

DRUM CORPS WORLD

The voice of the drum corps

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THE NORTHWEST CORPS-NER

by Mike Stefanowicz

On Feb. 12 another small milestone was passed. John Broderick and Al Wittman of the Washington State Drum Corps Association were invited to a meeting of the Drum Corps Commission. The spirit of the meeting was excellent. John and Al pitched real hard for firm rules for the A.L. contest, use of All-American judges, color guard contest, and trophies for junior and senior events. Frank Sether, chairman, and State Adjutant Fred Fuecher were not only sympathetic but enthusiastic. Individual and quartet contests were also re-and-activated. Money will be allotted for sufficient prizes in all categories. Thus far, only one individual per class per corps will be allowed to enter because of lack of time. However, out of ten corps probably seven drummers might enter; that is about 45 minutes, at most. One bugler per corps out of five types of bugles doesn't seem right. All in all, disregard my needling, we were all happy to hear of the spirit of the Commission.

Gordy Isaacson of the Wenatchee Corps has arranged a meeting at Wenatchee to outline plans for the state A. L. convention. Critical housing will be discussed. At this time the Drum Corps Association and Commission will both convene. Larry Dallam will direct the convention activities and it sure will be a busy March 12th.

The University Post No. 14 Hurricanes are working on raising \$3000 uniform money. (I mentioned the Post number as suggested by Russ Bell -- and now to sell the Post some DRUM CORPS WORLD copies). Manager Dean Grant has had Booster buttons made to be sold to any and all. A sample uniform is on its way. Black, red, and white, with the lightning bolt. Another ex-Marine drum corps man has just joined the corps., I didn't get his name yet. The Imperials of California sent his address. Good old George Upton of the same Imperials, that jumping major, has visited the Hurricanes twice in the past month and a half. He has helped the horn line by the hour, nearly holding classes. The help is really appreciated, George. Keep pounding on the multi-part harmony and heavy chords. The corps will perform during the mid-winter contest. Field practice is to start early this year, April. The annual banquet for past managers and new members was a gay successful affair. It is again rumored that Gordy Gould is retiring as major. Tony Constantino may replace him. But, Gordy has come back for three years so far, after retiring each year.

The C.Y.O. Shamrocks almost had girl drummers and horn players but this was ruled out. It is hoped that manager Al Wittman will organize that all-girl corps. They can outplay many boy drummers and buglers. Warren Ceely, director, is working hard on New Jersey style harmony and chording. Keep at it, Warren! We need that sound. It really did my heart good to hear that Brad Wittman, corps champion drummer, is selecting a John Pratt solo for the mid-winter contest. We need this kind of sound too. The corps paraded on Feb. 12th; it led the Catholic Boy Scouts and played for all the units as they entered the Cathedral.