

American Legion

~~V.F.W.~~ Nationals

I think I'll skip all the beginning part- you know the same stuff you hear over and over again. What time we left who really cares that we left at 1:00p.m.

Bus ride took as long as usual psically-but mentally it was fast. We were a bit nervous. We slept at the school for the blind-the school caused a very difficult sleeping situation. The boys slept upstairs in a small room. The girls slept on the bottom floor which was walled in by big windows. The showers and restrooms were all on the girls floor, so the boys had to walk right through the girls room when ever they felt like taking a shower or something, so they thought.

We practiced as soon as we got down there-about 5:30. I think The horns were sounding pretty good. That's all I can say about that practice section. At 7:30 we broke for a very fine Spagetti dinner, with french bread and tossed salad. My compliments to the chefs.

After dinner we practiced a while more. Curt Carrol, our music instructor came up with this little statement, and I quote "You guys have a great chance if you can only beat the Hawks" unquote. About 1:00 we all jumped in the sack. About 3:30 something very strange happened, these 3 certain guys came stumbling down the stairs. Mrs. Franke knows all about it-ask her about it.



After that short night we got up and out to prelims at 8:00. I don't want to say too much about prelims though because there isn't much to tell. We didn't put on a bad show, but it was far from clean. Out of nine junior corps that could make it Hawks came in 9th-so you see if we did beat the Hawks we would have been in finals. We weren't broken up about us not making it though because we didn't have a long enough drill for finals anyway. We weren't happy that the Hawks made it. Lancers were more deserving. That's only my opinion though.

For lunch we hit the town. Have you ever noticed Gibbs eyes? They're a lot bigger than his stomach. His plate was piled up with food about a foot high. I didn't stick around long enough to see if he finished it. He said he could though-if you gave him enough time. We went back to the school and did a few change of clothes or whatever then off to Finals. We were each given tickets to seats way down at the end zone. They had the sections blocked off with fences about 3 1/2 feet high. We thought about jumping but nobody had the gall to go over first-nobody except Mark Novakowski. We all followed, us brave Sentinels. Soon everybody from other corps started hurdling the fence. The V.F.W guys soon caught on and stood by the fence. But no way could they have found us to put us back over to the other side of the fence. So again I sat on the 50 yard line. I've never seen a National Comp. anywhere then on the 50 yardline. Later we found out that Tim and Curt and Whoever sat at the end zone well they may be honest but we're smart. First corps to go on was the Hawks-un-yes-un-ha,



then the SHAMROCKS we know what they are capable of doing we don't know if they did it but. . . Next on the line, were the Velvet Knights. They were the first corps to have all new Olds horns boy could you hear it. I thought Mike Gibbs would have a hernia.

The Commadors, ask Sheryl Spang about those guys. She knows everything imaginable.

After the Shamrocks came the Santa Clara Vanquard, fantastic, fabulous, etc. As soon as the Vanquard left their impression on the field the Kingsmen step on. Beating on those drums the way they did brought them the highest drum score. Their music was very musical, according to Mike Gibbs he said the one judge said it was too musical and that is a complement. The ~~V.F.W.~~ guys were over impressed with their old time favorite "Macnamara's band."

The Americanos-Spanish style people with a very relaxed looking drill. Very enjoyable to watch: Seattle Imperials the Washington state champions hit the field with music all familiar to our ears. Very clean but that isn't musical. Last of the junior corps to go on were the Glendale Chinese. 115 strong they spread out on that field. Their music filled the air, they were wild. Now for the Senior Corps. Please note the name of these corps. First one on was the Harvey W. Seeds Legion of Brass, then came the Laidlaw's Brass Incorporated, I really can't give a fair evaluation about these corps, because I don't remember a thing about them. The last Senior corps was the Yankee Rebels their whole drill was made up as a battle, their flag work using Union and Confederate flags. Their hornline during their color presentation was battling with different songs- it was something to see. During their concert one of their baritone players had a solo talk about a ham.



He was wild and he knew it. The crowd was falling out of the stands over him. Standing ovation and everything. Left a deep impression on everyone that was there. The Yankee Rebels will never be forgotten.

Now on to the scores:

Vanguards-80.10  
Kingsmen-76.65  
Velvet Knights-68.10  
Imperials-65.90  
Commodore-63.05  
Americanos-60.65  
Glendale Chinese-57.25  
Shamrocks-56.05  
Hawks-53.00

Yankee Rebels-80.20  
Laidlaw Brass-47.40  
Harvey W. Seeds-43.35

There was a 2/10 of a difference between the Yankee Rebels and the Vanguards. Out here we think of a Senior corps as something like the Grenadiers don't let them fool you. Take a good look at the Yankee Rebels the next time you get a chance.

The only thing that was talked about the rest of the night. Our horns talked about new Olds and all of the music. The drums about the drums and the color guard about the Americanos 38 flags and getting new ones.

Lolly