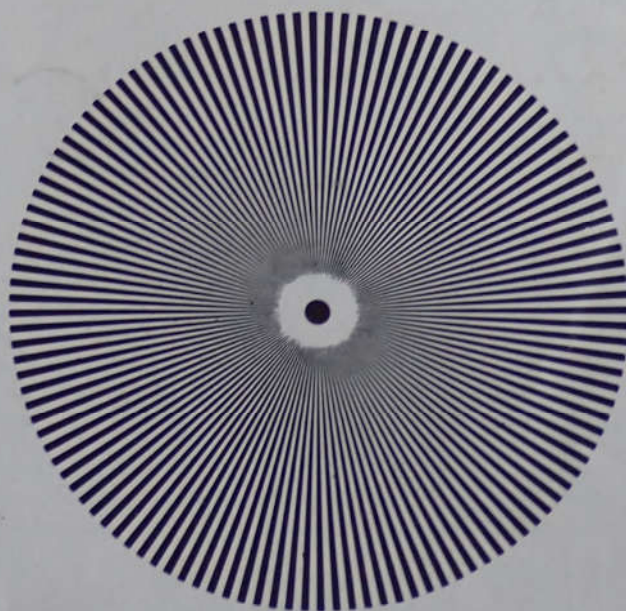
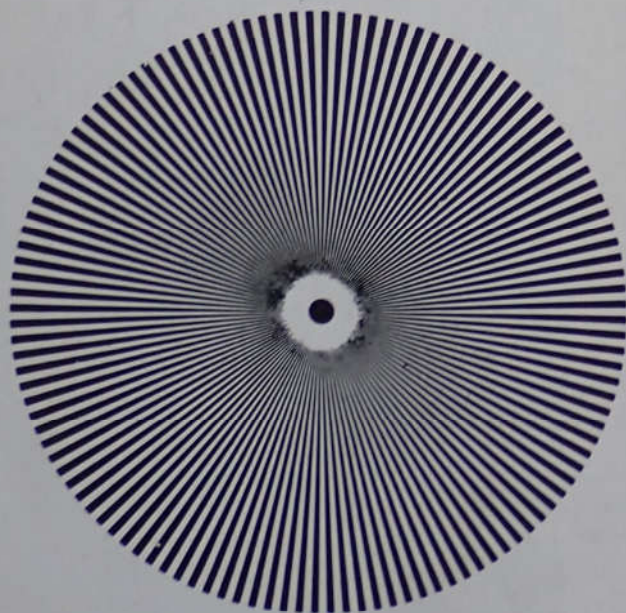
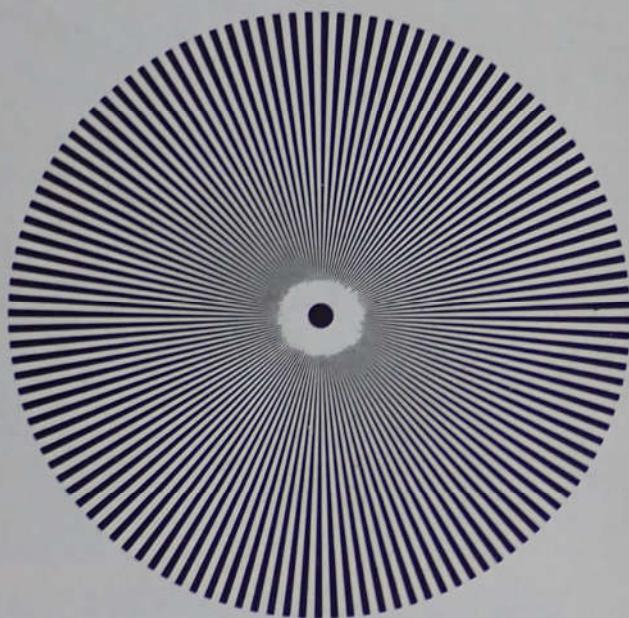


June 1969

# *drum corps* ***digest***





**W**ELL HERE WE ARE in the month of June and most of the corps are hard at work on their drill for this year. What I have seen so far looks very impressive and there are many new innovations in the drills.

It looks like the corps in the Northwest will be on the move with the Shamrocks going to the U.S. Open in Marion, Ohio then to the VFW Nationals in Philadelphia, on the way they will be entering a couple of other contests in the east. The Sentinels are also planning a trip to VFW Nationals with stops at World Open and CYO., along with other appearances in the east. The Royal Lancers, I understand, are also going to one of the Nationals plus some other contest in the east or midwest.

All of the corps are concentrating their efforts in preparation for the Drumkane Contest to be held in Milwaukie, Oregon the eighth of June. This will be our first field contest and it comes just when most of the schools in the area have final exams. It makes it difficult to put a drill together when many of the corps personnel are studying for finals, but each year they seem to be able to do it and many of the corps have very impressive drills. Granted they are a little ragged, but by the time VFW State comes along, which incidentally is one week later, they will be greatly improved. I personally am looking for a real fine season this year with the Shamrocks and Royal Lancers battling down to the wire for the Northwest Championship.

I would like to drop back a couple of months to our last standstill contest which was held on the 29th of March. This contest was co-sponsored by the Sentinels D&B Corps and Greater Seattle and was entitled "Brazen Brass". This was to be an outstanding affair with the corps marching through the Seattle Center to the Arena where the contest was to be held. It was mentioned that there would be free advertisement on radio, tv and the local news papers. All I saw was one little story in one of the local news papers, nothing on radio or tv. The contest was



free of charge but due to the poor advertising the turn out was sad. I guess I will have to write to my friend Harvey Berish of Drum Corps Publicists Assoc. and see what can be done about our poor coverage by the local news media.

Well, anyway, the contest was won by the "Big Green" the Shamrocks of Seattle, making it win number two for them this year. They are starting out just as they did last year, but the Royal Lancers are very close to overtaking them. In two contests this year the Lancers have been within one and one-half points of the Shamrocks. In this particular contest the Shamrocks had a score of 78.641 with the Lancers at 76.791. The Lancers had a one point penalty for a finish line violation. If it hadn't been for the penalty the Lancers would have been less than one point behind. To summarize the whole thing, I would have to say it was the weak showing of the Shamrocks drum line that is keeping them down. They still have an outstanding horn line that will be hard to beat, so it will be up to their drums to come up to the horn line level; all in all it looks like a real battle generating between them and the Royal Lancers this year. The Sentinels were in third place, with a

much improved corps. They had the largest corps in the contest and their sound was just great but I don't believe they will be able to over-take the Shamrocks or Lancers this year, but 1970 should be their big year.

In the "B" Division the winners were the Hawks of Portland. They put on one of their finer shows tonight and through their effort were elevated to the "A" Division of the NWDCA. I believe they will become one of the really fine "A" corps in the Northwest and a credit to the city of Portland. In second place were the Cascades, although their show was much better than the one in Salem, it was still lacking the old drive. With a few adjustments and the likes of Curt Carol working with their horns, they could become an "A" corps this year. In third and fourth place respectively were the Flamingos and the Imperial Cadets.

In the "C" Division the newly formed Titans were first with the Guardsmen and Mustangs taking second and third. For all scores of the contest check the special score page.

The Color Guard Contest was won by the Cascades with a score of 90.70 followed closely by the Shamrocks with 89.90, Thunderbirds 89.45 and the Flamingos 84.15. This is the second win of the year for the Cascades and it looks like it will take an outstanding effort by the other guards to upset them.

*Editor: Writing to Harv Berish will not find a solution to promotion and publicity. It appears as though the corps themselves do not wish the publicity or appreciate what it can do for them. To continue this column, Mr. Schillen must receive news and pictures of corps in the area he covers. Corps directors and managers must look beyond their noses and accept this responsibility and each and every member of all the corps must support the media that supports them. Our drum corps pastime, although growing, is not growing at the pace of other activities across the nation - How many Mustangs would Ford sell if they were not promoted?*