

THE MUMMERS MAGAZINE

Philadelphia New Year Shooters'
and
Mummers' Association, Inc.

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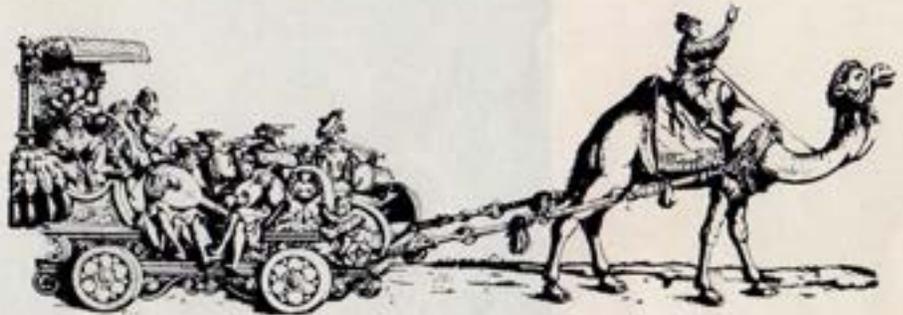


Parade Program

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

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

● The Philadelphia New Year Shooters' and Mummers' Association strives to keep its New Year's Parade as original and modern as tomorrow. Still, the roots of this celebration are deeply grounded in ancient traditions and customs, and your mummer of today has as his ancestor a Roman citizen who lived in 400 B. C. In order that our public may better appreciate the historical significance of what he observes today, we take pleasure in recounting this brief background.



ORIGINS of MUMMERY

Mummery goes back into the realms of antiquity and there are many suggestions advanced regarding its origin and purpose.

In trying to analyze the mass of fiction and fact, it is definitely established that back in 400 B.C., the citizens of the Roman Empire honored the great God Saturn in a series of festive events known as the Saturnalia. The purpose of the celebration was for the reaping of the harvest, but today, any terrific party is referred to by the same name and no reason is needed for its start or continuation.

During the Roman period of Saturnalia, everyone tried to dress in the garments of a class different from his own. Slaves would wear the finery of their masters and the latter in turn would don the ragged raiment of the slaves. This change of garb always seemed to exhilarate the individuals concerned, cares and troubles would be forgotten, the music would play, the dancing would start, and everyone would have an extraordinarily good time forgetting to be themselves and indulging in pleasures which would have otherwise been denied.

Through the centuries, nation after nation has seized upon the slightest excuse by which the people could enjoy themselves and engage in celebration. They gave different names to the festivities but they all had the same purpose.

One of the earliest merry-makings was the "Masque" celebrated in Florence, Italy. It was also known as the Florentine Carnival and was usually held prior to the start of Lent. The monks of the Middle Ages, powerless to prevent these affairs, acquiesced to the same and designated the merry-making period as a time given over to the "Lords of Misrule and the Abbots of Unreason." Each particular neighborhood would provide floats and the most popular was the one depicting a graveyard. At a given signal, the graves would open and celebrants dressed as skeletons would appear singing:

Dead we are as ye may see;
Dead like us ye soon shall be.
Once ourselves were just like ye;
Soon yourselves shall be like we.

Another song of the time was one that sets forth the tempo of the whole affair:

We dance and sing and prance and fling,
'Tis grace that makes us glad,
No greater bliss can be than he
Who piously goes mad,
Then let us all go mad, go mad,
Then let us all go mad.

The "Lord of Misrule" was another very famous carnival personage and in European countries would begin his reign at Hallowe'en and extend it until Candlemas Day.

In England and in France, Shrove Tuesday and the Eve of Ash Wednesday were days of celebration and mummery during which time people would get on stilts or place contraptions on their shoulders in order to give them height and start what was popularly known as the "Procession of Giants."

Another origin of the present Mummers celebrations was the "Feast of Fools" which is celebrated at Christmastime in England. This usually begins the day after Christmas and extends from December 26 to January 6, which is called "Twelfth-night." It was during this period of time that the Three Kings set forth to bring their gifts to the Infant, and this fact called for the celebrators to dress in their conception of Eastern garb and go from house to house to either collect or give presents.

A very important post in England during these Twelfth-night festivities was the "Master of Revels." It was he who had the right to designate what games would be played and to levy the forfeit for failure to perform satisfactorily and to reward those who excelled in various lines of endeavor.

Another claim is that Mummery started in Holland and comes from the Dutch word, "Momme," meaning mask. There is no doubt that the Dutch and the Germans engaged in this type of entertainment and one of their famous songs sung while in mask was:

"To shorten winter sadness
See where the folks with gladness
Disguised all are coming
Right wantonly a-mumming."

At the present time it is generally conceded that the origin of Mummery is seated in the person of King Momus, 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, much in the manner of the present-day Mummer. However, and beware, he fell in love with the beautiful Aphrodite but because of his reputation for gab-bolting and lack of decorum, she would have none of his wooing. The story goes that Momus died of a broken heart but the other gods were merciful and permitted him to come back to earth at certain times to preside over periods of joyous celebration, many of which have been described in this article.

When emigrants left the old world for the new, they brought with them their many customs of celebration and gaiety, and the Mardi Gras in New Orleans and the Mummers Parade in Philadelphia are but two outstanding examples of this old-world influence.



Once again, it is our privilege to witness the unforgettable spectacle of the New Year's Mummings' Parade.

Each year, the Parade has been responsible for attracting thousands of visitors to our city. They have gone away thrilled by your performance, and have spread the word of your fame across the Nation. There is no question but what your clubs are making a

significant contribution toward enhancing our city's reputation.

It is my pleasure and privilege to wish each and every member of the Association a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

—RICHARDSON DILWORTH, *Parade Marshal,*
Mayor,
City of Philadelphia.



In Philadelphia, New Year's Day traditionally belongs to the Mummers.

Each year the colorful Mummers Parade adds a new page in the pageantry of King Momus. The resplendent costumes and intricate routines have earned nation-wide fame for the Parade as one of the outstanding events of the year.

Philadelphia is proud and honored to have the opportunity each year to present this out-

standing event.

It is a pleasure to welcome the 1956 Mummers Parade with the confidence that, as in the past, this year's parade will bring high quality entertainment to many thousands of people.

—JOSEPH S. CLARK, JR.,

*Former Mayor,
City of Philadelphia*

PHILADELPHIA NEW YEAR'S SHOOTERS' and MUMMERS' ASSOCIATION



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Vice-President



JOHN HOGG
Financial Secretary



JOHN ARLETH
Treasurer



ROBERT HALL
Recording Secretary



BILLIE TORELLI
Sergeant-at-Arms



WILLIAM MINK, President

Today the City of Philadelphia watches its traditional and fabulous Mummers' Parade as it marches up Broad Street on their fifty-sixth trip. It was on January 1, 1901 that the first organized Mummers' Parade was presented. Before that time, for close to 250 years, Philadelphians held gay and impromptu celebrations that displeased some factions of the citizenry, while at the same time delighting the less inhibited elements.

The Philadelphia New Year 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 earth. Everyone who sees it, young and old, can appreciate the fun, music, and artistry of what is presented. Through organization and cooperation our Association has built a spectacular parade that could never have been achieved through spur of the moment celebrations. In so doing, we feel that we have succeeded also in preserving the unique quality of the individual we call a "real shooter."

There is no financial gain through this parade to the mummer himself. This individual 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. There are no statistics to prove it, but we feel that our endeavors have helped in no small degree to keep many youngsters from drifting into less constructive channels of activity. Sometimes it takes a great personal sacrifice to put a club on the street, and it is this sort of courage, that among other things, makes me so proud to serve as president of this Association.

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.

—WILLIAM MINK, President.

PHILADELPHIA NEW YEAR'S SHOOTERS' and MUMMERS' ASSOCIATION



ROBERT MEIMBRESSE
Fancy Club Director

BENJAMIN J. STANGO
Fancy Club Director



HARRY W. TYLER
Comic Club Director

JOSEPH PURUL, SR.
Comic Club Director



WALTER KROP
String Band Director

RAY GURT
String Band Director



JOHN J. FRALINGER
President, String Band Association

RAYMOND ENDRISS
Vice-President, String Band Association



HOWARD PEOPLES
Secretary, String Band Association

SOL GINSBURG
Publicity Director
Phila. New Year Shooters' &
Mummers' Association

Recreation Officials Greet The Mummers.....



Fabian Bachrach



The New Year Shooters' and Mummers' Association Parade is one of the highlights of the City. The parade has become an institution, not only in the lives of Philadelphians but for visitors from far and wide.

We are also cognizant of the fact that the New Year Shooters' and Mummers' Association contributes generously of its time and talents in the presentation of summer concerts, which received favorable commendation from thousands of our citizens.

The Department of Recreation has enjoyed working with the New Year Shooters' and Mummers' Association and we express to each and every member our appreciation for the splendid cooperation that we have received.

It is our hope that the parade will continue to be received so warmly by all Philadelphians and that we can all look forward to this fine tradition being continued with even greater success.

—ROBERT W. CRAWFORD, *Assistant Parade Marshal,
Commissioner of Recreation.*

I am proud to greet the New Year's Mummers' Association as they prepare to take their gala procession up Broad Street for the 55th year in their traditional salute to the New Year.

Philadelphia and many thousands of visitors to our town will again be thrilled by the colorful fancy clubs, laugh at the antics of the comic divisions and tap their feet to the lilting music of the string bands.

Just as the Mummers greeted the dawn of the Twentieth Century in their first parade, may they continue to greet the New Year in their time-honored fashion for many years to come. In behalf of my fellow Philadelphians, may I express our deep gratitude to the multitude who have made the spirit of King Momus live again and bring happiness to the hearts of men, women and children of all ages each joyous New Year.

—FREDRIC R. MANN,
*Former Commissioner of Recreation,
City of Philadelphia.*



As the year of 1955 comes to an end, and the year of 1956 begins, Philadelphians and many out-of-town visitors will be entertained by the Mummers' Parade — which is one of Philadelphia's best known traditions.

The Mummers with their gaiety, colorful costumes and good music enable us to start the New Year in a happy and jovial mood.

It is a pleasure to work with the Philadelphia New Year's Mummers' Association, which serves the City of Philadelphia in many of the City's functions through the year and brings fame and good will to our great City.

—LUKE E. FOLEY,
Assistant to the Commissioner of Recreation

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Philadelphia can be proud of many things, but one of the brightest gems in the Quaker City's crown of achievement is the Mummers Parade. It has been estimated that more people watch this parade than any other sport, civic, or organizational event.

Each New Year's Day, the Mummers, young and old, between the ages of three and who knows what, assemble in South Philadelphia in order to start their parade northward to the judges' stand. The glittering, colorful Fancy clubs, the hilarious, lively Comics, and the attractive, gaily-strumming String bands — all are an integral part of a magnificent "Show of Shows" and without them, New Year's Day in Philadelphia would lose its tradition and prestige.

Every year that I am named Parade Director, I am extremely proud of the privilege accorded me and cherish the friendship which makes such an appointment possible. It is an honor which can be given to only one man, so you can well understand the reason why I attach so much importance to the honor.

On behalf of the Mummers and the officials of the Parade, let me wish the citizens of Philadelphia and vicinity a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. I hope you are with us in person when the Parade starts up Broad Street. If you cannot be there, I am sure you will be watching the Parade on television or listening to it through radio. If all this is impossible, please remember us in your hearts and know that we wish you the very best for 1956.

—MAGISTRATE ELIAS MYERS.



MAGISTRATE ELIAS MYERS
Director of Parade



ROBERT RODEBAUGH
Assistant Parade Director



CARL ZEIDLER
Comic Division Director



JAMES KINEE
Fancy Division Director



CHIEF INSPECTOR ALBERT J. TRIMMER
Police Department Operations Commander

THANKS to----
PHILADELPHIA'S FINEST

The Philadelphia Police Department does its utmost each year to insure the safe and successful accomplishment of the Mummers' Parade. The effective means they utilize to control traffic and to safeguard the spectators are known to all. But much credit goes also to that band of intrepid police officers who rise up early in the cold gray morning of New Year's Day to be the very first to lead off the parade with proper pomp and fanfare.

In 1955, the familiar mounted police were replaced by a Police Motorcycle Escort, who will appear again in 1956. Sixteen solo motorcycles will be the first in the line of march; included in this total are Command Personnel. Men chosen for this assignment are chosen on the basis of their riding ability, riding a motorcycle at a walking gait for a sustained distance is one of the most difficult types of riding. In the event of inclement weather, sidecar motorcycles will be used instead.

The Police Color Guard who lead the parade up the length of Broad Street consists of five policemen of the Foot Traffic District, chosen on the basis of appearance and military service background. The proud

bearers of our city and country colors for 1956 will be Robert Klotz, 3395; Thomas Gold, 2184; Edward Shanahan, 1505; William Moss, 2261, and Joseph Sasse, 3583.

Seen also will be the Police and Firemen's Band, who will add their practiced music to the send-off. This group of forty-eight members is led by Police Captain Dante Galdi.

A very important factor in the orderly progression of the parade is the communications system set up by the Philadelphia Police Department. A plain black police car, assigned to Chief Inspector Albert J. Trimmer, equipped with a two-way police radio, is placed immediately behind the motorcycle escort and follows along the route of the parade. This car is used to relay the parade's progress to the Police Radio room and this information is then broadcast to other police vehicles which are stationed at strategic spots along the route.

The Mummers and the City of Philadelphia are proud of their police, and grateful to them for their efficient ministrations the year 'round, and on New Year's Day.

This Mummers' and New Year Shooters' Demonstration rightfully deserves the slogan - -

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We appreciate the many hundreds of customers whose accounts and business we enjoy throughout the year that are members of this fine organization who carry on the traditions of our good City of Philadelphia.

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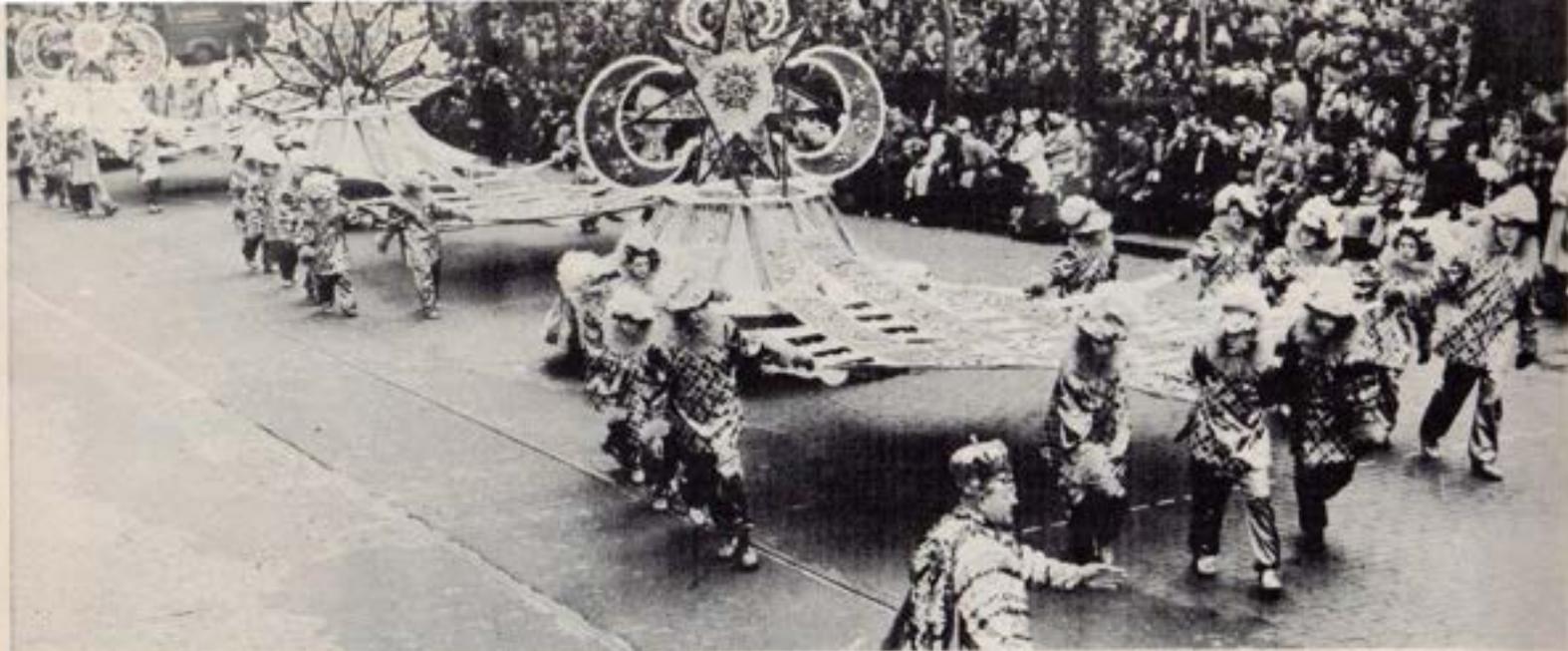


As a boy, one of my fondest dreams was to become a Mummer. Each year as I watched the shimmering, dancing, prancing, happy paraders turn Broad Street into a kaleidoscope of color and vitality, I would regret my inability to be among them. As the years moved on, I lost my propensities to be a parader but never my interest and pleasure in watching these able performers.

As a police official, I have always been impressed with the spirit of good fellowship, the desire to please, and the strict discipline which is maintained by the Mummies during their various events. Public attention is always directed to you because you are definitely a part of the Philadelphia way of life; therefore, it is essential that all of your activities are conducted in such a manner that you will always uphold the high prestige and honor of your various organizations.

The Philadelphia Police Department wishes you a Happy New Year and is proud to assist you in making your New Year Parade an outstanding success.

—THOMAS J. GIBBONS,
Commissioner,
Philadelphia Police Department



First Prize-winning Captain Cape in the Fancy Division was this entry from the Oregon Fancy Club.

TURN BACK THE PAGES

1955 — This was Philadelphia's biggest and most brilliant spectacle as over ten thousand gaily-clad Mummers turned four miles of Broad Street into a fairyland of color and music. The weather was somewhat cool as the early sun's rays began to pierce the morning gray fog, and suddenly the sun was up and the 55th New Year's Mummer's Parade was under way.

The Fancy Division led the parade with the Oregon Club capturing the first prize of \$1600 with their highlight theme, "The Calypso Fantasy." This featured dozens of dancers dressed in well-known Carmen Miranda style headpiece and beating out popular airs on their mambo drums.

The first prize in the Fancy Division for the best-dressed captain also went to Oregon when Harry Starner's cape, stretching a half-block long and decorated with 5,000 rosebuds, provoked continual applause from the spectators. The four-section captain's cape had as its main colors gold, kelly green, and cerise, was trimmed with green and white maribou, and seven gold diamonds trimmed with stars and rosebuds made up the captain's headpiece.

Following the Fancy Division came the Madcap Comics with their satire on every possible person and incident. Here was Jackie Gleason's "The Poor Soul," "Reggie Van Gleason," "The June Taylor Dancers," and others too many to mention.

The Liberty Clowns won the first brigade prize for their satire on "All Chiefs—No Indians," and this same club won the first float prize and the first group prize.

The Murray Club won the prize for the most original costume, which, incidentally, were TV characters Art Carney and Alice, the prize for the funniest couple and the most original character.

Then came the Third Section of the parade which is one of the most eagerly awaited treats of the whole spectacle, namely, the String Band Division. This year it was better than ever with twenty-one bands in line.

So much practice, training, and initiative is put into each of these units that it is considered a high honor to be accorded the top band, and for 1955, it was the Polish-American String Band, which utilized a Parisian theme with a Can-Can motif. Their marching song was the familiar strains of Offenbach's Can-Can music from "Gaité Parisienne."

The seventy musicians were dressed in ensembles of gold, yellow, orange, and black. The familiar bonnets bore white and orange plumes and as they played, they did a string band's version of the famous French dance.

The winning captain of the String Band Section was Fred Kesel of the Aqua Club. This string band used the "Siamese Dancers" as their theme and Kesel was dressed to represent the four-armed god Vishnu, covered in silver serge, with sequin silver clusters of silver bells tinkling from his legs. His headpiece was terrific and was supposed to represent the Temple of Dawn. It was made of silver and white satin and adorned with white plumes.

It was truly a wonderful parade, but each year they say the same — "This was the best, but wait until next year."



Bill Wicker, Sr., and Billy, Jr., of the Oregon Club, took 4th Prize as "Snowmen" in the Special Mention Class.

BELOW: "All Chiefs and No Indians" netted first Brigade Prize for the Liberty Clowns. Leading off was Don "Cobb" Casasanto.



"King Kong" took second float prize for the Liberty Clowns, John Lutz leading.



Billy Druding of the Oregon Club took first prize as "King of Hearts" in the Trio Clowns classification.

● **String Band Prize Winners'**
Pictures Can Be Seen
on the Back Cover.



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**FEBRUARY 7th, 8th, 9th
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FEBRUARY 21st, 22nd, 23rd
1956**

8:00 P. M.

ALL SEATS RESERVED

*Tickets sold by
String Band Members*

The First Mummies' Parade

The Philadelphia Mummies started in the first Swedish Settlers' community in 1654 when groups dressed in outlandish costumes would go from house to house. This practice grew in popularity and was picked up by the inhabitants of South Philadelphia which was known in those days as "The Neck." As time went on, each neighborhood would organize their own Mummies group and invade the city proper in order to get food, drink, and money. Finally, it was agreed in 1901 that all the Mummies would band together and have one big parade. This was the first official recognition by the city who also put up prize money. That year 42 clubs fell in line at Broad and Reed Streets to contest for these prizes and started the first Mummies Parade up Broad Street.

An account of the Mummies carnival did not make the first page because the importance of the affair was not recognized; however, a story was published that read as follows:

"For two hours yesterday, almost to a minute, the official section of Philadelphia represented by the public buildings was given over to mummery so fantastic that the shades of the staid Quakers, who gave it its sobriquet, must have cloaked themselves in their gay winding sheets and stalked to bournes more sedate. Beneath the eyes of Wil-

liam Penn, at the very knees of Stephen Girard, about the base of the Reynolds Statue, 3000 men and boys in outlandish garb frolicked, cavorted, grimaced, and whooped, while the Mayor and members of Councils, Judges and other officials, State and municipal, looked on, laughed and applauded. How many thousands or ordinary mortals did the same thing no one could compute. The grand plaza about the City Hall and the streets converging were choked with people — a healthy, clean, orderly congregation. The city had put its official seal upon the mummery, the lawmakers were there as sponsors and directors, and from the windows of the courts of justice, wives and daughters of the Judges viewed and enjoyed the scene.

The first club in line was the Silver Crown New Year's Association. The George A. Furnival Association followed together with the Elkton Association and the John F. Slater Association. This was known as the Fancy Division.

Among the comics were such resplendent names as the "Dark Lanterns," the "Hardly Ables," "Early Risers," "Mixed Pickles," "White Turnips," "Katzenjammer Band," "White Caps," "Energetic Hobos," "Red Onions," "Ivy Leaf," "Corinthians," "Half and Half," and "Cucumbers." Everyone agreed that Philadelphia had never seen such a spectacle.

MUMMERS' PARADE TWENTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1936, was a gloomy, wet, slushy day, but the Mummers Parade marched with their high spirits, catchy tunes, and colorful costumes to bring a silver lining to the first day of the New Year. Wearing rubbers, gloves, and with red flannels underneath the silks and satins, the Shooters paraded past the judges, Harry J. McDevitt, President Judge of Common Pleas Court No. 1; Judge Eugene V. Alessandrini of Common Pleas No. 3; and Frank W. Buhler, theatrical director.

First prize in the Fancy Club went to the Jack Gallagher Club, and the Best-Dressed Captain was Bill Kennedy of Oregon.

This was a great year for the Comic Clubs who lampooned the efforts of the past year. Among the incidents portrayed was "Connie Smack and His 1936 White Elephants," "Major Bowes and His Wheel of Fortune," "Mr. Hues and His Supreme Court." A dozen skeletons were labeled as the "Brain Trusters," and a group of machine gunning sleuths was labelled "G-Men Cleaning Up Racketeers in Philadelphia."

The String Band Division paid a touching tribute to the memory of Will Rogers, with the Rogers String Band following a float on which was depicted a broken airplane.

The songs that re-echoed through the caverns of Broad Street were: "The March of the Wooden Soldiers," the well-known "Oh Dem Golden Slippers," "Song of India," and "Heart of My Heart."

John Coyle, Jr., one of the "Personality Girls" in the Oregon Club lost his shoes by the time he got to City Hall. His socks were soaked and caked with mud and slush but he kept going, and just as he got past City Hall, his socks gave out and he finished the parade in his bare feet.

Francis Palamida, with the Dumont Club, captured the plaudits of the crowd in his golden mermaid costume. This was a "creation" of solid gold sequins combined with flesh-colored silk net representing the nude body. The fantastic gold net tail was twelve feet wide and eight feet high and was originated after the legend of the Lorelei.

One hundred and fifty other female impersonators took part in the Mummers Parade and astounded the watchers with their variety of beautiful costumes.

In the String Band Division, the Joseph A. Ferko Club won first prize.

The League Island Club won first prize among the Comics.

Joseph Malone of Klein was the Best-Dressed Clown in the Fancy group and Hugh Wheeler of Silver Crown was the Best-Dressed Jockey.

MUMMERS' PARADE TEN YEARS AGO

1946 was a good year — it was a year that saw the end of a war, and a record crowd of a million persons, many of them returning World War II veterans, stood in the bitter cold day to watch the winds buffet the page boys who held onto the huge Fancy Club captains' capes. James H. Malone was Director of Public Safety and he called this the banner crowd of the century.

The parade started from Broad and Porter at 9:15 a. m., fifteen minutes late, and the wind continued to delay the march. A great effort was made to eliminate objectionable features, and one female impersonator received instructions to reduce his bosom effect. Another incident occurred when an independent marcher wearing a dress suit and obviously the worse for wear, began to weave through various clubs and was finally arrested.

The before-mentioned wind prevented WPEN's precedent-shattering plan to broadcast a description of how the parade looked from the air. Navy officials at Lakehurst decided it was too windy to permit the take-off of the blimp that was to have been the observation post.

War and victory were the themes of the marching divisions, with special ridicule aimed at Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo.

The String Band Divisions featured songs, some of which were new and never have been heard again, and others that are symbolic of the old-time Mummers Hit Parade. Among those played were: "Ride Cossack Ride," "Stars in Your Eyes," "Till the End of Time," "Happy Days Are Here Again."

Among the winning clubs was the Gallagher Club for the Fancy Division with their captain, Henry Saltenberger, being the winning Captain.

The Purul Club won the Comic Division and the captain, John Purul, was the Best-Dressed Captain.

The James Durning String Band came in first and the Best-Dressed Captain in that division was Raymond Endriss of Quaker City.

It was this year that Oregon won the Special Mention prize with their presentation of the "Two Jima Flag Raising."

The Best-Dressed Juvenile was Harry Rowan of Gallagher, then four years old.

Bobby Lee of Wheeler was top female impersonator, and Wendell Garner of the Gallagher Club had the handsomest costume in the Fancy Division.

Edward Abel, Sr., of Gallagher, was Top King Clown and Robert Meimbresse of Wheeler was Top King Jockey.

For several war years, the Comic Clubs had utilized the riding of white horses in ridicule of the Hirohito tradition, but in the 1946 victory parade of the New Year's Shooters, they were banned.

For the first time in the history of the parade, the city firemen formed a Mummers unit, and Fire Captain, George Duffy, put them through their paces.

The day was bitter cold, but the spirits were high and everyone had a good time.



Capt. Fred Kesel of Aqua String Band in 1920, garbed in Aqua's first costume theme.



Capt. Kesel in his prize winning captain's costume of 1955. Photo shows the front view.



Back view of Aqua's prize winning captain. Costume represents the Indian god Vishnu.



Capt. Harry Starner of the Oregon Fancy Club on the street, 1955.



Capt. James Durning, who is parading in 1956 after a two year absence due to his health.



Captain Matt Leighton, Sr., of the Hog Island Fancy Club, is seen carrying a Fancy Trim framed suit.

THE KINGS OF THE MUMMERS

Among the gaily dressed cavorting mummies seen on Broad Street every New Year's Day, there is a select number of men who embody all the glamour and thrills packed into the parade. These New Year Shooters are truly the Kings of the Mummies, as individuals they all have their own admirers and boosters. The Captains of the various Mummies club exemplify their organizations, their costumes are the creative masterpieces of the year. Each man serves his club utilizing to the utmost his own particular qualifications through which he has earned his position. Captains come from different stations of life, to some the captaincy is a full-time job, to others a year round avocation. Some are advanced in years, one is not yet out of his teens. This varied group shares one unique quality, the important quality that comes across to the public in the theatrical term called "projection" — he is the man the crowd watches, his is the vibrant personality.

Most of the men have started their new year shooting careers at a very early age. One of these is 40-year-old Matt Leighton, Captain of the Hog Island Fancy Club. Matt, a native of South Philadelphia, began his interest in mummery at the age of 22 months with the old Silver Crown New Year Association, a club in which his father had served as a fancy suit carrier since 1901. Being reared in the same traditions are his four sons, Joe, Matt, William, and George, ages six, eight, fourteen, and sixteen, respectively. When he is not working on his costume he spends a great deal of time at the Philadelphia Electric Company where he has been employed as a sub-foreman for twenty years.

One of the captains appearing for the first time in 1956 is Al Graham of the Charles Klein Club. There can be no higher praise given to Al than to quote verbatim the Klein Club's own report: "To captain the huge field of marching costumes the Klein men decided this year's Captain must be a tireless worker, have experience in the field, be a leader and have a knowledge of costume design and themes. He must also devote all his spare time to the Club and in a sense must neglect his family and home. A committee was picked to sound out Alfred Graham. A friend also sought out the views of Mrs. Graham. When all reports seemed favorable to Al Graham's accepting the task his name was put up for nomination and election was unanimous." Mr. Graham has been parading for thirty years and on New Year's Day he wears the honored cape he once carried as a page-boy.

1955's prize-winning Fancy Club Captain is Harry Starner, of the Oregon Club. Harry was born in Bear Creek, Pa., on March 24, 1899, and later moved to White Haven. He is the father of eight children, grandfather of nine. In August of 1942 he moved to Philadelphia and has worked as a crane operator at the Philadelphia Navy Yard for 14 years. In 1945 he carried a suit for the Oregon Club for the first time, and since then his vitality and ability have increased with the years as he has taken prize after prize. He assumed his duties as captain of Oregon in 1953, and in three years his efforts placed his club at the top of the ladder — 1955 saw Oregon take \$5,745.00 in prize money, the biggest prize any club has ever taken in the history of mummery. Two of his sons and two of his son-in-laws also participate in the activities of Oregon.

Captain Philip J. Hammond is the founder of the comic club that bears his name. He has served as a city policeman for over 26 years, and has paraded as a mummer for 50. He has been captain of Hammond for ten years, and has two sons that parade with him also.

The youngest captain to be seen in the parade will be Dommie Torelli of the Liberty Clowns, who is only nineteen. Dommie's dad Billie, who is president of the Liberty Clowns, modestly asserts that his boy is a "mummer." 1956 is the sixteenth parade for Dommie.

Since he was old enough to remember, Fred Kesel, Jr., son of Aqua's Captain, has been surrounded by feverish preparations for the big New Year's Day event. In the Kesel home Christmas served as a prelude to the great climax, and the house was crowded in those final days with men and women sewing. Captain Kesel's first parade was in 1912 with the old original Trilby String Band under Captain Lew Samuels. After serving with various organizations for some years, he and Elmer Leyrer, the "Sauer Kraut King of Philadelphia" organized the Aqua String Band on April 2, 1920. The name Aqua chosen as a joke in prohibition days has stuck.

No musician of small means himself, Mr. Kesel was the first to introduce the glockenspiel to the String Band, and the bells became their identifying sound. He is one of the few captains who serve in this capacity on a full time basis; 1956 will mark his 44th parade. Captain Kesel will be remembered for his first prize winning captain suit of 1955, when he represented the six-armed Indian god Vishnu.

Harry Lawson is the original captain of the Avalon String Band, which he organized himself in 1938. Captain Lawson has been parading since 1927 and personally plays the banjo. For the past eleven years he has been occupied as a Fairmount Park Guard, is a past president of the Mummies' Association and has also served as a String Band Director of that organization.

Captain Peter A. Broomall, who has captained the string band that bears his name for 26 years, is a veteran of 45 years of mummery, five years each in the comic and fancy divisions, 35 in the string bands. A carpenter in everyday life, Captain Broomall can play any musical instrument in the string band. His greatest and most expensive hobby is, he says, New Year shooting. In all, Broomall has as members six other relatives of the captain: sons Edward and James, brother Thomas, cousin Charles, and grandsons Edward Gibson and Peter J. Broomall. Son Edward draws and creates this club's costumes. Peter A. Broomall, Sr. (deceased) was a great New Year shooter in the comic division for many years, served as captain of several clubs, and was a musician of note.

Crescentville's Captain George E. Duffy, at 58 years of age, has been parading since the age of ten, for the past sixteen years as captain of his club. He personally plays the guitar, and his everyday occupation is that of Deputy Chief, with the Philadelphia Fire Dept.

Captain Ferko of the Ferko String Band, familiarly known as Joe, is an outstanding and well known figure. 1956 marks his 41st appearance on Broad Street, having led other bands before organizing his own. Captain Ferko is a pharmacist, his chief and only hobby is his band. He personally plays the accordion.

Another captain who has been a mummer since early childhood is John J. Fralinger, who captains the club that bears his name. At age 44 he has racked up 40 years of parading having started in 1915.

Captain William Howard Peoples of the Greater Kensington String Band organized this band in 1946, as a result of the acquaintances and experiences he derived from his civil defense activities during the war. Since 1924 he has been parading with various clubs, and was able to bring his years of experience to his own band—which has consistently been of high calibre. Captain Peoples was born in 1907, is married, with four children and three grandchildren. His twin sons, Billy and Elwood, paraded with him in the early years of Greater Kensington but the present mascot is grandson Tommy Friend.

Captain of 1955's prize winning String Band is Walter Krop of the Polish American String Band. He has won best dressed Captain honors five times and is an outstanding showman as he struts up Broad Street flashing his personality smile. Walter was involved in a serious automobile accident in 1955, and we are lucky to have him with us this year. In spite of disabling injuries he is proving himself to be a real mummer. Captain Krop is a dental technician by profession and for relaxation has been known to play the violin.

Jimmy Donaghy, at the age of 26, is making his first appearance as a Captain as he heads the South Philadelphia String Band. Jimmy has been parading for ten years, and he personally plays the banjo. Son Jimmy, Jr., at the age of six will be exhibiting his accomplished mummies' strut as he does his stint as mascot. In everyday life Captain Donaghy is a driver-salesman.

Captain Robert W. Runkle, Jr., at the age of 41, started parading when he was ten. He has been captain of the famous Uptown String Band for nineteen years, and has received a second prize as captain. Bob plays the guitar. His son, Bobby 3rd, parades each year with his father. Captain Bob is a storekeeper with the Philadelphia Department of Water. He just lives for New Year's Day and strives each day to make his organization the best there is and to improve his band in every way possible. Instrumental in promoting good relationships among the competing clubs, Bob is liked and respected by all, a former President of the Association, and an organizer and member of the Mummies' Bowling Team.

THE KINGS OF THE MUMMERS



Capt. Joseph Ferko of the Ferko String Band.



Capt. Peter A. Broomall of the Broomall String Band.



Capt. John J. Fralinger of the Fralinger String Band.



Capt. Howard Peoples of the Greater Kensington String Band.



Capt. Adam Quaglia of the Trilby String Band.



Capt. Robert Runkle, Jr. and son Bobby of the Uptown String Band.



Hugh Ferguson and John Kane, Office Manager, Paramount Pictures, Philadelphia. Kane is an invaluable assistant and works with Ferguson on all parades and public affairs.

THE VOICE OF THE MUMMERS

To the millions of people who annually watch the Mummies cavort on television or who listen to the description of the parade on the radio, the face and voice of Hugh F. Ferguson of WCAU and WCAU-TV should be very familiar. "Hughie," who has been unofficially dubbed, "The Voice of the Mummies," has broadcast at least part of every parade since 1939, with the exception of the war years. Although he has never been an active participant in the parade itself, Hughie can boast of not having missed a New Year's frolic since the early twenties. In addition to his activities on New Year's Day, which involve getting up at 4:00 A. M. to prepare for the telecast, Hughie has also served four years as publicity director for the Mummies, and for the past eight years has acted as Master of Ceremonies for the String Band Shows which is held annually in Philadelphia's spacious Convention Hall.

A native of Trenton, New Jersey, Hughie has been active in Philadelphia radio and television work since 1931 when he began broadcasting with Stan Lee Broza on the "Children's Hour." He joined the WCAU announcing staff in 1939, and for the past seven years has been the morning manager of WCAU and WCAU-TV. He now is seldom seen or heard on the air except for his annual Mummies' Parade appearance. During last year's parade he was very ably assisted by Joan and Gene Crane.

Hughie has quite a reputation as an amateur historian regarding New Year Shooting and its origins in Philadelphia. He attended West Catholic High School and Villanova University, is also president and general manager of the National Tube and Spool Co., a Kensington establishment engaged in the manufacture of paper tubes and spools of every description.

Channel 6, which also telecast the festivities last year, utilized Phil Sheridan, Mary Dorr, Harry K. Smith and Jim Felix to bring this glorious spectacle to the vast TV audience.

Those who have followed the TV coverage of the parade over the years can readily appreciate the progress made in this field. Where once the televising was stiff and failed to capture the warmth and spirit of the occasion, every angle and facet of this vast show is clearly and excitingly brought home to the viewers. To Hugh Ferguson and to the others in his field who do so much to bring to the public the glamour and pageantry of this thrilling spectacle for which Philadelphia is famous, must go much of the credit for this progress.

Ferguson and Fredric R. Mann, former Commissioner of Recreation of the City of Philadelphia.





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



Dommie Torelli of the Liberty Clown Club.

THE KIDDIES

Certain mummers have the quality of catching the attention of the crowd. Year after year, they are looked forward to and looked for, they develop a following of fans. Foremost among these notable new year shooters are the juveniles. Boys from mummer families often find themselves dressed up and marching before they're thoroughly versed in the art of walking. Fond mummer fathers can hardly wait to get those boys started on their careers, and instead of buying footballs and rifles, probably start choosing satins and maribou for suits as soon as the nurse announces the new arrival.

Notable among these children is a boy who has grown up living and breathing the mummer spirit, and who may well be holding the record for prizes won in his class. Dommie Torelli, son of the Liberty Clown Comic Club's president, first marched in 1941 at the age of four, as "An English Refugee" and he subsequently won first prize in the juvenile division of the Comic Clubs for fourteen straight years. In 1956 Dommie will be making his first appearance as the Captain of the Liberty Clowns, crowning his glorious career as he carries a forty foot Captain's Cape entitled the Walt Whitman Bridge. In addition to his active life as a mummer, Dommie finds time to do a great deal of fishing and swimming. Liberty Clowns also have another outstanding young mummer, Frank Gregory, Jr., whose picture appears on his club's page. Frankie first paraded at the age of two and has been a prize winner for three straight years. In 1955 he made a hit along the line of march dressed as Mary and Her Lamb.

Another boy whom we will see today, and who has grown up in the mummer family is Howard C. Williams, Jr. Howard first paraded in 1939 at the age of 17 months, with the Gallagher Fancy Club, in which his father was active. Gallagher is not currently appearing on Broad Street, but Howard is not one to let that keep him from participating in the parade. He will be seen beating a drum and keeping step with the Peter A. Broomall String Band.

String band captains who are proud to have their sons marching



Tommy Friend, Greater Kensington String Band mascot.



Howard Williams, Jr., at the age of 17 months.



Howard at the age of ten in Fancy Club dress.



Howard in 1955, with Broomall String Band.

HAVE THEIR DAY

by their sides are David Anderson, Jr., of Woodland; Robert Runkle, Jr., of Uptown; and James Donaghy, of South Philadelphia. Captain Howard Peoples of Greater Kensington is accompanied by grandson Tommy Friend while Pete Broomall's two grandsons, Edward Gibson and Peter J. Broomall, march with him. Captain Matt Leighton of the Hog Island Fancy Club must have some sort of a record with four young sons in the parade, while the Oregon Club makes a hit with President Frank Powers' 4-year-old boy, and 3½-year-old "Buck" Walters, Jr., son of the captain of the Jokers Brigade, Oregon Club. Carl Flinn, Jr. captured hearts at the age of three when he appeared as the "Prince of Peace" with the Klein Fancy Club.

These are but a few of the youngsters the crowd watches for; in all probability they number in the hundreds, and are seen in all divisions and classes of the parade.



Above: Carl Flinn, Jr., Chas. Klein Club, 1955.

Below — Left to Right: Joseph Leighton, 6 years; Matthew Leighton, Jr., 8 years; William Leighton, 14 years — Hog Island Fancy Club.





Welcome
Mummers!



Horn & Hardart
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THE ONE AND ONLY SHOW OF SHOWS



ABOVE: Several views of the Belmar Community Band, and a scene of Officer Lafferty himself in action.

The String Band Division of the Mummers Parade reached such heights of popularity that the public demand practically forced the leaders of those bands to stage an additional show which could be witnessed by an always appreciative group of men, women and children.

This year, 1956, the Show of Shows, a fabulous event, will be again presented in Philadelphia's huge Convention Hall.

For the past ten years, this spectacle has been opened by a group as unique as the famed String Bands themselves. This is the Belmar Band which was organized in May, 1942, by Policeman William T. Lafferty, in an effort to interest children in music and to do his share to curb juvenile delinquency. Lafferty spent most his off-duty hours teaching the neighborhood children to play the various instruments and to

march in formation. From a very humble beginning it has grown into a Big Band, with 60 playing members, each nine to seventeen; a Drum and Bugle Corps consisting of 50 boys and girls; and the Belmar Highlanders, who have 40 playing members dressed in authentic Scottish kilts.

Following this band at the Show comes the Mummers String Bands in all their glittering glory to play for the people of Philadelphia many numbers from their large repertoire of hit tunes. Each group will engage in a series of maneuvers even more intricate than those they performed in the New Year's Parade.

Tickets are sold by members of the String Band Clubs and all seats are reserved.

Be sure to get your tickets from your friends in the String Bands as early as possible so that you will not miss this unique event.

A Master of Ceremonies keeps the public advised of the identity of the band and theme and other interesting highlights. The colored lights in the Hall show the sparkling sequins, jewels, and satins in their most brilliant coloring.

The nights for the Show this coming year are February 7th, 8th, 9th, and 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 1956.

If you enjoy today's spectacle, I know you will get double pleasure from your one and only Show of Shows.



Way back in 1904, Trilby String Band appear as real old-time minstrels.

the Philadelphia

As one watches the magnificent spectacle of the Philadelphia Mummers Parade, the thought instinctively comes, "How did they start; what did they look like, and how did it feel to be a Mummer in those days?"

It is generally conceded that the idea of Mummery was first brought to this country by emigrants from various European nations. Among them were the Swedes who settled near Philadelphia in what is now known as Tinicum. One of the Swedish old-world habits was to visit friends on December 26th, officially known as "The Second Day Christmas," and extend this visiting and attendant festivities until the New Year, January 1. It appears that they had so much



The International String Band under the direction of Fred J. Kesel, 1913-1914.



January 1, 1920, the First Overcoat Brigade, Aqua String Band.

Mummer Story

fun in doing this that they wanted to share their good cheer with their neighbors so they ventured forth into "The Neck," as South Philadelphia was called even in those days.

The Swedes had a series of pantomime miracle plays which featured the pursuit of man and woman by the devil. There would always be quite a struggle but invariably the devil would be thrust back into hell, and as soon as this worthy adversary was defeated it was the signal for a general unmasking and rewards of food and drink for players and non-players alike. This masquerade made such a hit with the inhabitants of "The Neck" that they decided to enter into the spirit of the affair themselves. Many of the male celebrants disguised themselves in black face, women's dresses and grotesque trappings and assembled in groups to venture into Philadelphia proper, waking the neighbors, shooting guns, kissing pretty girls, and dancing and singing until morning. This habit of gun-shooting earned the Mummies the still-prevalent nickname of "The New Year's Shooters."

Henry Muhlenberg, who established the Lutheran Church in America, wrote in 1839, "Met men on the roads in Tinicum and Kingessing who were disguised as clowns shouting at the top of their voices and shooting guns."

The Mummies or Shooters then decided that they might as well turn their antics into more lucrative channels. Each group appointed a leader who bore the title of "Speech Director." He was

chosen upon the basis of his fine singing voice, his glib tongue, or in many cases, his threatening appearance. The group would come to a house, line up, and bring the occupants to the door by shouting, banging pans, or shooting guns. They would go into their favorite act which always had certain improvised dance steps similar to the cakewalk that the Mummies now use consistently in their Annual Parade. At the end, the Speech Director would step forth and speak his little piece. Some of them have come down to us 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."*

There is a more virile version than that one which goes:

*"We take liberty to come on your land
With guns and pistols in our hand.
We have shot and played
For those who have let us in."*

*With stories and brass band music we begin,
Don't get excited or amazed
When you see our powder blaze.
With shooting and music we all admire,
What don't snap will surely fire."*

Even as today, the early Mummies would try to impersonate famous characters and who but General George Washington was considered any more popular. With the Speech Director dressed to resemble an exaggerated likeness to the "Great Father of Our Country," the Mummies would knock on the door and while his companions in the background would parade in the manner of the ragged Continentals, the leader would start off:

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

This was usually sufficient to receive copious quantities of food and drink.

—Continued on next page



Talbot String Band, First Prize Winners in 1917.

the Philadelphia Mummer Story

—Continued

Another less known character but still popular in Mummery was "Humpback Jack," whose story went:

*"In comes I old Humpback Jack
With me wife and family on
me back.*

*In comes I who ain't been yet
With my great head and little
feet*

*Me head is great, my feet is
small*

*So I'll tell you a tale to please
you all."*

Humpback Jack would then tell his story and collect according to its merits and appreciation.

Another character was dressed in a manner that is believed to be the forerunner of the present Uncle Sam and was known as the traditional "Cooney Cracker." His doggerel went like this:

"Here come I, old 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 a smart man who recognized the Mummies and invited them in for refreshments, because if he refused they would more than likely come in anyway and act somewhat boisterously into the bargain.

As time went on, the Mummies grew bolder and now they penetrated into the very heart of William Penn's Quaker City. The most desirable spots to be visited were the grog shops along the waterfront and the beautiful sweet-smelling bakeries on Mar-

ket Street. Huge, special cakes would be prepared by the bakers and presented to the best-performing groups. This is where the present-day saying of "He takes the cake" originated and means that you were the best of the group.

An old Quaker family gives this interesting record of the Mummies:

"It was considered the proper thing in those days to give the leading Mummies a few pounds as a dole which in the language of the present time they would 'pool' and buy cakes and beer. It was also regarded as the right thing to do to invite them into the house and regale them with mulled cider or small beer and homemade cakes. It was considered a great breach of decorum or of etiquette to address or otherwise recognize the Mummer by any other than the name of the character he was assuming. I remember a little girl who, with all the curiosity of her sex, had discovered a neighbor's boy in the party, and with childish impetuosity broke out with, 'I know Isaac Simmons — that is not George Washington.' The departure from the proprieties of the occasion was made the subject of comment on many returning holidays."

As well can be imagined, many people in the staid Quaker City of Brotherly Love were not in favor of the spirit of carnival and carouse especially. The Mummies in their various disguises would carry stockings filled with white flour and one of their favorite pastimes was to belt the stolid gentry across the back. Inasmuch as these individuals in-

variably wore dark clothing, the flour-filled stockings would leave white welts which were difficult to erase from the coat — and incidentally from the pride and the mind of the receiver.

In view of the high feeling prevailing in 1808 against the Mummies, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a rule that "masquerades, masked balls, and masked processions were public nuisances." A violation of this ordinance provided fines and imprisonment and remained upon the statute books of the Commonwealth until its repeal in 1859. However, in all justice to the lawmakers, we must say there was not a single instance of a conviction under this unpopular statute.

★ ★ ★

MOBILE UNIT COMES IN HANDY . . . six persons who viewed the Mummies Parade in 1955 were treated for various minor complaints by the Fire and Police Mobile Hospital Unit. Mrs. Sadie Miller, of Woodbury, N. J., was taken to the Hahnemann Hospital after fainting. Two other women and two children were treated after they became ill. A man received medical attention for a cut of the right hand.



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

TRILBY..... the Original String Band

In January, 1901, the Mummies held their first parade, but the first string band did not make its appearance until the following year, when Bart McHugh, a local promoter of that era, asked a group of Philadelphia boys known as "The Volunteers," to participate in the parade and furnish stringed music. The eight boys thought it over and then advised their leader, Jack Towers, that they would do so.

Their biggest problem was to select a name, and finally they came up with the intriguing title, particularly for those days, of "The Trilby Club." It is interesting to note how this name was selected. At that time, one of the most popular plays was "The Svengali Show" at the old Walnut Street Theatre. Many of the band members attended and fell in love with the popular show song of that day, "Alice Ben Bolt." When the play was over they all agreed to name their new band after the heroine of the book, "Trilby."

For their first uniform, they adopted homemade Buster Brown costumes for which they paid the enormous sum of \$25.00. Rolling up their pant legs, they wore white dusters with large buttons, big bow ties, straw sailor hats with ribbon bands, and black faces. The band was the hit of the parade. Although no provision had been made for a prize for the String Band Section, the City Fathers gave them \$25.00 as a consolation prize.

A few years later, another String Band was formed known as "The Oakey," and from then on, others rapidly joined, until today, the String Band Section is outstanding for performance, color, and interest.

Jack Towers is the last of the original string band group. He remembers the interest and work of the organizers of the old Trilby Group, among them being Dr. Louis Samuels, John Wygand, and William Siebert. This was the original four and their foresight was largely responsible for the formation of the units as we see them today.

Jack Towers is honorary president of the Trilby String Band and is one of the most famous historians of the Mummies Association. He remembers vividly the early days when recognition was hard to secure and the Mummies were considered a flash in the pan. Now, he can smile with satisfaction as he sees the beautiful and famous spectacle of the present-day Mummies Parade.

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.



Sincere Best Wishes from All the Members of the

Philadelphia Lager Beer Brewers' Association

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Parade Rules and Regulations

Fancy Division

1. All Clubs must have a Captain's Cape with at least 20 page-boys.
2. The best dressed groups must have at least twenty men in costume to compete for and be eligible for prizes. See Rule 14.
3. No musical brigades are to be considered for prizes; imitation musical brigades are also ineligible for prizes.
4. Floats will be allowed in the parade, but they must not be of a commercial nature.
5. No costumes borne by vehicles with wheels will be permitted between Broad and Porter Streets and Broad and Girard Avenue. Any suit being borne on wheels between these two points will be disqualified.
6. All clubs must have at least one band of music of not less than 15 playing men.
7. No horses will be allowed.
8. Cards are to be handed to the judges by one man representing his own club at the judges' stand. The cards must specify what field the costume is in. (Also, Mr. Kinee, not parading himself, will assist the judges by explaining to them the various costumes heading into the judges' stand.)
9. Costumed or uniformed bands are not to be judged for prizes. They will only supply the music for the line of march. No string bands will be permitted for fancy clubs.
10. All costumes must start at Broad and Porter Streets and finish at Broad and Girard Avenue to qualify for prizes.
11. The handsomest costumes are to consist of only one suit to be carried by only one man.
12. The juvenile classification must consist of one suit, carried by only one child and not included in any other groups or classification. The age limit for juveniles must range from 12 years or under.
13. The Captain of each Club will be held responsible for the conduct of the members of his club and the execution of the above rules and regulations. Violations will result in the disqualification for prizes.
14. Brigades will be judged as follows: New suits or costumes will take preference over any old suit or costume, or any suit that was on Broad Street before. All new suits or costumes will be judged FIRST, followed by used suits. Cards handed to Judges must specify new or old.
15. All Brigades will be judged on the point system. The points being: 70% for beauty of costume, and 30% for presentation of theme.
16. Each Fancy Club is to be judged on the point system. Each individual prize would receive so many points (to be determined by the judges.) The Club with the highest number of points will receive First Prize, etc.

17. Any protest or infraction of the above rules must be submitted to an Aide, who will forward said protest to the judges for their ruling on whether a costume in question is an infraction of the rules.
18. The only automobiles to be permitted in each club's line of march are as follows: One auto in front of the Club. (Banner Auto). One Auto for each Brigade. One car at the end of the parading Club.

Comic Division

1. Each club must have a captain's cape with twelve page-boys or more, and the cape must be carried and not on wheels.
2. Each club must have two or more bands.
3. Each club must have 100 or more men in line.
4. No horses will be allowed in the parade unless pulling floats.
5. Smearing the faces of spectators along the line of march and other improper conduct will not be permitted.
6. No horseback riding.
7. Club captain will be held responsible for the conduct of his club.

String Band Division

1. Band must have 48 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.)
2. No floats will be allowed.
3. 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.
4. No brass or cup instruments such as: trombones, French horns, etc. shall be allowed.
5. Each band shall be allowed four minutes in front of the judges' stand.
6. The following system shall be carried out for the judging of the string bands: 40 points for music, 40 points for costumes, and 20 points for presentation.
7. A string band shall be allowed 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.
8. Amplification, either on instruments or in any way connected with the string band, is absolutely forbidden.
9. No animals of any kind allowed.
10. Any string band wearing old suits must get last prize.



AQUA STRING BAND

FRED J. KESEL President
 SOL GINSBURG Co-Captain
 ELMER W. LEYRER Founder
 ED. SYLVESTER President
 WARREN SHIELDS Vice-President
 JULES GERSHENFELD Recording Secretary
 FRED J. KESEL, Jr. Treasurer

—Publicity Managers—

PHILIP F. SILVER BEN SCHDOWSKI
 GENE NEMETH Music Director
 JOHN BASE Asst. Music Director
 RICHARD ROZWENC, Jr.
 Asst. Music Director
 ROBERT KUNZIG Drill Instructor
 JACK MORGAN, Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms

—Supervisors—

HENRY KUNZIG WILLIAM DUDDY
 RICHARD ROZWENC, Sr.

Aqua is the oldest continuously marching String Band on Broad Street, operating under its original Directors who formed the band on April 2, 1920. Captain Fred J. Kesel claims the distinction of being the first musician to make the Glockenspiel or Band Lyre, part of Mummer's music. Today, the bells play a strong part in creating the distinctive tone of string band music.

In the thirty-five years since 1921, Aqua has scoured every remote corner of the earth to use imaginative themes and costumes. Mexico, Spain, Argentina, and Brazil have represented the Spanish influence, while such exotic spots as Africa, Arabia, India, China, Egypt, Siam, Russia, the North Pole, and even Shangri-La have not been neglected. Many forms of human activities have been portrayed in string band version through the years, and spectators have seen royal courts, operas, carnivals, gamblers and playing cards, beggars, merry-go-rounds, even pixies, slaves, and pansy flowers. Aqua's creativity always rises to the occasion and has earned for this outstanding club many a deserved honor. The vivid Siamese Dancers themes for 1955 will be long remembered by those spectators fortunate enough to have seen it. Especially notable was Captain Fred Kesel's glit-

tering portrayal of the six-armed god Vishnu, for which he was awarded First Prize from the City of Philadelphia in the Captain's Costume division; the David W. Crawford Memorial Trophy by the Charles Klein New Year's Association; and the first Oscar issued to the winning captain by the Philadelphia New Year's Shooters and Mummer's Association. This band was much in demand throughout the past year, and in 1955 played over twenty-five engagements throughout the East.

New Year 1956 will see the Aqua String Band in a novelty production of Mermen set to music and dances. In a theme especially appropriate for Aqua, we will see a simulated water show entitled "Aqua-Cade." Brilliant Mermen costumes of aqua satin imprinted with silver fish scales will be cloaked with sea-blue satin capes embellished with full length pointed mermaids. As headpieces, the musicians will wear a satin and sequin outlined shell, topped with a double row of sea-blue white capped plumes, intended to represent a stormy wave effect. A large iridescent pearl rests on the side of each man's skull cap. Certain novelties which are being kept secret are promised for a surprise effect.

Captain Fred Kesel's costume is a dramatic presentation of a diver fighting a "live" octopus, while four of his assistant

deep sea divers come forward to kill the octopus. The main musical numbers, "The Storm" and "The Rustlings of Spring," are set to a turbulent sea with appropriate precision movements, while other numbers are planned to conform to a water show. This year's theme was planned by Captain Kesel in conjunction with Eva Collins of "Collins Creative Costumes of Philadelphia."

Aqua theme and costumes have been planned with the Show of Shows in Convention Hall in mind, as well as for the New Year's Day appearance. In order to see the fulfillment of their theme properly, Aqua urges the public to attend the Show of Shows in Convention Hall in February. Tickets are available from the following Aqua members:

F. Kesel, 5142 Castor Ave. CU. 8-9120.

Henry Kunzig, 5347 Larchwood Ave., GR. 6-7310.

Sol Ginsburg, 425 Green St. MA. 7-8298.

Ed Sylvester, 128 Haddon Ave., Westmont N. J. Collingswood 5-4050.

Aqua headquarters are in the Wm. H. Oxley Post No. 133, Ditman and Longshore Avenue and meetings are held every Thursday at 8:30 P. M. and Sunday at 2:30 P. M. from October to February.



Musicians rehearse and costumers work preparing the theme for 1956.

*Happy New Year
and Best Wishes*

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**313 South Water Street
PHILADELPHIA**

Are You in the Know ?

Six hundred thousand people watch the Mummers Parade, but it is only the true follower, the real student of Mummer lore that recognizes the many niceties, the stringent rules and regulations that go into the operation of a successful club.

The Fancy Club Division, especially, has through the years developed a series of traditional costumes that are highly specialized and fall into strict categories, which to the uninitiated, bear strange names. In the Fancy Division, the prize winning club is that organization which, in the opinion of the judges, has the most beautiful costumes overall, has an outstanding number of participants, does not exceed the time limit in passing before the judges' stand and displays sportsmanlike and not rowdy behavior. The Captain's "Canopy" or Cape is generally the club's masterpiece and has attained an overall length of sixty to seventy feet in four sections, requiring as many as sixty pageboys to carry it by its "points." This cape displays a theme, and the judges decide how well the motif has been carried forth. King Clowns, King Jockeys, Trios of Clowns and Jockeys and Handsome Trim costumes are typical Fancy Club suits. These are the large framed creations, sometimes attaining a width of eight feet and a height of ten, which are carried by one man who must support the costume's weight unassisted. King Clown can be identified by the painted effect of his face, A Trio of Clowns are three clowns dressed alike. King Jockey is usually wearing a jockey cap, but his identifying symbol are the gorgeous horseshoes adorning his headpiece; the same apply also to a Trio of Jockeys. A Handsome Trim suit is a framed creation which does not fall into the above descriptions; it is usually a very large suit, most elaborately embellished and adorned. All the framed suits are made up of vivid satin panels which have been embroidered in bold woolen threads in leaf and flower patterns. The patterns have then been adorned with sequins and satin rosebuds, and the whole creation trimmed in colored maribou.

The Fancy Clubs will present unframed suits also and among these categories are seen the Trio Pantomime Clowns, whose faces are painted like clowns, but whose suits are not framed. The Handsomest Costume is a suit which is judged on the overall beauty and the development of the theme chosen by the individual wearing it. This suit is also most lavishly decorated. The Special Mention suit, not quite so lavish, is also judged on the development of its theme. Self explanatory are the Female Impersonators, who are judged on the beauty of their costumes, make-up, and individual beauty; and the Juveniles, who must be under twelve years of age and compete on the beauty of the costume and its originality. A Fancy Club Brigade is made up of a troupe of not less than twenty costumed men who carry forth a specific theme. Any use of wheels for bearing any costume is strictly prohibited.

In the Comic Division, the Captains carry a cape which is not elaborate as in the Fancy Clubs, but instead carries forth a theme of current or comical interest. There are numerous brigades in the Comic Division, each made up of fifteen or more men. They must be dressed alike and feature a certain theme or activity. The definitions of Comic Division categories can be guessed from their names, and these funsters leave no doubt as to who or what they are lampooning.

In the String Band Division, each unit must have 48 players in line. No floats are allowed and they are not permitted to utilize brass instruments such as trombones, French horns, etc. Those marching in this line must observe fine ethics, such as, be more than one block in back of the preceding band in order not to mar their musical arrangement by playing in a loud or unseemly manner.

Another unusual feature is that the judges are never appointed until the morning of the parade, and then, they are closely guarded with police to prevent any effort at undue influence.

Captain Henry Lawson is seen in his "Deep Purple" costume.



AVALON STRING BAND

HARRY LAWSON	Captain
FRED GARDNER	President
WALTER C. KUNICKI, Sr.	Musical Director
JOSEPH RUDLEY	Treasurer
FRED VENTRESCA	Secretary
PATRICK SMITH	Drill Master

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. Captain Lawson captured the Captain's Costume prize with the theme of "Crusaders," and fans of Avalon will remember such outstandingly suc-

cessful themes as "Moulin Rouge" and 1955's "Deep Purple."

1956 will see Avalon in a theme inspired by the western state of "Texas." However, the far west has never seen cowboys as gorgeous as these! These Texans will delight the eye arrayed in white ten gallon hats and velvet shirts in rich jewel tones of blue, green, yellow, pink and orange, all lavishly trimmed with sequins. Accessories such as white leather belts and gun holsters will complement the theme. Gold sequins will embellish the white crushed plush chaps worn by Philadelphia's cowpokes. To carry the theme further we will hear such songs as "Yellow Rose of Texas," "Deep in the Heart of Texas," "Tumbling Tumble Weeds" and "Shifting Sands."



Musicians garbed in the 1955 theme.



Captain Peter Broomall displays the costume he wore portraying the theme, "When the Saints Come Marchin In."

PETER A. BROOMALL STRING BAND

PETER A. BROOMALL	.....	Captain
ELMER HENSHALL	.....	President
HAROLD BALTUS	.....	Vice-President
CHARLES BROOMALL	.....	Secretary
PETER A. BROOMALL	.....	Treasurer
ANDREW CRISS	.....	Drill Master
EDWARD P. BROOMALL	.....	Music Director
ROBERT MOORE	.....	Assistant Music Director
JAMES V. BROOMALL	.....	Parade and Costume Director
GEORGE SMORTZ, Sr.	.....	Publicity Director

Noted for its excellence of music and for the never-tiring efforts of its captain to put on a good show, the Peter A. Broomall String Band is appearing on Broad Street in 1956 for the 26th time. Broomall was organized March 1, 1930, at 114 Durtor Street in South Philadelphia by Pete and a few old timers from the Wildwood String Band, including his brother Thomas Broomall who still plays with the band. Captain Peter Broomall has been New Year shooting for forty-five years, has performed his duties as captain of this band for twenty-six. He admits that the going has been rough at times, such as during the depression and the war, but due in no small part to his efforts are the splendid creations that have appeared every New Year's Day since the band's formation.

Fans of Broomall who were thrilled by the 1855 theme of "When the Saints Come

Marching In," will derive great enjoyment from the 1956 presentation of "An Irish Festival." Great attention has been paid to detail and authenticity by Broomall's designer, Edward P. Broomall, son of the Captain. The costumes, as you can guess, will utilize Irish green along with white and gold. The white satin lined cape will be of green, as will the trousers and trimmings on the white satin jackets. All will be lavishly decorated with glittering sequins. In the Irish spirit also are the accessories, hats are

the well-known green tapered stovepipes known as caubeens; black buckled shoes and clay pipes will complement the theme. Back pieces are in the shape of a gold harp, each embellished with forty-eight green plumes. The captain's costume will be a more elaborate rendering of the same theme and appropriately, his baton will be the famous Irish Shillelagh. The sixty musicians will perform a drill based upon a series of Irish Folk Dances and Reels. Among the suitable musical numbers will be heard such Irish "greats" as "MacNamara's Band," "Same Old Shillelagh," "Irish Wash Woman," "Peggy O'Neill," "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," and "Great Day for the Irish."

Broomall meets every Tuesday evening at 1931 South 3rd Street, and good fellowship is promoted throughout the year by its members.

Musicians display the 1955 theme.



A view of the 1955 musicians' costumes.



CRESCENTVILLE STRING BAND



Captain George E. Duffy is pictured in his "Serenade of the Bells" costume.

FRANK RICH	President
GEORGE E. DUFFY	Captain and Treasurer
ELMER HARRIS	Vice-President
FRANK MURPHY	Secretary
G. MARSALA	Musical Director
WILLIAM SANTARLASCI	Sergeant at Arms

The Crescentville String Band was organized on March 10, 1945, and since then has appeared in a number of highly original costumes. In 1955 spectators viewed the ingenious theme of "Serenade of the Bells."

The 1956 New Year will see Crescentville in a presentation of the theme, "Mambo Kings." The colors used to develop this theme are particularly lively and unusual. The sixty-four members will be garbed in orchid and chartreuse satin, trimmed with silver and blue sequins. Jacket sleeves will be adorned with tiers of multicolored ruffles. The back piece will contain thirty-six royal blue plumes, trimmed with silver sequins and royal blue mesh.

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 8:30 A. M., JANUARY
2nd, 1956.**

If Postponed: Saturday, January 7, 1956, same time - same route

— Program —

PHILADELPHIA MOTORCYCLE POLICE

WALKIE-TALKIE AUTO

COLOR GUARD

Parade Marshal — MAYOR RICHARDSON DILWORTH

Assistant Parade Marshal — ROBERT W. CRAWFORD

Director of Parade — MAGISTRATE ELIAS MYERS

POLICE AND FIREMEN'S BAND

FANCY DIVISION---

1. S. D. WHEELER FANCY CLUB

Captain Frank Shay

Captain's Theme: "Hearts and Flowers."

2. CHARLES KLEIN N. Y. A.

Captain Al Graham

Captain's Theme: "Rainbow on the Horizon."

3. OREGON FANCY CLUB

Captain Harry Starner

Captain's Theme: "The King and the Stars
on Parade."

4. HOG ISLAND N. Y. A.

Captain Matt Leighton

Captain's Theme: "King Momus and His Pages"

COMIC DIVISION---

5. PURUL COMIC CLUB

Captain John Purul

6. LIBERTY CLOWN COMIC CLUB

Captain Dommie Torelli

Captain's Theme: "The Walt Whitman Bridge."

1. LEAD-OFF—Fred Burns' Pam Pam Clowns Brigade,
50 Men.

2. BRIGADE—Carmen DiMatteo's "Demetrius and the
Gladiators."

3. BRIGADE—Nick Juliana's "French Parisian Artists"

4. BRIGADE—John Lees' "Why Dux Godfrey Can His
Help?"

5. BRIGADE—Frank Bonivich's "Philadelphia's Air
Pollution Smog Committee."

6. FLOAT—John Lutz' "King Kong and the Natives"

7. FLOAT—Floyd Nasuti's "The Mad Medic."

8. FLOAT—John Martell and Joe Wave's "Love Me
or Leave Me."

9. FLOAT—Ralph Recupido's "Stock Market Kings."

10. FLOAT—Vince Boof's "Love Is a Many Splendored
Thing."

11. FLOAT—Sam Fredullo's "The Haunted House."

12. FLOAT—Fatty Joe's "Miss America."

13. FLOAT—Billy Vance's "Comic Page."

14. FUNNIEST CHARACTER—Joe Venuti's "Over the
River to Garden Style and into the Barrel."

15. FUNNIEST CHARACTER—Ed Stewart's "Freddy
the Free Load."

16. FUNNIEST CHARACTER—Bill Holt's "The Bum."

17. ORIGINAL CHARACTER—Joe Schultz' "Bum
Fiddler, Jack Benny."

18. FUNNIEST COUPLE—Henry Schultz, Sr. and Jr.'s
"Hunting a Parking Space."

19. JUVENILE—Frank Gregory's "To Market, To
Market."

20. JUVENILE—Frank Orlando, Jr.'s "A Dancing Doll"

21. BRIGADE—Bob Johnson's "The Hollywood Clowns"
61 Men.

22. BRIGADE—Tippy Lane's "The Country Clowns."
58 Men.

23. BRIGADE—Jack Morrison's "Happy Clowns." 43
Men.

24. BRIGADE—Frank Yocum's "The Butterfly Clowns."
37 Men.

25. GROUP—James Carson's "The Big Raid."

26. GROUP—William Fairbanks' "The Keystone Cops"

27. GROUP—Ed McNeil's "The Rocketmen Shooting,
Having It Out."

28. GROUP—Charles Morrison's "Cleaning Up After
the Races."

29. GROUP—Harry O'Connell's "The Hit Parade."

30. GROUP—Walter Murray's "The Barbary Coast in
the Days of the '90's."

31. Group—Bob Carlson's "Art Murray's Dancing
School."

32. FUNNIEST COUPLE—Hank and Partner.

33. FLOAT—Wawa and Farrecca's "Mickey Mouse."

7. MURRAY COMIC CLUB

Captain Dan Herman

9. PHILIP J. HAMMOND COMIC CLUB

Captain Philip J. Hammond, Sr.

Captain's Theme: "Mummers' Ice Capades."

STRING BAND DIVISION---

10. AVALON STRING BAND
Captain Harry Lawson
Theme: "Texas"
Songs: "Yellow Rose of Texas"
"Deep in the Heart of Texas"
"Tumbling Tumble Weeds"
"Sifting Sands"
11. GREATER KENSINGTON STRING BAND
Captain Howard Peoples
Theme: "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"
Songs: "Heigh-Ho"
"Whistle While You Work"
"One Song"
"Some Day My Prince Will Come"
"Snow White"
"I'm Wishing"
"The Washing Song"
"The Silly Song"
12. UPTOWN STRING BAND
Captain Robert W. Runkle, Jr.
Theme: "Black Magic"
Songs: "Jungle Town"
"Chant of the Jungle"
"Black Magic"
"Uptown on the March"
13. JOSEPH A. FERKO STRING BAND
Captain Joseph A. Ferko
Theme: "Birds of Paradise"
Songs: "The Blue Bird of Happiness"
"Bye-Bye Black Bird"
"When the Red, Red Robin Comes
Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along"
14. TRILBY STRING BAND
Captain Adam Quaglia
Theme: "The Naughty Twenties"
Songs: "Charleston"
Songs reminiscent of the '20's.
17. HEGEMAN STRING BAND
Captain Alfred Fink
Theme: Patriotic (Title to be announced)
Songs: George M. Cohan numbers.
18. QUAKER CITY STRING BAND
Captain Raymond Endriss
Theme: "White Cloud"
Songs: "Red Wing"
"Indian Love Call"
"Cherokee"
"Minnetonka"
"Pale Moon"
"West of the Great Divide"
"Chief Tomahawk"
"Redskins"
19. CRESCENTVILLE STRING BAND
Captain George E. Duffy
Theme: "Mambo Kings"
Songs: Appropriate numbers.
20. POLISH-AMERICAN STRING BAND
Captain Walter Krop
Theme: "Ballroom Scene from Merry Widow
Waltz"
Songs: "Merry Widow Waltz"
Musical comedy numbers.
21. GREATER OVERBROOK STRING BAND
Captain Harry Straub
Theme: "American Indians"
Songs: "Pale Moon"
"Red Wing"
"Indian Chant"
"Blue Waters"
23. J. J. FRALINGER STRING BAND
Captain John Fralinger
Theme: "Blue and Broken Hearted"
Songs: "Blue and Broken Hearted"
"Does Your Heart Beat for Me?"
"Who Stole My Heart Away?"
24. WOODLAND STRING BAND
Captain David Anderson, Jr.
Theme: "Blossom Time"
Songs: "A Blossom Fell"
"Apple Blossom Time"
"When I Lost You"
"Yellow Rose of Texas"
" 'Tis Autumn"
25. DURNING STRING BAND
Captain James Durning, Sr.
Theme: "Ridin' on a Rainbow"
Songs: "Ridin' on a Rainbow"
(composed by Capt. Durning)
26. PETER A. BROOMALL STRING BAND
Captain Peter A. Broomall
Theme: "An Irish Festival"
Songs: "MacNamara's Band"
"Same Old Shillelagh"
"Irish Wash Woman"
"Peggy O'Neil"
"When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"
"Great Day for the Irish"
27. AQUA STRING BAND
Captain Fred J. Kesel
Theme: "Aqua-Cade"
Songs: "The Storm"
"The Rustlings of Spring"
30. SOUTH PHILADELPHIA STRING BAND
Captain James Donaghy
Theme: "Harbor Lights"
Songs: "Harbor Lights"
and appropriate numbers.



Durning String Band is seen on New Year's Day, 1955, in their appearance before the Judges' Stand.

DURNING STRING BAND

ROBERT TRAINOR	.....	President
JOSEPH HOLLANDER	.....	Vice-President
JAMES DURNING, Sr.	.....	Treasurer and Captain
CHRIS STROHMETZ	.....	Secretary
JOSEPH CORKERY	.....	Sergeant-at-Arms
WALTER MAJEWSKI	.....	Musical Director
ANTHONY GENEVA	Drill Master

—Board of Directors—

R. MARCUCCI	J. MUTH	M. SNYDER
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The Durning String Band, celebrating its twentieth year, was organized by its present captain, James Durning, and has paraded in fifteen other cities. Durning has performed in its elaborate costumes before 25 million people and has performed on television locally and coast to coast. Mr. Durning for years supervised the String Bands in the "Miss America Pageant" in Atlantic City, N. J.

Mr. Durning was the original sponsor of the "Show of Shows" that is held in Convention Hall, and the "Mummers' Summer Frolic" that has been held in Municipal Stadium. He is also the originator of the fine Mummers' Magazine that is now on sale to the public, describing the great Mummers' Parade.

Two years ago, due to the loss of his right foot, he was unable to lead his band personally, and now Mr. Durning is attempting to lead his club in 1956 for the last time.

The theme for the band in 1956 is "Ridin' on a Rainbow." The band will march twelve abreast with its eighty members wearing headpieces that will create a rainbow completely across Broad Street. Mr. Durning expects this novel attraction to place his band among the highest. The band will be dressed in two shades of light blue satin representing the sky, and for their drill a rainbow will be created. The theme song will be heard for the first time; the song, "Ridin' on a Rainbow," was written by James Durning. The Captain, James Durning, will be dressed in gold. The assistant captain, Charles Bethman, the president, Robert Trainor, the vice-president, Joseph Hollander, will all be dressed in gold, and will create a sunburst in the center of the rainbow.

A close-up of 1955 Capt. Henry Hendrickson.



JOSEPH A. FERKO STRING BAND



Capt. Joseph A. Ferko is seen as he appeared on Broad Street in 1955 in the theme, "The Student Prince."

JOSEPH A. FERKO	.....	Captain
HARRY A. LEARY	.....	President
WILLIAM DeSANTRO	.....	Vice-President
JOHN E. ARLETH	.....	Secretary
WILLIAM CONNORS	.....	Music Director
JAMES KEENAN	.....	Drill Master
PETE AMODEI	.....	Executive Board
ANDREW FERKO	.....	Executive Board

1956 will mark the 34th consecutive Mummers' Parade for the Joseph A. Ferko String Band. The band was organized in 1922 and first paraded in 1923, during this time they have won the Championship twelve times, the outstanding record of the entire parade. Included in the band are eight father and son combinations, and three brother teams. Ferko, one of the most renowned clubs in the Association, has appeared in all sections of the East, and as far west as Chicago. The nation as a whole has had the privilege of seeing Ferko perform on the Jackie Gleason TV program on two occasions.

Seen in 1955 in the theme of "The Student Prince," we will be treated in 1956 to a string band version of the "Birds of Paradise." The sixty-nine men parading will be garbed in brocaded satin suits in eight pastel shades. The suits will be trimmed with four inch sections of vari-colored sequins. Cape and headpiece will be shaped like a bird, formed of one section which will include head feathers, wings, and tail of the bird. Each costume will be trimmed with sixty-five plumes, the ends of which are dipped in a contrasting color. The center of the back pieces will be of pastel colored marabou trimmed with jewels and sequins. This intricate and lavish costume is expected to create quite a sensation.

Appropriate songs will be presented to complement the theme. We will hear a special arrangement of "The Blue Bird of Happiness"; and several popular songs about birds, such as: "Bye-Bye, Black Bird," "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob-Bob-Bobbin' Along."

The Ferko Band in Convention Hall, 1955.



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Song Hit Parade of The Mummers

The Mummers String Band music is recognized throughout the country because of its unique construction, which is as modern as swing and calypso. Once you have heard it, you will never forget its peculiar distinctive American quality.

A string band consists of banjos, guitars, and violins and also permits saxophones, clarinets, accordions, and lyres. Electrical instruments or other amplifications are not allowed. Each year, the individual string bands endeavor to present unusual themes and practice various songs which will pertain to the particular theme. Last year, the pieces played were old and new, a mixture of jazz, classical, and sweet music. Among them were:

TOP TUNES — 1955

When the Saints Come Marchin' In
Wang, Wang Blues
Are You From Dixie?
Garden of Roses
Moonlight and Roses
One Dozen Roses
Sweethearts
Sweethearts Forever
Sweethearts On Parade
Pennies From Heaven
Mt. Sandman
Deep Purple
Over the Rainbow
Deep in My Heart
Deep in My Heart Dear
Drink, Drink, Drink
The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise
Keep Your Sunny Side Up
From the Vine Came the Grape
Lady of Spain
Brazil
Deep in the Heart of Texas
Rosalie
Tumbling Tumbleweed
Back in the Saddle Again
In a Persian Garden

Despite the fact that each year they try to come up with new pieces, you can be sure that each band will be playing the old-time Mummers string band favorites. "Oh Dem Golden Slippers" is recognized as the marching theme of the entire parade. Other top pieces are "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 two of those old-time favorites composed by John F. Towers, one of the oldest living Mummers today. They are "Honey Boy" and "Scrapiron," and are always played by one or more of the clubs.

—★—

TIME FOR A NEW PAIR OF SHOES . . . Duke Morgan, Philadelphia member of the American Society of Composers and Publishers, feels that it's about time that the Mummers took off "Dem Golden Slippers" and put on a new pair of shoes. For many years, the familiar, "Oh, Dem "Golden Slippers," borrowed from a spiritual song of long ago, has been the theme song of the marching Mummers. Morgan has a new number entitled, "Strut, Mummers, Strut," and feels that it will make them do just that. The Joseph Ferko String Band is said to be rehearsing the number and you may hear them play it today. The "Golden Slippers" was first utilized in the Mummers Parade in 1905 when Charles Dumont, the "Old Minstrel Man," utilized it for several marching clubs.

—★—



Captain John Fralinger is seen in his costume for the theme, "The Student Prince," presented in 1955.

J. J. FRALINGER STRING BAND

JOHN FRALINGER	.....	Captain
HARRY BRANNAU	.....	President
CHARLES ANDERSON	.....	Vice-President
THOMAS LoCASALE	.....	Recording Secretary
FRED CALANDRA	.....	Financial Secretary
JOHN J. FRALINGER	.....	Treasurer
FRED CALANDRA	.....	Musical Director and Drill Master

The year 1956 will be the sixteenth New Year's Day parade in which the Fralinger String Band has appeared. The band was reorganized in 1940 by John J. Fralinger, Jr. The original band was put together by John's father, Dr. John Fralinger, who was one of the string band pioneers way back in 1915 when they were very few. This band had the pleasure of capturing the championship in 1920.

The current Fralinger String Band carries on the tradition of champions, and, with the exception of one year, has always been among the top ten. John, Jr. says he has run into many obstacles trying to put together a winning band, but he never gives up, and this year he has a group of men who will give it all they have.

For 1956 Fralinger hopes to top last year's gorgeous conception of "The Student Prince" with the ingenious theme of "Blue and Broken Hearted." The musicians will be dressed in ice blue moire taffeta suits, trimmed with cardinal red hearts. The headpieces will be decorated with forty-eight white plumes, tipped in blue. Appropriate musical numbers will carry out the theme, foremost of which

will be "Blue and Broken Hearted" and "Does Your Heart Beat for Me?" and "You Steal My Heart Away." The first and third numbers will be accompanied by a movement drill in which the entire band dances.

The band has been negotiating for the purchase of a clubhouse of its own, and expect to have this building by the time of publication.

A view of the musicians' costumes of 1955.



Jack Fine Costumes

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Dr. Robert D. Higgs

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It's A Man's World

In 1940, officials governing the Mummers Parade deviated from the traditional policy which forbids females from participating in the New Year's Parade when they issued a permit granting authorization to a girls' band from Buffalo, New York, to parade with them during the Show of Shows given for the Republican National Convention. This opened the door and the next year they were swamped with requests and applications from girl bands in every section of the country. In fact, two formidable female clubs turned up for the New Year's Parade equipped with banjos, mandolins, and violins and almost fought their way into the string band section.

Each year finds some girl or woman determined that her sex will receive recognition through participation in the New Year's Parade. The parade officials are constantly on the alert to prevent such females walking to fame by escaping detection. There is a long history of those who have been discovered and ejected.

The first known successful trespasser was a well-known female newspaper columnist who in 1929 joined the parade dressed as an Eskimo. The bulky furs disguised her curves and she finished without detection. Her column the next day was a very interesting one as she related not only how she had paraded successfully but had been able to decline numerous invitations to drink various concoctions and to smoke big, black cigars.

In 1946, Mary Trotta, then of 2513 E. Clearfield Street, marched in one of the bands playing a clarinet.

On another occasion, Calli, daughter of Heap Big Indian Chief Chingachook, was ready to lend her talents to the procession. Discovery was made by Assistant Director George B. McClelland, Jr., who ruled she did not qualify, at least, for the Parade. The Chief was highly indignant, threatened Indian reprisals, and refused to march himself.

Maybe some day the gate may be opened for the gals but at the present time they are represented by the numerous female impersonators who lend a note of feminine gaiety and color to this manly enterprise.

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GREATER KENSINGTON STRING BAND



Capt. Howard Peoples and grandson Tommy Friend are seen as the "Highlanders."

HOWARD PEOPLES	Captain
GEORGE BURGERT	Musical Director
JOSEPH FRIEND, Sr.	Assistant Musical Director
FRANCIS RITTENHOUSE	Secretary
THOMAS LOAG	Recording Secretary
JOHN KERNOHAN	Drill Master
HENRY W. BECHTEL	President
CHARLES MURRAY	Vice President
JOSEPH F. HAAG	Treasurer
GORDON SCOPINICH	Financial Secretary
IRWIN BORKOWSKI	Sergeant-at-Arms

—Trustees—

SAMUEL McDEVITT ELWOOD KAISINGER
WILLIAM SHUTTLEWORTH

The Greater Kensington String Band was organized eight years ago, and in those few years has done an excellent job as showmen helping to keep mummery on a spectacularly high level. The public's response to their efforts has been justifiably enthusiastic, and Kensington placed second on New Year's Day 1955 with their spirited Scotch theme, "The Highlanders." Captain Peoples has pledged that his organization will continue through the coming years to try always to do a good job better.

This year, Greater Kensington presents for the public's approval the theme, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." These colorful characters should bring fond memories to the oldsters and create a memorable sight for the very young. The costuming for this theme is particularly creative, and all the lovable little men, Dopey, Doc, Sneezzy, Happy, Grumpy, Bashful, and Sleepy will be seen on Broad Street. We will also see Snow White herself, her handsome Prince, the cruel Queen, and her incarnation, the Wicked Witch. Captain Peoples will represent Snow White in a gorgeous costume whose headpiece contains a presentation of the castle and the road leading up to it. The musicians will march in columns of seven abreast with each man in the row arrayed as a different dwarf. Each headpiece, composed of green plumes, will carry a picturization of the dwarf it represents.

The drills are worked around those unforgettable Disney melodies, such as: "Heigh-Ho," "Whistle While You Work," "One Song," "Some Day My Prince Will Come," "Snow White," "I'm Wishing," "The Washing Song," and "The Silly Song."

Greater Kensington displays its prize-winning form in front of the Judges' Stand.





Capt. Harry Straub swings through his act in an appearance in Convention Hall.

GREATER OVERBROOK STRING BAND

Greater Overbrook will be remembered for its ingenious theme of 1955, "From the Vine Came the Grapes," which was beautifully rendered and received much recognition. This year Captain Harry Straub is presenting the theme of "American Indians."

The costumes which have been designed to interpret this theme will be based on authentic American Indian clothing. For hats, the musicians will wear the chiefs' feathered headdress. The uniforms will be of gold cloth embellished with hand painted Indian de-

signs. The headpieces will utilize red, white, and blue plumes pierced by a large arrow device. Rather than wear the conventional string band cape, Greater Overbrook has chosen to use a cape that is fashioned to narrow down to a point at the bottom, in the style of an Indian blanket. Plumes will decorate the sides of the capes, while the back will be adorned with a large arrow holder. Appropriate musical numbers to carry forth the theme will be: "Pale Moon," "Red Wing," "Indian Chant," and "Blue Waters."

Greater Overbrook is seen during an appearance in Harrisburg, Pa.





PHILIP J. HAMMOND NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

FRANK IACUZIO	President
JOSEPH KELLY	Vice-President
PHILIP J. HAMMOND, Sr.	Treasurer and Captain
PHILIP J. HAMMOND, Jr.	Secretary
JOSEPH HAMMOND	Financial Secretary
THEODORE MORRIS	Chairman, Trustees
CHARLES PETERSON	Sergeant-at-Arms

The 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 for the individual costumes.

The theme of the Captain's Cape this year is "Mummers' Ice Capades," and will be carried by Captain Philip J. Hammond, assisted by his lieutenant, Frank Iacuzio and twenty-four page boys who will be dressed in various types of costumes. This cape will be comprised of two sections, totalling approximately forty feet in length, and will be covered with artificial ice.

The first section will be a representation of the Maypole Ballet. A large rotating Maypole standing in the center will be encircled by figures of skaters holding multicolored ribbons. The second section will contain the star of the show performing her specialty as a miniature doll orchestra accompanies her.



EXTREME LEFT — Some of the 1955 entries of the Hammond Club.
LEFT — Raymond Kelly and Joseph Hammond in blazer jackets.

Captain Al Fink garbed in the
1955 theme, "Ritual Dance of Fire"



ELIAS MYERS President
HERMAN SEFLIN Musical Director, and
Chairman, Board of Directors
ALFRED FINK Captain and Treasurer
FRED FISHER Drill Master

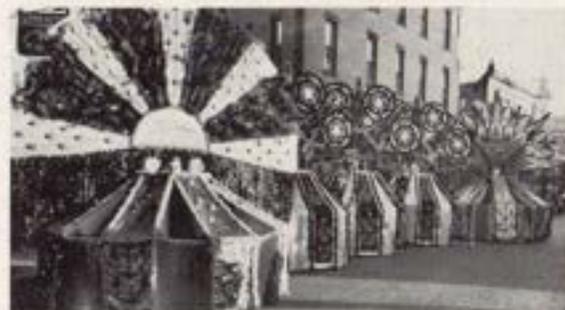
THE HEGEMAN STRING BAND

This 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 1956 Parade. Hegeman entertained the President of the United States in the White House when they received an invitation to play for Harry S. Truman in 1948. Every Thanksgiving Day they fly to Charlotte, N. C., in a chartered plane in order to appear in the Carolina Carousel.

In 1956 Hegeman will present a patriotic theme. They will be playing all George M. Cohan musical numbers, and many favorites will be recalled. The 94 men in the organization will be dressed in red, white, and blue. A lavishly spangled double American shield decorates the costume, one on the backpiece and one on the headdress. The cape has thirteen red and white stripes on the inside, while the outside is royal blue satin adorned with gold stars. White jackets and royal blue trousers will be trimmed with gold stars and an ornate red sash. Each suit carries a total of 131 gold spangled stars, finishing off an ensemble that will rank as a glorious tribute to our country's colors.



A view of some of the Hegeman
musicians in the 1955 costumes.



The pictures shown depict some of the entries of the Hog Island Fancy Club. Top left is a brigade, while under it are seen some of the traditional fancy suits known as framed suits.

HOG ISLAND NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

JOSEPH MORRISEY *President*
 ALFRED TRYDER *Vice-President*
 JOHN HUSTON *Secretary*
 GEORGE RONEY *Financial Secretary*
 ROBERT MEIMBRESSE *Treasurer*
 FRANK HOLT *Sergeant-at-Arms*
 MATT LEIGHTON *Captain*

—New Year Committee—

ROBERT GORRIE ROBERT BERTELE
 RUDOLPH A. MEECH

The Hog Island New Year's 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. Hog Island is therefore the youngest club parading in the Fancy Division today, this being the fifth year they are competing for top honors in the oldest unit of the parade. Hog Island members have as their pur-

pose keeping the tradition of mummery flourishing in the City of Philadelphia as it has in past years.

Captain Matt Leighton will represent "King Momus and His Pages," in a four section cape of red and green, assisted by his four sons and thirty-six page boys. There will be five bands in the line of march, each preceded by a Brigade of forty men or more. The Brigades will be seen in the following order: Golden Slipper Brigade: Sheik's

Dream; Avenue Brigade: Me and My Shadow; J. J. Morrow Brigade: Fountain of Youth; followed by the Front and Tasker Toppers Brigade and the Mantion Street Brigade.

The youngest member in the line of march will be 30 month old Lenny Allen, who will represent "Little Boy Blue," while marching for his fifty-first time will be John Grady, 57 years old.

Hog Island expresses their hope that their array of Clowns, Jockeys and Handsome Costumes will thrill you as much as your cheers and laughter delight us on Broad Street on New Year's Day.





*the Bagdad guide
swung his
cap in
the air!*

This angry gesture by a Tigris River guide gained the attention of a young traveler in 1870, and caused him to listen to a story that he subsequently retold *more than five thousand, seven hundred times* in the famous lecture he called "Acres of Diamonds!" Those thousands of platform appearances earned a fortune for Russell H. Conwell — a fortune which he devoted to the founding of Temple University. Such a lecture, with its simple, practical rules for personal success, is as vital today as when it was first delivered.

It is therefore a fitting and sacred obligation for this University to see that this inspired message is made available to all who wish to read it.

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In 1955, Uncle Charlie, 75, Misses His First Parade

It was comfortable in the front room at 6373 Germantown Avenue and the picture came in clear on the television, showing the marching Mummers cavorting down the Street of Broad, but Uncle Charlie Kricher would have none of it.

Uncle Charlie, now 75, started his career as a Mummer when he was four years old. This was back in 1885 and that ain't hay.

Uncle Charlie saw the light of day at 2nd and Christian Streets, which as anyone knows is the heart of the Mummer country. Four years later he was in his first Shooters Parade as a four-year-old page girl.

You could listen forever to his story of how they would go from door to door, playing and dancing, and wait for the refreshments that were sure to follow. Usually the prize would be a cake and then the Club would have a cake-cutting party. They would never get out of costume and would dance the whole night through.

Through the years, Uncle Charlie marched with many of the Fancy Clubs: the old Whitecaps in 1910, and the Silver Crowns in 1913.

In 1954, he marched with the Murray Club in the Comic Division, and he was all set for 1955 when he twisted his knee, was taken to Germantown Hospital, operated upon, and the leg was put in a cast for seven weeks.

"Phooey," he said to the telecast of Mummers Parade, "I should be in it, daddang it, and I will be. Watch my tricks in '56."

1956 is just around the corner, but I bet if it's at all possible, Uncle Charlie will be there.

CHARLES KLEIN NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

The Charles Klein New Year Association was organized in 1911 and participated in its first New Year Parade the following New Year's Day, 1912. This Fancy Club is the oldest fancy club parading today, and is second in age in the Philadelphia Mummies and New Year Shooters' Association only to the Trilby String Band. The Klein Club has the distinction of having won more first prizes than any club in Mummery history. This year the Klein men will be out to be champs for the nineteenth time.

After being dethroned in 1955 to second place after five straight years of being champions in this division, the Klein Club New Year Committee decided to go all out in the attempt to recapture the title. Sparing no expense, the club this year will be completely new, and will feature a Captain's Cape of spectacular colors which has been titled, "Rainbow on the Horizon." This extravaganza of fluorescent satin is a four section affair and will be assisted by sixty elaborate page boys, the like of which has never been seen in Mummery. Under their new captain, Al Graham, the men and women of this organization have been working night and day to make this cape a thing of beauty.

The club will enter ten elaborate costumes in this year's array of suits in the Handsomest Costume field. The theme of each of these costumes will be complete to the minutest detail.

The sections of Clowns, Jockeys, Trio Costumes, Special Mentions, Juveniles, Impersonators, and Trim Suits will be surrounded by three outstanding Brigades: Shooting Stars, Pop Chambers, and Darktown Strutters.

1956 is considered to be the most colorful in the Klein Club history. The marchers will strut to the theme of all Rainbow tunes, and the music will be supplied by five leading bands. Seven hundred and forty marchers in all will combine to make this array of colors and beauty the spectacular of all times.



TOP — Armando Pandola busy at work on frame suits.

CENTER — Frank Austerman and James Welsh doing needlework on a Jockey Suit.

ABOVE — Mrs. Harry Hausman working on a costume to be worn by the Pop Chambers Brigade.

Leading off the Klein Club will be the oldest parading individual, Harry Jerdon. Harry is 74 years of age, and this year will mark his 67th year of strutting in the King Clown category. He will be followed by Morris Roddy with 48 years of continual shooting. Morris will also be listed in the King Clown field and this friendly rivalry will make these two an interesting pair to watch for.

The youngest marcher will be Carl Flinn, Jr., who at three years of age will be after his second win in the juvenile field.

The club promises that no festival will compare to what the Charles Klein N.Y.A. will display this New Year's Day, 1956.

FAR LEFT — Milt Harvey in his 1955 Doves of Peace King Jockey suit.

LEFT — Carl Flinn, Sr. arrayed in his suit, Black Spider.





First Prize for Floats was taken by the Liberty Clowns with this entry in 1955, entitled "The Roaring Twenties."

LIBERTY CLOWNS NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

BILLIE TORELLI	President
MICKEY JACKSON	Vice-President
MIKE TERRY	Treasurer
DOMMIE TORELLI	Captain

The Liberty Clowns New Year's Association was organized in December of 1936 by Billie Torelli. He was made president while Pete Marcello became captain of this comic club. 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 third prize. In 1940 the club's membership was swelling, and added two more able men to their staff of officers, Mike Terry and Mickey Jackson. This club has achieved the following standings in the past years: 2nd place in 1940 and 1941; 3rd place in 1942, 1943, 1944; back up to 2nd in 1945 through 1953; 1st in 1954; and 4th in 1955. In 1950 Joe Schultz became the club's new captain. By winning four straight first prizes as captain, he set a record among all captains. Joe Schultz will not cap-

tain the club this year.

In 1956 the Liberty Clowns will be captained by the youngest captain in the comic division, 19 year old Dommie Torelli, son of the club's president. Liberty Clowns hope to maintain their prestige under this new leader who has gained the respect of all by proving to be a real Mummer. Dommie is parading this year for the sixteenth straight time, and is the proud winner of fifteen straight prizes earned in former years.

The Liberty Clowns have chalked up a record which no other club has ever achieved, they have taken thirty-two individual prizes. In 1955 they were accorded five first prizes — Brigade: "All Chiefs and No Indians"; Float: "The Roaring Twenties"; Group: "McCarthy Censure"; Juvenile: "Mary and Her Little Lamb"; and Funniest Couple: "Dancing Girls."

In 1956, Captain Dommie Torelli will step out of his role as an individual parader to carry the forty-foot long Captain's Cape which will be entitled "The Walt Whitman Bridge." Twenty-five page boys will assist in carrying this creation.

Joe Schultz' Captain's Cape was awarded second prize in its division in 1955.

Prize winning Juvenile Frank Gregory as Mother Goose.





The **MURRAY CLUB**

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JOSEPH TYLER, JR.	Treasurer
HARRY STATSENBERG	Financial Secretary
DAN HERMAN	Captain

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NOSEGAYS from a MUMMER'S SCRAPBOOK

THE WORD MUMMER MEANS an actor in a silent show, one who acts out his part in pantomime; in other words, one who is "mum." In Scotland, the Mummers were known as "Guisers." Other authorities say Mummer comes from an ancient word meaning mask or masquerade.



EARLY PHILADELPHIA SONG was:

*"Here we stand before your door
As we stood the year before.
Give us coffee nice and hot
And we'll make you a happy spot."*

Cakes were given instead of cash prizes and a dish of hot Philadelphia Pepper Pot was greatly relished.



A MUMMER'S DAY IS NEVER DONE . . . after completing the parade last year, and being dismissed at the dispersal point, 6th and Girard Avenues, a number of the marching units organized a formation and took part in a second parade southward on Second Street, from Spruce to Ritner. This "Little Mummers Parade" was sponsored by the Second Street's Merchants who put up a \$1000 in extra prizes.



MECHANIZED . . . an innovation in the 1954 parade was a walkie-talkie communications car at the head of the parade which was designed to keep the parade units properly spaced and to facilitate the movement of cross-town traffic.

JUDGE FOR THE DAY Last year's judges in the Fancy Division were: Joseph J. Greenberg, President of the Philadelphia Chapter of Artists Equity; Jack Bookbinder of the faculty of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; and Captain John F. Walker, Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Temple University. In the Comic Division, those designated as Judges were: Ted O'Loughlin, News Art Department, "Evening Bulletin"; Robert Epp, Art Department, "Philadelphia Inquirer"; and Lon Ebner, Art Department, "Daily News." And for the String Band Division, the Judges were designated as: Clarke C. Price, Musical Director of the Fourth Naval District Band; Major D. Keith Feltham, Director of Music, Valley Forge Military Academy; and Mrs. Elizabeth Wynkoop, Fashion Illustration Department, Philadelphia Museum School of Art.



IN MEMORY . . . a touching tribute was paid last year by the Klein Fancy Club to a veteran Mummer, David W. Crawford, who died in 1954 just as his unit began the march up Broad Street. The Klein Club presented the David W. Crawford Brigade led by Captain Joseph J. Power in a gorgeous number entitled "White Christmas."



TWO YEARS STRAIGHT . . . Two-year-old Steve Conicelli who made his debut as a Mummer in 1954 was again in line in '55 dressed as a small clown. This was Steve's second year and he covered the distance on foot.



Captain Harry Starner and Treasurer David Jackson work on an Oregon Club suit.



One of the suits worn by the Jokers in 1955, Calypso Fantasy.



The South Franklin Brigade costumes for 1955, An Old Fashioned Couple.

OREGON NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

FRANK POWERS President
 HARRY STARNER Captain
 THOMAS NAPOLEON Vice-President
 JOSEPH DUFFY Recording Secretary
 RICHARD MITCHELL Financial Secretary
 DAVID JACKSON Treasurer
 FRANK LEONARD Steward

1955's prize winning Fancy Club, the Oregon New Year Association, was chartered in 1936, and is distinguished by its tasteful and lavish "chenille work." This beautiful and intricate embroidery is featured on the traditional fancy club entries for which Oregon is renowned. Captain Harry Starner, who does this embroidering on the costume sections practically unaided, starts his work in April 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 hardworking mem-

bers 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, fashioned at least 5000 red and white rosebuds for the Captain's Cape. The ladies also actively participate in preparing for the annual event which was instituted last year: a lavish party for the youngsters who serve as page-boys on New Year's Day. As a result, Oregon reports no scarcity of page-boys.

For 1956, the Captain's Cape will be a four-section masterpiece entitled The King and the Stars on Parade, and will require fifty-five page-boys to carry it. Three full brigades: The Jokers, South Franklin Street, and The First Nighters, will appear with Oregon and four bands will supply marching music. A total of approximately 1000 men will make up Oregon's complement.

In 1955 the Joker Brigade took first prize for the second time in a row with its Calypso

Fantasy and Captain Joe "Buck" Walters is shooting for his third winner with the theme of "A Roman Holiday" in 1956. Francis Palamidias has fashioned the costumes again this year, and the forty-five men in the brigade will be garbed as Roman gladiators wearing sequined breastplates, swords, and shields, and suits of turquoise and white. The Co-Captains will be arrayed in crimson and gold. "Buck" Walters, Jr., at the age of 3½ years, will be making his second appearance as a mummer, while his 4-year-old friend and the son of President Frank Powers will be seen elsewhere in the line of march. Joe Brown of the South Franklin Brigade, which captured second prize in 1955, tells us that his group will make a strong bid again this year.

The Oregon Club extends best wishes of the season and hopes that the public will derive great enjoyment from their 1956 appearance.

A group of Pantomime Clowns seen in 1955. From Left to Right are: H. Wolfheimer, J. Murray, E. Isaacs, T. Hutch, Jack Murray.





Captain Walter Krop displays some of the prize-winning form that won first place for the Polish American in 1955.

POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND

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

The Polish American String Band was organized in 1933, and has made a creditable showing every year. They have always been among the top winners in the New Year's Day Parades. First prize was won in 1941, 1949, 1952, 1954, and 1955. Sparkling music and outstanding drills are the band's trademark. In 1954 the now-famous Mexican Hat Dance theme started a novelty in Mummery, and the sight of the entire band dancing as they played created a big sensation on Broad Street. In 1955 the French Can-Can theme was another dancing production.

In past years this remarkable String Band has performed in many cities such as New York, Chicago, Washington, Baltimore, Reading and Allentown. Their biggest success was a four day appearance in Pittsburgh in 1952, co-starring with Vaughan Monroe and his orchestra. Mummery to this band means planning and working twelve months of the year. The day after the New Year's parade, the officers of the band start planning for the next year. The designing of the suits, headpieces, musical selections and arrangements, dance steps and drills are all under their

supervision. All the headpieces are made by the band members themselves, four months before the big parade.

Walter Krop is making his eleventh appearance as Captain of Polish American. He has won best dressed Captain honors five times, and is one of the original members of the band. He is outstanding for his forceful personality and his vigorous interpretation of the renowned Mummies' strut.

For 1956, the band presents the ballroom scene from the "Merry Widow Waltz." The sixty-seven playing members are dressed in red and gold suits and capes. Headpieces are embellished with white plumes and represent a stage upon which is seen a dancing couple.

A close-up of some of the musicians' Can-Can costumes of 1955.





Purul presents its 1955 first prize-winning Captain's Cape.

Purul New Year Association

January 1, 1956, is the twentieth consecutive year of participation in the Mummings Parade for the Joseph A. Purul New Year Association.

Original and unique ideas, added to new and colorful costumes, make the Purul Comic Club an outstanding Mummer organization. These qualities manifest themselves in the prize list each year. The Purul Club has been awarded first or second prize every year except for three occasions when it placed third. The individual members also have topped the coveted prize lists — the first comic brigade and comic club captain prizes were won by Purul Members on a majority of the times when they have appeared.

Families and famous Mummer names comprise the

Purul Comic Organization, such names as: John Galloway, Al and Ray Orr, Frank and Anthony Foccaccio, Tom Stewart, Elmer Kammeraad, Frank Stermel, Joe Burke, John and Ted Burke, Fred and Stanley Wisniewski, John Purul, Frank Passehl, Baumheister and Parcell, Ed Brennan, Sammy Foss, Joe McClister, Bill Uhle, Tony Schiavo, and John Press. Incidentally, Tony Schiavo takes time out from his Cafe business on Crown Point Road in Verga, New Jersey, just to take part in the parade. His neighbor, John Press, a venetian blind manufacturer, directly across from the Firehouse in Verga, sets aside his work for Mummery too.

The Purul Comic Club extends wishes to all for a happy and prosperous New Year!

SCOTT SMITH

Cadillac



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QUAKER CITY STRING BAND

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FRANK QUINN *Recording Secretary*
JOHN MAYER *Musical Director*
JOE KELLY, Jr. *Steward*

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BILL GARTON	BILL POWERS
GEORGE GUSS	GEORGE MYERS
JIM HINCHEY	CLEM RENDE

The Quaker City String Band is celebrating its Twenty-fifth Anniversary in 1956, and with this in mind they have put forth their best efforts to present a spectacle that will thrill the public.

In 1955 Quaker City was a prize winner with its fabulous "Show Business" theme, and their rooters will be even more delighted with the theme for 1956, which is entitled "White Cloud."

The inspiration for this theme has come from American Indian lore, and we have been promised that we will see the most gorgeous white leather Indian costumes with silver trimmings that have ever been worn by any brave chief. Raymond Endriss will once more captain this band of seventy-two musicians. He will be attired in a most magnificent costume presentation of an Indian god.

Through the tireless efforts of the musical director, John Mayer, a stirring tom tom drill and Indian war dance has been devised. The musical numbers played will carry forth the Indian theme and we will hear: "Red Wing," "Indian Love Call," "Cherokee," "Minnetonka," "Pale Moon," "West of the Great Divide," "Chief Tomahawk," and "Redskins."



Captain Ray Endriss displays his lovely Show Business costume of 1955.

A close-up view of some of the musicians arrayed in their prize-winning 1955 suits.





Capt. James Donaghy accepts the trophy for the outstanding performance in the Motorama Parade of 1955.

SOUTH PHILADELPHIA STRING BAND ASSOCIATION

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R. KAIGE	Financial Secretary
J. O'BRIEN	Treasurer
W. CAMPBELL	Business Manager
J. DONAGHY	Captain
G. METZLER	Musical Director
G. HABINA	Sergeant-at-Arms
E. ROOP	Drill Master

—Board of Directors—

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South Philadelphia, one of the younger clubs, will be participating in their tenth parade in 1956. In the



A view of some of the musicians in the 1955 costume theme, "Western Jubilee."

true democratic manner, the officers and captain of this band are elected by popular ballot each year.

South Philadelphia has made several public appearances over the course of the past year, and they received a trophy for their participation in the July 4th parade held in Plainfield, N. J. A few months ago they were seen on the "Tom's Foolery" TV show, and they played on several occasions at the Veterans' Hospital at 39th and Powelton Avenue.

This year South Philadelphia is making an all-out effort to be among the top contenders. They promise that the public will receive quite a surprise as their suits, music, and drill will be the best they have ever had. The theme will be "Harbor Lights" and the costumes and music will carry out this conception. Trousers will be light blue satin, jackets of medium blue. The capes are blue on the outside, lined with green satin. Suits and capes are decorated with seagulls rendered in light green and lavishly embellished with sequins of various shades. The musicians will wear capes of solid gold sequins, trimmed with blue sequins and a red tassel. Blue headpieces measure over six feet around with a sequin rendering of a lighthouse in the center and topped by forty-eight blue and white plumes. The captain will be garbed in an elaborate interpretation of the theme.

Captain Adam Quaglia displays the Mummies' strut as he performs in Convention Hall in the theme, "Pennies from Heaven."

TRILBY STRING BAND

ADAM QUAGLIA	.....	Captain
WILLIAM MINK	.....	President
JOHN J. RAMAGANO	.....	Treasurer
GERALD VITELLI	.....	Secretary
GENE MAIMOLI	.....	Steward
JAMES McKNIGHT	.....	Musical Director
PHILIP PESCHE	.....	Drill Master
T. BOSSI	.....	Sergeant-at-Arms
B. CIARCIELLI	.....	Director of Aides

The Trilby String Band was the first string 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 that fine shooter, Adam Quaglia.

1955 saw Trilby carrying out the ingenious theme, "Pennies from Heaven," and the public was thrilled



by their lovely blue and gold costumes. They hope this year to delight you again with the theme, "The Naughty Twenties." The colors chosen to carry out Trilby's inspiration are particularly appealing and the musicians will be seen in suits of lime green, candy pink, and gold trim. The lovely headpieces are composed of purest white plumes.

The band will dance as an entirety to the tune of the "Charleston" and all the musical renditions will be numbers reminiscent of the twenties.

Mrs. Helen McKnight leads the musicians in Convention Hall through the drill she originated for the public.

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THEATRICAL COSTUMERS

UPTOWN String Band

ROBERT W. RUNKLE, Jr.	Captain
JAMES L. BEATTY, Sr.	Vice-President
JOHN HEROLD	.....	Treasurer
CARL W. HEERE	.....	Financial Secretary
CLIFFORD JOHNSON, Jr.	.....	Business Director
CHRIS FRYE	.....	Recording Secretary
FRANK BEATTY	.....	Musical Director

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 18 years ago on February 15th, 1937, by a membership of eight musicians.

Today, Uptown ranks among the foremost bands in the Mumpers' Association and they have consistently earned top positions in the judging on New Year's Day. Last year Uptown appeared with the theme, "Uptown On Parade," and recalled to the public many of the memorable successes achieved by this renowned band.

For 1956, the theme will be "Black Magic." Uptown will be dressed in appropriate costumes made of black and white Lyons velvet. Capes are fashioned of black velvet, liberally adorned with silver sequins and lined in white satin. The suits are black and white, jackets have large bell-shaped sleeves, the bottoms of the trousers are adorned with ornamentation resembling spear-heads. The musicians will wear sashes of zebra striped material which carry forth the African mood. Head-pieces are approximately five feet wide by four and a half feet in height. Intermingled black and white plumes will form a crown for the African masks which adorn the backs of the capes. The mask is formed of tufted velvet in black and white with injections of turquoise.

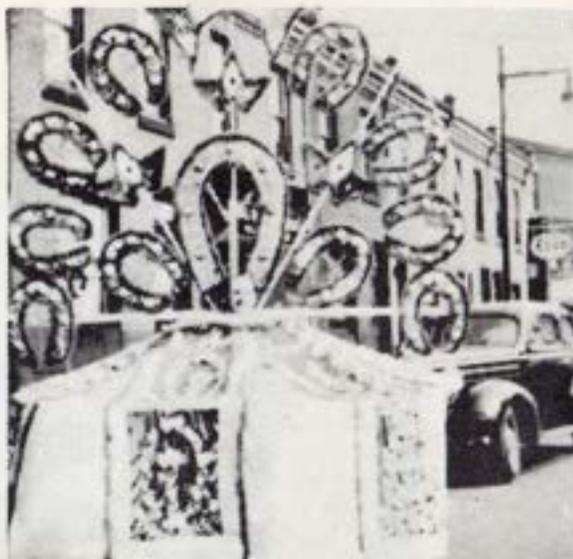


Captain Bob Runkle, Jr. and Son.

Captain Runkle will appear as the Jungle Chief leader of his "tribe" of musicians. His huge head-piece, surrounded by dozens of white plumes lavishly decorated with jewels and sequins, will be topped by a representation of an African idol. His suit is liberally studded with jewels, sequins, and metallic designs, and will present a most dazzling and exciting appearance. The costumes for this theme have been created by Ranell Costumers.

The musical presentations will also be most exotic and African in feeling, and we will hear: "Jungle Town," "Chant of the Jungle," "Black Magic," and, of course, the band's theme song, "Uptown on the March."





A Jockey entry from the Wheeler Club.



Billy Doyle, Jr. and his father are seen prior to the 1955 parade.

S. D. WHEELER NEW YEAR ASSOCIATION

WILL STROBEL	President
FRANK SHAY	Captain
HAROLD McCALLUM	Treasurer
BILL DOYLE	Secretary

This year the S. D. Wheeler Fancy Club will be parading in deep respect to its owner, Buck Wheeler, who will not be seen this year due to ill health. We know he will be with Wheeler in thought on New Year's Day.

There will be approximately 2500 men in the line of march, and music will be provided by four bands. Captain Frank Shay will be seen in a two section captain's cape, entitled "Hearts and Flowers." This has been rendered in red, yellow, and blue fluorescent satin, and measures eighty feet long and twenty feet wide. Captain Shay will be as-

sisted by thirty page boys. A King Jockey suit of kelly green satin with a ten-foot spread and height of 15 feet will be carried by Harold McCallum. A trio of Jockeys will be carried by the Runz Brothers, colors are red, white, and blue, and measures ten feet high with an eight-foot spread. Tony Fenda will carry a variegated colored King Clown with an eight-foot spread and height of ten feet. A green and white trio of Clowns, all with eight-foot spreads and ten feet high, will be carried by John Doyle, Desmond Daly, and Guccheimer. Handsome costumes will be carried by James Welsh and Sam Apolito.

Another big feature will be the Ray Dormer Brigade which promises to be a "knockout" on New Year's Day.



Space Man and the Mikado were among Wheeler's 1955 entries.

WOODLAND STRING BAND

DAVID E. ANDERSON, Jr. Captain
JOSEPH BRESSET Musical Director & Drill Master
CHARLES CRAIN Treasurer
ALBERT KOENIG Financial Secretary
JACK LOWER Recording Secretary

—Directors—

DAVID ANDERSON, Jr. JOHN GROSSES
HERBERT HOOPES EDWARD LIPCHOC

The Woodland String Band was organized in 1926, and is one of the three oldest marching string bands in the Association. In the 1955 parade Woodland was led up Broad Street, not only by Captain Anderson, but by his father, David Anderson, Sr., and his son, David Anderson, 3rd. This three generation combination will be repeated again this year, and is, we believe, unique in the annals of string band history. We are sure, however, that young David will once again steal everyone's heart with his charming manner, and garbed in a miniature captain's costume.

For their twenty-ninth appearance in 1956, Woodland presents as its theme, "Blossom Time." The costume material, which was obtained after great difficulty, was manufactured especially for Woodland and is covered with blossoming flowers in multicolored array. Captain Anderson will be dressed in a red, white, and gold elaborate version of the musicians' suits. The featured song will be "A Blossom Fell," while some of the other numbers that will be heard are: "Apple Blossom Time," "When I Lost You," "Yellow Rose of Texas," and " 'Tis Autumn." As their drill, Woodland will represent an orchard in bloom in a dancing presentation.



Captain David Anderson, and his son, David, are seen as they appeared in Convention Hall in 1955 dressed in the theme, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Some of the musicians are seen dressed in their 1955 costumes.



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NOSEGAYS . . . from a Mummer's Scrapbook

KING FOR A DAY . . . Jack Coyle of the Gallagher Club won first prize in the Fancy Division of the 1936 Mummers Parade. At his home, 111 Emily Street, the Captain of the Gallagher Club discussed "How it felt to be 'King for a Day'." "You have 364 days," he said, "to prepare for the next parade and to take that eight-mile trip up Broad Street. Making up a captain's cloak is quite a job. You start with the small sections and it grows into a beautiful design. Fine needlework is an essential to get the best result. You have to have plenty of stamina to be a good Mummer and carry a load like the captain's cape on an eight-mile jaunt."

During the year, Coyle worked as a painter and brick pointer, but never was too busy to think up new ideas.



\$52,000 IN PRIZES FOR 1955 PARADE . . . Last year the total of prizes which could be won in the New Year's Mummers Parade reached an all-time high with \$52,000 being distributed among the winning clubs. The Comic Division had allocated as its share \$13,100; the Fancy Division, \$15,700; and the String Bands, \$23,000.

The top String Band would get \$2,000 and the captain, \$250. The prize-winning Division would get \$1,600 and its captain, \$575. The top Comic Division club would get \$2,000 and its captain, \$250.



DURING THE WAR, the Mummers Clubs were hard hit by the draft, but in 1941, one thousand Mummers registered in a body at City Hall for police duty in the event of an air raid.

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NOSEGAYS from a MUMMER'S SCRAPBOOK..

THE MUMMERS PARADE HAS BEEN POSTPONED on 7 occasions because of the weather conditions: In 1923, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938, 1949, and 1950.

In 1945 and 1948, the parade went on, but the String Bands dropped out because of the bad weather and marched the following Saturday.



SOME OF THE EARLIEST COSTUMES worn by the celebrators were white cloaks and high silk hats. Then they went into white shirts and white trousers and this was followed by placing chicken feathers in their high silk hats and adorning their shoulders with rosettes and tinsel.



MEMBERS RECEIVED PRIZES TOTALING \$1,725 for marching in the first formal New Year's Parade on Broad Street, January 1, 1901. The first award went to the Elkton Association among the Fancy Clubs and the Whitecaps won first honor among the Comics.



THE FIRST STRING BAND to participate in the Mummies Parade was the Trilby String Band which is still in existence; a group which included Dr. Louis Samuels, John Wygand, and William Siebert organized in 1899 and named the club for the heroine of the novel of that name. They first paraded in 1900 and marched until 1921. The club was re-organized by Dave Nelson in February, 1935, and Jack Towers is the only survivor of the original group.

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Navy Career" and received quite
a bit of attention from the spec-
tators.

ANIMALS TABOO . . . In 1925,
the Kensington Club appeared on
horseback dressed as Russian Cos-
sacks and when the music began,
the horses bolted and could not
be caught in time to parade. In
1941, other clubs brought dogs
into the Parade for the first time.
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others but took luscious bites out
of numerous Mummers. Good-
bye to the dogs!

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Prizes To Be Awarded by the City of Philadelphia, Mummers' Parade — 1956

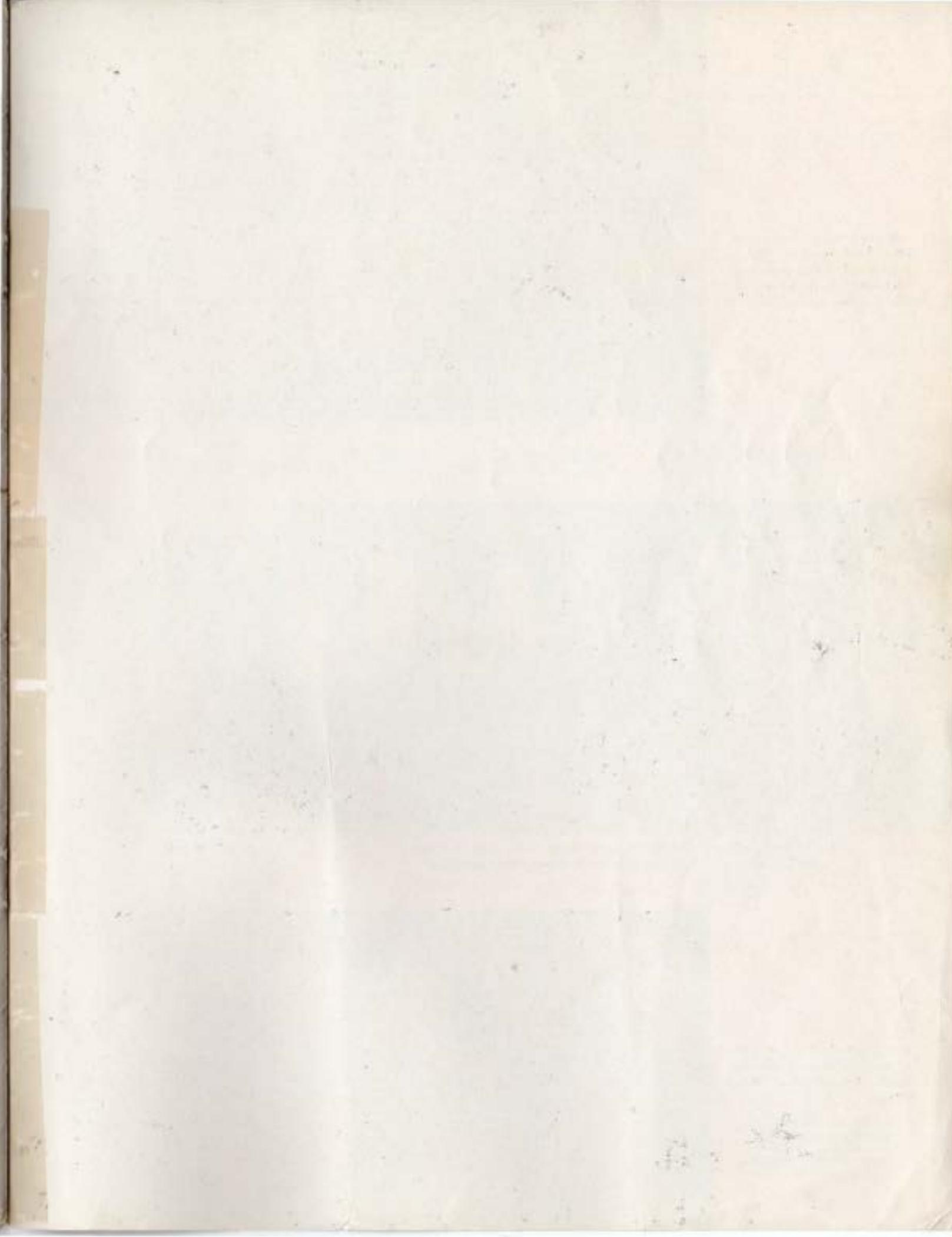
	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF PRIZES OFFERED	TOTAL PRIZE MONEY	FIRST PRIZE MONEY
FANCY COSTUME CLUB DIVISION	ENTIRE CLUB	4	\$4800.00	\$1600.00
	CAPTAIN'S COSTUME	4	1700.00	575.00
	COSTUME GROUP	9	2090.00	370.00
	KING CLOWN COSTUME	6	825.00	200.00
	KING JOCKEY COSTUME	5	750.00	200.00
	HANDSOME TRIM COSTUME	6	825.00	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
COMIC CLUB DIVISION	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
STRING BAND DIVISION	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
Staff Photographer: J. X. Cohen

—National-Penn Printing Co., 1233 Vine St., Phila. 7, Pa.





1955's first prize winning string band, Polish American, is seen with Captain Walter Krop in the foreground. Theme for the year was "Can-Can Dancers."



1955's Prize Winners!



Some of the members of Greater Kensington String Band, which took second position, are seen in their costumes for the theme, "The Highlanders."

First Prize Winning Captain Fred Kesel of the Aqua String Band.

A close-up view of the suits worn by the Association's third band, Quaker City, dressed as "Show Business."

**For Other Division
Prize Winners,
See Inside Pages.**

