

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



**The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

APRIL, 1965.

No. 60.

B. C. P I P E R S ' N E W S L E T T E R

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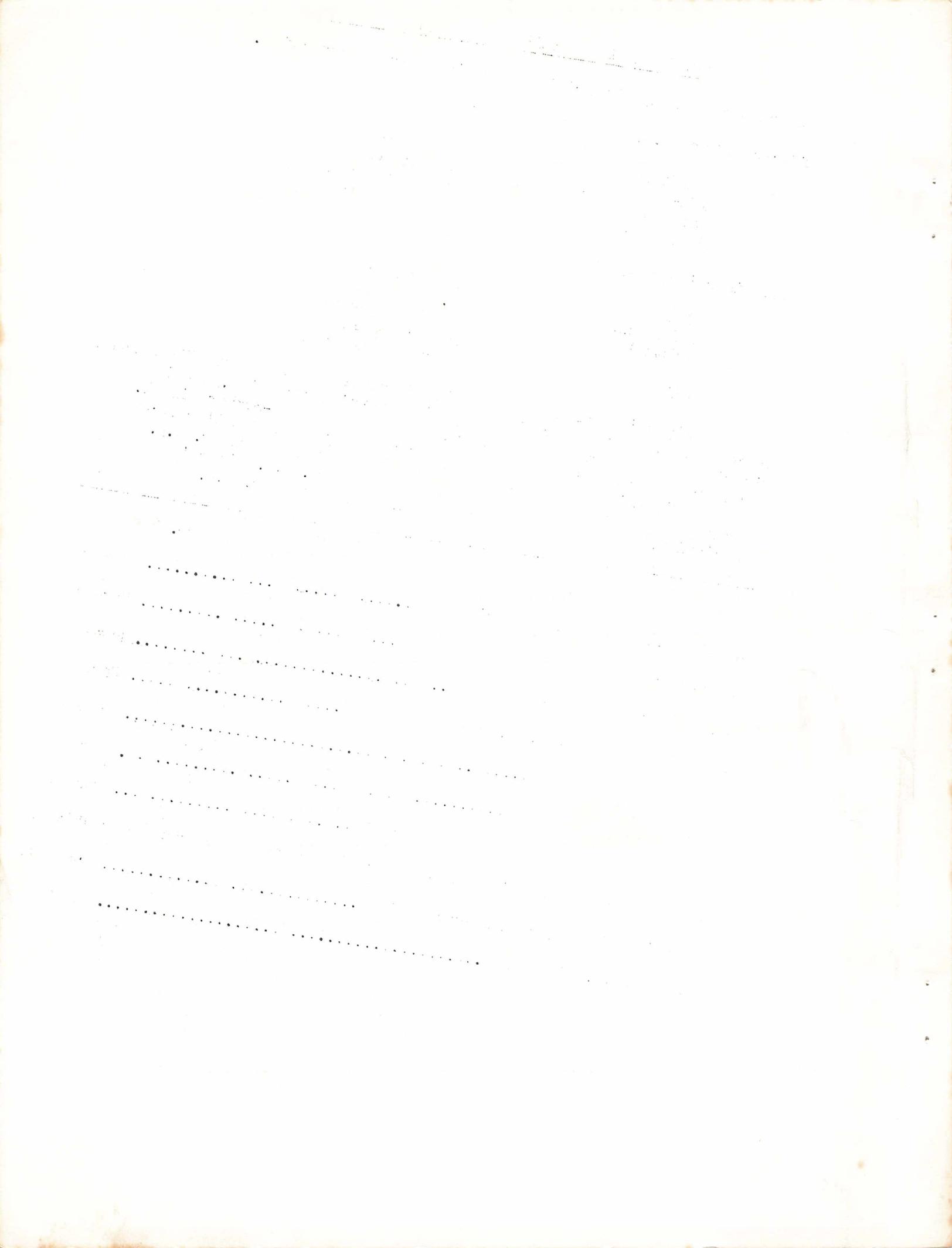
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 30, 1965

The B.C. Pipers' Association will hold their Annual Meeting on Friday, April 30th, in the band room at the Seaforth Armoury.

We would urgently request all of our members to come to this meeting, which is indeed the most important one of the year. If you don't like the present officers, now is your chance to replace them. It should be mentioned, to avoid the difficulties of past years, that it is necessary to obtain the permission in writing of any absent member, before he is elected to office in the association.

The order of business at the Annual General Meeting will be:

- Reading of previous minutes
- Report of President
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Trustees
- Election of President, Vice-President and 9 Directors
- Election of Auditors
- Motions
- Notices of Motions.



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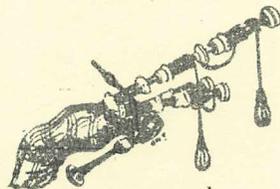
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SCOTLAND

VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND FESTIVAL: March 12th & 13th:

The following are the piping and drumming results:

Under 14 Amateur Marches (13 competitors)

1. Donald Taylor 2. David Irvine 3. David Anderson
H. Donald MacMillan M. Dal Jessiman

Under 14 Amateur Strathspeys & Reels (12 competitors)

1. Donald Taylor 2. Dal Jessiman 3. Colin Abel
H. Donald MacMillan M. Bill Macaulay

Novice Marches:

1. Merrill Maddock 2. David Anderson 3. Glen McKinley
H. Kenneth Robertson H. Ross Marshall H. Marjorie Forsyth
M. Richard Robertson M. Richard Nichol M. Robbie Robson
M. Alex MacInnes

Under 14 Non-Prize Winners, Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Sandy Marshall

Under 16 Amateur Marches:

1. Therese MacInnes 2. Raymond Irvine 3. Gregor Grever
H. Bill McMichael H. Dennis Collister M. Dal Jessiman
M. Jean Jarvis

Under 16 Amateur Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Therese MacInnes 2. John Angus McLeod 3. Kelly Hagan
H. Raymond Irvine H. Dal Jessiman M. Jean Jarvis
M. David Don

Slow Airs - Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band members:

1. Therese MacInnes 2. Barbara MacArthur 3. Jean Jarvis
H. Janice Taylor M. Lynn Grocott

Over 16 Amateur Marches:

1. Bob McDonald 2. Bruce Topp 3. Lynn Grocott
H. John MacLeod M. Douglas Graham

Over 16 Amateur Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Bruce Topp 2. Bob McDonald 3. Douglas Graham
H. Barbara MacArthur M. John MacLeod

Piping Quartets:

1. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band

Drum Corps:

1. White Spot Junior Pipe Band

Novice Drumming:

1. Bruce Topp 2. Neil Marshall 3. Roderick Dickey
H. Ann MacNeil H. David Dickens M. George Greig
M. Paddy Crawford M. Sandra Collister

Class "C" Drumming:

1. David Scott 2. Bob Fee H. George Blair

Class "B" Drumming:

1. Keith Manifold

Trophies:

Norma Nicholson Aggregate (Under 14) - Donald Taylor
Malcolm Nicholson Aggregate (under 16) - Therese MacInnes
Raebelle Memorial Trophy (Slow Airs) - Therese MacInnes
Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Aggregate (Over 16) - Bruce Topp &
Bob MacDonald (tie)
Orkney and Shetland Society Trophy (Quartets) - Vancouver Ladies
Pipe Band
Phyllis Irene Murray Trophy (Drum Corps) - White Spot Junior
Pipe Band
Kenneth Ruddick Trophy (Novice Drumming) - Bruce Topp
Jim Blackley Trophy ("C" Class Drumming) - David Scott
Bruce Third Trophy ("B" Class Drumming) - Keith Manifold

The Band will be holding a Social and dance on May 8th at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall Branch 148, 4356 East Hastings. Make up a party for an evening of fun and dancing. Tickets may be obtained by phoning LA 2-1731 or CY 9-3589.

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SKYE PIPER CAN'T CALL THE TUNE: (from The Oban Times, March 11, 1965)

Mr. Murdo MacLeod, 13 Earlish, wrote last week to the Royal Scots Fusiliers of which he was formerly a member, telling them that he had composed a pipe tune which he proposed to dedicate to them.

He wanted to call the tune "The Royal Scots Fusiliers March to the Battle of Vimy Ridge". His trouble, however, was that he was unable to write down the tune, and although he had been a piper, his pipes had been stolen from him when he was working at the Forestry near Kyle of Lochalsh; so he was unable to play the tune.

He whistles it, however, and a former pipe major of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, Mr. George Stoddart, Edinburgh, has offered to make a special journey to Skye to write down the tune for him.

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PENTICTON HIGHLAND GAMES: MAY 22nd & 23rd.

The Second Annual Penticton Highland Games are slated for May 22nd & 23rd, at King's Park, Penticton, B.C.

The piping events will be held on both days, the Novice, Juvenile and Junior events on Saturday, May 22nd, and the Amateur, Professional and pipe band competitions on Sunday, May 23rd.

Further details can be obtained from:

Mrs. C. Steen,
Competition Secretary,
1329 Kilwinning Street,
Penticton, B.C.

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THE SCOTTISH SHOPPER:

We are pleased to welcome to our pages as a new advertiser, P.M. Jack Ironside, M.B.E., whose shop - The Scottish Shopper - has become well known to our friends in the North West region of the U.S.A. This venture came into being as the direct result of P.M. Ironside's hobby, - piping, pipe bands and Highland Dancing, and has had a steady growth, coupled with tremendous interest in the Northwest States in Scottish Tradition and Heritage. Jack and his partner Daisy (also his wife) find that they are filling a desperate need in the Northwest States for an immediate source of authentic Scottish supplies and information, without the U.S. customers having to smuggle or pay double import duty. As part of this demand for information, P.M. Ironside has prepared an interesting Scottish calendar for 1965, from which we reprint a list of pipe bands organized in Washington and Oregon.

Seattle Pipe Band, Seattle	P.M. J. McNeill
Washington Scottish P.B., Seattle	P.M. A. MacRae
Keith Highlanders P.B., Seattle	P.M. R. Dunshee
Seattle Scottish Boys' P.B., Seattle	P.M. J. Shumway
Blanchet High School Gaelic P.B.	Director - J.C. Wilds
Shorecrest High School Highlanders	P.M. Ron Oswell
Clan Gordon P.B., Tacoma	P.M. J. Taylor
Clan Cameron P.B., Bellingham	P.M. W. Paterson
Clan MacLeay P.B., Portland	P.M. N. Muir
Portland Scottish P.B., Portland	P.M. A. Johnson
Albany Scottish P.B., Albany, Ore.	P.M. L. Bellows
Ashland City P.B., Ashland, Ore.	P.M. B.A. Cope
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Clatsop Scottish P.B., Astoria, Ore.	P.M. H. McKenna
Angus Scott P.B., Spokane	P.M. G. Marr
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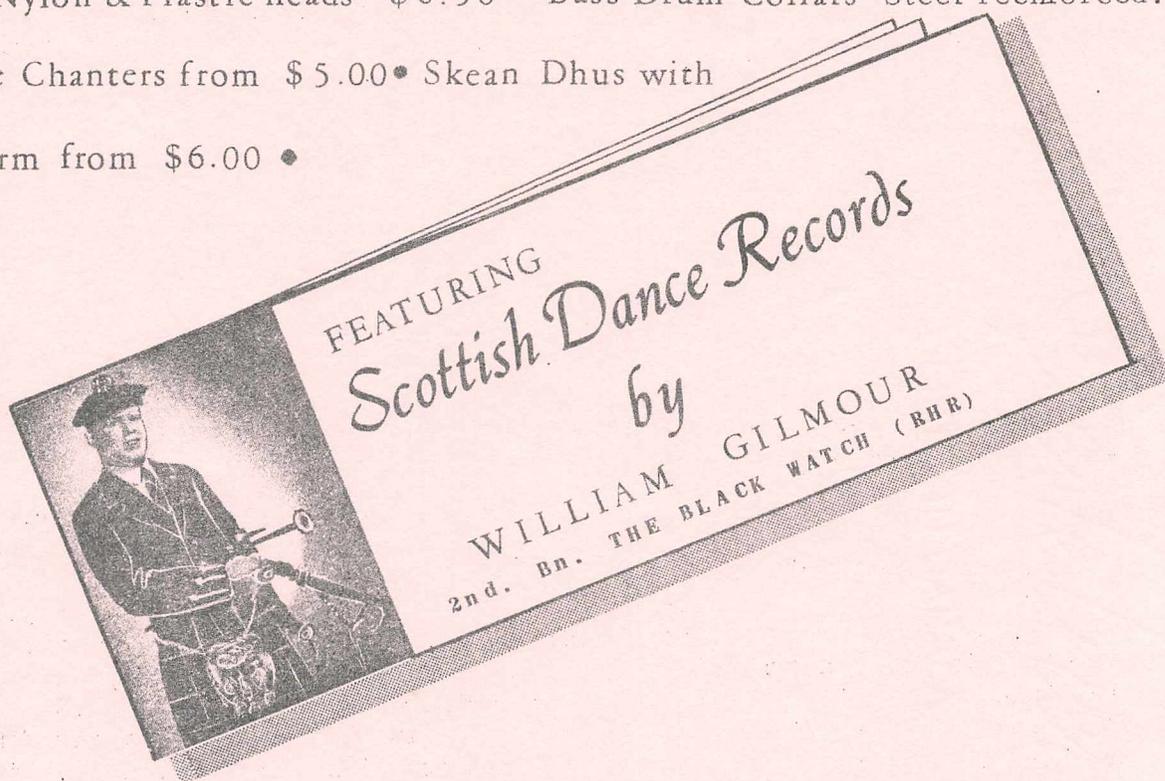
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WHAT ABOUT A WEE TUNE?

It's a far cry to the Highlands,
Over the commons and fens,
Over the moors and the Borderlands,
Back to the rugged bens;
When the fog is black in the city,
And the streets are cheerless and chill,
Piper, play me a wee bit tune
And bid my heart be still.

It's a far cry to the Highlands,
Over the desert drear,
Far from the flies and the sandstorms
And the scorching rays that sear,
From the sweltering heat of the daytime,
And the silent nights that chill,
Piper, play me a wee bit tune
And bid my heart be still.

It's a far cry to the Highlands
Over the prairie wide,
Over the broad Atlantic
On to the other side.
When the snow lies deep on the highways
And the frost it bites to kill,
Piper, play me a wee bit tune
And bid my heart be still.

It's a far cry to the Highlands,
Over the beaten track,
When you're yearning aye for your ain folk
And the hills that are calling you back,
When the years roll on between you,
And of roaming you've had your fill,
And you long again for the homeland
Then it's hard for your heart to be still.

There are kinsmen over the Border,
There are kinsmen scattered abroad,
There are kinsmen afloat on the seven seas,
And alone on the open road.
But wherever you meet with a Scotsman
As thro' this world you roam,
Piper, play him a wee bit tune
It will carry his heart back home.

- Annie Park Kerr -

THE ANSWER TO "WHAT ABOUT A WEE TUNE?"

I can be certain that all members of the B.C. Pipers' Association will immediately associate the above title with the bagpipe - an instrument that away back from early days has identified Scots, and Scottish descendants, in any part of the world where their lot has been cast. No other instrument has such power to move mens' souls; and those who have read the history of Scottish Regiments know that the renewed courage, inspired by the bagpipe, has contributed a lot to the victories won.

The Colonel of the Nova Scotian Regiment, held up by the enemy, during World War II. knew what would get him thro' h, when he signalled to send six tanks or one piper.

The music has no equal in the world, in raising the spirits of those who hear it, and in it, too, there is something that awakens tender emotions. Truly it is a mood music, whose airs, when heard by a group of people, can make some mirthful, and others sorrowful. The old Gaelic airs are tinged with a weird sadness in their melodies, and yet at the same time they give enjoyment.

James Mor MacGregor, the son of "Rob Roy", when in a wretched condition, and hiding in France, sent the following message to his friend in Scotland: "Please send me your pipes by the bearer of this note, so I can play some melancholy tunes, to cheer me up". (James died a short time after sending this note, but I have no evidence that he received the pipes).

There is certainly a depth of feeling about the music that can touch the hearts of those of any race, but I believe that only those of the Scottish race can really understand what is meant by: "Piper play me a wee bit tune, and bid my heart be still".

I know that, with a piper playing, the Scot can close his eyes, and with his heart doing the listening, he can enjoy meditation deep enough to have pictures of his far-away home, and faces of loved ones, flashed onto the screen of his mind, and become a living part of himself, until such time as he is aroused.

It is evident that the composer, the late Annie Park Kerr, learned to love and appreciate the pipes, and knew well enough of the power of the music, in recreating in the mind pictures of the homeland; hence her sympathy for one, who may be a lonely 'Scot' when she expresses the wish: "Piper, play him a wee bit tune, it will carry his heart back home.

- Roderick MacLeod -

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THE PIPERS' SOCIETY OF ONTARIO ANNUAL INDOOR GAMES - 1965:
Fort York Armouries, Toronto:

The Pipers' Society of Ontario held it's annual indoor games on Saturday, the 20th of March, 1965. Competitors turned out in good numbers from all over Ontario and from various points of the U.S.A. The number of spectators was, I think, up compared to previous years and from what I heard of the playing, the standard was excellent. The Open Strathspey and Reel competition was very poor, according to the judge, Alex. McNeill, and certainly there was an unusually large number of break-downs in this event, and by excellent players too. "It's an ill wind that blows naebody good" and a consistant competitor, John Goodenow, would be highly pleased to win that first prize against such distinguished performers.

I was asked to judge the Open Piobaireachd event, and, the first player not being present, the second man, Chris. Anderson, started his tune at 9:15 exactly by my watch. For four solid hours I sat and enjoyed a splendid exhibition of Ceol Mor from a wide variety of players, ranging from a young lad who played "The MacIntosh's Lament" and almost put me to sleep, to a wonderfully spry old gentleman of 90 (yes, ninety) who played "The Lament for Mary Macleod" and who blew his tuneful Pipe as steadily as any young fellow.

Here is the result and my comments:-

- 1st. P.M. A. Cairns, R.C.A.F. Rockcliffe - 96 points:
"Glengarry's March"
This was a delightful performance, given on a first class Pipe which kept in perfect tune until near the end when the drones went out very, very slightly. This is a tricky tune for the memory, particularly the Crunluath, but P.M. Cairns never put a finger wrong and his expression took me back to my old days at the Games in Scotland, when "Cill Chrìosd" was often played.
- 2nd. P.M. Chris. Anderson, Toronto - $94\frac{1}{2}$ points:
"Lament for Capt. MacDougall"
This was another delightful performance, and another first class Pipe which kept in perfect tune from start to finish. The only flaw was a slight choke in the third line of the Urlar. Expression and tempo were just to my taste.
- 3rd. Pipe Sgt. Reay Mackay, Toronto - 92 points:
"I got a kiss of the King's Hand"
Reay Mackay played beautifully except for the fact that his singlings were too fast and the same tempo as the doublings. His pipe was all that could be desired and the drones were as steady as a rock until the Crunluath singling, when I noticed they were very slightly out.

4th. Nelson Frew, Detroit, U.S.A. - $91\frac{1}{2}$ points.
"Too long in this Condition"
The timing of this tune wasn't exactly to my liking but it was very well played just the same and the Pipe was excellent. The drones went very slightly out during Var. 1, and remained so until the finish.

Bob. Leslie, Gaagetown, N.B. made a good job of the "MacIntosh's Lament" but his drones were slightly out at the start, went further out in Var. 1, and remained so until the end.

Bob Hilbert, Hamilton, played the "Massacre of Glencoe" well. Some C's in the ground were cut too short. In the second line of the Crunluath singling a B was played instead of a C. Drones went out very slightly in the Taorluath and stayed that way.

Jas. Fryer, Ingersoll, played "The Big Spree". He had a couple of chokes. His chanter was flat on B and E. The Siubhal singling and doubling were too jerky and the wrong emphasis was given certain notes. Drones were very steady all the way through.

David Martin, Detroit, played "The MacFarlanes' Gathering". He made a beautiful job until the middle line of the Crunluath doubling when he played a C instead of an F. Then he went completely off in the last line. His Pipe was beautiful and the drones in perfect tune until the Taorluath doubling when they went slightly off and stayed that way.

Robert Henderson, Kingston, played "MacIntosh's Lament" and did very well for a young boy. His drones were weak and away off tune. In the Taorluath doubling he got lost in the first line and again the the first line of the Crunluath doubling.

Hamilton Workman, Revere, Mass. U.S.A. played "Lament for the Only Son". His Pipe was very good but he played far too slowly. He had six chokes and a slip from B to C in the last line of the Crunluath singling.

Rosemary Nodwell, Seaforth, Ont. played "The Lament for Capt. MacDougall". She played well until the Crunluath singling, when, after two chokes and a squeal she gave up.

John Goodenow, Detroit, U.S.A. played the "Lament for Mary MacLeod". He was playing well, but in the first line of the Taorluath singling one of his drones stopped and so did John.

John Murie, Peterborough, played "Tulloch Ard". In the Urlar he didn't hold the E's long enough and in Var. 1 he didn't hold the high A's long enough. His drones were slightly out at the start and went further out in Var. 11. He made three chokes and stopped in the first line of the doubling of Var. 11.

P.M. Stirling, Pettawawa, Ont. played "The Prince's Salute". His Pipe was excellent although the drones went very slightly out in the Taorluath doubling. In the first line of the Crunluath singling he didn't play the low A Crunluath before the cadence at the end of the line. In the repeat of the line he did the same thing again. He stopped in the first line of the Crunluath doubling.

Cpl. Angus Fleming, Pettawawa, Ont. played "MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart's Lament" (Tune No. 1). He went off in the first line of the Taorluath singling and stopped playing. He was playing well but his drones were slightly out at the start and were going farther out.

P. M. W. Burns, Toronto, played "The Lament for Mary MacLeod". Willie stopped in the middle line of the Taorluath singling, but up 'till then he made a fair job of the tune. His chanter and drones were very good indeed. So he made a few catches. At 90 years of age I consider this to be the performance of the day and an exhibition of indomitable spirit which shames a lot of young fellows.

In any open "Piping" competition, competitors should tune their Pipes themselves. Just try and imagine an open violin competition and visualize a second party tuning a competitor's violin. Doesn't it seem ridiculous?

Marches (Open) Judge:- Geo. Duncan, Detroit, U.S.A. (23 competitors)
1. Chris Anderson, Toronto 96 points
2. Gordon Tuck, St. Thomas 95 "
3. Reay Mackay, Toronto 94

Strathspey and Reel (Open) Judge:- Alex McNeill, Montreal (21 competitors)
1. John Goodenow, Detroit 96 points
tie (2. P.M. W. Stirling, Pettawawa 90 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
(3. Alex Dewar, Toronto 90 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Marches (17 to under 22) Judge:- Sandy Keith, Hamilton (15 competitors)
1. Rosemary Nodwell, Seaforth 93 points
2. W. Hilbert, Hamilton 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
3. K. Eller, St. Catharines 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Strathspeys & Reels (17 to under 22) Judge:- John Wakefield, Toronto
1. J. Fryer, Ingersoll 95 $\frac{1}{2}$ points (11 competitors)
2. Rosemary Nodwell, Seaforth 95 "
3. K. Eller, St. Catharines, 93 "

Marches (16 years and under) Judge:- Sandy Keith, Hamilton (17 competitors)
1. D. Ross, Chatham 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ points
2. C. Macdonald, Goderich 89 "
3. R. Eller, St. Catharines 88 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Marches (14 years and under) Judge: - Sandy Keith (27 competitors)

1. J. Noble, Madison Heights, Mich. 86½ points
2. C. Turland, Goderich 86 "
3. R. Worrall, Teeswater 85 "
4. J. Macdonald, Goderich 84½ "

Drumming (Open) Judge:- John Kirkwood, St. Catharines (7 competitors)

1. J. Kerr, Rockcliffe 97 "
2. W. Jarvis, Peterborough 95 "
3. N. Nash, Toronto 94 "

Drumming (17 to under 22) (2 competitors)

1. C. Neil, Hamilton 85 "

Drumming (16 years and under) (3 competitors)

1. C. Noble, 92 "
2. C. Paige, Goderich 90 "

It seems likely that the age group events for drumming will be discontinued owing to lack of interest.

Quartette Piping (B Class) (11 quartettes)

1. St. Andrews, Detroit, U.S.A. 196½ points
2. Balmoral High's Syracuse, U.S.A. 189½ "
3. Canadian General Electric, Peterborough 184 points

The three prize winners were very good with St. Andrews outstanding.

Quartette Piping (A Class) (16 quartettes)

1. Clan Macfarlane # 2, St. Catharines 200 points
2. St. Thomas, St. Thomas 199 "
3. City of Toronto, Toronto 197½ "

Judges for Quartettes: A. McNeil, G. Duncan and J. Wilson.

This competition produced many excellent performances. I would like to state here how much we owe to all the competitors in the solo events and in the Quartette contests. If only the top few competed the competitions would indeed be poor, and no wonderful surprizes like John Goodenow's would ever take place.

The open fronted tent or canopy in which the Piping and Drumming took place on the main floor proved to be a success accoustically if not aesthetically and we can improve on it for next year. The R.C.E. very kindly loaned us the scaffolding for the job and the work party which did the erecting on the Friday night before the Games consisted of: Pres. Ian Burraway, Treas. D. Monahan, Neil Ferguson and his son Robt., Geo. Walker, Norm Mackenzie, Jos. Passmore and yours truly. Peter Gordon very kindly brought the materials to the Armouries and John Wakefield took them back again. On the day of the

Games, Dr. Iain Mackay and Mr. J. Anderson did a very good job of ushering. R.S.M. Bill Elms did his usual efficient job of announcing. Lorraine Stevens and Partner spent the whole day at the table at the entrance, while Bill Cockburn and John A. Hill looked after the refreshment tickets. Mr. and Mrs. Monahan were also kept busy and I nearly forgot Jimmie Lynch, who obtained the ropes from the stores. Joan Mackay computed the points. If I have forgotten anyone, it is unintentional, and the success of the Games is solely due to the willing workers behind the scenes and the degree of organisation obtained. The large and varied programme was carried through smoothly and the last event finished shortly after six p.m.

- John Wilson -
Toronto

(Ed.-Thank you, John, for the comprehensive and most interesting account of your gathering. It seems such a pity that one year our two indoor meets could not be combined. Perhaps one day it will be possible to hold such a contest, by means of a closed television circuit. If the audio reproduction were faithful enough, there should be no difficulty in a judge, situated in a control room, adjudicating competitors at different locations. What do you think, scientists?)

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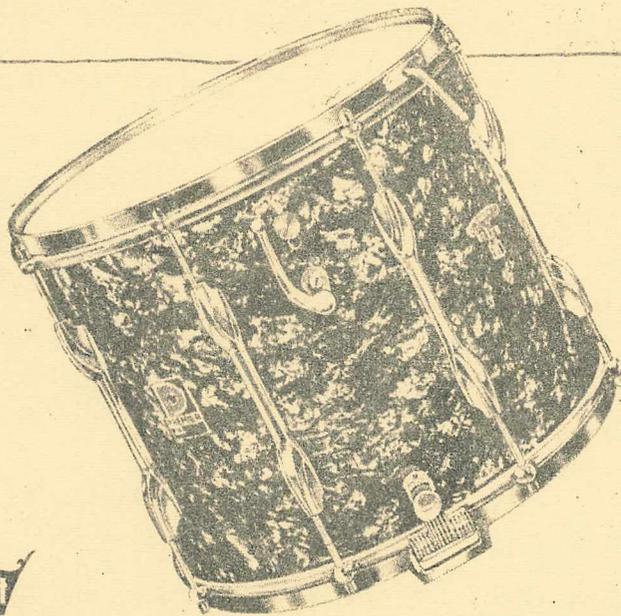
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CANADIAN PIPE MAJOR WINS BRONZE STAR - ARMY PIPING EVENT IN GERMANY:
(from The Oban Times, March 11, 1965)

Pipers, drummers, buglers and dancers of the several Scottish regiments at present stationed in Germany and also those of the 2nd Bn. the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) of Canada, were the guests recently of the 1st Bn. Queen's Own Highlanders at Mercer Barracks, Osnabruck for the battalion piping competition.

This competition follows the practice of the Queen's Own Highlanders while they were in the Far East, and indeed that of their forebears the Seaforth Highlanders and the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, of throwing the annual battalion competitions open to competitors from other regiments and corps in the district.

The competition was pretty well representative of the Army and in the circumstances it was most appropriate, that the overall champion, who was Pipe Major W.J. Gilmour, of the 2nd Bn. the Royal Highlanders of Canada, should receive a bronze star presented by the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society. A prize was also presented by the Piobaireachd Society for the winner of the open piobaireachd event - this was also won by Pipe Major Gilmour. A number of attractive prizes had also been donated by bagpipe manufacturers whose generosity, as on previous occasions, added to an impressive prize list.

The piping events are perhaps the most important and the Queen's Own Highlanders had invited Lt. Col. D.J.S. Murray, Maj. L. Cameron, Capt. G.B. Murray and Pipe Major MacLellan to come out to Germany to act as judges. Despite the "loaded" bench (Maj. Cameron was the Queen's Own Highlanders' medical officer in the Far East), the judges' decisions were unbiased and well received by the competitors. Those competitors who had attended the pipe major's course at the Army School of Piping and who held the certificate of proficiency were only allowed to enter for the open events.

Pipe Major W.J. Gilmour (Toronto) won first prize in all three major competitions and gave an outstanding performance in every respect. Among the younger players two young Queen's Own Highlanders who have recently passed through the Highland Brigade Junior Soldiers' Wing showed promise, Pipers Iain Morrison (Stornoway) and Kenneth Griffin (Drumadrochit). Every piper is a learner at some stage and the judges were impressed by the standard of instruction given to the young pipers of the Royal Scots Greys.

The dancers of the Queen's Own Highlanders had a degree of style and polish which placed them well above their competitors. Drummer Westhead gave an outstanding performance and was placed first in all four events. In the inter-regimental foursome reel competition the Royal Scots Greys won first place by careful attention to uniformity and detail in their dancing.

"Drummers", as Pipe Major John Macdonald of the Glasgow Police once remarked, "are a necessary evil" but the standard of their performance in the bugling and drumming competitions was very high. Drummer Urquhart (Nairn) of the Queen's Own Highlanders and Lance Corporal Dunn of the Black Watch were the respective winners.

After the prize giving a pipers' ceilidh was held and the company were entertained by selections from the chief prizewinners. This was an excellent opportunity for the pipers present to meet and hear Pipe Major John MacLellan, the senior pipe major in the British Army. Those who heard him that night were not disappointed and his superb playing will be remembered as an encouragement to further efforts. The ceilidh was attended by a number of officers and senior ranks and also the Divisional and Brigade Commanders.

Lt. Col. A.G. Findlay, Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn. Queen's Own Highlanders, addressed the company before they dispersed. He said that he hoped this competition would be continued in future years as it gave the competitors something to work for, an opportunity to meet together and exchange ideas. He thanked those whose task it was to organise the event and said how glad he was that such well-known figures in the piping world as Lt. Col. David Murray and Pipe Major John MacLellan were able to be present. He concluded by congratulating Pipe Major Gilmour on an outstanding performance.

Open Piobaireachd: 1. P.M. Wm. Gilmour (2nd R.H.C.) 2. Cpl. A. MacKillop
(1st Q.O. Highlanders) 3. P.M. J. Pryde (Greys)

Open March, Strathspey & Reel: 1. P.M. Wm. Gilmour (2nd R.H.C.)
2. Cpl. J. Venters (1st Q.O. Highlanders)

Open Jigs: 1. P.M. Wm. Gilmour (2nd R.H.C.) 2. Cpl. J. Venters

Confined Piobaireachd: 1. Ppr. W MacLean (1st Q.O. Highlanders)
2. Cpl. T. Elder (Greys) 3. Ppr. J. McIntyre (2nd R.H.C.)

Confined March, Strathspey & Reel: 1. Ppr. I Morrison (1st Q.O. High.)
2. Ppr. R. Griffin (1st Q.O. Highlanders) 3. Ppr. J. Moore
(1st B.W.)

Confined Jigs: 1. L/Cpl. J. MacLeod (2nd R.H.C.) 2. Ppr. R. Griffin
(1st Q.O. Highlanders) 3. L/Cpl. T. Harvey (2nd R.H.C.)

Novice Piping - Slow March and March: 1. Ppr. J. Robertson (Greys)
2. Ppr. W. Clarke (2nd R.H.C.)

Open Bugling: 1. Dmr. J. Urquhart (1st Q.O. Highlanders) 2. Dmr. J. Horne
(1st Q.O. Highlanders) 3. Cpl. W. Greer (1st R.H.F.)

Open Drumming: 1. L/Cpl. A. Dunn (1st B.W.) 2. Tpr. W. Stuart (Greys)
3. Cpl. W. Greer (R.H.C.)

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THE C.W.A.C. PIPE BAND:

(continued from March Newsletter)

Our thirty day Furlough was nicely timed, not only for the holidays, but the B.C. Pipers' Annual Indoor meet. Four of our Pipers entered in the quartette class; Doris Macdonald, Isabel Henderson, Kay Stephen, and Marie Ginnever.

We next met in January at new Headquarters arranged for us in Barracks at Hastings Park, and were soon preparing to return East again to our Kitchener Headquarters and commence another touring program for a spell before leaving Canada for overseas. We covered much of Ontario again from our Kitchener Base, and at Quebec we welcomed another Drummer, Josephine (Josie) Jarvis.

From here on I am out of the picture, due to health. The rugged life and sudden climatic changes affected many of us in one way or another, and for me the time had come to make a decision after landing in Hospital again in Kitchener after that tour. Much as I dearly wanted to go on with the Band, I could see it would be wiser to give up the struggle and leave now, rather than run the risk of illness catching up on me again in Hospital overseas. So I asked for a transfer out of the band to office work, and was returned to Vancouver for re-posting, and a major operation that could not be postponed.

Most of us had problems to face and work out, and I had my share sneaking up on me. When I couldn't keep my pipes up I knew it was time to listen to the Doctor. Seems I still could not win. Two steps forward and one step backward, that's me --- the story of my life ambitions, and this was a big one getting away. Now I had to take that weary step back. The girls went on without me, and my heart went with them, and my thoughts.

But I wasn't the only one, just the first drop-out. The Band was at Halifax waiting to go overseas when I received a letter telling me Piper Lorna Doull was ill in Hospital there and as yet they did not know what was wrong. She did not go overseas with them either. That was two of us out, and then a Drummer left, - Pat Wintemute. And a third Piper, Nellie Forrest, left for an operation.

Although I was not with them I can share some memoirs here given to me in a recent re-union talk with three of the girls. After finishing the second Canada tour they went back to Kitchener. Then after a spell of touring again in Ontario they went down into the United States and toured through Western Pennsylvania and into Washington, D.C. on a War Bond Committee drive. They were down there when V-Day arrived.

Returning to Canada they went East to Nova Scotia, and at Halifax were preparing to go overseas at last, with a new strength now of approximately 25 members. They left in August, 1945, and in Holland were to meet up with the Brass Band, which had gone over earlier. Landing in Scotland, they travelled to England, and were billeted in Aldershot Barracks for a

week, then left for Holland to join the Brass Band stationed at Apeldoorn. From this Headquarters now they made tours through Belgium and France, each Band on a separate tour, and sometimes together.

Paris was an experience to long remember, I am sure. It must have been a happy triumph, actually realizing such a dream. Completely around the Arc de Triomphe they played in Slow March, then Quick March all the way down the famous tree-lined promenade Champs Elysees, alive with cheering crowds, to the Place de la Concorde. And Paris loved them.

Then back to Apeldoorn to prepare for a trip into N.W. Germany, where they were billeted in a Military Hospital base in Olds, and from there made several tours, - one up to Wilhamshaven, where Canadian personnel were stationed at a Military Hospital. They were taken on many sight-seeing tours here, including the submarine pens in the Jade Bay harbour.

In Holland again they visited several towns, and saw the devastation of Arnhem, standing completely flattened and desolate, nothing left standing, and in the midst of it all the still-burning remains of a Church.

After five months overseas they returned to Canada in January, 1946, arriving at Halifax on February 1st, souvenirs, memories and all. Veterans of much rugged travelling by Army trucks many weary miles, sleep-snatching often on the way, regimental, routine Barracks order and discipline, -with all the glamour it was still the life of the soldier, not Riley. At Toronto they were disbanded, each girl returning to her original Depot for Army discharge.

The C.W.A.C. had commenced demobilizing, and not long after that year this small news item announced the closing of the Service:

"Women's Corps Now Disbanded.

Without fanfare of any sort, the famed Canadian Women's Army Corps wound up more than five years of honorable service today. At Little Mountain discharge depot, Lieut. K. Fulmer, of the Examiner Branch, released this afternoon, was the last CWAC in Western Command to leave the Service. In every military district in Canada the CWAC, remnants of a force that enlisted 21,614 volunteers since August 13, 1941, is being disbanded today".

Army Barracks every where had commenced to fold up and disappear, and somehow there was a sadness in the news of this grand old building's end. An age of bygone quality architecture from days of a gentler way of life, and gracious living, would fade with it as a city looked on in memory when the day arrived to demolish it.....

"Old Hotel Vancouver Empty Soon. (June 24, 1948)

Old Hotel Vancouver is becoming a ghost building. Once it housed 1250 veterans, wives and children. Today there are only 600 there. More than 500 refugees from flood areas were in the old

building two weeks. Only 60 remain. By June 30, the last refugees are expected to have left either to return to their homes or to be billeted in Vancouver homes under arrangements made by the Red Cross. By the middle of July the last of the veterans are expected to be out. Homes are expected to be ready, for the 160 families at Renfrew Heights, the five remaining single men will have found lodging and so will the 19 childless couples. July 31 T. Eaton and Company take over!

And now I come to the perfect ending for the old Vancouver Barracks in that same Hotel, where the C.W.A.C. PIPE BAND was born. The last word, through the last note --- by the Pipes.

On January 20, 1949, our local paper now published this story, with Lillian Grant's picture and the news ... "Scots' Lament for old Hotel Vancouver is Piped through silent, night-darkened corridors by pretty Lillian Grant. During the war Lillian trained her CWAC Pipe Band on hotel's roof".

The followed the full story

"Girl Piper Plays Lament to Old Hotel:

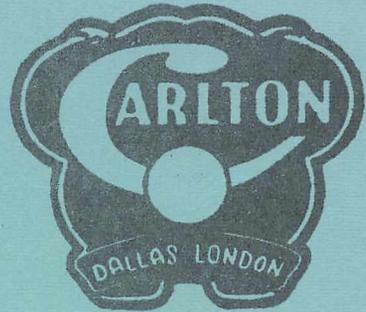
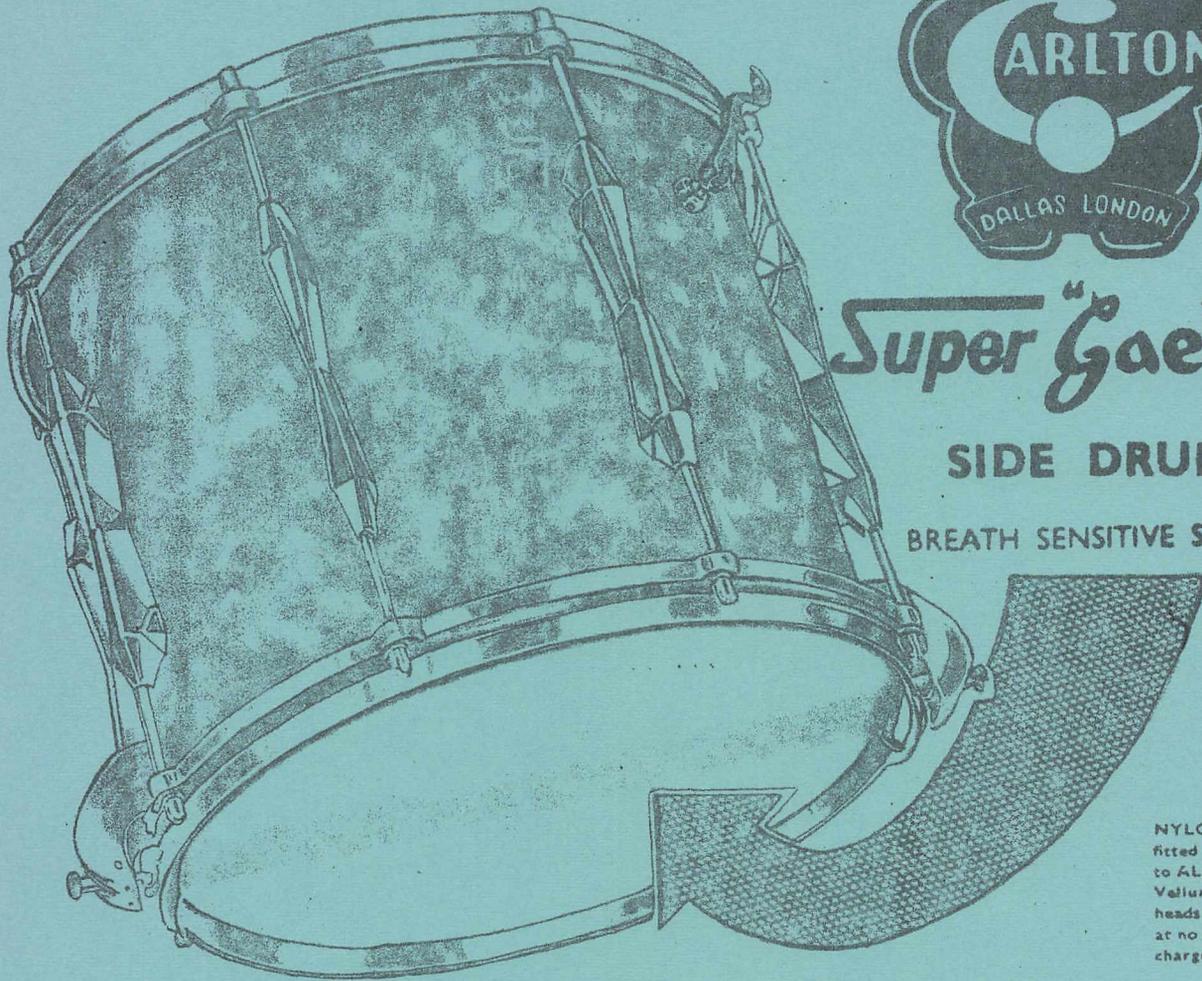
Last night the ghosts wore tartan. For the skirl of a lament was trembling along the empty, darkened corridors of old Hotel Vancouver. It was the Scots' farewell and it came from the pipes of a girl keeping a midnight tryst with a wartime memory. Her name is Lillian Grant. Pipe Major Lillian Grant to the Canadian Army, the one-time "Miss Vancouver Island" who gave up being Victoria's official greeter to form the first women's military pipe band in the British Empire. Then after the war, Lillian Grant returned to the turreted brown brick building, not as a piper this time, but to work in the office for the veterans who made the old hotel their home. So last night, as she marched slowly, and knowingly, through halls illuminated only faintly by the beam of a night watchman's flashlight, it was like coming home!

And now with this most fitting finale I close my story of the Pipe Band born in B.C., which made Canadian Military history --- to the last skirl, a Lament for the passing of Vancouver Barracks and the old Hotel.

- Cathrine Paterson -

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(Ed. At the conclusion of Mrs. Paterson's lengthy and informative article, we would say that we were most pleased to be able to print this interesting history of the C.W.A.C. Pipe Band. Although sections of Mrs. Paterson's narrative were not of immediate interest to the piping fraternity, we feel that the reminiscences, nostalgic to the author, and we are certain to any former members of the band, help portray the story of a band. We would be pleased to see some of our readers follow suit, and give us some of their memories of their participation in other bands, which might now be extinct.)



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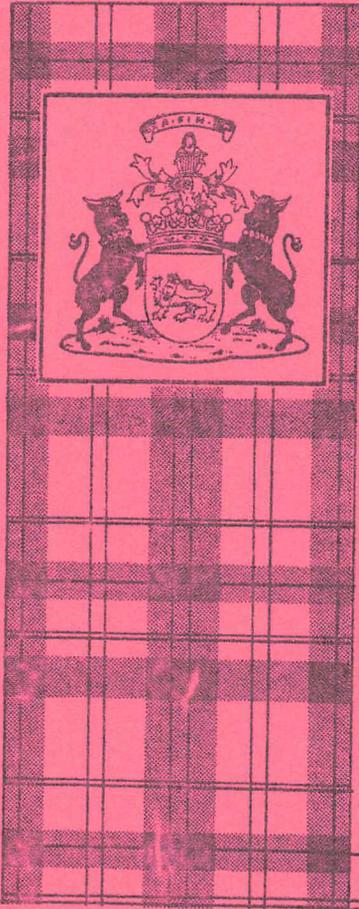
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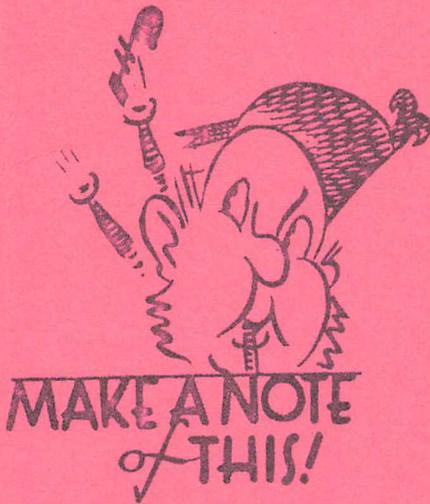


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