



AUGUST, 1960. No. 5.

We can be thankful for the fine weather which we have enjoyed at all of our local Highland games this summer. It is not difficult to remember past gatherings hampered by cold and rainy weather. Such conditions naturally tend to detract from the efficiency of the games, and lessen the enjoyment of them on the part of performers and spectators alike.

Now that the summer games are over, it is necessary to consider our program for the coming year. The events will not differ to any great extent from those of last year. A members' banquet will be held in September which we hope all members of the Association will attend. Following the banquet will be a Ceilidh featuring the winners of last season's Bi-Monthly Competitions. Prizes will be awarded to these winners, and a variety concert of Scottish entertainment will be presented. Bi-Monthly Competitions will be held in October, December, February, April and June. In November, January, March and May, piping evenings, a popular new feature last year, will again be held. At these social evenings, to which we invite all members, wives, and friends, all the pipers present are given the opportunity of playing a few numbers. As in past years, the highlight of the year's activities will be the Indoor Gathering, held in the Spring. The dates of all events will be announced as soon as arrangements are made.

The White Heather Concerts will be held on October 6th in the Vincent Massey High School in New Westminster, and on October 7th and 8th in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. These concerts are produced jointly by the B.C. Pipers' Association and the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society, and have always proved to be extremely popular. The star of this year's White Heather Concert will again be Kenneth McKellar, one of Scotland's outstanding singers. Mr. McKellar, who was recently featured on the Ed Sullivan Show, is well known to local audiences. In support will be the famous Scottish character actor Durican Macrae, the popular soprano, Lucille Graham, the patter comedian, Jimmy Neil, accordionist, Ronnie McCulloch, and pianist Dennis Woolford. Be sure not to miss this show!

The first general meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday, September 8th, at the band room of the Seaforth Armoury. At this meeting, arrangements will be made for the Banquet and Ceilidh, and it is hoped that many members will attend. Remember, that if our Association is to be an effective organization, it needs your support!

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The B.C. Pipers' Association lost an old and esteemed friend when Capt. Dugald MacPhail suddenly passed away on July 23rd, 1960. Capt. MacPhail, who was born in Iona, spent many years at sea, and at the time of his death, was in command of Northland Navigation Co.'s "Hecate Prince". A member of this Association for many years, Capt. MacPhail was a regular and enthusiastic attender at many piping functions. Our sympathies go out to Mrs. MacPhail, and to this daughter Georgina, and son Angus.

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The origin of the B.C. Pipers' "MacCrimmon Cairn":

A romantic story in Scottish lore is that of the wonderful MacCrimmon family, members of which were hereditary pipers to the Chiefs of the MacLeod Clan, and pre-eminent in the musical art of piping.

The story is commemorated forever in the bold stone cairn monument, erected at the site of the old MacCrimmon College in Skye, which was also the ancestral home of this gifted people. The Cairn is a striking tribute to a wonderful type of classical pipe music - "Ceol Mor", better known as "Piobaireachd", and it is principally because of this, that the matter here is written. There is more than just a pile of cold grey granite rock in that loveable monument. It is a symbol of a thousand years of the brave spirit, strong will, and real devotion of those MacCrimmon men, who, with no other help than instinct and the inspiration of things natural, constructed the framework of this fine music, clothed it with their own grand compositions, which carried the rhythm of old airs found floating around the Highlands of Scotland, and which they could speak in syllable words, as well as play by note. The memory of these men has been so well cherished that lovers and exponents of the music in 1933 erected the stone Cairn at Borreraig, Skye.

At this time, members of the newly formed B.C. Pipers' Association were contemplating on what might be a suitable trophy for the most important of our piping events - "Professional Piobaireachd". As I said at the beginning, the story of the MacCrimmon family was a romantic one, and it is commemorated for all time in the stone Cairn by lovers of the family and exponents of their music. The story of the B.C. Pipers' Association since its formation has also been an interesting one, and in it all there has always been devotion to the classical music of the MacCrimmons, and a keen desire to have something lasting which would be a reminder of this great family.

I can well recall when the matter came up as a few of the members were returning by boat from the Gaelic Society Picnic at Bowen Island that year. Among the things suggested as trophies were cups, plaques, and shields, but when the erection of the "Cairn Monument" in Skye was mentioned, Pipe-Major Esson said: "Why not get a complete silver miniature of the Cairn monument!", and right then and there it was decided on.

However, there were other hurdles to cross, as we only possessed at the time about \$25.00 in cash, and we learned that to get pictures taken showing each stone in the Cairn, and the plaque and inscription on it, so as to have our silver replica true to life, it would cost \$250.00. Undaunted, we decided to approach our Scottish friends and raise this amount by subscription. Pipe-Major Esson was Secretary and chief collector, and the writer his assistant collector.

We knew full well that it would be a much easier job to pick up the blocks of granite lying around Borreraig to build the stone Cairn there, than to pick up at that time in Vancouver the silver stones we required to build the "B.C. Pipers' Silver Cairn". However, among our Scottish friends we did some very hard work, and when I told Ed that I got ten dollars and sometimes twenty dollars from friends with the names Ponelli, Swastisi, and Mah Lee, with "Mac" in front of them, he was glad but suspicious. In fact, he insinuated at times that there were other than those of Scottish nationality contributing, but Vancouver is a cosmopolitan city and it would be rude, I thought, to say anything to kind donors about nationality.

After a lot of hard canvassing, we collected \$225.00, and to this we added the \$25.00 on hand at the start, and although now broke, we didn't feel poor, as we possessed a handsome silver Cairn. It has been much admired because of its unique design, and like the original stone cairn monument in Borreraig, it will always be considered a tribute to the great MacCrimmon pipers and the classical music of the pipes.

The first man to win this trophy and have his name inscribed on it was Pipe-Major Alex. Johnson of the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band. Twice it has appeared on the covers of the Glasgow "Piping Times", when won, in 1953, by Ian Inkster, and when won, at this year's Annual Meet, by Jim MacMillan.

The MacCrimmon Cairn has been won by the following persons:

1933	Alexander Johnson	1947	Hugh Aird
1934	Wm. A. Urquhart	1948	James Watt
1935	Wm. A. Urquhart	1949	Hugh Aird
1936	A. MacIndewar	1950	James Watt
1937	Wm. A. Urquhart	1951	Duncan Rankine
1938	W. Armstrong	1952	Wm. Barrie
1939	Wm. Barrie	1953	Ian Inkster
1940	Wm. A. Urquhart	1954	John Iow
1941	James Watt	1955	Edmund Esson
1942	Wm. A. Urquhart	1956	Edmund Esson
1943	Wm. A. Urquhart	1957	Edmund Esson
1944	Wm. A. Urquhart	1958	Ronald Forman
1945	Wm. Lamont	1959	William Maitland
1946	Hugh Aird	1960	James MacMillan.

- Roderick MacLeod -

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A successful goodwill tour to Los Angeles was made in July by the 38 members of the Optimists Boys Pipe Band, of Vancouver. This band, which was sent by the Optimist Club of Vancouver as ambassadors of British Columbia and of Optimism, spent an interesting nine days in and around Los Angeles playing at the Los Angeles Colliseum, the Pacific Ocean Park, Disneyland, Douglas MacArthur Park, and strange as it may seem, at a Kiwanis luncheon. They also appeared on the T.V. program "Truth or Consequences" where they were found by a woman whose husband had to wear a kilt for as many days as the number of kilted persons which his wife managed to gather. It was evident that many people in the audiences were hearing and seeing piping for the first time, and it would appear that this tour was an excellent means of acquainting the uninitiated with our music.

The Optimist Boys Pipe Band, which has been organized for only two years has already a repertoire of ten tunes. The piping instruction is given by Albert Duncan, a Corporal in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipe Band and a Director of the B.C. Pipers' Association. The drumming instruction is looked after by Donald Bellamy of the Vancouver City Police Force, who is the Director in charge of the band. Boys work is the principal function of the Optimist Club, and they can be justly proud of their Pipe Band, a fine tribute to their excellent endeavours. The Optimists and the band are to be congratulated for their excellent work, and it is hoped that the trip was successful in spreading the popularity of piping in an area in which the bagpipe is not often played.

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The following are the piping results of the Victoria Highland Games held on July 30th:

Novice Marches:

1. Ken Nelson    2. Steven Geddes    3. Lynda Rowe

Juniors under 16 - Marches:

1. Robert MacDonald    2. Gordon Ross    3. David Ross

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Juniors under 16 - Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Robert MacDonald 2. Gordon Ross 3. David Ross

Juniors under 16 - Piobaireachd:

1. Tom Richardson 2. Robert MacDonald 3. Gordon Ross

Amateur 16 years and over - Marches:

1. David Wilson 2. Rae Marie MacInnes 3. Jamie Troy

Amateur 16 years and over - Strathspeys and Reels:

1. David Wilson 2. Rae Marie MacInnes 3. Arnie Stone

Amateur 16 years and over - Piobaireachd:

1. Arnie Stone 2. Terry McHardy 3. Jamie Troy.

Open Marches:

1. James Yardley 2. Catherine MacDonald 3. Donald MacDonald

Open Strathspeys and Reels:

1. James Yardley 2. John B. MacKenzie 3. R.W. Lockie

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Catherine MacDonald 2. R.W. Lockie 3. James Yardley

"A" Class Pipe Band:

1. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

"B" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band.  
2. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadets.  
3. Seattle Pipe Band.

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In the last Newsletter "Tog orm mo phiob", which is our motto, was said to be words in the song connected with the Piobaireachd Lament for Chief Rory Mor MacLeod of MacLeod, by Patrick Mor MacCrimmon. It may be interesting to know that history was made at the London Gaelic Mod on July 2nd, when this Gaelic song was sung by John MacLeod of MacLeod, grandson of the present Chief Flora, and who is next in line for the Clan MacLeod Chiefship.

- Roderick MacLeod -

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DON'T FORGET:

GENERAL MEETING: - SEPTEMBER 8th.

WHITE HEATHER CONCERTS:

VANCOUVER \* QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE: OCTOBER 7th & 8th.

NEW WESTMINSTER \* VINCENT MASSEY HIGH SCHOOL:  
OCTOBER 6th.

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