

First of A Series

Men of Ideals . . . **Berry Bell of Canada**

By Mary Ann Courtney

What makes a man give his life to Drum Corps? It's idealism! For man cannot live without an ideal. And Barry Bell, Music Instructor for the Toronto Optimists, is a man with an ideal.

Barry has been in corps work since the age of twelve. He's been "hooked" for almost twenty years. And he wouldn't trade one minute of all those Drum Corps years for the highest throne on earth. But then why should he. His heart's in Drum Corps. He's known Drum Corps from the plastic bugle of twenty years ago to the G D bugle of today. He's been player, adviser and instructor — and loved every minute of it.

Barry spent his first eight years in Drum Corps as a playing member. (Six of these years were spent with the Danforth School Drum Corps.)

Then moving up as an instructor and adviser, Barry headed the 330th Danforth Air Squad Drum Corps.

For 1956, Barry had the Corps change from their Air Cadet uniforms to his own uniform design featuring the colors of red, black and white. The Corps at that time also changed their name to the Danforth Crusaders. They entered M & M Competition and became the number three Jr. Corps in Canada. They continued in this position through the year 1957, but it was during this year that Barry realized that due to lack of interest and support from the school the Corps was doomed not to progress much further. Barry began to look around for something else.

A new Corps formed by the Optimist Club of Toronto, was looking for additional instructors to head up the Corps. This was the "something new" for Barry. He took over the Optimists as Music Director and Drill Instructor. His "hidden dream" of having the Western Technical School colors of green, white and black as a



corps uniform came true in 1958 when he designed the new uniform for the Optimists. At that time too, he designed the present badge of the Corps featuring the profile head of the Corpsman.

With additional instructors, gleaned early in 1958, including the present Drum Instructor of the Optimists, Lorne Ferazutti, Barry now found himself surrounded by people with the same objectives and desires. . .

To Build The Best Corps In Canada!

That first year they succeeded almost beyond their wildest dreams. Beginning as a new Jr. "A" Corps at the opening of the season, they ended the year as the new Canadian Jr. Champions.

However, this all might never had happened if it were not for a man with an ideal. An ideal which came true for Barry Bell in the form of the Toronto Optimists.

Barry Bell's famous Horn Line, Toronto Optimists

