

1975 -- A year of change for Pacific Northwest drum corps

text and photos from Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com, Carl Latchaw, administrator

From the close of the 1974 season to the end of 1975, there was a period of metamorphosis for several Pacific Northwest drum corps. The following is a brief recap of those happenings.

The Seattle, WA, **Shamrocks** (below) and the Bellevue, WA, **Sentinels** (right) closed up shop at the end of 1974



and re-emerged together as the Seattle-based **Marksmen** (below) in 1975. Their last field show was in 1976. The demise? Financial. They lost their bingo license and couldn't raise enough funds to keep the corps running.



The **Royal Lancers** (below) from Portland, OR, and the **Portland Hawks** (bottom right) also closed their doors at the end of 1974, joined forces and re-emerged as the **3rd Regiment** (bottom left) in 1975. They continued through the end of the 1978 season.



The 1974 Salem, OR, **Flamingos** (top left on next page) morphed into the Salem **Argonauts** (top right on next page) in 1975. Their post-1974 success led to two high-level appearances at DCI in 1976 and 1977. They ran into financial issues and did not field a corps in 1978 or 1979, re-emerging to take the field again in 1980. They



reappeared in DCI competitions in 1984, 1985 and 1987. Their last year to field a corps was 1987. The **Percussion-Naut Patriots** (third from top



left) based in Spokane, WA, placed high at DCI Prelims in 1972, 1973 and 1974, but decided in 1975 to no longer participate in drum corps competitions. This decision spawned the birth of another corps in Spokane for those wishing to continue competing in the drum corps circuit. In September 1975, the Spokane **Renaissance** (middle with light burst, unknown) was born. The Patriots continued performing as a non-competing drum corps off and on throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s.



And the last corps on this list is the Tri-Cities **Columbians** (left) from Pasco, WA. They didn't merge or rename themselves during the winter of 1974-1975, but instead, the corps folded at the end of the 1975 season. This corps had a rather long run since its inception in 1955. [Editor's note: the current **Columbians** (bottom left) restarted in 2012 and have fielded large corps each year through



2019 and is still in existence through the COVID pandemic, but have competed in only a few regional shows, not yet traveling to DCI in Indianapolis. Their appearance in 1973 at Whitewater, WI, included playing all the corps back onto the field for the full retreat.]

Big happenings in the Pacific Northwest drum corps scene in 1975. Seven corps distilled to



three, with one newborn.

Long live the drum corps activity!

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Current DCI corps: (above) **Seattle Cascades**, 1975; (far left) **Columbians**, 2019 (Donny Helvey); (left) **Seattle Cascades**, 2019 (Russell Tanakaya).