



The Saints
Drum & Bugle
Corps
First Reunion



saturday,
october 18, 1980
our lady of peace
parish center
fords, new jersey

Editor's Note:

Hard as it is to believe, it's been almost 27 years since our first official reunion, and 40 years since the Saints Drum and Bugle Corps held its first registration and rehearsal.

Other than the addition of a Table of Contents along with some layout and typographical changes, the content which follows recreates the reunion program from October 1980, right down to a scan of the original cover. Given that an electric typewriter and hand-lettered calligraphy were used the first time around, technology is a wonderful improvement.

Enjoy it as much as I did putting it together – both times!

Corpsdially yours –

(Marilyn) JoAnne Parente
Saints Drum and Bugle Corps (color guard)
1967-1976

Table of Contents

Welcome	4
Introduction	5
Corps Directors	5
Corps Sponsors	6
Practice Halls and Fields	6
Corps Organizations	7
Corps Representatives	7
Drum Majors	7
Color Guard Captains.....	8
Saints Color Guard	8
Saints "B" / Sematics.....	8
Phase III.....	8
Corps Instructors 1967 – 1976	8
Percussion.....	8
Brass.....	8
Marching & Maneuvering	8
Color Guards	8
Work Weekends	9
Wildwood Motels.....	9
Corps-Sponsored Contests.....	10
Music in Splendor	10
Flying Silks.....	10
Saints Spring Festival of N.O.I.S.E.	10
Corps Repertoires	11
Championship Titles	13
Corps / Ensemble	13
Color Guard.....	13
Major Corps Field Contests	13
Remember When.....	14
Postscript	18

Welcome

Tonight you are present at a very unique, special event – the first “official” reunion of the Saints Drum and Bugle Corps. Previous to this evening, all of us at one time or another have passed hours on end just talking about the good (and sometimes not too great) moments we’ve experienced with the corps. Thanks to the inspiration, dedication, and determination of some very special people, we all have the opportunity to sit down, relax, and spend some time again with members of our family which, unfortunately, we might not have seen for years.

The setting for this evening’s celebration of years well-spent with each other couldn’t be more appropriate. Our Lady of Peace Parish Center (more affectionately remembered as the Annex) became a home away from home for most of us during the many years we marched, instructed, or helped organize and run the corps. No banquet hall of any grandeur could better suit our needs than this one does.

The collected trivia on the next few pages is merely to jog your memory. None of us has the ability to go back in time and relive our days as Saints, but tonight gives us each the chance to share all those memories with each other for the first time in a long while.

Again – welcome, and enjoy ...

The Saints Drum and Bugle Corps Reunion Committee
Saturday, October 18, 1980

Chairpersons:

Althea Mazar
Carole Burke
Mike Chesnovitz

Committee Members:

Jackie Bodzas
Alvina Chesnovitz
Dawn Fair
Lorraine Fastuca
Kim Mega
JoAnne Parente
Karen Parente
Jim Trimblett
Mike Wargo

Introduction

The Saints Drum and Bugle Corps, Fords NJ, was organized by Raymond Chmielecki and held its initial registration on May 23 and 24, 1967. The first rehearsal was held on July 21, 1967, in Our Lady of Peace Cafeteria, the same location as the initial registration. Prospective members at the time were all inexperienced and had the option of joining the horn line, drum line, color guard, or twirlers. Due to the size and age of some of the applicants, as well as lopsided registration into the drum line and color guard, members were repositioned where the needs of the corps and the abilities of the person were best met. By the third rehearsal, the "Little Guard" was formed.

Practices continued weekly throughout the winter with the drummers in the cafeteria stockroom, the twirlers on the stage, the Horn Line toward the front of the eating area, the Big Guard in the rear, and the Little Guard along the side aisles. Dues were 75 cents weekly, and every other Friday meant another newsletter boasting of progress made in the order of uniforms and equipment, or with a brief biography of one of the Board members.

With the arrival of Spring 1968, the Saints were ready to go public. The corps attended Mass in uniform the morning of the first parade, and then proceeded to Clara Barton School, Edison, to start the first of hundreds more parades and events.

Corps Directors

Raymond Chmielecki
Joseph Palasak
Ralph Fair
Joseph Rocco
Raymond Kadash
Walter Kelly
Herbert Person

Corps Sponsors

Our Lady of Peace RC Church, Fords

American Legion Post 324, Edison

American Legion T. Nulty Post 471, Iselin

Police Benevolent Association Local 38, Woodbridge Township

Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 1352, Hopelawn

Woodbridge Center, Woodbridge

Saints Booster Association

Saints Booster Club

Saints Parents Club

Practice Halls and Fields

Our Lady of Peace Parish, Fords:

- Cafeteria
- Annex / Parish Center
- New School
- Parking Areas

National Guard Armories:

- Elizabeth
- Paterson
- Woodbridge

Clara Barton School, Edison

Edison High School

Raritan Center

Rutgers University Stadium Parking Lot, Piscataway

School 25, Fords

Woodbridge Center:

- Parking Area
- Community Room

Corps Organizations

The Brown Family

The FIST

The HAND

Mongo's Marauders

People of Taste

Ready, Willing, and Able

The Saints Baritone Section: Available for weddings, funerals, divorces, Bar Mitzvahs, Confirmations, and any other jovialities

The Saints Italian-American Club

Tart Memorial Recreation Center: We doze but never close

YEAH

Corps Representatives

Color Guard: Theresa Gyorfi

Drum Line: David Kadash

Horn Line: Michael Chesnovitz

Public Relations: JoAnne Parente

Drum Majors

Ginny Boyle

Sue Brady

Mary Cassidy

Jane DePinto

Mona Lisa Fiorentini

Priscilla French

Marlene Grega

Sue Hickey

Chris Kasha

Bob Matelski

Debbie Pajak

Christ Quadt

Edna Tarrant

Mike Wargo

Color Guard Captains

Saints Color Guard

Connie Chmielecki
Patty Duffy
Dawn Fair
Mona Lisa Fiorentini
Fran Nalepa
Karen Parente
Ginny Williams

Saints "B" / Sematics

Linda Baxter
Tracy Davis
Patty McDonough
Susie Palasak
Kathy Person

Phase III

Mike Chesnovits
Gary Chiocchi
Jeff Henning
Eric Meyer

Corps Instructors 1967 – 1976

Percussion

George Lopez
Walter Kelly
Bob Peterson
George Tuthill

Brass

Anthony Cataneo, Sr
Tom Swan
Gus Wilke

Marching & Maneuvering

Ralph Fair
Tony Cataneo
Frank Kubinak
Joe Aiello

Color Guards

John Squires
Bill Kadash
Louis Tomko
Kathy (last name unknown)

Ralph Fair
Tony Cataneo
Rose Cataneo

Frank Kubinak
Judy Walck
Mike Lorenzo

Work Weekends

- 1972 Holiday House, Hope NJ
- 1973 Holiday House, Hope NJ
- 1974 Bayshore Environmental Center, Toms River NJ
- 1975 Lake Somethingoranother Summer Camp, North Jersey NJ
- 1976 LaSalle Military Academy, Long Island NY
- 1977 Woodbridge Center Parking Lot, Woodbridge NJ

Wildwood Motels

- Cara Mara
- El Coronado
- Forget-Me-Not (breakfasts only)
- Lollipop Motel
- Mauna Loa
- Rio Motel
- Saratoga Inn

Corps-Sponsored Contests

Music in Splendor

1969	JF Kennedy HS, Iselin
1970	Woodbridge HS, Woodbridge
1971	Woodbridge HS, Woodbridge
1972	Rutgers University Stadium, Piscataway
1973	Woodbridge HS, Woodbridge
1974	Woodbridge HS, Woodbridge
1975	Woodbridge HS, Woodbridge
1976	Memorial Stadium, New Brunswick
1977	Memorial Stadium, New Brunswick
1978	Memorial Stadium, New Brunswick

Flying Silks

1970	Woodbridge HS, Woodbridge
1971	Woodbridge HS, Woodbridge
1972	Woodbridge HS, Woodbridge
1973	Herbert Hoover Jr HS, Edison
1974	Herbert Hoover Jr HS, Edison
1975	Herbert Hoover Jr HS, Edison

Saints Spring Festival of N.O.I.S.E.

1974	Our Lady of Peace Church Cafeteria, Fords
1975	Herbert Hoover Jr HS, Edison

Corps Repertoires

- 1967 I Wanna Be Happy (#1)
Stouthearted Men (#2)
- 1968 I Wanna Be Happy (#1)
Stouthearted Men (#2)
When the Saints Go Marching In (#3)
- 1969 I Wanna Be Happy (#1)
Stouthearted Men (#2)
When the Saints Go Marching In (#3)
Nevertheless
Traces
- 1970 Sound of Music / Climb Every Mountain
Yankee Doodle Dandy
Call Me Madam
Dear World
I'll Never Fall In Love Again / When the Saints Go Marching In
- 1971 Sound of Music / Climb Every Mountain
Yankee Doodle Dandy
Elks Parade
Yes, Indeed
Love Story
- 1972 Parade of the Charioteers from *Ben Hur*
Yankee Doodle Dandy
Day Tripper
When Your Lover Has Gone
Yes, Indeed
Love Story
- 1973 Theme from *The Oscar*
Begin the Beguine
When Your Lover Has Gone
Americans We
One Day in the Life / It's Gonna Take Some Time
- 1974 Theme from *The Oscar*
Begin the Beguine
Buglers' Holiday
Americans We
Medley from *Desert Song*

Corps Repertoires (continued)

- 1975 Duke Ellington Medley
Medley from *Desert Song*
My Way / Let Me Try Again
- 1976 Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor
Duke Ellington Medley
Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground
When the Saints Go Marching In
- 1977 Pontieo
Medley by Chase
Theme from *Rocky*
Send in the Clowns
- 1970s Parades and Special Occasions:
God Bless America
Them from the Mickey Mouse Club
The Italian Songs
The Irish Songs

Championship Titles

Corps / Ensemble

- Garden State Circuit Champions
- World Open Class B Preliminaries Champions
- Virginia Open Champions
- Drum Corps International Associate Members
- National Judges Association Chapter 3 Ensemble Champions
- National Judges Association All-Chapter Ensemble Champions

Color Guard

- American Legion New Jersey State Champions
- All-Eastern Guard Champions
- Southeast Open Invitational Champions
- Bristol Open Champions
- Holiday Open Invitational Champions
- Richmond County Open Invitational Champions
- National Judges Association Chapter 3 Class A / Open Class Champions
- National Judges Association All-Chapter Class A / Open Class Champions

Major Corps Field Contests

Drum Corps International

- DCI East, Allentown PA
- DCI Midwest, Whitewater WI
- International Championships, Philadelphia PA and Denver CO

World Open Championships, Lynn MA

US Open Championships, Marion OH

American International Open Championships, Butler PA

VFW State Championships, Wildwood NJ

VFW National Championships, New York NY

American Legion State Championships, Wildwood NJ

American Legion National Championships, Boulder CO

The Dream, Jersey City NJ

Remember When

- we used to look forward to parades
- we marched in our first parade (Fords / Clara Barton Boys Baseball League), went to Mass that morning in uniform, and had someone who actually marched with a cast on his foot
- our first parade trophy – the beer stein for Best Marching Unit
- doing the pinwheel at the reviewing stand
- the chairs in the cafeteria had to be taken down and set up for each Friday night rehearsal
- marching in seven parades each Memorial Day weekend, and being late or getting lost going to each one
- half the corps went to the parades by bus and the rest squeezed into cars
- the horn line had notebooks and used a black board to learn the music
- the guard would practice the Manual of Arms all night and not complain
- the Guide-Ons with their broomsticks and pennants
- the Twirlers
- being happy if you were chosen to carry the banner in parades
- the Dancing Girls and El Khobar
- watching *Desert Song* in the Annex
- we had buses segregated by gender
- we bought our first buses
- we bought the coach buses so we wouldn't break down on tour anymore (famous last words)
- the flood on the Boys' Bus
- the paper fight on the Blue Bus on the way to World Open '74
- we lost five buses on the way to and from Ohio during the '75 Midwest Tour
- boots and bucks were polished, not only for shows but for every parade as well
- spit shining the black boots
- using floor wax on the boots and hoping it wouldn't flake off before you got to the floor to compete
- trying not to get white shoe polish on the pink edge of the soles of the bucks
- making sure everyone laced their bucks the same way
- inspection before every Garden State Circuit show and Legions in Wildwood

Remember When ...

- the hurricane during our first outdoor competition (CW Townsman's show in Wood-Ridge NJ)
- the Saints guard was happy to come in fourth at their first NJA Chapter 3 Championship
- we strove to beat the Dukes, Valley Grenadiers, and Keystone Regiment / Crossmen
- we finally beat them (and the Muchachos, too!)
- the corps Christmas parties
- the corps picnics
- inter-corps basketball, softball, hockey, etc. etc., etc.
- all the *fun* we had on tag days
- selling light bulbs and toothbrushes
- looking forward to the day when the corps would have enough money so we wouldn't need to march in parades, sell light bulbs, or go tagging anymore
- everyone would show up at practice a half-hour early instead of an hour late
- we would have perfect attendance at all the parades
- everyone would show up for parades already dressed in full uniform
- we had our first corps picture taken and nobody wanted one
- we were on the American Legion State Championship album for the first time (so what if we were the only ones on the album?) and nobody wanted to buy that, either
- The Fire-Lights beat our ensemble our first year out
- Saints "A" came in last the first show of their second season, and won their first show (Coppertones Color Guard competition) the following weekend
- we beat Los Santos for the first time
- Blue Angels beat Saints "B"
- Saints "B" finally became Sematics
- we had to pick every Friday night to see which twenty five people would compete in the ensembles over the weekend
- all those Firemen's Parades
- the Portuguese Soccer League exhibitions every weekend where we were introduced and nobody knew what it meant: "Os senhores e as senhoras, Os Santos"

Remember When ...

- bug juice and all that delicious food every work weekend
- ham and cheese sandwiches after parades
- free soda supplied by the corps after every parade
- Prospect Ohio: Marshall Crockett, the spaghetti dinner, the showers in the grammar school (or, preferably, going door-to-door looking for a shower), and the steer roast
- taking the jet to Denver DCIs in 1977
- marching in Philly DCIs in 1976 at the same time the city was infected with Legionnaires disease
- World Open 1974: walking around the town in our pajamas looking for the school, climbing out the windows, finding a nice place to eat pizza only to be attacked by dogs, broken legs, hepatitis shots
- baby powder out the back window of the bus
- pile-ons in the back seat of the bus and singing *God Bless America*
- chucking moons out the back window
- Passion Pit, the tape measure contests
- singing Christmas Carols all year long
- Cheeze-It sandwiches and oranges for dinner served on the plume box in the back of the bus
- the white inch plumes
- borrowing Blessed Sac's plumes for a season
- washing the satin blouses in Woolite
- our poet laureate entertaining us on the bus with the likes of "Away, away, one day in May, I went astray"
- the fire drill at Holiday House
- the flag poles didn't fit in the stanchions
- the instructors bought Christmas gifts for all the members
- the guy on the go-cart at all the Clara Barton rehearsals
- Vulture Squadron, poncho power, Scooby Dooby Do Victorio
- the koala bear on retreat
- missing the exit on the turnpike on the way home (thanks, Uncle Tony ...)
- almost being late for the US Open Finals in 1975 because of the freight train

Remember When ...

- never getting the truck we bought from the Imperial Guardsmen on the road because we couldn't get a king pin for it
- playing at the Garden State Arts Center in street clothes because the new uniforms weren't ready
- buying up every pair of white pants available in Middlesex County for Bayonne's show because the new ones weren't finished in time
- marching in white parochial school shirts and getting an award for best appearance
- going to Friday night rehearsal in school uniforms
- the sports activities on the TMRC bus: Nerf basketball, coat hanger softball, etc.
- the perpetual fights between Saints and Sematics
- the parade we faced the wrong way at the reviewing stand
- the anti-war riots at the Princeton Memorial Day parade
- marching in the NYC *Welcome Home Viet Nam Vets* parade
- having eggs thrown at us in the Perth Amboy Puerto Rican Day parade every year
- marching behind horses in parades ...
- the first five-year membership medals
- we weren't allowed to touch chrome-plated equipment without wearing gloves
- playing for Mickey Mouse and Santa Clause
- the Fourth of July fireworks exhibitions at Sterns
- finally marching in Bayonne's show and wishing we never did
- finally competing in the Dream
- going to Wildwood every September and May
- your first practice
- your last show ...

Postscript

The facts, trivia, events, and recollections recorded on the preceding pages are as accurate as humanly possible. Over the years, many of the original corps records have been lost or destroyed. As a result, most of the information in this program came strictly from memory. Despite our combined efforts to capture the major highlights of our corps history as thoroughly and correctly as we could, there are bound to be some errors and omissions – hopefully, none too glaring.

If there's something important that's missing, or something that's recorded incorrectly, we congratulate you for having better recall than we have. We also ask you to bring it to our attention.

To all who served on the Saints Boards of Directors, the Saints Booster / Parents Clubs / Associations, and to all who marched as Saints or stood faithfully at the sidelines, we offer our humble apologies for not having been able to list each of you by name. We also offer our sincere thanks for every moment you spent in service to or enjoying ...

THE SAINTS DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS, INC.

JoAnne Parente
for October 18, 1980