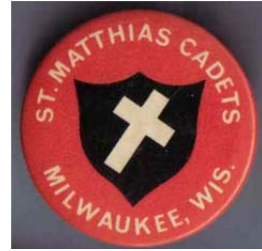


History of the St. Matthias Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1955 to 1960



From the personnel records of Terry Lathrop (nee Janes),
Co-founder of the St. Matthias Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps

1955

Under the direction of the spiritual director, **Father Howard Johnson**, and **Miss Therese Janes**, the St. Matthias Drum & Bugle Corps had its start in February of 1955.

Original Membership

Jackie Kojis	Rosanne Dietz
Charlene Chapman	Kris Chapman
Jeanie Lemkul	Laurel McGoraty
Mary Merring	Merrie Tutkowski
Bonnie Szczepaniak	Noreen Nelson
Rosemary Plunkett	??

Instructors

Horns	Barbara Tomchek
Horns	Joan Berry
Drums	Terry Janes
Drill.....	Terry Janes

The corps was in its training stage and was not active this season. Uniforms consisted of red skirt, red scarf, white blouses, white shoes and socks. (Bonnie) The corps used brass bugles and brown drums.

1956

The drum corps still composed of 12 members participated in several intermission shows at basketball games and also in the school's variety show. Their first parade was on July 4 1956 in West Allis.

Instructors for the year Joan Berry and Barbara Tomchek on bugles, and Terry Janes on drill and drums. **Michael De Sales** took over drill and bugles in the fall of this year. Uniforms and instruments remained the same as the preceding year.

The 1st piston bugle with chromium finish was purchased.

1957

This year marked the sponsorship of the **Krejci-Braun Meier VRW Post #7485**. The uniforms were changed and consisted of kahki pants and shirt, white tie, belt, gloves, spats, shoes, hat with red trim, and citation cord. Drummers also wore white gloves.

The first boy was introduced into the corps this year.....**Ricky Lembach**. The corps consisted of 15 bugles, 5 drums, & 1 cymbal player. The drum major was **Therese Janes**. The same instructors remained with the corps.

The corps participated in the VFW Memorial Day Parade at the cemetery, and also a parade the same day in West Allis. Remember that one parent? The school variety show was one of our better turn outs.

The 1st corps trip took place on July 30, 1957 to Cedarburg, Wisconsin. We marched in a parade and were spectators at the contest. July 15th was our first turn-out at a church picnic. On July 1st the corps color guard was started under the direction of **Mr. Mc Grath**.

On July 10, 1957, **Mr. Dale Johnson** joined our corps as drill and drum instructor, and it was at this time the corps name became officially **Cadets**. The corps also participated in the parade celebrating the winning of the National league pennant by the Braves.

We also marched in Marquette's Homecoming Parade. On November 23, 1957, the corps participated in the Christmas parade downtown under the new direction of drum major, **Jackie Kojis**.

A Christmas Party marked the end of activities of the year 1957.

1958

Instructors For This Year

Baritone HornsGene Pawlowski

Soprano HornsGene Schmidt

DrumsDale Johnson

Drill.....Gene Pawlowski

Drum Major.....Jackie Kojis

Spiritual DirectorFr. Paul Daniels

New Uniforms This Year

Red corps jackets and black pants, white bucks, white socks, and hats white with red trim.

April 27 – Played in its first standstill in Kenosha placing 2nd in the Jr. B Division,

May 30 – Played in the cemetery and in a parade in West Allis.

On June 28 – Invited to play in a annual parade contest in **Plymouth, WI** by Fr. Johnson.

July 4 – Played at the Jefferson School Park Parade.

July 12 – Participated in its first field contest in **Madison, WI**. The corps placed 7th out of 8 corps. We thought you would like to hear a recording of the corps this year. (Mr. Johnson's tape recording.)

July 26 – Entered in the 15th Annual South Milwaukee Spectacle of Music placing 9th out of 11.

Parents Club officially started in July

Noreen MarshallPresident

Mr. LembachVice President

Mrs. SchmidSecretary-Treasurer

August 2 – Performed at the church picnic and the **Knights of Columbus** picnic at Greenfield Park.

August 14 – Played for the departure of Pastor Father Krieg who was leaving for Europe.
Remember that Father?

August 28 – Held its first dance to raise money, which was a huge success.

September 1 – Last contest of 1958 in **Janesville, WI** placing 6th out of 9 corps.

September 14 – An exhibition was put on for the **Kiwanis Club Charity Football** game.

September 30 – The **Milwaukee Braves** won the pennant and the corps played in the celebration parade downtown.

November – A quintet of five girls went to Wisconsin Rapids and got 4th place and brought home our first trophy "Veronica".

Barbara Lembach **Susie Schmid**
Cathy Kasprzak **Kris Chapman**
Bonnie Szczepaniak

December – The corps again participated in the Christmas Parade downtown.

The season's activities were again ended with a Christmas Party this year held at Mitchell Park.

1959

New Uniforms

The corps came out in new uniforms this year and began their season with the concert play for the award night in St. Matthias Hall.

They really looked sharp with the red satin blouses with white and black stripe, black pants, black shakos with white plumes, white cumberbuns, and white buck shoes.

Drum Major and Color Guard Sargeant wore a white blouse with red and black stripe, white circular skirt, red sashes and plumes, and red cumberbuns, with white boots. (////Cathy).

May 16 – Played at the standstill in Kenosha placing 2nd place in the B Division.

May 30 – Marched in the Memorial Day parade in the cemetery, West Allis parade and the downtown parade.

June 21 – Sponsored our first ice cream social where other corps around Milwaukee were invited to put on a show for entertainment.

June – **Bob Kohn** joined the staff instructors during this month.

June 27 – Participated in the VFW State Convention in Wausau placing 3rd out of 4 in the JR. Closed Division. It was the first overnight turnout for the corps.

June 28 – Participated in contest in **Cedarburg**. We placed last and the color guard placed 6th

July 4 – Parade in West Allis and then an exhibition in the **State Fair Park**.

July 11 – Contest in **Madison, WI** and we placed 3rd out of 4 corps.

July 12 – Participated in the parade for the opening of the seaway and at the St. Matthias picnic.

July 18 – **Kenosha American Legion** State Contest was held and the corps placed 7th out of 8 corps with a score of 69.30.

July 19 – Parade in Kenosha.

July 25 – Contest in **South Milwaukee** where we placed 7th out of 10.

July 26 – Parade contest was held at Howards Grove and the corps received their first trophy “Rodney” for 3rd place.

August 9 – Participated in the parade in **Mukwonago** Community Picnic. Placed 2nd out of 3 beating the Militaires, and an exhibition was put on later.

August 15 – At **Chicago Riverview Park** we received a score of 97.6 and an appearance plaque.

August 19 – Put on an exhibition at the **Racine Boy Scouts Ice Cream Social**.

August 20 – Parade for the premier performance of “**Windjammer**”.

August 21 – Marched in the **Circus Parade** in West Allis for opening of Fair Week.

September 7 – Played in a parade in **Fort Atkinson**, with an exhibition afterward.

September – **Jan Krueger** replaced Gene Pawlowski as drill instructor, and **Carol Kulpa** replaced Gene Schmidt as bugle instructor.

September 12 – Went into Class A competition in Gurnee, IL and placed 4th with a score of 68.2. **The corps put on the best performance of the season.** (Corps recording)

September 13 – Played at a halftime show at the **Kiwanis Club Charity Football Game**.

September 18 – Parade for the street opening

September 19 – First pictures taken and first banquet.

September 20 – Contest held in **Rockford, Ill.** (Known as Lost Island) in which the corps placed 7th out of 8 corps in the sand.

October 21 – Exhibition at the St. Matthias Homecoming.

October 31 – Annual **Marquette Homecoming Parade** was held and we placed 2nd.

Quintet of 5-6 girls made their first appearance of the season at the **Starlight Banquet** placing 1st in both preliminary and final contest with the trophy “Caroline.”

November 8 & 9 – **Badgerland Convention** in Menominee, MI. The quintet placed 2nd out of 4. Funny, this also marked the date of a raise in commission of the Wisconsin State Patrol.

December – two Christmas parades. During this time, **Jim Berry** joined our corps as drum instructor.

Once again the corps had a Christmas Party at Mitchell Park to end activities of the season.

1960

January

Herb Lathrop became color guard instructor

February 13 – Small Corps Contest

March 12 – New flags and new appointment of Asst. Color Guard Sgt. **Toni Konkell**

March 28 – Quintet won 1st Place – “Sharlie”

April 9 – Quintet won – 5th Place

May 14 – First Parade in Cudahy, Drum Major **Tom Karlovich**

May 21 – Parade Downtown, Drum Major **Kris Chapman**

May 28 – Standstill – Took first place Drum Major **Carol Kulpa**

May 30 – Memorial Day Parade in Cemetery, West Allis, and Downtown

June 2 – Drummers receive new drums

June 5 – Ice Cream Social at St. Matthias

June 14 – Inter-city contest – First Field Contest – 1st Place “Angel”

June 18 – **Kenosha** – 1st Place in contest and parade past reviewing stand “**Jan and Jackie**”

June 19 – **Wisconsin Rapids** – 3rd Place out of 4 corps

June 25 – **Madison VFW Contest** – 1st Place “Bourbon Bill”

June 26 – **Cedarburg** – 7th Place

July 3 – **East Troy** – 1st Place

July 4 – Racine & Hales Corners Parades and Exhibitions

July 12 – Inter City Contest – 2nd Place

July 23 – **South Milwaukee** 1st Place “Terry”

July 31 – Woodstock Parade
Pat Kojis Drum Major (acting)

August 3 – Racine Ice Cream Social

August 6 – Sheboygan Parade Contest

August 7 – Mukwonago Parade Contest

August 14 – Kilties Ice Cream Social, Exhibition

August 18 – Exhibition at Riverbend Shopping Center

August 19 – Chicago, Ill, CWV. Parade and we placed 2nd out of 11 “Glen”

August 20 – Gurnee, Placed 2nd – “Bobbie”
M&M Trophy 1st place – Bugle Trophy 1st Place

August 21-25 – VFW. National Contest – Detroit MI. 5 Mercy Girls accompanied us.

August 22 – Madison Heights – Last Place

August 23 – Parade – Detroit, MI

August 24 – Contest -- placed 17th out of 23

August 25 – Return home

August 27 – Parade in Brookfield

August 28 – St. Albert’s Parade, Mercy Exhibition for Field Day

September 4 – Riverview, Brookfield Parade

September 5 – Fort Atkinson Parade Contest – 1st Place in music marching units

September 18 – Our Lady of Pompeii Church Parade. **Herb Lathrop** became Asst Executive Director

September 24 – Corps Banquet

And so St. Matthias Cadets, we have brought out our treasures and relived some of our most memorable days. To all of those who have played such a vital role in our corps and parents club.....We can never be able to properly express our thanks. But I know you will always be remembered in the hearts and minds of the St. Matthias Cadets.

From Terry (Janes) Lathrop



Terry's Pre-History Report

In 1951 Fr. **Johnson** was very active with the young people at St. Matthias. In fall, the 8th grade boys participated in a Homecoming Football game. The **Mercy** High School Drum and Bugle Corps would perform at the half-time. Fr. Johnson thought St. Matthias should have its own drum corps.

He contacted **Sr. Vernadine**, the moderator of the Mercy High School Corps. She had some girls in the high school corps, willing to instruct. I was asked to be the leader of the beginning group. At the time I was a senior at Marquette and had a car, so in about February things got started.

Mercy High School closed in 1974

Rev. Howard Johnson (920-528-8368)

Listed as Senior Priest at the 2011 Milwaukee Archdiocese Directory

April 15 thru December 5

W6332 Lake Ellen Drive,
Cascade, WI 53011-1303

December 5 thru April 15

7193 E. Palo Brea Drive,
Gold Canyon, AZ 85218-4836

Fr. Johnson was assigned elsewhere in 1957 and **Fr. Daniels** became the Corps' Spiritual Director (although at this time Fr. Krieg and I were the 2 co-signing any checks in the corps bank account).

Fr. Paul Daniels (262-884-0748)

Listed in the Priest's Directory as living at St. Monica's Retirement Home 3920 N. Green Bay Road #N4, Racine, WI 53404

Mail c/o Beth Hancock
2602 S. 94th Street,
Milwaukee, WI 53227

Fr. Krieg died March 20, 1965. (This date is fixed in my mind because our 3rd child was born on it!

Fr. Carl Last who was the pastor of St. Matthias in the 1990 and into 2000, was the **Drum Major of the Racine Kilties** in the 1960's (He was ordained in 1969)

Message From Terry Janes . . .

This history lists **Herb Lathrop** as the assistant director in 1960. Herb and I were dating at that time. He had been associated with the South Milwaukee Mariners before 1960.

I left my associate with the corps in December 1960 and Herb and I were married April 8, 1961. All of the members of the corps were invited to the wedding and many attended.

Life for me got very busy in the 1960s. The first of our children was born in June 1962 (took care of attending corps contests that year). The 6th child was born in July 1970.

The "Glory Years" of St. Matthias was a blur for me.

Sincerely,

Terry Lathrop