

Ole!

The Newsletter of the
Hawthorne Caballeros
Alumni Association

Volume 1, Issue 1

January/February

Bienvenido!

"Ole!" The Newsletter Of The Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Corps and Alumni Association Finally Returns After Being Absent For 15 Years

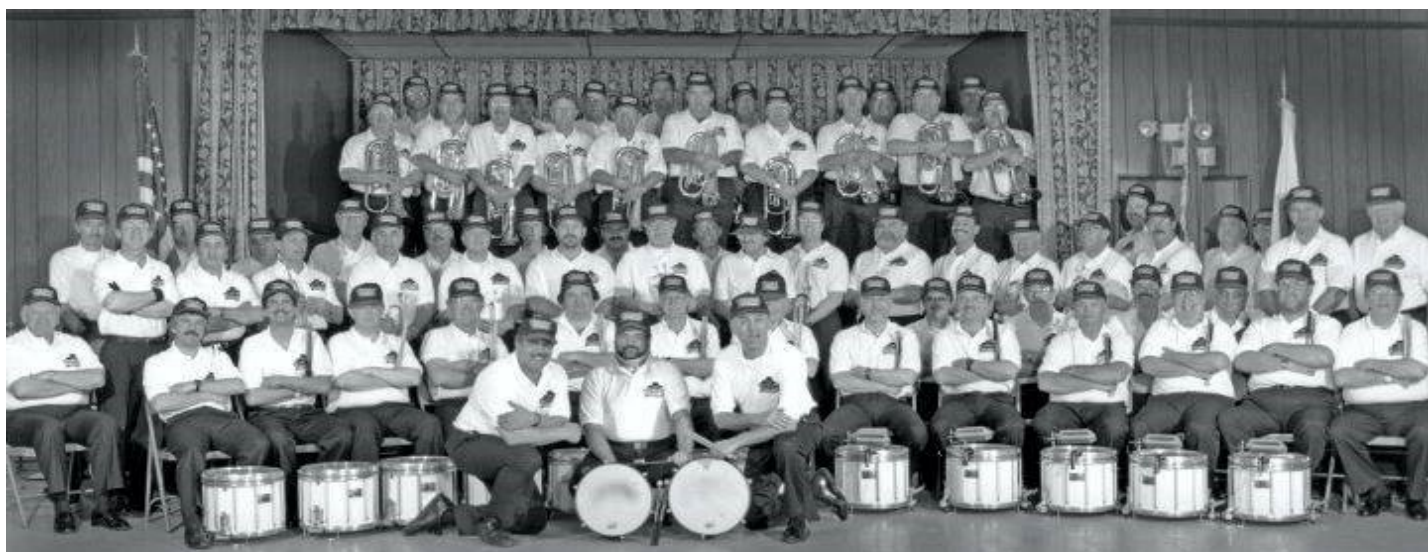
For many reasons, far too many to mention, the Ole! newsletter has finally returned to print, well electronically anyway, hopefully to be as informative, interesting and entertaining as it was in the first half of this 25 year journey better known as the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Corps.

We will again try to be a newsworthy publication with reference to events both involving the corps and the association, walks down memory lane, event schedules, trivia, birthdays, humorous articles written by some of our members, drum corps news, other articles including perspectives and opinions by our members, and pretty much anything written by our members for our members. We hope to be a resource that our membership will be looking forward to read every other month.

Well, sit back and enjoy what the Ole! has to offer.

Thank you!

Chris Sortino -Editor



Caballeros..... The Beginning

By Mike DeVecchio

In the annals of drum corps, there may never be a drum corps to match the triumphs of the Caballeros. Their contributions and innovations from 1953 to 1963, would eventually lead to changes which would forever transform the performance of drum corps in the future.

Before we begin our journey of this decade we must look back in time to how the CABALLEROS were created. How a group of men would select a name, a theme, and a uniform distinctly different from what was considered statues quo, in that the uniforms of both the junior and senior corps was a cadet style, as well as the manner of marching.

World War II caused many drum corps to cease to exist as the young members were drafted into the armed forces. Such was the case with the St. Georges Cadets of Paterson New Jersey which included such members as James J Costello and George Hayek and countless others

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Alumni Event Schedule 2020

*** Saturday, April 4 ***

Lancers Stage Show
York, PA

*** Saturday, May 2 ***

Reilly Raiders Stage
Show

Burlington, NJ

*** Monday, May 25 ***

Memorial Day Parade
Hawthorne, NJ

**IN
THIS
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**Ole! is published every other
Month. Next issue-March/
April.**

Forming the Caballeros Alumni Corps

By Chris Sortino

I went to the Drum Corps Grand Prix in 1992. I was looking forward to a good show. What I got this night was much, much more. Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights and the Yankee Rebels gave exhibitions before the actual contest started. These were alumni corps which I hadn't seen before. I was amazed. What a great idea. As I watched, I said to myself, "I bet us former Caballeros could put a corps together and sound better than this." I was standing behind the fence at field level. I looked down the fence to my right and left and saw many, many guys I marched with in the 70's. What an opportunity.

I went down the line and gathered as many folks as I could together and asked the question "would anyone be interested in playing with an alumni corps like BS and the Rebels?" Everyone said sure let's do

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too numerous to name at this time. The number of these boys who did not return from the war is unknown. However, Jimmy "Cos" as he became known in later years, did come close to being a fatality of WWII. He was a Chief Fire Officer in the Navy on an aircraft carrier in the Atlantic fleet. His ship was the USS Block Island, an escort carrier. On May 29, 1944 a Nazi U-Boat #U-549, sent 3 torpedoes into the hull of the USS Block Island sending her to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Fortunately, Jimmy was rescued some 2 hours later with his crew members, but some were also pulled under water by sharks. The question a number of us have asked ourselves, would there be a Caballero Drum Corps if he had not survived his time floating in the Atlantic? Some seem to feel that fate stepped in for a reason which will unfold in this history of the Caballeros.



CHAPTER 1

A NEW DRUM CORPS IS BORN

As George Hayek used to relate the story to me, on a Sunday in March 1946 George was still in uniform as he had not been discharged as yet, Jimmy Cos was coming out from the previous mass when he called out to George, "Hey George come over to our house after mass. We are going to talk about starting a senior drum corps." George could not wait for the mass to end.

On the following Tuesday, March 20, 1946, four members from the old St. George's Drum Corps met - Jimmy Cos, his brother Bobby, George Hayek and

Joseph Scarber; along with Mr. Costello senior.

I know there was some input from Mr. Costello as he was a veteran of WWI and a member of the American Legion. Apparently he was at a legion National convention and got to see the San Gabriel Don's Drum Corps compete and win one of two American Legion National titles. Now all they had to do was to round up the rest of the St. George's Cadets that were returning to civilian life and get the ball rolling.

Now it gets interesting.

The legion post that had sponsored the Junior St. George's Drum Corps was not interested in having a senior corps. However, the Legion Post 199 in Hawthorne was interested and offered to fund the purchase of some drums to help them get started.

Jumping ahead to 1971, the 25th anniversary of the Hawthorne Caballeros, Fleetwood Record Co. produced a special anniversary

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album, a two record set of the Caballeros. It also contained an introduction by Jimmy Costello describing how drum corps was formed, and how they progressed up to the start of WWII. Then Jimmy Cos went on to say "In 1946 an inconspicuous drum corps was formed in Hawthorne then known as the Hawthorne American Legion Post 199 Senior Drum Corps. Later that year at a meeting, the corps decided that they would play Spanish music and wear a Spanish type uniform. Their name would be "Caballeros."

In reviewing these historic events and the formation of the Caballeros Drum and Bugle Corps, it is no wonder I joined them and remained so loyal to the organization. We both were born under the sign of Aires. I wonder just how many members were either born under the sign of Aires, or influenced by the sign of Aries, only your astrologist will have the answer.

Through the late forties the Caballeros struggled to climb up the ranks of drum corps. They made a hit in 1949 when they won the first NJ American Legion State Championship, never to relinquish the title. Then in 1951 they hit the top by winning the American Legion National Title. In 1952, they placed second.

The next phase of the Caballeros, you will learn of what changes the corps made in their direction, and how they started a trend that brought the crowds to their feet and created a massive following of fans. I am proud to say I was there for this rise that many of us feel started the dynasty we all are enjoying to this day .

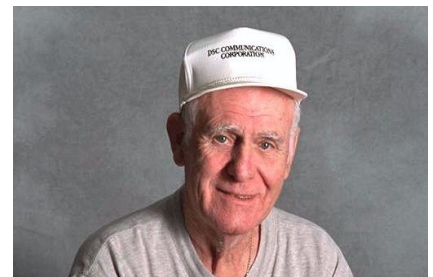
Looking back to my first job with the Caballeros, I remember playing French Horn in the Columbus Day parade in Clifton.

In my opinion, James Costello's innovative thinking and creative approach to drum corps

effected the future of the activity. Jim's success as a leader in drum corps was comparable to that of two great football coaches, Knute Rockne and his innovations in the game of football, and Vince Lombardi in his powerful driving force to be the best that we all can be.

Jim Costello's attributes, as described, of innovative and progressive enhanced the development of the activity we know as "modern drum corps."

His constant attention to detail and attempt at perfection had many fans wondering just how can they do this type of performance year after year.



In the following chapter, 1953, major changes that would eventually bring the Caballeros to be the crowd favorite.

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.... Forming

it. I asked for a pen or pencil and on my program got the guys to write down their names, addresses and phone numbers. A couple of people associated with the competing corps overheard what was going on and tried to discourage me from pursuing the idea.

I went back to the post after the show and mentioned the idea to Jim Costello. He thought it was foolish and blew it off. He didn't take it or me seriously.

Nothing happened for almost a year until I went to a couple of contests early in 1993. I ran into some of the people that were at the 1992 Grand Prix and almost all of them said "well, what are we going to do about a corps?" The interest was still there to my surprise. So at the 1993 Grand Prix, I collected more names and again went to the post after the show. I sat with Jim Costello again at the bar talking about the formation of an

alumni corps until he had enough, stood up, had a few choice words for my persistence and walked out.

That was it for me. The next day I called a few people that seemed the most interested in the idea and planned our first meeting at the Balcony Restaurant in Hawthorne. Nine of us showed up and those nine were to become the first group of founding members of the corps. Pete Bishop, Vince Marchese, Ray Rodriguez, Joe Eglow, George DelMonte, Dan Raymond Sr., Tony Vaccaro, Frank Veloce and myself. Along the way we were joined by more interested parties that helped us out with more ideas to get the corps off the ground; Joe Doran, Hank Plokhooy, Ray Cappicille, Jim D'Amico and Mike DelVecchio.

We wanted to be sponsored by Post 199, but that seemed impossible at that time. We met several more times over the next few months at the Balcony

and formed a plan and wrote a charter and tentatively secured the sponsorship of a local Elks Club for rehearsals.

One Friday night we went over to the post to watch the competing corps rehearse. I was asked by one of the former Cabs how serious we were about forming the corps. I told them about our progress and informed them that we were close to having our first rehearsal. I also informed them that we still wanted to be sponsored by the post because we still want to play and we'll take any sponsor at this point.

Three more alumni volunteered to talk to Jim Costello on our behalf. We were told to hang around after rehearsal until they came back from talking to him. They were Bob Peterson, Frank Pisillo and Joe Campos.

They came back and said Jim Costello said OK with some conditions. We agreed. The first thing we did was cancel the Elks Club

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.... Forming

sponsorship and sent out postcards to every living former Caballero that we could find.

The conditions that Jim Costello requested in return for the forming of the Alumni corps were, 1) We would not divert any monies that would have gone to the competing corps through tag days or fund raisers. 2) We would not take any prospective member of the competing corps into our ranks. 3) We would only consider former members of the competing corps that were inactive for at least three years. 4) The minimum age for any former member of the competing corps had to be at least 23. 5) He would like to see Joe Campos be director.

The only thing I asked in return was a list/addresses of all former members of the Caballeros since its formation in 1946. Mr. Costello gave me 5 boxes of 3x5 index cards of addresses. He kept his word and we kept ours. The result of

that effort was in March of 1994, we had our inaugural meeting to form the corps at the post. The downstairs of the post was packed. Some were there to join and some were there out of curiosity. Jim Costello showed up and was thanked for his blessing. When deciding to use only former Caballeros to fill our ranks, we presumed that we would only last five years, and we were totally happy with that.

We scheduled our first rehearsal about a month after the meeting. We all chipped in and arranged to buy a set of year old drums from a corps that was disbanding in Florida. A couple of the guys rented a van, drove down, picked up the drums and drove back. The horn players all had to bring their own horns to the rehearsals.

I guess the drumline was just lucky. We had almost every great player in each section over the years. They all joined at once. We were strong from day one.

At the first rehearsal we had a full drumline (about 20) and only 12 horns. Frank Pisillo started teaching the horn line a warmup. Jim D'Amico was our cleanup instructor. The first songs, we chose were "Espana Cani", "I Love Lucy", "Chacita", "Cha Cha Cha Flamenco" and "See You In September." In the drumline, Dan Raymond wrote the parts and Bob Peterson worked on cleanup. We scheduled one rehearsal a month. As the months went by, the horn line grew to about 40 or 42 and the drum line stayed about the same. We ordered white polo shirts and black and red baseball caps with the corps insignia for our first uniform.

1995 was the year that the GAS reunion was sponsored by the Caballeros. So we decided to choose the day of the banquet to be our first performance for Caballeros fans and curious onlookers. Wearing our new uniforms, we formed a semi-circle in the street in

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front of Post 199 in Hawthorne, with Frank Pisillo as drum major, and played our hearts out every song and solo we learned since that initial meeting a year earlier. It was a great feeling to perform again and receiving a positive response from an audience.

Well, our first mission was accomplished. It was a journey with many, many "firsts." The rest as they say is history. (See letter page 8)



Trivia Question

Who is the only founding member of the Alumni Corps that never marched with the corps in a parade, stage or field show?

Rehearsal Schedule 2020

- * **Sunday, January 12, 12-5 ***
Music, Post 199
- * **Sunday, January 26, 12-5 ***
Music, Post 199
- * **Sunday, February 9, 12-5 ***
Music, Post 199
- * **Sunday, February 23, 12-5 ***
Music, Post 199
- * **Sunday, March 8, 12-5 ***
Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson
- * **Sunday, March 22, 12-5 ***
Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson
- * **Sunday, March 29, 12-5 ***
Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson
- * **Sunday, April 19, 12-5 ***
Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson
- * **Sunday, April 26, 12-5 ***
Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson
- * **Sunday, May 3, 12-5 ***
Drill, TBD
- * **Saturday, May 16, 9-5 ***
Drill Camp, Wildwood
- * **Sunday, May 17, 9-2 ***
Drill Camp, Wildwood
- * **Sunday, May 31, 12-5 ***
Drill, TBD
- * **Sunday, June 14, 12-5 ***
Drill, TBD



Veterans Tribute

By Larry Kerchner

At the end of the last rehearsal in December, I wanted to say something, but I was afraid it might dampen the festivities. As you know, rehearsal was on December 7th, which President Roosevelt called "a date which will live in infamy." He was right — It was 7 December 1941, when 2,008 US Sailors, 109 US Marines, 218 US Soldiers, and 68 US Civilians were killed by the Empire of Japan's surprise and merciless attack on Pearl Harbor. The statistics for those wounded are inestimable.

Every year on that date, I think of my Dad, who was aboard the battleship USS Oklahoma that fateful morning. By the grace of God, when the Oklahoma capsized, he survived and was able to help save many of his shipmates from the burning oil that filled the harbor. He always claimed that he was no hero — that he was just among many who did their duty in the chaos of burning, bleeding, and drowning

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Receiving this letter from Jimmy Costello confirmed that all the hard work to establish the Alumni Corps was worth it!



April 15, 1998

Dear Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Corps:

The Caballeros Competing Corps extends its greatest appreciation for the \$500 and four sombreros presented to Jim Costello on April 4, 1998. Your support contributes significantly to the success of the competing corps. Most important is the ongoing moral support. When the Alumni Corps lined-up to cheer on the Competing Corps at last years DCA Championship contest in Allentown, it gave us inspiration and confidence never experienced by any other corps. This support extends to attendance at rehearsals, parades, local contest and all other performances. When we see your unique jackets, we know there is someone very special there in our corner.

We are also extremely proud of your success. As the only true "Alumni" corps, you have emerged to be considered the finest. You provide our new (and sometimes younger) membership a living example of the quality tradition that is the Caballeros. You also serve as a constant reminder to ALL the Competing Corps members that the Caballeros is an institution who's reputation extends well beyond the parameters of drum corps. Although your history as an alumni corps is relatively short, we can not remember what was like without you.

As we move forward. We will continue to look for opportunities to support YOU. We ALL are Caballeros and together we can achieve heights never realized by any organization in the activity.

The Hawthorne Caballeros (Competing) Corps

Jim Costello Per -

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....Veterans

Sailors and Marines. The explosions, the carnage, the screams of the dying, the stench, and the incessant humming of the Japanese planes' propellers were his most vivid memories of that day. I know he saw things that affected him his whole life, but he never talked much about it.

Out of respect for my Dad's wishes, I've never shared this with anyone, but my love FOR him and my pride IN him, compel me to acknowledge his bravery, his sacrifice, his honor, and his strong sense of duty to his country, or there will be no one left to do so after I'm gone. He was a good man, an honest man, and never failed to help anyone in need.

I know that I could never live up to the person that my father was, but I'm proud to be his son and would like to think that he would be proud of me for whatever I've managed to accomplish in this confusing world.

Knowing that the Caballeros was founded by men who had just come home from serving in WWII — men like Jim Costello and his buddies, and knowing the strong sense of patriotism that has always abounded in the Corps, I felt that my father wouldn't mind me sharing this facet of his life with kindred spirits.



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Birthdays

January

Mike Palmquist

Bob Menear

Javier Morales

Sarah Syden

Bobby Sands

Jim Nargiso

Tracey Doherty

Bill George

Bill Vavrick

Bill Gibbons

Mary Sinisi

Robin Mastroberardino

Ann Leib

Lydia Plante

February

Pat Rouse

Dave Scarber

John Gerdes

Larry Mastroberardino

George Headley

Ed Bushell

Anthony D'Andrea

Vanessa Castaldo

Kathy Lawson

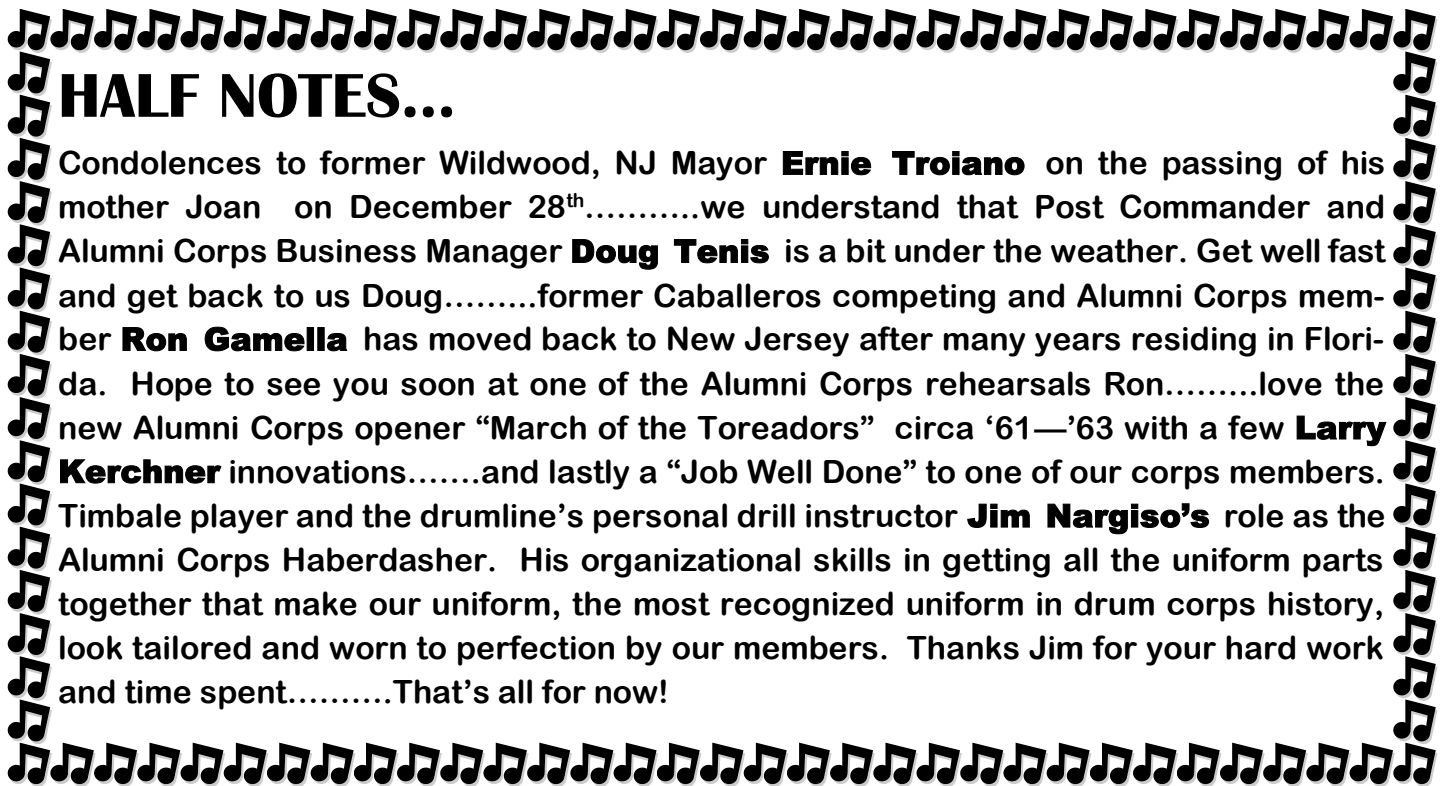
Bob Durborow

Dave Farren

Steve Andreazza

George Desposito





A "Bit of Wit" from the Quill of Charlie Bratton...



When we're young we sneak out of our house to go to parties.
When we are old we sneak out of parties to go home.

Your wife told me you never bought her flowers.
I never knew she sold flowers.

Albert Einstein, who developed the theory of relativity, is best known for his mass-energy equivalence formula, $E=mc^2$. Also developed a formula for his many friends in the classical music field, E=F flat.

I am on my second Guardian Angel,
my first one quit and is still in rehab.

HELP WANTED!

The Alumni Corps has
openings in ALL SECTIONS,
especially Contra in the Horn line,
and
openings for Bass, Cymbal and
Double Tenor in the Drum Line.



The OLE! welcomes all im-
pressions/expressions. Send
your input/articles to
Cabalumno1@aol.com

