

JUNE 26, 1963

Drums Along The

Sound

By SHARLEY NELSON

NIKA WAWA MESIKA WEGHT (I greet all of you again!) Stick with me and I'll make Chinooks out of you yet....or is that supposed to read, "Schnooks?"

The Memorial Day parade in Seattle was well represented by the Drum Corps. On June 15, they all trotted up to Marysville for the annual Strawberry Festival. There goes the diet down the drain. This celebration is the nearest to the old fashioned Ice Cream Socials I loved as a kid.

The Washington State V.F.W. Drum Corps competition on June 21st in the Olympic Stadium will be over by the time you read this. And....for the first time in many, many, many years, there'll be a separate field contest for the junior guards, Hallalcoya. These forward-thinking men are coming through in a fine way. I only hope their M.C. this year will not utter even one "How about that?" in his comments. That phrase became the joke of the year after last year's State. Scores next time.

Seattle now has four junior corps tucked securely in its belt, the newest since last November being

the EL TORREADORS of West Seattle. Mr. Jerry Chambers manages this group, assisted by Mr. Jack Bradshaw (who is Drum Corps Chairman prior to Tony Schlechta's arrival in the Fall). The corps is sponsored by the George Farewell V.F.W. Post #2713. Mr. Duane Andrews (from the golden State of California) is bugle instructor and Lorin Grinolds of the THUNDERBIRDS is Drum Instructor. Their initial debut came at the CHAMPIONSHIPS held on March 31st, and their performance was most creditable. They will enter V.F.W. State, but have no American Legion sponsor this year as yet, so do not intend to enter that State contest. Their color scheme is turquoise tops, black trousers and skirts. It's not easy to start up a new corps, and all of us wish them much good luck for continued success in their efforts.

The JOLLY JESTERS folded a few months ago, after a slow start last year. Lack of instructors and recruits plagued them.

The COLUMBIANS from the tricity area of Pasco, Richland, and Kennewick have rallied 'round as strong as ever, under the direction of Eldon Sergeant. Rumors were flying after the transfer of Earl Halvorsen to Spokane that the Corps was having its share of problems getting together. Can't count these spirited boys out of the race, they'll be trying to regain their former titles in the contests ahead.

The Seattle SHAMROCKS seem to be out to prove THEY can be No. 1 this year. They have enlisted the aid of excellent people plus strong power in the horn line. Sounded GREAT! on Memorial Day. Sponsors for this unit are the Rainier V.F.W. Post #2289, North Seattle American Legion Post #112, and the International Order Of Foresters of Washington. Al Whittman handles the helm. 'It will be interesting to watch the race for top honors this year with such strong contenders....wonderful inspiration for all the kids, when no one can sit back on their past laurels.

The THUNDERBIRDS of Seattle sound good. Lots of new music. A few rough spots to polish up in a hurry. The new uniforms are sharp - shades of St. KEVINS. The big bore section is greatly enriched by the two contrabass horns ordered last Fall. One of these big babies made its debut on the West Coast at the basketball game last November in the Seattle Arena, and both have been in the line since March. They are the cat's meow, and have caused much comment in town.

Mike Stefanowicz is not an unfamiliar name in the field of drumming. We are most fortunate to have this caliber of instructor

around these parts, and to have the pleasure of this wonderful person's friendship. Another star has been added to his crown in recognition of his talents, when the powers-that-are in this school system happened to see his brand of drumming and induced him to instill some good, rudimental drumming into the high school youngsters. He held several clinics with overwhelming attendance, illustrated and distributed a 27-page booklet called "The Diagrammatic Method" of drumming. Real proud of you, Mike. (By the way, I wasn't aware you promised that the bears and Indians would be 'off limits' when these nice people come a-visiting during NATIONALS? Oh well, we sure will try.....)

Speaking of NATIONALS, and don't we Seattleites love to tho, let me digress a moment, to the former site of the Worlds Fair. It has been retained as a package and renamed the Seattle Center. It just opened to the public on June 1, with the official dedication held on June 7. The THUNDERBIRDS were present on both occasions to help with the ceremonies, and appeared on TV part of the time. Any hoo, the grounds include all the permanent structures erected - the Space

Needle (a real landmark from practically any part of the City), the monorail terminal, the magnificent fountain, and all the cultural buildings and structures set amid beautiful landscaping. It will be added to with each passing year on the order of the Trivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. There are acres and acres with a big Food Circus smack in the middle.

The point of this description of the Seattle Center is that it just may be a certainty by the time this reaches print, that the location of the field contest may be changed to the Memorial Stadium on these grounds, with the individual contests held in various areas all over the place. I guarantee you've never attended such a conglomeration of the NATIONALS in a lovelier setting. The Arena has already been scheduled for the Convention delegates, and is so centrally located to downtown. I'm sure that if Mr. Schlechta could hear how awful a Corps sounds in that reverberating barn called Sicks Stadium (baseball no less is THE thing played here), he most certainly will favor changing to the Memorial Stadium which can be adapted to seat many more. I know the Center people have promised full cooperation on the pub-

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licity angle, and more, so hope Mr. Grossman's meetings with David Hubanks have been productive. A devoted drum corps-man, Lea I. Langabeer succumbed at the age of 66. He was a member of Seattle Post #11 American Legion; past chef de gare, Voiture 75, 40 et 8; member of the Lynnwood Elks Lodge #2171; and a past member of the Washington State Drum & Bugle Corps Commission. The State 40 et 8 magazine used his publicity, and many of you will remember his articles in Drum Corps publications. You can be sure that if the good Lord has a Drum Corps in Heaven, Lea will be in the midst of things.

Consideration is being given to a package booster deal for those who are interested in collecting buttons around the country. It will most likely include all four junior corps and the senior corps in the Seattle area. Hope to have more about this when the details are decided.

Have been corresponding with Les Dlabay of the BERWYN KNIGHTS, and would like to hear from more of you. Am interested in knowing where Patt Lindberg was raised in this far-Western State of Washington? Would like to remind you all that I hang my war bonnet just inside the door of my Long House (where it's handy on the way to a meeting)KLAHOWYA TILICUM from Sharley.

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