HOME IN INDIANA

By BOB PARMELEE

On Friday, September 29, COMPANY Sutler Leo Brennan and his nobles aide George Bernard boarded a plane in Hartford, Ct. bound for Lafayette, Indiana. The purpose was to set up THE COMPANY Store and be official ambassadors at the “Feast of the Hunter’s Moon.” In doing so, they set a milestone for THE COMPANY. This was the farthest west we had ever sent representatives.

Official COMPANY participation was the culmination of several years of effort by the Tippecanoe FDC. The decision to attend was made at the 1978 Deep River Ancient Muster at which time the Sutler met with “Tip” director Bill Baugh for final confirmation. From the stories still told by our dynamic duo, it was a decision well made.

RIGHT OFF THE PLANE: Japan Mariners Miwa Watanabe, Yoko Tachikawa and Nick Bushia relax at the home of COMPANY Counsel Bill Gallagher, seen at right. Ancient Mariner George Bernard is on the left and Navy Chief Don Bettner is in front.

JAPANESE EMISSARIES TO “ANCIENT LAND”

OUT YOU’D TRIP INTO ONE.”

After one short walk they came upon the “Voyageurs.” These were the French-Canadians who had paddled down the Wabash river, as had their forefathers, in order to be part of the festival. At night, gathered around the fires, they filled the air with tall-stories and music. While there George Bernard became hungry, a chronic failing, and was handed a plate of meat. After enjoying the snack, and inquiring what it was, he was told “smoked turkey and skunk.”

Sunday morning, after roughing it in a motel, an “incredible” breakfast was forthcoming at the home of Tippecanoe organizer Jim Smith. Then off for another day at the Feast.

JUST BEFORE THE MUSTER: Miwa, Nick, COMPANY Pres. Mo Schoos, Yoko, Muster Aid Chairman Scott Greenstreet, A. Mariner’s Babe Kelly and Neil O’Brien face into the bright South Glaistown sun for this study in Intercontinental Drum Corps relationships, at Nayaug’s September 17, Ancient Muster.

FIFERS FLY HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD

By CARL A. BALESTRACCI JR.

The first time that I was told about a Japanese Mariner’s Pipe and Drum Corps it was like hearing another bad Italian joke. I smiled because it was just another version of the old story. It wasn’t until months later when I became aware of the truthfulness bantering tale.

Last year our corps, the Ancient Mariner’s, were privileged to play host, for a short time, to C.W.O. Jim Kidd U.S.N. who was on leave from his base in
Sutler Leo Brennan representing THE COMPANY'S interests at Indiana's FEAST OF THE HUNTER'S MOON. Attended in the traditional garb of an 18th century tradesman, his "Store" was well received by the feast's participants and visitors alike.

The Feast itself began with Reville at 7:30 am and opening ceremonies, (for the public), at 10 am and 3 pm Saturday. The weather was ominous, but the crowd was enthusiastic. An area newspaper proclaimed, "Opening Day Crowd Estimated At 25,000 Despite Clouds, Showers."

To give those unfamiliar with this event an idea of its magnitude there is the story of "Tip" fifer Denise Wilson, Denise a college junior, spending the year studying in France, is quoted in an Indiana paper as saying..."This is my one trip home all year, but the Fife and Drum Corps needs new members and a place to practice, so I just had to be here."

The Feast, held at Fort Knox in Lafayette, was sponsored by the Tippecanoe Historical Association in cooperation with the City of Lafayette, Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation Department. Held at approximately the same time every year, this was the 11th such gathering. In a strange twist, the committee works in conjunction with the Athletic Department of Purdue University for, in the words of George Bernard, "Lafayette just cannot handle the weekend traffic of a Purdue football game, and the Feast, at the same time."

The purpose of the affair was to show the public how an outpost in the Indiana wilderness would celebrate the annual arrival of the traders from French-speaking Canada, the American settlers and the Indians. They do this as authentically as possible. For example, at one campfire a woman might be making lye soap in an iron kettle, while at another a blacksmith could be forging metal with a stove hammer.

During the day George and Leo did a brisk business at "The Store," however, after the Feast was closed to the public they were shown around by members of the Tippecanoe FDC. This was their first indication of how large the Feast actually was. "There were hundreds of campfires," said Leo, "and if ya didn't watch..."
The Ancient Times

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The Company of Fifers & Drummers, Inc.

To promote and advance scientific research and study with respect to the music, history, and traditions of the fife and drum in the United States, and to promote and advance education and knowledge with respect to such matters particularly among corps members and musical scholars,” and so on, reads the constitution of The Company of Fifers and Drummers. In short, the constitution, or by-laws were designed to perpetuate the art of fife and drumming in America as it was during the Revolutionary Period and into the future. But, what is becoming of the ancient art? The Company Executive Committee, Directors, and Corps, and the membership body is allowing, perhaps subconsciously, our fine art of “ancient” music to become modernized. Examples can be seen at any muster at any time.

Marching and Maneuvering” colonial uniforms, cymbals, drums, and twelve hole fife, and modern symphonized drumming.

Our forefathers would turn over in their graves if they could witness the corps of today.

To quote a well known figure at many musters throughout the area, a fifer exclaimed about the notes and pieces he could accomplish on a ten hole fife. The rebuttal from the above mentioned person was that six hole fifes were of the original design, and the measures of a person’s ability was to be able to attain the same measure of accomplishment on a six hole.

Drummers of the Revolutionary Period also contributed to our heritage by passing down through the centuries the original drumming scores from Brandywine, Caledonia, Devils Flute, etc. Today’s so called ancient drummers, although not all of them, play modern drum and bugle corps scores set to the ancient tunes we all cherish.

It makes my heart sick to see twenty minute maneuvering by corps on the muster field. Some who sport shiny brass cymbals add to the disenchanted produced by their antics. Also, perhaps the day of ancient playing clarinets and bell lyres are not far in the future.

What is happening? To perpetuate the art of fife and drumming in America, our COMPANY’S Executive committee should make a stand. Let us not become another Connecticut Fifers and Drummers competitive society. We are all involved to play ancient pieces with a regard to whose corps is better than another, and what corps plays and performs better than the other. Certainly, if we want to regain the honor we lost, all the company has strived for will go down the proverbial tube.

Let the officers and members of THE COMPANY strive to ask the marching and maneuvering corps to change their repertoire and return to true Ancient style, or resign from THE COMPANY. Drum workshops for instructors could alleviate the modern drumming, and strict adherence to the use of a six hole fife would help corps return to Ancient playing.

Seriously, I want to thank the 1st Michigan and Mark Logdon and Craig Borsos for letting us come— even though it seemed we were always late for something.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to three other Corps— Mt. Kisco, Kentish Guards and Stony Creek.

I have never had a drum instructor from a Drum and Bugle Corps walk over and volunteer help. But, I watched the senior fifer of the Kentish Guards take three of my fifes off for an hour of lessons. That is just one example. I don’t have enough fingers and toes to count all the rest.

Every morning we were greeted with a heart warming hello from every Corps in Michigan. Our people are just not used to that.

Thanks! I know what the Spirit means and so do the Corps members.

We must get together again.

IN THE SPIRIT
Bob Williams, Director
Janesville FD Corps

State College, Penna.

I have not forgotten your adjurations for me to get an article worked up for the Ancient Times. Actually, though retired, I’ve been simply too busy to do anything of that sort. At long last, I’m getting around to editing some of my collection material, and it happens to be the fife and fife tunes (our University Press has expressed much interest in it). This is a good sized regional collection (something over 1,300 items), so the job of copying, transcribing, numbering, getting versions together as well as possible, etc., etc., has been long, and promises to be still longer. I am now at the stage of writing up individual tune notes and references, and revising (with considerable bellowing down) the general introduction. Part of my references come, naturally, from your COMPANY of FIFERS and DRUMMERS 16 volume.

For myself, I have always enjoyed getting the Ancient Times. And I have also enjoyed my own elementary fifing, which copies of the Times always impel me to...
at the same old price. Of course there have been some changes... the March 1973 issue consisted of four pages, our last issue boasted twelve while this, our twentieth, includes eight pages.

Our subscribers reside in at least five continents and we exist in thinking of ourselves as the answer to an Ancient's rapturing the fabric that cloisters our idiom? Perhaps, through your response, we may finally be able to find a hard and fast definition for our time-honored classification, as some claim has already been done for that other multi-faceted American musical phenomenon... JAZZ.

mitting this trend to happen, so let us all strive to better the policy of promoting the art of filing and drumming as it was in colonial times. The modern society of siders and drummers has changed us, so let us change them.

Let us all work to make Ancient playing more enjoyable for all, by ridding ourselves of the cliquishness of some who invite only certain "pet" corps to their Musters year after year after year. To me it is not only a slap in the face, but a step backward for all when Muster holding corps show little or no recognition to new or novice corps. After all, why do we maintain a COMPANY roster? How do new corps gain the recognition for their hard work of learning?

Change - Please Change. Preserve colonial, or revolutionary filing and drumming. Help support this plea by writing to THE COMPANY'S executive board urging them to adhere to the rules. Show we won't become modernized by staying strictly ancient. Let us all continue to strive to pass on the true Ancient art of filing and drumming for many generations to come. Let us continue to march to "Road to Boston" rather than the "Colonel Bogie March."

Bob Larsen
Janesville, Wisconsin

Okay, we did it wrong! We went to the Greenfield Village Michigan Muster and found out we've been doing things not by the book.

We got rained on! We paraded both days. I screwed up a standstill schedule. Was the Muster a failure for us?

Challenge - Come to Janesville, Wisconsin and look into the eye of 35 kids and some parent and adult members.

We hurried every obstacle and got to Michigan.

Mark Logan supplied us with the worst weather that I have experienced in the three years of Janesville's Five and Drum Corps Marching history.

But, and this is a big but! The warmth of reception kept us dry. We glowed on the inside. You see, it just is not the same thing in Drum and Bugle Corps land.

Oh sure, our kids were intimidated by the bands and the Eastern music tradition. The rain did not help, but we did our thing.

Who scheduled us to play next to the horses? Ooops! Sorry, that slipped out.

Thought of making you laugh with the Wrecker's Daughter - in a copy of the Ancient Times I saw a reference to the alleged composer. But, to my great disgust, I have mislaid and lost that copy. If you have any note about it anywhere, I should be grateful for the information, at your convenience: I know nothing whatsoever about the tune except that it is apparently a standard siders' tune, and was played in my country by the fiddlers as well.

All my best... Sincerely... Sam Bayard

Prof. Emeritus of English & Comparative Literature

The Pennsylvania State University

Should any of you be able to help Prof. Bayard in his quest for information on "Wrecker's Daughter" please write him at 220 Osmond St. State College, Penna. 16801. Send us a copy as well - we're curious too.

ED.

Yokohama, Japan

Thank you for your kindness during our recent visit. I like Connecticut because it is a beautiful place, besides the people there are so nice. I want to visit again with all the members and in our corps. They are easier to meet you. Next year, please come to Japan.

Love
Yuko Tachikawa
Japan Mariners PDC

Moodus, Conn.

This is my 57th year with the Moodus Drum and Fife Corps, and during that time I have seen many changes in the "Ancients." Calling oneself Ancient and dressing like one, but playing the "modern" beat is a far cry from the real thing, and an insult to real Ancient players. At least that's my way of thinking. Our corps has been in existence since 1821 and we have played the Ancient beat ever since, but I shudder when I think what will happen after I'm gone. I am the last "old-timer" of the Moodus Corps. Some kids today don't know a good thing when they have it.

Best of luck to The Ancient Times Yours in the real "Ancient Spirit!"

John F. Golet
**THE MUFFLED DRUM**

**THE POETS SPEAKEASY**

Volume six years ago about a happy function with his revered Moods Drum and Fife Corps, the late Peter Mixtanner, (see last issue) gravely records one more happy memory with his drum corps friends.

A stern young Peter Mixtanner at the 191st opening of the East Hadham Bridge.

**SUNDAY MUSTER IN MARLBOROUGH A DELIGHT**

The crimson wafted dressed corps proceeds to a traditional salute to spectators and fellow corpsmen.

For those of you who missed it — and there were far too many of you — the second annual Marlborough Volunteer Fire Dept. Junior Ancient’s Muster was one of the most enjoyable days of the entire season. This muster, held on Sunday, September 16th, need not take a second seat to anyone for the sheer beauty and enjoyment of the parade route which winds around the shore of Lake Meshomasic in eastern Connecticut and the muster stand which is set in a pleasant glen right beside the lake. A total of ten Ancient corps gathered for this affair along with a small band of loyal fans and the day turned out to be one of both warm companionship and most enjoyable music.

The parade route of approximately 1.4 miles was worth the day in itself. Beautifully shaded throughout, the march offered a perfect showcase for the corps as they wound their way along with the lake and state forest as a most pleasant background. The premature Fall weather added a crisp touch to set the right mood for Ancient music.

Shortly after noon, the big Marlborough corps swung onto the parade route and style driven by that especially dynamic drum line.

The Olde Ripton Fife & Drum Corps followed next and their Ancient style music was most entertaining as was that of the Captain James Buxton corps which was the only out of state unit present. The handsome Sgt. Daniel Bisell Corps, fresh from hosting their own Muster, was again impressive this afternoon. The Nayang Ancients anchored the parade line of march and had it going very well indeed.

**HONOR DAY**

The year was nineteen seventy-two, on the thirtieth day of July.
A beautiful Sunday afternoon, with the sun high in the sky.
Just another day of days, repeating things we’ve done before.
Honoring past and present members, of the Moods Drum & Pipe Corps.
It was a treat to be with people, humble masked and mild.
To greet and to be greeted, with hand-shake and a smile.
I’d like to mention all by name, of the dear ones who attended.
But of the many unknown to me, I would want no one offended.
Everything in Moodus style, once inside the door.
The lads were a picture spread with food galore.
This a day to be remembered.
I think all will agree.
As I speak there was a touch of sadness, that did mar the joy and glee.

By P.F. Mixtanner.

**“4TH OF JULY” TWO MONTHS LATE**

By NICODEMUS

Officially it was the “4th of July Parade” but it was held on September 2, in Norwood, Mass. It rained on the 4th so the citizens of that Bay State community decided to come up with a new date. After all, it’s the spirit that counts.

However, the route remained the same and it was thronged with enthusiastic supporters of the new calendar. The march started at the Jr. High School at 2 p.m., continued through “The Ward”, then uptown concluding on Nahatan St.

The parade, arranged by the Norwood Jaycees, boasted 22 musical units including the Colonial Boys of the host community and the Ancient Mariners, Connecticut.

Following the march both units retired to a nearby American Legion Hall for an evening of recreation and animation.

By P.F. Mixtanner.
Chatham Muster Recalled...

Demonstrating the variety of drum corps backgrounds, within the 3rd Inf. “Old Guard” drum line, are Jim Nuss of the Alabama Charileetors; Don Bernard of the N.H. Muchachos; Tom Williams of the Morris County Militia; Phil Fogg’s of the Rhode Island Matadors; Bill Plera from Los Angeles, Calif.; Phil Price from Reading, Pa; and Cliff Spencer of Westbrook’s Jr. Colonials. All that percussion and only two former Ancients. Appearing at the Aug. 12 Chatham Ancient Muster, the Old Guard gave its usual colorful and impressive performance.

they were a handsome sight in their crimson waistcoats moving through the rustic setting. The corps played especially well and were most enjoyable to march with and listen to later at the Muster stand. A small contingent from the East Hampton 3rd Connecticut Regiment was led by the indomitable Drum Major Lanez and the sound of their bugles soon echoed through the woods.

Nutmeg Volunteers Shine

The Nutmeg Volunteers from Groton were next in the line of march and were, as usual, both visually and musically a major attraction to everyone on hand. These much travelled youngsters are great messengers of the Ancient cause and they were in good spirit today. The Higganum-Haddam Ancients were somewhat depleted in numbers, but not in their musical output. The only one of the competitive corps to support this muster (instead of the simultaneous Colonel John Chester Field Day in Wethersfield) were the always enjoyable Westbrook Junior Colonials. Typically in fine form, the Junior Colonials featured their jaunty

music of Code Rupto and Captain James Buxton. An abbreviated version of the Ancient Mariners joined the stand performance complete with hunting horns and roving music. They even managed to successfully assault Scott Greenstreet who had been firing some pointed needles as Muster announcer throughout the ceremonies.

Ancient Loyalty Lacking

One brief point that needs to be made is this. When the weather is ideal and the setting perhaps the most ideal on the entire circuit — why do only ten corps attend? If the Buxton Corps could make it from Uxbridge, Mass. I know a great many Connecticut corps whose heads should be hanging for not showing up. There is little excuse for you, Ancients not returning the favor of the earlier Muster visits of the Marlborough Corps... and you better think about that. Loyalty is supposed to run, not close the company, but this beautiful Muster did not get its share today. Believe me, the loss was yours, but next year I would hope these fine Marlborough youngsters see a lot more support!

INSTRUCTOR’S SEMINAR

By LEO BRENNAN

November’s off-season activities included an Instructor’s Seminar conducted by the COMPANY’S Workshop Committee at the Danbury, Ct. High School on Saturday the 4th.

Those in attendance represented the Bassett FDC, Windsor, Ct.; The Wm. Bender Mem’l, FDC, Verplanck, N.Y.; Charlton FDC, Charlton, N.Y. and the newly organized Fire Dept. FDC from Chatham, N.Y.

Ed Chessey and Buzz Olsen conducted the drum clinic, Dave Shepide and COMPANY President Mo Schoo led forth on matters of Corps Administration and Rick Klimowicz took care of the fltern. The Seminar was chaired by Buzz Olsen and Stony Creek’s Dave Haoghirn took care of the ever-important Refreshment Committee. Leo Brennan and COMPANY Registrar Faver Carlson were in charge of registration and the day’s surprise participant was Randy Keenel who traveled up from the Philadelphia area.

One unusual aspect of the day was the absence of the jollification that normally follows such gatherings. Instead, the group evolved into a quiet discussion of drum corps and their “good old days.”

The Ancient Times

SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON BACK PAGE

Down from the Coventry Hills is Nathan Hale FDC’s John Hetzel whose luxuriant beard attests to the fact that he grew more than one type crop in that northeastern Connecticut community.
The Ancient Times

Chatham Fife and Drum Corps On Both Sides Of The Atlantic!!

By RONALD DA SILVA

In September of 1977 I read in BAND CALL, the quarterly journal of the International Military Music Society (a British based organization of military band and drum corps enthusiasts) that a Royal Marine Cadet Band of Chatham, Kent would lead the British Youth Band Association’s Silver Jubilee Parade in London to honor the 25th Year of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II’s reign.

This excited me very much since our corps, the Morris County Militia of Chatham, New Jersey, had dedicated our 1977 field show to honor the Silver Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. We got the idea after seeing the Royal Salute to the American Bicentennial performed by the Regimental Bands of Britain’s Royal Marines and the Black Watch in 1975. We figured if the British could salute our Bicentennial in 1776, we could salute their Jubilee Year in 1977. Also I had already purchased our corps’ new uniforms after the British Marines of 1776 that were used in the Bicentennial tour of the Royal Band.

So in 1977 the Morris County Militia performed their Royal British Salute with a British and American national flag section wearing appropriate uniforms and the drill flag section carrying British White Ensigns (the flag of the Royal Navy and Marines) which we bought from the Garfield Cadets’ BD Corps. The color guard together with our drum major and corps, drilled in an authentic British manner to classical English music and traditional marches. Our 1977 British programme was even more successful than our 1976 Bicentennial show. It went over so well that our corps’ founder and director Jim Flynn, our English drill instructor Walt Taylor and myself all had the same idea in mind, How would the Militia’s show go over in Britain. Could it be performed in an actual British Tattoo, before an audience that were used to the highest standards of military and musical pageantry.

Now knowing that a youth band existed in our sister city of Chatham, Kent, we had more than enough reason to send our corps to Britain. I wrote the author of that article in BAND CALL to get any information I could on the Chatham Marine Cadets. His author was Mr. M. Hefford, the Senior Drum Major of the City of Coventry Corps of Drums (an American style drum and bugle corps). Mike Hefford answered me, stating he’d try his best to put our corps in touch with the Chatham Marine Cadets. In the meantime Mike filled me in on the organization and activities of his own corps. Three months after my original inquiry I received a large envelope from Mike containing a letter, photos and history on the Chatham Marine Cadets, and found out that the Cadet Band, wasn’t a band in the American sense, but in fact a junior fife & drum corps like their American counterparts.

The differences between the two corps being, that the Morris County Militia are an ANCIENT Fife & Drum Corps using six-hole B Flat wooden fifes with rope tension snare and rudimental bass drums. While the Chatham Marine Cadets are a modern corps, using 5 key B Flat low pitch flutes, modern high tension snare, Scotch tenor and bass drums, plus bell lyres. For ceremonial occasions they also use 8 flat infantry bugles.

The Chatham Marine Cadets were originally organized in the early 1900’s as the Royal Marine Volunteer Boys Cadet Corps and sponsored by the Royal Marines stationed at Chatham. This was initially a youth club in uniform and slowly developed into a fife & drum band, with boys from the age of 7 upwards. The unit was inactive during the war years and reorganized in 1946. However in 1976 the Royal Marines left Chatham thus leaving 100 boys with no parent organization to look after them.

In existence in Great Britain was the Sea Cadet Corps, which is a volunteer youth organization run by the Navy League Charity and within the Sea Cadet Corps Units there existed a small number of Marine Cadet Detachments of up to 26 strong. So the Chatham Marine Cadets approached the Sea Cadet Corps asking them if they could formally take over the responsibility of the Marine Cadet Unit and this they agreed to do. There are now 92 Cadet Detachments attached to the Sea Cadet Corps and only one Marine Cadet Unit, namely the Chatham Marine Cadets.

Over a period of 7 years they slowly conformed to the requirements of the Sea Cadet Corps by raising their lower age limit to 12 years 6 months. So at present time their average age is 14 years 11 months. The current unit strength is 92 Cadets of which 40 are members of the Band. Besides the fife & drum band, the Cadets have a very full training program that includes Marine Corps history, marching and drill, rifle shooting, map reading, swimming, boating, survival and sports.

The Cadet Unit parades on two evenings a week with an extra evening or week end of their own time given to rifle, boating or sport practice, or in actually taking part in competition. The Band meets for practice one evening a week and are kept extremely busy, especially during the summer months, giving exhibitions at various fêtes and charity shows. They offer a choice of static performance (stand-still) or marching display and have gained a considerable reputation not only in their own immediate area, but also further afield, including 3 visits to Valenciennes, France to take part in the Military Band Festival of Music.

The Morris County Militia are now working on plans to send their Chatham, New Jersey Corps to Chatham, Kent in England, and the Chatham Marine Cadets.
The Juggling Fifer

Holyoke, Massachusetts

By PAT MICHAJLUK

The Spirit of '76 was organized in 1976 and consists of a musical unit and a color guard. Hand-crafted drums are authentic reproductions as are the muskets carried by the color guard and the uniforms which are made of linen imported for the unit from Liege, Belgium.

Under the direction of D.M. Ed Robert, and Bus Mgr. Dick Croson, the corps maintains their authenticity by playing original file and drum selections from the American Revolution and Civil War Period.

The Spirit of '76 FD has won many trophies over the years and is the 1977 Massachusetts State Champion in the Ancient Senior Class. Robin Croson and Mary Bennett took first and second honors in the Senior File Class and Rene Robert took first in Bass Drumming.

In February of 1976, by special invitation, the corps performed in Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, in "America On Parade", a 45-minute tribute to our Bicentennial Celebration. In addition to the parade, the "Spirit" performed in concert with the Disney World File and Drum Corps.

In March of 1976, the Spirit of '76 received an invitation from the office of the Boston Bicentennial and "Boston 200" to take part in the historic visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to that city during the summer. The Queen came to Boston on Sunday, July 11 to join in our Bicentennial Celebration. Her Majesty's itinerary included participation in a formal military review planned in her honor and The Spirit of '76 took part in this segment of the program.

The corps has participated in many historical reenactments in New England and New York and was one of the groups that led the Knox Trail Reenactment Group into the city of Westfield, Massachusetts, on January 14, 1976. After spending the day escorting the marchers, the corps provided the entertainment for the "Cannon Ball" held at Barnes Airport in Westfield.

In June of 1976, the peak of the Bicentennial Celebration, the Spirit of '76 had the honor to welcome the "Full Ships" to Newport, Rhode Island, and to participate in the military tattoo at Fort Adams. All agree it was one of the most cherished moments.

Some of the many other special appearances and performances in recent years include: The Miss World U.S.A. Beauty Pageant at the Springfield Civic Center, Springfield, MA (televised nationally); the Super Bowl of Music in Amherst, MA; the Deep River Muster and the National Muster in East Hampton, CT; the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; the Fall Foliage Parade in North Adams, MA; Northampton Muster Days in Northampton, MA; Gaspee Days in Warwick, Rhode Island; the Apple Harvest Festival Parade, Southington, CT; York, Maine Muster; Hudson Falls Muster, Hudson Falls, NY; the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke, MA, where the Parade Committee awarded the unit first place as the "Best File and Drum Corps" in 1976; concerts during the summer at Stanley Park during 1977 in Westfield, MA; and many other muster appearances and celebrations.

The Juggling Fifer, John Ciaglia — Native of Branford, Connecticut — is receiving accolades for his abilities in his "second career" of juggler. Area newspapers recently carried feature stories on John, a music conservatory graduate. Ciaglia serves as file instructor for the Deep River Drum Corps Junior and Tory units, the Jr. Colonials of Weatbrook, and the Higganum-Haddam Ancients.
Bridges by Ann M. Feder

The Pound Ridge Colonial Fife and Drums, Pound Ridge, NY, journeyed to Virginia in September to visit Kings Dominion Amusement Park, and while they were there, got together with the Patowmac Ancients FDC of Arlington, Va. Randy Hauck, Patowmac Ancients Musick Master, rounded up most of the Corps by telephone Saturday, and the Patowmac Ancients met the Colonials at their hotel Saturday night when they returned from Kings Dominion for some impromptu fife and drumming in the parking lot. This drew a number of onlookers, who had never seen (or heard) anything quite like it. Then they all went to a nearby restaurant for a pizza party hosted by the Pound Ridge Corps. The next day started early, when the Patowmac Ancients hosted a picnic for the Colonials, before both corps went to Mount Vernon, where each performed individually on the bowling green of the mansion, and then the Pound Ridge Colonials were joined in a circle of friendship by the Patowmac Ancients, playing three tunes together. Following the Mount Vernon performance, and a tour of the house and grounds by those who were interested, both corps adjourned to the home of Don and Marguerite Felt, whose daughter, Liz, came to the Patowmac Ancients from the Ancient Mariners of Japan. The Fels served refreshments and let the corps get on with some more fife and drumming in their backyard. Finally, the bus carrying the Pound Ridge corps was loaded, and Patowmac Ancients members lined the road to wave goodbye to the bus headed—literally—into the sunset, with many promises all around to write, and “see you at the next muster,” etc. Again, a bridge was formed between corps, not only among the young people, but also among the adults of both corps. Everyone is looking forward to the next time they can get together.

We are delighted to present, for your edification and instruction, the following treatise dealing with the history of one facet of our chosen activity. Researching and written by one of Switzerland’s leading drum instructors, Mr. Alex Haeffeli of Berne, it was forwarded to us by COMPANY OF FITTERS AND DRUMMERS Vice President Alfons Ortler of Basel.

In charge of drumming in the Swiss Army, Mr. Haeffeli is also drum major of the Berne FD. He conducted, and arranged for, the
Patowmack Ancients with Old Guardsman instructor Randy Hank (formerly of Bloomburg Pioneers) wielding the Drum Major’s staff.

Clouds, wind, and intermittent sunshine set the stage for the Patowmack Ancients FDC (Arlington, Va.) 2nd Annual Picnic and Mini-Muster. The John Hansen Patriots of Indian Head, Md. and Graysen’s Cadets of Woodbridge, Va., attended, as well as Rick Klimowicz (a former instructor for Patowmack Ancients when he was in the Old Guard FDC) from New Haven Ct., John McGrath from Lincoln Park, NJ, and Caroline Wentz, former drum major for Olde Ripton FDC, now a student at Hood College, Frederick, Md. All those corps that went on stand were given a muster ribbon by Alan Carter, Patowmack Ancients drum major, and when the Patowmack Ancients were on stand the muster ribbon was presented to Alan by Jennifer Queen, the young lady who has been accepting the muster ribbons on behalf of the Patowmack Ancients. This year Rick Klimowicz and John McGrath represented the New Jersey Colonial Militia on stand, and traveling the farthest distance to attend (with the possible exception of Ken Burwood of THE COMPANY STORE)

The food was good Southern picnic fare prepared by all of the participating families and served buffet style. Margaret Freytag, the mother of one of the Patowmack Ancients’ color guard, created two edible works of art (cakes), one depicting the Corps crest, and the other depicting its emblem. Too pretty to eat, but they ended up tasting as good as they looked.

A jollification took place after the picnic and before the Muster exhibitions, as fifers and drummers from the Virginia Maryland area renewed old acquaintances and made new ones, which was the purpose of the event. It had been felt that there was too much competition and too little communication between the “local” corps, so the Patowmack Ancients took this means to try to break down the barriers between the young people of these corps. As a measure of success, the weary masses headed home saying “next year...” It is hoped that “next year” even more of the local corps will find themselves able to participate.

remarkable drum line which visited us in 1973 under the banner of the Swiss Drum Tourniquet Verein (Swiss Drum Ass’n). Anyone witnessing their spectacular rendition of Ravel’s Bolero could never question Alex’ total devotion to things percussive.

Even since the 15th century European armies have used the drum as an instrument for giving military signals during battles and keeping soldiers in step, while on the march. We read of military field music, consisting of fifers and drummers, functioning in Basel, Switzerland as early as 1500. At the beginning of the 18th century the city of Basel employed its own drummers and fifers. These musicians belonged to the various merchant guilds in whose hands lay the defense of the city’s territory. A note in an “alarm ordinance” of Basel, written in 1446, says that not the church bells but the drums and trumpets were to sound the alarm.

Aside from Basel, there is another part of Switzerland... the Canton Wallis... in which the drum and fife play a similarly important cultural role. The origin of drumming and flogging in this region dates back to the time when Swiss soldiers served as mercenaries throughout Europe. While in foreign service they learned the art of playing these instruments, brought it back and introduced it at home. Fife and drum units are still popular in this canton, (or state), and as those instruments are played mainly at town festivals and religious holidays.

In the 18th century Germany introduced the lanquesets and with them their drummers and fifers. A great deal of importance was attributed to this medieval “Spielmannszug” until the fall of the old confederacy. They eventually lost their significance with the introduction of wind-banded instrumentation and the foundation of battalion brass bands in the army.

With the first defense constitution of Switzerland, in the year 1784, the state was made responsible for the instruction of drummers and fifers. At this time the players had to undergo a basic training period of 47 days with infantry units and the drummers’ instruction was limited to learning a number of military signals and drumming in a simple ordinance style.

As a consequence of this very brief instruction the military drummers were forced to develop their abilities outside of the confines of the army. Thus were formed the famous military-style drum corps of that era, (1800-1850, 1864-1870, 1880, 1890, etc.) In 1890 the Swiss Tourniquet Verein, (Swiss Drumming Association), was founded. Its goal was to establish courses for instructors so as to coordinate and promote their musical education. The Swiss Ordinance or advanced army... style (a system composed of a few simple rudiments easy to play in front of marching units) was the only method used at this time.

From 1907 to 1938 the length of time for the basic training of a military drummer was increased to 67 days but the program remained about the same. The drummers’ instruction was limited to military signals and simple style.

Outside of the army drum systems flourished and the number of rudiments was developed and enlarged upon. This was especially true in Basel where drumming had been a popular art since the days of the Patowmack Ancients. The influence resulting from military associations with Napoleon’s troops, said influence was never more evident than during the formative period between 1870 and 1900. In addition to French rudiments such as “Patafia,” “Ha Saute,” “Coup Anglais,” “Moulin Strokes,” “Rafata,” and “Coup de Charge,” new rudiments and combinations were developed by the Basel drummers. Some of these were “the Mulwheel Stroke,” “the Flammed Coup de Charge,” several “End stroke combinations,” and “Revelle Stroke combinations.” The amalgamation of the more ponderous Swiss beat with that of French elegance was a very fortuitous one and, with the addition of dynamic expression, today’s Basel drum style was created.

The late Dr. Fritz Berger of Basel took a great step forward when, in 1928, he created a mono-linear system of notation which allowed the drummer to read and play exact rhythms, dynamics and technique. He also published the first instruction book of Basel drumming as the dominant Swiss musical system to two volumes. The English-language edition of this book, as well as a record with all of the Swiss rudiments, can be ordered through Alfonso Grieder, Christoph Mierant, 3, 1442 Munchenstein, Switzerland. Dr. Berger’s highly developed system of drum notation enabled drummers to read and interpret Swiss drum marches. Since that time drummers throughout the world have learned to drum Basel style.

In the Swiss army, however, it was possible to study this more difficult style only when the company drummers were united in groups and incorporated into the army bands as the so-called field music. The education of these drummers was extended to the Basel-style rudiments which is required in order to play the more difficult concert selections. Now, the main job of a military drummer is not merely to keep marchers in step but to entertain people in concerts and other performances.

During the past quarter century the Swiss Drumming Association has sponsored annual drumming contests, listing two categories. Category A is the military ordinance style and Category B consists of the more difficult Basel style. Usually there are about 500 individual competitors and approximately 30 drum corps... many with fifers.

Besides playing the fife and the drum in the aforementioned way there is another old custom in the Wallis region. There they play on wooden fifes without keys, similar to the Ancient fife in America. They play very old melodies dating to the time of Swiss mercenaries. The drumming style is rather simple but the old “Ahnenmusik” is still very effective and continues to be played by 25 units in that part of the country.

Swiss drumming and fifeing has undergone enormous development in the last 35 years. There are some 2500 drummers and fife active with the Swiss Drumming Association which is similar in many ways to THE COMPANY OF FIFERS AND DRUMMERS in the United States. Many activities... concerts, seminars and meetings... are conducted by the S.T.V. culminating every four years, in a “Quadraensum Tournirof”
Snap-Shots

Groton Connecticut's Nutmeg Volunteers FDC at the Pawcatuck Little League Parade.

Drum Major Ginny Stefancik leading the Portland Jr. FDC at Warwick, Rhode Island.

Everett Miner, former Drum Major of the Marquis of Granby FDC and now with the Old Guard, leading his old corps off the field at their July 4th Muster.

Drum Major Tina Moore and the Deep River Jr. FDC at the Pawcatuck, Conn. parade.

The Olde Ripton Jr. FDC of Huntington, Ct. take the field at a recent Muster.
With each August comes the Westbrook Ancient Muster and with each Westbrook Muster comes the Ancient Mariner's Annual Investiture. In the first photo we see part of the current school of Polywogs crossing the line & becoming full, if somewhat damp, Mariners. In the next we see ex-old guardsman Rick Klimowicz whose investiture was capped by a pie in the face (from a secret admirer).

Boycotting the whole scene were Dickerson drummer Sam Romie, whose wife wouldn't allow him near such rowdies, and Hoboken Jack O'Brien espouser of lost causes and disbanded drum corps.
Nayaug Hosts Muster

By PHIL TRUITT

In South Glastonbury they refer to the Nayaug section as the "51st State" and every mid-September this hearty community hosts a crackajack gathering of the Ancient fifers and drummers that is not to be missed. The 9th annual Nayaug Muster took place this year on September 17th and, on a beautiful Fall day, it was a most significant and special event.

This Muster is always a showcase for the old line corps although there is also a solid representation from the newer and Junior corps as well. This year was no exception. Twenty-one units were on hand with President Mo Schoos' Kentish Guards from East Greenwich, Rhode Island being the sole out-of-state participant. Highlights in the day were many. There was the stirring and nostalgic return of the great Lancraft Ancients of past years (as the feature corps), a visit from the Japanese Mariners, the performances of three CFDA champions and two runners-up... and an absolutely solid day of good Ancient music from start to finish.

The parade got underway after one o'clock and was led by the 3rd Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line followed by the always entertaining Nayaug Ancients. These two units set a very inspiring and impressive front for the enthusiastic and knowledgeable crowd to warm to. The Kentish Guards descended the hill next followed by the belkis sound of bugles which signalled the approach of East Hampton's 3rd Connecticut Regiment who were only on hand for the parade section as they had a special picnic engagement, with Governor Lancraft drum line, with National Brick-mush magazine Jay Tuomey on the point, ready for their featured exhibition at Nayaug.

Grasso, to keep. The snappy Junior Colonials from Westbrook led the younger corps and were in good form - as always.

The Ancient Mariners came next with their three Japanese guests all fiving in the front line and obviously enjoying the festive atmosphere. John Foran and the ever smooth Nathan Hale Fifes and Drums followed the Mariners with the 1978 Connecticut Senior Ancient Champion Connecticut Blues on their heels. The Blues, with their outstanding Color Guard to the fore, are certainly one of the most impressive sights on the march around today... and their music is of no less a calibre.

Colonel John Chester, Stony Creek and Lancraft swept down the hill next and the music from these three was grand to hear. The handsome Portland Junior Ancients and the 1978 Connecticut Junior Ancient Champion Yaleville Juniors kept the standard of music at peak level. The Sailing Masters of 1912 added a piped to their ranks for this occasion and the addition was a great success visually as well as musically.

The beautiful Muster field at Nayaug is set in a lovely, little hollow which is well suited to both viewing and optimum listening enjoyment. It was to be the scene of many special moments this afternoon. The opening ceremonies featured the 3rd Connecticut Regiment of the Continental Line's smart and precise maneuvers plus the music of the Nayaug Ancients and this, indeed, was an impressive combination. Musically, you could not justly cite one corps over another as, with a field of this quality, every unit which performed shone brightly. The Ancient Mariners' appearance was noteworthy as the two girl fifers, Miwa Watanabe and Yuko Taguchi and fifer, Nick Bushla, from the Japanese Mariners were given special recognition and a very warm Ancient reception from the crowd. Governor Grasso's thoughtful letter of welcome was also read in their tribute. The three visitors obviously had a grand time and contributed their share to that unique, big sound of their American counterparts.

Clearly the emotional highlight of the day was the special concert given by the reunited veterans of the great Champion Lancraft Fife and Drum Corps of past years. They were led by the venerable "Long John" McGuire who, in especially good spirit, came equipped with nimble baton to lead the vocal chorus on the rarely heard, 'Green Cockade', to the delight of all. This was my first experience at hearing this famous unit that won so many championships and led the Ancient ship for so many years... and it was an experience to cherish.

Lancraft had the right attention of everyone present as they played with verve and tight precision as a unit and, even for newcomers like myself, it was easy to see why they accomplished what they did over the years. This was clearly a very proud and moving occasion for the Lancraft members, but also for all the veteran fifers and drummers present because of the thrill in just seeing these great champions assembled again... and in hearing them play as well as they did. They touched on all their great repertoire of the past which brought back many memories. We can all salute the Nayaug Muster Committee for making this memorable concert come to pass.
The True Times

YALESVILLE'S JUNIOR ANCIENTS . . . A TOUCH OF CLASS!

Winners Of Unprecedented 10th Successive State Title

By PHIL TRUITT

The true measurement of a great champion in any field is winning consistently and with class. In this day and age, the accolade is thrown about loosely, but in the case of the Yalesville Junior Ancients—the title has been earned many times over! This popular and remarkable Ancient corps goes about its job gracefully and with an almost quiet efficiency...be it their actual musical performances, their appearance, the behind-the-scenes organization and operation or simply the deep motivation of dedication to excellence that runs equally through its superior instructors and the youthful corps members.

Their record is incredible and unprecedented in Connecticut for competition in either the Junior or Senior Ancient classes. On August 9th, the scarlet and black clad corps won its 10th consecutive Junior Ancient Class title in the state meet at Bristol! The victory was also their 16th in the past 18 years in this—a one of the most highly competitive areas of the country. Their awards go on endlessly to include multiple victories of the coveted MUNROS. These two well renowned drum corps personalities were gracious enough to take time out from their heavy schedule to give us a peek at what goes on behind the scenes with their pride and joy. Both spoke freely and sincerely and the picture which evolves is one of exceptional leadership, total devotion to established goals, hard work at all levels and a yeeping, mutual respect from instructor to every corps member.

Without question, the success of any great organization can be directly traced clearly a mutual flow of “unquestioned” respect, admiration and discipline that lead to the result you and I see in their performances.

Consistent Performance

As one views the Yalesville Juniors at contests and competitions, there is an unmistakable aura of confidence, style and pride about the youngsters. When the uniform is on, these kids concentrate strictly on the fore-noted, two goals. Whether on the stand before 30,000 people or in the remote hinterlands of a placid route with no onlookers present—their level of performance is the same. This one point is why they are a cut above average. There is no faking or fooling around while they perform. That all comes later at the proper place and time. The pride and maturity of the corps is equally evident in their bearing, appearance and, of course, their remarkable music. This overall attitude and quality is, of course, omnipresent with any champion.

The sound of the corps, to my ears, cannot be described as “big” in the sense of Stony Creek, or many other Ancient corps. Rather it is smooth, melodic, tasty and almost always marked by a jaunty air reflecting Eleanor’s arrangements. Eleanor arranges the flite music initially and then Hugh adds the drum support to speak when it’s needed.

Excessive Repertoire

One of the strengths of the Yalesville Juniors is their deep and extensive repertoire of revolutionary and civil war songs as well as religious and regional numbers that fit the Ancient style. Few corps, Junior or Senior, can match this repertoire. Never is it more evident to me than this spring in Meriden when I recorded the corps, playing continually on the march for over 45 minutes...and they never played any number twice.

Every year the corps tries to add 2-3 new selections to their repertoire. When called upon to make special concert appearances out of state, they make it a practice to arrange special numbers with a local flavor and appeal for that area to add to the enjoyment of the crowd. This nice touch can often mean a great deal of work in a short period of time such as in 1976 when the youngsters had to learn the Canadian national anthem in just two days for a series of concerts in Ontario.

Bicentennial Travels

These little extra efforts the Yalesville Juniors exert for their audience help make them a widely sought attraction. In 1976 the bicentennial fever led them to an evening in New York’s Waldorf Astoria...
great organization can be directly traced to the wisdom and experience of its leadership; Eleanor, who serves as Corporate Director, Business Manager, Treasurer, Secretary and Fife Instructor brings to the youngsters 44 years in drum corps and enough credentials for an army. The night of our interview, her kids presented her with a special, Ancient Style cake denoting her 20 years in business with the corps. Whereas the cake itself was rapidly devoured by the youngsters, its message and her dedication was great and permanent. As a musician, she was the first female Senior Ancient Fife Champion in the CFDA and the NESCA. Her illustrious background as a fife instructor and her many awards and such credits as The Connecticut Yankees, The Yalesville Senior Ancients, The St. Peters Senior Corps, City Park P & D Corps, the Mattatuck Combination Corps and the Santa Fe Jr. Ancients. Hugh Quigley, whose tenure with the corps is 10 years, serves as Assistant Corps Director and Drum Instructor. When you speak of his credentials you do so with respect for he won six Senior Ancient Snare titles in the CFDA, plus two National titles as well. One of the outstanding pupils of Earl Sturtevant, Hugh place at all with the great Lancastrian corps of the fortes and early fifties where he also served as President, Vice President and Drum Sergeant.

George Berry completes the exceptional staff with 15 years of Yalesville Junior experience. He is the Major and Color Guard Instructor for the corps as well as serving actively as a main stand judge at CFDA meets.

Respect and Discipline

What is significant about this leadership is the experience, wisdom and long term relationships they have brought to their youngers. Herein lies the answer to understanding the instrument as an art form and the constant flow of highly competent new talent into the performing unit to maintain its high level of excellence.

The goals of the corps are primarily twofold. There is the total dedication to excellence in performance that any great organization must possess, and this is accom-panied by an equal dedication to entertain the people. As stated they appear quite simple, but achieve another story. The pursuit of these goals is a total family affair within the corps. From the teaching and direction of the instructors to the practice and proficiency development of the youngster, one sees

and then Hugh made the drum support to match. The result is a fine Ancient style of music under Eleanor’s direction; the special touches of expression that is, again, set the Yalesville Juniors clearly apart from the field.

It is Eleanor’s policy in the corps to instruct new members from scratch at a young age when they possess no preconceived idea of how to play the drums. This procedure allows all three instructors to establish a solid rapport with their pupils and bring them along purely in the desired style, proficiency demands and repertoire requirements to achieve matching status with the corps. Hugh notes that this may take two years for a drummer to fully reach the comfort level necessary for the corps. However, bear in mind the degree of expertise and experience in the instruction which permits this type of rapid development at Yalesville. Practices are held Monday evenings year round for the performing corps and on Tuesdays for the beginners.

1978 Unit A Veteran Corps

Whereas at its inception in 1966, under the VFW sponsorship, most members came from Yalesville, the picture is quite different today. New recruits come from such distant towns as North Haven, Cromwell, Middlefield, Hamden and Cheshire. Such is the reputation the corps enjoys. Although there is a constant turnover in the unit, the present champions are primarily a veteran group who have played together for four years now. The corps totals 40 members — a level it has maintained since 1975.

Ancient Comrades

If the picture I have painted so far is one of a band of deadly serious, joyless and abnormal kids — far be it from the truth. These are healthy, active young boys and girls who play with that same air that you see in the movie “Raiders of the Lost Ark.” The two goals of the corps come first and after that, there is ample time for relaxation.

Throughout the year the corps goes on outings periodically and enjoys an annual Christmas Party. In addition, reunions are held every summer and fall to renew old friendships and keep in touch with past corps members. Although she says she has no trouble in finding up the youngsters, Eleanor adds with a sly grin, “We have been known on occasion to give a locker room Grand Ballroom for a special performance at the annual awards banquet of the Thoroughbred Horse Racing Association.

Later on in the spring of 1976, the corps was invited to play at New York’s Tappan Zoo Faire, a Holiday Inn and... paid their fee in addition. The occasion was the Arkansas Derby held annually in Hot Springs. On July 4th the corps was invited to play at New Jersey’s Monmouth Race Track and was so well received — they have been an annual attraction ever since. Their final trek was to Canada for 4 days of performances at three race tracks for Canada’s Jockey Club. Again, their trip was without expenses paid.

As to the future, the Spring of 1979 will bring a much anticipated trip to Florida’s Disney World and Sea Land for a series of concerts. This area has, in the last, become a hotbed for Ancient music.

The Yalesville Juniors today have a few schedule or financial problems. In addition to their many National and competitive appearances, civic affairs are constantly available through ties with the Yalesville VFW and Fire Department.

Westbrook Muster A Favorite

The Westbrook Muster every August is Eleanor’s favorite event. It is primarily because of the well organized committee there which always advises corps of their performance schedule well in advance. The attractive Parade route and muster field are ideal and a big attraction is the highly knowledgeable and appreciative crowd that always marks this Muster.

In the March, Fife Sergeant Friscilla De Roy directs the selections the corps plays without rehearsal. Both Friscilla and Drum Sergeant, Raymond Flynn, were selected on the criteria of seniority plus ability — which is a long standing policy at Yalesville. Whereas many corps utilize long street beat sequences in parades, the Yalesville Juniors play steadily... drawing on their deep and diverse repertoire. This is all in line with giving the audience their money’s worth in entertainment and enjoyment.

The Yalesville Juniors have more than their share of individual competition and stands out within the corps. Eleanor adds with a sly grin, “I have been known on occasion to give a ticket to watch how to deliver!” Keep in mind what you have read and see for yourself, the dedication and the pride and the confidence they exude.

HOME IN INDIANA CONTINUED

the Great-Great-Grandson of Chief Pontiac.

At 3 pm Sunday all the five and drum corps joined together for a massed performance. This included many of our midwestern FD corps pioneers... Tippecanoe FDC, The Alton, Illinois Colonial FDC, Voyaguer Ancients, First Michigan FDC and Wisconsin’s Janeville FDC. Much to the delight, the Sutler was invited to perform with Mark Logsdon’s First Michigan. Another colorful regional unit was the 2nd Penna’s. 18th Century Band.

After the closing ceremonies, the participants seemed to disappear as rapidly as they had arrived. So too did THE COMPANY Store, returning to Connecticut replete with happy memories, stories and a few souvenirs. Plans are already in the works to show THE COMPANY Flag, once again next year’s Feast of the Hunters Moon.

CHATHAM CONTINUED

Corps of Cadets Pipe Band, and in Musters at Chatham, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. with the U.S. Army’s “Old Guard” Fife & Drum Corps, they have received an invitation from the Honourable Artillery Company Corps of Drum to visit their historic headquarters “Armory House,” in London. This Army Volunteer Reserve Unit is one of the oldest active military units in the world, being organized in 1837. Their Corps of Drums wears the same full dress uniform as the Grenadier Guards. Members of this corps were instrumental in forming the newly organized Corps of Drums Society, a society that aims to preserve and promote the traditions and music of British fife & drum corps.

Late this November I hope to meet with all these British drum corps, when I attend the first National Championships of British Youth Band Association in London. While there, I will be visiting various corps and will report on the state of all drum corps and bands in Britain, besides making arrangements for the Morris County Militia and just being a plain tourist.
Annual September Muster In Windsor

Third Annual Bissell Muster . . . Special Treat

BY PHIL TRUETT

On Saturday, September 9th, this reporter returned for our annual muster visit to Windsor, Connecticut. Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the state’s very first militia muster, the town and its excellent host corps, the Sgt. Daniel Bissell Junior Ancients, presented a delightful afternoon of music and entertainment on a glorious day which saw the first nip of autumn touch Connecticut.

Shortly after one o’clock, Captain Marie Holt led her most impressive color guard unit off the mark onto the parade route and Drum Major Kathy McDonough followed with the full Bissell corps — resplendent in their rich purple and burgundy uniforms. Twelve corps representing Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut fell in line and the third annual Sgt. Daniel Bissell Ancient Muster was in full swing. The field today included an attractive assembly of units — large and small, both young and veteran — in its ranks.

To Musters is incessant and the true Spirit of 76 thrives in this unit’s performance. In contrast, the Colonel John Chester Junior Ancients and the Portland Junior Ancients were both exceptional in their style performances. Both units played beautifully all day long. Then there was the youthful Sleeping Giant F & D representative of the Company’s younger corps. These youngsters have come along markedly in just a few years and play better every time we hear them. Nathan Hale Ancient Fife and Drums and a somewhat diminished East Hampton Third Connecticut Regiment comprised the “old guard” at Windsor and both were well received.

Milford Volunteers

I had the pleasure of marching at length with the fine Milford Volunteers during the parade and . . . a pleasure it was. Here is another truly Ancient unit that plays beautifully and was a delight to hear. Marlborough’s Volunteer Fire Department Junior Ancients were out in full force and were in top form as were the always stylish and entertaining Marquis of Granby who just made the parade after an earlier engagement. Barrat’s Raiders from Tiverton, Rhode Island made one of the most exciting contributions of the day.

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JAPAN MARINERS AT ANJIN FESTIVAL

BY JIM KIDD

For the second consecutive year Ancient Mariners of Japan participated in the William Adams (ANJIN) Festival in the resort city of ITO, Japan. Those who’ve read James Clavell’s best selling novel “SHOGUN” will recall ANJIN as the English pilot and another special event for the Japan Mariners because of the special treatment they receive there. The bus transportation to and from is on a luxury coach provided by the ITO City Hotel owners association.

The Corps is invited to a pre-parade party atop one of the city’s finest hotels where they feast on a wide variety of delicacies with beer, sake and soft drinks. The parade itself is stopped for “refreshments” several times due to the intense August heat. Afterward the
The boot corps, whose uniforms feature the royal purple which symbolizes Sgf. Bissell's receipt of the first Purple Heart medal ever awarded (by General George Washington), did their forefathers proud from this day. Playing briskly and without flaw, the unit was a beautiful sight on the march.

Hats off to Capt. James Buxton Ancients

The Captain James Buxton Ancients from Uxbridge, Mass. were, to this writer, especially noteworthy for the more I listen to them the more I sense that perhaps no other unit in the entire Company epitomizes as clearly as they do — our original fifers and drummers. Their drive and their music is striking and they are the closest image I know as to how the original life and drum corps must have appeared. At the large Musters, this unit tends to get overshadowed by the bigger, louder and more polished corps, but today they stood out as all genuine glory. Their loyalty to their rare Connecticut appearances and were most enjoyable to see and hear.

For their order of the day Volunteering from Groton more than give you their money's worth. The big and hand-some uniformed corps played all this day and were a highlight of the Muster. The Higgins Haddam Ancients completed the field and their rhythmical, upbeat style music was very much in evidence throughout the festivities.

Historic Muster Setting

The Bissell Master offers a truly picturesque and historic setting on the green in front of the Town Hall in Windsor. This Muster is always enjoyable because it is a showcase for the smaller and younger corps who often go unnoticed at the more gala, spectacular stops on the circuit... and yet who play with the same dedication and excellence. For those of you who missed this year — mark it down as one to attend next season. The crowd is always receptive and the hosts could not be more gracious.

Firemen's Parade A Workout For Ancient Corps

When it comes to a parade, believe me, nothing even approaches the spectacular nature of the annual Connecticut Firemen's Convention affair. The 1978 version took place in Westfield on Sunday, the 24th of September and it was something to behold! To set the scene for you, the recipe goes something like this. Take almost 200 fire apparatus (vintage and modern) blended in colors of red, gold, lime and yellow... add virtually every Modern Drum Corps in the state... plus a twist of Pipe and High School Bands... mix in 19 Ancient Corps... add several thousand firemen and spread it all out over a four mile route with at least 40,000 spectators... and you have the picture. The parade involved 15 different divisions half of which were not even in sight when yours truly finally called it a day after four hours of steady marching.

Ancient Representation Strong

From what I could see and count at the staging areas and along the route itself, some nineteen Ancient corps were on the march this beautiful Indian Summer afternoon. The Cromwell Grenadiers and the 17th Connecticut Regiment led the way followed by Sgd. Daniel Bissell, the Yalesville Juniors, Mattatuck, The Sailors Masting of 1812, Stony Creek, the Marlborough Jr. Ancients, Danbury Jr. Elks, the Tracy Senior Ancients, the Portland Jr.s., the Warehouse Point F.D., Totoket F.D., the navigator Blackthorne who was ship-wrecked on the coast of Japan in 1928, some may be surprised that the novel was based on fact and that Will Adams (Blackthorne) lived his life in Japan as an advisor to the Shogun Tokugawa Tamasaburo in such matters as ship-building and naval warfare. He died a hermit and a samurai in 1630, the only foreigner ever to be so appointed. His burial place is in the small town of AININ-ZU-KA just a fifteen minute drive from Yokusuka and the large American naval base.

Along with the Blackship Festival in Shimoda the Aaniu Festival has become intense August heat. Afterwards the crewmen are treated to Japanese hot bath prior to attending a special post-parade banquet thrown for all foreign participants. In attendance this year were groups from New Zealand, Mexico, Columbia and Australia.

By the end of the day the Mariners were a stuffed and groggy lot as they boarded the bus for the trip home. The ITO ANJIN Festival is mainly an English-Japanese affair but this group of Japanese-American Ancients will be around each year to make sure the strains of "Yankee Doodle" are heard. Rest in Peace Will Adams!

Pre-parade banquet left to right Capt. Gilbert Hitchens, Royal Navy Aide to the British Ambassador; Jim Kidd, Director, Japan Mariners; Sir Michael Wilford, British Ambassador to Japan; Capt. R. C. Bilyeu, USN, Commanding U. S. Naval Base Yokusuka; and, wearing Ancient Mariners, Connecticut Babe Kelly's Balmoral Drum Major Phil Kealahlai with a look of anguish over the absence of pineapple on the banquet table.

Yalesville Seniors, the Marquis of Granby, Lancraft, the Milford Volunteers and the Connecticut Rebels. One or two others may have slipped by me and, if so, their omission is purely unintentional.

Spectacular Show To See

For those of you who want to see the grand daddy of all parades... mark late September down on your calendar this year and don't miss this one. Figure on a six hour stay, but the spectacle is certainly worth it to mention the music. The Ancients were well received all day long... to a corps... but my bet is there were a great many sore feet that evening.

The Ancient Times

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