

APRIL 1962

DRUM CORPS WORLD

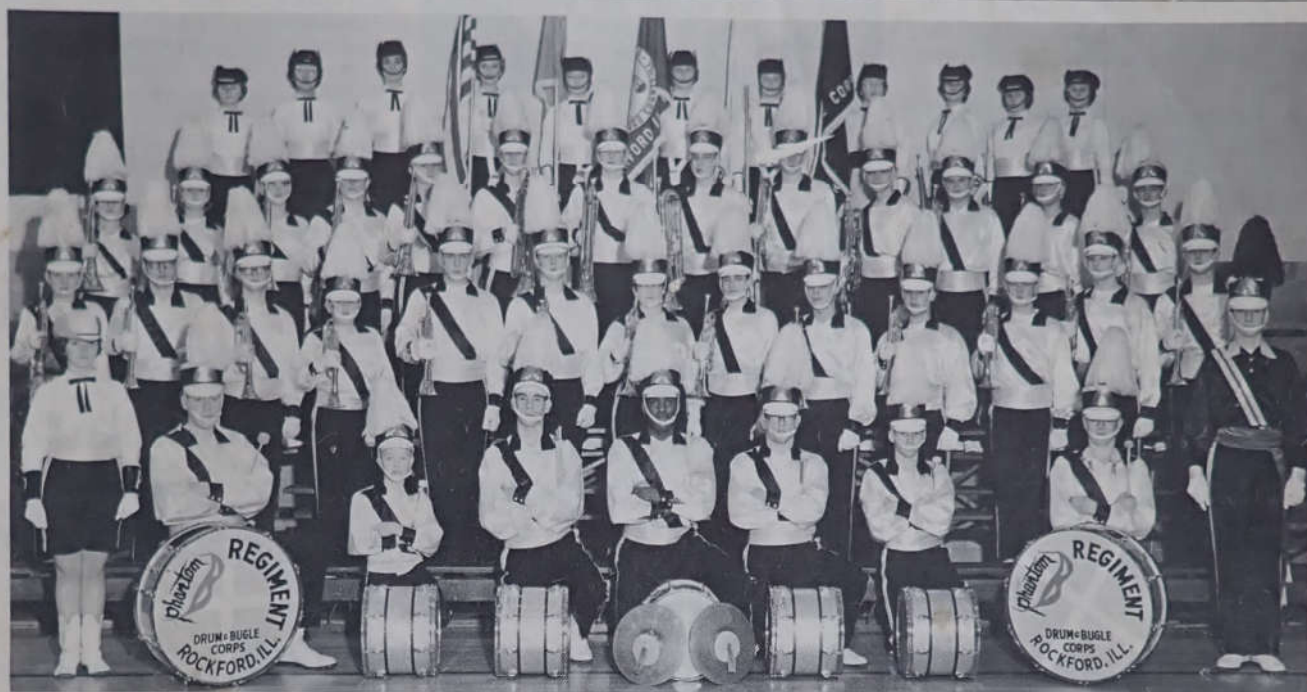
The voice of the drum corps

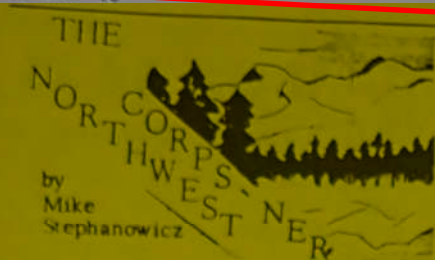
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The third annual Northwest Championships Competition was a tremendous success. The course of events ran very smoothly. It was well organized by Ed Grinolds and many helpers from the parents department of the THUNDERBIRDS CORPS who had sponsored the show.

The show had international, national, and interstate flavor. The VERNON GIRLS TRUMPET BAND from Canada added sparkle with glittering uniforms . . . The LEATHERNECKS, ATHENA FALCONS, and HAWTHORNE HAWKS from Oregon added interstate competition—which is growing . . . VINCE HERRICK, now with the Air Force, had played with the AUSTIN, MINN. LANCERS. Vince showed us some nice, smooth midwestern-style drumming in the individual contest . . . ERNIE LECLERC, former Rhode Island runner-up in state contests, entered the individuals . . . GERGE UPTON, California's hottest drum major, directed the Leathernecks with his "put your soul into it style" . . .

This year saw the advent of a standstill contest and a color guard contest. Both shows were well received by the audience and many people indicated they definitely want more next year. The individual show was better received by the audience this year. Only a drum solo was played and a solo plus one call by the buglers. This was rough on the judges but the time element demanded a shortening of requirements. The show lasted nine hours as it was.

The disc jockey directing contest was won by FABULOUS WEBER, who directed the Thunderbirds. I am not certain but I think I heard his score announced as .0008. Two of us sideliners scored him with 100.99. The GREAT HARDWICKE didn't show "because of pneumonia", he said on his morning show. We thank these wonderful men for the many ads on radio which resulted in a packed house. If Hardwicke were there he probably would not have won, he is only a pilot; Weber is a horn player.

The LEATHERNECKS have tried for three years to top the Washington corps and did a very nice job in their victory this year. Upton has changed and perked up the corps nicely. They hope to go to Las Vegas this year . . . The Everett BLUE KNIGHTS' blue quartet played exceptionally well . . . MIKE DUFFY played a tremendous horn to score highest of all buglers, junior and senior . . . The PASCO COLUMBIANS are a new corps since competing at Denver. Their bugles snap up much like an eastern corps now. Horn tones were wonderful. The SHAMROCKS were the most improved corps on the floor. New drums and horns made a difference, but the boys have been working hard. The new Seattle BLUE ANGELS did an exceptionally fine job for their first turnout after organizing but five months ago. Keep climbing, Angels. The HURRICANES did a

BRAINTREE BRAVES RECEIVE FLAG BELTS



The Braintree Braves, class "C" unit of the Braintree Drum and Bugle Corps., were recently presented nine white leather, waist-style, flag belts by the Kiwanis Club of Braintree. They will replace the old canvas type belts now being used by the Brave's Color Guard.

(L to R) Joseph Barbuto, President, Braintree Drum and Bugle Corps Inc.; Louise Kinnon, Color Guard Captain; John Walsh, Youth Chairman; and Warren Rich, President, Braintree Kiwanis; Robert Parlee, Braves Manager.

fine job, a little ragged in spots, but nice work. Tenor drums need more work. The BLUE KNIGHTS sounded very, very well. Sticking on drums looked better, to me, than at any time in the last three years. Horns sounded very smooth. The VERNON GIRLS TRUMPET BAND from Canada were real crowd-pleasers. Music sounded good, full tones, drums were a little weak on rudiments and difficulty. The Glocks were exceptionally good. We were most happy to have the girls perform for us.

To me, the individual drum contest was most enjoyable. It was a stiff competition. Nineteen NARD drummers competed in a field of 30. Many of the boys played Pratt solos, or others along similar lines. There was a lack of "Halftime" or "Downfall". The biggest and a most pleasant surprise were the performances of the Spokane Percussionist drummers! Nearly all scored in the top twelve. The highest snare score of the day was posted by TONI PAUL of Spokane, a young lady. This surely ought to shake up the boys. The Spokane gang walked off with many of the drumming honors with DEL BLAKE, TONI PAUL, and HUNT SWAN winning first prizes. Del won two firsts. In the tenor drum contest twirling had little meaning. MIKE PAUL did a magnificent job of twirling, the very finest I had ever seen, but Del's playing the tenor won out. Many, many congratulations to HOWIE ROBBINS, instructor of the Spokane drummers! The Seattle area drummers and other non-Spokane people are going to have to work to catch Robbins' crowd. I would like to suggest to Howie that you conduct a mid-winter contest in Spokane with judges from your area, as we do here, and have a nice cross-state rivalry.

The judges, Greene, Randall, and Wilson, must be commended on a very good job. All of the contestants performed well, and

"CHATTER BY KNIGHT" by Bernie and Marge

On March 11 the Purple Knights Drum Quartet and individualists attended the annual Starlight Contest at Cudahay, Wisc. In the small corps caption the Racine Scouts again squeezed by the Racine Killies. Both these corps have fine soloists and the battle seems to be between them. Dave Nordvahl of the Purple Knights placed second in the snare drum individuals. He was 1.2 point behind first and had a 3 point penalty. This seems like an awful strict penalty for being four seconds OVERTIME. The Purple Knights Drum Quartet took first place. Two other quartets were entered but suddenly withdrew. How come?

On to Lane Tech High School, March 3. This was a fine preview of the Champions of '62. First place was taken by the Royal Airs. They put on a fine show. Their horns didn't seem to be quite up to last year's par, but whose are in the first of March? We also noticed they had a new set of drums. At this rate you can start your own used drum shop in the Chicago area. Second place was taken by the Phantom Regiment of Rockford. They put on an impressive show. We heard their horns weren't up to their normal par, but they sounded fine to us. They're a little short on drummers, but maybe they'll get a few experienced recruits. Third place was taken by the Morton Grove Cougars. They were up there bucking for second place but couldn't quite do it. It's a long season yet kids!

We were glad to go to the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Chicago, March 17th. Since the weather was improved over last year's so was the attendance of the spectators. The Knights put on an im- anyone else we're sure they did fine too.

When you visit Purple Knight Hall you will find that you probably have your own Corps room. We have dedicated each room to a different corps.

RAMBLING KNIGHT

To the Winfield Scout Rebels and to the Raiders of Baltimore . . . We are sorry to say that, due to a paint job in Bodoh's castle, your letters were misplaced. We would like to hear from you again. Sooooo sorry!

To Rich and the Cavies in West Neptune . . . Glad you could finally scrape up a sign. Mine has been up all year.

Glad to hear the Madison Scouts will be sporting new uniforms this year. We're waiting to see them.

We'll be seeing you all on the battlefield soon and wish you the best of luck, you're liable to need it!

Sir Bernie Bodoh and Maiden Marge Kretsinger, 1220 31st Street, Rockford, Illinois

many nice comments were voiced throughout the day. As always, there were a couple of complaints, but not many.

In closing for this month I would like to mention that by now the Auburn BLACK HAWKS will have received national attention. They are to be viewed by the country on the DAVE BRINKLEY SHOW just before the opening of the Seattle World's Fair. Will be watching for you, Hawks.

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