

The
MUMMERS

MAGAZINE

1949



25^c

New Years Day's
Pageant

Show of
Shows

Summer
Frolic



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Captain Fink, of the Hegeman String Band, receives high praise from the President on the beauty and splendor of the Mummers' uniforms and string music. The Hegeman Band will be featured at the President's Inaugural Ball.

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Mummers and New Year Shooters March in their 49th City-Wide Parade

This year, the Philadelphia Mummers' and New Year's Shooters' Association stages the largest, the most elaborate and the most spectacular parade in their history. The addition of several new clubs brings the total up to thirty-four and the membership considerably past the ten thousand mark. But it is in beauty of new uniforms, originality of design, uniqueness of strut and contagion of tune that the Mummers, this year, will set a new criterion for breath-taking beauty and resplendancy of spectacle. It will be like a fairyland come to life, with nostalgic music and costumes unbelievably dream-like. It will tax the powers of imagination and welcome the New Year in on a note of magic pageantry. It will furnish Philadelphia children—of whatever age—with a dream feast of mirth and splendor. And it will usher in the fiftieth year of the Mummers' organized existence with a spectacle of memory-clinging loveliness.

Actually the Mummers are older than the Liberty Bell, older than the United States of America, rooted deep within our city's very origins and tracing their genesis to long-departed old world rites.

In the Days of Ancient Rome

as far back as 400 B.C., Roman laborers observed their feast of the Saturnalia in honor of their God, Saturn, and of the reaping of the harvest. They made calls on friends, they gave and received gifts, and it was customary for some of the gifts to bear written messages for a Happy New Year. Caste lines were forgotten, slaves sported the robes of their masters, and the patricians, wearing costumes of fantasy, roamed the streets with them. Age, rank and trouble were forgotten, and, for one day, in the music and ballad of abandonment, all men became equal.

Though Rome Broke Up

this happy and democratic custom persisted and spread through all Europe.

Our Custom Came

direct from the Swedes who settled on Tinicum Island forty years before the landing of William Penn and brought with them this ancient folk heritage. It is reported that Dr. Peter Muhlenberg, who established the Lutheran Church in America, "met men on the roads in Tinicum and Kingessing who were disguised as clowns, shouting at the top of their voices and shooting guns."



DURNING STRING BAND — CHAMPIONS 1948

Captain James Durning, Sr.

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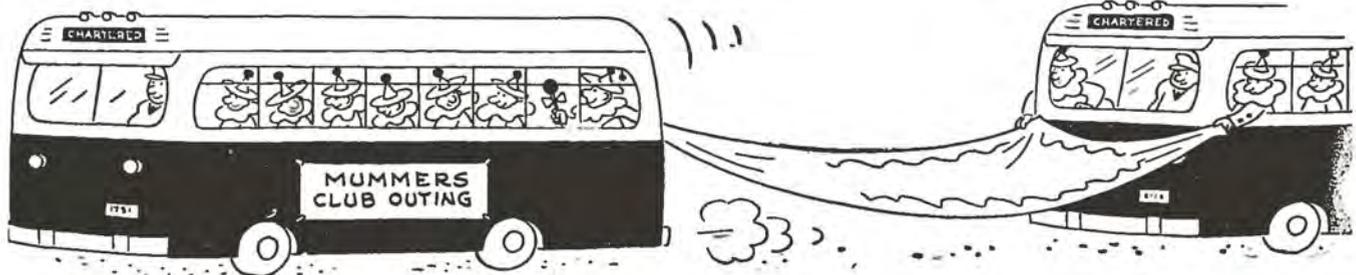
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From Two Divergent Streams

came our celebrations of today, which spread from Tincum Island to the "Neck" of South Philadelphia. The shooting and ribaldry, frowned upon by the staid Quakers of that day, was supplanted among the fashionable people by the English Mummers' play, "St. George and the Dragon," so that we have surviving today the ornate and expensive silk and satin costumes on the one hand and, on the other, those of the clown and the roisterer. But the once purely neighborhood celebrations have grown into a unified civic pageantry, officially, though inadequately, supported by Council and aided by the community's business men.

And Today the Mummers

are highly organized under the capable and untiring leadership of President James Durning, and they unsparingly devote their histrionic abilities, their gift for mimicry, their unerring rightness in the selection of uniquely beautiful costumes and their rare talents for evoking soul-uplifting strains from stringed instruments to the happiness and festive jubilation of Philadelphia's citizens.

They are divided into three sections: Fancy Clubs, Comic Clubs and String Bands. And, while men alone join in the parading—often with their sons—entire families, for months in advance, aid in the preparation of the costumes, the capes and the floats. Many families, in fact, trace their participation in this immemorial custom back for generations. For the "Shooters'" Parade is the oldest folk custom in America, and, on New Year's Day, regularly, from one to two million persons are drawn to this incomparable spectacle.

Not only this, but citizens of far-distant cities, who served their apprenticeship as Mummers in youth, quite regularly make the journey to participate again. It is not easy to become a Mummer. One must have marched in a regular New Year's parade for three straight years before being admitted to membership, and the same rule applies to new clubs. Hence the honor, not being cheaply had, is regarded at its proper worth.

Indeed, that dip into the fantasy of childhood, that escape into clean mirth which the witnessing of Mummers' pageantry affords, has been highly valued by many of our country's engrossed and

preoccupied leaders. George Washington, during his seven years' residence in the Presidential Mansion at 9th and Chestnut Streets, regularly held open house for the Mummers, who came to his door to prance before him and his wife Martha. Indeed, it was largely Washington's encouragement which so stimulated the growth of mummery in this city.

It was toward the end of the last century that the more formal and elaborate clubs began to come into being and to establish year-round, well-equipped club houses. Up to this time, their parades were not city-wide, but neighborhood affairs, centering largely in South Philadelphia and Kensington, where business men offered prizes for the best-dressed, or the funniest, or the most original, as they still do, for instance, on Girard Avenue and on Second Street.

Then, shortly after all clubs and groups had coalesced into a loosely knit body, the first city-wide parade was held on Broad Street on January 1, 1901, with Council offering cash prizes to stimulate competition. That year Council appropriated \$1,725.00. This New Year's Day, the amount will be \$27,000.00, distributed among the three divisions equally.

String bands appeared for the first time in 1902 and since then have become increasingly popular as well as ever more numerous and, in this present day, are being carried all over the world through recordings. The peculiarly haunting sweetness of the music has made them much in demand. For many years it was traditional with the Mummers not to leave Philadelphia, but, in latter days, the urgency of requests and the inducements offered have led them over most of the United States.

In 1930 the clubs formed a central legislative and policy-making body, the Philadelphia Mummers' Association, changed ten years later to the Philadelphia New Year's Shooters' and Mummers' Association. It is not inappropriate to mention the Mummers' contributions to civic life. In June 1936, they staged a special parade for the entertainment of the Democratic National Convention delegates, and in 1940, did the same thing for the Republicans. In 1939, they "stole the show" at the New York World's Fair.



TRILBY STRING BAND
Adam Quaglia, Captain

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Perhaps, however, they do their finest work in their contributions to the happiness of two special classes: disabled veterans and crippled and underprivileged children. They make frequent visits to service hospitals and canteens and, regularly during each Summer Frolic for several years past, have had the veterans and the children as their guests, infusing mirth and cheer into lives otherwise much darkened.

It may be of interest to the public to realize the costly nature of the Mumpers' costumes, for, while all that glitters is not gold, it might almost be. Clubs with sizeable memberships have been known to pay as much as \$15,000.00 for new uniforms, while a prize-winning captain's suit will run as high as \$4,000.00. To economize would only be to dim the beauty that, each New Year's Day, makes from one to two million people watch them with breathless appreciation. So the Mumpers are busy all

year round making shift to keep up that indispensable luster, that silk and satin finish, those snowy plumes, those striking color effects, the uniqueness of that bandbox look. But it's worth it.

The hitch comes when it rains and hails and sleets or snows, as it so often seems to do on New Year's Day. That, then, becomes not a minor but a major tragedy. For, with a million or more people properly clad assembled to see them, with young 'uns promised this spectacle weeks in advance, regardless of wind or weather, the Mumpers always march. This is the tradition of all traditions most firmly rooted in them. Only once in a half-century has it been broken, and that was during the blizzard of 1909 when the snow on Broad Street was almost three feet deep and it was impossible to move. Yes, the Mumpers always march, no matter how freezing, wet or windy. Pneumonia or no pneumonia, "the show must go on." They are troupers to the backbone.



JOSEPH A. PURUL NEW YEAR ASSN.
Comic Champions of 1948

TRILBY STRING BAND

The Trilby String Band, the oldest of all, first came into existence in 1899, under the Captaincy of Joe O'Hara. Other officers were Jack Towers, William Siebert, Louis Samuels and John Wygand. The name was taken from a dramatization of "Trilby," a novel by DuMaurier then playing in this city.

Originally only 18 men were in line and they first marched with the New Year's Shooters on January 1, 1900, and on Broad Street in 1902. They won first prize in each of the years from 1902 to 1913, inclusive, and a number of second prizes later on.

Meeting place is at Sixteenth Street and Packer Avenue, Philadelphia. Officers are: President, William Mink; Honorary President, Jack Towers; Treasurer, Dave Nelson; Secretary, V. Gartland; Captain, Adam Quaglia; Designer, F. Ronneberger; Drill Master, Bill Smith; Steward, Harry Forbes; Music Director, H. Krappenburger. Members are drawn principally from South Philadelphia, West

Philadelphia. The club is active in civic work, giving benefit performances for patients at Philadelphia Naval Hospital and Valley Forge General Hospital as well as for St. Joseph's Home for Girls. They also participate in Uncle Wip's Toyland Parade on Thanksgiving Day.

THE DURNING STRING BAND PRESENTS

"O! Dem Golden Slippers"

For over a hundred years a tune known to mummery, but yet never portrayed by a Mumpers' Club. This year one of the members of the Durning Band suggested that the costume be that of the Golden Slipper. The costume was designed in their own club house and all head pieces made by the members of the Band.

The costume consists of form fitting jacket, bell bottom trousers, satin cloak draped from shoulders to ground. The head piece consists of two large golden slippers surrounded by fifty golden plumes. The hat is a crown fitting helmet with three ten-inch golden slippers surrounding it. These costumes are all made of a rich gold satin trimmed with one inch

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CAPTAIN ADAM QUAGLIA
Trilby String Band

gold spangles. This band with its seventy-five members marches eight abreast, led by four members dressed in an elaborate clown costume with three decked umbrellas and dancing the Golden Slipper "as it should be danced," followed by Jake Young, the Band's lieutenant, who is dressed the same as band members, and Walter Majewski, Jr., who appears as the Band's mascot and is the son of the Musical Director. He makes his first Mummies' appearance, playing an accordion.

He is followed by the Captain, James Durning, in an elaborate costume made by himself, same color as that of the band. A large 5 foot headpiece towering over with three hundred yellow plumes and a large gold slipper hanging from each shoulder surrounded by a hundred plumes each. The suit is of gold satin trimmed with gold spangles and cost seven hundred dollars.

The Captain is followed by Walter Majewski, Sr., Musical Director, on his left, and Edward Peterson, Drill Master, on his right. They are followed by seventy playing members.

This Band, last year's champions, is making its fourteenth appearance featuring South Philadelphia youth. Its President, Roger Regan, has successfully shown the band in the following cities: New Haven, Conn., Washington, D. C., Harrisburg, New York City, Allentown, Pa., Reading, Pa., Atlantic City, N. J., Ocean City, N. J., Cape May, N. J., Wildwood, N. J., Trenton, N. J., Chester, and has also appeared at fifty charitable performances for all denominations. Has also appeared at fifty small suburban towns surrounding Philadelphia including Delaware County, Montgomery County, Berks County and several small New Jersey towns. To those who have read this story we extend our thanks to you and wish you much happiness in the New Year.

UPTOWN STRING BAND

This band, one of the most progressive in the organization, was founded in February, 1937, by an enthusiastic group of young men, including George Beiderman, Nelson Shropshire, Thomas Walsh and Warren and Bob Runkle, Jr. George was the first Captain and Tom Walsh the first President. The first formal meeting was held at the Capitol Club in the heart of North Philadelphia and, among other principles adopted was that of never accepting assistance from political sources.

The Uptown String Band marched in first Mummies' Parade on January 1, 1938, using "Star Dust" as the theme. Steadily, year by year, costumes and themes improved, and Uptown created a mild sensation on the Atlantic City Boardwalk in 1946 singing and parading to the now thoroughly famous "Four Leaf Clover," during the annual Beauty Pageant. In 1947 the Band first made recordings with Krantz records, choosing "Four Leaf Clover" almost as a matter of course. Within three months the whole nation was put on a Four Leaf Clover diet, with greatly enhanced recognition of Uptown and more requests for personal appearances than it was possible to fill, despite an intensive touring of the Atlantic Seaboard.

Uptown String Band was awarded First Prize at the Yellow Jacket Stadium in 1941; Ninth Prize trophy at Convention Show of Shows; and First Prize for String Bands in Baltimore, 1948. Additionally, it was picked as the best and most



CAPTAIN JAMES DURNING
Durning String Band

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attractive band at Forrest Park in 1947.

Band headquarters are located at 1937 Germantown Avenue and officers are: President, Robert Runkle, Sr.; Vice-President, James Beatty, Sr.; Captain, Robert Runkle, Jr.; Musical Director, Joseph Giardine; Musical Technician, William Elberson; Treasurer, John Herold; Financial Secretary, Carl Heere; Business Manager, Francis Beatty; Recording Secretary, Chris Frye; Sergeant-at-Arms, Charles Beatty. Uptown was organized with about twenty men on the rolls, and for a long time averaged a general membership of forty-five, until 1947, since which time membership has been held at sixty-five. There are forty-nine parading members and sixteen reserves, all players. Seven of the members have seen service in World War I and fifty-four in the last war. Membership is drawn, about fifty per cent, from North Philadelphia, twenty-five per cent from the Greater Northeast, and the rest is distributed among the suburbs, West Philadelphia and South Philadelphia.



ROBERT RUNKLE, SR.
Pres., Uptown String Band

Uptown String Band is very active in a civic sense. It plays annually for Philadelphia Naval Hospital, Byberry, Easton Hospital, the Federation of Charities at Devon and Neighborhood Boys' Clubs, besides participating in the Baltimore Parade.

The youngest member, David Piscitelli, age 12, first marched in 1947. The oldest member, James Beatty, age 60, first paraded in 1900 with Silver Crown Club, then with White Caps, before joining Uptown in 1941.

Uptown striking recordings are credited with the selection of "Four Leaf Clover" as No. 1 on the Lucky Strike Hit Parade.

JOSEPH A. FERKO STRING BAND

This outstanding group was organized in September 1922, and participated in its first parade January 1, 1923. Leading spirits in its formation were Joseph A. Ferko and Charles Keagan (deceased).

The history of this remarkable club is principally one of prize winning. They have won ten championships in the String Band Division, and only finished below third place once, when they were awarded fifth place. On January 1, 1947, the members celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary by winning both the club and the captain champion-

ships. The Ferko String Band is also celebrated for the originality and success of its themes, as can be seen from the following list of first prizes and themes:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1927—Cards | 1936—Maharajahs |
| 1929—Stars | 1937—Northern Lights |
| 1930—Guards | 1938—Heralds |
| 1931—French Fans | 1939—Night and Day |
| 1932—Indians | 1947—Bouquets |

(Capt. Ferko won the Captain's first prize three times since it was instituted.)

The Ferko String Band's meeting place is at the S. W. Corner of Fifth and Glenwood Avenue, and the list of their officers follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Captain | Joseph A. Ferko |
| President | Harry A. Leary |
| Vice-President | Wm. DeSantro |
| Secretary | John E. Arleth |
| Recording Secretary | Peter Amodei |
| Music Director | Robert Traub |
| Assistant Director | Wm. Conners |
| Treasurer | Jos. A. Ferko |

In the course of its twenty-seven years of active life, the membership has fluctuated between forty and 105 members, the present number being seventy-six, of whom forty-six saw active service in World War II. Membership is drawn from all sections of Philadelphia and from several points in the State.

This Band runs a yearly picnic for its members and their families, as well as several social affairs during the year. They have played in literally hundreds of charitable affairs during the course of their existence, without discrimination as to race, creed or color, and have rendered yeoman service in visiting service hospitals and camps.

The oldest member is Harry Teller, who has been marching for twenty-seven years, while the youngest is William Ratzke, 1947. There are two sets of brothers in the band: Frank and Joseph Matelyan, and Frances and George Beverly; and there are two father and son teams: the Charles Bittners, Sr., and Jr.; and the James Keenans, Sr., and Jr.

J. J. FRALINGER STRING BAND

The Fralinger String Band, among the "Old Guard" of the Mummies, was originally founded in 1915 by the late John J. Fralinger, a well-known name in mummery. In 1940, it was reorganized by his son, John J. Fralinger, Jr., and is pulling hard.

This band won first prize in the Mummies' Parade in 1920, second in 1917 and 1922, third in 1915—the year of its inception—as well as in 1916 and 1921, and fifth in 1943 and 1944. This year they are making a determined try for top honors.

OFFICERS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| President | Joseph Ambrose |
| Vice-President | Vince Leonard |
| Treasurer | Harry Leonard |
| Financial Secretary | Fred Calandra |
| Drill Master | Joseph Ambrose |
| Music Director | Fred Calandra |
| Captain | John J. Fralinger |

It is interesting to note that, back in 1920, Joseph Ferko, whose own string band won second prize in 1948, was Captain of the Fralinger String Band, and that he paraded that year with a tiny Mascot whose name was — you've guessed it — John Fralinger.

Now the story changes. This year the Fralinger theme will be "The Man from Atlantis," and it will

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CAPT. FERKO AND MASCOT FRALINGER
Fralinger String Band — 1920

be led by Captain John Fralinger. Accompanying him will be a much smaller fellow, the Assistant Captain, whose name is—you've guessed it again—John Fralinger, Jr., his son, now only four years old but steeped in the ways of mummery. They start them young in the Mummies.

This year 61 men will be singing. Suits will be of pink and aquamarine trimmed in gold spangles with a sea-shell head piece in pink and white. The

head-dress represents a breaking wave. It will contain 48 pink plumes extending from the shoulder and eight aquamarine plumes from the head piece.

Theme songs will be:

"Minnie the Mermaid"

"By the Sea"

AVALON STRING BAND

The Avalon String Band, formerly known as the 12th Ward String Band, was organized on May 11, 1938, and has few compeers in vividness of its colors or vivacity of its music. Its "founding fathers" were Harry T. Lawson, Louis Kerner, William Max, Jr., and Otto Palmer. Its themes listed below are striking evidence of originality in conception and consummate skill in execution:

1939—Prince Charming

1940—Deep Purple

1941—Fountain of Melody

1942—Moon over Miami

1943—"V" for Victory

1944—This is Worth Fighting For

1945—Statue of Liberty

1946—Mexicali Rose

1947—Crusaders

1948—Musical Fantasies

Avalon won Fourth Prize in 1940 with its representation of "Deep Purple," and Fifth Prize in 1947 with that of "Crusaders." In addition, the Third Captain's Prize was awarded to Captain Harry T. Lawson in 1947. Former President Charles Gardner designed and created the costumes for the band.

MEETING PLACE: 510 Fairmount Avenue, Phila.

OFFICERS

President Otto Palmer
Vice-President Samuel McDevitt
Secretary Fred Ventreska
Treasurer Joseph Rudley
Drill Master Otto Palmer
CAPTAIN HARRY T. LAWSON

The total membership consists of 60 men, drawn principally from North Philadelphia. Of these, 32 saw service in World War II.

The theme this year will be "The Maharajah of Magador," with costumes in an Arabian effect of two-toned gold trimmed in purple, gold plumes trimmed with gold sequins and capes with a purple cellophane fringe.



AVALON STRING BAND

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Head pieces will be four feet wide by four and one-half feet high, with gold background with 35 gold plumes trimmed with gold sequins. The Captain's costume will have a purple background with all gold sequins, reversing the weighting of colors on the band.

The Theme Song will be "The Maharajah of Magador," followed by:

- "Say Something Sweet to your Sweetheart"
- "You Were Only Foolin'"
- "You Call Everybody Darlin'"
- "Avalon"

WOODLAND STRING BAND

The Woodland String Band was organized February 11, 1936, by nine good men and true, and elections took place immediately. Al Ryan was chosen as Captain and President; William Schriver as Treasurer; Tom Curtis, Secretary; Lou Guistis, Musical Director; Ray Ryan, J. Huber, Bob Schriver and J. Zigalo, Directors.



CAPTAIN SAM JEFFRIES
Woodland String Band — 1948

At the time of its organization, Woodland was the only string band in West Philadelphia with a membership of 100, and appeared in the String Band Review at the Municipal Stadium during the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition. The band has appeared on Broad Street every year the parade has been held since 1927, and during those twenty-two years has won various prizes under different Captains and officers.

The band meets at 6119 Woodland Avenue. Officers follow:

Captain and President	Jos. Bruecks
Treasurer	Chas. Crain
Secretary	Sam Jeffries
Music Director	Harold Ayres
Drillmaster	Herb Kelly, Jr.
Parade Director	F. Mount

Directors

David Anderson
Joe Pillort
Roy McGurk
Harvey Ossman

Membership is limited to 100 active members during the year, from whom, on New Year's Day, the Band selects the best 60 or 70 players. World War II claimed four of the members in death: David Mount, Frank Clifford, Jr., Wm. McClain and L. Borger, all 1st Class Privates. Altogether 34 members of Woodland String Band served in the armed forces in the recent war. Membership is drawn

from West Philadelphia, Southwest Philadelphia, South Philadelphia and Delaware County.

Band concerts are frequently given at the Coatesville Veterans' Hospital, the Valley Forge General Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital in Philadelphia. In addition the band takes an active part in neighborhood parades and patriotic celebrations and is seen frequently at the Reading Firemen's Parade, at Forrest Park, Maple Shade, Drexel Hill, Coatesville and Chester and at frequent charitable affairs.

The oldest Mummer is F. Mount, parading since 1933, and the youngest 13-year-old H. Ayres, Jr., who began in 1948. The official mascot of the Band is 6-year-old Duke Bruecks, son of Captain Bruecks, who starts in 1949. Meetings of the band were held in various locations from 1926 to 1940, at which time members moved to their present club house, which they now own.

This New Year's Day, Woodland String Band will enter the parade with sixty carefully selected playing musicians.



"THE MOTH AND THE FLAME"
Woodland String Band — 1948

HEGEMAN STRING BAND

This old and highly successful band was organized in 1920 by Ernest A. Hegeman, and it is claimed to be the first of the really great string bands. Always a favorite with the crowds in the 1920's, the band continues to enjoy a growing popularity with each passing year.

Hegeman String Band won first prize in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1926 and 1928, while the most recent top-rating was given the band in 1943. Captain Al Fink has always been a highly competitive and frequently successful candidate for first place honors among the string bands, winning this honor on many occasions.

Present headquarters are located at 1231 N. Lawrence Street.

OFFICERS

Captain	Al Fink
President	Elias Myers
Secretary	Robert Malone
Music Director	Frank Orr

The Director's list comprises Herman Seflin, Chairman; Griffith Caverow, James DeGregorio, Frank Kost, Joseph Linguiti, John Littel, John Mallon, John Gurn, Joseph Paulavage, Edward Raeman, John Ried, John Schroder, William Stanistreet, William Vettters and George Weber.

Membership favors no special part of the city; it is drawn from all parts of Philadelphia and the

suburbs. Members pride themselves on being first in line for all engagements in Veterans' Hospitals under the auspices of the American Legion, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross, and they draw great satisfaction from being both non-political and non-sectarian.

HARRY WHITMAN STRING BAND

The Harry Whitman String Band, under the leadership of Harry Whitman, was organized in 1928 and is noted for the excellence of its music, beauty of its costumes and the originality of its features.

Members have introduced numberless novelties and innovations never before encountered in the String Band Section of the Mummies' Parade and the unit has earned an enviable reputation for uniqueness and mastery of the surprise element. It was the first band ever to introduce singing along the line of march, and the novelty took the public so by storm that the custom is now almost universally followed by the other groups in the New Year's Parade. That introductory number will long be remembered: it was "The Man on the Flying Trapeze."

The Harry Whitman String Band will also be refreshingly remembered as the innovators of such popular novelties as "The Top Hatters" of 1936, in which the members appeared in evening dress complete with top hats and opera cloaks—a striking spectacle in black and white; "Scarlet O'Hara" in 1940 with "Rhett Butler" and white satin hoop skirts; "The King's Jesters" in 1941; and dancing the "La Conga" up Broad Street in 1942.

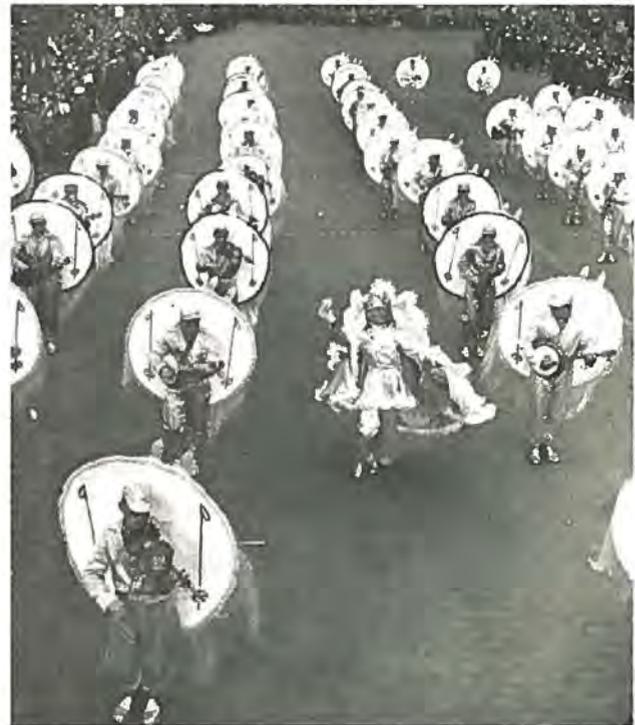
The group is socially active throughout the entire year, meeting every Tuesday night at 26th and Morris Sts.



CAPTAIN PETER A. BROOMALL
Broomall String Band

OFFICERS

- Captain Harry Whitman
- President Robert Hall
- Vice-President George Stambaugh
- Secretary William Hallsworth
- Treasurer Fred P. Klein
- Musical Director Samuel Hamilton
- Drill Director Harry Straub



BROOMALL STRING BAND

The Broomall String Band was organized March 1, 1930, at a meeting held at 118 Tree Street, by Peter A. Broomall, Thomas Broomall and Gus Miles. Many members have been continuously and actively associated with the organization for from fifteen to eighteen years. New Year's Day, 1949, will mark the completion of nineteen consecutive years of parading on Broad Street.

This band promotes fellowship and esprit de corps in the highest degree and holds well-attended meetings every Tuesday night at 1931 S. Third St.

OFFICERS

- President Ernest B. Thompson
- Vice-President Thomas Ellison
- Recording Secretary Charles Broomall
- Financial Secretary Robert Moore
- Treasurer Matt Gibson
- Drill Master James V. Broomall
- Publicity Director Charles Lehmann
- Costume Designer Edward P. Broomall

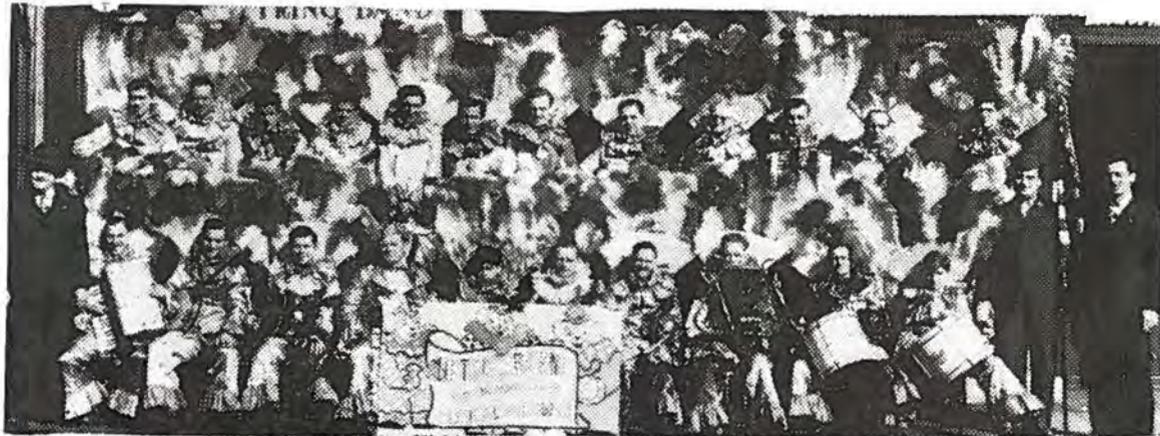
Directors

- William Stewart
- Harry Brown

Captain Peter A. Broomall

The membership hails from various sections of the city in about the following proportions: North Philadelphia, 50%; South Philadelphia, 30%; West Philadelphia, 10%; suburbs, 10%.

This is the band that took out the Snow Theme in 1938, with the large 30-foot sleigh that threw out snow along the line of march. All costumes are designed by Edward P. Broomall, son of the Captain.



UPTOWN STRING BAND



FRED J. KESEL, CAPT.
Aqua String Band
Third Prize, 1948



EDWARD BROOMALL
Costume Designer
Broomall String Band

GALLAGHER NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION**Captain John Mooney, Jr.**

(Full description of theme under club article, in forepart of book.)

OREGON NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION**Harry Marquis, Captain**

THEME: KING CLOWN; KING JOCKEY; HANDSOMEST COSTUME; HARVEST FESTIVAL; TRIO OF CLOWNS; TRIO OF JOCKEYS: CAPTAIN'S CAPE—ninety foot, representing hearts and flowers; six foot overhead gear, 22 ft. in width.

S. D. WHEELER FANCY CLUB**S. D. Wheeler, 2nd, President**

THEME: Led by five female impersonators. RED, WHITE & BLUE JUVENILE, KING JOCKEY, blue & gold, TRIO JOCKEYS, Peach and orchid. HANDSOMEST COSTUME: SPECIAL MENTION, Red and Gold. BRIGADE, Ed. Guzak, Captain of 4-Leaf Clovers with 35 colorful clowns; CAPTAIN'S CAPE, blue and gold, representing SUNBURST; KING CLOWN; TRIO CLOWNS, TRIM SUIT, Red and white. IRISH KING, White and Green. HANDSOMEST COSTUME, red and yellow.

LIBERTY CLOWNS COMIC CLUB**Peter Marcello, Captain**

THEME: 100 men in line. 1. CLOWNS, Rainbows, 2. CAPTAIN'S CAPE, Weather Prophets. 3. JUVENILE, Bonnet Girl, Dommie Torelli. 4. FLOAT, Markets Up and Down. 5. FLOAT, Breaking Trolley. 6. FLOAT, Slow Boat to China. 7. FEATURE, Half-girl and half-man. 8. FLOAT, Berlin Air Lift. 9. FLOAT, Gorgeous George. 10. BRIGADE, Committee of Fifteen. 11. TWINKLING CLOWNS. 12. FLOAT, Crime Does Not Pay. 13. THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

JOHN DE NERO NEW YEAR'S ASSN.**Bill Elverson, Captain**

BANNER CAR, 300 CLOWNS. LIBERTY BAND, 30 pieces. BRIGADE, Atlantic City Strutters with green suits, high hats, cane. CAPTAIN'S CAPE, Bill Elverson—Babe Ruth, 30 page boys, cape with baseball diamond, bleachers, players. BRIGADE, Caught in Drift. BRIGADE, Truman and his Kids. BRIGADE, Going to the Met. Baby Sitters, Bears Behind.

J. A. MURRAY NEW YEAR'S ASSOCIATION**Dan Herman, Captain**

50 Clowns, 80 wenches and dudes. John L. Lewis Strikes it Rich. Popeye. White House Cupids. Abraham Lincoln. The Men of Mars. The Three Stooges. The Animal Trainer. CAPTAIN'S CAPE, King of the Hobos—Cape 75 ft. long carried by 45 page boys. The Laundryettes. Stop the Music. Snow White's Stepmother. Slow Boat to China. Buttons and Bows. B. O. Plenty. Cutting Down Meat Prices. Week End Driver.

JOSEPH A. PURUL NEW YEAR'S ASSOCIATION**John Galloway, Captain**

1. Baby Sitters. 2. Hat Review. 3. Red Sails in the Sunset. 5. Irish Clowns. 6. Ten Best Dressed Men of Philadelphia. Features, Clowns.

HOG ISLAND NEW YEAR'S ASSOCIATION**George Simmers, Captain**

Clowns, dudes and wenches. Always in the Dog House. Stalin's Iron Curtain. A Tree from the Meadows. Irish Peace Delegates. Human Vending Machine. Ye Old Skater. Irish Washerwomen. Slow Boat to China. Negro Santa Claus. CAPTAIN'S CAPE, 30 ft. long by 18 ft. wide. Abie's Irish Free Lunch Stand, Hindu Snake Charmer, Blue Bird of Happiness. Devils. Gorgeous George. Silt and Boils Gas Hour. Darby Clowns.

TRILEY STRING BAND**Adam Quaglia, Captain**

THEME: King Momus. THEME SONG: "Many Years Ago." COSTUMES: Captain wears headdress six feet wide, four feet high, of white plumes. Suit of yellow and green satin with red velvet cape. 53 members dressed like Captain with smaller headdress.

JAMES DURNING STRING BAND**James Durning, Captain**

Theme: GOLDEN SLIPPERS
Theme Song: "Oh, dem Golden Slippers."
A dramatic representation in song and mummery of the famous old Negro spiritual.

UPTOWN STRING BAND**Robert Runkle, Jr., Captain**

THEME: Glorified Clovers. THEME SONG: "I'm Looking over a Four-Leaf Clover." OTHER SONGS: "Five Feet Two," "Rose of Rio Grande," "You Call Everybody Darlin'," "You Were Only Foolin'," "Say Something Sweet," and others recorded by the Band. CAPTAIN'S SUIT: Surprise topping in magnificence the entire extravaganza. COSTUMES: Gigantic white 4-leaf clover feathered headpieces, feathers green tipped and 22 ins. long. White sequin trimmed jackets with green spangled cuffs. Head helmets maharajah-styled with jeweled settings and large red ruby in center.

JOSEPH A. FERKO STRING BAND**Joseph A. Ferko, Captain**

THEME: Ferko's Dancing Daisies. THEME SONG: "Daisy, Daisy." Plus six popular numbers.

J. J. FRALINGER STRING BAND**John J. Fralinger, Captain**

THEME: Men from Atlantis. THEME SONG: "Minnie, the Mermaid," "By the Sea."

AVALON STRING BAND**Captain Harry T. Lawson**

THEME: "The Maharajah of Magador."

THEME SONG: "The Maharajah of Magador."

COSTUMES: Arabian effect, two-toned gold-trimmed in purple, gold plumes trimmed with gold sequins and capes with a purple cellophane. Head pieces four feet wide and four and a half feet high, with gold background with 35 gold plumes trimmed with gold sequins.

CAPTAIN'S COSTUME: Achieves contrast by reversing the weighting of colors worn by band members.

WOODLAND STRING BAND**Joseph Bruecks, President**

THEME: "Roses of Picardy." THEME SONGS: "Roses of Picardy," "Moonlight and Roses," "Bouquet of Roses." COSTUMES: Pale blue satin suits trimmed with gold sequins. Roses on trouser legs and sleeves of jackets. Full length pale blue cape, red lining, trimmed with gold sequins and roses. Headpiece 20 large red plumes with ten red roses at top. Blue hood over head with ten roses.

HEGEMAN STRING BAND**Al Fink, Captain**

THEME: The Dawn of a New Day. MUSIC: Popular string band favorites. COSTUMES: Gorgeous display of brilliant satins, each suit containing over 200 yards of spangles. Headdress contains over 50 plumes. Suit 9 ft. high.

WHITMAN STRING BAND**Harry Whitman, Captain**

THEME: Supersonic Strings. MUSIC: Supersonic melodies. COSTUME: Gleaming white satin trimmed with silver brocade, red lining, silver metallic headdress.

BROOMALL STRING BAND**Captain Peter A. Broomall**

THEME: Neptunes Royal Guards. THEME SONGS: "By the Sea," "Minnie the Mermaid," "You Were Only Fooling," etc. COSTUMES: Sea green and white slippers satin-trimmed with gold sequins. Cape: Long shell pink satin with huge sequin triton on back. Large head piece, white plumes green-tipped forming large shell. Gold sea horses, star fish, etc., on back. CAPTAIN'S UNIFORM: White bridal satin with long iced blue cape trimmed with gold sequins. Headpiece with 85 x 84 blue-tipped white plumes, Baton, gold triton. Captain representing glorified "King Neptune."

AQUA STRING BAND**Fred J. Kessel, Captain**

THEME: Mummies' Parasol. THEME SONGS: "Swanee," "Let a Smile Be Your Umbrella," "April Showers," "It Pays to Smile." COSTUMES: Chartreuse satin capes, 2 ft. wide sequin April violet and leaf border, with butterflies. Jacket and trousers coral-salmon satin, trim Arabian blue tulle, rainbow spangles. Glorified parasol circled with white plumes overhangs entire ensemble. CAPTAIN'S SUIT: Cape of radium treated satin. Parasol trimmed with white plumes.

POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND**Walter Krop, Captain**

THEME: Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining. THEME SONGS: "Look for the Silver Lining," "My Melancholy Baby," and others. COSTUME: Sky blue and white, trimmed in silver spangle braid. Headdress, oval, 4 white plumes tipped in blue, backed by silver, front with silver spangle cloth with clouds in front of headdress.

FIRE FIGHTERS STRING BAND**George E. Duffy, Captain**

THEME: Twilight Time.

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA STRING BAND**Ray Girt, Captain****QUAKER CITY STRING BAND****Raymond Endriss, Captain****NORTHEAST STRING BAND****Charles Lutz, Captain****GREATER KENSINGTON STRING BAND****Howard Peoples, Captain****BURTON C. SIMON**

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"THE HORN OF PLENTY"
Aqua String Band—1948
Fred J. Kesel, Captain

AQUA STRING BAND

The Aqua String Band New Year's Association, Inc., owes its existence and much of its success to the enterprising activity and ceaseless interest of Elmer W. Leyrer, its founder and honorary Captain, who organized it on April 2, 1920, with the help of the co-founders: Fred J. Kesel, Maurice Tarnoff, Philip F. Silver, Isaac Kolman and Sam Silver.

Its first officers were: Captain, Elmer W. Leyrer; President, Fred J. Kesel; Vice-President, George W. Pester; Secretary, Isaac Kolman; Treasurer, Charles Trevill.

The Aqua String Band, has, therefore, been marching up Broad Street for the past twenty-nine years, and some of its members, before that time, paraded with the old Talbot String Band. Back in the 1920's, the annual parade up Broad Street often marked a string band's only appearance on the street during the year. In recent years, however, the string bands have been called on for costume parades just about every other week. It has become a full-time job. During 1948, Aqua appeared at 28 affairs, the greater number of which were out of town. Among the more popular requests were those for the National Lions' Convention at New York City; the Wildwood Baby Parade; the New Jersey State Convention of the American Legion at Asbury Park; and the Hazleton, Pa., Mummies' Parade in October. Aqua enjoyed high popularity last year with the "Horn of Plenty" presentation.

World War II exacted a heavy toll from the boys of Aqua. Fifty-six members were on active duty with the Army, the Navy, the Air Corps and the Marine Corps—and five of them killed.

Fred Kesel, Captain for the past several years, has been active in the String Band Division since 1912, and was the first one to popularize the GLOCKENSPIEL, better known as the Lyre or Bells, which is used today by most of the bands.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President Edward Sylvester
 Vice-President Daniel Pronchick
 Recording Secretary John Lauer
 Financial Secretary Joseph Kozak
 Treasurer Isaac Kolman
 Publicity Manager Philip F. Silver

Business Manager Sol Ginsburg
 Sergeant-at-Arms Elmer Sangler
 Sergeant-at-Arms George Hart, Sr.

PARADE OFFICERS

Founder Elmer W. Leyrer
 Captain Fred J. Kesel
 Musical Director Maurice Tarnoff
 Asst. Musical Director Wm. Muhlberger
 Asst. Musical Director Andrew Gazak, Jr.
 Drill Master Ed (Stoney) Caykoski
 Parade Marshal Charles Muhlberger
 Artist and Designer Fred J. Kesel, Jr.

POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND

Polish American String Band owes its existence and a very great part of its accomplishments and high reputation largely to the vigor, vision and unswerving persistence of one man: Joseph Jankowski, its President, who organized the Band on July 7, 1933.

Always extremely colorful, well drilled and highly original, Polish American took first prize in 1941, and second prizes in the years 1936, 1939 and 1940, as well as first Captain's prize last New Year's Day and second Captain's prize in 1947. They approach this New Year's Day with great confidence.

Polish American is known as one of the most democratic of string bands. It is governed primarily by the youth of the organization, all of whom take a very active part in all of its activities. Each member has the right to run for office, and each has fullest freedom of speech. Mutual self-help is a governing principle.

Their meeting place is Polish American Hall at 2808 Allegheny Avenue.

OFFICERS

President Jos. Jankowski
 Vice-President S. Salwach
 Recording Secretary Stanley Gogoj
 Financial Secretary John Baukus
 Treasurer John Fritz
 Sergeant-at-arms Ray Zielinski
 Captain Walter Krop
 Assistant Captain E. Skowronski
 Musical Director B. Jitek
 Assistant Musical Director W. Skowronski

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The membership is drawn from every section of Philadelphia, with the greater part coming from Bridesburg and Richmond. Eighty-three members served in the armed forces during the recent war. Four of the youngster members have volunteered for service and six have been drafted in the new defense effort. Members are extremely active in visiting the various service hospitals and they take a vigorous part in a large number of charitable activities. The youngest Mummer is Don Skidmore, 12 years old, who first marched in 1948. A great many outside trips are undertaken by Polish American, perhaps the outstanding one for members being their trip to Washington, D. C., for the Eagles-Redskins football game. Besides the capital, the band has visited Hickory Park, Forrest Park and many other picnic spots.

It is fitting to pay tribute here to the inspiring influence, the uniform helpfulness and the great popularity throughout the Mummies' Association as a whole of Walter Krop, prize winning Captain of Polish American. Known as one of the best-dressed Captains in the Association—the winner of many prizes—he is, however, distinguished most by the affectionate esteem of his comrades and his rare capacity for friendship. We salute the Captain, Walter!

FIRE FIGHTERS STRING BAND

Fire Fighters String Band was organized March 4, 1945, at Engine Co., No. 22, 214 Pine Street, Philadelphia by the following members: George E. Duffy, John Lauria, Harry Y. Dittner, Salvador Manganaro and Edmund Burke. The organization is composed of Philadelphia firemen and auxiliaries, Captain George Duffy, for instance, being a battalion chief of the Philadelphia Fire Department. Prizes won are as follows: 1946, 12th Prize; 1947, 9th Prize; and 1948, 13th Prize.

The growth of the band has been rapid, rising from 45 members on March 4, 1945, to 75 members as of the present. Members are drawn from all sections of the city. It is worthy of note that 62 men served in the recent war. Regular trips are made to entertain patients at the various veterans' and state mental hospitals, and much other charitable work is done. The youngest member is Henry Finizio, Jr., 10 years of age; the oldest, George E. Duffy, 51, who originally marched with the Silver Crown Fancy Club on New Year's Day, 1909.

OFFICERS

President Frank Rich
 Vice-President George Moore
 Recording Secretary Charles Mastripolito
 Treasurer Fred Isard
 Musical Director Leo Kaufman
 Drill Master Edward Flynn
 Sergeant-at-Arms Salvador Manganaro
 Captain George E. Duffy
 Honorary President Wilbur Dunlap
 Director John Ostapczyk
 Meeting Place: 117 Queen Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

QUAKER CITY STRING BAND

The Quaker City String Band was organized in the year 1921 under the direction of Mr. Charles Richner. The band quickly became one of the top notch bands in the Mummies' Parade, but was disbanded in the year 1925.

About fifty members of the old band then formed a String Band consisting of themselves and about

40 men from Wildwood, N. J. This band was named the Wildwood String Band. In those days the Wildwood String Band was one of the best bands in the Mummies' Parade, but, after winning only second prize so often, they decided to change its name from the Wildwood String Band to the Philadelphia String Band. After parading for one year under this name, they disbanded, and it was then that the new Quaker City String Band was activated, with many members of the old original Quaker City in line. The new Quaker City quickly became one of Philadelphia's outstanding musical organizations, and was known in Mummies' circles as the Band Hard to Beat.

The band won first prize in 1935, 1940, 1944, 1945, and narrowly missed making it three years in a row when they finished second and were barely beaten out by the Durning String Band in 1946. Since the reorganization, it has been under the vigorous and imaginative leadership of Captain Raymond Endriss, who serves notice that its reputation will be sustained this year.

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President William Rivel
 Vice-President William Ryan
 Financial Secretary John Adgate
 Recording Secretary Joseph Peters
 Treasurer Raymond Endriss
 Musical Director John Mayer
 Steward John Hogg
 Assistant Musical Director Tony Napp
 Captain Raymond Endriss

The membership hails mostly from Philadelphia and Camden, with a few coming from such distant points as Runnemede, N. J., and Fortescue, N. Y. The youngest Mummer is Donald Newcomer, age 9, playing the saxophone, who began marching two years ago; and the oldest is John Lambert, 60, who has been parading for 45 years.

The Quaker City String Band is noted for its civic and patriotic activity. Thirty of their members served in World War I and 40 in World War II. The band regularly gives concerts for the patients at the Coatesville Veterans' Hospital and Valley Forge General Hospital. It has paraded in New York at the Lions' Convention, in Atlantic City in the Shriners' Parade and in the Holy Name Parade and others.

GALLAGHER NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

The Gallagher New Year Association, the oldest club in the Fancy Division parading today, has captured nine (9) first prizes in the past thirteen years of marching.

The club was organized on December 26, 1934 and chartered on April 9, 1936, with its headquarters at 1931 S. 3rd St.

This year, the club has a new captain, John Mooney, Jr., who first paraded as a fancy juvenile at the age of six years, he has continued to march every year since, taking out his own Fancy Brigade and large prize winning suits.

Howard C. Williams, Jr., 11 year old son of President Howard C. Williams, first paraded at the age of 17 months. He has paraded every year since and has been a consistent prize winner.

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CAPT. JOHN MOONEY, JR.
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The Following are the Gallagher Winners in 1948:
 Gallagher Club 1st Prize 1948
 Henry Saltenberger 1st Best Dressed Captain
 Robert Zeigler 1st Handsomest Costume
 Benj. Franklin being presented to
 the Court of Louis XIV ... 1st Best Dressed Group
 King Jockey 1st Best Dressed Jockey

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 Vice-President Robert Zeigler
 Treasurer Henry Saltenberger
 Chairman of Trustees John Tamulis
 Rec. and Fin. Secretary Charles Walker
 Sergeant-at-Arms Fred Zeigler
 Captain John Mooney, Jr.

THEME

Female Impersonator:

Frank Howard.

Brigade.

Led by Howard C. Williams, President, known as **Montazuma and His Tribe**. White velvet costumes with gold sequins throughout, with an overhead of 300 white ostrich plumes to a height of 10 feet. He will be followed by 2 juveniles, and 45 men, dressed in red velvet capes with white satin lining, and the costumes are trimmed with gold sequins and a 6 foot overhead of red and white plumes.

Juveniles:

Herbie Smith, Jr., will present the "Fan of Melody". There are 200 plumes in his headpiece which is 6 feet wide. His suit is cerise satin with gold braid.

Henry J. Rowan, Jr., 6 years old, will represent the "Goddess of Liberty". His suit has 300 plumes and a headress eight feet wide. The color scheme is red, white, and blue satin.

Captain's Cape:

"The City of Brotherly Love". John Mooney, Jr.,

assisted by 8 men and 54 Pages. The cape is 350 feet long and 30 feet wide. The colors are blue and gold and the entire cape is edged in white lace.

American Indian Costume:

Carried by John Mooney, Sr. Red, white and blue satin trim, with red, white and blue maribou and completely covered with beads.

Handsomest Costumes:

Bob Zeigler
 Henry Hendrickson
 Dave Elliott

Bob Zeigler's costume deserves special remark. The suit itself is of striking red and white satin, while the head piece is a pink mother-of-pearl shell, with 600 plumes and 14,000 pearls, the ensemble portraying the theme: "A String of Pearls."



HOWARD C. WILLIAMS, JR.
Gallagher, as youngest mummer ever to parade
First paraded when 17 months old.

OREGON NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

The Oregon New Year Association was organized on April 11, 1934, comprised of Shooters from various organizations, mainly followers of "Jack Hines Old Timers". During our infancy we were ably advised by the grand old trooper Jack Hines who devoted himself unselfishly to furthering the Mummies and all its traditional pageantry.

We have endeavored to carry on this tradition of Mummery started by our forefathers back in the year 1888. They loved it for all the joys it brought to the public as well as to themselves. It is still the hobby and pleasure of all connected with the organization.

Year round finds the members at the present headquarters, 2849 S. 11th Street preparing for their biggest day of the year.

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Recording Secretary	J. Gianfrancisco
Captain	Harry Marquis
Sergeant-at-Arms	Thomas Philbin
Trustees—James Greene, Chairman; Frank Ward, George Donahuge, Robert Curry, Joseph Duffy, Jr.	

Driven with the incentive to turn out a more elaborate display each year, we work out all of our own color schemes, designs and features, finally mounting all the hand sewed themes of silks and satins on the wire and wooden supports. Costumes generally range from 50 to 120 lbs. and must be carried by one individual to be eligible in the competition.

Twice we have had a King Mummer or first prize Captain and numerous years as a second prize club.

With a majority of our members in the Armed Service during the war the Club was unable to parade as a unit. In keeping with Mummer tradition, of always participating in the annual pageant, the remaining members paraded with the various other fancy clubs.

Despite our youth as a club we are comprised of a mixture of the oldest and youngest of prancing Mummies. The year 1937 saw Sonny Marquis parading at 15 months, following in his father's footsteps, also Robert Curry, Jr., 4 years old. Not to be outdone by youth we have Ed Quinn still parading at 74 years.



JOSEPH CLOSKY—AGE 10
Oregon N. Y. A.
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S. D. WHEELER FANCY CLUB

The S. D. Wheeler Club was organized in 1939 by S. D. Wheeler, who has been a New Year Shooter for 47 years. In the intervening period, many prizes have gone their way.

1949 Theme

Led by five female impersonators.

Red, white and blue juvenile, carried by 3-year-old James Carney, Jr. **KING JOCKEY:** Blue and gold, carried by Bill Dyle. **TRIO JOCKEYS:** Peach and orchid, carried by Charles Sesley, Joey Lennon and Jimmie Seberts. Handsome costume carried by S. D. Wheeler, II. **SPECIAL MENTION:** Red and gold carried by Joe Aiello.

Brigade No. 1

Ed Guzak, Captain of 4-Leaf Clovers, is marching with his 35 colorful clowns in line with Sam Wheeler Club. Captain's cape is carried by John W. Merz, blue and gold, assisted by 20 page boys, representing Sunburst. **KING CLOWN:** Variegated. Carried by Buddy Simon. **TRIO CLOWNS:** Variegated trio. Carried by Frank Inverso, Ray Herman and Harry Wilsman. **TRIM SUIT:** Red and white, carried by George Simon. **IRISH KING:** White and green, carried by Freddie Gibson. **HANDSOME COSTUME:** Red and yellow, carried by Tommie Stevenson.



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HOG ISLAND NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

The Hog Island Comic Club was organized January 16, 1939, by William (Pop) Wethman, George Simmers, Harold Sayers. Simmers hailed from the Oregon Club and the other two founders from the Murray Club. Pop Wethman was the First Captain. The last prize won by the club was that of Fifth Captain.

MEETING PLACE: 4405 Island Road, Philadelphia.

OFFICERS

- President George Simmers
- Vice-President Ed Clark
- Financial Secretary James Lee
- Recording Secretary Al Kampmeier
- Treasurer Paul DeLany
- Captain George Simmers

The organization started in 1939 with 16 members, and in December, 1948, had 62 dues-paying members. On New Year's Day, they carry from 300 to 500 members. Thirty-six members of the club served in World War II. Four paid the supreme penalty: John Moir, Petty Officer, USN; Joseph Lewes, Pvt., USA; John Jefferies, Seaman 2nd Cl., USN; Paul Duffy, Jr., Seaman, USN. Most of the membership is drawn from South and West Philadelphia. The Club makes a special feature of performing for all service men's charitable and civic groups without cost.

The youngest member is Raymond Schmeltzer, 6 years old, who first paraded at 23 months of age; while the oldest is Frank Moir, 72 years old, whose first parade was in 1890.



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