

YMCA Cadets, Marching Forward

By Beverly McCarthy
Staff Writer



Moses Lucas

Parade watchers all over the east coast have been mesmerized by the enthusiasm and energy of the Marching Cadets from the Patterson Avenue YMCA. The group of marchers began when Moses Lucas was watching a television show in Saint Louis. Lucas later became Cadet supervisor.

"I thought the organization would be something that the kids would enjoy, plus it would help keep them off the streets and out of trouble," he explained.

The Cadets is an international organization, based in Savannah, Tennessee.

The present Cadets team consists of 65 young men from the ages of 6 to 16. The club is divided into two separate performing groups. Boys from the ages 6 through 12 belong to the marching unit, and the other young men are members of the drill team.

we used rifles, now we've dropped the rifles, and moved into precision drills, the fancier ones," Lucas commented.

Throughout the years, approximately 793 young men have been involved in the group. Ben Gaithers was the first president. Kevin Williams now serves as group president. Williams is a student at Anderson High School.

for their precision drills, and Lucas said, it is those steps that fascinate audiences all over the state.

"We make up some of our steps, others are shown to the boys by members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. from WSSU, and I show the guys the rest," he explained.

Even though the Cadets is only open to boys, the Y does offer a majorette team called the Y-Etts for girls.

"In the past, we didn't have that much interest in a girl's drill team because all our girls wanted to be majorettes, now that is changing. See Page 20

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