

The legacy of the Seattle Hurricanes

by Carl Latchaw, Drum Corps World staff (latchman44@yahoo.com) © Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com 2024

The Seattle Hurricanes Drum & Bugle Corps of American Legion University Post #11 existed from 1927 through 1966 and were nine-time Washington State Legion Champions. Five members of this corps went on to form their own junior drum corps in the late 1950s and early 1960'.

One of those members was Jack Avery. He marched with the Harvey Seeds Rebels Legion Drum & Bugle Corps in Miami, FL, from 1946 through 1948, when he moved to Seattle and joined the Hurricanes.

Mr. Avery played baritone in the Hurricanes from 1948 to 1966 and was Washington State baritone champion several times. He was also their director from 1948 through 1962 and music director from 1962 to 1966. In February 1958 Mr. Avery created the Greenwood Boys Club Drum and Bugle Corps, AKA: the Seattle Thunderbirds. They ran from February 1958 through 1970.

In 1963, Mr. Avery and Rod Stubbs formed the Thunderbird (TB) Cadets, the feeder for the A- Corps. At the end of the season in 1965, a majority of TB Cadet parents asked Mr. Avery and Mr. Stubbs to form



a new corps separate from the Thunderbird organization. In June 1966 the Cascade Cadets (AKA the Seattle Cascades) were born using 63% of the TB Cadet members and their equipment.

If you look at these events from an ancestral point of view with Hurricane member Jack Avery founding the Thunderbirds (TBs), the Thunderbirds would be the child corps of the Hurricanes and the TB Cadets, which was born of the TBs, would be the grand corps of the Hurricanes and the Cascade Cadets, cleaved from the TB Cadets, would be the great-grand corps of the Hurricanes.

1955 Seattle Hurricanes



As mentioned,, five Hurricanes' members formed their own junior corps. They were:

- Jack Avery -- Thunderbirds (Seattle), who formed the TB Cadets (their feeder corps) and the Cascade Cadets (AKA Seattle Cascades).
- John Broderick and Al Whitman formed the CYO Squires, AKA the Shamrocks (Seattle), who formed the Bell-Aires (their feeder corps).
- Jerry Chambers who formed the El Toreadors (West Seattle) and the Amigos (West Seattle).
- Frank Sousa who formed the Blue Angels (Renton WA).

That's a total of eight drum corps. Well done, Hurricanes!

We have a continuous overlapping lineage of drum corps from the Hurricanes, through the Thunderbirds, through the TB Cadets and through the Seattle Cascades -- 1927 through 2023. That's almost 100 years of unbroken drum corps heritage in the Pacific Northwest. Amazing indeed.

We would also like to acknowledge the other Hurricane members



1959 CYO Squires
AKA: Seattle Shamrocks

who went on to instruct and manage many other PNW drum corps. All of these folks have long since passed, but we owe them our gratitude for their dedication and personal sacrifice for the youth of the Pacific Northwest; benefits of which we are still reaping today.



July 1961
Seattle Hurricanes - right end
Seattle Thunderbirds - second from right
Seattle Shamrocks - fourth from right



1962 Blue Angels
Renton, WA

Go to PacificNorthwestDrumCorps.com and select "DC Families" in the Web site header to see our lineage.

Peace be with you. Long Live Drum Corps! © Pacific Northwest Drum Corps.com 2023. ■



1962
Jack Avery with
Seattle Thunderbird Trophies



AMERICAN LEGION
DRUM & BUGLE CORPS
UNIVERSITY POST #11
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
Seattle Drum and Bugle Corps



1958 Greenwood Boys Club
AKA: Seattle Thunderbirds



1964 Seattle Shamrocks Drum Quartet
at VFW Nationals in Cleveland, OH



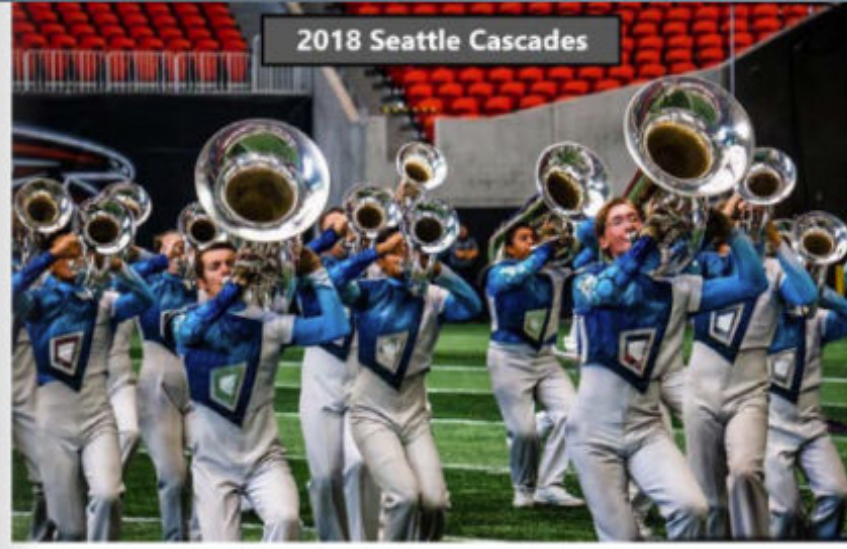
1965 Amigos, West Seattle, WA



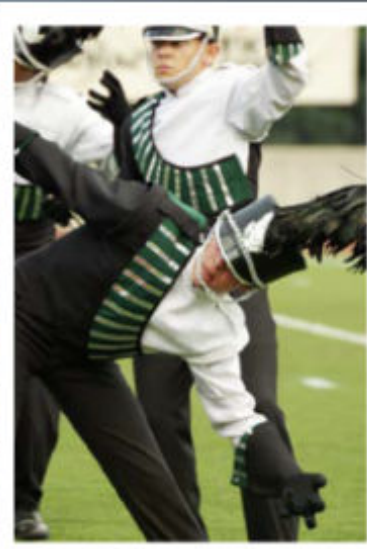
1965 Bell-Airs, Seattle WA



1965 Thunderbird Cadets



2018 Seattle Cascades



1966 Seattle Thunderbirds



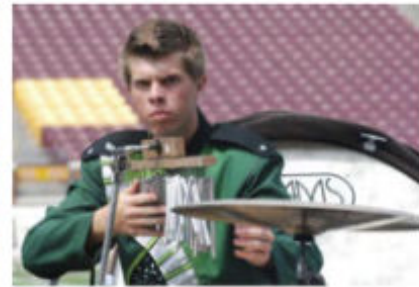
1967 El Toreadors



1968



1968 Seattle Cascades and Thunderbirds Marching Together in the Pacific National Exhibition parade in Vancouver BC, Canada



Seattle Cascades -- (above left) 2009 (Pat Chagnon); (left) 2013 (Ron Walloch); (below) 2023 (Ron Wyatt).



1970 Seattle Cascades



1973 Seattle Shamrocks

