

A lesson from history

by Carl Latchaw, Drum Corps World staff (latchman44@yahoo.com) © PacificNorthwestDrumCorps.com 2023

What's that saying? "The more things change, the more they stay the same"?

Us folks in the Pacific Northwest -- in Seattle specifically -- have tried many times in the past 30-years or so to form a senior drum corps from the remnants of 1960s and 1970s junior corps. We have thousands of experienced people to draw from, so why not?

I guess people are too busy with life, or are letting the old competitive rivalries stand in the way or maybe fell out of love with drum corps. Hard to believe, yes?

Even our beloved Seattle Cascades had a rough time getting back into competition. We're happy they made it back onto the field in 2023. They are the only corps left in town and we're rooting for their survival.

The problem of creating, nourishing, and sustaining drum corps is not new to us



Northwesterners.

During a deep-dive investigation into another subject, we came across an interesting commentary on Seattle drum corps.

This article was written on May 6, 1919 and submitted to a Seattle newspaper. Little did the writer know that five months later on September 16, 1919 Congress would charter the American Legion. Following that event, drum corps activity exploded across the United States. I guess

WANTS DRUM CORPS

Editor The Star: Since coming to Seattle I have noticed there are a number of drum corps, or that is, wouldbe drum corps. They are composed of older men and young men. Surely, in a city as large as Seattle there is enough talent to produce a first-class drum corps that could compete with others in this state and other states.

I have been a member of a number of the best drum corps in Illinois; one, the Rockford Boys' Club drum corps, is the best in Illinois. I have also been in the U. S. W. V. drum corps, and can get recommendations from both. My idea is to organize a drum corps that Seattle can be proud of.

HARRY E. ELLISON,
428 Elewett St.

he got his wish.

Will we still be talking about the issue of creating quality drum corps another 104-years from now like we did 104-years ago? Dunno. If we are, that means drum corps is alive and well in the year 2127. That would be unbelievable. I bet that would've been Harry Ellison's reaction back in 1919 about the futuristic drum corps of 2023.

Long Live Drum Corps! ■

