

# Three Killed, 17 Injured as L.A. Bus Overturns

Vehicle Carrying Chinese Musical Group  
to Sacramento Blows Tire on Highway 99

Three persons were killed and 17 were injured when a chartered bus carrying 32 members and parents of the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps blew a tire and overturned three miles north of Madera on Highway 99 at 4 a.m. Friday.

Killed in the crash were Mrs. Grace Lowe, 48, and her son, Morris, 17, of 2715 S Genesee Ave., and Mrs. Stella Jue, 40, of 3611 West Blvd.

Mrs. Jue's sons, Ronald, 13, and Michael, 15, were injured.

## Legion Event Goal

The bus left Chinatown at 10 p.m. Thursday with another bus carrying other members of the musical group to compete in the American Legion drum and bugle corps statewide competition in Sacramento.

Highway Patrolman Richard Johnson, one of the first to reach the scene, said the bus "was a shambles."

"Seats were torn loose, hurled on top of boys and girls," he said.

"Their uniforms, drums, bugles, music, suitcases and personal luggage were scattered in all directions.

"When we arrived those who could were crawling out of the emergency door or helping lift injured from the wreckage."

Johnson said when the tire blew the bus hit the center divider, then flipped over completely onto south-bound lanes and slammed right side up into a six-foot

embankment, coming to rest at a 45-deg. angle.

Mrs. Lowe and the bus driver, George Cavanaugh, 35, of 1977 Dogwood St., Anaheim, were thrown from the vehicle when it crashed into the bank.

Cavanaugh said, "It happened so fast there was nothing I could do."

The front end of the bus was demolished. Its sides, top and rear were badly battered.

## Return Delayed

On hearing of the crash, many relatives here left immediately for Madera. Corps members and parents who were not killed or hospitalized stayed Friday night in a Fresno motel rather than return right away to Los Angeles.

The two busses had been chartered from Orange County Bus Systems Co.

All the passengers were asleep when the blow-out occurred.

Philip Kwan, 4036 Monterey Rd., area leader of the group, was in the second bus, which arrived six or seven minutes after the accident.

"By the time we got there," he said, "flares had been set up by truck drivers. Several motorists had stopped to help."

"The Highway Patrol was there and four ambulances, California Division of Forestry personnel and the Madera County sheriffs arrived about the time we did."

Please Turn to Pg. 18, Col. 2





**AFTERMATH OF DEATH**—Three passengers on a chartered bus carrying members of the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps to Sacramento were killed when it overturned near Madera. Seventeen others were injured in the crash.

UPI Wirephoto

## BUS ACCIDENT

Continued from Second Page

"One of the injured in the bus was trapped for a few minutes under a twisted seat. Two foresters used pry bars and steel cutters to free her."

Morris Lowe, who died in the accident with his mother, had been a member of the drum and bugle corps for six years, both as a bugler and a drummer. He was a senior at Dorsey High School.

Mrs. Lowe had three other sons, Travis, 26, Dennis, 25, and Curtis, 24.

Mrs. Stella Jue was the wife of Ralph Jue, a designer in the county road department.

The dead were taken to Jay Mortuary in Madera, and the injured to Madera County Hospital and three

Cynthia Quan, 13, of 4205 S LaSalle St., and Laurence Joe, 21, of 1459 W 22nd St., both were examined and released, and Mrs. Rose Mae Tong, 45, of 935 W 51st St., was held for observation.

Eight others had cuts, bruises and minor injuries.

Kwan said the musical group had been practicing a year for the Legion competition.

"We've won many awards in the past, but we've always missed this one. We were certain we would take it this year," he related.

The Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps is sponsored by Glendale American Legion Post 127. The boys and girls in the group, in age from 11 to 21, were scheduled to take part in a Legion parade in





**ANCIENT CUSTOM**—Robert Joe, left, and Richard Quan, of Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps, hand out sugar candy to mourner leaving funeral of Morris Lowe

## 200 AT DOUBLE FUNERAL

# Champion Marcher Mourn Crash Victim

BY DOROTHY TOWNSEND

Times Staff Writer

Girls in the flashy marching costumes of their state championship drum and bugle corps filed slowly past the flower-banked entrance to the funeral home Tuesday morning.

More than 200 attended the double funeral at Mission Nisei Mortuary, including representatives of other drum-and-bugle corps, one from as far as Richmond and other young people who had been injured in the accident near Madera.

The black-white-and-red-garbed "Senoritas," who won the competition to which Los Angeles Chinese Drum-and-Bugle Corps members were headed Friday when a bus accident killed three and injured 17, had come to pay their last respects to Morris Lowe, 17, and his mother Mrs. Grace Lowe, 48, of 2715 S Genesee

Ave., both victims of the crash.

There were also members of Glendale American Legion Post 127, sponsor of marching-and-playing club. Inside, the Rev. Kay Kubun, pastor of All Peoples Christian Church, spoke the high hopes the community has for Morris—his



# In Madera; 30 Hurt



## Blowout Is Blamed For Accident

McClatchy Newspapers Service

MADERA, Madera Co. —

The left front tire of a north-bound charter bus blew out just north of Madera at 3:45 AM today, and the big vehicle crashed at 60 miles an hour into a 10 foot embankment.

Three persons were killed, seven were hurt seriously, 23 others suffered minor injuries and the front section of the bus was demolished.

The seriously injured include George Cavanaugh, 45, of Anaheim, the driver of the Orange County Bus System vehicle which carried members of the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps en route to Sacramento to participate in competition at the state American Legion convention.

The dead were identified as Mrs. Stella Jue, Mrs. Grace Low and the latter's son, Morris.

Richard Yee, and Kim Oh, both 19, were taken to the

See Bus Page 4-A



## Speed Killed in Bus Crash

Excessive speed coupled with a tire blow out was blamed today for the accident of a chartered bus carrying 32 members of the Los Angeles Drum and Bugle Corps in which three persons were killed.

The accident occurred yesterday three miles north of Madera on Highway 99, while the bus was carrying two of the corps members in the red vehicle—was en route to Sacramento to compete in the American Legion and bugle corps competition.

Those killed in the crash were Grace Lowe, 48, and her son Morris, 17, of 2715 S. Genesee Ave., and Mrs. Stella Jue, 39, of 3611 West Blvd.

Madera County Sheriff's Office said investigation of the crash showed that the bus probably was traveling at excessive speed when the blowout occurred.

A passenger, Mike Tong, 35, 835 W. 51st St., a member of the corps, said he felt something like rubber burning about 20 minutes before the crash, but he dozed off and didn't wake up until the bus "began rolling and sliding across the road."

The bus driver, George Laugh, 35, of 1877 Dog St., Anaheim, said the accident happened so fast he was nothing I could do. He is listed in serious condition with head injuries at Fresno hospital.

## Services Held For Victims Of Accident

Funeral services for three community residents killed in a bus accident near Madera Friday were held Tuesday.

Services for Mrs. Henry Lowe, and son Morris, 17, 2715 Genesee Avenue, were held at Shimatsu, Ogata Kubota Mortuary with interment following at Evergreen Cemetery.

Mrs. Lowe, a native Californian, is survived by her widower, Henry; three sons, Travis, Dennis and Curtis; father, Halmer Wong; three sisters, Mmes. Frances Thom, Gwen Wong and Corrine Yip; and one granddaughter.

Services for Mrs. Stella K. Jue, 39, 3611 West Boulevard, were held Tuesday at Grace Chapel with the Rev. George Lau officiating. Interment followed in Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Mrs. Jue, a native Californian, is survived by her widower, Edward L., father, Yit Kong; four sons, Michael, Ronald, Kendall and Eric; three brothers, Joseph, Charles and Richard Kong; and two sisters, Mmes. Mary Lai and Yuet Cheung Lew.

Inglewood Park Mortuary handled arrangements.

## Persons Hurt In Accident Return Home

Community residents injured and hospitalized in the chartered bus accident near Madera June 26 have all returned home this week while one youth underwent surgery Tuesday in Orthopaedic Hospital.

Gregory Fong, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Fong, 3877 Hepburn Avenue, was admitted to the hospital earlier this week after being released from a Fresno hospital. His parents report that doctors are optimistic in saving his arm which was mangled in the accident.

Three residents were killed in the crash and two seriously injured. Cynthia Quan, 13, 4205 South La Salle Street, is convalescing at home following release from the Fresno hospital.

The bus, in which a total of 32 persons were injured, was bound for Sacramento carrying members of Los Angeles Drum and Bugle Corps when it apparently went out of control after having a tire blow-out.

Madera County Sheriff's office reported that investigation of the crash showed that the bus probably was traveling at excessive speed when the blow-out occurred.

Members of the group are presently attending meetings to determine legal action to take against the bus company located in Orange County.

TUESDAY - JULY 2, 1964 - ANGELES NEWS ADVISER

## Two Adults, Youth Die In Bus Crash

(Continued from Page 1)

Nisei Mortuary, 911 Venice Boulevard. She is survived by sons, Dennis, Travis and Curtis, who is in the Army in Hawaii.

Gregory Fong was taken to Fresno Community Hospital with a severely injured arm. Doctors Friday evening told his mother that they believe they

can save the arm. The father was in Fresno to be with his son.

On the injured list were Nat- Tong, Robert Chan, Jason Wing, Quan, Rose Mae Tong and han Nouchi, Richard Yee, Gene Sherrilyn Tong, Howard Ng, rence Joe. Yonemoto, Ronald Jue, Michael Frederick Tom, Kim Oh, Harry Officers reported that

## Two Adults, Youth Die In Bus Crash

Three residents, including a 16-year-old youth, were killed and two others seriously injured early Friday morning when a chartered bus in which they were riding reportedly went out of control and crashed into an embankment on U.S. Highway 99 near Madera.

Highway patrolmen identified the dead as Mrs. Stella Jue, 3611 West Boulevard; Mrs. Grace Low and son, Morris, 16, 2715 Genesse Avenue.

Seriously injured were Gregory Fong, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fong, 3877 Hepburn Avenue, and Cynthia Quan, 13, 4205 South La Salle Street. In all 18 of the 32 passengers were injured.

The chartered bus was enroute to Sacramento carrying members of the Los Angeles Drum and Bugle Corps which was to take part in a contest in the state capital Saturday.

Mrs. Jue, a chaperone on the trip, is survived by her widow.

## Chinese Drum Corps Returns With Injured

The Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps, involved in a bus accident near Madera early Friday, returned to Chinatown Saturday.

Two busloads of youngsters and parents, many swathed in bandages, arrived at 6 p.m. from Fresno, where they stayed Friday night.

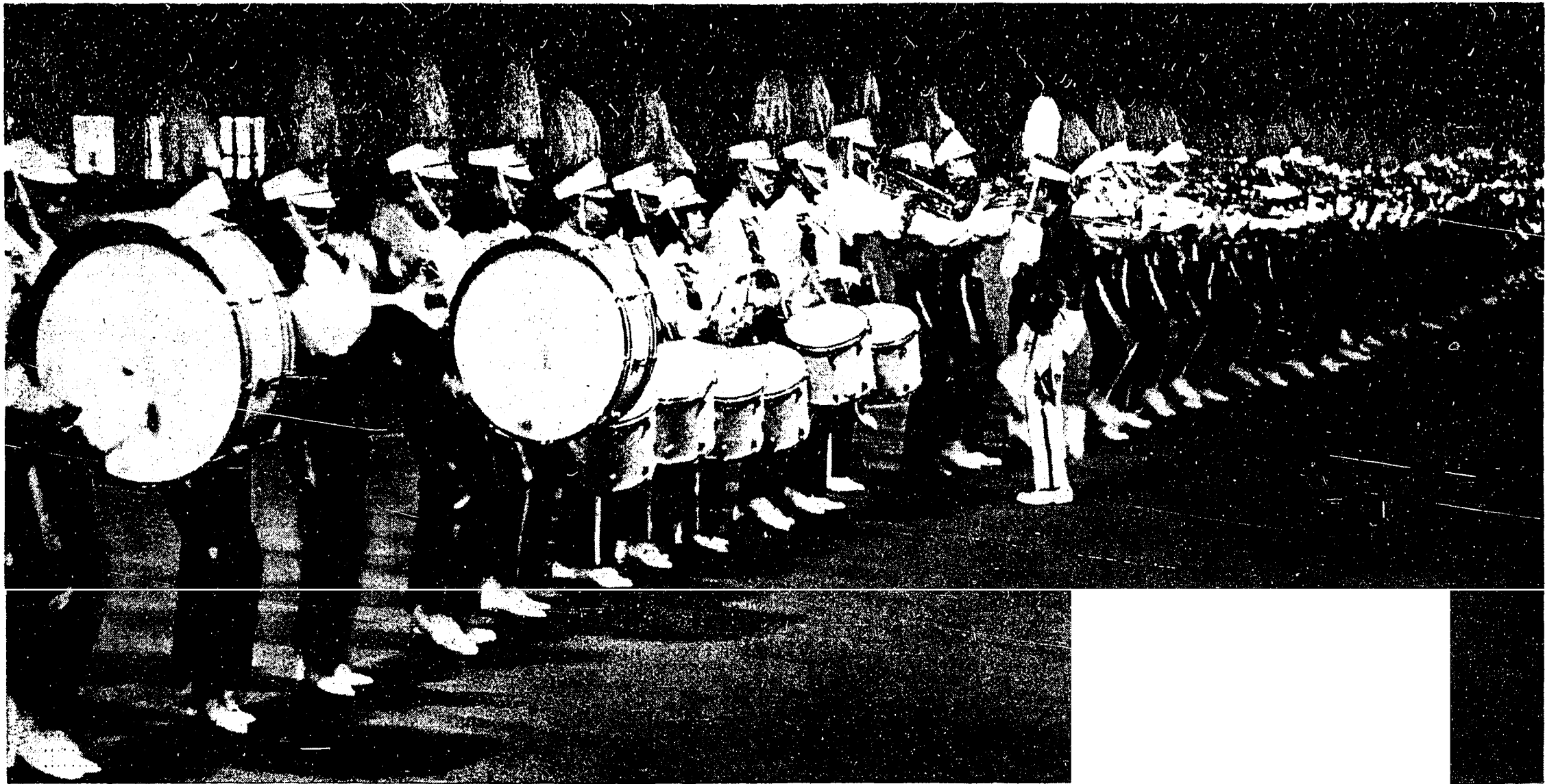
The group was traveling to Sacramento in two chartered busses at 4 a.m. Friday when the first bus blew a tire and overturned three miles north of Madera.

### Killed in Crash

Killed were Mrs. Grace Lowe, 48, and her son, Morris, 17, of 2715 S Genesee Ave., and Mrs. Stella Jue, 40, wife of Edward Jue, 3611 West Blvd.

Two of the six persons hospitalized, Richard Yee, 19, of 1838 W 41st St., and Mrs. Rose Mae Tong, 45, of 935 W 51st St., were brought back in an ambulance Saturday, a corps spokesman said.

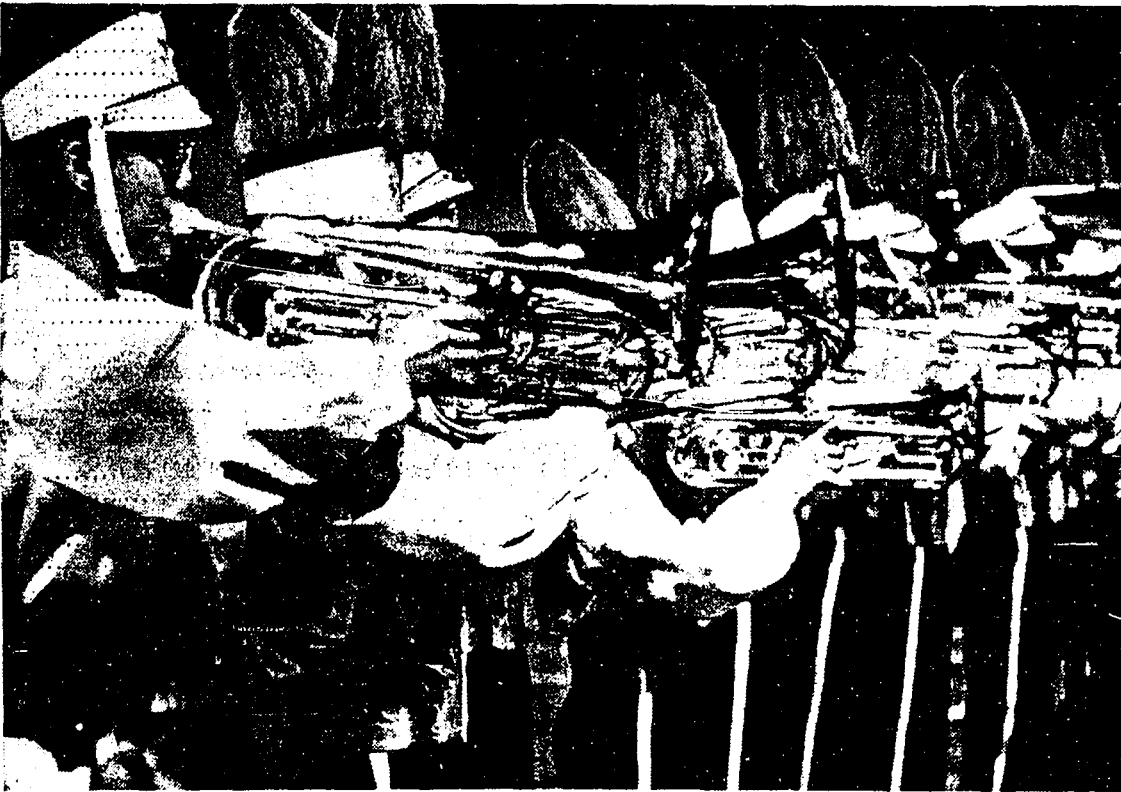




**SPIRITED GROUP.** -Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps marches in one of two weekly rehearsals, Group includes 80 youths.

# Corps' Spirit Hides Tragedy

BY URSULA VILS  
Times Staff Writer



**LOTS OF BRASS.** -Horns blare as members of the Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps perform. The group

is sponsored by Glendale American Legion Post 127 and is underwritten by a parents' auxiliary.

Bright red plumes bobbed on shakos and golden horns flashed as the youths marched crisply to the blare of bugles and the beat of drums.

Eighty members of the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps kept time with white-shod feet as director Philip Kwan put them through their paces.

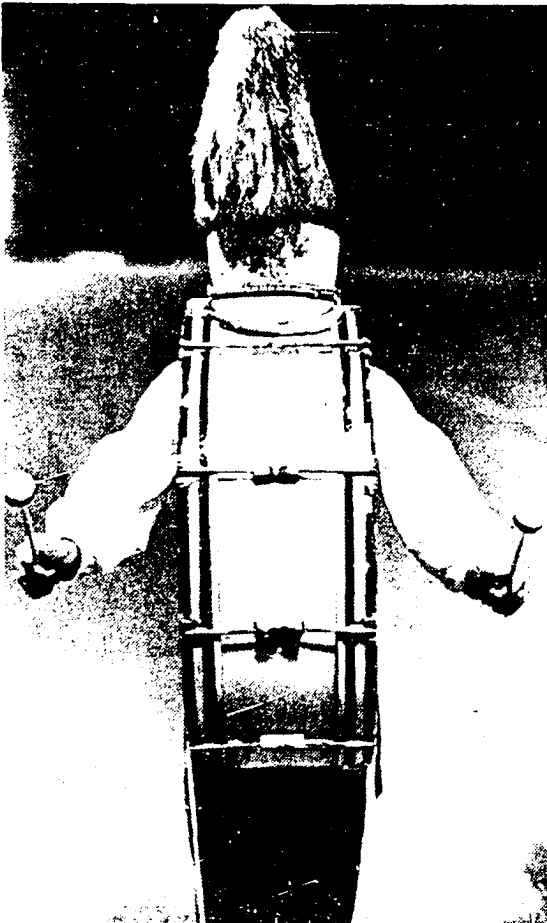
These young people from 9 to 20 have spirit—and heart.

They had enough heart to emerge from a tragic accident that killed three and injured 17 in 1964 just when their hopes were highest of winning a state American Legion drum and bugle corps competition in Sacramento. They were on their way to the contest when their chartered bus blew

Please Turn to Pg. 6, Col. 5



**HELLO UP THERE.** -Sylvia Fong, 8, takes a long look up at Allen Young, 19. She's the smallest, he's the tallest of the Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps.



**SHAKY SHAKO.**—Inventive drummer uses his bass drum as a hot rock during rehearsal. The night was just too warm for marching in a hot shako.  
Times photos by Joe Kennedy



# CORPS

**Continued from First Page**  
a tire and overturned near Madera.

Frank Fong, president of the corps' Parents Auxiliary, talked about the tragedy as he watched the group rehearse.

"They gave us so much heart," he said. "See that boy playing bugle? When I saw him in the hospital in Fresno, his arm was swathed in bandages. Doctors weren't sure he would regain control of his fingers.

"But that boy looked up at me and said, 'Mr. Fong, let's go on to Sacramento.'"

That kind of spirit—and a flawless deportment record—spurred the Parents Auxiliary to raise \$6,000 for snappy new uniforms.

It costs approximately \$200 to provide a uniform and musical instrument to each corps member, Fong said.

The youths provide only their own shoes — and spare time for twice-weekly rehearsals and frequent parade appearances. Founded in 1955 as a group for Chinese-American youth, it is now sponsored by Glendale American Legion Post 127.

Parents Auxiliary members work hard to underwrite the group and social activities for the corps. But Ben Wong, ways and means vice president, had this to say:

"We're having a fund drive right now. Sure, it's a thankless job. But it's one with a lot of satisfaction."

"Yeah," said Fong. "We sure sleep good at night."

# \$5,000 Given Bugle Corps After Accident

Since the bus accident that thinned the ranks of the Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps last month, concerned individuals, organizations and businesses have contributed almost \$5,000 to it.

Philip Kwan, director of the award-winning group that was on its way to a state competition in Sacramento last June 26 when a chartered bus crashed, killing three and injuring 30, said:

"This (the money) wasn't asked for. When they found out about our plight they decided they wanted to do something."

## **Largely Individuals**

Most of the money came from individuals and small groups, Kwan said. A gift of \$259 from Anheuser-Busch this week brought the total figure to almost \$5,000.

The California department, American Legion, sponsor of the state competition to which the corps was headed when the accident killed a boy and his mother and the mother of another performer, has organized a fund to apply on medical care and hospital expenses, Kwan said.

Teen-age corps members, sponsored by the Los Angeles Chinese Benevolent Assn., are accompanied by parents on all trips.



# **BENEFIT SET FOR DRUM, BUGLE CORPS**

**GLENDALÉ —** A program to raise funds for the Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps of Glendale American Legion Post 127 is scheduled at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles.

The program will pay tribute to those killed or injured in a recent bus accident in northern California. The corps was on its way to perform at Sacramento.

A resolution by City Council urges all Glendale citizens to support the program.

# Chinatown Jubilee Today

A parade and "sacred lion dance" in the streets of Chinatown this afternoon will culminate a weeklong silver jubilee celebration marking the area's 25th anniversary.

Members of the Horseless Carriage Club will drive civic dignitaries in the 4 p.m. parade from the 600 block on N. Spring St. to 900 N. Broadway. Members of 12 Southland drum and bugle corps groups will perform in competition for a memorial trophy named for three killed in the Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps bus accident last June.

Chinese youth clubs and Optimist club members are conducting a three-day carnival in Chinatown to benefit a medical and hospital fund of the Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps.



## 200 AT DOUBLE FUNERAL

# Champion Marchers Mourn Crash Victims

BY DOROTHY TOWNSEND

*Times Staff Writer*

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Ave., both victims of the crash.

More than 200 attended the double funeral at the Mission Nisei Mortuary, including representatives of other drum-and-bugle corps, one from as far as Richmond, and other young people who had been injured in the accident near Madera.

There were also members of Glendale American Legion Post 127, sponsor of the marching-and-playing corps.

Inside, the Rev. Kay Kokubun, pastor of All Peoples Christian Church, spoke of the high hopes the corps—particularly Morris—had as

they left Los Angeles for the American Legion-sponsored contest.

Morris, an entrant in solo drummer competition, had brought a new set of sticks for the contest. These were buried with him in the Evergreen Cemetery grave he and his mother shared.

Afterward, most of the mourners had another sad ordeal to face, an afternoon funeral for the third crash victim, Mrs. Stella Jue, 40, of 3811 West Blvd., who was buried from Inglewood Park Chapel.

The ill-fated journey last week almost became the last for the popular, prize-winning Chinese Drum-and-Bugle Corps, which was founded in 1955 with Philip Kwan as director.

The corps will make its first appearance, minus about 12 members, at July 4 festivities in East Los Angeles Junior College stadium.