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The voice of the drum corps

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It was a truly wonderful holiday out Northwest Corps-ner way. A million thanks to the senders of Christmas cards, corps photos, notes, and letters. My sincerest thanks to CINDY LAYMAN of Hartford Conn. . . BILL LUDWIG AND GANG at the famous drum company . . . CLYDE LOWER JR. of Teene N.H. . . TONY SCHLECHTA, boss of the V.F.W. contests . . . IRENE McGRATH and the EMERALD CADETS of Rochester N. Y. . . CHARLES EASTLAND and the MARINERS of Astoria Oregon . . . JACK PRATT of the West Point Academy . . . ALLAN BRADFORD of Toronto Canada . . . EARL STURTZE of Seymour Conn. . . PATT and EARL LINDBERG of Mount Prospect Illinois . . . C. H. BEEBE and the MADISON SCOUTS OF Madison Wisconsin . . . KEN PETERSON of Old Bridge N. J. . . KARL SPIESS and the CONTINENTAL FIFE and DRUM CORPS of Arlington Va. . . BOB REDICAN of Meriden Conn. . . GARY MUNKHOLM of St. Paul Minn. . . HARRY HAMMOND of Seattle Wash. . . GEORGE WOODBRIDGE of Grand Rapids Mich. . . KATHY FORD and the SENORITAS of San Gabriel, Calif. . . BRUCE CAIN of Baltimore Md. . . TERRY MOY of Los Angeles . . . RAY and SHARLEY NELSON of Seattle . . . ARTHUR CHAPPELLE of Toronto Can. . . FLASHING LASSIES of Monterey Park Calif. . . DEL BLAKE and his mother LORRAINE BLACK of Spokane Wash. . . BONNIE SCOTT and the ALPINE GIRLS of Rochester N.Y. . . MR & MRS JACK ROSNER of St Paul Minn. . . HOWIE & PATTIE ROBBINS of Spokane Wash. . . KEN BEVERIDGE and the MARION CADETS of Marion Ohio . . . CHARLIE FISHER of the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs . . . JACK AVERY and the THUNDERBIRDS of Seattle . . . Also, MELVYN LEE and the KNIGHTS of CATHAY of San Francisco . . . PHIL AND RUTH and the PORTLAND HAWKS of Portland Oregon (Phil, your last name was torn on the envelope) . . . GORDON WIMBERLY and the STARDUSTERS of Metairie Louisiana . . . JOE and GLORY O'DAY of Lake-wood Calif. . . BOB ARMSTRONG and the THUNDERBIRDS ALL GIRLS DRUM CORPS of Victoria BC Canada . . . RITA and RAY NICHOLAS of Wantagh N. Y. . . BOB OKI and the BUDDIST BOY SCOUTS of Seattle . . . ANDY FOREST of Fitchburg Mass. . . PETE WELLS of Salt Lake City . . . DR. HARRY PATIN and the SPECTACLE CITY MARINERS of South Milwaukee Wis . . . AL WITTMAN and the SHAMROCKS of Seattle . . . GENE MONTERASTELLI and the SOCIABLE SIX of Illinois . . . JIM BITTEL and the GARFIELD CADETS of N. J. . . PAUL KNOAL of Madison Wis. . . BETTY WATERS of Rochester N. Y. . . ROD STUBBS of Seattle . . . MRS FAY O'DONNELL of Latrobe Penna. . . DAVE SHAW of the Yukon Command in Alaska . . . NED SMITH of Richland Wash. . . RANDY ESPESETH of Seattle . . . RONNIE STURTZE of Seymour Conn. . .

The color photo of the Garfield Cadets would be enough to inspire any corps to shoot high. Simply beautiful! The Marion Cadets color photo was another beautiful card of a sharp looking corps. Also very nice photos of the Madison Scouts, Emerald Cadets, Senioritas, and Cathay Knights -- plus a real cutie from Preston Scout House. Thank you very much, everyone.

The latest scoop on the National V.F.W., in Seattle for sure now, is that special trains are being arranged for from Chicago. Hope that this may help. Dates are not the best, Aug. 25 to the 28th. This only leaves 5 days travel prior to school opening. (In my day I would have liked it.) January 19th is appointment day in Washington and all chairmen for the various V.F.W. committees will be selected. The sad news is the TEMPORARY discontinuance of the senior corps contest. Some of us West Coasters are writing to Tony Schlechta urging him to hold off for 1963. Because NO West Coast Corps is guilty of any faults that caused the proposed discontinuance, we urge the V.F.W. to give the West Coast its chance at National Competition. Several corps, here, are working like mad and building for this once-in-a-lifetime chance. Please, Tony, the West would appreciate it, and possibly many in the east. If necessary, please penalize only the guilty parties . . . Have been informed that bands, color guard, quartets, and individuals contests are still on for the seniors. Hope that many corps come to Seattle; there is much to see in this mountain and water world, plus the best parts of the Fair - Space Needle and Science Pavilion. Gambling is out as of the 1st of Jan. . . The Dept. of Washington V.F.W. has sent a letter to Washington, D.C. inviting the Air Force Drum and Bugle Corps to perform an exhibition during the convention.

CHARLIE EASTLAND of Astoria, Oregon sends word that the SALEM FLAMINGOS will play all 'twist' music in '63. Yikes! It should be a great show. The ROYAL CHINOOKS, seniors, the Oregon Governor's official corps, are staging a comeback for '63. They were Oregon's No. 2 corps in 1960. KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS all girl juniors from Roseburg, Ore. will probably still not compete this year but sure are capable. Give it a try, girls. The ASTORIA MARINERS will play all new music for the new year. Am sure that the Las Vegas trip inspired this. The PORTLAND HAWKS will play new music which is currently being arranged for them by an eastern writer. Charlie also wrote that RUSSBELL was stuck in the Astoria Harbor for 12 hours during a big storm recently.

JOHN PARKHURST of the PORTLAND LEATHERNECKS called to say that RON BURBAK is the new music master for the corps. GEORGE UPTON is not in Portland at present but rumored to be linked with the famed SKOKIE INDIANS of Illinois. The Oregon State Legion contest will be in Pendleton this year and the PENDLETON COWBOYS? will very likely have to work and produce like the fine corps they can be. John says they are excited about the V.F.W. contest. So, John, please write to Tony Schlechta, 6200 7th Street, So., St. Petersburg, Florida.

RUSS BELL called to say he had a long session yakking with JOHN BRODERICK, JACK AVERY, & AL WITTMAN, all corps



Sky Ryders

DRUM and BUGLE CORPS

by Lee Thompson

We are now moving into 1963, which should be the best year yet for the Sky-Ryders. We had many practices during the holidays with all the extra help we have had. Both John Simpson and Ronnie Sraft were home from the Air Force Corps, and have helped us a great deal.

We now have all the music for the '63 show and are working hard on it. The drum corps activities almost come to a standstill at this time of the year, outside of individual corps practices. I would be glad to hear of any activities of the other mid-western corps.

The Sky-Ryders will end the year with our New Year's Eve party. This is the second year for this, and we hope to continue it.

I appreciated all the Christmas cards and letters which I received in the past few months. They have come from all parts of the country, and have been most interesting. It was nice to hear from the Denver Blue Knights. This is just one more of the upcoming midwestern (?) corps.

Very little news this month, but maybe there will be more next month.

SO!!!

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WORLD

managers or directors in Seattle. All were late for work. Russ felt that the RICHMOND HAWKS would be in Seattle this year, and are working very hard. Am sure they want to top Washington corps, especially Pasco. The Hawks will play "I Left My Heart In San Francisco" for concert. GENE SIPPLE is the horn boss, formerly of the Rochester CRUSADERS. Russ also believed that the CATHAY KNIGHTS and AMBASSADORS might make the V.F.W. I hope they ALL make it! The Air Force Corps was discussed and has two worshipping admirers in Russ and myself.

BRUCE CAIN of Baltimore writes that the World Series Color Guard contest looks like a big success. Hope so. GENE MONTERASTELLI writes that the CAVALIERS and NORWOOD PARK plan to use rudimental bass this year. Would be nice to see and hear bass drummers PLAY again. Gene was happy to finish his 1st quarter at college, but maybe not so anxious to get grades. DAVE KNOAL of MADISON SCOUTS states that the Scouts will come to Seattle. This is most pleasant news. JIM BITTEL of GARFIELD states that it might be doubtful for them, because of the A. L. contest in early Sept. Still, something might come up, he ways. We hope so.

Next month, news of Washington corps and activity. Til then, the very best of everything to you all . . .