

INTERVIEW: — MIKE CHIODO
MARCH 25TH @ 73 KOLBE H.S., BPT.

01 - STARTED @ RIKER POST (AGED 8) 1905

21 - BETTER CORPS? - 69TH REGT FM

FIVE SGT. McMANUS ("CRACK FIFER")

52 - 1911 MIKE STARTED HIS OWN CORPS ON
HESTER ST., N.Y.A. — ("TO PLAY AGAINST THE BIG FOLLOWS"
AT THIS TIME THERE
WAS THE ADAMS CORPS, ON LEONARD ST. —
THE LEONARDS WERE ON WORTH ST., BY CHINATOWN
THE "ITALIAN RIFLE GUARDS" WERE UP BY
BACCAGALUPPO'S UNDERTAKERS — WHEN WE
CAME DOWN TO CANAL ST. THERE WAS THE
MOTT ST. BOYS & OUR LITTLE "EMERSON CORPS."
— OLD GUYS PLAYED BY A.B.C.'S — TAUGHT
THE KIDS TO READ MUSIC. — POP RIPP
HELPED HIM @ EARLY CORPS —

PLAYED MARCHES & QUICK STEPS. —

DECIDED TO PLAY REELS & JIGS BECAUSE
"BIG GUYS" PLAYED MOSTLY MARCHES.

CORPS NAMED @ RECOMMENDATION OF
ONE OF THE 'OLD MON' — "CALL IT
THE EMERSONS."

— NO UNIFORMS — WENT TO
NOW CORNS FOR INSTRUMENTS — DOC
BRILLER WAS A YOUNG GUY. — ASKED
FOR 24 WOODEN PIPES IN DRUMS

2 BASS, 2 PR. OF CYMBALS & 12 BUGLES.

— TOLD HIM THEY'D PAY SO MUCH
DACH WEEK. DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS GRAND-
FATHER HAD ALREADY GUARANTEED THE
DEAL — SOLD BRASS, COPPER,
ZINC ETC. (SOMETIMES SELLING SAME
ITEMS TWICE) — HAD ~~NO~~ BILL
PD. FOR IN 5 MONTHS. —

SOLD PAPER TO PUSH CART PIDDARS
& IF GUY DIDN'T WANT TO BUY
WE KNOCKED HIS PUSH CART OVER

— ON SATURDAYS WE CHARGED
DACH PUSH-CART PIDDAR A QUARTER
A PIECE "TRIBUTE"

— 1ST CONTEST IN JERSEY — (CIRCA
1915)

HAD HEARD ABOUT X-5TH & BLACK

PRINCE. — ENTERED CORPS IN
SR. CLASS BY MISTAKE. "THEY

PLAYED SAME CORPS AS WERE GOING
TO PLAY 'COL. GAYLE'. — JACK

ECKERSON ONE OF DRUM JUDGES —

A. H. WOODS OF CONN. — WHO WROTE
ILL. MARCH — WAS THE PIPE JUDGE

& MAJ. MARTIN WAS BUGLE JUDGE

— DRUM SGT. — JIMMY SMITH (FINEST

DRUMMER EVER SAW — ONLY ONCE TO

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COMPARE WOULD BE (GEO RIPP - ERIC
PERRILOUX & KONNY LEMLEY) — HO
SAID "SONNY, HOW DID YA' DO IT
WITH A BUNCH OF KIDS? — YOU'RE
GONNA HAVE A BAR WITH ME —
HAD TO ASK MY POP. — OK, BUT
ONLY ONE.

173 FROM THEN UNTIL NOW — THE DRUM
CORPS OF TODAY ARE FAR BETTER
THAN ANY OF THE OLD DRUM CORPS
— OVER THOUGHT OF BEING. THEY
PLAY A BETTER BRAND OF MUSIC —
& THE FIFERS TODAY ARE SO FAR
ADVANCED OVER A LOT OF US THAT IT
ISN'T EVEN FUNNY. — I'VE SEEN A LOT
OF YOUNG KIDS TODAY THAT WOULD'VE TAKEN
US OVER THE HURDLE & MADE US LUMP IT
~~OR~~ AND LIKE IT.

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FATHER & GRANDPOP PLAYED IN DRUM CORPS
— GRANDPOP CAME FROM ITALY & HO
^{STARTED}
~~PLAYED~~ IN ONE OF THOSE ITALIAN
OPERA BANDS THAT PLAYED IN ITALIAN FESTIVALS
— POP WAS WITH OLD RIKER POST

WANTED TO GO WITH KIRK & WONT OUT
WITH FR. DUFFY CHAPTER - PLAYED UNTIL 86-87

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FAMILY MOVED TO JERSEY IN 1911
— ~~MAMA~~ MAMA CAME TO JERSEY IN 1916
WHEN "GRANDPOP" DIED.

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IN ALL ~~THE~~ YEARS I'VE BEEN IN
DRUM CORPS, I'VE ENJOYED EVERY
BIT OF IT. I'VE NEVER REGRETTED IT.
I'VE HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE TRY
TO TAKE A JOB AWAY — & I KNOW
A LOT OF GUYS IN N.Y. DIDN'T
LIKE ME BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT
I WAS A WISE GUY — UNTIL THEY
FOUND OUT LATER THAT I WASN'T
A WISE GUY, I WAS JUST LIKE
EVERYBODY ELSE. I LOVED FIFING —
— I HAD A SWITCH WHEN I CUT
THESE FINGERS — I HAD TO GIVE
UP DRUMMIN' ON ACCOUNT OF THAT.
I'M ONE OF THE FEW GUYS THAT
COULD HONESTLY SAY THAT I HAD
BURN'S MOORE TO A TIE, & I GOT

229 — CHA PAPER — THE PRESS, THE
JOURNAL, THE MAIL + ALL THEM — CHA
EVENING TELEGRAPH — THAT WAS RIGHT
UP IN WALLINGFORD, CONN. JIMMIE
SMITH SNUCK ME IN. HE SAID ^{GWAN} GET IN
THERE & TAKE YOUR LUMPS. /

OFF @ 232