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Patterson Avenue Drill Team during performance at Memorial Coliseum. The group is supervised by Moses Lucas. They range in age from 12-18.

Patterson Ave. Drill Team

Rhythmic Drills Is Their Thing

by Denise Carter
Staff Reporter

A teacher views them as students. A parent observes only her son. But everyone who has witnessed their amusing performance knows them as the Patterson Avenue YMCA Drill Team, supervised by Moses Lucas.

Lucas, who has been a youth director at the Winston-Salem Patterson Avenue YMCA for 21 years is the group's originator.

Commenting on his reason for organizing the group, Lucas said, "My responsibility as a youth director is to create programs that will interest the youth and community." Lucas stated that after watching the St. Louis Drill Team perform on television 12 years ago, he decided to form a Patterson YMCA drill team.

The idea became a reality October 1, 1964 when Lucas discussed the proposition with some young boys who later decided to participate.

For eight months, Lucas and his 21 recruits aged 12 to 18 years practiced drill steps they and their instructor had created.

In 1965, the Drill Team received a charter from the Cadets of America, an international organization headquartered in Savannah, Tennessee.

In 1973, Lucas received a Certificate of Honor Award for Outstanding Service to Youth, from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, an undergraduate fraternal chapter at Winston-Salem State University.

Today, the Drill Team is in its 12th year and consists of 24 boys from 6 to 16 years who have performed their rhythmic drill steps in Chicago, New York, Raleigh, Detroit and Washington.

In 1976, they performed for 15,000 people at a basketball game in Memorial Coliseum between Wake Forest University and Maryland University. "This is the largest crowd to

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