

# NORTHWEST C/21

By JOHN J. BRODERICK

Sad, is the only word I can think of to describe the present condition of our Northwest seniors. A few years ago there were 8 senior corps active in Washington, today there are 3 and these 3 corps are currently fighting for their survival.

The HURRICANES, current state VFW and Legion Champions, lost half their horn line and their complete snare line. They haven't had enough horns this fall to have a music practice and last Monday only two horn players were at the practice hall. The Everett BLUE KNIGHTS lost some horn players, which is tough when they only had 15 on the roster last year. They haven't had a practice and won't have until January.

Sedro Wooley competed for the first time last season with about 10 horns and full drum line. They are now boasting a (large - large) turnout of 6 horns and a few drums. The Wenatchee APPLEKNOCKERS turned in their equipment after the State Legion show in August. The Auburn BLACK HAWKS, the Bellingham FALCONS, the Renton EAGLES, and the Seattle VFW are all senior corps that have dropped out of existence in the last few years.

If the seniors can hold together for two or three years more, there is a possibility that some of our Juniors will become 21 years old and transfer into Senior units, but is doubtful that the old timers will last another two years. Whatever the solution is, or was, many of us feel that it is too late to be of any value.

Now for the brighter side . . . . The Washington State Drum & Bugle Corps Association held its first meeting of the new season, November 3rd, at Everett, Washington and I must say it was a lively one.

Some of the hi-lites are as follows:

Dues were decreased from \$30. to \$15. All American Judges will be hired for all competitions, Legion prize money of \$1,000.00 will be split 50-50 between Seniors and Juniors. Last year it was \$750. Seniors, and \$250. Juniors. At the legion show the seniors will compete first with the Juniors following immediately - (no interruptions). All American Judges Association to hold Judges Clinic, Dec. 8, Clinic open to anyone and everyone interested - management, playing members, parents and especially those interested in becoming a judge. This will be the first full-scale clinic to be held in the State of Washington.

Two new Junior Corps were announced at the meeting. The City of Ephrata is the proud papa of a new Junior Corps, and the SHAMROCKS have their new "B" Corps active.

The new Ephrata Corps is from the east side of the mountains, where Corps are few and far between. Maybe this will be the start of something big from the desert country.

The Pasco Columbians have a new Corps Director, Vic Mahon. Eldon Sargeant has resigned as Corps Director. Mr. Mahon has been their drum major for many years and held the championship many times. The new drum major is Mike Madison from their Baritone horn line.

The BLUE ANGELS are flying high - their new transplant from the Corps of the north (Alaska) has given them the lift that was needed. The SHAMROCKS will definitely go to Cleveland for the VFW Nationals - current plans are to fly.

The SHAMROCKS held their annual corps banquet, Oct. 20., and many awards were given to the corps members for individual performance. Two skits were presented by some of the corps members, and believe me, they had the audience rolling in the aisles. A funnier show has never been witnessed. Each corps member was presented with the corps Year Book, (One of the best I have seen).

The THUNDERBIRDS will hold their Northwest championship competition April 18 at the Seattle Ice Arena and they will give away an automobile for the door prize. That's a first in this area. The big question in this area is, Who will be the first to start the Winter Color Guard Circuit? How about the all American Chapter of Washington?

Congratulations to Jack Avery, our newly elected Assn. President, and Plaudits to Ed Adrian and Ron Stockton, our outgoing President and Secretary.

I just received some good news, two new Junior Corps will start operating this month, one from Sunner, Washington and one from Bellevue, Washington. That's four new Junior Corps in the last two months. This will bring our "B" Corps total to 5 Corps. We should and must consider separating our field shows into "A" and "B" categories and award prizes to both groups. This should give the "B" groups more incentive knowing that they would be competing with corps of the same caliber and also an opportunity to win trophies and prize money.

John J. Broderick  
9827 8th N.E.  
Seattle, 15, Washington