

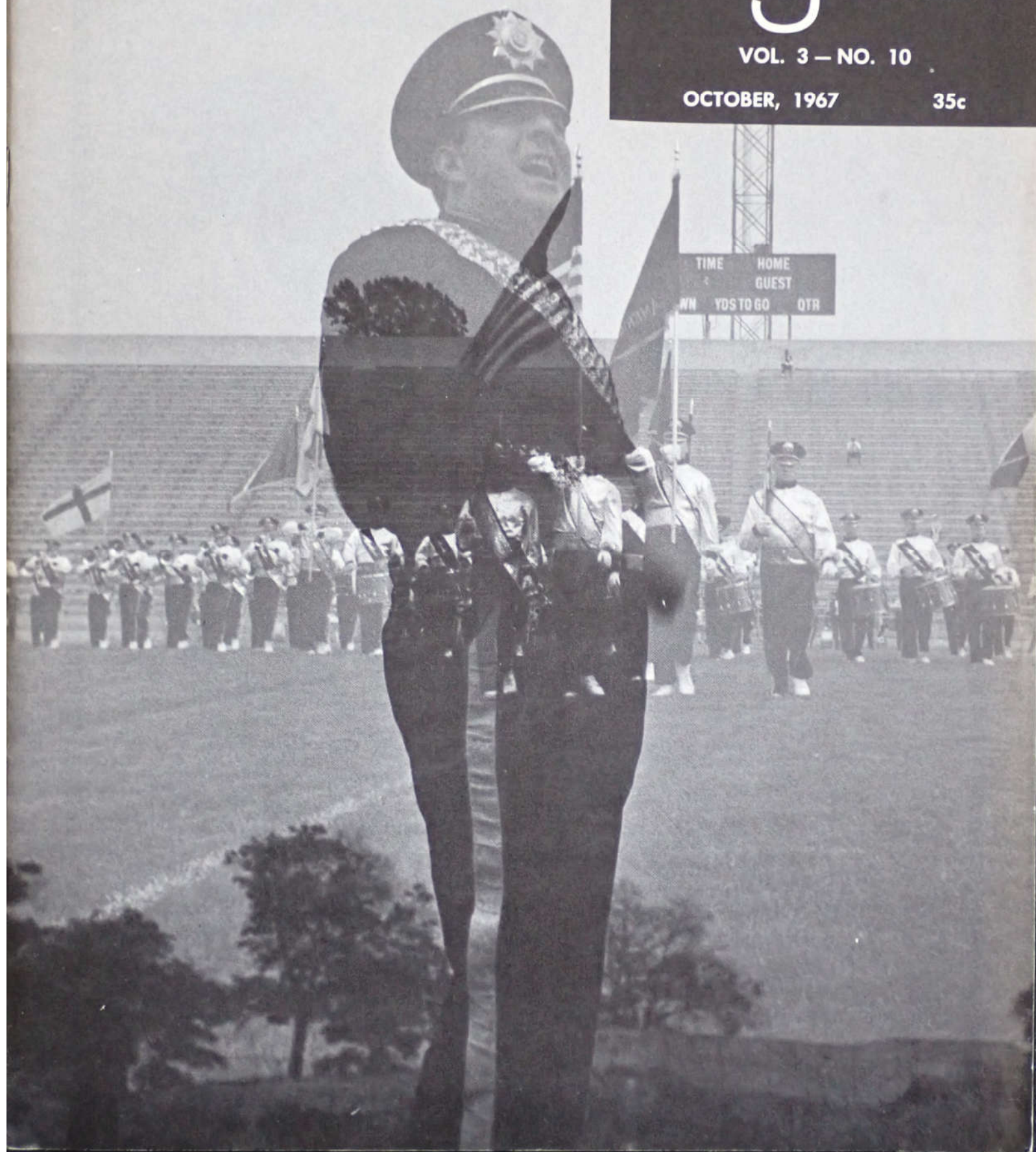
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CALIFORNIA . . . R. ORLANDELLA, JR. • 1442 W. Elm St. • Lodi, Calif. 95240

On August 5 the Anaheim Kingsmen hosted their second "Festival of Music" contest. Competing were 9 corps from all over the West Coast. The first corps to take the field was the Ambassadors who put on a good show although it lacked the power of the later competitors. The next corps to perform was the Raiders. The Raiders gave their best performance of the season and they were well received by their Southern California audience. Later in the contest the Commodore Perry Scouts whose performance seemed plagued with problems managed to give a very pleasing performance. Then the only all-girl corps in the contest made their appearance, the Capitalaires of Sacramento. The girls also gave the audience one of their best performances of the season. The highlight of their show was their "Sound of Music" concert.

Every corps must have an off-night once in a while and this was the case with the Commodores. After improving by leaps and bounds between every contest they finally had their off-night, but their G.E. show still had the spectators on the edges of their seats. The next corps to take the field was the Diplomats. Fielding the largest corps of the evening they put on a tremendous show in all captions. The high point of their show was their very effective use of their drill patterns.

The Santa Clara Vanguard was the next corps to perform. They put on a clean show in almost every caption and it was definitely the best overall performance they have put on this season. Taking the line next was the Seattle Thunderbirds. After being in California for a week the Thunderbirds finally adapted to the great change in climate and put on a much better performance than the week before in Stockton.

The final competing corps of the evening was the Velvet Knights. Fresh from victory the week before at Stockton the Knights were out to make it two in a row and with the fantastic performance they gave they defeated their nearest opponent by more than five points.

Following the Knights' show the host corps, the Jr. State Champion Kingsmen gave an exhibition of the show they are going to use at the V.F.W. Nationals in New Orleans. The only way to describe their show is "precision plus" especially in the M&M and drumming departments. After the Kingsmen's exhibition was



(Photo — Orlandello)

Diplomats, Hollywood, California in concert formation.

the highlight of the whole contest — an exhibition by the Air Force Drum and Bugle Corps. The high spots of their show were their concert "Bully" and their trio in "The Joker." Their performance left the audience spellbound and they were a fitting climax to the contest. At retreat the scores were announced.

1. Velvet Knights	75.93
2. Thunderbirds	70.23
3. Diplomats	67.18
4. Vanguard	67.03
5. Raiders	61.78
6. Commodores	53.40
7. Capitalaires	53.16
8. Ambassadors	49.68
9. Commodore Perry Scouts	43.46

My feature corps for this month is the Velvet Knights. Since their formation in late 1963 the Knights have been a corps on the move. In 1965 they captured the California American Legion State Championship and they have been a top contender ever since.

The corps was selected as "The Official Musical Representative of the City of Buena Park, and during the winter the Knights made numerous appearances in Disneyland. The Velvet Knights are noted for their musical repertoire which is played to near perfection by their talented hornline and drumline. Their next major show will be the California State Open Contest which will be held in Santa Clara and they are

definitely in the position to take the California Open Title.

The corps is backed by a large and very capable group of instructors and directors. Their Drum Major is Steve Abrams and their Color-guard Captain is Sherry Lintz.

The big question in California right now is: Can the Sr. State Champions, the Joaquin Caballeros, retain their State Open Championship with such formidable opponents as the Jr. State Champion Kingsmen and the Velvet Knights making the long trek to Northern California to compete. In past years the Caballeros have always put on their best performance at the Open Show, so it should turn out to be a very interesting show to say the least.

California is due for a surge in Senior Corps activity due to the formation of two more Senior corps. In northern Calif. reports say that the Hawks are being reorganized as a senior corps and I hear reports from the Southern part of the state that the Imperials have been reorganized. If this is true next year should see the revival of real senior competition in California.

Before I end this column for this month I would like to thank the Seattle Thunderbirds for having this writer as their guest during their trip to Anaheim. It was a wonderful experience. Thanks gang!