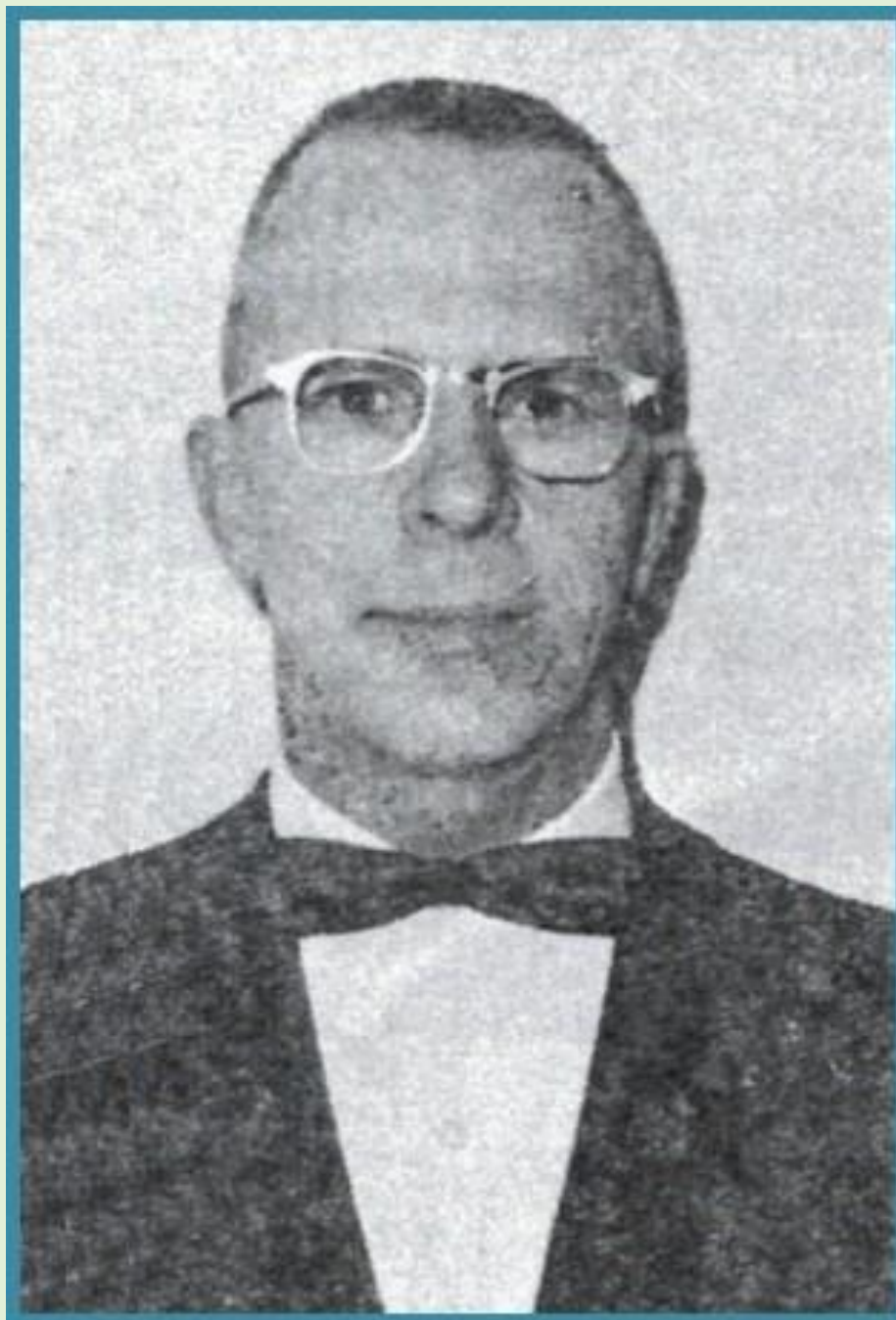


# Mike Stefanowicz

By Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com

From 1950 through the mid-1980s, The Pacific Northwest had the privilege of having one of the country's most prominent snare drummers living amongst us.



**Mike Stefanowicz**  
**ca 1964**

Mike was born in Meriden Connecticut in 1919. He started playing drums at the age of 13. By the age of 15 he was teaching and judging drumming. In about the same timeframe, he joined the City Park D&BC in his home town of Meriden. By 1937 (age 18) he was assembling and testing drums at the Ludwig drum factory in Chicago Illinois.

He served five years in the Army during WWII in Europe and Africa (1940 – '45).

In 1950 after he graduated from Tri-State University in Angola Indiana, he migrated to Seattle to work for the Boeing Company as an electrical and radio engineer. While in Seattle, he got the itch to get serious about drumming again and decided to re-enter national drumming competitions. (See his record on the next page.)

By the mid-1950s Mike had joined the Seattle Hurricanes Sr D&BC (the alter-ego of the American Legion University Post #11 D&BC). He was an instructor and marching member thru approximately 1962.

Mike taught the Seattle Thunderbirds drumline from 1960 thru 1964, when he retired from teaching and competing. He continued to play for his own enjoyment until very late in life.



**MIKE STEFANOWICZ**  
**Drumming Legacy**

1934 Taught and judged at age 15.

1937 Worked for Ludwig assembling and demonstrating drums at age 18.

**National Drumming Awards:**

1939 New York American Drummers Assn (ADA) – SECOND Place

1940 New York ADA – THIRD Place

1940 Boston National Assn of Rudimental Drummers – SECOND Place

1959 Los Angeles VFW – SECOND Place

1960 Detroit VFW – FIRST Place

1963 VFW National Championship – FIRST Place

1964 World Senior Open at Flushing NY World's Fair – SECOND Place

**Northwest Drumming Awards:**

1960 NW Competition, Seattle – FIRST Place

**Washington State Drumming Awards:**

1960 Yakima, Wash State VFW – FIRST Place

1960 Tacoma, Wash State VFW – FIRST Place

1960 Yakima, Wash State American Legion – FIRST Place

**New England:**

FIRST Place - Connecticut

SECOND Place - 13 times in: Conn, Rhode Island, Mass, N.Y., and New England

**Instructor:**

1950s Seattle Hurricanes percussion instructor and member

1960 - 64 Percussion Instructor, Seattle Thunderbirds D&BC.



**PERCUSSION INSTRUCTOR FOR THE SEATTLE THUNDERBIRDS, 1960 thru 1964**  
**Photo: 1964**

Inducted into the Drum Corps Hall of Fame in 1997. See dedication below.

**MIKE STEFANOWICZ**

Mike Stefanowicz starting making music at age 12, and by 1940 was known across the country as one of the best drummers in the activity. His skill was also recognized outside the United States. After finishing as the first runner up in the individuals at the American Legion national convention in Boston, he finished as first runner up in the World Senior Open Championships during the World's Fair, in Flushing, NY. In addition to performing with several fife and drum corps, he performed with the Seattle Hurricanes drum and bugle corps. He also instructed the drum lines of the Hurricanes and Thunderbirds of Seattle.

Drum Corps member in:

- **Connecticut** - Ancients, the Connecticut Imperial Cadets, and (Meriden) City Park Jr. D&BC
- **Georgia** – American Legion
- **Chicago**- Belgian-American War Vets
- **Seattle** - Hurricanes Sr.



# STYLE & TECHNIQUE

FOR

DRUM CORPS

DRUMMING

BY MIKE STEFANOWICZ

Offered by the  
Ludwig Drum & Bugle Corps Educational Department

“How-To” drumming technique pamphlet  
written by Stefanowicz in ca 1964

THE AKAY (The Trestle) by MIKE STEFANOWICZ  
Seattle WA 'Hurricanes' D&B: circa 1958

Snare solo written by Stefanowicz in 1958 for the  
Seattle Hurricanes Sr D&BC