

DRUM CORPS WORLD

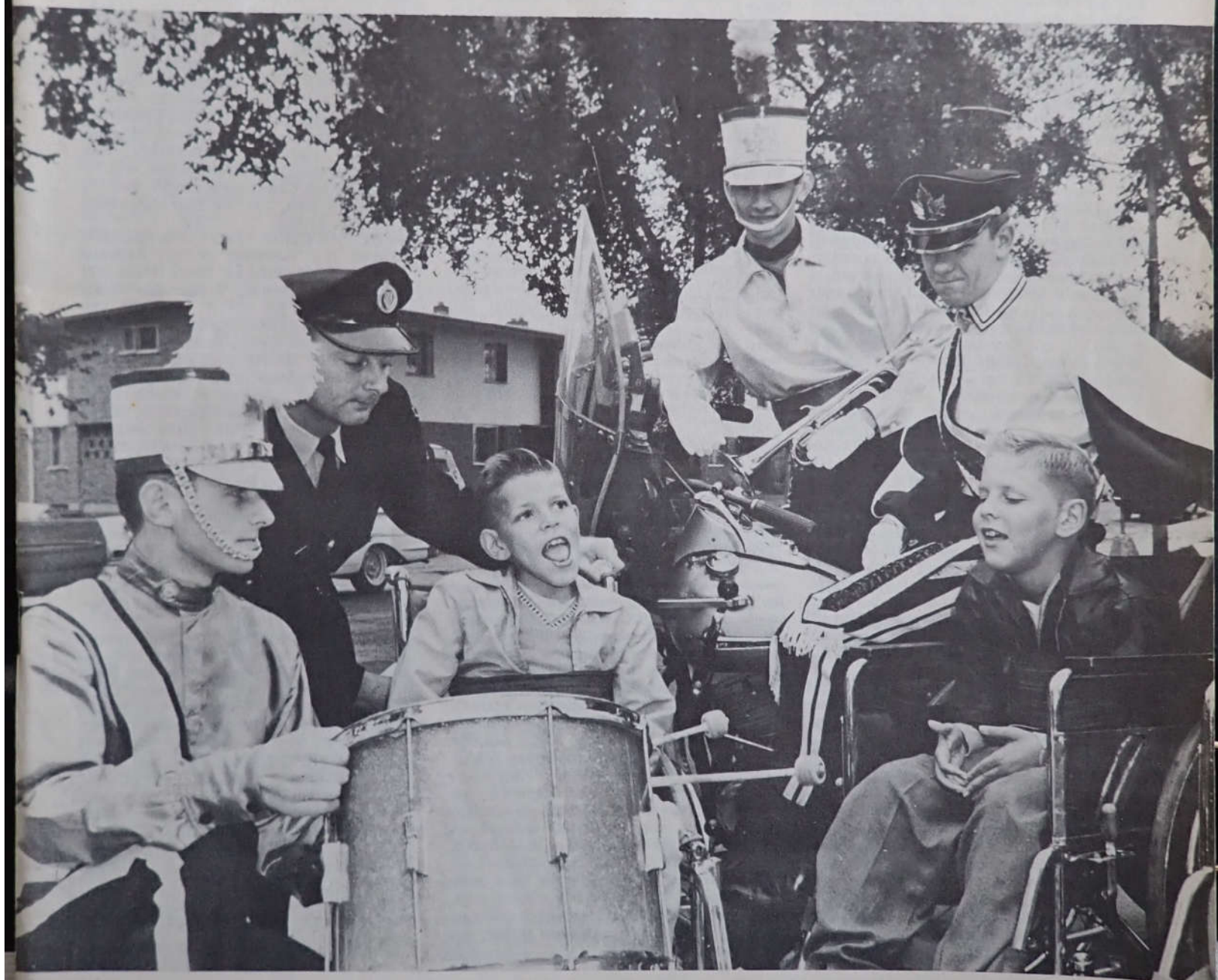
The voice of the drum corps

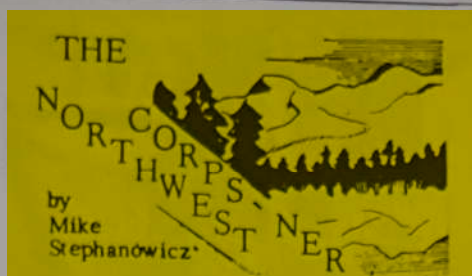
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This month's end, for me, is not quite as hectic as the past month but still hectic enough with World's Fair visitors. I wish to apologize for missing the last issue of D.C.W., first time in two years. But 16-hour work days just prevent any outside activity. There was only time to eat, sleep a few hours, and back to the grind.

After a month's rest my unhappiness at the VFW National junior individual snare drum contest has eased slightly, but not much. Judging of the junior drummers was outstandingly SAD in some cases. My very first request of Tony Schlechta, after seeing the results, was for him to obtain the highest calibre nationally-known judges for the contest in Seattle in 1963. The selection of a poor judge for a big national contest, as in Minneapolis, is a gross injustice to hard-working boys seeking national honors... First I must say that MITCH MARKOVITCH and JIM MIDDLETON earned well deserved honors, and congratulations to both of you. But, a couple of examples will quickly show why I am otherwise so perturbed. RICK NARDELLI of Blessed Sac placed 8th, 1.6 points behind ROGER WILLIS. Willis is a fine young man, and I truly enjoyed talking with him, but this result shook him as much as it did me, because Roger is a TENOR DRUMMER learning to play the snare. AND, Nardelli is one of the nation's top snares having placed 2nd in 1961 and 1962. Rick has worked hard this year, only to place 8th behind a tenor drummer.

I watched many of the boys play and two other results more than shook me. In 1961 BOB WOLFERSBERGER placed 4th - in 1962 he placed 18th, also behind Rog Willis. (I'm not picking on you Willis, but I need you for my examples.) JIM DONNELLY of Bridgeport Conn. played beautifully, nice roll, etc. He placed 16th. I don't recall DOUG CRAIN but was surprised to see him fall from 7th to 17th in one year. DEL BLAKE also played extremely well, to me the best flam paradiddle of the day. Del was invited to play with the Cavies and Blessed Sac, anytime. Del placed 10th, behind Roger... For next year I am begging Tony Schlechta to provide none but the best for the junior drummers. When corps spend thousands of dollars to attend a national contest, and spend hundreds of hours of practice, they deserve the best judges, who may up the cost of the contest only a few hundred dollars... I would like to see the likes of Sturtze, Redican, Perrilloux, Dowlan, etc. out here next year... I am thankful that the senior individual snares were judged by a different man. There I have no complaints at all. I played poorly, stopped three times, and got a well deserved nice low score. My congratulations to G. SHELLMER for compiling a nice high score of 85.

The Northwest crowd truly enjoyed the Minneapolis show. We met many, many

wonderful people and were treated well by, all. I have been asked by the Blakes to especially thank the Markoviches, Jim Middleton, Jack Rosner, Bill Ryding, Marilyn Unrath, The Wentz family, and Herb Guertlin, Bobby Thompson and Rick Nardelli for being so very nice and helpful.

The people from this area, all entered in competition, included Lorin Grinolds, Jerry Logan, and Tom Grinolds of the Thunderbirds; Mike Paul and Toni Paul of the Spokane Percussionists; Vince Herrick of McChord Field, and myself. Lorin Grinolds summed up most of our impressions in one sentence, "I didn't know corps could be that good". Congratulations to Tom Grinolds who placed 3rd out of 11 on junior French Horn!

The drum corps season in the Northwest ended last month with THE ANGELS SING show sponsored by the BLUE ANGELS. The Wash. State senior and junior A.L. state champs copped this show handily. The SEATTLE HURRICANES and THUNDERBIRDS won by 3 and 5 points respectively... The SEATTLE SHAMROCKS ended their season a little weak, have performed better in the past... The SEATTLE BLUE ANGELS ended very, very strong, nearly catching the Shamrocks in the last show... The EVERETT BLUE KNIGHTS, who looked exceptionally good early in the season had lost a little fire after the state A.L. contest... The WENATCHEE and BELLINGHAM corps, of course, did not show - they are one-contest-per-year outfits... The AUBURN BLACKHAWKS paraded once since the disbanding and are slowly trying to build back up... The BREMERTON GRENADIERS, V.F.W. state champs, are still a tiny corps, about 8 horns; they hope to build for the '63 NATL... CHUCK JOHNSON is the new manager of the Renton Eagles and is shooting for 30 horns... JOHN BRODERICK, new manager of the Hurricanes, hopes to build a 36 horn line and 4 snares for the '63 V.F.W... ED GRINOLDS, new boss of the Thunderbirds, trying to build a big corps for the big show next year. (After seeing ST. PAUL and the TROOPERS out here, people are beginning to think big)... AL WITTMAN of the Shamrocks has about 40 horns now, some just learning. This corps will be big next year... EARL HALVERSON of the Tri Cities Columbians has kept the corps very small this year, hope he goes big next... We have high hopes for a new Judging Assoc. next year. A good share of the '62 judging was poor. The Northwest needs a couple of eastern judges to spend a little or a lot of time out here... The SEATTLE BUDDIST BOY SCOUTS intend to work hard this winter and hope to change some of that old, old music.

A letter from Mr. A. R. Harrison states: "We in Seattle finished a hectic, busy season with the World's Fair running along with our own Seafair Celebration and the number of parades (as well as Corps Competitions) in which the various Drum Corps participated were numerous. (Eleven parades in a space of two weeks.) Perhaps some of your readers would like to know the results.

GRAND SEAFAIR PARADE

Sweepstakes Musical Unit - St. Paul Scouts (TERRIFIC!)

Drum & Bugle Corps - Junior Units
1st - Seattle Buddhist Boy Scouts,

THE TIGER REPORT

Unlike most of my articles, this month I'm going to give you a treat. My article is shorter. To start, I'll mention the two Calif. corps that took foreign trips.

The new Calif. American Legion Champs, the Commodore Perry Post Japanese Boy Scouts, went to Japan where they paraded for the Emperor and Empress and were very well accepted. Thanks to the United States Navy which helped make this possible. Ronnie, between your being able to smoke that long cigar of yours at State and going to Japan, you must be the happiest man alive. You have a fine corps. Barry, thanks for all those letters. You are going to be a top contender for individuals next year.

The other corps to go out of the country was the Lakewood Ambassadors... "south of the border, down Mexico way". Oh how musical can you get? The corps members didn't have too much free time, but the love and admiration received from the GREAT Mexican people was most more than anyone could ask. They treated us like we were some kind of gods.

The corps marched in the Mexican Independence Parade in Encinada. Put our complete competition drill on the field twice, plus concerts featuring the Famous Four Tiger's Drum Quartet and the Fabulous Melodic Four Bugle Quartet following the exhibitions. The bugle quartet was composed of sopranos Bob Colling and Rod Stuart, bass Bill Simpkins, and French horn Craig Mottaz. The drum quartet was composed of tenor Mike Rounds, snare Bruce Karst, bass Mike Kotraba, and cymbaler Martin Gibeu.

While we were in Mexico, we were hosted by the several Mexican Drum & Bugle Corps. Through their admiration and the exchanging of ideas between us, who knows?... we may, someday soon, have a real international contest between Mexico, the United States, and Canada. I'm waiting for this International Contest.

Next month I'll give you more info on the Mexican trip and news on the American Legion Nationals. I'll also have pictures on both of these events.

From what I've heard, with ex-St. Vinnie-ites in the corps, it's no wonder the up-and-coming Woodsiders of New Jersey are coming up. I've always known that you couldn't keep a good corps, or corpsman, down.

I would appreciate news from anyone who, at this early date, is planning on attending the V.F.W. National contest in Seattle, Washington next year. As you can tell, I will be attending and, if possible, the American Legion Contest in New Orleans, also.

See you next month. Good night Judy, and all my friends in the Great Flashing Lassies.

Corps-Dually Yours,
Craig R. Mottaz
4916 Pacific Ave.
Long Beach 5, Calif.

2nd - Thunderbirds, and 3rd - Shamrocks.
BURIEN DISTRICT

Burien Hi-Lites Parade: 1st - Seattle Buddhist Boy Scouts, 2nd - Hurricanes (Sr. Corps), and 3rd - Thunderbirds.
EAST MADISON DISTRICT

Mardi Gras Parade - Drum & Bugle Corps Division: 1st - Thunderbirds.

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