

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

FEBRUARY, 1966

No. 70

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

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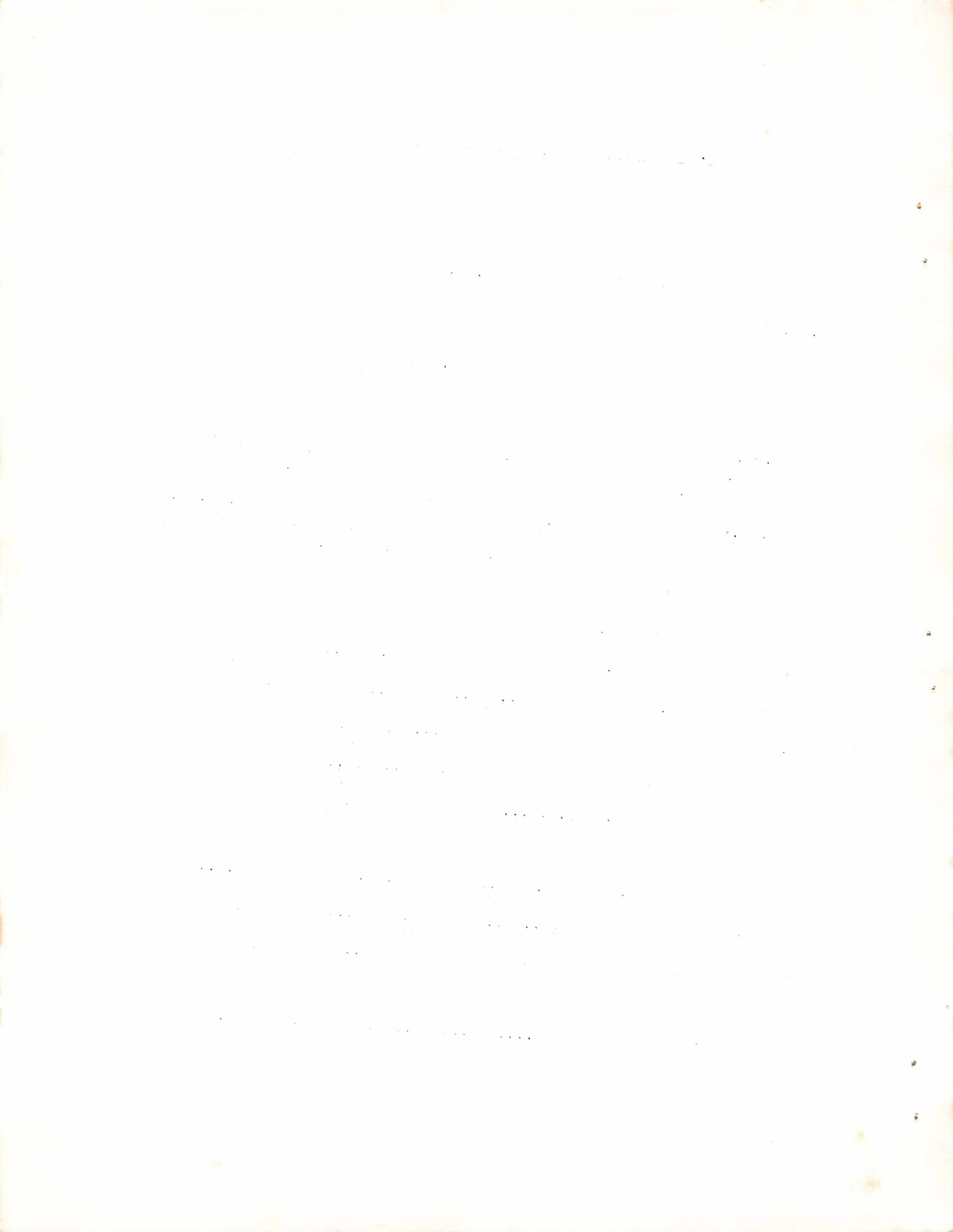
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FEBRUARY, 1966.

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34th ANNUAL GATHERING: MARCH 11th and 12th, 1966

Final arrangements are being made for the 34th Annual Gathering being held this year on Friday, March 11th and Saturday, March 12th at Exhibition Gardens.

We are extremely honoured to have as our Piping Judge for this year's Competition Mr. Hector MacFadyen of Pennyghael. Mr. MacFadyen's position is well known in Piping circles from his consistent success on the competition platform, and the Association is indeed honoured to have him as their guest.

On Friday, March 11th, starting at 3:30 P.M. Short Leets will be held in the novice marches, juvenile marches and juvenile strathspeys & Reels. These contests will follow the pattern set in recent years and will result in approximately six competitors being chosen to play in the final Competition the next day. Mr. MacFadyen will judge the Short Leets.

The events will be held in the following order on Saturday:

Morning Session (Starting at 9:00 A.M.)

1. Junior Amateur Piobaireachd
2. Amateur Piobaireachd
3. Senior Amateur (Restricted) Old Highland Airs
4. Novice Marches

Afternoon Session

5. Juvenile Marches
6. Juvenile Strathspeys & Reels
7. Junior Amateur Marches
8. Junior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels
9. Quartette Competition (Junior)
10. Open Piobaireachd
11. Amateur Marches
12. Amateur Strathspeys and Reels

Evening Session

13. Open Marches
14. Professional Dancing - Reel of Tulloch
15. Open Strathspeys and Reels
16. Open Jigs
17. Quartette Competition (Senior)
18. Old Highland Airs - Veterans
19. Miniature Pipe Band Competition

Plenty of parking will be available and admission will be \$1.00 for adults, 50¢ for children. An entry form is enclosed in this Newsletter and all competitors are required to enter before March 8th.

Mr. MacFadyen has kindly consented to conduct instruction for the two weeks following the Indoor Gathering. During the first week he will meet with the various groups and will review generally and specifically the problems encountered in the Competitions at the Annual Gathering. During the second week he will meet with the various teachers and judges to discuss current trends in Piping as well as any problems which might be of interest to the teachers or judges. The sessions with competitors will be held in the Band Room at the Seaforth Armoury on the following evenings and at the following times:

Monday	-	March 14th	-	Novice	-	7:00 P.M.	
Tuesday	-	March 15th	-	Juvenile	-	7:00 P.M.	
Wednesday	-	March 16th	-	Junior & Senior Amateur	-	8:00 P.M.	
Thursday	-	March 17th	-	Piobaireachd	-	8:00 P.M.	

A Ceilidh is planned for Thursday, March 24th. This function will be held for young Pipers only, and will give the children an opportunity to meet with Mr. MacFadyen, to hear him play and to play a tune themselves. It is hoped that all youngsters who compete at the Annual Gathering will be able to attend this function which promises to be most enjoyable. It is planned to start at 7:00 P.M., will be held in the Gymnasium at the Seaforth Armoury, and should finish at about 9:00 P.M. Since this party is being organized primarily for younger Pipers it would be preferred if the members and parents did not attend.

On Friday, March 25th, the Annual Members' Dinner will be held at which time members and friends will have an opportunity to meet with our honoured guest.

The location for this dinner is the Auditorium, Oakridge Shopping Centre, Vancouver, and it will start at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$3.25, and must be ordered before March 25th, by calling 434-4740.

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GENERAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 25th, 1966.

Following the General Meeting of February 25th, was a very fine programme of piping, with selections by Fred MacLeod, Albert Duncan, and Rod MacVicar. In attendance were Mr. Alec Young, of Powell Rover, Ian Inkster, and several new members. It is hoped that these sessions will become a regular addition to the meetings.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - FEBRUARY 18th, 1966

The February Bi-Monthly Competition was held on Friday, February 18th. Mr. Donald Murray judged the Piping events. Deportment and Dress was judged by Mr. D. Drysdale. The following persons were chosen winners:

Novice - Old Highland Airs: (37 Competitors)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Danny Slater | 2. Dwain Roadhouse | 3. Richard Prinn |
| 4. Katherine McKealey | 5. Judy Taylor | 6. Tim Noot |

Deportment and Dress:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--------|
| Glen Creamer | - | Novice |
| L. McIlvena | - | Junior |

Junior - Piobaireachd: (4 Competitors)

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Laurie McIlvena | 2. Dal Jessiman | 3. Robert Heggie |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|

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EDITOR'S LAMENT THEN SWEET CONTENT

From my window I can look with possessive pride,
Over the road to a river wide. A singing and a-winking
"Come hither" stretch of river. Yet pensively thinking,
As I gaze with pure longing in my deep inside
"While here I plod,
There with my rod,
Lies my wandering heart,
By the river-side!"

For lonely I sit, as mentally I still see
The time-free fisher-folk peacefully sitting
Along my river-bank, contentedly fishing.
While desk-bound, sternly I turn from the river-call
Beckoning,
And beckoning,
And beckoning,
To me.

Then when evening falls there are no fish left,
So I shoulder my pipes and find content
As the drones sing out from the river's edge
Into the glen, through the forest pines
And after awhile I know I'll find
Fish for my creel, for they canna resist
The sweetest call of the Piper's tune
Rippling deep through the waters in evening's mist.
While the echoes still hang in the balmy air,
I am quietly fishing, and counting my share.

- Cathrine Paterson -

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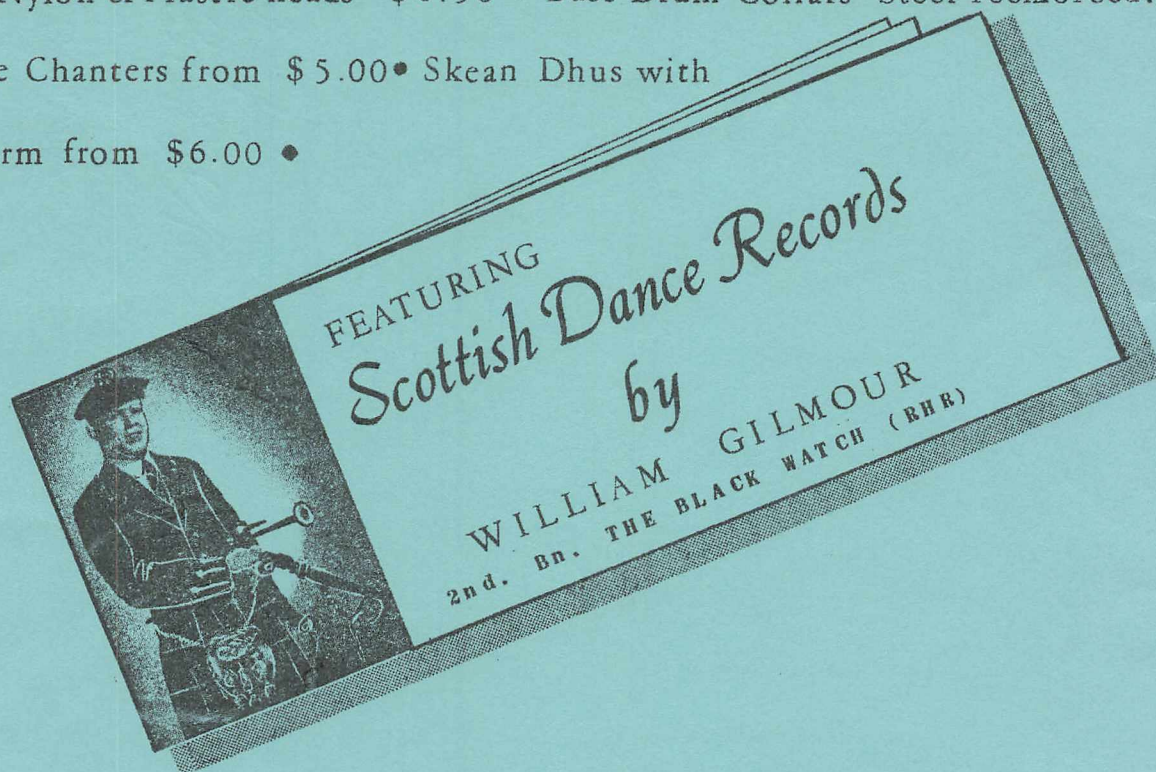
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UNITED SCOTTISH SOCIETIES PLAN RECEPTION FOR SCOTTISH CURLERS:

United Scottish Societies of the lower mainland are co-operating with the Pacific Coast Curling Association and are making the arrangements for the supply of Pipe Bands, Pipers, Dancers and entertainment to lend Scottish color to the forthcoming World Championship Curling Matches to be held on March 21st to 24th at the P.N.E. Forum.

The Scottish party, numbering approximately 30, composed of the Scottish Championship Team, the officials and supporters will arrive on Friday, March 18th at the Vancouver Airport. A Scottish welcome has been arranged for the evening of March 18th to be held at the Scottish Auditorium, commencing with dancing at 8:30 p.m. A suitable welcome to the guests is being arranged for their arrival at about 10:00 p.m.

Because of the large numbers who will wish to attend this function and the limitation of accomodation, tickets will be limited to 300 persons and priced at \$1.50. Admission is by ticket only and none will be sold on the evening of the 18th. Because of catering requirements it is necessary to know well in advance of March 18th the number expected to attend.

Members of the B. C. Pipers' Association who desire to attend this function should contact the Secretary immediately to reserve tickets. Our Association has been allocated a limited number of tickets and they will be distributed on a first come first serve basis.

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LETTER RE: ROBERT R. STOKER:

I received the December issue of B. C. Pipers' Newsletter from a friend, Lt.-Col. John McEwry, in Spokane.

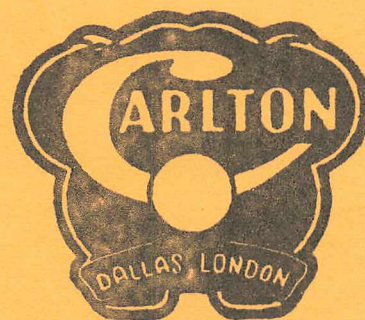
I was sorry to hear of the death of our "Little Pipe-Major" as I was one of the original Calgary Pipers in 1939.

"Wee Bob", as we all called him, was not only a good soldier and piper, but was liked and respected by all in our Battalion, and I know will be missed by the Seaforth Band.

I would like to pass on through your Newsletter my sympathy to his family and friends.

- William MacDonald -
Paisley, Ontario

- 0 -



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LETTER FROM POWELL RIVER:

Please allow me space in the Newsletter to thank your correspondent, Drum-Sergeant Ian MacLeod, for the very worthy tribute to Pipe-Major Edmond Esson, M.B.E. Although he has retired as Pipe-Major of The Seaforth Highlanders let us hope that his influence will still be felt in all things connected with Pipes and Highland games around Vancouver. I am thinking we could do with a few more of his calibre around Vancouver right now.

At the same time, I must draw your attention to the first paragraph on page nine of the Newsletter where Mr. MacLeod states, quote; "Latterly, sad to relate, the winning of this cup has become increasingly difficult, with such stiff competition from high-calibre Scottish imports." I fail to see anything sad about bringing in Pipers of high-calibre from Scotland, and I am sure, thinking such as this never entered the head of Pipe-Major Edmond Esson.

If we think back for a moment on the names of MacIver, Campbell, MacTavish, MacIndewar, Alex Johnston, and a host of others we will remember they were all high-calibre Scottish imports, and a little of their skill rubbed off on the Piping fraternity of Vancouver of the years.

I think there is some credit coming to the hard working executive and members of the Powell River Pipe Band, with the co-operation of MacMillan Bloedel & Powell River Ltd., for bringing so many good Pipers and Drummers to this West Coast from Scotland.

If your Bands in Vancouver were half awake they could be doing something along the same line. I say again we need a few more like Edmond Esson around there.

- J.W. Monteith, -
Powell River, B.C.

- 0 -

THE PIPE-MAJOR ESSON CONTROVERSY RESOLVED:

Although, in his article which appeared on Page 12 of the January, 1966, edition of this Newsletter, Mr. J. F. Munro prefaced his remarks by stating that he did not wish to detract from the awards and the record of military service earned by Pipe-Major Esson, he did, in point of fact, plunge right into the arena. Had Mr. Munro scrutinized my article carefully, and had other critics done likewise, he and they would have observed that my contention was correct in every respect.

I said that, in the year 1957, Pipe-Major Esson was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer, Class I, by virtue of a Special Order-in-Council, and thus became the first Pipe-Major in the world to receive this high honour. I did NOT say that he was the first Pipe-Major to have held the rank of Warrant Officer, Class I, as I can think of several (not just one or two) Pipe-Majors of the British Commonwealth who, during World War II and between 1946 and 1956, carried the rank of Warrant Officer, Class I. What I have stated is no paradox, not an incongruity and not ambiguous.

Prior to Pipe-Major Esson's elevation in rank from Warrant Officer, Class II, to Warrant Officer, Class I, in 1957, by way of an official Order-in-Council directive, authorized by the Minister of National Defence on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, the only way by which a Pipe-Major could hold the rank of Warrant Officer, Class I, was to cover off a vacancy for a Warrant Officer, Class I, on an establishment other than that of the Pipes and Drums. An example of this very kind occurred in the case of the late Pipe-Major John Gillies, Pipe-Major Esson's predecessor with The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. Pipe-Major Gillies held the rank of Warrant Officer, Class I, but in so doing he encumbered the appointment available in the Regiment for the Bandmaster of the Military Band. The appointment of Pipe-Major carried the rank of Warrant Officer, Class II. Since, at that particular juncture, the Regiment had no requirement for a Bandmaster (despite that a vacancy existed on the personnel establishment) the rank of Warrant Officer, Class I, was given to Pipe-Major Gillies.

In preparing my article on Pipe-Major Esson, I used every source of authentic information available to me. Before submitting it to you for publication, I forwarded it to my own Commanding Officer and the Second in Command of the Regiment, amongst others, for perusal and comment. The Second in Command raised the same objection as did Mr. Munro, alluding to the rank of Warrant Officer, Class I, held by Pipe-Major Gillies. With my explanation, he, too, saw the light and felt that I had managed to get through to him.

Should any person who reads this rebuttal still doubt the veracity of my declaration, and can produce any written evidence to the contrary, I will be pleased to purchase from my own resources, and present to him (or her) with my compliments, at the 1967 Indoor Meet, in public, a set of the finest Hardie, Henderson, Robertson, etc., pipes, in the best African blackwood, ornamented in ivory and engraved sterling silver, trimmed in the tartan of his (her) own choosing.

Furthermore, there is no other Pipe-Major in this part of the world who served his country, his Sovereign, the Empire, the Commonwealth and the "piping fraternity" so faithfully, so long and in such a consistent and gentlemanly manner, as has done the same Pipe-Major Esson. It would behoove the unfailing critic, the ever-present dissenter and the inevitably envious to mark my words well, and construe them accurately, before finding fault. Credit must be given where credit is due.

I must thank the Newsletter for this opportunity of presenting the facts.

- Drum Sergeant Ian MacLeod -
The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada



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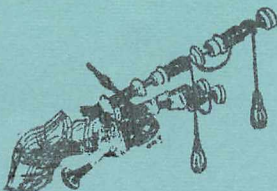
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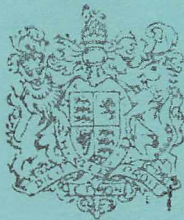
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SPECTACULAR PRODUCTION WANTED FOR PIPING SHOWS ON T.V.:

(Glasgow Letter from The Oban Times, Jan. 20, 1966)

Piping should be put on T.V. in a spectacular manner. That view was voiced by Mr. Fred MacAulay, Director of Gaelic broadcasts at the B.B.C., when he spoke as chairman at the Scottish Pipers' Association 40th annual competition in the Glasgow High School Hall last Saturday.

T.V. has a much wider audience to cater for, many of whom are not interested in piping as such, and therefore it would be necessary to present it in a fashion which would appeal to the majority.

He appealed to all pipers present to give this suggestion serious consideration in order that a presentable image might be arrived at.

Mr. MacAulay, who was surprised to see so many ladies in the audience who were obviously enjoying even the piobaireachd session, said he thought it quite incredible in this day and age that piping should be still flourishing in Scotland.

"Of course if we study its history we find they had pipes from earliest times. The Hittites, Hebrews, and Greeks had them and though no doubt they had some form of music similar to ours, I doubt very much," continued Mr. MacAulay, "if it was as sophisticated as the stage piping has arrived at today. It is probably the most sophisticated form of music in the whole of Europe and this is something of which we are not proud enough. We should be proud of it not only in Scotland but carry it far beyond.

"I'm sure band pipers will forgive me if I say that while a pipe band is spectacular they can never put soul into their music as the individual piper can and this is very true of the piobaireachd playing we had today," he continued. "I think we might be in danger of losing the traditional setting of our music and its traditional interpretation. If music tends to be written down too much and too much attention paid to the written form then we certainly are going to lose something which the traditional piper and he only can pass on to the young players."

Mr. MacAulay concluded by paying a glowing tribute to the "Oban Times" for its continued interest in piping and for its generosity in the presentation of the coveted gold medal for piobaireachd.

This was an excellent competition with the top pipers of the country vying for the honours and it was no small task for adjudicators Pipe-Majors John MacLean and John MacLellan to place the winners. Incidentally it is interesting to note that both judges on this occasion are two of the few pipers who graduated through Army ranks to become Regimental Sergeant-Majors in their respective battalions.

All introductions throughout the day were ably carried through by Pipe-Majors Hamish MacColl, Hector MacLean, and Nicol MacCallum, while the competition arrangements were made by Miss Flora MacNeill and Mrs. Dolly Mackay. Mrs. Robertson presented all trophies and prizes.

The highest honours were divided among a galaxy of star performers although special mention must go to Hector MacFadyen (Pennyghael) who annexed the Duncan MacFadyen Trophy for the highest aggregate marks in all competitions.

Results:

Piobaireachd:--"Oban Times" Challenge Gold Medal:

1. Iain MacFadyen (The Battle of Auldearn)
2. John MacFadyen (MacLeod of Raasay Salute)
3. George Lumsden (Piper's Warning to his Master)
4. Hector MacFadyen (The Clan MacNab Salute)
5. John MacAskill (Ronald Macdonald of Morar)

Marches:--The Donald MacDougall Memorial Trophy presented by Glasgow

Islay Association:

1. Ronald Lawrie
2. Ian MacLellan
3. Pipe-Major Ian MacLeod
4. John MacFadyen
5. Hector MacFadyen

Strathspey and Reel:--The Duncan MacIntyre Memorial Trophy:

1. Hector MacFadyen
2. Pipe-Major Ian MacLeod
3. Ian MacLellan
4. Dugald Ferguson
5. John MacFadyen

The Duncan MacFadyen Trophy:--Hector MacFadyen (Pennyghael)

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Buckingham Palace has bagged Pipe-Major Andrew Pitkeathly of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for the job of personal alarm clock to the Queen.

His job will be to play his bagpipes under the Queen's window at 9:00 a.m. every morning, rain or shine, whether she's at Buckingham Palace, Windsor or Sandringham.

For this he gets a rent-free flat at Windsor, free transportation and a small -- smaller than he got in the army -- salary.

(From The Vancouver Sun: Feb. 8th, 1966)

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PIOBAlREACHD TUNES FOR 1967.

The following list has been drawn up of Piobaireachd tunes for competition in 1967. Piobaireachd Society settings have been given for reference, but any published setting will be acceptable.

Battle of Waternish	- ...	Book 2
Patrick Og MacCrimmon's Lament		Book 3.
Isabel MacKay		Book 6
The King's Taxes		Book 5
The Earl of Seaforth's Salute		Book 5
MacLeod of Raasay's Salute		Book 8
In Praise of Morag		Book 1
Mary's Praise for Her Gift		Book 5
His Father's Lament for Donald MacKenzie		Book 9
MacCrimmon's Sweetheart		Book 7.

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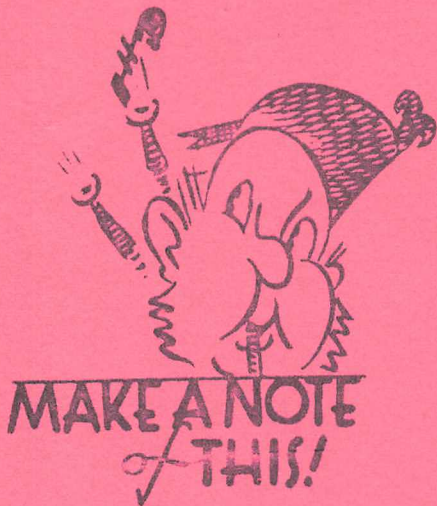


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ANNUAL GATHERING MARCH 11th & 12th

CHILDREN'S CEILIDH - MARCH 24th

MEMBERS' DINNER - MARCH 25th

