DRUM CORPS Whe voice of the drum corps

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W E S T E R N W A T C H E R S

First of all let me introduce myself. I am Larry Salinger and I play a bass baritone bugle in the Thunderbirds drum and bugle corps of Seattle. You do not hear about a lot of the activity up here around Washington State, so I hope to keep you informed with what is happening.

Three new corps have just entered the Drum Corps scene here in Washington. They are from Sumner, Ephrata and Bellevue. I hear they are coming along fine. Also the second feeder corps has just been organized in the Northwest. The Thunderbirds and now the Shamrocks have a feeder corps. Their membership is climbing ast.

In Oregon a couple of new corps sprang up. They are the Rangers of Pendleton and the Lancers of Portland and both have already several fine individual players who competed in an individual contest in January. I would like to wish these new corps good luck on their road to success.

The color guard outlook in this area looks good and is developing fast! Down In Salem, Oregon last month the Washington State Champions Thunderbirds Color Guard competed for their first time this year and they astounded everyone, including their corps members! It was a new look in N. W. color guards. They had the look of a real honest to goodness champion color guard like the several seen at VFW Nationals. I hope to see more of that. The first real look at Northwest color guards will be at the Pacific Northwest Championships coming up April 18th.

The Renton Blue Angels have been having some trouble but seem to be reviving. An up and coming corps is last year's organized El Toreadors of West Seattle. They may be in the B circuit being organized for all those new Washington corps.

Two corps are definitely planning on representing the Northwest at VFW Nationals in Cleveland and want a side trip to the New York World's Fair. They are the V.F.W. State Champion Thunderbirds and the Shamrocks, both of Seattle. The Thunderbirds would like to take in a few competitions also while back east, besides Nationals. The two corps are planning also on flying to Cleveland because of the time element and the distance. The Shamrocks are getting some new equipment in preparation for the busy summer ahead. The Thunderbirds probably wouldn't get anything of importance since they got new Getzen DeLuxe bugles with rotaries, new Roger's Drums and new uniforms from the DeMo Brothers of Ill. a few months ago.

A BIG competition is slated for April 18th on the World's Fair grounds in the Civic Arena. The competition is the 5th ANNUAL THUNDERBIRDS PACIFIC NORTH WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS......sponsored.. by the Thunderbirds D&B Corps. This includes individuals, quartets, color guards and full corps standstills. There are 16 corps expected to perform in the full corps category. The corps are coming from Canada, Washington and Oregon. This will be the biggest competition in Seattle, next to Nationals, there has ever been. Some of

50 THEY ALWAYS MOB MOB ME ... by DON. DABER. SARNIA -ROCHESTER AT EVERY JERSEY, APPEARANCE GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS WHEN ISTEP DRESSING ROOM .. PARADES. BUT ... WHEN EXHIBITIONS THEY T . You NAME MOBS WONDER OFF IF THE ITS UNIFORM TORONTO OPTIMISTS

the corps competing are the Columbians, Shamrocks, Blue Angels, El Toreadors, Cadets, Rangers, Falcons, Mariners, Hawks Flamingo's, Kelso, Thunderbirds, (in Jr.) and Hurricanes, Blue Knights, Canadian Regiment, Leathernecks (in Sr.). There may be other corps since I have been informed.

And with this, I guess it winds up my first column. I would be glad to hear from any of you connected with corps of this area.

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