

DRUM CORPS WORLD

The voice of the drum corps

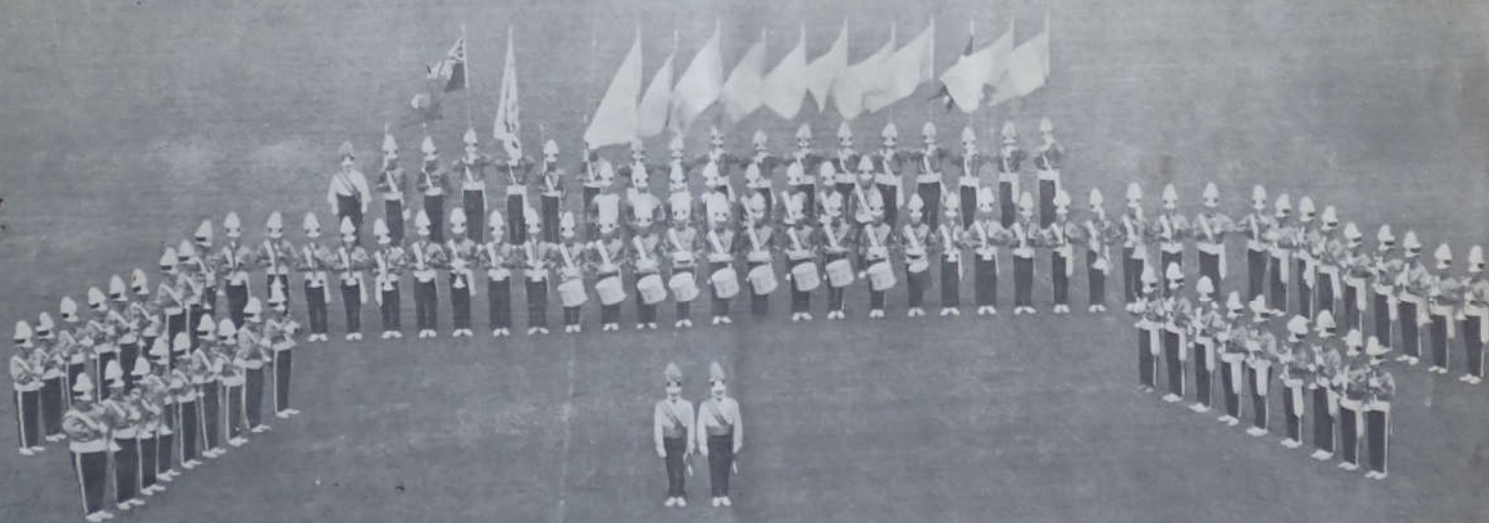


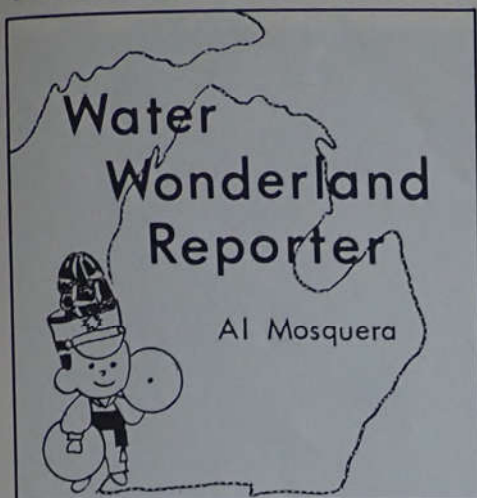
Volume 14 No 9

Chicago, Illinois

September 1964

Price 50¢





V.F.W. NATIONALS:

What can one say after having attended this years V.F.W. NATIONALS, except "WOW". Any one who had the misfortune of not attending, missed a large chunk of Drum Corps history being made. Everyone has declared this the greatest Junior Drum Corps Contest ever held. The parade of corps onto the prelim contest field was an almost endless review of Who's Who. A total of forty four corps. entered the prelims and with few exceptions they all could have been in the finals. The excitement of the prelims was increased by the ever changing SCORE BOARD. Corps which at the beginning had scored in the high seventies or low eighties and appeared safe, found themselves out of the race as it became clear that only an 85.00 or higher had any hope. Great corps such as P.A.L. CADETS, RACINE EXPLORERS, MARION CADETS, SKOKIE VANGUARDS AND THE SPARTANS were left behind. It was not until the RACINE KILTIES scored 87.60 that any corps was secure. It was apparent that the KILTIES owned a spot in the finals. The finals were a drum corps nut's dream of what heaven must really be like. After having weeded out thirty two aspirants for the finals, the remainder was nothing but the cream. I find it very difficult to attempt to describe all the fabulous shows that were put on that night with out taking up pages and pages of print. (I fear that Mrs. Kalady would be forced to use the scissors in self defense) However the one corps that remains so vivid in my mind is the RACINE KILTIES. As the good fortune of being a writer for the D.C. World and the consent of Mr. Tony Schlechta enabled me to be as close as possible to the side lines, I was able to observe much of what is missed in the stands. What impressed me most about the KILTIES was the facial expressions of their members. There was an intense expression of determination not unlike that of men going into mortal combat. This attitude plus plenty of G.E. in capital letters was the formula that resulted in FIRST place for them. When the last "cut off" was executed and the adding machines quit clacking, the following was the result. 1st. RACINE KILTIES - 85.95.....ROYAL AIRES - 84.475 CAVALIERS - 83.90....Boston CRUSADERS 82.925....St. KEVIN - 82.50....St. JOSEPHS 82.05....BLESSSED SAC - 81.00....ST. LUCY CADETS - 80.60...ST MARY's - 80.45.....

MUSKETEERS 79.50.....TROOPERS - 78.70 GARFIELD CADETS - 75.35.

While we should all applaud these great corps who put on such a magnificent show, we should not forget to give an equally heart felt hand to the man who has done the most in organizing and creating this contest. This man of course is, "TONY" SCHLECHTA. Tony is a champion among the champions of our cause. Thank GOD for men of his caliber who support Drum and Bugle Corps on the National Level.

Now focusing our attention to the participation of units from Michigan, we find the MAYFLOWER POST 6695 of Plymouth Mich Senior color Guard, came in second with a score of 89.20.



One of the two Michigan Junior corps that attended the Nationals, the BLUE NOTE scored a respectably 74.30 beating many top rated corps, but of course not enough to make the finals. In that marble game it took more than just being great to stay in. It looked for quite a while that they might make it until the big guns lowered the boom.

The other corps there was the ROYAL LANCERS who although did not make the finals, went on to pick up some awards in the individuals. ART DORAN scored 91.20 for a fourth place in Bass bugle. Another honor was earned by ROBERT ADCOCK who placed eight in the Tenor Drum contest.

Another factor that made the trip worth while was the fact the LANCERS came off with one of the top M&M scores in the prelims. This was good news to Joe Girolamo who practically lost his voice drilling this corps prior to the contest. The Lancers may not have had it so good at the prelims but they sure had it when it came to the food they were treated to. The corps was lodged at the POLISH NATIONAL HOME in Cleveland where the proprietors treated the gang to the best meals they could put together. I was invited to one of these feast and completely stuffed myself.

I am sure that readers have noticed the new column heading for this months issue of WATER WONDERLAND REPORTER. It is, I believe a far more professional column heading, than the original one was. This excellent piece of art work was done by MISS GRACE E. MUCKLE a long time friend and Drum Corps fan. Miss Muckle is a commercial artist and has contributed her talents to the drum corps field many times. THANKS ONCE AGAIN GRACE.

NORTHWEST OMNIBUS...

by Tim Grolbert

July 18th, a contest was held in Pasco, Wash., sponsored by the Columbians of Pasco. Eight junior corps attended the contest. "The Cavalcade Of Drums" but there was no senior contest. The corps competing were from Oregon and Wash., but the Washington corps dominated the higher places. The Columbians took first (in their new uniforms) with a 75.0, the Seattle T-Birds second with 69.3, the Seattle Shamrocks 3rd with 68.6 and the T-Bird cadets fourth with a 43.6. I didn't see this contest but all reports say it was a good show.

July 25th, the Oregon state American Legion contest was held at Milwaukee, Oregon in perfect weather. Eight Junior corps entered the contest but this year there were no contests in the senior division, only an exhibition by the Portland Leathernecks. This is the largest junior contest to date in Oregon. (An encouraging sign for many corps fans in Oregon).

The recently formed Lancers of Portland defeated the State Champion Mariners for the State title with a score of 49.7. Off the Line they played the theme of King Of Kings, their concert was Taboo and All My Lovin. The Mariners scored 48.4. They seem to have lost quite a few horns since June. The Hawks have recently received new uniforms and are expecting a new shipment of horns. They stepped off the line with Jezebel, played a concert of Aida, and exited with More.

Fourth place was taken by the Athena Falcons who scored 36.4. They also have new uniforms. The Pendleton Rangers took fifth with a 34.5 and the Salem Flamingos sixth with 32.0.

The new Washington State A.L. Champions are the Seattle Thunderbirds. They scored 89.166 for first, the Shamrocks took 2nd with 86.633, and the Washington V.F.W. champions Columbians placed 3rd with 84.66. The color guard championship also went to the Thunderbirds, who scored 90.725. 2nd again went to the Shamrocks with 88.8. The Columbians, placed third with 88.625.

See you next month.....

Tim Grolbert
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