The Ancient Times

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Vol. IX No. 1

SUMMER 1982

NATIONAL MUSTER IN INDIAN HEAD OPENS ’82
SEASON—SPIRIT AND SPECIAL MASS FOR
MIKE CHIODO FEATURED

“Long” John McGuire, Jim Colleran Honored By Lancraft

By Bill Pace

The usual festive air that always pervades Lancraft’s Oldtimer’s Night was subdued on Thursday evening April 29 as fifers and drummers gathered to honor their own. One of the honorees, “Long” John McGuire had passed away only days before (see story in Muffled Drum). Several Lancrafters and invited guests had stopped in New Haven to pay their respects to the gracious “Long” John before driving to the North Haven Club.

Despite their loss, the men of Lancraft were most cordial to their invited guests which included immediate Past President of THE COMPANY “Mo” Schoos, several members of the Ancient Mariners and the Stony Creek corps, and a few representatives of the Drummers of 1812. Even the long inactive 20th Fleet Drum Corps of Bridgeport was represented by the Lancraft fifer and executive committeeman, Bob Braly of The Company.

ago, was on hand. “Sig” like Earl Sturitz and many of the participants had been previously honored as Lancraft Men of the Year.

F-X. O’Connell, a former Lancraft fifer and past president of the CFDA, presented his Man of the Year Plaque to Lancraft along with his CFDA President’s medal for permanent display in the trophy case.

EldrickArsenault was master of ceremonies for the evening and Lancraft President and bass drummer, Joe Fenton bid everyone a special welcome.

Jimmy Colleran accepted his engraved plaque “with gratitude and friendship”. As Lancraft’s long time treasurer, Jimmy has kept the North Haven based drum corps solvent for the past several decades.

Lancraft’s Jay Tsuchiy was hard at work with the kitchen crew for the evening which extended into early morning and almost to dawn before the last story was told and the last cool one hoisted.

Earlier in the evening the circle of fifers

John Hanson Patriots Lay Out Red Carpet for Corps from 8 States

By Phil Fritz

When you have had the pleasure of enjoying the hospitality of Bob and Mabel Painter, John Willet and the rest of the John Hanson organization, the annual trek to Maryland each Spring is eagerly awaited. The Painters are masters of those special touches and considerations that make everybody feel welcome and ready to put forth an extra effort. The weekend of April 23rd–25th brought 19 corps from eight states to the eastern shores of the Potomac, whose landscape was brightly arrayed in a full dress of Spring blossoms. The occasion was the National Muster of The Company—the first since 1979 in East Hampton, Connecticut.

the crimson clad John Hanson corps off the mark. In their wake came the Long Island Minutemen, the Potomack Ancients from Alexandria, Virginia, the Yankee Tunesmiths and the Village Volunteers from New York. Connecticut’s delegation brought out Samuel Comstock F & D, Ray Arrow’s Milford Volunteers, the Westbrook Drum Corps, Olde Ripton F & D, the Deep River Seniors and the Nutmeg Volunteers in a solid traditional performance.

The Andrew Lewis Volunteers from Williamsburg proudly and ably represented West Virginia as the always enjoyable New Ark F & D, under Mary Osborne represented Delaware. The New Jersey Colonial Militia, The Charlton Militia of
83 Boxborough
Muster Plans Well
Under Way

By Dave Boddie
Musters Chairman

Some people believe in planning well ahead. Such a person is Marion Neagle, Co-Chairman of the Boxborough (Massachusetts) Bicentennial Commission. In fact it was in April 1981 that Mrs. Neagle and members of the Commission met with Vice President Russ Kirby and Musters Chairman Dave Boddie of the Company of Fifers and Drummers to set the groundwork for a muster.

The date of the Muster is June 25, 1983. This is in connection with the 200th anniversary of the town of Boxborough, the only community known to have a fifer as a part of its logo. The fifer is Luther Blanchard whose story is told in the accompanying article. (See Page 6)

Fifteen corps, colonially attired only, will be required for this event for which the usual muster fare, camping, etc. will be offered along with a substantial donation to the Company of Fifers and Drummers.

Corps interested in participating should contact the Musters Chairman. Selection will be made from property attired corps who express an interest.

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The Music Committee-A Vital Function of the Company
By "Duke" Terrell

"Duke" Ferrante Music Committee Chairman and Secretary

One of the primary goals of the Company of Fifers and Drummers is the preservation of early American martial music. Thus, from the very outset in 1965, the Music Committee has researched and sought out in great depth the music that depicts the Ancient style field music.

The Committee, from its inception, realized a problem, this being the lack of published drum music. Books with fifer music were available but hardly any included drum parts. The few drum books from the 18th and 19th century used a different type of musical notation which is difficult to interpret, and the beats are rather "simple and open". The Bruce and Emmett book, "The Drummer's and Fifer's Guide" (1862) and the G.A. Strube book, "The Drum and Fife Instructor" (1869) are the exceptions. They used modern musical notation and did assign drum parts to the many fifes pieces.

Since the turn of the 20th century, many complications of drum beats were published. See MUSIC COMMITTEE
Page 8

Atmosphere and Hospitality

Three days of blue skies and temperatures in the seventies embraced Indian Head and the John Hanson Corps added continuous strokes of class that made your stay totally enjoyable. The camping facilities are spacious and easily accessible for those who care to rough it. In addition, indoor facilities are made available through churches, the firehouse and private homes. -When the hosts sleep on couches to let you use their bedrooms, and then greet you every morning with a royal breakfast, you know that Indian Head is something special! To stir up interest in the muster, Bob Painter had a contest organized among the local residents to decorate their homes and grounds in a colonial atmosphere. Everyone gets involved and as a result, the spirit is Ancient in the true sense of the word.

Friday evening featured the Traditional Torchlight Parade and the capping of the Liberty Pole to open the festivities and a thundering jubilation followed. Saturday morning presented a large flea market next to the muster field for all to enjoy as well as the opportunity to renew many old friendships. Ancient wares abounded through The Company Store, Cooperator Fife and Drum Company, Leo Brennan and Ed Ferranti among others, not to mention several corp's stands. Those on hand were here to have fun, be with friends, and of course play music. And they did!

Traditional Airs and Little Liza Jane

The parade and stand performances were spirited and, for so early in the season, of surprisingly good quality. Rhode Island's Kenzish Guards, The Old Guard F & D and New Jersey's Colonial Muskeeters from Hacketstown followed Ralph Rudolph, a fifer trio from Capt. James Buxton and the ever rousing Charles W. Dickerson Field Music completed the muster. A vigorous welcome greeted the fifers from the Buxton Corps who clearly showed the spirit we all cherish. The Dickerson contingent was in a super groove at Indian Head and fifes, bugles and drums captivated the audience.

Friends Old and New

Had a chance to meet, jam and chat with Jim Smith of Pittsburgh's Ancient who was enjoying himself immensely playing snare beside Music Committee Chairman Duke Terrell. Ralph Rudolph's youngest charm, Rachel, drew the most camera lenses on her tiny bass drum. The John Hanson Corps designed a handsome museter button for the occasion so, ye olde collectors, make it a point to get one! Jollification Saturday even adopted the Old Guard buglers, such was the spirit. John Gallagher did his usual super job at the microphone and was presented with a new muster mug by the Painters. A small Village Volunteers contingent from Delmar, N.Y. put on a most impressive performance.

A very touching and beautifully done highlight of Saturday evening was a special Mass in honor of Mike Chiado. With the darkened field split by an aisle lined with bagged candles in sand on either side, the procession came on to a very moving version of Battle Hymn. Ass. Bishop Thomas Lyons of the Arch Diocese of Washington, D.C. presided at the Mass which featured some beautiful choral by John Painter and tributes from several of Mike's close friends. The sobering ceremony offered a
Dear Editor:

I am in the market for a good used bass drum. Since my snare drum is made by the Eames Drum Company, I would appreciate finding a bass drum made by the same company, but at this time I am not going to turn down any drum in good condition. Could you refer me to anybody who could help me in this department.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

William A. Staley
Village Edge Court #7
Star Route
Brodheadsville, Pa. 18322

Dear Editor:

Is Napoleon? Is it Mittenbach? No! It's Wally Finnanger as a bust version of the "Brave Little Tailor" in his talli clique drum major's costume during this year's edition of the Basler Fasnacht.

In the Spirit,

Mney Hourigan
6967 Dino Switzerland

The Ancient Times
Published by
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Inc.

Vol 9 No 1 Page 2
**EDITORIAL**

**Have Musters Run Their Course?**

Ever since the 1979 National Muster, held in East Hampton, CT., people have been asking “When are we going to have another National Muster?”

In April, the John Hanson Patriots hosted what might well be considered the most cordial and hospitable muster in the country in Indian Head, Maryland... but where were the corps?

The argument may be presented that it was too far away, but the corps from that area make it to New England at least once a year, so why couldn’t the corps from the northeast make it to Maryland?

One might argue that it was too early and it interfered with school, but other corps with school age members attended.

Too cold to camp... no. Certainly it was not the lack of facilities or hospitality that kept corps away. What then?

Attendance at musters has dwindled in recent years and some musters have been dropped from the schedule. It leads one to believe that perhaps musters have run their course and it is time for some imaginative thinking on another form of program where we can all get together, enjoy our hobby and music, have fun, camp, make friends, exchange ideas, shop for items pertinent to fifing and drumming and even tip a few.

It’s a tough order ‘cause in fact that is what the good old musters gives us.

**SPEAK UP...**

Being a newcomer to fifing and drumming and not knowing the past history of THE COMPANY OF FIFERS AND DRUMMERS, perhaps my ideas has at some point already been presented, discussed and is in effect or vetted. Not knowing if this is true or not I will proceed.

As I read the purpose of THE COMPANY OF FIFERS AND DRUMMERS, I note it says “...to foster the spirit of fellowship among the fifers and drummers everywhere.” Has a directory of all fifers and drummers throughout the world (why not think big?), indicating names, addresses and current offices (with phone numbers/optional) ever been compiled? I would have to add immediately that any member who did not wish his/her name in such a directory should not have to.

Let me present some reasons such a directory might be useful:

1. For people like myself. Isolated in the mountains of WV, the closest known file and drum corps is 100 miles away. I know of no one else nearby who fifes. Perhaps he/she lives right up the road. With such a directory we could easily contact each other.

2. For international correspondence. What better way to be ambassadors than to have “penpals” who are also fifers or drummers? Many young people go for this hobby and older folks do, too.

3. To be able to contact someone in another geographic location to actually be able to stay with that contacted person saving motel/hotel costs during times other than at ancient musters. Those willing and able to do this would so indicate in the directory by writing their address or some other device.

4. To create a greater sense of belonging to a very special group of people and musicians and in many cases historians. I am sure there are other reasons that you can think of if you are receptive to my idea.

I can almost hear the next question coming. “How are we going to pay for such a project?” Sell the directory. And— “Who’s willing to coordinate such an undertaking?” I am. It does seem simple, doesn’t it? I know it would not be and that there is a vast amount of work involved and perhaps selling the directory isn’t even the right idea. But I’m willing to work on this if it is feasible to have a directory.

P.M. Wiktornek
P.O. Box 1046
Oceano, W.V. 24870

**California Corps Builds Its Membership**

“Say you’re burned out on Punk Rock and get the blues when you listen to New Wave Rock ‘n Roll? If the history of California — circa 1850s and 60s — is your bag, then you might consider a gig with a ‘Fifes and Drums of Old Calaveras.’” So read a press release by the Military Department of the State of California last June.

The file and drum corps, which carries the flag of the first militia unit formed by the governor before California became a state, was first named “The First California Guards.”

The current group was formed during the nation’s bicentennial in 1976. It has been cited by the commanding general, State Military Forces, for its outstanding performance of duty by the award of the prestigious and rarely bestowed Outstanding Unit Citation of the State Military Reserve.

Because of its involvement in numerous military and historical ceremonies, The Fifes and Drums of Old Calaveras continues to establish an outstanding reputation throughout California, however the bulk of their activity has been in the northern part of the state.
 corps and their wives for dinner in a nice
restaurant. "Almighty," he'd say, "this is the
life." Or when the corps would adjourn to the Lancraft clubhouse for an after-
parade party with all the members' families, Bill Lieber sitting down at the piano and Long John leading the singing.
These were among the most golden times for him. For us all.
It's ironic that he died only a day or so before he was to have been honored as
Man of the Year jointly with his good friend of many years and fellow Lancraft member Jim Collins at the annual Old Timers' Night. His passing came so close upon the actual date that it was impossible to notify all those invited of a cancellation out of respect for Long John, an occurrence he would have deplored anyway. His first thought always was, and unquestionably would have been, "Have fun, guys." And sure enough we did, despite the certain heaviness in all our hearts at the loss of his buoyant and invigorating presence among us.
Bora June 24, 1919 in New Haven, Long
John started in drum corps in 1929 as a
snare drummer in the St. Francis Jr. Fife & Drum Corps of that city where he studied drumming with the great Dan
English. His brothers Jim and Joe also belonged to St. Francis, though not at the same time. A great many others on the Lancraft roster through the years were alumni of that school's drum corps. Long
John joined Lancraft as a snare drummer in 1937 and later switched to rudimental bass, winning the Northeastern States Individual championship in that category on at least one occasion in the early 1940's, before succeeding Sig Hellstrom, who retired after 39 years as Lancraft's drum major. Thus, for the past 65 years only these two men have held that position in the venerable corps founded in 1888.
During World War II, John entered the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942, transferred to an Infantry unit in '44 and served in the Philippines. Upon his discharge in 1946 he

By BILL KRUG

The First Regiment, Virginia Infantry, on May 31st, 1860 enlisted Smith's Armory Band and also provided for the formation of a fife and drum corps for the regiment.
The Drum Major chosen was Sgt. Charles R.M. Pohle of Company K of the Virginia Rifles. Charles was the only son of General Carl Gottlieb Von Pohle, Military Governor of Mayence in the city of Delitzen, near Leipzig, Prussia.
Sgt. Rudolph Maximilian Von Pohle was born on April 17, 1821 and came to the United States in 1844. At first he was an actor with the German theatre at Palm's Opera House in New York City. In May 1846, he enlisted in Captain William H. Duff's Hussar Troop, New York State Artillery attached to the Sixth Brigade, First Division of Artillery, N.Y. State Militia.
He later served as a musician in the U.S. Navy and was discharged from the USS Pennsylvania on August 12, 1855.
Following his discharge he was connected with the Medical College in Richmond, Virginia and in 1856 worked as a painter at the Tredegar Locomotive Works. For many years, Pohle was a member of the Richmond Cornet Band which often paraded with the militia companies in that city. Charles was also a violinist and an inventor. His final years were spent in the Confederate Soldier's Home in Richmond.

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the Company; Walter Moriarty, Jim Colleen, Hugh Quigley and Bill Liebe.

The nurses and other staff people at the infirmary, who had known Long John as a superintendent of maintenance at Yale University, were so fond of him and so impressed with his gallant, uncomplaining good humor and well aware that his six foot six inch frame was such a familiar figure in countless New Haven parades, had planned to have him participate in the recent St. Patrick’s Day parade via an ambulance directly in front of his beloved Lancraft corps.

Long John didn’t get to make that particular trip but events were to occur which would engrave that day, by his own account, as one of the most memorable in his long and distinguished drum corps career. As they left the line of march at Grove and Orange Streets concluding the scheduled event, Lancraft, Stony Creek, the Ancient Mariners, and the New Haven Police Dept. Emerald Society formed their own parade up Hillhouse St. to the front lawn of the infirmary building. The nurses arranged to have Long John sitting in a wheelchair in the lobby where he could enjoy the concert the masses of corps put on for him and afterward delight in receiving all of the assembled corps members who filed in to visit him.

Everyone in Lancraft agreed that it was an occasion which would live indelibly in their hearts and that the bonds of affection always felt for Stony Creek and the Mariners over many years were profoundly renewed and invigorated that day by their warm tribute to an old friend.

No Pollyanna or saint, Long John could get his Irish up occasionally as he would when some errant colleague in the corps would periodically seek to modify one or another time honored Lancraft tradition. No way were they to violate the ground rules with Long John up front.

He was, nevertheless, a devout Catholic, devoted family man, a genteel giant not given to excesses but who enjoyed simple pleasures, quietly yet fully. Lord, how he exulted in a good parade or muster performance by the corps, the camaraderie out on the field and the music. Then, after all the shouting had died down, to get together with a number of old friends from drum

a visit to White Sulphur Springs. The Dispatch also announced that the life and drum corps wanted 12 boys over sixteen years of age. Most of the original members of the corps were apparently too young to enter military service. On May 25, 1861, the life and drum corps was mustered for one year on the day that the First Regiment left for Manassas Junction. The corps members and their ages were: Sgt. Major C.R.M. Pohle, 40; Frank Bannan, 16; Alexander Berry, 17; William Bolton, 15; portion of the old from the wood and SEALS a PERMANENTLY, this IN- SURES the TONE in any Temperature change. Ask the Person that has a FERRY.

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Father Cede and Mable Painter welcome the corps following the Friday evening Torchlight Parade...John Hanson Indians in background bow their heads during prayer.

The Big Guns at work. Announcer John Gallagher, John Hanson Drum Major John Painter, Mustcr Master Bob Painter, Aide de Camp, John Willett and Company Musters Chairman Dave Hoddle at the announcer’s table.

Steve Phipps, Old Guard Drum Major in mufti before the muster. Can that be the same person so relaxed?
The "Prez" mans The Company Store..."Hey, you, come here and give me a hand."

Phil Truitt

Ed Ferrari looks over the wares at the Ancient Flea Market. Wait Rynkewicz and wife Connie explain the virtues of an item to two prospective buyers.

Phil Truitt

The Westbrook Drum Corps in Ancient repose—It's been a long trip.

Phil Truitt

The Duke of Terei looks over his domain with a critical eye.

Mal Hinkley

"Detail, Halt!" The Colonial Musketeers Color Guard from Hacketstown, N.J. display their precision.

Phil Truitt

LANCRAFT'S
TIMERS NIGHT

Honored as the oldest of Old Timers was Frank Berk 91 years of age. A member of the old Bethel (Conn.) Co Frank admitted to having played bass "like him," "Dicating Swat Samm..."N better than him!" he said upon abrupt reconsideration.

Ed
A group from John Hanson's Patriots lead the procession for the Saturday evening Mass on the Muster Field.  

Mal Hinckley

Saturday Mass was held with Bishop Thomas Lyons of the Arch Diocese of Washington officiating. The Mass was in memory of Mike Chiado.

Mal Hinckley

Howard Schoonmaker of Andrew Lewis F&D, Ed Ferrari of Ferrari Fife, Tim Lewis of the Old Guard, John Belles of the N.J. Colonial Militia and Company President Edrick Arsenault listen to an unseen Ancient make a point at the informal Saturday night meeting.

(Back to Back) Vivian Fiduccia (Mrs. Mike) Franco and Helen (Mrs. Edrick)
Accepting the Posthumous Larcraft Man of the Year Award, for Long John McGuire is fellow corpsman and long time friend, Bill Liebe. It had been suggested that Old Timers Night be postponed, falling as it did, the same night as John’s wake, however, John’s widow Peg, wouldn’t hear of it.  

Jim Cullen accepts his Larcraft Man of the Year Award from Joe Patten. Long the Corps’ Treasurer, Jim was credited with keeping Larcraft’s head above water all these years.

“Let’s have a little quiet, Doc is explaining something.” President Arsenault raps for order at the Mt. Kisco Spring Meeting.

Jollification at the Mt. Kisco Fire House following the meeting rocked the building and registered 5 on the Richter Scale.
The Ancient Times

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS, WE PRINT.

Old news to many, but — Bob Redican (Ancientdiom’s most famous retiree) suffered a severe heart attack following New Haven’s Saint Patrick’s Parade, on March 14th, and is now resting comfortably at his home. Drop him a card at St. Pearl St., Meriden, CT. 06450. He’s up and around but will be taking it slow for some time to come. Fortunately for Bob some members of the cuneiform corps, with which he was drumming — (The Ancient Mariners) — were trained in the art of saving lives, and it looks as tho’ the quick action of Kevin Brown, with an assist from Toby Lazar, did just that.

Back from his annual hibernation in Florida, former Exec. Committee member Flash Alexander spoke glowingly of Pittsburgh’s Freedom High School drum line dazzling the spectators at last February’s Edison Pageant of Light, at Ft. Meyers. “Marched in front of the band, in Ancient uniforms, and drummed ‘I’ll never’.” Do you suppose The Commonwealth FDC had anything to do with that? * * * Recent written references to “Patty On A Handcar” — and “St. Patty’s Day force an awareness of just how far the woman’s movement has come. With so many distaff types in today’s ranks we can probably anticipate feminization of all the odd standards...” Would you believe: “Grandmother’s Clock”? How about “Old Nan Tucker”? * * The Ancient Mariners are impatiently awaiting the debarkation day of their visit to Switzerland’s Quadrennial Tambourfest (drum festival) at Schwyrs. Not only have they been invited thereto, but, on July 4th, they will participate in Zurich’s first American Independence Day celebration where they will be hosted by that city’s “American Community.” The rest of the time will be spent carousing in the Basel area, with their brother corps The Swiss Mariners. Highlight of these latter activities will be a combined concert at a Roman Amphitheater just a few miles down the Rhine.

Looking for work? West Point Bandman Allen Benson found the following “curious notice” in The Newport Gazette, Thursday, Aug. 21, 1777... "Wanted. A fifer for the Alarm Galley. Good wages will be given." * * * Constantly researching the development, and expansion, of the field of firing and drumming, North Western Correspondent Jerry Herkman has uncovered further depictions of our craft’s westward expansion. In 1905 The Anacostia Drum Corps was portrayed “Practicing rolls and ruffles behind the City Hall” at Cripple Creek, Colorado — the fabulous “Queen of early mining towns.” * * * Had you ever expected to see an Ancient Times feature dealing with the rise, and surprise disbandment of Chatham, New Jersey’s popular Morris County Militia FDC? So had we... As a matter of fact, A.T. photographer Ron DiSilva was all set to do the honors but, for some reason, was dissuaded by the unit’s powers-that-be. * * * Back home from his literary stint in Saudi Arabia, and seriously ill, former Exec. Committeeman Tom O’Keefe is staying close to home, 920 Pelhamdale Ave.

drum corps and the good times enjoyed therein... few lives would undoubtedly be welcome.

Wander how many marchers in Connecticut’s May 2nd Loyalty Day Parade remembered the host community, Willimantic, for its active days in the Ancient sphere? Two former local units, of traditional persuasion, come most readily to mind. One, The Thread City Continentals, was named for that city’s major industry and was active until 1922. It was founded in 1918 by former members of several different corps... Nathan Hale (no connection with current corps of the same name), Mansfield, Moodus, Hebron and the Windhams. The other: The Odeel M. Chapman Continental Drum Corps was sponsored by the drum maker of the same name and finally united with the members of Thread City in 1922. In its prime during the 1920’s, The Chapman Corps even included World Champion Drummer Frank Fancher in its ranks. He was a Chapman member at the time he attained his 18th first prize for individual snare drumming.

True to nostalgic machismo this year’s parade was a trek to remember. "Three miles long and all uphill." Seems as tho’ the state F.W.F. have been sponsoring these patriotic marches long enough to come up with something better than that. And how about those unimaginative police “closing the town off!” at noon, when some units weren’t slated to step off ‘til 3 p.m. Why can’t the state cops take a lesson from the cooperative Bridgeport Police who have the Norwalk Festival Parade running like clockwork each year? Perhaps one of these days all the corps will refuse to show up ahead of time and we’ll see a parade sans music. That might do it.

Errant members of the noblest of experimenters, The Japanese Mariners, who might read this piece, should be delighted to learn that one of their own is now a flying officer in the U.S. Navy. Chuck Riley recently earned his wings at Corpus Christi, Texas, where he will be stationed for the next 3 years as a flight instructor.

ly FDC?” Didn’t sound bad, either...” commented Chuck’s old dad Charlie (now a resident of Greenvale, South Carolina, but once a member of Brooklyn’s far famed Kirk Corps).

The reunion further revealed that Chuck’s sister Karen may be the first of the family to get back into an active unit. She’s discovered a Buddhist FDC out in Denver, Colorado... near her home... and is presently obtaining photocopies of The Struble Book so as to give the fledgling group some historical direction.

Tom Connolly in his alternate role as a snare drummer. Is that a step up, or down, for one who plays the bass drum? Perhaps it was a jinx, our mentioning Tommy Connolly’s 28th straight presidency of The Norwood Mass. Colonial Boys FDC — for — cries this issue — and he’s

Vol 9 No 1 Page 6
The Odell Chapman FDC. Chapman is second from left, in first rank, and Frank Faucher is fourth from left.

Luther Blanchard Boxborough’s Famous Fifer

Luther and Calvin Blanchard, the sons of Simon Blanchard, were born in Boxborough, Massachusetts, then a part of Littleton. The date of Luther’s birth is unknown.

As a young man, Luther lived with Johnathan Hosmer of Acton, from whom he and his brother learned the art of masonry.

As talk of war became louder, the three boys joined the Acton Minutemen Company. Luther enlisted as a fifer. It was an important position, since he had to keep the pace steady and the morale high.

On April 18 a rider made his way from Acton and surrounding villages proclaiming that the British were coming. Captain Isaac Davis’ Company was among the first to respond.

At approximately seven o’clock a.m. on April 19, a sufficient number of men arrived at the Davis’ home, enabling Davis to start the Company moving. Luther raised his fifes and began playing “The White Cockade.”

The journey to Concord’s North Bridge was short compared to the distance traveled by the others. Afterwards, when everyone was assembled near the bridge, the officers from the various companies held a short meeting. While this was happening, smoke rose from the direction of the Concord village. When the Acton Company approached the bridge, the British fired. Captain Davis asked, “Have balls been fired?” The reply was, “Yes, for Luther Blanchard is wounded.” Luther was taken to the house of Colonel Barrett where the Colonel’s wife dressed the wound. It appeared slight at the time, but it eventually proved fatal. Luther Blanchard died on April 22, 1775.
The Ancient Times

Summer 1982

Midwest Happenings

By Mark Logdon

I am pleased to report that the Ancient world is spreading faster in this area than anyone could have foreseen, or predicted. Word was recently received of a new venture into the world of film and drumming from the Buckeye State (Ohio), near the Akron area. With the 1012 corps that is building up its repertoire in Toledo, Ohio, is establishing the beginnings of a healthy Ancient Community. There is also a new corps forming in Dowan's Grove, Illinois. As previously reported, the Anthony Wayne Ancients of Fort Wayne Indiana are alive and well and have played their first engagement. Gary Kurtz called after the event to relay the group's excitement. I think that everyone has felt that thrill at least once in their lives.

Volume I of the 1st Michigan Album has all but sold out in less than a year, far surpassing anyone's expectations, except our own. Volume II is now in the process of being edited, for choice of music, and we will keep the many of you who have asked about it posted on its progress.

Recently, your correspondent went to Grand Rapids, Michigan, on business while there decided to take a tour of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. It is a rather unique place, made even more unique because of its many Audio-Visual mini-theatres. These little niches are each dedicated to a specific theme of President Ford's term of office. One of these dealt with the year 1976, it is a multi-slide show that is shown every 20 minutes. I was presently surprised, while watching the

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Milford Volunteers Honor Members

By Geri Biff

On Tuesday, March 23, 1982, the Milford Volunteers Ancient Fife and Drum Corps held a dinner for Betty McGuire and Daryl Hine, honoring their upcoming marriage. The couple was presented a handmade quilt sewed by the members of the Corps.
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- Of sausage, pancakes, juice and coffee for everyone, served by the hosts. With visits to Washington, D.C. and long trips home ahead, most units were on the road by 9:00 A.M. As we left, people were arriving for morning Mass at the Star of the Sea Church and one was reminded of what a special weekend it had been.

- A very sincere oath of the tricorn goes to all the John Hanson people, for their hospitality is unmatched on the muster circuit and their taste is equally impeccable.

- The 1982 National Muster, although small, was a beautiful affair in every way and it was most evident that, under the surface of our enjoyment, a great deal of work and thought had gone into making it so. As the season winds down into its summer peak, we can all look back to the very special launch it received at Indian Head.

- Both Betsy and her father, Joe McGuire, the well known founder of the Volunteers, were presented with membership awards.

- Membership awards were also presented to all members of the Corps at a luncheon at Director Ray Arow's house on March 14.

- Four new members were welcomed, Randy Stimson and Yves Allard, bass drummers, Steve Ekblad fifer and Mike Ekblad snare drummer.

- The Milford corps recently entertained at the Four Chaplains Night Ceremony at the Town Hall in Milford and participated in the Greenwich, Connecticut St. Patrick's Day parade.

- The Volunteers look forward to another great year, beginning with the National Muster in Indian Head, Maryland.
The Ancient Times
SUMMER 1982

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ed for the rudimental field drummer; the most prominent books, each with many parts and solos, were those by G. Moeller, J.B. Moore, W. Ludwig, H. Bower, Clark Gardner, M. Goldberg and DeVille. Other books emerged in the past fifty years by Earl Sturtz, Eric Perrilloux, Les Parks and Ray Brodeur. These demonstrate various styles, techniques and rhythmic patterns.

In addition to these books, there were unpublished drum arrangements written by individuals well schooled in the art of rudimental drumming.

With this problem clearly understood, the Music Committee, through the fraternal spirit of The Company of Toppers and Drummers, sought out the walks of these great rudimental stylists, teachers and innovators and published two volumes to help preserve the unique style of the Ancients.

Over the centuries, many tunes have changed in both style and title. As the years passed, some tunes were “filled-in” and “up-tempo” to add to their performance. Because of the constant state of change, the Music Committee seeks to locate all fife and drum music from the beginning to the present, and furthermore, to categorize it into these three broad segments — Historical, Traditional and Contemporary. In this manner, tunes are accurately recorded as to their authenticity and evolution, as far as time is concerned.

The first Music Committee, (1965) was chaired by George Rippinger whose vast drum corps experience and musical background helped publish two music pamphlets. Also on the first Committee were George Carroll, Mike Chiudio, Ed Classy, Phil Pearson and Dick Rasal. Upon George Rippinger’s death, the Committee was then chaired by Mike Chiudio, also an individual with many years drum corps experience. Mike’s committee grew to large numbers in order to pursue the many different programs and that the Committee was to undertake. The people in the Committee changed from time to time.

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instruments, music from both corps and individuals, instruments and other artifacts and memorabilia, plus a complete cataloging, with cross indexing, of all available material. This will unquestionably be one of the most valuable and treasured assets of The Company.

The Committee spends countless hours in research, letter writing, reports, phone calls, travel arrangements and transcribing music. The Ancients have a unique style and the Committee can think of no better way to preserve this than by following the above programs. Company members can lighten the load by responding when requests are made.

A summary of the Music Committee’s activities is:
1) Research and collect music
2) Recording the history of tunes
3) Publication of music
4) Taping of music
5) Assist with Workshop Committee
6) Prepare for Music Library

The Music Committee is a unique source of data on music, especially for newly formed corps. For all corps, The Committee represents the record which will record, for posterity, their music for the enjoyment and benefit of future Ancient generations.

GERONIMO
Continued from page 6

relates that he’s now only a bystander on the Bay State asphalt. As happens all too often... the separation was not without nance but time has a habit of healing and we can only hope for the best. Unable to wander far from home, because of a series of back operations, Tom nevertheless CELTS in the advancement of his newest project The Union Brigade Jr. FDC — outfitted in Yankee Blue and raring to go. It will seem strange to view The “Wild” Colonial Boys without the wildest of all among them, the Connecticut Peddlers, a brand new program of songs and stories, is currently being presented by Art Schrader, itinerant tinker, songster and one-of-a-kind Music Associate and Barf Songer at Mass. Old Sturbridge Village, from 1961 to 1979, Art is responsible for the Village’s “Merrily Band”...

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