

THE  
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# AMERICA

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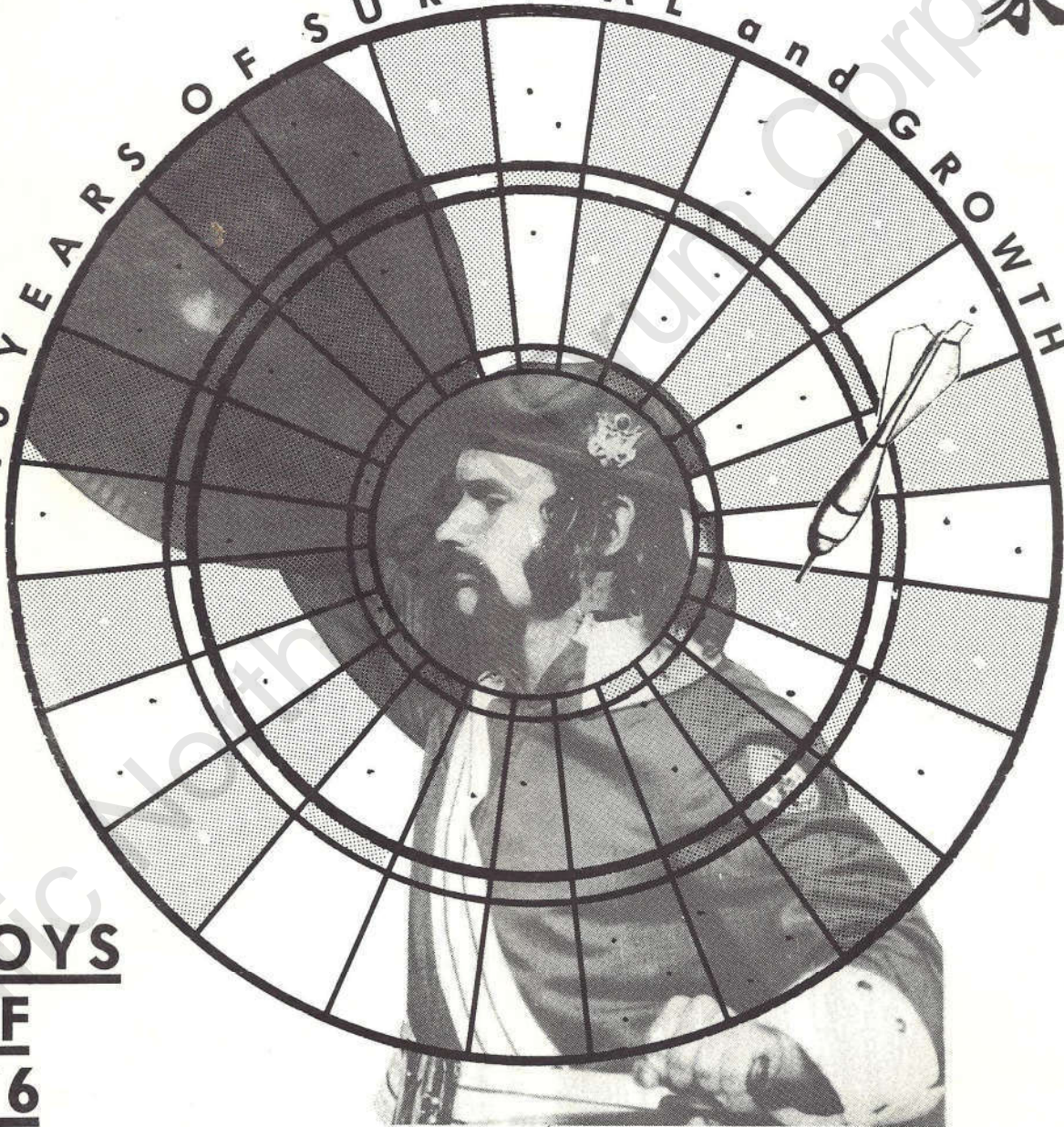
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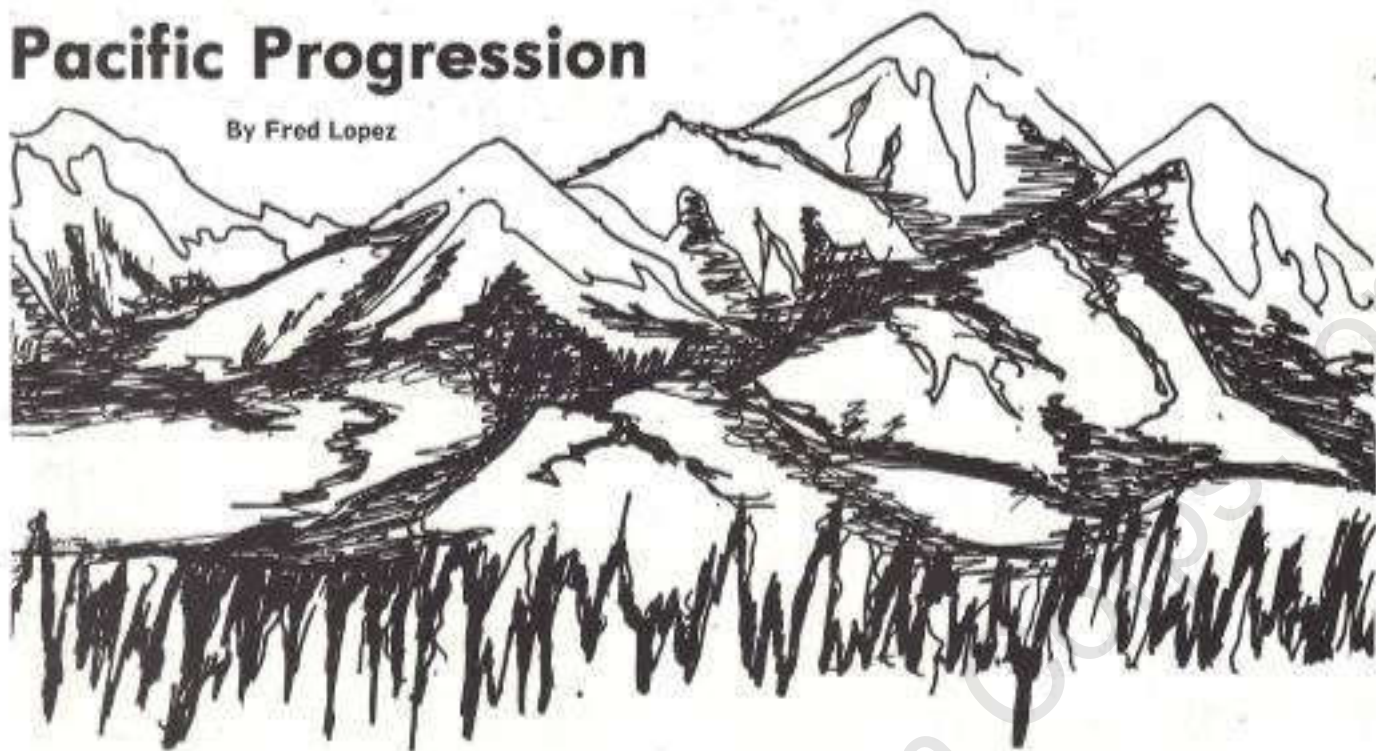
BOYS  
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'76

**CELEBRATE 60th ANNIVERSARY YEAR!**

*Oldest Corps in Existence*

# Pacific Progression

By Fred Lopez



A short respite, and it's back to the wars . . . both on and off the fields of competition.

The Northwest Association Championships were held September 1st in Burien, Washington, hosted by the BLACK WATCH HIGHLANDERS and their Washington Open Commission. The weather was perfect, the stadium fine, although a bit limited in seating. Fourteen of the NWDCA's 26 Members attended, and for "spice", the ROYALAIRES from San Leandro, California, a Member of the Northern California Circuit, made the trip north to join us. For judges, the Corps, sponsor, and Junior Association jointly split the fee for a full slate of CSJA members.

We began in the afternoon, with the one C Corps attending and the five B Corps doing their thing. The ESCADRILLE, feeder corps for the FLAMINGOES was crowned C Division Champion, of course, while in the B Division, the SEATTLE CASCADES, undefeated since July 7, sailed through, taking top honors in MA, Brass GE, M&M GE and GE Overall to win over the SPARTANS of Vancouver, Washington by nearly four points. The Spartans had Drum GE and M&M Execution, topping the EDMONTON STRUTTERS by better than two points. After the Strutters came the GOLDEN SKYLINERS of Great Falls, Montana (high Bugle Execution), and the EASTERN OREGON RANGERS (Drum Exposure) closed out the field. Of these five B Corps, my guess is that none are yet ready to move into the A Division, but with a hard winter's work and two or three "shake down" contests next summer, it's quite possible the Cascades, at least, and possibly even the Spartans and Strutters could make the move. . . only time will tell.

The A Division contest went on in the evening, and to no one's real surprise, the PERCUSSION—NAUT PATRIOTS of Spokane, Washington won their second consecutive Championship, topping the field by 11

points, and winning all caption awards. As I said, there was no surprise the Patriots won, but there was a heck of a lot of argument about that 11 point spread! As for me, I was most impressed with the performance the corps gave — it may have even been a 73 performance . . . but I must agree with the others that, as good as it was, I didn't see it as being 11 points better than the runner-ups. However, that's why we imported the judges we did, so, for the record, the Patriots scored 73.45, and are the NWDCA's 1973 A Division Champions.

Of the other seven A Corps in competition, their finishes came as real surprises. The TITANS, who've had problems all year and have even scored below B Corps at times, did, in fact, come in last, but with a fine performance — one we've been waiting for all year . . . SHAMROCKS, winner of the contest held August 18th, for some reason or another slipped back into their "poor execution ways", and came in 7th . . . COLUMBIANS, odds on favorite to be the one to stop the Patriots this year, came in a dismal 6th, attributed, I understand, to only two practices since returning from Whitewater . . . SENTINELS had recouped their honor at West Allis after a miserable appearance at Whitewater, couldn't keep it up and finished 5th . . . HIGHLANDERS, a corps that has steadily been climbing since returning from their tour of the Rockies, had to settle for 4th in a slight choke-up situation . . . FLAMINGOS, always a contender at the beginning of the Season, but notorious for fading in August, put it all together to win the August 4 contest in Oregon City, and then kept it together to finish 3rd here in the Championships . . . and in Second Place was the HAWKS, making a fine recovery from a poor '72 and an even worse Season's opener last January. Their win July 21 doesn't appear as that much of a surprise now, and it could very well be that, if the corps doesn't lose too many members and the hard work continues over the winter, the Hawks may be very hard to top in '74.

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# Pacific Progression

Continued From Page Six



## Black Watch Drum & Bugle Corps

Auburn, Washington

### NWDC CHAMPIONSHIPS A Division

PATRIOTS	73.45 (.1)
HAWKS	62.55 (.7)
FLAMINGOES	61.20 (2.2)
HIGHLANDERS	60.05 (.8)
SENTINELS	59.90 (1.2)
COLUMBIANS	59.10 (.1)
SHAMROCKS	55.05 (1.0)
TITANS	51.10 (.3)

### B Division

CASCADES	42.80 (.3)
SPARTANS	38.85 (.3)

STRUTTERS	36.65 (2.1)
SKYLINERS	31.60 (1.2)
RANGERS	30.70 (.3)

### C Division

ESCADRILLE	32.75 (4.6)
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In closing on the Championships, it's only fair to mention that the ROYALAIRES, as a non-member, could not, of course, compete. But the corps was judged, and had it been in competition would have finished second, and they, rather than the Patriots would have won the trophies awarded for top Drum and Bugle Execution... their score — 69.65.

Four weeks later, the competition moved from the field to the meeting hall, and the contestant became the adults rather than the youngsters as the Eighth NWDCA convention convened. Although there was much to do, the crux of this convention boiled down to two proposed Resolutions. . . one to permit straight invitational contests, and the other a reaction to the first that would have forbid any NWDCA Member from joining another Association, regardless of its name or aim, without prior approval by 2/3rds of the other NWDCA Members . . . sounds silly? Well, there's more to it than that which appears on the surface.

Following the Championships, six of the NWDCA A Corps and two of those from Northern California formed a Federation called "Drum Corps West". Their purpose is to advance inter-State competitions, and in essence, form a "mini-DCI", with a Championship contest of their own to qualify membership. In California, the concept, although possibly not welcomed with open arms, was at least accepted. However, the Northern California Circuit has only nine Members, two of which now belong to DCI, while here in the Northwest, covering about 15th of North America, there are 26 Members, the most of which are in the B and C Divisions. Their feelings, promoted by those of two of the present A Corps not included this initial year of DCW, were that the B's and C's would be left out of things and would not get into competitions. Because of these feelings, the "reactionary Resolution". Well, most of the detractors weren't prepared to turn the NWDCA into a dictatorship, so that Resolution lost handily. The other, which would have changed the present rule that permits an invitational only after a corps has first sponsored an officially sanctioned show (meaning inviting all District corps, plus one each from the opposite District), split the vote right down the middle, 12 for and 12 against. Since this represented a change in By-Laws, a 2/3rds approval was needed, so the Resolution lost.

The ambiguity of the entire situation then became obvious as the elections were conducted. Jim McCormick was re-elected President; Howard Robbins and Courtney Jones were both re-elected to the Executive Board; all three, managers or directors of "rebel" DCW Corps. So, although the other managers do not agree with their philosophy\* (except those eight managers who quickly became known as the "coalition" and led the successful fight against the Invitational Contests), they respect them as men\* and have again entrusted the Association to their hands (two of the other Board Members are also leaders of DCW Corps — seemingly a quixotic alignment). And the Junior Association also is in the hands of the DCW Corps, with John Cosser of the Shamrocks being re-elected, and Brian Fox of the Sentinels put in as Vice - President. About the sole real battle in the elections was for the position of NWDCA Secretary/Treasurer, with only two votes separating the two candidates with luck, I was re-elected to fill that position for a sixth year. One gain for the coalition was the election of Harry Dedoyard to the position of Vice-President, but Harry gained such a large vote number that that phrase ("gain for the coalition") really is improper — Harry attained that position on his own attributes, not those pushed by either of the "groups".

Now the "cooling off" period begins. The first contest of the year will be held January 26 in Salem, Oregon — the Flamingoes' "Optirama", some three

months away. Hopefully, the agitation created at the convention will settle, and the Association will again begin to function as a unit rather than "two armed camps" (with barbed tongues and innuendos as weapons). The Association By-Laws are now being prepared for the year, and readers of this Column are welcome to obtain one of the booklets for a dollar. Write: NWDCA; P. O. Box 2002; Lynnwood, Washington 98036, and make checks payable to "NWDCA".

Next month . . . more on the Convention, and spots about the appearances and programs the Northwest Corps are operating during the off season.



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