

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

AUGUST, 1961

No. 17.

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

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

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EDITOR: C. I. Walker
CIRCULATION: Donald Urquhart

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AUGUST, 1961

CONTENTS

No. 17.

Vancouver Caledonian Games	Page 2
San Francisco - 96th Annual Scottish Gathering	Page 6
Deft Definitions	Page 6
Jenny Dang the Weaver	Page 8
Military Searchlight Tattoo	Page 10
Victoria Highland Games	Page 11
Vancouver Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band	Page 13
Bi-Monthly Competition Aggregate Winners	Page 14
Junior Tattoo	Page 16

VANCOUVER CALEDONIAN GAMES:

One of the finest aggregation of pipe bands ever to perform in Vancouver competed at the 75th Annual Caledonian Games, on Saturday, July 22nd. The bands which are usually present at these games were supplemented by the bands of the 2nd Battalion Black Watch, Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, and the 48th Highlanders of Canada, both of which were in Vancouver for the Military Searchlight Tattoo.

The Games were officially opened by the Honourable J. Angus MacLean, P.C., D.F.C., C.D., M.P., B.Sc., LL.D., Federal Minister of Fisheries, who, together with the platform party, was marched into beautiful Brockton Point by the Seaforth Cadet Pipe Band.

The "A" Class Band Competition was undoubtedly the highlight of the day's activities. There was much speculation as to the outcome of this contest, and it was wondered generally whether the coveted Stewart Trophy would be taken to the east. Much to the delight of most of the audience present, the contest was won by a western band. The MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band, who played Highland Wedding, Piper's Bonnet and Pretty Marion, were judged winners of this class.

The following pipe bands competed in the various band competition.

"A" Class:

MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
2nd Battalion Black Watch, R.H.R. Canada, Gaagetown, N.B.
Vancouver Police Pipe Band
48th Highlanders of Canada, Toronto, Ont.
Canadian Scottish Regiment, Victoria, B.C.

"B" Class:

Washington Scottish, Seattle, Wash.
Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band
Seattle Pipe Band, Seattle, Wash.
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadets

"C" Class:

Vancouver Optimist Junior Pipe Band
Kiwanis Junior Boys Pipe Band

Almost as exciting as the band competitions were the Open Classes. Several of the better eastern players entered these events, and competition was extremely keen. Probably, the best known of the eastern competitors was William Gilmour, a member of the 2nd Battalion Black Watch. William

Gilmour, although a very young man, has gained many high honours in eastern Canada and Scotland. It was very interesting to see him and his fellow easterners perform.

The judges in the Open events were Archie Macindewar, Ronald Forman and George Cameron. Ian MacKinnon and J. Duthie judged the Amateur, Junior, Juvenile and Novice Classes.

The results of the games were as follows:

Novice Marches:

1. Frederick Whyte (Seattle, Wash.)
2. Linda Rowe
3. Bill Lamont

Juvenile Marches:

1. Stephen Geddes (Victoria)
2. Teresa MacInnes
3. Raymond Irvine

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Stephen Geddes
2. Teresa MacInnes
3. Bruce Topp

Junior Piobaireachd:

1. Larry Gillott

Junior Marches:

1. George Puritch
2. Donald Keating (Toronto, Ont.)
3. Angus Stanfield

Junior Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Bobby McDonald
2. Gordon Ross (Victoria)
3. Angus Stanfield

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. David Wilson
2. Arnie Stone
3. Ian Walker

Amateur Marches:

1. Rae Marie MacInnes
2. Arnie Stone
3. Bill Elder

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Arnie Stone
2. David Wilson
3. Rae Marie MacInnes

Amateur Jigs:

1. Arnie Stone
2. Rae Marie MacInnes
3. David Wilson

Open Marches:

1. Rudy School (Toronto)
2. James Yardley (Powell River)
3. Fred MacLeod (Powell River)

Open Strathspeys and Reels:

1. William Gilmour (Gagetown, N.B.)
2. Fred MacLeod
2. James Yardley

Open Jigs:

1. James Yardley
2. William Gilmour
3. Reay Mackay (Toronto)

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Rudy School
2. James Yardley
3. William Gilmour

"A" Class Bands:

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River
2. 48th Highlanders of Canada
3. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

"B" Class Bands:

1. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadets
2. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band

"C" Class Bands:

1. Kiwanis Junior Boys Pipe Band
2. Vancouver Optimist Junior Pipe Band

"A" Class Drumming:

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River

"B" Class Drumming:

1. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadets

"C" Class Drumming:

1. Kiwanis Junior Boys Pipe Band

Trophies:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Robert Fiddes Trophy - Professional - | James Yardley |
| Piper's Star - Professional - | James Yardley |
| Ian MacKenzie Memorial - Amateur - | Arnie Stone |
| B.C. Pipers' Association - Junior - | Larry Gillott, Bobby McDonald
& George Puritch (tie) |
| Walter Douglas Trophy - Juvenile - | Stephen Geddes |

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SAN FRANCISCO: 96th ANNUAL SCOTTISH GATHERING & GAMES:

Scots, their families and friends, will gather on Sunday, September 3rd, at the Petaluma Fairgrounds, Petaluma, California, for the 96th Annual Scottish Gathering and Games, hosted by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco. Petaluma is 38 miles north of San Francisco on Highway 101.

Some 40 events will attract amateur and professional dancers, pipers, drummers, and bands from California, Oregon, Washington and Canada. In addition there will be the heavy field events - tossing the caber, track events, and a professional piping quartet exhibition. The games will commence at 9:30 in the morning, and the official opening ceremonies will take place at 1:00 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to attend. Proceeds from the games will be given to charity. For additional information concerning the games contact Wm. H. Kirkpartick, Games Secretary, 5924 Fulton Street, San Francisco 21, California.

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DEFT DEFINITIONS:

(Reprinted from "The Pipe Band" with the kind permission of the Scottish Pipe Band Association)

Accent - Manner of phrasing as in English language, which has also many dialects.

Alarm - The look on the face of a Band Representative when he draws number one in the Ballot and his Band has not arrived.

Bag - A reservoir for wind (and water)

Bagpipes - An instrument inducing, when played, incitement, joy, or tears to the listener; also to the player.

Bar - Musically a division in the score - Socially the end of the sawdust trail.

Bonnet (Balmoral) - A cloth form of lid worn at angles dictated by the wearer.

Break - The art of slipping from one tune to another without slipping.

Chanter - Part of the Bagpipe which produces melody, sound, skirls, and chokes, and to which many adjectives are attributed.

Committee - A select body whose work allows others to play.

Contest - A competition in which Bands may or may not get that which they deserve.

Discipline - A code of behaviour expected in others.

Doublet - A tunic of selected colour and design fitting on the wearer where it touches.

Drones - Three telescopic shafts emitting background sound when reeds are allowed to function.

Dummy - Common to the clothing trade and to understrength Pipe Bands in Contests.

Execution - A term applied to fingering - good, bad and indifferent.

Expression - The facial reactions of a Pipe-Major during Band practice.

Forte (Double) - Means strength except when Drums are burst by the effort.

Glengarry - A headpiece worn in the shoulder strap.

Ground - The basis of a Pibroch composition.

Harmony - Holds all together at contests, at practice, or just having a blether.

Hemp - A thread that is sought but few Pipers can deliver.

Hose - Darned things in half or whole.

Huddle - One method of forming a circle when contesting.

Introduction - To some bands in contests the beginning of the end.

Jig - The movement of a winning Band following announcement.

Judge - An individual who is always accused but passes sentence.

Kilt - A pleated colourful garment worn to advantage by those with attributes for hanging - worn with braces by those without.

Knees - Joints of the lower limbs which when marching are positioned as dictated by the song "Mother Brown".

JENNY DANG THE WEAVER

Next to listening to a good piper, there is the pleasure, for some of us at least, of delving into the history of tunes. Some of them apparently originated under rather humorous conditions.

Take for example that good old reel, "Jenny dang the Weaver". It is recorded that the Reverend Mr. Gardiner, Minister of Birse, Aberdeenshire, about the end of the eighteenth century, was in his study preparing a sermon, when, for relaxation, he picked up his fiddle and ran over a tune on which he had been working. At this moment his handyman, Jock, an ex-weaver, appeared, and Mrs. Jenny Gardiner, who was mashing potatoes for supper told him to clean the Minister's shoes. "Na", said Jock. "That I'll no dae. I'm the Minister's ploughman but no his flunky, and I'm damned if I'll clean his shoon". Whereupon Jenny, a spunky lass, went into action with the potato masher, a club-shaped article in those days, and no mean "persuader".

The Minister, who enjoyed the encounter, finished the tune, and promptly named it "Jenny dang the Weaver".

It may be added that Sir Alexander Boswell, son of the famous biographer of Dr. Samuel Johnson (who liked putting his ear to the muckle drone of the pipes), wrote very passable verses to "Jenny dang the Weaver", and also to "Jenny's Bawbee". Unfortunately, his song writing ended abruptly in 1822, when as a result of a political squib from his pen, he was challenged to a duel and mortally wounded.

James A. Berry
-Secretary Treasurer
Vancouver Island Pipers' Society



"Wid ye tone doon yer T.V.?
It's drivin me nuts"

Caledonian Club of San Francisco



96th ANNUAL
SCOTTISH GATHERING & GAMES



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 1961

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Tickets: \$1.25

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MILITARY SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO:

Months of diligent practise for over 400 bandsmen were culminated in the Military Searchlight Tattoo, held at Empire Stadium from July 14th to 22nd. Almost 200 pipers and drummers participated in the Tattoo, and their presence was obviously much appreciated by the audiences which, during the eight performances, totalled over 157,000.

It might be of some interest to our readers who were unable to attend the Tattoo to learn what use was made of the pipe bands, and what tunes were played by them. The pipes and drums appeared three times during the evening, and in all played 23 different tunes.

The first appearance was that of the "dance band", composed of 64 pipers and 20 drummers. This band marched onto the field playing "The Haughs of Cromdale" and "Highland Laddie", during which time it marched into a formation resembling a St. Andrew's Cross, each arm being two rows of eight pipers. The drummers were positioned in the centre of this cross. The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada formed one arm, the 48th Highlanders a second, the Black Watch a third, and a composite band from MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River and the Lorne Scots formed the fourth arm. By the time that the St. Andrew's Cross was formed, eighty dancers, trained by Miss Mary Isdale, were in position throughout the field, forming ten squares of eight dancers each. They first danced the Argyll-shire Broadswords to the tunes of "Lady Madelina Sinclair", "Because He Was a Bonnie Lad", "Mrs. McLeod of Raasay" and the "Reel of Tulloch". They then danced an unusual and charming dance "Maclean of Lochbuie", while the band played "Pibroch O' Donal Dhu", "The Atholl Highlanders", "The Steam Boat" and "The Bugle Horn". The dancers and pipe band then marched off field to "The Barren Rocks of Aden" and "Black Bear Hornpipe", amid the traditional shouts of the drummers during the second tune.

The second appearance of the pipe band, known here as the "massed band" was the largest group of pipers and drummers used at one time during the Tattoo. 108 pipers and 62 drummers marched on playing "Queen Elizabeth's March". The band was then introduced by Brigadier Maclean, the spotlight being turned on each component band, in turn. The bands taking part in the massed bands were: The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, MacMillan Bloedel & Powell River from Powell River, Irish Fusiliers of Canada, Canadian Scottish Regiment from Victoria, Port Moody Pipe Band, 48th Highlanders of Canada from Toronto, Ont., 2nd Battalion Black Watch, R.H.R. Canada of Gagetown, N.B., and the Lorne Scots from Brampton, Ont. The band then slow marched to "Hearken My Love", and following this piece played the two 4/4 marches "51st Highland Division"

and "Meeting of the Waters". During the 4/4's the pipers formed two huge semi circles around the entire field, with the drummers between the two semi circles. This formation was made extremely effective by an imaginative use of the spotlights, and while in this position, the band played "The Braes of Tullymet", "Rose Among the Heather", "The Ale is Dear", and "Kate Dalrymple". The band marched out of the circle playing "Angus MacKinnon", and "John MacKenzie of Torridon", and then marched out of the stadium.

The final appearance of the pipes and drums was during the grand finale, in which all the components of the Tattoo participated. The pipe band, together with the massed military band played "Scotland the Brave" and finally played the entire parade out of the Stadium to the tune of "The Green Hills of Tyrol", again with the massed military bands.

You can see that the pipes and drums played an extremely vital role in the Military Searchlight Tattoo. They were apparently very much appreciated by all who saw them. For those participating, it was especially interesting to meet with the members of the three eastern bands. It was remarkable that the eight bands, after only a few days practise together, could play and sound as if they were a single band. Let us hope that we have more Tattoos in Vancouver in the future.

Pipe Major in charge of the pipe bands was Pipe Major Edmund Esson, M.B.E., of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. Drum Major was Drum Major "Bud" Moon, of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, and Drum Major George Pryde, of the MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band, was in charge of the drum section.

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VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES:

The 24th Annual Games, sponsored by the Victoria Highland Games Association were held on July 29th, 1961, at MacDonald Park. The Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Maj.-Gen. The Honourable George R. Pearkes, V.C., P.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., officially opened the Games.

The piping judges were James MacMillan and Ian Wallace.

The results of the Victoria Games are as follows:

Novice Marches:

1. James Reid
2. Jack Ironside
3. Stewart Morton
4. Joy Gilham

Juvenile Marches:

1. Shearea Barwell 2. Bruce Topp 3. Stephen Geddes

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Bruce Topp 2. John MacLeod 3. Stephen Geddes

Junior Piobaireachd:

1. Bobby MacDonald 2. Gordon Ross 3. Larry Gillott

Junior Marches:

1. Gordon Ross 2. David Ross 3. Bobby MacDonald

Junior Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Gordon Ross 2. David Ross 3. Angus Stanfield

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. David Wilson 2. J.S. MacAlpine 3. Bill Elder

Amateur Marches:

1. David Wilson 2. Rae Marie MacInnes

Amateur Strathspeys & Reels:

1. David Wilson 2. Rae Marie MacInnes

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Ronald Forman 2. James MacMillan 3. John Low

Open Marches:

1. Ronald Forman 2. John Low 3. James MacMillan

Open Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Ronald Forman 2. John Low 3. James MacMillan

Trophies:

John MacKay Memorial - Juvenile	Bruce Topp
John MacNeil - Junior Piobaireachd:	Bob MacDonald
Vancouver Island Pipers' Society: Junior:	Gordon Ross
George Stewart - Juv. or Jun. Girls:	Sherea Barwell
Lt. G.E. McCall - Amateur Ladies:	Rae Marie MacInnes
Robert Smith - Amateur:	David Wilson
Seattle Pipe Band - Amateur Marches:	David Wilson
Dr. Wallace R. Gunn - Open:	Ronald Forman
Ross Napier - Open Piobaireachd:	Ronald Forman
P.M. J. Marrs Memorial - Open Strathspey & Reel:	Ronald Forman

Pipe Band Results:

"A" Class Bands: (Sons of Scotland Trophy) Canadian Scottish
"B" Class Bands: (Alan Graham Trophy) Seaforth Cadets
"B" Class Drumming: (Hawkings Trophy) Royal Canadian Engineers
"C" Class Bands: (Victoria Highland Games Ass.) Seattle Scottish Boys

It was very enjoyable to hear the fine performance given by John Low of Cabar Feidh Gu-Brach, the new piobaireachd composed by P.M. Donald Macleod, which appeared in the June issue of the Newsletter.

Piping judges were James MacMillan, Ian Wallace and Archie MacIndewar.

VANCOUVER KIWANIS BOYS' PIPE BAND:

The Vancouver Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band was formed in 1958 as an activity which appealed to many boys who were learning pipes or drums, and who wished to show their ability as entertainers as well as find pleasure in practicing as a group.

The Vancouver Kiwanis Club undertook to sponsor the boys, provide them with drums and assist with their uniforms. The parents of the members formed an auxiliary to raise funds to assist with transportation costs to the various games and parades.

In their first turnout in the New Westminister May Queen Parade in 1958, the band won the first prize for junior bands, and since then have won fourteen firsts in fifteen competitions in Vancouver, Portland, Seattle, Victoria, Abbotsford and Calgary.

In their most enjoyable trip to the Calgary Stampede the boys had a long stopover at Banff and spent most of their time in the huge outdoor pool. They were also treated to a bus ride to all of the local places of interest.

The band is planning a trip to Scotland next year, and many projects are being organized to raise the necessary funds.

Mr. Leonard Osborne is organizing a social and dance at the Victoria Drive Community Hall, 2026 East 43rd Avenue on September 16th. This affair

will commence at 8:00 p.m. Come and assist Mr. Osborne help the band. All pipers, drummers and friends are welcome. All inquiries should be made to Mrs. John (Doreen) MacLeod at HE 4-8009.

This occasion should be a pleasant one for all Caledonians as there will be some free refreshments!

- Malcolm Nicholson -

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION AGGREGATE WINNERS:

The following persons are the aggregate prize winners of last season's BiMonthly Competitions:

Novice:

1. Dorothy MacArthur
2. Linda Rowe
3. Laurie McIlvena
4. Bob Lamont

Juvenile:

1. John MacLeod
2. Raymond Irvine
3. Bruce Topp
4. Douglas Graham

Junior:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Larry Gillott

Amateur:

1. Bill Elder

Senior Amateur:

1. William Paterson
2. Harry Mumford

Prizes will be awarded to these prize winners at the annual Ceilidh to be held in the fall. The date of this Ceilidh, and the dates of next season's Bi-Monthlies will be announced in an early issue of the Newsletter.

A special word of congratulation should be given to Bob MacDonald and Bill Elder, who won first prize at each of the five Bi-Monthlies in their respective classes. Their enthusiasm and the enthusiasm of all the prize winners and competitors alike is a great credit to the performers in our area.

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PIPE MAJOR
J. T. McHARDY

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JUNIOR TATTOO:

Residents in Dawson Creek, Prince George, Quesnel and Williams Lake were entertained by the excellent Junior Tattoo, presented in those cities from June 30th to July 8th.

The **object** of this Tattoo, which was organized by Donald Bellamy, was three-fold. It was intended to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Vancouver, to publicize the Military Searchlight Tattoo (6,000 brochures advertizing the Military Searchlight Tattoo were distributed), and to spread goodwill to our neighbours in Northern British Columbia.

The Junior Tatto was composed of 136 boys and girls from the following organizations: Vancouver Optimist Junior Pipe Band (38), West Vancouver Boys & Girls Band (65), Chinese Girls Drill Team (28), and the Madeline Finnegan Gressel Dance Team (5). These performers travelled and lived in seven P.G.E. Railway cars during the entire tour.

The transportation costs were financed by a grant from the City of Vancouver and by money raised by the members themselves. Food for the cast was supplied by the various local organizations sponsoring the shows. However, all proceeds of the various performances were used by these local organization. It is interesting to know that the proceeds from one of the performances in Dawson Creek were used to outfit an entire pipe band.

The person in charge of the piping portion of the show was Albert Duncan, a Director of this Association. Mr. Duncan was much taken by the warm reception given the youngsters at each city. The local citizens apparently could not do enough for the children, who will warmly remember the tour for years to come.

The Vancouver Optimist Junior Pipe Band performed for forty minutes during the two hour show, and in the finale they joined with the West Vancouver Boys & Girls Band in playing Scotland the Brave and the Green Hills of Tyrol.

The entire Junior Tattoo will be presented at the Kerrisdale Arena on September 9th. The performance will begin at 8:30 p.m. We would urge you to attend and support this Junior Tattoo. All proceeds will be used for youth work.

The following comment appeared in the gossip column of the Prince George Citizen, during the Junior Tattoo:

"True Scots who attended last night's Junior Tattoo at the Coliseum were distressed and horrified when Pipe-Major Duncan of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada emerged playing the bagpipes, dressed in full MacKenzie tartan, and wearing, of all things, a pair of loafers...."

Annoyed by this criticism, one of Albert's supporters and a former member of the Seaforth band, retorted with the following letter, which appeared in the Citizen.

"In your Now Hear This column of The Citizen July 7th it would appear that you have been led down the garden path in relation to the remarks concerning Sgt. Albert Duncan of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

In the first instance, he is not the pipe major of the Seaforth Highlanders but merely a sergeant. In the second instance, he was not wearing a pair of loafers but a pair of black oxfords which, when worn with full MacKenzie hose, is perfectly in order.

It is to be hoped that in future you will keep your sarcastic remarks out of print, about a person who has put in as many hours as Sgt. Duncan has in instructing the pipers in the Optimist Pipe Band.

- W. Campbell, Red Rock. - "

(Ed. - Is Sgt. Duncan really so "mere"?)

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One hundred and fifty copies of this Newsletter will be sent out this month. This number is exactly double to the number sent out of the first issue, printed in April, 1960.

If we are to continue producing the Newsletter we will require both an increase in circulation and in advertizing. If any of our readers can recommend us to potential subscribers or can recommend potential advertizers to us, it would be much appreciated. The annual subscription rate is only \$1.00 per year.

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PORTLAND ASTORIA GAMES August 19th

SAN FRANCISCO GAMES September 3rd

