Generally, throughout a given year, one Color Guard will be confronted with all the field sizes, both membership allowances and both - or more - time limits. (There are other regional variations which I will get bogged down in later.) As far as the competition itself, every show and every association requires each unit to complete three maneuvers: Pass in Review, Flag Presentation, and Posting of Colors.

Pass in Review is a simple maneuver that involves marching in a full unit company front at an eyes right salute. It must be executed by going through the present area from the starting line side to the finish line side. The Flag Presentation is similar to that in Drum Corp Competition. The American Flag comes to a central position while all the flags and weapons render ti the proper salute. In most cases, all salutes must face the American Flag or face within the present area.



1st Midwest Color Guard Contest - Placing 1st (center) Militares, Freemont, Ohio; 2nd, (left) the Greensleeves and (right) 3rd, St. Patrick Imperials.

Probably the most difficult part of a Color Guard competition to explain is the "Posting of Colors of "Post" as it is know. In this maneuver, all flags must be placed in posting stanchions (flag holders) with the American Flag in the position of honor at the right. All marching members must salute the American Flag once after it is posted and once before it is retrieved. The rest of the time, up to 60-seconds, can be used by the Color Guard as they wish. The excitement generated at Color Guard Shows is due to the novel ways the various Guards find to execute these maneuvers. Right now, I would like to ask you to send any information on YOUR Color Guard, comments, criticisms, additions to what I've said, or just plain talk - send it to me. I'll print whatever I can and I accept Almost anything.

This month's Color Guard point of interest? Joe Bruno, former Drum Major of the Greendale Mariners famous nice guy and all around swell person, was at one time the Color Guard sargent of the otherwise all-girl St. Gregory's Crusaders Color Guard of Milwaukee.

See ya next month.

Ungey





Drum Corps AMERICA Introduces . . .

## "Big City Beat"

BY COOKE & OLGA

This is the first installment of our column covering the Greater New York area and will be appropriately called "Big City Beat." We will endeavor to bring you the latest news and other pertinent information on local drum corps from all over the city. We cordially invite members of local corps to send us information on their Corps and we will do our best to see that it's printed in each edition of Drum Corps America.

This is the time of the year when many competing Corps are in the midst of making decisions that will affect their show for the coming season. A good example of this is the 28th Pct. Travelers Drum & Bugle Corps. This Corps is ably directed by one of the better known corps directors in the drum corps world. He is the person who was solely instrumental in bringing drum & bugle corps to the Harlem area. He directed the famous "Manhattanaires" Drum & Bugle Corps until they folded and then directed his energies to their feeder unit which is now known as the "Travelers". Mr. George Brown is to be commended for his hard work in trying to serve the youth of his community and bringing them a wholesome and creative activity to engage in. The "Travelers" have not started to work on their 1971 show, but they are presently planning an exciting show which such great staff as William Hightower as bugle arranger and instructor, Joe Tocker as drill instructor and Danny Raymond as drum instructor. The Travelers are members of the Garden State Circuit and we know they will be a threat to all the member Corps come next competing season. More on the Travelers in the next edition.

Out in Brooklyn, St. Rita's Brassmen are raising the rooftop with the fine music of Hy Drietzler as music arranger and bugle instructor. Some changes made by the "Brassmen" are their off the line which will be "Ride of the Valkyries" by Wagner. The color-pre will be "West Point Alma Mater", which should raise the stands. The exciting "Three Blind Mice" and "Fistful of Dollars" will remain as concert and entrance into concert respectively. The Corps will come out of concert with another of Drietzler's "goodies" this will be "Clementine". The Brassmen have already completed their off the line and are now entering into their color-pre under the fine drill work of none other than Mr. Carmen Cluna. Eric Periloux is the drum instructor and the color-guard is under the direction of Bill Witzgall, and the assistant bugle instructor is Tommy Martin. As of this writing we do not know who will lead the Corps into the field of competition but we're sure it will be a person capable of doing the same job their past major has done.

Another Brooklyn Corps making big sounds thus far are the "Riversiders" from the Dr. White Community Center. They are ably directed by Brother Watkins as he is affectionately called and are pulling at least forty (40) buglers at each rehearsal. The "Riversiders" are also members of the Garden State Circuit and they are making plans to bring home that championship next season. The Corps is instructed by John Chalmus who is the music arranger and bugle instructor, and Bobby Winslow who is the drum instructor. We do not have the name of the drill instructor, but that will be forthcoming. Some of the Riversiders old music being retained for next season is the



Olga Evelyn

popular "Oh Happy Day" for color-pre and "Good, Bad, & Ugly". Look for or we should say listen for some very sounds coming from Bobby Winslow's drumline (or lines, since he instructs the "Warriors", Sunrisers, and Vagabonds as well).

A new Corps with an old name is coming on the scene from Long Island. They are called the St. Catherine Queensmen. They will be looking for competition in their first year and the Corps is directed by Mr. Ed Lawrence. We only have the name of his drill instructor who is the popular Evans "Sugaroll" Walker, of the old "Manhattanaires" fam and presently leading the "Warriors" onto the field of competition. More information on them in the next edition.

Back in Manhattan and up on the "hill" as it is called are the popular N.Y. "Warriors" who are presently working on some new music for the 1971 season. The 1971 season will see the "Warriors" come off the line with one of their popular numbers they have ever played their competing season. It's an old song with a new twist and Hy Drietzler who is their music arranger and bugle instructor is outdoing himself again. The "Warriors" will come off the line with an exciting solo of Miles Davis' "Sketches of Spain" into a new arrangement of "Man of LaMancha". The drill pattern used last season will be basically the same with a few exceptions. Al Koch, who is the drill instructor is elated with the progress of the Corps thus far since they have finished the off the line and half of the color-pre. He is using a new technique in his drill instruction and we are sure the spectators will note the difference. As of this writing, the "Warriors" will use forty-eight men in the hornline and will retain one of the songs that became very popular this past season. This song will be "Voodoo Suite" which the Corps will use as a production number coming out of concert. Keep your eyes and ears open for this number for it plans to be a spellbinder packed with G.E. musically and drill-wise. Colorguard instructor for the corps is Mr. Tim Bell who is doing wonders with his guard of forty flag bearer, six saber soloists, and nine solo rifles. (WOW!) the drumline is under the instruction of Bobby Winslow, who has written some very, very interesting parts for his drummers. He plans to field a line of twenty-two members and each segment of the line will be featured during some part of the show. The "Warriors" are directed by Mr. James Lathen and they are members of the Greater New York M&M Circuit. The Corps is entering their eighth season as a competing unit and plan to make an even better mark in the drum corps world than they have this past season. Other officials in the corps are Olga Evelyn (yours truly) as assistant colorguard instructor, and James Cooke (yours truly again!) as business manager.

Getting back to the Big City Beat we hope you our readers, will send us all the info needed to publicize your Corps. Our mailing address is 531 W. 155th Street, New York, N. Y. 10032.

See ya.

April 10, 1971 Toronto, Ontario. Colour Guard competition hosted by Toronto Optimists.

Cover from Off the Line magazine.

