



Zipette in Awe

Jean Bolinger

I was head majorette at Buchtel High School for four years, so there was no question that I would try out to be a Zipette. I was selected and spent much of the summer of 1954 practicing with the band and the other Zipettes. My brother was in basic training with the army, so he loaned me his car to use to drive to practices. Of course, once he was on regular duty and able to retrieve his car, I was destined to take the bus to and from all events on campus and at Buchtel Field.

After lots of practice the band (under Darrell Winters) was ready for the home football opener. I don't remember who we played but etched in my memory forever will be the glorious

experience of marching onto the field at the Rubber Bowl and seeing over twenty thousand fans in the stands. The 1954 home opener was the first ever Acme-Zip game, and what a thrill it was to be part of it.

The entire football field was filled with a variety of high school bands who had performed in a pre-game show, our band, ROTC units, and a number of men mounted on horses. I believe they were part of the Grotto or some other organization. The spectacle was amazing and thrilling until fireworks went off. The horses started snorting and rearing, and their riders had difficulty getting them under control. I was sure my glorious moment of fame was going to be spoiled as I was trampled by a very nervous horse.

Of course, the horses were calmed, the show went on, and the game was played, but a young woman just barely seventeen was, in her own mind, a star for one fleeting period of time.

I married Clyde Bolinger, class of '54, a couple years later, finished at Akron just before our first child was born in '58, and we have happily seen all four children, two sons-in-law, three grandsons, and two granddaughters-in-law graduate from Akron. Two of the children were valedictorians of their respective classes. Clyde played baseball and basketball, and two of our daughters played sports at Akron. I, however, am the only one in the family who can boast of showcasing my talents before twenty-thousand people, even if only for a few moments. Go Zips!