

# DRUM CORPS WORLD

*The voice of the drum corps*

VOL. 11 NO. 6

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

JUNE 1961

PRICE 30¢





## THE NORTHWEST CORPS-NER

by Mike Stefanowicz

The third Washington State Drum Corps Association meeting was held at the Seattle Legion Post No. 11 hall on May 21st. The Drum Corps Commission meet was not held. No members showed. However, the Assoc. meeting was attended by Powers of Auburn, Maxom of Everett, Grant of Seattle, Leonard of the Thunderbirds, and Wittman of the Shamrocks. Numerous guest corps members brought the meeting total to about twenty-five . . . One major item covered was a resolution proposed by the Ellensburg Post asking for a 25 cent per capita tax on Legion members for Legion sponsored activities. Of this money 7 1/2 cents would go into a Drum Corps Fund. The Association accepted the resolution unanimously. This is 7 1/2 cents more than is now being ear-marked for Corps . . . Another major item covered concerned the Wash. State Assoc. championship and flag award. Points toward the award include:

- 10 points for corps sponsoring a field competition (10 maximum).
- 10 points for participating in a competition.
- 5 " first place in competition.
- 4 " second place in competition.
- 3 " third place in competition.
- 2 " fourth place in competition.
- 1 " fifth place in competition.

The senior and junior corps receiving most points during the competition season will be presented the flags at the last competition. The colors will be white with green fringes and green lettering . . . Mr. Dallam from Wenatchee took a roll of all corps expected to participate at the State Legion Convention. Housing is to be real sad - looks like dormitory style. Wives may be housed in the same way. Mr. Dallam will investigate trailer rentals also . . . This year the junior competition will be in the late afternoon with the winning corps presenting their drill during the evening show . . . The East is slowly winning out here; this year the major or a solo horn or drum may strut or move during the concert . . . Finally, the Assoc. will purchase judging guides and manuals for the corps managers . . . Next meeting will be in Wenatchee, date to be announced later.

The SEATTLE BETSUIN (BUDDHIST) Boy Scouts are quite active. They performed in the Chief Seattle Council Boy Scouts Circus, at the Olympic Area Council Fun-For-All in Bremerton, and participated in the Memorial parade. The corps is being well received at their turnouts. Rehearsals are strong and boys with most interest are working hard. A fine individual competition of bugles and drums was held on May 18. I only have the drum scores to date. Hershey Randall was the drum judge. He gave a fine pep talk to the drummers and even donned a drum for a Scotch number. Results were - SNARE: Scott Oki - 91, Bob Oki - 80, Jimmy Kuniyuke - 55, Kay Kuniyuke - 50; TENOR DRUM: Calvin Harada - 85, George Chen - 80, Wayne Mizuki - 50; BASS: Mike Omura - 75. Eight competitors out of 15 was

## SEATTLE "THUNDERBIRDS" ABOARD "HORNET"



The Seattle THUNDERBIRDS performed an exhibition drill aboard the Aircraft Carrier "HORNET" on May 14, 1961. The junior corps is the official Goodwill Ambassador for CENTURY 21, and is the official Drum and Bugle Corps for the 1961 Seattle Seafair celebrations. This photo was taken on the Carrier deck and is an "Official Photograph of the U. S. Navy".

not the best showing. Several of the older boys didn't show. Seven medals were awarded. Next month bugles scores and winners . . . The SEATTLE THUNDERBIRDS are probably the most active corps in the State and area. Rehearsals are strong, with new members joining . . . may hit thirty horns before this season ends . . . I hope, I hope, I hope. The Corps finally presented their competition routine aboard the carrier HORNET. This month's Northwest picture appears through the courtesy of the U. S. NAVY. Thank you, gentlemen. It was a very fine show. Five more appearances are on schedule for the next four weeks - Woodland Park, Ranier baseball game, Marysville parade, Chehalis show, and the State V.F.W. contest. The V.F.W. will be a competition and we will view the first payoff of Colonel Olson's and the boys and girls efforts. Colonel Olson, director of the R.O.T.C. and the University of Washington is the new drill instructor and disciplinarian. The gentleman means business, and the boys and girls are responding. The Corps theme this year is "Outplay Pasco" and they are working at it. The corps looked and sounded good in the Memorial Day parade . . . The SEATTLE SHAMROCKS are coming along but not fast enough. The group looked and sounded small during the Memorial Parade. News from this corps has slowed down very much . . . News from the PASCO COLUMBIANS has also slowed way down. I know that there are D.C.W. subscribers out there, and they may be unhappy, Earl Halverson. Why not appoint a member as publicity chief . . . The SEATTLE HURRICANES, Post No. 11, have been trying to get outside but the weather has put up a tough fight. Dean Grant tells me it looks like 21 horns now. Uniforms should be here for the competition at Everett. Dick Wilson is working stronger with the tenor drums and the snare line looks good. Chehalis show is next and then an exhibition during The Boeing Company supervisors annual show. The corps looked and sounded good in

the Memorial Parade. To Mike Bice, how about some news more often than once in six months . . . The AUBURN BLACK HAWKS, Post No. 78, promised me a picture for this month but none came in the mail or were delivered. Sunday practice should quit soon and start on Monday nites. Now Hershey Randall and Gene Otis may help poor lonesome-end Jack Morrison . . . EVERETT BLUE KNIGHTS, Post No. 6, are as spirited as ever and promise to attend all competitions and plan to win some or scare the pants off everybody. The corps is still growing but may stop at 16 horns. Drum line may be a little new but we're all pulling for them. Ron Stockton, one of D.C.W.'s most ardent boosters, finally has subscribed . . . WENATCHEE Legion will compete in the State A. L. but that's all we know to date. WEST SEATTLE Juniors, Post No. 160, is still organizing. I understand drum instruction has started with Ellis Comfort teaching Good luck to you, Ellis, I hope it will be right handed. Jerry Chambers tells me it looks like 12 horns and 12 drums right now. Yikes!! I hope they can find 88 more horns. (Someone from the East wrote an article about this ratio) . . . DEL BLAKE from Spokane the senior Northwest Open champion in drumming sent some very fine and inspirational news. He has been awarded a four-year full tuition music scholarship at Gonzaga University, Wash. Very best of luck, Del. This should be a spur to other drummers. His correspondence throughout the country is growing, with the big boys, Middleton, Nardelli, etc. Howie Rogers, drum instructor, percussionist, etc., held a drummer's picnic in Spokane. Drummers banged out "Down fall", rudiments, and had a ball. We should have more of this.

Received a nice letter from John Whitlock Jr. of St. Paul saying that Bob Eby of the St. Paul Scouts will soon move to Tacoma, Wash. John suggested that the Thunderbirds should invite this boy to join. It will be a long drive for Bob but they'll

Continued next page



# SMOGLAND STREETBEATS

by Jim Davis and Vern Nelson

WOW! Sick is how everyone felt, while we took the boat to Santa Catalina Island, the site of the only drum corps contest for the month of May.

It was 8:00 P.M., Friday, the 12th of May. The weather was very bad and there were storm warnings up for all small craft to stay out of the water. There on a dock, in Long Beach, Calif. stood about one hundred and fifty people waiting for a boat to take them to a small resort island in the Pacific Ocean. Yes, this is how one of the wildest drum corps weekends I have ever spent got started.

Saturday morning was quite a contrast to the night before when everyone had been seasick. It was bright and sunny and the junior corps (four in all) were outside practicing for the contest to be held later that day. The first line of business for the four corps was the meeting of the passenger ships at the docks. There were two ships coming in so each one was received by two corps. After this was over there was a parade up to the contest field. This was a standard show, so there was no M & M score. The first corps to play was the Lakewood Ambassadors. This was the host corps and their score did not count. Their music was of a crowd-pleasing nature and was accepted by all as a very good job. Next to play were Doctor Broadwell's girls in red and white, Monterey Park. It would be impossible for me to tell you how much this corps has improved in the past year. Their music followed a fast and jazzy theme. Here is a corps that will give all comers a hard time at the State contest this year. Then came the L.A. Boy Scouts #379. They were the most military of all the units and put on a very sharp show. Nice work, Ronnie. Last, but not least, were the L.A. Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps. They did a very fine job with more dynamics in their music than ever before. As soon as the last corps had finished, they lined up all the other corps and had a short parade through the streets of Avalon. From this parade the judges derived an M & M score which was then added to the scores received on the contest field. For the rest of the time on the island the kids were free to do as they pleased.

Sunday morning everyone was up early

## NORTHWEST CORPS-NER (Cont'd)

be after him . . . Latest word from Ernie LeClerc is that he is out on field training with the Army, but hopes to make the Bellingham V.F.W. contest.

I still have two of the beautiful Ludwig Merit Award medals. I am reluctant to hand out these medals to two deserving drummers in this area because I think there are at least five such people. I suggest that Gene Otis, Jack Morrison, Hershey Randall, John Broderick, and Warren Cealy all enter the State A. L. individual contest and the two top men take them . . .

Once again, the very best of luck to all drum corps, everywhere.

waiting for the contest results. At 11:00 A.M. Mr. Bill Francis made the scores public. In fourth place were the Lakewood Ambassadors with a score of 84.5. Third place went to the Monterey Park Girls with 86.45. Second went to the Japanese Boy Scouts with 90.7. That leaves the L.A. Chinese the first place corps, score 91.25. As you can see, all of the scores were very close which means that the State contest will be a lot tougher than Colonel Huxley thought it would be. After the public announcement of the scores, the corps got their gear together and all left for the Mainland.

## THE QUICKIE KORNER:

Spoke to Ronnie Sugiyama and he tells me that the trip to Japan for his corps has finally come true and they are going to go next Summer ('62). Boy, there is a real trip for any corps.

Bill Francis (Manager, Lakewood Ambassadors) is stirring up more contests by himself than a committee of ten could do. Good boy!

Received a letter from Paul "Butch" O'Neill of the Saint Kevin Emerald Knights. I went right out to my car and put your booster sticker on it, Paul. Good luck to you and your corps. Hope to see all of you at the Nationals.

Joe O'Day's all girl drum corps in Santa Barbara not together yet, but it is definitely more than a rumor.

The Culver City Imperials having a bad time with no steady drum major. John Hollenback doing a bang up job as a fill-in.

Colonel Huxley getting a little nervous over this State contest predictions. All corps are better than he had thought.

Wait, could it be that Southern Cal's big senior corps will be playing music from the pen of a well known Midwest writer (Chicago Cavies) next year?

Need anything in the line of music or drums? Don't forget our own "Drum City" in Hollywood. See their ad in this issue.

How many corps from our great State will be making the trip to Denver and the Nationals this year?

Good gravy! I almost forgot to mention that the Highlanders Color Guard were also at Santa Catalina Island. This color guard, under the direction of Bobby Clapp, did a fine job and were a bright and snappy unit in the parade.

You should receive this issue of D.C.W. before the California State contest on June 27th. I would like to wish you all the best of luck and I would like to see every unit come out the winner.

There is an old saying that you should save the best until last. I can't because there is nothing else to say except

DRUM CORPS FOREVER . . . Vern

## FLASHING LASSIES

Well, here it is almost summer and things are really beginning to happen. Parades are becoming more exciting with State competition just around the corner.

In order to brighten the surroundings a bit, our drum corps holds its annual semi-formal dance with the installation of new officers. This year the event fell on the 25th of March. The newly elected President of the corps, Claudia, is head drill master for our junior corps. We would like to offer our congratulations to her. We hope to name the other officers at a later date.

The drum corps was invited to an overnight parade at Avalon, Catalina Island, on May 12th. The trip over was an unexpected experience, since we were in the worse seas, within the channel in 15 years. We rode in a 50 foot boat which resembled some type of fishing boat. (When we left the small craft warnings were already up.) It was quite an experience. Our schedule the next day was really crowded. Inspection was held at 10:30 A.M. followed by the dedication of a new high school baseball field on which a standstill competition was held. We then proceeded into a marching and maneuvering competition. There were four corps present including: Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps, Japanese Boy Scout Troop 379, the Lakewood Ambassadors, who served as host, and the Monterey Park Girls Drum and Bugle Corps. Our drummers received 2nd place with a rating of superior and our bugles received the same rating only .4 of a point from first place. We would like to thank the Avalon Chamber of Commerce for this very fun-filled event and hope we will be allowed to return next year for this drum corps competition. We played for the big steamer, the U.S.S. Catalina, then boarded our own boat for the return trip home. Thank goodness the water was much calmer. The drum corps made a very good showing at this parade since we were about 80 strong and the largest drum corps there.

The next parade that we will attend is the "Hi Neighbor!" parade in the neighboring city of Alhambra on the 27th of May.

On the 2nd of June the drum corps will go up the coast about 100 miles to march in the annual Elk's Rodeo Parade in Santa Maria, California. We will spend two very exciting days there and will come home on the 4th of June. On the way home the corps will have its annual beach party at Carpinteria, which is put on by the parents. This has always been one of the highlights of the year for all and this year should prove the most enjoyable of all.

As you can see, the drum corps does not stay in one place too long. There are always many things to do and fun to be had, but this is not all we do. At present we are working very hard for State competition, which is to be held soon and we sincerely hope that our work will be rewarded.

Yours truly, Pat, Jane & Judy

## OVERSEA CAPS

WOOL WHIPCORD

IN CORPS COLORS

\$2.09

## MAGES UNIFORM STYLIST

786 GENESEE STREET

BUFFALO 11. N.Y.