



# THE MUMMERS MAGAZINE

50¢

PHILADELPHIA NEW YEAR SHOOTERS' and MUMMERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc. 1955



# *Parade Program*

## PHILADELPHIA NEW YEAR SHOOTERS' and MUMMERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.



**ROBERT W. RUNKLE, JR.**  
*President*

Once more the City of Philadelphia is watching its traditional and fabulous Mummers' Parade as it marches up Broad Street. This New Year's Day we are making our 55th trip, for it was on January 1, 1901, that the first organized Mummers' Parade took place. Before that time, for close to 250 years, Philadelphians held gay impromptu celebrations that unfortunately enraged some of the citizenry while it delighted the less inhibited elements.

The Philadelphia New Years Shooters' and Mummers' Association feels that it has a responsibility to the public to present a show that will bring enjoyment to everyone. This is a parade that can be seen in no other place on the earth and that can be appreciated by all who see it, young and old. Through organization and cooperation our Association has built a fantastic and spectacular parade that could never have been achieved by any spur of the moment celebrations. In doing this, we feel that we have succeeded in preserving the

unique quality of the individual known as a "real shooter."

There is no financial gain through this parade to the mummer himself. The mummer is just a fellow who wants to dress up, maybe play some music, and through doing so, bring happiness to the folks on the sidewalks. Sometimes it takes a great personal sacrifice to put a club on the street, and it is this sort of courage on the part of the mummers that makes me so proud to serve as their president.

We dedicate this program with thanks to the city officials who have cooperated with us, to those firms and individuals who have supported our undertaking, and primarily to our public. We hope that our Mummers' Magazine will bring you a better understanding of our purpose and an idea of what makes us New Year Shooters tick.

**ROBERT W. RUNKLE, JR.**  
*President*

### *Officers*

#### PHILADELPHIA NEW YEAR SHOOTERS' and MUMMERS' ASSOCIATION

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The City of Philadelphia is proud of the Philadelphia New Years Mummies' Association and appreciates the valuable contribution that the organization has made in helping to spread the name of our city.

One of the highlights of our summer recreation program in Philadelphia was the weekly concerts given on Rebyrn Plaza by various units of your Association. We have received hundreds of letters from citizens expressing their appreciation for the concerts and hoping that they be continued next year.

On behalf of the Department of Recreation and the City of Philadelphia, I wish to express to each and every member our sincere appreciation for the wholehearted cooperation that we have received in making available to thousands of Philadelphians an opportunity to view the colorful parade and to hear the wonderful music of your bands. Again, our thanks and good luck to each of you.



Fabian Bachrach

*Fredric R. Mann*

*Philadelphia's Commissioner of Recreation*

**GRAND MARSHALL, MUMMERS' PARADE**



It is a pleasure to work with the Philadelphia New Years Mummies' Association. Their enthusiasm and ever present willingness to serve the City of Philadelphia throughout the whole year is evidenced by the hundreds and thousands who thoroughly enjoy their traditional parade and delightful music.

*Luke E. Foley*

*Assistant to the Commissioner of Recreation*

The Philadelphia Mummers' Parade can rightly be called the "Show of Shows" and yearly delights thousands of enthusiastic watchers and is also heard and seen by other countless numbers by means of radio and television.

For 280 years, the Mummers have gone forth to welcome in a newborn year; sometimes in adversity, sometimes in prosperity, many times in rain, snow, and freezing weather, but always with the same song on their lips and good will in their hearts. Their colorful costumes, hilarious antics, and wonderful string bands have attracted thousands of visitors to the Quaker City and have sent them away convinced they witnessed the greatest attraction that can be found anywhere in the nation.

It is a signal honor to be named as Parade Director of this glorious spectacle, not only because of its magnitude and obvious publicity value, but because it associated me with one of the finest groups of men that I have encountered in any form of activity.

The Mummers' Parade is as much a part of Philadelphia as any other historical or famous landmark; and, while I have been assured on numerous occasions of the fondness and pride with which the citizenry of this great city regard the Mummers, on behalf of the latter I would like to say that this feeling is only equalled by our affection toward our supporters, friends, and admirers. We are pleased to take this opportunity of wishing the City of Philadelphia a very happy New Year.

MAGISTRATE ELIAS MYERS



MAGISTRATE ELIAS MYERS  
Director of Parade



ROBERT RODEBAUGH  
Assistant Parade Director



CARL ZEIDLER  
Comic Division Director



JAMES KINEE  
Fancy Division Director

Compliments of  
**HORN & HARDART BAKING CO.**  
PHILADELPHIA

## Origin of Mummary

Mummary goes back as far as time itself. Today, we recognize King Momus as the lord of carnival gaiety and the spirit of devil-may-care. Originally, Momus was the ancient Greek god of censure and misrule. He delighted in ridiculing and making sport of everyone without exception, until, alas, he fell in love with the beautiful Aphrodite. However, his reputation for gaiety had preceded him and the smart young lady would have none of his wooing. So Momus died of a broken heart, but the other gods were merciful and permitted him to come back to earth at certain times to rule over periods of joyous celebration which, in every age, in every land, in every town, have been designated by different names.

As far back as 400 B.C. in the powerful empire of Rome, the citizenry were observing the feast of the Saturnalia in honor of the great god Saturn and the reaping of the harvest. Although in those days there were rigid caste lines, these were forgotten and everyone tried to be what they were not. Slaves wore the robes of their masters, and the masters donned the garb of slaves. All cares and troubles were forgotten for one day as the music played, the dancing started, and everyone called upon their many friends to wish them luck and to partake of cheer.

Down through the years, nation after nation has seized upon the slightest excuse by which the people could enjoy themselves and engage in celebration. One of the earliest merrymakings was the Florentine Carnival, usually held prior to the start of Lent. This was a day set aside by the Monks of the Middle Ages as being given over to the "Lords of Misrule and the Abbots of Unreason."

In England and in France, Shrove Tuesday and the Eve of Ash Wednesday were for centuries a day and night of gaiety and hilarity, and there is no doubt that the Mardi Gras stemmed from that custom in France. In Germany and England, the Christmas and New Year holidays brought forth not only a religious observance

of the feast days but unrestrained merrymaking and feasting. This period was celebrated as the Christmas Masque and resulted in a series of pageants and shows depicting religious themes and also pertinent topics of the times.

Suddenly, the whole world changed as a New World was discovered. People came from all over immigrating to the land of opportunity. With them, they brought these customs together with the natural desire for celebration and merrymaking; and, today, in every section of our country, we have special days set aside for these care-banishing occasions. The Mardi Gras in New Orleans is perhaps one of the most famous but there is none that can compare in prestige and tradition with the annual Mummies' Parade in Philadelphia.

When they start the march up Broad Street on January 1, 1955, the Mummies will be celebrating close to the 300th salute to ancient King Momus, who has returned for the day by the will of the gods to drive care and sorrow from the world forever.

\* \* \*

### Nosegays from a Mummies Scrapbook

Even the great George Washington during the years he lived in the Presidential Mansion at 9th and Chestnut Streets held open house and, with his beautiful wife, Martha, would come to the door to distribute the libations and food desired by the Mummies. In fact, Washington became one of the most popular caricatures given by the Mummies. Dressed to resemble an exaggerated likeness of the "Great Father of Our Country," the Mummer would knock on the door and, while his companions in the background would parade in the manner of the ragged Continentals, the Speech Director would beg for food and drink with lines that went like this—

"Here am I, great Washington,  
On my shoulder I carry a gun."



**To the Members of the Philadelphia New Years Shooters'  
and Mummers' Association, Inc.**

The Mummers' Parade up Broad Street each New Year's Day has become one of Philadelphia's best-known traditions.

Its fame as a colorful spectacle has spread throughout the nation, as attested by numerous invitations to its string bands to appear elsewhere during the year. The procession of clowns, fancy dress clubs and string bands is uniquely Philadelphian and is eagerly awaited by thousands.

It is a pleasure to welcome the 1955 edition of the Mummers, with the hope that each year's parade will outdo the previous one in bringing unalloyed entertainment to all our citizens.

**JOSEPH S. CLARK, JR.**  
*Mayor*  
City of Philadelphia



**FRANCIS C. DEEGAN**  
Superintendent  
Fairmount Park Guards  
City of Philadelphia



The Park Guards mounted on their famous horses snap eyes right as they pass "Old Glory."

A very happy New Year to the many clubs and organizations which take part in the Mummers Parade. Your faithful service to the traditions of Philadelphia has added page after page to its colorful history.

I know that each one of us has within his memory book many pleasant hours occasioned

by our viewing of the Mummers Parade. Your spontaneous gaiety, beautiful costumes, and brave outlook on life do much to establish man's faith in man.

I want to wish you all possible success in your wonderful affair and that your tradition of annual marching remain forever unbroken.

*Francis C. Deegan*



LEFT: A thrilling sight is presented to young and old as the Philadelphia Park Guards ride by mounted on their trim steeds.

*Congratulations  
and  
Best Wishes*



As Philadelphians, we have always enjoyed and been proud of our famous Mummers Parade, and welcome the opportunity to greet you for 1955.

Personally, it is a pleasure to send best wishes, and the official greetings of our Philadelphia Police Department, who have every confidence in your ability to carry on the mighty traditions of your past.

Time moves on and life as we know it is constantly changing. The landmarks of a city disappear, old customs are forgotten, the tempo of everyday living is increased to a terrific pace, and people caught in the treadmill of a modern age seem to forget all the other things that constituted a happy life.

The Mummers, with their purposes, ideals, and ability to bring happiness to all, brings those memories back and makes us live again in bygone years. Therefore, Congratulations and Best Wishes for your continual Parade throughout the many years to come.

THOMAS J. GIBBONS  
Commissioner of Police  
City of Philadelphia



## TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

*a great institution  
... the result of  
a strange tale  
and the firm faith of  
a young clergyman*

The history of Temple University dates back to a strange tale about a rich Arabian farmer, Ali Hafed, who was obsessed with the thought of becoming wealthier by discovering diamonds. This discontented man scoured the mountains and plains of Europe and Asia in vain, finally losing both his fortune and life in his hunt for more wealth. Ironically, after his death, a fabulous fortune of diamonds was found on the farm he left.

Dr. Conwell, founder of Temple University, was the young clergyman who heard this ancient legend in 1870 while on a trip from Bagdad to Nineveh on the Tigris River. It so impressed him that he made it the basis for his famous lecture "Acres of Diamonds" which earned millions of dollars. With this money, Dr. Conwell founded Temple University which was dedicated to the ideal of "making an education possible for all young men and young women who have good minds and the will to work . . ." *We will be glad to send, on request, the latest edition of Dr. Conwell's famous lecture, "Acres of Diamonds."*

## TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PHILADELPHIA

*See the String Bands Perform at the*  
**SHOW OF SHOWS**

February 1, 2, 3 and 22, 23, 24, 1955

CONVENTION HALL

8:00 p.m.

All Reserved Seats

Tickets sold by  
String Band Members

*Mummers' Official Photographer*

**ROY ROBERTS**

1212 SOUTH GREYLOCK STREET

SA 7-8299

PHILADELPHIA 43, PA.

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# EVOLUTION OF A MUMMER'S SUIT



A string band costume makes its start on the drawing board of artist Galina Alexandroff at the firm of Van Horn and Son, costumers.



Finished designs, some of which were made up into suits, are displayed on the wall of the workroom at Van Horn's.



The design having been decided on, is now transferred into cutting patterns by a workman at Van Horn's.



Mrs. Anita Stevens and her assistant, of Stevens Costumers, are seen cutting out the top sections of a string band suit.



Sequins and trimmings get applied to costume sections by girls in the Van Horn shop.



The cut out material races through high speed sewing machines in the workroom of Stevens Costumers. A string band is now well on the way to being clothed.

# Confidential — Top Secret

One of the greatest pleasures experienced by every Mummers club is when they come up with something new, something novel, something that the other clubs do not have. So, you can rest assured that from the moment that the parade is over until the opening whistle of the succeeding year the bigwigs and brains of each club are energetically working upon new ideas, new suggestions, more elaborate costuming, and unique ways of presenting the same. Each club knows that their success will be determined by the appearance that they make before

the parade judges; and, therefore, hours of untiring effort go into the preparation of costumes for the new parade.

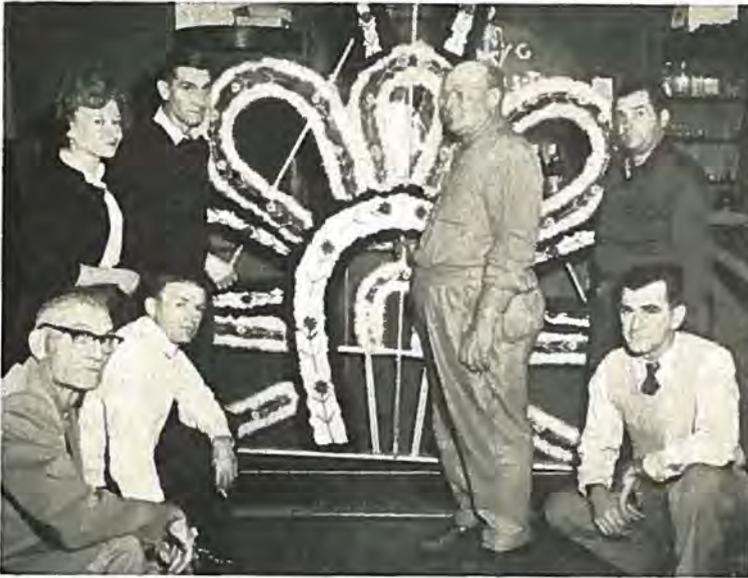
In the Fancy Clubs, the Captain's cape and the club motif are of great importance. The length, width, and general color appearance must be planned and worked out as one of the most important projects of the year. Wives, girl friends, mothers, and daughters of the Mummers contribute their time in designing, sewing, and embroidering the beautiful garments of satin and velvet which will be worn

by their husbands, boy friends, sons, and fathers. This is top secret and, on many occasions, garages, warehouses, and empty stores are hired and cellar basements are utilized in order to begin the assembly of the framework. Every effort is made to prevent the secret from leaking out and at the same time an espionage system is established in order to try to learn what the rival clubs contemplate. As the work progresses, guards are stationed day and night to make certain that a rival club does not see or hear anything that would give away the

**RIGHT:** Here is how the ladies participate in the Mummers' Parade! Mrs. Goldean Daubert and her father, Capt. Starner of the Oregon Club, sew completed rosebuds to a section of the Captain's Cape.

**BELOW:** Frank J. Simon, Frank Powers, and Captain Harry Starner of the Oregon Club, prepare to attach a completed section to a fancy costume headpiece.





Oregon Club workers pause to admire a completed jockey suit headpiece. Left to right are George Boshier, Whitey Simon, Mrs. Daubert, Frank Powers, Capt. Starner, Charles Brandis, and Joe Brown.

months of tedious labor.

Nowadays many professional costumers take over the task of creating these sumptuous creations of brocade, satin, sequins, and gold and silver thread. Though there has been a departure from early Mummer traditions in the use of professionals, nevertheless many of the original rules have remained unbroken. For instance, it is traditional that the Captain's cape no matter how awkward or heavy must be carried by the man who carries the title of leader of the organization, and cannot be placed on wheels because it would then come under the category of a float. It is not unusual to utilize well over a hundred page boys to assist the Captain in carrying his cape. Once the January wind gets under the billowing mass, it requires alertness and strength to keep the cloth from splitting or being blown aloft.

While the Comic Clubs do not have the same problem of creating sumptuous, elaborate costumes, they must

come up with a series of satiric, fun-poking, ego-deflating, timely topic ideas. It is necessary that, in order to be a successful comic club, you be comic and that the colorful pageantry consist not only of gaily dressed, black faced cakewalkers but that the floats and ideas be those which strike a responsive chord in those who are watching and that the presentation is in good taste and to the point.

The String Band Division has become one of the most popular features of the whole affair, and the crowds look forward eagerly to see and appreciate the efforts made by each organization to outdo the others. The string bands have dipped into history, story books, "the land of never-never,"

and the outermost realms of the science fiction age to garb their troubadours in startlingly beautiful and unique costumes. They have been crusaders, cowboys, indians, toreadors, pirates, clowns, colonials, and every other possible romantic character. Their dress must synchronize with their musical selection theme, and they make every effort and go to all possible extremes in order to secure as their reward the enthusiastic applause and unanimous acclaim of the multitude.

*Thanks go to the firms of Van Horn and Son and Stevens Costumers, and the Oregon Fancy Club for permitting us to photograph some of the preparations.*

—EDITOR



Little "Buck" Walters measures his length against a headpiece for an Oregon Club fancy costume. Standing by are Charles Brandis, proud papa Joe Walters, Frank Powers, and Tom Napoleon.

# A PAGE



The organizers of the Trilby String Band. Here are the original four history makers as seen in 1900. Seated are Louis Samuels and Jack Towers, and standing are John Wygand and William Siebert.

When you talk to Jack Towers, one of the most famous of all-time New Year Mummies, you realize for the first time what it means to belong to this traditional Philadelphia organization. Although now 82, Jack Towers is in fine physical shape and discusses the marchings of the past fifty-some years in a pleasant, witty, and alert manner. He recalls, as though it were yesterday, the manner in which the first string band participated in the parade.

In 1898, while working for Snellenburg's Department Store, he was discussing music with a fellow-worker by the name of John Wygand. Wygand said that he played a banjo and together with three other friends constituted one of the "outstanding" quartets in the area. This was a statement not to be taken lightly by Jack Towers inasmuch as it just so happened that he played flute with a quartet who incidentally was also "outstanding." One word led to another and they decided to have a contest in order to determine who was not telling the truth. The arrangement was made and one evening the two quartets met. When Wygand's group was halfway through the



RIGHT: Jack Towers, the only surviving member of the original four, is pictured with his flute away back when, and as he appears today.



# FROM THE PAST . . .

first contest number, the other quartet joined in and played along. The winner—well, Jack Towers was now a member of the most “outstanding” octet in the area.

The eight boys decided to band together into a group that would play at different affairs because in those days it was an easy, happy way of life and there were always numerous dinner parties, theaters, dances, koffee-klautches, cake parties, and a variety of other affairs where small ensembles could make extra money. The first name they chose for the organization was “The Volunteers” because they were always ready to volunteer to play anywhere and at any time.

Jack recalls vividly that for him it was always a matter of hustle-bustle. On Saturdays, he would work until noon at Snellenburgs and then away on his bicycle to the Essington Yacht Club, where the police boats were docked and numerous shad parties (in those day there was good fishing in the Delaware) were held on them. The octet would play music for the shad parties until four in the afternoon and then rush back to work at Snellenburgs until late in the evening.

The fame of the group spread and, from time to time, new boys came to rehearsal and, as is the way with all musicians, joined in the music until finally they consisted of approximately thirty pieces.

In 1902, they were asked by Bart McHugh, a local promoter of that era, to enter the New Year Mummies Parade. This they finally agreed to do and parade under the new name of “The Trilby Club.”

It is a most interesting story as to how they decided on this title. Many of the band members had been spectators at “The Svengali Show” at the old Walnut Street Theater, and they immediately fell in love with the popular song “Alice Ben Bolt.” When the show was over, they met

and decided they would re-christen the band after the heroine of George DuMaurier’s book “Trilby” and so, for the first time in the history of the Mummies Parade, the Trilby Band marched bravely up Broad Street dressed in their own homemade costumes, for which they had paid the enormous sum of \$25.00. They rolled their pants legs up short, wore white dusters with big buttons, big bow ties, ties, straw sailor hats with ribbon bands, and black faces.

The crowd loved them. In fact, the city fathers loved them and gave them their \$25.00 back as a consolation prize because no provision had been made for this type of unit.

A few years later, another string band was formed—“The Oakey”—and from then on many others followed suit. Jack Towers led the Trilby up Broad Street on New Year’s Day in 1902 and on 21 other occasions. The last time was when he came back from serving overseas in the First World War, where he received injuries which caused a present deafness.

Jack’s heart and soul are wrapped up in the traditions and purposes of the New Year Mummies. He feels that great credit for the present success of the Trilby Band is due to its present officers—President William Mink, Captain Adam Quaglia, Music Director B. S. Gangemi, and Assistant Music Director J. McKnight.

But, despite the sumptuous costumes, the elaborate trappings, and the huge ensembles that today delight Jack Towers’ heart, we feel that as the strains of “O Dem Golden Slippers” herald the beginning of another New Year’s Parade Jack still sees and hears a small group of sturdy, gallant minstrels bravely playing “Alice Ben Bolt” as their straw sailor hats flapped in the January breeze and they moved forward to make history within a history-making organization.

# The Mummies

For two hundred and eighty some years, the Mummies have unofficially been carrying their message of good fellowship to all sections of the community, but the original official parade was held on January 1, 1901. This was the first time that the city gave its official stamp of approval to the merrymakers. The parade was a great event, and even before daylight men, women, and children with their lunch baskets began to line the streets of march.

The newspaper immediately supported the event, one reading "The city has put its seal of approval on the Mummies. The lawmakers were there as sponsors and directors and, from the windows of the courts of justice, wives and daughters of the city officials viewed and enjoyed the scene."

Among the interested spectators were Mayor Ashbridge and his cabinet, who also acted in the capacity of judges. The City Council appropriated \$1,725.00 to be distributed as cash prizes, and the ensuing publicity stimulated national interest and caused the organization of numerous new clubs.

It was a wonderful sight as the pioneers of the present Mummies Parade started their march up Broad Street, with the "Silver Crowns" captained by John Hoar being the first to pass in review. The names of these early clubs stand inscribed forever on the tablets of Mummery; and, although today



Captain Joseph Ferko of the Fralinger String Band, 1917, and Mascot John Fralinger, now Captain of the Fralinger Band.

LEFT: Thomas Napoleon, who is now Vice-President of the Oregon New Years Association won first prize in the Special Mention Section with this Peacock Suit at the age of 14.



Some of the ribbons won by the Trilby String Band in bygone years. From left to right they are from 1904, 1908, 1909, 1911, and 1914.



BELOW: Way back in 1904, Trilby String Band garbed as real old-time minstrels.

BELOW: Scottish minstrels was the innovation the Trilby String Band presented in 1914



## as we know them

they might be considered amusing, they were indicative of the initiative and virile make-up of these first paraders. Some of the names were "The Early Risers," "Dark Lanterns," "Hardly Ables," "White Caps," "Energetic Hoboes," "Red Onions," "Half and Half," "Penn Treaty," "Cucumbers," "White Turnips," "Corinthians," "Ivy Leaf," and "The Golden Slipper."

While today the gorgeous costumes, elaborate arrangements, and synchronized organization make these early efforts seem crude and makeshift, there has never been any improvement as regards enthusiasm, energy, and the desire to engage in merrymaking. Once the whistle sounded and the parade started up Broad Street, everyone joined in the spirit of the occasion and thrilled to the costumes and antics of the paraders.

The first pageant was an instant success and City Council determined to appropriate more money for prizes in order to make it attractive for new clubs. It was in the second parade that the string bands made their appearance. The first band was known as the "Trilby Club" and was led by a veteran Shooter, Dr. Louis Samuels, an optician. Immediately it became the hit of the parade, receiving considerable acclaim and publicity, and was given a \$25.00 consolation prize inasmuch as no provision had been made for this classification.

Today, the Mummers are highly organized into three different sections—the Fancy Clubs, Comic Clubs, and String Bands. The expense incurred by the various clubs in participating in the affair is staggering, and many clubs have been known to pay as much as \$20,000 for new uniforms, while a prize-winning captain suit will run as high as \$5,000. The parades are now watched through television by over 2,000,000 people, and the Mummers Parade is as symbolic of Philadelphia as any other traditional fact.

**TOP:** In 1926 Bill Simmers of the Hog Island N.Y.A. appeared as King Clown.

**MIDDLE:** The Trilby String Band recalls its First World War days in this picture taken in 1919. Dr. Louis Samuels, one of the founders, is seen in the center front with his mandolin.

**BOTTOM:** War days forgotten, Trilby appeared in 1921 dressed as comic toy soldiers.



# Prize Winners

## From the Past



Prize winning group for the Liberty Clowns proved to be these "Hicks from the Sticks." Left to right the hicks are Angelo Carfagno, Chappy Casanova, and Rocky King Buondonna.



ABOVE: The Uptown String Band in their famous 4-Leaf Clover Suits skyrocketed to "The Hit Parade" with their revival of the old song. Captain Robert W. Runkle, Jr. is seen in front of the judges' stand with the announcer.

RIGHT: The Oregon Club won a prize with this King Clown suit. Notice the lovely maribou trimmings.





James Gianfrancesco of the Oregon N.Y.A., won a Special Mention in his costume entitled, "King for a Day."

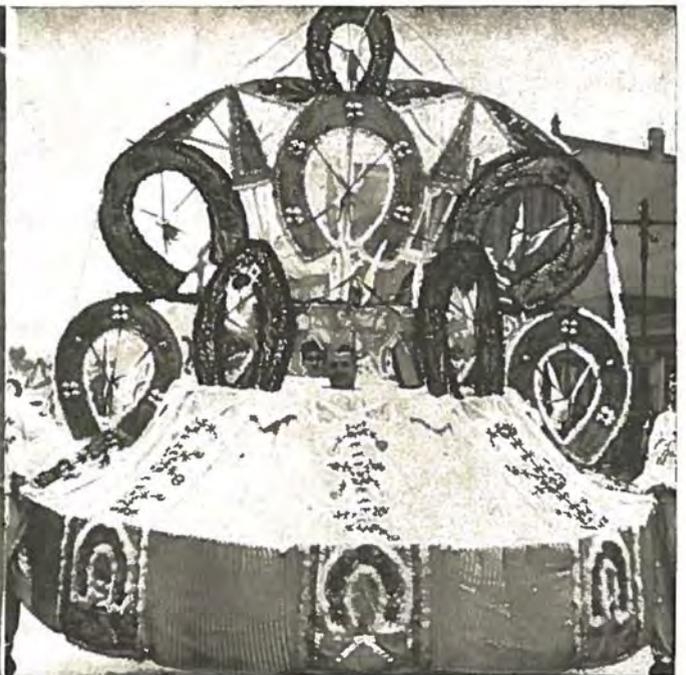


ABOVE: The Joker Brigade of the Oregon N.Y.A. won a prize (and probably frightened little children) with the theme of African Voodoo Warriors.



RIGHT: Joe Brown, of the So. Franklin Brigade, Oregon N.Y.A., rated a prize for this lovely tulip costume.

BELOW: The Hog Island N.Y.A. captured a second prize with this Captain's Cape. Notice the tasteful geometric design.



Harry Hill of the Klein Fancy Club was a prize winner in this lavish King Jockey suit.

*Sincere Best Wishes from All the Members of the*

## **Philadelphia Lager Beer Brewers' Association**

*Members*

**Esslinger's, Inc.**  
**Wm. Gretz**  
**Brewing Company**

**Henry F. Ortlieb**  
**Brewing Company**

**Adam Scheidt**  
**Brewing Company**  
**C. Schmidt & Sons, Inc.**

## *Early Traditions*

### **OF THE MUMMERS**

History records that when the pioneer Swedes came to this country and settled in what is now known as Tinicum, they brought with them many customs of the old country. Important among them was the age-old habit of visiting friends on the day after Christmas, December 26th, which was officially known as "The Second Day Christmas." In these early days of our country, life was a continual danger and struggle for existence; and, therefore, our pioneer fathers seized upon any possible excuse to prolong a merry-making period. So, the friend-visiting and merry-making extended itself from December 26th until January 1st, which was the New Year.

During this time, the Swedes, who had built homes around their block house at Tinicum on the banks of the Christiana River, sallied forth through "The Neck," as South Philadelphia was called even in those days, and engaged in a series of festivities which usually ended in the giving of pantomimed miracle plays. The main theme in each play was the pursuit of man, and, incidentally, woman, by the devil and the culmination was always supposed to result in the defeat of that worthy adversary. As soon as the devil would be driven back into hell, the costumed players would be rewarded with food and drink, and the male celebrants would sally forth into the night disguising themselves with black face, woman's dress, and grotesque trappings shooting their guns, awakening their neighbors, kissing pretty girls, and dancing and singing until morning.

Henry Muhlenberg, establisher of the Lutheran Church in America, wrote what was possibly the first publicized account of what we can justly claim as the Mummers' Parade. In 1839, he penned the words: "Met men on the roads in Tinicum and Kingsessing who were disguised as

clowns shouting at the top of their voices and shooting guns." This habit of gun shooting earned the Mummers the sobriquet of "The Shooters."

However, there are many other detailed accounts of this period written in the early diaries of the English settlers as the Swedes' custom began to spread and involve not only visiting each other but stopping in at the homes of English settlers in order to secure the much desired cookies, candies, and fruit. The Shooters or Mummers would travel in bands with a leader who was either the best singer or the glibbest of tongue and bore the honored title of "Speech Director." The group would line up before a house and bring the occupants of the same to the door by shouting, banging pans, or shooting guns. They would then go into their little act with improvised dance steps, more than likely the same cakewalk that the Mummers now gaily perform in their annual parade. At the end, the Speech Director would step forth and give his little ditty, one of which has come down through the years—

"Here we stand before your door  
As we stood the year before  
Give us whiskey, give us gin  
Open the door and let us in."

Indeed, it was a hard heart and a sour soul who would refuse the merry-makers their request. However, as the day went on and the kind citizenry kept acceding to their requests, you can be sure that the Mummers were in no state to end their celebration and began to join with other groups and form a series of impromptu parades which would lead into the very heart of William Penn's Quaker City. Some of the most desirable sections to be visited were the grog shops along the waterfront and the sweet-smelling bakeries on Market Street, where huge special cakes would be presented by the bakers and subse-

*(Continued)*



"The Evening Bulletin" Picture

Aqua String Band as it looked in its appearance during the Show of Shows in Convention Hall.



Aqua String Band Captain Fred J. Kesel displays his plumes.

# Aqua String Band

## OFFICERS

FRED J. KESEL .....	Captain	
SOL GINSBURG .....	General Business Manager and Co-Captain	
ELMER W. LEYRER .....	Chairman	
EDWARD SYLVESTER .....	President and New Jersey Business Manager	
WARREN SHIELDS .....	Vice-President	
JULES GERSHENFELD .....	Secretary	
FRED KESEL, JR. ....	Treasurer and Designer	
PHILIP SILVER .....	Publicity Manager	
GENE NEMETH .....	Musical Director	
HENRY KUNZIG .....	Assistant Business Manager	
WILLIAM DUDDY .....	Librarian	
JOHN RASE .....	Assistant Musical Director	
BOBBY KUNZIG .....	Drill Master	
JACK MORGAN, SR.	BEN SCHODOWSKI	CHARLES BURG
RICHARD ROZWENC	SAM SILVER	

AQUA, oldest continuously marching String Band on Broad Street, is still under the original Directors who formed the band on April 2nd, 1920. Fred Kesel, Elmer Leyrer, Sol Ginsburg, and Phil Silvers still play an important role in the band's direction. To Fred J. Kesel, Captain of the Aqua String Band belongs the distinction of being the first musician to make the Glockenspiel or Band Lyre, popular in the ranks of Philadelphia's Mummer's String Bands. Introduced in 1920, the Bells, as played by Fred Kesel,

formed a harmonious background to the string band music. The Glockenspiel is a series of tiny rectangular metal slabs, tuned to scale and mounted with cat-gut on a lyre shaped frame, which, when struck with small metal hammers produce clear sounds with a definite musical pitch. When Aqua first used this unusual trademark, Mummer fans were able to recognize them when they were several blocks away. Today, practically all the bands find the Glockenspiel a necessary part of their music.

Aqua's headquarters are at the Wm. D. Oxley Post No. 133 of the American Legion, and meetings are held every Thursday evening.

In July, 1954, the Aqua String Band, under the auspices of the Westmont, N. J., Lions entered the Parade Competition held at the Lions Convention in New York City. Over 90 powerful bands from all over the nation were entered; the judging and deliberation lasted for two days, at the end of which Aqua was awarded first prize. They are justly proud of this honor. In 1948, Aqua received great acclaim for their "Horn of Plenty" theme as introduced by Captain Kesel, and today, due to their continued excellence of music and costumes they are often referred to as the "Show Band."

For the 1955 Parade, Aqua has prepared an entry of exotic originality. The theme will be "Siamese Dancers" and Captain Kesel will appear as the four-armed god, Vishnu the Preserver. The costumes will be original Siamese garb in lavishly gold-printed purple and jade green with black sequin trim. Backpiece and headdress represent a Siamese grilled Temple. These creations have been made by Collins Creative Costumes. The drill, which promises to be quite novel, will be to the tunes of Rahadlakum and Zubbediya.

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## Early Traditions...

(Continued)

quently cut into ample slices for the marchers.

However, as today, many people were not in favor of the spirit of carnival and carouse. There was always a conflict between the staid Quaker brethren and the merry-makers, which resulted in the Pennsylvania Legislature passing a law in 1808 ruling that "Masquerades, masquerade balls, and masked processions were public nuisances" and setting out fines and imprisonment for all persons who violated this ordinance, entertained the Mummers, or participated in such carryings on. The statute books of the Commonwealth retained this law until its repeal in 1859. However, in all justice to the law-makers, we must say there is not a single instance of a conviction under this unpopular statute.

Throughout the years, Philadelphia was held firm to its tradition of mumery, and we have an accurate account of an elaborate costume party being held in 1841 at 58th Street and Florence Avenue, the house of James Coultas, High Sheriff of Philadelphia. Here the members of the household participated in the old English pageantry play "Saint George and the Dragon." At its conclusion, numerous bands of Mummers were invited in to celebrate, in a bowl of New Year's punch, the dragon's demise.

Down through the years, this custom has persisted and, although we no longer have the dragon's death as an excuse for celebration, we find that the Mummers in their carefree way can find or make a reason for ready toast and happy pledge.

## It Could Only Happen Here

In 1925, the Kensington Shooters appeared on horseback dressed as Russian Cossacks. As the music struck up, the horses bolted and would not parade. Most of them were draft animals and were not used to saddles and riders and away they went, dragging their riders behind them.

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and Best Wishes*

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## *Avalon String Band*

### OFFICERS

OTTO PALMER .....	<i>President</i>
FRED GARDNER .....	<i>Vice-President</i>
HARRY LAWSON .....	<i>Captain</i>
WALTER C. KUNICKI, SR. ....	<i>Musical Director</i>
JOSEPH RUDLEY .....	<i>Treasurer</i>
FRED VENTRESCA .....	<i>Secretary</i>

THE AVALON String Band was organized in May of 1938 by Harry T. Lawson, who has served as Captain since its organization. This band has been competing to the best of its ability in its years of existence, and modestly asserts that it has had its share of successes and failures.

In the 1954 parade they secured the fourth prize in the String Band Division.

This year they will use as their theme "Deep Purple." The costumes have been designed to create an illusion of a purple sky just after sundown with a crescent

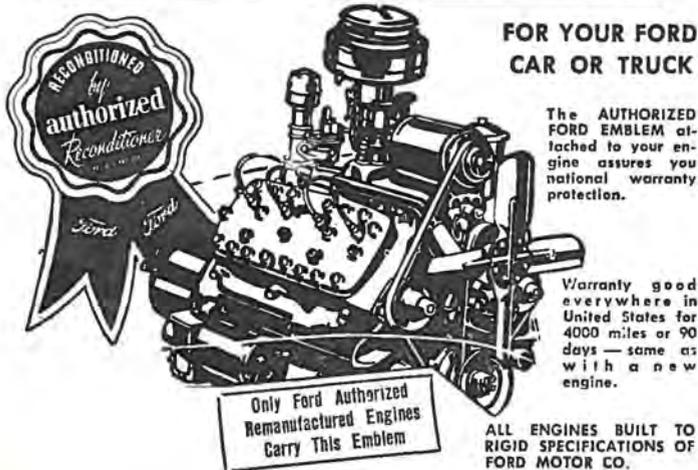
moon of gold shining down. The design will use the gold moon in the headpiece surrounded by a sky of purple plumes with tiny gold sequin stars scattered throughout the sky. The suit will be of purple satin, the cape lined in gold and trimmed with gold sequin braid and stars. The costume will have an abundance of gold and purple sequins and should present a most glorious effect.

The songs featured will be in accordance with the theme: *Deep Purple, Mr. Sandman, Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes.*

BELOW: Captain Harry Lawson is seen dressed as an artist, as he appeared in the 1954 parade.



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ON JANUARY 1, 1955

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## It Could Only Happen Here

Jack Hines, former star in the Fancy Division, in 1912 attempted to start a new innovation. He searched the entire city and its suburbs for what he termed a "fancy band." Finally he found a group of German musicians tooting their horns and making a lot of noise outside a saloon at 2nd and Poplar Streets. The tune was a natural. It was "The Wearing of the Green." So, Hines outfitted the musicians in long green underwear decorated to indicate various ranks (every man a Captain) in the "Irish Navy." They fell into line on New Year's Day with Hines' new club, "The Old Times"; and, although they were a sensation with their green underwear, Hines went berserk when he learned that this was the only tune they knew how to play.

★ ★ ★

On another occasion, "The Silver Crown" Club was raring to go and suddenly moved out, starting the parade fifteen minutes before the whistle. It was necessary to send out mounted policemen to round them up and bring them back before the parade could get started.

★ ★ ★

In 1929, the weather forecaster warned of a cloudburst, and the parade officials decided to call off the parade. However, two comic clubs decided to defy both the officials and the weather. You guessed right—There was a cloudburst and the comic clubs were almost drowned.

★ ★ ★

In 1941, some of the clubs in an effort to develop unique presentations, brought dogs into the parade for the first time. It was a mistake as the dogs not only fought among themselves but, in several instances, took a bite out of some of the Shooters. Result—No more dogs in future parades.

*Compliments of  
a Friend*

# Peter A. Broomall String Band

## OFFICERS

JAMES FOX .....	President
ELMER HENSHALL .....	Vice-President
FRANK POND.....	Recording Secretary
CHARLES BROOMALL.....	Financial Secretary
PETER A. BROOMALL.....	Treasurer
EDWARD A. BROOMALL.....	Music Director
JAMES V. BROOMALL.....	Assistant Music Director
JOSEPH GILLESPI.....	Drill Master
PETER A. BROOMALL.....	Captain

**T**HE PETER A. BROOMALL String Band was organized March 1, 1930, in South Philadelphia by Pete Broomall and a few old-timers from the Wildwood String Band. The original meeting place of the band was at 118 Tree Street. 1955 marks the Silver Jubilee of the Band.

The Broomall String Band is always out there trying hard, and will continue to, although the going has been rough at times. The Broomall String Band is noted for its excellence of music and never-tiring efforts of the Captain to put on a good show at all times. The Band meets every Tuesday night at 1931 South 3rd Street and good fellowship is promoted throughout the year by its members. The Captain has two sons and two grandsons parading this year.

Sons Edward Broomall, who is the Music Director, and James Broomall, Assistant Music Director, will be playing saxophones in the Band. Grandson Edward Gibson plays the guitar and is also a vocalist at the tender age of ten years, while three-year-old Peter Broomall, Jr., acts as the Band Mascot.



Peter A. Broomall, Captain, is pictured in his lovely Sun Valley Serenade suit.



Broomall String Band is seen all in white in their snow theme of 1951, entitled Winter Wonderland.

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**HIT PARADE OF  
STRING BAND MUSIC**

The string band music as played in the Mummers Parades occupies a unique position in the American music world. Once heard, the haunting strains will never be forgotten; and, no matter where you may be, you will always recognize the playing of these pieces and immediately associate them with the Mummers Parade.

Each year, the various string band clubs endeavor to secure new musical selections, but they always keep coming back to those familiar airs which have always captivated the hearts of spectators. Even before the dancing, cavorting Captains make their appearance, their presence is made known by the tunes which have been established as their trademark. These selections have come down through the years and constitute a "Hit Parade" for all time to come.

"O Dem Golden Slippers" has come to be known as the march theme of the parade. "Stardust," "I'm Looking over a Four-Leaf Clover," "Heart of My Heart," "Avalon," "Moonlight and Roses," "Margie," "April Showers," "Look for the Silver Lining," and many others have catapulted their players into prize positions in any number of parades. Two of the favorite Mummers' songs were composed by John F. Towers, one of the oldest living Mummers today. They are "Honeyboy" and "Scrap Iron" and are always played by one or more of the marching clubs.

Mummers' music has been recognized as being as unique and exceptional in its construction as modern swing and calypso. It has a peculiar, distinctive, folksy quality all of its own. A string band today consists of banjos, guitars, and violins but also permits saxophones, clarinets, accordions, and lyres. However, electrical instruments, horns, or other amplifications are not allowed.

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# *The Crescentville String Band*



Captain George E. Duffy appears as the Tin Man.

**T**HE CRESCENTVILLE String Band was organized on March 10th, 1945, and since has appeared in a number of highly original costumes. They are Captained by George Duffy, their Musical Director is Walter Schofield. In 1954 they were seen in the theme "Wizard of Oz."

**BELOW:** The Crescentville String Band during its appearance at the Miss America Beauty Pageant in Atlantic City in their Wizard of Oz suits. At the right is the Wizard himself.



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## Parade Rules and Regulations

### FANCY DIVISION

Club must have captain's cape with at least twenty page boys.

Best Dressed groups must have at least twenty men in costumes.

Handsomest costume can be considered as one man carrying the costume. If he has extra men to carry out his theme this is agreeable, but only one man is allowed under the competing costume.

No musical brigades are to be considered for prizes.

No costumes are allowed on wheels; any suit on wheels will be disqualified.

Clubs must have at least one band.

No horses will be allowed in parade unless pulling floats.

Cards to be handed to the judges by one man, representing his own club in front of the judges' stand.

Cards will signify character of costume being presented.

Bands going up Broad Street in costume will not be judged for any prize; they will just supply music for the line of march.

All costumed entries must start at Broad and Porter Streets and finish at Sixth and Girard Avenue to qualify for prizes.

Members are to be reminded that there is to be no immoral conduct along the line of march.

The captain will be held responsible for the conduct of the club and the above rules.

\* \* \*

### COMIC DIVISION

Each club must have a captain's cape with twelve page boys or more, and the cape must be carried and not on wheels.

Each club must have two or more bands.

Each club must have 100 or more men in line.

No horses will be allowed in the parade unless pulling floats.

Smearing the faces of spectators along the line of march and other improper conduct will not be permitted.

No horseback riding.

Club captain will be held responsible for the conduct of his club.

\* \* \*

### STRING BAND DIVISION

Band must have 35 players in the line, but no more than 10 other members at any point of the compass, either vertical or horizontal. (In suits—this does not mean marshals or service men.)

No floats shall be allowed.

No string band shall be more than one block in back of the preceding one; if so, it may hurt the standing for a prize.

No brass or cup instruments such as: trombones, french horns, etc., shall be allowed.

Each band shall be allowed three minutes in front of the judges' stand.

The following system shall be carried out for the judging of the string bands: 50 points for music, 30 points for costumes, and 20 points for novelty, drill or theme.

A string band shall be allowed to have one pleasure car carrying a banner and a sign in front of the car; also a closed car for the rear of the band. No extension on the sides or back; nothing to extend above the car or above the banner.

Amplification, either on instruments or in any way connected with the string band, is absolutely forbidden.

No animals of any kind allowed.

Any string band wearing old suits must get last prize.



The Ferko String Band, 12 times champions arrayed in the Apple Blossom Theme.

# *The Joseph A. Ferko String Band*

## OFFICERS

JOSEPH A. FERKO.....	<i>Captain</i>	WILLIAM CONNERS.....	<i>Assistant Music Director</i>
HARRY A. LEARY.....	<i>President</i>	CURTIS STUER.....	<i>Assistant Music Director</i>
WILLIAM DE SANTRO.....	<i>Vice-President</i>	JAMES KEENAN.....	<i>Drill Master</i>
JOHN E. ARLETH.....	<i>Secretary</i>	PETE AMODEL.....	<i>Trustee</i>
ROBERT TRAUB.....	<i>Music Director</i>	ANDREW FERKO.....	<i>Trustee</i>

**J**ANUARY 1st, 1955, will be the 33rd consecutive Mummers Parade for the Ferko String Band. The band was organized and first took part in the Mummers Parade in 1923. During this time they have won twelve championships, surpassing the record of any other club in the parade's history.

This parade will mark 40 years of parading for Captain Joseph A. Ferko, since he led other bands before organizing his own club. He has won the Captain's prize on several occasions.

The Ferko String Band has won much fame for itself, through its numerous appearances throughout the nation at fairs and expositions. This band has also performed for the country as an entirety in its two appearances on the Jackie Gleason TV Show.

They will be a strong contender this year, in an attempt to make this their "lucky thirteenth" win. The Ferko theme for this year will be based on the romantic operetta "The Student Prince" and will feature the score and a string band version of the beautiful "Serenade" music. A precision drill synchronized to the music will also be performed. A total of 64 musicians, eight across and eight deep, will march in a formation, and will be headed by Captain Ferko, President Leary, Vice-President DeSantoro, Music Director Traub, and Drill Master Keenan.



Captain Joseph A. Ferko in his Apple Blossom Theme costume.

"The Evening Bulletin" Photo

# PHILADELPHIA NEW YEAR SHOOTERS' AND MUMMERS' PARADE

OFFICIAL ROUTE: Broad and Porter Streets, up Broad Street to Broad Street and Girard Avenue.

LEAVE BROAD AND PORTER STREETS AT 9:00 A.M. JANUARY 1, 1955.

If Postponed: Saturday, January 8, 1955, same time—same route.

## *Program*

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COLOR GUARD

PARADE MARSHALL—FREDRIC R. MANN

DIRECTOR OF PARADE—MAGISTRATE ELIAS MYERS

POLICE AND FIREMEN'S BAND

### FANCY DIVISION

1. CHARLES KLEIN N. Y. A.  
Captain William H. Short, Jr.  
Theme: Rhapsody in Color
2. HOG ISLAND N. Y. A.  
Captain Matt Leighton
3. S. D. WHEELER FANCY CLUB  
Captain Frank Shay  
Theme: Hearts and Flowers
4. OREGON FANCY CLUB  
Captain Harry Starner  
Theme: Winter Wonderland

### COMIC DIVISION

5. MURRAY COMIC CLUB  
Captain Dan Herman
6. PHILIP J. HAMMOND COMIC CLUB  
Captain Philip J. Hammond
7. LIBERTY CLOWNS COMIC CLUB  
Captain Joe Schultz
9. PURUL COMIC CLUB  
Captain John Purul

### NAVY FLOAT

### STRING BAND DIVISION

10. CRESCENTVILLE STRING BAND  
Captain George E. Duffy  
Theme: Serenade of the Bells  
Songs: Here Comes Crescentville (an original composition by Walter Schofield, Musical Director)  
Who Stole the Ding Dong  
Serenade of the Bells  
Bye Bye Blue Bell
11. P. A. BROOMALL STRING BAND  
Captain Peter A. Broomall  
Theme: When the Saints Come Marching In  
Songs: When the Saints Come Marching In  
Alexander's Ragtime Band  
The Birth of the Blues  
Darktown Strutters Ball
12. UPTOWN STRING BAND  
Captain Robert W. Runkle, Jr.  
Theme: Uptown on Parade  
Songs: Uptown March  
Marching Along Together  
Stouthearted Men  
Four Leaf Clover

15. GREATER KENSINGTON STRING BAND

Captain Howard Peoples  
Theme: The Highlanders  
Songs: In The Gloaming  
My Bonnie  
Blue Bells of Scotland  
Wee Doch an Dorris  
Bonnie Dundee  
Loch Lomond  
I Love a Lassie  
Auld Lang Syne

16. QUAKER CITY STRING BAND

Captain Raymond Endriss  
Theme: Show Business  
Songs: There's No Business Like Show Business  
You Do Something To Me  
Lover  
Lover Come Back to Me  
Broadway Melodies  
Will You Remember from Maytime  
Poor Butterfly  
A Pretty Girl  
My Little Girl  
You Know and I Know

17. TRILBY STRING BAND

Captain Adam Quaglia  
Theme: Pennies from Heaven  
Songs: Pennies from Heaven  
A Penny a Kiss—A Penny a Hug  
Blue Skies

18. AVALON STRING BAND

Captain Harry T. Lawson  
Theme: Deep Purple  
Songs: Deep Purple  
Mr. Sandman  
Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes

19. WOODLAND STRING BAND

Captain David Anderson, Jr.  
Theme: Somewhere Over the Rainbow  
Songs: Somewhere Over the Rainbow  
I'm Always Chasing Rainbows  
Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder

20. JOSEPH A. FERKO STRING BAND

Captain Joseph A. Ferko  
Theme: The Student Prince  
Songs: Score from the Student Prince  
The Serenade

21. DURNING STRING BAND

Captain Henry Hendrickson  
Theme: Wooden Soldiers

22. POLISH-AMERICAN STRING BAND

Captain Walter Krop  
Theme: Can Can  
Songs: C'est Magnifique  
French Can Can  
Score from "Can Can"

23. FRALINGER STRING BAND

Captain John J. Fralinger  
Theme: The Student Prince  
Songs: The Serenade  
Drinking Song  
Deep in My Heart

25. GREATER OVERBROOK STRING BAND

Captain Harry Straub  
Theme: Vineyard  
Songs: From the Vine Come the Grapes  
Tick Tock Polka  
plus popular numbers

27. SOUTH PHILADELPHIA STRING BAND

Captain Raymond Gurt  
Theme: Melodies of the Golden West  
Songs: Tumbling Tumbleweeds  
Deep in the Heart of Texas  
Back in the Saddle Again  
Ridin' Down the Canyon  
Sioux City Sue  
Rose of San Antone

28. HEGEMAN STRING BAND

Captain Alfred Fink  
Theme: Ritual Dance of Fire  
by De Falla

30. AQUA STRING BAND

Captain Fred J. Kesel  
Theme: Siamese Dancers  
Songs: Rahadlakum  
Zubbediya

NOTE: More information about these clubs will be found elsewhere in this program. Due to our printing schedule, this information is arranged alphabetically by club name, rather than in the above order. (Editor)

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## Nosegays from a

### Mummies Scrapbook

One of the most pleasant customs of early Mummery was the kissing of pretty girls on the street, at the visited homes, or wherever you could find them. Inasmuch as the Shooters blackened their faces, the popularity of the belles was determined by the number of smudges on their faces. It is even rumored, perish the thought, that many of the fair sex cheated by applying daubs of soot to their own faces in order to maintain their popular reputation.

★       ★       ★

The only apparent lapse in the long history was a subdued five-year interlude during the Civil War but, with the return of the Army veterans, Mummery secured a new lease on life, becoming better organized and proceeding more along the military lines of march. Many new clubs were founded such as the "Golden Crown," "Silver Crown," "Morning Star," and "Bright Star," which placed the Shooters into organized units who participated in tricky maneuvers in order to heighten public interest and secure better prizes.

★       ★       ★

For many years, only the more venturesome of the Mummies moved out of their own immediate neighborhoods because they were apt to meet with stronger groups who would not only give them a tussle but would separate them from the day's accumulations. In each neighborhood, the housewives would try to outdo the others by presenting the Captain of the various clubs with a big cake. These would usually be placed in a pushcart or wagon and eaten several days later at what was known as a "cakewalk." The peculiar step used by the participants in these affairs became known as a cakewalk and is still used today by the comic clubs in their various antics.

★       ★       ★

It is almost impossible to stop the Mummies Parade but it occurred for the first time during the blizzard of 1909, when the snow on Broad Street was almost three feet deep and it was impossible to start the captains off.

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# Greater Kensington String Band



Greater Kensington String Band in its presentation of an Old Fashioned Garden. Captain Howard Peoples is seen above in his Captain's suit, marching with the club mascot, his grandson, Thomas Friend, Jr., age three years.

## OFFICERS

HOWARD PEOPLES .....*Captain*

GEORGE BURGERT .....*Musical Director*

**T**HE GREATER KENSINGTON String Band is noted for the delicate artistry that distinguishes each year's entry. In 1954 the theme presented was an "Old Fashioned Garden." The costumes, which can be seen on this page, took as their inspiration the gardens of old which had large ornamental iron or bronze gates with a large flower vase designed into the arch of the opening. The light green plumage of the headpiece representing the foliage continues down onto the cape, which has a hand-painted garden scene on the back of the light green satin cape of each band member.

The Captain's costume, which can be seen above left, is of the same idea but in a more massive design. The costume is made of a metallic golden cloth with the flower motif woven into it and decorated with a multitude of beautiful colored stones and flowers. The musical selections played pointed out the theme, while precision drill represented the garden gates opening, the swaying of flowers in the breeze, and a final bow emulating the flowers closing at nightfall.

We can expect something equally as spectacular for the 1955 theme.

# Philip J. Hammond New Year Association

## OFFICERS

JOHN MOONEY, SR.....*President*

JOE KELLEY.....*Vice-President*

PHILIP J. HAMMOND  
*Treasurer and Captain*

PHILIP J. HAMMOND  
*Financial Secretary*

JOSEPH HAMMOND.....*Secretary*

THEODORE MORRIS  
*Chairman, Trustees*

CHARLES PETERSON  
*Sergeant-at-Arms*

**T**HE PHILIP J. HAMMOND New Year Association was established on February 9, 1946, by Philip J. Hammond, whose name the club bears.

This comic club is noted for the size of its entry and the variety of the individual costumes. Club captain Hammond proudly points to the record established in previous years, and expects the club to be well represented in the prize competition in 1955.

Club entries are worked on in great secrecy, and members within the club vie with one another to present ideas of great originality. Special pride this year is being placed in the Captain's Cape. The theme represents Black and White Clowns, the length of the cape is forty feet, and eighteen suitably costumed page boys carry its weight.



# The Hegeman String Band

## OFFICERS

ELIAS MYERS .....*President*  
 HERMAN SEFLIN .....*Musical Director and Chairman, Board of Directors*  
 ALFRED FINK .....*Captain and Treasurer*  
 BOB MALONE .....*Secretary and Board Member*

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

GRIFF CAVEROW	JOE MCNICHOL	FRANK ORR
JOHN LITTEL	FRANK MORTON	JOE PAULAVAGE
FELIX KUJAWA		

**T**HIS FINE old Philadelphia institution was organized in 1920 by Ernest A. Hegeman. Prior to his death in the '30's he appointed Al Fink as captain, and Al has carried the torch even to this 1955 Parade.

Some noteworthy milestones in the Band's recent history are listed as an example of the background and prestige of

this fine group. They have entertained the President of the United States and received an invitation to play in the White House (Harry S. Truman in 1948). They were the first String Band to spread the fame of the Philadelphia Mummers' Parade as far as the Carolinas. Every Thanksgiving Day, from 1953 to 1959, they are engaged to fly to Charlotte, N. C., in a



Captain Alfred Fink of the Hegeman String Band is seen in a lavishly feathered Captain's Suit.

chartered plane to appear in their Carolina Carousel. An invitation to appear in the Miami Orange Bowl parade in Florida was turned down because this parade is also held on New Year's. As early as 1943, Hegeman pioneered the appearance of String Bands in the Academy of Music.

This band presented a highly original classic performance in the 1954 parade when they appeared garbed as the Sultan's Sabre Guards and playing Aram Khatchaturian's celebrated "Sabre Dance." They have hopes of surpassing even that fine event with a String Band version of Manuel De Falla's "Ritual Dance of Fire."



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**Nosegays from a  
Mummers Scrapbook**

During the Revolution when the British invaded Philadelphia, redcoat General Howe maintained the custom of a New Year's celebration and organized a pageant on January 1, 1778, which took place in front of the Wharton Mansion at Fifth and Federal Streets, now the site of the George Washington School. The unfortunate Major Andre, who was later to be hung by the Americans as a spy, enjoyed the spectacle and wrote back to England terming it a "gay and gorgeous affair."

★ ★ ★

Another favorite and venerable character of the early Mummers Parades was the traditional "Cooney Cracker," who was dressed in such a manner that he is believed to be the forerunner of the present Uncle Sam. His was a favorite role for the Speech Director, who would step forward and recite in sonorous tones—  
"Here come I, O Cooney Cracker  
I swear to Gawd my wife chews  
terbacker

A pipe is good, cigars are better  
Buy me some grog, and I'll write you  
a letter."

★ ★ ★

It was in the nineteenth century that New Year Mummery became an accepted part of Philadelphia tradition. On New Year's Eve, all Mummers parades would converge upon City Hall. The men would blacken their faces, turn their topcoats inside out, and carry stockings filled with potatoes or flour, which they would use to belt the citizenry across the shoulders, leaving telltale white marks on the black frock coats. They always brought with them pistols and a supply of blank cartridges and, when the great bell in the steeple indicated the arrival of the New Year, they would let loose a terrific din of shots, horns, bells, and songs which would arouse the entire town.

The New Year's Shooters in early days were particularly well organized in these sections of Philadelphia—Smokey Hallow, Stone House Lane, Prospect Park, Martins Village, Gardeners Crossing, Greenwich Point, Peacock Farms, and Windy Point.

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Bob Meimbresse, Jr. appeared as a juvenile dressed as "Buffalo Bill Jr."



The Meech Brothers present a trio of Clowns for the Hog Island N.Y.A.

# Hog Island New Years Association

## OFFICERS

RUDOLPH A. MEECH .....President  
ROBERT MEIMBRESSE .....Captain

THE HOG ISLAND New Year Association was organized in 1940 by a group of fancy and comic mummers formerly connected with other clubs. Their purpose was to have a mummers' club in West Philadelphia. The organizer of the club was Bill (Pop) Wethman, who was born on New Year's morning, 1869, and died in February, 1947. Pop paraded for 70 years—a grand record.

The club paraded on Broad Street as a comic club until 1950. At that time it was

reorganized, and since then has paraded as a fancy club. President Meech states that the primary purpose of the organization is to participate in the New Year's parade, and the members' efforts are directed to make the Hog Island Club tops in its field.

With fewer members than other established clubs, the Hog Island Club has had plenty of representation in the top three list of individual prize winners in all categories.



The Golden Slipper Brigade arrayed as "American Eagles."



FAR LEFT: Frank Austerman was a Prize Winner in the Handsomest Costume Division with Rockets to the Moon.

LEFT: William Freeman rated a prize in the Special Mention Division with this Butterfly.

## Charles Klein New Year Association

THE CHARLES KLEIN New Year Association was organized in 1911, and paraded on Broad Street for the first time the following New Year's Day. This is the oldest fancy club parading, second in age to only the Trilby String Band. The Klein boys are loaded with tradition and color. Throughout the years their one thought has been to give the viewing public the best in designs, color and theme. They have taken first prize in the fancy division more times than any other club and this year they hope to break all existing records by winning for six consecutive years: 1950 to 1955 inclusive.

Great names of mummery have been their leaders, and although many have departed this life the magic of the following names inspire the present day Klein men—Gamble, Shields, Klein, Funston, Coyle, Crawford. In present years their inspiration has been such men as Tursi, Chambers, Landy, Austerman, Walsh and Flinn.

The Klein Club considers 1955 to be the biggest and most colorful of all. The marchers will strut to the theme of "Rhapsody in Colors." The seven hundred marchers will be supplied with music from

five marching bands. The captain's cape will be a four section extravaganza of fluorescent satin made up of all the colors of the rainbow and carried by fifty-six boys. King Clown suits will be carried by George Murray, whose eight paneled, ten foot high mirror costume will be the envy of all clowns; F. Collins will be prancing in red and white satin, covered with spangles and sequins; and Morris Roddy, who holds first prize in this section for the past five years, hopes to again enchant the throngs with lavender and blue satin and matching parasol.

The Handsomest Costume section will have nine of these elaborate suits, headed by J. Chambers Fountain Spectacle. Fol-

lowing him will be Austerman's Space Rockets, R. Tursi's Indian Summer (a thing of beauty), R. Zeigler's Autumn Time, Bill Urban's Rainbow, etc.

The array of Jockeys, Clowns, Special Mention, Juveniles, Impersonators, Trim, and Trio Costumes will be surrounded by four outstanding Brigades. Represented are Bill McIntyre's Shooting Stars, David W. Crawford's Indians, Darktown Strutters, jam sessioners, and George Goodrich's 2nd Streeters.

This club wishes to go on record as promising that no Mardi Gras, Hollywood spectacular, or foreign festival will compare to what the Charles Klein N. Y. A. will display this New Year's Day, 1955.



Klein Club's Captain's Cape has been a first prize winner for 4 straight years. Here is a sample.



THE LIBERTY CLOWNS PRESENT A REAL PANORAMA WHEN VIEWED EN MASSE FROM ABOVE

## Liberty Clowns Comic Association

**T**HE LIBERTY CLOWNS New Year Association was organized in December, 1936, by Billy Torelli. He was made president, and Pete Marcello became captain of this comic organization. In 1938, the club became a member of the Association, and made its first appearance in the 1939 Mummies' Parade. Liberty Clowns gave the other clubs plenty of competition that year and made off with the third club prize.

In 1940 the swelling club membership added two more able men to their staff of officers: Mike Terry and Mickey Jackson.

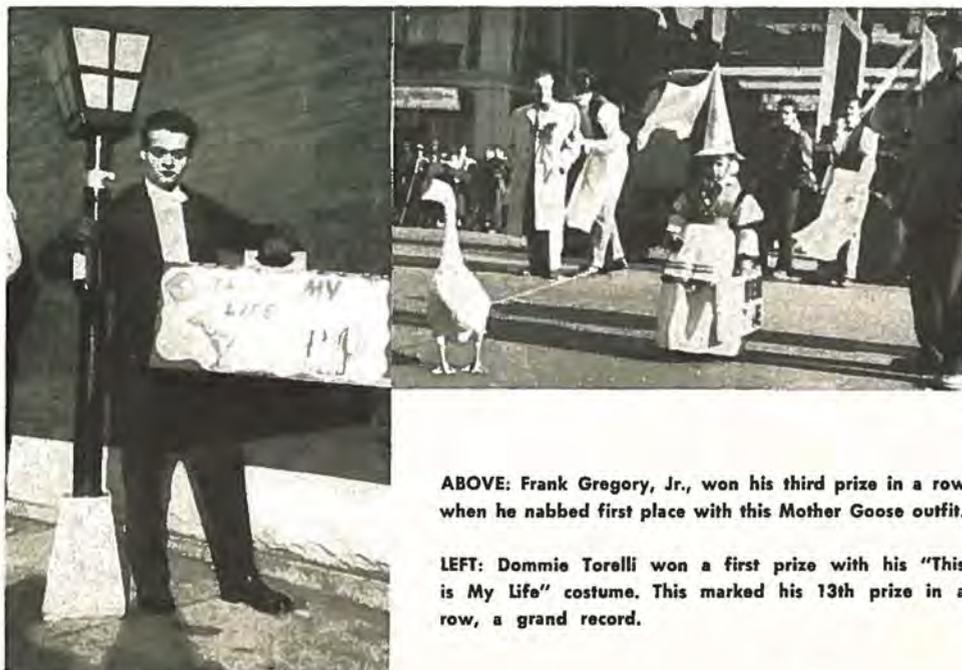
This club has achieved the following standings in past years:

2nd—1940 and 1941; 3rd—1942, 1943, 1944; 2nd—1945 through 1953; 1st—1954.

In 1950, Joe Schultz became the club's new captain. From 1951 through 1954 he has won four straight first prizes for his captain's cape, thus setting a record, and this year is shooting for his fifth win. In 1954 the Liberty Clowns took five first prizes: Club Prize; Joe Schultz' Captain Cape; Funniest Couple, entitled Moulin Rouge; Dommie Torelli's Original Costume; and Juvenile Frank Gregory, Jr.

### Theme

1. Juvenile—Frank Gregory, Jr., as Mary's Little Lamb.
  2. Juvenile—Frank Orlando, Jr., as a Walking Doll.
  3. Funniest Couple—Skokiaan Dancers.
  4. Funniest Couple — Papa Loves Mambo.
  5. Captain's Cape — Joseph Schultz, It's Philadelphia's Grime Dust Not Pay. 71 feet long, carried by 36 men.
  6. Brigade—82 Rainbow Clowns.
  7. Brigade—40 Hollywood Clowns.
  8. Funniest Character—Over the River to Garden State and Into the Barrel.
  9. Brigade—15 Cops Cleaning up the Teenagers.
  10. Float—A Six Foot Elephant as Gone But Not Forgotten.
  11. Float—A Woman Driver—Car Goes Up and Down.
  12. Float—A Barber Showing How to Make Hair Grow.
  13. Float—Magee and Wallace in the Days of the Roaring '20's, 32' float.
  14. Brigade—Led by Rocco Spatola, Cannibal Chief Looking for a U.S. Loan.
  15. Float — Mr. Sandman's Escort Agency.
  16. Float—Haunted House.
  17. Float—This Ole House.
  18. Group—Comic Page.
  19. Group—TV Stars on Parade.
  20. Funniest Couple—The Lady and the Tramp.
  21. Group—This Is Our Day.
  22. Group—The Gang Busters.
  23. Dommie Torelli shooting for his 14th first prize in a row as I'm No Juvenile Delinquent, carries a large cloak showing that he's home at 5 minutes of 10:00 p.m., and a quart of milk as his beverage.
  24. Float—Human Cannon Ball.
  25. Float—The Hot Seat, Grime Does Not Pay.
  26. Float—The Weather Man—wearing dark glasses and carrying a cane, everything he predicts comes out the opposite way.
  27. Float — Disgusted Millionaires Throwing Away Their Money (Stage money, of course).
- Total of 1800 Members



ABOVE: Frank Gregory, Jr., won his third prize in a row when he nabbed first place with this Mother Goose outfit.

LEFT: Dommie Torelli won a first prize with his "This is My Life" costume. This marked his 13th prize in a row, a grand record.

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## *The Show of Shows*

The show that beats all shows will be presented again in Philadelphia's Convention Hall this February. It's an event too fabulous to be missed.

For the past decade the string band division of the Philadelphia Mummers has been holding a show indoors, where the audience could sit in comfort away from any inclement weather and cold feet. This idea caught on as soon as it was started, and so great is the demand for tickets that the show is now presented for six nights. The reputation of the Philadelphia New Year's Shooters' and Mummers' Association is so widespread that the show attracts visitors from all over the middle eastern area of the country. Convention Hall is jammed to the doors for all six nights. The tickets are sold by members of the string band clubs and all seats are reserved.

A master of ceremonies is on hand to inform the public of just what band is coming on to the floor and what novelties they will present. Each club has the floor to itself and the complicated drills can be appreciated to their fullest extent. The colored lights in the Hall playing on the vari-colored satins, sequins, and plumes create a jeweled setting too brilliant for description. Starting at 8:00 P.M. the Belmar Community Band, an organization composed of youngsters under the leadership of Bill Lafferty, will entertain for a half hour. They serve as an introduction to a gala evening of swirling string band entertainment.

Be sure to get your tickets from the string band members as early as possible for this unique event. The evenings of the show are February 1, 2, 3, and 22, 23, 24, 1955. This is an entertainment you will eagerly await from year to year.

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# The Murray Club

## OFFICERS

HARRY TYLER .....*President*  
 JACK CARLO .....*Vice-President*  
 JOSEPH KEENAN .....*Secretary*  
 JOSEPH TYLER .....*Treasurer*  
 HARRY STATSENBERG .....*Financial Secretary*  
 DAN HERMAN .....*Captain*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 RAYMOND BODIER                JAMES WILSON  
 LARRY FEIST



# The Woodland String Band

## OFFICERS

DAVID ANDERSON, JR. ....*Captain*  
 DAVID "TOBEY" SAUNDERS .....*Drill Master*  
 PHIL KRAMER .....*Musical Director*

THE WOODLAND String Band was organized in 1926 and is one of the oldest String Bands to march up Broad Street. This year's theme will be "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Featured songs are *I'm Always Chasing Rainbows*, *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, and *Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder*. The costume will be constructed of specially made rainbow material, the headpiece representing a sunburst, white plumes for clouds with a rainbow running through them. Captain's costume will be covered with multi-colored sequins in a glorified version of the musicians' suits. The drill will include a huge rainbow formation as part of the presentation.



LEFT: Tom Napoleon won a first prize with this "walk-in" suit. This King Jockey is the only one of its kind ever built—note that the carrier's body is visible. CENTER: Joe Brown of the So. Franklin Brigade in costume of his prize-winning jester suit. RIGHT: A lavish Flower Suit entry from the Oregon Club.

## Oregon New Year Association

### OFFICERS

JAMES GREEN .....	President
THOMAS NAPOLEON .....	Vice-President
JOSEPH LYNCH .....	Recording Secretary
JOSEPH DUFFY .....	Financial Secretary
DAVID JACKSON .....	Treasurer
HARRY STARNER .....	Captain

THE OREGON Fancy Club was chartered in 1936, and is distinguished by its tasteful and lavish "chenille work." This beautiful and intricate embroidery is featured on such traditional fancy club entries as the captain's cape, clowns, jockeys, and special mention entries. Captain Harry Starner, who does this embroidering on the costumes practically single-handed, starts his work early in the summer so that the other club members can add the embellishments such as sequins, spangles, rosettes, and maribou trim later on in the year. The Oregon Club is

a neighborhood institution, and its hard-working members spend many after-job hours building their costumes. The ladies participate in the preparations of this club. For instance, Captain Starner's daughter, Mrs. Goldean Daubert, fashions at least 2500 satin rosebuds over the course of a year, while Joe Brown of the So. Franklin Brigade, tells us that his mother is responsible for the forty to fifty costumes it takes to make up their entry.

This year the Oregon Club will present as its theme "Winter Wonderland." The Captain's Cape will be a four-section mas-

terpiece, and will require fifty-five page boys to carry it. It is expected that 350 marchers will participate in their spectacular entry for 1955. There are three brigades in this club. In 1954 the Joker Brigade was a prize winner with its African Voodoo Warriors, fashioned by their costumer, Francis Palamidas. Captain Joe Walters of the Jokers is shooting for another prize this year with the theme of "A Calypso Fantasy," featuring Francis Palamidas as a Calypso woman, and presenting Joe Walters, Jr., age 2½, in his first appearance as a nummer. Little "Buck, Jr." has been conscientiously practicing the bow he will make before the judging stand.

The South Franklin Brigade, whose Captain is George Boshier, will present an old fashioned theme this year, with 20 lovely hoop-skirted ladies and 20 gallant gentlemen accompanying them.

This club is making a strong bid for first prize this year and hopes to furnish keen competition to the other fancy clubs.

RIGHT: Jokers Brigade of the Oregon Club seen in their prize-winning "African Voodoo Warriors." The white costume is worn by Francis Palamidas, as witch doctor.

BELOW: A couple of clown entries from the Oregon Club.



RIGHT: The Polish American String Band is seen during its appearance at the 1954 Miss America Beauty Pageant in Atlantic City.



# Polish American String Band

## OFFICERS

JOSEPH JANKOWSKI .....	President
JOHN BAUKUS .....	Vice-President
STANLEY GOGOJ .....	Secretary
WILLIAM BATCHELLER .....	Financial Secretary
JOHN FRITZ .....	Treasurer
CHUCK CIANOWSKI .....	Sergeant-at-Arms
WALTER KROP .....	Captain
E. SKOWRONSKI .....	Assistant Captain
BENJAMIN SITEK .....	Musical Director
ROBERT MICHAELS .....	Assistant Musical Director

ONE OF THE MORE remarkable string bands on Broad Street each year is the Polish American String Band. Its fame has spread as far as the distant cities of Pittsburgh, New York, and Chicago. Sparkling music and outstanding drills, as the now famous Mexican Hat Dance, are the band's trademark. Always in the top prize winners, the band has won first prize in 1941, 1949, 1952, and 1954.

As in past years, the band is presenting this year a new and different idea. The theme this year is the gay, Parisian "Can Can." You'll hear such enchanting melodies as *C'est Magnifique* and of course, the frolicking French *Can Can*. Many of the songs played by the band are from the Broadway hit of the same name.

The drill and costumes of the 67 men in the line of march will carry out the theme. It is to be noted that the headpieces were all made by the members themselves under the direction of the club's officers.



LEFT: Captain Walter Krop of the Polish American String Band is the embodiment of the Mexican Hat Dance.

# *Purul Comic Club*

**T**HE JOSEPH A. PURUL New Year Association was organized April 15th, 1936, and the 1955 parade marks its 19th consecutive participation. Since its initial march on Broad Street in 1937, the Purul Comic Club was awarded first or second honors excepting two occasions when it placed third.

Such Mummer greats as John Galloway, Al Orr, Frank Focaccio, Elmer Kammeraad, Tom Stewart, Fred Winkler, Baumheister and Parcels headline the prize lists of the Purul Comic Club from year to year. These shooters brought to the Purul Club years of experience as well as a great mummer heritage and honors stemming back to times prior to the inauguration of the Broad Street Parade at the turn of the 20th century.

Today the Purul Comic Club hopes to uphold its tradition of being among the top prize winners. Its members wish especially to salute the parade watchers, extending wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year to all!



**RIGHT: One of the entries prepared by the Joseph A. Purul New Year Association.**

# Quaker City String Band

## OFFICERS

JOHN M. STRINE .....	President
CHARLES MYERS, SR. ....	Vice-President
JOSEPH DEVINE .....	Recording Secretary
JOHN ADGATE .....	Secretary
RAYMOND ENDRISS .....	Captain and Treasurer
JOHN MAYER .....	Musical Director
GEORGE MYERS, SR. ....	Assistant Musical Director

THE QUAKER CITY String Band will be very sophisticated this year with the theme of "Show Business." The drill and the music will portray all that might be seen and heard in various shows that have been staged in the past years. A number of well-known show tunes from beloved musicals of the past will be recalled. The musicians will dance up Broad Street, their drill will represent the formations of a male chorus line as seen in a large Broadway show.

The public will hear such lovely tunes as: *There's No Business Like Show Business*, *You Do Something to Me*, *Lover, Lover, Come Back to Me*, *Broadway Melodies*, *Will You Remember* (from "May-

time"), *Poor Butterfly*, *A Pretty Girl, My Little Girl*, and *You Know and I Know*.

The costumes will present a picture of the stage, the headpiece will represent the stage itself with four chorus girls dressed in gold and sequins. The marching suit will be of white satin with sequin and ostrich trimmings. The cape will be of white and candy pink satin, on the back decorated with five dancing girls. The captain's costume will be an even more glorified version with gold trim and his headpiece, approximately eight feet high, will contain two hundred plumes.

There will be seventy musicians in the line of march.



RIGHT: The Quaker City String Band as seen on the street in the 1954 Parade.

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# Men Only Need Apply

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It is a well-known fact that women are always welcome but not in the New Year Mummers Parade. However, despite the traditional rule which forbids females from participating in this show of shows, there have been one or two occasions in which a persistent dame has made her way to fame but there are also numerous other occasions in which they have been detected and ejected.

One of the first known successful trespassers was in 1929, when a well-known female newspaper columnist joined the parade dressed as an Eskimo and finished without being detected. The next day she featured in her column her successful violation of tradition and occasioned much amusement by the story of her diffi-

culties wherein she repeatedly had to turn down numerous offers to smoke big black cigars.

Another time, a mother of one of the Mummers marched to Broad and Race Streets carrying a huge photograph of her son who was serving overseas. Her identity was discovered and the official rules were explained. The woman admitted that she had not been aware of such a ruling and was merely trying to carry on the tradition of her boy, who had always participated in the parade but was unable to be present for this one due to his being in the Army.

Another instance was when Calli, a daughter of Indian Chief Chingachook, was discovered ready to march with her father in noble redskin fashion. Assistant Director George B. McClernand, Jr., ruled that she could not march. Chief Chingachook said in noble accents, "Calli no march—me no march," and the parade lost two full-blooded Indians.

There are some who say the Mummers learned the truth of the statement that women and Mummery just don't mix when, in 1940, they made the error of permitting a girls' band from Buffalo, New York, to parade with them during the Show of Shows given for the Republican National Convention. The following year, they were swamped with requests and applications from girl bands from every section of the country. In fact, two determined female groups showed up equipped with banjos and had to be almost forceably detained from fighting their way to the string band section.

The cases of gals trying to parade in becoming costumes of page boys are without number, but their masquerade has been discovered time and time again by the eagle-eyed parade officials. As one old-timer says in words that smack of truth, "Their legs just don't look the same."

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# *South Philadelphia String Band Association, Inc.*

## OFFICERS

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 PAT. PILONE .....*Recording Secretary*  
 J. O'BRIEN .....*Treasurer*  
 W. KENNEY .....*Sergeant-at-Arms*  
 R. GURT .....*Captain*  
 L. CLAUSER .....*Musical Director*  
 J. ELLIOTT .....*Drill Master*

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

B. WOOD	A. SCHOOLS	J. COYLE
R. KAIGE	C. ROLETTE	

**H**HEADQUARTERS of the South Philadelphia String Band, non-profit making organization, is located at 1554 South Etting Street, where weekly rehearsals, monthly meetings, and other activities pertaining to mummery take place.

In its eight years of existence, the band has strived to cultivate music appreciation, wherever possible, by entertaining and performing at various charitable and civic affairs, all over the state of Pennsylvania.

Originating on May 14, 1946, with only six members enrolled, the organization now boasts a membership of sixty-three active musicians working together through each year to obtain perfection in the big event for every New Year Shooter, the annual Mummings Parade on New Year's Day.

The 1955 parade will see as the South Philadelphia theme "Melodies of the Golden West," and such favorite songs as *Tumbling Tumbleweeds*, *Deep in the Heart of Texas*, *Back in the Saddle Again*, *Ridin' Down the Canyon*, *Sioux City Sue*, and *Rose of San Antone* will supply the marching music.



**RIGHT: South Philadelphia String Band seen marching in the Miss America Beauty Pageant Parade in Atlantic City, 1954.**

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LEFT: Trilby in formation with the theme "Hit Parade."



BOTTOM LEFT: Trilby on the boardwalk of Atlantic City garbed as Eskimos.



BELOW: President William Mink of the Trilby String Band.

# Trilby String Band

## OFFICERS

WILLIAM MINK .....	<i>President</i>
JACK TOWERS .....	<i>Honorary President</i>
GENE NAIMOLI .....	<i>Treasurer</i>
ED. STEWART .....	<i>Secretary</i>
ADAM QUAGLIA .....	<i>Captain</i>
BENJAMIN GANGEMI .....	<i>Musical Director</i>
JAMES MCKNIGHT .....	<i>Assistant Musical Director</i>

THE TRILBY String Band was the first band to enter the Mummies Parade in 1902. Its continued excellence and originality have earned for it many first and second prizes. Trilby also has the distinction of being the first band to use the flute and saxophone.

The parade this year will no doubt bring back many memories to Jack Towers, who was the first musical director and who will be seen riding in the lead car. Trilby,

the father of String Bands, has for its captain this year that fine shooter, Adam Quaglia. With the theme of "Pennies from Heaven" and dressed in blue and gold with a six foot headpiece decked in white plumes with a huge penny in the center, the sixty musicians plan to delight the audience. Marching music will include such numbers as *Pennies from Heaven*, *A Penny a Kiss—A Penny a Hug*, and *Blue Skies*.

William Mink, the president of Trilby String Band has a surprise for the public this year. A progressive drill and dance performance will be presented for the first time in any Mummies Parade. Mr. Mink congratulates Mrs. Helen McKnight for a fine job of instructing the band in something new for this year's observers. This is sure to be enjoyable; don't miss it!

After just getting over the big fire that burned out the club in 1953, Mr. Mink feels sure his club will be on the rebound and make a great showing on Broad Street. They extend thanks to all the people that helped prepare their entry, and wish one and all a Happy New Year.

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LEFT: A section of the Uptown String Band garbed in their overseas theme. Capt. Robert Runkle, Jr. and son are seen in the foreground.

# The Uptown String Band

## OFFICERS

ROBERT W. RUNKLE, SR. ....	<i>President</i>
JAMES L. BEATTY, SR. ....	<i>Vice-President</i>
ROBERT W. RUNKLE, JR. ....	<i>Captain</i>
CLIFF JOHNSON, JR. ....	<i>Business Director</i>
JOHN HEROLD ....	<i>Treasurer</i>
CARL H. HEERE ....	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
CHRIS FRYE ....	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
FRANK BEATTY ....	<i>Musical Director</i>
JACK WATTENMAKER ....	<i>Assistant Musical Director</i>
EDWARD HUMPHREY, SR. ....	<i>Lieutenant</i>

THE UPTOWN String Band, better known as the "Four Leaf Clover" band due to the tremendous success of their "Four Leaf Clover" record, was organized more than 17 years ago on February 15th, 1937, by a membership of 8 musicians. Today, this band has reached a membership of eleven officers and 59 members. Meetings are held Monday evenings from 7:45 P.M. to 10 P.M. at band headquarters, 1937 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia.

It wasn't until 1951 (14 years later), that Uptown was finally recognized as a top band of the Mummers Association. Since

then, they have taken 2nd or 3rd prize each year in the New Year's Day Parade. This New Year's Day will find Uptown doing its very best to realize their chief ambition of taking first prize in the New Year's Day Parade. The officers and members of the band have worked exceptionally hard to bring Uptown to the top where they are today and they are very proud of the record that has been achieved through a long, hard struggle. The band has played in many towns and cities in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, and has made

personal appearances in outstanding clubs, theatres, and parks of these states.

In past years, the Uptown String Band has been seen on Broad Street costumed as Indian Chiefs, Little Dutch Boys and Girls, Four Leaf Clovers, Glorified Butterflies, etc. This year Uptown will recall their lucky 4-leaf clover theme and hope thus again to delight the onlookers. The theme will be "Uptown on Parade" and marching will be done to the tunes of *Uptown March*, *Marching Along Together*, *Stouthearted Men*, and that great old tune: *Four Leaf Clover*, which Uptown revived. The drill will spell out the name of Uptown. The 67 musicians in the line of march will be costumed in glorious green and white. The eye-catching marching suit will be surmounted by a headgear constructed into a 7 foot by 7 foot clover; a lavish cape embellished with six dozen plumes and a large music staff painted in gold, will dazzle the audience.

The Uptown String Band extends an invitation to would-be string band musicians to contact any officer of the band regarding membership in this organization. Men that can meet the requirements set forth in the string band pledge, are invited to join actively in the historic Mummers' celebration.



LEFT: Capt. Robert Runkle, Jr. is seen in three of his suits from former years. Left to right they are: Dutch Boy, Indian and Butterfly.

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# *S. D. Wheeler Fancy Club, N.Y.A.*

## OFFICERS

WILLIAM STROBEL .....*President*

HAROLD McCALLUM .....*Treasurer*

FRANK SHAY .....*Captain*

BILL DOYLE .....*Vice-President*

**T**HE S. D. WHEELER Club is competing for its 24th time this year. They have gone all-out in their efforts to make 1955 the best year Buck Wheeler has ever had.

Due to Buck Wheeler being in poor health the fellows in the club have gone behind the eight-ball to put everything brand new on the street this year. A great deal of hard work has been put in by these club members and this year's entry is deserving of close attention and acclaim.

It is estimated that there will be eight hundred participants from the Wheeler Club represented. Included will be four bands to supply marching music and four complete brigades. Featured will be a colossal, brand-new captain's cape, composed of four sections and measuring over 140 feet in length. The theme will be "Hearts and Flowers" and is presented with a 3-D effect.

Special mention should be given to the participating juveniles, who are: Billy McCallum, Frank Shay, Jr., James Carney and Billy Doyle, Jr. Among the brigades marching will be seen such prize winning organizations as the Manton Street Brigade, 7th Street Brigade, and the Dormer Brigade.

The top left picture above shows Capt. Shay in his "Golden Sunburst."





**LEFT:** The Fralinger String Band won eleventh prize with its "Char-maine" theme in 1953.



**ABOVE:** Fralinger String Band displays a couple of its Eddie Cantor Revue costumes that earned them 9th prize in 1954.



**ABOVE:** Captain Harry Straub of the Greater Overbrook String Band is seen in his 1954 costume.

**RIGHT:** A close-up of some of the elaborate costumes worn by Aqua String Band in 1951.





**LEFT: The Durning String Band is seen in one of its drill formations.**



**RIGHT: Greater Overbrook String Band en masse, in the 1954 parade. This year they will be seen garbed to carry out the theme "Vineyard."**



**LEFT: The Durning String Band as it appeared on the street in 1954. New Year's Day 1955 will see them present the theme "Wooden Soldiers."**

Mummers' Official Photographer:  
 ROY ROBERTS  
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<b>FANCY COSTUME CLUB DIVISION</b>	ENTIRE CLUB .....	4	\$4800.00	\$1600.00
	CAPTAIN'S COSTUME .....	4	1700.00	575.00
	COSTUME GROUP .....	9	2090.00	370.00
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	KING JOCKEY COSTUME .....	5	750.00	200.00
	HANDSOME TRIM COSTUME .....	6	825.00	200.00
	TRIO PANTOMIME CLOWNS .....	3	225.00	85.00
	FEMALE IMPERSONATORS .....	6	175.00	55.00
	HANDSOMEST COSTUME .....	6	1275.00	275.00
	TRIO OF CLOWNS .....	4	700.00	225.00
	TRIO OF JOCKEYS .....	4	700.00	225.00
	SPECIAL MENTION .....	10	1320.00	225.00
	JUVENILES .....	10	315.00	70.00
<b>COMIC CLUB DIVISION</b>	ENTIRE CLUB .....	5	8650.00	2000.00
	BRIGADE .....	15	895.00	150.00
	FLOATS .....	15	635.00	125.00
	COSTUME GROUP .....	10	395.00	85.00
	SPECIAL MENTION .....	15	570.00	75.00
	MOST ORIGINAL COSTUME .....	10	280.00	60.00
	FUNNIEST COUPLE .....	10	280.00	60.00
	MOST ORIGINAL CHARACTER .....	10	280.00	60.00
	JUVENILE .....	10	190.00	40.00
	CAPTAIN'S COSTUME .....	5	925.00	250.00
<b>STRING BAND DIVISION</b>	ENTIRE CLUB .....	21	22600.00	2000.00
	CAPTAIN'S COSTUME .....	3	600.00	250.00

### TOTAL PRIZE MONEY

FANCY COSTUME CLUB DIVISION .....	\$15,700.00
COMIC CLUB DIVISION .....	13,100.00
STRING BAND DIVISION .....	23,200.00

**GRAND TOTAL ALL PRIZE MONEY ..... \$52,000.00**

Mummers Magazine Produced by:



Details, layout, and artwork by Florence K. Liebman

# All Hail the MUMMERS!

...be there when the bands start playing

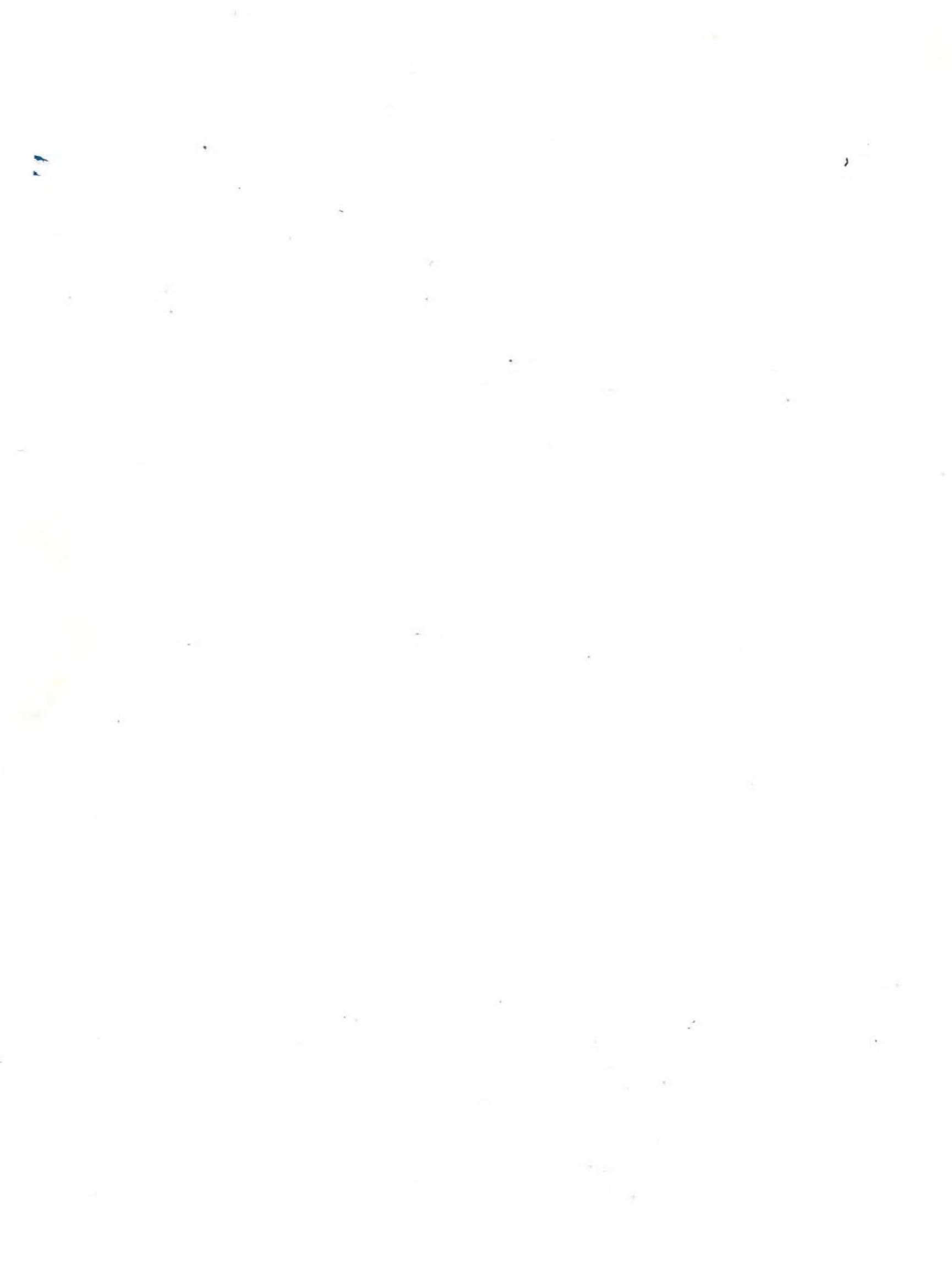


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Ask any of your friends now on the Payroll Savings Plan. They'll tell you that it is the *one* way you can save easily and

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You don't have to save much at a time, either. Just a couple of dollars a week. Or, as much as you wish. For the secret is that you save systematically, and constantly. And the U. S. Savings Bonds you accumulate on this easy Plan now bring you an average of 3% interest, compounded semiannually, for 19 years and 8 months!

Why don't you make sure—today—that you'll have the security you want in 1975? Sign where you work, for the Payroll Savings Plan. Or join the Bond-A-Month Plan where you bank.

The cost of preparation and publishing of this space as a patriotic service was paid for by public spirited citizens of Philadelphia.

***Make all your New Years happier—  
own U. S. Savings Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan***