

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

FEBRUARY, 1963.

No. 35

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

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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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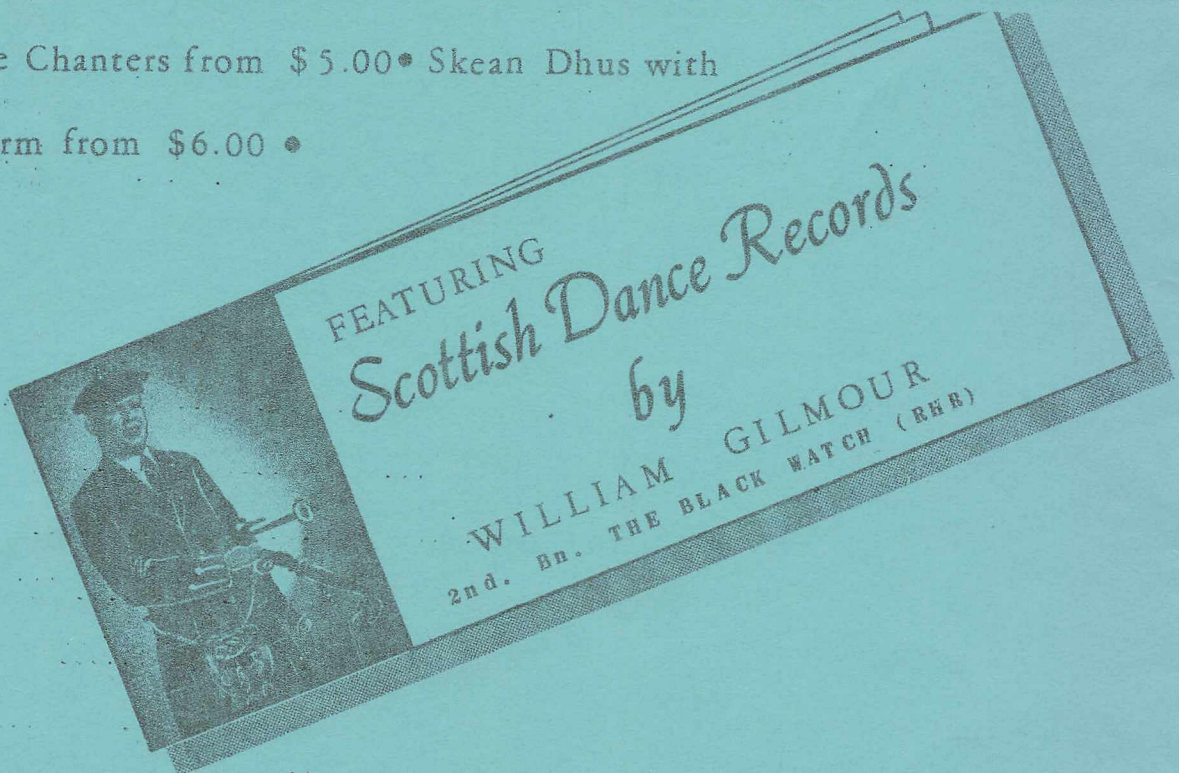
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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION: FEBRUARY 11th, 1963.

Let us hope that the Bi-Monthly Competition held on February 11th, in the Gymnasium at the Seaforth Armoury, is a prediction of the success of our Annual Gathering, to be held on March 23rd. A record number of competitors were entered - 56 in all - and a good audience were present to enjoy the classes.

We were pleased to welcome to the Vancouver piping circle as the evening's judge William Lockie, formerly of Victoria. Originally from Edmonton, Bill Lockie was formerly a pupil of our Honourary Vice President John Robertson. We hope to see more of Bill in our association activities.

The results were as follows:

Novice Old Highland Airs:

1. Lindsay Maddock
2. Wayne Penner
3. Iola Peace
4. Colin Abel
5. Ross Lamont
6. Neil Hunter

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Raymond Irvine
2. Douglas Graham & Gordon Hardy (tie)
3. Jim Penner
4. Kelly Hagan

Junior Piobaireachd:

1. Bob MacDonald

Amateur Jigs:

1. Larry Gillott
2. Alan MacLeod

Senior Amateur Marches:

1. C.I. Walker
2. Bill Paterson

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31st ANNUAL GATHERING:

The 31st Annual Gathering will be held on Saturday, March 23rd, in the Seaforth Armoury.

We are pleased to announce that Pipe Major John Wilson, of Toronto, will be coming to Vancouver to judge at this Gathering. John Wilson visited Vancouver last year, at which time he produced a record, mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The events will be similar to those of last year. More details will be given next month. We would ask all Open competitors to note the tunes in the Piobaireachd class, listed in the December issue of the Newsletter.

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VANCOUVER ISLAND PIPERS' SOCIETY:

The Annual Banquet of the Vancouver Island Pipers' Society will be held in the Colonial Inn, 270 Government Street, Victoria, on Saturday, April 6th, meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets, which are \$3.00, may be obtained from President Peter George, 3838 Saul Street, EV 5-3074, or from the Secretary, J.A. Berry, 4651 Pipeline Road, Victoria, GR 9-3900, or may be had at the door.

A good all Scottish programme is being arranged, and we hope to welcome friends and well wishers from out-of-town.

Every now and then there crops up a rhyme built from names of pipe tunes. Though doggerel, they're good for a laugh. The following may be new to some readers:-

Nae doobt "The Ranting Highlandman",
Is unco pleased wi' "Bonnie Ann",
We say "The Kilt is my Delight",
For "Paddy's Leather Breeks" are tight,
"The Sheep Wife" noo is gey and frisky,
The jade's been tastin' "Highland Whisky",
"Miss Proud" has quit the water wagon,
And pu'd the cork frae oot "The Flagon",
"The Drunken Piper" canna parley.
Yet plays "The Wind that shakes the Barley",
"Cock o' the North" wi' a' his flocks,
Is scratching hard on "Barren Rocks",
While ithers join "The Muckle Spree",
That roars at "The Back o' Bennachie".

"Maggie Cameron", sonsie lassie,
Weds "The Smith o' Chilliechassie",
As swaggers oot bauld "Rhoderick Dhu",
The charms o' "Monymusk" tae view,
"Black Donald Marches to Harlaw"
Resolved to "Up and waur 'em a' ",
"The Earl o' Mansfield" noo is fain
Tae dance "The Huntley Fling" alane,
And losh! "The De'il among the Tailors",
Has danced "The Hornpipe o' the Sailors",
"Cauld Winds frae Wyvis" in disorder
Hae blawn "Blue Bonnets o'er the Border",
"The Brown-haired Main" in sad position,
Thinks she's "Too Long in this Condition",
"Dumbarton's Drums" nae mair will rattle,
They're broken in "The Desparate Battle".

But "John MacDonald of Glenicoe"
Says time has come to "Bundle and Go".

- James A. Berry -

Secretary, Treasurer

Vancouver Island Pipers' Society

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THE CHICAGO HIGHLANDERS PIPE BAND 1921 - 1962 (from the 41st Anniversary
Programme of the Chicago
Highlanders Pipe Band
Grand Tartan Ball, Nov. 24, 1962)

The Chicago Highlanders Pipe Band is now in its 42nd year. The annual Tartan Ball has become a tradition which the Scottish-American community in the midwest is justly proud. To our many friends and associates, a warm welcome. To our sponsors, the Walter A. Glos Post 2048 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Elmhurst, Illinois, our sincere thanks.

The pipers and drummers of the Chicago Highlanders have served in the pipe bands of 11 different American, Canadian, Irish, and Scottish military bands, including the famous Black Warch, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the Scots Guards, the Cameron Highlanders, and the Seaforth Highlanders. In addition, our bandsmen have been members of famous civilian bands, including the World's Championship pipe band, Muirhead & Sons of Stirlingshire, Scotland. Approximately two thirds of our members came to U.S.A. from Scotland, England, Ireland and Canada. We are justly proud of being considered one of the finest pipe bands in the United States. Our tartan is the Royal Stewart.

Most of the members of the Chicago Highlanders are veterans of World War II, either with the American, British or Canadian armed forces. They served in every theater of operations during the hostilities - the Pacific, North Africa, the Mediterranean, and on the European continent.

Through its year 'round engagements and weekly practice sessions, the Chicago Highlanders strive to preserve the old traditions of the pipe band as it has existed for generations. To the many good friends who give us encouragement and support throughout the year, our thanks and best wishes.

Pat Docherty - Pipe Major

Dan Currie - Pipe Sgt.

Luke McCabe - Drum Sgt.

Jim Harper - Drum Major

Mrs. Peter Priest Jr. - Sec.-Treas.

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FROM PIPE MAJOR JOHN ROBERTSON'S SCRAPBOOK:

ANGUS MACKAY AND PIOBAIREACHD - MACKAY AND THE MACCRIMMONS CONTRASTED

(To the Editor of The Oban Times) December 29, 1936.

Sir - Who was Angus MacKay? Angus MacKay was the greatest musical genius in the art of piobaireachd in his day and generation, and he has never been equalled or surpassed since. Angus was born in the year 1812 and died at a premature age in 1859. He came of a famous family of pipers.

Roderick MacKay, the first piper to Raasay, came from the Reay country, and was taught to play piobaireachd by his kinsman, Iain Dall MacKay of Gairloch.

Roderick died and left a son John. John's mother sent him to Borreraig to complete his education in piobaireachd under the MacCrimmons.

John MacKay had four sons - Donald, Angus, Roderick and John - all of whom were notable pipers. In the year 1826, at the age of fourteen, Angus was placed fourth prize-winner amongst the great pipers of that day, and was highly complimented by the patrons and judges of the triennial bagpipe competition held in the Theatre Royal in 1826.

Angus grew in stature and wisdom for in the art of piping he rose to the highest position ever held by any piper when he was appointed piper to Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria. His greatest work was that of collecting and preserving ancient piobaireachd. No one but himself could even conceive or realise what that meant for I am quite safe in saying that out of the 275 ancient piobaireachd or Ceol Mor, i.e. the great music, Angus rescued ninety per cent. of the total.

Considering the period at which Angus MacKay lived and the crude state of education in staff notation he was able practically unaided to produce a colossal work.

Can we compare Angus MacKay to the MacCrimmons who taught him? In one case we cannot put them in the same category. The MacCrimmons lived in the age when the field of piobaireachd was new and uncultivated, so to speak, and since then so much piffle has been written about them for which there is no foundation that we are almost sickened at the appearance of MacCrimmons' name. Although from the meagre but truthful history which we possess of the Skye masters we still cherish them.

But for Angus MacKay, he had to master an art which was fully developed by the time he came under the limelight. One must remember that piobaireachd came from the MacCrimmons to Angus MacKay by means of the chanter itself only. The Skye masters never wrote their music. Canntaireachd

was only sung to the pupil by the masters in Angus MacKay's time, so that assistance there was barred, and staff notation (so far as pipe music was concerned) was only in its infancy, which made Angus's task of rescuing piobaireachd all the more difficult.

It is nothing far short of vandalism to think of how Angus MacKay's collection of piobaireachd has been hacked to pieces, reset and concocted in all iniquitous methods by people who do not understand the origin and construction of the classical music of the pipes. Even the Piobaireachd Society, who republish the fine old compositions in (may I tell the truth?) the form of a "Chinese Puzzle" manner, mention several authorities but always fall back on Angus MacKay as their bulwark.

Many unkind things have been said about Angus MacKay's work in piobaireachd by men who cannot value his great achievement, but again it is the old story "one may cast their pearls before the multitude, but there are always some connoisseurs in the crowd who know their value", and such is the case as regards Angus MacKay's collection of piobaireachd.

A memorial has been raised to the MacGrimmons, although not by pipers. I wonder whether it has ever occurred to the great masses of pipers who admire Angus MacKay, and owe him so much, that it is their duty to raise a monument as a landmark of his work and merit? Surely he is worthy of remembrance! We must not forget that had it not been for Angus MacKay's work in collecting and recording the great music we would in all probability never have seen the tunes which he has rescued for us from oblivion in the art of piobaireachd. Where then would his upbraiders stand? Confounded.

If we do not then raise a landmark to honour the saviour of ancient piobaireachd, let us be content to discard the "basket" and look upon the "gems". Angus MacKay has raised a living monument for himself in his collected music and when I open his published collection (now out of print) I look upon it with bare and bended head as a mark of fervent appreciation of the greatest work ever accomplished by any single piper who ever laid finger upon chanter.

- John Grant, F.S.A. (Scot)

(Next month we will reprint two interesting answers to this letter)

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ANNUAL INDOOR GAMES - PIPERS SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

We were interested to receive in the mail an official Entry Form to the Annual Indoor Games of the Pipers Society of Ontario. These games will be held on Saturday, March 23rd, at the Fort York Armoury, Fleet Street, Toronto. (March 23rd will indeed be a busy day for Canadian pipers.)

The events will be as follows:

1. Piobaireachd (Open)
2. Drumming (Open)
3. Drumming (16 years and over)
4. Drumming (under 16 years)
5. Drumming (under 14 years)
6. Marches (Open)
7. Strathspey and Reel (Open)
8. Marches (16 years and over)
9. Strathspey and Reel (16 years and over)
10. Marches (under 16 years)
11. Junior Piping (under 14 years)
12. Quartette Piping (Open) - March, Strathspey and Reel

Judges for the competitions will be A. McNeill, Montreal, A. Finlayson, Toronto, and A. Keith, Trenton. J. Kerr, from Ottawa, will judge the Drumming events.

If any of our eastern readers wish to enter these competitions, they must submit their entries no later than March 16th, to one of the following persons:

Mr. J. Reid
62 Elm Grove Avenue,
Toronto 5, Ont.
LE 2-1226

Mr. D. Monaghan
8 Littlewood Cr.
Etobicoke, Ont.
BE 3-6031

We hope to obtain the results of these games, and will reprint them for your interest in the Newsletter.

We extend the best wishes of the B.C. Pipers' Association to the Pipers Society of Ontario for the success of their competitions.

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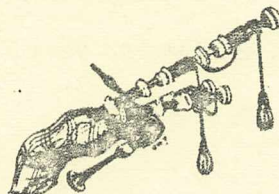
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SCOTLAND

CLATSOP SCOTTISH PIPE BAND:

An organizational meeting of the Clatsop Scottish Pipe Band was held at Astoria, Oregon on January 1st, 1963; by-laws were adopted, and the following officers elected:

President;	Emil Leppla
Business Manager:	Ian Robertson
Secretary-Treasurer:	Hugh M. McKenna
Custodian:	Hugh M. McKenna III
Pipe Sergeant:	John F. Bradbury

(The office of Pipe Major is held vacant at this time.)

The band consists of six pipers (John F. Bradbury, Emil Leppla, R.P. Moore, Hugh M. McKenna and sons Hugh III and Leo) and two drummers (Ian Robertson, side, and Vernon Leach, bass).

The band has adopted the Brown Scott tartan. Four of the bandsmen are uniformed, and the rest will provide uniforms as rapidly as possible, for themselves. The band is unsponsored.

This represents the culmination of three years of effort on the part of the bandsmen, and it is hoped to field a larger and better band as the years go by. Situated in a area where the sound of the pipes is virtually unknown, this has been an uphill struggle all the way. With encouragement and advice from established pipe bands, perhaps the public in this corner of Oregon may be treated to the sight and sound of that most lovely of bands, the Scottish Pipes and Drums.

The tunes selected by the Clatsop Scottish Pipe Band are:

Marches, 2/4: "The Brown Haired Maiden", "Highland Laddie",
"The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar", "The Earl of Mansfield",
"Scotland the Brave", "The Barren Rocks of Aden".

Marches, 6/8: "Bonnie Dundee", "Wi' a Hundred Pipers"

Slow Marches: "The Green Hills of Tyrol", "Bonnie Argyll"

Strathspeys: "Inverness Rant", "Orange and Blue"

Reel: "The Piper of Drummond"

Old Highland Air: "The Carles wi' the Breeks"

This modest selection of tunes may be augmented in the future, but at present is regard as sufficient for a beginning band.

- 14 -

Please wish us luck, and stop for a visit when on the way
through!

Thank you.

- Hugh M. McKenna -
Secretary Treasurer
Clatsop Scottish Pipe Band

(Ed. Good luck, indeed!)

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GENERAL MEETING: FEBRUARY, 22nd.

The February General Meeting will be held on Friday, February 22nd, in the band room of the Seaforth Armoury.

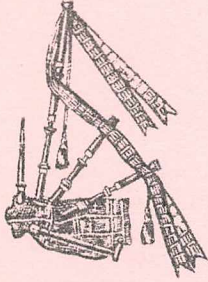
This meeting will be very important, in that it will settle the arrangements for the forthcoming Annual Gathering.

All members are asked to attend and give the Association their support.

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We are attempting to compile a complete record of the results of all of our Annual Gatherings. Unfortunately, some of the earlier sets of results do not appear to be in the Association records. If any of you have these results amongst your papers, we would be grateful if you could lend them to us, in order that we might complete this project.

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39 CARDINAL'S WALK, LEICESTER

LAST WORD ON GARB OF OLD GAUL:

Of considerable interest is the following book review, which appeared in the Aberdeen paper, The Press and Journal, Dec. 1st, 1962. This review, prepared by Cuthbert Graham, deals with "History of Highland Dress", by John Telfer Dunbar.

"Five guineas seems a lot to pay for any single book, but there will not be found lacking those to whom this luxurious production will appeal as the Christmas indulgence par excellence.

It is the result of a lifetime of study of Highland dress by an internationally known collector and writer on the subject, and embodies much hitherto unpublished material.

In the past 150 years more nonsense has been written about kilts and tartans than about any other Scottish subject. Fantastic pedigrees have been made out for both. Mr. Dunbar has approached the problem of origins with an open mind, but he has not hesitated to expose the absurdities of the "scissors and paste" school of tartan historians.

Perhaps it would not be unfair to summarise his conclusions thus:

(1) The type of pattern commonly known as "tartan", far from being peculiarly Scottish, is one of the simplest types of design to invent, and there are few quarters of the world where it is not to be found as a native production - (Haswell Miller in a paper published by the Historical Assn.)

(2) The records establish that tartans have been worn in Scotland as far back as 1440. But present-day tartans are not old. They only go back to the reign of George IV. Tartans worn before 1745 were quite different - (Sir Francis J. Grant, a former Lord Lyon King of Arms at a meeting of the Celtic Union in 1948).

(3) "Clan" tartans were not known before the second half of the eighteenth century - (Major I.H. Mackay Scobie, Curator of Scottish United Services Museum).

(4) The kilt as worn today would seem to have originated early in the eighteenth century, and the evidence of that century indicates that it emerged about 1725. In all probability it was "invented" by the Englishman, Thomas Rawlinson, as a handy form of dress for the workmen in his ironworks in Glengarry and Lochaber.

It is only when these four points have been firmly grasped and all fantasy about ancient prescriptive rights held by clans, septs or families in particular tartans is swept away that one can begin to take a realistic interest in the history of Highland dress.

The appropriation of particular modern tartans by particular clans was a major industry of the early nineteenth century.

Since it is so much enjoyed by tourists and even by native Scots there is no reason why the "game" of sporting the tartan to which one has a "right" should not be encouraged.

But it is made clear time and again by Mr. Dunbar that, before the tartan boom inspired by Sir Walter Scott and George IV. Highland chiefs were in the habit of varying the tartan they wore just as the fancy took them.

They were blissfully unaware of any "clan tartan" which was "correct" for them, and pleased themselves according to their individual sartorial whims.

The two books which did more than anything else to impose a spurious tartan "orthodoxy" on nineteenth century fashionable society were Col. Stewart of Garth's "Sketches of the Character, Manners and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland" and the "Vestiarium Scoticum" of the Sobieski Stuart brothers.

Even Sir Walter Scott, as Mr. Dunbar shows in a series of letters he wrote to Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, could not be brought to give any credence to the "Vestiarium" which purported to be an ancient manuscript of tartan patterns "describing 38 different tartans belonging to the principal Highland families".

After detailing the numerous unsuccessful attempts to authenticate the "Vestiarium" (including chemical analysis of the only surviving MS "copy") Mr. Dunbar concludes:

"Were the Sobieski Stuarts capable of forging such a manuscript? I think that they most definitely were... Can we find any reason why they should want to invent the Vestiarium Scoticum? There is one very obvious reason - the desire to strengthen their claim to Royal descent by producing evidence of relics passed on to them from Prince Charles Edward Stuart."

He leaves just one little loophole to save the Sobieskis' honour by adding "it is quite possible that they themselves were hoodwinked by a clever forgery."

Besides the "Vestiarium" however, the Sobieski Stuarts also published a much more creditable work. - "The Costume of the Clans." It is described in a special chapter of Mr. Dunbar's work and of it he says: "It is without doubt one of the foundation-stones on which any history of Highland dress is built."

Mr. Dunbar's book is illustrated by close on sixty plates, the majority of them in full colour. Besides the lengthy introduction there are sixteen chapters, the last four dealing with Highland weapons, firearms, powder horns, sporrans and plaid brooches. In the appendix Miss Annette Kirk tells virtually all that is known about the old-time tartan dyes.

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THE PIPER TAKES A BRIDE: (from The People's Journal, Dec. 8, 1962)

Several of the world's foremost pipers arrived in Lewis at the week-end for the wedding of Jimmy Young, of Perth, to a 26-year old island girl, Mary Ann Macaskill, of Shader, Barvas. The ceremony took place in Barvas Free Church and the reception in the Crown Hotel, Stornoway.

Jimmy, whose repute as a piper is world renowned, returned from America in June. He spent nine months there as a piping public relations officer of a motel chain on the West Coast. He met his wife at Lochearnhead Hotel.

Among those who travelled to the island for the wedding was caber tossing champion Mr. Ewan Cameron, proprietor of Lochearnhead Hotel. The pipers forming the guard of honour were William Macdonald, Inverness, James Macgregor, Islay (piper to the Earl of Airlie) and George Stoddart, B.E.M. Edinburgh.

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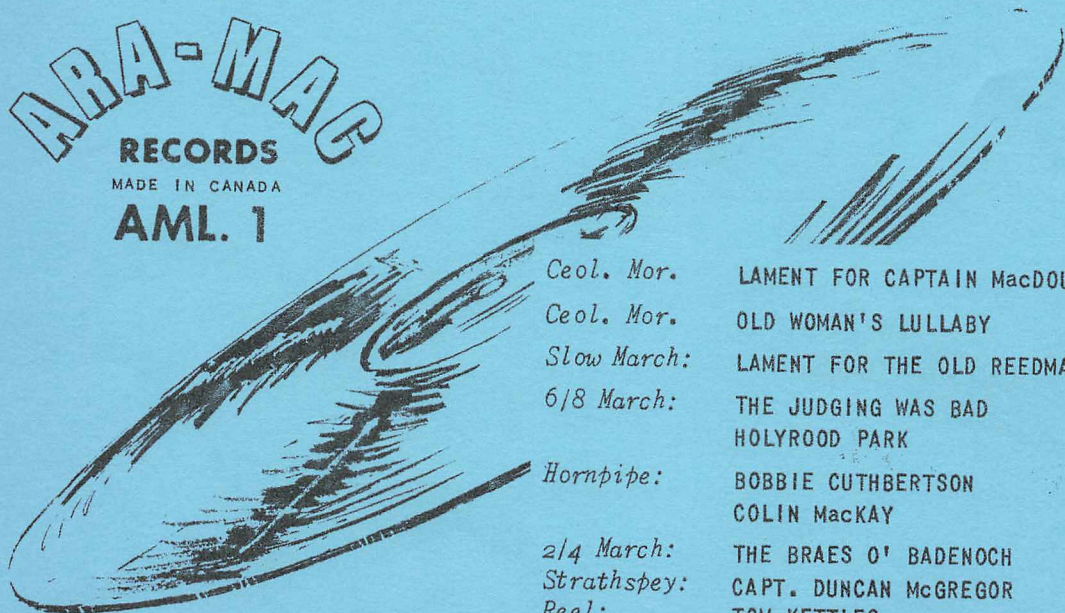
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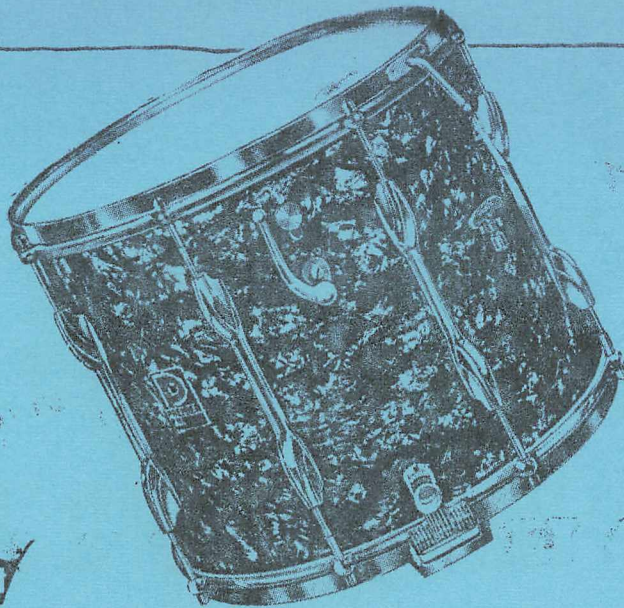
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<i>Ceol. Mor.</i>	OLD WOMAN'S LULLABY
<i>Slow March:</i>	LAMENT FOR THE OLD REEDMAKERS
<i>6/8 March:</i>	THE JUDGING WAS BAD HOLYROOD PARK
<i>Hornpipe:</i>	BOBBIE CUTHBERTSON COLIN MacKAY
<i>2/4 March:</i>	THE BRAES O' BADENOCH
<i>Strathspey:</i>	CAPT. DUNCAN McGREGOR
<i>Reel:</i>	TOM KETTLES
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VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND FESTIVAL:

The piping events of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Festival took place on Saturday, February 16th, in the Cambrian Hall. Together with the solo piping events, were solo drumming and drum quartettes, which were well received by the audience.

Judge of the piping events was James Yardley, of the MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band. Drumming judge was Bart Shaw, of the Royal Canadian Engineers Pipe Band.

The results were as follows:

Novice Under 18 - Marches:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Bruce Holmgren | 2. Wayne Buchanan | 3. Heather McBride |
| 4. Douglas Walker | 5. Lindsay Maddock | |

Non-prize winners Under 14 - Strathspeys & Reels:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Donald MacMillan | 2. Gary McBride | 3. Jean Jarvis |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|

Under 12 - Marches:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. David Irvine | 2. Donald MacMillan | 3. Kelly Hagan |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|

Under 12 - Strathspeys & Reels:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. David Irvine | 2. Donald MacMillan | 3. Kelly Hagan |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|

Slow Airs - confined to members of the Vancouver Ladies:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Peggy Gillies | 2. Lindsay Maddock | 3. Sherea Barwell |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|

Under 16 - Marches:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Raymond Irvine | 2. Michael MacInnes | 3. Bruce Topp |
| 4. Bob MacDonald | | |

Under 16 - Strathspeys & Reels:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bruce Topp | 2. Raymond Irvine | 3. Bob MacDonald |
| 4. Michael MacInnes | | |

Over 16 - Marches:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Larry Gillott | 2. Bill Elder | 3. Karen Ruddick |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|

Over 16 - Strathspeys & Reels:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bill Elder | 2. Sherea Barwell | 3. Larry Gillott |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|

Solo Drumming:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Pat Connell | 2. Graham Tawse | 3. Jeanette Penneway |
| 4. David York | | |

Drum Quartettes:

1. Seaforth Highlanders Cadet Battalion

Aggregates:

- Under 12 - David Irvine
- Under 16 - Raymond Irvine
- Over 16 - Bill Elder

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THE

ANNUAL GATHERING

SATURDAY MARCH 23rd.

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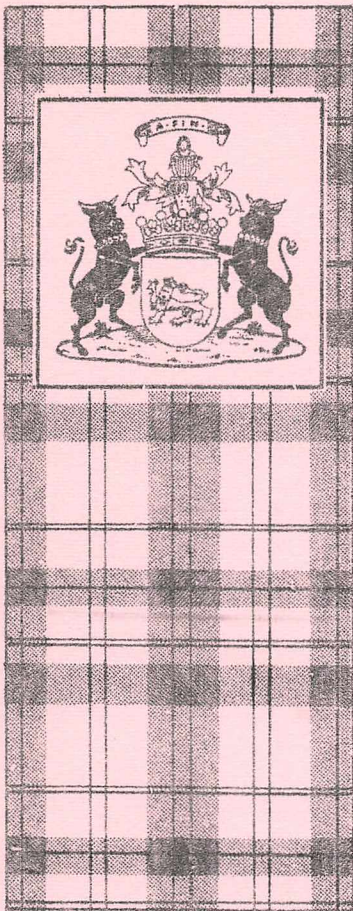
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GENERAL MEETING - FEB. 22ND

ANNUAL GATHERING - MARCH 23rd

1871

1872

1873

1874

1875



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1876