

DRUM CORPS WORLD

The voice of the drum corps

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THE GRENADIER LADY

On May 24th, the Cavalier Jr. drum and bugle corps sponsored a MUSIC AND COLOR contest in Hollywood, Fla. It was an extremely hot and muggy day as the sun shone brightly. There were five junior corps present along with seven guards. Results: CORPS...1st - Miami Vanguards - 74.05. Vanguards put on a great show at this contest, and thus scored another 1st place. Joe Wessman and Joe Garfalo certainly do capture the audience's interest with their rifle maneuvers....2nd - North Miami Grenadiers - 63.60. A far cry from the last contest, the Grenadiers seemed to have more spirit and were out to win. 3rd - The Orlando Falcons - 51.80. It was a pleasure to see this corps on the field, as it was their first appearance of the season in our local contests. They, too, have improved since the last season although young in experience. 4th - Carol City Cavaliers, 46.85. This corps has quite a few young members, but have secured quite a lot of public interest in their area, which is a welcome change. 5th - Melbourne Hurricanes - 42.05. With a new drill and some new members, the Hurricanes made their first appearance of the season also, as they are a few hundred miles from Miami and thus find it difficult to make the trip down to our Miami Circuit contests.

COLOR GUARDS: 1st - Highlanders - 69.08. A second first place was again captured by this guard. Their uniforms are outstanding and I feel that this factor has helped them throughout the year in placing high. 2 & 3 A tie by the Anchoresses and the Royal Lancers - 69.07. The Anchoresses have a great M & M guard - they have pushed for first place all season and have proved to be a top guard in this area. The Royal Lancers had a great show with fabulous rifle drills. 4th - Miami Vanguards - 65.04. They were off in M & M but placed high in G.E. 5th - Carol City Cavaliers - 64.08. New guard with potential, who are instructed by J. Bell, instructor of the Highlanders. 6th - Flamingos - 63.07. Much improved since the last contest in Hialeah, although they still need hard work to improve their marching ability. 7th - Hurricanes - 49.05. This was their 1st contest of the season, leaving much to be desired.

Since the preceding contest was sheer bedlam, a new set of judges were called in to officiate at this show. Although they were not circuit judges, they were qualified, but, nonetheless, caused much dissension over their scoring. We seem to be having increasing problems in this area with the judging abilities. There aren't too many qualified persons interested in becoming judges down here, due to the constant differences in opinion of the qualifications of the judges in the Florida Judging Association. Perhaps a better understanding of what is lacking would be subject matter to be discussed in the up-coming circuit meeting.

On June 5th I traveled up to Jacksonville for the state convention. The following day, after an early morning practice session, all the units turned out downtown for the parade. It was drizzling slightly; nevertheless, the parade was begun. After about two units had stepped off, the rains came

down and the winds were so severe that we were all huddled into a nearby building. News reports over the radio stated that there was a tornado occurring in that area, so we were getting the gusty winds. The parade was thus called off, after several units had already gotten drenched. The word was out that there would still be an inspection for the contest to be held that night, but it was then decided to skip inspection for all units due to the weather. Although the weather still threatened overhead, the contest began, an hour late.

The color guard show was first with ten guards competing. The field was quite waterlogged and therefore made it difficult to maneuver properly. I was glad to see some new units participating; this was made possible as several of these units are from the northern area of Florida. Results: Anchoresses -- 91.03..Highlanders --90.42 Vanguards --88.74...Dolphins - 88.42..... Royal Lancers - 87.53...Cavaliers - 86.32 Flamingos - 84.35...Hurricanes - 82.00. Goldenaires - 81.97...A.L.Post #37 Sr. 67.67.

It was my personal feeling, along with the general opinion of the crowd, that the Royal Lancers had first place, and when the scores were announced there was a great roar of disapproval. They certainly did a beautiful job, displaying precision with ease. They have new uniforms and appeared to have that extra confidence needed to be top. Congratulations, Bernie, even if the scores didn't coincide with the audience's opinion. I truly think you will be winners next season.

In the corps competition, there were six junior corps and one senior corps. In scoring, the senior corps due to the lack of competition were classed among the Jr. corps. The results: Vanguards - 73.94... Ambassadors Sr. Corps - Grenadiers - 64.54 Falcons - 54.86...Cavaliers - 51.85...The Hurricanes - 42.30...Roadrunners - 36.31. In my opinion, the Vanguards truly deserved first place. They did an excellent job. The Ambassadors Sr. corps from Miami made their first appearance of the season and surprised many spectators. Their drum major, Bill Hock, was truly great, and I hope that this corps remains active in the Miami area. The Grenadiers appeared on the field with new uniforms, similar in color to the Vanguards, but different in style. A great potential corps who have come along way since last season, and who will, in my estimation, cop first place soon, if their drive and determination persist. The Falcons from Orlando made their second appearance of the season. If they could compete more often, they would gain the experience needed. The Cavaliers from Carol City are still in there pushing, but their inexperience is a hindrance also. The Hurricanes from Melbourne also sported new uniforms which were similar to their old ones but a little different in style.

The Roadrunners from Orlando appeared for the first time this season. They have been organized three months only. The addition of another corps to the Florida circuit was splendid.

Coming up are several contests, the first of which will be held on July 3rd, sponsored by the Miami Vanguards. I will report on this next month..Till then..

Yours in corps spirit,

Lee Ann Moffett

WESTERN WATCHERS

A new V.F.W. state champ has been proclaimed in Wash. by defeating the defending state champion Thunderbirds and putting them into second place. The victors were the Pasco Columbians. They are much changed over last year with more horns and new uniforms. Almost all their horns are equipped with Titleist rotaries.

The Columbians fielded a 25 man horn line and nine man drum line. Their highlights were "Quo Vadis" and Mutiny On The Bounty....The 2nd place Thunderbirds fielded the largest corps with a 30 man horn line, 9 man drum line, and a big all girl guard. Liked best their arrangements of What Kind Of Fool Am I?, How The West Was Won, and Lawrence Of Arabia. In third place, ten points behind the Thunderbirds, were the Seattle Shamrocks, and they had only 24 horns and a 9 man drum line. 4th place were the Thunderbird Cadets. They have too large a drum line compared to the bugle line and it is not balanced. They should field less drums...5th were the Blue Angels. The Amigos put on an exhibition. The Amigos uniforms are exactly like the El Toreadors and should change them soon....In the color guard scene, the Thunderbirds guard won again the state championship with the Shamrocks second and T-Cadets third. All 3 top guards are becoming much improved.

Earlier in June a competition was held in Portland by the Leathernecks. I wasn't there so I can't say how the corps performed. The Columbians took first, Shamrocks 2 and T-Cadets 3rd. The Thunderbirds did not go, though invited, because they felt their drill was not satisfactory to give the crowd the best show they could.

Next year's VFW Convention will be in Everett, close to Seattle.

See you next issue....Write to...

Larry Salinger
1905 15 Ave East

Seattle, Washington 98102

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