

# Ole!



**The Newsletter of the  
Hawthorne Caballeros  
Alumni Association/  
Drum & Bugle Corps**

**Volume 2, Issue 2**

**March/April 2021**

## **Caballeros..... In The Beginning Part Nine**

*By Mike DelVecchio*

### **Caballeros History 1960**

Ay Caramba, el toro wants revenge. Es stumping his front hoofs and snorting to come out in a fury of dust.

1960, the Caballeros are entering their 20<sup>th</sup> year as the top senior drum corps. In the 50's the Caballeros stunned the crowd with their marching and musical innovations. From dancing and playing a tango to playing a top hit song, "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White," to turning a Spanish classical song, "España Cani" into a theme song that would carry the Caballeros for decades to come. The crowd is wondering what new thing will the Caballeros come out with the opening season of the 60's.

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## **Cabs 1972: A Magical Year**

*By Jim Mallen*

So why did I become a Hawthorne Caballero? Well, my dad Joe was a Caballeros snare drummer in the early 50s. Some would say I am a second-generation Caballero. My mom and dad met as kids in a Hoboken drum corps. Dad was a snare drummer and drum sergeant, and mom was the drum major. They dated, fell in love, and married at 17. My lifelong future in drum and bugle corps was therefore predestined. I had the privilege of marching in two very successful junior corps; St. Patrick's Cadets in Jersey City (62, 64,65) and the Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights of Newark (67, 68, 69). I was blessed with good fortune to have been taught percussion in both corps by the eminent instructor Bobby Thompson. When I aged out at Blessed Sacrament, I was ready to be a Caballero.

In late 1970, I began studying percussion privately with George Tuthill, to prepare me for my audition for my instrumental music studies at Montclair. In 1971 George suggested I join the Cabs snare line, which George was teaching. I joined in mid-season and our four snares became five. I

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## Alumni Event Schedule

**2021**

**Monday, May 31 \***

Parade  
Hawthorne

**Saturday, June 19 \***

Cabs At The Beach  
Wildwood

**Saturday, June 26 \***

Parade (Tentative)  
Lewisburg, PA

**Saturday, July 10 \***

Virtual Performance  
Clifton

**Saturday, July 17 \***

T.B.D.

**Saturday, July 31 \***

T.B.D.

**Saturday, August 7 \***

Kingston Show  
Kingston, NY

**Saturday, August 14 \***

T.B.D.

**Saturday, August 21 \***

White Sabres Show  
Milton, PA

**Saturday, August 28 \***

T.B.D.

**Friday, September 3 \***

I&E Street Exhibition  
Williamsport, PA

**Sunday, September 5 \***

Alumni Spectacular (Stage)  
Williamsport, PA

**Sunday, September 5 \***

DCA Finals (Exhibition)  
Williamsport, PA

**Saturday, September 11 \***

Parade (Tentative)  
Atlantic City

**Saturday, September 18 \***

T.B.D.

**Sunday, November 7 \***

Parade (Tentative)  
Clifton

**Saturday, September 20 \***

Parade & Stage Show  
Plymouth, MA

**Saturday, December 4 \***

Parade  
Hawthorne

## Alumni Rehearsal Schedule 2021

**Sunday, March 7 \***

Percussion Only  
Post 199 1:00-5:00

**Sunday, March 21 \***

Percussion Only  
Post 199 1:00-5:00

**Sunday, April 18 \***

T.B.D.

**Sunday, May 2 \***

T.B.D.

**Saturday, May 15 \***

T.B.D.

**Sunday, May 16 \***

T.B.D.

**Sunday, May 30 \***

T.B.D.

**Sunday, June 13 \***

T.B.D.

**Sunday, September 26 \***

T.B.D.

**Sunday, October 10 \***

T.B.D.

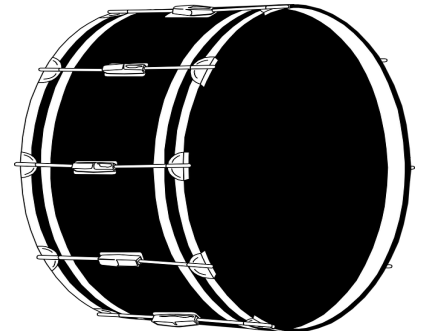
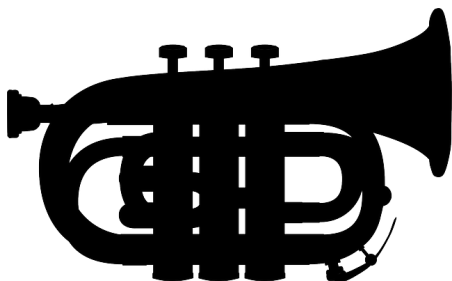
**Sunday, October 24 \***

T.B.D.

**Sunday, November 14 \***

T.B.D.

**Saturday, December 4 \***



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## .....The Beginning 1960

One of the most important ingredients in the progressive development of drum and bugles corps has been the Caballeros. Always a step ahead, their high degree of perfection combined with dazzling performance have created an image which has served as an inspiration for thousands of other corps over the years. This became very evident at the start of the decade of the 60's. You will see how we progressed and developed an exciting show which would bring the crowds to their feet and even get them clapping with our music, and adding new percussion instruments which would forever change the drum corps of the future.

A big change was the music arranger and instructor of the fifties, Albert Mura, retired from the Caballeros. A new instructor named Joseph Genaro was invited to come over and teach a new song to the Caballeros. He marched and played with the Gabarina Skyliners up

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## Trivia Answer

### Volume 2 Issue 1

**Q: What year did  
Larry Kerchner  
and George Tuthill  
join the Caballeros  
instructional staff?  
It was the begin-  
ning of a new era  
for the Cabs.**

**A: 1969**



### **OFFICERS**

**Alumni Assn. President**  
**Larry Mastroberardino**  
**Alumni Corps Director**  
**Paul Bongiovi**  
**Alumni Corps Asst. Dir.**  
**Steve Raclowski**  
**Post Commander**  
**Doug Tenis**  
**Ole! Newsletter Editor**  
**Chris Sortino**

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## ..... Magical 1972

immediately convinced my dear friend Jim O'Hara to come with me. We finished the season successfully with six snares.

After the 1971 season Cabs Director Jim Costello sat me down and asked me to stay with the corps in 1972 as an assistant drum instructor. His only condition was that I would also continue to play in the snare line. Cos had very successful experiences in the 1960s with drum instructor Bobby Peterson teaching and also playing in the line. Cos wanted to recreate that. I agreed. Our drum staff was George Tuthill, Jack Pratt and me, Jim Mallen.

After the late 60s, the Caballeros stormed back in 1970. The Cabs were fifth in their first show in June. And they got consistently stronger until the Cabs won both prelims and finals handily at the 1970 DCA Championships in Rochester NY.

In 1971 the Caballeros and the Skyliners were both strong and very competitive. The Cabs started stronger, and we won every show in June. Sky won their first show in Baltimore 7/17/71. Sky then won the 8/8 Dream Contest and the 8/22 World Open Senior Championship in Bridgeport. At the 1971 DCA Championships in Rochester NY, the Skyliners won both prelims and finals and were crowned DCA Champions. The Caballeros and Yankee Rebels actually tied for 2nd at prelims. In finals the Cabs received a low drum score from a well-respected drum judge and came in third

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## .....The Beginning 1960

until this event. So, during the winter of 1959/1960, Joe came with a piece of music that he felt the Caballeros should be playing. During a rehearsal, after working and teaching most of the night, the corps got together for their usual routine of music. The last song they played was the new one taught and arranged by Joe. Joe had gone down to the legion bar while the ensemble played. Frank Pisillo came down to the bar and said to Joe, "Great song Joe. What else do you have for us to play?"

The first song Joe gave the Caballeros was "Cha Cha Cha Flamenco." Thanks to Donald Angelica and Jimmy D'Amico, the song was further enhanced by their "Dueling Sopranos" solos in the middle of the song. The Caballeros had again brought something new to the drum corps field. This song was a bigger hit than "Cherry Pink" with the crowd. "España Cani" was still the off the line but from there on it was all new. "El

Torero" was next with "Cachita" going into the concert. The concert number was "Sibony", again with dueling sopranos, out of concert was "I Love Lucy" into "Cuban Pete." In the last refrain of "Cuban Pete" we changed the tempo and did the "Two to Tango" dance step. We played "Cha Cha Cha Flamenco" after that and then the new exit, "See You In September."

The show was a super success with every crowd. We thought we were on our way to an undefeated season. Everyone worked very hard at rehearsals in shooting for that undefeated season. Joe Genaro also became our concert director, so he was now a marching Caballero and soon became known as "Jumping Joe Genaro." This came about because in major competitions he would be so excited about the performance that he would jump up to cut the ending note of the concert. With all this new and exciting music, the marching tempo went from 128 steps per

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## April Birthdays

Larry Coleman  
Michelle D'Andrea  
Tom LoPorto  
Dave Chadwick  
Rich DePinto  
Rose Silverstein  
Fran Lauritano  
LaBruce Ziegler  
Linda Gathen  
Brenda Cotton  
Joe Silverstein  
Kenny Clancy  
Mike Maiuri  
Jack Zampella



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## .....The Beginning 1960

minute to 134 steps per minute. We came charging on to the field. And of course this excited the crowd for us even more. It was not unusual to notice some people in the stands swaying with our music with this new tempo.

We went on to a winning season. The other corps were in shock for most of the season. Some of our members were betting with our competitors and giving a 5 point spread and were winning. I believe we stunned the other drum corps with our new show and our upbeat tempo.

Near the end of our season, before we went to the Nationals, we were in a contest known as Mission Drums which was held in the Boston area. Eight senior corps competed. Hawthorne, Norman Prince from Malden Mass., Skyliners, Archer Epler, Hurricanes, Appleknockers, Connecticut Yankees and Reilly Raiders. In this con-

test they only presented prizes to the first four corps. Sooo.....4th place went to Archie, 3rd place went to Skyliners and 2nd place went to Hawthorne. Now at this point Reilly assumed that they won and were really getting excited. "And in first place.....Lt. Norman Prince." We were not happy but got a laugh out of the reaction of Reilly. We weren't happy about this because it was our only loss of 1960. Now I must tell you that a number of the judges at this show were former members of the Lt. Norman Prince corps.

We went on to win the Legion Nationals with Archie a close second. It appeared that they made changes to their exit just prior to the nationals to improve their show, but it did not work too well.

Now we look at the 1961 season and the meetings to determine if the percussion section of a corps is limited to only snares, tenors, bass and cymbals. Now, does the corps that was inconspicuous in 1946 and wanted to be different than other corps, want to be fully ESPANA? You have to wait until the next issue of Ole' to find out.

## Remember When

### Sixty-One Years Ago 1960 AL Nationals Miami, FL

<b>1</b>	<b>Caballeros</b>	<b>86.06</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Musketeers</b>	<b>84.02</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Skokie Indians</b>	<b>79.91</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Appleknockers</b>	<b>71.93</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Conn Yankees</b>	<b>71.36</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Boys of 76</b>	<b>71.06</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Black Knights</b>	<b>63.56</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Colonials</b>	<b>63.40</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Lamplighters</b>	<b>63.33</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Spirit of St. Louis</b>	<b>56.13</b>

## Trivia Question

**What year and where did the Caballeros win their last AL National Championship?**

# Memories Of 1974

By Dave Saccente

1974 was a great year for the Caballeros. We were in the midst of a twenty five contest win streak and Cos had us clicking on all cylinders. With Vic Benfatti's elevation to Assistant Drum Major, I was asked to go into the cymbals squad joining Biggie (Joe) Cowin, Larry Rudy-syle, Ken Fernandez and Henry Jay holding for the snare line and keeping the judges away.

The Nationals that year were in Miami and we were looking for revenge from our loss in Chicago in 1972. It hit all of us pretty hard, especially Vic Benfatti, who came off the field that night with only a handle in his hand because his cymbal had broken during the show. He blamed himself for the loss, but we collectively assured him that it wasn't his fault. We showed our determination by returning from the Nationals and ending the Skyliner's perfect season the following week.

Most of the drum line knew or became friends with Ralph Silverbrand, since he spent so much time at the Post and listened to us practice downstairs. Around mid-season, we found out that he was finally eligible to judge his former corps at the Nationals after waiting the required number of years. We all knew that this was no advantage to us be-

cause he would never show us any special treatment, nor would we ask for any.

The ride down to Miami was mostly uneventful. One of the guys built a table that fit in the aisle and there was a running card game that supplied some laughs and cut the tension of the upcoming performance. There was one moment when we stopped in Georgia for the night and local law enforcement "pulled us over" at the motel wanting to know what some busses with Jersey plates were doing in their neck of the woods. Cos straitened it out and we continued on to Miami in the morning.

Arriving around two the next day, we found excellent accommodations and a practice field close by. Bob Murray really did his homework on this trip. The hotel allowed us to practice music on the beach, which afforded us a nice breeze. Practices went well but the big day was upon us.

I had stood inspection many times during my Drum Corps career, but inspection with the Caballeros took on a whole new meaning, a pride I had never experienced before. Uniforms were checked, shoes were spit-shined a second time, the fringe on our sashes were trimmed or replaced and all of our equipment was taken apart, cleaned and put back together. We even replaced all of the handles of our cymbals, fearing what happened to Vic two years before. We were

ready.

When we arrived at the stadium, we found out that our friend, Ralph, was assigned to judging Inspection. Oh Great! The one judge who knew us better than anyone, was going to inspect us. Marching over to the ready line, all of us in the squad decided that when Ralph and Jimmy Russo reached us, we would all stand at attention cross-eyed. I was standing next to my buddy Dan Daymon, who was in the bass line and we were all trying really hard, not to laugh. Ralph and Jimmy reached the drum line, inspected us and continued around the back stopping behind Danny, who was a friend of Ralph's. Suddenly Ralph asked Jim Russo to have "this man" raise his right foot. After he did so, he then asked Jimmy to have Dan raise his left foot. He did so and then Ralph blurted out, NOW HAVE HIM RAISE BOTH FEET! We all lost it. Ralph got the last laugh. The rest of the day, as they say, is history.

The American Legion loved us, the city loved us, little Bobby Murray got to march with us in the Victory Parade, even the hotel loved us, at least until we pushed the Manager into the pool during the Victory party . . . Ralph, Danny and many other members of the corps that day are no longer with us, but that is how I wish to remember them. Great Memories.

## Letter From The Editor

By Chris Sortino

**Spring has sprung!** It's getting a little warmer, the clocks have been moved ahead, the birds are chirping, baseball teams are in the middle of Spring training, we're starting to clean up around the house, both inside and outside, putting away the snow shovels and snow blowers, getting that annual lawn mower service, trying on our Summer clothes and wondering how they shrunk so much over the winter, happy that we just got our second Covid19 shot, lifting a huge weight off our shoulders, getting ready for the upcoming drum corps season.....wait a minute. What drum corps season?

I look at our corps calendar and I notice cancellations and a weird three letter designation next to several dates. "TBA". "To be announced." Troubling to be sure. 2020 is over but there is still this nasty thing going around trying to spoil our 2021.

We are all champing at the bit to play, march, perform and we will. Don't be discouraged. Something will happen this year, not what we're used to but we

will be doing some drum corps related activity.

Keep your eyes out for emails from Paul. Our staff is trying our hardest to get us back to at least what I call the "new abnormal." We will do whatever we can, within the state and local restrictions.

Have faith. We have already had several percussion rehearsals and I understand one mellophone section rehearsal. A full corps rehearsal is in the works. The DCA is trying very hard also to bring some normalcy back this year.

Positive thoughts and prayers, that's all we can do right now. We are all in this together. We are a great family. We are the Caballeros. Don't ever forget what that means.

Stay safe, stay well and God Bless!



Ole! is published every other month.

Next issue: May/June

## March Birthdays

Pepe Algarin  
Donna Cetani  
T.J. LoPorto  
Brad DeWaal  
J. Oliver Plunkett  
Nick Stefano  
Nick Carlson  
Zack Grilk  
Rick Solow  
Arlene Black  
**Caballeros Corps**  
Bob Cook  
Elaine Daye  
Glenn Kubacki  
Chris Menear  
Curt Hawkins  
Frankie Salati  
**Caballeros Alumni Corps**  
**Birthday 1994**  
Lisa Velez Yocum  
Pat Chadwick  
Beth McGarril  
Mike Del Vecchio

## Green VW Beetles and Don (apologies to Dr. Seuss)

By George DelMonte

"From there to here, from here to there, funny things are everywhere." I thought I'd start the retelling of a weird trip with a quote from Dr. Seuss, since his works have been the object of extremely funny "cancel culture."

I do not remember the year, probably 1963 or 1964, but the corps was in Massachusetts for the fabled "Mission Drums" contest. This day was filled with anticipation. It was Don Angelica's first time as the Drum Major and he was a bit nervous - as we were. More on this later.

As usual we had practiced on a field miles from the contest. We loaded up the bus and left for the stadium looking to arrive in time to don our costumes, warm up and be on time for the competition. This is where it got funny/weird. As we got near the stadium, the bus tried to turn right but found its way blocked by an illegally parked VW Beetle on the right corner. No matter how much turning and backing up the driver did, there was no way to make the turn. With

that Cos told us to get off and move the car. With about 30 guys picking it up, someone yelled, "Let's put it in that yard." We did. After the bus turned we talked about what the driver of the VW would do when he got back. We also planned to "surprise" Don Angelica at the contest.

While we were getting ready, we took up a collection and sent one of the guys to buy a dozen roses. When it

was time to march out for retreat, I told Cos I was feeling sick and would like to stay on the sideline. He agreed and I waited until all the drum corps were lined up, Miss Mission Drums was introduced and the Arch Bishop of Boston had done his blessing thing. I took the roses and walked out to Don and gave them to him. I thought he would drop dead of embarrassment as he said, "What the heck are you doing?" I laughed, saluted and watched as Don - in a moment of brilliance - turned and walked over to Miss Mission Drums and gave her the roses - eliciting a huge roar and applause from the crowd and a comment from the announcer. Oh, yeah.....we won!



## Answering The Trivia Question

By Bobby Menear

I was in the Sop section in **1969** and sat next to Bobby Burke and Pineapple (Ray Facundo).

A young man with long blonde hair who was a student at the Berkeley School of Music came in during the winter months after finals. He was introduced as the new Musical arranger for the 1970 season. His name was Larry Kerchner. Also the very same day a young man came in from St Lucy's, Jimmy Russo, who was going to replace Chuck Bishop who would find himself the next year in the Marines and in Vietnam. I can't remember if Larry passed out "Captain From Castile" that rehearsal or the next. Anyway Bobby, Pineapple and myself were the first sopranos to play the Sop trio in Castile in those rehearsals. I was in the Navy Band in Brooklyn and could tell immediately that next year was going to be a turning point. My hitch was up that Dec. and I knew I would have to miss it.

I finally found my way back to Hawthorne in Nov. of 2016. So enjoying the thrill once again.....

# Reference To The Past

Back in the July/August 2020 Volume 1 Issue 4 Ole!, Mike DelVecchio told us about the after Nationals party that the Skokie Indians threw. The first thing the Caballeros that attended saw upon entering was the poster below.



Double-Click on the icon below to see and hear the talking Skokie Indian.



fullbody.mov

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## ..... Magical 1972

place behind YR. The Cabs felt that this low drum score probably cost them the championship. A disappointing finish for the Caballeros. Many Cabs members retired, and the corps experienced a large turnover of membership when preparing for the upcoming 1972 season. Most of the 1972 drum line were rookies. Jim Mallen and Chris Sortino were the only front-line percussionists who stayed from the 1971 front line. All newbies in 1972. There were several drum line personality conflicts and laid-back Tuthill was exasperated by these issues, which eventually were straightened out.

1972 was clearly going to be a rebuilding year. We played Captain From Castile, Theme from Patton, Everybody's Everything, Sabre Dance, Flamenco Cha Cha, and Samba de Orpheus. Three of these we kept over from 1971 (Castile, Flamenco and Samba). The music was ready, but were we? I personally felt bad for our superior Latin section of Mike Hull and Timmy Fog (Merrill). There was "No Latin in Patton." Then again in 1971 we did the 1812 Overture. No Latin there. And in 1973 we did South Rampart's Street Parade with Mike Hull and Pete Tateo. No Latin there either. Oh well.

So, I contacted our Grammy Award-winning arranger, Larry Kerchner, and asked him why he picked the Theme from Patton for our 1972 show. Larry said to me "Jim, that's easy -- Jim Costello liked it!" Larry

said that Cos felt that our sameness of style of popular Latin songs up 'til then had begun to put the Corps at a disadvantage, and that an occasional stretch might make the judges sit up and listen with new ears. Cos, harking back to when the Corps played Guadalcanal March, from Victory at Sea, thought that using a new patriotic song for the Color Presentation would be a real shot in the arm (don't forget, the movie Patton and its theme were very popular at the time). Knowing that Cos was a WWII veteran, Larry was more than happy to arrange it for him. To quote Larry "It was the least I could do for Jim's service to our country." 1971's 1812 Overture, 1972's Patton, and 1973's South Rampart's Street Parade were all among the non-Latin numbers that were preferred and approved by Director Jim Costello. Well, considering our successes in those years, it seems that Cos was right. Eventually Larry thought that this foray was not as necessary after he started finding more contemporary Latin music to explore – music that was either Latin or could be molded into a Latin style.

For example, in 1974 we played a song entitled TSOP. These initials stand for The Sound of Philadelphia. TSOP was a disco tune that was used as the theme music to a TV dance show called Soul Train. Hmm ...A disco song that was the theme song for an African American dance show? Not exactly what would come to mind as a perfect Cabs song! Yet Larry made it work. We never called it TSOP. We proudly announced it as Soul Train. It was an excessive-

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## ..... Magical 1972

ly big hit for us. But let us get back to 1972.

The first show was June 3 Hamden, CT. Sky won, and we were fourth. We were not yet ready. Sky won every show in June handily, and we were losing badly. Everyone was beating us; Yankee Rebels, Reading Bucs, and CT Hurricanes. The only two corps we had beat in June were Les Diplomates and Sunrisers.

July 1 Bridgeport, CT Barnum Festival. Sky won with an 85.6. We were again fourth, scoring 78.9. We were fully 6.7 points behind Sky! Oh boy. They would mock us on retreat. A Sky horn player would yell out "Hey, man, what time is it?" A Sky drummer would answer "It's PARTY time!!" They would howl at us with laughter. It was humiliating.

Sky was incredibly strong in 1972. A most talented drum corps. They also won every show in July. We were still in fourth place. At the July Baltimore show and the August Dream Contest, Sky again won, still undefeated, and we finally moved up to third place, beating the Bucs. But we were still 4 points behind Sky. The Skyliners, in the middle of their Little Old New York production, did their patented Skyliner "Traffic Jam". They did a total scatter drill complete with authentic automobile car horns sounds, into a surprise company front to the sideline. It was awesome. The audiences went absolutely ballistic!

Do not forget, when we won, the beer was free. When we lost, it was \$1 a can. There was no free beer for us in 1972. So far. In mid-July we made a program change. Our concert number was Siboney. It was not selling to the audience or the judges. So, we quickly learned an excellent Kerchner/Tuthill arrangement of Sabre Dance. It rocked the house!

On Tuesday August 15 we departed Hawthorne by bus for Chicago IL and the American Legion National Championships. We arrived late Wednesday night and had immediate and intense all-day rehearsals for four straight days. So, at the end of the first full rehearsal day, Thursday, we finally did the Jimmy Cos patented "one more time" run through and, exhausted, we went for dinner and thought that we were done for the evening. Okay, we were looking forward to a few beers and maybe elevated consciousness and a relaxing evening. Uh uh. No way. Jack Pratt said all we would do was get high, drink and laze around. Nope. We were going to practice. Drum line only! And we did. After dinner we put on our percussion equipment and went to the soccer rehearsal field. We busted our asses until 11:30 PM. No lights. In the dark. Only nearby streetlights. Four straight hours of percussion rehearsal. We were exhausted. No party that night. Just sleep. Next day, the same exact schedule. They were beating us up. AND making us better.

By Saturday we were much improved. Saturday night we gave an exhibition performance at a major DCI show in Racine WI.

If you were there, you will NEVER forget that night! We absolutely blew the doors off that stadium! Some of the best DCI corps were performing there and they, and the sold-out audience, absolutely adored us! It was an incredible ego-boost for us. But that is a story for another time.

Sunday August 20, we rehearsed intensely for that night's championship. We had a really excellent performance that night. We lost the American Legion National Championship, by two tenths to the Rochester Crusaders. I believed it was because we had a penalty due to dropped equipment. (A cymbal handle broke.)

But we returned home a totally different drum corps. We were polished. We were ready. Those intense days of rehearsal in Chicago for the Cabs was like we were on tour, like the competing junior corps. Sky rehearsed only on Friday night for a few hours on Randall's Island NY. (They started rehearsal late, as usual) Drinking beers and laughing. Why rehearse? After all, they were undefeated. However, we were a totally different drum corps.

Saturday, August 26, in Schenectady NY, we gave an incredibly strong performance. There were five corps in the show. They had all beaten us, all year. On retreat, when they announced "In 2nd place, with a score of 90.70 ..... the SKYLINERS, we couldn't believe it. We scored 91.00 for first place, three tenths ahead of Sky. Of course, we were our usual classy Caballeros on retreat. Our first win all year!

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## ..... Magical 1972

But afterwards we were in heaven. WE WON! The beer for us in Schenectady was free that night! In the very last DCA show of the year, the Skyliners had lost their undefeated status .... to US! Sky went ballistic. They wanted to fight us. Jimmy Cos, Chris Sortino, and several other senior Cabs people confronted them and eventually settled things down. But the DCA Championships were the next week, September 3, at the venerable Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City, NJ. The title was now up for grabs.

Sept. 3 DCA Championships were at Roosevelt Stadium Jersey City, NJ. Sky went on ahead of us in prelims and did a most remarkable performance. They were pumped. They were hyped. They practically flew through their show. We went on after them. Some of the Sky members hung over the outfield fence behind us, shouting jeers and cat-calls. We also did a remarkable performance. We were ready. Both corps scored similarly. But unfortunately, Skyliners were overhyped and finished their show undertime. As a result, Sky received a one-point timing penalty for being undertime. Cabs 1st 91.25, Sky 2nd 89.90, tied for second place with the Reading Buccaneers. Rochester 4th 88.05.

That night in finals we went on last. Sky decided to strategize. Before their last drum solo, they added eight counts for nothing. They marked time in place for

eight silent counts to hopefully prevent them from again being undertime. Guess what? It did not work. They were also undertime in Finals which cost them the DCA Championship. Skyliners were again assessed a one-point timing penalty for being undertime. I will never forget that their time was 10:59.3. They were undertime by seven-tenths of a second. Cabs 1st 90.6, Sky 2nd 89.75, Bucs 3rd 88.65. If Sky was not undertime, they would have beaten us by one and one-half tenths. But they were undertime. History. Their fabulous undefeated season ended in an unquestionable disaster for them. Their poor planning to deal with their undertime issue was not dealt with successfully. It was truly unfortunate for them. And extremely fortunate for us.

The Caballeros went on to have an unprecedented season in 1973. I stayed for three more seasons; 73, 74 & 75. In 1973 we won EVERY show and had an unprecedented undefeated season! It was the first undefeated season in DCA history. We won every show by at least 2, 3 or four full points. No one ever came even close. We were a DCA machine! In the 1973 DCA Championships Finals, Cabs won with 89.85. Bucs were second with 85.8. FOUR full points behind us. Skyliners never recovered from their 1972 disaster and finished in 5th place (behind the Dips) with an 81.55. Over eight points behind us.

In 1974 the spirit of our 1972 miracle continued. We only lost two shows all the 1974 season: both to the Reading Buccaneers.

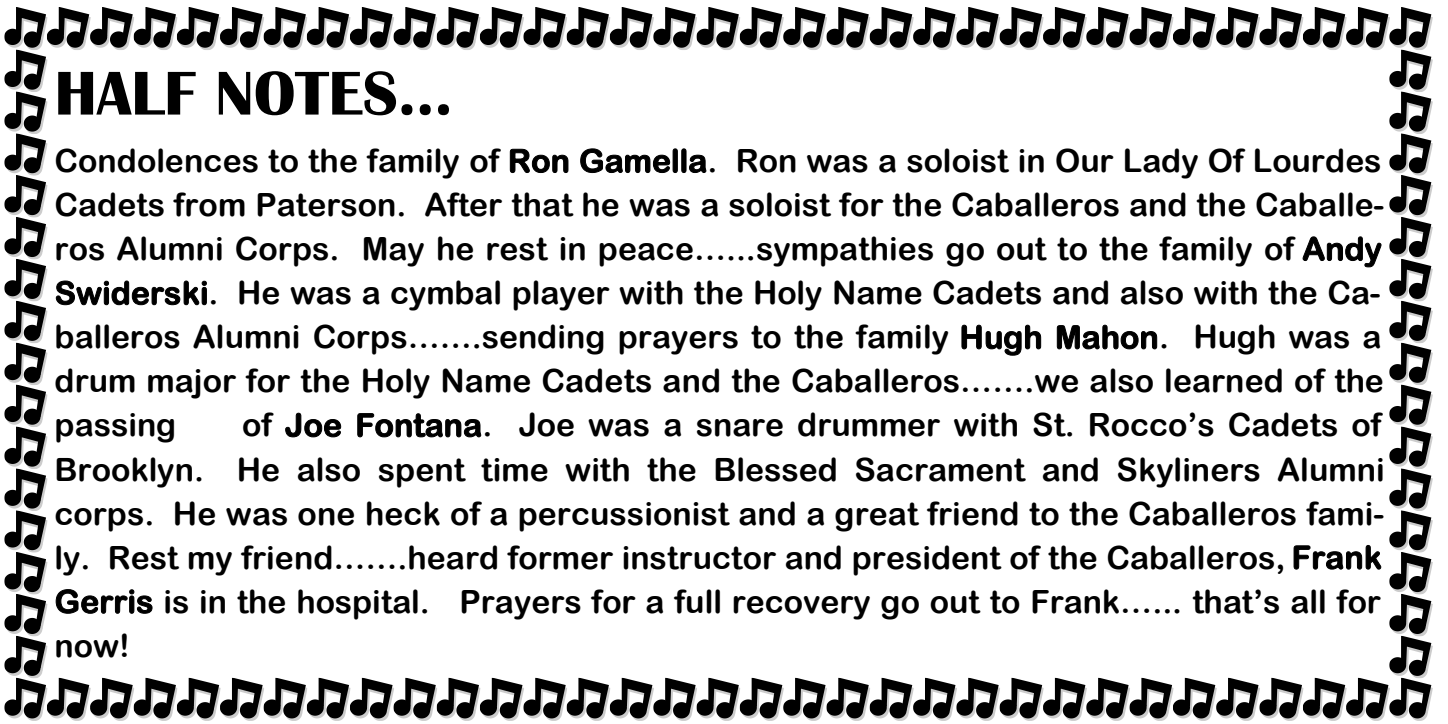
On September 1 in Rochester, the Cabs again won the DCA Championship over the Bucs. We were first place DCA champions for three years in a row! The Caballeros were once again a powerhouse leader.

To me, the 1972 Caballeros season was a truly incredible success story. Much credit must be given to the entire 1972 membership who worked diligently and tirelessly. But perhaps more credit must be given to the superior leadership of our Corps Director Jim Costello and the incredibly talented instructional staff who guided us.

In retrospect, for most of us, these years with the Caballeros were some of the most satisfying and gratifying years of our lives!

**Jim Mallen, a School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, is a former DCI/DCA Percussion Judge who has two sons and lives with his wife in Wyckoff, NJ. He is an NJ certified K-12 Instrumental Music Teacher who was a marching member, instructor, and Percussion Caption Head (1985) for the Hawthorne Caballeros. In 2004 he was inducted into the NJ Drum Corps Hall of Fame. In 2005 he was inducted into the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame.**





# HALF NOTES...

Condolences to the family of **Ron Gamella**. Ron was a soloist in Our Lady Of Lourdes Cadets from Paterson. After that he was a soloist for the Caballeros and the Caballeros Alumni Corps. May he rest in peace.....sympathies go out to the family of **Andy Swiderski**. He was a cymbal player with the Holy Name Cadets and also with the Caballeros Alumni Corps.....sending prayers to the family **Hugh Mahon**. Hugh was a drum major for the Holy Name Cadets and the Caballeros.....we also learned of the passing of **Joe Fontana**. Joe was a snare drummer with St. Rocco's Cadets of Brooklyn. He also spent time with the Blessed Sacrament and Skyliners Alumni corps. He was one heck of a percussionist and a great friend to the Caballeros family. Rest my friend.....heard former instructor and president of the Caballeros, **Frank Gerris** is in the hospital. Prayers for a full recovery go out to Frank..... that's all for now!

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



I had dinner with a world chess champion and there was a checkered tablecloth. It took him 2 hours to pass the salt.

I mailed a Valentine's Day card and my tax return at the same time. Now I can't remember which one I signed "Guess Who? XOXO."

I ordered an extension course called "How to Deal With Life's Disappointments." Yesterday I got the first lesson.  
It was an empty envelope.

A Police Officer just knocked on my door and told me my dogs were chasing people on bikes. They don't even own bikes.

To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it should be.

When a job application asks who is to be notified in case of an emergency, I always write "A very good doctor"

# HELP WANTED!

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



## Articles for the OLE!

The OLE! welcomes all impressions/expressions. Send your input/articles to [Cabalumno1@aol.com](mailto:Cabalumno1@aol.com)

