

# NORTHWEST COMMENTS

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Surprise! What was supposed to be a tight fight to the finish turned into a steal for the Royal Lancers at Oregon State American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps contest in Eugene on July 14.

The defending champions, the Lancers, field the largest Oregon corps including 12 silks, 3 mellophones, and an outstanding timbale player. Girls are integrated into the drum and bugle lines and along with the two girl drum majors are an asset to this wonderful corps.

Second place went to the Flamingos of Salem. This corps has come a long way this year in becoming the corps of old, when they were on the winning side 4 or 5 years ago. They dedicated their show to last year's drum major, Steve Ostrin, now a Viet Nam veteran recovering from injuries received on active duty. I'm sure Steve is as proud of them as they are of him. The Flamingos had a fine field routine and impressive pass through with their American flag section to the strains of "Johnny Comes Marching Home," "This Is My Country," "I Wish You Love," "I Believe." The Flamingo Color Guard won the color guard competition.

"Great Day" turned into the theme for the Rangers of Pendleton, who came in third. This corps has also come a long way this year putting on a fine show at every contest they have entered. They have new uniforms, which are quite showy, and have recently been named the Secretary of State's Official Drum Corps. They displayed fine rifle work throughout the show and "Summertime" was just one of the pleasant tunes they played. The late Lee Allen would have been very proud of this corps tonight. The Ranger Color Guard also came in third.

"Kill!" was the off line command of the Hawks of Oregon drum major but it didn't work the magic it was supposed to. Fourth place was the highest spot they could come up with. The Hawks have been working very hard the past couple of months improving their music and drill and they were expecting to be higher on the totem pole. Maybe next time out all their hard work will pay better. They do have a fine corps so they can only go UP.

Last but not least were the Imperial Cadets. This corps is in its first year of competition and the average age of members is 12. All they need is a little seasoning and they will be among the top contenders. The Cadets do a fine job during concert with "Breeze" and they do have an excellent flag presentation to the strains of "Battle Hymn."

Oh yes!! In case you're interested in scores they are Lancers, 69.675; Flamingos, 57.333; Rangers, 57.258; Hawks, 56.091; and the Imperials Cadets, 45.0.

Just a side light .... This MUST be the year of the bass drum. The Imperials Cadets and Lancers field 4; Flamingos and Rangers - 3; and the Hawks - 2.

Why the State Patrol, fellas? Isn't this supposed to be a friendly gathering?

This week end was another for The Big Green as the Shamrocks of Seattle walked off with another first place by a margin of eight points! The contest was sponsored by the Tri-City Columbians, Pasco, Washington and, I might add, in VERY warm weather. At parade time the temperature had reached 97 degrees, and what a parade!!! Two miles along the Columbia River with only a few observers at the start and a few at the finish. Very disheartening to the kids that marched those long, hot miles.

The parade was judged and the Columbians came in first, the Shamrocks second, and the only senior corps there, the Linksmen from B.C., Canada, took the third spot. We were all very glad the Columbians won since firstly it was their town, and mainly because the corps sounded very good. I personally hope they continue to improve!

The evening show began at 8:00, and by then it had cooled down a FEW degrees. The first corps off the line was the El Toreadors of Touray. The corps was very much off tonight. Their bugles were very weak - drums were fair - marching wasn't up to their capabilities.

Next off was the Imperials of Seattle. They put on a very good show and won first place in the B Division. Let's hope Bob Oki can get one more score above 55 next Friday at the Washington Legion State and become an A corps.

After another good exhibition by the Linksmen of New Westminster, B.C., the A corps came on. First off the line was the Thunderbirds. The music sounded a little better than the latest outings, but it seemed as though a little bit of the drill was left out. It wasn't quite as effective as it has been, but good enough for the Birds to receive second place.

Next up was the Shamrocks, and the Big Green really put on a good show. The people really enjoyed it! I believe this is the best corps the West Coast has ever seen, and they are out to prove it by going to the Nationals next year. They should be even better by then!! For their very nice show they were awarded first place by eight points.

The last A corps off the line was the sponsoring Columbians. Their horns are much improved and the drum section was definitely "up," taking the caption for the night. It looks like they've been working hard since V.F.W. State, and if the corps continues to progress at the same pace they will be up to the top in the near future. At this, their own show, the Columbians placed third in the Junior A Division.

It was our pleasure to have a 20 minute show put on for all by the Air Force Academy Drum & Bugle Corps from Colorado Springs, Col. They have beautiful horns and very clean drumming. But why shouldn't they? The Cabs were there, Archy, Cavies, everyone!!! What a base to grow a winning drum corps! Drum corps people picked up a lot of pointers on drumming and bugling, Eastern style. I know from the talk going around that the crowd greatly appreciated their appearance.

At the presentation of awards the drum majors of the Thunderbirds and the Columbians were called forward by Chief Judge Bob Aklin, and the second place trophy awarded to the T-Birds at V.F.W. State was reclaimed from the Birds by Chief Judge Aklin and re-awarded to the Columbians. All of this action was the result of disqualification of the Birds by the V.F.W. Commission for their bad sportsmanship.

An appearance trophy was presented to the Air Force Corps, and likewise to the Linksmen and a girls' drill team. Mary Jane Zoeger was again picked the best drum major in the contest.