

NO. 99 FEBRUARY, 1970

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 1073 Doran Road, North Vancouver, B.C. by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and is distributed to all members. Address all communication concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communication to the Secretary, B.C. Pipers' Association, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C.

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PIPER OF THE MONTH

A special presentation will be made at this year's Annual Dinner, February 21st, 1970. One of our most respected and hard working members will be added to the very select list of Life Members of our Association. The sixth and newest Life Member, our Piper of the Month, is Mr. Roderick MacVicar.

Born in Claddach-Kirkibost, North Uist, the "tropics of Scotland" according to Rod, he emigrated to Vancouver with his family in 1922. At the age of 12 Rod took an interest in piping and made up his mind to learn the pipes, under the tuition of Jimmy Begg. Shortly thereafter young Rod was forced to discontinue his piping endeavours for health reasons. But as his health improved his enthusiasm for piping was revived and at the age of 19 he started piping again, with Joseph Smith his teacher. These lessons only lasted for about one year after which Rod mainly piped for his own enjoyment.

Mr. MacVicar has not been a band piper but he did play in one band in 1936 the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Pipe Band. The Band played in several competitions (and even came second once, if Rod's memory serves him correctly).

I have heard many stories of how babies have been lulled to sleep by the pipes but Rod's was certainly most novel. When his children were wee babies and wouldn't sleep Rod would tuck them under his right arm and the pipes under the other and play a few tunes. Oddly enough this seemed to solve the problem and they were soon sound asleep.

After many years of playing the "little music" Rod took a keen interest in piobaireachd and sought the help of Donald MacLeod (from Vancouver) in 1955. Rod partook of Donald's knowledge for several years and owes much of his musical ability to Donald's interest. On Mr. MacLeod's death Rod turned to another MacLeod for help in Piobaireachd - Kenneth MacLeod. Kenneth continued the fine tuition that Rod had learned to appreciate.

Rod joined our B. C. Pipers' Association in 1947 when President Charlie MacKenzie urged him to join a committee to organize and conduct the Annual Gathering. Since that time Rod has served our Association with increased vigor each year and is without a doubt one of the hardest working members in the history of the B. C. Pipers' Association.

When asked what positions he has held during his 23 year membership he indicated he held every position from Secretary to President. His first office was Vice-President in 1949. He held the Secretary/Treasurer position on approximately ten different occasions, and his latest position was President in 1965 through 1967.

For years now he and Rod MacRae have ~~been~~ a committee of two handling our Annual Gathering, and in recent years has been on our "building committee".

It only seems fitting that at this stage of Rod's membership in the B. C. Pipers' he should be made a Life Member. It is indeed difficult to imagine a more deserving person to accept our Association's highest honour. Congratulations Rod, and we look forward to your continuing service and guidance in future years.

GENERAL MEETING

The February General Meeting just had to be one of the best social functions sponsored by your Association. It was held at the Steelworker's Hall, 33 East Broadway. After a very short business meeting the evening festivities began. First on the list was a fine performance by the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band. A full band played an entertaining selection of tunes and complimented their show by having several members of the band exercise their dancing prowess. All in all a very pleasant exhibition.

Next on the agenda was the main reason for the record attendance of approximately 50 members. Ruairidh Macdonald and Bill Elder competed in the third round of our Professional Piping Knock-Out Competition. As was expected, both gave excellent performances with Ruairidh winning the event. Congratulations are most certainly in order for Ruairidh whose well selected tunes were excellently played. The judges for the contest were: P.M. Edmund Esson, Alex Reid and Danny Murray.

After the competition the bar was opened and the impromptu piping was heartily encouraged. Many pipers responded with tunes and a special treat was in store when Mary MacInnes from Tiree sang several Gaelic songs. Later in the evening Sandy Reid also sang and then joined Mary in a Gaelic duet. The evening ended about 1 A.M., with all present expressing their intention of attending the next "meeting".

Next month, March 6th, David Wilson will compete with Albert Duncan.

FOR SALE

- Used pipesunknown make. N/S mounts. Imitation ivory. Good condition. \$80.00.
- Boy's kilt for about age 10. MacEwen tartan. Very good condition. \$20.00.

If you are interested please contact:

Mr. John Munroe
1259 Island View Avenue
Bellingham, Wash. 98225
Phone 206-734-3373

- Two Harris Tweed piping jackets.
- One boy's kilt - Ancient McKenzie tartan.
- One set of Bagpipes

Please contact:

Jack Lee
Phone 584-4451

THE COEUR D' ALENE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AND TATTOO

Time has passed rapidly and we find ourselves once again facing not only a new year, but a new decade. We have been busy, however, and are happy to inform all that preparations are well under way for the annual Coeur d' Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo.

This first letter is for information purposes and is being distributed now in order that prospective competitors may have maximum time to prepare. A more complete agenda will follow in the near future.

We are very pleased to announce that Mr. Seumas MacNeill, eminent authority on piping, has agreed to come west and act as Director of Studies for the Spokane Centre for Bagpipe Studies. The current dates set for this school will be July 20th through July 31st, 1970. His services as adjudicator are also secured for the Spokane Piobaireachd Society's individual competition which will be held late Friday afternoon and evening. This competition is separate from Saturday's individual competition and will be explained in a succeeding paragraph.

Mr. MacNeill will also act as principle adjudicator for Saturday's Scottish Festival and Tattoo which includes individual competition (during the day) and pipe band competition (in the evening).

The schedule of events and requirements for each are:

FRIDAY - JULY 24, 1970

Previously advertised, The Spokane Piobaireachd Society's individual piobaireachd competition will be held during the late afternoon and evening. At stake will be the "Bratach Nam Beann" (Banner of the Mountains). This banner is donated annually by Police Inspector Evan Cameron McKay of Hong Kong, to the Spokane Piobaireachd Society for their annual competition. Included with the banner will be guaranteed round-trip air fare to Scotland to compete in one of the major individual competitions there. For further details on this, write to the president of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society, Lt. Col. John McEwing, West 3309 Dalke, Spokane, Washington, U. S. A. Requirements: Competitors entering in this competition will be required to play, upon request of the adjudicator, any one of the three following pipbaireachds:

- A. Lament for MacSwan of Roaig
- B. Battle of Auldearn (either setting)
- C. Sir James MacDonald of the Isles Lament

SATURDAY - JULY 25, 1970

Sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society of the Inland Empire, the individual competition taking place this day will involve both the professional and the amateur categories. Requirements (Professional):

- I. The competitor in professional piobaireachd must submit two piobaireachds to the adjudicator, one of which he will be required to play. At least one of the two submitted is to come from the following list: (If desired, both may come from the list.)

- A. Lament For Donald of Laggan
- B. The MacKay's Banner
- C. MacIntosh's Lament
- D. Sir James MacDonald of the Isles' Lament
- E. MacLeod's Controversy
- F. The Little Spree
- G. Battle of Auldearn (either setting)
- H. Lament for MacSwan of Roaig

* As you may notice, three of the piobaireachds in this list are the same as those listed for Friday's competition. These were included in Saturday's requirements so as not to place an undue burden on the competitor who wishes to enter in both competitions.

II. This year, the professional competitor will play the march separately from the strathspey and reel with the following provisions:

A. The competitor must submit the names of three marches. Two of them must come from the list below and the third one must be of the competitor's choice (the third one is not to come from the list). The adjudicator will select the march he wishes to hear.

1. John MacFadyen of Melfort
2. Kanara to El Arish
3. Leaving Lunga
4. Abercairny Highlanders
5. 74th's Farewell to Edinburgh
6. Lochaber Gathering

B. The competitor must submit two strathspey-reel sets. These are to be competitor's choice. The adjudicator will again select the one he wishes to hear.

C. The professional competitor may be required to play both the march entry and the strathspey-reel entry at one visit to the boards.

III. The amateur categories will be: sixteen and under, over sixteen. Each division will offer competition in marches and competition in strathspey and reel. The amateur piobaireachd will be open to all amateurs.

IV. There will be both amateur and professional drumming competition and there will be no special requirements for either of these classes. As before, quartet competition and Drum Major Competition will be offered.

V. As last year, bands entering in the evening competition will be placed in class I or class II by the adjudicator. This will be explained further in the coming brochure.

SUNDAY - JULY 26, 1970

At 10:00 A.M., the Novice piping competition will be held. The competition will be a march only. Further details will be forthcoming.

Following this competition will be a day to be enjoyed by all,
The Annual Scottish Picnic held in Coeur d'Alene City Park.

We have a great weekend planned and are looking forward to
seeing everyone again at Coeur d'Alene.

Address all correspondence concerning the Spokane Piobaireachd
Society's Banner Competition to: Lt. Col. John McEwing (Ret.)
West 3309 Dalke Avenue
Spokane, Washington

For Sale

Eight matched pipers cross belts fully trimmed with chased silver.
Belts are in good condition. Asking price \$64.00.

J. Blackburn
107 Stricland Street
Nanaimo, B.C.

ANNUAL DINNER

We hope by now that you all have February 21st circled on your
calendar. This is the date for this years B.C. Pipers' Annual Dinner.
Those of you who attended last year's dinner will recall the evening
of excellent piping and socializing. A fine evening of entertainment
is promised for this year's dinner. An enjoyable part of the evening
is the impromptu piping. All pipers are urged to bring their pipes
and be prepared to play a few tunes.

We are looking forward to seeing all our members there in Highland
Dress. Order your tickets right away and we'll see you at the Stanley
Park Tea Room this Saturday.

ST. PATRICKS DAY PARTY

The Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Band are holding their 3rd Annual
St. Patricks Day Party and Smorgasbord on Saturday, March 14, 1970
at No. 83 Royal Canadian Legion, 5289 Grimmer Avenue, Burnaby, B.C.
(near Royal Oak and Kingsway).

Bar service opens at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and dancing 9 - 1.

Tickets are \$4.00 each. Phone Mr. Flynn 936-3087 or
Mrs. Nicholson 299-3589.

(Even Scotsmen welcome.)

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION

The January Bi-Monthly Competition was held on the 16th of the month at the Seaforth Armoury. The two classes competing were:

Novice Old Highland Airs
Junior Jigs

As usual the entry for the Novice class was most encouraging with 49 competitors vying for the honours. Judge Ian MacKinnon placed the following contestants:

1. Linda Flynn
2. Chris Grant
3. Teresa Collister
4. Mark Steffinch
5. Stuart Reid
6. Stephen Gilchrist

Deportment - Marian Wood

The Junior competition saw a marked decrease in the number of pipers with only 7 entered. Judge Garnet Snow saw the results as follows:

1. Terry Lee
2. Mitchell Bain
3. Jack Lee

The next Bi-Monthly competition will be February 20th with Juvenile Strathspey and Reel and Amateur Piobaireachd events.

BRIGADOON

One of the best musicals of the century and one especially interesting to Scottish Folk, "Brigadoon", is to be presented by The Greater Vancouver Operatic Society, March 5,6,7 and 12, 13, and 14 at the North Vancouver Centennial Theatre, 23rd and Lonsdale, North Vancouver at 8:30 P.M.

Tickets are \$2.50 and can be purchased at the Bay. For further information call 263-9167.

WHITE HEATHER SHOW

Remember to mark your calendar for the White Heather Show April 23, 24 and 25. This show promises to be most entertaining as Andy Stewart will be with us. Andy always puts on a top quality performance enjoyed by all.

The April 23 show will be in New Westminster and the April 24 and 25 show will be at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver.

Watch for further information about the Show in next month's Newsletter.

VANCOUVER ISLAND PIPERS NIGHT

The members of the B.C. Pipers' Association have been invited again to the Vancouver Island Pipers "Vancouver Night", March 7, 1970. For those of you who didn't manage to attend last year may we take this opportunity to recommend this piping weekend.

The format of the evening's program, which starts at 8 o'clock will follow the same general lines as last year:

1. Island Pipers
2. Chairman's Remarks
3. Pupil-of-the-Month performance - Vancouver
4. About the Pupil-of-the-Month's Teacher
5. Speaker
6. Theme Piper
7. Guest Piper
8. About The Evenings Piobaireachd
9. Piobaireachd

Why not join us for a tremendous weekend!!!

TARTAN BALL

The Tartan Ball sponsored by the New Westminster Highland Games will be held Saturday, February 28, 1970 in the Royal Towers Hotel, New Westminster, B.C.

- Andy Arnott's Band will supply the music
- Tickets - \$3.50 each
- Anyone wishing tickets please contact Angus Macdonald
- 521-6255

BAND CHATTER

Robert Gunn's proposal of accepting drummers as Active Members into the B. C. Pipers' Association (Something to Think About - December, 1969) in order to create an organization fully capable of dealing with pipe band topics and problems in this area appears at the outset to be a viable solution. However, simply admitting drummers into the Association does not, to my mind, imply that these topics and problems will be dealt with fully enough.

There still exists a need for individual pipe band representation in any organization which purports to consider subjects of concern to the pipe bands of this area. This representation does not appear to be provided for in the above mentioned proposal. Furthermore, the very nature of this representation indicates the existence of the organization as a distinct entity, either as a branch of the B. C. Pipers' (under Bob's proposal) or as a separate organization as it presently functions.

This separate organization to which I refer is of course the Western Pipe Band Association. Bob's major objection to the existence

of the Association as an organization separate from the B. C. Pipers' Association seemed to be in what he foresaw as a "duplication of efforts" in striving to accomplish common goals. I foresee no such problem under the present situation, however. Can these two groups not work in conjunction, the efforts of one organization complimenting, not duplicating the efforts of the other in striving towards higher standards of music in this area, regardless of whether it be pipe, drum, or pipe band music?

Michael J. Evans

ASSOCIATION PIPE MAJOR APPOINTED

The B. C. Pipers' Association has appointed one of our senior members as its new Association Pipe Major, Mr. Sebastian Nellies. His duties are to pipe at various official gatherings and arrange for pipers to perform at other functions.

Mr. Nellies' first official piping assignment will be to pipe in the head table at the upcoming Annual Dinner. Those who attended the recent General Meeting heard Seb play several enjoyable tunes and all members look forward to future performances.

"To a Louse" by R. M.

ANNUAL GATHERING

The B.C. Pipers' Association will hold its 38th Annual Gathering at the North Vancouver Community Centre, April 3rd and 4th, 1970.

The program for the competition is as follows:

- Event # 1 - Junior Piobaireachd
- " # 2 - Novice Marches
- " # 3 - Juvenile Marches
- " # 4 - Juvenile Strathspey and Reel
- " # 5 - Amateur Piobaireachd
- " # 6 - Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs
- " # 7 - Professional Piobaireachd
- " # 8 - Junior Quartettes
- " # 9 - Junior Marches
- " # 10 - Junior Strathspey and Reel
- " # 11 - Amateur Marches
- " # 12 - Amateur Strathspey and Reel
- " # 13 - Pipers Over 60 Years - Tune of Piper's Choice
- " # 14 - Professional Marches
- " # 15 - Professional Strathspey and Reel
- " # 16 - Professional Jig
- " # 17 - Scottish Wrestling
- " # 18 - Dancing - Amateur Over 16 - Strathspey and Half Reel
- " # 19 - Senior Quartettes
- " # 20 - Miniature Pipe Bands

Approximate times will appear in the March issue.

Note: Event # 6 is restricted to Amateurs not competing in other events.

Note: ENTRY DEADLINE is MARCH 20th, 1970. DEADLINE IS TO BE ENFORCED.

A competitor will not be allowed to play in more than one quartette or miniature band at the same Annual Gathering.

Miniature bands will consist of:

A minimum of 7 - 4 pipers, 2 side drummers and 1 bass.

A maximum of 9 - 6 pipers, 2 side drummers and 1 bass.

BELLINGHAM HIGHLAND GAMES

Winners of Bellingham Highland Games Trophies should bring them to the 38th Annual Gathering April 4th, in North Vancouver, B.C.

J. Munroe
Bellingham



-10-
ENTRY FORM

Please enter (Print name).....
in event #

_____ March

_____ Strathspey

Reel

_____ Piobaireachd

_____ Old Highland Airs

_____ Jig

_____ Quartette & or March.....

_____ Band Set Strath.....

Reel.....

Entry Fee: Miniature Bands - \$5.00

Individual Admission Tickets - Adult - \$1.50

Under 12 Years - .50

Admission tickets purchased at door is entry fee to all events except
Event # 20.

Mail entries before March 20, 1970 to: Mrs. I. Ross, Secretary
834 Burnaby St., New Westminster

PIOBAIREACHD LIST FOR 1970

Professional pipers must submit one tune from each list. The judge
will inform the piper which tune he is to play.

LIST "A"

- 1. Clanranald's Salute - Piobaireachd Society Collection
- 2. End of the Great Bridge - Piobaireachd Society Collection
- 3. I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand - Piobaireachd Society Collection
- 4. The Prince's Salute - Piobaireachd Society Collection
- 5. Clan MacNab's Salute - The Kilberry Book of Ceol Mor

LIST "B"

- 1. Glengarry's March - Piobaireachd Society Collection
- 2. Lament for the Viscount of Dundee - Piobaireachd Society Collection
- 3. Lament for MacSwan of Roaig - Piobaireachd Society Collection
- 4. Old Men of the Shells (Setting #1) - Piobaireachd Society Collection
- 5. Tulloch Ard (The MacKenzie's March) - Piobaireachd Society Collection

In List "A" the Crunluath a Mach must be played in tunes 2: 3: 4:
& 5:, while in tune 1, it is optional.

In List "B" tunes 1: 2: & 4:, are Fosgailte and 3: & 5: are
Breabach.

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