

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

APRIL, 1972 NO. 122

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT William Elder
VICE-PRESIDENT Bruce Topp
SECRETARY Bill Russell
TREASURER Robert Gunn

Association Pipe Major Seb Nellies

The B. C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 5120 Spencer Street, Vancouver 16, B.C., by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and distributed to all members. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Bill Russell, 20907 Newlands Drive, Box 487; Langley.

EDITORS: Colin Abel
Angus MacPherson

STAFF: Barb Morley
Janice Taylor
Judi Taylor

APRIL, 1972

NO. 122

Table of Contents

Letters.....	Page 1
Editorial.....	6
Last Month In and Around the Association:	
Annual Gathering.....	7
Banff Gathering.....	9
James McColl Recital.....	13
Interview with J. McColl.....	14
Next Month:	
Trail.....	15
Nelson.....	16
New Westminster.....	16
Spokane Piobaireachd Society.....	16
Kiwanis Spring Dance.....	18
Knock-Out and General Meeting.....	18
Red Deer.....	18
Do You Remember?.....	18
Bagpipes Hottest Gift Item.....	19
Out of Tune.....	20
Tune of the Month.....	21
Seumas MacNeill Summer School of Piping.....	22

I Want to See the President.....	23
The "Pele".....	23
Angus McLeod.....	24
Sam Scott.....	24
Roving Reporter-The Ladies at Sonoma.....	25
Puzzle Corner.....	26
Haggis Wants You.....	28
Record Review.....	29
Bandstand.....	30
1. W.P.B.A.	
2. Toronto	
3. Band Chatter	
Foreign Corner.....	33
Contest Calendar.....	34
Scottish Homemaker.....	35
V.L.P.B. Raffle.....	36
Applications for Membership.....	37

The Newsletter staff would like to thank the B.C. Pipers' Association for the new electric typewriter. We hope you have noticed an improvement in the quality of the print. Besides, it only took two days instead of the usual four to type this month's edition!

LETTERS

Dear Sir:

I have found your Newsletter most interesting and informative but would like to comment on its content.

Looking through the Newsletter of February 1972, I noticed the only places where drummers or even drums were mentioned was in the title of a record "The Pride of Scotland - Red Hackle Pipes and Drums" and on page 20 in the classified ads. There definitely seems to be a lack of interest where drummers are concerned.

During the summer games pipers are constantly getting pipes tuned and competing while the drummers either lay on their backs tanning their knees or sit in the stands watching the rain fall. Not much to do in the eyes of a drummer so why not get them involved? At practically all of the games, novice, amateur, and senior amateur drummers have the opportunity to compete in one class and then keeping in mind that he hasn't another chance to play, he sits down and listens to the rest of the competitors. Should there not be another chance for these drummers as there is for pipers? I feel another class should be put forth to keep the drummers interested as well as a second chance at a standing in the prize list.

What about Professionals? There were only 5 competitions for these drummers last year, 4 of which were out of town. There is definitely something wrong when games are organized and there is no class for professional drummers. After all, the professional pipers are constantly being talked about and heard from so I really think the drummers should be given the same chance.

There is also the matter of tenors, bass and drum majors. They sit around the field all day watching the second hand of their Mickey Mouse watches pass by until called upon for bands. Now these drummers are extremely talented and should be given the chance to perform in front of a judge other than in bands. The tenors have their one debut at the V.L.P.B. Festival in February but then they have no other opportunity to get up and show everyone just how smart they look and how good they actually are until the band needs them for a competition. The drumming judge is at the field all day with a maximum of 4 classes to judge (usually only 3). Once he has completed his judging stand he has to wait around until bands get started. Here is where a tenor competition would be a good break from the monotonous hours spent watching Mickey pass by. Is there any reason why tenor drummers shouldn't have a medal to show to their kids when out of the pipe band scene? Same applies to the bass drummers - if you hadn't noticed there are some excellent bass drummers around town who would appreciate a little attention for their

hard work.

So I ask all of you for support in getting something started for these drummers. After all, without them we would be unable to compete as a unit or even consider such groups known as Pipe Bands.

Susan Burgess

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your newsletter. It is very gratifying to see the organ of communication in our Association being carried on voluntarily and by younger members of the Association as well. Keep up the good work.

As a member and past president of the Association I take a rather pessimistic view of your recent editorial concerning "Deportment" in competitions. Firstly, let us not concern ourselves with Pipe Bands, for we are strictly a Pipers Association. Whereas in the past we have had the matter of Pipe Band rules thrown in our laps it is now the headache of the Western Pipe Band Association. To wit! Let us mind our own business.

Secondly, deportment in individual playing in Scotland may not carry written marks on a scoresheet but instead deportment is regarded as a necessity by matter of pride alone. You don't see a gold medal piper competing in anything but proper dress.

This is not Scotland! We are not governed by the rules appertinent to individual competition in Scotland. We have set our own rules and I feel that outside of a novice competitor that a certain set of standard in uniformity should be adhered to.

Long hair to me is not to my liking, however I do feel that society recognises well groomed long hair and a competitor should lose points by:

- (a) Appearing with long hair and no head dress.
- (b) Appearing with long hair that is relavent to a floor mop that is aged with usage whether or not he or even she is wearing head dress.
- (c) No head dress at all.

Granted, a piping contest is not a beauty contest, or a piano recital, nor it is rock and roll. It is Bagpiping, an art mastered by few, loved by thousands, and ridiculed by a minority.

I say keep our five points for deportment, set a standard for these five points and let us not let this minority ruin our image.

P/M Albert Duncan
Ex. Seaforth

Eds note: We agree with Mr. Duncan that pride is the prime motivation behind deportment in Scotland but we are wondering why the same couldn't apply here.

Dear Sir:

A Mile-Stone -- My First "Letter To An Editor".

Re your editorial regarding deportment and dress while competing.

First I think that everyone who will give a minute's thought to the subject will realize that 99% of the competing bands and pipers DO dress in full Highland regalia when on the competition floor and, in most cases, the members of the bands do dress according to custom.

My beef is how these bands and individual pipers dress prior to, and after competing - Hobo hats, black T-shirts, jean jackets, etc. Not only do they look ridiculous, but they are giving the public a poor impression of themselves and their bands.

Is it such an effort to be in correct Highland dress for one day?

Yours,
Terry McHardy

Dear Sir:

The 21st annual piping competition organized by the Uist and Barra Association in the Kingston's Halls last month attracted one of the largest audiences seen at a piping function in the city for many years. Almost 250 people paid at the door to listen to a feast of piping which started at 9:30 a.m. and continued through the day until the presentation of prizes at 9:20 p.m.

For the second year in succession, Andrew Wright won the piobaireachd competition and this year his winning tune was "The Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay".

This year at the Spokane Piobaireachd Society's summer school in Coeur d'Alene, Andrew will be P/M Bobby Hardie's anchor man.

In 1970, Andrew won the Gold Medal at Oban and two weeks later, took the Inverness Medal.

John McEwing

Dear Sir:

I wish to tell you how much my parents and myself enjoy the Newsletter and hearing about the happenings in the piping world, as we seem a bit isolated up here in Nelson.

I also would like to thank again all the members of the B.C. Pipers' Association for the scholarship they awarded me to the Piping School in Coeur d'Alene last year. It certainly helped me improve my piping tremendously. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend this year's school as I am going to Scotland, however, I am going to try to get more piping instruction whilst I am over there.

Allan MacLeod

Eds note: Allan won the Junior class aggregate in this year's Gathering and we wish him the best of luck in Scotland.

Dear Sir:

As a special article for the Newsletter, I would like to make a report on P/M John Robertson D.C.M.

John is a patient in the Veterans Hospital in Victoria. In a recent conversation with his niece in Surrey (Mrs. Jean Laughton), she informed me that John had been quite sick during the winter months, but is feeling much better now.

She informed me that he is still the same John Robertson we all know so well, and would be more than pleased to see visitors from Victoria or even Vancouver.

This year's Annual Gathering is the first that John has missed in many, many years and no doubt he must have a certain nostalgia for the competitions. However, this could be greatly diminished by a visit from all his friends in the Association.

Albert Duncan

Dear Sir:

I would like to thank the members of the B.C. Pipers' Association who contributed both time and hard work and made our Annual Gathering a success. A special "thank you" to Ishabel Ross, our Competition secretary, and also to her husband, Donald, who was Chairman of the Annual Gathering Committee. The hard work of these two people in particular allowed the competition to run very smoothly.

This year the B.C. Pipers' Association will hold their Annual Dinner on Friday, June 2nd. The final of the Professional Knock-Out Competition will be held at the dinner. Instead of the usual "all piping" evening, we are going to have a dance band. In order to make this event a success, we need the support of the membership and their friends. No doubt, along with the Knock-Out finals, we will have a little piping when the dance band takes a break! The Dinner, Dance and Knock-Out Final will be held at the Flame Supper Club, 3776 Canada Way. There will be cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and the smorgasbord dinner will start at 7:00 p.m. The Flame holds approximately 300 people and we hope to fill it. The price for this evening is \$5.50 per person.

Tickets must be obtained at least one week in advance of the dinner.

You may purchase your tickets from any board member or use the attached form but PLEASE GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY.

Enclosed please find \$..... for tickets to the Annual Dinner.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____

Please enclose cheque or money order made payable to the B.C. Pipers' Association and mail to:

Mr. Wm. Elder,
2204 East 33rd Avenue,
Vancouver 16, B. C.

Looking forward to seeing you and your friends on Friday, June 2nd at the Flame Supper Club at 6:30 p.m.

Bill Elder

EDITORIAL

After attending several bi-monthlies, the Ladies' Festival, and the Annual Gathering, we have come to the conclusion that a great number of solo pipers are playing in classes in which they do not belong. We are not downgrading these individuals but, because of the vast differences in ability in each class, it is obvious that our promotional system is in need of a major overhaul.

Although it is a great improvement from the old system in which an individual could remain in any class, except novice, for as long as he wished, the present system still needs updating. The old system was changed because of the "overpopulation" in certain classes, yet it appears that the same problem is occurring today in our Amateur class. As a result of our present rapid promotional system, the Senior Amateur class is being crowded with mediocre-to-good pipers with the result being that the Junior ranks are suffering. In other words, the quality of piping in the Juvenile and Junior classes is rather poor to say the least because all their top pipers are being ushered into the next class. At this point, one may interrupt to say that this system gives the piper who is perhaps lacking a little in talent, a chance to win. Yet, no sooner does he win, then he too is whisked up into the backlog of the Amateur class.

What we propose, therefore, are two things: the restructuring of the promotional system and the dividing of the Senior Amateur class. However, we feel that the latter should only be temporary because by restructuring the system, the build-up in the senior class will be eased.

One possible answer is to introduce a system in which the individual has to accumulate a certain amount of points in order to be promoted. For example, the present system of points used in determining the aggregate winners (1st - 8, 2nd - 5, 3rd - 3) could be employed or, more simply, 1st - 3, 2nd - 2, 3rd - 1, with 10 points being the minimum for advancement. This way a piper has to win consistently throughout the summer rather than picking up a 2nd or 3rd at Skookumchuck. This is fair to both the piper and the spectator who expects good quality in the senior ranks.

This is only one answer to a problem that needs resolving.

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Indoor Meet

This year's annual gathering was held in the North Vancouver Recreational Centre on April 7th and 8th. The guest judge for the competition was James McColl from Los Angeles.

The B. C. Pipers Association and especially Mr. & Mrs. Ross, Mr. & Mrs. Swanson and Don Fraser should be congratulated for the smooth way in which it was handled. All the individual, quartet and band competitors were carried on without any breaks in performance and the spectators obviously appreciated this very much. The final competition which consisted of 12 bands was followed by the highlight of the evening, that is, the presentation of awards. The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band auxiliary operated a very reasonable and successful kitchen and the staff of the Newsletter had a successful booth with past Newsletters to read and applications for new members. All in all, a very enjoyable weekend of piping.

Results of the Annual Gathering

Junior Piobaireachd

1. Allan MacLeod ✓
2. Pat Dawson ✓
3. Stuart Reid ✓

Junior Marches

1. Allan MacLeod ✓
2. Brian Carse ✓
3. Allison Palmer ✓
4. Gordon MacDonald ✓

Junior Strathspey and Reel

1. Brian Carse ✓
2. Doug Sommerville ✓
3. Allison Palmer ✓
4. Allan MacLeod ✓

Finalists, Juvenile Marches

1. Gordon Lyle ✓
2. Gail Dawson ✓
3. Teresa Collister ✓
4. Wade Calder ✓

Finalists, Juvenile Strathspey & Reel

1. Gordon Paterson ✓
2. James Wright ✓
3. Rob MacNeil ✓
4. Aileen Arnott ✓

Junior Quartettes

1. Burnaby Ladies "2"

2. Vancouver Ladies

Finalists, Novice March

1. Ashley Stewart
2. Bruce McIntosh
3. Gail Burnett
4. Alan Wilson

Finalists, Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Jack Lee
2. Terry Lee
3. Jocelyn Lange
4. Sherea Barwell

Amateur Marches:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Peggy Askeu | 3. Sherea Barwell |
| 2. Rene Cussons | 4. Cindy Chambers |

Amateur Strathspey and Reel Professional Piobaireachd

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Terry Lee | 1. Byron Barnard |
| 2. Jack Lee | 2. Chris Jensen - Chicago |
| 3. Cindy Chambers | 3. Jamie Troy |
| 4. Hazel Ramsay | |

Professional Marches

1. Bruce Topp
2. Therese McErlean
3. Jamie Troy
4. John A. MacLeod

Professional Strathspey & Reel

1. David Wilson
2. Chris Jensen
3. Jamie Troy
4. John A. MacLeod

Professional Jigs

1. Chris Jensen
2. John A. Macleod

3. Jamie Troy
4. David Wilson

Pipers, Over 60 Year Old

1. Duncan Watson

2. Seb Nellies

Senior Quartettes

1. Van. Island Pipers
2. Port Moody

Miniature Bands

1. Port Moody P/B
2. Vancouver Ladies P/B

New Members of the Association

Mrs. Vera Stewart--Associate
Brian Friend--Active
Carol Silvers--Active
Kellie Sutton--Active
Chris Jensen--Active
John Williamson--Active
Robert Keith--Associate
Norman W. Munroe--Active
James McLean--Active
Janice Taylor--Active
David Anderson--Active
Mrs. Linda Nicol--Active
Mrs. Christina Leonard--Associate

Banff Highland Gathering

Piping Seminar

Following the Banff Gathering, held at the start of the month, a piping seminar was offered to all interested pipers wishing to attend. The seminar was under the excellent direction of Pipe Major Iain MacLeod of the Edinburgh City Police, who was also assisted by two well-known local pipers, Mr. Fred Brodie and Mr. Jamie Troy.

Since there were approximately 25 students in all, Mr. MacLeod's first move was to divide us into three classes based on our age and piping experience. My group spent the first morning with Jamie Troy discussing the function and maintenance of the bagpipe. The lesson was most interesting and informative and Jamie readily displayed an immense knowledge of the instrument. That afternoon and the following day were spent practising on chanters. Mr. MacLeod rotated among approximately 18 of us, listening to our individual competition sets and offering changes or perhaps new tunes. He was most interested in all of us and spent as much time as possible with each person.

I, unfortunately had chosen to attend the seminar for only two days, rather than the full five, and I assure you that I was indeed sorry to leave. I would recommend the seminar to anyone contemplating attending the gathering next year especially if we would be so lucky as to have Iain MacLeod return.

- Judi Taylor

Drumming Seminar

In the eyes of the drummers present at the Banff Gathering and seminar the arrangements and set up with the drumming instructor was a most enjoyable and outstanding success. The five day seminar which the interested and enthusiastic drummers attended was a great benefit in every way conceivable.

Under the leadership of Mr. Bob Montgomery the week in Banff could be nothing less than a great achievement for all who were present. Mr. Montgomery, the lead stroke of Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band, is a master at the art of drumming in himself as well as in holding the drum section in unison with the pipers. This he showed in the selections he played and by the words he spoke.

The seminar began with instruction of theory behind drumming as well as reading and writing aspects of drum music. As in piping, there is a standard form of drumming music which any drummer can read thus learning the basics of playing tunes on the drum. A great deal of time was spent playing basic rudiments with the addition of flams and drags which add a lot to the simplified music as well as basic phrases, which again were flowered with flams and drags. The seminar ended with

the writing and reading of a 2/4 march "Jeannie Carruthers". This was most beneficial for interested drummers as well as gaining inspiration to pass on the information learned from this great man.

It may also interest you to know that Mr. Montgomery's style of drumming is catered towards working with the pipers as one complete unit. He uses simplified yet intricate beatings to accompany the pipers and as a result the drummers are noted as much as the pipers in the band.

Many thanks go out to Heather Jolley and her coordinating committee for bringing to us Mr. Montgomery who was definitely appreciated by all drummers in Banff.

- Susan Burgess

Results of Banff

Chanter Class 11 and under:

1. Robert Robbie - Ottawa
2. Stewart Clark - Calgary
3. Maureen Lee

13 and under March

1. Allan McDougall
2. Bruce McIntosh
3. Kelley Todd - Calgary
4. Allison Palmer

Slow Airs:

1. Kelley Todd
2. John Thomas - Spokane
3. Allison Palmer
4. Iain Keith

Strathspey & Reel:

1. Kelley Todd
2. Stewart Clark
3. Allan McDougall
4. Gordon Grey - Calgary

15 and under March:

1. Terry Lee
2. Blake Keen
3. Jack Lee
4. Gordon Patterson

15 and under Strathspey & Reel:

1. Terry Lee
2. Jack Lee
3. Blake Keen
4. Colin Dow - Saskatoon

Jigs:

1. Terry Lee
2. Colin Dow
3. Mary Alward - Spokane
4. Blake Keen

17 and under March:

1. Judi Taylor
2. René Cousson
3. Candice Parker - Kellogg, Idaho
4. Susan Lowden

Strathspey & Reel:

1. Douglas Sommerville
2. Candice Parker
3. Allan Walters
4. Allan MacLeod

Jigs:

1. Allan Walters
2. Candice Parker
3. Allan MacLeod
4. Judi Taylor

18 and over March:

1. Janice Taylor
2. Steve Geddes
3. Sherea Barwell
4. Pat Dawson

Strathspey & Reel:

1. Steve Geddes
2. Peggy Askew
3. Mike Bain
4. Ian Patterson - Lethbridge

Jigs

1. Peggy Askew
2. Ian Patterson
3. Pat Dawson
4. Mike Bain

Amateur Open Piobaireachd:

1. Allan Walters
2. Mary Alward
3. Ian Keith

Musical Selection:

1. Terry Lee
2. Rene Cusson
3. Candice Parker

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Jamie Troy
2. Ron Maxwell - Calgary
3. John A. MacLeod

March, Strathspey & Reel:

1. Jamie Troy
2. Pat McIntyre
3. John A. MacLeod

Jig:

1. Jamie Troy
2. John A. MacLeod
3. Chris Jensen - Chicago

Quartettes:

Junior:

1. Richmond Senior Boys

Senior:

1. Vancouver Island Pipers
2. Seaforth Militia
3. Vancouver Ladies

Bands:

Grade 1 - March, Strathspey & Reel:

1. Port Moody
2. Seaforth Militia
3. McBain Scottish

Grade 2:

1. Vancouver Ladies
2. Edmonton Boys
3. North Hill Lions

Junior:

1. Richmond Senior Boys

Musical Selection:

1. Port Moody
2. Vancouver Ladies
3. Edmonton Scottish

Drum Ensemble:

1. McBain Scottish
2. Vancouver Ladies
3. Port Moody

Amateur Open Drumming:

March, Strathspey & Reel:

1. Ian Hunter
2. Jack Gallagher
3. Dave Dickens
4. Susan Manifold

Musical Selection:

1. Ian Hunter

Professional Drumming:

March, Strathspey & Reel:

1. Alec Brown
2. Dave Bruce
3. John Hamilton

Musical Selection:

1. Davie Bruce
2. Alec Brown
3. John Hamilton

James McColl Recital

Following the arduous task of chief adjudicator at our Annual Gathering, James McColl proceeded to entertain us with a recital in the Scottish Auditorium.

At the ripe age of nine, Jimmy received his first instruction from Tom McAllister, P/M of Shotts and Dykehead. However he obtained most of his training from the father of the man who has won the most clasps in history Iain MacPherson (father of Donald) who was out of the McDougall Gillies School.

Another great influence of James' piping career was Robert Reid who helped him on the road to the Gold Medal at Oban in 1953. Other awards he received include the Inverness Medal for March, Strathspey and Reel and Jigs. He also won the Bryant and May Trophy at Cowal four consecutive times - a feat matched only by the late Willie Lawrie.

Since coming to settle in the Los Angeles area in 1955 James has become a consistent winner on the coast, a fact well evidenced by his fine playing at the recital. Jimmy entertained us with a fine selection of light music as well as three piobaireachds, and ended his performance very aptly with the "Drunken Piper".

The following is an interview with Mr. McColl which was conducted after the recital.

An Interview with James McColl:

Editors: What is the situation with bands in the Los Angeles area?

McColl: They seem to be doing very well and I would say that there is slightly more interest in bands than there is in individual piping. The L.A. Scots are going strong but there's another band called the Caledonian Dwart Band that is accomplishing something rather different for our area. They are building a large band of different age groups and these age groups are trying to find their own contemporaries. So what has happened is that the band is divided, with a younger group of teenagers who are not only doing well as a band but also are very good solo performers. So, this I would say is the most promising band in the Los Angeles area.

Editors: How about the individual pipers in Los Angeles?

McColl: In individual piping I would be happy if I could say that the calibre of playing could be compared with that of Vancouver. Unfortunately it does not. However, we have a geographical problem, the area being so vast that it's difficult for us to get together. About four months ago we tried to start a Pipers' Club with the idea of attracting the solo pipers of the area. It has helped to some degree but it hasn't been going long enough to see if it will work or peter out.

One of the foremost names in piping in our region is a fellow from San Diego by the name of Campbell Naismith. Right now he is busy going to university but I'm sure we'll be hearing more of him in the future. Charlie Lumsden and Skipper Wellman are two others that are very prominent.

Editors: What are the major competitions down there?

McColl: One of the major competitions is Santa Monica and

it takes place on the last Saturday in June. They have put up the prize money and by doing this they hope to attract some of the Vancouver fraternity down to the games. Of course, there are the Santa Rosa Games which always attract a few of your bands, especially the Vancouver Ladies.

Editors: Being in the L.A. Scots yourself, could you give us a reason why the band doesn't travel to Vancouver?

McColl: Well, the L.A. Scots were going very strong a few years ago until we disbanded and then started up again. This is why there was quite a lapse in our activities but I'm sure if we hold together we'll be able to come up within the next three years.

Editors: Do you have an association comparable to the Western Pipe Band Association?

McColl: The Pacific Coast Pipe Band Association takes fees for membership and have well-ordered rules to follow. The Newsletter is quite strong but it is literally a newsletter - an itinerary for games or notice board. Calvin Biggar is the one who puts it out and he's very sincere about trying to make the newsletter correct. What I would like to see is more communication with the B. C. Pipers'.

Editors: What did you think of the Indoor Meet; the whole standard?

McColl: I really enjoyed it. The last time that I was invited to judge was in 1968 and I would say that the calibre of solo piping in the B. C. area must have risen 40%. The hall was very cold but the noise of the fans would have interfered with my hearing. The standard of the bands as a whole was very good. In quantity you have a definite edge on Los Angeles and I would nearly say in quality too. But there are one or two bands from California that you would have to be careful about if you ever competed with them.

Editors: Thanks Jimmy.

Iain MacLeod Recital - See Bandstand

NEXT MONTH

TRAIL

The eight annual Trail Highland Games sponsored by the Trail Caledonian Society will be held Sunday, May 21, 1972, at Butler Park, Trail. To receive prize and appearance money, every band must play in the tattoo on Saturday night with the actual competitions commencing at 10:00 a.m. sharp on Sunday. Entries must be sent to Mrs. K.E. Shaw, Competition Secretary, 1475 Lookout Street, Trail, B.C. on or before April 29, 1972.

NELSON

There will be a Highland Games during the City of Nelson Diamond Jubilee Week - August 6th to 12th, 1972. Bands from as far away as Regina, Edmonton, and Bellevue will be there to perform and enjoy this beautiful vacation area. Interesting things that will happen during the week include a water pageant, fireworks display and full television coverage of events by the C.B.C. To make all arrangements for competitors entries may be limited to May 1, 1972, so get them in. A complete programme will be published next month.

NEW WESTMINSTER

At this year's Games, June 10th at Queen's Park, a new feature will be an Open Band Competition. The competition is open to any band and they must play a medley for a maximum of 7 minutes and a minimum of 5 minutes. 1st prize is \$100.00 and 2nd prize is \$75.00.

Professional drumming is also being incorporated into this year's Games and the prize money is \$15.00, \$12.00, and \$10.00. For more information, please phone Donald Ross at 526-7905.

THE SPOKANE PIBAIREACHD SOCIETY - North Idaho College,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Summer School for Piping July 16 thru July 28 1972

We are proud to announce that the sixth annual summer school will again be held at the North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, during the last two weeks of July. The tuition and dormitory fees will be the same as last year - \$75.00 and \$22.00 respectively. Tuition fees will be paid to a representative of the North Idaho College on Sunday, July 16. They in turn will provide the necessary liability insurance, pay the instructors, reimburse instructors for travel costs, deduct appropriate Federal Income Taxes from overseas instructors, obtain Social Security numbers, administer college credits for students authorized to receive them, etc. With this realignment of administrative procedures, it is hoped that each student will receive a substantial dividend which will be placed against his or her name and be taken advantage of during any one of the following two years. This credit will represent the entire net after all salaries and bills are paid. The amount of credit will of course depend on the size of the enrollment.

We are delighted to announce that P/M R. G. Hardie will again be with us as chief of the instructor force. His associate will be another superstar from Scotland and they will be supported by four student/instructors selected from last year's Banner Group. P/M Hardie's sixteen year old son, Jim, will be with us also. Last year, and already this year, he has completely dominated the Amateur piping in Scotland, and he too will be working closely with the less skilled students.

It is hardly necessary to comment on the achievements of Mr. Hardie. As the students who attended last year are aware, P/M Hardie won the Gold Medal at Oban in 1947 in perhaps one of the stiffest competitions ever recorded at these world famous games. His band, Muirhead and Sons, has established a record in Scotland without parallel. He is the largest manufacturer of bagpipes in the world and these quality instruments are renowned everywhere. He personally supervises the making of every pipe chanter that leaves his factory. It is believed that he has the most comprehensive knowledge of this ancient instrument of anyone alive. His teaching methods are completely modern and are coupled with infinite patience. His handsome son Jim states that he believes his father is the best teacher in the world. Jim may be slightly biased, but we are all inclined to agree with him.

We believe that Mr. Hardie is one of the finest piping representatives ever produced in Bonnie Scotland. His record of achievements speaks for itself and his personal integrity has been an inspiration for those of us who have been fortunate to know him for so many years.

If wishing to attend the School, please cut and mail the following application to:

Lt/Col John McEwing
W. 3309 Dalke Ave. (Fa 8-7920)
Spokane, Washington, 99208
Pres. Spokane Piobaireachd Socieity

.....
Name _____ Phone _____ Age _____

Address _____

Brief Piping Background _____

Piping Instructor _____

Name and Address of Next of Kin _____

Mode of Travel _____ Dormitory Requirements _____

Additional Information _____

SPRING DANCE

The Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band is holding a dance in the Legion Hall at 2nd and Commercial on May 27th. There will be a bar service, door prizes, Chicken-Pickin's and dancing from 9:00 p.m. till 1:00 a.m.

Tickets are \$3.00 per person and can be obtained at the door or by phoning Mrs. Wright at 278-0620.

KNOCK-OUT AND GENERAL MEETING

May 5th, Steelworkers' Hall, 8:00 p.m. SHARP!

RED DEER

The Red Deer Branch of the Alberta Highland Dancing Association are holding their 25th Annual Highland Games and Open Dancing Competition on Saturday, June 24th at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds, Red Deer, Alberta.

For further information, please phone Bruce McRae at 298-0116.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The Indoor Meet - 1946

Veterans 50 to 60

Marches: 1. Alec Ferguson
 2. Sebastien Nellies
 3. Alec Maclean

Strathspey and Reels: 1. Sebastien Nellies
 2. Joe Shirlaw
 3. James Horne

Veterans over 60

Marches: 1. Joe Shirlaw
 2. J. Taylor
 3. Bob Allen

Strathspey and Reels: 1. Joe Shirlaw
 2. Bob Allan
 3. J. Taylor

April, 1960

Happy 12th Birthday! In April, 1960, the first of a monthly newsletter was prepared and sent out to all members. As the President of the Association, C. I. Walker put it, the newsletter is produced with the intention of keeping all of the membership informed of the affairs of the local piping world and can only be successful with the help of the members.

April, 1964

The following persons were elected for the coming year:

President:	Ian A. McDougall
Vice-President:	Norma Nicholson
Secretary:	Georgina MacPhail
Treasurer:	Rod MacVicar
Board:	Tom Binnie
	Albert Duncan
	Charles Irvine
	William McAdie
	Roderick MacRae
	Seb Nellies
	C. I. Walker

BAGPIPES HOTTEST GIFT ITEM

If a man should get the urge to own a Glengarry or a Sporrán there are not many persons to whom he can turn in the United States.

But there are a few, and one who supplies most of the other suppliers here is Jack Ironside of Seattle, a former Vancouver, B.C. man who supplies Scottish products for other Americans, most of whom are not Scots.

Ironside is one of the fortunate few who has seen a hobby grow - almost of its own accord - into a full-time occupation.

His business, called the Scottish Shopper, supplies Scottish goods to Scottish specialty shops around the U.S., as well as to gift shops, music stores and pipe bands.

His hottest-selling items are bagpipes, which go for \$120 to \$600, depending upon adornment.

"Ninety-eight per cent of the people who buy pipes are not Scots," says Ironside. "I don't cater to Scots, particularly. It's the great American public. There's 220 million of them, and a percentage would like to play bagpipes."

Ironside feels Americans are taking to the pipes because of their romantic history and because "they're a glamorous instrument - there's a uniform that goes with them."

And Ironside, of course, provides that too - from the Glengarry at the top of the head to the fur purse, or sporran, at the waist, to the hose tops and spats on the feet.

That will set the average customer back about \$250.

Ironside, 56, was a factory representative for a heavy machinery company until a little more than eight years ago, when he turned his interest in Scottish products into a business.

His inventory now ranges from wicked-looking dirks and leather-covered shields to jewelry and tartans. His wife helps him in the business, and they employ four other persons.

Ironside was born in Vancouver, B.C. His parents and his wife all came from Scotland, and he holds the order of the British Empire. He's not sure of the reason, he says, but thinks it was for his work with youth.

Ironside estimates he could double his business through advertising, but maintains he already has more than he can handle.

"Last year we sold over 16,000 bagpipe reeds in the United States," he says, "which seems like a hell of a loot of reeds."

Reprinted from a Seattle paper.

OUT OF TUNE?

Glasgow newspapers once appealed for lodgings where a young Australian novice could practice piping. In a city of a million, only 2 persons would have him. One was stone deaf, the other a Canadian.

NIJMEGEN WALTZ



This beautiful waltz was composed by Mr. J. MacMillan in the Spring of 1945 while awaiting the final push over the Rhine into the heart of Germany. In the words of the composer himself, "It rained for a ***** week". The weather was so wet and miserable that he first called it "Dreary Holland" but on the advice of his band members, he later changed it to "Nijmegen (Nymegen) Waltz". The actual melody is based on the tuning phrase that Jimmy used.

The Seumas MacNeill

S U M M E R S C H O O L O F P I P I N G

July 15th through 29th 1972

at

LAKE SEQUOIA, CALIFORNIA

Instructors

SEUMAS MACNEILL

JOHN MACASKILL

with additional assistance as enrolments require.

The location is a summer camp, set amid pine woods at the edge of an 88 acre lake at an elevation of 5,500 feet.

Tuition fee \$75.00

Room and board \$84.00

Lodge accommodations at 5 miles in Sequoia National Forest for those who prefer the more deluxe living.

Register now for full details from:

W. F. Casteen, M.D., 3921 Claremont Drive, Bakersfield, California, 93306, or Seumas MacNeill, The College of Piping, 20 Otago Street, Glasgow, Scotland.

I WANT TO SEE THE PRESIDENT?

Sid Gale, manager of the Rock House Hotel, Lossiemouth, was in America recently.

In Washington, he decided it would be the bee's knees to swagger into the White House in his MacKenzie dress kilt.

As he filed in with the visitors on a conducted tour, a helmeted policeman, gun glinting at his side, ran up and barred his way.

"Sorry, buddy," he said. "No weapons allowed inside the building."

Sid protested he hadn't any. The cop waved his baton at the skean dhu in Sid's stocking. "O.K., what's that?" he asked suspiciously.

Sid explained the knife was a traditional part of Highland Dress.

Maybe so, he was told. But there had been numerous threats to President Nixon's life.

The police couldn't have strangers roaming the White House carrying knives of any kind.

Sid was given an ultimatum. Leave the skean dhu outside or be turned away. Reluctantly, he surrendered his knife. The policeman could see Sid was disappointed. "Please don't take it as an offence to Scottish tradition," he said. "I'm only doing my job."

Sid says he was captivated by the magnificence of the White House. In fact, before he left, he'd to agree with the friendly cop that parting with his skean dhu wasn't such a blue dhu after all.

"THE PELE"

Embellishments in piping have many strange names, some accepted generally, but some suffering local alterations from one region to another. The "tweedly note" is important in Southern California, because Hal MacLeod uses it regularly, but the Outer Isles know the term not. Tachums to some are hochums to others. Tros, throws, hibidies, hububaws all have their adherents, but now a new planet has swum into our ken.

This is the "Pele" (rhymes with tummy) and the name is the brainchild of Dr. John MacAskill. While watching the World Cup series last year he, like all fanatics, was continually in awe of the majesty and poetry of the Brazil team, and especially the genius of the incomparable Pele.

One goal in particular so impressed John that he cried aloud in ecstasy "Pure piping". The way of taking the goal consisted of a touch of the chest (the G gracenote), a touch of the knee (the E gracenote), and a belt with the boot (the slur on D).

So every time you see



in future, you have no problem about what to call it - it's a Pele.

-Reprinted from the Piping Times

ANGUS McLEOD

The Association was saddened to hear of the death of Angus McLeod.

Born in 1888 at Applecross, Ross-shire he lived in the Territorials and was one of the 8 Ross-shire Mountain Battery soldiers selected to serve at the 1911 coronation of King George V.

Stationed in the U. S. during the First World War, he finally elected to settle in Seattle becoming a charter member of Seattle Highland Games Association. He was also an honorary member of the Washington Scottish Pipe Band, and the B. C. Pipers' Association.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. McLeod's daughter, Mrs. Allan Hegge and his six grandchildren.

SAM SCOTT

Samuel Scott, well-known pipe major for the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, was killed in a two-car collision on old Prescott Highway, January 3rd, 1972.

Mr. Scott, a native of Ottawa, enjoyed a long and distinguished career as pipe major for his regiment. He left Ottawa in 1939 to go overseas and for five years saw action in France, Flanders and Germany.

Mr. Scott is survived by his wife Eileen and two daughters, Margaret Scott, and Mrs. Murray Hartin.

-The North American Scotsman.

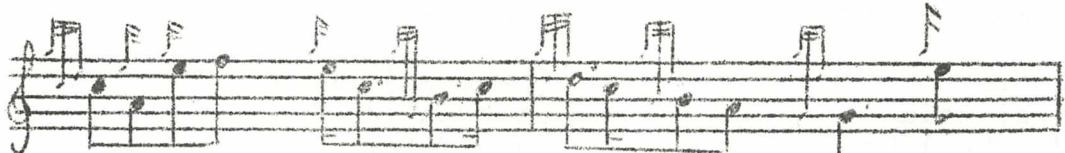
ROVING REPORTER - "THE LADIES' AT SONOMA"



TO THE COUNTRY OF SO-NO-NA FROM A THOUSAND MILES A-WAY CAME THE



LADIES OF VAN-COU-VER ON THAT BRIGHT SEPTEMBER DAY THERE WERE



MEN FROM KANSAS CITY AND FROM SAN FRANCISCO BAY PRINCE



CHARLES' BONNIE PIPERS AND THE SCOTTISH FROM L. A. 'MONG THE



LOVELY LOVELY HILLS OF SANTA RO-SA WITH TEN



THOUSAND VOICES CHEERING AS THEY PLAYED WITH THEIR



DRUMS RINGING PIPES SINGING ON THAT HAPPY DAY THE VAN-



COU-VER LA DIES STOLE OUR HEARTS A-WAY.

PUZZLE CORNER

Criss X Puzzle - Based on Titles of Scottish Musical Selections

Words may be found vertically, horizontally or diagonally. When a word is found circle each letter of the word. Each word found must contain at least one not previously circled letter. If completed correctly all letters will be circled. Note: Words bracketted in the names are not in the puzzle. Leave short words such as -of--to-mo- until last, as these combinations are probably repeated several times.

(Miss) Ada (Crawford)	Lauders
Anon	(a) Delight
Bonnie	(Leaving) Lunga
(a) Coll	Loch Carron
(Brochan) Lom	Loch Maree
Ca' (The Ewes)	Loch Monar
Cameron MacFadyen	Louden (Hill)
Cannich Bridge	Lord (Blantyre)
(Chi) Min (Toman)	Man (from Skye)
Cork	Mo (Cailleag Fhein)
(a) Hill	My Home
Conal (Crovi)	My Own
Cradle (The)	(a) Lass
(a) Song	Nellie's Strathspey
Craigmillar (Castle)	(The Bridge of) Oich
Curlew	(The Bridge) of (Nant)
Dolina MacKay	Pap (of Glencoe)
Duart (Castle)	Peat (Reek)
Duff (Captain)	Plains of Tuscany
Dunoon	Portree Men
Duntroon	Raasay House
(Echoes of) Oban	Red Brae (The)
(Pipe Major) Evan (MacRae)	Reel (of Tulloch)
Fairy Dance (The)	(Road) to (the Isles)
Far Over Struy	Rookery (The)
Fiona Ferguson	Sandy Cameron
Flagon (The)	Sandy Duff
Gille	Sine
(a) Calum	(a) Bhan
(Glen) Mallan	Sweet Maid of Mull
(Glen) Orchy	Swords (The)
Grays of Tongside	The
Grey Bob (The)	(a) Barn
(The) Herding (Song)	(b) Dance
Heather (Island)	Teribus
Ian (Mohr)	Thug
Ina MacKenzie	(a) Migaol
Islay (Ball)	Tug (Argan)
Land (of my Youth)	(a) Gap
	Ulva Ferry
	Wee (Highland Laddie)
	Youghal Harbour

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

H A G G I S W A N T S Y O U !



AT

THE B.C. PIPERS' ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1972

FLAME SUPPER CLUB

Tickets: \$5.50 per person

Outstanding dues!!!

It has come to our attention that over 50% of the membership have not paid their dues for 1972 and some have not been paid for two years. Obviously, it is very difficult to balance the books when over half of the members have ignored their payments to the Association. Therefore, on behalf of the treasurer, we would appreciate it if members would forward their dues to Mr. Bob Gunn, 1073 Doran Road, North Vancouver.

* * * * *

Lord Blantyre and Struan Robertson, while drinking Highland Whiskey in Arniston Castle, saw The Devil in the Kitchen threatening Maggie Cameron and Lady Loudon with the Shepherd's Crook.

-- Bob of Fettercairn

RECORD REVIEW

The Pipes and Drums of 153 Highland Regiment

For those interested in pipe bands, this is a very interesting record. If the quality of this band continues to improve it will most certainly count itself among the top bands in a very few years. Except for a few noticeable flaws, both the quality of the pipes and the playing ability are very good. The fingering is crisp and precise and the drones stand out very well. This brings up an important point which is, admittedly, a personal bias.

This band, like Red Hackle, makes use of an organ at certain times on the record. This innovation is counter productive to the effectiveness of a pipe band sound. The drones are organs enough. This is not meant facetiously. The organ tends to blot out the drones. It replaces those harmonics with some pretty shaky ones of its own and the descant it provides does not mix well with the chanter. This may partially be the fault of the organist but in fact it seems to be basically unsound. Many will certainly disagree but those that do should first ask themselves what is really useful piping innovation. Surely any innovation must come from the pipes and drums themselves. Anything of lasting value for piping must come from piping both in terms of what is to be played and how it is to be presented - not on an organ but on the bagpipe. Anyway, enough said; back to the review proper.

Along with the usual old standards, a few new tunes have been included in what is overall, a very good range of music. The medleys, one on each side, enhance this desirable variety and they are all solid with a few exceptions. One possible mistake might be the inclusion of "MacGregor of Rora", at retreat tempo. This tune is successful as a gaelic air but at the faster tempo it seems to lose most of its strength. The "Mermaid's Song" seems to suffer both from the setting which is played and also from what appears to be uncertainty on the part of the pipers as to what the gracenoting is. Except for that and some occasional roughness elsewhere, the playing is very good.

As for the tone and tuning of the pipes, except for some flatness here and there on the top hand, they are very nice and they are also well recorded. Likewise the drums and the pipes do not dominate one over the other. (The drumming sounds a little weak but that criticism, fair or not, will be left up to those who know better.)

What this band's playing seems to lack (again, perhaps the drumming tends to amplify this effect) is the ability to get the most music possible out of the tunes. What we are talking about here has the qualities of quicksilver, so this feeling may be as much fancy as fact. It does seem though, that as a regimental pipe band, it retains a kind of military stiffness and rigidity - it is precise but sort of cold.

In any case, this would be a good addition to pipe band record collections and it is evidence of the continuing improvement of pipe band L.P.'s in recent years.

- John MacLeod

(Copies of this record can be obtained from Fred Brodie.)

B.C. PIPERS' SCHOLARSHIPS TO COEUR D'ALENE

The B.C. Pipers' Association is again sponsoring two people to the Spokane Piobaireachd Society's Summer School of Piping. The scholarships are open to Junior, Senior Amateur and Professional pipers. All applicants must submit a brief account of their career and their reasons for wishing to attend the school on or before June 1st, to Bill Elder, 2204 E. 33rd, Vancouver, B.C.

Last year, only 4 people applied, so let's have a little better showing this time.

BANDSTAND

The Western Pipe Band Association

Since the March bulletin, the W.P.B.A. has had the pleasure of presenting an evening with Pipe Major Iain MacLeod of the Edinburgh Police. It took place April 10th at the I.W.A. hall. We were a little concerned prior to the event that the two foot drop beams in the auditorium might affect the performance, however, they proved to be no problem whatsoever.

We were generously and highly entertained to an evening of "Wee Music" as Iain calls it, and it was evident why he has been so successful in the professional circuit in Scotland. During the evening we had an open forum session which gave everyone an opportunity to ask questions about piping and bands generally. This part of the programme was most interesting and informative, and its use should be considered when future guests are visiting with us. Mrs. MacLeod kindly presented the door prizes. After his recital, Iain stayed quite late to chat with everyone and proved to be an excellent ambassador of Scotticana.

The gathering although quickly organized was a great success. I should like to thank everyone who attended for their support, and hope that they had an enjoyable night. I should also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy McMillan for their gracious hospitality to the MacLeod's during their stay on the coast. Also, Bill Elder and the B.C. Pipers for their encouragement and support.

There will be a general meeting of the W.P.B.A. in May. The date will be announced later.

We are now concentrating our efforts on the "B.C. Pipe Band Championships" for August. We are very hopeful at this stage that we can have the "Innes Tartan Pipes and Drums" compete in our first championship. They are the New Zealand 1971 champions. We are also working on having other bands of the same calibre join us to make our contest a memorable one.

Our congratulations to all the winners at the Indoor Meet.

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

Intercontinental Pipe Band Competition

There has been a great deal of rumour concerning the presentation of a Pipe Band Competition in Toronto this summer. The latest information that I have is that the competition is being held in conjunction with the Canadian National Exhibition on August 17-20. It is part of a production that is billed as the Scottish World Festival which also includes championships for dancers and a Military Tattoo. The pipe band section has been named the Intercontinental Championships.

"The following is a complete list of the Scottish bands that will be competing in the competition and taking part in the Tattoo: Grade One - Edinburgh Police, Shotts and Dykehead, Caledonia, Red Hackle Pipes and Drums, City of Glasgow Police, Renfrew, Musselburgh Royal British Legion, Bilston Glen, Muirhead and Sons Ltd., Invergordon Distillers, Clan MacRae Society, Keltie and Blairadam, Mount Carmel Buckburn and Dist., Robert Armstrong Memorial, Polkemmet Colliery, 153(H)Regt RCT(V), St. Patricks Donaghmore.

Grade Two - Glasgow Skye Association (1971 World Champions), Dysart and Dundonald, Dumbarton and District, Dromara, Paisley, Milngavie, Torphicen and Bathgate.

Grade Three - Howard Memorial (1971 World Champions), Dingwall Royal British Legion, Cumbernauld, Monktonhall Colliery.

Grade Four - Dalzell Steelworkers, (1971 World Champions), Kilsyth Thistle, Ballykeel, Birmingham Scottish."

Plus the bands from Canada and the United States, there will also be representatives from New Zealand, Sweden, and France.

The competition will be run under S.P.B.A. rules, the Grade One bands submitting two medleys of five to seven minutes, Grades two and three submitting one March, Strathspey and Reel, and Grade four playing a march only.

What has been arranged in effect is that virtually all the pipe bands of any significance in Scotland are being transported to Toronto for a competition. This should be a fantastic opportunity for those of us who can manage the trip east, to hear all of the top Scottish bands in action.

The only weak point as far as bands on the West Coast are concerned is that the maximum travelling expenses for bands is only one hundred dollars. As Canada is hosting these games, I should think a better effort could be made to bring in top Canadian bands in these classes by offering **travelling** expenses a bit more in tune with the distance they have to travel.

All in all though, it promises to be a very exciting weekend, the equivalent of any of the top Scottish competitions, and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to seeing some of the bands we've heard so much about. Anyone requiring further information about the games may contact me.

Bruce McRae

Band Chatter

Did anyone who attended the Scots Guards concert notice anything missing? There were no tenor drummers. When questioned about this, they elated that tenor drummers are in very short supply.

Sorry - last month we elated that Fred Brodie is the director of C. P. Air 1 and 2, however Jimmy Wilson is in charge of the Junior band while P/M Brodie handles the older boys.

Davie Bruce of Port Moody is now teaching the Burnaby Ladies' drum section and the Highland Laddies are receiving instruction from Willie McErlean.

P/M Fred Brodie has been invited to judge at Red Deer.

Triumph St. - A surprise appearance at the Annual gathering was the Triumph St. Pipe Band (mob). Willie McErlean is lead stroke and European Champion Bass Drummer, Terry Leonard, is another stalwart in the Drum section. Pipers include Sandy Marshall, Donald McMillan and the Newsletter Editors.

Who is the mystery piper who practises during lunch hour in the stock yards at C. P. Transport?

FOREIGN CORNER

Ronald Lawrie stands down as P/M of Glasgow Police Pipe Band

With the resignation of Ronald Lawrie from the Pipe Majorship, the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band have lost their most majestic figure since the days of the late Charles D. Scott.

To see the seven foot tall pipe major - six feet four of whipcord and muscle (to use his own phrase) plus feathered bonnet and brogues - stride out to collect a prize or lead his band on parade was a sight to instil awe in men and to set ladies' hearts aflutter.

Fortunately for the band, they are not going to be completely deprived of his services as he intends, in the meantime at least, to remain as a playing member.

Born in Oban in 1927, Ronnie has the distinction of receiving his first piping lesson from Pipe Major William Ross, although he dutifully acknowledges his father as his first real teacher. At the age of eighteen, Ronnie decided to seek his fortune in the big city, left Oban and went into "digs" in Bath Street. To his surprise, he found that the College of Piping was then in premises in Pitt Street and immediately started taking lessons from the Joint-Principal Tommy Pearston.

It was inevitable that Ronnie should join the police band, then under the guidance of the legendary John MacDonald, and gain experience in piping and pipe band work through association with such "greats" as Roddy MacDonald, John Garroway, Charlie Scott, John Johnstone and the many others who made the Glasgow Police the first of the super bands.

It was equally inevitable that, in 1967 when Pipe Major Angus MacDonald resigned as pipe major, Ronnie should take over and lead the band to one of their greatest successes - the winning of the title Champion of Champions.

Since then he has led the band all over the United Kingdom and abroad to Italy, Sweden and Denmark. It is with great reluctance that he has decided to step down at this time. Already he has had two ear operations and is awaiting his third and, considering the pressure that is going to be on all bands this year, has decided that the interests of his colleagues will be best served by having someone else to lead them.

His successor, and friend, is Iain MacLellan, formerly pipe sergeant and a player of great ability. He has the best wishes of all in his task and the assurance of "Big Ronnie's" complete support.

Reprinted from The Oban Times,
February, 1972.

The Contest Calendar

- June 3rd --- Helix, La Mesa (San Diego)
Joan Nelson, Registrar, 7238 West Point Ave.,
La Mesa, Calif. 92041
- June 24th --- United Scottish Society Santa Monica,
Jack Turnbull, 19801 Chase St., Canoga Park,
Calif. 91306
- July 22, 23rd --- Pebble Beach, Arthur Dunn, 965 Egan Ave.,
Pacific Grove, Calif. 93950
- Sept. 2, 3rd --- Santa Rosa, Al. Thompson, 120 Reno Way,
Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060
- Oct. 14th --- Hawaii, P/M Agnes Wallace, 237 Ohua Ave.,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

* John McDonald will be judging the Santa Monica Games.

THE SCOTTISH HOMEMAKER

Scots Trifle

6 Sponge Cakes (stale)	1 tsp. Vanilla Essence
2 oz. small macaroons	1 gill Fruit Syrup
2 oz. Ratafia biscuits	4 egg yolks
A few Pistachio Nuts	2 egg whites
Strawberry or Raspberry Jam	1 pint milk
1 oz. sugar	$\frac{1}{2}$ pint double cream
	3-4 tbsp. Sherry

Put the milk and sugar into a saucepan and heat to boiling point. Meanwhile, beat the eggs, then pour the hot milk over them, stirring well. Return to the pan, and stir over the fire till it thickens, but don't let it boil. Pour into a bowl, leave to cool a little, then add the vanilla. Split the sponge cakes and spread thickly with jam. Cut up roughly, and arrange in a deep glass dish, placing the macaroons and ratafias between each layer. Pour the syrup and sherry over; then the custard. Leave to cool and soak. Whip the cream stiffly, sweeten and flavour with vanilla, and cover the trifle. Ornament with ratafias and chopped pistachio nuts. At Christmas-time, substitute green and red crystallised fruits.

Atholl Brose

(The late Duke of Atholl's Recipe)

4 dessertspoonfuls Heather Honey
4 sherry glassfuls Prepared Oatmeal
Whiskey to make up one quart

To prepare the oatmeal, put it into a bowl and mix with cold water to the consistency of a thick paste. Leave for about half an hour, pass through a fine strainer, pressing with the back of a wooden spoon so as to leave the meal as dry as possible. Discard this and use the creamy liquid for the brose.

Put the dripped honey and the prepared oatmeal into a bowl and stir with a SILVER spoon till thoroughly blended. Put into a quart bottle, and fill up with whiskey. Shake well before serving. If not required at once, bottle and keep tightly corked.

The staff is still hungrily awaiting the arrival of some tasty tid-bits from the last two recipes. Maybe our trifle and atholl brose will prompt some "Scottish homemaker" to the kitchen.

Winners of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band raffle held at the B.C. Pipers' Indoor Meet, April 7th and 8th, were:

1st prize - Mrs. F. Silver,
1108 Edinburgh Street,
New Westminster, B. C.

2nd prize - Mr. F. Silver,
1108 Edinburgh Street,
New Westminster, B. C.

3rd prize - John MacDonald,
2135 Aubray Drive,
Port Coquitlam, B. C.

A SPECIAL THANKS

Mr. & Mrs. G. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. D. Ross
Susan Burgess
Seb Nellies
James McColl
Jimmy McMillan
David Wilson
Andy Arnott
John A. MacLeod
James Lang
Bruce McRae
B. Elder

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE B. C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Please urge your friends to join. Thank you.

Name.....
Address.....
Occupation.....
Name of Proposer.....
Name of Soconder.....
Active..... or Associate.....
Signature.....Date.....

