



## Caballeros..... 1964 And Beyond

By Mike DelVecchio

I left the corps after the 1963 season after 11 years of marching. However, I still followed the corps to some of the shows. The early 1960's to 1963 seasons with Joe Genaro had brought the Caballeros to the top of the list as far as our winning ways, beating all the corps we competed against. The crowd was always heavy for the Caballeros. Although we only had one undefeated year, we seldom lost more than one or two contests per season.

In 1964, several corps took action which would divide drum corps and fans alike. The Drum Corps Associates was formed by a group

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## *My Best Christmas Eve*

By Larry Kerchner

I've always found Christmas Eve to be a tranquil, magical time – peaceful, yet exciting . . . even throughout the years my daughters were growing up, when I would spend the entire night putting together bikes, Barbie houses, and toys of every description. How I wish I could recapture those years in particular, when I couldn't wait to see the expressions on their little faces on Christmas morning! It would never be possible to top those times, so for the purposes of this offering, let me hark back to my own youth and one Christmas Eve that stands out as being particularly memorable.



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## ....1964 And Beyond

of corps that would select their own judges, and the Caballeros were not allowed to join the DCA. Also, the following year, this same group would not appear at a contest if the Caballeros were entered in that contest. There was no doubt that the lowest move they could make was putting themselves ahead of the crowd and the organizations that were running the show. They did not however, withdraw from the major shows like the Dream and a few others.

In 1964 and 1965 the Caballeros won most contests with only a few losses. In all contests, none of their competition were DCA member corps.

In 1966, the Caballeros were allowed to join the DCA. After having lost several contests that year, the Caballeros spent much of Nationals week at the American Legion convention in Washington DC bringing the marching up to what could only be the best.

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## Trivia Question

**How many years did the Caballeros play "Johnny One Note?"**

## Trivia Answer

### Volume 2 Issue 6

**Q: What was the first year that the Caballeros put 72 horns on the field?**

**A: 1972**

## Remember When

### Fifty-Eight Years Ago

#### 1964 Dream Contest

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>1 Caballeros</b>         | <b>83.53</b> |
| <b>2 Brigadiers</b>         | <b>79.47</b> |
| <b>3 Reilly Raiders</b>     | <b>78.13</b> |
| <b>4 Ballantine Brewers</b> | <b>76.73</b> |
| <b>5 Princemen</b>          | <b>75.20</b> |



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## .....Christmas Eve

I was twelve years old, living in the small town where I grew up in southern New Jersey. We had eaten dinner and my parents and I were sitting in the living room, listening to Christmas music by the light of the tree and the plastic candlesticks that shone in each window of the house. Each one held a small yellowish-orange bulb. It was the extent of our electric Christmas display, but the "candles" looked nice from the street – sort of homey and old-fashioned, and because we kept the other lights off in every room to highlight the candles' effect, it gave the house a special, warm glow that was unique to this time of the year. I loved it. Rooms that were ordinary and familiar in the daytime became small wonderlands. Between the lights and the smell of the real Scotch pine (festooned with decorations and tinsel), I was in Christmas heaven. I suppose the presents under the tree didn't hurt either!

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## .....1964 And Beyond

The horn and percussion lines spent extra time in sections and full ensemble practice in order to bring the show performance up to their famous winning style. Once in uniform on the field, the magic of that famous Caballero uniform kicked in. The Caballeros presented their greatest performance of 1966 and won the Legion National title by little more than a point. However, two of the leading corps in the show did not agree with the judges and showed their dissatisfaction with the judges by passing in retreat without playing. One corps even threw their drum sticks at the judges.

The two corps who thought they would win and did not feel the Caballeros were worth worrying about, were the NY Skyliners and Connecticut Hurricanes. They had lost sight of their goals, whereas the Caballeros had their eyes on only one thing, that was doing the job to win the show.

That has always been the Caballeros goal, to aim for first prize regardless what corps were there and how great they were supposed to be.

The 1968 and 1969 Caballeros did not do well in scoring high marks, placing 3rd and 4th in shows most of the season. However, in 1970, the "Bull broke out of its barn" and started to win shows including their first DCA Championship. In the 70's, the Bull became a fierce monster and stayed out of the barn going undefeated in 1973 and winning 5 DCA Championships within the decade. The Caballeros won the 1976 DCA by almost 6 points, a point spread record that still stands to this day. And thus, the other corps were back to finding it very difficult to beat the Caballeros. So much for starting their own association and picking their own judges. You could say that the Bull got its revenge in a very fashionable way as the Caballeros continued to dominate the DCA and were winning more DCA titles.

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## .....Christmas Eve

Just when I didn't think it could get any better, my cousin, Michael, who lived across the street, came to the door and asked if I could come out to play because it was starting to snow. SNOW!!! Christmas Eve, and it was snowing! Not a blizzardy, wet, nasty snow, nor those big clumpy snowflakes that you knew wouldn't amount to anything, and would most likely turn to rain. It was a steady, gentle snow that fell straight down. It made the world seem quiet and calm. You could actually hear the snowflakes land as they blanketed the ground, and feel the snow crunch under your feet as you packed it down with your shoes. But here's the best part: There was a telephone pole across the narrow street that held a streetlight – the old kind with the big incandescent bulb and a circular rippled shade above it. It backlit the falling snow as if in a movie. Down, down it came,

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## .....Christmas Eve

yet at the same time, everything was so still. It was perfect. After a time out front on our small, virtually traffic-less street, under the light, Michael and I went back into our houses to resume contemplating our respective visions of sugar plums, or more likely, the things that were important to 11- and 12-year-old boys. Besides, who knew what a "sugar plum" was? I'm not sure I've ever actually seen one to this day.

So, I'm listening to "The Little Drummer Boy," trying to guess what treasures lay under the tree, and generally basking in the mystical feeling of the night before Christmas, when what do I hear but another knock at the door! I knew it wasn't my cousin again, so I let my mom answer it and went back to my basking, until it was interrupted by my mom saying, "Larry, it's for you." Huh? For me? I'm a kid! Who would come to the door for me on Christmas Eve? Hesitantly, I stepped to the door, and who was standing there but the Business Manager of Blue Rock, the drum and bugle corps in which I

was a proud bugle-playing member. He was holding a black corduroy jacket, with gold trim running down the sleeves and "Blue Rock Drum & Bugle Corps" embroidered on the back... and "Larry" embroidered on the front! My first corps jacket! Blue Rock's first corps jacket! The jacket that my parents had ordered what seemed like eons ago! It came in on Christmas Eve! Talk about "Bearing gifts!" Wow! I couldn't wait to put it on! The details of the rest of that night are a blur, but I know I went out again and stood under the streetlight, wearing my new jacket, and watched the snowflakes land on the shiny new corduroy as I gazed at my house with the candles in its windows. Inside were my parents, presents, music, the scent of pine, and magic. It would be the best Christmas I ever knew until I had kids of my own.



## Remember When

### Fifty-Seven Years Ago

#### 1965 Dream Contest

|          |                       |              |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Caballeros</b>     | <b>87.16</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Crusaders</b>      | <b>84.95</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Reilly Raiders</b> | <b>82.86</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Brigadiers</b>     | <b>78.24</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Princemen</b>      | <b>77.79</b> |

## Remember When

### Fifty-Eight Years Ago

**1964**

#### Flushing Meadow, NY

|          |                   |              |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Caballeros</b> | <b>83.40</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Sunrisers</b>  | <b>79.65</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Marksmen</b>   | <b>77.37</b> |

#### OFFICERS

**Alumni Assn. President**

**Larry Mastroberardino**

**Alumni Corps Director**

**Paul Bongiovi**

**Alumni Corps Asst. Dir.**

**Steve Raclowski**

**Post Commander**

**Doug Tennis**

**Ole! Newsletter Editor**

**Chris Sortino**

## Alumni 2022 Rehearsal Schedule

### Sunday, February 6 \*

Music Rehearsal 12-5  
Post 199

### Sunday, February 20 \*

Music Rehearsal 12-5  
Post 199

### Sunday, March 6 \*

Music Rehearsal 12-5  
Post 199

### Sunday, March 20 \*

Music Rehearsal 12-5  
Post 199

### Sunday, April 3 \*

Music Rehearsal 12-5  
Elks Lodge Mt. Arlington

### Sunday, May 1 \*

Drill Rehearsal 12-5  
T.B.D.

### Saturday, May 14 \*

### Sunday, May 15 \*

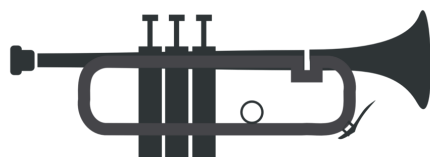
Camp Weekend  
Wildwood

### Sunday, May 22 \*

Drill Rehearsal 12-5  
T.B.D.

### Sunday, June 12 \*

Drill Rehearsal 12-5  
T.B.D.



### Saturday, August 27 \*

If no show, rehearsal  
Next day.

If show, no rehearsal  
Next day.

### Sunday, August 28 \*

T.B.D.

### Sunday, September 25 \*

Music Rehearsal 12-5  
Elks Lodge Mt. Arlington

### Sunday, October 9 \*

Music Rehearsal 12-5  
Elks Lodge Mt. Arlington

### Sunday, October 23 \*

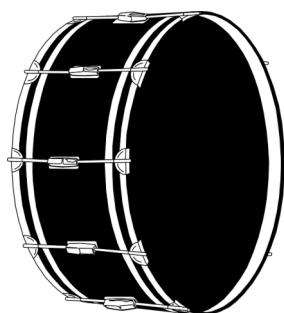
Music Rehearsal 12-5  
T.B.D.

### Sunday, November 13 \*

Music Rehearsal 12-5  
Post 199

### Saturday, December 3 \*

Music Rehearsal  
Post 199



## Letter From The Editor

By Chris Sortino

Well, we are launching the 3rd year of the Ole! Newsletter. I hope all of you are enjoying its content for the last two years. In my opinion, we have had a nice mixture of articles covering various subjects and viewpoints of the contributors.

This issue we have a story by Larry Kerchner. It's a Christmas story meant for the November/December issue but was delayed due to Larry recovering from his knee surgery. Even though we are past Christmas, it is a wonderful article. Please enjoy it as I have.

The 2022 schedule is included here, hoping none of these performances will be cancelled due to Covid or any other reason. I'm sure all of us want this season to be as close to normal as possible. I'm praying it will be.

Stay safe and stay well!

God bless!



## Alumni 2022 Event Schedule

**Saturday, April 6 \***

Lancers-Stage Show

York, PA

**Monday, May 30 \***

Parade

Hawthorne

**Saturday, June 4 \***

Elk's Parade

Wildwood

**Saturday, June 25 \***

Parade

Lewisburg, PA

**Saturday, July 9 \***

Grand Prix-Field Show

T.B.D.

**Saturday, July 16 \***

Buccaneers-Field Show

Landisville, PA

**Saturday, July 23 \***

Sunrisers-Field Show

T.B.D.

**Saturday, July 30 \***

AL Nationals-Field Show

Williamsport, PA

**Saturday, August 6 \***

Field Show

Kingston, NY

**Saturday, August 20 \***

White Sabres

Stage Show

Turbotville, PA

**Saturday, August 27 \***

If no show, rehearsal

Next day.

If show, no rehearsal

Next day.

**Sunday, August 28 \***

T.B.D.

**Saturday, Sept. 3 \***

DCA (I&E) Exhibition

Rochester, NY

**Sunday, Sept. 4 \***

Alumni Spectacular

Field Show

Rochester, NY

**Sunday, Sept. 4 \***

DCA Finals

Field Show

Rochester, NY

**Sunday, November 6 \***

Parade

Clifton

**Saturday, Nov. 19 \***

Parade

Stage Show

Plymouth, MA

**Saturday, December 3 \***

Parade

Hawthorne

Ole! is published every other month.

Next issue: March/April



## January Birthdays

Mike Palmquist  
Bob Menear  
Javier Morales  
Bobby Sands  
Jim Nargiso  
Tracey Doherty  
Vince Marchese  
Bill George  
Bill Vavrick  
Bill Gibbons  
Mary Sinisi  
Robin Mastrob-  
erardino  
Ann Leib  
Lydia Plante

*Happy  
Birthday!*

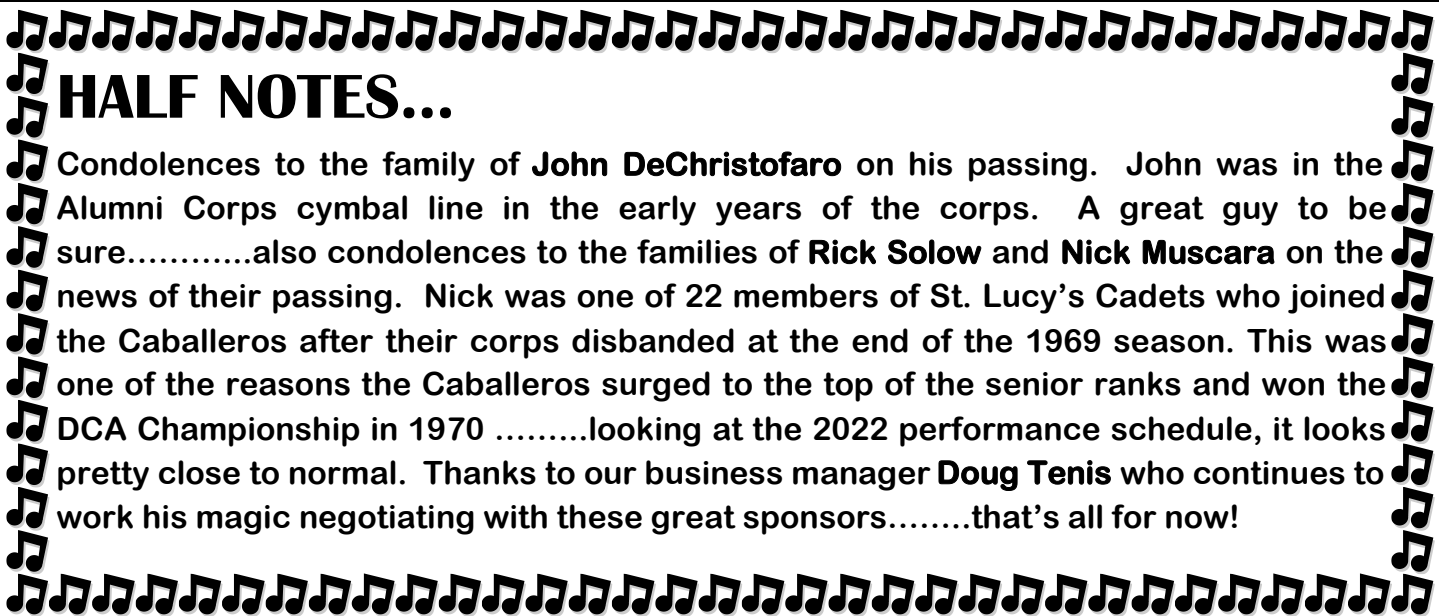
## Pics From The Past



## February Birthdays

Pat Rouse  
Dave Scarber  
Cliff Richmond  
John Gerdes  
Larry Mastrob-  
erardino  
George Headley  
Ed Bushell  
Cortez Howard  
Anthony D'Andrea  
Vanessa Castaldo  
Kathy Lawson  
Bob Durborow  
Dave Farren  
Steve Andreazza  
George Desposito

*Happy  
Birthday*



## HALF NOTES...

Condolences to the family of **John DeChristofaro** on his passing. John was in the Alumni Corps cymbal line in the early years of the corps. A great guy to be sure.....also condolences to the families of **Rick Solow** and **Nick Muscara** on the news of their passing. Nick was one of 22 members of St. Lucy's Cadets who joined the Caballeros after their corps disbanded at the end of the 1969 season. This was one of the reasons the Caballeros surged to the top of the senior ranks and won the DCA Championship in 1970 .....looking at the 2022 performance schedule, it looks pretty close to normal. Thanks to our business manager **Doug Tennis** who continues to work his magic negotiating with these great sponsors.....that's all for now!

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

Last week I told my grandpa that Amazon is the best place for holiday shopping. He just called me from Brazil.



What did the third wise salesman say after his friends had already presented gold and frankincense? "But wait. There's myrrh!"

My family told me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes, but I said that I could not quit cold turkey.

It's not the minutes spent at the table that put on weight. It's the seconds.

It must be weird working at the FDA. One day you're approving a lifesaving vaccine, the next your approving new s'mores-flavored Oreos.

An optimist stays up to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old one leaves.

You know you're getting older when you have a party and the neighbors don't realize it.

I didn't realize how bad a driver I am until my navigation app said "In 400 feet, make a slight right, stop and let me out".

## HELP WANTED!

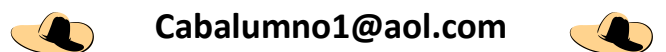
**The Alumni Corps has openings in ALL SECTIONS, especially Contra in the Horn line, Color Guard and openings for Bass, Cymbal and Double Tenor in the Drum Line.**



## Articles for the OLE!



The OLE! welcomes all impressions/expressions.



Send your input/articles to

**Cabalumno1@aol.com**

