

The second corps to be covered in this column will be the Northwest Region's Junior B Competition Champions for 1966 - The Hawks of Oregon, Portland, Ore.

The Hawks were organized in 1959 with 22 boys and dubbed the Hawthorne Hawks after their original sponsors, the Portland Hawthorne District Business Men Assn. Then the corps was reorganized in 1963 as the Hawks of Oregon and is presently sponsored by the V.F.W., Dept. of Oregon.

As a B corps, the Hawks have, over the years, won many firsts in the Northwest competitions and have been State Legion Champions many times, but the culmination of a season for the Hawks must have been last year when it was announced that they had won the "un-official" title as B Champions of the Northwest, beating out a fellow Oregon corps, the Royal Lancers, by a few hundredths of a point. Also, their point average was high enough to qualify the corps to move up into the Junior A category for the 1967 competition season. So far this year, the Hawks have competed in three contests and finished third in each. But in the hands of Gene Brostehous, General Manager; Clote Smith, Color Guard Instructor; and Howard Hawley, Music and Drill Master, the Hawks should be close to, if not in, a first place spot by the end of the year, IF they are not forced back to the B category with low scores. However, the drive and desire is there, and I fully expect the Hawks to surpass handsomely the low score they received June 4 at the Drumkhana.

At this writing, the corps is committed to appear in the Oregon State Legion Competition in Eugene, Ore., the Shamrocks' Music in Motion Show in Seattle, July 29, the Northwest International Championships in New Westminster, British Columbia, and the NWDCA Champions, White Center, Wash., Aug. 19, plus many parades and corps concerts.

The Hawks with 19 horns, 6 drums, and a Color Guard of 16 girls are playing a Dreitzer arrangement of "Johnny One Note" off the line and a concert of Gershwin medleys, and exiting with "Beyond the Sea." The Hawks of Oregon is a feisty corps, short in numbers but long in spirit and talent.

Right now there is a hiatus in competitions until July 4 when the Everett Blue Knights will again sponsor their annual show in the evening, topped with fireworks. This is the first of two senior sponsored shows in the area, and probably is one of the best attended. Although the stands aren't full when the show begins at 7:00, they are overflowing by the end by people that aren't really drum corps nuts, but exposure always helps, and each year the beginning crowd gets larger and larger.

The other senior show, the Northwest International held in New Westminster, British Columbia, is going to be in its second run August 19, and the word I get from Bill Jones of the Linksmen, the sponsoring corps, and Jim McCorkell of the Richmond Ambassadors, the only junior corps in the entire Vancouver-Victoria region, is that there's going to be lots and LOTS of people out to see this show. The Linksmen's sponsor, the Odd-Fellows, are really talking it up everywhere, and the corps are going to as many as FOUR parades a weekend to enlighten the public as to the greatness of drum corps. I've also been told that many a Sunday is spent putting on free concerts in the parks in the many little towns around Vancouver. In other words, in this virgin area, the public is being saturated with drum corps, and now the Ambassadors, which is a corps of only four months, has to screen out the kids -- there are so many that would like to join. Of course, none of them know how to play a bugle, but now they all read music and are rapidly becoming adept with the new style of marching, drumming, and making music.

On July 1, Canada's Independence Day, the Buddhist Boy Scouts Drum & Bugle Corps of Seattle will be travelling to Richmond, B.C., to march in their parade and help inaugurate the Ambassadors' first showing on the street. The Ambassadors will not play but will ride tandem with the Linksmen. But at least the community will be shown a junior corps from their own area, and the hopes are that this will also bring more people to the International in which the Ambassadors hope to make their first appearance. Following the parade, it is hoped there will be enough time to have a concert by the Scouts and Linksmen before the seniors play at the "half-time" of a double-header ball game in Vancouver before several thousand fans. Drum Corps may be relatively new to Western Canada, but it won't remain obscure for long, thanks to such hard working, dedicated drum corps nuts as Bill Jones, Gordon Lindsay, and Jim McCorkell.