

HIGHTY-TIGHTY

Notes



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Front Cover Photo: Representing the past and present, drum majors Nick Valdrighi (HT '57), and Cadet Captain Patrick Bates pass each other on the field during the pre-game show at homecoming. (Photo by Mike Diersing)

The editor thanks Mike Diersing, Rock Roszak, George McNeill, Gene Harrison (HT '68), Baird Martin (HT '52), J. M. Drake (HT '71), and Cadet Major Jacob Mathews (HT '11) for their contributions to this edition of the "Highly-Tighty Notes."

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Bert Kinzey, HT '68



ONCE A HIGHTY-TIGHTY....

Take a look at the photograph on the cover of this newsletter. It speaks volumes about what the Highty-Tighties and the Highty-Tighty alumni are all about. It has been said often and by many, "Once a Highty-Tighty, always a Highty-Tighty."

As the present drum major, Cadet Captain Patrick Bates, led the Highty-Tighties of this school year into Lane Stadium, and Nick Valdrighi, HT '57, led the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band, the two passed each other at midfield, beautifully symbolizing the past and present. When the Highty-Tighties won the second of three consecutive first place trophies in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in January 1957, Nick was the drum major who led the Band and saluted President Eisenhower as the Highty-Tighties marched past the reviewing stand. In the photo on the front cover, it is obvious that in the more than fifty-three years since that important event in Highty-Tighty history, Nick has not lost any of the qualities and style that he had as the drum major back then. It was so great to have him lead us again in this outstanding manner, and the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band behind him looked superb as well. While down on the field at pre-game, Nick said he had one question for me, "When can I do this again?!" Clearly, all these decades later, Nick is *still* a Highty-Tighty in every sense of the word, and so are the other alumni who were on the field with him that day.

The bonds formed as each freshman class meets the challenges of their first year in the Regimental Band are usually forged so strongly that they often last a lifetime. I don't know how many times alumni have told me that their closest friends in life remain their Highty-Tighty classmates even many years and decades after graduation. It may not be that they see each other frequently, but they always know their classmates are there, and if one is in need, other classmates are there to lend a helping hand. The bond with other Highty-Tighties is not based on a question of how frequently they get together, it is forged from the unique and challenging experiences shared during the time spent as a Band Company cadet. It is simply not possible to meet a Highty-Tighty alumnus who was in the Band with you and not have some great memory of something that happened when you were both cadets.

But it goes beyond just classes. Sharing experiences with Highty-Tighties from other classes, even decades apart from one's own, can be very rewarding. The bond is truly timeless as Baird Martin, HT '50, talks about on page 11 of this newsletter. The experiences of cadet life may have been vastly different between alumni who graduated in the 1940s and 1950s to those of the last ten years, but what is impor-

tant remains the same, and that makes us all part of one big family.

For many valid reasons, some alumni have lost touch with their classmates. Jobs, family responsibilities, and multiple relocations across the country, and indeed the world, are all factors that have contributed to this. If this has happened to you, I encourage you to try to get back in touch with your classmates or anyone who is an alumnus. A few years ago, the Highty-Tighty Class of 1958 did this, and they have become a close group again. More classes should do the same thing and enjoy the wonderful feeling reuniting with classmates can bring as HT '58 discovered.

One simple way to do this is to come to homecoming. As soon as the date is announced, mark it on your calendar and plan to attend the activities. Don't worry if you cannot play an instrument any longer, simply carry one and march with us. And if you think you can no longer march, don't worry about that either. You can! Remember, "Once a Highty-Tighty...." Take a look again at Nick on the front cover! He is having a great time in front of more than 60,000 people. You can do it, too! Mark October 21-22 on your calendar and come join us at homecoming this fall to renew friendships with your classmates, and make new friends with Highty-Tighties from the 1940s to the present day. You'll be glad you did!



Some of our newer alumni pose for a group photo while waiting to line up for the pre-game show at homecoming this past year. Alumni from all eras find this a great time to visit and catch up. (Photo by Mike Diersing)



DIRECTOR'S DOWNBEAT

Major George McNeill, Virginia Militia

MORE EXPOSURE FOR THE REGIMENTAL BAND

Another busy semester is behind us and the Band handled their grueling schedule with style and professionalism. It is not usual to have football performances spanning four consecutive weeks. Most are aware that all our performances are now on YouTube, and we also have over 1,000 images of the Highly-Tighties on flickr. The individual responsible for this enormous and wonderful contribution is our photographer, Mike Diersing. Mike has been photographing the Band since last year, and he continues to do an excellent job. He is present at just about all of the Band's practices, performances, cookouts and other events. Since the start of his photo taking, we have received well over 10,000 views on the flickr site, and this is an excellent recruiting tool!

We are constantly looking for new ways to showcase visual images of the Highly-Tighties with our new look without compromising our traditions and heritage. The gauntlet and mace were introduced in 1999, and in 2005 the drum major wore the baldric for the first time in many decades. Just recently, our buglers of the guard began using the herald trumpet at pass-in-reviews and retreat ceremonies. On December 5, 2010, our bugler played *Assembly* at the opening of the Four Soldiers Show at the Roanoke Performing Arts Theatre. Attached to the trumpet was the newly

designed tablet, and a photograph of it appears on this page. Regimental Bugler, C/SGT James Callen, deserves full credit for the design.

A string quartet was formed last year, and this ensemble has added a wonderful new dimension to the Band. A photograph of them was included with my article in the last *Highly-Tighty Notes*. The group has already performed for a number of engagements on campus. Instrumentation consist of three violins and one viola, and we are encouraging a very talented cellist to join next semester. The group has been named *EnCorps*, and you will be able to hear them on YouTube very soon. In addition to the string ensemble, the brass quintet and the *Southern Colonels* continue to perform and represent the Regimental Band both on and off campus.

After a performance by the *Southern Colonels* in Roanoke this semester, I received a wonderful e-mail from Mr. Don Pizzullo, the coordinator of the event. It read, in part, "I wanted to take a moment to thank you and the rest of the *Southern Colonels* for a wonderful concert Friday evening. Tom McKeon, the Roanoke Higher Education Center's Director, was high in his praise of the evening." This exemplifies the outstanding manner in which members of the Highly-Tighties continue to represent the Band, the Corps, and the University.



Left: The tablet which now hangs on the herald trumpet was designed by Regimental Bugler, C/SGT, James Callen. (Photo courtesy of Rock Roszak and George McNeill)

Above: The Highly-Tighty Brass Quintet performs for the guests at the Commandant's Coffee in early December. (Photo by Bert Kinzey)

FROM THE COMMANDER

Cadet Major Matthew Buffington, HT '11

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF PERFORMING WHILE MAINTAINING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



As the fall semester comes to a close, I am satisfied with the progress that the Band has made, but there is much more work yet to be completed. While we haven't always been successful, we've managed to make good progress with trying new ideas and pushing the Highty-Tighties to new limits.

This semester, with the drum major's leadership, we've played several new marches that haven't been attempted by the Band in recent years. These include *In Storm and Sunshine* by John C. Heed and *Hands Across the Sea* by John Phillip Sousa. We have also introduced several new pep tunes that the Band will continue to play both in the stands and at the Hokie Walk.

Administratively, we are in the process of streamlining and reorganizing our supply operations. Most notably, cadets will sign for instruments and hold a greater responsibility for their continued care and maintenance. The increased free time during second semester will hopefully allow us to reorganize and improve our supply, maintenance, and equipment accountability system. Several cadets are also working on an application for the 2012 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Academics remain the greatest challenge we faced this semester. It is and always will be extremely difficult to balance the academic commitments of every student with the strenuous schedule placed upon the Band because of practices and performances. We have worked hard to find that

balance for every member of the company. Even with such a hectic schedule, the Band maintains its strength of over 100 cadets.

I am proud of the hard work put forth by every bandsman of every class, freshmen through seniors. Each truly knows the meaning behind the word "duty," for they practice it every single day. I look forward to the spring semester and its new chain of command led by the commander, Cadet Jacob Mathews. I trust that they will continue to push the Highty-Tighties to new heights.

This spring, the Band will have the privilege to return to Savannah, Georgia, and march in the 2011 St. Patrick's Day Parade, and we will travel to Washington, D.C., to march in the Cherry Blossom Parade. At both performances, we will continue to carry on the tradition of excellence established by Highty-Tighties who came before us.

To all alumni, thank you for your continued support of this great organization - this great family - the Highty-Tighties.

The Highty-Tighties execute their first performance of the school year in Lane Stadium prior to the game with James Madison University. Just a few minutes performing drill routines requires hours of preparation and practice, and this must be balanced with the time required for each bandsman to meet their academic challenges and requirements. (Photo by Mike Diersing)



JUST ANNOUNCED!!!

HOMECOMING 2011
WILL BE OCTOBER 22
AGAINST BOSTON COLLEGE.
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS NOW
AND BE WITH US FOR
HIGHTY-TIGHTY HOMECOMING!

HOMECOMING 2010

BAND PRACTICE AND THE PARADE



The first event of every Highly-Tighty homecoming weekend is band practice on Friday night. Many alumni get there early to visit with other alumni, most of whom they have not seen since the previous year or even longer. (Photo by Mike Diersing)



But soon the work has to start, and the Highly-Tighties and the Highly-Tighty Alumni Band work on the pre-game performance for the following day. Once that is done to satisfaction, many alumni head to "Gunny Fest" to do a little partying together. (Photo by Mike Diersing)



The next morning, the Highly-Tighty Alumni Band participated in the homecoming parade. When Chris Bise learned he could not make it to homecoming the day before, Lori Keck-Beach, HT '92, agreed to be the drum major for the parade at the last minute. Without any time

to prepare. Lori did a great job leading the HTAB through Blacksburg and on to the Drillfield. As always, the Band looked and sounded great to the many alumni and townspeople who turned out to see the parade and enjoy the great fall weather. (Photo by Rock Roszak)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BANQUET



Above left and right: Ensign Zach Eckhart, a Highy-Tighty of the Class of 2007, lost his life in a training accident on April 12, 2010, when the T-39 aircraft, in which he was flying as a student crewman, crashed in northern Georgia. To honor him, the Zachary R. Eckhart Memorial Scholarship was created and designated to benefit a Highy-Tighty cadet. Zach's widow, Sarah, a Highy-Tighty alumna, spoke at the banquet and told everyone how much the Highy-Tighties meant to Zach. She was also joined by Zach's parents, Brad and Joyce Eckhart, and his sister, Megan, in presenting the scholarship to its first recipient, Cadet Carl Shoonover, a Highy-Tighty sophomore. During the pre-game show in Lane Stadium, a moment of silence was also observed in honor of Ensign Eckhart. (Both photos by Gene Harrison)

Above center: The Highy-Tighty Class of 1960 was honored and joined the Old Guard at homecoming. Representing the several members of his class who were present, Don Barrans talked about what being a Highy-Tighty was like fifty years ago and explained how his classmates still had fond memories of their experiences in the Band. (Photo by Gene Harrison)

Right: Bert Kinzey presents the Jim Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship to Cadet Elaine Altman. The scholarship is awarded annually to the cadet chosen as the outstanding sophomore in the Highy-Tighties. Previous recipients Chip Caroon, HT '06, John Witte, HT '12, and Kevin Lewis, HT '11, look on. (Photo by Gene Harrison)



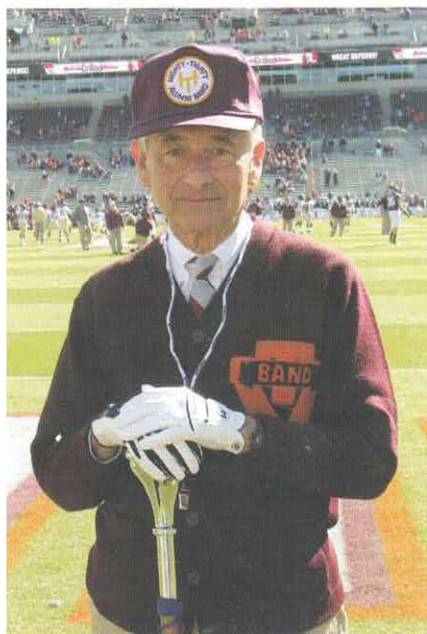


Left and below center: On behalf of her father, Harry W. Johnson, HT '68, Katherine J. Wilkinson accepted the certificate proclaiming Harry as a Distinguished Highly-Tighty Alumnus. As an alumnus, Harry had served on the Highly-Tighty Alumni, Inc. Board of Directors for more than twenty years. Katherine spoke about how much the Highly-Tighties had always meant to her father. In the photograph below, President Bert Kinzey and President Emeritus Charles Cornelison present the framed certificate to Katherine. Joining in the presentation at the far left are the only two living members of the Distinguished Highly-Tighty Alumni, Raymond Reed, HT' 57, and Robert "Happy Jack" Stephenson, HT '43. To participate in honoring Harry, ten of his classmates also joined in the presentation. Between "Happy Jack" and Charles Cornelison are Carter Threet Gill and Gene Harrison. To the right from Katherine are classmates Bert Kinzey, Bruce Hively, Reggie Lemon, Bob Luckner, Larry Hollada, John Helmick, Arnold Baer, and Jere Sikorsky. (Photo courtesy of Gene Harrison)



Highly-Tighty Homecoming simply would not be the same without our oldest participating alumnus, Bob "Happy Jack" Stephenson, HT '43, "Happy Jack," who was named the first living distinguished Highly-Tighty Alumnus at last year's banquet, has never missed a Highly-Tighty homecoming since they first began in 1976. He is always joined by his wife, Sue. Their son, Robbie Stephenson, is also a Highly-Tighty alumnus who attends homecoming each year as well. (Photo by Gene Harrison)

PREGAME SHOW



Left: Nick Valdrighi, HT '57, who led the Highty-Tighties as drum major for the second Presidential Inaugural Parade for Dwight D. Eisenhower in January 1957, became only the second drum major in thirty-five years to lead the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band onto the field for homecoming pregame. Noteworthy in the photo is the unusual VT monogram with "BAND" instead of the usual class year lettered across the "VT." This was used briefly in the 1950s on Highty-Tighty sweaters. (Photo by Gene Harrison)

Above: On the first sound of the roll-off, the Highty-Tighty Alumni Band takes the first step onto the field for the pre-game show. (Photo by Mike Diersing)



Above center: The practice time the night before results in an outstanding performance on the field as the present Highty-Tighties and alumni from many decades perform the pregame show. The two bands pass through each other then join together as one before separating again into two bands for the remainder of the show. (Photo by Mike Diersing)

Left: Once you hear the two whistles from the drum major to call the band to attention, it all comes back, and performing on the field is as natural as it was as a cadet, be it one year or more than fifty years ago. (Photo by Mike Diersing)

HONORING FORMER DIRECTOR JOSEPH LAMOUREUX



At homecoming, former director, Joe Lamoureux, and his wife, Patricia, were honored guests of the Band and the Highly-Tighty Alumni, Inc. Joe was honored for his years of service to the Highly-Tighties, and on the field during the pre-game show, he was presented with a proclamation saluting his service and naming him a Highly-Tighty alumnus.



Above left: Former director Joe Lamoureux was overcome with emotion at the sincere expression of love and appreciation shown him during the annual banquet that preceded the homecoming game. (Photo by Gene Harrison)

Above right: HTA President, Bert Kinzey, shows members of the Highly-Tighties and the alumni the shadow box containing the Highly-Tighty Crest and white citation cord that was also later presented to Joe Lamoureux during the pre-game ceremonies. The shadowbox was made by Highly-Tighty alumnus, Tim Williams. (Photo by Gene Harrison)



Left: In front of the homecoming crowd in Lane Stadium, Joe Lamoureux is presented with the proclamation honoring his service and making him an official Highly-Tighty alumnus. (Virginia Tech photo by Michael Shroyer)

Above: Joe and his wife enjoyed front row seats with the Highly-Tighties during the game. (Photo by Mike Diersing)

ALWAYS A HIGHTY-TIGHTY

by Baird Martin, Class of 1950



The photo at left shows Baird Martin as a Highty-Tighty senior in 1950, and at right is Baird today. Baird served in the U. S. Air Force flying jet fighters, including the Air Force's first operational jet fighter, the F-80 Shooting Star. (Photos courtesy of Baird Martin)

What has being a Highty-Tighty meant to me? I hardly know where to start. Being a Highty-Tighty has been a significant and important part of my life for well over sixty years now. I feel great pride in being a Highty-Tighty, because I feel a special bond to every other Highty-Tighty who has ever been in the ranks. I know that I can rely on anyone and everyone who has ever been a part of the organization, primarily because they have been part of this amazing and unique group and therefore feel the same bonds and share the values I do. Through the years, the Highty-Tighties have been the ones to step up to any challenge, and that is reflected in our personal lives as well. Being a Highty-Tighty means that each and every one of us has an obligation to excel for the sake of the unit and for ourselves as individuals. Being a Highty-Tighty also means that I am a member of one of the most prestigious groups of individuals in the western

world that includes Highty-Tighties of all ages and times.

It goes back over some sixty-four years to September 1946 when I first met my fellow cadets in the Highty-Tighty Class of 1950. All these many decades later, they still remain my best and closest friends, and we still get together every two years to reminisce and enjoy each other's company. I have been blessed to have known them and been associated with them. To wax poetic, we were forged in those middle of the night hazing sessions in full dress and racked back in a brace in a steamy shower room, but that was part of our upbringing back then. It certainly brought us closer together and bonded us as a group, and I have always been proud to have been a part of that group. Today, these classmates remain an outstanding bunch of individuals along with our wives. More importantly, they have been leaders in their work and communities over the years, so this tells me something about the influence being in the Highty-Tighties has on each of us. To excel under adverse conditions is part of that heritage. I see this mindset continuing to this day, and I am proud of the younger (nearly everyone else is these days) generation when I see what outstanding individuals they are.

I strongly believe that the pride that every Highty-Tighty feels is part of being a member of this fine organization. Through the ages, each and every one of us strived to be our best - individually and as a unit. (Well, some of us, as freshmen, didn't strive as hard as others, but that is what makes us individuals.) Being a member of the Corps of Cadets has had a strong impact on all of us, as well as being associated with Virginia Tech, but the major lasting impact has been being a Highty-Tighty. This carries over to the business world, the military community, or whatever endeavor in which we find ourselves. Throughout, I see the strength of character and integrity built by being a member of the Regimental Band. The Highty-Tighties are the embodiment of the Hokie spirit. They, as a group, are the true exemplification of "Ut Prosim."

Having been a part of this brotherhood (and sisterhood), the continuing desire to be tops, or at least do your very best, is what I continue to cherish and will always remember as a Highty-Tighty. It has been an honor to have been one of you.



Highty-Tighty Alumni Group Page Now on Facebook

For all Highty-Tighty alumni who have Facebook accounts, we now have our own group page. Our Vice President for Alumni/Band Relations, Dirk McComsey, is the administrator for the page. We encourage all of our alumni to join to receive the updates and information about the Band and alumni activities which are posted there. It is

also a good way to find friends and classmates.

When joining the Highty-Tighty Alumni Group Page on Facebook, you will have to submit your request. When doing so, please let Dirk know what class you were in so that he can verify your status as one of our alumni. If you have any questions about the group page or joining it, you can send them to Dirk in an e-mail at dirk.mccomsey@gmail.com.



ALUMNI NOTES

THE HIGHTY-TIGHTY CLASS OF 1950 MOURNS THE PASSING OF GEORGE FOX



George Fox, a member of the Highly-Tighty Class of 1950, passed away in Columbus, Texas, on July 9, 2010, just shy of his eighty-first birthday. While a member of the Highly-Tighties, George was the ranking sophomore, and in his senior year he was one of two Cadet First Lieutenants serving together as executive officers in the same company. The other was his roommate, Baird Martin (see page 11). George graduated with honors from V.P.I.

After graduation, George reported to Randolph Air Force Base for flight training in the U. S. Air Force. He was a decorated veteran of the Korean War. Following military service, George was employed as a history teacher before being involved in the Fire Prevention and Safety business. He eventually owned his own business manufacturing fire trucks. Later he worked in the insurance business before becoming the Columbus Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. He retired from that position in 2009.

George was a member of the St. Roch Catholic Church and sang in the church choir. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus of Mentz. He was married to the love of his life, Charlotte (Hawthorne) Fox, and they had a son, Robert, and two daughters, Stephanie and Victoria. They also had two granddaughters, Danielle and Miriam.

George was loved by all who knew him. Nicola Hammett, current Chamber of Commerce Vice President, called George, "...a man with integrity, faith, and high morals; a man with high family values; and a man that inspired me immensely." Shortly before he died, he was honored by the naming of the George Fox Patriotic Children's Parade in Columbus. Throughout his life, George Fox remained close to his Highly-Tighty classmates and is deeply missed by each of them.

J. M. DRAKE, HT '71 RECEIVES THE FELLOW MEMBERSHIP GRADE IN THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS (NSPE)

The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) has named J. Madison "JM" Drake, P.E., FNSPE, to its 2010 class of Fellow Members. The Fellow membership grade honors Professional Engineers who have demonstrated exemplary service to the profession, the Society and the community. Since its creation in 2000, less than one percent of all NSPE members have advanced to this highest membership rank.

JM is the NSPE's representative to the nominating committee for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority. He is certified as a Federal Project Director and is a participant in the Project Manager's Career Development Program at the U.S. Department of Energy, his current employer. He is past State President of the Louisiana Engineering Society, 2002-03 and a Federal Quality Examiner from 1998 to 2000. He served as Chairman of the Leadership Council of the New Orleans Federal Performance Excellence Council from 2002 to 2004. He is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and a Certified Quality Engineer (CQE). He served as the President of the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair from 1996 to 1999 and as a member of the Regional Science Bowl Planning Team from 2001 to 2009. He worked at the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility on the Space Shuttle External Tanks from 1982 to 1992. JM is a veteran officer of the U.S. Army, serving from 1971 to 1976, a former Virginia Tech cadet, and a member of the Highly-Tighty Class of 1971. His interests include mentoring students, home computers, digital photography, tennis, and travel. He and his wife, Marlane, live in New Orleans, Louisiana.



INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE HIGHTY-TIGHTIES!

Highly-Tighty Development = helping the Highly-Tighties grow to become a larger Band. We just had 54 new freshmen enter the Band this past fall. Now we need to repeat that for the next three years. It takes your financial support to do this.

WHO?? - You are one of approximately 1,500 alumni of the Highly-Tighties. We are asking that you share the vision of helping the Band continue to grow.

WHAT?? - Develop additional E.L.S.(Emerging Leader Scholarships) and grow the Schaeffer Memorial Endowment that funds the Highly-Tighty Stipend.

HOW?? - Help us by encouraging your Highly-Tighty Class to begin the process of adopting and funding a Class Endowment (an E.L.S.). To date, only two Classes have accomplished this. It would be nice to add some others. Encourage your classmates to get in touch and stay in touch. Have a class event or get-together to improve your class connection between classmates.

WHY?? - In the fall of 2009 we had 32 new freshmen enter the Band, and in the fall of 2010 we had 54 new freshmen join the Band. We need to continue to bring in 50+ freshmen into the Highly-Tighties each year, and one of the best ways to impact this is through attracting the young men and women with financial support from Emerging Leader Scholarships and the Jim Schaeffer Endowment's \$1,000 Freshman Stipend.

WHY ELSE?? - Highly-Tighty retention is also closely connected to financial support. One of the ways to improve the number of returning members of the current Band is to improve our financial support for those members needing assistance. As a Highly-Tighty alumnus, one part of your legacy to the Band can be your ongoing financial support. There are several ways to do this.

WHEN?? - In 2011, we are asking each of you to make a pledge to give financial support to help grow and improve the Band.

For additional information, please be sure to call the Virginia Tech University Development office at 540-231-2806 or 800-533-1144 and ask for Dave Spracher or Sarah Woods. You are also welcome to call me at 412-980-9830, and I will be happy to discuss ideas with you or members of your Highly-Tighty Class.

Checks should be mailed to: Virginia Tech University Development (0336), 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, ATTN: Corps of Cadets. Please be sure to indicate which account you want your contribution to go to.

Accounts are: Jim Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship (Highly-Tighty Freshman Stipend)
Tom Dobyns Memorial Scholarship Fund (Emerging Leader Scholarships)
Charles O. Cornelison Scholarship (Emerging Leader Scholarship)
Wallace Easter Scholarship (Emerging Leader Scholarship)
Matthew J. La Porte Memorial Scholarship (Emerging Leader Scholarship)
Zachary Eckhart Memorial Scholarship (Emerging Leader Scholarship)
Corps of Cadets Immediate Needs Fund

Thank you for your support!

Chuck Rowell, HT '71, Vice President for Development, Highly-Tighty Alumni, Inc.



HISTORY NOTES

A RETURN TO THE VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERS



The Cadet Band of the 1904-1905 school year not only met its responsibilities to the V.P.I. Corps of Cadets, they also served as the Regimental Band for the 70th Virginia Volunteer Infantry. (Virginia Tech Special Collections)

*Editor's Note: This is the tenth in a continuing series of articles about the history of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band, the Highly-Tighties. The purpose of this series is to provide an accurate record of the Band's proud and amazing history that spans well over a century. The photographs and historical information here were taken primarily from Harry Temple's outstanding and meticulously researched six-volume history of the Corps of Cadets entitled **The Bugle's Echo**, which traces the history of the Corps from the first day the college opened its doors through 1934.*

Anyone familiar with the history of the Virginia Tech Regimental Band knows about the time the Band and its director, Major James Patton Harvey, resigned from school, and, joined by Band alumni, they become the Regimental Band for the 2nd Virginia Volunteer Regiment during the Spanish-American War. But this was not the only time the Cadet Band would join the volunteers. It happened again only a few years later in the summer of 1904.

In the interim, Confederate veterans had asked that the Virginia regiments be renumbered so as to avoid confusion with the regiments of the Confederate Army that took part in the War Between the States. These had been numbered 1 through 64, so a new numbering system had been put in place that began with 70 and went up. The 2nd Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, with which the Cadet Band had

served during the Spanish-American War, had become the 70th Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Five of its companies were the same units with which the Band had previously served. However, it had no regimental band.

The 70th Virginia was selected to participate in the large 1904 War Games at Manassas, Virginia, in September. This was to be a huge military exercise involving regiments of the Regular U. S. Army and state militias from across the country.

During the summer of 1904, Colonel Wayne Anderson, commander of the 70th Virginia Infantry, decided that he wanted to have a band for his regiment during the exercises. The V.P.I. Cadet Band was known as the finest military band in Virginia, and their previous service with the regiment during the Spanish-American War made them the logical choice for the assignment. Colonel Anderson wrote a letter to V.P.I.'s President McBryde, asking him if the Cadet Band could join the 70th Virginia for the exercises. He offered to pay the Band's expenses for their service.

Director Harvey contacted each of the members of the Band who were at home enjoying their summer vacation. They all enthusiastically supported the idea of serving with the regiment, and they unanimously stated that they would participate, even though it meant giving up part of their summer to do so. The college was not scheduled to reopen until September 21.

Major Harvey gathered the Band in Blacksburg on September 1 and conducted a drill and a practice to prepare for the upcoming event. The following day, the cadets boarded a train in Christiansburg and headed to Lynchburg. There they were joined by Company E of the 70th Virginia, and the



The 70th Virginia Volunteer Regiment is shown on maneuvers at Manassas, Virginia, in 1904. It was during this time that the V.P.I. Cadet Band served as the unit's Regimental Band. Cadets also participated as infantrymen, messengers, buglers, and in ordnance and quartermaster positions. (Virginia Tech Special Collections)

Band led the company to the Armory where they were to spend the night. Playing all along the route, the small parade drew a crowd of enthusiastic supporters. Later that afternoon, the units marched back to the train station, again with the Band playing along the way, to meet Company I as they arrived from Farmville. The larger contingent then marched back to the Armory, and the number of spectators continued to grow as well. That evening, the cadets and Major Harvey were guests at dinners and parties in Lynchburg.

The next morning, the Band led the two companies back to the train station. A train carrying Company M from Danville arrived, and everyone boarded the train and headed to Charlottesville. Once there, more cars were added to the train, and Companies D from Charlottesville and K from Staunton joined the group which headed for Manassas.

Once in Manassas, these companies joined with the others from around the state, and they began to set up camp in designated areas including one for the Band. Around them, 40,000 troops were also setting up tents in two different camps as they prepared for the war games.

The 70th Virginia was part of the Blue Army under command of Brigadier General Frederick D. Grant, son of General U. S. Grant. Opposing them was the Brown Army commanded by Brigadier General J. Franklin Bell. The overall commander was Major General Henry C. Corbin.

On Sunday afternoon, the Cadet Band gave a concert for the regiment that was well received and attended. The following day, drills began, and the Band drilled with the regiment, not as a band but as an infantry unit. After a long day, the 70th Virginia held a Retreat Parade, and the Band took part as the Regimental Band. Following dinner, the Band gave a concert for the troops. This time soldiers from many other units joined the men of the 70th to enjoy the concert. This prompted Colonel Anderson and his officers to speak with pride about their regimental band.

On Tuesday morning, the first phase of the exercise began. The Blue Army attacked the Brown Army in the "Third Battle of Manassas." The fighting started at 2:00 a.m. as the two armies met on the field. The following morning, the 70th was awakened at 3:00 a.m. and moved out in fifteen minutes

to repel a counter attack by the Brown Army. In the field, the Band briefly serenaded the troops in their camps before the resumption of hostilities later that night. But during the actual engagements, the cadets served as messengers and in ordnance and quartermaster duties. Others were signalmen, while cornet players served as buglers. A few actually got to serve in line infantry units.

On Wednesday, September 7, Reveille was at 3:45 a.m., and after breakfast a recon party discovered an element of the Brown Army in the woods near Grayson House. V.P.I. cadets were dispatched to bring up the entire Fourth Brigade, and this unit quickly overran the Brown Army positions. At the end of the day, Phase 1 of the maneuver was over, and all units moved back to their encampments. As they arrived, the Band played for the troops. In return, the soldiers enthusiastically cheered the Band, and everyone seemed to be in great spirits. That evening, the tireless cadets gave another concert for the entire camp.

The second phase of the maneuver began the next day with the Blue Army assigned to defend Washington, D.C. from an attack by the Brown Army. Even while bivouacked in the field during the maneuver, the Band gave a concert for the weary troops. As the exercise continued, an umpire told Colonel Anderson that the 70th Virginia had done the best work of any unit in the entire Blue Army.

After the maneuvers were concluded, all troops returned to the two large encampments. The Band played yet another concert that evening. The following day, a review by all 40,000 troops involved in the exercise was held. Lieutenant General Adna R. Chaffee, Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army, and the Honorable Paul Morton, Secretary of the Navy, were the reviewing officials. When the 70th Virginia Regiment marched past the reviewing stand, the V.P.I. Band played "Dixie," and this brought out a loud and approving roar from more than 20,000 spectators who had gathered to witness the event.

The review took nearly three hours, and it was the largest since the Spanish-American War. But the Regimental Band continued to march and play continuously for five and one-half hours.

Back at camp, Colonel Anderson assembled his staff and the Band and praised them for their excellence in all of their performances. He cited their outstanding contribution throughout the war games and declared that he was making them the permanent honorary band of the 70th Virginia Regiment.

Following the exercises, most cadets returned directly to their homes. A few, who lived in southwest Virginia, traveled to Blacksburg with Major Harvey to return the instruments. They would all reunite on campus to start the new school year on September 21.

On April 25, 1905, Major General Fitzhugh Lee, who had commanded the 7th Army Corps during the Spanish-American War, passed away. It was in the 7th Army Corps that the V.P.I. Band had served with the 2nd Virginia Regiment. General Lee had also been a governor of Virginia and a member of the Board of Visitors of the college when it was still known as Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College. General Lee's funeral was held on May 4. Director James Patton Harvey and Cadet Captain James Tomkins Williams, the Band Company Commander, marched in the funeral as part of Colonel Anderson's staff of the 70th Virginia Regiment.

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The *Highly-Tighty Half-Notes* are periodic e-mails sent to Highly-Tighty alumni and friends of the Regimental Band. They are intended to supplement the news included in the *Highly-Tighty Notes* newsletter, which only comes out twice a year. These e-mail updates include both photographs and information about the present Band and alumni. Early information about homecoming and other items of interest to alumni are often subjects of *Half-Notes*. If you would like to receive these occasional e-mails with photographs and updates about the Band's activities as well as information about alumni, please send your e-mail address and your request to receive the *Half-Notes* to:

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