



THE CAVALIER NEWS

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SPECIAL REPORT: A RECAP OF OUR 1975 SUMMER TOUR

Though our touring this summer was limited to the local area, we travelled far indeed. And we travelled fast. Since some of us are still in a daze and can't even remember if we changed shorts between the shows, the LFDL now recaps those memorable hours of work and frustration; joy and bliss; quick meals and indigestion. But since many of us still remember the work and worry of the two weeks before the shows, we will not linger on their moments of "happiness," but

instead head straight to that final week of competition which tore apart our lips and stood our uniforms on end. And so here comes the.....

IN ONLY HAPPENS ONCE DEPT.

Thursday, July 3rd

On the day of Thursday, July 3, the Cavaliers were scheduled for their first attempt at competing with the 1975 show. Competition was to take place at the 3rd annual West Coast

Invitational, at Birmingham High in Van Nuys. Among the competing bands were the Rock Falls Marching Rockets, The Irving Crown Imperials, the Los Caballeros, the California Cavalry, and the Whittier Cavaliers.

To start the show, the Cavaliers marched on the field and played the Star Spangled Banner, and then took off for a back field for a few last minute preparations. The band was nervous, and we had good reason to be. After all, this was our first show, and Rock Falls had been competing for 3 months already. After walking through the drill once, we started to get hyped up to beat everyone else. We knew we had the best show out there, and all we had to do was pull it off. We made our way about halfway back to the stadium, and then since it was intermission, decided to hit them with a touch of what made us famous, our music. After we had played through the show, we came to the conclusion that we were going to win. Now ready, we marched into the stadium. In front of a home town crowd our show was well received and we did an excellent job considering that it was only our first performance. (Rumor has it that we had judges hanging out the press box during the sax line on Channel One Suite). As we were the host band and therefore last, we went immediately out for retreat.

Even though we did a good show things didn't turn out so well for us. We were good enough for 2nd place, being beat out by Rock Falls, by two tenths of a point. Still, we were able to walk out with some dignity and try to find out what had gone wrong.

As it turned out, we had lost because of a mix-up on the drum sheets, causing it to give all drum lines a perfect score. We also had three tenths points penalties for dropped equipment which would have made the difference. It probably was good to lose the first show if we had to lose one because, like Ron told us later, we only lose once. We went home ready to come back and prove we were still the best band around.

Outcome of the contest---

- 1 - Rock Falls Marching Rockets
- 2 - Royal Cavaliers
- 3 - Irving Crown Imperials
- 4 - Los Caballeros
- 5 - California Cavalry
- 6 - Whittier Cavaliers

Friday, July 4th

After having lost the show the night before, it was no accident that we did what we did on the 4th of July. Disgust and anger lingered around the buses as the band loaded early to head for the West Covina Parade. This was the first of two parades this day, which is traditionally a winning day for the band. When we got to the parade we were soon to notice that the other bands from back east had also arrived. They might as well have gone home. We took Sweepstakes with a score of 92.3 and Crown High School beat Rock Falls in the high school division which was a welcomed situation.

After awards we got on the buses and headed for Pacific Palisades, the second parade of the day. At the parade we faced on of the heaviest competitive line ups that we've had in a long time. Besides the two eastern bands, Los Caballeros,

Torrance, and Marker's (among others) showed up. Marker's had a special interest in beating us especially since they wanted to keep their winning streak going since they beat us the last time we marched against them in South Gate. But since we only lost once to anybody, we again won Sweepstakes with a score of 92.9. Marker's didn't even wait for the results but left right after the parade.

When we were standing around waiting for the buses to load we joined with Los Caballeros and had a "heavy" jam session. Actually the only thing we did was play "This Land Is Your Land" the Disneyland version which both bands had learned in order to play in America On Parade. It was interesting to find out they didn't know it any better than we did.

When we left Palisades, we headed for La Habra where we would do the National Anthem and the field show to open their 4th of July celebration. Right after the show we boarded the buses to go to Cerritos where we would scrape out tired bodies off our seats and do the show once more. After that show, we were able to relax and watch the fireworks. Boy did that feel good. But it was too bad you couldn't see anything. Somebody turned off the lights. We finally got home after midnight that day beat and tired too. The uniforms were standing by themselves when they got off the truck which was a lot better than some of the members.

Saturday, July 5th

We arrived at El Camino College in the early afternoon and immediately

had to get dressed so we would have plenty of time to stand around. As we were getting dressed we watched Los Caballeros practice their show. After they finished we rehearsed a little ourselves. Then we moved to the corner of the field and watched Crown rehearse until John came over and told us we had drawn our position, and we were last. Everybody was a little anxious to do the show but we were all glad to be last. I think we wanted to go in and avenge our defeat of Thursday at Birmingham right away.

Finally we went into the stadium. It was big and all cement but we were warned so the echoing wasn't that much of a problem. We went on and did our show. For the most part it was one of our better shows. We went up into the stands and watched Whittiers show because they had showed up late and went on after us. Then we went down for the expected good news. The final score was:

Whittier - 44.3
California Cavalry - 47.95
Los Caballeros - 57.1
Crown - 69.05
Rock Falls - 69.05
Royal Cavaliers - 72.95

Not bad but we still had 3 more shows to beat them in. But it was a good start (a little late but we had to start somewhere).

Sunday, July 6th

After Saturday afternoon's win and Saturday night's party, everyone was ready for another win.

When we got to school we rehearsed for about an hour or so then we went and got dressed. When we got back we found out we were last

again. So we went into the stands to watch. A couple of bands later we went down and warmed up, and put on a very mediocre show.

Then we went down for retreat where there were a few supprizes, both good and bad.

First the bad news. Whittier beat California Cavalry which was too bad because it was C. C. 's show.

Now the good news. Crown beat Rock Falls. This was a great disapointment for most of the members of our band because we all love Dickie and hate to see his band lose. Then on the way home more bad (?) news. A rumor started that Paul Grana had quit Whittier. But I'm happy to say it was only a rumor. Final placing was: 6th-California Cavalry. 5th-Whittier Cavaliers. 4th-Los Caballeros. 3rd-Rock Falls. 2nd-Crown. 1st-Royal Cavaliers.

Now we had won 2 out of 3 but we wanted more than that so we decided on the way home to win the rest.

Monday, July 7th

On July 7 we left for Whittier College to do our 4th show. Naturally the Whittier Cavaliers hosted this show. We had a short rehearsal on music and then proceeded to get in uniform; we had drawn 4th position.

After we got in uniform we were provided with a drink, a sandwich and some cookies by the chaps. At about this time Crown was about to perform and so we watched---they were scary; they had done a good show. Immediately after we went to a parking lot to warm up. During the warm-up there was talk of doing a "Kill Grass". The idea seemed like a good one since it used to really

get the band up for the show. As far as I'm concerned it worked for me and a lot of other people too. However it just wasn't enough. As it turned out, that show was the worst we had done so far. We still won but not by much.

Tuesday, July 8th

Notre Dame hosted the last show so where we were the first band to be on. The show went much better than the night before. We got high drums and high music. We also had the highest total score.

After our show we went in the stands to watch the rest of the bands. After retreat we lined up on both sides of the track and thanked all the bands by clapping as they marched by.

During that hectic week we won 4 shows and lost 1 by 2/10 of a point. I think that really doesn't leave much doubt as to who is the better band. Remember, we learned the show just about a week before. Now, think how good the show could be between now and VFW Nationals. Like John said, this is only the beginning. We have a big job ahead of us and we can do it---- we will do it.

There are 2 bands from back east, one being a past VFW champion, the other the current champ, and now they expect to win again. They never even heard of us; we don't mean diddley to them.

That's all the more reason to blow them off the field. Just imagine, when they lose, they won't have any idea what hit 'em. They'll be so surprised they won't know what to do.

Do, now we've got to stop

the Royal Cavaliers look better in real life than on plates."

George Tondef (drum corps enthusiast) "That's the first time I've seen wooden saporanos."

Mac Denife (stadium janitor) "What a mess."

From the Director's (?) Desk

1975-76 is going to be a year of truthfulness in the Royal Cavaliers. It will also be a year of commitment. Too many members and parents have existed within the structure of the Royal Cavaliers without making a commitment to the organization. Perhaps they have felt that the Cavaliers have existed so well throughout the years that there is no need for their involvement. However, we have reached a critical point in that as the band has developed there is more and more to be done and in the last two years there have been fewer and fewer people doing it.

Spring and summer of 1975 have seen a breakdown in our "well oiled" organization and many things are being done poorly or not done at all. On top of that, it is incredible how many people think that \$6.50 a month buys so very, very much from the staff. The parents and members are going to find out how much it costs to put on a field show. An unbelievable amount of material for our previous shows has been free. For 1976 we will prepare and present a practical budget for a band field show and plan on how we are going to meet the needs of the band and attached units.

In addition 1976 will hopefully see a

resurgence of participation from the parents in order to help the staff and members meet the performance goals set. It has become necessary to reorganize the staff and the support elements of the band. Much of the success of the band in the future will depend on how well the parents provide the membership and staff with the necessary support.

The goals of the band used to be "John" centered in that John will tell us what to do; and John will see that it gets done; or John will do it. The needs of our performing organizations now exceed the human capabilities of one person by so much that I know of no superhuman who could continue to provide this singular participation/leadership. Our membership has the capabilities to accomplish just about anything, as a band, that they decide to do. The staff should provide leadership and instruction and the parents should provide guidance and support.

The bands have advanced and continue to do so. However the parents and association has continued to operate with exactly the same committees and projects as they did five years or even a decade ago. Therefore the needs of the performing organizations have outstripped the parents ability to keep up with them. There is a current project under way to ascertain the needs of the organization and revamp the Parent's Association to meet the needs. It can be done, it is being done, but it needs your help. Please be alert for notices and announcements regarding new committees and individual projects that the Royal Cavaliers Association will be undertaking.

Perhaps 1976 will be a year when the Royal Cavaliers and Royals shine like a perfect gem, free of flaws,

multifaceted and brilliant.

John Combes

WELCOME TO MY NIGHTMARE DEPT.

By Colleen Lee

On the evening of June 16, the Royal Cavaliers went to a Birthday Party. This was no ordinary Birthday party, but probably one of the most wierdest celebrations ever. This crazy party was given in honor of someone who is also very different ---Alice Cooper! The festivities took place at the Hollywood Paladium, and guests included many celebrities, stars and friends of Alice.

When we arrived at the party, the festivities had already begun. I heard that Alice started his party by popping out of his own gigantic birthday cake. After arriving, we stayed at a parking lot across the street and changed into uniform and practiced for our performance. We were not the only ones performing, but there was a variety of entertainment that ranged from a juggling act to a dog show. After rehearsing we entered the party through a back door because we were suppose to be a big surprise. The band went up to a curtained-off balcony where no one could see them while the majorettes went back stage. Since I am a majorette (and I was back-stage) I must say I saw quite a few unusual people and "things" running around back there. I was really shocked when I saw a 6-foot chicken walk by!!! Then suddenly the balcony curtains parted and the loud drum beat of "March Militare" really seemed to shock the audience. Of course they were not expecting a marching band at a famour Rock

Star's Birthday Party. "March Militare" was followed by "Shaker Melody", and then the Royal Cavaliers Majorettes came on stage clad in red, white, and blue uniforms. Nicki Raw twirled first to "This Land is Your Land", and then the majorettes performed to "Joyce's". While the majorettes were twirling, someone turned a strobe light on them, which made everything they did seem to happen in slow motion. The audience really seemed to appreciate and enjoy us very much, and I am sure that we added to the fun and excitement of their evening. And for those Cavaliers who participated in this one-of-a-kind performance, I am sure it was very thrilling for them and one that they will never forget.

Macy's or Bust

On June 29th in a large classroom at Birmingham High School a meeting with the Royal Cavalier families took place, the subject, Macy's Parade, or was it. Before even talking about Macy's parade John spoke on a subject which is ex-tremely important, the "Parent's Organization". We are lacking support from them, and in order to be able to accomplish goals like Macy's or tours we must have parent support, the members cannot do it all themselves without losing important and valuable time that can go towards other events, rehearsals, performances etc. And things cannot all be left up to John. He doesn't and shouldn't have to take care of every minor detail of an event, fund-raiser, etc., that

the band plunges into.

There should be "Regular Volunteer Support" from parents, it would take a dedicated group. They would take charge of maintenance of band equipment, truck maintenance, etc. There should also be a "promotion" group. It would be their job to promote the band, advertise in newspapers and posters etc. There is also insufficient communication between the band and city officials who are interested in the band and who would be able to help out in this area. Also a Fund-Raising Committee should be put together so that they could think of and research ideas for additional income that's going to help us go places. All these things are in progress now. I urge you to ask your parents to get involved and help.

The final part of the meeting was then brought up; the main event, "Macy's Parade". The big answer was to the much talked about and obvious question? HOW MUCH? The cost was broken down into food, lodging, and transportation, approximately two-hundred and seventy-five smackers. (\$275.00) There were a few questions from members and parents. One of the questions was, "are the members in favor of going to Macy's? I'm sure you know what the reaction sounded like. The vote was taken. There were 50 families for and 2 against, so it was agreed to accept the invitation. So now it's up to us, not John, not a couple of committees, but it's up to all of us. If we want to go bad enough, we will go. Eighteen-hundred dollars ain't

a bad start.

See you in New York,
Phil Rojas

OH NO, TIA T MAKES FOUR IN A ROW DEPT.

By Tom Munsell

The weekend of June 27 was to be a long weekend for sure. The American Legion State Contest was on Friday evening and the Lompoc Parade was the next morning at aprox. 10 O'clock. Our going to both of these events meant a long bus drive Friday night, long into the morning.

The Cavaliers and Parade Auxiliaries along with the Royals Sr. Band loaded at Notre Dame early Friday morning. Not many people were quite awake by the expressions on their faces. We loaded the buses and were on our way to San Diego and our American Legion '75 Championship, considering no one else was going to compete against us.

As soon as we arrived in San Diego we were told to get dressed. We formed up on a side street just in front of the L.A. Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps. We stepped off after a seemingly long wait. The parade itself was not that long and we were soon in the disbanding area.

People who brought food now had a chance to eat it, others went off looking up the street. San Diego was blessed with a Taco Bell, (will wonders never cease!) When everyone had returned we sat around on the steps where that night we would be performing for two judges, the Color Guard, Majorettes, Chaperons, and the Royals.

The Cavaliers preformed their two pieces, the judges made their

criticisms directly to the band. The judges gave the band a score of "excellent". Next the Royals Sr. Band performed for concert adjudication only. The band felt nervous with the added pressure of the judging. The band could have done better than it actually did, but under the circumstances the Royals performance was to be commended.

After the equipment for the two bands was loaded, we departed for Lompoc. The bus drive was very long indeed and we finally arrived in Lompoc at about 1:30 in the morning. When everything was unloaded from the buses and taken to the gym the Chaperons made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for everyone before we went to sleep.

The next morning breakfast was at 7:30. After Breakfast we put on our uniforms and rehearsed the fold which we would be doing in the competition area later that morning.

We walked over to our line up position and waited to move out. The parade seemed very long, but when it was all over the Royal Cavaliers Band had won their first Sweepstakes for 1975. We then gave a concert for the people still in the park after the awards ceremony had taken place.

After the concert, which was broadcasted over the radio, we loaded everything up, gathered everyone together and went home with the 1975 California State American Legion Championship Title and the Sweepstakes Award from Lompoc.

Mr. & Mrs. Bower sincerely and gratefully thank each and every person that had a part, whatever it was, to help plan, prepare or serve the Crown Imperials while they were our guests. Also thanks to the chaperones for their daily cooperation. You all did a SUPER job.

WILMA'S WISDOM DEPT.

Dear Wilma,
Life has got me down. The other day I went to play my tuba and found that somebody had been playing it before me. I'm strictly a one tuba man and this has left me in quite a position. Should I go on as if nothing happened or should I leave my tuba for good? Please help me.
Unfidelity

Dear Unfidelity,
I think you should just blow.
Wilma

Dear Wilma,
I really think the instructors are crazy. They keep telling me that I'm out of line but I know I'm not. The rest of the band is wrong! How do you get it through their cement heads I'm right?
Sticking-Out

Dear Sticking-Out,
The instructors have a much better position to see where the problems are. I don't think they have cement heads, rather you have a plaster brain. You should shape up before you find yourself out of more than the line.
Wilma