

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



The official monthly publication of  
the British Columbia Pipers' Association

MARCH, 1969 No. 89



B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 1073 Doran Road, North Vancouver, B.C. by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and is distributed to all members. Subscription price to non-members is \$2.00 per year. Address all communication concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communication to the Secretary, B.C. Pipers' Association, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C.

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The February 21st Bi-Monthly competition was the best attended in many months. Approximately 200 were in the audience and there were 49 competitors - 41 in the Novice, Old Highland Airs and 8 in the Junior Jigs. We hope to see as many at future competitions. Judge Ian MacKinnon adjudicated and selected the following winners:

Novice Old Highland Airs	- 1st -	Chris Dawson
	2nd -	Cindy Chambers
	3rd -	April MacDonald
	4th -	Daryll Peterson
	5th -	Alan MacDougall
	6th -	Gordon Peterson
Department	-	Robyn Palmer

Junior Jigs	- 1st -	Joe Shearer
	2nd -	Lynn Grocott
	3rd -	Margaret Swanson
Department	-	Margaret Swanson

Congratulations to all the winners.

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- |        |       |    |   |
|--------|-------|----|---|
| PLEASE | ..... | 1. | There is no Bi-Monthly Competition in April. The next competition will be May 23, 1969.                         |
|        | .     |    |   |
|        | .     |    |   |
|        | .     |    |   |
| TAKE   | ...   |    | Novice - Strathspey and Reel<br>Junior - Marches  |
|        | .     |    |   |
|        | .     | 2. | March General Meeting will be held on the 28th in the Band Room, Seaforth Armoury at 8:00 P.M.                  |
| NOTE   | .     |    |   |
|        | .     |    |   |
|        | ..... | 3. | The Annual General Meeting will be held in April, 1969. The April Newsletter will inform you of the exact date. |

OUI OF TOWN CORRESPONDENCE

We thought our readers might be interested in the activities of some of our out of province members. Here is a letter from Mr. Fred Whyte at the University of Iowa.

"Dear Fellow Members:

This is just a wee note to say it was certainly nice to receive the Newsletter again. The Midwestern United States is hardly a "hotbed" of piping and seeing familiar names and events tends to bring one back to reality.

Being Director of a 165 member Girls Pipe Band is to say the least interesting! Repairing sixty sets of pipes can be a nightmare. However, progress is being made. Up until two years ago the girls didn't know a doubling from a birl. My predecessor, Alan McIvor, a former pupil of Duncan McCaskill in New York, provided immense help and I'm attempting to build the Band up even more.

The Donald MacLeod Records have proved very successful for tuition purposes. I also have an assistant, John Stewart, from Billings, Montana, who is both a competent piper and dancer. What spare time does exist I am using for a Master of Arts Degree in College Administration. It is too bad, though, they don't give diplomas in piping!

The Scottish Highlanders have a fantastic tradition here at the University of Iowa and perhaps in the not too distant future we may be able to travel out to the Coast.

Please give my best wishes to all those in your fine Scottish Community.

Your Aye,

Fred Whyte"

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"THE BAGPIPES' CALL"

"To me, bagpipes playing means great inspiration.

Through experience I've found it is the only instrument capable of interpreting my emotions and urging me onwards when the road seems impossible. -- Glasgow Reader"

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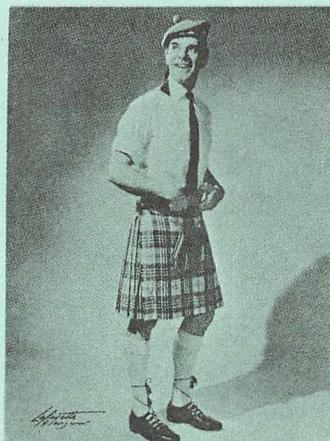
# WHITE HEATHER CONCERT PARTY



**CALUM KENNEDY**  
Scotland's foremost  
Singing Star



**BOBBY HARVEY**  
The Prince of Violin



**LAWRIE ADAM**  
Brilliant Accordionist  
on return visit to Canada  
by popular request



**JACK MILROY**  
Scotland's greatest  
Comedian



Also: **JOE GORDON** and **SALLY LOGAN**  
Scotland's newest and most sensational duo

**MARY LEE**  
Comedian, full of Scottish humour

**KEN HAYNES**  
at the Piano

Sponsored by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society of Vancouver

**Vincent Massey High School Auditorium**

NEW WESTMINSTER

THURSDAY, APRIL 24th, 1969 — 8.30 p.m.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE**

VANCOUVER

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, APRIL 25th and 26th — 8.30 p.m.

Tickets for both shows on sale March 29th

VANCOUVER TICKET CENTRE, 630 HAMILTON STREET — 683-3255

ALL EATONS STORES

TOWN HOUSE ELECTRONICS in KERRISDALE



In July of 1968 Coeur D'Alene, Idaho hosted their Piping Competition. Although not many of our local piping enthusiasts attended these games we thought you might be interested in what Lt. John MacLellan thought of the weekend. Keep the weekend in mind for this year!

"I began a long days judging at 9 a.m. on July 27th in the park at Coeur d'Alene which is well wooded and in consequence gave much needed shelter from the sun which shone in all its glory cresting by mid day with a temperature of nearly 100°. Lt. Col. John McEwing of Spokane who was the gatherings chieftain and piping notables which included Pipe Major Sam Scott from Ottawa, Pipe Major Ed Esson, Pipe Major Fred MacLennan, now retired in Coeur d'Alene, and Pipe Major Malcolm Nicholson from Vancouver set up their chairs in the vicinity of the piping arena and settled down with me and large audience to listen to a long day of piping.

The first competition was for Open March Strathspey and Reel which proved to be of a consistently high standard with seven competitors playing in this event. Pipe Major George Marr of Osburn, Idaho, who had been the mentor and guide of many pipers in these parts was placed first. Norma Nicholson Thomson who had come from Vancouver to compete was second and third place was taken by Alistair Gilchrist from Lethbridge, Alberta. Pipe Major Marr played Angus Campbell's "Farewell to Stirling", "The Shepherds Crook" and "Willie Cummings Rant" in excellent style but rather rounder than is normally heard.

The Malcolm Ferguson Memorial Trophy, a new cup presented for Open Pibroch by Mr. and Mrs. C. Kelly of Coeur d'Alene in memory of Mrs. Kelly's father from Tighnabruaich Argyelshire, Scotland, was won for the first time by Norma Nicholson Thomson playing the "Kings Taxes" on a nice sounding instrument which had good tone and was well balanced. Second place went to Donald Maxwell who played "MacFarlans Gathering" in brisk style with bold presentation and which certainly had all the gathering spirit. Third prize was awarded to Wm. E. Thomas from Spokane for a good rendering of the "Desperate Battle of the Birds" on a very well tuned pipe.

The chieftain of the day who spends a good deal of his retired life in encouraging good bagpipe playing presented a new trophy, "The Lt./Col. McEwing Trophy" for Amateur Pibroch. This cup also went to Vancouver, it was won by Bill MacAulay who played "Mackintosh's Lament" who was inclined to drag the tune in some parts, but in others he had fine rhythm and expression. Like some other competitors in this competition a better sounding and steadier bagpipe would have done much to enhance his performance. Second place went to Donald Taylor, Vancouver, who chose to play "Black Donald's March". Third place was awarded to Dan Diessner, Seattle, playing in his first Piobaireachd competition. He played "The Lament for the Old Sword". The remainder of the Solo Amateur competitions were held next and throughout there was performances of considerable promise, especially from the under eighteens who in the majority of cases showed that their finger technique was good.

A consistent failing was the improper doublings of C & B when made from a higher note for there is a tendency to run the gracenotes together instead of each one being distinct and clear. The major criticism I have is the very poor standard of tuning. Most competitors, both professional and amateur had their bagpipe tuned for them and because of poor blowing and erratic arm pressure on the bag, practically as soon as a performance began the bagpipe was out of tune. It is quite impossible to turn in a good performance on a badly tuned pipe, even the finest technique and expression cannot produce music on a poor instrument.

The results of the amateur competitions are as follows:

March over 16	1st - John Gilchrist
	2nd - Murray MacDonald
	3rd - Donald Taylor
Strathspey and Reel over 16	1st - Donald Taylor
	2nd - Jeff Brewer
	3rd - Murray MacDonald
March under 16	1st - Iain MacCrimmon
	2nd - Jim Leonard
	3rd - Alex Murray
Strathspey and Reel under 16	1st - Iain MacCrimmon
	2nd - Bill MacAulay
	3rd - Jim Leonard

After the solo performances and at about 4:30 P.M. the Quartette Competitions got under way. There were six entries though only five sets of Quartettes actually played. This competition was won by the Seaforth Highlanders Cadets who played "The Braes of Castle Event", "Arniston Castle" and the "Man from Glengarry" in a crisp, professional style with good tempo, intonation and musical expression. Second place went to the MacBain Scottish from Calgary for their playing of "Glen Caladh Castle", "The Shepherds Crook" and "Thomson's Dirk". In contrast to the Seaforth Group they chose to present their tunes in a more deliberate and slower manner, but which was well pointed throughout. The Young Highland Laddies from Vancouver who stole the hearts of the audience, well deserved their third place playing "Lord Alexander Kennedy", "Caledonian Society of London" and "Rejected Suitor". Most of the Quartettes have not acquired a good technique for beginning the performance. The introduction should be crisp, in unison, concise and lead to the group beginning the competition in an efficient manner. It would appear that every Quartette is not aware that they are judged from the first sound of the pipes being activated. There was a fairly large range in standards in this competition.

It was not until about 7:15 P.M. in the evening that the Pipe Band Competition got under way in the Stadium and before a capacity audience who over flowed from the stands into the grounds. This competition took the form of a Tattoo under lights. All pipe bands first entered the ground so that a color raising ceremony might take place. The Chieftain of the day

was piped to his place by Iain MacCrimmon playing a new march, "Colonel John McEwing of Spokane" which I recently composed. In the competition nine bands competed in two classes into which they were categorized by me during the actual competition.

The standard in class one was good and the MacBain Scottish Pipe Band edged ahead from the Seaforth Cadets with a well balanced March Strathspey and Reel which was played on well tuned instruments which were in unison. The drum rhythm which accompanied the melody was varied. The Seaforth Cadets who played well, tended to have the bagpipes drowned out by a very strong percussion group which gave the impression that the tune couldn't be heard for too much sound. Third place went to the Calgary Highlanders who had some excellent parts to their performance, but whose intonation was ragged in places and did not entirely produce the sound of a pipe band, but rather of two separate entities pipes and drums.

The award of 1st place in class two went to the Vancouver Highland Laddies who played well in unison and who kept melody, tempo, and execution within their capabilities, features not always appreciated by younger bands. Second place was taken by the Clan Macleay Pipe Band, who tended to produce a peculiar drum rhythm for their march and which did not accentuate properly the pulses of two four time. The tempo and rhythm of the Reel was good and in marked contrast to the remainder of their performance.

The local lads and lassies under Pipe Major George Marr gained third place. They had a number of playing mistakes that detracted from their performance, which ended like that of the Clan Macleay with a fine sprightly reel. The following pipe bands who were not in the prize list took part in the competition: Clan Gordon, Tacoma; Mackintosh Girls, Vernon; Kootenay Kilties, Nelson.

A highlight during the evening was an exhibition from the United States Air Force Pipe Band under Spokane born Pipe Major Sandy Jones, who gave a varied selection of tunes during which time the band performed a series of intricate maneuvers. This pipe band surprised me by its most excellent technique, tone and quality of intonation which would gain for it a place among the better pipe bands of the world.

The evening was brought to a close with the massed bands being assembled for prize giving and also for the surprise presentation to Pipe Major George Marr of a set of silver mounted bagpipes by his many pupils and friends living in the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene area in recognition of his splendid contribution to piping over many decades.

On Sunday morning the Novice Pipes showed their newly acquired skills in a similar setting to that of the Solo Piping on the previous day. Glen Esdale of Vancouver was a good winner playing on a good pipe "Balmoral Highlanders". Elaine Hadland from Vernon, B.C. was second, she played "The Siege of Delhi" and Ken Bingham also from Vancouver took third place with "Lord Alex. Kennedy". Thus the Coeur d'Alene competitions ended, and the fact that there were some eighty separate per-

performances must be of great satisfaction to Mr. Archie MacGregor, Chairman, and his hard working committee who organized the whole Highland weekend which culminated on Sunday afternoon with a fine picnic in a magnificent setting which might well have been transported from Braemar itself.

I was able to give a copy of my adjudication report to all bands and competitors who wished to have it. I feel that my notes may be of some constructive assistance to improving the art of piping in the new world."

Lieut. John A. MacLellan  
Edinburgh Castle

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### "THE YOUNGEST PIPER"

She's the North-East's youngest piper--and probably the youngest in Scotland.

Lisa Stewart, 26 High Street, Stonehaven, Scotland is only four. She comes of a long line of pipers--five generations in fact.

So far, the chanter is the instrument she handles until she can blow the pipes--and going by her present progress it won't be long before she graduates to them.

The chanter comes in a special mini-size.

If it hadn't been for her initiative, Lisa might not have had a suitable chanter for a while yet.

When her mother was telephoning an order for items of piping equipment to Edinburgh, Lisa, realising she doesn't have the puff for ordinary chanters, shouted into the phone at the end of the conversation--"and a chanter for me."

The plea raised a chuckle at the other end of the line, but a few days later a mini chanter arrived.

After six months' practice Lisa runs up and down the scale, strikes grace notes and the odd doubling, and even manages the famous piping movement called a birl.

Lisa's brother, George, is a former Scottish junior piping champion.

How does Mrs. Stewart feel about yet another piper in the family?

"I never hear the pipes now. It goes in one ear and out the other. Pipes and chanters could play all day here and I'd never bother.

"Anyway, what is there to worry about one chanter blowing? I've another daughter learning the drums!"

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The B.C. Pipers' Association will hold its 37th Annual Gathering at the Seaforth Armoury on April 11th and 12th, 1969.

The judge for the two days will be Mr. Alex McNeil from Montreal, Quebec.

The program for the Competition is as follows:

Friday Morning Session - 9:00 A.M.

Event # 1 - Junior Piobaireachd

Friday Afternoon Session - 1:30 P.M.

Event # 2 - Novice Marches

Event # 3 - Juvenile Marches.

Event # 4 - Juvenile Strathspey and Reel

Friday Evening Session 7:30 P.M.

Event # 5 - Amateur

Piobaireachd

Saturday Morning Session - 8:30 A.M.

Event # 6 - Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs

Event # 7 - Professional Piobaireachd

Event # 8 - Junior Quartettes

Saturday Afternoon Session - 1:00 P.M.

Event # 9 - Junior Marches

Event # 10 - Junior Strathspey and Reel

Event # 11 - Amateur Marches

Event # 12 - Amateur Strathspey and Reel

Saturday Evening Session - 7:00 P.M.

Event # 13 - Professional Marches

Event # 14 - Professional Strathspey and Reel

Event # 15 - Professional Jig

Event # 16 - Dancing - Highland Fling - Under 13 Years

Event # 17 - Senior Quartettes

Event # 18 - Pipers - Over 60 Years - Tune of Piper's Choice

Event # 19 - Miniature Pipe Bands

Note: Event # 6 is restricted to Amateurs not competing in other events.

Competitors in opening event of each session will PLEASE BE READY TO PLAY AT THE INDICATED TIME.

A competitor will not be allowed to play in more than one quartette or miniature band at the same annual gathering.

Miniature bands will consist of:

A minimum of 7 - 4 Pipers, 2 Side Drummers and 1 Bass

A maximum of 9 - 6 Pipers, 2 Side Drummers and 1 Bass

The reverse side of this page has an entry form for those of you who are interested in entering and have not as yet received a form.

We are indeed fortunate in being able to have Mr. McNeil judge our Annual Gathering and we anticipate a large entry. Good luck to all competitors.

ENTRY FORM

Please enter (Print Name).....  
in event # .

NAMES OF TUNES

\_\_\_\_\_ March .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Strathspey .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Reel .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Piobaireachd .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Old Highland Airs .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Jig .....

\_\_\_\_\_ Quartette & or March.....

\_\_\_\_\_ Band Set Strath.....

Reel.....

Entry Fee: Miniature Bands - \$5.00

Individual Admission Tickets - Adult - \$1.50  
Under 12 Years - .50

Admission tickets purchased at door is entry fee to all events  
except Event # 19.

Mail entries before April 4, 1969 - To: Mrs. I. Ross, Secretary  
834 Burnaby Street  
New Westminster, B.C.

526-7905

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Coeur d'Alene Highland Games

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

- Prizes - Open Piobaireachd -  
1st - \$75.00 and Malcolm M. Ferguson Trophy  
2nd - \$50.00  
3rd - \$25.00
- Open March, Strathspey and Reel -  
1st - \$75.00  
2nd - \$50.00  
3rd - \$25.00

Amateur Piobaireachd winner will receive the Lt. Col. John McEwing Silver Trophy.

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 other summer games.

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"THE SPOKANE CENTER FOR BAGPIPE STUDIES"

The Spokane Center for Bagpipe Studies will be held at the Junior College, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho from July 14th, 1969 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 Lt. MacLellan, 16 Ramsay Gardens, Edinburgh, or Lt. Col. John McEwing, W. 3309 Dalke Avenue, Spokane, Wash. for further details and enrollment information. The Highland Games and Tattoo will be held the day following the school closing.

VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND FESTIVAL

The results of the Piping and Drumming Competitions held by the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Association March 1st, 1969 are as follows:

Piping

Under 12 Novice Marches - 1st - Allan MacDougall  
2nd - Gordon Paterson  
3rd - Stuart Reid

Over 12 Novice Marches - 1st - Pat Dawson  
2nd - Susan Lowden  
3rd - Glen Esdale

Under 14 Amt. Marches - 1st - Terry Lee  
2nd - Drew Heggie  
3rd - Robert Menzies

Under 14 Amt. Strath.  
& Reel - 1st - Jack Lee  
2nd - Terry Lee  
3rd - Robert Menzies

Aggregate Winner - Terry Lee

Under 16 Amt. Marches - 1st - Robert Menzies  
2nd - Judy Taylor  
3rd - Ian Cameron  
4th - Bill Macaulay

Under 16 Amt. Strath.  
& Reel - 1st - Drew Noot  
2nd - Jim Leonard  
3rd - Susan Purdy  
4th - Robert Menzies

Aggregate Winner - Robert Menzies

Over 16 Amt. Marches - 1st - Donald MacMillan  
2nd - Don Taylor  
3rd - Bill Russell  
4th - Sandy Marshall & John Wright

Over 16 Amt. Strath.  
& Reel - 1st - Donald MacMillan  
2nd - Don Taylor  
3rd - John Wright  
4th - Angus MacPherson

Aggregate Winner - Donald MacMillan

Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Competition results continued:

Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Only

Slow Airs - 1st - Heather Abel  
2nd - Deirdre Sutherland  
3rd - Judy Taylor

Quartets

V.L.P.B. Group 2 - Heather Allison Upton  
Linda Freshwater  
Deirdre Sutherland  
Tina MacLeod

Drumming

Individual Novice March - 1st - Barbara Donaldson  
2nd - Colleen Upton  
3rd - Alex Demmery

Individual Class "C" - 1st - Katie Forsyth  
2nd - David Dickens  
3rd - Gordon McCartney

Individual Tenor - 1st - Chris Curr  
2nd - Patsy Jarvis  
3rd - Kari Schutz

Drum Corps

V.L.P.B. Group 1 - Kathleen Blomquist  
Katie Forsyth  
Susan Burgess  
Patsy Jarvis  
Margaret MacFarland

The Piping Judges were Mr. D. MacKenzie and Mr. F. MacLeod from Powell River, B.C.

The Drumming Judge was Mr. D. Collins.

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SEAFORTH TATTOO

The Seaforth Highlanders' Military Tattoo will be held at the Seaforth Armoury, 1650 Burrard Street, Vancouver, Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22, 1969 commencing 8:30 P.M.

The programme for the evenings will include:

Navy Band - Friday Night  
New Westminster Regiment Band - Saturday Night  
Quarter Guards  
Gymnastic Displays  
Obstacle Course Races  
Bren Gun Relays

Admission at door: Adults \$1.00, Children \$.50

VANCOUVER NIGHT AT V.I.P. CLUB

The "Vancouver Island Piping Club" has invited the B.C. Pipers' Association to provide an evening of entertainment at their monthly gathering Saturday, March 29, 1969 in the Sergeant's Mess, Bay Street Armoury, Victoria, B.C.

The evening would include:

1. "Pupil of the Month" - who will play a selection of tunes.
2. "About the Teacher" - a short talk about the pupil-of-the-month's teacher.
3. "Guest Speaker"
4. "Theme Piper" - to play a selection of tunes to illustrate the guest speaker's topic.
5. "Guest Player"
6. "About the Evenings Piobaireachd" - a dissertation on the Piobaireachd to be played.
7. "Evenings Piobaireachd"

The evening's piping promises to be most enjoyable and a Ceilidh will follow the program. We hope a large number of our Mainland members will support this event.

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NEW WESTMINSTER MAY DAY FESTIVAL

A Pipe Band Competition will be held during the May Day Festival May 11th, 1969 in the Queen's Park Stadium, New Westminster, B.C.

THIS IS A CLASS "C" COMPETITION ONLY. The bands are to play a March, Strathspey and Reel.

Prizes for this event will be:

1st - \$100.00  
2nd - \$ 50.00  
3rd - \$ 25.00

For further information contact:

Mr. Donald Ross  
834 Burnaby Street  
New Westminster, B.C.  
526-7905

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