

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

APRIL 1970 NO. 101





B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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APRIL, 1970	Contents	No. 101
Letters to the Editor.....		Page 1
The Highland Piper.....		Page 2
Bi-Monthly Competition.....		Page 3
Origins of Highland Games Go Far Back In Mists Of Time.....		Page 4
38th Annual Gathering.....		Page 6
Major Competitions.....		Page 8
General Meeting.....		Page 9
Mr. Macdonald's Ceilidh.....		Page 9
Band Chatter.....		Page 10
Victoria Highland Games.....		Page 10
Feadan Dubh Chintaille.....		Page 11
Dr. W.M. MacPhail - This Pipe Band Never Played in Public.....		Page 12
Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Rummage Sale.....		Page 13
Thistle Ball.....		Page 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 31, 1970

B.C. Pipers' NEWSLETTER  
1073 Doran Road  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
Canada

Dear Sirs:

Your March 1970 NEWSLETTER carried a letter from my good friend, Mr. Bruce Topp. His contention that "young players should not be influenced in any way by the petty grievances of adults" warrants more attention. If your novice, juvenile, and junior amateur classes are true to form, you have anywhere from 25 to 50 competitors per class at Highland Games and yet only 5 or 6 in the professional ranks. Isn't it time we stop rationalizing and face facts? Young pipers who enjoy the instrument can easily become disillusioned by the bickering of their elders. Let's enjoy piping for piping's sake!

On the lighter side, my Iowa Girls Pipe Band is on the move. I have recruited six young ladies from various parts of the United States and have incorporated them into our 80 member all-girl band. We appeared en masse three times on National Television this last year, including the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

April 15-18 will find our competition band in Dunedin, Florida, for their Games, and May 2 in Saint Paul, Minnesota, for a Highland Festival. All in all, life is never dull with 80 college women!

My best to all members of the Association and congratulations on the fine job you're doing with the NEWSLETTER.

Yours Aye,

Fred Whyte  
Director, Scottish Highlanders

\*

954 MacIntosh Street  
Coquitlam, B.C.  
April 2, 1970

Editor  
Band Chatter

Dear Sir:

The past two newsletters have advertised the New Westminster May Festival Pipe Band Competition, which takes place Sunday, MAY 24th at 2:00 P.M. in Queens Park Stadium, New Westminster.

It may be of further interest to your readers to know that all 12 bands must play from the marshalling area at Woodward's to the Stadium, starting at 1:00 P.M. Bands playing early in the program will lead the march to enable them tuning time at the park.

After each class has competed there will be a massed band of their group on the field, for the enjoyment of the spectators. During one of these performances there will be a Drum Majors competition with all participants being judged simultaneously, which will prove, I am sure to be an enjoyable spectacle. After the open competition all bands will form a horseshoe in front of the stand and prizes will be awarded at this point, then the massed bands will play their salute. To complete your afternoons entertainment the bands will then play back to Woodwards.

We hope that you will find the afternoons events interesting, and we invite everyone to attend.

Yours sincerely,

Jas. Lang  
2nd Vice President  
Western Pipe Band Association

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### 'THE HIGHLAND PIPER'

A colleague of mine, after one glance at the sleeve of the L.P. record "The Highland Piper" which shows two men in Highland dress standing in front of Achany Lodge, Lairg, encapsulated the entire tenor of this selection of marches, strathspeys, and reels with one jig and slow air apiece, in the observation: "That pair wouldn't stand for any nonsense by the looks of them".

Well, we know that Angus Macpherson, the 92 year-old veteran of piping (who has attended the Northern Meetings at Inverness 75 times without a break and who was recently awarded the MBE by Her Majesty The Queen at Balmoral for his services to piping) does not; and we know, too, that the Colortone Record Company were indeed fortunate to obtain the assistance of one so distinguished in their production.

And from the tweed jacket and waistcoat and the no-frills leather sporran to the ivory-mounted instrument which James Ross Matheson, the Highland piper of the title, displays in the photograph, it would not be over fanciful to infer that here was a piper who favours the orthodox tradition in the art and who can do without the embellishments which we in the effete south value, perhaps too much.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to transfer a segment of one's own perceptions to the angles of vision employed by others, but I shall make the attempt.

If competition marches like "The Marchioness of Tullibardine", "Leaving Glen Urquhart", "Sir Arthur Bignold of Loch Rosque", "Angus Campbell's Farewell to Stirling", "Pap of Glencoe", "The Abercairney Highlanders", and "Parker's Welcome to Perthshire" make your heart go pitter-patter then this is the record for you.

James Ross Matheson came originally from Gairloch in Ross-shire and is a member of a well-known piping and gamekeeping family. One of five brothers, four of whom were pipers, his father was gamekeeper at Kinlochewe and was himself a recognised piper of merit and Jim's first



teacher. Later Jim studied under such famous pipers as Pipe Major Colin Thompson, Golspie; James MacIntosh, Achnasheen; Pipe Major Alex Ross, Beaully, and Pipe Major William Ross, instructor of piping at Edinburgh Castle.

Since serving in the war with the 7th Seaforth Highlanders, he has been a gamekeeper in Sutherland and is presently gamekeeper at Shinness Estate, Lairg. As well as instructing at piping classes in Lairg, Jim has competed in numerous competitions at many Highland Games, including the Northern Meeting, with great success.

I suppose it is appropriate that a former infantryman should concentrate on marches, but the content seems disproportionate: thirteen marches, two of the least memorable "The Meeting of the Waters" and "The Back of Ben Achie" unaccountably played twice through, four strathspeys and four reels, "Shepherd's Crook" and "Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran" unacknowledged on the sleeve after his brother John's tune "Angus Macpherson's 92nd Birthday", and one jig and one slow march.

Nevertheless, James Matheson plays a good, solid 2/4 and if you like this kind of regularly accented playing, you may well be satisfied.

However, balance and dynamics apart, a certain vague fuzziness in sound reproduction that diminishes both chanter and drones is a serious obstacle to appreciation of Mr. Matheson's correct technique.

The record costs 19s 7d and is available in all music shops or from the recording company. Spectrum 5002; Colortone Record Co. Ltd. 1 and 2 Royal Parade, Dawes Road, London, S.W. 6.

Reprinted from the Oban Times

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### BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION

The April Bi-Monthly competition was held April 17, 1970 at the Seaforth Armoury. The results of the evening are as follows:

Novice Strathspey and Reel - 33 Competitors

1st - Pat Dawson	Department winner -
2nd - Chris Grant	Douglas Sommerville
3rd - Douglas Sommerville	
4th - Lynda Flynn	
5th - Stuart Reid	

Junior March - 8 Competitors

1st - Angus MacPherson	Department winner -
2nd - Hazel Ramsay	Susan Purdy
3rd - Terry Lee	

The judge for the two events was our President, Bill Lamont.

Next month's Bi-Monthly will be on May 22, 1970 when the Juvenile class will play 6/8 Marches and the Open Amateur class will play March, Strathspey and Reel.

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## ORIGINS OF HIGHLAND GAMES GO FAR BACK IN MISTS OF TIME

BRAEMAR - The origins of present day Highland Games go back so far into the mists of time that no one knows exactly when the men of the Highlands first got together to wrestle, toss cabers, throw weights, and dance and play music.

Malcolm Canmore, King of Scotland in the 11th century, is credited with organizing the first Games at Braemar. Staying at the Royal hunting lodge of Kindrochit, now a ruin, he was not satisfied with the speed of his messengers.

He decreed that the young men should gather to hold contests of speed and endurance so that he could choose the best among them for his service.

The principal event was a hill-race to the top of the nearby Craig Choinich. The feat of the youngest of three sons of a chieftain made the day memorable for, starting off several minutes after the other runners, the boy leaped and scrambled his way up the hillside passing stragglers until he caught up with his two elder brothers who were in the lead.

He offered to share the prize but as this was ignored he passed one brother and, running behind the eldest man, gasped: "Halves, and I'll yield." To this the answer was "Never, winner takes all."

The youth produced a tremendous burst and got past his brother who promptly gripped his kilt in an attempt to hold the boy back. The youngster unbuckled the garment and let it slip and raced on to the finishing point to win.

The scene at a Highland Games meeting is one of the most colorful and stirring occasions of the year, with the arena full of brawny men in kilts competing in the heavy field events, men and girl dancers, and members of the pipe bands resplendent in their magnificent uniforms.

Towns and villages all over Scotland hold Games large and small throughout the summer and whether the weather be fair or foul, the atmosphere is always one of comradeship spiced with competition.

No definite course of the evolution of the games can be traced except, perhaps, through the changing environment of the Scot.

Hundreds of years ago he had to do everything by hand and go everywhere on foot -- ponies were usually for the gentry -- and accordingly muscle-power was the means of his livelihood.

If he could not cut timber, lift rocks to build a house, or chase miles across moors after his meat, then his standard of living suffered.

The traditional field events of tossing the caber, putting the stone, pole vaulting and throwing the hammer, came about from amusements.

"Ye Casting of the Bar" was thought to have originated among woodmen who wanted to cast their logs into the deepest part of the river or across the water to the other side. This was to avoid the ticklish business of fording the water while carrying a large and heavy tree trunk.



As far back as the 16th century chroniclers were describing caber-tossing and even Henry VIII, King of England, is known to have tried his hand at it. The whole aim is to toss the caber in as straight a line as possible; it is not a question of who can throw it the furthest. A perfect throw is when the caber lands in the twelve o'clock position after being thrown in a vertical semi-circle. The most famous caber in the world is the Braemar Caber, a log weighing 120 pounds and nearly 20 feet long, and which has been thrown less than half a dozen times.

For the simple reason that it required no special equipment and did not cost anything, putting the stone was for many years the most popular sport practised in villages and farm yards throughout the country.

Visitors to games are sometimes surprised to learn that the best stones have not been worked on by a master mason but have been ground and polished to the exact shape by the action of the water on the river beds whence the stones came. Men have putt the 22 pound stone nearly 35 feet and covered over 50 feet with the "lighter" 16 pound stone, quite an achievement when it is remembered that games rules do not allow a competitor to turn before putting.

More spectacular than stone putting is throwing the weight, where the athlete sends the 56 pound weight flying in an explosive burst of energy. This heavy weight is also used in the competition for throwing for height, sometimes to over 15 feet. Try to imagine picking up a lump of metal weighing half-a-hundredweight and tossing it to the height of a double-deck bus, such as the one used in the Wascana Center during summer months.

The other distance event is throwing the hammer, a sport which used to be practised by the young bloods outside the local smiddy just to pass the time of day.

Here again turns are prohibited, a sensible safety precaution to prevent beginners releasing missile at the wrong moment and sending it among the spectators.

The dancing events have a special appeal to all those who appreciate grace and beauty of movement and dances performed by an expert are an experience not readily forgotten.

Braemar September 7th, Aboyne September 6th, Cowal August 25th, Oban August 28th, and many others whose history stretches back many decades have built up tremendous reputations, while the modern games held in Edinburgh to mark the start of each International Festival, have already won world wide fame.

Reprinted from the Leader-Post  
Regina, Saskatchewan



### 38th ANNUAL GATHERING

This years Annual Gathering, as in the past, was a success from a piping exhibition point of view. Unfortunately, as in the past, it was a financial disaster. Maybe we should just consider this as a way of life in our piping community since it seems impossible to break even on this event. Every year we sponsor this Gathering and every year we lose money and every year we vow that next year changes will be made and the situation will improve. I have my doubts.

We seem to have approximately 725 people attracted to this event each year. The Board of Directors of our Association have never seen fit to spend large amounts of money on advertising and this seems to be the only thing we haven't tried. I am not suggesting that this would be the end to our problem since it is possible we could spend \$1000.00 to 1500.00 on advertising and still have our standard 725 paying customers. On the other hand maybe its worth a last fling at trying to make this event pay for itself.

We could, as an alternative, forget this advertising campaign and cut down on expenses. The major expense is prizes. This year to encourage our professional competitors we spent \$250.00 on professional prize money. It partially worked. We also spent another \$250.00 on trophies and merchandise. Maybe this could be an area of attack since we need little to encourage our amateur competitors, although I am not sure they should be persecuted for their enthusiasm.

Our next largest expense which varies each year from \$400.00 to \$500.00 is our judges fees and transportation. Here we have an expense that cannot be reduced. In no way should we endeavour to reduce the calibre of our judge in order to break even on our profit and loss statement. Once a year we must bring a judge from Scotland, the United States or Eastern Canada to adjudicate our local function. It gives the competitors a chance to play before the very best and also tends to build confidence in our local judges since our outside expert usually comes up with the same decisions (in general) as our local experts have been making during the previous years at our Bi-monthly competitions and summer games.

The judges expenses in this case are generally affected by the distance they travel to Vancouver. In the case of a Scottish judge we must consider that the cheapest fare they can manage is still over \$400.00 leaving a relatively small judges fee (if we stay within our \$500.00 figure) for the two day vigorous grind. On the other hand a judge from Eastern Canada or United States can keep his transportation cost to around \$250.00.

Then of course we have our problem of paying for the competition arena. This year we managed to secure what we thought was the best location available to our Association. The cost of this, plus the lunches and dinners for our numerous committee members who see everything is run properly, is about \$400.00. This area seems to be our main target area for dollar reduction and I would assume a change in next years location. If any of our readers have suggestions as to a less expensive building or hall a letter to the editor would be appreciated.

An added expense this year was somewhat of a promotional gimmick to help inspire larger crowds. This was a \$100.00 fee for two professional wrestlers to perform in kilts. This seemed to be enjoyed



by a large number in attendance and served as a refreshing change of pace but also increased our expenses considerably with no great increase in ticket sales. Next year?? Well...!

All in all the financial damage is an approximated \$600.00 loss since the 725 paying spectators cannot meet our ever rising costs. I have rambled on in the above fashion to enlighten our many members who give very little thought to the expense involved in sponsoring an Annual Gathering such as ours. In direct correlation to these expenses, of course, we must not forget the great deal of hard work from our committee members.

The editors would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in making our Annual Gathering a piping success. Many people gave up many hours of free time (some even sacrificing money earning time) to help the Association make our 38th Annual Gathering a memorable one.

In next month's issue we anticipate printing a written report, submitted by our judge Mr. Neil Angus Macdonald, on the Annual Gathering. Mr. Macdonald, I am sure, will give his impression of the piping events and possibly discuss the following results:

Junior Piobaireachd

1st - Terry Lee  
2nd - Jack Lee  
3rd - Hazel Ramsay

Junior Marches

1st - Terry Lee  
2nd - Jack Lee  
3rd - Heather Zinck  
4th - Gordon MacDonald

Junior Strathspey and Reel

1st - Terry Lee  
2nd - Susan Purdy  
3rd - Hazel Ramsay  
4th - Malcolm MacCaig

Novice Marches

1st - Stuart Reid  
2nd - Pat Dawson  
3rd - Michael Young  
4th - Gordon Lyle

Juvenile Marches

1st - Allan MacDougall  
2nd - Cindy Chambers  
3rd - Robyn Palmer  
4th - Joanne Elford

Juvenile Strathspey and Reel

1st - Cindy Chambers  
2nd - John McKay  
3rd - Allan MacDougall  
4th - Darrell Peterson

Amateur Piobaireachd

1st - Bill Russell  
2nd - Byron Barnard  
3rd - Donald MacMillan  
4th - Bill MacAulay

Amateur Marches

1st - Bill MacAulay  
2nd - Margaret Swanson  
3rd - Donald MacMillan  
4th - Bill Russell

Amateur Strathspey and Reel

1st - Bill MacAulay  
2nd - Donald MacMillan  
3rd - Janice Taylor  
4th - Heather MacInnes

Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs

1st - Jessie Roane

Pipers Over 60

1st - Duncan Watson  
2nd - S.H. Leslie

Professional Piobaireachd

1st - John A. MacLeod  
2nd - Jamie Troy

Professional Marches

1st - Jamie Troy  
2nd - John A. MacLeod  
3rd - Harold Senyk

Professional Strathspey and Reel

1st - Bob MacDonald  
2nd - Donald MacInnes  
3rd - Cathie MacLellan

Professional Jigs

1st - Bob MacDonald  
2nd - Bob Leslie  
3rd - John A. MacLeod

Junior Quartettes

1st - Kiwanis "B"  
2nd - Kiwanis "C"

Dancing - Strathspey and Half Reel

1st - Marion Barnett  
2nd - Laura Parker  
3rd - Robyn Quakenbush

Senior Quartettes

1st - Anavets  
2nd - Vancouver Police

Miniature Bands

1st - Powell River  
2nd - Port Moody

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MAJOR COMPETITIONS

Throughout the rules and regulations of the B.C. Pipers' Association the reader will be faced with the term "major competition." What is the criteria of a "major competition"? For our purposes a major competition is one the Board of Directors deems to be of significant importance for the B.C. competitors for the year in question and appears in the major competition list.

The major competitions for 1970 are as follows:

1. Ladies Pipe Band Festival - February
2. B.C. Pipers' Annual Gather - April
3. Victoria Highland Games - May 17, 1970
4. New Westminster - June 13, 1970
5. B.C. Highland Dancing - July 4, 1970
6. Nanaimo - July 11, 1970
7. Portland - July 18, 1970
8. Seattle - August 1, 1970
9. St. Andrews and Caledonian - September 12, 1970 (Mission, B.C.)

In order for these competitions to remain "major competitions" the event results must be sent to the Secretary of the B.C. Pipers' Association immediately following the competition.

During the next few months we plan to print the name and address of the respective Secretaries for each of the above games. Competitors wanting to enter events should contact the secretaries for entry forms.

Victoria - Mrs. Edythe Barrick  
4240 Quadra Street  
Victoria, B.C.



New Westminster - Mr. W.W. Lyon  
223 Sixth Avenue  
New Westminster, B.C., 526-8161

B.C. Highland - Mrs. D. Fraser  
2470 West 19th Avenue  
Vancouver 8, B.C.

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#### GENERAL MEETING

The May General Meeting will be held in the Steelworkers Hall, 33 East Broadway on Friday, May 1st, 1970 at 8:00 P.M. This meeting should be one of the highlights of the year with two semi-final knockout competitions being held.

The first competition will see John A. MacLeod competing against Jamie Troy and the second, Ruairidh Macdonald against Albert Duncan.

All piping enthusiasts are encouraged to attend this promising evening which will determine the finalists for our June Meeting.

Bar facilities will be available after the competition.

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#### MR. MACDONALD'S CEILIDH

It was indeed a pleasure to meet the judge for this years Annual Gathering, Mr. Neil Angus Macdonald. Mr. Macdonald and his wife spent a week in Vancouver visiting their son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Ruairidh Macdonald. During this week a ceilidh was held to enable our members to meet our Scottish guests.

The evening proved to be a great success with a formal program of singing, dancing and piping by performers Mary MacInnes, Sharyn Elder, Linda Gunn, Sandy Reid and John A. MacLeod. The highlight of the evening was hearing Mr. Macdonald play a nice selection of tunes on two different occasions during the evening. The first few selections were dedicated by Mr. Macdonald to the many Barra people in the audience.

Approximately 150 people attended the affair with an impressive Vancouver Gaelic Society representation.

The B.C. Pipers' Association presented Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald with a soap stone carving of a totem pole as a memento of their Canadian visit, with the hope they will soon return to Vancouver. We truly appreciate Mr. Macdonald's contribution to our Annual Gathering.

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"Interested in going home?"

BAND CHATTER

Ten competing bands including two from Vancouver Island made the miniature pipe band competition at the B.C. Pipers' Annual Gathering an encouraging success. At the top of the list was Powell River with a total of 93.05 points. Port Moody was in second place with 88.80 points followed closely by the Vancouver Kiwanis who had 88.65 points. Port Moody's Davie Bruce and Rickie Rich reversed the standings in the drumming competition however, as they played to a .25 point advantage over Powell River's George Pryde and Alec Young to take the drumming trophy.

Last month there was an article in the Newsletter describing the White Hackle Boys Pipe Band of North Vancouver in which an appeal was made for a capable person to assist the boys in their piping at Friday evening practices. Unfortunately, it seems that voluntary help is difficult to obtain these days as the appeal has not yet been answered. If someone is interested in devoting a small amount of their spare time in aiding young boys, he is asked to contact Dave Russell at 988-1795.

Of special interest to pipe band drummers should be the subjects to be discussed at the next general meeting of the Western Pipe Band Association, Sunday, May 3 at 1:00 P.M. in Branch 179 Legion, Vancouver. Last month's general meeting resulted in the formation of an advisory committee consisting of Kathleen Blomquist, Keith Manifold and Bart Shaw to review the present situation concerning individual and band drumming and to formulate proposals to be presented at the May 3 general meeting.

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VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES

The Victoria Highland Games will be held on Sunday, May 17th this year in conjunction with the Victoria Day Celebrations - in the Royal Athletic Park, Caledonia Avenue.

The Victoria Games are in a position this year to offer prize money for the band competition - Class B - \$100.00, 75.00 and 50.00; Class C - \$75.00; 60.00 and 40.00.

Professional Piping prize money has been increased, due to a kind donation from the Vancouver Island Pipers' Club.

Entry forms will be available shortly.

This year, operating with the Victoria Day Celebrations Association Victoria is having many varied forms of entertainment such as visiting drill teams, gymnastic display, and possibly the North Western Wrestling Championship. Many of these groups will be appearing in the Victoria Day Parade which takes place at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, May 18, 1970.

The Secretary for the Victoria Highland Games is:

Mrs. Edythe Barrick  
4240 Quadra Street  
Victoria, B.C.

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FEADAN DUBH CHINTAILLE

The Feadan Dubh, or Black Chanter of Kintail, which, for several generations, was one of the heirlooms of the Mackenzies of Kintail, is now in the possession of Lieutenant Colin William MacRae of the Black Watch.

The chanter is considered to be much older than the drones, and the note holes are very much worn. At some time it must have been badly broken, and is now held together by no less than seven silver rings. The two top rings have engraved on them the words, "A smeorach aigharach" (the merry thrush). The other rings have "Scur Orain," the slogan of the MacRacs; "Caisteal Donain," "Cinntaille," "Loch-Duich," and on the bottom ring "Tulloch Aird (sic)," the slogan of the Mackenzies. On the chanter stock is fixed a stag's head and horns in silver, the Mackenzie crest, surmounted by a baron's coronet, and underneath it the inscription, "Lord Seaforth, Baron Mackenzie, High Chief of Kintail, 1797," and below this inscription the words, "Tulloch Aird (sic)."

The stock of the blowpipe has the following inscription:--"This silver-mounted black ebony set of bagpipes, with the Feadan Dubh Chintaille, was the property of Lord Seaforth, Baron Mackenzie, High Chief of Kintail, 1797," and on the blowpipe itself is the figure of a Highlander, in silver, in full costume, with drawn claymore, surmounted by the motto, "O Thir nam Beann" (from the land of the mountains).

The stock of the big drone has the following inscription:--"From Lord Seaforth, Baron Mackenzie, High Chief of Kintail, to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John MacRa, K.C.H., of Ardintoul, Kintail, late 79th Cameron Highlanders." The big drone has three shields, and the top shield has the following inscription:--"All Highland bagpipes, till after the Battle of Waterloo, had but two of three short treble drones." The second shield has "Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John MacRa, K.C.H., late 79th Cameron Highlanders, was the first to introduce (and it was on this set of pipes) the use of a big or bass drone"; and the third shield has, "The big or bass drone was pronounced a great improvement in the harmony and volume of sound."

The stock of the second drone has the following:--"From Lieut.-Colonel Sir John MacRa, K.C.H., to his nephew, Captain Archibald MacRa Chisholm, late 42nd Royal Highlanders, the Black Watch." The shield on the second drone has, "The introduction of the big or bass drone was approved, and the example was soon followed in the making of military bagpipes."

The stock of the third drone has the following inscription:--"From Captain A.M. Chisholm, late 42nd Royal Highlanders, Black Watch, Freicadan Dubh to (present possessor). The shield on the third drone has "Lieut.-Colonel Sir John MacRa was an excellent performer on the bagpipes. He made pipes and chanters; and when military secretary to his relative, the Marquis of Hastings, Viceroy of India, he taught the natives of India to play on the Highland bagpipes."

Captain Chisholm some time before his death, on the 19th October, 1897, presented the Kintail bagpipes to his cousin, Major Colin William MacRae.

DR. W.M. MacPhail

In the January issue of the Newsletter Lt. Col. John McEwing of Spokane wrote a personal tribute to Dr. W.M. MacPhail. Dr. MacPhail passed away in September of 1969 and many of his Canadian and American friends have many fond memories of this gentleman.

On hearing of his death P.M. Edmund Esson sent us the following article from a November, 1946 issue of the People's Journal:

THIS PIPE BAND NEVER PLAYED IN PUBLIC

There have been pipe bands and pipe bands -- but never one like that in Frimley, a small Surrey village.

It boasted many of the finest pipers in the country, yet never played in public. Its members ranged from colonels to ordinary privates.

The "Ghost Band" some called it, for it existed merely in name.

Never, however, was invitation to join the ranks of any band more eagerly accepted.

Originator was Dr. W.M. MacPhail, of Kilmartin, Argyllshire, who learned the pipes during his youth at George Watson's College, Edinburgh. While attached to a sanatorium at Frimley he loved to be surrounded by other enthusiasts.

"It began when, attending various Scottish functions in London, Dr. MacPhail met some pipers and invited them down for a spot of practice at his place," said Pipe-Major David Ross, of Rosehall, Sutherlandshire, a frequent guest.

"At first invitations were confined to the doctor's piping friends, but during the war as many as 20 once assembled. Pipers from Aldershot helped to swell the numbers at times. All were made welcome so long as they could play. The doctor literally kept open house.

"Over a thousand pipers are reckoned to have visited Frimley at one time or another.

"The patients came to look forward to the week-ends. Mostly boys, they got to know a lot of the tunes, and whistled them after we left -- in spite of the fact that they were all Southerners.

"We played individually, sometimes as a band. So gradually we became known as the 'Frimley Pipe Band.'

"One of the features of the gatherings during the war was the way in which we all mixed irrespective of rank. Frequently the company included officers as well as other ranks.

"Among others who joined in were Col. Jack Churchill, D.S.O., and bar M.C., of the Manchesters, and Lieut.-Col. Ian Grant, of Rothiemurchus, who was attached to the lovat Scouts.

"No band probably ever mustered more pipe-majors. Notable were Pipe-Major Alec Macdonald, the King's piper; Pipe-Major J.B. Robertson,



Scots Guards; Pipe-Major Angus Macaulay, formerly of the Lovat Scouts, and the late Pipe-Major Lewis F. Beaton.

"It would probably have been the best pipe band ever heard in Britain if we had been able to play in public. Nearly every outstanding piper in Scotland must have visited Frimley at one time or another.

"After the death of Pipe-Major Lewis Beaton, Dr. MacPhail was appointed president of the Scottish Piping Society of London. No one has done more for piping in this country. Certainly no name is more revered in piping circles."

Treasured possessions to-day of many of those who "guested" with Dr. MacPhail are certificates of their membership of the "Frimley Pipe Band."

Designed by a Welsh officer friend of the doctor's, it shows pipers playing in all manner of dress from top hats to plus fours.

No. 1 certificate is held by Pipe-Major John Macdonald, Inverness, regarded as the greatest exponent of piobaireachd in the country.

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#### VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND RUMMAGE SALE

May 2nd - from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M. at St. John's Shaughnessy Church, Nanton and Granville.

If anyone has any rummage please phone 433-2074 and someone will be pleased to pick it up.

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The Mid-Canada Championships for Highland Dancing and Junior Piping events are to be held July 11th, 1970 at the Highlander Curling Club, Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg.

For information please contact Mrs. R. Toal,  
1450 Somerville Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Selkirk Highland Games to be held July 12th, 1970 at Selkirk Park, Selkirk, Manitoba - Piping, Band, and Highland Dancing Events.

For information please contact Mr. Burns  
428 Moody Avenue  
Selkirk, Manitoba.

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#### THISTLE BALL

The Thistle Ball is to be held at the Abbotsford Legion Auditorium on May 8th, 1970.

Doors Open 7:00 P.M. - Dinner at 7:30 P.M.

Orchestra - 9:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.

Refreshments available. Tickets \$2.50 each.

Phone - 856-8576 or 526-7905 for tickets and information.

