

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

APRIL, 1963.

No. 37.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAGPIPE MUSIC  
AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PIPE PLAYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



B. C. P I P E R S' N E W S L E T T E R

Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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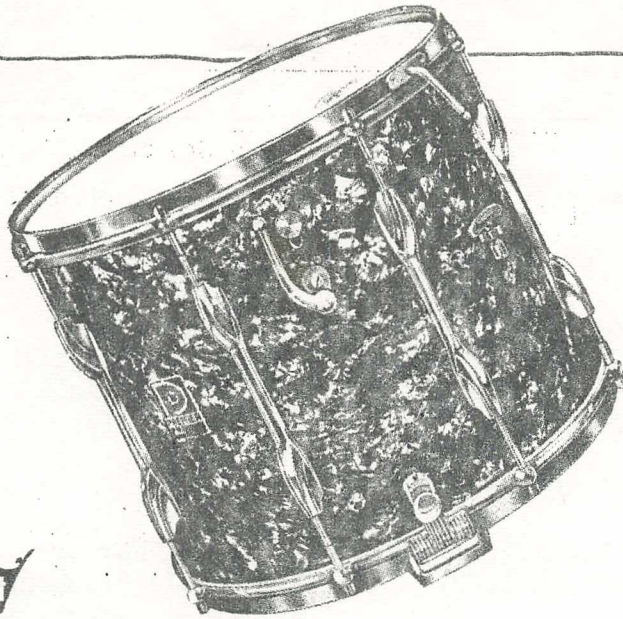
B.C. Pipers' NEWSLETTER:

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APRIL, 1963.	CONTENTS	No. 37.
31st Annual Gathering - March 23rd .....		Page 5
The Highland Bagpipes - A Touching Incident .....		Page 8
Annual General Meeting - April 26th .....		Page 9
Bi-Monthly Competition - April 19th .....		Page 9
From Pipe Major John Robertsons Scrapbook .....		Page 11
Summer Games Schedule .....		Page 16
Ceilidh - March 21st .....		Page 17
California Here We Come - With Bagpipes .....		Page 18
Jordan Pipe Band For Next Years' Festival .....		Page 18
Annual Indoor Games - Pipers' Society of Ontario .....		Page 21



# Royal-Scot Scores Again!

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP, AUG. 4th., 1962, MAXVILLE, ONT.

CLASS A 1st. Worcester Kiltie Pipe Band  
2nd. City of Toronto Pipe Band  
3rd. 48th. Highlanders of Canada  
4th. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

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The April issue of the Newsletter commences the fourth year of its publication. We are somewhat shaken, when we realize that our monthly bulletin is now three years old, since it does not seem long since the first issue was produced.

We are most grateful to our advertisers, whose financial support is necessary for the continuance of the Newsletter, and it is our hope that all of our readers patronize these advertisers wherever possible. We would also like to express our gratitude to all of the contributors, who help make the journal interesting. Much of the material which appears in the Newsletter is taken from other sources, but it is our opinion that collected together these extracts find an enthusiastic and interested group of readers.

Those who produce the Newsletter do not consciously carry out any crusades, nor do they promote any pet projects other than the general development and improvement of piping in British Columbia. It is not our intention to become involved in controversies which seem so prevalent in the piping world. For this reason, you might find our editorial policy tame, or even at times non-existent. Our principal aims are to inform and to entertain.

From time to time it is suggested that we should consider converting to a more sophisticated method of publication. We have considered this suggestion, but it is our belief that if we go to a more expensive process of publication, it will be necessary either to increase the cost of our advertisements and subscriptions to a considerable extent, or to lessen the space allotted to articles. Neither of these alternatives do we feel are desirable or practical.

We would like to thank all of our readers who have taken the time to express their thoughts about the Newsletter. We have received many letters of encouragement, for which we are thankful. We do not normally reprint these letters, since we feel that they are of no general and lasting interest to our readers. Nevertheless, it is gratifying to receive these letters of support, and would ask our readers to express their opinions and give any suggestions concerning the Newsletter as the occasion arises. Naturally, we are always on the lookout for suitable material, and would ask everybody's support in this regard.

We would again remind any of our readers that we do have some back issues of the Newsletter, which can be obtained for 15¢ per issue. If you want to get a complete set of the Newsletter, you had better act promptly, since there are only a few available copies of some of the earlier issues.

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BAGPIPES - ACCESSORIES - REPAIRS

- ★ SCOTTISH NOVELTIES
- ★ SCOTTISH RECORDS
- ★ TARTANS, TWEEDS
- ★ JEWELLERY
- ★ BOOKS
- ★ DRUMS

EVERYTHING

SCOTTISH

CUSTOM ORDERS

31st ANNUAL GATHERING - MARCH 23rd, 1963.

Our 31st Annual Gathering is now history, and it would seem to be the general opinion that it was a great success, both by measure of spectators and audience.

Although we do not have complete records of entries, it would seem that a record number of entries were received, with 84 entries in the solo piping, 12 quartettes, and 5 miniature pipe bands.

The chief piping judge once again was Pipe Major John Wilson, of Toronto, Ontario, who judged from 9:00 a.m. until almost 11:00 p.m., with only two half hour breaks for lunch and supper. We were pleased and honoured to have John Wilson with us, and know you will find his observations of our Gathering elsewhere in the Newsletter of considerable interest.

Judge of the short leet was Pipe Major Donald MacKenzie, of Powell River. Drumming Judge was Drum Sgt. William Saunders, of the Royal Canadian Engineers Pipe Band, and Mrs. Zelpha Wood judged the dancing competition.

We were pleased to have in our midst James MacColl, of Los Angeles. Pipe Major MacColl attended the summer games a few years ago, but this was his first visit to the Annual Gathering.

James MacColl was the first recipient of the William Campbell Trophy, presented to this Association by Mrs. Camilla Campbell in memory of her late husband Pipe Major William Campbell, M.V.O. This splendid trophy retires the Peter Henderson Trophy - Open Aggregate Championship - and has inscribed on it the names of the winners of that venerable and rather worn trophy. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Campbell with us in person, to present the new trophy to its first winner.

We were also pleased to welcome Mr. Malcolm Graham, from Prince George, and formerly of Edinburgh. Mr. Graham is a recent arrival to Prince George, and is the instructor of the Kiwanis Pipe Band in Prince George. A number of his pupils were in attendance, and we hope to see more of Mr. Graham and his promising flock in the future.

Results of the competitions were as follows:

Junior Amateur Piobaireachd: (3 entries)

1. Bruce Topp 2. Theresa MacInnes 3. Robert MacDonald

Amateur Piobaireachd: (7 entries)

1. Bill Elder 2. David Ireland, Bellingham  
3. Wm. Paterson, Bellingham.

Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs (2 entries)

1. John MacKay
2. J.W. Clarke, Bellingham

Novice Marches: (38 entries)

1. Iola Peace
2. Janice Taylor
3. Ian MacInnes
4. Bill Grout

Juvenile Marches: (15 entries)

1. Stephen Geddes, Victoria
2. Colin Stewart
3. Barbara MacArthur
4. James Penner

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels: (15 entries)

1. Barbara MacArthur
2. James Penner
3. Stephen Geddes
4. David Irvine

Junior Amateur Marches: (8 entries)

1. John MacLeod
2. Michael MacInnes
3. Robert MacDonald

Junior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (8 entries)

1. Michael MacInnes
2. Sherea Barwell
3. John MacLeod

Quartette Competitions (Junior) (6 entries)

1. Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band (leader - W. Elder)
2. Optimist Junior Boys Pipe Band (leader - S. Marshall)
3. Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band (leader - D. Graham)

Amateur Marches: (12 entries)

1. Peggy Gillies
2. Bill Elder
3. Alan MacLeod
4. Gordon Ross, Victoria.

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (8 entries)

1. Peggy Gillies
2. Gordon Ross
3. Alan MacLeod

Open Piobaireachd: (2 entries)

1. James MacColl, Los Angeles
2. Albert Duncan

Old Highland Airs - Veterans 60 and over (1 entry)

1. Seb Nellies

Open Marches: (8 entries)

1. James MacColl
2. James Yardley, Powell River
3. John MacKenzie, Powell River

Open Seann Triubhus (5 entries)

1. Beth Buchanan
2. Donna Fraser
3. Sharyn Miles



Quartette Competition (Senior) (6 entries)

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River (leader - P/Sgt. G. Taylor)
2. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River (leader - P.M. D. Westie)
3. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band (leader - P.M. N. Nicholson)

Open Strathspeys and Reels (5 entries)

1. James Yardley
2. James MacColl
3. Albert Duncan

Miniature Pipe Band Competition: (5 entries)

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River
2. Seaforth Cadets Pipe Band
3. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band

Open Jigs: (5 entries)

1. James Yardley
2. James MacColl
3. John MacKenzie

Trophy Winners:

MacIver Memorial Trophy: James MacColl

MacCrimmon Memorial Trophy: James MacColl

Laurie Trophy: James Yardley

William Campbell Trophy: James MacColl

Walter Douglas Trophy: MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River  
(P/Sgt. G. Taylor)

Nicholson Trophy: Peggy Gillies

Alex Lobban Trophy: Michael MacInnes

Tait's Jewellers Trophy: MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band

Cabar Feidh Trophy: Bill Elder

Alan MacNab Memorial Trophy: Seb. Nellies

Gordon Sinclair Memorial Trophy: Bruce Topp

Mrs. C.M. Crawford Trophy: MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River

K. Nicholson Willis Trophy: Stephen Geddes & Barbara MacArthur

Mrs. Walter Douglas Trophy: Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band  
(P.M. B. Elder)

Special thanks are extended to the Trans-Canada Air Lines, who supplied the transportation for Pipe Major Wilson. We are grateful to this company for their kind support and assistance.

We would also thank all of our Donors who assisted in the Annual Gathering, Lt. Col. David Fairweather, Commanding Officer of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, members and ladies of the Sergeants' Mess, Mrs. Camilla Campbell, Jack MacGregor and his assistant caretakers, Al. Baillie, and the Stewards, and finally all pipers, drummers and dancers.

THE HIGHLAND BAGPIPES - A TOUCHING INCIDENT:

(The following amusing poem, taken from a post card of 1913, appeared in the Glasgow Sunday Mail)

'Twas in a crowded hospital,  
In Western U.S.A.,  
A Caledonian, far from home,  
Sick, lonely, dying, lay.

"Oh Doctor! could I hear but ance  
Oor ain bagpipes again,  
I'd shut my e'en an' dee in peace,  
In spite of a' my pain!"

The kindly doctor searched the town,  
A brother Scot was found.  
And soon within the hospital  
The cheery pipes resound.

Along the great wide corridors  
The pibroch echoed clear,  
Till every poor sick sufferer heard  
The Highland tunes so dear.

And by that glorious music  
The weary Scot revived,  
Regained his health and walked abroad,  
- The other patients died.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 26th.

On Friday, April 26th, will be held the Annual Meeting of the B.C. Pipers' Association. This meeting is the most important of the year, and should not be missed by any of the members.

The order of business at the Annual General Meeting shall be as follows:

Reading of previous minutes  
Report of President  
Report of Treasurer  
Report of Trustees  
Election of President, Vice President: & 9 Directors  
Election of Auditors  
Motions  
Notices of Motions

- 0 -

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - APRIL 19th.

The next Bi-Monthly competitions will be held on Friday, April 19th, in the Seaforth Armoury.

The following classes will be held:

Novice Strathspeys and Reels  
Juvenile 6/8 Marches  
Junior Jigs  
Amateur Marches  
Senior Old Highland Airs

We would ask the Novice competitors to be ready to begin at 8:00 p.m., since there should be large entries in this class.

- 0 -

FOUND: Boy's silver ring at the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Festival, February 16th, 1963.

Call: Secretary, Dorothy MacArthur, WA 9-3094.

- 0 -

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FROM PIPE MAJOR JOHN ROBERTSON'S SCRAPBOOK:

ANGUS MACKAY AND PIOBAIREACHD:

(To the Editor of the Oban Times)

Lochnagar, Edinburgh,  
January 23, 1937.

Sir - "Hebridean's" letter in your issue of January 16 has done much to gild the pages of Angus MacKay's great work in the collection and preservation of ancient piobaireachd.

John Ban MacKenzie was a bagpipe maker of no mean order, and it is to him that we owe the production of the finished pipe chanter in use today. I have heard that Donald MacKay was also a pipe maker.

I received my training entirely from Pipe Major Ronald MacKenzie, nephew of the famous John Ban, and from Ronald I noted much of what I have preserved for future generations of pipers, of the history of John Ban, the MacKays' and the MacCrimmons'.

I was piper to Abercairny for a number of years, thus following in the footsteps of the great family of the MacKays, for Donald MacKay who was piper to the Duke of Sussex was for a time also piper at Abercairny. I thank "Hebridean" for his able and unbiased letter in praise of Angus MacKay.

From Invershin we get "Angus MacKay dismantled" with all his greatness seemingly swept away. We have read Mr. Macpherson's letters so often that we can almost tell what he is going to say before we look at them. The MacCrimmons and their capabilities are now common history and well known to all. John Dail MacKay was as great a performer as the MacCrimmons. That we know from the "Unfinished Piobaireachd" which rubbed some of the lustre off the Dunvegan masters. But John, to all, cannot be compared with Angus MacKay. We ought to give honour to whom honour is due and raise a memorial to the memory of the man who has preserved for us our inheritance in piobaireachd. He is the most ungrateful piper living who would not agree to that.

I shall now set all others in the piping world aside save Angus MacKay and Mr. A. Macpherson. I can tell Mr. Macpherson here and now that Angus MacKay wrote Taorluath and Crunluath exactly as he played them and as the MacCrimmons played them also.

If Mr. Macpherson thinks that there is a redundant "A" in the Taorluath and Crunluath in Angus Mackay's work, then I can only place him in the ranks of the redundant pipers, as he does not understand those movements which are the crowning features of ancient piobaireachd.

- John Grant -

(To the Editor of the Oban Times)

Inveran Hotel, Invershin,  
February 6, 1937.

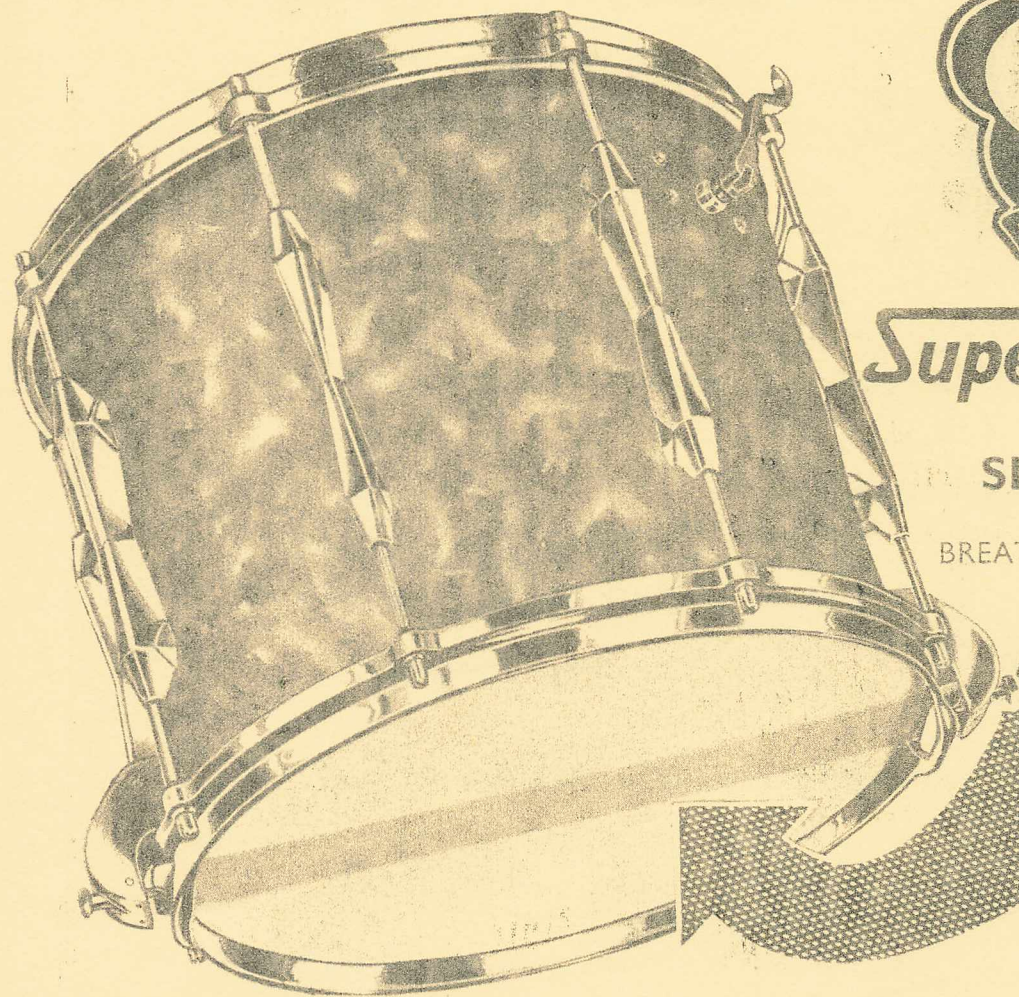
Sir - Once again we have Mr. John Grant's autobiography in the columns of your esteemed paper, dated January 23, and the Grant "Tree" again ostentatiously written for our perusal. Were it not for Mr. Grant's last sentence, I would leave his self-praise alone, but now, I am replying to his letter in a way - although Mr. Grant professes to know what I have written, before he reads my letters - that he will not expect.

Mr. Grant makes a proud boast of his being piper at Abercairny, "Thus following in the footsteps of the MacKays". Surely he is aware that being a piper at Abercairny, does not constitute a Grant becoming a MacKay, any more than it would a Macpherson becoming a MacCrimmon, were he to be piper at Dunvegan Castle. Mr. Grant would not have been piper to Abercairny were it not for this circumstance. The position of piper was open at Cluny Castle and at Abercairny at the same time; I was offered both but refused Abercairny's offer, preferring to follow in the footsteps of my ancestors who were taught their Piobaireachd by the MacCrimmons of Skye, long before Angus MacKay was in existence. Mr. Grant then took over the position which I had refused.

Mr. Grant accuses me of having dismantled Angus MacKay of all his greatness; on the contrary, if he will read my previous letter correctly, he will find that the exact opposite is the true fact. It is very significant that on the same page as Mr. Grant's letter appears a new march composed by Pipe Major Roderick Campbell, a respected friend of mine and a good piobaireachd player: In it, Mr. Grant will find for his instruction, that the Taorluath movement is correctly written, the same as is published by the Piobaireachd Society and taught by their teachers, and as played by the leading pipers of the present day. There is therefore, little hope that "future generations" will adopt Mr. Grant's alien method of writing Taorluath and Crunluath.

It matters little to me in what category I am placed by Mr. Grant. When he can emulate the record held by the family from whom I am descended, he will then be in a position to write with authority.

- A. Macpherson -



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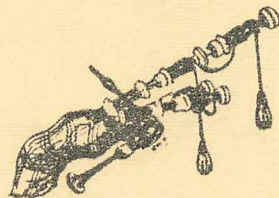
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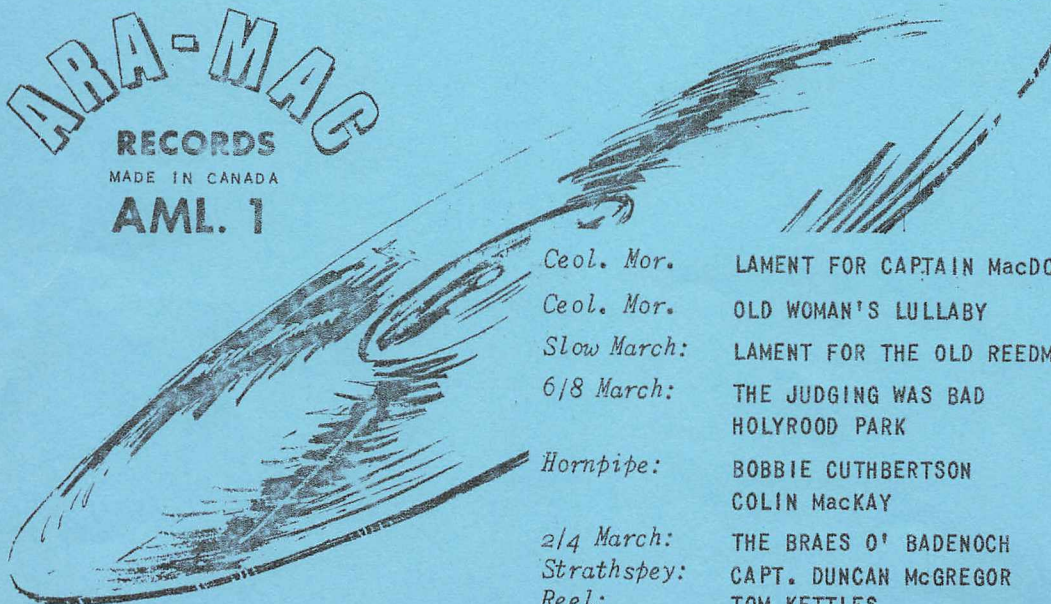
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<i>6/8 March:</i>	THE JUDGING WAS BAD HOLYROOD PARK
<i>Hornpipe:</i>	BOBBIE CUTHBERTSON COLIN MacKAY
<i>2/4 March:</i>	THE BRAES O' BADENOCH
<i>Strathspey:</i>	CAPT. DUNCAN McGREGOR
<i>Reel:</i>	TOM KETTLES
<i>Jig:</i>	PADRUIG OG THE LOCH NESS MONSTER JOHN GRIEVE

SUMMER GAMES SCHEDULE:

The summer games schedule this year is as follows:

June 22nd	-	Bellingham
July 1st	-	B.C. Highland Dancing Assn., Ambleside Park
July 6th	-	Portland *
July 13th	-	Nanaimo *
July 27th	-	Victoria *
August 3rd	-	Vancouver
August 10th	-	Seattle *

All Games marked with an asterisk (\*) are members of the Pacific International Games Association.

At these games, prize winners in the Juvenile, Junior, Amateur, Open and "B" Class Bands Classes are eligible to win International Championships, entitling them to a trophy, money prize or scholarship, and a permanent certificate. These Championships shall be won by the persons or bands gaining the highest points at any three of the four games within the Pacific International Highland Games Association.

Further details will be given about all games when available.

- 0 -

WANTED: !

RESULTS OF EARLY ANNUAL GATHERINGS

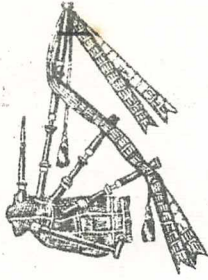
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39 CARDINAL'S WALK, LEICESTER

CEILIDH - March 21st.

The Ceilidh, held on March 21st, 1963, in Honour of Pipe Major John Wilson, was one of the finest evenings of piping held for some time, thanks chiefly to the guest of honour himself - John Wilson, and to James McColl, of Los Angeles. Both of these performers gave an interesting and varied programme, which was very well received by the capacity crowd of members assembled in the band room of the Seaforth Armoury.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the masterful rendering by John Wilson of a piobaireachd little heard in the West Coast - "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee."

We are grateful to John Wilson and James McColl for sharing their talents with us so generously, and making the Ceilidh so enjoyable.

CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME - WITH BAGPIPES: (from Weekly Scotsman, Feb. 14; 1963)

The tenth district of California should soon be a Mecca for bagpipe firms interested in the export trade. And this district, which takes in the Stanford University, Palo Alto, and San Jose areas has certainly given a tartanic ring to the Congressional legislation.

For Congressman Charles S. Gubser, who represents the tenth district has introduced a Bill - HR 1618 to be exact - "To provide that bagpipes and related items used in bagpipe bands shall be admitted free of duty."

According to our informant, Mr. William B. Henderson of Arcadia Place, Washington, this Bill "is a further manifestation of the increasing and active interest in this country in matters Scottish. It was at the request of constituents interested in this aspect of Scottish culture that Mr. Gubser introduced HR 1618."

Certainly if ways and means can be found for this item in the first session of the 88th Congress there should be a new skirl in the tenth district, which is almost a suburb of San Francisco.

Of course all parts of the United States would benefit from this legislation, if approved. So the toast should be heartfelt American thanks to Congressman Gubser.

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JORDAN PIPE BAND FOR NEXT YEARS' FESTIVAL: (from Weekly Scotsman Mar. 14, 1963)

Brigadier Alasdair Maclean, organiser of the Edinburgh Festival Tattoo, believes in travelling around to find new attractions for the event. Not long ago he was in New York. This week he is off to Beirut and Amman to see the 70 strong Royal Jordanian Guards Pipe Band who are to appear at the Festival next year.

There is a chance that they may also be seen at this year's Festival. They play Scottish-made bagpipes but have not yet got round to wearing the kilt.

- 0 -

HIS PLAYING RAISES A STORM: (letter to the Editor, Weekly Scotsman, from Coldfield, Warwickshire)

Here in the Midlands the other Saturday, I came across a young man playing the bagpipes. He was in the middle of a field in a snowstorm. His audience consisted of a few curious little boys, and he told me afterwards that it was safest to play here because of the opposition accorded by his neighbours. He added that he was practising for the engineers' strike.

- 0 -



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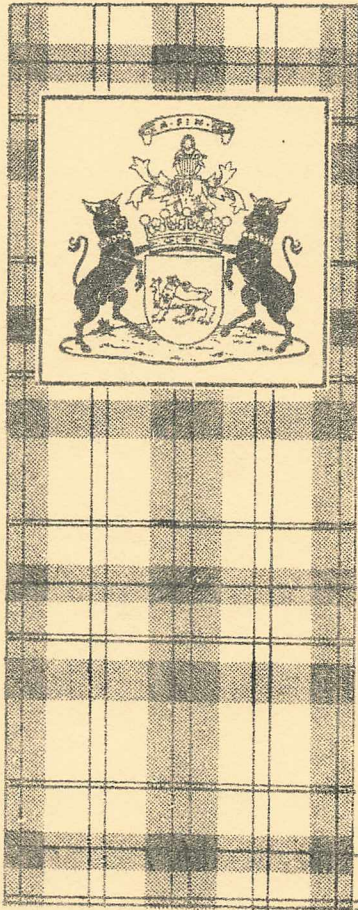
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ANNUAL INDOOR GAMES - PIPERS' SOCIETY OF ONTARIO:

The following are the results of the Annual Indoor Games of the Pipers' Society of Ontario, held at the Fort York Armoury, Toronto, Ontario, on March 23rd, 1963:

Marches - Under 14 years:

1. C. MacDonald 2. D. Boyle 3. J. Noble

Marches - Under 16 years:

1. A. Oakes 2. J. Fryer 3. Rosemary Nodwell

Marches - Over 16 years:

1. K. Eller 2. F. Hodgson 3. A. Dewar

Strathspeys and Reels - Over 16 years:

1. A. Oakes 2. K. Eller 3. J. Miller

Piobaireachd - Open:

1. C. Anderson 2. R. MacKay 3. R. Leslie & Rosemary Nodwell (tie)

Marches - Open:

1. C. Anderson 2. R. Leslie 3. D. Adamson

Strathspeys and Reels - Open:

1. C. Anderson 2. R. Leslie 3. R. Schaal

Quartette Competition:

1. 48th Highlanders Pipe Band  
2. Canadian Guards Pipe Band  
3. St. Thomas Pipe Band  
4. City of Toronto Pipe Band

Drumming - Under 14:

1. J. Kirkwood, Jr.

Drumming - Over 16:

1. A. Laing 2. L. Grenier 3. W. MacNamara

Drumming - Open:

1. G. Kidd 2. J. Agnew 3. W. Jarvis

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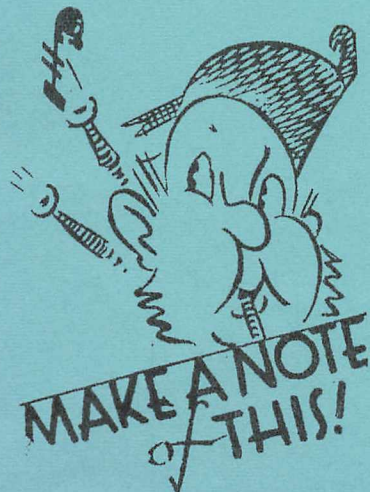


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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - APRIL 19th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 26th

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