



SCGC Accolades

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Decade

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Ever!

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The History of The SCGC, First Decade

by Robert Robinson

I had planned to write a very factual history of the SCGC, but after much thought, realized that would be next-to impossible and would probably develop into a boring article as well. Instead, I contacted several people mentioned in this article to use as sources and combined that with how one person was affected by participation in the SCGC.

One evening in 1971 at a Shoney's Restaurant in Birmingham, Alabama, the SCGC was formed by Doug Noel, John Armstrong, Frank Godfrey and Jim Gladson. These men patterned after an exciting idea from the Midwestern United States, The Midwest Colorguard Circuit. At that time, the units were judged in General Effect, Marching and Maneuvering, and Timing and Penalty. The "tick" system was used to subtract errors from the M & M. Each unit had to perform to the cadence of their marching. Also, each unit was required to execute two of the following moves which were based on American Flag codes of the VFW and American Legion.

Pass and Review—"units pass through an area 12 feet of the center line in a company front with each member executing eyes right and rendering the proper salute."

Post and Retrieve Colors—"units must post and retrieve all flags using flag stands and set-up of its own design. Other maneuvers may be done at this time but there is a maximum of 60 seconds."

Presentation of Colors—"units must pay respect to our National Color by halting facing the GE side with all members rendering the proper salute, highlighting the U.S. Flag."

In 1972, the first guards were the Jones Valley High School Rangers of Birmingham, directed by Doug Noel, Talledega High School directed by Frank Godfrey, Cordova High School directed by John Armstrong, Tate High School of Gonzalez, Florida, directed by Mike Strasser, and a guard from Alabama Christian College. In the first Championship, held at Alabama Christian College, the winner was Cordova High School.

In the first years of the SCGC winners included

Past Champions

1972-Cordova High School, Alabama
1973 Charioteers-Troy, Ala. (affiliated with the drum corps)
1974 & 1975 Golden Eagles-Jacksonville, Al.

In 1974 the rules were changed to allow guards to also be accompanied by live instrumentation (drums) in addition to their marching cadence.

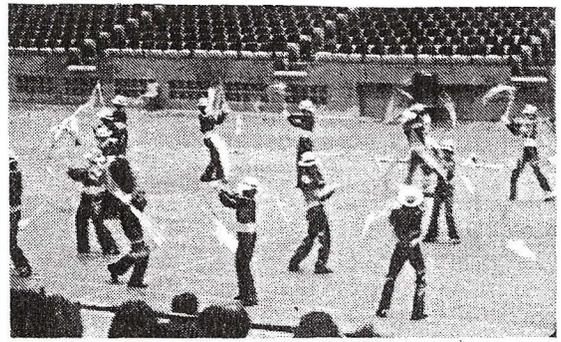
Though I did not begin the circuit until 1975, I remember that Cordova High School's 1973 & 74 guards, the Coronets and the Imperials, were fierce competitors with the Golden Eagles, the Handleyans, and Decorum of Fairfield, Alabama. The Golden Eagles were noted for their excellent rifle lines and even placed at Midwest Finals. The Golden Eagles were also used in a demonstration film produced by the Midwest Colorguard Circuit. Decorum, in purple hot pants jumpsuits with the cross-style white belting and holsters, were noted for their exceptionally high mark time and ease of execution. Decorum patterned their uniforms after the Blue Stars Drum Corps. Decorum won High M & M in 1974. My sister, a marching member of the Coronets, remembers standing at attention for five minutes (she swears) waiting on the judges' cue to begin their championship performance. (The Coronets placed first runner-up to the Golden Eagles, as a result of this nerve-wracking experience). Rules were later added to permit a guard to exit and re-enter in such cases. In 1974, the circuit was divided into two classes. Also interesting to the circuit were the Thunderbolts of New Orleans, Louisiana. This all black unit was sponsored by the Police League of their city.

In 1975, the circuit grew to include Alabama guards such as The Southern Lancers from Jacksonville State, the Hokes Bluff Raiders, Emma Sansom High School Rebels, The Pirates of Boaz, and the Emerald Knights and Imperials of Cordova. From Georgia came guards such as The Blue Eagles of South Cobb and The Catamounts of Dalton High School. From Louisiana came the Los Cumancheros and Dimensions of New Orleans, and the L' Acadiennes of Lafayette.

(continued, pg 2)



ENTRADA, WGI Prelims 1979



CHAPTER V, WGI Finalist, 1979

From Florida came the Miami Silhouettes, Chargers, and the Devil Dogs of Clearwater. From Tennessee came the Blue Devils of Erwin High School. Unique to the circuit that year were the two all-male guards, the Emerald Knights and Los Cumancheros. Adopting the look from the drum corps by the same name, The Emerald Knights wore green pants with red satin shirts and marched out entertaining rhythms such as "The Big Bad Wolf" and "Pop Goes The Weasel". Los Cumancheros were unique in their Spanish bullfighter uniforms and their use of a trumpet fanfare and percussion accompaniment. I also remember that Tate wore black hot pants, white blouses, and red vests. Tate's uniform was finished off with white knee-high majorette boots that were quite in fashion at the time. We were also impressed that Tate had two guards from the same school! One of the most intimidating groups for the year was the Silhouettes of Miami. Coming also from the drum corps by the same name, the Silhouettes wore orange and green uniforms and short white majorette boots. The excellence of mark time displayed by the Silhouettes was thunderous and frightened many competitors into lower scores by comparison. The Silhouettes brought out the innovative use of 5 foot flag poles, while all of the other groups were still using eight foot poles!

In 1976, recorded music was allowed to accompany the guards' routines. Most guards chose classical favorites. Though there was variety, too. Les Brae chose musical selections from "The Allman Brothers" and "King Henry V". What a mix! The Golden Eagles performed to a high energy version of "Night On Bald Mountain". The Los Cumancheros deviated from the traditional by using "I've Never Been To Spain" by Three Dog Night, but midseason changed back to mainstream Spanish. The great upsets for the year included Cordova's Les Brae's drop from a prelim third to eighth place in championships due to a 2 point American flag violation and the defending champions Golden Eagles drop to second behind the Southern Lancers. The Golden Eagle Cadets did win Class A for the second time in 1976. Third in Open were the Silhouettes. Open class Tate placed 4th and Tate A placed 3rd.



In 1977, new to the circuit was the class A guard Entrada. After wowing the circuit and winning SCGC championships, Entrada went on to compete in and win Midwest A Finals and also to win the High M & M trophy. It seems that the Midwest judges thought that

Entrada was from Jasper, Michigan, and not Alabama, as a guard must be a member of the Midwest to win the event, as the story goes. Midwest was quite tough and turned out to be forerunner of WGI.

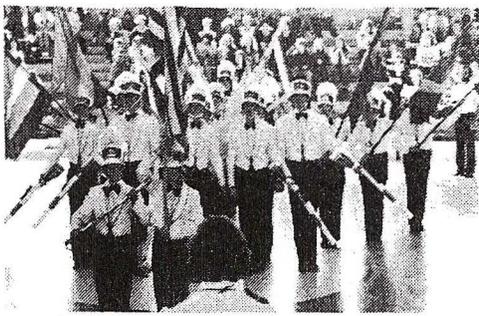
Also new that year in the SCGC were the Blue Knights of Alpine, Alabama. Sporting military shakos and cadet jackets, the Blue Knights wowed their audiences with "The Pink Panther". Other guards who entered the circuit that year were two groups from Mississippi: Korkoma and Charon Regime. Charon Regime was a co-ed college-aged guard with a fantastic rifle line performing in the classical style.

By 1978, the circuit had grown to incorporate 3 classes. Leading the class A pack were Entrada and the Tate Chaparrals. Tate gave outstanding performances in rifle and marching to "Rodeo", whereas Entrada chose a more flowing but highly executed approach to music from the movie "Rocky". Still hanging in were the Golden Eagles placing third throughout the season, that year going co-ed for the first time.

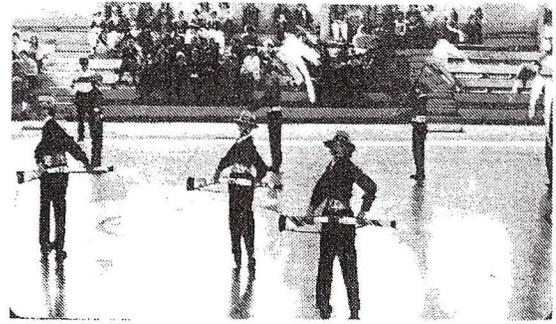
Open class in 1978 had the Southern Lancers and the L'Acadiennes battling it out for top spots. Unique to the circuit were the Chargers of Miami, donning rainbow colored wigs and interpreting the musical "The Wiz". Nightclub of Cordova, Alabama, brought to life "A night at the different clubs" performing dance selections from the "Ohio Players", "Rhapsody in Blue", and a jazz arrangement of the Beatles' "Something". Brad Caraway of the Madison Scouts and Spirit of Atlanta served as Nightclub's director. Both guards were highly entertaining and were the first to bring a new element to the SCGC: dance!

Class B brought out a one year guard from St. Clair County, Alabama, the Saint's Crusaders. Leading the pack all season long, the Crusaders performed to "Star Wars" selections and wore military uniforms in burgundy and grey.

Then in 1979, dance was the wave. Out were classical selections, in was disco. Riding on the success of movies "Saturday Night Fever" and "The Wiz"...all groups chose to forget classical and hit the new scene. Marching members Tam Easterwood of Alabama and Scott Chandler of Georgia were both attending Jacksonville State and decided that the Southern Lancers needed a new image for its fifth year: thus came Chapter V, still under the direction of Frank Godfrey, formerly of Decorum fame. Chapter V mixed classical and jazz/disco to become the SCGC's first WGI Open finalist guard!



SENTINEL, 1980



INNOVATION, 1979

Many high schools were entering new units that year as well. Florida brought out Crestview High School and Pensacola High School's Titanians; and Alabama brought out Tarrant High School's Blues. By now the circuit was divided into four classes. High School A guards were spectacular—the rivalry between contenders Tate and Entrada was fierce. Entrada, under the direction of Beverly Jones, continued to develop a style that was later to prove to be ahead of her time. Entrada performed abstract shows to jazz and classical music while utilizing a modern dance style, both in choreography and costuming. Tate continued to develop its traditional western themes and maintained its superb rifle line, probably the best high school rifle line around. Scott Chandler turned the Hokes Bluff Raiders into Le Chic, went co-ed, and chose selections from "The Wiz".

Just as fierce in Class B the Blue Knights were competing with Innovation of Corner, Al., and Sentinel of Villa Rica, Georgia. It was vogue in Class B to have drill that symbolized the guard. The Blue Knights dropped the "K" and developed nighttime themes such as moons and stars. Sentinel and Innovation would develop creative ways to use "float drill" in the letters "S" and "I" respectively. But leading

the pack out of all class B guards was Tate B: Tate B was topping some Open Class scores with numbers in the high 70s!, bringing back the popular "Rodeo". Other guards included Phoenix of Warrior, Alabama, and a whole class of novice guards.

The split between Florida and Louisiana guards from The Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee guards came at the end of the 1979 season. The SCGC had grown so large and the travel distances were tremendous—the circuit stretched from Miami to Knoxville!

Ready for the eighties was Chapter V's motto for 1980. Tam Easterwood had aged out and was serving as instructor. Scott Chandler was flag captain. Unfortunately, Chapter V folded midseason, just after placing in the top 5 in Open at the Southern Regional and appearing ready to be WGI finalist for the second year in a row! Another guard emerged out of Jacksonville, Alabama that year—Triptych under the direction of Alan Casey.

Triptych consisted of members from JSU, Entrada veterans, and students from Warrior High School. Using "Magic Bird of Fire", the guard chose a hard-style, high-energy show concept.

A dominant high school guard for the year was Homewood, Alabama, under the direction of Darryl Ushery, a former Southern Lancer who chose to bring back the classical military style of the Lancers to Homewood. Still in the high school class were Innovation, the Blue Nights, and Sentinel all battling weekly for trophies not taken by Homewood. And two other Birmingham High Schools, Fultondale and Gardendale, merged to form Zanzabar. Zanzabar was innovative by wearing genie costumes and performing an Arabian show.

Triptych won Open Class at SCGC Championships after battling with Entrada for the remainder of the season.

Thus, the first decade of the SCGC ended with over twenty-five member guards. The SCGC can boast a proud history of comradeship, excitement, and creativity, and can proudly say that many successful units and instructors are Southern born.



COLOR GUARD CONTEST
Sponsored by the BLUE EAGLE GUARDS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1976 — 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1976 — 1:30 P.M.

SOUTH COBB HIGH SCHOOL
AUSTELL, GEORGIA

SANCTIONED BY THE SOUTHEASTERN COLOR GUARD CIRCUIT
OFFICIAL PROGRAM

CAN YOU HELP MAKE THE
SCGC HISTORY COMPLETE?

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON PAGE 7



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The SCGC Saga Continued

by Robert Robinson

Eighty-one brought forth Entrada as dominant in open class battling it out with Triptych. New in open class were Carolina guards 308 and Outer Bank. The University of South Carolina introduced 308 whereas Outer Bank stemmed from Eastern Carolina University.

Class A still had the Blue Nights, Innovation, and Sentinel. The Blue Nights chose selections from Earth, Wind, and Fire; Innovation used Rick Wakeman arrangements; and Sentinel used "Birdland". The trend during the early eighties was to pull out surprise endings for championships. The Blue Nights pulled out thirteen-year-old LaCary Hunley lipsyncing to Elvis's "Hound-Dog"; Innovation chose to style its girls in braids and perform to "Bolero"

By 1982, Tennessee was bringing out guards from Bradley County and Chattanooga. Jacksonville State University brought back a classical style guard called Regency. By midseason Regency moved from a novice group to developing into a competitor with Entrada. At championships, Regency won High GE, but placed second to Entrada, the Sweepstakes winner and the high M&M winner. Entrada still maintained its reputation as a high executing guard from 1977 Midwest to 1982. Also in the early eighties, all college-aged groups entered Open Class.

The circuit was continuing to grow and began to bring out Jr. High guards such as Scarlet

Tanagers of Talladega, Alabama, and Southern Charm of Columbia, Tennessee. Both of these guards provided refreshing and competitive shows with many of the existing B guards.

In 1983, the rivalry of the Blue Nights and Sentinel were being carried on in Open Class with Entrada, whereas new high school competitors Design of Lassiter High School, Georgia, and Prism of Knoxville, Tennessee were battling for the class A trophies. Prism performed to "Africa" and was a co-ed guard led by Jim Idol. Design used "Designer Music" and "Hot Lunch Jam" from Fame,



Design, 1984

directed by Robert Robinson. Prism won the first show of the season, but Design placed first in the remaining regular season shows. Other A groups included the MidSouth Raiders of Montgomery, and Phenix, of Phenix City, Alabama. All the groups mentioned attended the Southern Regional in Pensacola and all, save one, were finalists.

Also, 1983 brought out the South II Regional held in Cleveland, Tennessee which brought a first place victory to Sentinel. The SCGC championships brought victories to Entrada in Open and Prism in A.

In 1984, The Blue Nights and Entrada were strong in Open Class. Entrada used the disco "So Many Men" and maintained its innovative style. The Blue Nights continued with their disco themes also.

In class A were Phoenix of Warrior, Alabama and Phenix of Phenix City, Alabama. Decorum reentered the circuit under the name of Fairfield and used Michael Jackson's "Thriller". Design's show was noted for its butterfly evening gowns of satin concealing togas later revealed as the show progressed to Madonna's "Burnin' Up." Also using "Burning Up" was Irish Rhapsody of Chattanooga, who sported fedora hats, and whose members painted one eye black. The 1984 season also brought forth the mingling of the Gulf Coast Circuit and the SCGC. At a show held in Montgomery, Choctawhatchee competed and placed second to Design, but later gained first place at the southeastern Regional. The regional, hosted at Lassiter High School in Marietta, by Design, brought forth in high school class Choctawhatchee placing first, Design second, and the new Hillwood, Tennessee Pizazz third, the Blue Nights fourth. In the independent A division, the winner was the Miamisburg Vikings of Ohio. Sal Salas brought State Street

(continued, next page)

1991 SCGC MEMBERSHIP



Pride of Cincinnati, 1984

Review down in Open class to gain the title while competing against the Pride of Cincinnati, 308, Entrada, and others.

The SCGC groups traveled to the Fort Walton Open and the Southern Regional. At the SCGC championships, the Blue Nights defeated Entrada in all captions, but Entrada won the Sweepstakes trophy. Design remained undefeated in A and won both the title and sweepstakes.

In 1985, Hillwood Pizazz gained momentum, Design folded due to lack of school administrative support prior to the season opening, and new guards entered the circuit. Good competitive rivalry with Spectra and Pizazz broke out in class A. Open class reintroduced the Southern Lancers with a new director, Terri Gaines Moody; Charisma of Christian County, Kentucky, under Alan Casey; and Exit 25 led by Alan Hunt. The Lancers used a military style once again using "Carmina Burana" and Charisma used "Relax" by Frankie Goes to Hollywood. SCGC championships resulted in the following finishes:

Open: 1st Charisma; 2nd Blue Nights; 3rd Southern Lancers; 4th Entrada; 5th Exit 25. In Class A: 1st Pizazz; 2nd Spectra; 3rd Phenix; 4th Rhapsody.

Another five years ended quickly, which puts the SCGC history at 15 years. Coming in the next issue of ACCOLADES: 1986-1990. And to all unit managers: Please send in your guards biographies. All the above was from memory and recaps!

20 West Productions	Mableton, GA
Avodroc	Cordova, AL
Blue Nights	Alpine, AL
Brentwood Guard	Brentwood, TN
Bypass.....	Cleveland, TN
Channel One	Johnson City, TN
Chimeris	Murfresboro, TN
Dreamquest	Columbia, SC
Emeraude.....	Ashville, AL
Exit 25.....	Cleveland, TN
Fashion.....	Marietta, GA
Franklin High School A & B	Murfresboro, TN
Genesis.....	Murfresboro, TN
Impressions	Cleveland, TN
Lone Oak High School	Paducah, KY
McEachern Guards A & B	Marietta, GA
McGavok Guard	Nashville, TN
Mt. Juliet High School	Mt Juliet, TN
Muhlenburg North Stars	Graham, KY
New Attitude.....	Hartford, KY
Oak Ridge High School	Knoxville, TN
Ooltewah Guard	Ooltewah, TN
Overton Guard	Brentwood, TN
Parfait	Mundfordville, KY
Presence	Hendersonville, TN
Riverdale H.S. Guard	Riverdale, GA
Spellbound	Lebanon, TN
The Southern Element	Atlanta, GA
Tiger Flash	Hopkinsville, KY
UTK Color Guard	Knoxville, TN
Visual Image	Johnson City, TN
Whiteflame	Hoover, AL
William Blount High School	Louisville, TN

1991 SCHEDULE

Date	Sponsor	Location
January 26	NSFJ	Samford University Birmingham
February 2, 3	Chimeras	Mt. Juliet, Tennessee
February 9,10	Ooletewah	Ooletewah High School Ooletewah, Tennessee
February 16, 17	McGavok	Nashville, Tennessee
February 23, 24	Midwest Regional	LaPorte, Indiana (Chicago Area)
March 2, 3	Fashion	Walton High School Marietta, Georgia
March 9	Southern Regional	University of West Florida Pensacola, Florida
	Lone Oak	Lone Oak High School Paducah, Kentucky
March 16, 17	Mideast Regional	Miamisburg High School Miamisburg Ohio
March 23, 24	McEachern	McEachern High School Powder Springs, Georgia
April 6	Championships	Bradley High School Cleveland, Tennessee
April 12-14	WGI World Championships	Dayton, Ohio

NSFJ Roster for 1991

Robert D. Adams (Rob) - Huntsville, AL
Aerospace engineer
Qualified in IA/Equipment

Ken Austin - Ashville, AL
Band Director
Qualified in GE, IA/Movement

Steve Calhoun - Carrollton, GA
Band Director
Qualified in EA, GE, IA/Movement

Nina Henderson - Birmingham, AL
Media Public Relations
Qualified in T & P

Kat Johnson - Prattville, AL
Band Director
Qualified in IA/Movement, IA/
Equipment, GE

Lee Ann Min
Manager
Qualified in IA/Movement, IA/
Equipment, GE, EA

Ron Peace - Cleveland, TN
Tour/Travel Director
Qualified in IA/Movement, GE

Winfred Williams - Dora, AL
Warehouse Sales Administrator
Qualified in T & P

The Judges Corner



The New South Federation of Judges

The NSFJ had barely begun its 1991 season when the chief judge, Chris Basso, had to resign and move due to his job. The judges association then voted Leigh Ann Min as chief judge. Leigh Ann has begun her season by holding two judges training seminars, the last of which was held on Evaluation Day. Leigh Ann has also been busy inviting and scheduling WGI judges to adjudicate the SCGC contests. Already scheduled are Bob Thomas and Roy Johnston both for Fashion's competition to be held at Walton High School in Marietta, Georgia on March 2 and 3. Leigh Ann is making efforts to bring in Judy Tomko, Fred Feeney, Pat Scheckler and Bill Braden to other shows throughout the season. The SCGC looks forward to all of this national input.



Evaluation Day was held at Walton High School in Marietta, Georgia on Dec. 15. This early field day proved to be successful for all guards who attended. Much of this was a result of the consultation provided by Tam Easterwood, also a metro Atlanta resident and band director. Tam gave a pre-evaluation training session to the aspiring judges, then proceeded to consult with all guard directors during each guard's thirty minute critique period. The comments were wonderful and helped the guards begin making early changes to improve their programs. Guards in attendance included Ashville, AL.; Riverdale, McEachern A & B, Fashion, and The Southern Element, all of Georgia; and Exit 25, Bypass, Ooletewah, and Chimeras of Tennessee. Area band directors also attended and gained insight to their marching programs.