
ON THE STARTING LINE
FROM CHICAGO, SKOKIE, AND DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS ...

THE VANGUARD!

THE VOICE OF **THE VANGUARD**

www.DesPlainesVanguard.com

(Issue #10)

August 2005

Vanguard Music Library is now complete!

Thanks to the efforts of several people, recordings of the 1970 through 1975 Vanguard have been digitally transferred to compact disc and will be available to interested parties. Our gratitude goes out to the following people who were responsible for finding the recordings and providing the wherewithal to save them digitally for posterity.

Pat Rymer Sylvia – found among her Vanguard memorabilia an 8-track tape of 1970 through 1973. She provided this tape to....

Bill O'Connell – who got a hold of a working 8-track player with output capability, and painstakingly worked with...

Sam Agnello – on transferring the 8-track tape to CD. After many, many failures (i.e.: broken tape and more broken tape), they were able to transfer all contents successfully, and also included a recording of 1975 provided by....

Julie May Melia – whose parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Charles "Bud" May, Jr.**, recorded us at DCI prelims in '75 with a portable tape recorder. In addition,....

Kirt Kinyon – a current assistant drum major of the **Royal Airs Senior Exhibition Corps** purchased a professionally recorded copy of the 1973 Vanguard (possibly from DCI prelims) on eBay and provided the CD for our use. This recording is also on the new CD compilation. Kirt, always a fan of the Vanguard, spent his junior corps years (late '60s and most of the '70s) in the Kilties' rifle section. In addition to his DM duties in RA, he also assists as a visual instructor.

Pat, Bill, Sam, Julie and your parents, and Kirt: your collaboration proves that many hands make light the work. Thanks for helping us preserve history. A special thanks goes out to Sam who spent hours on this project and didn't even march during the '70s. That's dedication! Info on availability will be forthcoming in a future issue.

In Memoriam...

Of Ricky Hubbard (Vanguard soprano '71-'72) who passed away last month. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his loved ones.

Upcoming activities....

*The big band jazz party continues. **Bill O'Connell's Chicago Skyliners Big Band** schedule follows:*

August 3rd -- Fox Valley Park in Aurora at 7PM.

August 4th – Franklin Park at 7PM.

August 11th – Lake Forest at 7PM.

September 7th – River Grove at 7:30PM.

September 25th – Fitzgerald's, 6615 W. Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn, at 6PM.

On Sunday afternoons, you can hear Bill on the radio when he hosts a show called “New Vintage” from 5:00-6:00 PM on WDCB radio (90.9 FM). For information on the band and venue location details, visit www.chicagoskylinersbigband.com.

Other events to watch for:

Aug. 11th at 4PM Central time – *DCI Cinema Live*. DCI Championship Quarterfinals will be broadcast live from Foxboro, Massachusetts, on IMAX screens across the country. You can see it in Illinois at Lincolnshire Stadium 20 Plus Imax, 300 Parkway Dr., Lincolnshire. For tickets and a list of other theaters across the country, visit www.dci.org/cinema/theaters.cfm.

Sept. 6th – Highlights from this year's DCI championship finals will be televised on ESPN2 from **8-10PM Central time**.

More info on both of these events can be found on the DCI website: www.dci.org.

*Are you in a band? Please let us know so we can publish your
gig schedule here!*

Important! – Autumn Alumni Gathering Being Planned!

Be sure to mark your calendar for **Friday evening, October 14th**. **Bill O'Connell** and I are spearheading a casual gathering for Vanguard alumni, family, and friends on that date. More information will be available very soon. For now, we ask for your help.

- ✓ If you think you might like to attend this event, kindly reply to this email and let me know your name and how many people you might be bringing. ***No strings attached here!*** We just need to know how many people could potentially attend so we can get a big enough venue.
- ✓ We still have quite a few alumni who are on the *Missing in Action* list. If you would like to put your detective skills to good use by trying to find some of these folks, email **Bill O'Connell** at billbigband@aol.com. He will then email you a list of our Vanguard MIAs. If you find any of our missing Vanguard brothers and sisters, be sure to encourage them to log onto the Vanguard website guestbook. Then provide addresses and phone numbers to Bill for the database.
- ✓ It is unlikely that an invitation to this gathering will be going out snail-mail. If you know of alumni who do not have internet access, please keep them apprised of this event as you receive details via e-mail.
- ✓ If you would like to be involved on the planning committee, reply to this email and we'll give you a holler!

See you on October 14th!

Cathy O'Connell Letourneau

Letter from Vanguard Alum, Bogie Reeves

Hi, Cathy,

I've been reading (with great pleasure I might add) the Vanguard Newsletter that you work so hard to put out to us every month. Thanks so much for your efforts.

I especially enjoy reading about various former members and where they are and what they are doing these many years down the road. It's nice to hear that so many are doing so well.

*I thought I might relay the following to you in hope that it may reach the many readers and former members that I marched with so many years ago. It may be of special interest to some, in that it involves two former members of two different corps. I speak of myself (Vanguard) and Rose Pitcher (nee Kollar) from the Starlites in Milwaukee. I think that those who knew us either separately or as a couple may get a kick out of the following: back in 1960, **Frank Pamper** was not only marching snare drum with us, but was also teaching the Starlites drum line by commuting weekly to Milwaukee (twice weekly during the off season and once a week during the competition season).*

I would sometimes ride up to Milwaukee with Frank just to see what the competition was up to. It was some time in early spring of '60 that I first met Rose. She and another girl were the only females that I had ever seen in a drum line; and they were quite good! I was immediately drawn to Rose, and we began dating shortly thereafter. We continued to date after that season (I would drive to Milwaukee every Saturday night, 90 miles up!! 90 miles back!!) Every weekend, rain, snow, didn't make any difference. We continued to date for the next two years until early spring of '62 when her mother decided that we were "getting serious" and laid down the decree that we couldn't see each other for one year. We could only talk on the phone or send each other letters. I guess her mother figured that during that time frame, we'd forget about each other and that would be the end of that. Wellllll, we did continue to see each other throughout the '62 season (without her mother knowing, of course) but when the season was over, we had little choice other than to abide by her mother's wishes!

As time went on, we communicated less and less until we finally went our separate ways. I joined the Navy, went overseas, and got married in 1966. Rose went on to meet someone else, got married in 1964 and eventually relocated to the state of Oregon. We were both married for about 25 years, each had two children and each have grandchildren. Neither of us remarried, but we never forgot about one another. We even tried to locate each other via the Internet but without success. You'd think that it was a lost cause, right???

Now the plot thickens!!

*At the reunion last fall, a mutual acquaintance of both Rose and I (**Dave Richards**, Boys of '76) (God bless him) came up to me and said, "Rose is single." I turned and said, "You know where she is??" He did!! The rest is history.*

Here's the best part: Rose and I are now together, living in Mt. Prospect. The flame never died!! She moved back to the Midwest to be with me back in February, and we are having the time of our lives just being together. It's as if the past 40+ years never existed; we just picked up where we left off.

So there you are; it's never too late. Just thought that those of you out there who knew us "when" might like to know what became of us – we're together again!!

Bogie and Rose

Editor's Note: It was great seeing you again, Bogie, and meeting you, Rose, recently at an RA drum sectional. Congratulations on reconnecting after all these years!

Listen up, Vanguard!

Continue to send in your memories, poignant or funny corps stories (you know you have some!), and updates. I need more for future issues. Photos (labeled with peoples' names) are also welcome and encouraged. Let's hear from you!

Cathy O'Connell Letourneau (1969-1976)