

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

DECEMBER, 1962.

No 33

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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DECEMBER, 1962.

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We would like to take this opportunity to extend to our members and readers the compliments of the festive season. We hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our thanks are given to all of our subscribers and advertisers for their fine support in 1962, and we naturally hope that in 1963 this support and cooperation will continue. Once again we would ask all of our readers to forward any interesting material for reproduction in the Newsletter. Only with these contributions will we be able to continue producing a magazine that is of interest to you.

- 0 -

ANNUAL BANQUET: January 5th, 1962:

You are reminded of the Annual Banquet of the British Columbia Pipers' Association. This banquet is being held at the Stanley Park Sports Pavilion on Saturday, January 5th, 1963, commencing at 6:30 p.m.

This event, the fourth annual one of its kind, is becoming one of the highlights of the piping year.

All those who intend to go, are advised to contact the Secretary Wm. McAdie, at HE 4-1591 as soon as possible, since accomodation is limited to 100 persons. Incidentally, the first reservation this year came from our old friend, and Honorary Vice President John Robertson, of Shawnigan Lake.

Cost of tickets is \$2.50 each, \$5.00 per couple.

Following the dinner, will be a minimum of speeches and formality and a maximum of good piping entertainment.

Refreshments will be available for those who are interested.

All members, friends and piping enthusiasts are welcome, and we would only ask you to contact the Secretary at an early date, so as not to be disappointed. We can promise you an interesting evening.

- 0 -

No General Meeting will be held in December, due to the pressure of activities of the Christmas season

- 0 -

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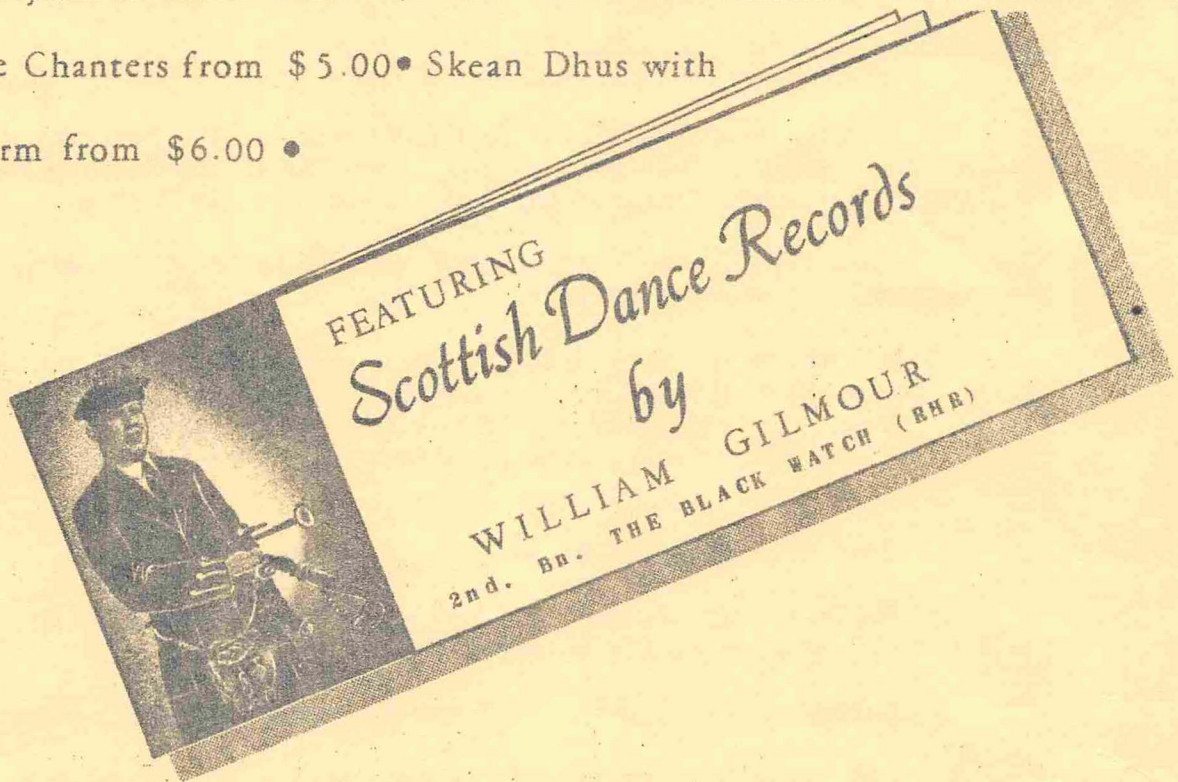
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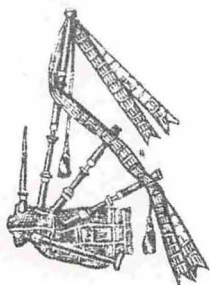
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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION: DECEMBER 14th. M. A.

39 CARDINAL'S WALK, LEICESTER

The Bi-Monthly Competitions held on December 14th at the Seaforth Armoury were again very successful. It was gratifying to see such a good turnout of competitors, members, parents and friends. There were about 40 competitors entered, and as usual the highest entries were in the Novice and Juvenile events.

Rarely do we single out individual performers in these competitions, but we will make an exception, and say what a fine job Janice Taylor made of P.M. Sam Scott, in the Novice 6/8 Marches. Janice is a newcomer to competitive piping, and we certainly expect to hear more from her.

The judge of the evening was Ian MacDougall. Ian, who is Vice President of the B.C. Pipers' Association, is a member of the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band.

The results were as follows:

Novice 6/8 Marches:

1. Janice Taylor
2. Bill McMichael
3. Robin Woods.
4. Georgina Lamont
5. Ross Lamont
6. Alex MacInnes

Juvenile Marches:

1. Douglas Graham
2. Laurie McIlvena
3. Jim Penner
4. Raymond Irvine

Junior Old Highland Airs:

1. Bob MacDonald
2. John MacLeod

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Larry Gillott

Senior Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. C.I. Walker

The next competitions will be held on February 8th, and the events will be as follows:

Novice Old Highland Airs
Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels
Junior Piobaireachd
Amateur Jigs
Senior Amateur Marches

LETTER FROM PIPE MAJOR JOHN MACLELLAN:

Many thanks for continuing to send the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter. It's a most interesting publication.

I enclose a copy of a tune I recently composed "Patrick Sandeman". You may publish it if you wish. Pat is a most enthusiastic and respected member of our Edinburgh Pipers, apart from being a member of the famous wines company.

I suppose that like every other Piping organisation you are well geared up for the winter session.

My regards

- John MacLellan -
The School of Piping
Edinburgh Castle
Edinburgh

Patrick Sandeman Esq

Jahraelle w.
19 Oct 62

A handwritten musical score consisting of ten staves of music. The notation is written in black ink on aged, yellowish paper. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a style characteristic of the mid-20th century, featuring a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together in groups. There are several instances of slurs and accents throughout the piece. The notation includes stems, beams, and note heads, with some notes having stems that cross the staff lines. The overall appearance is that of a personal manuscript or a working draft.

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A NOTE ON THE MacLENNAN PIPE BAND & THE HIGHLAND GENTLEMEN'S PIPE BAND:

The MacLennan Pipe Band was named after the late Norman MacLennan, Past President of the St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society. He supplied the original uniforms for a boys band in the late 1920's under P.M. Alex Johnston. After this band dissolved, the uniforms reverted to the St. Andrews & Caledonian Society who supplied extra larger parts of equipment when the MacLennan Band was formed in the depression years. As none of the members were working, lots of practices were held with the resulting proficiency. Archie MacIndewar was first Pipe Major, followed by the late Frank Mathieson, and then myself. When I left for Powell River, Donald MacDonald took over, but I understand that the band did not last long.

The Highland Gentlemen's Pipe Band was composed of the following competing open pipers: Walter Douglas (Pipe Major), Archie McIndewar, Wm. McIndewar, Kenny MacLeod, Bill Urquhart, Frank Mathieson, a chap called Patterson from California, and myself. Johnny Gibson was the lone Amateur. The drum section was under Alex Dewar, and wore the MacLennan uniforms. The pipers used their own dresses.

I have checked the Stewart Trophy and note: MacLennan won in 1933 and Highland Gentlemen won in 1935. If I remember rightly, the MacLennan band was still functioning from 1933 to 1940 but did not compete while the Highland Gentlemen were, as more than half the pipers belonged to both bands.

- Pipe Major Donald MacKenzie -
Powell River, B.C.

NO COMPLAINTS AS SENATOR PLAYS BAGPIPES EACH DAY: (from The Ottawa Citizen)

Every evening just as the Peace Tower bells are pealing out 6:30 p.m. and most senators and Commons members are settling down in the parliamentary restaurant, the mighty skirl of bagpipes echoes through the stone corridors of the Parliament Buildings.

"There goes Senator Reid," says just about everyone within earshot.

And for the next 30 minutes - no more, no less - Senator Thomas R. Reid, puffs out the best tunes from his native Scotland, enjoying himself enormously as his political worries dissipate through the drones over his shoulder.

"That's why I do it," says the crackling little Scot from North Surrey, B.C. "For 30 minutes I forget all about politics - good for my health, too."

After watching the fiery, outspoken Liberal senator punch home his arguments in the Senate committees, a reporter suggested that anyone complaining about the noisy bleat of the pipes might perhaps be met with a rip-roaring highland reception.

"No indeed," replied the senator quietly. "You see, the pipes are very personal (pronounced "pare-sonal") with me and I am very sensitive about them. If anyone minded, I wouldn't continue playing."

There was no doubt about his sincerity. But when the independent Scot dons his mitts inside the political arena it's clear that no one is going to sneak through his guard to the sensitive spots.

"Oh, yes, on a political matter I don't hesitate to jump to my feet," he says in one of his better understatements. "That, of course is a different thing. Since 1930, when he first entered the House of Commons, Senator Reid has been jumping to his feet with remarkable regularity, and he hasn't slowed down much since his entry to the Senate in 1949.

"It's like this," he says as his bright, piercing eyes stare out through his glasses. "I am a servant of the people. If I feel the interests of those people are not being served, I have a right and a duty to do something."

He got this urge to serve the people back in 1922 when he became a council member of the Municipality of Surrey, and later became Reeve. When he saw a chance to become a Liberal member of Parliament, he grabbed it. "And if I had my life to live over again, I'd go right back into public life. I love it."

The vibrant, sharp-featured Presbyterian whose light frame was never seen by a doctor until last year, has reluctantly become an institution on Parliament Hill. The bagpipes no doubt contributed, but there are other reasons. He is a dogged worker, arriving in his office every morning at 8:30 sharp, leaving at 9:45 P.M. sharp. He attends virtually every sitting, and can be seen walking from his office to the cafeteria at 5:15 p.m. sharp. From 1930 to 1935 he says, he was outside the Commons for only two hours while it was sitting. He has never read a speech. Until recently he walked nearly two miles to work every morning from the same apartment he has had since 1931. He has crossed Canada 54 times by trains and "countless times by plane.

He's in love with Canada, although his deceiving accent would indicate he hasn't been here long. An immediate reaction is to look for heather in his cuffs. "It's a funny thing about that. People who come from my area (Ayreshire) never seem to lose their accents if they are over 21 when they leave there."

"I didn't realize my accent was so strong until I heard myself on the radio not long ago. I was amazed, yes amazed."

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FROM PIPE MAJOR JOHN ROBERTSON'S SCRAPBOOK:

SURVEY OF PIPERS IN 1932:

(Oban Times, 1932)

The year 1932 has produced (at all events up to the time of the Argyllshire Gathering at Oban) no new piper of distinction. John MacDonald, Inverness, has not been competing regularly this year, but when he has appeared he has shown that he has not lost that delicacy of touch and perfect fingering which have caused his name to be renowned in the piping world for so long. At Portree his playing of "MacCrimmon's Sweerheart" was delightful to listen to. Let us hope that John MacDonald may continue to cheer us with his music for many more years, for so far no piper has appeared who can take his place. It is largely, one may say entirely, through his untiring efforts that South Uist at the present day is the home of piping, and contains more good players than any other part of Scotland.

Pipe Major Robert Reid has shown that he is one of the leading players of the day. His playing at the Skye Gathering of the "Lament for the Children" was marked by very fine expression and timing, and perfect fingering. In the Piobaireachd Society's competition at Oban, too, his performance was easily the best, although the tune in this competition (Reid played "Cronan na Cailliche") did not test his playing as some heavier compositions might have done.

Pipe Major William Ross, who has done, and is doing, such good work as Instructor under the Piobaireachd Society, is now hard at work at his College of Army Pipers at Edinburgh Castle. It is not generally realised how great a strain falls on the instructor of this class. He has, each year, a new class of embryonic pipers, some with little knowledge of the piob mhor. Through unremitting hard work Pipe Major Ross produces from this raw material finished players in Ceol Mor and Ceol Beag. No one except an enthusiast could do it. At the various gatherings Pipe Major Ross has shown that his execution is as good as ever. He is perhaps at his best in Ceol Beag, and his March "Bonnie Anne" at the Gordon Castle gathering was outstanding, just as J. Wilson's Strathspey and Reel at the same meeting was in a class by itself.

John Wilson has been playing very well and consistently this year. His piobaireachd in the Piobaireachd Society's competition at Oban ("Cronan na Cailliche") was one of the best played tunes of the day, and it was unfortunate that a mistake in one part of the tune should have robbed Wilson of a certain prize.

Malcolm MacPherson, Invershin, has not played quite so well as formerly. His recent illness may account for this. Let us hope that he may soon recover his form, for there are few pipers who can play better than he, when in his best form.

Pipe Sergeant J. Robertson, of the Scots Guards, has been playing in greatly improved form this season. No one who heard him play "The Kiss of the King's Hand" at Portree was surprized to find him winning the coveted gold medal at Oban. He is to be congratulated on his latest success, for there was a record entry in this competition, and Robertson had no fewer than twenty-seven pipers against him.

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BAGPIPE MUSIC FOR THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH: (Oban Times, 1932)

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York has been pleased to accept three original tunes for the Highland bagpipe entitled "Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth's March, Strathspey and Reel."

When His Majesty's piper played at Balmoral Castle, where the Princess spent her holiday last autumn, and the tune was strange to her, she inquired very interestedly what the name of the piece was. Now the little Princess has a set of tunes which are exclusively her own. They were specially prepared for the Princess Elizabeth, and are considered on good authority to be the fine specimens of the "lighter" music for the Highland bagpipe.

The music was prepared very artistically in folio form. Each composition has a Gaelic title, and included in the book were three water colours - Balmoral Castle, Glamis Castle, and a mountain and loch scene.

The composer is Mr. John Grant, F.S.A. (Scot.), Edinburgh, the well known authority on bagpipe music.

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PIOBAIREACHD: 1963.

The following tunes have been selected for the 1963 season in the Open Piobaireachd class:

The Lament for the Only Son
Black Donald's March
The MacLeod's Salute
The Little Spree
The King's Taxes
Mary's Priase

As in past years, all competitors in the Open Piobaireachd must submit two tunes to the judge, who will select the tune to be played. One tune will be of the competitor's choice, and one will be selected from the above list. There would, of course, be no objection to both tunes being from the list.

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A GRAND OLD LADY WHO CAN BLOW WITH THE BEST: (from "Weekly Scotsman")

Meet Mrs. May Hall, of Dalkeith, Midlothian, who can "up and gie 'em a blaw" with the best of them. For at the age of 75, she must surely qualify to be Scotland's most experienced lady piper. In regular demand at ceilidhs and dinners all over the East of Scotland, Mrs. Hall has just finished a week's engagement in the Johnnie Victory Summer Show in Dundee. This Saturday sees her in Glasgow for the veteran's piping championships.

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