



Dear Alumni Member,

In this issue, along with the usual words from the Good Captain, Randy Mutter, V.P Rob's ramblings, a new introduction to one of our members and Sollie's historical corner, we are including what will become a series of articles from Jack H. Wells. Jack, a prominent figure in both the Corps and the Alumni Association was involved in a serious accident and somewhat as part of his recovery, wrote down the experiences and memories he had as a Buccaneer. We believe they are a valuable insight to the history of the corps. Due to the quantity of material, it will be broken up into parts. We also thank Lee Deshler for his part in providing these articles. We hope you enjoy them and thank Jack for his service to the corps and reflections of his journey. We encourage anyone past or present to share their experience with the rest of us. We feel whether a member of the Buccaneer Alumni Association or not, as Buccaneers "We're all good men" (and women) and we're all family to share and encourage the treasures of The Buccaneer Drum & Bugle Corps. We hope this "magazine" format can be an avenue to that end. Let us know what you think of it or if you have material or information that you would like to share in the magazine, contact [Rob Danner](#) .

A word from the Alumni President, Randy Mutter 2014 Off, Running, Mission Complete



After a rough winter and some productive rehearsals our Alumni Association Drum and Bugle Corps stepped out on stage at Hanover Lancer's "Profile's In Music" for their first public appearance for the season.

While warming up on our C chord arrangement the curtain was opened in time for the full house to hear our final chord of the exercise. As it seemed to set the tone for the evening, it also was the first chance for the public to see our thirty some horns and full drum line accompaniment.

Starting off our show with the 1965 opener of Burke's Law into From This Moment On and then presenting our street cadence which softly continued into the beginning of Jeff Kolb's arrangement of Maria caught the crowd with a bit of a surprise and was appreciated. We have several soloists in Maria – Bea Tunmer on Mello, Don Kline on Soprano, Danny Fitzpatrick on Mello, and Marty Holahan on Soprano.

From there we moved into our old standard America (the Beautiful) for our color presentation, and that is always excepted well.

Our next tune was Fantasy taken from another Championship year which as it did on the field also takes us right into our featured drum line presentation developed by our drum instructor Zane Ruth, and again the crowd showed their appreciation for our efforts.

We then handed the crowd a rocking performance of En Sueno once again and it still appears to be a crowd pleaser. Featured soprano soloist, Marty Holahan. The Corps laid things back a bit and closed the show with “No Sea – No Me” Beyond the Sea. Oh, and what was that? There were people standing.

The season continued on much the same way. We showed improvement with each performance and brought the show to several new venues. We have made a few adjustments to the 2015 repertoire to keep the show fresh and look forward to kicking it up a notch. For that we need you..... We are always looking to have our brothers and sisters from this great family join us for music and merriment. 2015 is off and running. The ship has set sail and the wind is at our backs. Keep your ear to the seaside and join the crew when you're in our port.

Part of the Crew – Part of the Ship



From the Crows Nest

In his article, Randy spins off a tale of our alumni drum and bugle corps activity's 2014 repertoire, giving us some flashbacks from that first year of DCA competition in 1965. Wow, almost 50 years ago. As a wee lad at the time, 11 years old in the stands, I remember well what an impressive sight and sound coming off that starting line was. 1965 will always be one of my favorite shows. (along with 1962, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 79, 80, 81, 94, 95, 96... 2010, 11, 12, 14 and probably most of them in between... hmmm I see a problem here)

To many of you, we miss that you not are up on the stage with us, but we understand and hope you know we can feel your presence with us. As we gaze out from the stage we can see many of you cheering us on

and are sure you are with us in heart. We hope you enjoy the show as much as we enjoy giving it. We also want you to know that you are all very welcome to visit our rehearsals or events even if it is just to say hi. Call any of the Alumni officers or check the website www.readingbuccaneeralumni.org for details of our whereabouts. And if you have an itch to participate, we would love to help you make it happen. We have openings in horns, drums, silk line or honor guard. I'll tell you, I think I am as excited about the 2015 season as any. This is the 50th anniversary of the first DCA Championship show and we shall continue our tribute..

I am sorry to report that this is the only issue of this news magazine format that is appearing for 2014. It got to be a heck of a year for me and I just don't know where it went. What a year it turned out to be for our competitive Buccaneer family though. There were many naysayers out there that said this was it. The Cabs were winning and Minnesota was breathing heavy from the west. Never say never..... Back in the hotel at Rochester, Martie Heatherington and her crew prepared MASSIVE booty bags for the 2014 crew. While we don't want to over encourage her, she says she packed those bags full of Bucs Mojo. Did it work? To put it in the words of Carole Young "give us goose-bumps!" When the Bucs left the field that Sunday night, I for one had major goose-bumps. The Bucs had the championship show no matter what came out of the final scores. After the remaining corps put on their shows, it was still clear - The Bucs were the 2014 champions, and the judges agreed. To everyone associated with the Reading Buccaneers 2014 production "Break On Through" and "the last run-through" - Congratulations and Thank You for another fantastic season. Perseverance and your hard work came through - Loud and Proud.

Another huge project being undertaken is the recovery of lost treasure by John Sando - Baritone. We have been trying to equip the new scalywags coming on board with instrumentation and uniforms, but there seems to be a bit that is drifting at sea. We know some of you have lost touch over the years and with all good intentions of getting back to performing, but if you really see that it just isn't happening this year, please call us and arrange for any outstanding equipment to be returned to the old hearse... Wait, that's gone too... I mean to the equipment truck. We assure you that as soon as you can begin plundering with us again we will get equipment back to you, however we just can't afford to get replacement equipment for stuff that is just sitting idle. Reality is we would love to be spending funds on getting more equipment for more players. We all know the bigger the lines are, the more fun it is to play the music. So if you come attached to that equipment and play, we sure won't complain.

Rob Danner
VP/3rd Soprano



From the Corps

BUCCANEERS ANNOUNCE 2015 DESIGNERS & CAPTION HEADS

A Outstanding Veteran Team Returns to Balance in Blue

(Reading, PA – September 18, 2014) – The Reading Buccaneers Drum & Bugle Corps today announced the team of designers and caption heads that will lead the creative and instructional program for the 2015 edition of the corps. The team is comprised entirely of seasoned Buccaneers staff members, all of whom are either returning to their 2014 roles or being elevated to their new roles.

MARK LORTZ returns to his role as Brass Arranger, and PAUL CULLEN returns to his role as Brass Caption Head. JOHNNY TRUJILLO returns to his roles as Battery Arranger and Percussion Caption Head, and MIKE LALLI returns as Front Ensemble Coordinator and is also elevated to the role of Front Ensemble Arranger. SHANNON HALL and NICK TAVARES will assume full-time responsibility for the Buccaneers' color guard program as Co-Color Guard Designers and Caption Heads. CHRISTOPHER VITALE is elevated to the role of Visual Caption Head.

We humbly and graciously thank Buccaneers Hall of Fame member STEVE VINCENT and HANK MANFRA for their many years of exceptional service to the Buccaneers and wish them well as life's endeavors pull them away from their roles with the corps. Vincent spent the past twelve years on the color guard staff, the last six as designer and caption head, and Manfra was a visual staff member since 2005, the past five seasons as visual supervisor and caption head.

"This is an exceptional team of designers and instructors," said Buccaneers Staff Coordinator Christopher Feist. "These professionals have a proven track record of working well together as a team towards our common educational and performance goals. It's particularly gratifying that even as we bid a fond farewell to Steve and Hank, we are able to promote from within several highly talented and successful designers and teachers. With this team in place, our members will be taught by, and perform a program designed by, some of the very best the drum corps activity has to offer. To say we're excited is an understatement!"

"Meet the Buccaneer"

Meet Dino Myers, we call him Mr. Wonderful, mostly because he tells us to and he is bigger than us and he carries that really big horn. Not only that, we know it pleases his 90 year old Mom, who enjoys coming out and watching Dino and the rest of us Bucs. Dino is one of the Alumni's Contra players and normally can be picked out of the crowd by the fact that he carries that big horn to new heights. Dino has also taken on the task of Business Manager of the Buccaneer Alumni Association. Along with being an elected and voting position in the Alumni government, the business manager also has the task of securing shows and parades for the Alumni Drum & Bugle corps to perform at. Early last winter Dino lost traction on an icy porch and took a spill that landed him in the hospital with multiple fractures on an already reconstructed right leg. Even on the mend with this injury, Dino drug himself to the Hanover Lancer's "Profiles in Music" and played Contra with both The Buccaneer Alumni and The Hanover Lancers (alumni?) I took advantage of his inability to escape and pinned him down for this issues "Meet The Buccaneer."

Dino tells me he leads a real boring life. So buckle up. His Drum & Bugle Corps journey began in 1957 with the Pleasantville Cadets where he played baritone. They didn't have Contra Bases back then, but he moved up to the big horn when the chance arrived. He migrated to the York White Roses Junior D&B Corps in 1964 and stayed with them until 1968. His first encounter as a Buccaneer came in 1969.



Then Dino answered the call from the White Roses in 1970 and '71 to provide a business manager for that group. From 1972 to 1977 he marched with the Baltimore Yankee-Rebels and in 1978 he returned to the Buccaneers. In 1979 and '80 Dino fulfilled the Business Manager role for the Bucs' first back to back championship years and he retired the first time from the activity in 1982. The Alumni bug bit Dino around 2006 when he marched with the Baltimore Yankee-Rebel organization.



In 2011 he brought his talents back to the Buc Alumni. He also marches with his "Hometown" Hanover Lancers since 2012 as he is a resident of York County.

In his life away from the contra, Dino has spent 41 years with Print-O-Stat in their sales department. He says the only thing he hasn't been able to sell for them is a name change to Myers-O-Stat. (Perhaps he should try Din-O-Stat) He specializes in supplies for architectural, engineering, surveyor and construction disciplines.

When he has free time he enjoys working around his garden, no special landscape or particular genres, just keeping the place look good. Wife Cathy and Dino also enjoy RV camping and have traveled to all sorts of landmarks including Disney World along with some of the local camping haunts. He of course spends family time with his son & daughter. Dino mentioned that he and Cathy met while both were marching in the York White Roses, making them another Drum Corps couple. We drug Cathy back on the Alumni stage in 2013 flag folding color presentation as the Mother that the folded flag was presented to. Many have witnessed that Dino is a die-hard Steelers fan – I'll let the membership deal with that accordingly.

As business manager for the Alumni, Dino hopes to gets us involved in more concerts. Dino feels we have a real talent for the concert scene that allows the less mobile alumni members to get involved with the activity. Dino is surprised that we don't see more alumni members coming out to see us and to be part of the show and hopes that this is a means to encourage that. He is actively looking for venues where our show could be presented, such as the community fairs. He is quick to add he won't turn down a parade where we can muster the troops to strut their stuff too. As we developed this year's show, I don't think I ever saw anyone as excited about the repertoire as Dino was.



Jack Wells Drum and Bugle Corps History

Preface

I am writing the history of my experiences in the many years of my participation in the drum and bugle corps activity. This is the *'way it happened'*; not for someone to take away the things I did and experienced or to possibly embellish my experiences. These pages contain the history of my life in this activity and are *'just the facts'*.

There are 35 years of history here, 35 years that I experienced first hand, my life. Where the activity went from strict military rules to evolving and transforming into what some might consider a 'Broadway show on a football field' today.

I would like to thank all the people in my past drum corps life and especially the special Buccaneers. Without their help and friendship, I never would have done the things you will read about on the following pages.

Roy Miller, Norm 'Boo Boo' DeTemple, Bruce Englehart, Joe Jazinski, Norm Cimerol, Fred Windish, John Flowers, Ned Baldinger, Willard Marcks, Al Cola and Bud Johnson.

The Beginning

The year was 1939; America was in the midst of the Great Depression and my family, like so many others, was out of work. No money for electricity, coal, food and all the other basic necessities of life. We went hungry many a day.

I would stand on a corner and beg for pennies for food from the people passing by. One day a small drum and bugle corps named Modern Woodmen marched by. WOW! I thought they were good. I followed

them to their post at 8th and Washington Streets where I inquired about joining them. The man whom I spoke to told me I could carry a wooden axe. This was the start of my drum and bugle corps life.

I carried the Modern Woodmen Axe in a few parades then went on the cymbals. Their uniform was gray pants with a gold stripe down the legs. I cannot remember the shirt or jacket, but the pants! Yes; I wore them for everywhere, school, play, Sunday school till I wore holes in the knees and rear end. The corps director would only give me a new pair of pants on parade days.

I did not feel good about wearing these pants out and the corps director would always remind me to take them off. This made me mad so I quit in 1941. I was 10 years old and loved being in drum corps, but did not like being scolded.

So I joined another corps called Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett. This was a much better corps and bigger than the Modern Woodmen. Carl Hiller was the drum instructor. He put me on the bass drum. I really liked that and marched from 1941 to 1948 playing bass, tenor and snare drums.

All through World War II the city of Reading would have war bond drives and Hunter Liggett would march and play. After the war was over every city and town would have a 'Welcome Home' parade for the veterans. When veteran parades were over, there were the fire company parades where marching units needed a drum corps to march to. As a result of all this activity, Reading, PA became a Mecca of sorts for junior drum and bugle corps. There were Kenhorst Fire Co., Temple Fire Co., West Reading Police Cadets, Lt. Gen. Hunter Liggett, Haag Post, Gregg Post and Greater Reading Junior Corps.

I left Hunter Liggett in 1948 to join the West Reading Police Cadets. After a year with West Reading I moved onto Haag Post where I played snare drum. I marched Haag Post for only a short time as I became a father to a set of twins; a son John and daughter Cynthia. But, as the twins grew and started playing with school mates and friends I became restless and yearned to participate again in the drum and bugle corps activity.

The Buccaneer Era Begins

The president of the Reading Buccaneers, Norm "Boo Boo" DeTemple, lived 3 doors from me and asked me to join the corps. I felt I could not and would not but I went to see the shows and drove myself nuts. Still, I would not join the Buccaneers. I lost my left eye when I was 16 years old. A boy shot me in the eye and it had to come out. As you can imagine, this made it hard to get a good paying job. I had to take a job anywhere I could get one. Eventually I was hired by Luden's candy factory where I met Roy Miller who was the chemist working in the lab. Roy was also a long time member of the Buccaneers.

Roy would come and talk to me about the Buccaneers; the music, shows, bus trips and of course, practice. Roy told me stories about the Buccaneers that were so vivid it would get me excited just to hear them. Eventually Roy got me to do what “Boo Boo” could not. In 1964 I joined the Reading Buccaneers.

I was in John Flowers’ drum line...WOW! As it turned out, however, due to my work schedule and family, I could not make all the practices and Flowers told me I could not be in his drum line. “Boo Boo” asked me to carry the American Flag. Although I did not really picture myself in that position, I did it so I could be in the corps. I believe one did not join the Buccaneers and automatically become a **Buccaneer**. One could be a member of the Buccaneers but you had to earn the right to be called a **Buccaneer**.

So, in 1964 I did what the corps needed me to do; parade, water bucket, pick up trash, anything needed to be done – Jack Wells did it.

Then I was on the field competing and carrying the American Flag. When I did a good job service men would tell me ‘thanks for honoring the American Flag and our Country.’ But, if I made a mistake they would let me know how their friends died for the Flag and to stop screwing up. This experience made me the best American Flag carrier in drum corps! I did not want vets giving me hell for disgracing the Flag.

When we did the color presentation the rifles would do the Queen Anne Salute. Post flag would present and me – I stood at attention. I wanted to do more; I asked myself, what I could do to make this moment of the show more memorable? It came to me that I could raise the flag up over my head. So I asked Bud Johnson, the drill instructor, if I could do this on the field. He replied, “Let me see it.” I showed him, he smiled broadly and said “Keep doing it.” That year most of the other DCA corps started doing the same thing.

After being in the honor guard for five years I wanted to do more. In 1970 Roy Miller, then President of the Corps made me Color Guard Sergeant. In 1971 the President of the Corps, Willard Marcks, made me Color Guard Captain. I remained Color Guard Captain until 1980.

Ralph Pace came to the Buccaneers in 1972 as drill instructor and designer. He wanted a rifle line and asked me to teach them. I had 10 guys that did not know how to twirl rifles in my newly formed rifle line. We worked about two months till they started to look good and in the last weeks before DCA Championships they started to look *really good*. It turned out our new rifle line was a great addition to the field show. The next competitive season most DCA Corps added rifle lines to their show. I may be slightly biased but I believe our rifles were the best in DCA for

Historically Speaking with Donnie Solinger



I have a 1965 story;

We were on the way to Milford, CT. on Sept 11th, 1965 for the first DCA championship contest and I had a toothache - it turned out to be badly abscessed. It had been bothering me for a couple of days but I figured it would eventually go away. It didn't. We drilled for a couple of hours after we arrived in Connecticut and then it was time to get dressed for the show. I must have been moping because Boo Boo De Temple (Future corps president and baritone player) asked me what was wrong. I told him. He told me to find Goodie (Corps quartermaster) and see if he had some aspirin. I did - and he did.

We went on second to last and felt as if we had nailed it. The crowd loved us. Don't forget we were in the Hurricanes back yard, but still the crowd went wild. By this time my head was pounding and I could barely see straight from the abscessed tooth I had ignored for three days. I flagged down Roy Miller who I believe was Assistant DM along with Frank Ferarro and told him I was going to the bus to wash down some more aspirin with a couple of cold ones. I would miss retreat. I thought if could keep my eyes closed the headache/toothache would subside. Roy looked at me and said, "What if we win? You'll wish you were on retreat with us". I remember thinking that poor Roy had deluded himself into thinking that the drum corps gods would actually let us win the first DCA championship in the state of Connecticut against the Connecticut Hurricanes.

They had beaten us three times and we had bested them twice in head to head competition during the season.

I looked at Roy and said in the most respectful yet derisive voice I could conjure up, "Roy, we're NOT going to win." He looked back at me with those soulful eyes (He was a born salesman) and said very slowly "We might". Well, toothache or no toothache I lined up for retreat hoping my head wouldn't explode.

The next thing I remember was hearing the announcer say "And in second place with a score of 84.36, that's 84.36, (here it comes I thought, let's have it) The CONNECTICUT HURRICANES. I can still feel the chills running up my spine as we stared at one another with a combination of shock and disbelief. They announced our score - 84.50. Then we erupted. The crowd was behind us and even the other corps were clapping for us. In those days this was almost unheard of. The tears came - and the toothache went away. I was overcome with a feeling of pride, comradeship, happiness and pure joy. The VFW championships paled by comparison, for me. It remains to this day one of most powerful and defining moments of my life. I was 24 years old then and it was great to be a Reading Buccaneer. It still is!

PS Thanks Roy!

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Hope you enjoy this historical view of the Buccaneers family. If you have ideas or stories to share, just let us know.

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