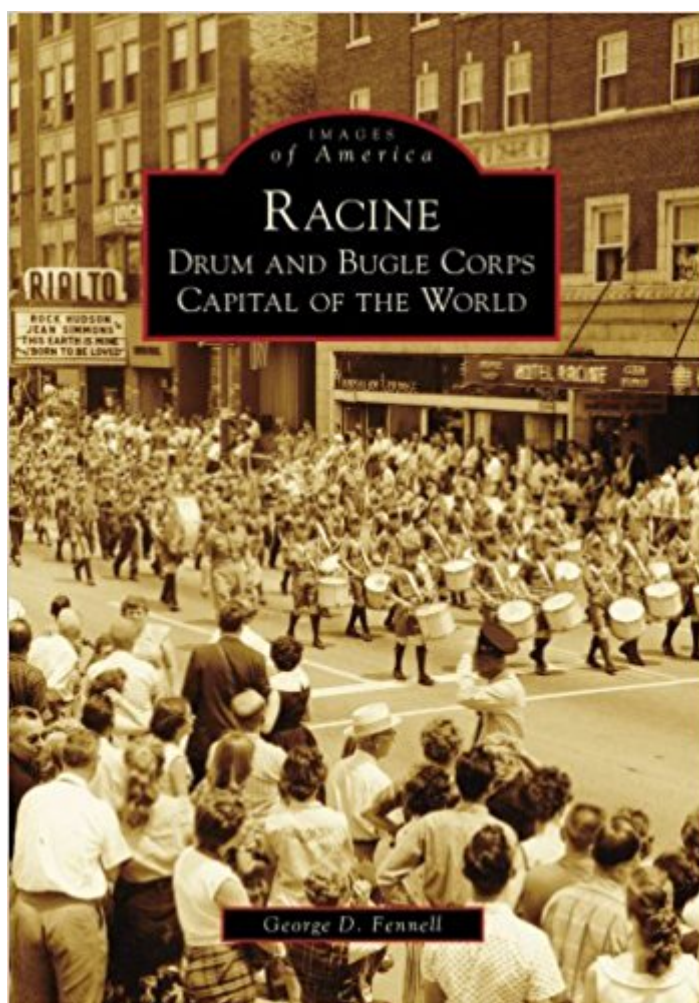


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# Racine: Drum And Bugle Corps Capital Of The World (Images Of America: Wisconsin)



## Synopsis

Many activities become short-lived fads. Not so for the drum and bugle corps in Racine. Here, after 150 years, drum and bugle corps activity still flourishes as a proud tradition. Racine is the self-proclaimed drum corps capital of the world. Racine had six competing drum and bugle corps during the 1960s and 1970s—very impressive for a community of 90,000. In fact, it would be difficult to find a longtime resident who is unaware of this activity. Everyone in Racine either was a member of or had family or friends who were members of a drum and bugle corps.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Title: New book traces Racine drum corps history  
Author: Steve Vickers  
Publisher: Drum Corps

WorldDate: January 2009  
I recently received an advance copy of George Fennell's new book titled

"Racine: Drum and Bugle Corps Capital of the World." It is not only thorough, it is extremely

fascinating. Fennell was born and raised in Racine, WI, first joining the Racine YMCA Kiltie Kadets in

1964, later graduating to the Kilties and then marching in the senior corps, the Boys of 76. Produced

by Arcadia Publishing, a Mount Pleasant, SC, company that specializes in local and regional history books, Fennell's softcover, 132-page book is packed with an incredible assortment of images

covering not only the existence of the six prominent drum and bugle corps in the city of 90,000 -- all

operating concurrently in the 1960s - but also a number of other assorted Racine musical units

incredibly dating back to 1858 (14 images in this chapter). While the book is not a written history per

se, the collection of photographs present the Boys of 76 (61 images), Racine Scouts (36), Racine

Junior Scouts (8), Racine Kilties (53), Kiltie Kadets (19) and Ambassa "Dears"/ New Day (10) that have sometimes lengthy captions that tell a great deal about the long history of the activity in the Lake Michigan-sited location. The photo reproduction is outstanding and provides readers with a wonderful overview of an important heritage that is very unique in the annals of our activity's history. On a per capita basis, this city beats all others in the number of young people involved in drum and bugle corps during the heyday of Racine's corps legacy. Through access to not only his personal collection, but also the archives of the Racine Heritage Museum and the Kilties Alumni Association, Fennell has accumulated an exciting overview of one slice from drum corps. I highly recommend this book! Purchase it at bookstores, by calling 1-888-313-2665 or visiting [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).

When George D. Fennell first joined the Racine Kiltie Kadets drum and bugle corps as a 12-year-old in September 1964, he never realized that it would ignite a lifelong passion for the activity. He is currently the president of the Racine Kilties Alumni Association and is a longtime member of the Racine County Historical Society. All the images contained in this book are either from the author's personal collection or from the archives of the Racine Heritage Museum or the Racine Kilties Alumni Association.

Being a Wisconsin native, Born and raised in Horicon, Wisconsin, this book adds to the history of Wisconsin drum and bugle corps (specifically Racine) that I am already very familiar with. Drum Corps has been a large part of my life for as long as I can remember. I marched with the Madison Scouts and remember well the numerous GREAT drum and bugle corps from Racine. Horicon had a long and storied history of drum corps with its' annual Marsh Days celebration in July. This book brings back wonderful memories. Well written. Thank you. Larry Denman

Well done!! Lots of info and great pictures!

Having grown up in Racine, this was a trip down memory lane. I absolutely loved it. Have recommended to friends

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