

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

MARCH, 1964.

No. 48.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAGPIPE MUSIC

AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PIPE PLAYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

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32nd ANNUAL GATHERING - SATURDAY, MARCH 21st, 1964.

Final plans are now being made for the 32nd Annual Gathering of the B.C. Pipers' Association. This gathering, which is the focal point of our year, will be held on Saturday, March 21st at the Seaforth Armoury.

We are honoured in having as our chief judge of piping Pipe Major Neil Sutherland, Pipe Major of the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band.

The piping events will commence at 9:00 a.m., and will continue until approximately 11:00 p.m. The admission for adults is \$1.00, and for children 50¢. This admission will cover the full day's activities. There is ample parking at the rear of the Seaforth Armoury.

Refreshments will be available through the courtesy of the Sergeants' Mess.

The list of events is identical to that of last year, except that the order of the evening's events has been slightly altered.

Morning Session: - 9:00 a.m.

1. Junior Amateur Piobaireachd
2. Amateur Piobaireachd
3. Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs (open only to Amateurs not competing in other events)
4. Novice Marches

Afternoon Session: - 1:30 p.m.

5. Juvenile Marches
6. Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels
7. Junior Amateur Marches
8. Junior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels
9. Quartette Competitions (Junior) (18 & Under)
10. Amateur Marches
11. Amateur Strathspeys and Reels)
12. Open Piobaireachd

(All competitors must submit two tunes, - one of his own choice, and one from the following list:

The Battle of Auldearn	Lament for the Earl of Antrim
The Battle of Waternish	The Lament for the Only Son
Hector MacLean's Warning	My King has Landed in Moidart
Isabel MacKay	The Old Men of the Shells (Setting No. 1)
The King's Taxes	Salute to Donald)

Evening Session: - 7:00, p.m.

13. Open Marches
14. Highland Dancing - Over 16 years Highland Fling
15. Open Strathspeys and Reels
16. Quartette Competitions (Senior)
17. Old Highland Airs - Veterans 60 and over
18. Miniature Pipe Band Competition
19. Open Jigs

The rules governing these competitions will be the rules of the B.C. Pipers' Association.

It will probably be necessary to hold a short leet (elimination) contest in events No. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. These short leets will begin at 9:00 a.m., and all Novices, Juveniles, and Juniors should be available at this time. The judge of the short leet will select the top five performers in each class, who will then compete before the chief judge.

A Novice is defined as a piper never having won a First or Second Prize in an Annual Competition governed by the rules of the B.C. Pipers' Association. First and Second prize winners in the Novice Class only, are allowed to compete in higher events on the day of the Novice Class.

Points for aggregates:

1st	5 points
2nd	3 points
3rd	1 point
4th	$\frac{1}{2}$ point

The number of prizes in solo competitions is determined by the number of competitors, as follows:

1 - 2 competitors	1 prize
3 competitors	2 prizes
4 - 9 competitors	3 prizes
10 & more "	4 prizes

There will be two prizes in both Quartette competitions and in the Miniature Pipe Band class.

We would ask the competitors in the Novice, Juvenile, Junior and Amateur events to contact the Secretary Wm. McAdie (HE 4-1591) and let him know their entries and tunes.

Just one final word - All competitors are required to stay on the main floor of the Seaforth Armoury. We would ask the cooperation of the competitors, parents and teachers in this regard, to assist us in complying with this request from the Seaforth Highlanders.

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION: - FEBRUARY 28th, 1964.

Mr. Donald Murray, judge for the competitions held on February 28th, had a full evening indeed, judging seventy-one competitors in the five classes.

The following persons were adjudged winners, in these Bi-Monthly competitions:

Novice Old Highland Airs: (41 competitors)

1. Dal Jessiman
2. Donald Taylor
3. Tom MacDonald
4. John Wright
5. Mary Swift
6. Michael Murdoch

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels: (18 competitors)

1. David Irvine
2. Laurie McIlvena
3. Gordon Hardy
4. Dorothy MacArthur
5. Janice Taylor

Junior Piobaireachd: (3 competitors)

1. Raymond Irvine
2. John MacLeod & Bruce Topp (tie)

Amateur Jigs: (5 competitors)

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Bill Elder
3. Peter MacNeil

Senior Amateur Marches: (4 competitors)

1. Jack Flancher, Bellingham
2. Bill Paterson, Bellingham
3. Jim Wilson

The next Bi-Monthly competitions will take place on April 24th, with the following classes:

- Novice Strathspeys & Reels
- Juvenile 6/8 Marches
- Junior Jigs
- Amateur Marches
- Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs

GENERAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 27th.

Those attending the General Meeting on February 27th had a special treat. The band of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada had their annual inspection by the B.C. Area Band Officer, and we were able to watch an interesting and enjoyable performance by this band, before the meeting.

Final arrangements were made for the Annual Gathering, to be held on March 21st. After the meeting a social gathering was held in the Sergeant's Mess, much enjoyed by all.



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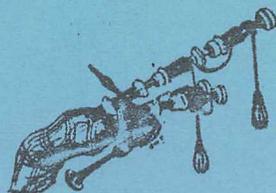
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SCOTLAND

VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION 11th ANNUAL INDOOR MEET: FEB. 29th

Leap Year - Feb. 29th - was the date chosen for the 11th Annual Indoor Meet of Highland Dancing and Piping, held by the Victoria Highland Games Association, at the Sirocco Club, Victoria.

A record entry of pipers, supplemented by quite a few from Vancouver, were judged by C.I. Walker, of Vancouver.

The winners were as follows:

Novice Marches:

1. Debbie Sowler 2. David Castle 3. Nancy Mason

Girls Amateur Marches:

1. Karen Ruddick 2. Heather McBride 3. Barbara MacArthur

Juvenile Marches:

1. Stephen Geddes 2. Donald MacMillan 3. Gregor Garver

Juvenile Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Stephen Geddes 2. Donald MacMillan 3. Gregor Garver

Junior Marches:

1. Bruce Topp 2. Michael MacInnes 3. Gordon Hamilton

Junior Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Michael MacInnes 2. Sherea Barwell 3. Bruce Topp

Aggregates:

- Juvenile - Stephen Geddes
Junior - Michael MacInnes

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CHANGE OF PIPE BAND RULES:

On Feb. 27th, the rule dealing with "C" Class Pipe Bands was amended as follows:

Part II, Section 4. "C" Class Bands will consist of:

- (a) those bands which are composed entirely of pipers and drummers 18 years of age and under on January 1st of the year of the current competition.

This will enable band members who are turn 19 during the year to remain playing with the band during that year only.

The motion concerning the age of the Pipe Major of "C" Class bands was defeated.

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THE STORY BEHIND BAGPIPE TUNES: (from "Sunday Post", Glasgow)

CABER FEIDH:

This stirring pipe tune is a favourite at piping competitions. It was composed by Norman MacLeod of Assynt.

The Earl of Sutherland commissioned William Munroe of Achany to lead a raiding party on Assynt and carry off as much plunder as possible. But the raid was made towards the end of summer, when the cattle were grazing in distant pastures, so Achany plundered the sheilings and stole their victims' butter and cheese supplies.

The indignant MacLeod composed the tune and song which became the clan song of the MacKenzies. He made it the vehicle of bitter and sarcastic taunts against the Sutherlands and Munroes, who for many years were to rue the day they stole butter and cheese.

"Bread and butter and cheese to me
Ere death my mouth shall close,
And, traveller, there's drink for thee
To please the black Munroes."

KILLYCHRIST:

"Killychrist" is the war tune of the MacDonalds of Glengarry. At the beginning of the 17th century there lived in Glengarry a warrior called Allan MacRanald of Lundie, who was famed for his strength and courage. This was at a time when the feuds between the MacKenzies and MacDonalds were at their height.

The MacDonalds made a raid on the MacKenzies, surprising them. But on their way home by sea the MacDonalds were in turn attacked and defeated on Loch Hourn by the MacKenzies. Allan of Lundie escaped with his life by swimming ashore.

Determined on revenge, he led a strong force to the lands of Killychrist, near Beauly, and set about the unprepared MacKenzies with great slaughter.

Allan ordered his piper, Alister Dubh, to play so as to drown the cries of the wounded and dying. After a succession of wild and unconnected notes, the piper settled down to compose, as he played, the pibroch now known as "Killychrist".

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LETTER FROM PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.

The Prince George Rotary Pipe Band, which is, as far as we know, the only Rotary Pipe Band in the world, has been in existence for some eight years, and plays an important part in the various parades and functions in the growing Prince George area. (Incidentally, they represented Prince George in the Grey Cup Parade in Vancouver last November).

The Band President is Jock Stewart - an Aberdonian with an accent as broad as the day he left Scotland. They wear the Dress MacPherson tartan and the complete uniforms were donated by the Prince George Rotary Club. A recent venture was the formation of a Junior Section where it is hoped that pipers and drummers will be trained for future years.

The members of the Band built for themselves a Band Hall where they hold their twice-weekly practices and their social evenings. The materials for the building were largely donated by local businesses. There is also a Ladies Auxiliary to the Pipe Band and they have raised money by holding Bake-sales, etc., to equip the kitchen and help to provide furnishings for the Hall.

- Angus Graham -
Prince George, B.C.

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GENERAL STANDARD OF PIPING IS IMPROVING YEAR BY YEAR: (from Oban Times,
Feb. 6th, 1964)

The general standard of piping is improving year by year. This was the opinion expressed by the panel of judges at the annual piping competition organised last Saturday in the High School, Glasgow by the Uist and Barra Association.

Highly honoured at being asked to preside at this august gathering which is ranked as one of the exclusive competitions in piping, it gave me great pleasure to pay tribute to the Uist and Barra Association, the territorial association in Scotland which without doubt does the most to foster the art of piping.

Mr. Neil MacKinnon, president, in his introductory remarks, referred to the mammoth task of organising such a competition and thanked all the various piping societies for their valiant support. This was a great day in the annals of piping and here was artistry displayed at its best. The tension experienced by competitors in the piobaireachd competition was evidenced by the unusual number of breakdowns in this event.

Adjudicators Major General Richardson, Messrs. S. Bell, Duncan McColl, J. Hector Ross, Tom Cam Callum and Dr. Colin Caird, who had no easy task in separating these expert performers, were warmly commended by P.M. Angus MacDonald in his comprehensive vote of thanks. He congratulated the Uist and Barra Association for the organisation and financing of the competition; Mr. Alex MacLennan and his band of stewards for the smooth running of the same; the ladies' committee under their convener Mrs. Rachel MacRitchie; Mrs. Mackay and Miss Flora McNeill of the Scottish Pipers' Association for their invaluable assistance during the course of the day, as persons worthy of the highest praise.

Mrs. Peg MacLean, one of the oldest members of the association, graciously presented all trophies and prizes and she in turn was presented with a handsome handbag as a memento of the occasion by P.M. John MacLellan.

Here are the results:-

Piobaireachd: 1 and the Finlay S. MacKenzie Challenge Trophy and Royal Scottish Pipers' Society Silver Star - John MacDougall, Bucksburn ("Lament for the Children"); 2. P.M. John MacLellan, Edinburgh Castle ("The Unjust Incarceration"); 3. Ronald Lawrie, Glasgow ("Mackay's Banner"); 4. James Young, Perth ("Kiss of the King's Hand"); 5. Hector MacFadyen, Pennyghael ("Lament for MacSwan of Roag"); 6. Ronald Morrison, Glasgow ("The Blue Ribbon")

March: 1 and "The Oban Times" Challenge Trophy - P.M. John MacLellan, ("Abercairney Highlanders"); 2. P.M. Donald MacLeod ("John MacFadyen of Melfort"); 3. Iain MacFadyen ("Southall"); 4. Ronald Lawrie ("Leaving Lunga")

Strathspey and Reel: 1 and the John Kennedy Challenge Trophy - P.M. Donald MacLeod; 2. P.M. John MacLellan; 3. James Young; 4. William Macdonald, Inverness.

Jigs: 1 and The Angus John MacDonald Challenge Trophy - John MacDougall; 2. Kenneth MacDonald; 3. P.M. Donald MacLeod; 4. Iain MacFadyen.

The Pipe-Major James Johnstone Challenge Trophy for competitor gaining highest aggregate marks in all four competitions - P.M. John MacLellan.

The Captain Charles Hepburn Trophy presented for highest aggregate marks in Marches, Strathspeys and Reels and Jigs - P.M. Donald MacLeod.

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HIGHLAND HOTELIER WHO LOVED PIPING: (from Oban Times, Jan. 30, 1964)

News of the recent death at his home in Belfast of Major Finlay S. MacKenzie, for 40 years proprietor of Lochboisdale Hotel, S. Uist, saddened his many friends in the south.

A friend to all who knew him, Finlay MacKenzie will long be remembered (writes our London correspondent) as the epitome of Highland hospitality at its best. When he left Lochboisdale as a young man to embark on a banking career in Vancouver, British Columbia, he left behind an island home noted throughout South Uist and beyond as one almost fanatically determined to encourage the finer arts of piping.

But while he made good in Vancouver, the call of the outdoors proved too strong for Finlay, so he enlisted in the Royal North West Mounted Police, perhaps then, as now, offering one of the most adventurous and colourful careers in the world.

As an experienced horseman, having ridden his father's coach team as a boy, Finlay's abilities were soon recognised and he was dispatched to the barren wastes of the north-west territory.

But on the outbreak of war in 1914, Finlay returned home and volunteered as a trooper in the Royal Scots Greys. His proudest moment with the Greys, one of the army's crack cavalry regiments, was when he was promoted Corporal Horse, equivalent to sergeant-major in the infantry.

On the cessation of hostilities, he embarked on a career in which he was to make a profound impression upon all who knew him - as mine host at Lochboisdale Hotel. Taking over the management from his ailing father, Finlay concentrated on rebuilding the hotel which had been partially destroyed by fire in 1915.

But as soon as he took over the reins of office at the hotel, Finlay showed that his devotion to piping was as keen as his father's, and he was instrumental in persuading the Piobaireachd Society to send their instructor, the famous Pipe Major Willie Ross, to give tuition at well attended classes on the island.

Over the years, Pipe Major Ross was succeeded by John MacDonald, Inverness; R.B. Nicol, Neil MacLennan, Angus Campbell, Willie Walker, Fred Morrison, and others.

It was perhaps fitting that when Finlay MacKenzie was laid to rest, two pipers who benefited from this tuition played at the graveside. They were Pipe Major John MacDonald and Pipe Sergeant Iain MacMillan, both former members of the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band.

Finlay MacKenzie retired to Belfast with his wife, a native of that city, when he disposed of the hotel in 1960. The death in hospital of his widow, Mrs. Millicent Duff MacKenzie was reported on January 21. It could be appropriate that such a devoted couple departed from this life within six weeks of each other for alone life held nothing for them.

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AMERICAN WINS PIPING TEST:

(from Oban Times, Nov. 28, 1963)

An expatriate American, taught the finer arts of piping by a Scotsman in New Britain, Connecticut, playing the piobaireachd "Kinlochmoidart's Lament" won the Arthur Wright cup at the last members' competition of the Piping Society of London. And the winner was John Toye, who came over from the U.S.A. four years ago after receiving his initial tuition in the States from a native of Haddington, East Lothian, who was pipe major of a pipe band in the State.

John, according to critical observers, enhanced his playing in this country by his association with noted pipers in London, as well as from a course of instruction at the Glasgow College of Piping. The cup, incidentally, was presented in 1962 by Mr. Arthur Wright, an enthusiastic piper and committee member, who also learned his piping abroad in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Second and third places were taken by Iain MacLeod and George Robertson, who rendered "Lament for Mary MacLeod" and "Desperate Battle" respectively.

In the March competition for the Robert Fisher Cup, first prize went to Donald Ross, R.A.M.C. Harrow, playing "Ardrishaig," while "Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban" won second place for Sergeant Donald Murray, Harrow Castle. George Kennedy, Pride of Murray Pipe Band was third. John Toye spoiled his rendering of "Renfrewshire Militia" by two errors.

The judges were Pipe Major William MacLeod, late Seaforth Highlanders and Mr. Charles MacCall, Batley, who is a pupil of Pipe Major Robert Reid, a London business man who has been a member of the Piping Society since its inception, and a committee member for fifteen years. Mr. David Ross organised both competitions.



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"THE PIPES" by Frederick Niven.

(One of our readers recently came across the following poem, which he thought might be of some interest to you)

When MacCrimmon was evicted
That the deer might take his place
He sailed away for Canada
With a shadow on his face.

When plowing in Ontario
He'd see a heather hill
And MacCrimmon brought his pipes with him -
His laddie has them still!

The lad saw never Scotland
But his father taught him play
The pibroch and the coronach
The reel and the strathspey.

MacCrimmon died. The son came West
Over the prairies rim,
And westward still, to try his luck
And brought the pipes with him.

Its long since I left Scotland
And often I declare
"The mind can bide in any place"
Though my early days were there.

I knew not I was exile,
I thought my home was found
Among the western mountains
Till last night I heard a sound.

MacCrimmon the Canadian
Came piping with a will,
Down the road among the pines,
And I saw a heather hill.

THE MAKING OF A PIPER - MacCRIMMON GREATNESS:

(The following undated clipping from the Weekly Scotsman was forwarded to us by one of our members, and may throw a more historic perspective to the matter of the MacCrimmons. The letter to the Editor by Mr. John Grant was apparently written in the 40's)

In his letter of August 21st, Mr. P.. accuses me of belittling the MacCrimmons in my letter of 14th inst. I could not, if I had tried, have praised those of the MacCrimmons who were famous more than I did when I said: - "It is true that the MacCrimmons were the greatest pipers of their day, and that to be taught by them was a 'hall mark' of superiority in the art of piping." Is this belittlement? Surely not!

I don't know whether Mr. P.. is a piper or not, but let me tell him that I know more about the MacCrimmons than he thinks, and I am by no means ignorant of their piobaireachd, and the skill with which they created and performed Ceol Mor.

From the beginning of the MacCrimmons to the last member of that family, who died in 1822, there were only five pipers - Dun-coloured John, Donald Mor, Patrick Mor, Patrick Og, and John Dubh.

Out of the five there were only three really great pipers - Donald Mor, Patrick Mor, and Patrick Og - who could play piobaireachd to perfection, compose piobaireachd, and impart it with skill and perfect ease to others. John Dubh was just an ordinary piper. There was nothing outstanding about him in any way. The great secret and gift of playing, composing and imparting piobaireachd to others died with Patrick Og.

After 1822 the MacCrimmon greatness came to a close, and from that date the name MacCrimmons as pipers of genius has been dead, and on the authority of some who profess to know, the art of composing Ceol Mor has been lost since. For a long period the line has been broken, and even men of the name of MacCrimmon who live now or since 1822 are like persons who bear any name and who take a liking for piobaireachd playing; they must all begin over again.

This is not a belittlement, but a fact. There is a vast difference between the few MacCrimmons who were really great and the ordinary piper whoever he may be, including a present-day MacCrimmon, who would lay claim to be a direct descendant of Patrick Og, the greatest of all the Boreraig school.

If Dr. MacCrimmon was taught by his father, Donald MacCrimmon and John MacDougall Gillies, and Donald MacCrimmon possessed even one spark of the genius of Patrick Og, why did Dr. MacCrimmon go to John MacDougall Gillies for instruction in piobaireachd.

Another thing is, what about the missing miles of the chain between Patrick Og and John MacDougall Gilles? This proves the break in the MacCrimmon line, where to Dr. MacCrimmon the art of piping was lost, and furthermore the great MacCrimmons never lowered their dignity by taking lessons from any person except the Boreraig masters.

OPTIMIST JUNIOR PIPE BAND VISITS QUEBEC:

As reported in the January Newsletter, the Optimist Junior Pipe Band entrained for Quebec City Winter Carnival on February 2nd. The ensuing trip proved to be one of the most exciting and educational voyages ever made by the band. I feel that some of the details and sidelights might prove to be interesting to the readers of the Newsletter.

Before the band even arrived in Quebec, they were scheduled to play at Edmonton and Winnipeg. They were fully decked out in their uniforms, with pipes tuned, prior to the arrival in these two cities, where they entertained those in the station with the strains of "51st Highland Division" and "Meeting of the Waters."

In Edmonton, we were met by several piping friends, including Harry Lunan (piper and my father-in-law) and Arnie Stone, well known to Vancouver pipers. Although there was only a ten minutes stop, we made the best of it by forming a circle and playing a few tunes, quickly reforming and returning to the trains to "No Awa tae Bide Awa."

Since the members of the band were all of school age, it was decided that a school teacher would be taken along, and Miss Jan Spragge of Vancouver was selected to do the job. At Edmonton Miss Spragge left the train to get some nose drops for one of the boys, and because she had been told that there would be a twenty minute stop, she arrived back in the station to see the rear of the train fading into the east. However, C.N.R. officials quickly came to the rescue, and the train was held up in North Edmonton for ten minutes while she was conveyed by car to catch up to the train.

We arrived in Saskatoon at approximately midnight and a delegation from the Saskatoon Boys Band were there to meet us. They were a little disappointed that the boys did not play, but the hour was late, and the stopping time short. We did promise to play on the return journey.

The stop in Winnipeg was for thirty minutes. At the station to meet us were my mother and father, who live in Winnipeg, several relatives of members, and Mr. Neil Sutherland, this year's Annual Gathering judge. The boys played a few selections here, and were permitted a brief visit with the friends and relatives.

The remainder of the journey was spent looking at snow and trees, lakes and rocks. This was Northern Ontario. It is no wonder that they all live at the Lake Head.

Now it was Wednesday, February 5th, and we arrived in Montreal. Here we had to change trains and stations, in order to get to Quebec City. The band played into the Montreal Station, which is really a fabulous building. It is sort of a nerve centre, because from it are several ways of leaving to choose from, and connected to it is one of the largest subterranean shopping centres in Canada.

Mr. Donald Gordon (my boss), President of the C.N.R., met the band in the station, and was very pleased with what he heard. Being an Aberdonian, he could appreciate the pipes, and expressed his welcome to the band.

The band, lock, stock and baggage, transferred about 5 blocks from the Central Station to the Windsor Station, where after a lay-over of about three hours entrained for Quebec City. We arrived in Quebec at 10:00 p.m. (EST) and here were accorded a heroes welcome. The station was jammed with people to see "Les joueurs de le cornemuse (players of the Bagpipes). What a cheer went up when the band entered! - truly a tremendous reception. The carnival queen with her four duchesses, Le Bonhomme Carnaval (a man dressed as a huge snowman, who signified the spirit of the carnival), several carnival officials, and well over 500 people were there. We played several selections in the depot, and then moved by bus to the historic Citadel.

This Citadel is where Montcalm and his troops stayed. From the walls you could look out over the Plains of Abraham, still untouched by man. No houses or buildings are situated on the Plains of Abraham.

The boys were assigned rooms, which actually formed part of the wall of the Citadel. The walls are up to forty feet thick, and not only house troops, but also contain the Sergeants Mess, the Regimental Headquarters of the Royal 22 Regiment (Van Doos) and the local chapel. Le Citadel was certainly educational to the boys, and most intriguing to the directors and chaperones.

Our itinerary in Quebec City revolved around the Pee Wee hockey tournament which took place in the Quebec Coliseum. The band played on the ice surface of the Coliseum between the games to tremendous crowds, ranging from 15,000 on the Thursday up to 23,000 on the Saturday, which was the official closing day of the tournament. This support which the Pee Wees received was most impressive, showing that the people of Quebec City are right behind their kids. They even have a song composed for the Pee Wees, which everyone sings between games and between periods.

All through the city, the spirit of the Carnival was ever present. Ice Figurines line the streets, and beautiful caricatures of animals, birds, objects of art, you name it, carved in ice, are everywhere. A beautiful ice palace, illuminated at night, was built in front of the City Hall. In front of the Legislative Buildings was a huge birthday cake with ten candles, signifying the 10th year of the Carnival.

The highlight of Le Bonhomme Carnaval du Quebec is the gigantic parade on the last Saturday of the holiday. This parade takes a route of five miles. It was not decided until quite late on Saturday whether or not the Optimist Junior Pipe Band would be in the parade, since the Carnival Committee were somewhat dubious about the cold. However, the weather was a warm 25 degrees at 4:00 p.m. so it was decided that the band would play. Unfortunately, as the evening wore on the temperature dropped from 18 degrees at starting time to a cold 2 degrees at the end of the parade. Needless to say, the boys were cold. The smaller ones really took a beating, but the urgings of the crowd, plus a great deal

of encouragement from Donald Bellamy, Terry McHardy and myself spurred them on. The crowd was truly magnificent, and tremendous cries and shouts and cheers continued to ring out, mostly in French. English speaking people would identify themselves to us, and compliment the band.

When the parade was over, icicles were hanging from some of the chanters. Our tunics were coated with ice, and the drone reeds, wet from playing, were frozen solid. This freezing of reeds could only be avoided by continuous playing, and since the band had not played for the last half mile, this was the result. Quite a switch from Hawaii. When the boys got back into the Citadel, they wouldn't enter without playing "Black Bear" complete with the hollering. The older boys were itching to go down to the city, where a street dance was planned.

The rest of the visit entailed banquets, tours, luncheons, and even a toboggan ride. We had very special memories of Quebec City.

We then went to Ottawa for a day. This visit was at the invitation of the Postmaster-General, the Hon. John Nicholson, from Vancouver. The band was asked to play for Prime Minister Home and Prime Minister Lester Pearson, who were in conference in the cabinet building, and seemed to be pleased with the performance of the band. The British Prime Minister passed through the band and chatted with a few of the smaller boys. We then had a tour of Parliament Hill. The band was officially welcomed in the House of Commons by the Deputy Speaker. Although the House was not currently in session, a very good idea of parliamentary procedure was outlined to the band and chaperones. The visit concluded with an elevator ride to the Peace Tower.

The next day we returned to Montreal, Quebec. There we visited City Hall, and were officially welcomed by Mayor Drapeau, who seemed quite impressed. He showed his appreciation by making an official invitation to the band to play at the 1967 World Fair in Montreal. Each of the band members was asked to sign the guest register of the city.

Our last full day in Montreal was spent sightseeing, visiting relatives, and outside of a luncheon in our own hotel by the Optimist Club of Montreal, spent a day of rest. We went to an N.H.L. hockey game during the evening, but due to union regulations, the band could not play in the Forum. We did however play to a very sizeable crowd outside, and at the conclusion of the game played through the interior of the arena, by the dressing rooms and outside.

On the next morning, we viewed the site of the 1967 World's Fair. The band played several selections for the committee and were most warmly received. We bade them farewell, and returned to pack for the long ride home.

We left Montreal at 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 13th, and arrived in Vancouver at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, February 16th. On the return trip, we played in Winnipeg, Saskatoon (who had the Boys Pipe Band out in full regalia to greet us at 7:00 a.m.), and of course in Edmonton.

I spent one evening in Montreal with Pipe Major James Hannah and Drum Major Cal Wilson, of the Black Watch Militia pipe band. We swapped yarns and tunes, and partook of refreshments until the wee hours of the morning. I noted with interest that one of their pipers was a French Canadian, and another was of Ukrainian extraction. The piping interest among them was very high. However, they were most impressed with the workings of the B.C. Pipers' Association. Especially impressive to them was the large entries in the Novice and Juvenile competitions.

The trip was indeed a memorable one, and will be in our memories for a long time. I personally felt that the Optimist Junior Pipe Band did full justice to piping from British Columbia, and made many inroads for other pipe band from Western Canada to visit the province of Quebec which we shall say was bilingual, but friendly.

- Albert Duncan -

EXTRA - BAND CHANGES NAME!

The Optimist Junior Pipe Band is now no more.

The band is now under the sponsorship of Mr. Nat Baillie, and will now officially be known as the White Spot Junior Pipe Band.

Due to the tremendous growth of the band, and the ever increasing expenses, the Optimist Club requested that they be relieved of their sponsorship.

The band will be wearing their new hat badges, throat chokers and shoulder patches at the Annual Gathering (minus ckickens).

- Albert Duncan -

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WORK PARTY FOR ANNUAL GATHERING:

We would ask as many members as possible to take part in the work party on the Friday evening before the Annual Gathering.

There are many jobs which must be done in preparation for our big day, and your help is requested.

Refreshments will be provided to all members of the work party. Come, any time after 7:30 p.m.

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The CLANSMEN

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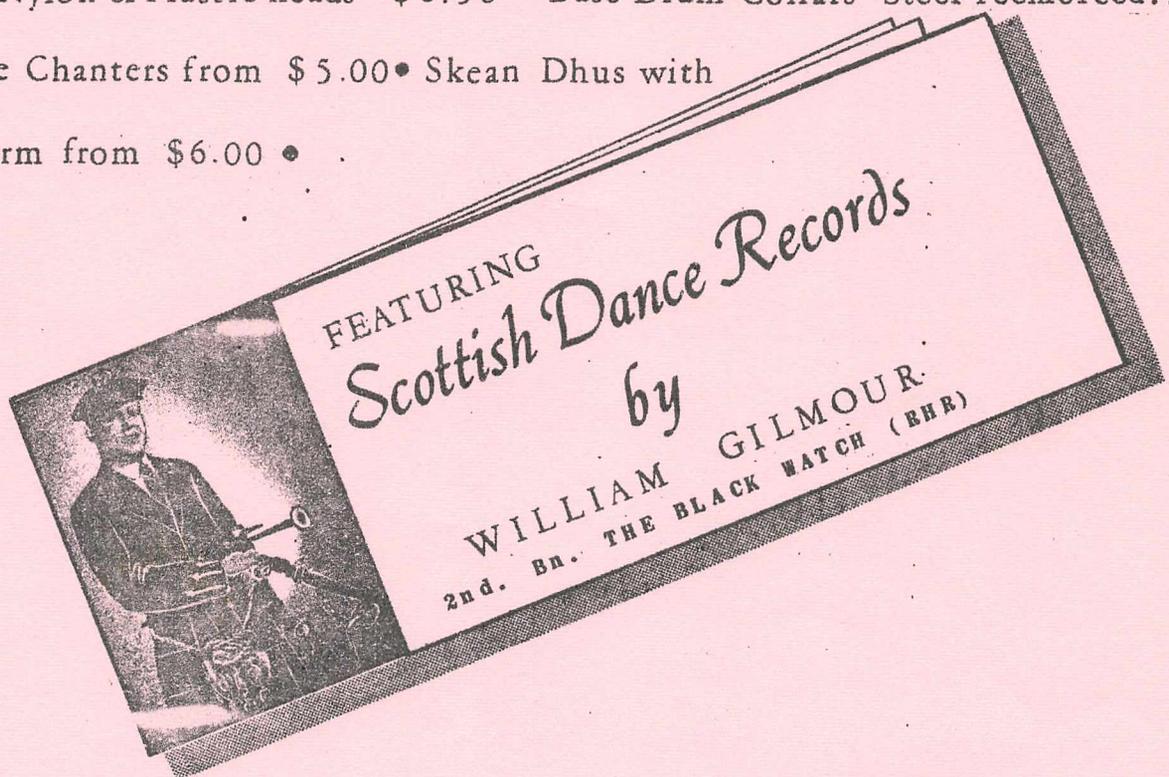
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VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND ANNUAL FESTIVAL:

The Annual Festival of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band was held on February 21st and 22nd at the Cambrian Hall. The piping events took place on Feb. 22nd, and were judged by Ian Duncan of Victoria.

As well as Medals, Honour Certificates and Merit Certificates were awarded, in place of 4th, 5th and 6th places medals, in the larger events. The number of these Certificates, depended on the number entered in the particular class.

Under 12 Amateur Marches:

1. Colin Abel

Under 12 Amateur Strathspeys & Reels:

1. David Irvine

Novice Marches:

1. Dal Jessiman 2. Bill MacAulay 3. Heather McBride
H. John F. MacDonald H. Colin Abel H. Donald Taylor
H. Elizabeth Thom M. Marjorie Forsythe M. Alex MacInnes

Under 14, Non-Prize winners, Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Colin Abel 2. Dennis Martin 3. Dal Jessiman
H. Georgina Lamont M. Dennis Collister M. Mark Humphrey

Individual Drumming, Class "C" and Novice:

1. Keith Manifold 2. Ross MacRae H. David Scott

Individual Drumming, Class "B":

1. Patrick Connell 2. Carl Maxwell 3. Janet Kennedy
H. Graham Tawse

Under 16, Amateur Marches:

1. Bruce Topp 2. Donald MacMillan 3. Theresa MacInnes
H. Raymond Irvine M. Gordon Hardy

Under 16, Amateur Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Theresa MacInnes 2. Bruce Topp 3. Raymond Irvine
J. Laurie McIlvena M. Colin Stuart

Ladies Amateur Slow Marches: (restricted to V.L.P.B. members)

1. Theresa MacInnes 2. Karen Ruddick 3. Heather McBride
H. Jean Jarvis M. Pamela Sparkes.

Over 16 Amateur Marches:

1. Michael MacInnes 2. Bob MacDonald 3. Bill Elder &
John MacLeod (tie) M. Douglas Graham

Over 16 Amateur Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Bob MacDonald 2. Michael MacInnes 3. Allan MacNeil
H. Bill Elder M. Bill Heaton.

Drum Corps:

1. Seaforth Cadets

Band Quartette:

1. Seaforth Cadets

Trophies:

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Third Trophy - Patrick Connell

Jim Blackley Trophy - Keith Manifold

Phyllis Thompson Murray Trophy - Seaforth Cadets

Raebelle MacInnes Memorial Trophy - Theresa MacInnes

Norma Nicholson Trophy - ~~David Irvine~~ & Colin Abel (tie)

Malcolm Nicholson Trophy - Bruce Topp

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RODERICK MACLEOD RECUPERATES:

Our first President, and the "Grand Old Man" of the B.C. Pipers' Association, Roderick MacLeod, is presently at home recuperating from an operation, which he had in early March.

We are pleased to hear that Rod is feeling well, and we would like to send to him our heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery.

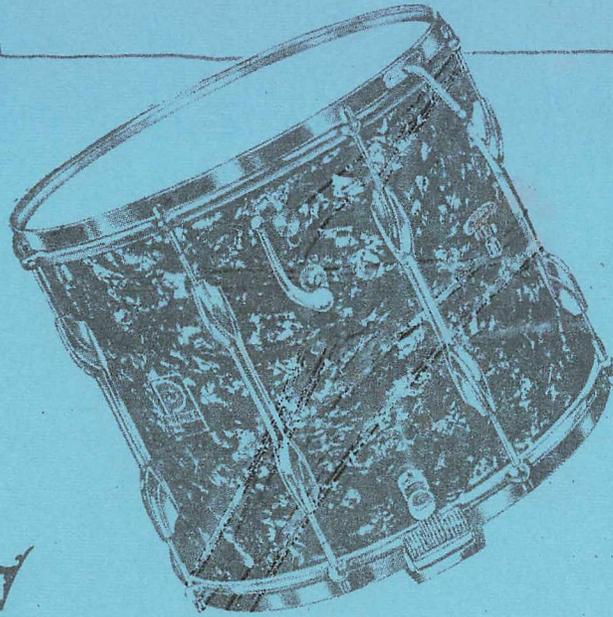
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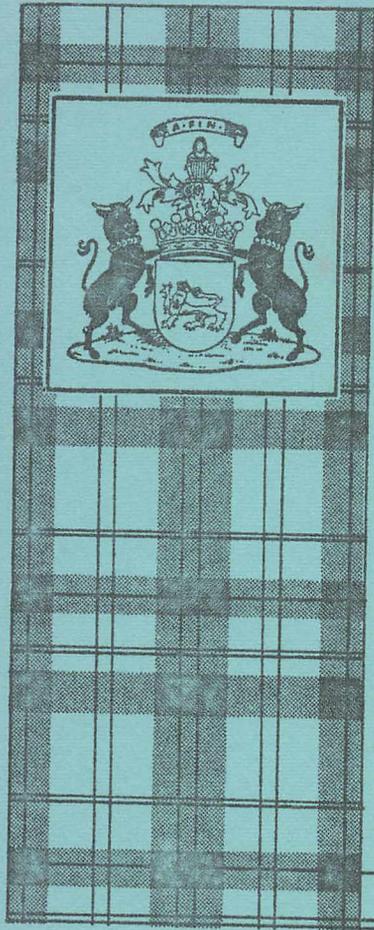
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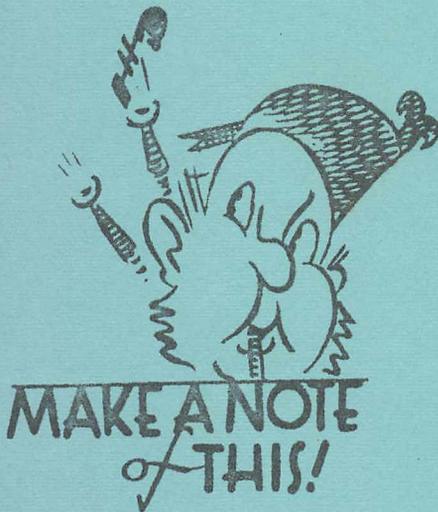


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