

Marquis of Granby Jr. Ancient Fife & Drum Corps

Newsletter

December, 2008

RECENT EVENTS –

A Visit from Jim Hall – Jim Hall recently stopped by at practice to speak to members about Veteran’s Day. Mr. Hall is veteran of the Korean War, and served for many years in a special unit called “See Bees.” He described what the See Bees do, and talked a bit about what he did during his years of service. He explained exactly what Veteran’s Day was, and what makes it different from Memorial Day. He finished up by pointing out the ways he thinks the contributions of the Marquis are important to not only Veteran’s Day celebrations, but to preserving military history overall. Thank you so much to Mr. Hall for coming and presenting this interesting talk!

Enfield Veterans Day Parade – Another crisp, cool autumn day for this parade! The Marquis even ended up on the front page of the local newspaper!



Springfield Veterans Day Parade –

Thanks to our home-school families, and a few lucky members whose parents “excused” them from school to participate, we ended up with a strong showing for this event. I lost count of how many Veterans came up to say thank you to us for being there, but it was plenty enough to let us know our presence was much appreciated. I hope everyone got a chance to see the video where we made the evening news for three whole seconds! See- we’re so



impressive that even three seconds worth is newsworthy!

First Church Performance and Coffee Hour – Thank you so much to all of the members who baked, raked, performed and hosted to make this event a success. Members of the congregation at First Church have expressed both their gratitude and the desire to see us back again next year! They even asked us to play longer next time! Thank you especially to our playing line members who learned a new tune, only to perform it once!



Casey & Hannah serve punch!

Town Wide Thanksgiving Eve Service – Several of our playing line members (and their parents) took time out from their own Thanksgiving preparations to head over to Pilgrim Covenant Church for the Town Wide Thanksgiving Eve Service. The Marquis played as people arrived for the service. Plenty of people stopped to enjoy the music as they headed in, and even though it was only a short 15 minute performance, it was much appreciated. Congratulations to Clayton L. who joined in for his first Marquis performance on the drum line!



Mystery Trip – The mystery is solved. This year Marquis members headed north for bowling, holiday lights at the Bright Nights display in Springfield, and then back to Granby for a bonfire, s'mores and fireworks! We are once again thankful that no one fell into the fire or poked their eye out with a roasting stick. It was a beautiful night and lots of fun for everyone. Thank you
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very much to our chaperones, who cooked, organized, built the bonfire and set off the fireworks!



WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON NOW:

Old Saybrook Torchlight Parade – We will no longer be participating in this event.

Inaugural Parade – Our application is in and Mrs. Garcia has been informed we will hear back by December 15th! Once we hear – you'll hear!

Rank Testing – Attention all Marquis members! We award promotions in rank at the Annual Banquet. Please arrange for testing with your instructors now! You only have a couple more weeks to complete your testing for rank and you won't be promoted unless the instructors sign off that you've mastered the requisite tunes. Any questions, please contact either Mrs. Garcia or Mrs. Lampert

Holiday Party – It's that time of year again! Our holiday gift swap and cake-fest will be on Wednesday, December 17th during practice. Please bring a wrapped gift (spending no more than \$5) for the gift swap. Gifts should be appropriate for either a boy or girl. Past ideas have included candy, ornaments, small toys, etc. Mrs. Bigus is checking into a karaoke option to boost up the fun factor.

Marquis of Granby Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony – Will be held Saturday, January 10th beginning at 5 pm in Cook Hall. This year each family will be asked to bring BOTH a side dish and dessert. We will furnish the main course (which will depend on what Mrs. Lampert is able to haggle down to the lowest price with the butcher at Big Y after the holidays.) We will have a sign-up sheet available at practices in December so that families can indicate how many will attend, and sign up to help with whatever appeals to them. We'll primarily need help with set up, kitchen duty, and clean up. The dress code is "dressy casual" (no T shirts and jeans.)

Pancake Breakfast – The Granby American Legion has offered to donate all of the proceeds from their annual pancake breakfast fundraiser to the Marquis! This is an extremely generous offer on their part and in exchange, our job will be to get as many people there as possible! Marquis members will also be asked to pitch in with the serving. This will be some time in April and we'll send out details in a future newsletter.

Marquis 40th Anniversary Muster – The date has been set for the first Saturday of October 2009! Keep checking our web site where details will continue to be posted as they are hammered out.

Summer Trip – Ever wanted to see Colonial Williamsburg? Jamestown? Yorktown? Busch Gardens? Well..plans are underway for the Marquis to travel to Virginia during the first week of August, 2009 Preliminary details for planned destinations, expected costs, etc. will be included in the November newsletter and will also be presented at the November parents meeting.

Look for our Preliminary 2009 Performance Schedule in the January newsletter!

Congratulations to Hannah J. for being our "Top Seller" in the 2008 Fruit Sale!

Hannah sold nearly 900 pounds of fruit and earned over \$300 for her Enrichment Account!!

Hip Hip Huzzah for Hannah!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Corps members born in December!

Jordan L. - December 3

Caleb H. - December 26



Parents Corner –

2009 Summer Trip – Information on the 2009 Summer Trip was communicated at the November Parent's Meeting. Please contact Audrey Lampert if you have any further questions. We would like preliminary indications of interest by December 10th.

Fruit Delivery – Our fruit will be delivered on December 4th (Thursday) at 4 pm to the Center Firehouse in Granby (across from Salmon Brook Park.) All fruit needs to be picked up by that evening so if you won't be there to help unload please call the Lampert's to make sure we know when you'll be there! Thank you so much to all families who participated. We raised over \$1,400 in funds for member's enrichment accounts.

The Chico Bags are selling well because for \$5 a piece they're quite a handy item to have around. Please see Mrs. Bigus if you need more to sell.

Additional instrument instruction – We are considering coordinating additional instrument instruction for our members who might be interested in participating in fife and drum competitions, or who just want more time with their instructors. Proposed lessons would be either weekly or every other week on Tuesday nights at the Lampert house in North Granby. The format would be either private or semi-private, with no more than two students at a time, for 40 minute lessons. The cost for members would be \$20/lesson and that would be paid by the individual members (not the Marquis.) If this sounds like something you may be interested in, please contact Mrs. Lampert and she will provide more details. Drum lessons would be with Paul Cormier and we're waiting to hear if there is interest from our fifers before nailing down a fife instructor.

History Lesson

The Marquis of Granby is about to embark on their 40th Anniversary year and that means we have some serious history of our own. Over the years, many aspects of the Corp have evolved. Did you know that originally, the Marquis hats were hand made by the members? Or that one of the first tunes members used to learn was The Battle Hymn of the Republic? Things have changed, and will continue to change...and that brings me to the Marquis Play List.

We recently issued a new Marquis Play List and you may have noticed some changes. There are a few new songs – well actually, a few OLD songs that are new again for us, additional information about the music that wasn't there before, and things are mixed up a bit. Your Directors have not gone nutty and decided to issue a new play list every season. Instead, we've spent many months compiling feedback from members, sat down with all of our instructors for their input, taken a look at what the play list represents in terms of reflecting what we represent as a Corps, and ultimately came up with a Play List that we think best reflects: 1) Marquis traditions, 2) varying levels of difficulty, 3) historical authenticity and 4) beautiful music.

We introduced Pleasures of Spa, Lakes of Sligo and Rakes of Mallow back into the play list last year, but this time around we've also moved them up in order and they're now Corporal Tunes. This is so that we can be sure our newest playing line members focus on them in time to have them mastered for our upcoming muster next October. Mrs. Ford has pulled a maneuver out of the Marquis history books for us to perform specifically to these tunes. We've also moved some tunes down in sequence, so that our Play List will focus primarily on the era and history that our Corps is representing. The tunes through Sergeant now focus on music from the 18th century, and music that comes from America or the British Isles. Marquis members who build the necessary skill to reach the rank of Sergeant Major will begin to incorporate tunes from other eras, but primarily American in origin. The final five tunes to test for rank at that level are the member's choice (with approval from the instructor.)

There are some new songs as well. Seven Stars has been added. Did you know this was also an original Marquis Play List tune? The Marquis fyers have been playing this as a solo for several years, and now it's been added back to the standard play list so that drummers will learn the music and we'll have another selection to play while marching. It can still be played as a fye solo! Merry Men Home From the Grave has been formally added as well. Marquis members well know this and Chester are the only songs we play in a cemetery, but these songs are not to be relegated *only* to solemn occasions. They are both beautiful pieces of music with historical relevance that applies far beyond such events.

This isn't the last time the Marquis Play List will change, since songs come and go over the years for lots of reasons. For now however, we think we've got a list put together that should work well for quite some time.

We'll end this month's history lesson with the lyrics to another new song on our play list, **The Girl I Left Behind Me**. It is a "sea shanty" played as far back as 1758 and comes from the British Isles¹. ²

The Girl I Left Behind Me

I'm lonesome since I crossed the hill,
And o'er the moor and valley,
Such grievous thoughts my heart do fill,
Since parting with my Sally.
I seek no more the fine or gay,
For each does but remind me,
How swift the hours did pass away,
With the girl I left behind me.

Oh, ne'er shall I forget the night
The stars were bright above me,
And gently lent their silvery light,
When first she vowed to love me.
But now I'm bound to Brighton Camp
Kind heaven, then, pray guide me,
And send me safely back again
To the girl I left behind me.

¹ Important disclaimer: there are several versions to the lyrics and I am happy to publish any and all that others can find. Also, figuring out the date and source of origin for songs more than 200 years old is not an exact science. Please feel free to forward details on any tunes in the Play List if you come across them!

² The first Marquis member who can sing this tune for Mrs. Lampert using these lyrics from memory will get a \$25 credit to their Enrichment Account!