

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

JANUARY, 1976

NO. 147

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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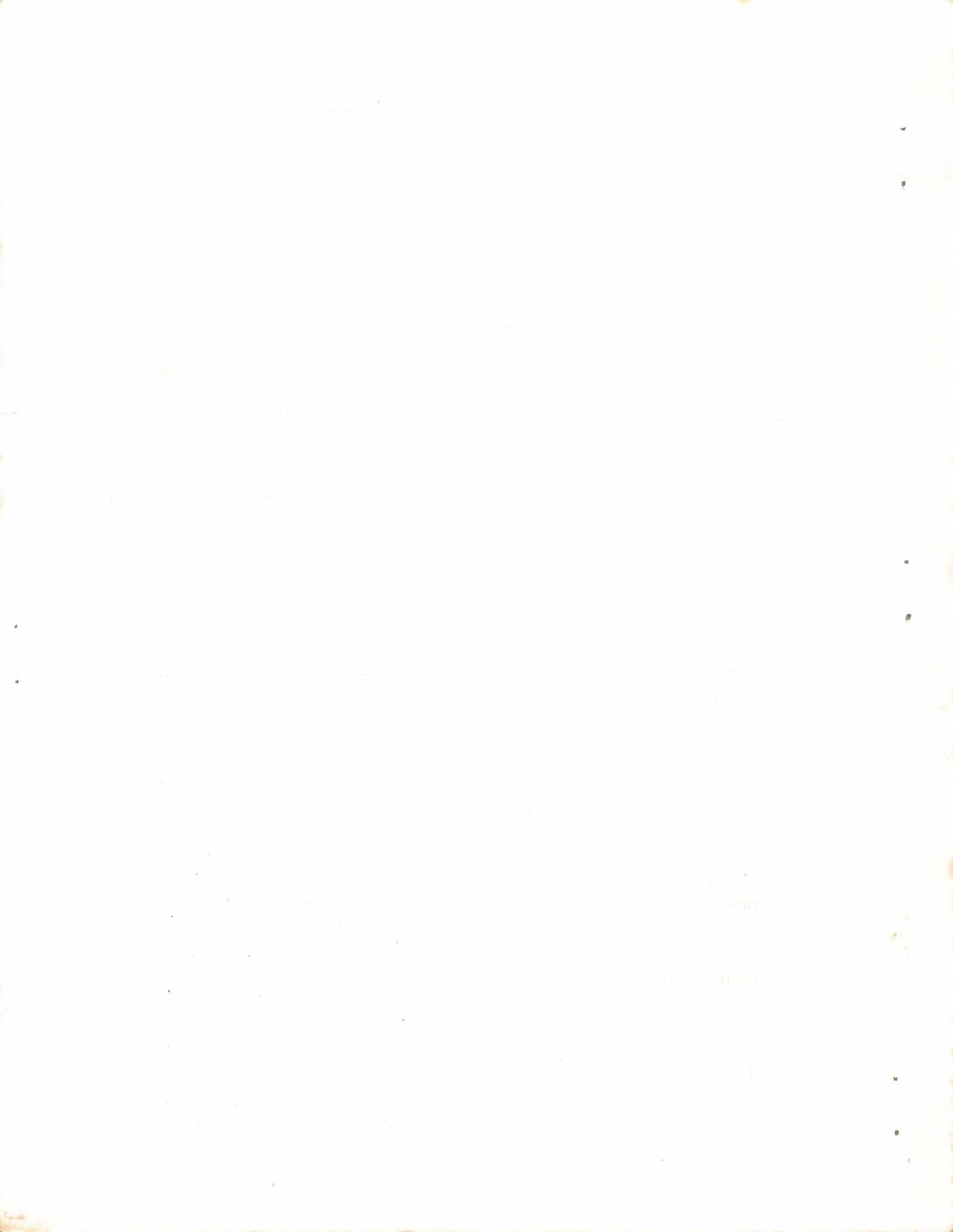
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I was present at the first meeting of the winter session of the B. C. Pipers' on Friday, October 3, and as usual enjoyed the piping and socializing afterwards. However, the manner and dress of some pipers were, to say the least, a bit odd. Can you imagine "the light-springing footsteps trampling the heath" in the type of footwear being worn by some of the pipers? Anyone who has attended gatherings of other national groups will agree that other people will not tolerate their national costume or traditions being ridiculed. Why do we?

Pipers have always been looked to as a source of information on all things Scottish, and even as examples of how to wear the kilt.

Now that more active participation from mature members is being sought, perhaps they could be induced to wear the kilt to meetings to acquaint the quaint with what it ain't.

Donald Matthewson.

Dear Sir,

At no time has the Institute of Piping made any attempt to force its authority on, or to regulate any individual society or other organization in the field of piping. While the Editorial in the "Piping Times" expresses a particular point of view, the Institute can hardly be held responsible for such views. Only statements or comments written with its authority and approved by its Board of Examiners could be the subject of fair or constructive comment.

Further, the Institute of Piping must surely take exception to being referred to as a body of "dubious credibility", as stated by James F. Lindsay (B.C. Pipers' Newsletter, Summer, 1975) consisting as it does of members of the Piobaireachd Society, The Army School of Piping, and The College of Piping. These Organizations have, in their several ways, made immense contributions to piping in many fields and the Institute has itself to date been responsible for the establishing of the Bagpipe as an "O" Grade subject in Scottish schools - no mean achievement. Because of its certification scheme, one piping student, at least, has been granted admittance to the Music Department of the University of California.

Nothing but good can come from the establishment of schools of piping and Summer Schools but only, as Mr. Lindsay agrees, when they offer tuition of an acceptable standard taught by teachers who are not just "players of the Pipe".

Great, or even very good players are not necessarily good teachers but pipers who have studied - many in depth - methods of teaching at various levels, and attained skills in that direction, and supported by a progressive syllabus to work from, must surely contribute to the maintenance of good and better standards in the furtherance of good piping generally. If such standards are really maintained, then the Institute of Piping would certainly approve that part of the Editorial in the "Piping Times" under discussion.

Up to the present, piping had no regular, carefully thought-out certification scheme, other than piecemeal schemes run by organizations world-wide. The Institute offers a syllabus which has been accepted by the Department of Scottish Education and by many and worthy Scottish and Commonwealth pipers who have attended its courses and gained its certificates thus putting pipers on a par with other musicians who feel, in advancing their acumen, the necessity of the support of a similar syllabus with certification awards at points along the way, proving that any work completed has been examined and recognized by a board of credible examiners.

John MacLellan

Dear Sir,

About one year ago, the Delta Police Pipe Band came into being. The band is still in the building stages and it would be ideal for pipers looking for a band to play with.

A few months ago, the band's directors authorized the taking on of "non-police" members. If you are interested in becoming a member of this new band, please contact P/M Bruce Topp at 594-8566 or Staff-Sgt. Donald MacDonald at 946-4411.

Bruce Topp

Dear Sir,

Due to the long postal delays (longer than usual recently) I am only now able to write in reply to the letter from James F. Lindsay which appeared in your summer issue.

It is quite flattering to find that an editorial of the Piping Times is such a newsworthy item, and I am delighted also to see that my good friend Jim Lindsay is alive and well and living in Invermark - I assumed he had dropped out of the piping scene many years ago.

The introduction of any certification scheme always meets with some opposition, especially from those who fear they may not qualify for such an award. I would not think however that this would worry Jim Lindsay very much, because even although I was unable to accept his invitation to be the first instructor, he nevertheless managed to find a succession of experts whose names read like a roll of honour in piping.

The proliferation of summer schools, however, has caused a real problem, and my suggestion of a seal of approval from the Institute of Piping seems a very reasonable solution. Most organizers of summer schools are genuine piping enthusiasts doing an excellent job, but we in the College here receive numerous complaints from pipers who have been taken in by the unscrupulous or the incompetent.

The only way at present that a piper can determine whether a school is of value or not is to attend it, and this is an expensive way of gaining experience. Some complaints are from people who have travelled thousands of miles in the expectation of receiving instruction from a much publicized Scottish expert - only to find that they were ending up receiving instruction from a piper in their neighbouring state.

A school which is run for the publicity it gives will by its lack of approval stand out like a sore pinky. Gimmicks are no substitute for expert and adequate tuition.

Incidentally, I think that Jim Lindsay rather overstates the claim for the greatness of Invermark. So far as "the vigorous revival of piobaireachd to its present standard of playing and popularity in the Eastern United States" is concerned, I can only say we have yet to see evidence of it. There is certainly nothing comparable to the vast upsurge of top piobaireachd players which John MacFadyen has produced a little to the north and west.

Seumas MacNeill,
College of Piping, Glasgow.

Dear Sir,

In connection with the U.S. Bi-Centennial Celebration for 1976, the wee City of Athena is reviving the old Caledonian Games which were a popular local feature in the years prior to World War I. This revival, which will be held on Saturday, July 24, 1976, will consist of Piping and Dancing Competitions, a Tattoo, the usual games and a beef barbecue.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, our chief piping judges will be P/M Donald Morrison of Aberdeen and Mr. Andrew Wright of Renfrew, Scotland. I believe that both of these gentlemen are sufficiently well known in the world of piping that I need not elaborate upon their qualifications. The Dancing judge will be Miss Ann Johnson of Portland, Oregon.

By way of prizes, we will be offering \$100 as first place money in each of the professional Piobaireachd, March and Strathspey & Reel competitions. For the Amateurs, Novices et al, there will be the customary medals and trophies.

A special feature of the program will be a competition for the best original four-part 2/4 March composition. This prize is being offered by the Spokane Piobaireachd Society-North Idaho College School of Piping to commemorate its tenth anniversary and the winning tune will become the official pipe music for the school. Full details on entry requirements for this event can be had by writing to the Spokane Piobaireachd Society, W. 3309 Dalke Ave., Spokane, WA., 99208.

Since Athena is not quite as well known as Vancouver, London, Rome, Paris and Tokyo, I had perhaps best point out that it is located in Northeastern Oregon, just south of the Washington border. It lies approximately halfway between Walla Walla, Washington and Pendleton, Oregon, on Oregon State Highway 11. Both Walla Walla and Pendleton are within about 20 minutes driving time and are well supplied with motel facilities, etc. I might also add, for the benefit of those competitors who may plan to "ride the circuit" that it is also approximately halfway between Portland and Coeur d'Alene and that the date falls on the weekend after the Portland Games and before the Bratach nam Beann and Lochinver Medallion competitions in Coeur d'Alene and the Coeur d'Alene Festival and Tattoo.

Any enquiries may be addressed to me at P.O. Box 245, Athena, Oregon, 97813.

Donald R. Duncan, Chairman,
Athena Caledonian Games Committee.

On behalf of the B. C. Pipers' Association, we wish to express our deepest sympathies to the families of two long-time friends of piping, Mr. Kenneth McDonald and Mr. Don Fraser, who passed away over the Christmas season.

Kenny McDonald, a regular contributor to the Newsletter and a fine piper, was buried on December 22 in Bremerton, Washington. His own composition, Katherine's Lullaby, was played at the cemetery.

Don Fraser, while not a piper, played a very active part in the Association. He was probably best known as the announcer at the Annual Gatherings.

* * * *

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

General Meetings and Knock-Outs

What with mail strikes, Christmas and New Year, four knock-outs have been held since the last edition of the Newsletter. Obviously, it would be rather a waste to apply our usual "in-depth" reporting of these events. Therefore, only the highlights will be mentioned - highlights being the trio results and the open results.

October 3, 1975

As the trio from Blue Heron Bay was unable to attend, it was decided to combine events A and B and have one competition of three trios with two winners. This prevents one trio from advancing to the next round through default. The winners were Triumph Street #1 and Triumph Street #2 who will play each other in the February Knock-out.

The "impromptu" open competition consisted of two jigs and the \$10.00 prize was picked up by Hal Senyk. The judges for the evening were James Watt, David Wilson, and Mike MacInnes.

November 7, 1975

At our second Knock-out of the season, we were again faced with no-shows. So once again three trios played and two winners were declared - Victoria #1 and Richmond Sr. #1.

The requirement for the open competition was two hornpipes, with Ian Whitelaw earning the \$10.00 this time. The judges were Bruce Topp, Albert Duncan and Alex Young.

December 5, 1975

The December meeting brought with it some new faces; those of the Tacoma Scots. It also marked the first time that two contests were held although one trio chose not to attend. Victoria #2 were victors over Tacoma while the Jacobites defeated the "Patterson" trio.

The judges for the trio competition were Bob McDonald, Ian McKinnon and Bill Lamont. In the open event, Alex Reid selected Hal Senyk as the best of the Slow March - 6/8's.

January 9, 1976

The most recent Knock-out and General Meeting was held on January 9, 1976 at the Scottish Auditorium. Once again, cancellations allowed us only one competition in which Richmond Senior #3 easily beat the Seaforths. The professional event called for a 2/4 March, with Hal Senyk collected his third 1st prize in this event. The judges were John MacDonald, Bill Elder and John MacLeod.

Mini-Gathering

The first of our two mini-gatherings was held in the Scottish Auditorium on November 1, 1975.

The following are the results as handed down by judges, Ed Esson, Bill Lamont, Bill Elder and Hal Senyk.

Novice March

1. Geordie Young
2. Clarke Rowe
3. Moira Waddell

Novice Old Highland Airs

1. Clarke Rowe
2. Pauline Alakita
3. Geordie Young

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel

1. Jack Eckersley
2. Owen Reid
3. Chris Taggart
4. Ian Putz

Juvenile March

1. David Winter
2. Owen Reid
3. Maureen Lee
4. Scott MacPherson

Junior Jigs

1. James Stewart
2. Ruth Tremaine
3. Christine Waddell

Junior Piobaireachd

1. Grant Wilkie
2. Ruth Tremaine

Amateur Hornpipe

1. James Wright
2. Jill Laurie
3. Alison Palmer

Amateur March, Strath. & Reel

1. Jill Laurie
2. James Wright
3. Graham Davidson

The Northern Meeting, Inverness

The Piobaireachd - Gold Medal results were as follows:

1. Murray Henderson
2. Malcolm MacRae
3. Tom Speirs
4. E. MacRae
5. P/M J. Allan

The results for Piobaireachd - Gold Clasp were:

1. Donald MacPherson
2. James McIntosh
3. Ian MacFadyen
4. John D. Burgess

Triumph Street Band Contest

The 4th Annual Triumph Street Band Contest was held on December 13, 1975 at St. Francis de Sales School in Burnaby. For the hardy ones who braved the poor road conditions, an entertaining afternoon of piping and drumming greeted them.

Although this year's version was slightly abbreviated due to the mail strike and the weather conditions, it was its usual success. One disappointing note was the unusually low entry in the drumming events. For the younger drummers their absence could be contributed to the mail strike (no Newsletter). However, many of the professionals were in attendance but chose not to play.

It was encouraging to see a contingent down from the Interior including Bob Gallaher and Richie Nichol, as well as Blue Heron Bay from Portland.

To sponsor a competition such as this requires many hands behind the scenes, especially when band members participate in the competitions.

To:	Mr. Gordon Taylor	- scorer
	Mr. Jim Laurie	- steward
	Mr. Harvey Gallaher	- announcer
	Mrs. Ishabel Ross	- secretary
	Mrs. Lillian Reid	- secretary

Mr. Donald Ross - chief steward
Mr. Bill Elder - piping judge
Mr. Alex Reid - piping judge
Mr. Jim McMillan - piping judge
Mr. Doug McConnell - drumming judge

and everyone else who helped, thank you.

RESULTS

Senior Bands - Medley

1. City of Victoria	- 86.0 pts.	
2. Triumph Street	- 85.87 pts.	
3. C.P. Air Senior	- 82.45 pts.	4 bands

Open Bands - Slow March - 6/8

1. City of Victoria	- 85.66 pts.	
2. Triumph Street	- 85.50 pts.	
3. C.P. Air Senior	- 82.92 pts.	5 bands

Junior Bands - Medley

1. C.P. Air Junior #1	- 79.5 pts.	
2. Vancouver Ladies	- 78.0 pts.	3 bands

Senior Trios - Waltz, Hornpipe, Jig

1. Triumph Street
2. City of Victoria

Junior Trios - 6/8, Slow Air, Jig

1. C.P. Air Junior #2
2. C.P. Air Junior #1

Open Drum Section - Drum Salute

1. Blue Heron Bay
2. Vancouver Ladies

Novice Drumming - March

1. Maureen Murphy

Junior Drumming - M.S.R.

1. Cathy Cliff
2. Ken Cranswick

Senior Drumming - Medley

1. Danny McKillop

Professional Drumming

1. Scott Robertson
2. Katie Forsyth
3. Jack Gallaher

Tenor Drumming - judged during
band competition

1. Blue Heron Bay

Bass Drumming - judged during
band competition

1. Triumph Street

Dress & Deportment - judged during
band competition

1. Vancouver Ladies

NEXT MONTH

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Pipers' Association will be held on February 6, 1976 at 7:30 p.m. in the Scottish Auditorium, 12th and Fir, Vancouver. As well as the usual formalities and election of officers, there are quite a few amendments to the constitution and by-laws that must be voted upon.

The Board of Directors administers the business of the Association and as such plays a very important part in the policies and undertakings that will be followed for that particular year. If you are an active member of the Association and you feel you know someone that would do a good job, nominate him or her!

Following the business side of things, the second round of the Knock-out competition will get underway with Triumph Street #1 playing against Triumph Street #2, while Victoria #1 will take on Richmond Senior #1.

In the open competition, Strathspey and Reel will be the requirement for those vying for the \$10.00 prize.

As has been the case at the previous meetings, the active members will open the proceedings playing, "Piobaireachd of Donald Dhu".

So, bring your pipes and we'll see you there!

Mini-Gathering

The first of this year's Mini Gatherings will take place at the Scottish Auditorium, 12th and Fir, on February 7, commencing at 11:00 a.m. Competitors are requested to have their entries in the hands of the Secretary by January 30. (Entry forms will be found on the back page of this edition.)

Competitors are reminded of the promotion system.

FOR THE MINI-GATHERINGS PLAYERS WILL COMPETE IN THE CLASSES THEY PLAYED IN DURING THE SUMMER. THE PROMOTIONS WILL BE PUBLISHED LATER IN THE NEWSLETTER AND WILL TAKE EFFECT AT THE VANCOUVER LADIES' FESTIVAL.

February 7, 1976

Novice: Strathspey & Reel (2 parts)

Juvenile: Jig
6/8 March

Junior: March, Strathspey & Reel
Hornpipe

Amateur: Piobaireachd
Jig

Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Festival

The Annual Festival of Piping, Drumming and Dancing sponsored by the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band will be held on February 27 and 28 in the Scottish Auditorium. The usual slate of piping, drumming and pipe band events will take place on the Saturday while dancing will occupy Friday.

For more information, please contact:

Mrs. Arnott 526-6353
Mrs. MacLean 298-3417

* * * * *

Fall cleaning? The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band would appreciate any items such as pocket books, odd dishes, jewellery, pictures, ornaments, toys, puzzles, electrical appliances, and any other items suitable for sale for their bazaar. Please phone 435-0702, 277-2871 or 433-2074 for pick-up.

Tartan Ball

The Sons of Scotland Tartan Ball will be held March 6th, 1976. For tickets and further details, please phone Donald Ross, 526-7905.

Annual Gathering

April 16th and 17th are the dates of the B. C. Pipers' Association 44th Annual Gathering. See next month's Newsletter for finalized details.

White Heather

The Spring White Heather Concert will take place on April 18th, 1976. Unfortunately, no further details are available at the present time, so stay tuned for more information in next month's edition.

Annual Dinner

St. Francis de Sales School will be the setting for this year's Annual Dinner on May 15th. Be sure to look for further details next month.

Competitions, 1976

The following tunes are set for the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal Competitions at the Argyllshire Gathering and at the Northern Meeting. Competitors will choose and submit four tunes from the following list:

- | | | |
|--|---------|----|
| 1. The Lament for the Viscount of Dundee | Book 1 | K. |
| 2. The King's Taxes | Book 5 | K. |
| 3. MacNeill of Barra's March | Book 10 | |
| 4. The Lament for MacSwan of Roaig | Book 1 | K. |
| 5. Lady MacDonald's Lament | Book 8 | K. |
| 6. The Parading of the Macdonalds | Book 7 | K. |

The tunes listed are published in the Piobaireachd Society's Collection and in the Kilberry Book of Ceol Mor as indicated by the letter K.

The tunes for the Open Piobaireachd at the Argyllshire Gathering and the Gold Clasp Competition at the Northern Meeting are:

- | | | |
|--|--------|----|
| 1. The Battle of the Pass of Crieff | Book 1 | K. |
| 2. Lament for Colin Roy MacKenzie | Book 3 | K. |
| 3. The Lament for the Earl of Antrim | Book 3 | K. |
| 4. Lament for John Garve MacLeod of Raasay | Book 5 | K. |
| 5. Donald Gruamach's March | Book 2 | K. |
| 6. The Bells of Perth | Book 2 | K. |
| 7. Scarce of Fishing | Book 3 | K. |
| 8. Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon | Book 3 | K. |
| 9. The Unjust Incarceration | Book 2 | K. |
| 10. The Earl of Seaforth's Salute | Book 6 | K. |

Competitors will choose and submit five tunes from this list.

For the Piobaireachd Society's Gold Medal - City of Ottawa's Highland Games, competitors will choose and submit four tunes from the six shown in the first list.

Competitors are not restricted to these settings although the judges may take into consideration the merit of other settings and the authenticity of settings quoted. Tunes with similar names but of entirely different melodies will not be accepted as alternative settings.

* * * * *

Piping in Ogilvy's

Each day when the closing bell rings in Ogilvy's Department Store in Montreal, a piper strikes up and plays as the last of the customers and the staff leave for home. The piper starts on the top floor (the fifth) and plays down the stairs. When he reaches the Main Floor he parades down the aisles and stands playing at the exit door. The show lasts from fifteen to twenty minutes and is completed when he marches into a waiting elevator and thence to his dressing room.

Could it be that they want to clear the store in a hurry?!?

Band Chatter

On behalf of all their friends around the Association, we wish to express our best wishes to Sherea Barwell and Bruce MacRae on their recent engagement.

Sherea is a member and former pipe major of the Vancouver Ladies and Bruce for many years was a stalwart in the Port Moody pipe section.

* * * * *

Colin Abel, ex-editor of the Newsletter and member of Triumph Street, is on the last month of a six-month course. The course? - the R.C.M.P. training centre in Regina, Saskatchewan. Colin, home on Christmas leave, reported that five other pipers were undergoing training.

At the end of January, Colin will learn where he will be stationed and being a good policeman you can be sure he'll "sniff" the pipers out and report them. Sounds like an awful lot of trouble to go through just to get an article for Roving Reporter! Good luck Colin.

* * * * *

Anyone who has heard the new Edinburgh Police record would no doubt have noticed something very familiar. The "polis" play "Jesus Christ Superstar", which you may say is fair enough, but then proceed to play, "Follow My Highland Soldier". As most of us know, these are the City of Victoria's "signature tunes". Bit far-fetched for a coincidence!

* * * * *

Another member of the band scene has fallen. Terry Leonard, piper and fine bass drummer for Triumph Street, is engaged to be married. Terry and Laurel are planning their wedding for early spring. Is nothing sacred? From all of us - all the best.

Another prominent member of the competitive ranks is on a course. His is the Royal Canadian Air Force. Glen Palmer, formerly of the Seaforths is doing extremely well and will be presented with his wings in February. Good luck, Glen. Hopefully, you'll end up in Comox.

* * * * *

We are sad to report that the City of Port Moody Pipe Band has disbanded. Port Moody, for many years the best band in this area, has been having its share of problems for the last little while.

We hope the problem is only temporary and that Port Moody will once again become a contender in Grade I competitions.

* * * * *

We wish to offer our congratulations to another piper who has taken the first step towards matrimony - Shelley MacLean, pipe-sergeant of the Vancouver Ladies. Best wishes on your recent engagement.

* * * * *

FOUND

Pair of gloves and an umbrella at the January Knock-out. Please phone Donald Ross, 526-7905.

* * * * *

Archie Osborne is a pipe-major in the Strathearn Pipe Band. Five years ago, Archie, who lives in Crieff, had to buy bagpipe reeds to replace the band's old ones.

He just couldn't find ones good enough for competition purposes. The man acknowledged as the best reedmaker in Scotland had died. Nobody had the skill to match his work.

Rather than accept second best, Archie bought one reed and some material in Edinburgh, then set about making his own. After a few early failures, he soon taught himself from scratch how to make and tune a pipe reed. All from that original Edinburgh reed.

Since then they've been used by bands all over the world. To cope with demand, Archie gave up his job as a farm manager to become a full-time reed-maker. Running his business from a tiny shop in King Street, Crieff, Archie's now reckoned the best in Scotland.

* * * * *

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