

# Heartbreak to victory for band

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Of The Journal

For the Hawks Drum and Bugle Corps. of Portland, Ore., a long-planned trip to Edmonton and Klondike Days '74 opened with complete disaster.

Last week, leaving Seattle on the last leg of the trek to Edmonton, the corps' three buses took a wrong turn down a one-way street.

The first driver in line, realizing his mistake, suddenly hit the brakes. The other two buses piled up behind and four of the corps' 80 members went to hospital.

Worse, still though none of the injuries was serious, a number of other band members would be too sore to strut in competition.

Worse still, with two of the buses out of action and a tight budget further squeezed by the unexpected expense, it looked like The Hawks had

no place to go but straight back home.

Enter The Titans, a rival drum and bugle corps from Bremerton, Wash., which is also, it turns out, bound for Edmonton and K-Days.

In a sterling show of gallantry, The Titans came to the rescue and offered the available space on their own buses.

And The Titans' hospitality went a step further, a city organizer told The Journal later, when it seems they somehow managed to pare enough from their own shoestring budget to help The Hawks meet their food expenses on the way here.

After a long, stuffy drive in a convoy of jam-packed buses, both groups arrived in Edmonton intact in good time to appear in Wednesday's kick-off parade.

The story doesn't end there, however.

The happy ending was capped Wednesday night for the fourth annual Klondike Days band extravaganza at Clarke Stadium and a crowd of 12,000.

From a field of four other top-rated drum and bugle bands, The Hawks boomed, blared, stomped and strutted up a storm to march off with the Labatt's Challenge Trophy and \$800 in prize money — enough to make sure they won't have to walk home.

Ron Chapman, general manager of the Edmonton Klondike Days Association, sponsor of the event, added that one woman in the stands was so struck with The Hawks' showing despite their setbacks that she took up an impromptu collection and raised \$14.

The Edmonton Strutters took second place and a prize of \$500, with third spot and \$400 going to the Seattle Cascades.

One young Titan trooper fainted on the field while her companions continued—with-out missing a beat—with their drill. The band placed fourth and won \$300. St. John's Ambulance attendants rushed to the aid of the girl, who recovered quickly.

The Edmonton Klondike Drum and Bugle Corps, a young contingent formed two years ago, pulled up the rear to take fifth place and \$200 in consolation money.

In the marching band segment of competition, the 120-member Cavaliers Youth Band of Whittier, Calif., swash-buckled to a first-place victory, the Labatt Cup and a \$500 first prize.

The British Columbia Beekeepers Band, official band of the B.C. Lions, took second place and \$350; and the North Vancouver Youth Band came up third for \$250.

The Highland High Marching Band of Pocatello, Idaho, held fourth spot and will take home \$150, a start toward covering the \$14,000 the band raised to make the trip here.

A third trophy, for best drum major, went to Beverly Miskiw of the Edmonton Strutters.

Each of the bands in competition was judged on a rigid set of standards by a nine-man team from the Canadian Judges Association, which graded every aspect of the performances from marching to music.

The three-hour extravaganza lived up to its billing with additional display performances by the Edmonton All Girls Drum and Bugle Corps Juniors; the Alberta Girls' Showband Spectacular; and the polished band of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

All 13 bands united on field to blast out the finale.