

DRUM CORPS WORLD

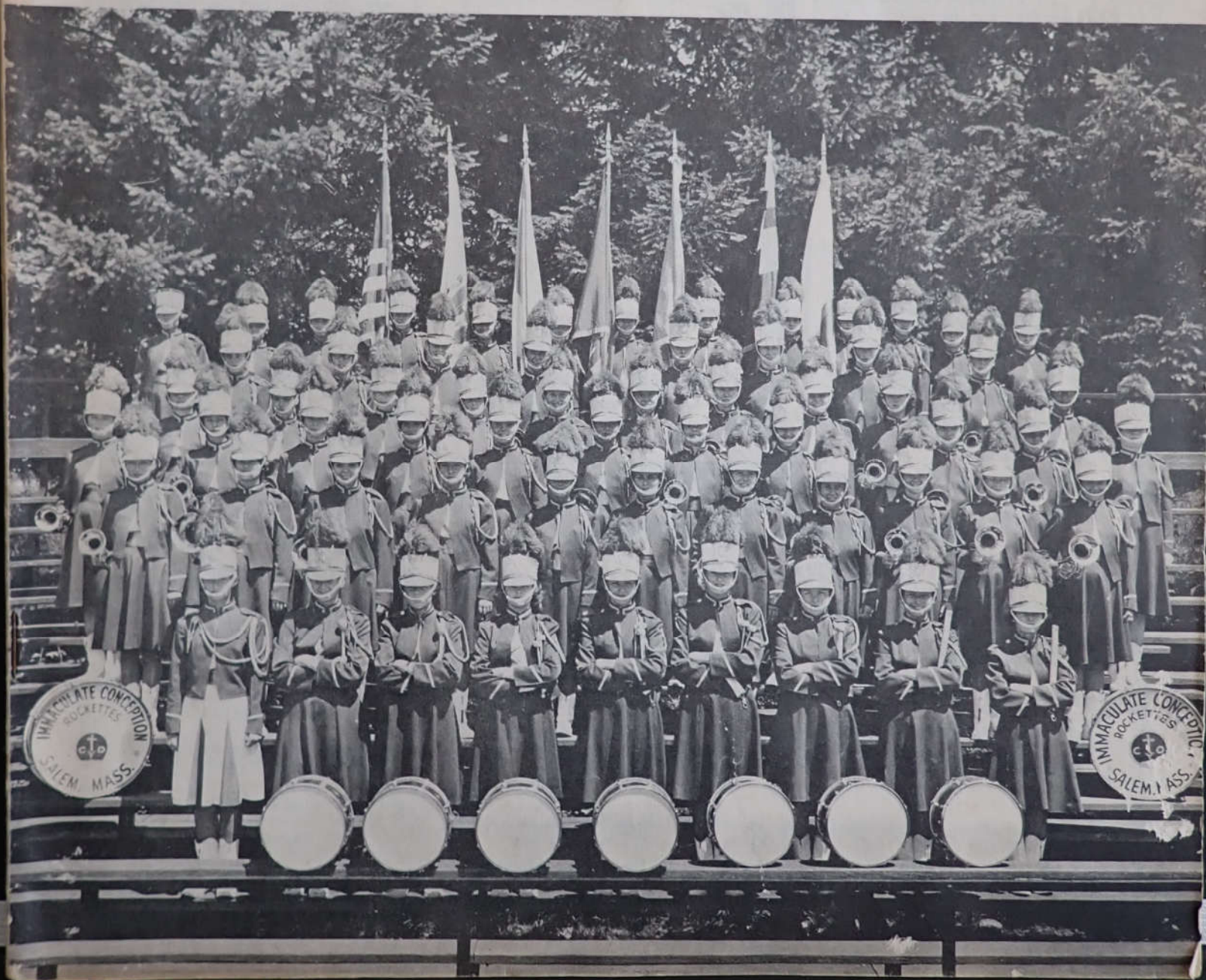
The voice of the drum corps

VOL. 11 NO. 2

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY, 1961

PRICE 30¢



V.F.W. NEWS RELEASE DEPT. of WISCONSIN

This article will go to press prior to the V.F.W. Dept. of Wisconsin's Midwinter Conference in Racine February 18th and 19th, 1961. Decisions made by the Committee as of that date will be published in the March column to bring everyone up-to-date.

Congratulations to Gross-Yaksh V.F.W. Post No. 6498, its Community Service Committee and its Nationally famous Drill Team for sponsoring and conducting a fine Drill Team Clinic on January 8th. It was attended by approx. 130 persons representing more than 20 Drill Teams from the surrounding area. Informative presentations were made by Mr. James Caveny of South Milwaukee, E. Grant Boltz of the Wis. Chapter of the All-American Judges Association, John Batikis of the Dept. of Wis. Competitions Committee, and by the Gross-Yaksh Men's Rifle Drill Team under the Direction of Raymond Stamm. A BIG THANKS for a job well done.

That same afternoon, in Cudahy, the Starlite Drum & Bugle Corps, which is co-sponsored by the 4th District and the Esser-Ladermann V.F.W. Post held their "Spectacular". The event was well attended and a big success.

Contest rules for the 1961 Dept. Contests have been published and distributed to all Posts, Districts, County Council's and persons and groups on the Committee's direct mailing list. If you haven't received your copies, write Dept. Hdqts., P.O. Box 262 at once and request them. Be sure you ask to have your name and address placed on the mailing list. There will be supplementary information after the Mid-Winter Conference. If anyone has any questions, or needs additional detailed information, please contact John Batikis, Co-Dir., 1404 Franklin St., Racine, Wis., as quickly as possible.

WE WISH TO REMIND EVERYONE CONCERNED THAT THE DEADLINE DATE for Bands and Drum Corps requesting travel grants is MARCH 1, 1961 and the DEADLINE DATE FOR ALL ENTRIES IS MARCH 15th, 1961. This means that quick action is necessary. PLEASE DO NOT DISQUALIFY YOUR GROUP BY WAITING TOO LONG TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO QUALIFY THEM FOR THE 1961 CONTESTS. THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS. We also wish to restate that our information is carried in the following newspapers, and it would be to everyone's advantage to subscribe and read them; THE WISCONSIN VETERAN, DRUM CORPS WORLD, and BADGERLAND NEWS.

Regarding plans for the 1961 Dept. Convention Parade, we repeat -- Each District Commander (or his appointed representative) is being given the responsibility of lining up his District's personnel and Musical and Marching Units. The Convention Parade Chmn. will indicate where the Assembly and Dispersal Areas are, and the time which the parade is to begin. Your Dept. Competitions Committee will furnish everyone with a list of the competitions entries (and consequently are automatically in the parade). District Commanders are asked to promote the parade at their District Meetings and during their

"THE SHAMROCKS", SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



The Shamrocks, formerly the C.Y.O. Squires, were organized in the Spring of 1959. The first year was a period of learning and a few parades. The 1960 season saw the Shamrocks win one 1st place and two 3rds in parades. Their proudest win was a 2nd in the Music in Motion contest in September. The Hurricanes of University American Legion Post #11 is the sponsor.

Father Moffitt is the corps director. Al Wittman is manager, John Broderick is the drum instructor, Warren Ceely is the bugle instructor and music arranger, Bob Ingram is equipment manager.

This corps intends to continue to build and improve. With work and practice they will be a threat to the champions very soon.

visits to their Posts, so they will know by June 1st, 1961, just whom they may expect to be in their District line-up. THE DEPT. COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE NEEDS A LIST OF THE DISTRICT LINE-UPS FROM the respective District Commanders so that we can prepare the necessary materials for everyone. This change has been made this year by the Band Contests being removed from the parade and relegated to Saturday morning, as a full fledged contest as close to those operated on a National level as is possible at this time. Color Guard Contests have also been added to the Saturday morning Drill Team Contests. We won't know until after all entries are in how many classifications will be established so, if your color guard plans to enter, please do so right away so we can set up the classes right after the deadline date. There has been an indication from two Jr. Class Drill Teams that they wish to compete this year. We had not originally set up a contest in this division, but the Committee can certainly set one up if there are additional groups interested in competing this year. Contact us immediately giving us information about the composition of your team, its affiliation, etc.

Two classifications in which there has not been any increase of Contestants have been the Senior Closed V.F.W. Bands and the Senior Closed V.F.W. Drum & Bugle Corps. If your Post has a Band or a Drum and Bugle Corps in this classifi-

cation, please do all you can to encourage them to enter the State Competitions. Otherwise there is a possibility of these contests being eliminated in the near future due to a lack of qualified entries.

Our Committee has just received a supply of the 1961 National V.F.W. Contest Rules and Entries from Anton Schlechta, National Contests Chairman. Please write to us if you wish a copy of them. Specify which contests you are interested in.

Mr. John J. Hamis, Chairman of the Flag Day Committee, has informed us that June 11, 1961 has been set as the date for the 1961 Flag Day Ceremonies and Parade to be held at Waubesa, Wisconsin. More information will be presented on this at a later date. Groups close enough to participate in this event are requested to consider doing so, especially the V.F.W. and V.F.W.-sponsored groups. Keep it in mind when making up your 1961 schedules.

In closing, please remember our Committee stands ready to assist your group with information, IF YOU LET US KNOW YOU NEED HELP, and that we will consider any constructive suggestions given to us in writing. Please address all communications and requests directly to John Batikis, Co-Director, Dept. Competitions Committee, 1404 Franklin St., Racine, Wisconsin. We can't tell what your problems are if you keep them a secret, or if you try to solve them by by-passing us . . . SO PLEASE CONTACT US DIRECTLY.

THE NORTHWEST CORPS-NER

by
Mike Stefanowicz

The Washington State Drum Corps Assoc. held its first meeting of 1961 on Jan. 8th. The turnout was one of the largest in the past two years. Representing member corps were; Forrest Maxim of Everett, Dean Grant of the Hurricanes, Earl Halverson of Pasco, Tom Leonard of the T-Birds, Bob Powers of Auburn, and Al Wittman of the C.Y.O. Non-member corps were represented by Jack Sargent, R. Schrock and Al Latin of the Eagles, Lyle Sunderland of the Bremerton Grenadiers, Mary Lou Ingram and Ron Humphries of the Pirates. The spirit exhibited during the meeting was very high.

The Assn. is proposing a resolution to the Department asking \$1500.00 in prize money for the American Legion Convention, and for assistance to send the winning corps to Nationals. The group was informed that there will be a color guard contest this year; two qualified judges will be obtained by Lea Langabeer and junior and senior trophies will be presented. The Assn. voted to henceforth be an OPEN Association; the vote was 6-0 in favor. The Eagles and Grenadiers expressed definite pleasure on this move. Louis Hitchcock of Auburn and Jack Sargent of the Eagles gave two fine speeches on the merits of OPEN. The amount of openness was limited after Dean Grant presented an emphatic view against non-drum and bugle corps. Membership will not include drill teams (foot or motorcycle), drum bands, or drum and baton corps. Mary Lou Ingram described the activities of her group, The Pirates, a drum and baton corps. Although barred from membership as a group, their drummers were invited to participate in any open quartet and individual contest. President John Broderick announced that the competition schedule for 1961 is rapidly shaping up and appears to include the following open contests; Everett 4th of July, West Seattle Hi Yu, Seattle C.Y.O., Seattle Seafair Invitational, Seattle Hurricanes, and Pasco Columbians. In addition, closed contests will include Legion, V.F.W., and Eagles conventions. . . . The next Assn. meeting will be held in the 1961 Legion Convention City, Wenatchee, on March 12th.

The C.Y.O. Squires have adopted a new name, "The Shamrocks". To match the name, Irish music is being arranged; however, the Latin numbers will not be dropped. Good news for the Shamrocks is that a new source of players will be tapped, namely -- girls. It is hoped that now we may see a 40 to 50-member horn line. The next step in C.Y.O. plans is an all-girl corps.

The Auburn Black Hawks held a non-rehearsal meeting in Jan., played records, viewed movies of the Miami Nationals, and made plans for the year. New music arrangements have been completed by Dick Turley. For several weeks the bugles and drums will rehearse separately. The snare line of one Jack Morrison may expand with Hershey Randall and Gene Otis. All three are individual prize winners and would make a strong drum line.

Ed Adrian of the Everett Blue Knights sent good news. Ron Stockton's recruiting efforts resulted in five new buglers and two potential drummers. The first rehearsal of the year was a surprise; more members showed up than ever appeared for competitions or parades. Something new, pre-season information, to Everett's friendly enemies. Here are numbers you will hear this year: "Hindustan", "God Bless America", "Stars And Stripes", "Cherokee", "Red Sails In The Sunset", "Aloha", and "Blue Horizon". Formerly, this info had been kept quiet until the first parades, but Drum Corps World has changed this.

The Hurricanes of Seattle had a Trophy Presentation Night on Jan. 25th. The year's loot was presented to the Post members, music was played by a fair turnout of the corps, and quartet medals were presented.

The state champion bugle quartet included Ed Beard, Jack Avery, Gary Bryan, and Dave Harwood. The drum quartet included John Broderick, Dean Grant, Jim Davis and Bob Potter. Perfecting new music is progressing slowly. The new members sign up and some old members sign out. Drum attendance is still high. Bugle attendance could be higher. No turnouts scheduled for next month. Bob Bastedo, bass drummer, just rejoined the corps after a year and a half absence.

The Thunderbirds of Seattle were somewhat disappointed when their Saratoga Flight Deck Exhibition was postponed until latter February. A turnout is scheduled for Feb. 12 in Renton. The occasion is Patriotism Day. The flying Thunderbirds of the Sand Point Naval Air Reserve are now sponsors of the Thunderbird Corps. A cake cutting ceremony, attended by both groups, was held on Jan. 14th to celebrate the sponsorship. New music for the T-Birds includes "Crusade of '50". "On To Dieppe" will go. Plans for Denver are still going strong.

The Seattle Buddhist Boy Scouts are temporarily inactive. They have been partially living on borrowed instruments and these were recalled by West Seattle Legion Post. The instruments are now for sale, it has been reported. Being man-sized drums, they will not be purchased for the boys. New instruments have been ordered and rehearsals are to begin March 1st. Manager Bob Oki tells me that the boys put on a drill and music show during the entertainment portion of the Golden Anniversary Party of the Camp Fire Girls. The next turnout is the Boy Scout Circus in April. Three new buglers and three drummers have joined recently.

The Renton Eagles are rehearsing again. Plans for their trip to the Nationals now include money raising programs. I was informed that the group voted to join the Association and will definitely participate in several open competitions. . . . I would like to ask these Eagles to spark some enthusiasm into the Tacoma Eagles Drum Corps. . . . Chuck Johnson is organizing a bugle quartet for the N.W. contest.

The Bremerton Grenadiers have indicated that they will attend open contests providing enough members make a showing. Oscar Peterson has arranged some fine

music that should not go to waste. Manager Lyle Sunderland didn't send me much news this month but did send me \$2.00 to forward to the Drum Corps World for a subscription. . . . The V.F.W. winter conference was not too favorable for drum corps. Yes, they would like to have a Pageant of Drums -- but dislike paying. I was informed the main topic of discussion was the cost of judges. The net profit for the 1960 show was a minus \$500. The commission could invite numerous juniors and try advertising, for more success.

The date for the Northwest Championships has been established, March 19. It will be held at the Woodrow Wilson High School. Registration blanks are being mailed out. Class A and B contests will be limited to snare drums and soprano bugles. Let's make it a big show.

John Broderick and Al Wittman are working hard as executives of the Association. A pamphlet is being prepared - "How to Operate a Drum Corps". This is in answer to requests by potential corps. Letters to the Legion Commission brought forth an invitation to the Assoc. to attend the next meeting. Smith Sales of Chicago was contacted for outfitting new corps. A judges clinic is being organized for managers, etc. to ask questions on scoring, ruling, etc. during contests. This should clear up confusion and prevent feuding, it is hoped.

TO the EAST, MID and SOUTHWEST. During convalescence, Chuck Johnson has been thinking and has started a little ball rolling. We hope it becomes huge. In 1962 the "Century 21" Worlds Fair will open in Seattle. Chuck thinks this is the time to hold the biggest and best invitational contest ever to hit the area. At least two or three top-five-or-ten junior and senior corps should be present. Prize money should be substantial enough to lure them here. Such a contest would be the best shot in the arm that the Northwest could get. Local Legion, V.F.W., and Veteran's aid voiced favorable comment. We would like to hear from any East, Midwest, and Southwest corps of your views on a trip to Seattle. I will forward mail to the study committee.

Spokane drummer Del Blake is playing drum corps records, received for Christmas, for interested drummers. Since Archie's TV appearance Del has decided to do stick turning in the N.W. competition.

To Russ Bell - There seems to be quite a bit of news here and corps are developing more and more interest, records have helped a lot, and movies. . . . To Jack O'Brien - Re; drumming from a drummer - "if you close your eyes you can't see the style. . . . etc." If you close your eyes you also can't see the drill, strutting majors, dancing cymbalists, twirling, uniforms etc. Am not trying to be offensive, just defensive for drummers. . . . To Kathy and Sue - Your system appears to be very fair for judging an ENTIRE group rather than pieces of a group. It warrants consideration, I believe.

Until next month,
Mike
7328 40th Ave. S.W.
Seattle 16, Washington