

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

MARCH, 1972 NO. 121



B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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The B. C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 5120 Spencer Street, Vancouver 16, B.C., by the British Columbia Pipers' Association, and distributed to all members. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Bill Russell, 20907 Newlands Drive, Box 487, Langley.

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MARCH, 1972

NO. 120

Table of Contents

Letters.....	Page 1
New Members.....	4
Games Dates.....	4
Editorial.....	5
General Meeting.....	7
Ladies' Festival.....	7
Cartoon.....	7
Class Promotions.....	10
March Bi-Monthly.....	11
Annual Gathering.....	11
General Meeting.....	11
White Heather Concert.....	11
April Bi-Monthly.....	12
V.L.P.B. Spring Dance.....	12
Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo.....	12
Do You Remember?.....	14
Island News.....	15

Puzzle Corner.....	Page 16
Seumas McNeill Summer School of Piping.....	18
Foreign Corner.....	19
Record Review.....	
Muirhead and Sons - Scotland the Brave.....	21
Roderick Munro.....	22
Bandstand	
1. Band Chatter.....	23
2. W.P.B.A.....	23
In Tune!.....	24
Tune of the Month.....	25
James McColl Ceilidh.....	26
Scottish Homemaker.....	27

The staff of the B. C. Pipers' Newsletter hopefully will have a booth set up at the Indoor Meet with extra copies of the last two Newsletters available for reading. Forms will also be available for membership in the B. C. Pipers' Association. See you there!

LETTERS

Dear Sir:

At the board meeting of the Association, held in December 1971, the Directors accepted, with a great deal of reluctance, the resignation of Ishabel Ross as recording secretary.

Ishabel became secretary of the Association some five years ago and from the very first meeting she attended was one of the hardest working members of the board. At that time, along with her other duties as recording secretary, she also acted as secretary of the Bi-Monthly competitions and there were many nights that Ishabel along with Donald did everything except tune pipes.

She was also one of the founders of the knock-out competitions that are run in conjunction with the general meetings even though this meant more entries to look after, more paper work, and yet another Friday night working for the Association. I am sure that at this stage the day between Thursday and Saturday in the Ross household must have been called "Pipers Day".

With all this, Ishabel did not neglect the other organizations she was connected with. One in particular being the New Westminster Highland Games. For a number of years she acted as secretary and has worked in one job or another every year since their inception.

Two years ago she accepted the position of secretary of the White Heather Concert committee, a group composed of five members of the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society and five members of the B.C. Pipers' Association who are responsible for producing the White Heather shows each year and she is of course doing her usual good job.

Ishabel is also to be found at most of the Highland games held in the area, working on one committee or another. However her first love is piping and a good example of this is the fact that a week or so after her resignation as recording secretary, she accepted the job of competition secretary for this year's Annual Gathering.

We are sure that even though Ishabel is no longer recording secretary, she will be in attendance at all the piping functions and ever ready to give a helping hand.

We know we speak for all the members of the Association when we say, Thank you, Ishabel, for a job well done.

Bill Lamont
on behalf of the Association.

Dear Sir:

May I use the Newsletter to thank all the members of the B. C. Pipers' Association for the lovely gift they gave me at the Annual General Meeting.

I am sure everyone did not see what was in the large box presented to me, and I would like all the members to know the contents which I am sure were chosen with a lot of thought. In the box was a china tea set complete with sugar, cream, and a teapot of beautiful Thistle design.

It is a gift I will always treasure and I hope that many of the members will enjoy a cup of tea from it.

Sincerely,
Ishabel Ross.

Dear Sir:

The Trail Caledonian Society is sponsoring a Highland Tattoo on Saturday, May 20, at the Cominco Arena, and Highland Games on Sunday, May 21, at Butler Park, in Trail, British Columbia.

Trail is a very friendly city, and we are hoping to see many bands and individuals competing at our Games. This year the Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Band is our featured band.

We look forward to entertaining you and would appreciate any assistance you may give us in publicizing our Tattoo and Games.

Sincerely,
Ann Ward for Jake McLeod, Pres.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Ward at

715 Shakespeare St., Trail, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish you and the other members of your Staff well in the Newsletter project. It is a labor of love and you will receive thanks all too seldom, but I am sure that is unimportant since you will not be expecting roses every day in the week. Mr. Gunn, Mr. Elder, and their wives, in my opinion, turned in a wonderful performance and I am quite sure all concerned greatly appreciated their efforts. Unfortunately, many are slow to express their appreciation even though they are sincerely grateful for their efforts.

The Society which I am involved with takes up a great deal of my time and resources, but I have no regrets. It was my personal Brainchild and now it is not unlike having a bear by the tail and most difficult to let go of but, really, I enjoy it. It gives me something to do and I also hope through it, we are accomplishing something worthwhile. If I did not think so, I would be "long gone".

I sent out about two hundred brochures yesterday and today, I had a letter from Mr. Hardie stating that Andrew Wright will be along with him. Andrew won the Oban Medal two years ago when John MacLeod was over there and won his third prize. I believe Andrew won the Medal at Inverness last year, and just recently he won first place at the Uist and Barra Indoor so, he is racking up an excellent record. He is an Engineer by profession. I had dinner with him two years ago and I must say he is a delightful chap and I am quite sure he will be very popular with all the students. He is in his late twenties.

I hope to travel your way and take in your Indoor early next month so, in the meantime, my very best wishes to you all....

John McEwing

Dear Sir:

Congratulations on a "great" Newsletter. You have obviously put much thought and effort into this, your first issue. Your monthly features look very interesting. My only hope is that you get enough support from the membership to keep your enthusiasm high.

I was interested in your article, "Do You Remember?" Of the 14 prize winners, I believe 9 are still piping or are active in piping in and around the Vancouver area. This seems to me to indicate that the various teachers and associations are providing enough interest and competitions to keep these people continuing on in their piping endeavours.

Our Annual Gathering will soon be here - April 7th and 8th. You have probably noticed that we have a new judge, Mr. James McColl. We are most disappointed that Iain McLeod will not be judging but we look forward to seeing Mr. McColl again and I'm sure he is looking forward to seeing his many friends in Vancouver.

On the Wednesday after the Gathering, the B. C. Pipers' Association is planning a ceilidh for Mr. McColl at the Scottish Auditorium. I hope most of our members will come to hear this excellent piper.

In closing, let me once again congratulate you and wish you continued success as editors of our Newsletter.

Yours very truly,

Bill Elder,
President.

P.S. Do you know why Howard Hughes is in Vancouver? He's come to the B. C. Pipers' Annual Gathering.

New Members of the Association

Mr. George Chilton - Associate
Mr. Glen Palmer - Active
Mr. Morrison Roderick - Active
Mrs. Rae-Marie Maculay - Active
Miss Heather Upton - Active

Games Dates

Trail	May 21
New Westminster	June 10
B. C. Highland	July 1
Nanaimo	July 8
Portland	July 15
Seattle	July 22
Coeur d'Alene	July 28, 29
Victoria	August 5
Everett	August 12

EDITORIAL

At the outset, we would like to point out that the opinions expressed in these editorials are not those of the Association but rather the views of the editors.

The subjects we wish to review in these editorials are up-to-date topics that have a bearing on all of us, not petty arguments or pet gripes. It is hoped that, because of the controversy involved in them, our readers will air their views by sending letters to the editor. Let's hope that "the sinister forces of apathy" will not be the title of one of the future editorials.

Our first subject, deportment, is one that has been discussed for years and was brought up again at a recent Western Pipe Band Association.

As the system now stands, 5 points of 100 are allotted to dress and deportment. To some this does not appear to be a very great amount, but to others these 5 points are the most important in the whole competition. It has been argued that upon the event of two bands having the same number of piping and drumming points, the winner is decided by the number of points awarded in the deportment category. Now if this category was withdrawn, then the final analysis would be confined to piping and drumming, and that, in our opinion is what it's all about. To be docked points for the moving of eyes or the tapping of feet by some eagle-eyed American Marine Drill-Sergeant appears preposterous. And long-haired girls (tch, tch) what next! (Uniforms these days are costly enough without the added expense of a wig.)

One argument for deportment, however, is that a pipe band is a marching unit and dress and deportment is an integral part of such a unit. Fine, but why then is this deportment category present in our individual competition? Are piano players judged by their appearance? (Look at Liberace!) Why should we put up with such outmoded rules. Granted, most judges give each player maximum points for deportment, but periodically we are confronted with someone who believes that appearance "makes" the piper.

However this is but a minor detail in individual as compared to the pipe band competition, where a year's practice and possible travelling expenses are at stake.

Yet all other arguments aside, we believe that the main reason for the reluctance to withdraw deportment, is an underlying fear that bands will turn up in overalls or the like. However it is our contention that any band that has enough pride in itself will not resort to this. In Scotland, deportment is not a factor in the actual competition and we have yet to hear reports of Muirhead or Edinburgh Police appearing in anything but kilts.

In an article by a Danish piper, Mogens Zeigler ("Piping Times", October 1971), he complains that various non-Scottish pipers and pipe bands are wearing the Scottish national dress.

"A piper doesn't need a kilt when he plays his pipes. To play a good tune will always be a matter of good tuition."

We don't advocate the disposal of our national heritage but we merely wish to point out that the majority of bands as well as solo pipers are no longer under the jurisdiction of the military and it is our opinion that bands in actual competition should not be judged in a militaristic way.

Another argument against this stand is that it will affect the image of the pipe band in the public eye. However, there are too many other loose ends to tie up regarding pipe bands to worry about long hair, black pants, clean fingernails or the "nubs".

* * * * *

Roddy Campbell reports that The Biddy from Sligo and the Irish Washerwoman were shocked to see Paddy's Leather Breeches when the wind was blowing on Cork Hill.

* * * * *

"A true gentleman" says a non-Scottish definition, "is one who can play the bagpipes but doesn't."

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Knock-Out - General Meeting

The March General Meeting was held on March 3, 1972, in the Steelworkers' Hall. Following the reading of the minutes from the December meeting by Bill Russell, the new secretary, the amateur knock-out competition commenced with Kelvin Wood. Kelvin, relatively inactive for the last couple of years, provided a very pleasant surprise in his fine selection which included Lily Christie and Fair of Ord. The next competitor in the Amateur event was Hazel Ramsay whose medley was marred by some chokes. Kelvin was the unanimous choice of the judges and will advance into the next round playing against Allan McDougall.

A Victoria pair, Byron Bernard and Jamie Troy, provided the professional competition. Both players turned in an admirable performance but the decision went to Jamie. He will now advance to the Semi-finals in May with Albert Duncan.

As usual, impromptu events highlighted the remainder of the evening. Piping was supplied by John MacDonald, Ruairidh McDonald, Hazel Ramsay, Jamie Troy, Kelvin Wood, and Byron Bernard, while the dancing side was handled by Mary Margaret Manifold and Shelley MacLean. Nancy Darling again treated us to a song and, undoubtedly, "a good time was had by all".

Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Festival

The Vancouver Ladies' Annual Festival of Piping, Drumming and Dancing was held February 25th and 26th in St. John's Church Hall. An interesting feature this year was a chanter class for youngsters who've never competed before. This event which attracted 23 competitors was judged by John A. McLeod who along with Bruce Topp and Jamie Troy comprised the judging staff. The drumming was handled by Jimmy Walker from Saskatoon a member of the North Saskatchewan Regiment Pipe Band.

Chanter Class: (23 competitors)

- | | | <u>Honor:</u> |
|---------------------|--|------------------|
| 1. Ian Cherry | | 1. Brian Friend |
| 2. Valerie Pederson | | 2. Karen Mathews |
| 3. Dianne Scott | | 3. Patty Hiebert |

Merit: 1. Colleen Jorgenson 2. Graham Friend 3. Desmond Mayne

Novice Piping March:

1. Robert Bruce McIntosh
2. Grant Wilkie
3. Kim Walker

Novice Slow Airs:

1. Stephen Shipley
2. Alan Wilson
3. Mardelle Rowell

Juvenile: March

1. Wade Calder
2. Heather Grahan
3. Graham Davidson

Juvenile: Strathspey Reel

1. Jean Laurie
2. Robbie MacNeil
3. Philip Gordon

Junior Slow Airs:

1. Drew Hoggie
2. Douglas Sommerville
3. Glen Esdale

Jig:

1. Alison Palmer
2. Stuart Reid
3. Patricia Dawson

Amateur Hornpipe:

1. Susan Purdy
2. Allan MacDougall
3. Terry Lee

March Strathspey and Reel:

1. Shorea Barwell
2. Allan MacDougall
3. Terry Lee

Professional:

1. John A. MacLeod
2. Catherine McLellan
3. Bill Russell

Vancouver Ladies' Only: Slow Airs

1. Judi Taylor



HOW COME WE ALWAYS FOLLOW
THE HORSES?

* * * * *

HAGGIS SAYS: POST YOUR ENTRY EARLY FOR THE
INDOOR
MEET

PROMOTIONS FOR 1972 BASED UPON 1971 COMPETITION YEAR

<u>Juvenile</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Amateur</u>
Wade Calder	Brian Carse	Barry Bayliss
Scott Chambers	Pat Dawson	Robert Buchannan
Graham Davidson	Linda Flynn	Cindy Chambers
Gail Dawson	Drew Heggie	Ian Keith
Bill Dickson	Robert Heggie	John McBryde
Debbie Fraser	Pieter Jansen	Gordon K. MacDonald
Philip Gordon	Tim Karr	Allan MacDougall
Heather Graham	Fran Kerr	John MacKay
Blake Keen	Gordon Munroe	Robyn Palmer
Jean Laurie	April MacDonald	Darrell Peterson
Jill Laurie	Gordon I. MacDonald	David Rutherford
Heather Logan	Gordon James MacDonald	Howard Stoppleman
Gordon Lyle	Colin MacKenzie	
Jack Montgomery	Alison Palmer	
Shelley MacLean	Stuart Reid	
Robbie MacNeil	Elouise Roane	
Laurie Robson	Doug Somerville	
Ingrid Schinz		
Allan Strachan		
James Wright		

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION

March 17, 1972

Novice March- 11 competitors

1. Asheley Stewart- Kantara to El Arish
2. Bruce McIntosh- Norman Orr Ewing
3. Ember Stewart- Millbank Cottage
4. Neil Dowie- Dundee Military Tattoo

Junior Jigs

1. Stuart Reid- Biddy from Sligo
2. Glen Esdale- Judge's Dilemma
3. Douglas Sommerville- Donald MacLean

The night's competitions were judged by Bill Elder.

NEXT MONTH

Annual Gathering

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Pipe Major Iain McLeod, will be unable to judge the Annual Gathering. Jimmy McCall from California, as mentioned before will be here to fulfill the task of chief adjudicator.

There is a programme and entry form at the back of the Newsletter.

General Meeting

As the Indoor Meet will conflict with the next meeting the knock-out has been postponed until May 5th. On that night, piping enthusiasts will be treated to four semi-final knock-out competitors. In the amateur class Cindy Chambers and Angus MacPherson will play off and Allan MacDougall and Kelvin Wood will follow. John A. MacLeod and David Wilson will compete in one of the Professional semi-finals and Albert Duncan will vie for honors with Jamie Troy in the other.

White Heather Concert

This year, the White Heather Show is featuring The Alexander Brothers and accordionist Bill Marshall. Friday April 21st and Saturday April 22nd are the dates, and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre is the place. Tickets can be bought at the Vancouver Ticket Centre and are \$4.00, \$3.00 and \$2.50, with \$1.00 off for Old Age Pensioners. Get out and support your Association in this endeavour.

Bi-Monthly

The next Bi-Monthly competition will be held in the Seaforth Armoury on Friday, April 21st. The Juvenile class will play a March while Amateurs will be required to play a March, Strathspey and Reel.

Spring Dance

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band are having a "SPRING DANCE" on April 22nd, 1972, at the Royal Canadian Legion, 727 East 49th, Vancouver. (49th & Fraser)

"Casserole Cuisine" and coffee will be served. Tickets at the door. \$2.50 each. B.Y.O.B. Dancing 9 - 1 o'clock.

Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo

Although no solid commitments have as yet been made as to assistant adjudicators, we are pleased to announce that Mr. Seumas MacNeill will return as our principle adjudicator. Mr. MacNeill will be positioned as Director of Studies for the Spokane Piobaireachd Society - North Idaho College Summer School For Piping.

The schedule of events is as follows:

FRIDAY - JULY 28, 1972

Previously advertised, the Spokane Piobaireachd Society's individual competition will be held during the late afternoon and evening. At stake will be the "Bratach Nam Beann" (Banner of the Mountains). Included with the banner will be guaranteed round-trip air fare to Scotland to compete in one of the major individual competitions there. Also to be held that same day will be The Medallion Amateur Piobaireachd Competition. For further details on this, write to the president of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society, Lt. Col. John McEwing, West 3309 Dalke, Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

Requirements for the banner competition:

Competitors entering in this competition will be required to play a selection from the four "set tunes" listed:

1. Farewell To The Laird of Islay
2. Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks
3. Lament for Mary MacLeod
4. I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand

Each competitor will also be required to play one of Angus MacKay's marches in keeping with the Spokane Piobaireachd Society's "Angus MacKay Festival" theme.

SATURDAY - JULY 29, 1972

Sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society of the Inland Empire, the individual competition taking place this day will involve the Novice, amateur, and professional categories.

Specific requirements are in the professional field only:

Competitors in the professional piobaireachd class must submit two piobaireachds. At least one must be from the following list:

1. Lament for Alasdair Dearg MacDonell of Glengary
2. The Menzies' Salute
3. Fannet
4. The Massacre of Glencoe
5. Piobaireachd Dhomnuill Duibh
6. The Glen is Mine
7. Farewell to the Laird of Islay
8. Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks
9. Lament for Mary MacLeod
10. I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand

In the professional "march" division, in keeping with the theme set by the Spokane Piobaireachd Society's Angus MacKay Festival, the requirements will be that each competitor must submit 2 tunes - one tune composed by Angus MacKay and one tune of the competitor's choice, either of which he may be required to play.

In the professional strathspey-reel division, each competitor will be required to submit two sets, either of which he may be required to play.

Bill Thomas
Rules Chairman

DO YOU REMEMBER?

September 5, 1939

A committee meeting of the Association was held in the C.N.R. Depot with the President in the Chair. A concert and dance for the month of October was discussed as was the Annual Gathering of the Association. It was decided to leave the matter over until the next General Meeting.

The European situation was discussed at some length, but the meeting adjourned without any action being taken by the Association.

April 22 1960 - Bi-Monthly Competition

I. Juvenile Strathspey and Reel

1. Bobby MacDonald
2. Raymond Irvine
3. Douglas Graham

II. Junior Jigs

1. Peter McNeil
2. Michael Walters
3. Tom Richardson

III. Amateur Marches

1. Arnie Stone
2. Peggy Gillies

IV. Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs

1. William Paterson
2. David Ireland
3. Harry Mumford

V. Quartettes

1. Kiwanis (Peter McNeil, Michael Walters, Bobby MacDonald, Bill Elder)
2. Seaforth Cadets (Arnie Stone, Stewart Inglis, Tommy Richardson, Alan McLeod)

March 1964

Due to the tremendous growth of the Optimist Junior Pipe

Band, the Optimist Club asked that they be relieved of their sponsorship. Mr. Nat Baillie is now sponsoring the group which is now officially known as the White Spot Junior Pipe Band.

Island News

The president of the Vancouver Island Pipers' Club, Mr. Jamie Troy, has kindly sent us the news bulletin of his association to be printed in the Newsletter. As we all know, Vancouver Island is the home of many good pipers and we thought it would be of interest to our readers to become acquainted with their local events.

V.I.P. CLUB NEWS BULLETIN

The February meeting opened with a very nice selection of tunes by the Island Pipers and though few in number played very well. The pipers were A/P/M/ Jamie Troy, P/M Frank Knight, Peter Jansen, P/M Peter George and Rennee Cousson, a very fine young piper who was visiting us from Lantzville.

It was unfortunate that our piper of the month was unable to appear as he is an up and coming young piper and I know that we would have enjoyed his playing.

Mr. Alister McDuff, who was asked on short notice to be out guest speaker, gave a fine talk on his last trip to Scotland, and of the different types of pipes that he had seen. Alister has much more than a fair knowledge of pipes although he, like I is learning his piping late in life, Alister's antecedents boast of many great pipers and this is something which he should be proud of.

Pibroch was the next item. Barney Barnard spoke well and explained about the Piobaireachd "Tulloch Ard" to the gathering. Renee Cusson then gave a fine exhibition of playing this tune for a young piper, his first ever pibroch and the first time he has played it in front of an audience. Renee has a splendid future in piping so "Watch out" you professionals.

Impromptu piping finished out the evening.

H. A. Mumford
Vice-President

PUZZLE CORNER

Criss X Puzzle - Based on Scottish Clan, Family and Personal Names

Words may be found vertically, horizontally or diagonally. When a word is found circle each letter of the word. Each word found must contain at least one not previously circled letter. All x's can be circled first as they do not form part of any word.

Abernethy	Innie	Moireach
Able	Irvine	Montieth
Ada	Isabella	Neil
Allan	Kendrick	Nelly
Allardice	Kinnieson	Nicol
Andrew	Kirkpatrick	Nish
Ann	Lachlan	Norman
Art	Laurence	Owen
Bain	Lean	Paterson
Barry	Lees	Paruig
Bean	Lervis	Paul
Bowie	Lili	Pol
Bridget	Luisadh	Rae
Burnett	Lobban	Raeburn
Cattanach	Louisa	Reed
Caw	Love	Reoch
Cecilia	MacAindra	Robertson
Christina	Macaulay	Rod
Colin	Macdonleavy	Ron
Crerar	MacEachern	Rollo
Don	MacGaw	Roy
Dora	MacHardie	Sibeal
Elizabeth	MacKendrick	Symon
Ellen	MacNab	Todd
George	MacPeter	Toch
Gunn	MacPherson	Troy
Haig	Macquoid	Tyre
Harold	MacRaith	Una
Hector	MacWalter	Vass
Helen	Marion	Weir
Hugh	Maud	Will
Iain	Mildred	Wren
Ina		

Thanks once again to Gordon Taylor for another outstanding effort.

A B E R N E T H Y A L U A C A M M K
L N L R O Y L E V E I W O B A L A C
L E I O M W I L L G A L E C Y L C I
A I Z T Y R E E E U I O Q I O A P R
R L A C S N N N L N N U G A R N E T
D A B E S I N D N N O I R D T O T A
I H E H A S R A O I X S E A C C E P
C D T B V H L H D R C A E H P A R K
E A H I U L A E C V B O D I U O N R
C S T N A R E X A I A M L N N G L I
I U O T O R N W M N R A A R M N H K
L I D L A R C E I E R C T E I L I L
I L D A O N M A T S A N E H L A S K
A Y R U E V A A M T E A G C D U A C
R O L I A R E C N X G B D A R R B I
D A N L A M A C H A R D I E E E E R
N N O R E O A S A O O O R C D N L D
I D E X M N O C L W E N B A X C L N
A R T R A T X L W A G C A M E E A E
C E A B R E O A R A K C I R D N E K
A W B L I I S E E L L A C H L A N C
M O L U O T X B N P A T E R S O N A
L B E A N H G I A H C A E R I O M M
M A C P H E R S O N O S T R E B O R

The Seumas MacNeill

S U M M E R S C H O O L O F P I P I N G

July 15th through 29th 1972

at

LAKE SEQUOIA, CALIFORNIA

Instructors

SEUMAS MACNEILL

JOHN MACASKILL

with additional assistance as enrolments require.

The location is a summer camp, set amid pine woods at the edge of an 88 acre lake at an elevation of 5,500 feet.

Tuition fee \$75.00 Room and board \$84.00

Lodge accommodations at 5 miles in Sequoia National Forest for those who prefer the more deluxe living.

Register now for full details from:

W. F. Casteen, M.D., 3921 Claremont Drive, Bakersfield,
California, 93306 or Seumas MacNeill, The College of Piping,
20 Otago Street, Glasgow, Scotland

FOREIGN CORNER

Piping in New Zealand is the subject of this month's Foreign Corner. Mr. Noel Chalmers, currently playing with the Port Moody Pipe Band, has supplied us with an account of solo piping "down under".

In looking at the solo piping scene in New Zealand, there are two names that immediately come to mind. The first is that of Lewis Turrell, the only New Zealander to have achieved the ultimate in piping -- winning the World's Championship. The second name is William Boyle, currently the country's leading solo piper.

These two do not however dominate the scene. Lewis Turrell rarely competes in individual competition now but rather spends his time playing with the reigning New Zealand Champion Pipe Band -- the Pipes and Drums of Innes Tartan.

While William Boyle is well deserving of his acclaim, he does not have things all his own way on the solo board. There are a good six or seven other pipers capable of defeating him in certain events.

There are three grades in solo piping, all of which have prize money.

The "C" grade competition usually includes a slow-march, a 2/4 march and a 6/8 march.

In the "B" grade, the 6/8 march is replaced by a strathspey and reel, and often a jig and hornpipe is added.

"A" grade competition includes 2/4 and 6/8 marches, strathspey and reel, jigs and hornpipes and piobaireachd.

Interest in solo piping does not extend to all parts of the country. In Auckland, for example, there are no solo competitions, despite being the home of the New Zealand champion band, and active soloists including John McKenzie, well known to Vancouver pipers during his stay with the Powell River Pipe Band. The closest competition is at a small settlement some hundred miles north and is held annually on New Year's Day.

The other extreme is found in Wellington where all the pipers playing with the City of Wellington Pipe Band are active in individual competition. With the emphasis on solo playing within the band organization, solo competitions are encouraged and well supported.

Support seems to be the key to the future of solo piping in New Zealand. Where there is support, solo piping is flourishing, while where there is a lack of interest, solo piping is non-existent.

Noel V. Chalmers

AUSTRALIA

At the moment there is an acute shortage of pipers in this continent. So much so that a town band near Brisbane is offering a house and a job to a Scotsman willing to go out and join their band. Only qualification is that he must be a good piper. The town, Dalby, has written to Australian emigration authorities in Britain. They'll take a tradesman or non-tradesman. A house is available and a job guaranteed. They say they've been searching for a year without success.

The Sunday Post.

SCOTLAND

By Royal command, following a tradition that dates back more than a hundred years to Queen Victoria's time, the skirl of the pipes is heard every day except Sunday at Balmoral while the Royal Family is in residence.

This year a new note will be struck. The piper will be a young man who has already made his mark in piping circles in the North-East but has never actually played for Royalty before, George Stewart, of Stonehaven. He has already taken up an appointment on the outdoor staff at Balmoral, but this other appointment isn't due to be announced until the Queen arrives at the castle in the autumn.

As a boy at school, George suffered from a respiratory complaint, then a neighbour suggested that he take up the pipes. At first he suffered a lot of pain, but he kept at it and became a successful prize-winner at the major games.

The local band had virtually packed up but now, thanks to George, it's a successful going concern, playing in the town square every Sunday during the summer.

At Balmoral, George will play outside the windows of the Queen and her guests every morning. He is also called upon to play at dinner and give recitals for the entertainment of guests.

George Stewart succeeds the two "Bobs" -- Pipe-Majors Robert Brown and Robert Nicoll, both legendary figures in the field of piping. That's the standard and example that young George Stewart has set before him in his new Royal post.

People's Journal

RECORD REVIEW

Scotland the Brave - Muirhead & Sons Ltd. Pipe Band

This band, which, as the record cover loudly proclaims, has been so successful over the past decade, has produced a basically disappointing L.P. The problem is that one comes to expect nothing but the best from such a successful band as Muirhead. Even before listening to the record, one is rather startled by certain statements in the write-up, such as:

Muirhead & Sons Ltd. Pipe Band have now set a precedent of a consistency and quality so high that it is never likely to be equalled by any band.

Such hyperbole seems rather out of place, especially after one has heard the record and assumed the properly severe approach to criticizing a band worthy of such high praise.

The basic problem seems to be one of consistency. Whereas the first selection on side two (two part 6/8 marches) is very good, the playing and the quality of the pipes seem to take a nose-dive from there onward. The retreats which finish off that side are very mediocre tunes which are played only fairly well on some pretty bad sounding instruments. And besides having to wince slightly at that point, elsewhere there are some glaring slips which occur periodically throughout the record. Also the effect of the tunes "I See Mull" and "Sunset" is hurt by a pretty squirrely sounding "d" especially at the finish of "Sunset", the last note of which is a "d".

Unless it were the case that there was only a limited time in which to make the recording, there seems to be no excuse for the weaknesses which appear in this record.

The most positive aspect is the quality of the recording. Done in stereo, the mix between the pipes and drums is very good and the sound of the pipes has just the right compromise between clarity and echo. In other words, whereas some recordings sound as though the pipers have been covered with wet blankets and still others sound as though they were made in an armoury, this record seems to come closer to catching the "natural" sound of a pipe band.

The selection of tunes is pretty standard throughout, the only exclusion being the competition set format. While this is in keeping with the contemporary trend toward medley sets, it is too bad that they did follow this up and record

several tracks along the lines of a six or seven minute medley of tunes. Such selections would have better shown off the versatility and ability of the band while also permitting some ingenuity regarding the choice and presentation of those tunes.

Overall then, while in many ways this is a very good record, it must be repeated that, everything considered, even though Muirheads are mortal and fallible too, it is not good to allow expectations to exceed results.

- John MacLeod

RODERICK MUNRO

On behalf of the British Columbia Pipers' Association, the editors wish to express their sorrow at the passing of Roderick Munro on March 3, 1972. Mr. Munro was one of the founders of the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band and was the Pipe Major at the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

BANDSTAND

Although we were unable to obtain a band history for this issue, we haven't discontinued this column. Next month, C. P. Air, a young talented group, will be our featured band.

Band Chatter

In view of last month's announcement, we hesitate to reveal their location this month. However, Port Moody is now back in their old haunting grounds under the sponsorship of the Port Moody Legion. (Tune in next month for the continuing story.)

Two future bandsmen? - David Alan Nichol, born to Robin and Linda (Popp) Nichol and Ewen Peter, to Neil and Rae Marie Macaulay.

Congratulations to Mike Evans and his wife Sue, on their recent marriage.

The Seaforth Militia is travelling to San Francisco to add authenticity to a play sponsored by the Bohemian Club.

Many people were impressed by the young C. P. Air band at the recent Vancouver Ladies' Festival.

A surprise appearance at the Vancouver Ladies' Festival was the revival of an old quartette consisting of Rae Marie Macaulay, Peggy Askew, Therese McErlean and Catherine McLellan

THE WESTERN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

The W.P.B.A. have embarked on a concentrated programme for 1972. The first grading list has been drafted and presented by the association. It is interesting to note that the juvenile class has been segregated into two components. Juvenile (open) and juvenile (novice), we feel that by so doing the younger bands will receive more incentive, and will not be overshadowed by their senior counterparts.

The senior categories are divided into two sections, they will be known as Grade I and Grade II. They are essentially the same as the old "Class A" and "Class B", with the exception that the winners of Grade II shall be promoted annually, and the bottom band in Grade I shall be relegated.

We are moving now to replace our traditional March, Strathspey and Reel type competition with medley or ensemble. This first of all affords the spectators with more of an exhibition, and hopefully will attract bands to compete who find it difficult under the old system. Bands may select to play anything of their choice within the prescribed time limit. This has been greeted quite favourably so far.

The St. Andrews and Caledonian Society in cooperation with the W.P.B.A. will present late in August, The B. C. Pipe Band Championships. It will be an entertaining afternoon of pipe band competition and we are inviting bands from Alberta and California to add colour to the day. There will also be a Drum Majors competition and a massed band for your entertainment. We do hope that every band possible will enter the competitions. The historic "Stewart Trophy" will be awarded to the B.C. Grade I champions.

Two new bands have recently joined the Association. They are C.P. Air #1 and C.P. Air #2, both are under the direction of P.M. Fred Brodie. We bid them both a hearty welcome and invite all the other bands north and south of the border to join with us and give us the benefit of their experience.

We also extend an invitation to anyone who may wish to join the W.P.B.A. as associate members and take an active part with us.

The benefits of having a permanent judging panel is being considered at present, so that we might employ a rotational system for competitions. Hopefully, we might have the judges address us from time to time giving us their views or reviewing specific competitions.

We would also like to have a roster of stewards to officiate pipe bands at the various games. The Association will be handling this aspect of the B.C. Highland Games this July. This is a most important function that goes unheralded because it is behind the scenes. Much of the success of any highland gathering is due to the effectiveness of the stewards.

Pipe Major Iain McLeod, a professional piper of proven competitive quality and Pipe Major of the World Champions City of Edinburgh Police Pipe Band, will be visiting Vancouver during the week of the B.C. Pipers' indoor meet. We are unable at the time of printing to give you anything definite, however, we are working on having him give a recital during his stay and we will give you details when they are determined. If we are successful, it will probably be Monday, April 10.

I am extremely pleased with the support from all the pipe bands this year, and wish you all every success in your endeavours.

James Lang,
President,
Western Pipe Band Association

* * * * *

IN TUNE!

Not long ago when Spanish soccer fans began hurling cushions and bottles at the referee of a big game, visiting pipers of the Royal Highland Fusiliers quickly calmed them down by striking up "Scotland the Brave".

As the grateful official put it, "That strange noise saved my life".

* * * * *

Senator Tom Reid of New Westminster once took his pipes to an election meeting when he was campaigning for election to the Commons. If the audience interrupted, he'd play a tune, then threaten another unless they listened to his speech.

NICOLSON OF SCORRYBRECK

March



The old Scorrybreck Estate borders on Portree, the largest town in Skye, an island in the Inner Hebrides group on the West Coast of Scotland.

The Nicolsons are a clan which boasts viking ancestry and were established at Scorrybreck in the 12th century. In 1450, they were joined by the MacNicol of Ullapool and Lochinver due to hostility with the MacLeods of Lewis who had assumed title to the MacNicol lands by the marriage of the MacNicol chief's daughter to the MacLeod chief.

They accepted the Chief of the Nicolsons and changed the spelling of their name to the English form of Nicholson.

Large numbers of the clan left Skye between 1800 and 1840 and settled in Australia and Canada. Chief Nicolson of Scorrybreck left Skye for Australia in 1825 and his descendants are now settled in the vicinity of Launceston, Tasmania. The present chief conducts himself in the traditional manner of a highland chief and his estate bears the ancient name of "Scorrybreck".

CEILIDH

HAGGIS WANTS YOU!



A T

THE SCOTTISH AUDITORIUM, APRIL 12,

8:00 p.m.

TO HEAR

A RECITAL BY

JAMES McCOLL

\$1.50

THE SCOTTISH HOMEMAKER

Finnan-Haddie
(Fisherwife's Fashion)

1 smoked Haddock
1 oz. butter
Pepper
1 teaspoonful Cornflower
1 cup milk

Skin a good-sized fish* and cut into neat pieces. Melt the butter in a saucepan, put in the fish, sprinkle with pepper, cover closely, and cook gently for five minutes. Take out the fish, arrange in a shallow dish, and pour the sauce over.

A poached egg or a daub of whipped cream may be served on each portion of fish.

*To skin a haddock, hold the skin side to the fire (or place under the grill) for a minute or two, then lay it on the palm of one hand and clap it with the other. Begin at the head, and the skin should come off quite easily.

To Fry Sillocks

Sillocks (saith in their first season)
Oatmeal
Butter
Salt

"The perfect dish of sillocks must be caught and cooked by the consumers.

When the moon rises on a late summer's night, you must fish far out on a sea moved only by the slow, broad Atlantic swell. And the little mountain of sillocks, the reward of cold but exciting hours, must be "dite" in a moonlit rock-pool. Then home at cockcrow.

Around the kitchen fire, while the rest of the household sleep, come the happy rites of cooking and eating.

Each tiny, headless fish, wrapped in a stout jacket of salted oatmeal, is popped in a pan of hot butter. There they bounce and spit while the fishers, ringed round pan and fire, exquisitely thaw. At last, richly brown and curled into fantastic shapes, and so tender they almost fall to pieces, they are dished.

Sillock-eating at the kitchen table dispenses with knives and forks. You lift a sillock gently between thumb and forefinger, snip off the tail, press the plump sides, and the backbone shoots forth! The delicious morsel left - hot, crisp oatmeal and sweet melting fish - you eat on buttered "bere" bread, a darkly brown, flatly sour scone."

* * * * *

Did anyone try last month's? The staff sure gets hungry after a hard day's work on the Newsletter. (hint, hint)

Classified Ads

Pipers wanted for men's senior band.

Contact: A. Macpherson
526-8182

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Malcolm Nicolson- for Nicolson of
Scorrybreck

Bill Lamont

Jimmy Lang

John A McLeod

Jean-Pierre Romon Josef Mahe

Noel Chalmers

Jamie Troy

Seb Nellies and Jim Johnston

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Taylor

B. C. PIPERS ANNUAL GATHERING PROGRAMME

Friday, April 7th - 3:30 p.m.

Event Nos.

1. Junior Piobaireachd
 2. Junior March
 3. Junior Strathspey and Reel
 4. Juvenile March
 5. Juvenile Strathspey and Reel
- (Event 4 & 5 - short leet 6 to qualify)

Friday, April 7th - 6:00 p.m.

7. Novice March (short leet
8. Amateur Piobaireachd 6 to qualify)

Friday, April 7th - 7:00 p.m.

4. Finals Juvenile March
5. Finals Juvenile Strathspey and Reel
6. Junior Quartettes

Saturday, April 8th - 9:00 a.m.

7. Finals Novice March
8. Finals Amateur Piobaireachd
9. Amateur March

Saturday, April 8th - 1:30 p.m.

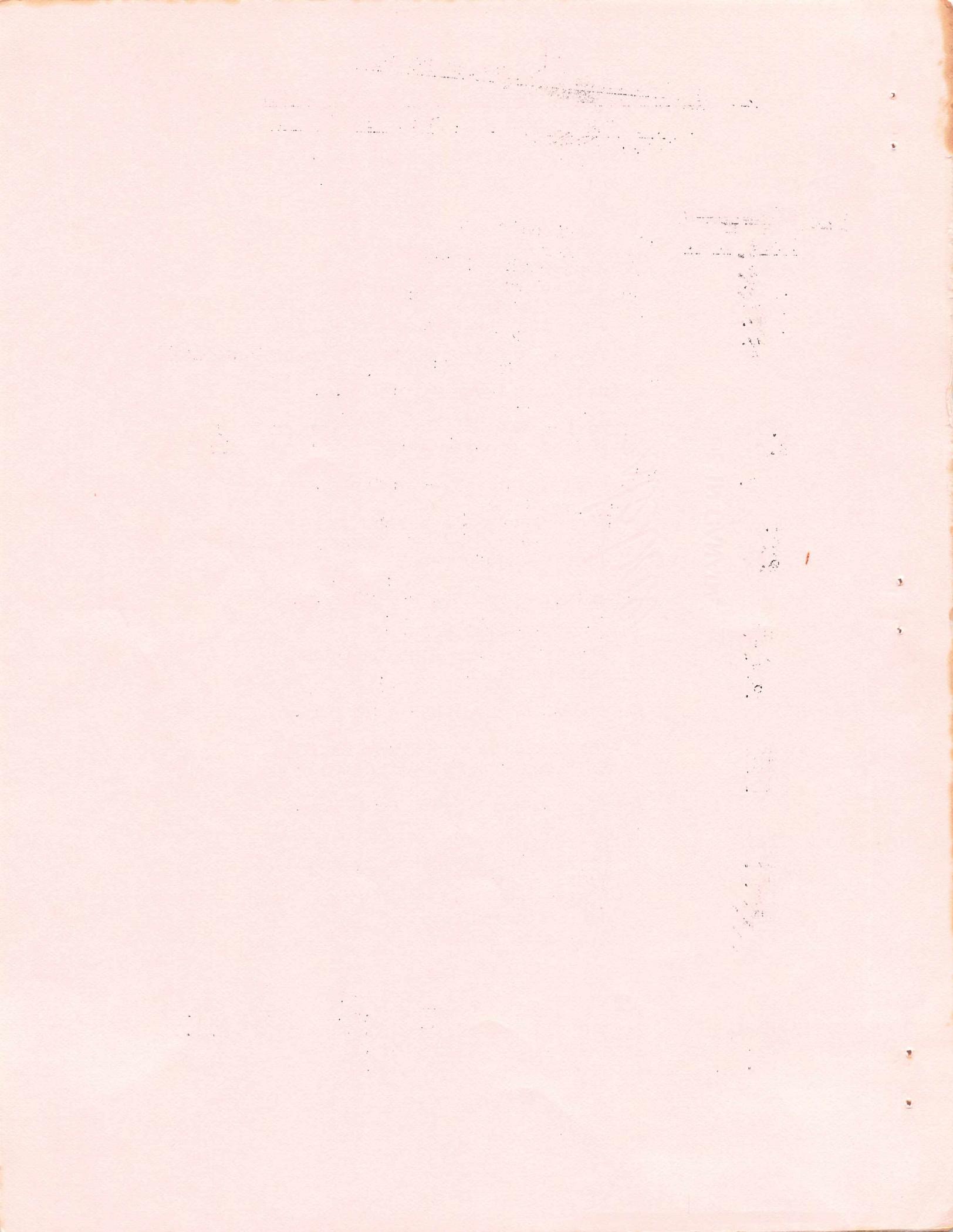
10. Amateur Strathspey and Reel
11. Professional Piobaireachd

Saturday, April 8th - 6:30 p.m.

12. Professional March
13. Professional Strathspey and Reel
14. Professional Jigs
15. Pipers over 60 years (tune of own choice)
16. Senior Quartettes
17. Miniature Bands

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11.	1st	\$50.00	2nd	\$30.00	3rd	\$20.00
12-13-14	1st	\$25.00	2nd	\$15.00	3rd	\$10.00
16.	1st	\$30.00	2nd	\$20.00		
17.	1st	\$50.00	2nd	\$30.00		



W. M. G. C. 1871

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