

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association

DECEMBER, 1964.

No. 56.

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

Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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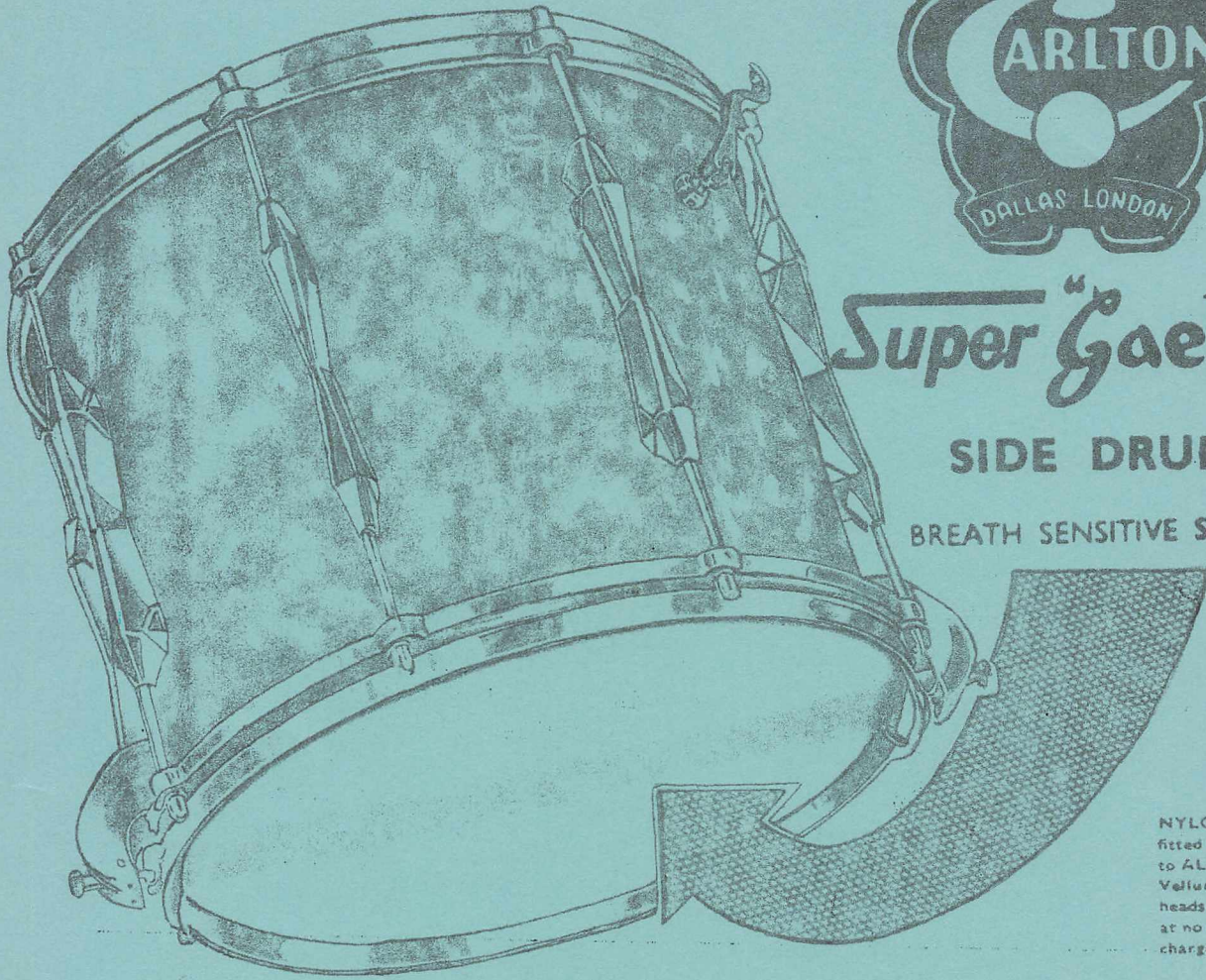
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The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 3288 East 27th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., by the British Columbia Pipers' Association, and is distributed to all members. Subscription prices to non-members is \$1.50 per year. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to: The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter, 3288 East 27th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. Address all other communications to the Secretary, B.C. Pipers' Association, Ste. 304, 2110 West 38th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

May I take this opportunity to wish all of our members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is this time of year, when one receives greetings from distant friends, that one realizes the common bond uniting pipers. This bond transcends long distances and the years, and makes a person realize that once he is a piper, he is always a piper.

I would like to extend the greetings of the B.C. Pipers' Association to kindred organizations, and wish them success for the following year. We have had a good year, and we hope that 1965 will be even more eventful.

Lang may your lum reek!

Ian McDougall
President.

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ANNUAL MEMBERS' BANQUET: JANUARY 9th, 1964.

The Annual Members' Banquet will take place once again at the Stanley Park Sports Pavilion, on Saturday, January 9th.

Cocktails will be served from 6:30 p.m., and dinner will start at approximately 7:30 p.m.

There is limited accomodation, and tickets will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. All persons who are interested, should contact the Secretary, Miss Georgina MacPhail, by telephone as soon as possible. (263-4297).

The cost, as in part years, will be \$2.50 per person, or \$5.00 per couple.

We are promised that there will be a minimum of speeches, and lots of entertainment - both piping and other.

Please contact the Secretary if you are interested in attending, and we suggest that you arrange a party now, and have a very enjoyable evening.

All members, spouses, and friends are most welcome.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - DECEMBER 11th, 1964.

The second Bi-Monthly Competition of this season took place on Friday, December, 11th, in the Gymnasium, of the Seaforth Armoury.

P.M. Edmund Esson judged the Novice class, and Mr. A. Perry, of the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band judged the other classes.

The winners were:

Novice 6/8 Marches: (24 competitors)

1. Jane Little 2. Bruce Montgomery 3. Richard Robertson
4. Mary Swift 5. Merrill Maddock 6. Alex MacInnes

Juvenile Marches: (35 competitors)

1. Greg Marshall 2. John MacDonald 3. David Irvine
4. Jean Jarvis 5. Michael Murdock 6. Bruce McKeddie

Junior Hornpipes: (6 competitors)

1. Sherea Barwell 2. Kelly Hagen 3. Raymond Irvine

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (3 competitors)

1. Larry Gillott 2. Bruce Topp

The special competitions which have been established, to choose the best example in Marching and Deportment in each class, were judged by Mr. D.R. McDougall.

He chose the following winners:

Novice Douglas Bernon
Juvenile William Murdock
Junior Sherea Barwell
Amateur Bruce Topp

The next Bi-Monthly competitions will be held on February 11th, 1965, with these events:

Novice Old Highland Airs
Juvenile Strathspeys & Reels
Junior Piobaireachd
Amateur Jigs

Have any of you ever noticed how some parents of young competitors chatter along so affably while other children are competing, but look daggers at their neighbours if they have the audacity to disturb the performance of their beloved ones in a similar fashion?

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LETTER FROM RODERICK MacLEOD:

I feel sure that those who are fond of the pipes and the music, will read this poem with interest. I happened to know the composer, and I know that she composed a number of nice poems.

She was younger than I when we attended school in the North of Scotland, and I could almost say that she was 'brought up on the pipes', as an older brother of hers learned to play when very young, and turned out to be a good piper.

I can remember him playing among the hills where his father was a gamekeeper, and one can tell by the poem, that she is in love with her subject, and probably by listening to her brother, got a wide and full knowledge of the instrument, and the different airs.

Annie Park Kerr - the "Park" in her name being for "Mungo Park", the African explorer, to whom her father was related - became a nurse, and during the 1st World War was attending to wounded soldiers on the "S.S. Germic", when in a raging storm, it was torpedoed in 1917, off the Azores, with the loss of all lives, except one seaman.

Readers will realise how this poem has captured my imagination, through knowing the composer and then knowing of the sad ending to her life, when in the service of her country.

The poem was sent to me just recently by her piper brother, who lives in Connecticut, U.S.A.

- Roderick MacLeod -

MUSIC OF THE PIPES:

Music of the pipes, you fire my blood stream!
You stir my soul, my body thrills with pain.
You take my heart and tear it from its moorings,
Then gently, softly, soothe it back again.

You lift me up on wings of inspiration,
To face life's battle with a mighty arm.
My heritage: a firm and sure foundation.
I laugh at fear and scorn all dread alarm.

I see again the scenes of happy childhood.
I live again through deeds of valor told.
I grasp my broadsword with the lust of battle,
And face my foes, as did the chiefs of old.

I see the rugged bens, the crags and corries.
The silent glens wherein the red deer roam.
I see the mountain streams in foaming torrent.
I tread the heather of my Scottish home.

Music of the pipes, where lies your secret?
Whence comes this magic power, so gentle, strong,
Can turn a heart of joy, to droop in sadness.
And heart of sadness to a joyful song.

Music of the pipes, Oh' gentle Pibroch,
You stir my soul with echoes of the past.
When eyes grow dim, and when my footsteps falter
Your sweet caress will lead me home at last.

- Annie Park Kerr -

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PRINCE GEORGE ROTARY PIPE BAND - ST. ANDREWS TARTAN BALL:

The 9th Annual St. Andrews Tartan Ball, organised by the Prince George Rotary Pipe Band was held Friday, November 20th, with some 250 attending.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Band President John Stewart. The principal speaker was Father Maclellan, of Prince George College. Father Maclellan is a native of Nova Scotia, and his grandparents came from Kintail, Scotland.

Amongst the guests of honour were Mayor and Mrs. Garvin Dezell, of Prince George, President of the Rotary Club Mr. Ken McKenzie and Mrs. McKenzie, and Cpl. Sandy Saundry, R.C.M.P. and Mrs. Saundry, Kamloops. Cpl. Saundry was the first Pipe Major of the Prince George Pipe Band, and spoke on the formation and early days of the band.

After the banquet, dancing followed, interspersed with a varied programme of entertainment, including selections by the band, community singing, solo singing and Highland dancing.

- Angus Graham -
Prince George

The Prince George Rotary Band is looking for experienced side drummers, and would welcome any, who find themselves in this fast growing community. Contact: P.M. Angus Graham, 658 Ewert St., Prince George, B.C.

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CITY GIVES SCOTTISH SOLDIER WELCOME DESIGNED FOR HERO:

(from The Vancouver Sun, Dec. 3, 1964)

An old Scottish soldier returned to Vancouver Wednesday night to a Scottish welcome designed for a hero. Dancers, pipers, and old friends turned out to welcome back Brig. Alisdair Maclean, C.B.E., best known to Vancouverites as the producer of the 1961 Searchlight Military Tattoo.

Brig. Maclean sailed in to Vancouver aboard the P & O Orient liner Orsova on his way from a military tattoo in Sydney, Australia, to his home in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was welcomed by a shipboard performance by Mary Isdale's B.C. Highland Lassies, who won top honors in highland dancing at the 1964 Edinburgh tattoo, and pipers from the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

Greeting Brig. Maclean was Drum-Major John Moon, of the MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Pipe Band, which Brig. Maclean hopes will be the first B.C. band to perform at the annual Edinburgh tattoo. Negotiations have been underway for two years to get the band to Edinburgh, said Brig. Maclean, but the one factor stopping them is finances.

"We feel confident that if we ever get there, we can take honors as the best in the world," said Drum-Major Moon.

Brig. Maclean will tour the United States before returning to Edinburgh.

His next trip to Canada will be to direct the military tattoo for Expo '67 in Montreal, in 1967.

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GENERAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 27th:

A fair number were out for the General Meeting held in the Seaforth Band Room on November 27th.

The most significant piece of business was the addition to the Individual Piping rules. The following rule is to be added, Part 4, Rule 6:

"No competitor shall be allowed to enter any competition where his tutor is a member of the judging panel in that particular event. A tutor shall be defined as one who has given lessons to the competitor within a two year period of the competition."

Following the meeting, the members moved into the Sergants' Mess, where they were entertained by three quarters of a quartette from the Seaforth Highlanders band. Most entertaining of all, was the narration by Sgt. Albert Duncan of some of the problems which arise when the regiment has a staunch Campbell, as a Commending Officer, and an equally staunch MacDonald, as a Piper. Apparantly the Seaforth Band has worked out a marvelous, and we are certain, a most unique solution: - the MacDonald just doesn't play "The Campbells are Coming."

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HIGHLANDERS SHOULD EXPORT THEIR MUSICAL HERITAGE * GLASGW LETTER:
(from the Oban Times, Oct. 29, 1964)

The inclusion of a lone piper playing "Lament for Mary MacLeod" and a choir, off stage, singing the 23rd Psalm was an unusual feature of the address given by Dr. Alexander MacLeod, Lochmaddy, when he acted as chairman at the annual gathering of the North Uist and Bernera Association in the Institute last Friday.

Dr. MacLeod chose this feature in drawing an analogy between the classical music of the bagpipe and the singing of psalms in Gaelic. One way in which we can project the heritage of our people, he said, is by exporting our music and we cherish these characteristics that have made our people what they are - gentle and warmhearted. Many forces are trying to destroy them but we must preserve them at all costs.

Highland music has enveloped the soul of all music for the tunes we use come from all over Europe and some are so old that their origin is not even known.

Dr. MacLeod paid tribute to the churches in the Highlands and Islands for the part they played in keeping alive some of the old psalm tunes and advocated that exiled Highlanders should do everything in their power to cherish them and guard them.

In conclusion he conveyed the good wishes of all Isles folk to the city of Glasgow which provided a home and a livelihood for so many Highlanders and thanked the committee of the North Uist and Bernera Association for their tangible help to deserving causes in the home islands.

Mr. Iain MacAskill, president, introducing the chairman, referred to his popularity in North Uist over a period of 32 years in practice there. He also made special mention of his wife, Dr. Julia, who is honorary president of the association, and who over the years whose contributions were most laudable.

During the evening a cordial welcome was extended to Mr. and Mrs. H. Payne and Miss E. Goodwin from Sydney, Australia, who came all the way from London to attend the competition. It appears that during their tour of Scotland some time ago they noted the occasion and decided to attend.

Here are the results:

Pibroch: 1. Derek Boyd (Black Donald's March) 2. Douglas Elmslie
(MacCrimmon's Sweetheart) 3. James Jackson (Padruig Og)
4. Gordon Middleton (Black Donald's March)



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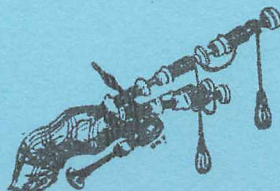
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VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND SCOTTISH TOUR:

After two years of planning and working, the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band left Vancouver on August 6th by C.P.A. 140 passenger jet. The plane trip was rather an unusual one for all of us, as it was more like a house party. There were so many friends amongst the passengers that a sing song and concert of piping and dancing seemed inevitable. By the time we were crossing over Greenland, 40,000 feet up and at 540 miles per hour, a reel was being danced in the aisle to the accompaniment of the pipes, while photos and movies were taken by most of the passengers.

We arrived in early morning at Prestwick, and Peggy Gillies and I piped the passengers off the plane. Reporters and photographers greeted the girls before they boarded buses for Edinburgh. As there were twenty of our twenty-five girls dancing in shifts at the Tattoo there was time for lunch only, before heading to the Tattoo rehearsals. That evening many papers carried pictures and write-ups of our arrival with such headings as "Tattoo band led by brunette" and a picture captioned "Pipers with an extra sparkle."

As the next day was the Scottish Pipe Band Championships at Princes Street Gardens the band was up early to get a short practice before leaving for the Gardens. The band, in this competition, placed 2nd to the World Championship Band in our grade, and again the papers the following day had headings such as "Vancouver Girls Near Win at Pipe Band Championship" and "Record Crowd Cheer Ladies at Pipe Band Championships".

Because of the many Tattoo rehearsals it was about four or five days before we could have another full band practice. The next competition was to be at Lesmahagow, where it was necessary to play in a grade higher, as our grade was not on the programme. There, we were honoured by leading the parade of the chieftain and officials to the field, and as Mrs. Michael MacInnes, the mother of Rae-Marie and Therese, was born in Lesmahagow, the girls were asked to pipe the Chieftain and other officials to the platform. Prior to the competition the Games Committee had arranged for a guide to tour with us by bus through the countryside and among many historical places we were shown the house where Alexander Muir was born. Alexander Muir was the composer of the Canadian Anthem "The Maple Leaf Forever". We were then taken to a hall where we had a fabulous luncheon arranged by the Games Committee.

In the competition we received first prize among twenty one bands (male) for marching and discipline. As the dancers had to rush back for the Tattoo immediately after the competition, only six girls and Mr. Saunders, our drum instructor, remained to hear the results of the competitions. Though we were few in number the Games Committee insisted that we head the march past of the bands. Here we were also presented with a shield from the officials to commemorate our visit to Lesmahagow.

The next Games were at beautiful Rothesay. Here again we played a grade higher and received fourth-prize against all men's bands. This was probably the quickest trip of all as again we had to be back for the girls to dance. We just piped from the boat to the grounds, tuned up, played the competition and piped back to the pier only to see our boat on its way back to Wemyss Bay. Fortunately, there was a boat about to leave for Dunoon and Gurock within minutes. But alas, our equipment was a half mile away. The mad scramble began with some of the members hailing a cab and picking up the pipe cases and drum covers while the others were fast talking the Captain into waiting a few minutes more. With the arrival of the cab loaded to the roof with out equipment two girls appeared to be missing until they were discovered underneath the mound of equipment when it was removed. The gangplank was pulled in as the last members scrambled aboard. The Captain wasn't too pleased with the delay but the band assembled on deck and played several number when we heard he was a great lover of the pipes. This was without a doubt the most hilarious of our many episodes.

Excitement was at a high pitch for the next weeks Games as it was the Cowal Highland Gathering At Dunoon. We had never seen so many people or pipe bands at one gathering. In the class we were playing in, again a grade higher, there were over thirty-one entries including only one other ladies' band. We were stunned when we were announced 4th, and our ears were ringing with cheers of the interested spectators and particularly the bandsmen. Still another thrill was awaiting the girls when we marched through the streets with the other winning bands. As was the custom, our trophy was carried in front of us with the assistance of some of our fathers, Mr. Saunders and his young son.

The European Championship Competitions were held at Shotts. That day was the worst games day we had ever experienced. Rain poured and wind blew steadily from early morning and the Games continued without a pause as if the sun were shining. Our band was lucky in not having to wait long to play and we turned in one of our best performances of the tour. When the bands were gathered for the prize announcements we were presented with pins from the Scottish Pipe Band Association bearing its crest and motto. Then came the announcement that we had won the European Championship for Grade 4. What excitement! The girls were surrounded by well-wishers and almost every pipe major came over congratulate the band. It was a very proud moment and a fitting climax for our trip and the years of effort and practice to bring the Band up to this standard. After we were able to contain ourselves and this time soaked to the skin, we jumped into the bus and headed for the Tattoo.

On the Friday prior to Shotts we were invited by Frigadier Maclean to play at the Tattoo for the Canadian High Commissioner, the Honourable Mr. Lionel Chevrier. It was exciting to wait for those huge castle doors to swing open and to march down onto the esplanade under those great spotlights. Also, to know that this was the first occasion on which a ladies' band had playing during the fifteen years of the Tattoo was a thrill. The band went through their drumming, dancing and piping routine.

Father and I attended two meetings of the Eagle Pipers' Society, where the piping elite of Edinburgh gather by invitation. Pipe Major George Stoddart, who hosts the gathering asked us both to play. These evenings were most enjoyable, and we heard the best of piping in a congenial and happy atmosphere.

In addition to the activities of competitions, the Tattoo and daily band practices, the band played a concert at Princes Street Gardens and at Dunbar, a seaside resort on the east coast, and was taken on tours of the Border Country, Burnside Country and the Highlands, through the courtesy of Brig. Maclean and the Scottish Command. On the few days we had free some of the girls went to visit relatives in various parts of Scotland. Some visited Ireland, London and Paris.

Peggy Gillies and Janice Taylor were very fortunate to receive an invitation to the opening of the Firth of Forth Bridge by Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

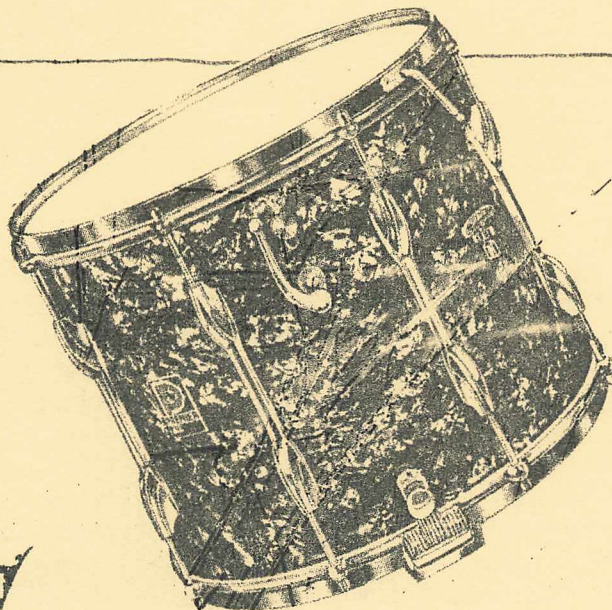
The band was very honoured to carry the greetings of Mayor Rathie and Reeve Emmott to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. Drum Sergeant Janet Kennedy, Pipe Sergeant Peggy Gillies, and I spent a most interesting few hours in the Provost's Chambers, where we were given a gift to present to our Mayor and Reeve Emmott.

The most disappointing experience was the theft of our trophies while we were preparing to depart from Glasgow. Although we were all upset over this, the newspapers and various Games Committees were most embarrassed that it should happen in Scotland, and we have since received many letters of condolence.

The girls were very sad upon leaving Bonnie Scotland and all the good friends they made, and many hoped that it wouldn't be long before they returned.

The girls would like to thank the many organizations and friends who helped make our trip possible, and give special thanks to the Powell River Pipe Band for their encouragement and enthusiastic support and for the wishes of good luck from the Washington Scottish Pipe Band, which did so much towards cheering us up. Also thanks for the assistance from the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band.

- Norma Nicholson -
Pipe Major
Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band.



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VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND ANNUAL BURNS' DINNER - JANUARY 16th, 1965.

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Annual Burns' Dinner and Dance will be held at the Traders Hall, Scotia and Broadway (1 block east of Kingsway) on Saturday, January 16th, at 6:30 p.m. Dancing begins at 9:00 p.m. with music provided by the Teuchters, some of whose players are members of the Powell River Pipe Band. Make up a party and enjoy an evening of fun and excellent entertainment.

Tickets may be obtained by phoning CY 8-8589 or CY 9-3589.

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RESULTS OF OCTOBER BI-MONTHLY DEPARTMENT & BEST DRESSED:

We omitted from last month's results, the winners of the special class, known as Correct Department & Best Dressed Piper.

This event was set up to attempt to improve the dress and department of some of the performers, and to reward those who have a good bearing and are neatly dressed. Some of the matters which are considered in this class are: polished shoes, trimmed hair, buttoned up sleeves if not wearing a jacket, buttoned up collar with tie, good posture while marching or standing. This class will be judged by a member of the Association, not judging the regular piping event.

The first winners were:

Novice - Robbie McKeddie
Juvenile - Colin Abel
Junior - Raymond Irvine
Amateur - William Paterson

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It seems hard to imagine that already games associations are planning next season's games, but we have been asked to inform you that the Caledonian Club of San Francisco are holding its 100th Games on Sept. 4th and 5th, 1965.

All inquiries concerning these games can be made to the Secretary, Alfred Thompson, 706 4th Avenue, San Francisco, Calif.

More information concerning this Centenary will follow.

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HE SWIPED THE PIPES -

(from The Oban Times,
November 19th, 1964)

On entering a Fort William bar on October 9, a man left his 35 pound set of bagpipes on a bench behind the counter to be served. When he returned, he found his bagpipes missing, and report the theft to the police.

This was stated at Fort William Sheriff Court on Thursday when a 41 year old painter, Ian Robert MacDonald, appeared to plead guilty to the theft.

MacDonald was questioned, Mr. James Hogg, fiscal, told the court, after a policeman recalled having seen the accused walking up the High Street with a set of pipes. When seen at his house, MacDonald was reluctant to admit anything and when charged after the pipes had been recovered in another bar, he replied: "I am saying nothing." The fiscal described the theft as "rather sneaky".

MacDonald told the court: "I had too much to drink that day and don't remember it happening." He told Sheriff J.B. Patrick that he was married with four of a family, one at work and the others at school. He was fined 25 pounds, and allowed four weeks to pay.

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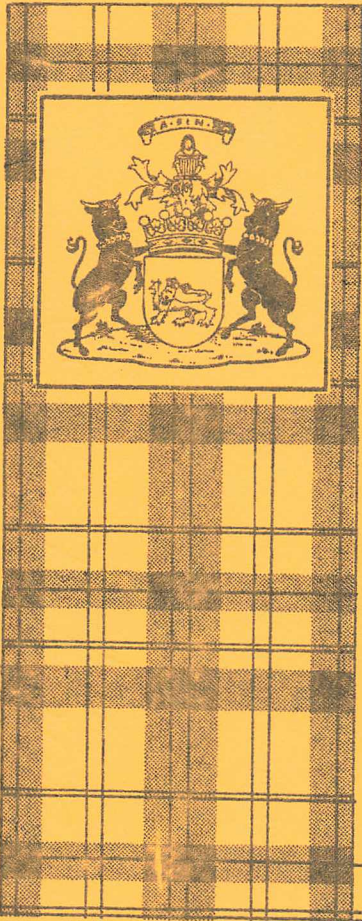
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ANNUAL MEMBERS' BANQUET
JANUARY 9th, 1965.

VANCOUVER LADIES' BURNS' DINNER
JANUARY 16th, 1965.

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