



MAY, 1960. No. 2.

I would like to take this opportunity to make a few observations regarding the B.C. Pipers' Association during the past year. I have greatly enjoyed my year as President, and I consider it a great pleasure and honour to have been able to work with such fine people in such a worthwhile activity.

In spite of the fact that we are not a particularly large organization, we have had a fairly active program during the past year. In June, October, December, February and April, Bi-Monthly Competitions were held in the Scottish Auditorium. The White Heather Concerts, co-sponsored by this association and by the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society, were held in October; one performance in the Vincent Massey High School in New Westminster, and two performances in the new Queen Elizabeth Theatre. In November, a members banquet was held at the Scottish Auditorium in honour of Mr. Donald MacLaren, formerly of the Trans-Canada Air Lines. Mr. MacLaren, who was of great assistance to us in the past years in arranging transportation for several of our Scottish guests, was presented with a chanter walking stick. After this presentation, which was apparently much appreciated, a Ceilidh was held next door, at which the prizes were awarded to the winners of the previous season's Bi-Monthly competitions. As well as the winners performing, a number of Scottish artists entertained us. A sing song was conducted by Mr. Ian MacLeod, of the Seaforth Highlanders, and was much enjoyed. The Indoor Meet was held in March, and was judged by Pipe Major Neil Sutherland of Winnipeg, Manitoba. This year two evenings of piping were held in February and March in the Men's Canteen of the Seaforth Highlanders. These evenings were intended to give the members an opportunity of hearing good piping and especially piobaireachd by our better players, away from the stress and strain of the competition platform. It is my hope that these evenings will become regular features held on the months between the Bi-Monthly competitions.

During April, the first of a monthly newsletter was prepared and sent out to all members. This letter is produced with the intention of keeping all of the membership informed of the affairs of the local piping world. It is naturally hoped that by means of it, a greater interest in our activities will be stimulated.

I would like to say a few words about a chronic fault I have observed in this association during the past year, and that is one of apathy. Although we have a membership of approximately eighty persons, there are many whom we never see and many whom we see only at the Indoor Meet. It has been my hope and the hope of my predecessors that more of these members would attend the regular meetings, the Bi-Monthly Competitions, and the piping evenings. However, in fact, it seems that the same people come to all events and the same ones do most of the work. The criticism may be made that the newer members are not asked often enough to take part in our activities. However, it is fair to say, that anyone who indicates a willingness to participate in our activities has the opportunity to do so.

We have, on the other hand, no scarcity of critics, as I suppose is the case in all organizations. There appear to be a large number of people, most of whom are outside of this society, who seem to know best how to run our affairs. These people speak only by way of complaining, but are not willing either to join us or to take part in our activities. How many times have you heard that the judge should have played at the indoor meet, or that the prizes awarded were unsuitable, or that a certain competitor should be playing in a different class, or that our entire system of classification is wrong. I certainly welcome constructive criticism, but I would like it to be made in a suitable manner, so that it can be dealt with by the proper body of this association. I do not welcome carping, especially when it is made at a time when, as is usual, it is too late to do anything about the complaint anyway.

A few thoughts about the future. I would like to put before you a few suggestions which have been made from time to time and which will have to be dealt with by your new executive. It has been suggested on several occasions that as an economy measure we might use local judges at our Indoor Meet next year. It has also been suggested that consideration be given to the holding of our annual gathering at some other location with the hopes of improving the acoustics, and with the hopes of boosting our attendance and thus lessening our financial loss. It is a fact that we incur considerable losses annually in our normal activities and these losses are met only by the revenue derived from the White Heather Concerts. It is possible that a move might result only in increased costs, but in any event the matter must be considered. I am of the opinion that we should strive to break even as nearly as possible in our piping activities and that we should invest our White Heather revenue, in order that we might in the not too distant future acquire our own premises. Having our own quarters, I am certain, is the dream of most of us, but we are going to have to exercise great economy if this dream is to be realized. I want you to give serious thought to these few propositions, and I certainly would advise the new executive to begin planning next year's activities at an early date.

In closing, I would like to give thanks for the support I have received during the past year. I would like to thank our Secretary, Rod MacVicar and our Treasurer, Bill McAdie, for their invaluable assistance in acquainting me with many aspects of the association's affairs with which I have not been completely familiar. I would like to thank Ed Esson for his liaison work, in obtaining so freely the facilities of the Seaforth Armoury. We are certainly made to feel welcome here, and we are all, I am sure, aware of what a fine friend the pipers have in the Seaforth Highlanders. I would like to thank Mr. Rod MacRae, who has capably been the Chairman of the White Heather Committee for the past number of years. It is under the direction of Mr. MacRae that these concerts have been such a success. I would also like to thank our association Pipe Major, James MacMillan, for giving so willingly of his services and talents during the past year. Finally, I would like to thank all of the members of the Board of Directors and the members and friends who have helped in forwarding the aims of the B.C. Pipers' Association in making it a very worthwhile organization to which to belong.

- C. I. Walker -

The Annual Meeting of this association was held at the Seaforth Armoury on April 28th. After the reports of the President, Treasurer, and Trustees, the elections were conducted, and the following persons were elected to office for the coming year:

President	C. I. Walker
Vice President	Al Baillie
Secretary	Roderick MacVicar
Treasurer	William A. McAdie
Directors	Albert J. Duncan Edmund Esson Charles MacKenzie John MacLeod James MacMillan Georgina MacPhail Norma Nicholson
Auditors	John T. McHardy David Ireland
Trustees	Roderick MacRae (3 year term) Kenneth MacLeod (2 year term)

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On April 22nd, a Bi-Monthly Competition, judged by George Allan, was held at the Scottish Auditorium. The results of this gathering were as follows:

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

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

Junior Jigs:

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

Amateur Marches:

1. Arnie Stone 2. Peggy Gillies

Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs:

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

Quartettes:

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

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The Treasurer would like to remind you that there are quite a few members who have not yet paid their 1960 membership dues. (\$2.00) Would you see if you are one of them, and if so, kindly send your two dollars to: Wm. McAdie, 3288 East 27th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. Your 1960 membership card will then be forwarded to you. Kindly make any note of change of address. Thank you.

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An evening of piping will be held at the Men's Canteen at the Seaforth Armoury on Friday, May 13th, commencing at 8:00 p.m. Those who attended either of the previous two evenings of piping will recall how congenial these evenings were. If anyone has a special tune up his sleeve, bring it along. All guests are welcome. Refreshments will be available.

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The final Bi-Monthly Competitions of this season will be held June 3rd, at the Scottish Auditorium. The following events will be held:

Novice Strathspeys and Reels
Juvenile Jigs
Junior Marches
Amateur Old Highland Airs
Senior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels
Quartettes (Juv., Jun. and Amat.)

As a special feature the Seaforth Cadets Pipe Band, led by P.M. Arnie Stone, will play a complete retreat. Their performance will undoubtedly make the evening especially enjoyable, and it is hoped that a large number will be present. It is only through your support that the Bi-Monthly competitions, which are intended to foster piping amongst the younger performers, can be continued.

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If any members have friends who are pipers or lovers of piping and who would be interested in becoming members of the B.C. Pipers' Association, they should apply to the Secretary, Rod. MacVicar, 2078 York Street, Vancouver, B.C. (RE. 3-9053), for application forms. The entrance fee is one dollar and the annual dues are two dollars.

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DON'T FORGET:

PIPING EVENING: MAY 13th.

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITIONS: JUNE 3rd.

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