

Seattle drill teams

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As corps members in the 1970's, we marched a lot of parades; I mean we marched an easy seven or eight parades a year. It was an avenue to raise cash and sometimes it was a prerequisite for entering that evening's show. Sometimes on the Fourth of July we marched three parades. Gotta make that money.



I believe the longest and definitely the hottest parade was the Water Follies parade in Pasco (Eastern) Washington, with a length of 4.5 miles and a temperature of 90-plus degrees. Brutal.

The parade I liked the best was the Seattle Torchlight Parade. Always held at night with throngs of people watching, Wiki says there are roughly 300,000 attending the parade these days. It was definitely a big deal.

We'd always vie to see who'd march on the left end so we'd be seen on TV. Our parents saw us on the tube many times. (Uh, does anybody call it the "tube" anymore? You know, the

"boob-tube"?)

The Torchlight and Water Follies parades were literally night and day. The Torchlight, in Western Washington, with several hundred-thousand spectators during the coolness of night, with only a 2-mile trot down the street; juxtaposed to the Water Follies parade in Eastern Washington with the blistering heat of the day and absolutely no spectators until you hit the reviewing stand. And let's not forget those 4.5 miles of foot-burning, heat-reflecting pavement.

We always saw drill teams at parades and knew them by

sight. Their uniforms were every bit as unique and colorful as ours. They looked sharp and their



Seattle Chinese Community Girls Drill Team
1963



1968 Seattle Thunderbirds (green skirts) and Cascade Cadets (red skirts) combined drum corps, Vancouver BC, Canada



1969 Drill-A-Rettes



1977 Seattle Cascades (right)
The Lil' Señoritas Drill Team, Seattle (center)



2013 Ballard Eagles (Seattle)



North Queens Drill Team - Seattle 2013

Ballard Eagles # 172, St. John's Elementary School drill team and the only boy's drill team, the Blue Devils, founded in 1966 and sponsored by the Seattle Moose Lodge #211.

Renaissance Junior Team



1969

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Drill teams have long-standing traditions and hard-fought victories like drum corps do. They have experienced the ups and downs of competition and the camaraderie that those experiences bring.

Drum corps and drill teams were cut from the same cloth. We grew up in the same neighborhoods, attended the same schools and we all strived to be the very best. If you are out there girls (and boys), we salute you!

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marching drills were complicated and superbly executed.

We have 16 teams listed in our 1969 Seattle Drill Team Association handbook. The association itself was founded in 1929.

Some of the drill teams and their sponsors included Bethel #54 sponsored by the International Order of Job's Daughters, the West Seattle American Legion Drill Team, the Filipino Youth Activities of Seattle Drill Team, the North Queens, sponsored by the Lynnwood Elks Lodge #2171, the Ballard Eagles (Seattle) sponsored by the

The oldest association drill team in 1969 was the Seattle Eagles Auxiliary No. 1, formed in 1953. Those are some real old-time sponsors, folks.

A few of these teams are still around in the 21st Century. The Ballard Eagles, the North Queens and the La Señoritas are still rocking it. The Seattle Drill Team Association is still extant, too. Like drum



1974 Flamingos D&BC Salem, Oregon



Seattle Chinese Community Drill Team



Filipino Youth Activities

1969



Seattle Drill Team Association

Participating Members
1969