

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

OCTOBER, 1972

NO. 126

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sirs,

I would like on behalf of the Committee for the White Heather Concert to thank all the members of the B. C. Pipers' Association who supported the Concert.

This year on the Committee from The B. C. Pipers' Association we have the following hard working members, Mr. Bill Elder, Mr. Bruce Topp, Mr. Ed Esson, Mr. Donald Ross, and last but not least the hardest worker of them all the Chairman of the White Heather Committee, Mr. Bill Lamont. Without the time and effort they so freely give, the Concerts would not be the success that they are and my job as Secretary, Treasurer would be a much more difficult one than it is, and I would like to say a personal thank you to all of them.

The star of the Concert, Mr. Jimmy Logan, was very impressed by the interview he had with you, and he asked me to make sure he receives a copy of the Newsletter, as he is very interested to see what will go into print from your varied conversation with him. He made a comment on the interview which I feel is worth mentioning and I quote, "We can't be too far wrong when a couple of young students can sit down with someone my age and discuss the problems of today". You made quite an impression on Mr. Logan which reflects credit on you and your Association.

(Mrs.) Donald Ross, Sec./Treas.
White Heather Concert Committee.

Dear Sirs,

Attached you will please find a brief resume of the 1972 Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo, with a complete list of winning Solo Pipers and Drummers, competing Pipe Bands, Pipe Quartettes and Band Drum sections. Would you please publish this in the next issue of The Newsletter.

As usual, your Editorial (Sept. issue) contains words of wisdom, namely, "Standardization", this is a topic where we all should take a good long look.

May we extend our sincere regards to you and your Staff and wish you continued success in publishing the Newsletter, "we like it".

Alvin Halvorson,
Executive Secretary.

(Editor's Note: See the results under "In and Around the Association)

Dear Sirs,

We have just received a copy of your "newsy" Newsletter which we enjoy very much.

If you haven't already been informed of the following, you might be interested to have the information.

Allan MacLeod of Nelson won the Gold Medal for Piobaireachd for boys under 18 at the Cowal Games in Dunoon, Scotland. He received the Inverchapel Challenge Trophy and as far as we can gather, this is the first time this trophy has been held by someone outside of Scotland. It was first presented by Lord Inverchapel in 1924 and with the exception of the war years has been competed for ever since. Many of the famous names in the piping world have their names on this trophy.

I will quote now from the Oban Times: "The piobaireachds for boys under 18 on Saturday was described by the judges as 'the finest amateur competition we have ever heard.'"

Incidentally, Alan Walters from Calgary came in 3rd in this competition.

Allan MacLeod was able to attend the Silver Chanter Competition at Dunvegan Castle and the Northern Meeting in Inverness. He is now touring Europe -- his bagpipes tied on to his back pack!

J. MacLeod,
Nelson, B. C.

Dear Sirs,

Once again winter has made its inevitable appearance in this sector of the Pacific rain forest. The games schedule which appeared last spring is now past history. The list of games includes many familiar names -- New Westminster, Nanaimo, Portland, etc. However, over the past five or six years, two new names have worked their way onto the list: Santa Rosa and Coeur d'Alene. These games have become annual trips for many competitors and bands from Vancouver and are becoming very popular sites.

The popularity and success of these two games have raised several interesting questions. Firstly, why is it that numerous competitors from Vancouver travel to those games while few competitors from those areas come to Vancouver? Secondly, what accounts for the huge public response to the Santa Rosa Games? Anyone who has been to Santa Rosa can attest to the fact that huge crowds attend their games. Why can't Vancouver get the same results? Another interesting question is why is it that Vancouver's games have repeated the same tired formula for years? We need only look to the innovations that Col. McEwing has brought to Coeur d'Alene for inspiration. His games are the complete opposite of ours. At Coeur d'Alene there is an interesting setting - individual competitions are held under the trees in a park, there is an individual highlight in the competition for the banner, and the band competitions are held in a stadium and presented to the public as a tattoo. A parade through the streets to the stadium insures public interest. Coeur d'Alene also has a piping school as does Nelson and Fort Qu'Appelle. Why do people from this area, surely the most concentrated centre of piping and drumming in North America, have to travel hundreds of miles to attend these schools or to take part in these interesting games?

I feel there are three factors which would be essential to the production of a really successful Vancouver games; these are location, innovation and cooperation. There are many lessons to be learned from the two above-mentioned games. First, location. Santa Rosa is in fact the location for the games held by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco! Could we not do the same here and have our games in a small outlying city. Having the games at Mission was a good idea but perhaps this location was not the perfect one and in any event the idea was not taken far enough. The advantages of a small town location are many. Games held in Vancouver receive very little support from the residents of Vancouver. Practically everyone attending the games is directly or indirectly involved. With the proper approach, the residents of a smaller town would take the games as their own and in this way there would be a possible audience of ten to fifteen thousand people to draw on. Another advantage of this location would be for the visiting competitors and bands. With lodgings arranged in the town the location becomes, in effect, a "games town" for the weekend.

Innovation is perhaps the one factor which has had the least attention in Vancouver in the last few years. It is no wonder that competitors and spectators alike are glad to see the end of the games when they have been subject to the exact same formula of piping, drumming, and dancing competitions year after year. Why can't we introduce some new events or at least vary the old ones a little? Are

individual pipers going to be sentenced to play march, strathspey and reel for the rest of their natural lives? Apart from altering the events, there are many innovations that could be made with regard to the organization of the games. For example, although I realize that dancing events are the bread and butter of any games is it necessary that they monopolize the platforms in front of the stands all day? Could we not alternate events on one main platform having perhaps highlights of the individual events? This platform could present a colourful dancing event, then an entertaining piping event, followed by perhaps professional drumming. This would make the competitions more interesting for the competitor and spectator alike. If we ever expect any kind of public support for our games, they are going to have to become more interesting to attend. Perhaps this would be a step in the right direction.

Another thing which would certainly add to the number of competitors at our games would be "name" judges. Certainly we could acquire the services of at least a piping judge from Scotland. I cannot understand why we have yet to have a judge such as Donald MacLeod when Banff, Nelson, etc. have all managed to bring him over; but perhaps that is due to a lack of funds which brings me to my third factor - cooperation. If we were to have only one games in the lower mainland incorporating the Sons of Scotland, the B. C. Highland Dancing Association, the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society, the B. C. Pipers' Association and the other various Scottish societies, then surely all the things I have mentioned (plus many more) would be possible. Bringing together the combined financial and human resources of these groups and concentrating their efforts on one big super games would certainly result in a successful and exciting event. Combining the monies spent individually on games would produce many benefits. Firstly, there would be more money for judges allowing us to perhaps bring a judge from Scotland. This, combined with increased prize and appearance money would result in a greater participation by out-of-town bands and individual competitors. There would also undoubtedly be more money for advertising, an aspect that has been sadly neglected here. Increased advertising would result in greater support by the public and this in turn would help to make the event a financial success.

I hope I have not bored you in my attempt to "constructively criticize" our highland games. We have eight months before the re-commencement of summer competitions and it is my hope that during that time we can work towards some changes in our games.

Allan Skalazub

EDITORIAL - Western Pipe Band Association

On September 8, 1969, the charter was laid for the Western Pipe Band Association, and with complete and utter disregard for Bob Gunn's much criticized editorial, has flourished or should we say existed for just over 3 years. Although we feel that there is no need for two associations in this area striving for basically the same ends, we do not wish to echo Bob's sentiments as the W.P.B.A. has in fact been a "power" for 3 years and looks as if it's going to stay that way. So any doubts as to whether there is a need for two associations at this time is fairly irrelevant. Therefore, rather than "destroy" over 3 years' work, let us examine the reasons for the W.P.B.A.'s lack of accomplishments with the idea of trying to rectify them.

The first reason for their poor record over the last couple of years was the primary objectives that they set for themselves. In a letter to "Bard Chatter" January 15, 1970, Mr. Garnet Snow listed their primary objectives:

1. To promote and encourage the culture through schools and the publication of pipe band music.
2. The creation and maintenance of a band of fellowship among pipers and drummers.
3. A proper system of contest rules.
4. Monthly competitions for miniature bands and quartettes.

Except for a few good points (school, monthly competitions), their objectives are so open to criticism that they couldn't help but fail. For example, how could an association with a membership of approximately ten active bands ever hope to publish pipe band music, and whatsmore what is pipe band music? (Perhaps they are thinking of something similar to the S.P.B.A. tutor). Secondly, if you have to form an association to foster good relations between bands then you'd better give up. Attend one of the meetings and just see the goodwill emanating from the groups seated in the corners.

Thirdly, we already had a proper system of contest rules. The B.C. Pipers supplied the band rules previously and they are relatively unchanged under the W.P.B.A. In other words the only two good points to come from the primary objectives have been ignored for three years.

However, that's all water under the bridge. What we need to do now is seek new means to improve on further endeavours. This leads us to the second reason for the inadequacy of the Association. The executive body is far too small to cope with all the duties of a piping association and their term of office is much too short for such a young association. There is also a question of support from the members. If you don't like the way things are being run, you're not going to change anything by not showing up.

Hopefully with these problems soon to be resolved, the W.P.B.A. will continue to grow stronger after the success it enjoyed following the B.C. Championships.

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

25,000 Attend the Cowal Gathering

Two days of sunshine encouraged large crowds to attend Cowal Highland Gathering.

The supreme pipe band award was won by Red Hackle who had been in second place for the past two years. They had a 1 3/4 point lead over Muirhead & Sons with City of Glasgow Police third and Shotts and Dykehead fourth. The holders, Edinburgh City Police were in Canada and were unable to defend their title.

James McGregor, Perth, won all three open piping competitions with outstanding performances and took the Brymay Trophy with maximum points. If further proof were needed that this was undoubtedly his day, he was also awarded the prize for best dressed playing piper.

The two events for boys under 16 were won on Friday from exceptionally large entries by James McEachern, Islay. James represents the latest generation of the famous McEachern piping family of Islay.

The piobaireachds for boys under 18 on Saturday was described by the judges as "the finest amateur competition we have ever heard". First and third places in this event were taken by entrants from Canada.

Overseas competitors were again prominent in the Highland dancing competitions but the three world titles went to Scotland. Sandra Kennedy, Bearsden, retained her juvenile title; Aileen Robertson, Ayr, improved on last year's third to take the junior award; and Victor Wesley, Glasgow, regained the adult championship, which he had held in 1968 and 1969.

The judges for solo piping were Pipe-Majors Peter Bain and Nicol MacCallum, Glasgow; Ronald MacCallum, Inveraray; D. R. Cameron, Edinburgh; John C. Weatherston, John K. MacAllister, Shotts; Messrs. Duncan Johnstone, Glasgow; Alfred Morrison, Bishopton; and Neil McEachern, Islay.

The salute at the March Past of the bands, in which 1,450 pipers and drummers took part, was taken by the convener of Argyll County Council, Lt.-Col. James Taylor, Southend, and the trophies were presented by Mrs. Taylor.

Results

March, Strathspey and Reel (Boys under 16, Open)

1. James McEachern, Islay;
2. Allan Walters, Calgary;
3. Robert Mathieson, Blackburn.

Piobaireachd (Boys 18 or under, Open)

1. Allan MacLeod, Nelson, Canada;
2. James W. Hardie, Bishopbriggs;
3. Allan Walters, Calgary.

Argyllshire Gathering - Gold Medal

In glorious, sunny weather the Argyllshire Gathering, inaugurated in 1871, opened at Oban with two of the most important piobaireachd competitions in the piping calendar.

In the gold medal competition, 34 out of the 42 entered actually played, and the coveted prize went to Hugh A. MacCallum, Bridge of Allan, for his excellent performance of the piobaireachd, "In Praise of Morag".

Second prize was awarded to Angus J. MacLellan who played "Glengarry's march". This was another good tune on a good pipe and was marred only by a bad first line of the Crunluath Singling.

Third went to veteran Jimmy MacGregor who gave an impressive rendering of "Lament for MacSwan of Roag". Fourth prizewinner was Ed Neigh from Stratford, Ontario, and he played, "Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy".

Another Canadian, Bill Livingstone, was placed fifth with, "The Old Men of the Shells". Like the other prize-winners, his bagpipe was excellent but he took far too long to tune and almost put them out.

On the whole it was a good competition with the prize-winners playing particularly well. The main criticisms I had were the almost universal tendency to cut the Low A of cadences and not show the ends of phrases, and the inability to make a proper Taorluath movement. This marred most tunes and the latter is such an elementary fault that there is little excuse for it.

Other performances meriting mention were those of Jas. Young, "I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand"; Kenneth MacLean, "Massacre of Glencoe", and Dugald Murdoch, "Nameless". The last named played what was probably the best Urlar of the competition but the tune deteriorated thereafter, especially in the Taorluath Variations.

In the march competition Hal Senyk, a member of the Association, received fifth place.

The Northern Meeting -- The Gold Clasp

Following up his success at Oban, where he won the gold medal, Hugh MacCallum won the gold clasp at the Northern Meeting, Inverness, probably the most coveted prize in piping. As I was involved in judging the strathspey and reel competition which was run concurrently with the clasp competition, I did not hear his actual performance but according to informed reports he gave a musical rendering of "MacNeill of Barra's March". As usual his pipe was first class, the entire performance was without technical blemish, and it was a clear winner in the minds of the judges.

Donald Morrison, Aberdeen, was placed second with a competent rendering of "Lady MacLeod of Tallisker's Salute". Unfortunately, his pipe did not last the entire tune and he had a slight tendency to jump off the ends of his phrases.

Third prize went to Donald MacPherson who played "MacKenzie of Gairloch's Lament". Again, this was a competent performance, if on the slow side and, as usual, his pipe was excellent.

Iain MacFadyen was fourth with "My Dearest on Earth Give Me Your Kiss" but two note mistakes spoiled the performance and his drones went slightly out of tune in the Crunluath variation.

Other performances worthy of mention were John MacDougall's "Lament for the Union" and Cpl. Iain Morrison's excellent Urlar of "MacKenzie of Gairloch". Unfortunately, the latter broke down in his first variation and ruled himself out of the lists.

John MacFadyen,
Oban Times.

Coeur d'Alene -- 1972 Scottish Festival and Tattoo

The fourteenth annual Scottish Festival and Tattoo was held in the beautiful lakeside city of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, at City Park. Some experts believe the local combination of air and humidity against the "sounding board" of the lake and far hillsides allow the true, clear tone of pipes at their best to be played. Along with the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of residents and visitors alike -- 'tis a joyous and memorable occasion for all.

Over 150 individual pipers and drummers and ten pipe bands were in attendance this year, representing British Columbia and the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California.

As fortune would have it, our principal adjudicator was P/M Robert G. Hardie of Glasgow, Scotland; ably assisted by Andrew Wright of Paisley, Scotland; P/M John Wilson of Willowdale, Ontario, Canada; and William Watt of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Drumming adjudicator was the well-known and capable D/M George Pryde of Powell River, British Columbia.

Mr. Dougal Munro and his gracious wife from Grangemouth, Scotland, accepted our invitation to be special guests, offering comments and suggestions that will be invaluable for future operations of our organization. We sincerely hope that Mr. and Mrs. Munro return to visit as often as possible.

Special trophies include the Allison award for Best Band won by the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band of Vancouver, British Columbia; and the Col. McEwing award for Best Amateur Piobaireachd won by James Hardie of Glasgow.

P/M Hardie spoke often of the improvement over last year in piping skill displayed by contestants. He noted that some of the performers were very near professional standard and worthy of highest praise.

Results

Professional March

1. John MacLeod
2. Harold Senyk
3. Ruben Santos and
Therese McErlean

Professional Piobaireachd

1. James Troy
2. Harold Senyk
3. Louis W. Heaton

Amateur 13 Years and Under Strathspey & Reel

1. Kelly Todd
2. Allison Palmer
3. Gordon Lyle
4. Ronald Tate
5. Michael Young & G. Gray

Professional Strathspey & Reel

1. John MacLeod
2. Ruben Santos and James Troy
and Harold Senyk
3. Therese McErlean

Amateur 13 Years and Under March

1. Kelly Todd
2. Allison Palmer
3. Michael Young
4. Kevin Underwood & Jill Laurie
5. Ronald Tate

Amateur 16 Years and Under March

1. James Hardie
2. Terry Lee
3. Jack Lee
4. Jean Laurie
5. Rod Mathison, Mary Alward,
Brian Carse

Amateur 16 Years and Under
Strathspey & Reel

1. Terry Lee
2. James Hardie
3. Jack Lee
4. Mary Alward
5. Rod Mathison

Amateur 19 Years and Under
Strathspey & Reel

1. Robyn Palmer
2. Rene Cusson
3. Allan Walters
4. Lu Anne Alward
5. Craig Hazelbacher

Amateur 19 Years and Over
Strathspey & Reel

1. Steve Geddes
2. Sherea Barwell
3. Howard Stoppelman
4. Hazel Ramsay
5. Colin MacKenzie

Amateur Piobaireachd
"Special" Novice

1. Brian Carse
2. Jonathan Losee
3. Gordon MacDonald
4. Lyle Smith
5. Eloise Roane

Novice "Special" March

1. Gorm Kortegaard
2. Andrew Burns
3. Nancy Walton
4. Betty Kraft
5. James Robertson

Drumming 16 Years and Over

1. Jack Gallagher
2. Bill McKee
3. J.T. Hewett
4. George Tetarian

Novice Drumming

1. Sheila Brown
2. David Scott
3. Kathy Cliffe

Amateur 19 Years and Under
March

1. Dan Deisner
2. Robyn Palmer
3. Rene Cusson
4. Allan Walters
5. Eloise Roane

Amateur 19 Years and Over
March

1. Steve Geddes
2. Sherea Barwell
3. Hazel Ramsay

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. James Hardie
2. Bernie Rudsitt
3. Terry Lee
4. Jack Lee
5. Craig Hazelbacher

Novice March

1. Greg Bundy
2. Kathie Thomas
3. Tom Bergin
4. Robert MacNeal
5. Betty Kraft

Professional Drumming

1. William McErlean
2. Susan Burgess
3. Mark Grecco

Drumming 16 Years and Under

1. Sheila Roane
2. Ian Hunter
3. Bruce Roane
4. Bobby Walters
5. Evan Raines & Gordon Anderson

Drum Major

1. Ian Hunter

Pipe Bands-- Class One

1. Vancouver Ladies
2. Triumph Street
3. Burnaby Ladies

Quartettes - Piping

1. Triumph Street Pipe Band
2. Seattle Pipe Band
3. Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Band
4. Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band

Pipe Bands -- Class Two

1. Portland Grays Boys Band
2. Angus Scott Pipe Band
3. Kiwanis Boys Band

Pipe Band Drum Section

1. Portland Grays Boys Band
2. Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Band
3. Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band

Bi-Monthly Results

The following are the results of the bi-monthly competition held on October 20, 1972, at the Seaforth Armouries. The judge for the evening was Mr. Iain McKinnon.

Juvenile Slow Airs

1. Asheley Stewart
2. Kelly Sutton
3. Graham Davidson
4. Ember Stewart
5. Duncan Fraser
6. Shelley MacLean

Amateur Hornpipes

1. Allan McDougall
2. Jack Lee
3. Cindy Chambers
4. Terry Lee
5. Stewart Reid

White Heather Concert

"We're about to have a real Scottish evening tonight ladies and gentlemen, so we'll start it off with a collection" and so another White Heather Concert came to town with the one and only Jimmy Logan as the headliner. Backing him up were the likes of singer Alexander Morrison, Smilin' Bill Marshall with his now famous accordion and singing voice, soprano Ann Baird, highly entertaining magician and comedian John Shearer with Anna Cowie supplying all the background music on the piano. Based on the successful format of past years, the show treated the crowd to a real Scottish evening in every way. The old Scottish songs, jokes, and tunes are still the same but the large crowd doesn't want or expect any change to the contrary as was obvious by the hand clapping, laughing, and singing along with the performers.

Jimmy Logan sang old favourites such as "Roamin in the Gloamin" and "I Belong Tae Glasgow" and kept the crowd entertained with his rambling stories and jokes. Ann Baird of the Scottish Opera provided some of the more beautiful but serious moments in the show, and Bill Marshall with his gleaming smile enthralled the crowd with his ability on the accordion. Alexander Morrison in striking military pose

and foot-tapping style provided a succession of patriotic songs to warm many a Scottish blood. Also on hand was John Shearer, a magician who surprised everyone by pulling a damaged playing card from the centre of an unopened orange. All in all, "the most Scottish of Scottish evenings" was a success and all those who were involved in the organization of it should be congratulated.

An Interview with Jimmy Logan

Editors: How did you get your "start" in the entertainment world?

Jimmy: I was started in show business officially when I was 15. When I left school I went to the Paisley Theatre as assistant manager, the pay was about two pounds a week and I had to supply my own dinner suit. After that I joined my father's show, for the simple reason that nobody else would take me.

Editors: Besides your father, what other members of your family were in show business?

Jimmy: My sister is Annie Ross, the jazz singer, who recently appeared in the West End (London) with Vanessa Redgrave in the Threepenny Opera. She was also known as the jazz goddess of the American entertainment scene in her day. My aunt was Ella Logan, the original star of Finian's Rainbow on Broadway. My mother and father were in show business, of course, as well as my brothers and sisters, so automatically when I was seven years old I was selling programmes, chocolates, and cigarettes in the theatre during my summer holidays.

Editors: How long have you been in the theatre?

Jimmy: 29 years. It's been a long haul. After all ye built Canada in 29 years. Anyway, I've been in show business all my life and in every branch of show business. I began as a "crooner" or juvenile lead, became an accordion player, fed lines to a comedian, then became a comedian, then I made a film when I was 21 called "Floodtide". After that I started doing radio with Stanley Baxter as well as doing theatre season after season. I was in the opening programmes of the B.B.C. and I.T.V. in Scotland. Following this I turned more to plays and eventually bought a theatre. So I ended being responsible for the theatre, the production, and also starring in the show.

I also played in the London Paladium for which I am very proud as I was the first Scottish comedian for 16 years to play there.

However I am much more interested in people, in Canadians especially. When I first came here there were no Canadians and when I came back after Expo there was nothing but Canadians, which I think is wonderful. British Columbia is one of the most beautiful parts of this country and I don't think one would have to live here to say that. I like Vancouver for many reasons. I think people come to Vancouver to be part of Vancouver. I don't know why, but in Vancouver I've found something different.

Following our interview with Mr. Logan we discussed some of the problems with which the world is faced. As he stated before he is very interested in people and he asked us as many questions about ourselves as we asked him. He is also very concerned about the plight of the Irish people and discussed this problem very seriously and intelligently. We enjoyed very much meeting with and talking to Mr. Logan and look forward to seeing him in the near future.

Hat-Trick for the Police

Edinburgh City Police pipe band, who have already won the World Championships and the Inter-Continental Championships in Toronto this year, made it a hat-trick by taking the European Championship at Shotts Highland Gathering. Results:

Grade 1 - Edinburgh City Police 92½ pts. 2. Muirhead and Son 92¼ pts. 3. Shotts and Dykehead Caldeonia 91½ pts.
Drumming - Renfrew 24 pts.

Grade 2 - Gysart and Dundonald 89¼ pts. 2. Paisley 88¼
3. Dumbarton 87 pts.

Grade 3 - Johnny Walker, Kilmarnock 87 pts. 2. Lanarkshire Police 83 ¾ pts. (with drumming preference);
3. Knightswood 83 ¾ pts.

HIGHLANDERS '72

Copies of the Scottish World Festival Programme can be obtained through the Newsletter. The programme is filled with many fine articles and features. Cost of the programme is \$2.00.

NEXT MONTH

B.C. Pipers' Winter Piping School

On Saturday November 18, 1972, the first B.C. Pipers' Winter Piping School, will open its doors to students of piping. Under chief instructor John MacLeod, the school will consist of two separate classes held between the hours of 10:00a.m.-12 noon and 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m. every Saturday in the band room of the Seaforth Armouries. The classes will last for 15 weeks and the fee will be \$15.00 per student. Each pupil will receive two hours of instruction.

This school has great possibilities and we have high hopes for its success!

Please mail all applications to: (Please see last page)

Mr. John MacLeod
1410 West 13th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C.

Closing date for applications is November 11, 1972.

Professional Knock-Out Competitions

We were very distressed to hear that the Amateur Knock-out competitions which took place in conjunction with the General Meetings of the B.C. Pipers' Association, have been discontinued in favour of a Professional competition only.

It seems to us that the organizers of these competitions should have realized, through previous experiences with the professional knock-out format only, that many a potentially successful evening of piping has been ruined by the fact that only one professional competitor attended. The entire evening was saved, in more than one instance last year, because of the amateur competition and the piping enthusiasts obviously appreciated this.

Not only did these amateurs "save the day" and give entertaining performances, but they also give many people who do not attend the bi-monthlies a chance to hear our up-and-coming players. It remains to be seen whether this old format will be successful. We only hope it is.

November 3	Ken Nelson Donald MacInnes	}	March 2
December 1	Bruce Topp John MacLeod		
January 19	Steve Geddes Dave Wilson	}	April 6
February 2	Jamie Troy Hal Senyk		

The final will be held at the B.C. Pipers' Annual Dinner/Dance.

TRIUMPH STREET PIPE BAND CONTEST

For years now everyone has been complaining that there is nothing for bands in the winter. In some cases, turnouts at band practices diminish due to the lack of interest and, in other cases, the winter months are the strongest because of members leaving town in the summer to seek employment.

Well, your troubles are over. On December 16, 1972, Triumph Street is conducting a contest for miniature bands, trios, drum sections and individual drumming. Why drumming and no solo piping you may ask? Mainly because the pipers have the bi-monthlies, the knock-outs and the Indoor Meet in which they can compete whereas the drummers don't get their chance until the summer (and even then, very rarely).

The trio competition proves to be very interesting. Instead of the usual March, Strathspey and Reel combination, the bands (it is not restricted to bands, however) will be able to show their ingenuity in their selection of a Waltz, Hornpipe, and Polka. The juniors will have to contend with a 6/8 March, Slow Air, and Jig.

In the drum section event, the drummers will play a selection without pipers and the best bass drummer will be judged here.

The miniature bands have been divided into two categories, junior and senior. i.e. senior - Grades 1 and 2, and junior - Juvenile and Novice Juvenile. Both classes will be required to play a selection varying between five and seven minutes.

Entry forms may be obtained by phoning Allan Skalazub at 291-2173.

To round out the day, a ceilidh has been planned for that evening.

For tickets to the dance, phone Angus MacPherson at 526-8182.

Bi-Monthly Competition

The next bi-monthly will be held on November 17. Novice, Section 1, will play Old Highland Airs, and Juniors will have to contend with Marches. Mrs. Swanson will be contacting the Novices advising them in which section they will play.

Gaelic Society

The Gaelic Society of Vancouver will be holding a Cabaret Night at the Scottish Auditorium at 12th and Fir on December 2, 1972.

For tickets, please phone Alec Reid at 261-5261.

V.I.P. Club

The Vancouver Island Pipers' Club will hold a meeting on November 18 at the Sgt.'s Mess of the Bay Street Armouries at 8:00 p.m.

The agenda includes a guest speaker, a guest piper, Hal Senyk, and a pupil of the month. There will also be a talk on the piobaireachd "I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand" along with a recital of the tune by Steve Geddes. Following the meeting the guests will "retire" to the bar and enjoy some impromptu piping.

It promises to be a very enjoyable evening so make up a party and support the V.I.P. Club.

* * * * *

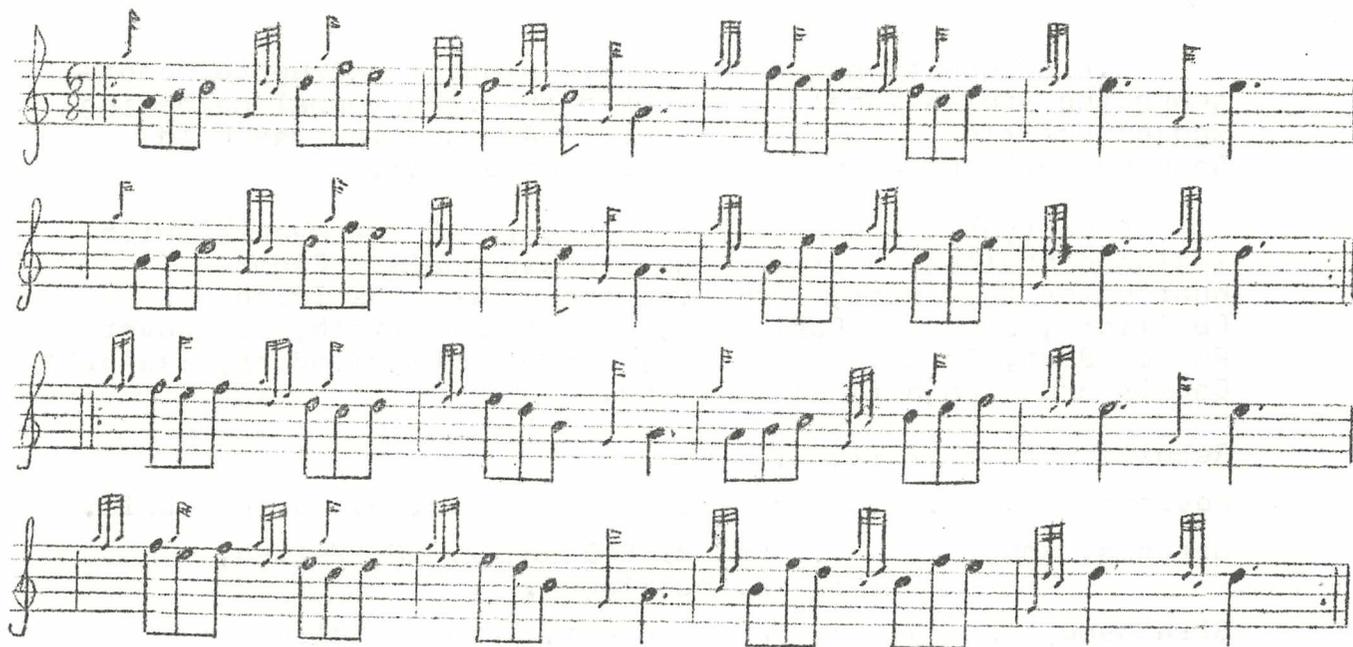
GET WELL SOON

On behalf of the Association, the staff of the Newsletter wish Alec Young a speedy recovery. Alec suffered an accident at work and will be laid up for a few weeks.

We're sure all visitors will be welcome. (Don't forget your pipes!)

ELLA BRODIE

--Slow Air



This tune was composed by P/M Fred Brodie for his wife, Ella.

* * * * *

THE LOST VALLEY OF THE SCOTS

Ronald Douglas, Tigh an Uillt, Hawick, is just home from a holiday in Italy. While there, he came on a remarkable community. They live in a lonely valley in the heart of the Italian Alps not far from Lake Maggiore. It's called Glen Gurro. The road to it is only just passable for a car. The people speak a dialect part Italian, part Gaelic and part broad Scots! The local museum is full of tartan. Of clans unknown to us. Some of the older people can remember their dads wearing the kilt.

How come? In the Middle Ages, Scots fought as mercenaries in many European battles. Some, in the early 16th century, fought with the Duke of Albany against the Italian States of Milan and Naples. The army was defeated and thousands of men killed. The Scots tramped aimlessly to North Italy till they came on the lonely valley, miles from anywhere. The climate was pleasant. The people who lived there kind and friendly. Several hundred Scots settled at Gurro. The valley is so isolated the Scottish influence has lasted for centuries. A wee corner of Scotland in the Alps.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

W.A. Urquhart piped his way to highest aggregate honors among the professional pipers when the 11th annual gathering and competition of the B.C. Pipers' Association was held Saturday afternoon and evening in Moose Hall.

Seventy-five competitors took part in the events which included novices, amateurs and professionals. Eight quartettes took part, including those from the Irish Fusiliers, Edmonton Fusiliers, Victoria Scottish, Vancouver Police Band, Canadian Scottish, Seaforth Highlanders, Seaforth Cadets and Glengarry Girls' Band.

Results were as follows:

Novices - 1. K. MacKinnon; 2. James Main; 3. J. Campbell.

Marches, under 16 - 1. Kay Nicholson; 2. M. Patton;
3. K. MacKinnon.

Strathspeys and Reels, under 16 - 1. Kay Nicholson;
2. M. Patton; 3. K. MacKinnon.

Marches, amateur - 1. Alec Matheson; 2. H. Aird;
3. Betty Pringle.

Strathspeys and Reels, amateur - 1. Margaret Newbold;
2. Frances Kellas; 3. Ian MacKinnon.

Piobaireachd amateurs - 1. I. MacKinnon; 2. H. Aird.

Old Highland Airs - 1. K. MacLeod; 2. J. Taylor; 3. R. Allen.

* * * * *

On the opposite page is a picture of three active members of the B.C. Pipers' Association.

There is a \$5.00 prize waiting for the first person who can identify all three of them correctly.

Send your answers to, "Do You Remember", 5120 Spencer Street, Vancouver 16. Members of the staff and their immediate families are ineligible.

Winner of last month's puzzle was Mary Margaret Manifold. The answer was TOG ORM MO PHIOB.

MEMBERS
TON SAT.
1:30
3:30



BANDSTAND

"Champions of the World" - Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band

This band has once again shown (on records at least), that for sheer precision fingering and unison, it is second to none. During my only first-hand encounter with the Edinburgh Police Pipe Band and the other great Grade I bands at Cowal in 1970, I noticed how each band had its own unique sound and style. On this record, as at Cowal, the chanter's clearly dominate the drones and the grace-noting is clear. It is a flashy style which makes frequent use of hornpipes, jigs, and little strathspeys and reels to best show off a unit of pipers striving to play as one and except for some of the attacks they play very close together. It is quite something to hear a pipe band play a tune such as "John McKenzie's Fancy", an easy tune for even a good solo piper to make a mess of, and probably no other pipe band puts so much technical polish on two-parted reels as this band does. From this standpoint alone, the album is impressive and reason enough to buy it and enjoy it, but I think there is room for some minor reservations about the playing.

The most subtle but nagging impression I got from the overall sound of the pipes was that they lacked fullness and depth. It simply doesn't sound like a complete pipe section but a cut down version of the same - sweet sounding, but overly filtered just the same. This is sometimes a problem with other pipe band records too, but the diminished presence of the drone sound in the Edinburgh Police seems to make the problem even more acute. This is only a criticism of degree, not good or bad, but rather better or poorer as inevitable, comparisons with other bands arise. Likewise, the chanter's are somewhat out on the top hand and in a few selections it becomes a bit unpleasant.

A major disappointment was the choice of tunes itself. Medley competitions in Scotland as well as here are gaining in importance. Besides being very entertaining, it would be of no small value to local bandsmen to hear what the likes of the Edinburgh Police are playing by way of medleys. I certainly see no reason why such a selection or two could not have been included.

And this brings me to my final point - while the playing is far from bland, the format is. A few medleys would have livened things up even if they were substantially composed of tunes that are on the record anyway. The tunes are on the whole good to listen to, but they are too conventionally organized to be exciting. For example, some of the separate selections are: three 6/8 marches, four 9/8 marches, two

3/4 marches, and three strathspeys and three reels to mention several. The other selections are almost equally single-minded in approach. I unequivocally criticized the Red Hackle Pipe Band albums for their approach to livening things up but I must also, if not quite so strongly, criticize this record for being unimaginative to any significant degree. This record does show why the Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band are Champions of the World but I'd sure like to be in Scotland for the ensemble competitions to hear what this record does not provide and which everyone should be given a chance to enjoy.

John MacLeod.

The Powell River Company Pipe Band - An Early History

When the S.S. "Athenia" became the first victim of a German U-boat on September 3, 1940, the event held a special significance for Powell River. Among her cargo, as she steamed out of Glasgow, the Athenia was carrying a complete new outfit of kilts for the Powell River Company's Pipe Band, and these went down with her to the bottom of the Atlantic.

Whether the incident had any real bearing on the eventual outcome of World War II or not has never been authentically determined. But it certainly did not deter the Powell River pipers from ordering another set of uniforms from the Old Land, and these successfully passed through the blockade. Since that time the fame of the Band has extended beyond Powell River and even British Columbia, and it is now recognized as one of the top piping aggregations in Western Canada and the Pacific Coast.

Actual forerunner of the Powell River Company Pipe Band was a small group of piping enthusiasts, many of whom had played with famous Highland regiments, and who got together to form a pipe band in the land of their adoption. The Company assumed official sponsorship of the Band in 1939, the year the war broke out.

The original band manager was the late Lieut.-Colonel John MacGregor, V.C., M.C. and Bar, D.C.M., one of Canada's most decorated soldiers, and in his honor members of the Band decided to adopt the MacGregor tartan as their official kilt.

Successive band managers were the late Peter B. Jack, Jack Gebbie, William Buhler, and Donald MacKenzie.

Composed entirely of Company employees, the Pipe Band saw its ranks thin out during the war years as many of its members changed into uniforms of the Canadian Armed Forces.

After the war, the late pipe-major George Cairns began rebuilding the Band. On his death two years later Donald MacKenzie became pipe-major, and under his guidance the Band has taken part in all major piping competitions on the Pacific Coast. In 1955, owing to ill health, Don handed over the duties of pipe-major to David Westie, another outstanding piper from the Old Land, and took on the Band's managership instead.

The Powell River Company Pipe Band and its leaders can look back with pride on their record in Western Canada and Western international piping and drumming competitions, as well as on numerous instances of public services on both sides of the U.S. -- Canada border. They scored successes in Class "A" contests in Vancouver, B.C.; Calgary, Alberta; Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and Los Angeles, California.

Few community events in Powell River and district are held without the Pipe Band's participation. It has, in short, become a Powell River institution.

Western Pipe Band Association

The Annual General Meeting of the Western Pipe Band Association will be held November 26 in the legion annex at 6th & Commercial. Everyone is invited to attend as there are numerous points of discussion on the agenda.

It has been moved that we consider and vote on the removal of marks for dress and deportment from our competitions next year. If you have any strong feelings either way, then please come to the meeting.

Overtures have been made to the Association to create tenor and bass drum contests at the summer circuits, and we will be creating a committee to investigate the proposal.

Due to certain difficulties, we were unable to collect the 5% fees from Association bands during the 1972 season. This situation was discussed at the last general meeting, and the executive will give their decision at the A.G.M. In the interim your committee will work to correct the situation for next year.

Mr. Keith Manifold is the nominating chairman for the elections next month. Please contact him if you have any recommendations for his consideration.

Other motions for the agenda are:

1. That juvenile bands be allowed to play one member over 18 years of age.
2. A motion to enlarge the present executive by six members.
3. A motion to extend the terms of office for all executive positions.

Your executive are concerned that the notices to the band representatives are not being circulated to all members. We would urge that all notices be read, posted or passed on so that everyone has an opportunity of attending all meetings. It is also regrettable that we can't get two representatives from each band at every meeting.

The Annual General Meeting on November 26 will start at 11:00 a.m. A light lunch will be served at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Please try to attend.

1972 has been a very successful season for the Association and your support at the annual General Meeting will help draft the plans for an even greater 1973.

James Lang,
President, W.P.B.A.

BAND CHATTER

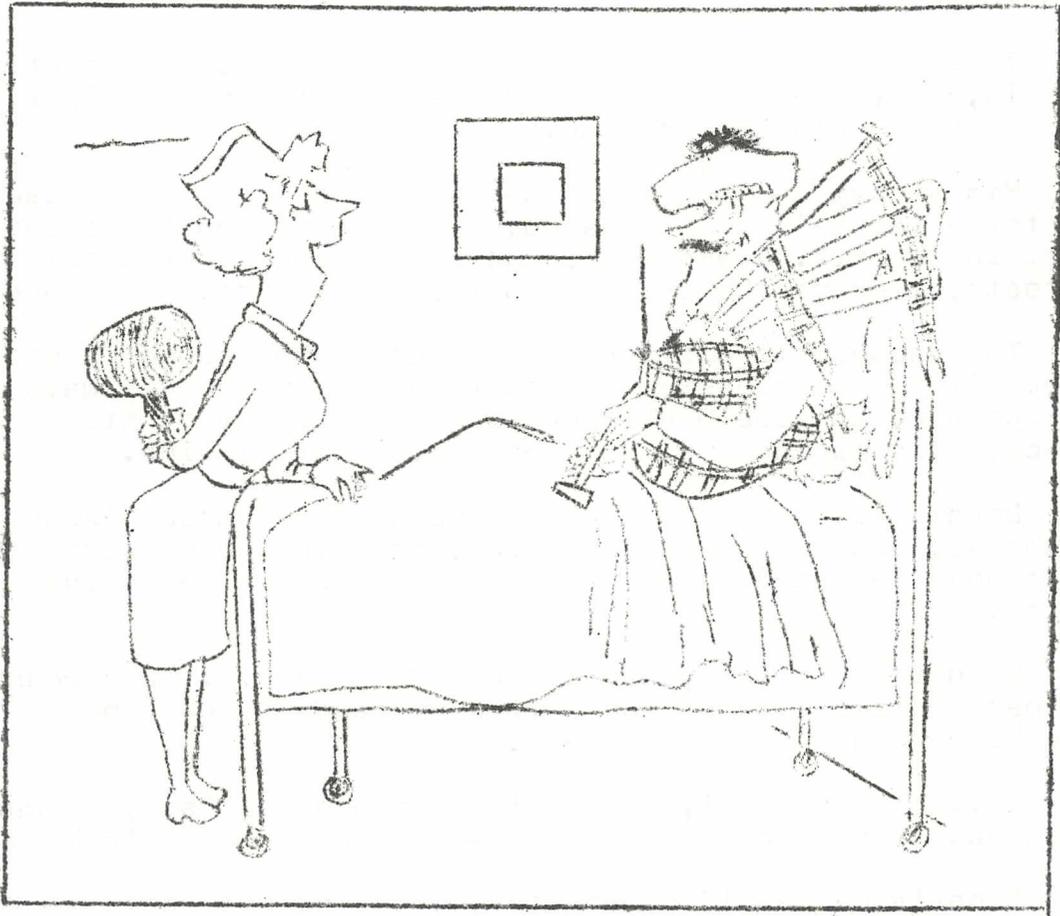
The North Vancouver Boys Band under David Wilson has unfortunately disbanded and most of these young pipers are now playing with the Seaforth Cadets.

Harold Senyk, formerly of Muirhead and Sons, is now playing with Triumph Street Pipe Band. New drummers are Susan Burgess and Gordon Beer.

The Vancouver Island Pipers under Jamie Troy are entering a miniature band and trios in the Triumph Street Contest and have plans for a Grade I band next year.

Playing with the Vancouver Ladies' now are Margaret Swanson, Cindy Chambers, and Pam Blenkin.

The newly formed Triumph Street Football Club is issuing forth a challenge to any other pipe band who thinks they can match the "mob" in soccer skills and supremacy. Phone wee Willie - 936-0924.



"Mr. McTavish, I have a request for you from a number of patients..."

DONALD MacPHERSON: GREATEST OF THEM ALL

Never in the history of piping has there been a man who has won so consistently, so regularly, so devastatingly as the fabulous, legendary Donald MacPherson.

Most pipers would be happy if they were considered good enough to play in a professional piping competition. Many, who play in such contests, would die content if they could win even one good prize - such as the gold medal at Inverness, or the open Piobaireachd (Pibroch) at Oban, or the Clasp at Inverness, or the first for Piobaireachd at the S.P.A. contest, or at the Uist and Barra, or at Cowal, or at Glenfinnan.

In 1954, Donald MacPherson won every one of these prizes. "Donald," says one of his contemporaries, "is not a piper. He is a prize-winning machine."

His story, in the piping sense, began in a fairly usual way for a lad raised in Glasgow. He appeared on the scene first in the S.P.A. amateur competitions and other local contests, winning the usual trophies - some more than once.

The MacDougall Gillies Trophy for Piobaireachd he won three times in succession - a feat which was in some ways appropriate, because Donald was taught entirely by his father, Iain MacPherson, who was a pupil of Gillies.

Donald also played in a pipe band, the famous Glasgow Shepherds, under Archie Macphedran, and piped alongside many other boys who were destined to make names for themselves in piping.

When the war came, Donald joined the R.A.F., was wounded (he has a disability of the left arm!) and at one time thought he would not pipe again.

While in hospital, unable to move his left arm, he was astounded to hear a radio broadcast of the Shepherd's band.

"That's my band!" he shouted, throwing both arms in the air. From then on his recovery was rapid.

In the competitions held immediately after the war, he competed as a professional for the first time. This was, of course, a strange period for piping.

No competitions had been held for seven years and so the list of competitors included many of the famous names, plus several players who had crossed the boundary from amateur to professional during this time.



Donald was one of the latter group, one of the half-dozen or so of the new pipers who took prizes -- albeit moderate ones -- in these open contests.

In 1948, however, Donald MacPherson burst alive like a bomb on the piping world. At the Argyllshire Gathering, he won the two Piobaireachd events in one day -- a feat achieved only rarely before and never since.

From then on, he was the dominant figure in Piobaireachd competitions. Oban, in particular, became his happy hunting ground and, with monotonous regularity, he accepted first prize for the open Piobaireachd there.

He won the Shirvan Cup outright with three victories. Its successor, the Kenneth Cup, was insured against being won three times, but it too went to permanently grace the MacPherson sideboard.

In all, Donald has won the open Piobaireachd at Oban 11 times in 17 attempts, with two seconds, three thirds and only once was not placed. A succession of memorable performances have gladdened hearts over the years -- "Queen Anne's Lament,"

the big "Nameless" tune, "MacDougall's Gathering", to name but a few.

At Inverness, Donald first appeared in 1949, when he was placed third in each of the Piobaireachd events. It took him until 1954 to win the gold medal there and, in fact, his record in the Clasp event by then was more impressive - two firsts, two seconds, and a third.

In 1954, he repeated the Oban feat by winning the two events in one day. To date he has won seven Clasps.

In 1957, a strange thing happened to piping. Donald MacPherson stopped competing and began to learn to play the piano - with a view to playing classical music in the form favoured by the rest of Europe.

For three years the piping contests saw him not. Then, in 1960, back he came as if he had never been away. Third in the open at Oban, first in the Clasp, first at Cowal.

Until 1966 it was business as before, but, by this time he was living in England and practically the only contests he competed in were the two major meetings.

Then the difficulties of finding time and place to practice - perhaps allied with the effects of isolation from the mainstream of piping - brought another break in his competitive career.

In 1967, 1968 and 1969, Donald stayed in the deep south and it began to seem as if the saga was ended. But in 1970, the word went out that he was coming back again for the two meetings and, sure enough, there he was.

Second at Oban and another Clasp at Inverness indicated that the efficiency was not impaired.

Although it is primarily with the great music that we associate Donald MacPherson, he is no slouch at the light stuff either. He has won all the events at both Oban and Inverness, the Masters' march, strathspey and reel twice at Oban and four times at Inverness, the Brymay Trophy for most points at Cowal four times, the trophy for most points at the Uist and Barra contest three times, and the most points at Braemar on the only occasion on which he played there.

His other prizes are too numerous to attempt to list fully. They include three wins of the Bratach Gorm in London out of five attempts, five firsts for Piobaireachd out of eight at Cowal and three out of five at Glenfinnan.

In June of last year, Donald moved back to Scotland to stay. Now that he has found the way back, we hope that he will continue to compete so that we may appreciate the immaculate fingering, the singing bagpipe and the graceful interpretations which we all enjoy so much.

In August of last year, he accepted a full-time post with The College of Piping, in charge of all testing of goods and responsible for day-time courses and general development.

There is no doubt that this is one of the greatest things which has happened to the College, and to piping, in recent years.

Seumas MacNeill,
Reprinted from the
Highlanders '72,
Star Reader Service

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The editors and staff wish to congratulate Robbie Collins and Heather MacInnes on their recent engagement.

Robbie is a member of the famous rearguard of Port Moody and Heather is a piper in the Vancouver Ladies'.

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Wish to sell your pipes? Please phone P/M Fred Brodie, 522-2151.

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Just a little reminder to our members that if they move, PLEASE, OH PLEASE tell us. The Newsletter is third class mail so it will not be forwarded to your new address.

So, if you move, please drop us a line.

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Lose a cross-belt? Please phone Donald Ross, 526-7905.

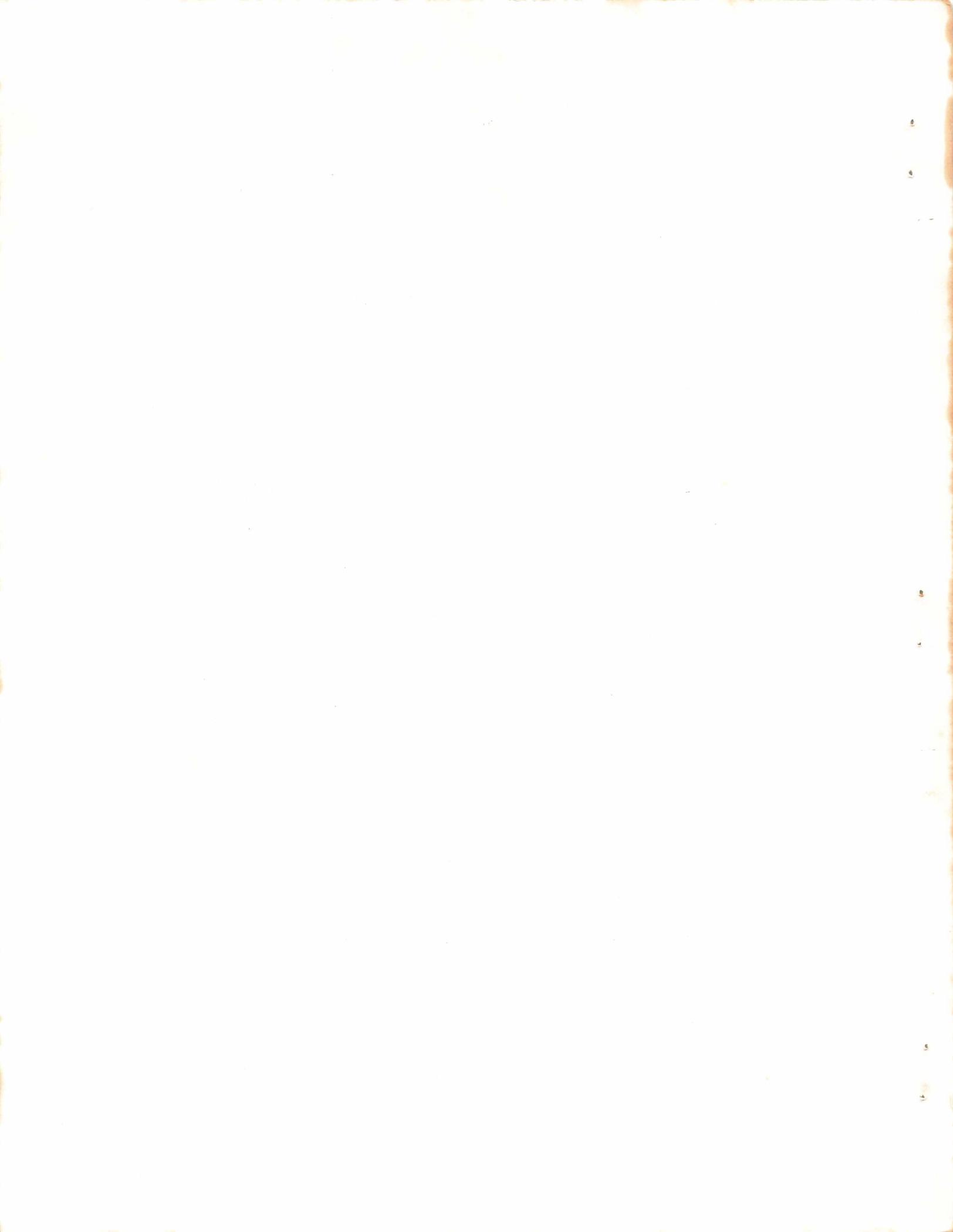
PUZZLE CORNER

CRISS X PUZZLE -- Based on Names of Fish (with a few added words related to fishing).

Words may be found vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. When a word is found, circle each letter of the word. Each new word must contain at least one not previously circled letter. Words bracketted are not included in the puzzle. When completed, four X's will remain uncircled.

Alewife	Mackerel
Angel	Margate
Amberjack	Marlin
Bigeye	Moray
Brown (Trout)	Mullet
Cat	Nurse (Shark)
Cero	Opah
Chinook	Opaleye
Cod	Pearl
Coho	Permit
Cow (Shark)	Piranha
Creel	Platy
Damsel	Porpoise
Dog	Pole
Dolphin	Puffer
Eulachon	Ray
Eagle	Red (Drum)
File	Rat
Flying	Reel
Frog	Rod
Gar	Salmon
Gold	Sardine
Goat	Sanddab
Gouramis	Saury
Grunt	Sargassum
Guppys	Shad
Hag	Smelt
Hamlet	Snook
Hawk	Sole
Herring	Stingray
Hook	Tigershark
Horn (Shark)	Tarpon
Kelp	Tautog
Ling (Cod)	Wahoo
Lung	Whale

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



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.....

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PIPING EXPERIENCE:

Mail your application: Mr. John MacLeod
1410 West 13th Avenue
Vancouver, B. C.

Closing date is November 11, 1972.

