

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



The official monthly publication of  
the British Columbia Pipers' Association

APRIL/MAY

NO. 131



B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT	Bill Lamont
VICE-PRESIDENT	David Wilson
SECRETARY	Ishabel Ross
TREASURER	Robert Gunn
Association Pipe Major	Seb Nellies

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EDITORS:	Colin Abel Angus MacPherson
STAFF:	Barb Morley Janice Taylor Judi Taylor

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APRIL/MAY, 1973

NO. 130

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LATE FLASH!

On behalf of the Association, we would like to extend our congratulations to Bill and Sharyn Elder on the birth of their son, Jamie William, on May 28, 1973. Bill, of course, is a Past President of the Association and presently is on the Board of Directors.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sirs,

I have attended the B. C. Pipers' Winter Piping School and I would like to thank John MacLeod and Hal Senyk for doing a fine job at the school. It was held in the Bandroom of the Seaforth Armouries between 9:00 and 12:00 each Saturday morning. At first it was thought that the school could be divided into two classes, a junior class for novice and juvenile pipers and a senior class for the more advanced pupils. But due to the lack of senior pipers and space for the two classes, the classes were merged.

The first few weeks of the school were spent on theory and maintenance of the pipes. As the school progressed some time was spent on reeds, but a greater time on writing music from memory. For the majority of the people, this task was a first and many odd reproductions of well-known tunes were made. But as time passed, with some hints from the instructors, the students became more aware of what they were writing and by the end of the school, most had mastered the art. Both instructors emphasized the great importance of writing music and told us we should keep on writing when the school finished.

About half way through the course, we switched over to pipes - in particular, tuning. Many people found it quite strange trying to tune their pipes with all the drones going. After the first attempt, a thorough explanation by John and Hal was given on why you shouldn't tune your pipes with some of the drones shut off.

By the end of the school, most of the pipers could tune their pipes quite well and I think that practically all the senior pipers on the course will go onto the boards this summer and "do-it-themselves". The school finished with a review of what we had gone over in the past 15 weeks and a small recital was given by John and Hal.

Speaking on behalf of all the students who attended the course, I can say that the school was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody. The only faults I found were lack of senior pipers, not enough room for the expected amount of students, and the time.

Before I end this letter, I would like to conclude with one last point. I think the many people who didn't attend the school had the wrong idea about it (even some teachers). John and Hal both stated at the very beginning of the course that the school wasn't a place for private or individual tutoring. The course was to be an aid to the private instructor and to the student who would have a better understanding of the instrument he plays. Again, thanks to John MacLeod and Hal Senyk for the time they put into a job well done.

Robbie MacNeil

Dear Sirs,

Thanks to P/M Ed Esson's article in the February issue of B. C. Pipers' Newsletter on Vancouver's original pipe bands, the following story ensues...

Third from the left in the back row of the picture stood J. Laurie. Knowing that we had no relatives in Vancouver at the time, I thought it would be fun to make inquiries of another Laurie family.

"Why, yes," said Mrs. Laurie, "the man you describe was my father-in-law. The old gentleman died seven years ago. He played the pipes all his life. He left Oban in his early years to sail the world on the Empress of Japan. While aboard ship, he bought his pipes in Buenos Aires. Arriving in Vancouver, he decided this was where he wanted to settle so went back to Scotland for a bride, and they made Vancouver their home. As a matter of fact, his pipes are in the basement under the stairs!"

I asked if it would be possible to see them and if they were for sale. The answer to both questions was yes. To make a very exciting story short, the pipes will be put into use again with both the Laurie families being made happy. Ours to have a set of pipes with a grand history to them and theirs to have the pipes put into use by a Laurie, even if no relative.

It does make one wonder how many sets of pipes are tucked away under basement steps or perhaps in attics in this city alone.

Mrs. B. Laurie

Dear Sirs,

Ishabel Ross dropped in to the "Scotch Shop" and enrolled me as an Associate Member and, having received from Ishabel the March edition of the Newsletter, which I promptly read from cover to cover, I hasten to congratulate not only the Editors but all who share in its production.

The dedication to the Association is very apparent and I am sure the satisfaction of doing the job well must be very rewarding to the entire team.

"Newsletter". If the March edition is representative of a normal issue, I think you can safely rename it B. C. Pipers' Magazine right now!

Tom Brown,  
"The Scotch Shop"

Dear Sirs,

In the March issue of the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter, I read with great interest an article by Seton Gordon - reprinted from the Scots Magazine. The title of the article was "Great Pipers - Great Music", and the description of the late John MacDonald, M.B.E., of Inverness, particularly interested me.

My teacher, the late Roddie Campbell, was very friendly with John MacDonald, and when the latter visited Roddie during World War I, I met him for the first time. He was, like Roddie, very quiet and gentlemanly, and the only thing about his appearance which impressed me (a boy of eleven) was the prominence of his eyes.

When I started competing at the big games, I became very friendly with John MacDonald, and I found him to be not only a superb all-round Piper, but a real gentleman. You can imagine how I felt in 1934 when, at the Argyllshire Gathering, the result of the Open Piobaireachd competition was - 1st. M.R. MacPherson; 2nd. John Wilson; 3rd. John MacDonald, Inverness.

At Inverness in 1936, John MacDonald stated after the Clasp competition finished, that the standard of playing was the highest he could remember. He didn't play that day. Who won 1st prize? Some fellow from Edinburgh by the name of John Wilson who played "The King's Taxes". That was on a Saturday. The following Tuesday at the Lochaber Gathering, Ft. William with John MacDonald as one of the Piping judges, 1st prize for Piobaireachd was won by John Wilson who played the "Lament for Partrick Og MacCrimmon". The next day at Isle Ornsay, Skye, John Wilson won 2nd prize for Piobaireachd with the "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee". The next day at Portree, Skye, John Wilson won 1st for Piobaireachd with "Marion's Wailing". John MacDonald acted as a steward that day and he paid me a great compliment. When the result of the Piobaireachd competition came over the P.A. system, I was standing with a group of pipers and, after the usual congratulations and handshakes, John MacDonald said to me - "If you keep this up, Wilson, we'll have to handicap you in some way". I knew he was only joking, but the idea of handicapping me seemed so ludicrous that I couldn't help replying - "Don't you think I'm handicapped enough?" John saw right away that he had made a faux pas and quickly said, "Oh, I was only joking".

I had a great season that year. I attended twenty-six games and won 70 prizes out of 72 events. I had eight firsts for Piobaireachd, eight firsts for Marches, sixteen firsts for Strathspey & Reel, one first for March, Strathspey & Reel, and two firsts for Jigs.

The Piobaireachd competition at Braemar had acquired a rather unsavory reputation among the professional pipers, but in 1937 John MacDonald was engaged as one of the piping judges. When the last player finished his Piobaireachd, the judges made their decision and then rose and strolled up the slope to where the pipers were standing. John MacDonald said in his blunt way - "Well, you were first, Wilson". I blurted out - "Good God! I must have played extraordinarily well". "Yes," said John, giving me a keen look, "you did play well". I think he knew the whole story and sensed the electricity which seemed to fill the air. P/M Matheson took me by the arm and led me away from the others and said, "Look, John, I know how you feel and how we all feel, but John MacDonald has nothing to do with it, I'm certain". "I know that", I replied, "but I got such a surprise I just couldn't help myself."

After World War II, I spent a few weeks with my sister who lived in Forres, Morayshire. Forres isn't far from Inverness, so I visited John MacDonald. He was pleased to see me and we had lots to talk about. He invited me back, and on subsequent visits he brought out practice chanters and we'd go over tune after tune. I think I learned more during those few visits than some of his so-called pupils did in all the years they claim to have had with him.

One of my favourite walks in Forres was round the Cluny hill, but little did I think as I passed by the cemetery that one day, John MacDonald, the King of Pipers, would be laid to rest there.

John Wilson

Dear Sirs,

A question has come to me via a circuitous route, concerning a Rule in Section X, paragraph E, of our Rules governing Pipe Band competition. This paragraph relates to dress.

May I take the opportunity of using the media of the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter to clarify this Rule by referring to the sentence: "Bands must appear in uniform and the uniforms of the individual members must be the same". The young bands who have not been able to equip their members with matching uniforms, due to costs, are of the opinion that they would be disqualified from competing at the Coeur D'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo. We recognize that most pipe bands have been unable, in their early organization periods to dress in like uniforms. We will allow these bands to appear in kilts of different tartans, but we do expect them to appear in like bonnets, sporrans, hose, shirts and ties (shirts are to



be of the same style and colour, i.e. all short sleeves or all long sleeves, not a combination of short, long, or rolled up sleeves) or, if coats, jackets or doublets are worn, they must be of the same colour and style. We do not consider these requirements to be excessive or out of line.

Our Rules and entry forms will be in the mail the first week in June to all Pipe Bands and individuals who are on our mailing list. Anyone wishing further information, please write to Alvin Halvorson, P.O. Box 8032 Manito Station, Spokane, Washington 99203, as this is your source of information concerning the activities of the Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo which is scheduled for July 28, 1973.

Alvin Halvorson,  
Executive Secretary,  
Coeur d'Alene Scottish  
Festival and Tattoo.

Dear Sirs,

Just a wee note to remind everyone that the Coeur d'Alene piping school is fast approaching, and to encourage as many as possible to attend either or both schools this year.

I have attended for two years now and have found the school most profitable and rewarding on both occasions. The standard of tuition is second to none, and the atmosphere of enthusiasm about the school is worth the trip itself. The classes run 7 to 8 hours a day, and evenings are taken up with recitals, lectures, practising, chasing teachers up for extra help, or simply an occasional swim after a hard day's playing.

The entire school is extremely well organized and I have great confidence in the teaching of P/M Bob Hardie and Andrew Wright. I have benefited greatly from attending the school, as I think everybody has who has been there.

I highly recommend the school for all pipers in the area and hope to be there to take part myself again this year.

Hal Senyk

EDITORIAL

Summer games are upon us again - the same oval track, the same grandstands, the same stewards, the same competitors, and the same spectators. If it wasn't for the date on the calendar, one would think that it was a re-run of the week before. We are, of course, referring to the New Westminster, Bellingham, Vancouver, Nanaimo.....circuit.

It is a small wonder that competitors travel hundreds of miles to Banff, Coeur d'Alene, and Santa Rosa. One can only agree that it is to escape the stigma of our local Highland Games.

Is it not time, therefore, that Vancouver, the centre of piping on the West Coast, incorporated some kind of change in the monotonous routine of Highland Games in this area?

Why don't we take, for example, the small town spirit of Trail, the informal picnic-type atmosphere of Port Coquitlam, and the relaxed, park-like setting in Coeur d'Alene, and apply them to one of our Games? Of the sites that are used at the moment, Stanley Park seems the most obvious. However, it has been established that Vancouver bands have the urge to travel so what we are faced with are the following:

- (a) proximity to Vancouver without taking anything away from the "trip" atmosphere
- (b) small community
- (c) picnic-type atmosphere, i.e. Park
- (d) facilities for ceilidh and/or tattoo
- (e) camping, boating, swimming, etc.

Doesn't a weekend trip to the Gulf Islands or Harrison Hot Springs sound a lot better than an eight hour drive to Coeur d'Alene or an afternoon in the sun at Empire Stadium?

Harrison Hot Springs, for instance, has all the facilities for a weekend trip yet is within easy reach for the majority of competitors. One of the Gulf Islands would also be an ideal setting although ferries may pose a problem.

We're not advocating the demise of our local games because, in spite of all our criticisms, we still enjoy the familiar faces, etc. but why can't Vancouver, with all its experience and resources, hold one gathering that would put an end to all these annoying editorials?

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Bi-Monthlies

April 13th - Judge - John MacDonald

Juvenile March - 16 out of 21 competitors

1. Bruce McIntosh
2. Shelley MacLean
3. Ronald Tait
4. Asheley Stewart
5. Grant Wilkie

Amateur March - 7 out of 14 competitors

1. Jack Lee
2. Cindy Butterfield
3. Stewart Reid

May 18th - Judge - David Wilson

Novice II March - 16 out of 21

1. Chris Taggart
2. Christine Waddell
3. Ian Putz

Junior Piobaireachd - 9 out of 10

1. Brian Carse
2. Blake Keen
3. Robbie McNeil

Vancouver Island Piper's Club

The March meeting of the Vancouver Island Piper's Club was held March 10, 1973 in the Sergeant's Mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment, at the Bay Street Armouries. The meeting was officially opened by Jamie Troy, Hal Senyk, Steve Geddes, Warren Fells, Pete Jansen, Jack Lee, and Gail Dawson playing the Brown Haired Maiden, Because He was a Bonny Lad, and the High Road to Linton.

Our Pupil of the Month, Gail Dawson of Vancouver, played a very nice selection for us including the Hills of Alva, Glasgow Police Pipers, Blue Bells, and the Piper's Polka. She will be an addition to the stiff female competition that the boys will be faced with this summer.

Next on the program we heard a number of original new compositions. All of these were first rate and the audience had a tough time awarding the Tinker Cup for the most pleasing composition.

Jamie Troy played the Anniversary Hornpipe (a real finger bender) composed by twelve year old Bruce Gandy.

Jack Lee played his own 2/4 competition March.

Jamie Troy -- Patrick Troy -- Jig  
-- Nameless -- Slow Air

Colin Magee -- Sons of Scotland -- March  
-- Willie Magee -- Jig

Pete Jansen -- Nameless -- Slow Air

Harry Mumford -- Nameless -- Slow Air  
-- Nameless -- March

After some deliberation, the audience awarded Colin Magee the Tinker Cup for his two excellent compositions noted above.

Hal Senyk topped the program off with a very musical rendition of MacCrimmons Sweetheart on a fine sounding pipe.

The last meeting of the V.I.P. Club was held on April 7. The meeting was chaired by the Vice President, Harry Mumford. The attendance has been climbing steadily this year and at the last monthly meeting, over 50 people enjoyed a night of piping entertainment.

First on the program, Pupil of the Month, Bruce Gandy, gave us a real earfull of music playing Donald MacLeans Farewell to Oban, Inverary Castle, and the Reel Traditional. He is certainly a credit to his teacher, Jamie Troy, and will be one to watch for this summer.

Guest speaker, Mr. Len Watling brought along a Video Tape machine and replayed some of the ceremonial events that have taken place at Royal Roads Military College (where Mr. Watling is a photographer) in the past year. A number of military bands including the Pipes & Drums of the Canadian Scottish Regiment were included on the tape. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Watling for the effort that he put into this presentation.

Guest Player, Steve Geddes played a medley set that he has been competing very successfully with in the Professional Knockout competitions run by the B.C. Pipers' Association. As usual, Steve played a very musical selection composed of Marches, Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs, and Hornpipes on a fine pipe.

To end the program proper, Byron Barnard played the Piobaireachd, "Salute on the Birth of Rory Mor MacLeod". Impromptu piping follows.

The V.I.P. Club is pleased to announce that we will be host to P/M D. MacLeod who will give a recital on September 8, 1973, at the Bay Street Armories and will also be present at the first fall meeting of the club on September 9, 1973. Be sure to keep these dates in mind because you won't want to miss this master player.

Byron Barnard,  
Secretary.

### Trail Highland Games

The 9th annual Trail Caledonian Society Highland Games were held in the Trail Memorial Arena on May 19th and 20th.

Against our better judgment, we decided to take the chance and revisit the scene for the cause of last year's ulcers.

Much to our joy, there was a vast improvement in most phases of the gathering. However, there are a few recommendations we would like to offer.

1. The re-scheduling of the pipe band contest to the Saturday night. Most of the crowd attend the Tattoo on the Saturday night, yet there are only a few hardy souls present on the Sunday afternoon to listen to the band contest.
2. Stepping up the result system.
3. Changing the piping categories from age groups to Juvenile, Junior, and Senior.

Trail has all the ingredients for fine games, fantastic support, small town spirit, good prize money and a rip-roarin' ceilidh to round the competitions off.

A very pleasant weekend.

### RESULTS OF 9th TRAIL GAMES

Novice March - Under 16 Years      Novice March - Over 19

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Valerie Lynn Pederson | 2. Brian Farnsworth |
| 2. Christine Waddell     |                     |
| 3. Roderick Smythe       |                     |

March - Under 16

1. Jack Lee
2. Gordon Lyle
3. Kelly Todd
4. John E. Thomas

Strathspey & Reel - Under 16

1. Jack Lee
2. Bruce MacIntosh
3. John Thomas
4. Kelly Todd

March - 16 to 19

1. Terry Lee
2. Jean Laurie
3. Candace Parker  
Ember Stewart

Strathspey & Reel - 16 to 19

1. Terry Lee
2. Stewart Reid
3. Judi Taylor

March - Over 19

1. Angus MacPherson
2. Thomas McKee
3. Ian Paterson

Strathspey & Reel - Over 19

1. Angus MacPherson
2. Ian Paterson

Pipers' Quartette (Amateur)

1. Angus Scott Pipe Band
2. Burnaby Ladies A #2
3. Kiwanis Boys #2

Professional March

1. Harald Senyk
2. Therese McErlean
3. Bill Thomas

Professional Strathspey & Reel Professional Jigs

1. Therese McErlean
2. James Hamilton
3. Harald Senyk

1. Therese McErlean
2. Harald Senyk
3. Bill Thomas

Pipe Band Competitions - Class I

1. Triumph Street Pipe Band - Vancouver
2. MacBain Scottish Pipe Band - Calgary

Class II

1. Burnaby 'A' Ladies Pipe Band
2. Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band

Class III

1. Burnaby 'B' Ladies Pipe Band
2. Angus Scott Pipe Band

Best Drum Section

Triumph Street Pipe Band

Novice Drumming - March  
- 10 to 19

1. Robyn Palmer
2. Paula Tremaine
3. Allison McCarlie

March, Strathspey & Reel  
- Under 16

1. Gordon Anderson
2. Bruce Roane
3. David J. Scott

March, Strathspey & Reel  
- 16 to 19

1. Sheila Roane
2. Bobby Walters

Professional

1. Jack Gallaher
2. Willie McErlean
3. Keith Manifold

### General Meeting and Knockout

A General Meeting and Knockout competition was held on April 6 at the Steelworkers' Hall, with Jim Troy and Steve Geddes being the competitors. Steve, the eventual winner, played first on a fine-sounding pipe. He opened with some 4/4 marches and continued with some slow airs, jigs, and hornpipes, including Donald MacLean, the Top of Craigvenow, and Jim Tweedie's Sealegs. Jim played second, in fine style, but had a bit of trouble with his pipes. His tunes included Dr. MacInnes' Fancy and the Jig the Old Woman's Dance. The judges for the evening were Alec Young, Ruaridh MacDonald and John A. MacLeod.

Following the Knockout was an Amateur March competition which included Alison Palmer, Cindy Butterfield, Alan MacDougall, Jack Lee and Angus MacPherson. Jack Lee was the winner, with an excellent rendition of an unnamed tune of his own composition. The judge was Hal Senyk.

Mr. MacVicar won the raffle, and everyone was thrown out when the bar closed.

### The 41st Annual Gathering

On April 27 and 28, our Annual Meet was held in its usual successful manner.

An innovation at this year's Gathering was the introduction of a bar. This proved highly successful and profitable. The Newsletter ran another productive booth gaining ten new members.

The miniature band competition produced an all time high calibre of music. This year the event was divided into junior and senior, making it a little fairer for the younger bands. The medley in the senior class presented some fine entertainment for the audience. It also marked the first appearance of the Northwest Pipes and Drums from Seattle. An interesting point about this band is that their Pipe Major, Cameron Wylie, made their chanters.

John McDougall was this year's guest adjudicator and he addresses a few remarks to the membership as follows:

Dear Friends,

After looking forward to my Vancouver trip for months, it hardly seems possible that the fortnight should have gone so quickly. After having such a marvellous time it's not easy going back to "Auld clothes and porridge".

I was really amazed at the number of pipers and also the enthusiasm shown by them and all members of your society. I little realized when I sat down to judge just what a marathon it was to be, but I could stand an awful lot of that kind of work, especially when it's all kept flowing so smoothly by your most efficient stewards and officials. Too often a competition with a big entry like this can turn into a complete shambles if not properly run.

For Friday's events I must say that I was pleased that certain competitions had been run down to the short leet stage as the original entries must have been huge. I was very impressed with the quality of the instruments and the clean fingerwork in the Junior competitions. Some competitors tackled tunes which were just too stiff for them. It is always better to play a simple tune well than to tackle one which is beyond their ability. In strathspey playing a stronger first beat in each bar would have helped most performances. The tempo of reels was on the fast side. If these tunes are rushed, they become a finger exercise, and a lot of their music is lost.

As soon as I sat down on Saturday, your wonderful display of trophies caught my eye. What an impressive sight they made. I have never seen a more beautiful trophy than the MacCrimmon Memorial Trophy. The workmanship was fantastic; what an honour to have it on your sideboard.

I thought the girls played very well in the Juvenile section and more than held their own with the boys. The Amateur events were dominated by the Lee brothers. They are indeed both very talented players and certainly have the Professional touch all through their playing.

The top performance of the day must surely have been James McColl's rendering of "MacDougall's Gathering". On an immaculate pipe, he gave a superb performance from start to finish, beautifully phrased ground and excellent torluath and crunluath variations. This tune would have gained Jimmy a prize anywhere. He maintained his form all through the other events and was a worthy winner of the Wm. Campbell Memorial Trophy. With so many good players in the Professional events, I think it would be a good idea to ask each player to submit three tunes for each competition. I think this is of great benefit to the competitor and to the competition in general.



I was disappointed that a selection of errors should spoil the Jig competition and make it difficult to choose four prizewinners.

I sensed a stirring in the audience when the Quartettes and Miniature bands started. These groups were all worthy of the interest shown as they played some excellent selections. The Vancouver Police Quartette was tip top; very well set up and maintaining a beautiful tempo throughout.

The same can be said of the City of Port Moody who gave a very entertaining selection of tunes. This competition made a perfect finish to a long but very enjoyable day.

No letter about my stay in B.C. could be complete without mentioning the wonderful scenery around Vancouver and the beauty of the city itself. My visits to the Grouse Nest and Stanley Park were unforgettable.

I must thank all members of the B.C. Pipers' Association for their kindness to me and for receiving me as a life member of your Association. May I say a special "thank you" to my hosts, Donald and Ishabel Ross, who looked after me so well. Also Bill Lamont, Duncan MacInnes, John MacDonald and Catherine and Ruairidh, and the many others who made me so welcome in their homes.

Thank you B.C. Pipers for a truly memorable trip.

Yours sincerely,

John McDougall.

#### RESULTS - ANNUAL GATHERING

##### Junior Piobaireachd

1. Brian Carse
2. Blake Keen
3. James Wright
4. Jill Laurie

##### Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. Brian Carse
2. Blake Keen
3. Gail Dawson
4. James Wright

##### Junior Marches

1. Gail Dawson
2. Jill Laurie
3. Brian Carse
4. Colin MacKenzie

##### Juvenile Marches

1. Duncan Fraser
2. Aileen Arnott
3. Philip Gordon
4. Graham Davidson

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel

1. Aileen Arnott
2. Duncan Fraser
3. Shelley MacLean
4. Bruce McIntosh

Novice March

1. Judy Carl
2. Linda Williams
3. Chris Taggart
4. Robert Fraser

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Jack Lee
2. Terry Lee
3. Cindy Butterfield
4. Jocelyn Lange

Amateur Marches

1. Jack Lee
2. Terry Lee
3. Cindy Butterfield
4. Angus MacPherson

Amateur Strathspey & Reel

1. Terry Lee
2. Jack Lee
3. Rene Cussons
4. Judi Taylor

Professional Marches

1. James McColl
2. Hal Senyk
3. Jamie Troy
4. John A. MacLeod

Professional Strath. & Reel

1. Therese McErlean
2. James McColl
3. Hal Senyk
4. Donald MacInnes

Professional Jigs

1. John A. MacLeod
2. James McColl
3. Hal Senyk
4. Therese McErlean

Pipers, Over 60 Years Old

1. Duncan Watson
2. Seb Nellies

Roderick MacLeod Memorial Trophy  
- most promising piper

Stuart Reid

Junior Quartettes

1. City of Victoria
2. Vancouver Ladies #1

Junior Miniature Bands

1. Burnaby Ladies
2. Vancouver Kiwanis

Drumming

Vancouver Kiwanis

Senior Quartettes

1. Vancouver Police
2. Triumph Street

Senior Miniature Bands

1. City of Port Moody
2. City of Victoria

Drumming

City of Port Moody

### Professional Piobaireachd Competition

The winner of this year's professional piobaireachd was James McColl, Long Beach. As well as the money prize, Jimmy also won the MacCrimmon Cairn.

Playing on a melodious and well-balanced pipe, James McColl gave an expert and polished rendering of the vigorous and compelling mustering tune, "The MacDougall's Gathering". Of special merit were the performances of John A. MacLeod with the "Battle of Auldearn" and Harald Senyk who played "In Praise of Morag". They gained 2nd and 3rd place respectively. The playing of both these young players shows them to be well equipped to compete at any of our major competitions at home.

The features of James McColl's rendering which would weigh in his favour in carrying off the coveted Borreraig Cairn must include the imperative call of his double echoes, so dominant in this tune. In the second and third lines of the ground, the smooth glide from the F and high A incorporated the embellishments giving a unique musical flavour.

The Taorluath movement was strong and regular with a subtle, restful contrast brought out in the timing of the three notes ending the phrase.

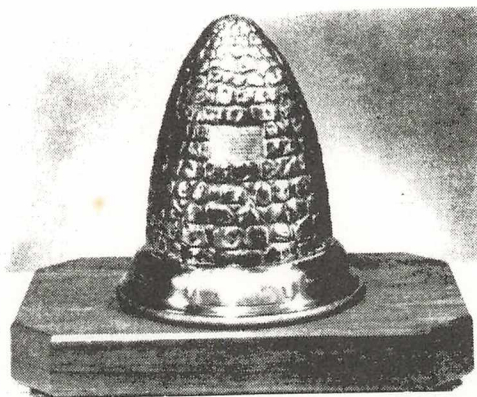
The strong grip sequence in the third lines could have been a real clash of swords. The change of rhythm in the last three bars of the Taorluath and Crunluath was so efficiently handled that there was no break in the musical flow.

The rippling flow of the Crunluath was reminiscent of the maestro of all time piping - John MacDonald, O.B.E. of Inverness.

I was much impressed by the standard of playing in all grades of the competition. The piping instructors are to be complimented on a fine achievement. There is evidence of careful and competent teaching. The youngsters show tremendous enthusiasm. The stimulus and encouragement provided by the B.C. Pipers' Association contributes largely to the upsurge in piping. Surrounding the magnificent Borreraig Cairn for professional piobaireachd were a magnificent collection of prize trophies, surpassing any display of prizes that I have ever seen.

N. A. Macdonald





#### The Memorial Cairn of the MacCrimmons

The mere mention of the name "MacCrimmon" brings to mind instinctively Bagpipes, Piping, and Piobaireachd.

The trophy is a miniature representation of a stone cairn monument in silver, and the inscription on the plaque reveals that it was erected about fifteen years ago at "Borreraig Skye", in memory of the MacCrimmon Pipers, those great masters of the Piobaireachd Art.

At the time of the erection of this cairn in Scotland, members of the British Columbia Pipers' Association in Vancouver decided to have something with which to show reverence to the memory of men prominent in the musical art of piping.

The suggestion of Pipe Major Ed. Esson, at that time Secretary of the Association, to construct a miniature of the memorial cairn, in silver, to be competed for in the Piobaireachd Competition, was received with enthusiasm and soon O. B. Allan, Jewellers, produced this beautiful trophy, which was won for the first time at the Annual Piping Competition in November, 1933, by Pipe Major Alex. Johnson, Vancouver Police Pipe Band.



### Recital and Lectures

As well as his arduous task of adjudicating at the Annual Gathering, John McDougall was also confronted with giving a recital and a series of lectures.

A good turnout witnessed John's first appearance in Vancouver at his recital in the Scottish Auditorium. He treated the audience with two fine selections of "little" music and two piobaireachds. Both his piobaireachds were introduced by Neil Angus Macdonald, a great authority on the subject.

Selections were given by Hal Senyk, Angus MacPherson, Steve Geddes, and Terry Lee at the intermission.

### Lectures

On the Tuesday and Thursday following the Annual Gathering, John McDougall had planned to analyze the competitions. However, he was very disappointed in the lack of younger pipers present.

The remainder of the evening was taken up with some fine playing by John.

The Thursday evening was devoted to piobaireachd. It was disappointing that there wasn't a greater turnout to benefit from the evening's format.

### Annual Dinner Dance and Knockout Final

The Annual Dinner Dance was held in fine style on May 5, at the Flame Supper Club.

After a delicious meal, those present feasted themselves on some fine piping. Steve Geddes played first and turned in a first-class performance. Bruce Topp followed and played very well despite going off a tune. The judges, Jimmy MacMillan, Malcolm Nicholson, and John MacDonald, awarded the prize to Steve who received a cheque for \$100. Bruce received \$50 for runner-up.

The rest of the evening commenced with the "Gay Gordons" and, spiced with merry-making and piping, marked a fitting farewell for John McDougall.

"Now that the Annual Dinner and the Annual Gathering are successfully over for another year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who made my job as co-ordinator of the two events an easy one.

Without the help and cooperation of so many of the members, too numerous to name, who work behind the scenes as well as the local judges, our dinner and Gathering would not be possible.

The Association is truly indebted to all who so willingly gave of their time and energy."

Donald Ross

### Port Coquitlam Pipe Band Contest

The City of Port Coquitlam celebrated its Diamond Jubilee by sponsoring a Pipe Band Competition. Under the auspices of the W.P.B.A., the competition was held at McLean Park on Sunday, May 13. With glorious weather, the contest got under way at 2:00 p.m. in a fair-type atmosphere. Admission was free to spectators, yet \$1,000 was offered for prize money.

#### RESULTS

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Grade I         | 1. Triumph Street       |
|                 | 2. City of Victoria     |
|                 | 3. Vancouver Ladies     |
| Grade II        | 1. Richmond Senior Boys |
|                 | 2. Legion 83            |
| Juvenile        | 1. Kiwanis              |
|                 | 2. Burnaby Ladies #1    |
| Novice Juvenile | 1. Burnaby Ladies #2    |
|                 | 2. Richmond Junior      |

The Vancouver Ladies' were named the best senior band and the Kiwanis Boys, the best Junior band in the parade held on the Saturday.



NEXT MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

The Spokane Piobaireachd Society

The Spokane Piobaireachd Society and the North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho will, because of the great number of applications already on file, hold two Summer Piping Schools.

July 2 through July 14  
July 16 through July 28

The principal instructors will be P/M R. G. Hardie and Andrew Wright.

Five college credits will be offered in Applied Music. THESE CREDITS ARE TRANSFERABLE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Tuition Costs

\$75.00 for each two weeks of school  
\$140.00 for the entire period  
\$12.00 credit on file for students of the class of '72  
\$11.00 per week for Dorm accommodation. Where there are three to a room, the cost will be reduced to \$7.50 per week per person.

Food at college prices will be available six days per week.

For application forms and dormitory space, write or phone without delay to:

John McEwing  
W. 3309 Dalke Ave.,  
Spokane, Washington  
Phone: FA8-7920

Vancouver Police Pipe Band

The Vancouver Police Pipe Band is holding a "SUMMER DANCE" on Friday, June 29, 1973. The dance is to be held at St. Francis de Sales, School Auditorium, 6656 Balmoral Street, Burnaby 1, B.C. (Right behind the Gai Paree).

The dance, shall we say, is to be our "Come to Hawaii Dance" as the Police Pipe Band is entered in Band Competition, in the Waimea Highland Games, October 5 and 6 on the Island of Hawaii.

We are hoping that the dance is a success as the proceeds, if any, will be used to assist with expenses.

Hoping to see all at our dance for a good night of fun and dancing.

Bar opens at 8:00 p.m. (Bar service only)

Dancing 9:00 p.m. to ??????????????

Live Band - GOOD MUSIC

Selections by the Police Pipe Band

Contact: 1. Duncan MacInnes 434-4616  
2. Donald MacInnes 291-8586  
3. Ian Millman 435-9138  
4. John Gray 254-5664

or any Band Member for your tickets.

Duncan MacInnes

Ottawa Highland Games - July 1, Lansdowne Park

The Piobaireachd Society has sanctioned a Gold Medal for the playing of Ceol Mor in Canada. There will be an open piobaireachd competition in which each competitor must submit three tunes. If the winning performance is not up to gold medal standards, then the piper will be awarded first place, but not the gold medal.

The Committee has set up this system, not to deny a player of the medal, but to withhold the award from a mediocre performance. A judge from the Piobaireachd Society will always be on the panel and it is hoped that the gold medal, when awarded, will be a medal won for a truly fine performance.

The panel of six piping judges for the Games will be: Seumas MacNeill, Ian McFadyen, Angus McLellan, John Wilson, Iain McLeod, and John A. MacLellan. The drumming judges will be D/M Alex Duthart, D/M John Cronin, and Gary Allan.

For further information, please contact:

Donald Ross - 526-7905

Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo

The Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo, which is under the Sponsorship of the Saint Andrews Society of the Inland Empire, wishes to announce the set dates for their fifteenth annual "Tattoo", which is traditionally set for the last week end in the month of July. The set dates for 1973 are, therefore, Saturday, July 28 for the annual competitive events which include the Novice, Amateur and Professional individual competitions in both Piping and Drumming classes. This will be followed by the Pipe Band competition in the evening.

As in the past, competitors in the professional Piobaireachd class must submit two Piobaireachds, one (or both) of which must be of the following list:

1. The Fingerlock
2. MacLeods Short Tune
3. The Desperate Battle
4. Gathering of the MacFarlanes
5. Battle of Waternish
6. The Little Spree
7. MacCrimmons Sweetheart
8. The Bells of Perth
9. Lament for the Viscount of Dundee
10. Praise of Marion.

The competitors in the professional March division will be required to submit two tunes and as a tribute to the late Neil Sutherland, one composed by Neil Sutherland and one of their own choosing.

In the professional division of Strathspey & Reel, the competitors will be required to submit two sets of their own choosing.

A brochure and entry form will be mailed at a later date to all past contestants and Pipe Band Managers. We ask that you please read the information and rules contained therein with special note to the requirements concerning Pipe Bands and Pipe Band competition.

The Annual Scottish Picnic will be held in the Coeur d'Alene City Park on Sunday, July 29, and all visitors are cordially invited to attend.

Alvin Halvorson,  
Secretary.

Reports are that preparations are well under way for the bigger and better than ever, Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo. Chairman Jack Graham of Spokane anticipates a record entry of competitors from the area pipe bands and individual competitors.

One of the most attractive features of the Coeur d'Alene Tattoo is the high caliber of the piping and drumming judges. In the past, men such as Pipe Major John Wilson of Toronto who has himself won all of the principal piping awards at Oban and Inverness, Scotland; Andrew Wright of Paisley, Scotland, a member of the famed Red Hackle Pipe Band; Pipe Major Robert G. Hardie of the Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band and a winner of most of the major solo piping events including the Caledonia Society of London's Gold Medal in 1947. We are sorry to announce that Drum Major George Pryde will be unable to judge at Coeur d'Alene this summer due to prior commitments. His successor has as yet not been selected.

Individual competitive piping and drumming events will commence at 8:00a.m. Saturday, July 28, in the Coeur d'Alene City Park and culminate in the spectacular Tattoo Saturday evening.

Francoise Scott,  
Publicity Director,  
Coeur d'Alene Scottish  
Festival and Tattoo.

### Seattle Scottish Highland Games

The 27th International Seattle Scottish Highland Games will be held this year on August 4th at Fort Lewis, just south of Tacoma, by the kind permission of the Commanding Officer, United States Army 9th Infantry Division.

Accommodation will be available on the base to participating band members and adult contestants at a nominal cost of 50¢ per person per night. Unfortunately, this privilege cannot include other family members. However, excellent motels are available in Tacoma, and close to Fort Lewis.

Food will also be available for those staying on base at around \$2.00 per person per day for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Free transportation will also be provided on base between living quarters and the Stadium.

All participating Pipe Bands in this year's Games will be required to play the 5-7 minute medley.

We are hopeful that we can also offer appreciably higher prize money awards to winning bands than in previous years. As our plans are firmed up, we will be keeping everyone informed through the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter.

Bill Ross,  
Chairman-Piping Committee,  
Seattle Scottish Highland Games.

SUMMER GAMES DATES

June 9	New Westminster
June 23	Bellingham & Legion
June 30	Victoria
July 7	B.C. Highland
July 14	Nanaimo
July 21	Portland
August 4	Seattle

Glentruim Piping School

Once again we are preparing for our Annual two week Glentruim Piping School.

For the past two years, Nelson's Own Kootenay Kiltie Pipe Band Association have sponsored the Glentruim Piping School, which is held at Notre Dame University of Nelson.

Each year we have invited Pipe Major Donald MacLeod of Glasgow, formerly of Stornoway and Fort George, Scotland, a world-renowned pipe major, to act as principal of our school.

To assist him we are fortunate to have Angus MacLeod of Vancouver again this year, and Pipe Major Edmund Esson, M.B.E., also of Vancouver. All three of these men are ex-Seaforths and excellent instructors and judges.

Originally our school was started in an experimental way, as a Centennial Project, and has now become very firmly established. Glentruim Piping School is the only one of its kind in British Columbia, and the only all-practical school in Canada.

The name Glentruim (pronounced Glentrime) was suggested by Donald MacLeod, as it was the home of John MacDonald, a famous piper who traces his tutorship back to the MacCrimmons of Skye, the hereditary pipers to the Clan MacLeod. John MacDonald instructed Pipe Major MacLeod in Inverness, Scotland.

Last year, two of our former pupils, Allan MacLeod of Proctor and Alan Walters of Calgary, journeyed to Scotland and competed in the Cowal Gathering. MacLeod took first in Amateur Piobaireachd and Walters placed third in the same event. Donald MacPherson, writing in the Piping Times, speaking of Allan MacLeod said, "Allan is to be congratulated for his success at Cowal Highland Gathering and if I'm not mistaken will soon be found in search of Oban and Inverness Gold". Allan took his first lessons in Piobaireachd from Pipe Major Donald MacLeod just the year before. He is a native son of Nelson and played with the Kootenay Kiltie Pipe Band as a boy attending school here. We wish both Allans every success. They are not only good competitors, but good musicians which our principal considers most important.

Last year our enrolment was 36 pupils. They came from throughout British Columbia, Alberta, and one student came from California. We are looking forward to another good school and hope to see many of our former pupils with us again. Please apply early and avoid disappointment.

W. D. Sutherland,  
President,  
Glentruim Piping School.

### Kids' Ceilidh

The Kids' Ceilidh and novice final will be held on June 15.

The competitors are: Section I - Judy Carl, Pat Hiebert,  
Ian Cherry, Brian Friend.

Section II- Christine Waddell, Jim  
Patterson, Chris Taggart.

The Bi-monthly secretary will be in touch with all those concerned regarding further details.

Triumph Street Ceilidh

The Triumph Street Pipe Band is holding a ceilidh following the B.C. Highland Games.

Those who have attended previous ceilidhs know what is in store. At the time of this printing a hall has not been secured, but keep this date open.

Seumas MacNeill Summer School

Seumas MacNeill, with the help of John MacAskill, will again be holding his piping school at Lake Sequoia, California, August 12 to August 26, 1973.

Room and board is available at \$91.00 per person for the two weeks and tuition is \$75.00 per person. For further information, contact:

W. F. Casteen, M.D.,  
3921 Claremont Drive,  
Bakersfield, Calif. 93306.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Association was saddened to hear of the passing of Jack Miller on March 7th. Mr. Miller was born in Milngavie, Scotland, and came to Canada in 1911.

He received his piping instruction in Scotland and was a member of the Boys' Brigade. Mr. Miller was a past member of the Caledonian Society of Vancouver and at one time held the position of secretary. He was also active in Scottish country dancing and was affiliated with groups both in Vancouver and White Rock.

\* \* \* \* \*

DO YOU REMEMBER?

If anyone has any old pictures or newsworthy items from the past, please send them along to the Editors.

RECORD REVIEW

'Sound of the Champions'

Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band

Albums such as this one make the job of writing a record review very easy. There isn't one tune on this record which isn't enjoyable to listen to thanks to their intrinsic musical appeal and the fine fashion in which they are played. Under such conditions, one merely sits back and listens effortlessly. By effortless listening I mean that tendency which runs counter to the needs of the listener-critic who perches on the edge of his easy chair ready to pounce on every slip, every less than perfect attack, every slightly out of tune note.

In short, this is an album from which one need not demand perfection to enjoy. It is a tribute to the overall quality of the record that one is only casually interested in the mistakes which do occur.

Throughout the reviews which I have done, I have generally tried to avoid nit-picking unless particular errors are glaring or frequent. This record contains neither kind and about the only criticism I might make is that there aren't more selections. There really doesn't seem to be anything else to say about this album except to recommend it without reservation.

John MacLeod

\* \* \* \* \*

NOW - ELECTRIC BAGPIPES

Piper John MacKinnon, Clanranald Place, Arisaig, Inverness-shire, was star attraction at a ceilidh in Glenfinnan last week.

He brought the house down with his repertoire - on electric bagpipes! They look like normal bagpipes, only a tube leads from the mouthpiece to an air compressor driven by an electric motor. The compressor pumps air into the bag. John then plays the pipes in the normal way.

He got the idea in the hospital. He was due to play at an important function. He knew he'd be fit enough to attend, but doubted if he'd have enough puff. Some pipers think they sound better than the real McKay. There are no wavering notes because air pressure is steady. So, John's invention may catch on if he can make it portable.





### DIARY OF A BAND

This article was written to mark the first anniversary of Triumph Street, which may not seem very important to you, but which is totally amazing to us.

The 1972 Indoor Meet contained all the familiar elements - competitors and bands who had been participating in such competitions for, in most cases, a number of years. There was, however, one newcomer to the Band competition. At some point during the competition, a group of slightly ragged looking young men appeared on the competition floor. Clad in white shirts and mismatched kilts and with only one side drummer, their appearance evoked a surprised response from all those present who were not directly connected with, or previously aware of, the band's existence. The announcement of the band's rather unusual name did nothing to clear up the confusion. This was the Vancouver piping public's introduction to Triumph Street and the fact that the band chose to play at the Indoor despite having only one side drummer at that time and despite the lack of uniforms goes a long way towards explaining the philosophy and *raison d'etre* of Triumph Street.

At its conception the band consisted mainly of pipers who had played together in the Vancouver Kiwanis Pipe Band and a drum section which totalled two members - side drummer, Willie McErlean, and Terry Leonard on bass. The main reason for the existence of the band was that the members enjoyed their music and wanted to produce the best band possible. Starting with practically no equipment and with a bankroll of about \$30.00 contributed by members (in order to join the W.P.B.A.), the band made up its collective mind to appear at



as many competitions as possible that summer and to keep the quality of the music as the number one priority.

After appearing at the Indoor Meet, the drum section was increased to three with the addition of Jack Gallaher and it was decided that a trip was in order - Trail being the first and most logical target. The Trail trip was a success in that nobody's car broke down (an unusual occurrence in our travelling history). However, the trip was not at all successful in the playing department.

New Westminster was next on our list and this presented yet another obstacle. This competition was a full band competition, however, Triumph Street was lacking (in numbers only) in the drum section. Bob Jay, a friend of Willie's, became the third side drummer and Jim MacLeod, a long retired bass drummer, enthusiastically agreed to end his retirement and become our tenor drummer. The band was ready, Jim MacLeod took a day off to begin his comeback, only the weather would not cooperate. Much to the chagrin of Triumph Street, the band competition was cancelled as a result of inclement weather and we had yet to make our first appearance outdoors with a full band. At Bellingham, this first appearance was finally realized and, despite the threatening clouds, the weather relented and allowed us to play. Our first appearance as a band also marked our first victory as Triumph Street captured first place in Grade Two competition. This was indeed a big moment for us as it seemed to affirm our philosophy of "playing no matter what" and our "music first" priority.

The next games were B.C. Highland where we again won our grade (maybe Bellingham wasn't a mistake?). The importance of this date in our history stems from the fact that it was the occasion of our first ceilidh. After the games, we held a dance at Norquay Hall - a small, slightly rundown but very friendly hall. The hot weather made it the perfect night for a party. A lot of beer disappeared and a lot of dancing, singing and piping was done by the 120 people who packed the hall.

That first summer also included trips to Portland (this was when the cars began breaking down), Coeur d'Alene and Seattle. Coeur d'Alene and Seattle were important because this was the beginning of Hal Senyk's connection with the band. After playing with us in Coeur d'Alene and Seattle, Hal returned to Scotland. However, there were strong indications that he would return to Canada in the fall and perhaps play with us. Seattle was perhaps our most satisfying appearance from a playing standpoint because although we were short one piper and had no chance of winning, we played only for the mark sheets and the result was the best performance of our brief career.

By now it may seem to the reader that our every appearance last season was a debut of some sort or another. This was indeed the case and Victoria was no exception to this rule. Although the band did not compete, several band members were there to present the first mass display of the Triumph Street T-shirts. These shirts had been briefly previewed by their originators, Terry Leonard and Jack Gallaher, at Coeur d'Alene and after Victoria became the first uniform (although unofficial) element of the band's outfit. The next event on our schedule was the P.N.E. and the B.C. Championships. The band took part in the "100 Pipers" display at the P.N.E. and competed at the Championships. At the Championships we took first in Grade Two. However, this was a rather hollow victory as our chief competitors - the Vancouver Ladies - were not present. The Championships marked the first appearance of Sue Burgess with our band. This was rather a big step for what had previously been a men's band. However, once again, our "music first" philosophy was the deciding factor and it was established that future membership would be based mainly on one criterion - the ability of the person in question. As a result of the prize monies and the financial success of our first dance and with a big assist from Bob Straghan, we appeared at the Championships with our own drums. This was no small accomplishment for a band which started the season with \$30.00. After the Championships, we held our second ceilidh which was once again crowded and successful and which was highlighted by the attendance of the Innes Tartan Pipe Band.

Our first summer was behind us and we were amazed at the number of times we had managed to compete. The winter ahead looked rather unpromising, however, with no band competitions until long after Christmas. This lack of winter competitions for bands gave us another idea - our own competition. The plans were drawn up, the competition was to include events for bands and individual drummers. We were once again determined to put music first and attempted to place emphasis on such things as the "playing" of the tenor drum. We also had department completely divorced from the band competition and awarded a separate prize for this department. Much to the amazement of critics of this plan, no one appeared in coveralls. Without the cooperation of the competitors, any competition would be a failure and ours was no exception. However, with the complete cooperation of all the bands who chose to compete and with the help of all the generous donors of trophies and behind the scenes personnel, the competition was successful beyond our wildest dreams. The dance which followed the competition capped an exhilarating day for everyone connected with Triumph Street.

By this time in our history (December, 1972), Hal Senyk had been playing with us for a couple of months. He came to the band with a wealth of knowledge, a lot of very good tunes and, as pipe major, he soon gave direction to the potential in our pipe section. We were determined to move up

to Grade One next season and began practising towards this goal.

After competing at the Ladies' Festival, the band made its second major purchase - a set of chanter. It was only then, after acquiring drums and chanter, that we began considering upgrading our non-existent uniforms. By the time of the Indoor Meet, we had come up with jackets and matched hose and admittedly felt better in our "new look".

When Triumph Street took the floor at this year's Indoor Meet, there was perhaps little to indicate to the spectator, other than our improved image, that one year had gone by. However, to the members of the band, this first anniversary and the continued existence of the band is a very important fact in our lives. We had maintained our financial and political independence, our first year had been a very busy and successful one but, more importantly, it meant the fulfilment of a dream for a group of people who had but one ambition - to put music first.

Allan Skalazub

\* \* \* \* \*

Students of the Classes of '71 and '72 of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society - North Idaho College Summer School, who are enrolled for the Class of '73 are reminded to bring their Certificate of Graduation with them in order to have it updated by P/M Robert G. Hardie.

\* \* \* \* \*

For Sale: Harris Tweed Kilt Jacket, Size 38-40, Grey-Green, like new, \$45.00. Contact Neil C. MacLeod, R.R. #3, Nelson, B. C.

For Sale: Man's Kilt, Black Stewart, Contact Angus MacPherson, 526-8182.

Wanted: Boy's Kilt, Size 12-14. R. MacDonald, Star Route 1, Box 109, Shorewood Road, Brinnon, Washington 98320.

PUZZLE CORNER

Criss X Puzzle - Based on B.C. Cities, Towns and Villages

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. When completed, all letters will be circled. Words bracketted are not included in the puzzle. 'Ta' will appear in two places.

Alta (Lake)	McBride
Avola	Moose (Heights)
Beaver Cove	Nass (Harbour)
(Big) Bay	Needles
Big (Bar)	Nicola
Blue (River)	Nootka
Boston (Bar)	Old (Hogen)
Bralorne	Perow
Chu (Chua)	Remo
Coombs	Red (Pass)
Cumberland	Richmond
Doe (River)	Rock (Bay)
Dot	Rose (Lake)
Eholt	Royston
Erie	Sechelt
Fernie	Sechart
Fife	Smithers
Forest Grove	Shere
Giscome	Ta (Ta Creek)
Golden	( <u>Ta</u> ) Ta (Creek)
Haney	Tofino
Hazelton	Trail
Hedley	Tyee
Hogen (Old)	Ucluelet
Hope	Usk
Horse (Fly)	Vancouver
Hupel	Vanderhoof
Invermere	Vernon
Keefers	Victoria
Langley	Wright
Lac (La Hache)	Windy Point
Lone (Butte)	Yarrow
Long (Beach)	Zeballos
Louis (Creek)	
Mara	

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

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	Bagpipe Cords & Tassels . . . . .	3.50 each
	Boys' Band Sporrans, Silver-plated Cantle & two black tassels, \$8.95, 10.95, 12.95 and 15.95	
	Boys' Day Sporrans from . . . . .	4.25 each
	Balmorals, red, white & black dice . . . . .	5.95 each

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\* \* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

Wanted: Pipers and Tenor Drummers for Triumph Street Pipe Band. Anyone interested please contact Hal Senyk 872-0839 or Angus MacPherson 526-8182.

Found: One red pearl Premier side drum. Phone Sherea Barwell 298-3402

Wanted: Dancing Swords  
Mr. J. Anderson 526-5209





On behalf of the B.C. Pipers' Association, we would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Sutherland family.

On January 5, 1973, Neil Sutherland, aged 68 years, passed away. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Mr. Sutherland came to Canada in 1913. He was with the Regina City Police, the Saskatchewan Provincial Police, and was Chief of Police for the Town of Melfort, Saskatchewan, before joining the Calgary Highlanders in the Second World War. After the Second World War, he joined the City of Winnipeg Police force. He was very active in boys Pipe Bands in Regina, Melfort, and Selkirk, Manitoba; and was also Pipe Major of the Calgary Highlanders Pipe Band, and the City of Winnipeg Police Pipe Band.



B. C. PIPERS' WINTER SCHOOL

Tone Problems

As was earlier mentioned, the whole subject of the selection and setting up of reeds is so large that it must be dealt with separately. This is not only because the techniques involved are many and varying but even more, because working with reeds is as much a matter of experience and experimentation as it is a textbook subject. Nevertheless, there are good, working principles which will be covered on an upcoming information sheet.

In any case, something to take note of is where the drones are tuning. If at all possible, an effort should be made to have the top joints tuning above the hemp line of the slide. More of the tone chamber will be utilized and this will further improve the sound produced by a good reed. Keep in mind that it should not tune too far out or the top joint will have a tendency to jiggle, causing uneven sound. As for the bass drone, the top joint should tune to the bottom of the hemp and the lower joint should tune to within two inches of the ferrule. These are of course ideal situations and as such are not always easy to attain. It is something to work on though, and it is well worth the effort.

Uncomfortable Pipes

This is a fairly common but often unrecognized problem. It is primarily caused by a bag which is either too large or too small. If the bag is too large, then it is awkward for the left arm to reach the chanter and it will obviously be difficult to keep up and to fully inflate. A bag which is too small will simply force too much work both for the lungs and the arm. Unsteady blowing may result.

Further, the drones should be tied in so they will rest comfortably on the shoulder. The blowpipe stick, when the pipes are being played, should naturally point in the direction of the mouth. If it does not, the piper is forced to make an unnecessary effort to keep the blowpipe stick in his mouth. In the same way, the chanter should naturally stay in a vertical position to allow for the most comfortable and relaxed playing.

Ensure as well that the bag cover is not too small for the bag. If it is it will make steady blowing difficult. It should not be squeezing tightly on the bag when fully inflated.

If any of these are the case, immediate correction should be made.

This summary attempts to present some of the more common and basic problems of caring for the bagpipe. Hopefully, there will be some readers who will benefit from the information given. Maintenance problems are common which, to some degree, makes them understandable and it is hard to imagine the future invention of the foolproof bagpipe.

As was said at the outset, much of the work involved is a result of common sense and patient effort. Thus, what has been covered here should hardly be classed as controversial or questionable, but it needs to be said. Common sense it may be - Common practise it is not.

John MacLeod  
Hal Senyk

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#### PIPING LESSONS

Anyone wishing piping lessons should contact Therese McErlean. Therese has decided to go into teaching on a full time basis, and lessons can be arranged by phoning 936-0925.

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#### ADVERTISING

It has been decided that, commencing next month, rates for advertising will be as follows:

Members (not including businesses)	-- free
Non-members	-- \$2.00 to be accompanied with ad.
Businesses	-- \$5.00 to be accompanied with ad.

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The local Highland Games' Committees are reminded that they must submit the results of the piping classes as soon as possible following the competition. It is imperative that we receive these results as they are used to re-classify individual pipers at the end of the season.



