

1975 - A Year of Change for PNW Drum Corps

By Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com

From the close of the 1974 season to the beginning of 1975, was a period of metamorphosis for several PNW drum corps. The following is a brief recap of those happenings.

The **Seattle Shamrocks** and the **Bellevue Sentinels** closed up shop at the end of 1974 and re-emerged together as the Seattle-based **Marksmen** in 1975. Their last field show was in 1976. Their demise? Financial. They lost their bingo license and couldn't raise enough funds to keep the business running.

The **Portland Royal Lancers** and the **Portland Hawks** also closed their doors at the end of 1974, joined forces, and re-emerged as the **3rd Regiment** in 1975. They continued through the end of the 1978 season.

The 1974 **Salem Flamingos** morphed into the **Salem Argonauts** in 1975. Their post-1974 success led to two high-level appearances at DCI* in 1976 and 1977. They ran into financial issues and did not field a corps in 1978 or 1979, re-emerging to take the field again in 1980. They reappeared at DCI in '84, '85, and 1987. Their last year to field a corps was 1987.

The **Spokane Percussion-Naut Patriots**, placed high in DCI* prelims in 1972, '73, and 1974, but decided in 1975 to no longer participate in drum corps competitions. This decision spawned the birth of another corps in Spokane for those wishing to continue competing in the drum corps circuit. So, in September of 1975 the **Spokane Renaissance** were born.

The Patriots continued performing as a non-competing drum corps off and on throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s.

And the last corps on this list is the **Tri-Cities Columbians**. They didn't merge or rename themselves during the winter of '74 – '75, but instead, the corps folded at the end of the 1975 season. This corps has had a long, albeit sporadic life since its beginning in November of 1955.

Big happenings in the Pacific Northwest drum corps scene in 1975. Seven corps distilled to three, with one newborn.

*This article only lists high-level DCI appearances. For a complete listing of PNWDC high-level DCI appearances, see "PNWDC DCI Standings" under the "Governing Bodies" page.