

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

AUGUST, 1963.

No. 41.

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



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Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT - IAN McDOUGALL:

At Seattle, Washington on August 10th, the local Highland Games were brought to a close for the 1963 season.

I was very fortunate to have attended the games at Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and Seattle, and believe that all of the competitors and spectators owe a great vote of thanks to the hard working people in the various committees that made these events run generally smoothly. Having been a competitor, a judge and a spectator on different occasions during the summer, I am convinced that all were successful, and I am sure that my feeling are shared by many.

From a spectator's point of view, Victoria showed great thought and consideration in setting up the small bleachers beside the pipers' platform. I would like to see this carried out at the other games. I realize that there may be difficulties with these bleachers at some of the games, but I certainly feel that they make the piping competitions more enjoyable to the piping enthusiasts.

It is very gratifying to see our piping classes gradually increasing in volume, both in the Amateur and in Open classes. The increased interest must bring great satisfaction to the instructors in the area. Here there is compensation for the time and patience they have spent with their pupils.

After a year's absence, I was more than pleased to see the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, under Pipe Major Edmund Esson, once again in active competition.

As a competitor, I only wish that I had the confidence that was displayed by most of the pipers I played against. At Seattle I had the fortunate experience of judging this group. If there had been any apprehension on their part from playing on the platform in front of spectators, I would certainly like to hear them in their own homes playing in relaxed surroundings.

I would like to wish success to all the cities for their games in 1964.

I would also like to extend a personal invitation to those interested in piping to take part in our activities in the new season. If you are not already a member of the B.C. Pipers' Association, contact the Secretary, who will send you application forms. Our schedule of activities will appear shortly, and I hope that we will see you at some of these events during the coming year.

- Ian McDougall -

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77th ANNUAL CALEDONIAN GAMES, AUGUST 3rd, 1963.

The 77th Annual Caledonian Games, sponsored by the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society of Vancouver, were held this year on Saturday, August 3rd, in Brockton Point, Stanley Park. The day was an exceptionally fine one, and a good crowd were present to see the various events.

The Games were officially opened by the Lieutenant Governor, Maj. Gen. George Pearkes, V.C., P.C., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. A special guest was Lt. Col. John McEwing, retired, of the United States Airforce, a colorful personality well known in piping circles.

The various Amateur events were blessed with large numbers, but the Open class was quite small. However, the band events were excellent, eleven bands being entered in the three classes.

Piping judges were Ronald Forman, James MacMillan, Donald Murray, Ian MacKinnon and E.J. Peden.

Novice Marches:

1. Ian MacInnes
2. Neil Hunter
3. Barbara Gunn-Fowlie

Juvenile Marches:

1. Douglas Graham
2. Fred Whyte
3. James MacLean

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Barbara MacArthur
2. James MacLean
3. Fred Whyte

Junior Marches:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. John MacLeod
3. Sherea Barwell

Junior Strathspeys and Reels:

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

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. Alex Young
2. Bill Elder
3. Peggy Gillies

Amateur Marches:

1. Bill Elder
2. Peggy Gillies
3. Peter McNeil

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Peter McNeil
2. Alex Young
3. Bill Elder

Amateur Jigs:

1. Peter McNeil
2. George Purich
3. Alex Young

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Norma Nicholson

Open Marches:

1. James Yardley
2. John MacKenzie
3. Norma Nicholson

Open Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Rae Marie MacInnes
2. Norma Nicholson
3. Fred MacLeod

Open Jigs:

1. James Yardley
2. Rae Marie MacInnes
3. John MacKenzie

Highland Laddies Special Class:

1. David Irvine
2. Donald MacMillan
3. Alex MacInnes

"C" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Vancouver Kiwanis Junior Pipe Band
2. Prince George Pipe Band  
Seattle Boys Band  
Highland Laddies Pipe Band

"B" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band
2. Washington Scottish Pipe Band  
Clan McLeay Pipe Band  
Keith Highlanders Pipe Band  
Seattle Pipe Band

"A" Class Pipe Bands:

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band  
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipe Band

"C" Class Drumming:

1. Seattle Boys Band

"B" Class Drumming:

1. Washington Scottish Pipe Band

"C" Class Drumming:

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band

Trophies:

Robert Fiddes, M.B.E. - Professional - Norma Nicholson &  
James Yardley (tie)

Ian MacKenzie & Pipers' Star - Amateur - Peter McNeil

B.C. Pipers' Association - Junior - Bob MacDonald

Walter Douglas, M.B.E. - Juvenile - Douglas Graham, Barbara  
MacArthur, Fred Whyte & James MacLean (tie)

St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society Cup - Amateur Piobaireachd -  
Alex Young

The Real MacKay - Highest Aggregate in both Piping & Drumming  
Peggy Gillies

General Stewart Trophy - Class "A" Pipe Band  
MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River

Silver Challenge Cup - Class "A" Drumming - MacMillan,  
Bloedel & Powell River

Fiddes Trophy - Class "B" Pipe Band - Vancouver Ladies

David Spencer - Class "B" Drumming - Washington Scottish

Alex S. Matthew - Class "C" Pipe Band - Vancouver Kiwanis Boys

Don Bellamy - Class "C" Drumming - Seattle Boys Band

We would like to take this opportunity to urge the St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society of Vancouver to consider improving the facilities for piping spectators next year. Since piping is largely carried out at the games at a considerable distance from the grandstands and bleachers, those who are unable to get onto the field are unable to enjoy the contests. If it is not possible to set up chairs or benches near the piping platforms, we do feel that those interested should be allowed at least to approach the platforms during the piping events. The difficulties of control of spectators are appreciated, but it is hoped that some effort is made to improve the conditions for the piping enthusiasts.

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WHITE HEATHER VARIETY SHOW

OCTOBER 3rd - NEW WESTMINSTER - VINCENT MASSEY HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 4th & 5th - VANCOUVER - QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE

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DENNIS CLANCY

JILL HOWARD

ARTHUR SPINK    JIMMY NEIL    HARRY CARMICHAEL

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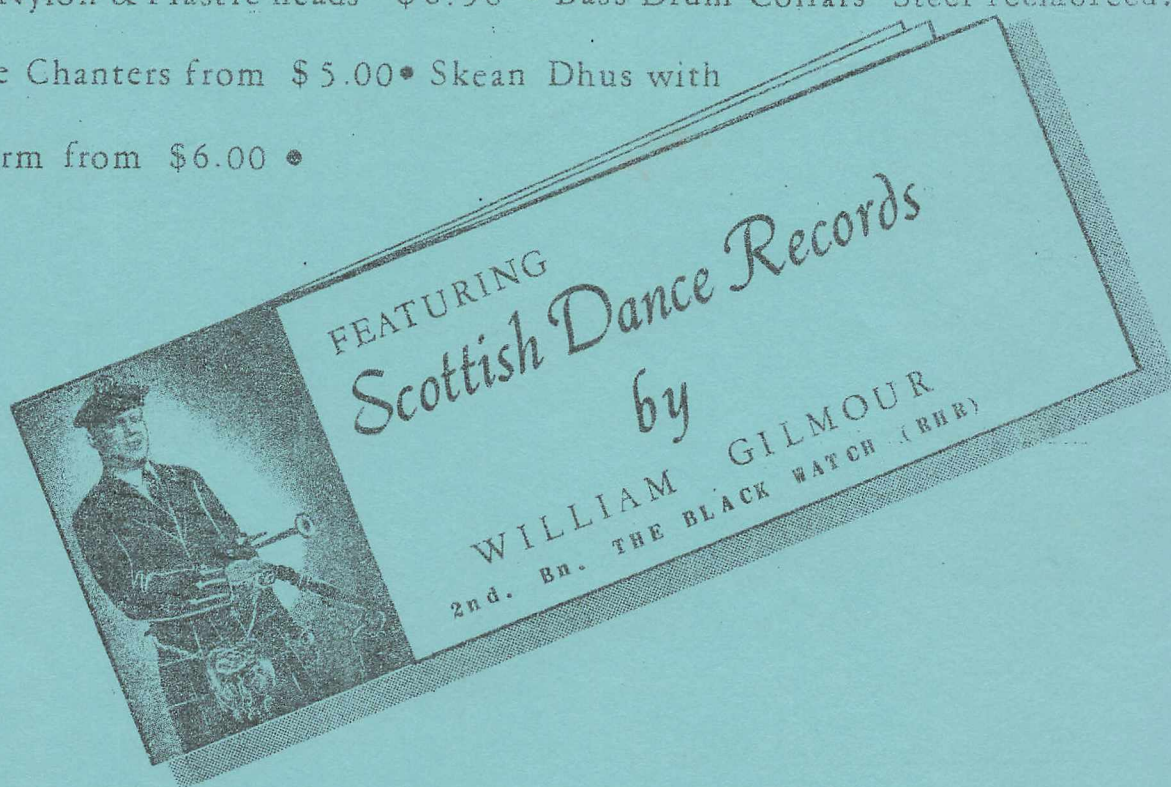
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DONALD SUTHERLAND PASSES:

Donald Sutherland, well known piper and composer, passed away in Silverton, Oregon, on July 8th, 1963. He was a native of Rogart, born Sept. 11th, 1888. Survivors are his wife Jean of Silverton, and brother John, of Milwaukie, Oregon, as well as two brothers and five sisters in Scotland.

Donald was a fine piper and composer, and until his death carried on an extensive correspondence with topping friends throughout the world. In his youth, he was a heavy-weight athlete, and for a time was piper to the Duke of Sutherland. His profession as a rancher took him to Peru and Australia, before settling in Oregon.

During his Australian stay, Donald won a number of competitions including the Australian championship. Among the twenty or more piobaireachd he played, his favorites were "The Lament for the Children", and the "Nameless - Hiharin Odin Hiharin Dro", the latter of which he received instruction in from Simon Fraser of Melbourne. Simon was taught by Peter Bruce, who was a pupil of John Dubh and Donald Raugh MacCrimmon, the last of the MacCrimmon pipers.

Donald published a collection of pipe music several years ago, and I believe that he has had compositions in the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter.

- C.A. MacNeill-  
Portland, Oregon

(Ed. Our sympathies are extended to the family of Donald Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland was indeed a keen supporter of the Newsletter, and gave support in many directions. His loss will be felt by all of his friends and his many correspondents.)

MARRIAGE OF IAN McDOUGALL:

Congratulations are extended to our President Ian McDougall and his bride, the former Margaret Armstrong. Ian and Margaret were quietly married on July 26th, and spent part of their honeymoon, appropriately enough, at the Victoria Games.



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VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES: - JULY 27th.

Novice Marches:

1. Greg Graver
2. Craig Eberstein
3. Dunean Knight

Marches - Girls:

1. Barbara MacArthur
2. Shearea Barwell
3. K. Ruddick

Juvenile Marches:

1. Fred Whyte
2. Stephen Geddes
3. Donald MacMillan

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Stephen Geddes
2. Fred Whyte
3. Barbara MacArthur

Junior Marches:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Bruce McRae
3. Michael MacInnes

Junior Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Michael MacInnes
3. Jack Ironside

Junior Piobaireachd:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Ron Skipsey

Amateur Marches:

1. Alex Young
2. Peggy Gillies
3. Peter McNeil

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Gordon Ross
2. Bill Elder
3. Peggy Gillies

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. Bill Elder
2. Gordon Ross
3. Alex Young

Open Marches:

1. James Yardley
2. Rae Marie MacInnes
3. Norma Nicholson

Open Strathspeys and Reels:

1. James Yardley
2. Rae Marie MacInnes
3. Fred MacLeod

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Fred MacLeod
2. Norma Nicholson
3. Albert Dunean

"A" Class Pipe Bands:

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band
2. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

"B" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band
2. Washington Scottish Pipe Band
3. Seattle Pipe Band

"C" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Vancouver Kiwanis Pipe Band
2. Highland Laddies Pipe Band



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17th ANNUAL SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES - SEATTLE - August 10th.

The 17th Annual Scottish Highland Games were held in West Seattle Stadium, Seattle, on Saturday, August 10th, 1963.

The piping and pipe band events were generally well supported, and an excellent crowd were present to enjoy the fine, sunny day.

Piping judges were Ian MacKinnon, Ian MacDougall, Albert Whyte, and E.J. Peden.

Bandsmen's Marches:

1. Bill Heaton 2. Lynn Grocott 3. Jamie Reid

Bandsmen's Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Lynn Grocott 2. Jamie Reid

Novice Marches:

1. H.T. Wooten 2. William Vanry 3. Greg Lippert

Novice Strathspeys and Reels:

1. H.T. Wooten 2. David Warner

Juvenile Marches:

1. Fred Whyte 2. Douglas Graham 3. Barbara MacArthur

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Douglas Graham 2. Fred Whyte 3. Laurie McIlvena

Juvenile Old Highland Airs:

1. Fred Whyte 2. Barbara MacArthur 3. James McLean

Junior Marches:

1. John MacLeod 2. Bob MacDonald 3. Bruce MacRae

Junior Strathspeys and Reels:

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

Junior Old Highland Airs:

1. John MacLeod 2. Bob MacDonald

Amateur Marches:

1. Alex Young 2. Bill Elder 3. Peggy Gillies

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Bill Elder 2. Alex Young 3. George Puritch

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. Alex Young
2. Bill Elder
3. Peggy Gillies

Open Marches:

1. Rae Marie MacInnes
2. John MacKenzie
3. Norma Nicholson

Open Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Rae Marie MacInnes
2. Norma Nicholson
3. Albert Duncan

Open Jigs:

1. Rae Marie MacInnes
2. Norma Nicholson
3. John MacKenzie

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Norma Nicholson
2. Chester McNeill
3. David Wilson

"C" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band
2. Seattle Scottish Boys' Pipe Band
3. Highland Laddies Pipe Band

"B" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band
2. Washington Scottish Pipe Band
3. Keith Pipe Band
4. Seattle Pipe Band

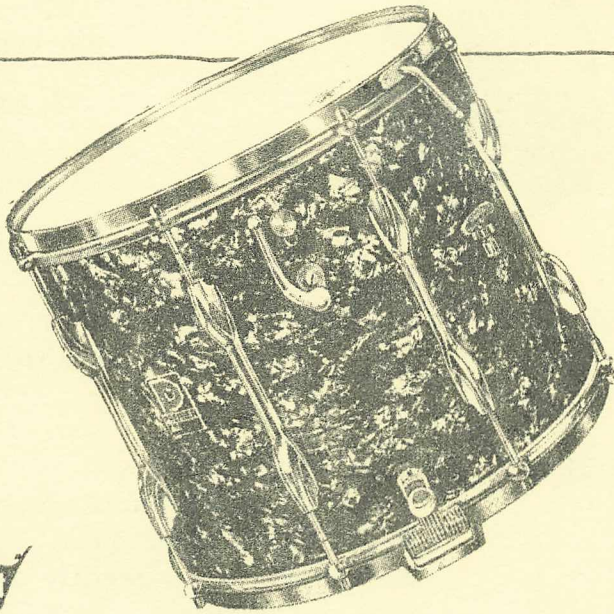
"A" Class Pipe Bands:

1. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

Trophies:

Washington Scottish Pipe Band Trophy - Bandsmen's - Lynn Grocott  
Aggregate Cup - Novice - W.T. Wooteon  
Clan Gordon Trophy - Juvenile - Fred Whyte  
Aggregate Cup - Junior - John MacLeod  
Mrs. Angus MacKenzie - Amateur Marches - Alex Young  
P.M. John W. Ironside - Amateur - Alex Young  
Governor's Cup - Amateur Piobaireachd - Alex Young  
George Buchan - Open Piobaireachd - Norma Nicholson  
Washington Scottish Pipe Band - Open Aggregate - Rae Marie MacInnes  
James Brennen - Class "A" Pipe Band - Seaforth Highlanders  
Championship Drumming - "A" Class - Seaforth Highlanders  
Robert Gillespie Trophy - "B" Class - Vancouver Ladies  
Alex Finlay Trophy - "C" Class - Kiwanis Junior  
Neil Kirk Trophy - "C" Class Drumming - Kiwanis Junior

After the Games, a Tartan Ball was held at the Elks Lodge, and many friends bade farewell for another season, these games being the last of the season.



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4th. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders
- CLASS B 1st. Clan MacFarlane Pipe Band

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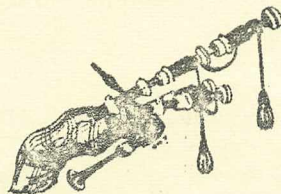
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SCOTLAND

ALOHA BAGPIPES:

At the conclusion of last month's article, I mentioned that this month I would give a report on a few pipers I met in Hawaii, as well as a few words on how pipes react to a tropical climate.

My visit with the pipers in Hawaii took place one evening when Don Bellamy, two chaperones, Bob Marshall and John Penner, and I were invited to the home of Agnes Wallace (her married name escapes me). We arrived in true pipers' tradition, by piping our way in to the strains of "Bonnie Dundee". Here we were cordially received by a group of about fifteen people - all piping enthusiasts.

I was immediately accosted by an old gentleman who very insistently demanded that I let him play my pipes. Although such conduct might be considered poor etiquette with us, I remembered that I was in Hawaii, and had to do as Hawaiians do, so I rather reluctantly handed him my pipes. He began to play "The Drunken Piper" minus embellishments. I felt a sense of admiration rise up in me when I found out the old gent was eighty plus. Aggie Wallace advised me to retrieve my pipes very quickly when he finished. Not wanting to offend the man, I waited, or rather was going to wait my chance, when I saw my drones slide down his arm, and hover just above floor level, my chanter weaving back and forth in a dangerous arc, and myself being lectured on the proper ways of playing pipes. I tactfully retrieved him of my treasured instrument and made for the next room.

Introductions then began, and most of the people at the Ceilidh were of Scottish origin and piping fans. A corporal from the U.S. Marine Corps, a young lady in her 20's and Agnes, however, were the only pipers in the group, apart from the elderly gentleman. I was immediately asked to play a tune with them. We played several of the old favourites. After a while I suggested that we pitch chanterers, but it was a vain endeavour, - Hendersons against Robertsons, as well as one of the crowd who wouldn't touch her reed. I gave up this idea.

The Marine corporal gave a good account of himself with "Capt. Norman Orr Ewing". This was not too hard to listen to, and his performance was quite surprizing, considering that he had never heard much live piping in his life.

The young miss then played "79th's Farewell to Gibraltar", and more than impressed me with her clean cut fingering, and sense of rhythm.

I then gave a few selections of marches, strathspeys and reels. This selection was well received, and from there on I felt I was among friends. The Ceilidh lasted until early in the morning, and proved to be most enjoyable.

The relative humidity in Hawaii is not very high, and as a result the pipes dry out very quickly. Drone slides, which are tight in Vancouver, are flopping within 8 hours. To overcome this, I had the boys put damp towels in their pipe boxes, which seemed to take care of the dry slides. There were days when this chore was overlooked, and the pipes would then fall apart.

Pipe bags proved to be a problem this year. Last year on our visit, I had to dope only one bag. This year, I had fifteen, one of which I had to discard. It was absolutely porous. Pipe Chanter reeds thrive in this climate, however, there being not much work in keeping up a good pitch. The volume is always good.

The people of Hawaii really appreciated the pipes, and thousands of tourists, many of whom had never seen a pipe band, showed their appreciation by great rounds of applause and by taking thousands of pictures. I am certainly looking forward to another visit in the not too distant future.

- Albert Duncan -

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BAGPIPES - ACCESSORIES - REPAIRS

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

EVERYTHING

SCOTTISH

CUSTOM ORDERS

PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

At the conclusion of the Seattle Highland Games, William H. Brown, President of the Pacific International Highland Games Association, presented Championships to the top competitors at the Portland, Seattle, Victoria and Nanaimo Highland Games.

These championships represent the culmination of a summer's hard work and achievement. The prizes consist of a trophy, a permanent certificate, and a cash prize for Open winners, and a scholarship for Amateur champions.

Our congratulations are given to the following pipers and dancers, who are the 1963 Pacific Coast Champions, and to the top "B" Class band in the local circuit.

Juvenile Piping - Fred Whyte, Seattle

Junior Piping - Bob MacDonald

Amateur Piping - Bill Elder

Open Piping - Norma Nicholson

"B" Class Pipe Band - Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band

Under 13 Highland Dancing - Julie Rhydderch

Under 16 Highland Dancing - Donna Allan

16 & Over Highland Dancing - Jan MacDonald

Open Highland Dancing - Sharyn Miles

FROM PIPE MAJOR JOHN ROBERTSON'S SCRAPBOOK:

THE STORY OF DONALD BAN:

(from "Piping and Dancing",  
May, 1937)

Donald Ban MacCrimmon, of Borreraig, born in 1710. According to a family tradition, he was an ardent supporter of the Stewart cause and, just before the MacLeod clansmen were raised, he secretly composed a salute to hail the coming of Prince Charles Edward. The story of MacCrimmon's lament is recorded in a manuscript which belonged to the late Mr. Brodie Innes, of Forres, and was published in the London Scottish Regimental Gazette of April, 1911.



I believe that in regard to this tune I have heard the original story as nearly at first hand as it is possible to come, since my informant heard it from the lips of her who composed the words wedded to the tune. I will try to tell the story as nearly as possible in the very words of the old woman who told it to me in the early sixties under the walls of Dunvegan Castle looking across the loch to the lands of Borreraig, once the home and school of the MacCrimmons, whose fame will endure as long as the pipes are played and loved by Scotsmen.

This old woman was Marsaly MacDonald, grand niece of Sheila MacLeod who had been the sweetheart of MacCrimmon the piper, and who had herself composed the words traditionally sung to the tune of the Lament.

Marsaly MacDonald told me how she had nursed and tended her grand-aunt in extreme old age, till, on one lovely winter's day, at sunset, January 1788, she sat at the door of her cottage and the second sight was on her, and she no longer saw the things of earth. This was old Sheila's story of the famous Lament.

"I was chief of the bards, and my sweetheart was Donald Ban MacCrimmon, the finest piper in the Western Isles, whose fathers had for generations been pipers of the MacLeods, but he was the best of them all.

"Ah, how we both rejoiced when tidings came from Moidart that our Prince had landed, and down in the sea cave Donald played me the great piobaireachd that was to hail Charles Stuart - King, with none but me, the gulls and the waves to hear. Ah me, only in Heaven will that piobaireachd be heard now. Our hearts were light till like a black cloud rising from Scur-na-Gillian, news came that our chief was mustering, not for the right, but for the Hanoverian usurper.

"There were hard words said, and my boy was wilder than any, for his heart was all with the Prince; for the moment he thought he would desert his chief and join the Prince's Standard - but of course that could not be, though honour and dishonour, in good or ill, life or death, the first duty of a clansman is to his chief - and if the pipes break faith, to whom shall his chief look?"

"We sail tomorrow, lass, he said, and I must play a piobaireachd, but not ours, Sheila, for that is all our own, but I pray I may die, for I cannot wish our chief defeat, and I dare not wish him success, for his cause is evil. And I must play his march, but I shall die before either my chief or my king gain the victory; but cherish the memory of my piobaireachd; some day, perhaps, it will sound in your ears again.

So early the next morning, I heard great commotions, and saw the clansmen all embarking, and I heard the rattle of chains as the galleys were unmoored, and I saw the chief standing in the prow of the foremost boat, his eagle feather in his bonnet and his plaid blown out behind him. Beside the chief was my lover, with the great pipes under his arm, and the sun glinting on his brooch; I could see how he sent a full wind into his bag and started bravely into MacLeods war march, but as he played, the time

and notes changed in spite of himself and the glorious fighting tune wailed away into a low lament. I saw how the chief leaned on the bulwark his head in his hand, he seemed not to notice, as though shame had come over him. Never was such a strange starting from Dunvegan, a chief depressed and gloomy, leading an unwilling clan, to fight in the cause of a foreigner they loathed, against the Prince they loved better than life. Over the waters floated that weird lament as the galleys lessened in the distance, and ever the burden of it was: MacLeod shall return, but MacCrimmon shall never.

Dreary was the life at Dunvegan in those days, when all our men were gone, and never a skirl of the pipes, nor the lilt of a dance, in the hall or on the hillside, broke the monotony for us women left behind, and weary the days while we waited for news.

But at last came a boy, a cousin of my own, from Inverness, tired and half-starved, with his brogues burst, and the plaid of him in holes, and he told us how the men marched into Inverness, where Lord Loudoun was in command, and MacCrimmon played them in, but ever the war march sounded like a coronach, and the chief was heavy and despondent. And the boy told us how his sweetheart was the daughter of an inn-keeper, and how among the tavern gossip she heard tell that our Prince was at that moment alone and unguarded at Moy Hall, and Lord Loudoun was planning a midnight march to surround the house and take him captive. Moreover, he ordered that the gates of Inverness should be closed and none allowed to go out, lest warning should be carried to the Prince. But the girl like a true Highland lass loved the Prince, and bade my cousin (Rory MacLean was his name from Mull) to get forth somehow and win to Moy and warn them there of the scheme. How he did it I know not - love teaches a boy many stratagems; and he told me how he beat on the door when all were abed, and Lady Mackintosh, who in her lord's absence had but few serving-men to guard her, called to her Simon Fraser, the blacksmith, and Simon said, "True hearts are truest strength my lady, and half a score of loyal Highlandmen on the moor on a dark night are worth more than an army of red coats." And with that he gathered all the men about the place, and my cousin Rory among them, and posted one here and one there, giving each a musket; it was a fearful night of rain and thunder, and as they watched, far, far away along the Inverness road they heard the skirl of pipes, and Rory knew it was MacCrimmon's playing, for indeed no piper in the land could match him; he thought for a moment that it was the loyal clans gathering to fight for the cause, for he knew not what madness had seized our chief, yet he wondered, for among the notes came ever anon the wail of the lament - "Cha till, cha till, MacLeod shall return, but MacCrimmon shall never," and even as he wondered Simon Fraser discharged his musket and shouted aloud: "Ho Camerons, advance on the right", and one of his comrades a hundred yards off fired and shouted: "MacDonnell of Keppoch forward." Then several fired at once, and there were shouts of "Stuarts of Appin, take them on the flank; Lochiel, Lochiel," and Rory fired his musket and shouted "On, on, Macleans," and our chief was heading the company that stumbled blindly along the sodden road, and I shall always think of that moment remorse seized him for the black

baseness and treachery that was in his heart, or may be for a moment, his mind cleared and he saw plainly: but anyhow, the panic caught him, and he cried out: "God save us! the whole Highland army is on us," and those near him caught the infection of fear and turned to flee; and those behind him took their comrades for the loyal clans, and they grappled with one another in the rain and the dark, while lightning flashes scarce showed them each other's faces; and the pipes now wailed the weird lament with no pretence of a war-march, till they ended with a sudden skirl - for my boy, my lover, was shot through the lungs. Yet gathered he all his last strength, and blew all that remained of his breath into the bag: and out over the struggling, frightened host of the faithless whigs, and over the great burst of laughter of Simon Fraser and his comrades, there pealed a great piobaireachd, only the opening bars, and Rory whistled it to me, and I knew it was our piobaireachd, and that my boy, as he died, had played the welcome for the royal race - made with the joy of seeing the Hanoverian army discomfited and defeated by half-a-score of Highlandmen standing firm for God and the right.

When the morning broke, there lay he who was the light of my life, with his dear, handsome face upturned to the morning sky, and his life-blood dyeing the heather to a deeper red - died as he prayed he might die - and so Rory came to tell me: and the shadows fell on my life.

And since then Marsaly, I have been as you have known me - a broken old woman, living here in this whitewashed but-and-ben, watching the sun rise over the Coolins, watching the green water swirl and surge over the white stones far down, and the green and red sea weed float upwards, or the dark, angry lashing of the waves in winter; and from time to time strange stories have come to me.

I heard how Culloden was lost - how all the loyal clans were broken - and that there were traitors among us; and how the Prince was hunted like a fox through the glens, with a price on his head. But though our men were often starving, yet, God be thanked not one of all the Highlanders was base enough to betray him. We leave baseness and treachery to the whig nobles, and cruelty and oppression to the butcher Cumberland; but for all the wealth of Mighty England, I would not be with their soul. And then I heard how our Prince became a broken and degraded man - I know not, perhaps it was so, though God grant it were otherwise; but whatever befell the poor earthly shell that for a while held captive that noble, royal spirit, to me and to all the loyal and true of the Highland race, he was and ever will be, our Prince and our King; and I know that, so sure as the Coolin Hills stand unshaken by the blast, the old race shall come again.

"Cha till, Cha till," I hear it again. Marsaly, what is this I see? The mountains grow dim, the landscape fades. Child where are you? The sight comes on me again. A bare room, a girl, a priest in cardinal's robes. One lies dying - ah, God, it is our prince, squalor and desolation - forsaken by his friends - only those two dear ones watching, faithful to the last, by the bedside of the Lord's anointed.

"Cha till, Cha till." I hear the lament wailing through the mean, narrow room, as it wailed from the pipes on that fatal day when the galleys sailed from Dunvegan: the room melts away: up in the sky I catch the gleam of the MacCrimmon tartan. Ah, there at last I see him, my boy, beautiful and brave as when I saw him last, and now on my ears come swelling the grand cadence of our piobaireachd, as he played it in the cave by the sea - played now to welcome the soul of our Prince as it rises in glory from the meanness and squalor of earth. And from the great white light that issues from the eternal throne there falls a beam of consecration upon the Lord's anointed, lighting up the endless serried ranks of the loyal and true, who wait to welcome him, and to breathe down on Scotland the eternal, gracious promise: "The night shall pass and the shadows flee away, and our royal race shall yet return."

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PIPE MAJOR MACLELLAN, M.B.E. IN HONOURS LIST: (from Oban Times)

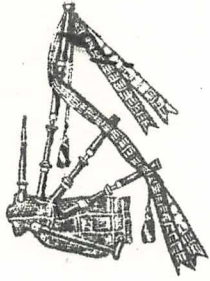
The birthday honours list award of the M.B.E. to R.S.M. John Archibald MacLellan, Queen's Own Highlanders, instructor at the Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle, has given immense pleasure to the many friends and admirers of that distinguished piper.

Pipe Major MacLellan took charge of the Army School of Piping in September, 1959, in succession to Pipe Major William Ross, who had retired about 18 months earlier. Born in 1921, he joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders as a boy in 1936, and served with them for the next five years. From 1941 - 59 he was with various battalions of the Seaforth Highlanders, Gordon Highlanders, and of his own regiment the Camerons.

He had become Pipe Major of the 2nd Bn. Seaforth Highlanders in January 1946, and in 1954 he was promoted Warrant Officer Class I and appointed Regimental Sergeant Major. He had seen service in the Far East, and with the British Army on the Rhine.

Pipe Major MacLellan, of course, is a leading personality in the Eagle Pipers' Society, who broke interesting new ground at their first June meeting in the West End Hotel by enrolling Tam Brechan, a Northumberland farmer, as a member. Mr. Brechan played the traditional Northumbrian pipes to a most appreciative audience, and indeed a most favoured one, for he told the company that there are fewer than a dozen genuine Northumbrian pipers today who take an interest in their instrument and its music.

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ROBERT THOMSON, M. A.

39 CARDINAL'S WALK, LEICESTER

BRAINWAVE THAT'S BROUGHT ANDY STEWART 20,000 POUNDS IN TWO YEARS:

(from The Sunday Post, Sept. 30th, 1962.)

"I was just a boy. My mum and dad had taken me to the Braemar Games for the first time. I remember giants tossing cabers, wee lassies dancing. But best of all, I remember the pipers.

They came marching into the arena, proud as peacocks, with heads erect and cheeks puffed out. One tune stuck in my mind. I didn't know what it was. When I got back to Arbroath late that night, it was still whirling round in my head. It was still there when I went to bed. There was only one thing for it. I got out my mouth organ and went over it note by note. When my mum shouted up for me to go to sleep, I played my "mouthie" under the bed clothes. By that time I was well-nigh note perfect. From then on, that pipe tune was my "mouthie" masterpiece. Friends and neighbours could have seen my far enough as I marched up the street giving it loudly. Then the phase passed. Mouth organs went out of fashion at school. I don't remember what happened to mine. But that tune was safely tucked away at the back of my mind.

I finished school and went to Glasgow to the College of Drama. I finished my course and went on the stage. That was in 1953. For seven years I roamed Scotland on wee stages and big, learning my craft.

1870

ALBANY

THE REGISTER



1870

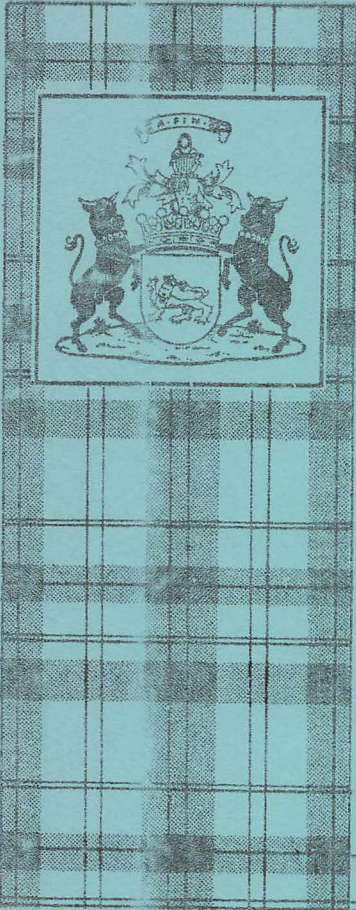
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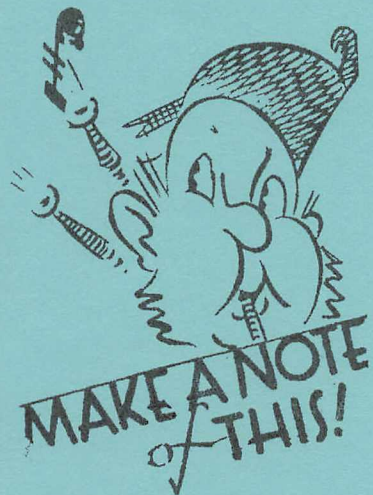


# Robert C. Gilchrist

SCOTTISH IMPORTS BY MAIL



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Since there are no more piping functions this month, we would just like to let you know that The Piobaireachd Society Book No. 10 is now ready, Price 12/6. Orders to the Honorary Secretary, 14 Switchback Road, Bearsden, Glasgow.

(Ed. Does anybody want to buy a used bound volume of the first 9 books?!)

