

POSTS OF THE CORPS

★ MARINE BARRACKS

WASHINGTON, D. C.



Garrison detachments fall out for a Friday afternoon inspection, and parade in review in front of the arched

barracks walk and administration building. The post is strictly GI and is reverting back to pre-war standards

By Corp. Vernon Langille
Leatherneck Staff Writer

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**Eighth and Eye, traditional residence of
Commandants and home of the
Corps, is a historic Capitol landmark**

Photos by Sgt. Ray Tyler
Leatherneck Staff Photographer
and Official Marine Corps Photographers

IF SERGEANT JONATHAN MEREDITH could return from Valhalla and walk down Eighth St., S.E., in Washington, he undoubtedly would be amazed at the changes in the district. But when he reached the old Marine compound at the corner of Eye Street, a glint of recognition would probably appear in his steely blue eyes. Meredith is the man who led the first detachment onto the reservation when the original Marine Corps establishment there was completed in 1802.

There is little left there to suggest the "magnificent distances" for which the tiny capitol city was first known. The tawdry buildings and creeping corner-store commercialism of an old and decadent section have crowded against the ivy-clad brick of the compound walls. But the majesty of the place, presided over by the stately residence of the Commandant, remains. The drill field, as well-kept as a golf green, is the same one that resounded to the marching of Meredith's men.

For a quarter of a century, from the time that Robert Mullen of Tun Tavern fame turned his saloon into a recruiting center and until after the national capitol had been moved from Philadelphia, the Corps of Marines were homeless offsprings of a mushrooming military family. Even if they had had



Officers' homes at Eighth and Eye are spacious, modern brick buildings which border one side of the parade ground. Some believe this part of the compound was the site of old Center House

a permanent home, it is not likely the sea-soldiers would have been in one place long enough to enjoy it. During that troublesome period in the country's growth, the Marines were kept busy. They had begun their barnstorming fight career at New Providence Island. They were with Washington at Trenton; John Paul Jones off the coast of England; aboard the frigates *Constitution* and *Constellation* in the undeclared war with France, and with Decatur at Tripoli.

In 1800, President John Adams approved a \$20,000 appropriation which established the original Marine Corps garrison in Washington. His successor, Thomas Jefferson, a personal friend of the second Commandant, Colonel William Ward Burrows, helped to select the building site. The tract turned out to be part of a land grant by Charles the First of England to Cecil Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, in 1632. It cost the government an exorbitant sum for that time — \$6,247.18.

The promise of a home in the new capital was especially welcome news to a small detachment of men who had been sent to Washington for guard duty at the Navy Yard. They had been sitting out the Fall of 1800 in a tent encampment on Prospect Hill overlooking the Potomac, but when the silver-tongued Jefferson dedicated the barracks, his complimentary remarks took all the sting out of what had seemed to be neglect in the past.

"This barracks is not a gift to the Corps of Marines," he is quoted as saying. "You men have earned it."

Construction of the Commandant's home, which today is the capital's oldest official building still in use, was not completed until two years after the compound was finished. Old newspaper accounts of the work describe its ambitiousness. Col. Burrows supervised construction and Marines were used to supplement regular work crews. Bricks were moulded by hand from a clay pit dug somewhere between the present compound and the Navy Yard at the foot of Eighth Street.

Besides the Commandant's home at one end of the approximately two-and-one-half-acre quadrangle, the original headquarters consisted of a two-story range of brick buildings and sheds at the opposite end. The same area is now occupied by administrative offices of the U. S. Marine Corps Band and its auditorium, a sick bay and a guard room. A low, one-story building and the famous Center House occupied one side. Barracks, headquarters office buildings, a stable, carriage shed, storeroom and washroom occupied the other side. Within the enclosure was a swimming pool, long since removed, and the hull of an old ship, placed there to remind the Marines they were seagoing. A stone wall, two feet thick and ten feet high, followed the perimeter of the compound.

Before the barracks was 12 years old, it had become a focal point in early American history. During the War of 1812, General C. A. Ross, in command of several thousand invading Redcoats, commandeered the compound for the use of his Army.

He stabled his mounts in the basement of the Commandant's quarters and reserved the upper stories for himself and his staff. The three-foot brick walls were like those of a fortress. Although Fleet Admiral Cockburn's orders were to "leave the city in ashes," he decided to spare the Marine compound.

During the two weeks before they shoved off to the Gulf of Mexico and a December assault against the city of New Orleans, the British are thought to have discovered the hiding place of a military chest containing \$25,000 in Marine Corps funds. The cash was the remainder of an appropriation set aside to pay, feed and clothe the Marines for the year 1814.

According to the story, two sergeants were detailed to guard the strongbox when the detachment pulled out to reinforce troops defending the capital. But when news reached the guards that the Redcoats had broken through at a point near Bladensburg, Md., they buried the treasure in the compound yard, joined their comrades in the already lost battle and were killed the same day. Workmen were told to be on the lookout for the chest in the barracks renovations which followed, but it was never reported found.

In the closing decade of the 19th Century, the post underwent a series of face-liftings which altered its appearance to approximately what it is today. The original barracks was condemned to make way for larger quarters suited to a rapidly-growing organization. Appropriations amounting to some \$300,000 were made within the next few years for construction of a new barracks block for enlisted men, a mess hall, gymnasium, auditorium, officers' quarters, a brick wall to replace the old stone one, and an iron grillwork gate.

The last of the really old buildings to be razed was Center House, a structure that, if buildings were articulate, could tell of exciting episodes in the history of the nation and the Corps. Center House had once been occupied by barracks commanders, and in its last days was used as a receiving center for recruits. Early American apostles of Democracy, including Jefferson, were frequent visitors to the building where they sought the opinions of much-traveled Marine officers. Many a President, and foreign dignitary, came and went through the big stone archway that lead in those days into the compound.

After his capture, Aaron Burr, according to legend, was confined in Center House. Following his memorable duel with Alexander Hamilton, Burr had escaped to the wilds of Texas and there had tried to set up a monarchy. While awaiting trial for treason, he is said to have carved his full name on a hand-hewn beam in the basement. When the structure later was dismantled, the beam was either lost or burned as were other invaluable relics and old documents of the Corps. An iron vase from Tripoli was among the missing trophies.

Throughout its 145 years, the garrison has been a sightseers' Mecca and a showplace for the sharpest of Marines. Especially before World War II, the



The post plaque gets its daily dose of elbow grease and brightwork polish



Liberty uniforms must be neat to get by Marine guards who "pull the duty"



A ship's bell is used to sound the time on the hour and the half hour

COMMANDING OFFICERS		
MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON, DC		
LT COL COMDT WILLIAM W BURROWS MAR 1804 - SE 1818	SGT MAJ THOMAS F HAYES APR 1808 - JUN 1808	LT THEODORE P KANE JUN 1896 - JUL 1896
LT COL COMDT FRANKLIN WARTON MAR 1819 - OCT 1820	LT CHARLES A DODEN JUL 1896 - SEP 1899	JUL 1896 - SEP 1899
LT COL COMDT ANTHONY OALE 1820 - JUN 1839	CAPT F R HARRINGTON SEP 1899 - MAY 1900	SEP 1899 - MAY 1900
MAJOR LEV TWIGGS OCT 1841 - DEC 1841	MAJOR LINCOLN KARAMANY OCT 1900 - OCT 1900	OCT 1900 - OCT 1900
CAPT JAMES EDZEL 1842 - AUG 1842	CAPT ROBERT F WYRNE SEP 1902 - OCT 1912	SEP 1902 - OCT 1912
MAJOR LEV TWIGGS 1842 - AUG 1842	CAPT LOUIS H GULICH OCT 1902 - NOV 1912	OCT 1902 - NOV 1912
COL COMDT ARCHIBALD HENDERSON APR 1848 - AUG 1848	CAPT HARRY K WYSTE NOV 1902 - DEC 1902	NOV 1902 - DEC 1902
MAJOR LEV TWIGGS AUG 1848 - AUG 1848	LT COL BENJAMIN R RUSSELL DEC 1902 - FEB 1902	DEC 1902 - FEB 1902
COL COMDT ARCHIBALD HENDERSON AUG 1848 - OCT 1853	LT COL GEORGE F ELLIOTT FEB 1903 - OCT 1903	FEB 1903 - OCT 1903
CAPT JAMES B TYLER NOV 1848 - AUG 1849	MAJOR RANDOLPH OCKINS OCT 1903 - JAN 1907	OCT 1903 - JAN 1907
MAJOR JAMES EDZEL AUG 1853 - APR 1859	LT RICHARD S HOOVER JAN 1907 - JAN 1907	JAN 1907 - JAN 1907
CAPT JOHN C GIBSON AUG 1859 - APR 1869	MAJOR JOHN A LEJUNE JAN 1907 - MAR 1908	JAN 1907 - MAR 1908
LT ISRAEL BREYER FEB 1859 - APR 1859	CAPT JOHN A LEJUNE MAR 1908 - JUL 1908	MAR 1908 - JUL 1908
CAPT JOHN H THORNTON AUG 1859 - APR 1861	CAPT PHILIP S BROWN JUL 1908 - JUL 1908	JUL 1908 - JUL 1908
LT AUGUSTUS S HEDGECOCK JUL 1859 - APR 1861	MAJOR JOHN A LEJUNE AUG 1908 - SEP 1908	AUG 1908 - SEP 1908
SGT MAJ JACOB ZELIN MAY 1861 - JUL 1881	MAJOR CHARLES G LONG MAR 1907 - OCT 1907	MAR 1907 - OCT 1907
LT JOHN G HEWLETT AUG 1861 - NOV 1881	CAPT DAVID D PORTER OCT 1907 - NOV 1908	OCT 1907 - NOV 1908
PLT ROBERT G FORD OCT 1861 - NOV 1881	MAJOR CHARLES G LONG NOV 1908 - MAY 1913	NOV 1908 - MAY 1913
MAJ WILLIAM W RUSSELL NOV 1861 - DEC 1881	LT COL JAMES E RANNEY MAY 1913 - MAY 1914	MAY 1913 - MAY 1914
COL JOHN C HARRIS JUN 1862 - MAR 1882	COL LINCOLN KARAMANY MAY 1914 - JAN 1915	MAY 1914 - JAN 1915
CAPT CHAS G CAMPBELL APR 1862 - MAR 1882	CAPT THOMAS M CLINTON JAN 1915 - JAN 1917	JAN 1915 - JAN 1917
SGT ROBERT W SHAWHAN MAY 1862 - SEP 1882	COL CHARLES A DODEN JAN 1917 - FEB 1918	JAN 1917 - FEB 1918
CAPT ROBERT W SHAWHAN MAY 1862 - OCT 1882	MAJOR RICHARD B CREECH FEB 1918 - AUG 1918	FEB 1918 - AUG 1918
CAPT CHARLES G CAMPBELL OCT 1882 - OCT 1882	CAPT LEWIS L COVER AUG 1918 - SEP 1918	AUG 1918 - SEP 1918
LT JOSEPH F BAKER SEP 1882 - FEB 1884	LT COL FREDERICK A RAMSAY SEP 1918 - DEC 1918	SEP 1918 - DEC 1918
LT JOSEPH F BAKER SEP 1882 - FEB 1884	MAJOR JOHN W WADSWORTH DEC 1918 - JUN 1920	DEC 1918 - JUN 1920
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER FEB 1884 - FEB 1884	MAJOR CLAYTON B VOGLER JUN 1920 - JUN 1923	JUN 1920 - JUN 1923
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER FEB 1884 - FEB 1884	MAJOR JOHN S LEE JUN 1923 - AUG 1923	JUN 1923 - AUG 1923
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER FEB 1884 - FEB 1884	COL JAMES C BROCKWIDGE AUG 1923 - JUN 1927	AUG 1923 - JUN 1927
CAPT FRANK MURPHY MAR 1885 - APR 1899	COL FREDERICK L BRADMAN JUN 1927 - APR 1928	JUN 1927 - APR 1928
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	CAPT STUART B ONEILL APR 1928 - MAY 1929	APR 1928 - MAY 1929
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	CAPT JAMES HARRISON JUN 1929 - JUN 1929	JUN 1929 - JUN 1929
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	CAPT JACOB M PEACE JR JUN 1929 - JUL 1929	JUN 1929 - JUL 1929
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	COL RUSH R WALLACE JUL 1929 - MAR 1932	JUL 1929 - MAR 1932
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	COL CHARLES B TAYLOR MAR 1932 - AUG 1934	MAR 1932 - AUG 1934
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	MAJ LEMUEL C SHEPHERD JR SEP 1934 - OCT 1934	SEP 1934 - OCT 1934
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	COL EMILE F BROSSE OCT 1934 - AUG 1935	OCT 1934 - AUG 1935
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	LT COL LEMUEL C SHEPHERD JR AUG 1935 - SEP 1935	AUG 1935 - SEP 1935
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	LT COL THOMAS C CLARKE SEP 1935 - MAY 1937	SEP 1935 - MAY 1937
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	LT COL LEROY P HEAT MAY 1937 - MAY 1938	MAY 1937 - MAY 1938
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	COL JOSEPH C FEAGAN SEP 1938 - OCT 1938	SEP 1938 - OCT 1938
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	LT COL CHARLES E BROOKS OCT 1938 - SEP 1940	OCT 1938 - SEP 1940
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	COL WILLIAM H RUPERTUS SEP 1940 - MAY 1944	SEP 1940 - MAY 1944
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	COL JOHN ROTT MAY 1944 -	MAY 1944 -
CAPT GEORGE W COLLIER APR 1885 - JUN 1871	COL DONALD J KENDALL MAY 1944 -	MAY 1944 -



The familiar names of present-day generals stud the list of past commanding officers appearing on the CO's plaque

Colonel Donald J. Kendall, USMC, is charged with a host of extra duties as CO of the Marine Corps' historic post

post's full dress troops attracted celebrities and travelers from all over the world. It is not uncommon even now to find dozens of admiring spectators crowded around the iron gate when the post detachments turn out for parade.

Because it is the cradle of custom and tradition in the Corps, Eighth and Eye produces a strange and subtle reverence in the recruit who enters it for the first time. It is not unusual for a man to spend weeks adjusting himself to the compound's rigid discipline and spit-and-polish air. An armed sentry pacing his post behind the formidable iron gate does little to alleviate the newcomer's misgivings. In the age-old manner of sentries, the Marine comes to the port arms for every automobile and pedestrian passing through the gate. He presents arms for every officer. His beat is encompassed by the width of the narrow compound road and all his movements must be according to the book.

The recruit learns early in his Eighth and Eye career that the station is 100 per cent GI.

An imposing bronze plaque, which has seen enough bright-work polish to satisfy the toughest police sergeant, is fixed to one of the entrance columns. It serves as more than just a casual reminder that you are entering THE post of the Corps. Because it is the organization's original



A focal point in history
since 1802, the post once
fell to English Redcoats



home, the garrison is the keeping place for the Corps' colors. This standard, the only one of its kind, is carried on all parades by a crack color guard. Only an armed party can remove it from its display case in the CO's office. The standard bears 34 brilliant battle streamers. Theatre ribbons, added to it after the latest war, are encrusted with stars representing the campaigns in which Marines fought.

Post personnel are expected to live up to service regulations to the letter. Each week's work is topped with a most thorough inspection of barracks and equipment, followed by a review and inspection outside. For the Friday afternoon parades, which take place in full view of the Commandant's home, the men turn out in dress blues or the new jacket-type greens. Peacetime Marine Corps standards are being systematically re-introduced.

The station's strength is divided into three detachments: Barracks, which provides all personnel for ceremonial purposes, guard and general duty; Marine Corps Institute, charged with educational research, operation and maintenance of the MCI correspondence schools, and the band detachment, whose members make up the famous Marine Corps band. The bandsmen maintain their own million-and-a-half-dollar music library and repair their own instruments. Until midway through the war *The*



A detachment of Marines from the Washington post participated in burial ceremonies for the late Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox.

Burial parties are detailed nearly every day by the sergeant major, their size depending upon the deceased's rank or official position

MARINE BARRACKS (cont.)

Leatherneck was quartered there. Because of its rapid expansion, it became necessary to move the magazine offices into downtown Washington.

The barracks detachment includes 224 officers and men. In addition to performing garrison services and functions, it furnishes all special details ranging in size from a squad to a company, for parades, burials, escort and special guards. Requests from authorized outside organizations for attendance of Marines at public affairs are made through Marine Corps Headquarters in Arlington, Va., and are forwarded to the post commanding officer, Colonel Donald J. Kendall, USMC.

The experienced units of post Sergeant Major R. L. Harris are often taxed when he has to shuffle his duty rosters to best utilize the pitifully few men who have been available since war's end. Wholesale demobilization cut Eighth and Eye manpower far below the authorized figure.

Burial parties, ceremonial details and parades comprise the majority of requests for special details. Since all officers, enlisted men and their wives are entitled to internment in Arlington National cemetery, funeral parties are called for daily. The size of a formation and rank of the officer commanding it is determined by the rank or official position of the deceased. Battalions may be called, upon the

At the White House, Major William J. Dickinson and Captain Charles C. Crossfield III are on duty as White House aides. Their duties include escorting unattended guests and supervising generally the numerous courtesies which visitors to the Presidential Mansion are accorded. They wear officers' blues at all times and occupy one of the most tact-demanding positions to be found in the Corps.

The Corps' age-old custom of providing special detachments has involved the small station in many an historical episode. The election riot of 1857 was not the least sensational of these. Notorious "Know-Nothings" imported armed thugs from Baltimore to take over the district polling places and influence voting by intimidation. They provoked such a wild riot that Capital authorities asked the President for a party of Marines to act as riot breakers. While Commandant Archibald Henderson negotiated peace with rebels who were manning a cannon in the street, a platoon of the colonel's Marines rushed the gun, taking the rioters by surprise.

A detachment of 90 Marines from old Eighth and Eye aided in quelling the famous John Brown insurrection of 1859. Under the overall command of Army Colonel Robert E. Lee, the Marine detachment with Lieutenant Israel Greene leading, assaulted a barricaded engine house at Harper's Ferry and captured the besieged Brown and his followers.



A well-stocked PX these days carries its own supply of civilian garments



Recreational facilities, including pool tables, bowling alleys, gymnasium and movies, provide entertainment for off-duty hours



Drum Major Elmer Hansen, left, watches Librarian Theodore Roth filing new scores in the band's \$1,500,000 symphonic collection

deaths of high-ranking statesmen and military leaders. When the detachment cannot muster enough men, it has to request additional troops from Quantico.

At the huge funeral procession for the late President Roosevelt, a battalion of Marines formed a part of the cortege. Two body bearers and a Marine Corps color guard accompanied the body to Hyde Park, N. Y. For the burial of South American Envoy Don Manuel de Freyrs Y Santander, a company commanded by a captain was used as part of the funeral escort. One company of Marines was contributed to the armed services honor guard for General Charles DeGaulle when the French leader visited here in 1945. Similarly, Marines have been in attendance for tours in this country by visiting royalty from all over the world. They attended the King and Queen of England during their 1939 visit.

All military awards to Marines in the Severn and Maryland Reserve Naval District are presented through the commanding officer of the Washington post. The recipient has the option of a formal ceremony with accompanying fanfare or private acceptance in the colonel's office. Every imaginable decoration, from the Purple Heart to the Navy Cross, including a Breast Order of Cloud and Banner, given to a Chinese airforce lieutenant by the Chinese Nationalist government, has been presented at the station.

A Marine's day in the home post of the Corps begins at 0615. After "chow down" and roll call, Barracks and MCI detachments stand colors, flanked on the parade ground by a 25-piece drum and bugle corps. The flag-raising routine differs slightly from that in practice on any other post. The Sergeant of the Guard must request permission of the Officer of the Day to raise the national ensign. He then commands a music to strike eight bells and sound colors. The Corporal of the Guard and his assistant hoist Old Glory to the top of a 100-foot pole.

At one time, in accordance with barracks custom, the post sergeant major was expected to witness the ceremony, usually from his window in Room No. 3 of the staff NCO's quarters. It is centrally located in the block overlooking the parade ground and has been traditionally reserved for post sergeants major since 1898 when a sergeant major, Thomas F. Hayes, was commanding officer of the garrison.

Following troop inspection and drill by formations, the place swings into the day's schedule. On days it is not broadcasting, the band devotes the morning to group rehearsal and the afternoon to individual practice. Bandmen spend between six and eight hours a day behind their instruments. The Drum and Bugle Corps rehearses in the post gymnasium. Within the shadow of General A. A. Vandegrift's home, Marines practice laying in ma-

chine guns on an array of targets scattered over the parade ground.

The Vandegrifts are 18th in the line of Commandants' families to occupy the official residence, and like many of the families which preceded them, they have made their contribution to its improvement.

Colonel Archibald Henderson, Commandant from 1820 to 1860, was the first to remodel the interior of the building. The elaborate battle-scarred staircases and the original cut-glass chandeliers are about all of the inside that has been left of the interior decorating plan, but the outside of the structure has never been materially changed. Wings and porches have been added to alter the general contour, but no amount of paint has been able to hide the crude masonry and irregular shape of the original handmade bricks.

A lasting and valuable tradition was introduced by Major General George C. Barnett when he assumed leadership of the Corps in 1914. It was the general's idea to portray the story of changing Marine Corps officers' uniforms by acquiring paintings of all the Commandants previous to himself. More than a century had elapsed since the first Commandant took office, making it necessary to copy paintings from daguerreotypes and woodcuts, as well as photographs. The collection is added to by each successive Commandant, who is expected to leave his own portrait in the reception room gallery.

Gen. Vandegrift, the 18th Commandant, moved

into the house shortly after he took office in January, 1944. He brought with him a valuable collection of war mementos which is now displayed in a spacious hall on the second floor.

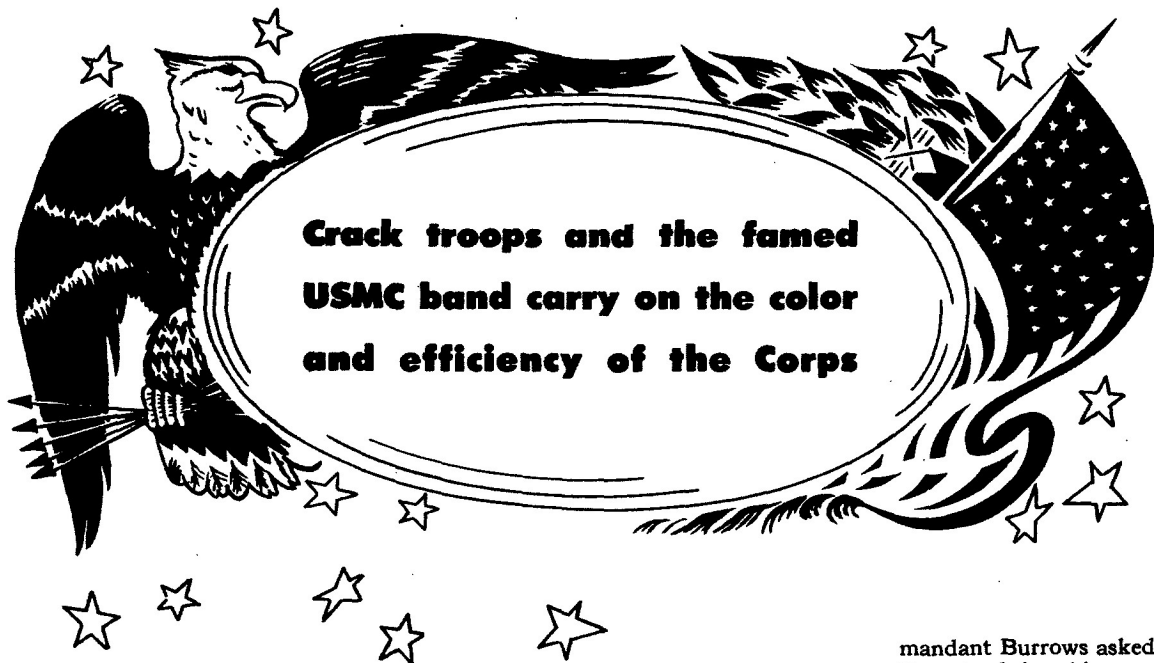
Mrs. Vandegrift has enriched the already luxurious furnishings with a collection of old Chinese porcelain and many fine pieces of Chinese art gathered while her husband was in command of the American Legation Guard in Peking. Two black and two red lacquer chests, an altar table and frescoes, taken from Chinese hill temples, are among the items. Her most notable improvement of the home is a garden in front of the house, separated from the parade ground by a hedge. She has adapted the spacious area to outdoor receptions. Here, on Wednesday nights during the summer season, the Vandegrifts and their friends can be seen listening to the traditional concerts played by the Marine Corps Band.

The band's traditional participation in Presidential inaugural ceremonies, state functions and Marine Corps activities has won for it the constant approbation and esteem of our people, to use the words of Gen. Vandegrift.

Shortly after November 10, 1775, when the Continental Congress made a decision and said in effect "let there be Marines and in a hurry please," the citizens of Philadelphia were stirred by rattling of drums and lilt-ing fifes. Drumheads were decorated with rattlesnakes and the accompanying warning, "Don't Tread On Me." The motto, still in use by the band today, continues to interpret the Marines' challenge to aggressors.

The earliest musics were used to warm the blood of prospective recruits for the new Corps. Most of these soon were to be killed. Some fell in battles aboard ship during the French naval war and others died on battlefields. The few who were retained in the old capital became the nucleus of the first authorized Marine Corps band which was officially established through an Act of Congress 23 years later, in 1798, while it was under leadership of Drum Major William Farr.

When the Corps moved its headquarters to Washington, Com-



General and Mrs. Vandegrift await the arrival of New Year's day guests in the spacious living room of their official residence. General Vandegrift became Commandant in 1944

mandant Burrows asked Farr to bring his musicians along. The bandsmen roughed it for a while on Prospect Hill until the Marines were given temporary quarters; and later, when the Corps occupied its first home, the band was given a headquarters at one end of the compound. Since that time the musical group never has been separated from the men for whom it proudly exists.

The band became a popular gloom-chaser in the sparsely settled national capital. Its 34 players made their official debut at the White House before President Adams on New Year's Eve, 1801. Since then it has played for every inauguration and for every President. Although George Washington, whose administration preceded its official



The Marine Corps band carried out an old Corps custom when it serenaded the Commandant and Mrs. Vandegrift on New Year's day

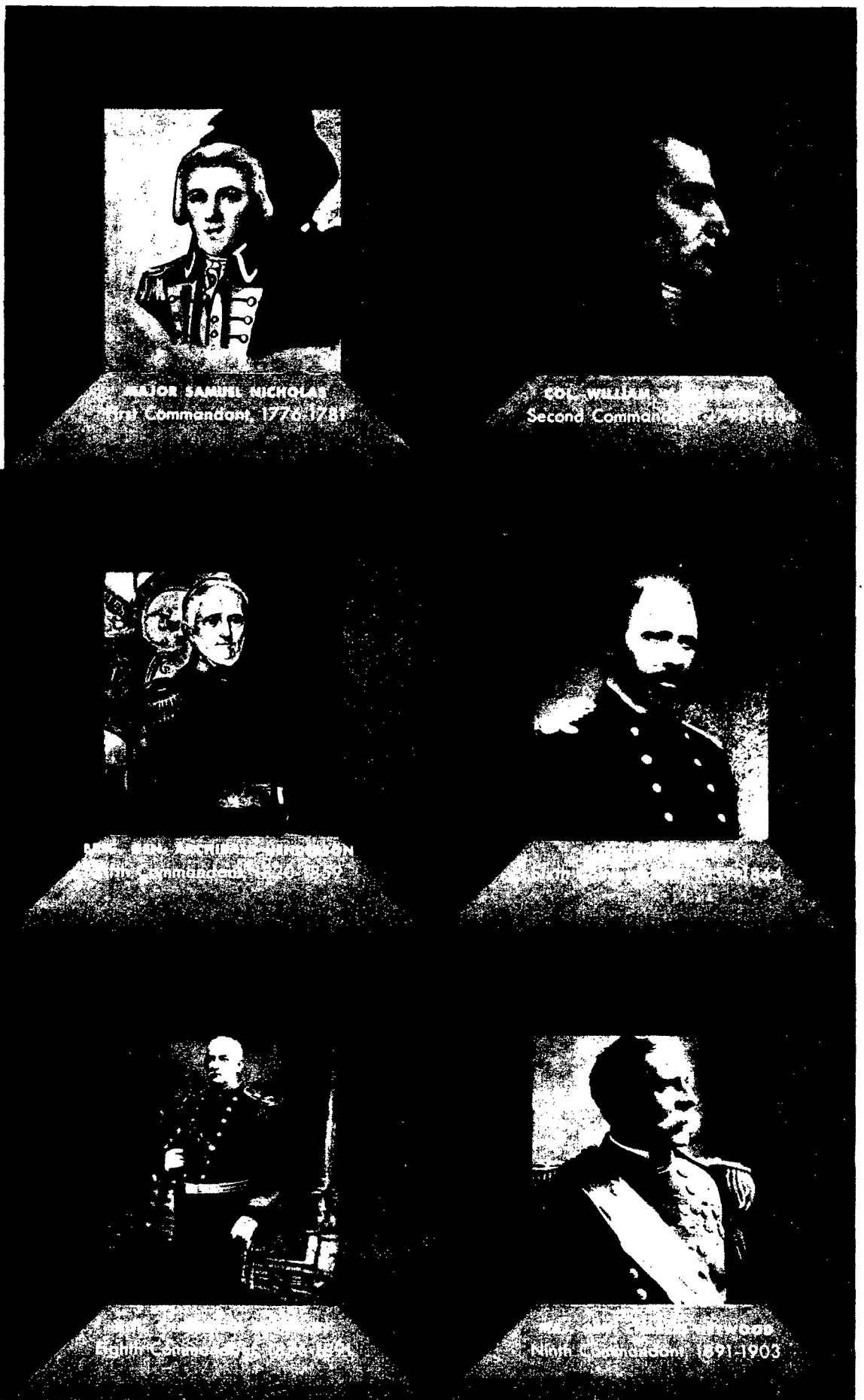


As a special tribute to the Virginia-born couple, Band Leader Santelmann directs his group in "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny"

MARINE BARRACKS (cont.)



EDITOR'S NOTE—These men have commanded the Marine Corps from its earliest days to the present time. Missing from the series is Anthony Gale, the fourth Commandant, whose photograph is not available. He served from March 3, 1819, to October 8, 1820.



LIEUT. COL. FRANKLIN WHARTON
Third Commandant, 1804-1818

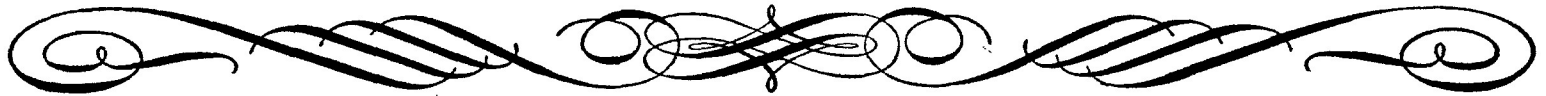
MAJ. GEN. ARCHIBALD GORDON
Fifth Commandant, 1826-1830

COL. JOHN W. NICHOLSON
Sixth Commandant, 1836-1844

BRIG. GEN. GEORGE B. MEADE
Seventh Commandant, 1864-1876

MAJ. GEN. PHILIP THOMAS
Eighth Commandant, 1876-1880

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. B. WOOD
Ninth Commandant, 1891-1903



existence, never had occasion to call upon it, he once commented upon hearing the volunteer pipers and drummers on parade in Philadelphia. Today, the famous musical organization bears the title "Band of the Presidents."

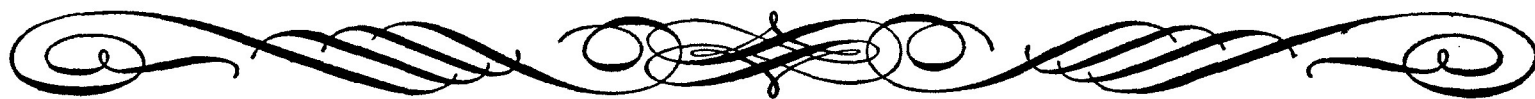
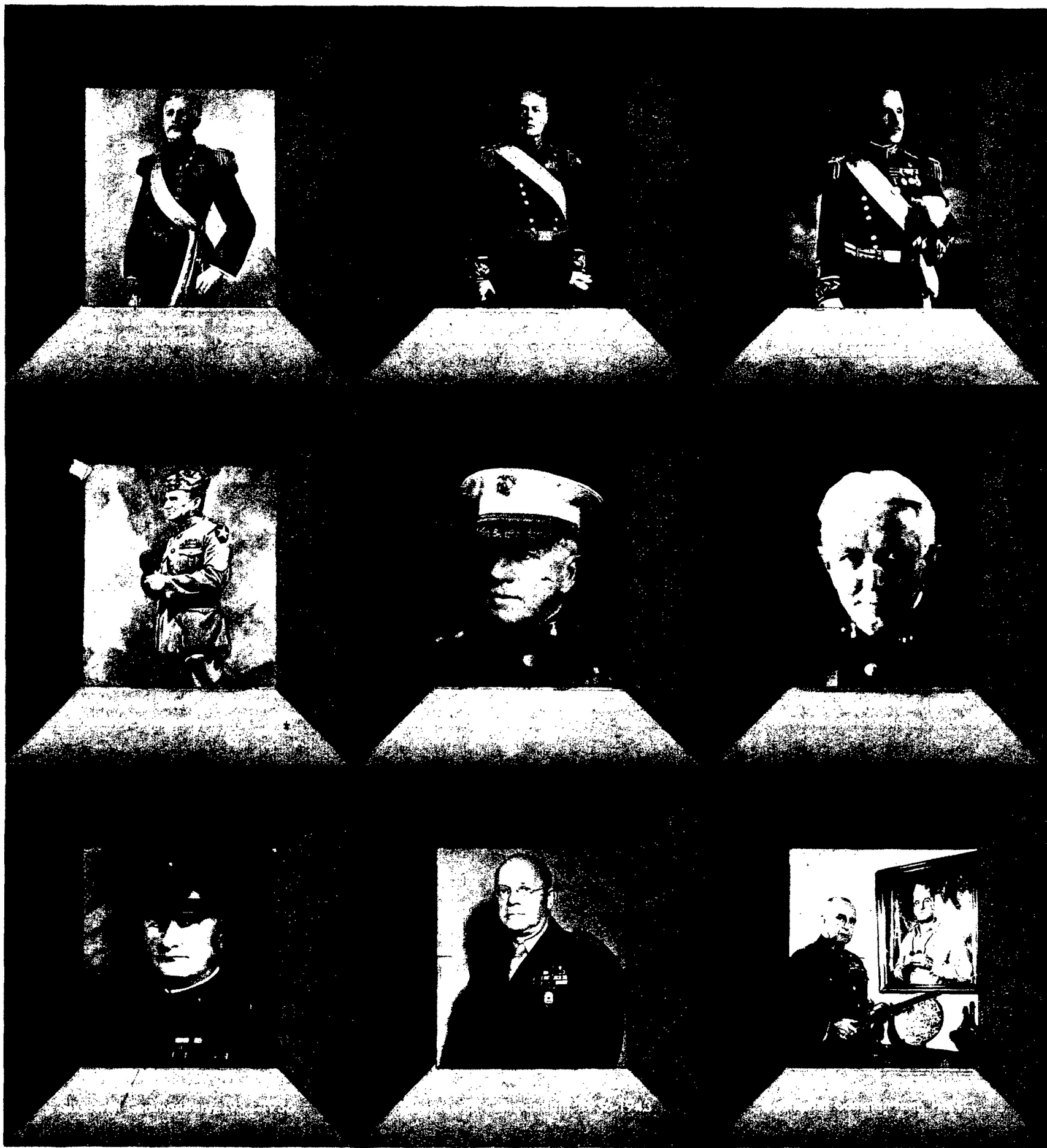
During its existence, Congress has many times enacted legislation to increase the size of the band and the pay of the bandsmen. Its present strength provides for 85 members, although only 75 are on duty. This figure has been authorized by the Commandant but has not yet been approved by Congress. When it first reached 60 members, leader

William F. Santelmann, father of the present leader and its director for 29 years, began work on a symphony orchestra within its already polished musical structure. The elder Santelmann introduced the requirement that all bandsmen play two instruments, one for band and one for orchestra. After four years of preparation, the orchestra was introduced at the White House in 1902. Programs within the Presidential Manor since have been customarily included on the season's concert schedule.

The band has been called upon many times in

cases of national bereavement. It played funeral marches for Zachary Taylor and Abraham Lincoln, and accompanied the body of James A. Garfield to Cleveland. At the funeral of William McKinley, it played hymns that had been favorites of the deceased President. It was again assigned the place of honor among all armed service musical organizations, to lead the enormous procession at the funeral of President Roosevelt.

Band ranks and rates of pay differ from any found in the regular service and are created directly by Congressional enactment. The leader holds a



rank equivalent to a captain. By Marine Corps standards, the drum major is a master technical sergeant while principal musicians are equal in grade to gunnery sergeants. Other ranks include second class musicians, sergeants and third class musicians.

William F. Santelmann, the present leader, began the study of music when he was six years old, under tutorship of his father, then the Marine Band leader. The younger Santelmann entered the organization in 1923 and became second leader in 1935. Upon retirement, in 1940, of Taylor Branson, to whom his

father had handed the baton, Santelmann assumed leadership.

It is Santelmann's belief that the band is a career in itself, and not a stepping stone to civilian musical organizations. Although some of its former players are now with outside groups, all but a very small percentage of them remain with the band until retirement from the Marine Corps. Second Leader Henry Webber joined the group 32 years ago. Nearly all its present members have eight years or more of service.

Besides its concert schedule and twice-weekly

broadcasts over Mutual and National Broadcasting Company networks, the band answers all requests for services that are deemed military, official or patriotic and approved by the Commandant. The group can at no time leave the capital without express permission from the White House.

The custom and tradition preserved at Eighth and Eye make it Post No. 1 in the Corps. Its job is an historic one — to maintain the color and demonstrate the efficiency of one of the world's crack fighting forces. The Corps is daily judged by what is done at the old post.

END