

DRUM CORPS WORLD

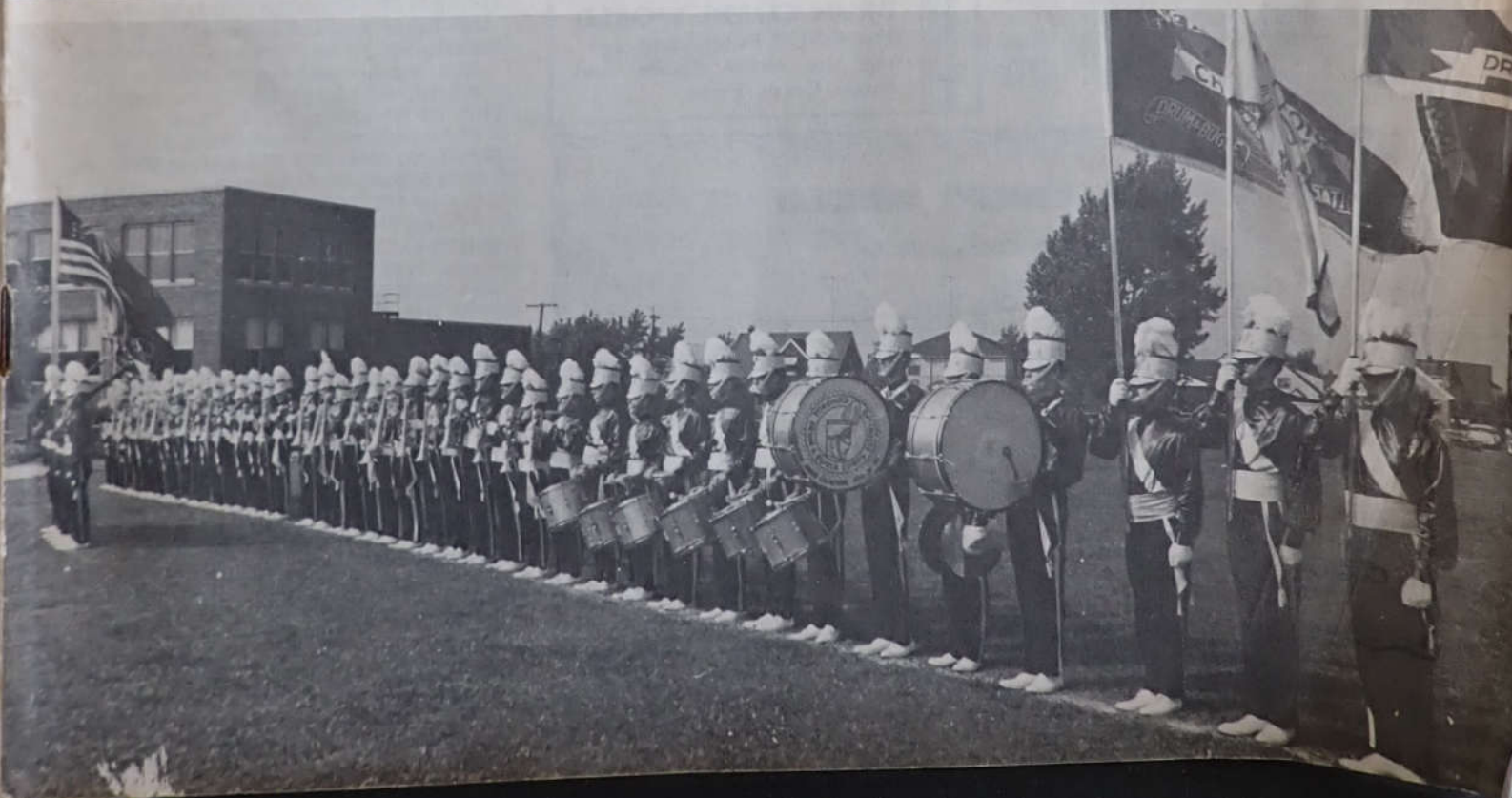
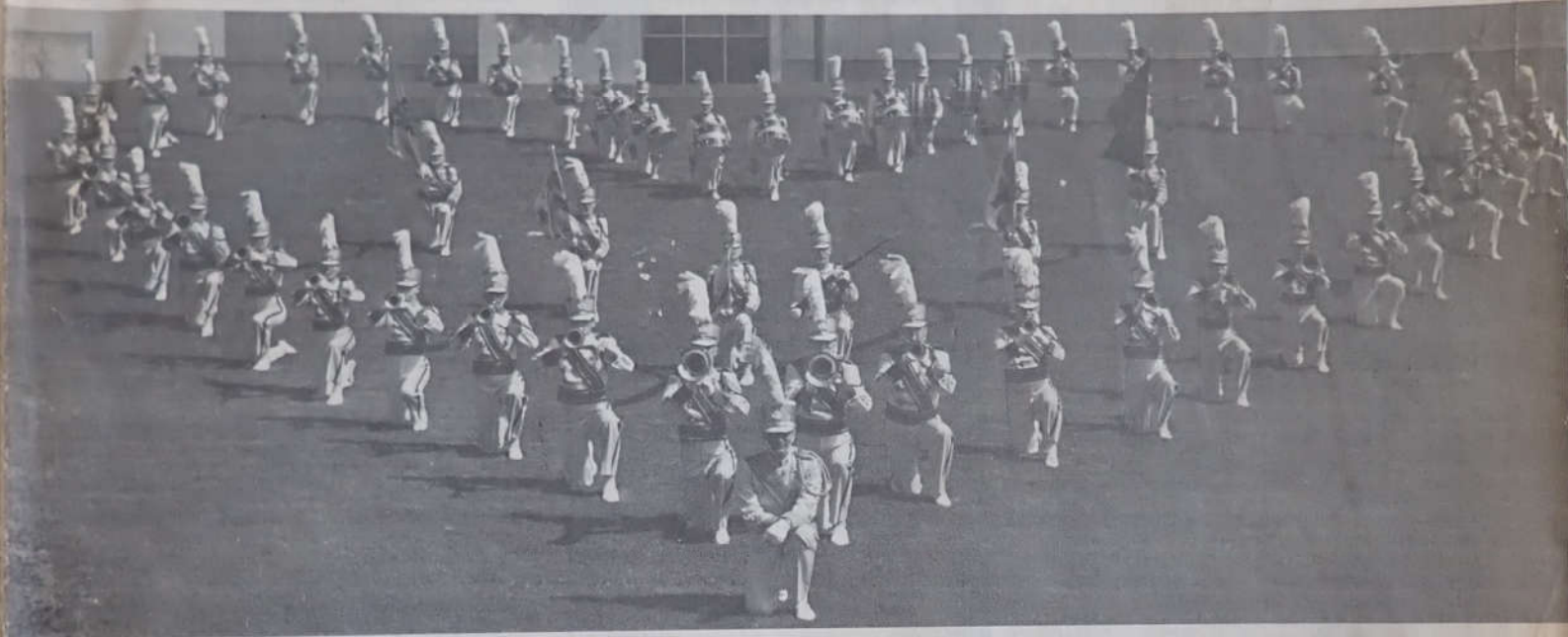
The voice of the drum corps

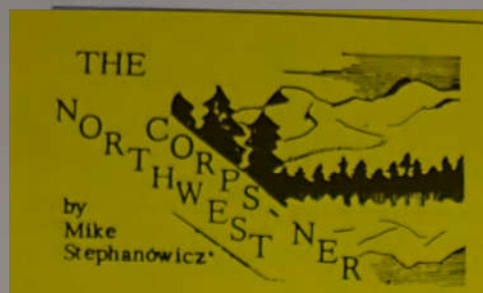
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I wish to start this month's column with a look into the future.

First we heard it on the radio, then saw it in the newspaper, and finally we received official verification from local officers. The news is that the 1963 V.F.W. NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. This is tremendous news, indeed! Now the Northwest will be able to see and hear the perfection of the eastern outfits. We sincerely hope that at least two or more top seniors and about five top juniors will be able to make the trip out to Seattle. Nothing finer could happen to spur drum corps activity in this area than to be invaded and conquered (I'm a realist) by Archie, Reilly, St. Kevin's, Blessed Sacrament, Cavaliers, etc.

This wonderful future show offers the Northwest a real challenge. The Seattle Hurricanes, Auburn Black Hawks, and Everett Blue Knights have indicated that they are eager to accept this challenge. In the juniors, the Thunderbirds, Tri-Cities Columbians, Shamrocks, and the new Blue Angels are also eager. These are nearly all Legion corps but will become combination units soon. There is but one V.F.W. senior in the state and surely we should have a much better representation than that. Horn lines will have to be built up, however; 10 to 20 horns would not be enough.

The show would also offer something else. The corps that have been rated high by some local judging can prove their rating. The corps that have been rated lower than the top can prove that they have been wronged. The corps will be judged on a national basis, by nationally rated and experienced judges. The competition will be against the nations best. The contest imposes a mammoth challenge to all corps in the area. The unafraid and ambitious will meet the challenge and try. No one could ask more. Those who do not try should remain very, very quiet.

The Canadian THUNDERBIRDS ALL GIRLS from Victoria B.C. have had a fine season, manager R. Armstrong tells me. They marched in a parade in Port Townsend, another in Victoria and a big parade in Sidney, B.C. A parade in Calgary, for the famed stampede, was a highlight. The people loved the gals there. The final reported parade was at the Pacific Northwest Exposition in Vancouver. The girls won 1st over the Seattle Thunderbirds. The group would like to enter competition soon. Build up a horn line, Mr. Armstrong, and you will find at least 6 chances for competing in '62. . . . The Seattle BUDDHIST BOY SCOUTS have been very busy parading and exhibitioning. The corps placed 2nd in the HI YU parade. They brought home the Seafair Plaque from the Capital Hill parade. Other parades included the Governor's, Seattle Seafair, Seattle Torchlight, Chinatown, and Greenwood District. Also

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the corps performed at the opening of the Japanese Bon Odori. This unit is looking for a drill instructor, any takers? Next event in October will be a grand individual contest with all members competing. Everyone is invited to cheer the boys. . . . The TRI-CITIES COLUMBIANS will have been to Denver by now and we will have a figure of merit from their scores. We hope they will have fared well. . . . The BLUE ANGELS of Seattle have begun rolling. Jack Morrison, present A.L. state champ, is instructing drums and his brother Bob is instructing bugles and drill. Drum section has 13 men; they are striving for 32 horns. Overseas hats have been obtained and are being worn to rehearsals, one nite per week. Some money is rolling in, from shows, candy and corsage sales. The two sponsors, McMicken Heights Community Club and the A.L. Post 235 Riverton Heights have been exceptionally helpful. Thank you, men, for helping boys. A note to Jack Morrison, PLEASE teach the boys to play right handed like the rest of the country. if the boys ever move they'll have some problems. . . . The Seattle THUNDERBIRDS won 2nd in the Pacific National Exposition parade, Inspirational Trophy in the Snoqualmie parade, 2nd in the Seattle University District parade and the Color Guard won 1st in the Capital Hill parade. Also, they paraded in the Torchlight, Ross Field dedication and gave an exhibition at the Seafair finale in Seward Park, Seattle. PAUL BURKHART of the Illinois VAQUEROS, 1st horn, joined the corps 2 weeks before the state contest and helped very much. Four new horns are joining in September. Sad news is that the state A.L. and Northwest junior champ Ron Falconburg has left the corps for one year.

The RENTON EAGLES made the trip to Minneapolis to compete in the National Eagles contest and were disappointed to find themselves alone (out of 3) in the contest. But they were happy to bring the championship title to Seattle. They placed 2nd to Hamm's Indians in the parade against 13 corps. They will discuss, soon, the chances of attending the '63 V.F.W. contest in Seattle.

Lee Allen, manager of the ATHENA FALCONS, sent some OREGON news. At the state A.L. convention the Hawthorne Hawks 1st, Woodburn Boys School 2nd, Astoria Marionettes 3rd and Athena Falcons 4th, in the junior division. The Leather-necks of Portland copped the senior title with the Klamath Falls Legion 2nd. Leather-neck Ron Cline 1st in drums and Bill Schram 1st in bari bugle. Klamath Falls took 1st in soprano horn. The Falcon boys did well in the individuals, 1st tenor drum,

2nd bass drum, 2nd and 3rd soprano bugle, 1st and 2nd in bari bugle, 2nd in snares. The bugle quartet took 1st and the drum quartet took 3rd. The corps won a ribbon and cup in the Milton parade. The V.F.W. contest was called no show because only Athena was there. The Falcons are instructed by Ted White on horns, Ray Blaylock on drums and Lyle Shields and Roy Moore handle the drill. We hope to see this whole crowd several times next year.

The Wash. State A.L. championships are now over. Congratulations to WENATCHEE Seniors and to TRI-CITIES (Pasco) for their 1st place wins. The order of the senior finish was WENATCHEE, AUBURN, EVERETT, BELLINGHAM, and SEATTLE. Five points separated 1st and 5th. The juniors finished TRI-CITIES, THUNDERBIRDS, and SHAMROCKS. I understand .3 point separated 1st and 2nd. Ron Stockton of the Everett Blue Knights won the best major award. Many congratulations, Ron! Jeanne Kelly of the Seattle Hurricanes won the majorette award and Maxine Bagley of the Auburn Black Hawks placed 2nd. Kathy Loftis of the Thunderbirds won the junior majorette prize. The Bellingham Falcons won the senior parade award. John Anderson of Auburn won the individual senior bugle and Jack Morrison of the same corps won the drumming title. Ron Falconburg of the Thunderbirds won the junior drumming title and the quartet of the same corps won in drums. Bob Wiemuth of Tri-Cities won the top bugle prize and the bugle quartet of the same corps won that trophy. The Hurricanes and Thunderbird Color Guards took top awards.

Comments on this state convention could be many and varied. But thanks to ED CAGNEY (Report from Rocket-Land) I have an out. Jack Miller, chief of the A.A. judging Assoc. in Wash., stated he would hate to be me for this issue. Ed Cagney mentioned that local sour grapes are not at a national level, so I'll only mention a few sidelights. The Hurricanes, past two year's state champs, placed last of five. Seems incredible. It is. The bugle judge said that jazz does not belong in drum corps. Poor Archie and Skyliners would have it rough here. Comment on bugle G.E. sheet, Corps A bugle not up to other corps. Corps A was FIRST on the field. M & M and G.E. judges asked friends to help fill out score sheets. they hadn't seen them before. Some corps members liked these judges who hadn't seen score sheets before; makes it fair for everybody. However, there was essentially no griping against the championship winners. The drum judge did nearly all of his work in back of the drummers. In general, I would say that buglers and drummers that have put in from 1000 to 5000 hours practice (I have passed the last figure) in their lifetimes do not care for such judging. Enough.

The last contest of the season was held in Seattle before a crowd of about 600. The Thunderbirds outscored the Shamrocks 83.5 to 75.2. The Hurricanes edged the Blue Knights 83.7 to 82.7. The Blue Knights did an exceptionally fine job and were the audience's choice. The Hurricanes fell out of time badly in their concert, lacked dynamics and had some weak bugling, at times. The Blue Knights sported alternat-

Continued next page

DENVER DOTS & DASHES

The corps from Bethel #18, Jobs Daughters, of Westminster, Colorado, took first place in the competition at the annual convention at Richmond, Virginia, August 14. This is the first year that Jobs Daughters have held a separate contest for corps - in previous years any corps entering had to compete against drill teams.

Bethel 18 formed their corps six years ago, and have entered national contests each year. They have taken four first places and one third place in prior years. Their drill master is Mayro Cox, formerly drum major of the Centennial Grenadiers, and still active as a drill instructor with the Blue Knights. Mr. McCormick is corps manager, Mrs. McCauley corps guardian, and Mary Gunther is drum majorette.

They have participated in many parades in the Denver area, and will march in the National Legion Convention Parade.

The Blue Knights journeyed to Rawlins, Wyoming, for the annual parade at the Carbon County Fair. The increased interest in D & B corps in this Rocky Mountain area was evidenced by the participation of four junior corps. In addition to the two better known corps of the area - The Blue Knights of Lakewood and Denver, and the Troopers of Casper, Wyoming - there were the Rangers from Cheyenne, Wyoming and the Junior Police Corps from Rock Springs, Wyoming.

The latter group has been organized only three months, and at least one bugler has been playing only four weeks, but they already are catching the drum corps spirit. The boys are organized under the sponsorship of Chief of Police Lewis Muir, with Al Fanelli as music director. The youngest boy in the corps is 7, the oldest 14, and the average age is 11.

After the parade all four corps were guests of the parade committee in the city park, and there was a goodly amount of drum corps talk on the part of both corps members and supervisors. One of the results was an offer to the Rock Springs group of some used bugles from Jim Jones of the Troopers, and some drill assistance from Mayro Cox of the Blue Knights. Everyone seems really determined to get some real drum corps activity in the Rocky Mountain area.

Betty Elogel

NORTHWEST CORPS-NER (Continued)

ing red, white, and blue jackets, marched well, but were weak on precise drumming. At the show the Association annual prizes were awarded to the corps compiling most points during the year. The Shamrocks took the junior 3-1/2 foot trophy with 91 and the Hurricanes took the senior four footer with 81. Also the Albert Rossellini Governor's trophy was presented to the Thunderbirds and the Governor's plaque went to the Color Guard of the Thunderbirds.

I would like to offer sincerest congratulations to the new V.F.W. senior national snare drum champion. I could not be in Miami to try to defend my last year's win. Further, congrats to all champions in the V.F.W. and A.L.

In closing, best of luck to all corps and members, everywhere, and we hope to see many of you in Seattle in '63.

FLASHING LASSIES

The summer heat is finally getting to us. Our schedule is not quite so crowded now. It offers us a little time to recuperate. Many of the corps took part in a field competition held in Culver City on August 5th. We were unable to attend because we had already scheduled another parade for that day. But among the participants were the Japanese Boy Scouts, Maryknoll, Los Angeles Chinese, and the Senioritas. The field competition was held after a parade in which not only those drum corps participated but also the Lakewood Ambassadors. The competition was keen and all the corps did very well. Los Angeles Chinese won first place with the Japanese Boy Scouts close behind. The Maryknoll all girls drum corps took third and the Senioritas, last place. The Ambassadors were not able to participate in the competition because of a loss of a part of their drum section. We feel very sorry about this and hope that they will soon have replacements. The Ambassadors, however, were able to participate in the Long Beach Beauty Pageant because the Japanese Boy Scouts were generous enough to loan them some of their drummers. That was very commendable of the Boy Scouts and it improved greatly their already good name!

On August 10th our corps took part in the much heard of Santa Barbara Fiesta Parade. The gala parade was quite an event for it was the first time that drum corps were permitted to participate. We were served a very nice lunch and after

this we proceeded to visit the Santa Barbara Mission. This mission is one of the many that Father Serra erected many years ago. The whole trip was quite an event and we hope to return next year.

On August 16th our drum corps went to the Los Angeles International Airport to play for a very distinguished and much world renowned personality, Mr. Ludwig. He is out on the West Coast to give a drum clinic. We were very honored to be chosen to play for him and enjoyed it very much. We all hope that he was pleased by what he heard and saw. And we hope he doesn't think our drummers are too far gone to be saved by his Clinic! We wish him the best of luck with his Clinic.

The celebration of the Ondo Parade on August 20th concluded the Japanese-American observance of the 21st annual Nisei Week celebration. Four drum corps attended including the Japanese Boy Scouts, Maryknoll, Los Angeles Chinese, and Monterey Park. This was quite an event for all the drum corps present because of the esteem which is held for this parade by all the Japanese-Americans in and around Los Angeles. Everyone enjoyed the parade and we are already looking forward to next year.

Before we close we would like to congratulate L.A. Chinese and their manager Bill Lee on their thirst after the Nisei Parade. Next time it is their turn to treat us to 7 Up and orange drink!

Pat, Jane, and Judy

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