

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

JULY 1969 NO. 93

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

When William Elder and I undertook the task of rejuvenating the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter we asked the members of the Association for their help. By help we meant material. The result of our plea has been somewhat pathetic. Except for one or two individuals who have written letters to the editor and sent the odd newspaper clipping we have heard nothing from the membership.

From what I understand, most of our readers are pleased to see the Newsletter in print again. They like to hear what is going on in the piping world. They even have a few opinions. Expressing these opinions verbally does not pose any difficulty and requires no effort on their part but trying to get these same people to sit down, put these opinions in writing and make a contribution to their Newsletter, is like getting some of our more experienced professional pipers to compete - hopeless!

One of the few people to make any comment, in writing, concerning a Newsletter article is Mr. Seumas MacNeill - yes, The Seumas MacNeill from Scotland. His letter to the editor appears in this issue. He was inspired to write by a letter to the editor submitted by Mr. Archie Cairns in the May issue. The Editors are delighted that someone such as Seumas MacNeill will take a keen interest in what is happening in the British Columbia piping scene yet it seems strange that we have pipers who have been members of the B.C. Pipers' Association since it's inception who have nothing to say about how our Association is being run, how the local games are run, how the judging of piping is being conducted, etc. I hesitate to think they don't care!

We have received one or two other "Letters to the Editor" which also appear in this issue. We thank those responsible for their active interest in the affairs of local piping and encourage them to continue their contributions.

The present unsatisfactory circumstances have given rise to a new "plan of attack" to get a meaningful Newsletter published each month. In the fall of this year we hope to have at least three reporters on the Newsletter staff. These individuals will be given the responsibility of producing an article each month. The subject may be the reporters choice or he may be assigned a topic by the editors. In any case the reporters will be under an obligation to produce.

Now that this idealistic condition has been expressed all I have to do is find the reporters. Well, how many of you in our membership, or from outside our membership for that matter, would be interested in such an assignment each month? If those interested would drop me a note at 1073 Doran Road, North Vancouver or give me a call at 987-3592 the Newsletter and it's readers would be appreciative.

Remember!! It's your Newsletter.

Robert Gunn

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I was most interested to read the letter from Archie Cairns which appeared in your May issue. I agree that the certification of teachers of piping is more important than the certification of pipers themselves, and for some years we have offered in the College here two levels of certificates for teachers - more or less on the lines suggested by Archie Cairns.

About a year and a half ago a move was made to widen the influence of the College Certificates, so that there would be as it were one voice to speak for individual piping in Scotland, so far as Certification is concerned. Accordingly a Board of Examiners was set up to do the necessary planning, and in April of this year final approval was given for the test of candidates and the issuing of Certificates by a joint body made up of the Army School of Piping, the Piobaireachd Society and the College of Piping.

The members of the Board at present are Lieut. John MacLellan, and Pipe Major John M. MacKenzie (Queen Victoria School, Dunblane), representing the Army School; Major General Frank Richardson and Dr. Kenneth A. MacKay, representing the Piobaireachd Society; and Thomas Pearston and myself representing the College of Piping.

While the testing of candidates outside of Scotland may present difficulties, we do not think that these are insurmountable, for the following reasons:-

1. There are several people in both Canada and the United States whom we would like to have eventually as our examiners,
2. Several of us from this side make fairly regular visits across the Atlantic, and
3. There are such things as tape recorders.

Our new syllabus has recently been printed and we shall be happy to send copies of it to anyone interested.

Yours sincerely,

Seumas MacNeill
Joint Principal
College of Piping
20 Otago Street
Glasgow, W. 2

Dear Editor:

As a member of the British Columbia Pipers' Association and an active competition piper, may I make a suggestion concerning the recent disqualification of many pipers at the New Westminster Highland Games. If secretaries are to strictly abide by the rules concerning deadlines, then entry forms must be circulated in a manner far superior to that in which they have been in the past. For example, by the time I arrived for my lesson, the few entries sent to my teacher had been long distributed to other pupils and it was near impossible to try and locate one. Therefore, if deadlines are to be enforced, is it not reasonable that potential competitors have entries made readily available?

The answer is in distribution, which the B.C. Pipers' Association could undertake at no great expense. I suggest that the various games committees print entry forms at least six months in advance of the summer season, with the Pipers' Newsletter acting as distributor by including the forms in the Newsletter. Those not receiving the Newsletter could be sent the series of entries with postage expense being shared by the various games committees.

A second suggestion is to at least print deadlines in the Newsletter, along with the secretaries' addresses.

If the games want organization on the field, then good pre-games organization is the important first-step. Give the pipers a chance for submitting their entries, after all, it is the individual competitor that makes the games and we are only too willing to oblige a secretary.

I am sure that if my first suggestion involves any extra work, I myself, and probably other competing pipers would be willing to help out.

Respectfully yours,

William G. Russell

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EDITOR'S REPLY

With respect to your letter I would like to comment on your suggestions. Possibly there are better methods of distributing the entry forms but I also believe that the method used is acceptable. If a competitor wanted an entry form badly enough it could be obtained. The editors had some available and most of the Board of Directors knew where they could be acquired. You say it was "near impossible" to obtain an entry form, what did you do to try and locate one? Where did your teacher get the entries? The present method can work if all pipers cooperate.

In regards to sending out entry forms with the Newsletter: firstly it is not the Newsletters responsibility to circulate entry forms; secondly, last month 320 Newsletters were mailed and I would estimate about 20 would go to competing pipers, in other words about 5%. It just wouldn't be worthwhile.

Your second suggestion is well accepted. You will note the names of the Secretaries are printed in this issue.

For years dancers (over 400 in New Westminster) have managed to get their entry in on on time. Surely pipers should be able to do the same. Junior, Senior and Professional pipers should be able to look after their own entry while in the Novice and Juvenile classes, teachers must make parents aware of competition rules and deadlines.

Finally, if you are serious in helping the Newsletter please refer to Mr. Gunn's editorial "Something to Think About".

William Elder

Dear Sir:

Your June Newsletter Vol. 92 has raised some interesting problems by Mr. R. Gunn and Mr. A. Cairns that I would like to debate.

First of all Mr. Gunn is a way out in left field when he says that the solution is the entailment of the small games in favour of one big bash. Mr. Cairns is batting a 100 in my book for his ideas but I differ in one aspect, money. We have a good commodity to sell, good piping, so why not sell it to someone like the C.P.R., C.N.R., Air Canada, etc.

I competed in 1st Banff Highland Games early in 1930 and received two prizes in the novice class. I still treasure these memories of being in the company of such excellent pipers, the best that Canada could produce at that time. What we want is a good Public Relations man or woman to sell piping in Canada.

People don't go to Highland Games of the small variety to hear piping only. They bring their kilt out of moth balls and go to the games to see friends and to be seen. It's a big day in their lives, why deprive them of it?

Haney had a good Highland Games yesterday (not listed by you) chiefly through the efforts of Ian MacDougall. Maybe that's our P.R. man or Ralph Bellamy or several others that could sell piping out loud in Canada.

Yours sincerely,

D. Macaulay

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EDITOR'S REPLY

Although the competitors are not the only ones involved in the Highland Games I would venture to say they are the most important factor. In order to have successful games, both artistically and financially, the competition must be keen. The games may be a good

excuse to don ones kilt and "be seen" but surely this is but a pleasant by-product of the main purpose.

As far as the Legion Highland Gathering in Haney is concerned I am most pleased to hear they were a success. If you refer to your April edition of the Newsletter (No. 90), page 4, you will note a reminder to attend. Any Association wanting this type of advertising in any edition need but mail a note to the editors and it will be printed free of charge.

GAMES SECRETARIES

Nanaimo Highland Games	Mrs. R.L. MacPhee 2915 Thomas Street Nanaimo, B.C.
Portland Highland Games	Mrs. Elaine C. Altmanns 1924 S.E. 58th Portland, Oregon, 97215
Victoria Highland Games	Mr. Ron Smith 3439 Salsbury Way Victoria, B.C.
Coeur d'Alene Highland Games	Mr. W. Thomas 3515 East 21st Spokane, Washington, 99203
Seattle Highland Games	Mrs. M. Thorsland Box 984 Seattle, Washington, 98111
St. Andrews & Caledonian	Mrs. I. Duncan 15607 Buenos Vista White Rock, B.C.

ALL MEMBERS

Please remember JOHN McLELLAN'S WORKSHOP being held on the evening of Friday, July 11th at 8:00 P.M. in the Lecture Room of the Seaforth Armoury. The class will cover such topics as care of pipes and care and selection of reeds. This workshop is free of charge for all interested pipers.

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION

The June Bi-monthly competition was held on June 20th at the Seaforth Armoury. John A. MacLeod judged the two events and the winners were as follows:

Juvenile 6/8 Marches - 1st - Jack Lee
2nd - Linda Freshwater
3rd - Angus MacPherson
4th - Terry Lee

Department - Brian Carse

Amateur Piobaireachd - 1st - Bill MacAnlay
2nd - Bill Russell
3rd - Sandy Marshall

Department - John Wright

VANCOUVER'S TRIBUTE TO BURNS

As most of our readers are of Scottish descent and are admirers of Robert Burns we thought this excerpt from "Vancouver's Tribute to Burns" would be of interest.

"Saturday, August 25, 1928, will go down in history as a red letter day in the annals of all loyal Scots throughout British Columbia. On that day there was unveiled, upon a commanding eminence in the evergreen shade of Stanley Park, Vancouver's FIRST Statue -- a tribute to the memory of Robert Burns. The site is a magnificent one, and the memorial in every way worthy of the illustrious, immortal bard of Caledonia. Thus was realized the long-cherished desires of a coterie of Burns' admirers, and Vancouver City takes its place among an assemblage of some 65 cities, representative of every quarter of the globe, who have seen fit to honor Burns by the erection of memorials, either in marble or with the more lasting bronze as a medium of expression.

It was early in February, 1924, that seventeen fervent admirers of the bard met in the rooms of the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society at 634 Dunsmuir Street. Inspired by a critical analysis of Burns' work and character published on the anniversary of his birth, the desire was expressed that an organization might be formed whereby Burnsians might foregather for study and discussion. Mr. James Taylor was selected as chairman, with Mr. A. Fraser Reid as secretary pro tem. What the meeting lacked in numerical strength was more than offset by the enthusiasm manifested, and it was unanimously decided to form an organization under the name of Vancouver Burns Fellowship. All present signified their intention of becoming members.

The name of fellowship was chosen by design, after considerable thought, as tending to knit the members closely together in the study of the Burns cult. Mr. P. McAuslin Carrick was unanimous choice for the presidency, his experience gained as a member of the famed Clarinda Burns Club of Glasgow for many years, coupled with his ability as an entertainer, proving a factor in the choice -- a choice which has

since been fully vindicated. Mr. A. Fraser Reid was chosen as secretary-treasurer, other office-bears elected being: Vice-presidents, Messrs. Alex McRae and W.R. Dunlop, F.R.G.S.; executive -- Rev. Alexander Thomson, and Messrs. James Taylor, John MacInnes, John Macdonald and David Murray.

Little time was lost, and a tentative set of by-laws were drawn up for approval by the newly-organized Fellowship. The principal objects, as thus outlined were:

To encourage, amongst members of the Fellowship, the study of the life and works of Robert Burns.

To encourage the study of the poems of Burns in the public schools, by offering annual prizes for essays on this subject.

To encourage the singing of Burns' songs and Scottish folk-songs generally.

To inaugurate a movement amongst the Scottish Societies and the general public of Greater Vancouver, with a view to erecting a statue of Burns in Stanley Park.

Any other object that may be deemed desirable.

First of all, selection had to be made of a statue. It was hoped that this might be of an original nature. Designs were submitted by half-a-dozen well-known artists, both Canadian and British. While two or three were very fine in character, none seemed to portray the features of the bard according to authentic portraits in existence. Reluctantly, thoughts of an original statue were abandoned, and it was decided to erect a replica of the famous Ayr statue, by Mr. George Lawson, F.R.S.A., considered to be one of the finest figures of the poet in existence. The order was at once placed, on the assurance of Messrs. Wm. Doig & Co., of 174 New Bond Street, London, that the original cast was still available. A committee, headed by such renowned men as Dr. Malcolm Bullock and Mr. William Will, editor of the Daily Graphic, was appointed to guard the Fellowship's interests in the casting of the mammoth figure. By the time the work was completed, a sum sufficient to cover its cost (\$5,000.00) had been collected. On approval of the committee mentioned, this sum was at once cable to the founder, Mr. A.B. Burton, of Thames Ditton, Surrey, and the statue shipped to Vancouver via the Panama Canal. Here, with the accompanying bronze panels, it was placed in storage, awaiting completion of the project.

Still the campaign went on, fully \$2,000.00 being required for the erection of a suitable pedestal. To support a 9-foot figure, in imperishable bronze, no mean pedestal could be chosen. Considerable thought was given both to the design and selection of stone for the pedestal. Whereas many statues stand upon pedestals bearing marked resemblance to a tombstone, there was a decided objection to this -- for the reason that Robbie Burns, although he has passed to his reward, is still a living, vital, pulsating force. That this is so is attested by the fact that every twenty-fifth of January, the anniversary of his birth is celebrated with appropriate ritual in every quarter of the civilized globe.

The statue itself, beautifully proportioned, shows the poet in an attitude of deep thought; standing erect, the arms folded while the eyes gaze in prospect on his beloved Scotland. The pose is magnificent, the expression a work of genius. Every line is true to nature; Lawson, the sculptor, is marvellous when it comes to minute detail. It is a manly figure!

Accompanying the statue are bronze panels descriptive of the works of the poet. Three in number, these are mounted -- or, rather set into the face of the granite so that the effects of winter weather will be minimized. On the fourth side, the face of the pedestal, there is a simple bronze plaque bearing the name Robert Burns, with the years of the birth and of the death of the immortal genius.

The work on the three panels is beautiful indeed. In bas relief, the detail is very fine. That depicting the poet at the plough is bold in execution; every line of the figure, the plough, the field daisy which he has unwittingly uprooted, stand out with graphic clarity and appeal. Another illustrates "Tam O'Shanter" on that awful night when he witnessed the revelries of the underworld demons in the haunted kirk o' Alloway; Meg is doing her "speedy utmost" to cross the brig when the pursuing witch clutches at the sparse tail of the auld grey mare -- and leaves poor Maggie "scarce a stump."

The third panel differs materially in treatment. Representative of one of the finest epic poems, in any language, "The Cotter's Saturday Night," the scene reflected is that where the father reaches reverently for the old Family Bible, "aince his father's pride." The children, young and old, are gathered around the ingle neuk; the scene is one of wondrous content. The features of the group are seen in the faint glow of the peat fire; there is a kindly haze, a charming hint of privacy in the midst of the home. The more one studies this bronze, deeper into the heart penetrates the reverent, mystic beauty of the picture revealed. It is sublime! Undoubtedly the subject of the poem has received thoughtful, sympathetic treatment on the part of the celebrated artist."

The Vancouver's Tribute to Burns was published by the Vancouver Burns Fellowship in 1928.

A native of Tobermory asked the clerk in the railway station at Oban the price of a railway ticket from Oban to Killin. "So much," replied the clerk, stating the price. "Hoot, awa'," replied Donald indignantly, "it's far ower dear; I'll rather walk," and off he started. He had not proceeded far when the train came tearing along, whistling as it neared a station. "Ye needna whistle for me," said Donald. "I made ye an offer aince, and ye wadna tak' it; sae ye can gang on. I'm no' comin'."

PIPING UNIQUE?

There has been much discussion of late as to why the piping fraternity is separated from the rest of the musical world. Many are concerned about this and feel there should not be such a gap, after all, the pipe is a musical instrument.

A recent editorial in the "Piping Times" had this to say:

The wind of change is blowing strongly through the piping world at present, and not the least fascinating blast is the effort which the Scottish Pipe Band Association is making to link up pipe band culture with the rest of the world of music. This has grown up gradually over the years, so that now the movement has gathered so much momentum that it is rolling on unchecked and almost unheeded.

To deny the value and importance of such a link up is to be considered reactionary or just a plain old fashioned stick in the mud. To suggest that maybe the rest of the music world is not interested in the proposed link up is heresy of the first order. And yet is such a link likely, or even desirable?

Pipers have always recognised that their music is a thing apart. We get ideas from other people, and we pass on ideas -- our export-import relationship has in fact always been very favourable. We gave the world sol-fa notation, and we accepted from it staff in return. Due to the nature of our instrument we have little interest in harmony and no interest in counterpoint or such ideas as rubato, diminuendo, etc. Apart from exchange of tunes, contact between pipers and other musicians must always be on a very superficial level. We are all very well aware that when we listen to opera or jazz or pop music or whatever takes our fancy, that this is a different thing altogether. So where and how can we make a contact which is any better than we have already?

In the pipe band world perhaps things are slightly different. Perhaps members of the orchestra can hear something in a combination of pipes and drums which makes them feel there is a common ground to be explored. To us however it seems very unlikely that the oboists, flutists (what do you call a man who plays a flute?), bassoon players and others feel any affinity for the pipe-bandsman. Why else does the Musicians' Union debar pipers from membership?

The S.P.B.A. seeking for acceptance in this way reminds us inevitably of Mr. Wilson going cap in hand to de Gaulle. The inevitable rebuffs can do nothing but harm to the public image of the piper, and it is indeed sad that those of us who have no interest in the proposal should have to suffer with the few who do.

EDINBURGH POLICE SOLO CONTEST

The Edinburgh Police professional competition has now become one of the established events of the piping year, and it grows in strength each time. This year it was held on March 22nd and there was a splendid turn-out, both of competitors and audience.

John MacDougall won the principal prize for first in piobaireachd, and also received the trophy for most points over the whole competition. Iain Morrison scored a notable double, being first in both the march and the strathspey and reel.

Piobaireachd -

- 1st - John MacDougall - Royal Company of Archers Challenge Trophy
- 2nd - John Garroway - Tartan Taylor Trophy
- 3rd - Hector MacFadyen
- 4th - Dugald Ferguson
- 5th - Iain MacFadyen

Judges were Angus Macpherson, John MacLellan and Major-General Frank Richardson.

Marches -

- 1st - Iain M. Morrison - MacKinlay-Macpherson Challenge Trophy
- 2nd - Hugh MacCallum
- 3rd - Iain MacLellan
- 4th - John MacDougall

Strathspey and Reel

Jigs

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st - Iain M. Morrison | 1st - Iain MacLellan |
| 2nd - Angus J. MacLellan | 2nd - John MacDougall |
| 3rd - Iain MacLellan | 3rd - Dugald Ferguson |
| 4th - L/Sgt. J.G. Slattery | 4th - Hugh MacCallum |

Judges for the light music were Dr. Kenneth MacKay, D.R. MacLennan and George Stoddart.

LONDON PIPING SOCIETY CONTEST

The annual competitions in piping and dancing, organised by the Scottish Piping Society of London, were held in the London Scottish Headquarters, Buckingham Gate, on Saturday, March 29th. The entry -- which has been falling badly in recent years -- was considerably improved this year, perhaps as a result of the increase in prize money.

The principal feature of the piping was the consistency shown by John MacFadyen in the Bratach Gorm event and by Robert U. Brown in the Open Event. John MacFadyen has now won the "Bratach" four times in a row, and Robert Brown has won the Open no less than four times in a row and ten times in the last eleven years. John MacFadyen was presented with a mounted replica to mark his achievement, and no doubt some suitable memento is being considered for Robert Brown.

Bratach Gorm Piobaireachd -

- 1st - John MacFadyen - "The Battle of Auldearn"
- 2nd - Wm. MacDonald, Benbecula - "Lament for Mary MacLeod"
- 3rd - John MacDougall - "Lady Margaret MacDonald's Salute"

Judges were Andrew Pitkeathly, Andrew Bain and Thomas Johnstone.

Open Piobaireachd -

- 1st - Robert U. Brown - "The Unjust Incarceration"
2nd - John MacFadyen - "Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's
Fancy"

The judges were Mr. James Campbell and David Ross.

March, Strathspey and Reel (former winners) -

- 1st - Hugh MacCallum
2nd - Wm. MacDonald
3rd - John MacDougall
4th - Gordon Speirs

The judges were Pipe-Major Bob Hill and Andrew Pitkeathly.

March - Confined -

- 1st - Gavin Stoddart
2nd - T. Fleming
3rd - John MacNicol

Amateur Piobaireachd -

- 1st - Robert Elder - "MacCrimmons
Sweetheart"

Scottish Clans Cup -

- 1st - Andrew Hill

Amateur March, Strathspey and Reel -

- 1st - Robert Elder

NO NEWSLETTER IN AUGUST

The Editors (and their wives) are taking the month of August for their vacation and will not be publishing a Newsletter. Have a good summer at the Games and we will see you again in September.

The Editors

The Highlander, has a deep affection for the bagpipes. A worthy Celt, with a firm belief in the antiquity of his race, was one day looking at a print from a picture by one of the old masters, in which angels were represented blowing on trumpets. He enquired if the angels played on trumpets, and being answered in the affirmative, remarked, "Hech, sirs! I wonder they dinna borrow a pair o' bagpipes."

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An old lady was telling her grand-children about some trouble, in the course of which one of her clan was beheaded. "It was nae great thing of a head, to be sure," said the good lady; "but it was a sad loss for him!"

COEUR D'ALENE HIGHLAND GAMES

The Coeur d'Alene Highland Games and Tattoo for 1969 will be held July 26, 1969. It will be held in the Municipal Park commencing at 8:30 A.M.

Prizes - Open Piobaireachd

1st - \$100.00

2nd - 50.00

3rd - 25.00

- Open March, Strathspey & Reel

1st - \$100.00

2nd - 50.00

3rd - 25.00

Amateur Piobaireachd winner will receive the Lt. Col. John McEwing Silver Trophy. This trophy is won outright each year.

Band Competition and Drum Major Competition will be held in the evening.

Prizes - Class I

1st - \$150.00

2nd - 100.00

3rd - 75.00

Class II

1st - \$100.00

2nd - 75.00

3rd - 50.00

Drum Major Competition Winner - \$25.00

All Bands will receive appearance money of \$25.00.

Lt. John MacLellan from Edinburgh Castle will be the sole adjudicator for the day and will assign the bands to their respective class categories. Note: The system of band classification has no relationship to the "Grade System" used at most summer games.

REGULATIONS RE COEUR D'ALENE GAMES

Professional Events - Piping

March, Strathspey & Reel

Each Competitor will be required to submit two separate lots, in sets, of March-Strathspey-Reel, one of which he will be required to play. These sets must be reasonably equal in quality.

Piobaireachd

Each competitor will present the name of two Piobaireachds, one of which he will be required to play. At least one (or both) is to be selected from the following list prepared by Lt. John MacLellan.

These also must be reasonably equal in quality.

1. The Battle of Auldearn (No. 2 Setting)
2. The Desparate Battle of the Birds
3. Glengarry's March
4. The Prince's Salute
5. The Gathering of Clan Chattan
6. The Earl of Seaforth's Salute
7. The Glen is Mine
8. The Lament for the Children

THE SPOKANE CENTRE FOR BAGPIPE STUDIES

The Spokane Center for Bagpipe Studies will be held at the Junior College, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho from July 14th through to July 25th, 1969 under the directorship of Pipe Major Lieut. John MacLellan, Edinburgh Castle.

Arrangements have been made to have college dormitories available at a cost of \$11.00 per week, per student. Two students per room. Food is available at several excellent nearby restaurants.

Contact Lieut. MacLellan, 16 Ramsay Gardens, Edinburgh, or Lieut. Col. John McEwing, W. 3309 Dalke Avenue, Spokane, Washington for further details. The Highland Games and Tattoo held at Coeur D'Alene will be held the day following the school closing.

SUMMER GAMES SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| B.C. Highland Dancing Association | - | July 5, 1969 |
| Nanaimo Highland Games | - | July 12, 1969 |
| Portland Highland Games | - | July 19, 1969 |
| Victoria Highland Games | - | July 26, 1969 |
| Coeur d'Alene Highland Games | - | July 26, 1969 |
| Seattle Highland Games | - | August 2, 1969 |
| St. Andrews & Caledonian | - | August 9, 1969 |
| Selkirk Highland Gathering | - | July 13, 1969 |

PIPE MAJOR FERGUSSON STIRS HEARTS OF THE SCOTS

When it comes to playing a stirring Scottish tune on the bagpipes, E. H. (Ted) Fergusson is right in there with the best of them.

Fergusson, who is pipe major of the Royal Canadian Legion Pipe Band, won the gold medal for Scottish, Country and Highland piping in Regina last month. He was best in a field of 38 pipers from military and civilian bands, from all across Canada.

Following his triumph in Regina, Fergusson attended a pipe major's course in Kelowna and walked away with the second prize silver medal.

His love of music is not only confined to playing the pipes. He recently turned his talents to composing seven bagpipe tunes, which were entered in a provincial contest in B. C., Alberta and Saskatchewan last January. For these, he was awarded a total of \$957.00 in prize money, and his compositions were forwarded to Edinburgh, Scotland, where they have been accepted by the Pipe College of Music.

Two of these tunes are presently being played by the local pipe band. They are "Kenmuir's Rant", and "Strachur Reels".

Fergusson comes by his musical ability honestly. His father and grandfather before him were accomplished pipers, in the famous Black Watch Regiment. He was born 41 years ago on the Island of Mull in the Outer Hebrides, and received most of his schooling in and around Glasgow. His musical education began about the same time, when he was five years old. Besides the pipes, Fergusson plays the piano, clarinet and saxophone.

Like his forbears, Fergusson joined the Black Watch, in 1949 as a piper. When he left the regiment in 1956 he was staff sergeant piper.

During this time, he undertook a seven-year course in general music and from 1951 to 1953 saw active service with the Black Watch in the Korean conflict.

He piped the Lament at the close of the internationally known Military Tattoo at Edinburgh from 1953 to 1955, an honor not lightly accorded. He won his pipe major's certificate at Edinburgh Castle and in 1956 was appointed Queen's Piper. He was a familiar figure for many years at the Braemar Highland Gathering.

Following his discharge from the army, Fergusson worked in the military police, until he emigrated to Canada in 1958 where he was employed in correctional work for the Saskatchewan government in Regina. He married in Regina and he and his wife, Doris, have a son, Billy, and a daughter, Heather.

The family moved to Campbell River in 1964 where Ted has been employed at Elk Falls Company division of Crown Zellerbach for the past four years.

This accomplished musician has an array of trophies, 38 cups and 14 medals, which he has won since the age of 12.

He is continuing his interest in music as pipe major of the Legion-sponsored Pipe Band and also instructs newcomers in the art of coaxing stirring music from Scotland's national instrument.

-- The Campbell River Upper Islander
Newspaper - - April 30, 1969

Why haven't we ever seen this piper in any of our local competitions or gatherings?

Perhaps some of our readers might be interested in knowing that at the New Westminster Highland Games, the President of the St. Andrews Society of Hawaii, would you believe Mr. Robert Bruce, was in attendance. If anyone is interested in corresponding with Mr. Bruce please contact the editor.

B.C. HIGHLAND DANCING RESULTS

The 36th Annual B.C. Highland Dancing Association Games were held at Brockton Oval on July 5th, 1969. Perfect weather conditions encouraged a relatively good crowd to attend the events. The following were judged as winners and we extend our congratulations:

PIPING

Novice Marches - Under 14 Years

1st - Cindy Chambers
2nd - Allan MacDougall
3rd - Ian Keith
4th - Glen Esdale

Juvenile Marches

1st - Jack Lee
2nd - Susan Purdy
3rd - Angus MacPherson
4th - Heather Zinck

Novice Marches - 14 Years & Over

1st - Robin Palmer
2nd - John MacKay
3rd - April MacDonald
4th - Elouise Roane

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels

1st - Jack Lee
2nd - Malcolm MacCaig
3rd - Angus MacPherson
4th - Terry Lee

Juvenile Old Highland Airs

1st - Angus MacPherson
2nd - Hazel Ramsay
3rd - Terry Lee
4th - Jack Lee

Ernie Topp Trophy Winner
- Jack Lee

Junior Marches

1st - Tim Noot
2nd - Judy Taylor
3rd - Margaret Swanson
4th - Glen Palmer

Junior Strathspeys and Reels

1st - Judy Taylor
2nd - Tim Noot
3rd - Byron Barnard

Junior Jigs

1st - Drew Noot
2nd - Judy Taylor
3rd - Robert Menzies

Wm. Miller Trophy Winner
- Judy Taylor

Amateur Marches

1st - Bill MacAulay
2nd - Sandy Marshall
3rd - John Wright

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels

1st - Donald MacMillan
2nd - Bill MacAulay
3rd - Bill Russell
4th - John Wright

Amateur Piobaireachd

1st - Bill MacAulay
2nd - Colin Abel
3rd - Sandy Marshall
4th - Bill Russell

Scott Memorial Trophy Winner
- Bill MacAulay

Professional Marches

1st - Theresa MacInnes
2nd - Jamie Troy
3rd - John MacLeod

Professional Strathspeys and Reels

1st John MacLeod
2nd - Norma Thomson
3rd - Bruce Topp

Professional Piobaireachd

1st - Norma Thomson
2nd - Jamie Troy
3rd - John MacLeod

Professional Hornpipe

1st - Bruce Topp
2nd - John MacLeod
3rd - Theresa MacInnes

Vancouver Scottish Association Trophy Winner - John A. MacLeod

Drumming

Individual - B Class

1st - Katherine Forsyth
2nd - Mike McKay
3rd - Joe Siska

Individual - C Class

1st - Susan Burgess
2nd - Mike Palmer
3rd - Susan Manifold

Individual - Novice

1st - Sheila Roane
2nd - Ronald McCall
3rd - Bruce Roane
4th - Jeannie Berg
Shannon McGranaghan

Bands - C Class

Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band
Highland Laddies Pipe Band

Piping Judges - Lieut. J. MacLellan
P.M. Archie Cairns
Robert Young

Drumming Judge - Mr. W.E. Saunders

Drum Corps - C Bands Only

Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band
Burnaby Ladies Pipe Band

Bands - B Class

Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band
Scaforth Cadet Pipe Band

Bands - D Class

Legion Branch #15 - M.S.A.

LEGION HIGHLAND GATHERING

The following are the results of the 5th Annual Legion Highland Games held in Haney, B.C. June 28, 1969:

Novice Marches

1st - Mike Monks
2nd - Karen Paterson
3rd - Chris Grant

Novice Trophy Winner - Mike Monks

Junior March

1st - Hazel Ramsay
2nd - Jack Lee
3rd - Allan MacDougall

Junior Trophy Winner - Hazel Ramsay

Amateur March

1st - Daryl McNeil
2nd - Jim Millar
3rd - Neil Macaulay

Amateur Trophy Winner - Daryl McNeil

Men's Old Highland Airs

1st - P.M. Garnet Snow
2nd - John McKay
3rd - Norman McLeod

Novice Strathspey and Reel

1st - Mike Monks
2nd - Colin McConill
3rd - Karen Paterson

Junior Strathspey and Reel

1st - Hazel Ramsay
2nd - Jack Lee
3rd - Allan MacDougall

Amateur Strathspey and Reel

1st - Jim Millar
2nd - John McMath
3rd - Daryl McNeil

PIPER OF THE MONTH

Our June Piper of the Month is one of our younger, active Professional Pipers - Bruce Topp. Bruce started piping at the young age of seven years under the tuition of Mr. Donald MacLeod, Pipe Major of the Cameron Pipe Band. Two years later he changed teachers and started taking lessons from Mr. Alex Reid who played with the Camerons and later the Seaforths.

At age ten Bruce joined the Optimist Pipe Band and played with them for three years before becoming a member of the Seaforth Cadet Pipe Band. In 1963 he became a Cadet Sergeant and toured the West Indies for four months as one of the top thirty-five cadets in Canada. Bruce completed his tenure in the Cadet Pipe Band as the Pipe Major, a rank he attained at the age of 15.

Bruce's individual piping achievements rank among the best. During his piping career he has won the aggregate trophy at least once in every class of piping, from Novice to Professional.

In 1965, he graduated from the Seaforth Cadets and became a member of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. In 1967 he was selected as the member of the Band to represent the Seaforths in the Canadian Centennial Tattoo which toured all across Canada including presentations at Expo in Montreal. During his stay with the Tattoo and playing with the Canadian Forces Base Band he competed in Maxville and Cobourg for the North American Championship under the direction of Pipe Major Archie Cairns and Pipe Major J.T. McKenzie.

After several discussions and arguments with drummers in various bands as to whether piping or drumming was more difficult, Bruce decided to prove to himself that he could become a drummer. He was successful in his task by winning the Novice drumming event at the Ladies Pipe Band Festival and placing second in the Amateur class at Penticton.

In 1967 Bruce and Drummer Dave Russell became co-directors of the White Hackle Junior Boys Pipe Band. The Band is practicing in North Vancouver and should be making their debut in the near future.

Bruce became a commissioned Officer of the Seaforths in 1968, (the only piper in Seaforth history to receive a commission) but resigned soon thereafter to continue as a member of the Pipe Band. He is still playing with the band and is one of two pipers to have played in the last two Trooping of the Colours for the Seaforths.

Bruce entered the professional ranks of piping in 1968 and his latest achievement is winning the MacCrimmon Memorial Trophy for first place in Professional Piobaireachd at the 37th Annual Gathering sponsored by the B.C. Pipers' Association.

Bruce's vocational ambition is to become a teacher and is presently in fourth year Education at the University of British Columbia. Even with his busy schedule he manages to find time to be a Director of the B.C. Pipers' Association.

We wish Bruce continued success in his piping and university endeavours.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been suggested by the Editors of the Newsletter that, as President of the Association, I should periodically submit a message to the members. As this is the last issue before the fall it is as good a time as any to begin.

Last months issue of the Newsletter contained an article by Bill Elder on "Entry Form Deadlines" that I was in complete agreement with and this month I would like to go into another subject that for lack of a better name we could call "Getting to the Games on Time".

At the Highland Games held on July 5th a small storm arose over the disqualification of a number of Senior Amateur Competitors in the March competition. As the Steward who was looking after that particular platform let me make the following points clear:

1. Where more than one platform is used the sequence of events shown in the entry form can not always be used. The committee has to wait until the entries are in before they can decide the format for the day and which events shall start the day off.

2. The entry form states that Piping events shall start at 9:00 A.M. This particular event started at 9:15 A.M. with an entry of some 20 competitors, only 2 being present at the start with 5 others showing up shortly after. A number of appeals were made on the P.A. system and runners spent considerable time looking in the area outside the Park for any who may not have heard. After the seventh competitor had played it was found that not only were no others ready to play, they had not even picked up their numbers which indicated that they had not yet arrived at the Park. By this time it was after 10:00 A.M., an hour past the scheduled starting time for Piping events, so after some discussion and at my suggestion, the Piping Chairman invoked Section 9 of Part 4 of the rules of the B.C. Pipers' Association which read; "Pipers not ready to play when called are liable to be disqualified".

It was unfortunate that this had to be done. However, I am of the opinion (and I speak now as one who has spent many years both as a competitor and as a Games official) that with the ever increasing numbers in the piping events the competitors have to co-operate more with the Games Committees.

Remember, the people who give there time and effort free gratis to work on these committees are doing as much for the promotion of Piping as the players and are at least entitled to the small courtesy of having the competitors arrive on time.

There are other phases of the competitions that perhaps should be looked at, one being the amount of time lost between bands in the Pipe Band competition but more on that at a later date.

In closing let me again remind you. The rule is there. It has been used. To all of the competing pipers the choice is yours, you can come early and make sure of playing or come when you want and take a chance.

William Lamont

FIVE PASS JUDGES EXAMINATION

On June 15, 1969 nine people sat a gruelling five hour examination on piping. This examination was the culmination of a series of lectures given by P.M. Archie Cairns and was in two parts. The first being a written exam followed by an oral section. Those who passed are to be congratulated on their degree of knowledge with respect to the Great Highland Bagpipe.

The successful candidates were presented with diplomas by P.M. Archie Cairns on July 4th, 1969, certifying their completion of the course and their qualifications as competent judges.

The five individuals holding certificates are alphabetically:

John Low	- Victoria
John A. MacLeod	- Vancouver
William Mossie	- Victoria
Norma Thompson	- Vancouver
James Troy	- Victoria

"Joe College"

