

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

MAY 1969 NO. 91

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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"Artificial Lighting"

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The 37th Annual Gathering sponsored by the B.C. Pipers' Association was a success. Everybody enjoyed the piping. As I watched and listened during the two day competition, however, I began to wonder if competitive piping was only for the very young. The Novice, Junior and Juvenile classes are extremely well supported with many fine young pipers. When the more Senior Amateur and Professional classes perform it is a different story - very few enter.

Two groups of individuals are responsible for this lack of participation. The "middle aged" piper and the band member. When speaking of "middle aged" pipers I refer to those between 30 and 60 years of age. (In piping, middle age appears earlier but on the other hand lasts a little longer than usual.)

The more advance amateur and professional ranks are heavily weighted with the "under 21". There are of course some exceptions but I would venture to say there are not more than one or two regular competing pipers over the age of 30. The age group I am generally disillusioned with is the 30 - 60 age group. Where are these pipers? Oh they are around all right. They regularly attend all piping functions but they never pay much heed to the B.C. Pipers' Motto, "I shoulder my pipes" when it comes time to compete.

Whenever the subject of competing is mentioned to these seasoned pipers the standard reply is, "I don't seem to have the time". Come now! Surely this is a lame excuse. I can't see where a middle aged man or woman is any more pressed for time than the struggling university student or the young businessman trying to pick up a few night school courses. It sounds more to me like laziness. Or could it possibly be the fear of being beaten by the younger pipers that keeps our more experienced and possibly our best pipers from getting up on the boards? It has almost become an accepted practice when reaching the ripe old age of 30 to retire from competition. As a somewhat selfish spectator I feel I am being deprived of hearing a large number of our better pipers.

How old are the competing professionals in Scotland? If you think about this for a minute you will come to the conclusion they are what we consider as being "too old to compete". Come on all you modest not-too-old-to-compete pipers, let's hear from you. Remember that by practicing for a competition you remain an accomplished musician and will enjoy to a greater extent playing for your own pleasure.

As far as band members not competing are concerned this is strictly due to laziness. Extremely good pipers but not energetic enough to compete individually. Their main excuse when questioned about this is, "Ah, I don't know".

If a piper really does not want to compete this is understandable and no criticism would be justified. But this is not the case. I have heard many, many times a piper say "wait till next year". If we could only succeed in getting these two groups of pipers to compete the Annual Gathering and the Summer Games would be even greater successes.

Before leaving you, I would like to congratulate all pipers who did compete in the Annual Gathering and all those who plan to compete in the Summer Games. You are the backbone of our piping community. How many more years must we wait on the others?

Robert Gunn

"SOMETHING DIFFERENT"

MAY GENERAL MEETING

The Directors of our Association have decided to add a more social flavour to our General Meetings. Rather than the regular Monthly Business Meeting for May, a program of entertainment has been arranged to be followed by an evening impromptu piping.

The Burnaby Ladies Pipe Band will perform as well as two of our Bi-Monthly winners Angus MacPherson and Sandy Marshall.

As the highlight of the evening Pipe Major Archie Cairns of Victoria has consented to give us a short talk on a piping subject and then play a selection of tunes. P.M. Cairns is one of the foremost authorities on bagpipe music in Canada and is presently conducting a series of judging classes in Vancouver. We sincerely recommend that our members take this opportunity to hear P.M. Cairns perform.

The evening will conclude with refreshments as we listen to various members of our piping fraternity "give us a few tunes".

This type of evening is a "first" as far as our Association Meetings are concerned and we anticipate a favourable turnout.

All members of the B. C. Pipers' Association are encouraged to attend and remember to bring your pipes.

DATE: Friday May 30th, 1969

PLACE: Seaforth Armoury, Lecture Room

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

ADMISSION: Silver Collection

Congratulations to John and Jo-Anne MacLeod married on Saturday May 10th, 1969. John has been a piper for many years, recently playing with the Port Moody Pipe Band. Best wishes John and Jo-Anne.

PIPING IN EDMONTON - EASTER WEEKEND

The Edmonton Boys Pipe Band held its annual piping and drumming competition on Saturday, April 5th at the Strathcona Legion Auditorium in Edmonton. The judge for the piping events was Lt. Col. John McEwing of Spokane, Washington. Drumming judge was Mr. Alex Watson of Edmonton and deportment judge was Mr. Russell Waite, also of Edmonton.

The results of the competition are as follows:

PIPING

Novice Under 14 Years -

Donald MacDonald, Calgary
James MacDonald, Calgary
Jack Jones, Edmonton

George Chilton Trophy -
Donald MacDonald, Calgary

Under 14 Years

March - Kendal Martin, Calgary
Robby Martin, Calgary

Slow March - Kendall Martin

Under 16 Years

March - Chris Stewart, Edmonton
Alan Walters, Calgary
Wayne Butler, Edmonton

Slow March - Wayne Butler
Chris Stewart
William Alexander

19 Years & Under

March - Iain MacCrimmon, Edmonton
David Allison, Edmonton

Slow March - Iain MacCrimmon

Ladies Only - 19 Years & Under

March - Brenda Wakeford, Edmonton

Open Jig - 19 Years & Under

Chris Stewart, Edmonton
David Allison, Edmonton

Novice Under 16 Years

Glen McKenzie, Banff

E.B.P.B. Tom Campbell Memorial
Trophy - Glen McKenzie, Banff

Strathspey & Reel - Kendall Martin
Robby Martin

Scottish Imports Trophy -
Kendall Martin

Strathspey & Reel - Wayne Butler
Chris Stewart
John Currie

People's Credit Jewelers Trophy -
Chris Stewart and Wayne Butler

Strathspey & Reel - Iain MacCrimmon
Robert Henderson

McKinnon Cup Trophy - Iain MacCrimmon

David Hughes Trophy - Brenda Wakeford

Safeway Trophy - Chris Stewart

Aggregate Piper - Local 16 - 19 Yrs.
Edmonton Scottish Society Trophy
David Allison

Open Class - 20 Years & Over

Silver Chanter - Mr. Ron Stewart Memorial Trophy - Edmund Chilton,
Edmonton

Aggregate Rotary Trophy - Chris Stewart

Aggregate Pipe - Edmonton Boys Pipe Band Only (Under 16 Years)
- John Currie, Edmonton

Piping Department - E.B.P.B. Only - Iain MacCrimmon

DRUMMING

Side Drumming 16 Years & Under

Bobby Walters, Calgary
Kevine Wakeford, Edmonton

Tom Campbell Memorial Trophy
Bobby Walters

Tenor Drumming 19 Years & Under

Gordon Pelley, Edmonton

Safeway Trophy - Gordon Pelley

Side Drumming Local 19 Years & Under

David Murray, Edmonton

Jack Gerrard Trophy - David Murray

Drumming Department, Edmonton Boys Pipe Band Only
Bates Electric Trophy - Gordon Pelley

ALBERTA COMPETITION DATES

Red Deer Alberta - Saturday,
June 28, 1969

Dancing, Piping, Drumming and Pipe Band Competition

Edmonton, Alberta - Highland Games,
Tuesday, July 1, 1969

Dancing, Piping and Drumming

For information and entry forms for Red Deer and Edmonton competitions
write to:

Mrs. G. Chilton
10731 - 46 Street
Edmonton, Alberta

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,
B.C. Pipers' Newsletter,
1073 Doran Road,
North Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir,

I am writing you regarding a situation that exists in piping, namely the status of teachers of the Great Highland Bagpipe, and trust that you will allow me some space in your Newsletter.

There is not now and, to the best of my knowledge there never has been any standard or qualification required in North America for a person to teach the art of playing our instrument.

Standards of piping are set and maintained in Scotland through the certificates issued (after Courses and/or Examinations) by the Army School of Piping, Edinburgh Castle, the College of Piping and the Scottish Pipe Band Association. These certificates do not indicate that anyone is a first-class instructor, but they do certify a level of knowledge and practical ability. Thus, although a student receiving tuition from a holder of one of these certificates may quickly become disenchanted with the instructor if the technique of instruction is lacking, at least he was assured of this level by virtue of the certificate.

Aside from other musicians in other fields of music, the Highland Dancers have recognized the merits of setting standards and examining and certifying individuals as Teachers.

I doubt very much if anyone reading this who wanted their children (or themselves) to learn any other musical instrument (such as the piano) would SEND them (or go themselves) to someone who was not a certified teacher, let alone PAY for the tuition!

In a way, we are admitting to all other musicians and, indeed, to the Highland Dancers for whom we play, that their art is far superior to, and more complex than ours! For they insist on certain standards before anyone in their profession is allowed to publicly acclaim themselves as Teachers. What do we do? As far as the rest of the non-piping world is concerned, anyone who can keep the bagpipe going long enough to make a NOISE that approximates the length of a tune is a Piper (especially if it is marched to!) And, as we have no recognized status in the field of certified Teachers of the Arts, any PIPER (?) can instruct a layman in the method of producing the same NOISE!! And so we are held up to ridicule and are the subject of much derision.

The sad part of all this is that we are well aware of this situation and, because we do nothing to rectify it, we are condoning it! In fact we are almost complacent about it! Unfortunately, it is the student who suffers and perhaps turns away from the instrument altogether.

Our music, played on our instrument by an accomplished performer, is one of the most beautiful sounds in the world. However, it unfortunately is not the sound most frequently heard by the general public and so they, quite understandably, look upon the instrument merely as an unmusical novelty, and the Pipers as "dedicated fanatics"!

There are many fine teachers in this country - people who have devoted a lifetime to the art of playing the Great Highland Bagpipe who are, or have been, outstanding performers themselves - people who are doing their utmost to perpetuate this art through the fine tuition they are affording their students. However, too often a situation exists where the student can not avail himself of this expert instruction and so he seeks the best and closest source he can. In doing so, he may or may not be risking improper or inadequate instruction; he may or may not spend several years "perfecting" incorrect finger technique or incorrect blowing of the instrument, depending upon the quality of the instruction available.

If he has done this and then discovers (one way or another) that there has been an "error in his ways", he must now UNDO all the wrong he has "perfected" before he can START to improve. Too often this proves to be just a little more than the student is willing to give and so he either rejects the instrument entirely or carries on, somewhat frustrated in the knowledge that all his preliminary efforts were in vain and that he is doomed to the role of an inferior or mediocre performer.

If he has done this and does NOT discover the "error of his ways", he could quite conceivably assist others to "perfect" these inaccuracies, as he has done! We all know about this and yet we do NOTHING! Why!?

No one person can alter this situation and so I am appealing to your organization. My solution is that the British Columbia Pipers' Association should lay down an examination that ANYONE could sit, and, for those who pass, a document should be awarded which states that the holder has met standards of knowledge and ability as laid down, and is therefore recognized by the B.C. Pipers' as a Qualified Teacher of the Great Highland Bagpipe.

Further, I feel that there should be a "Standard Teachers' Certificate" which qualifies the holder to teach the Great Highland Bagpipe and all forms of pipe music EXCEPT Piobaireachd, and a "Master Teacher's Certificate" which qualifies the holder to teach the Great Highland Bagpipe and ALL forms of pipe music, including Piobaireachd.

Qualified Teachers could then advertise themselves as such and thus students would be afforded the opportunity of certified knowledge and ability.

Not only would this assist the student, but if Teachers' Courses were run by the B.C. Pipers', it would encourage people to get their certificates.

All in all, I feel most strongly that this can do nothing but provide a means of raising existing standards and so MUST be in the best interests of piping.

In addition, if the B.C. Pipers' were to set this up, one would hope that this would be an example for all other Piping organizations in North America and that a STANDARD EXAMINATION could be set up and the certificate obtained to be recognized ANYWHERE!

This is the situation with other musicians, and ARE WE NOT MUSICIANS??

Trusting that this letter will stimulate SOME action, even if it is not the method I have outlined, so that the problem can be successfully overcome,

I am,

Yours aye,

A.M. Cairns

OUT OF TOWN CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor:

Once again I am pleased to receive the B.C. Newsletter. I shall continue to forward any of the unusual piping events, that are not published in usual papers here. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help in furnishing and unusual information you require for publication that would be of interest to the readers.

Through your publication, I would be pleased to hear from any Pipers who have had connections with the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and may have pipe tunes concerning the Regiment which was disbanded last year, as I am making up a collection of Regimental Tunes and hope to publish myself. Also would any of your readers be interested in exchanging flower and unusual seeds. Growing these is my hobby next to piping.

Yours in piping,

Robert S. S. Gray
1. Glenhead Avenue
Coalsnaughton. By Tillicoultry
Clackmannanshire, Scotland

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last publication the following have been accepted for membership:

1. Mr. Alan G. Barrett - Vancouver, B.C.
2. Mrs. Robert Gunn - North Vancouver, B.C.
3. Mr. A. McAffer - Port Coquitlam, B.C.
4. Mr. John F. MacDonald - North Vancouver, B.C.
5. Miss Linda Popp - Vancouver, B.C.
6. Mrs. E. Topp - Vancouver, B.C.

The Association welcomes you to membership.

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 - \$100.00 and Malcolm M. Ferguson Trophy
2nd - 50.00
3rd - 25.00
- Open March, Strathspey & Reel -
1st - \$100.00
2nd - 50.00
3rd - 25.00

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

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

- Prizes - Class I -
1st - \$150.00
2nd - 100.00
3rd - 75.00
- Class II -
1st - \$100.00
2nd - 75.00
3rd - 50.00

Drum Major Competition Winner - \$25.00
All Bands will receive appearance money of \$25.00.

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

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 through to July 25th, 1969 under the directorship of Pipe Major Lieut. John MacLellan, Edinburgh Castle.

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

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

REGULATIONS RE COEUR D'ALENE GAMES

PROFESSIONAL EVENTS - PIPING

MARCH - STRATHSPEY - REEL

EACH COMPETITOR WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TWO SEPARATE LOTS, IN SETS, OF MARCH - STRATHSPEY - REEL, ONE OF WHICH HE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PLAY. THESE SETS MUST BE REASONABLY EQUAL IN QUALITY.

PIOBAIREACHD

EACH COMPETITOR WILL PRESENT THE NAME OF TWO PIOBAIREACHD, ONE OF WHICH HE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PLAY. AT LEAST ONE (OR BOTH) IS TO BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST PREPARED BY LT. JOHN MACLELLAN. THESE, ALSO, MUST BE REASONABLY EQUAL IN QUALITY.

1. THE BATTLE OF AULDEARN (NO. 2 SETTING)
2. THE DESPARATE BATTLE OF THE BIRDS
3. GLENGARRY'S MARCH
4. THE PRINCE'S SALUTE
5. THE GATHERING OF CLAN CHATTAN
6. THE EARL OF SEAFORTH'S SALUTE
7. THE GLEN IS MINE
8. THE LAMENT FOR THE CHILDREN

Remember the Bi-monthly competition coming up

- May 23, 1969
- Novice Strathspey & Reel
- Junior Marches

Glad to hear P.M. Fred Brodie is home from the hospital, after recent operation.

The Association sends best wishes for a speedy recovery.

JUDGE'S REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GATHERING

Having been asked to judge the piping events at the 1969 Indoor Games, I readily accepted this assignment, as I had been asked several times before.

My son-in-law Bill Gilmour, who spent Easter Holidays with his family at my place, drove me to the Montreal Airport on Thursday evening 10th April. After a smooth uneventful flight I arrived at Vancouver Airport at 9:10 P.M. Pacific Time. Arrangements had been made for Pipe Major Ed Esson to meet me at the Airport and as I had not seen Ed for about 20 years I thought he or I would have trouble recognizing each other, but I spotted Ed first, so there was no problem in that respect. Ed and friend Donald Murray drove me to the Biltmore Motor Hotel and after a couple of wee drams I parted company with them and retired for the night.

Friday morning I was up bright and early as owing to the time change I was unable to sleep after 5:00 A.M., so had breakfast, donned the kilt, and was driven to the Seaforth Armoury by P.M. Albert Duncan, President of the B. C. Pipers' Association. On arriving at the Armoury I was met by the Secretary of the B. C. Pipers' Association Mrs. Ishabel Ross, whom I found to be a very charming and efficient lady. After a few preliminary greetings, I got down to the day's judging.

Junior Piobaireachd was first on the list and this event was won by Bernie Rudsit playing "The Lament for Donald of Glencoe" on a good going set of pipes, good execution, unfortunately Bernie was disqualified as he had won this event the previous year, so first prize went to Jocelyn Lange playing "The Battle of the Pass of Crieff" well executed on a rather rough set of pipes.

After the Junior Piobaireachd Pipe Major Albert Duncan took me to lunch then for a drive through Stanley Park before the afternoon session got under way. The sun was shining and flowers were in bloom, with the majestic mountains looming in the background.

Returning to the Armoury the Novice March began with about 36 competitors, some, I think, being entered a little prematurely. This event was won by Ian Keith. Junior Marches followed, the winner being Terry Lee.

I was asked by the committee to name the most promising player of the day in all events except the Professional. I nominated Terry Lee for the award as this boy has what it takes to become a very proficient player.

After supper the Amateur Piobaireachd got under way. This event was won by Don MacMillan playing "Lament for the Children" on a good pipe. So ended the first day of piping.

I headed straight for the Hotel as I had a big day coming up.

Saturday morning we got under way with a confined event, Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs. This event was won by Bob Gunn.

The Professional Piobaireachd was next on the list. Seven competitors took part in this event, which was won by Bruce Topp, giving a fine rendering of "Patrick Og MacCrimmon" on a good going set of pipes. Norma Thompson, playing the "Big Spree" was placed second, timing and expression very good, but pipes going out of tune with "E" and "F" getting quite sharp. Jamie Troy who was not placed, also played the "Big Spree", on a good strong set of pipes but was unfortunate to have an error in Variation 2

Junior Marches was won by Drew Noot, Strathspeys & Reels by Byron Bernard.

The Amateur Marches was won by Heather Upton who also won the Strathspey & Reel.

After a break for supper, piping resumed with Professional Marches. This event was won by Jamie Troy. Norma Thompson won the Strathspey & Reel and in the Jig, Dave Wilson was the winner. Four competitors broke down in the latter event.

Senior Quartettes were next on the list and this event was won by the Vancouver Ladies.

I was very much impressed by the playing of this Quartette. Pipes were dead on, and the co-ordination of these four girls was exceptional.

The Miniature Band Contest was also won by the Vancouver Ladies.

Thus ended two days of continual piping. Quite an experience.

At the close of the days event, I was presented to the Lt. Governor General, John Nicholson who confided in me that he was doing a wee bit of judging on the side, and came up with a winner. The Governor presented the prizes to the winners. (I did not see this as I was enjoying a delayed dram with some of my friends.)

My good friend the Secretary, Ishabel Ross told me her husband Donald would not hear of me going back to the Hotel, and insisted I spend the night with them. We blethered until the "wee sma oors" interspersed with a few drams.

Sunday, after watching "Les Canadiens" beat Boston, P.M. Albert Duncan called and drove me to the Hotel to pick up my gear. We called to the place where Archie Cairns was holding a Judges Lecture, but Archie had gone home so I missed having a chat with him. Sunday evening my hosts and I called to see Jimmie MacMillan, and at the same time met my brother-in-law Bob Brown, who lives in Richmond. Jimmy MacMillan lives in Burnaby and as I could not visit everyone, we all met at Jim's place. I had to leave early in the morning for the Airport so after reminiscing for awhile we all parted.

Ishabel was up bright and early Monday morning, made the "Parritch" then Donald drove me to the Airport. I boarded the plane

at 7:40 A.M. enroute to Montreal, having had a busy, but wonderful reception.

It was nice meeting all my old acquaintances, Ed Esson, Bill Lamont, Jim MacMillan, Lt. Col. John McEwing, John McHardy and Old Mr. Robertson, whom I met in my home a couple of years ago, also many new friends, Ishabel Ross and husband Donald, Ken MacIlvena, P.M. Albert Duncan and others I can't recall.

I arrived home Monday evening at 5:00 P.M. So ended an episode I shall always remember.

Alex McNeill

PORT MOODY DANCE

On Saturday, May 17th the Port Moody Pipe Band will hold a "Beer Social" at the Port Moody Municipal Hall.

Music by The Versatiles.

Tickets may be obtained by contacting Mr. Stan Kane - 939-0942.

VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND CEILIDH

On Saturday, June 14th, the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band will hold a Ceilidh at the Legion Hall, 4356 East Hastings Street, North Burnaby at 8:00 P.M.

Tickets are \$2.00 each and may be obtained at the door or by contacting:

Mrs. Taylor - 433-2074

Mrs. Purdy - 277-3897

Refreshments will be served.

- SPORRAN - Something worn over a hole in a kilt
PRACTISE CHANTER - A Jewish learner
SGIAN DHU - Sharp pain in the leg, followed by bleeding
QUICK MARCH - What a drum-major does to keep from being trampled underfoot.

PIPE MAJOR JOHN MACLELLAN HOLDS PIPING CLASSES

JULY 7 - 11, 1969

Pipe Major John MacLellan, Edinburgh Castle, will be holding a class this summer during the week of July 7th to 11th, inclusive. This class will be limited to 20 pupils.

Tuition will be 7½ hours each day.

The fee will be \$30.00 a week, to be paid with the following application form. The class will consist of the first 20 applications received by the Secretary, so you would be well advised to act immediately if you wish to take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

ADDRESS APPLICATION FORMS TO:

Mrs. Ishabel Ross
834 Burnaby Street
New Westminster, B.C.

Telephone: 526-7905

**

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

PHONE NUMBER.....AGE.....

BRIEF PIPING HISTORY:

PIPER OF THE MONTH

A new feature of our Newsletter will be a "PIPER OF THE MONTH" section. We plan to spotlight pipers who have been active in the local piping area giving a brief outline of their piping achievements. As an introduction to this new section we are pleased to feature the B.C. Pipers' Association Past President and one of our better known pipers, PIPE MAJOR ALBERT DUNCAN, C.D.

Albert started his piping career in Edmonton after attending a New Year's Eve concert sponsored by the Edmonton Boy's Pipe Band. The evening inspired young Albert and at the age of 13, under the direction of Pipe Major John Robertson, he began his piping activities. Albert's Mother and Father have always been an inspiring force behind his piping achievements and even today are among his most faithful supporters while P.M. John Robertson remains his chief critic.

P.M. Duncan moved to Burnaby, B.C. from Edmonton in 1947 where he presently resides. In the same year he joined the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and after a period of approximately 10 years was promoted to Corporal. Shortly thereafter the rank of Sergeant was achieved and in 1965 he had the honour of accepting the position of Pipe Major of the Seaforth Highlanders' Pipe Band, upon the retirement of Pipe Major Edmund Esson. Albert attributes much of his later piping knowledge to Pipe Major Esson whom he served under for 18 years. Unfortunately, due to business obligations, Pipe Major Duncan was forced to retire from the Seaforth Band in 1968.

Teaching the Highland Bagpipe became part of Albert's activities in 1954 when he formed the New Westminster Schools Band. From here he progressed to instructing the pipers of the Optimist Pipe Band, a position he presently holds, although the Band has become the White Spot Pipe Band. In 1967 Albert formed and became the instructor of the White Spot Girls Pipe Band.

Travel has not been a stranger to Albert and his bagpipes. He toured with the Seaforth Highlanders to the March of 1000 Pipers at the Edinburgh Festival in 1951 and escorted the Optimist Pipe Band to Hawaii on two occasions during the early 1960's. During one of his Hawaiian trips P.M. Duncan became the first piper to play a lament aboard the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbour. The White Spot Pipe Band travelled to the Quebec Winter Carnival in 1964 and to Expo in 1967 under Albert's competent direction. Eastern Canada hosted Albert a second time in 1967 when he led a contingent of pipers from the lower mainland to the Canadian Centennial Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Albert has served the B.C. Pipers' Association for approximately 12 years as a Director and Vice President and was the President during the years 1967-1969. He is married, with four children, two of which are pipers and one a drummer. He is presently employed by the A & W Restaurant chain as a Manager.

We wish Albert the best of luck in his future piping endeavors.

The following results are from the Piping Times:

UIST AND BARRA CONTEST

The annual professional competition organised by the Uist and Barra Association was held in the South Govan Town Hall, Glasgow, on Saturday, February 22nd. A lot of work had obviously gone into the arrangements, but somehow the event did not go with all the swing and excitement we expect at a premier contest of the winter season.

The "Uist and Barra" is of course more a social occasion than a piping one, a chance for old friends to gather and talk of the glories of the piping past of the islands, now gone for ever. In the past we have complained about the fact that this chatting went on in the hall while the piper was playing, but such was not the case this year, for there weren't enough people in the hall at any time to make chatting a problem. Partly this may have been due to the competing attraction of the miniature band contest, but no doubt the attendance was affected by the bus curfew. (The previous week a bus conductor had been stabbed to death, and until the city fathers can find some method -- other than psychiatric treatment -- to control hooligans, the bus crews, for the sake of their lives, are going off duty at 8 P.M. Let Glasgow flourish).

Chairman for the day was Mr. John Buchanan, who gave a forthright and down-to-earth speech which was well received, and deservedly so. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Gillies (whose son was a prize-winner), Ronald Morrison presided over all, and detailed arrangements had been handled by the convener, Angus J. MacLellan.

RESULTS:

Piobaireachd -

- 1st - John Garroway ("MacKay's Banner")
- 2nd - John MacDougall ("Scarce of Fishing")
- 3rd - Hector MacFadyen ("MacDougall's Gathering")
- 4th - Kenneth MacDonald ("The Pipers' Warning")
- 5th - Iain MacFadyen ("MacNeil of Barra's March")

March -

- 1st - Iain MacFadyen
- 2nd - Iain Morrison
- 3rd - Iain MacLellan
- 4th - Norman Gillies

Strathspey & Reel -

- 1st - Iain Morrison
- 2nd - Hector MacFadyen
- 3rd - Iain MacFadyen
- 4th - John MacDougall

Jig -

- 1st - Kenneth MacDonald
- 2nd - Iain Morrison
- 3rd - Norman Gillies
- 4th - Hector MacFadyen

The Association was saddened to hear of the death April 23, 1969 after a lengthy illness of Leonard George Lyon, a very popular member of the White Spot Pipe Band.

Leonard was a very promising piper and talented in many other fields but placed piping above all as his favourite pastime.

Our sympathies go out to his family.

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The resolution was adopted by a vote of 10 to 2.
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