

DRUM CORPS WORLD

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This is the fired-up month for some of the Northwest crowd. One of my fond hopes came true in September. Members of four Washington corps (that I know of) visited the Legion Nationals in Denver. The effect on the visitors was very profound. In fact, I had never heard these people so enthusiastic and spirited. We truly hope that the Denver visit shall have been a milestone toward bigger and improved corps in this area.

First, the names of the visitors. From the Everett Blue Knights, brothers Ed and Fred Adrian. From the Seattle Hurricanes, John Broderick, Gary Bryan, Benny Dinsmore, Dick McLeod, and Scotty Hendricks. From the Auburn Black Hawks, Louis Hitchcock, Bob Gaines, John Cline, and Jimmy Loan. From Pasco, the ENTIRE CORPS of the Tri-Cities Columbians, plus parents and manager Earl Halverson and drum instructor Pete Wells.

The COLUMBIANS loved Denver, the competitions, the people, and corps members. Although placing 11th in the preliminaries, 19 points down from Garfield, we were very proud of this bunch of hard working boys. They were a little disappointed in themselves but not at all bitter. Instead, they came home loaded with respect for Garfield and the Royal Airs, and awed by the Hawthorne Caballeros. The boys are now corresponding with newly found friends - male and female - learning of new gimmicks and routines from the BIG BOYS (afore-mentioned). It wasn't long after the corps played in the prelims (first on the field) that they realized they were in rough company and outclassed. The horns did a very good job, 25.5 but drums and M & M were down. The score sheet comments will be instructors for the fall and winter practices. Two nites a week, building a much bigger horn line, trickier drumming, assistant instructors and, then, to make a much better showing in LAS VEGAS. Yes, the corps is fired up! . . . The Denver trip was not easy. The parents and boys, in uniform, walked many miles, house to house, in three towns. The people of Pasco, Kennewick, and Richland responded very generously. The corps is slightly in the red but very wealthy in experience and spirit. We are looking forward to a new big and better Columbian corps and hope that their spirit is infectious throughout the state.

The EVERETT BLUE KNIGHTS were sparked by the Adrians on their return and this corps is also planning to attend the LAS VEGAS competition. The Adrians were surprised by the strength and calibre of the midwest corps. Ed said he had seen the Caballeros before but the Boys of '76, Royal Airs, St. Louis, etc. surprised him. Size of corps was very impressionable. (Here, the largest corps may hit 20 horns on a good turn-out.) If Ron Stockton can double or triple the Everett horn line a showing in the first five could result.

THE SOUTHLAND

by
William W. Jacobus

The Southeastern Drum and Bugle Corps Circuit completed their 1961 contest season in Gastonia, North Carolina on Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 1961. In the Junior Division the final contest saw the young St. Mary's Cadets of Georgetown, S.C. defeat the Presidents of Greenville, Tennessee by a close six tenths of a point, 87.65 to 87.05. The Rambling Rebels of Gastonia, N.C. took top honors in the Senior Division by scoring 82.7 points to defeat the Rebels of Greenville, S.C. who scored 81.45 points.

The Southeastern Circuit Board of Directors will meet in Greenville, S.C. on Saturday, Oct. 7th to set up plans for the 1962 season and elect new officers.

From FLORIDA comes word that the Vanguards, with Bill Hayes as instructor, are looking forward to a big year in 1962. Cliff LaRue of the Vanguards says they are well on their way to becoming a big threat to all corps.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Chicago Cavaliers for proving, beyond a doubt, (prelims and finals) that they are the V.F.W.

Lots of luck, Blue Knights . . . The SEATTLE HURRICANES are also all spit and fire since Broderick, Bryan, and crowd returned. Thirty horns is the goal for '61 - likely no Las Vegas trip for this group, still have uniform money to clear up. Forty horns for '62 for the V.F.W. Nationals here. Plans that have been made include 2 majors, a change of more than half of the music, hard sticks for tenors, no tenor twirling, rudimental tenors, guidons to full colors, huge recruiting campaign for members in all categories. Make it a big outfit, Dean Grant and gang . . . The AUBURN BLACK HAWKS got their pep talk shortly after the Gaines gang returned from Denver. Even a hard-nosed man like Louis Hitchcock was truly impressed. I especially liked part of his speech to the members "Are we going to move, or are we going to remain a mediocre corps?". (Auburn has won 8 state titles in 18 years.) Bob Gaines' statement is not true but he said it this way. "We thought we had a corps but we haven't got anything". The corps' plans have not been made yet but you can bet that they will be right up there with this state's leaders.

All of the visitors to Denver had none but the finest and most complimentary words of praise for every corps and the many, many corpsmen that they met personally. The Caballeros, Black Knights, Garfield, Sky-Ryders, etc., all had many tips to offer on playing, raising money, rehearsals. In all of the conversations about Denver our visitors mentioned how friendly and nicely they were treated by the champions and contenders alike. It was good to hear! We chuckled about this incident. Jimmy Loans from Auburn essentially told D'AMICO, champion soloist with Hawthorne, "You can't play it that way". Whereupon D'Amico played the passage with particular ease. I guess you have to be careful when challenging Hawthorne's men . . . My most memorable thrill was watching the Caballeros midnight music

National Junior Champions! Congratulations, also, to the famed Reading Buccaneers in successfully defending their V.F.W. National Champion Senior title!

GEORGIA was well represented at the Southeastern Circuit contest in Georgetown, S.C. on August 19th when the famed Monroe Girls made their first M & M appearance. The young ladies put on a top notch exhibition and proved to all of us that the South has a girl's corps of championship calibre.

The big drum corps event in South Carolina was the Southeastern Circuit contest held in Georgetown on August 19th. The fine Garfield Cadets, the Springfield Marksmen, the Reading Buccaneers, and the Monroe Girls all put on exhibitions while the four Circuit Corps competed for prizes. As if by a prearranged signal an all day long rain stopped just at contest time . . . to allow the event to go on. Then it started pouring again right after retreat. The northern corps set this small community on fire! A special word of THANKS from all of us here goes out to each and every corps for their part in this show. (I will bring out some of the highlights of this contest next issue.)

practice session. Sixty, or so, horns sat in a semi-circle in the motel yard. And when they blasted a triple 'F' you heard and felt POWER. I think you even saw it, when the nearby instrument truck swayed. Man, what a horn line!!! The drum rehearsal was also a real pleasure to watch and hear. They have an excellent drum section. Frank Arsenault and I watched and we talked some of our old days in the standstills. Anyone may say what they wish about the good old days - but - we agreed - today's drumming surpasses the old by many hundreds of miles.

It was a pleasure meeting and talking with Dick Quigley, Hawthorne manager and also Costello who directed the drum practice. I was so engrossed in their horns and drums that I forgot to ask them many questions I had in mind. Russ Bell is a real, real drum corps man. Saw him with some Garfield people and was tempted to inform the Royal Airs that he is fickle. Quite a guy. Mr. Rocco Tarsitano is as dynamic a man as I've met in a long time. I liked Mrs. Tarsitano's description. "Look for a slightly greying man, waving Drum Corps World magazines, and making a lot of noise". Also, quite a guy. And Mrs. Harman has a fabulous memory for contests, results, winners. A most charming and gracious lady.

Here, in the Northwest, eastern Oregon is working on more and better corps. Pendleton is still active, recruiting more people and talking about competing in LAS VEGAS. They recently won the Umatilla Fair parade award, and played at the Portland All-Star Shrine game. They are modernizing the music. Hope to see them in future competitions . . . The ATHENA FALCONS are working hard. Del Lee, manager, tells me new horns will be purchased - I hope about 45. The corps won the best marching award in Umatilla, second in Pendleton Round-Up. This corps is shooting for N.A.R.D. drummers as is the rest of Oregon. We wish Del Lee's crowd and all the rest of you the best of luck. We know

Continued next page

THE WESTMORELANDER

This is my first article covering Westmoreland County located in western Pennsylvania in which I plan to feature a different corps each month along with news from the corps already covered.

The Ebensburg contest started out to be a very close one, with the Latrobe Colonials, Westmoreland Esquires, and Archer Epler Musketeers performing in that order. Mechanicsburg Westshoremens were on next, but during their concert the wind and rain really came. The contest was called after they had crossed the finish line, with the Pittsburgh Rockets and Tyrone Gardner Guards on the ready line. The Esquires looked better than they had all year, while Archie was not the Old Archie. I think the Esquires may have upset them, but I have not been able to get any of the scores.

The following day was the big contest at South Park (Allegheny Fair) in Pittsburgh but I stayed out of the hot sun. Instead I watched the contest at home . . . on television. The camera coverage was very good, but the announcer kept talking while the corps were performing their drills making it difficult to hear the music. The Reading Buccaneers walked off with first prize of \$1,700 with a score of 86.19, followed by Archer-Epler, 84.9; Reilly Raiders, 83.81; Pittsburgh Rockets, 83.78; Royalaires, 83.19; and Baltimore Yankee Rebels, 81.09. The Latrobe Colonials were the stand-by corps this year. The crowd really went wild over the Royalaires and they got a standing ovation as they went by in retreat. After the contest, Reading, Baltimore, Reilly, and the Royalaires went

to the Irwin V.F.W. Post where a party sponsored by the Esquires was successfully held. The corps enjoyed their ham dinner and suggested and requested that the Esquires also serve breakfast next year.

On Labor Day afternoon the Esquires took first prize in the parade and performed an exhibition in the evening at Manor. This marked the last appearance for Ron Leake, Drum Major; Russ Fultz, Color Guard Captain; and Harold Dehappart, lead bugler. Their reserve unit had received orders to report to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

The Esquires, having been organized for only two years, are pleased with their fine record of 5 first, 2 second, and 1 fourth place this year in field competition. Next year they plan to compete in Class A only, and to increase their horn line from 33 to 39 horns. I went to one of their Music and Drill Committee meetings, and the first 5 minutes of next year's drill is already composed. The function of this committee of 12 experienced members is to work with Karl Siedel, the drill instructor, to gather ideas and work them down to scale on paper, being very careful trying not to have anything another corps has done, for they want their own style. As for music, the Esquires plan to keep only "Rags To Riches" from this year's music. Since I cannot mention any names, there are 3 men who wish to arrange music and teach the horn line. The Esquires are bringing one man in every other Sunday for a 4 to 6 hour practice to see what each one has to offer and then decide on the one who can be the biggest help to the corps. In the next issue I will be able to reveal his name.

James Clawson

THE NORTHWEST CORPS-ner (con't)

you will make it with a little help. The BAKER BOY SCOUTS of the Baker, Ore. B.P.O.E. took the junior parade award in Pendleton. Hope to hear and see more of this corps soon. The DALLS GIRLS BOOSTER CORPS is active in Ore. Please let us know more about your outfit. Would like to hear, also, from LEATHERNECKS, HAWTHORNE HAWKS, and KLAMATH FALLS. Best to you, Oregon!!!

The SEATTLE THUNDERBIRDS have elected new officers for the coming year. Jack Avery, director; Roderick Stubbs, manager; Harold Espeseth, financial secretary; Don Jacobson, treasurer; Margaret Grinolds, recording secretary; Edith Briggs, correspondence secretary; Sharley Nelson, publicity; Fred Kirkland, asst. publicity; Hal Caffee, transport and housing; Bill Terhune, uniforms; Bob Temple, instruments. Mr. Stubbs and Avery are recruiting and shooting for 45 horns, drummers are working on music reading, new music is being prepared . . . The SEATTLE BUDDHIST BOY SCOUTS closed the '61 season with a double win at Issaquah. First place in the parade and also the sweepstakes trophy for the best out-of-town unit - some 70 units were entered. Charles Powers, parade chairman, will present the trophies to major Alan Harada, Captain Martin Mano, and the corps during the Scout Court of Honor. The corps now has 43 members, 27 horns, and they are going for 40 next year. Harry Ham-

mond and Bob Oki are looking for a drill instructor, and indicated that the corps may compete in '62 . . . The Victoria, B.C. THUNDERBIRDS, all girls drum corps, is looking for competition, but to date they are alone, with drums only. Would like to see them add horns and compete here. We're sure they would provide some new and refreshingly novel music from above the border. Give it a try, Bob Armstrong . . . The SEATTLE BLUE ANGELS have a fine start. Frank Sousa procured 21 bugles and has 14 in the percussion section. Music director is Mr. Rantz, band director from Chinook High. He is eager to do drum corps work. They will play some military. Color Guard will include 12 to 16. Ed Terry, Post 235 past commander, is helping very much. The McMicken Heights people are helping with a hall, money, and adult guidance. Bob Broten is helping Jack Morrison with drums. Broten is starting beginners. Once again I appeal to Jack and Bob -- please, teach the boys right-handed drumming. The whole country plays one way, the N.A.R.D. rudiments are written on way. If you insist on left-handedness then make them switch drummers, like Mickey Mantle's batting. Sousa thanks the Buddhist Boys for instrument and corps help. . . Congratulations to the champions, Cavaliers and Garfield, and the Caballeros and Buccaneers . . . Best of everything to all corps and members, everywhere.

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