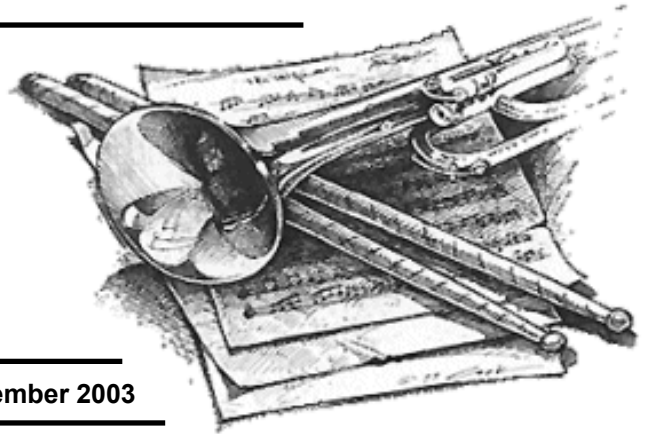


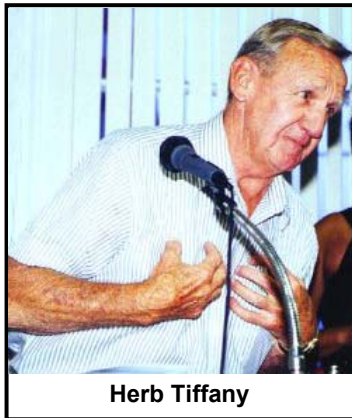
Surfer's

Drum & Bugle Corps Alumni Association Southeastern Connecticut



Volume 1 – Number 1

November 2003



Herb Tiffany

IN THE BEGINNING...

Around 1961-1964 a small group of firefighters from Local 1522 IAFF from New London, CT went to a Drum and Bugle Corps competition at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City, NJ. Pete Gilmore, Bob Stanners, John O'Connor, Fred Philopena, and Herb Tiffany were that group. We were very impressed with what we saw. Some time later we went to another competition in Milford, CT sponsored by The Milford Police Cadets, who were sponsored by the Milford Police Department.

Shortly thereafter, this group went to their union meeting and asked Local 1522 to sponsor the beginning of a local corps. We all felt that it would be a great activity for the youth in the New London area. The union agreed and donated \$500.00 to get started.

We began recruiting kids, hired instructors and purchased used equipment from a defunct corps "Our Lady of the Lourdes Drum Corps" from New Jersey. Our first horn instructor was Armin Arpin, first drill instructor was Red Duval and we can't remember who our drum instructor was.

We were allowed by the City of New London to use Waller School to practice in, and in good weather Caulkins Park for marching practice. We probably began with about 40-50 kids. Parents and interested adults fitted the used uniforms to the corps members and we began marching in local parades, eventually being invited to parades outside of our area. One special parade in which we were always invited was "The Freddy Fixer Parade" in New Haven, CT.

As the corps improved, we began competing in the Yankee Circuit, and later in the Northeast Circuit. At that time corps had to stand at inspection prior to the competition. At our first competition, we received 56 ticks on the inspection line, needless to say we came in last. However, the lesson was learned, and we improved. As the corps got better, we added another horn instructor Phil Girard. And still later two new drum instructors, Jim Dugan and Jim Donnelly also a new drill instructor Bob Daniels.

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Drum Corps... Share the Feeling...

Surfer's Alumni Association

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Visit your Web Site...

www.7thregiment.org

This site has all the news and activities going on with the Surfer's Alumni Association and the 7th Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps. Also, plenty of photos and links to other favorite Drum & Bugle Corps sites. Visit the guest book register and look up old friends – and don't forget to sign your name!

Editorial...

To be... or Not to be...???

Those age-old questions really apply when trying to resurrect a Drum & Bugle Corps again in Southeastern Connecticut. And this time the circle will be complete – those who had marched and played their instruments in endless parades and fields of competition are now the patrons to make new generations of memories for our local youth.

There should be little doubt in our minds that the patrons of the 60's, 70's, and 80's never questioned whether or not a Drum & Bugle Corps could be... for through their knowledge and dedication, we as youth were given the opportunity to belong to an organization that always looked ahead to the future. Each played their part; the patrons, the sponsors, the instructors, the marching members, and the local community... achieving one milestone after another, one championship trophy after another.

Today, we as alumni, have accepted the torch that had burned so brightly for so many years past. Our challenge is different – the cost of running a corps today is so much higher, there are no longer 50 plus corps throughout the state – will today's youth be as receptive to membership as we were? Will the local community support our efforts as they did several decades ago? To go forward we must believe the answer is "Yes" to all these questions.

We do have one advantage that those who did this work before us didn't have – that is you... the **ALUMNI!** The current alumnus is over 100 strong, with a great potential of seeing that figure grow. Although the lion's share of work will always remain with the locals, the many alumni who do not live in the Southeastern Connecticut area, can still contribute and share in this great task. Such alumni's have donated equipment, sponsored annual dues for 7th Regiment memberships, heck – even your newsletter editor is from Florida. We know that the desire to see a new corps grow and prosper is in every alumni – we all know that membership in the corps didn't end when one turned in their gear and stepped into adulthood. It will be your turn to stand on the sidelines and grin with the pride and accomplishments that the next generation will bring.

We don't have to get dressed in uniform and stand with our coffee cans in front of supermarkets and shopping centers on tag sales anymore – we'll leave that to the new kids! What we do need is the teamwork as alumnus to put all the little pieces together to bring the sweet music of drums and bugles back to the practice fields. And wouldn't it be nice to drop in on a practice and pick up a bugle and see if your lip is tight enough to still produce a note? Or grab some drumsticks or mallets and see if you can still carry a beat? Or see if you still have the dexterity to twirl a flag or rifle? At our age, the only risk would be a few sore muscles the next day – but that's the magic of Drum Corps!!!

(In The Beginning... continued from Page 1)

From this point on we all know what took place, we eventually won the Yankee Circuit Championship, the Northeast Circuit Championship and finally the Class B World Open Championship at Lynn, Mass. This was the beginning of the Surfers Drum and Bugle Corps

Let it be said that in our formative years we were helped and advised by our local competitors, The Firettes of Norwich and The Golden Antlers of Willimantic.

We hope that the Surfers Alumni Association will succeed in forming a new corps because we know from experience how it can have a beneficial effect on the youth of the area. They learn discipline, music, teamwork, and pride. We hope that the community, business community and everyone will support the efforts of the alumni association to bring the area a new Drum and Bugle Corps.

Thanks,
Herb Tiffany & Pete Gilmore

(Editor – As I played in the drum line those early years, I remember the first drum instructor was a fellow named John from Willimantic. He was followed by second drum instructor, Connecticut Hurricane drummer – Don Guin.)

7TH REGIMENT CAMP **December 12th-14th**

Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School **New London, CT**

- Friday:** 5:00pm - Staff meets at school
5:30pm – Membership forms completed
6:00pm – Meet with members/parents
7:00pm – Dinner
7:30pm – Separate by captions
10:00pm – Snack / Drum Corps movie
12:00pm – Lights Out
- Saturday:** 7:00am – Wake / Showers
7:30-9:00am – Breakfast
9:00-12:30pm – Rehearsal
12:30-1:30pm – Lunch
1:30-6:00pm – Rehearsal
6:00-8:00pm – Dinner / Meeting
8:00-10:00pm – Rehearsal
10:00-12:00pm – Pizza Party / Drum Corps tape
12:00pm – Lights Out
- Sunday:** 7:00am – Wake / Showers
7:30-9:00am – Breakfast
9:00-12:00am – Rehearsal
END CAMP

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



FAWN MARGOLIS HODGDON

Fawn started her Drum Corps days in the fall of 1968 when she joined the Surfers Drum and Bugle Corps in the colorguard, and began competing in the summer of 1969. She continued marching through 1978 aging out in the Sword Excalibur.

Fawn then began instructing the Sword Excalibur colorguard as well as guards from Killingly High and Old Saybrook High Schools until 1980.

Studying dance since the age of 6, Fawn continued her dance studies and eventually became a member of "The Company" an ensemble from The Dance Extension and performed in many dance shows as well as community theater shows such as Waterford Weeks performances of *Meet Me In St. Louis* and *Anything Goes* (dance and chorus) and Montville Summer Theater production of *The Music Man* (Ethel Tothelmeyer, dance and chorus). She is presently the dance instructor for the "Swinging Star" dancers of the Groton Senior Center and the colorguard tech for the 7th Regiment.

She is proud to be a founding member of the Surfers Alumni Association.

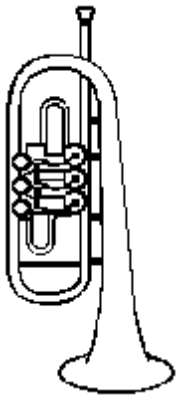
When not teaching colorguard and studying dance, Fawn enjoys sewing, designing costumes and quilting.

Fawn resides in Uncasville with her husband Jim and son James and would like to take this time to thank them for their support in everything she does.

Surfer's Alumni Association

P.O. Box 64
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A Few Notes from the Director of the 7th Regiment – Jeff Dozier



October: As you can see on the website we have schedule of rehearsals that are currently in tune with other drum corps. This schedule will give us the best opportunity to give the members the attention that will be needed to have a successful Drum Corp summer.

November: Recruiting program has started, we have invited all Band Directors from around the state and encouraging them to send their students to the 7th Regiment and possibly volunteer some of their time in the instruction of the Corp.

December: This is our first camp. The Corp will be learning parade songs and a street cadence. The members will have a chance to work as a team and develop a sense of commitment to the Corp and each other. Volunteers are needed to support this camp and the others to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

November 9 - **SAA Meeting** – 3:00pm at the Elk's Club in New London

November 16 - Practice, **7th Regiment** -1-4pm Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, New London

4th Annual Holiday Party

Date: December 6, 2003 -- **Time:** 6:00pm -- **Place:** 14 Highland Ave., New London, CT
Bring a wrapped gift (unisex) valued at \$10 or less for the gift exchange and a side dish.
Call for a list of side dish ideas. **RSVP:** 860-442-DRUM (3786)

December 12-14th – **7th Regiment** Camp - Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, New London

All Meetings and practices are open to Alumni members – stop by and say hello!