

DRUM CORPS WORLD

The voice of the drum corps

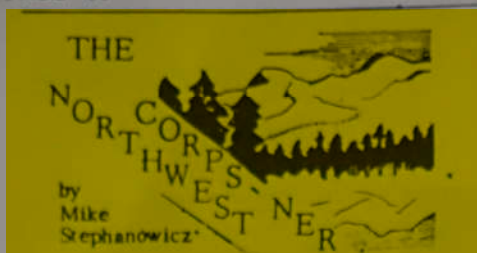
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In August it was Minneapolis where we saw a truly great contest. In October it was Las Vegas which saw fewer competitors in the juniors but a good contest, or rather three private contests. Garfield against Royal Airs, Troopers against the Sky-Ryders, and California against Washington against Oregon.

The junior preliminaries foretold the evening results. Garfield had snap, power, and looked like they meant business. Royal Airs played beautifully, looked very smooth but seemed to lack fire. The Sky-Ryders nudged the Big Blue score of 85 with an 84. The Ryders looked good but not that good. The Troopers out to try to take the Ryders scored an 80 plus. Little Pasco from Wash. showed more polish than they did in Denver and chalked up 75.9. Commodore Perry of L.A. sounding like Hawthorne off the line got 74 plus, as did the Lakewood Ambassadors and the Richmond Hawks. The Monterey Park Girls placed 9th and the Astoria, Oregon Mariners 10th.

Many thanks to ROCCO TARSIANO for distributing a list of entries of all junior and senior corps . . . My apologies to STETSON B. RICHMOND for not recognizing you. Tried to see you in the evening but you were so busy with the microphones - same thing next nite. A thousand compliments to you, Stetson, for starting the drum corps recording business, which lets far-away people hear the top national corps. Actually an old recording of yours of the Belleville Black Knights showed me how much drumming has changed since 1941.

The junior finals saw GARFIELD keep the national title, record the highest score of the nite, and receive the most applause from the audience. The corps had snap, desire, played fine music, put on an excellent performance. They looked better to me than they did in Denver. Very sharp. My wife and I took a chance and applauded quite loudly for Garfield. You see, we sat in the middle of about 20 Royal Air parents and members, and a row behind Sie Luyrie. Of course, we applauded the Airs louder . . . The ROYAL AIRS, 2nd, were exceptionally smooth. Concert music was difficult and well played, fine M & M, good lines, one of the smoothest outfits in the country. To me, the Big Blue only lacked a little, punch . . . The CASPER TROOPERS, 3rd, had good M & M but horns sounded a little disappointing at times. Corps was so spread out once that horns and drums were out slightly. This corps has a great future. Saw Mr. Jones, manager, at Hawthorne, rehearsal later and he wore the biggest grin I've seen in years. They beat the Ryders again, and won the Vegas contest No 2. . . The SKY-RYDERS, 4th, showed nice power and a good drum line. To me the horns are not up to the drums. This is another corps that is moving . . . The COLUMBIANS from Pasco Wash. 5th, 10 points down from the Ryders, were little thieves. From the applause and compliments I think

they stole some sympathetic hearts from the crowd. Sixteen horns sounded like many more, marching improved over Denver. A neat job. BILL RYAN of the Royal Airs, ROCCO TARSIANO, BILL DAVIS of Calif., GEORGE HAYEK of the Caballeros all highly complimented Pasco and said all they needed were about 16 to 24 more horns and they could really go. So, EARL HALVERSON of Pasco, the men have spoken . . . The Columbians won the 3rd contest by a mere .25 over the Calif contingent . . . COMMODORE PERRY style. Music not too difficult but handled well, same for drill. Watch this group in a couple of years . . . RICHMOND HAWKS of Calif. 7th. The Hawks featured a nice concert - horns and drums well together except for couple of times. Lot's of desire, will be much improved next year . . . MONTEREY PARK GIRLS, 8th. Very clever and effective G.E. on slow Scotch number. Horns little muddy at times. Looked snappy . . . LAKEWOOD AMBASSADORS of Calif. 9th. A fair corps but not up to other Calif. units. Sounded poor at finish line . . . MARINERS of ASTORIA, OREGON, 10th. The boys tried hard, played older style music, and used simple drill. Good G.E. with running bass drummer who covered good share of the field; he drew nice applause and some good humored laughs.

THE SENIOR FINAL show saw the famous HAWTHORNE CABALLEROS defend their title with an easy win. As always the corps overwhelmed the audience who responded with heavy applause about every 30 seconds. Excellent music, tremendous power, lots of fire and snap. A terrific show. A great corps in all departments. LES PARKS does wonders with the drum line, lots of imagination . . . The BOYS OF '76 were high for this one, very fine music, off the line drum part featured a continual string of single strokes which was very effective and well done. Horns produce a "different" sound which I liked. "Yankee Doodle" number very cute. A fine corps but not quite up to Hawthorne, yet . . . The HAMM'S INDIANS, 3rd, improved over 1961, very good G.E. Horns sounded especially improved, a good effort . . . LAIDLAW TREADORS, 4th. Nice work on "Peanut Vendor". Good, drum work, nice solos, tenors little weak during concert. Should give Hamm's trouble with little more work . . . DURANGO GOLDENAIRES 5TH. Sounded much like the 1961 corps. Play neatly, little on the weak side, and sound more like a band than a corps. Can Can off the line very nice. Drums could use more rudiments . . . GOLDEN KERNELS, 6th, played old style music, drums lacked rudiments . . . concert of Buglers Holiday nice but little weak. Major uses a nice style . . . DUKES OF ALBUQUERQUE 7th. Nice selection of music but 18 horns sounded weak. Drums used practically no rudiments, no flams. . . GOVERNORS of Bismark, 8th. Concert music better than rest of old type march music, drumming little poor, 23 horns did not sound too strong, lively drum major . . . DOUGLAS, Arizona, 9th. Too, too small with 9 horns, only a good try.

A super dessert was a surprise for the audience. The AIR FORCE DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS from Washington D.C. gave an exhibition following the show. I find trouble finding words to describe this group. Just superb, dynamics almost unbelievable. power was terrific, soloist exceptionally good, contrabasses very strong. Concert

P.A.L. CADETS

This is the inscription on the plaque given Lillian Gaudette, Drum Majorette for the Bridgeport P.A.L. Cadets in appreciation of the terrific job she did this past season in taking the corps on to the field at each contest. Of course, not only at the start but during the entire show she gave the corps that polished look.

When the corps stepped out for the first time back in 1957, Miss Gaudette was color guard captain. When the time came for a new Drum Major there was no doubt that she deserved that spot and could do the best job, and that she has done. As first Drum Majorette of the corps, she has not only received trophies but many praises from drum corps officials. When you see the drum majorette dressed in a red uniform with white piping and sash, a big white fur hat, and black boots, you'll know you're in for a good show.



Commander Joe Paul presents plaque to Lillian Gaudette, Drum Majorette of the Bridgeport, Conn. P. A. L. Cadets.

of "Porgy And Bess" nearly out of this world. It was a thrill and pleasure to hear this group.

The rumor of the V.F.W. Nationals being shifted to an eastern city for 1963 seems very unfounded. Rooney put a scare in many of us. Was assured by Mr. Pollari, Wash. Dept. Commander, that the site is still SEATTLE. Understand that the Natl. Convention Chairman is in town this week. The other rumor, also mentioned by Ed Rooney, that seniors will be dropped is being checked now. The western and north-western corps are hoping that this is untrue. Seven corps are working hard for next year. Hope they get a chance to compete. Please, ED ROONEY, don't shake us up like this . . . So far, Seattle has arranged for housing and meals at the University of Washington for junior corps and is negotiating the Ranier baseball field for the contest. No lights at the football field.

Russ Bell gave me a surprise phone call a while ago; he was in Seattle and will be here again. (Now in the Merchant Marine) Russ hopes to take in a few rehearsals around Seattle. Hope he gets surprised at some new music that will be played by 30 to 40 horns. . . Til next month, with local news, best of everything to everybody, even Mr. Franklin.