

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

FEBRUARY, 1973

NO. 129

ACQUA...
1911

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT	Bill Lamont
VICE-PRESIDENT	David Wilson
SECRETARY	Ishabel Ross
TREASURER	Robert Gunn
Association Pipe Major	Seb Nellies

The B. C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 5120 Spencer Street, Vancouver 16, B. C., by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and distributed to all members. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Mrs. D. Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster.

EDITORS:	Colin Abel Angus MacPherson
STAFF:	Barb Morley Janice Taylor Judi Taylor

FEBRUARY, 1973

NO. 129

Table of Contents

Letters to the Editor.....	Page 1
Editorial.....	4
Last Month In and Around the Association:	
Knock-Outs.....	8
Bi-monthlies.....	8
Vancouver Island Pipers' Club.....	9
Vancouver Ladies' Festival.....	10
Next Month:	
B.C. Pipers' Annual Dinner.....	11
Bi-monthly.....	11
General Meeting.....	11
C.P. Air Dance.....	12
Annual Gathering & Recital.....	13
White Heather Concert.....	13
Summer Games.....	13
Roving Reporter.....	13
Bandstand.....	16
Boys in Blue.....	20

Band Chatter.....	20
Maintenance of Pipes.....	21
Puzzle Corner.....	22
McHardy's Record Sale.....	23
Annual Gathering Programme.....	24
Annual Gathering Entry Form.....	25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

With this issue, the editors and staff are celebrating their first anniversary with the Newsletter. We wish to thank all those members who supported us with letters and material and hope they continue to do so.

As to those we haven't stimulated enough with our editorials and articles, we hope that throughout our second year we can hear from them in some capacity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letter was received by Mrs. May Taylor from Bob Buchan of the Innes Tartan whom she met at the Western Pipe Band Competition last August.

What a wonderful surprise it was to receive the copies of the B.C. Pipers' News. It is a grand idea and I wish that a similar thing was going here. Of particular interest was the results of the contest in Vancouver and I must say at this stage what a great privilege it was to be able to compete there and also to win. Some of our lads had the idea that it would be a pushover, so it was a considerable shock to them when they heard Port Moody playing and also the Seaforths band. Of course, the way the men of both bands went out of their way to entertain us was one of the highlights of the trip.

Then, there was that lovely evening when we came along to the dance that evening when we met so many of the band folk from Triumph Street and the ladies' band too. Nothing was too much trouble for them. We were driven right back to the University by one lad from Triumph Street - very much appreciated seeing we didn't know which way was home.

We were very impressed by the depth you have over there of young people both sexes who played in the junior bands. It augers well for the future of the bands there and again I wish we had a similar sort of set-up here. The Ladies bands play very well indeed, much better than our average band here. I would have liked to have heard the Vancouver Ladies' playing at full strength since we had heard so much about them. The drumming standard in Vancouver is high and much better than the average New Zealand band and that would apply more particularly to the ladies bands I heard.

I hope our marching displays haven't started a revolt in your bands. It takes a lot of time to get it up to our standard and there are two or three bands who are usually better than us at display work. In grade one here, we have to do a display or they disqualify us from the championship. Our Championships come up in about six weeks time when we will be trying to retain our title. We enjoyed every minute of our stay in Vancouver - liking it better than Toronto - and as president of the band I will thank on behalf of all members you wonderful people from B.C. who gave us such a memorable welcome and who made us so much at home at the functions and in their homes.

After our stay in Vancouver, it was grand to meet up with the Port Moody boys at Santa Rosa to burn our mouths on their flaming drinks and to help get a record turnout of Sheriffs to stop our peaceful evening after the contest.

My regards to them all - a grand bunch of men. You may quote this letter if you wish, and here is hoping we may meet again some day soon.

Kind regards to all,
Bob Buchan,
Auckland, New Zealand.

Dear Sirs,

Below is a wee write-up on our annual Robbie Burns' night which I thought you might be able to fit into your Newsletter. We would especially like a mention of the last paragraph as we are trying to locate past band members for the purpose of a reception and a reunion.

I enjoy your Newsletter and appreciate the blood, sweat and tears you and your co-workers are giving. Keep up the good work.

ROBBIE BURNS' NIGHT WITH THE MAPLE RIDGE PIPE BAND BR. 88

On Saturday evening, February 3rd, before a crowd of 330 people, the Maple Ridge Pipe Band, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 88, celebrated the beginning of their 25th year as a pipe band, with their 7th Annual Robbie Burns' dinner and dance in the Legion auditorium.

Special Guest Mr. Donald Ross gave his usual fine address to the Haggis, while Mr. Howard McLean, Royal Canadian Legion Deputy Zone Commander recited the "Immortal Memory".

One of the highlights of the evening was a special introduction of Pipe Major John A. McLelland, the Pipe Major of the first Branch 88 Pipe Band. A presentation of the head table floral centre piece was presented to Mrs. McLelland by Pipe Major Archie McAffer, on behalf of the members of the band.

This was followed by an inspiring display of Scottish Country Dancing by the Stave Falls Dancers under the guidance of Mrs. Cheryl MacDonald. The Pipe Band then took to the floor, led by Drum Major Robert Milne Jr. and, under the direction of Pipe Major Archie McAffer, executed an intricate floor drill while playing quick and slow marches. A very fine selection of tunes was enjoyed by all.

Among those in attendance were B.C. Pipers' Association President Mr. Bill Lamont and wife as well as a number of well known Vancouver area pipers and piping judges.

In the months ahead, the members of the pipe band will be trying to locate anyone who at any time has ever been a member of Branch 88 Pipe Band since its inception in 1948. A special reception is being planned for later in the year. If you have any information that might help us complete our past band roster, please contact either Jim Rankin, 463-3682 or P/M Archie McAffer, 942-0980, any evening.

Archie McAffer.

Dear Sirs,

I look forward to receiving the Newsletter very much and enjoy the different comments and views expressed by various members, and also the events taking place.

It has been my pleasure to be a member of the Association for a good many years and may I be permitted to comment on the views expressed concerning the way pipe bands and individual competition pipers dress.

Re Hal Senyk's idea regarding dress and deportment and that the best playing pipe band could lose a contest due to dress and deportment, he might have a point there... However, any band which happened to be that good, surely should make an effort to appear on the field in a dress equal to their ability. That would be full Highland dress, and those appearing in the minimum requirements for dress and deportment as suggested could be deducted a certain number of points.

This minimum dress, if allowed, would be unfair to bands that have already spent a lot of money on full dress uniforms. Should the Military and other bands sponsored by Municipalities and such take up this idea, what a contrast it would be to see those half-dressed scarecrows - good execution notwithstanding - in competition with the Vancouver and Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Bands whose dress and deportment should be taken as an example.

Re the bedraggled long hair and scraggly bewhiskered males. There might be an excuse or exception as the price of a haircut and shave nowadays would purchase a lot of reeds. After all, some of the best pipers of days gone by also wore beards. It doesn't improve one's appearance, it's not modern, it's as old as Methusalah, but if brushed, combed and trimmed, it could be quite presentable.

These are just my views on the foregoing as I honestly see it and is not intended to refer to any person piping or drumming. I will see you at the Indoor Competition in April.

Kenneth MacDonald,
Brinnon, Washington.

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed are the dates of the parades of our 1973 Blossomtime Festival. We feel that the Newsletter would be an especially good way to get the information to all of the pipe bands in British Columbia.

This year we are making a special effort to improve the Grand Parade by inviting colorful and exciting units, bands, and floats, to come and join in the festivities. Any band interested, should contact the D.A.R.E. Association, P. O. Box 958, Bellingham, Washington 98225, for further information.

We thank you in advance for your assistance.

M.A. Dunlap, Chairman,
Development of Area Recreation
and Entertainment Association.

Editors' Note: A Kiddies parade will be held on Friday, May 18, 1973, at 6:00 p.m. The Grand Parade will be held on Saturday, May 19, 1973, at noon. Both will be in Bellingham, Washington.

EDITORIAL

EXCERPT FROM THE B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 1976

"Last Saturday marked the grand opening of the British Columbia Pipers' Club sponsored by the B. C. Pipers' and the Western Pipe Band Associations.

A feasibility study on the idea of such a club was conducted by former Newsletter editors, Colin Abel and Angus MacPherson, in March, 1973. Using the facilities of the Newsletter, they expressed their hopes and ideas regarding a central location where all piping activities could be conducted.

The problems they encountered were numerous. However, they managed to persuade the executives of both associations of the great benefit that could be derived from such a project.

One of the major obstacles they faced was the question of paying for such a building. After much searching, a hall was secured and a lease signed by the directors of the newly formed B.C. Pipers' Club. Through annual membership dues, the operation of a bar, and rental of the building to various groups, the lease payment does not pose a problem.

The net result of three years' hard work was the opening of the B.C. Pipers' Club last Saturday evening. While some enthusiasts enjoyed a fine programme of piping in the downstairs area, others investigated the individual band rooms, lecture hall, executive suites, Newsletter Office and teaching rooms, while still others traditionally "retired" to the bar.

For an annual fee of \$15.00, members are entitled to all the services of the club. i.e. use of the record and music library, the club magazine (formerly the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter), free admission to all activities sponsored by the B.C. Pipers' Club -- Professional knock-out competitions, Bi-monthly competitions, miniature band knock-outs, Annual Dinner, and Annual Gathering. Members are also free to enter the pub, relax on the rug by the fireside, and talk over competitions of days gone by.

The club has already been booked for the C.P. Air Dance, B.C. Pipers' Winter School of Piping, Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Festival, W.P.B.A. miniature band knock-out, Annual Gathering, Annual Dinner, recital by the indoor meet judge, bi-monthlies, Tartan Ball, Triumph Street Band Contest, a Burns' Supper, and a drumming competition.

When this project was started, some skeptics stated that the Hall would be used only on weekends and even then, very rarely. However, it has been booked every night of the week except Sunday. For \$100.00 annually, a pipe band can have its own room any night or day of the week it wishes for storage of equipment, chanter practice, and meetings. In addition, the band is also entitled to the use of one of the main halls once a week for band practice, and the use of the entire facilities twice a year (dances, competitions, etc.) If a band wishes to use the facilities more than twice a year, an additional fee will be charged.

The Club is not completely designed for piping enthusiasts, however. A number of Scottish importers have set up a display of tartans, Scottish jewelry, and souvenirs. A museum has also been constructed with the aim of attracting the public as well as pipers. Included in the museum are various trophies from old competitions, a Hall of Fame for distinguished pipers, as well as a picture gallery of ancient players.

On Saturday evenings when the hall has not been booked, pipe bands and dancing teams have been secured to give a cabaret-type atmosphere to the pub."

Could this be a reality in 1976? What are your views and ideas? Would a Hall pay for itself? Would you support it?

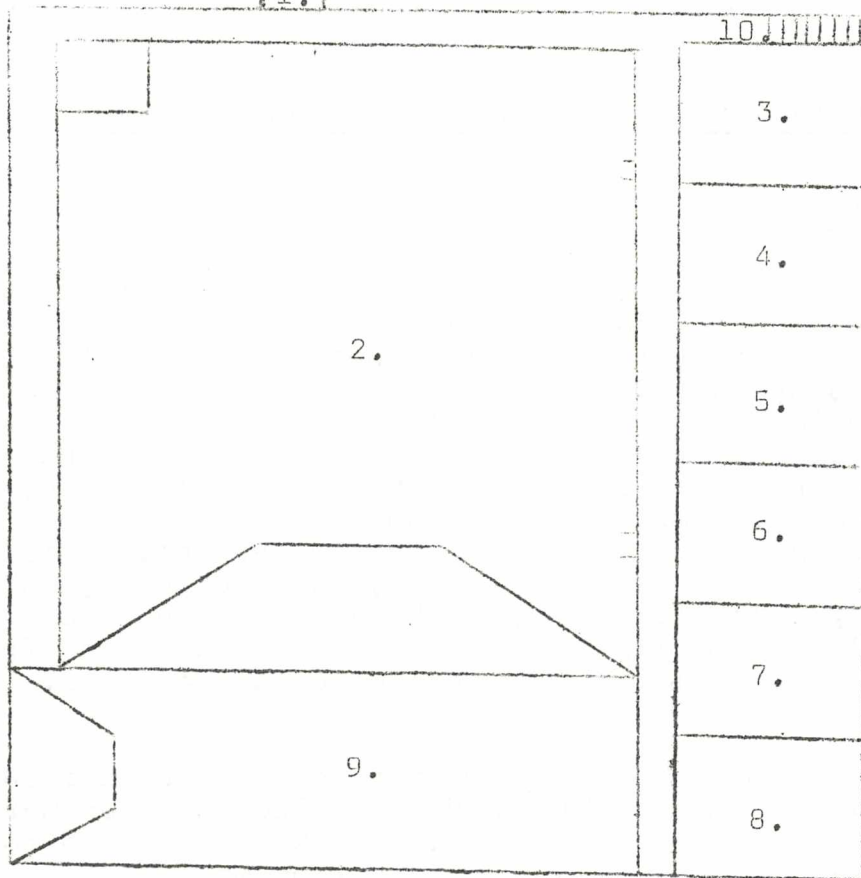
This may appear to be nothing but a pipe dream. However, we are very serious about this project and would greatly appreciate hearing from the membership. Thank you,

Editors.

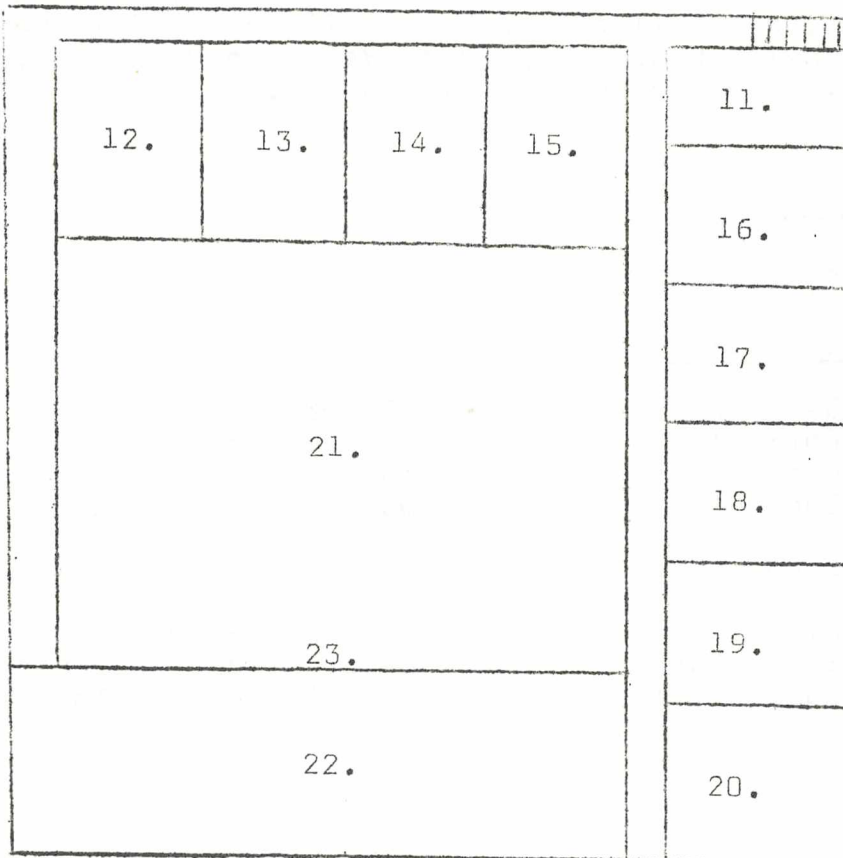
PLAN

1. Main Entrance with displays by J.T. McHardy and other Scottish importers greeting all members and their guests.
2. Main Dance Hall with stage and bar where dances, recitals, competitions and concerts will be held.
3. The B.C. Pipers' Club Executive Office where all business affairs of the Club are conducted.
4. The Newsletter Office where all the editing, typing, and publishing of the Newsletter takes place, and makes it easier for members to sit and chat with the editors and staff about the publication.
5. The Western Pipe Band Association Room.
6. The B.C. Pipers' Association Room.
7. The B.C. Pipers' Museum with many objects and articles reflecting the history of piping in British Columbia.
8. Record and Music Library where enthusiasts can browse and borrow music books or listen to their favourite tunes from a variety of pipe band, individual piping, or singing records.
9. Lecture Room where visiting pipers, dignitaries and members can express their views on various topics concerning the piping world.
10. Stairs to second floor.
11. Teaching Room where teachers who are unable to instruct where they live (e.g. apartment dwellers) can feel free to use this room for piping lessons.
- 12 & 13 Drumming rooms where drummers and drum corps can practice while pipers are having chanter practice.
- 14 - 20 Band Rooms where every member band has its own room for meetings or chanter practice, etc.
21. Main Practice Room where bands, quartettes, or individual pipers can practice.
22. Main Bar with Scottish Pub atmosphere where members and their guests can enjoy a wee dram or two in comfort.
23. Folding partition so the patrons of the pub can listen to whoever is playing in the practice room.

Main Floor



Second Floor



LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Knock-Outs

The last competition in the first round of the professional knock-out competition was held on February 2 at the Steelworkers' Hall. The contestants for the evening were Hal Senyk and Jim Troy. Both players offered a fine selection in one of the closest competitions this year. However, Jim received a two to one decision over Harald. The judges for the evening were Ed Esson, Alec Reid, and Albert Duncan. Mr. Esson also judged the open march (6/8 or 2/4) competition held later in the evening. This competition included Steve Geddes, Ian MacKinnon, John MacDonald, Alec Young, Hal Senyk, Jim Troy and the eventual winner, John MacLeod. Impromptu piping and a song from Nancy Darling rounded out a very enjoyable evening.

A very poor attendance witnessed the second round contest between Bruce Topp and Ken Nelson held on March 2 at 33 East Broadway, Vancouver. Ken Nelson failed to appear, however, and Bruce treated us to a fine medley of marches, jigs, and hornpipes, despite playing with one drone.

The slow air competition was started by the Association Pipe Major, Seb Nellies, and was followed by Bill Lamont, John MacDonald, Bruce Topp, Alec Young, and the \$10.00 winner, Hal Senyk. John MacLeod was the judge.

Bi-Monthlies

January 12, 1973 - The judge for the evening was Bill Lamont.

2nd Novice Section - 14 competitors

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. James Paterson | - Ella Brodie |
| 2. Chris Taggart | - The Herding Song |
| 3. Christeen Waddell | - The Maid I Adore |
| 4. Ian Putz | - Waters of Kylesku |

Junior - 9 competitors

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Blake Keen | - John Roy Stewart-Lexie MacAskill |
| 2. Brian Carse | - Cabar Feidh-Lexie MacAskill |
| 3. Gordon Lyle | - Arniston Castle-Thompson's Dirk |

February 16, 1973 - John A. MacLeod recorded the following decisions

Juvenile 6/8 Marches - 17 competitors

1. Aileen Arnott - Farewell to the Greeks
2. Graham Davidson - P/M Ian Scott
3. Alan Wilson - John Keil M.B.E.
4. Asheley Stewart - Cold Winds from Ben Wyvis
5. Philip Gordon - Murdo McKenzie

Amateur Piobaireachd - 9 competitors

1. Terry Lee - Viscount of Dundee
2. Jack Lee - I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand
3. Allan MacDougall - Lament of Donald of Laggan

Vancouver Island Piper's Club

The January meeting of the Vancouver Island Piper's Club was held January 6, 1973 in the Sergeant's Mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment, at the Bay Street Armouries. The meeting was officially opened by V.I.P.'s Steve Geddes, Jamie Troy, Colin Magee, Hal Senyk, Bill Wishart and Rob Barrick.

Allan Strachan, a promising young player taught by Bill Mossie, gave us a fine selection as pupil of the month.

George Ogilvie, as guest speaker, did a fine job of outlining some of the history and the role of the piper in the Armed Forces.

To encourage some of the younger players to take a more active part in the club, we asked Bill Wishart to perform as guest player and Rob Barrick to render the Piobaireachd. It is understood that both did a fine job. However, as the secretary was unable to attend, the names of the tunes were not recorded.

At a recent executive meeting of the club, it was decided that the March meeting would take a slightly different format for the purpose of revealing the talented composers that we have amongst us. If you have a tune or a couple of tunes that you have composed, bring them along to the March meeting and play them or have them played. This is your big chance; you may even win a prize.

The Annual Dinner will be held May 19 in the Spare Mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment at the Bay Street Armouries; further details will be announced at a later date.

Byron Barnard, Secretary.

Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Annual Festival

Piping Results:

Chanter Class: 1. Graham Friend 2. Brian Friend
3. Gordon Redmond

V.L.P.B. Slow Air: 1. Janice Taylor

Novice: March: 1. Ian Cherry 2. Linda Williams 3. Judy Carl
Slow Air: 1. Linda Williams 2. Jimmy Paterson
3. Christeen McKendrick

Juvenile:

March: 1. Duncan Fraser 2. Grant Wilkie
3. Aileen Arnott

Strathspey & Reel: 1. Duncan Fraser 2. Aileen Arnott
3. Asheley Stewart

Junior:

Slow Air: 1. Jean Laurie 2. Gordon Paterson
3. Brian Carse

Jig: 1. Blake Keen 2. Gordon Paterson
3. Gordon Lyle

Amateur:

Hornpipe: 1. Allan MacDougall 2. Terry Lee 3. Jack Lee

M.S.R.: 1. Cindy Chambers 2. Terry Lee 3. Jack Lee

Drumming:

Novice: 1. Barbara Lowden 2. Linda MacPherson
3. Robyn Palmer

Amateur: 1. Thomasine Rowell 2. Sheila Brown
3. Scott Robertson

Sr. Amateur: 1. Murray Munroe

Tenor:

Novice: 1. Lynn Robson 2. Ed Bereziak
3. Heather Munroe

Amateur: 1. Jean Aldred

Drum Corps: Junior: Vancouver Ladies
Senior: Vancouver Ladies

Bass Drummer: Junior: Steve Ramsden Senior: Lynn Robson

Quartettes: Junior: Richmond Jr. Senior: City of Victoria

Bands: Junior: Richmond Jr. Senior: Port Moody

NEXT MONTH

B. C. PIPERS' ANNUAL DINNER, DANCE
and

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION FINAL

S A T U R D A Y M A Y 5, 1973

The Flame Supper Club
Canada Way, Burnaby, B. C.

Social Hour 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Andy Arnott's Band

Tickets \$6.50 Bar Service Only

Tickets can be obtained from any Board Member of the Association, or write to the Secretary, Mrs. D. Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C., enclosing cheque or money order.

Bi-Monthly

The next competition on the Bi-monthly card has the Novice (Section 1) playing a march while the Juveniles have to contend with a jig.

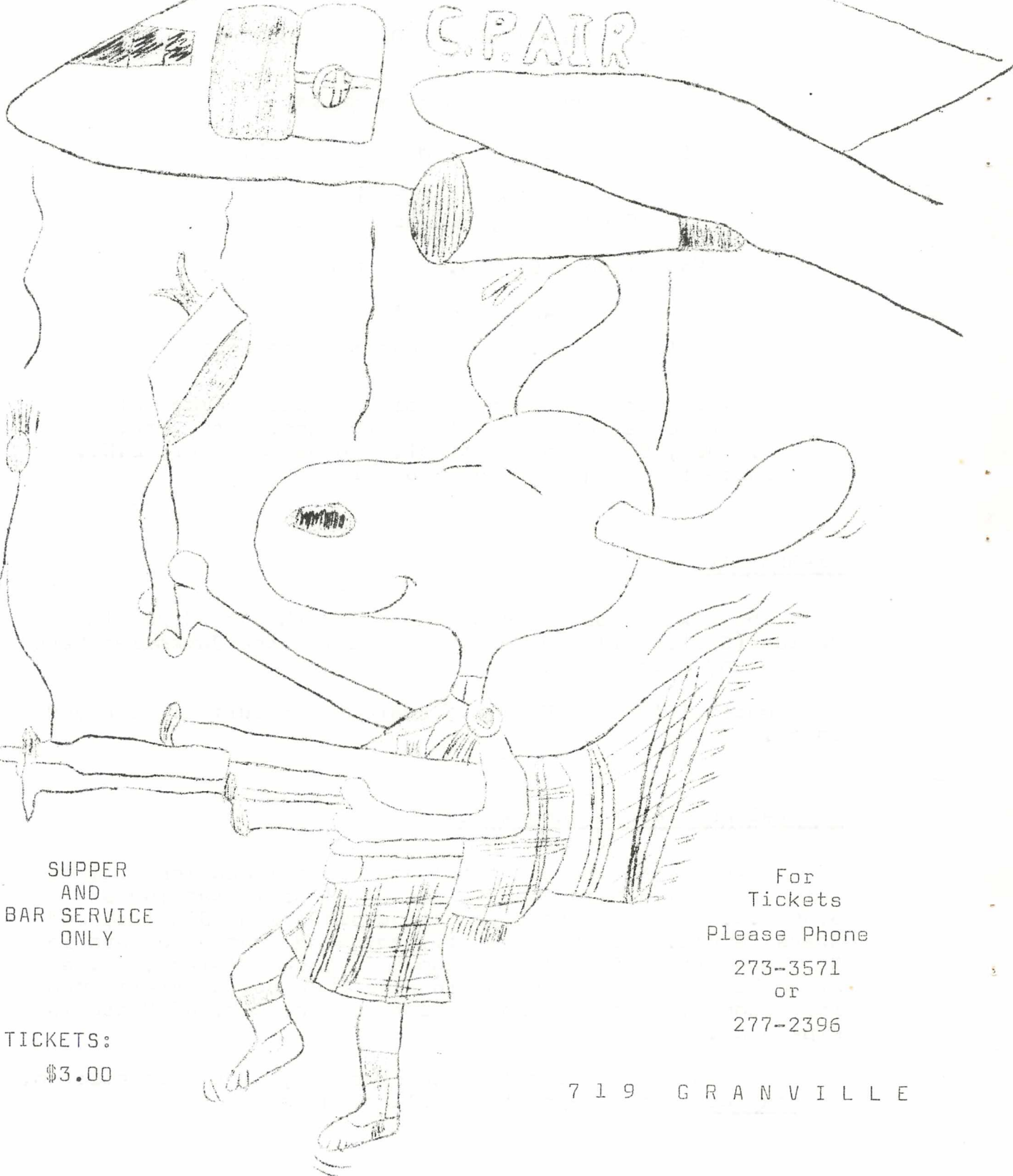
March 16th at 8:00 p.m., Seaforth Armouries. See you there.

General Meeting and Knock-Out

A knock-out quarter final and general meeting will be held on April 6th in the Steelworkers' Hall starting at 8:00 p.m. The contest pits fellow-Victorians Jim Troy and Steve Geddes. Jim has recently returned from a sojourn in Scotland after winning the Banner in Coeur d'Alene, while Steve has been cleaning up since he came out of "retirement" last summer. Both are now members of the City of Victoria Pipe Band.

Following what promises to be a very close competition, an amateur march competition will be held.

RICHMOND BOYS (JR. & SR.) PIPE BAND DANCE
SATURDAY, MARCH 24th
9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.



SUPPER
AND
BAR SERVICE
ONLY

TICKETS:
\$3.00

For
Tickets
Please Phone
273-3571
or
277-2396

719 GRANVILLE

THE RICHMOND MINORU PAVILION

Annual Gathering and Recital

This year's Annual Gathering will take place on April 27 and 28 at the North Vancouver Recreational Centre, 23rd and Lonsdale.

The Annual Gathering Committee has secured the services of John MacDougall of Arbroath. John is a gold medallist and a former member of the Invergordon Distillery Pipe Band.

Before John performs his task at the Gathering, he will give a recital on Wednesday, April 25, at the Scottish Auditorium. Admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for those 16 and under, O.A.P.'s free.

The bar will open at 7:30 p.m. and the recital will get under way at 8:00 p.m.

White Heather Concert

This year's spring show is featuring the Alexander Brothers once again. The dates are April 20 and 21 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Dates of Summer Games

June 9	-- New Westminster
June 23	-- Bellingham
	-- Legion
June 30	-- Victoria
July 7	-- B. C. Highland
July 14	-- Nanaimo
July 21	-- Portland
August 4	-- Seattle

ROVING REPORTER

Summer School at Lake Sequoia

Summer schools of piping are not quite ten a penny yet, but they are certainly not the rare occurrences that they were a few years back. At least half a dozen were held last year in different parts of North America, with eight instructors coming out from Scotland to help spread the knowledge of the noble instrument. This year there will be eight schools and ten different instructors.

The youngest and newest of these was the one held at Lake Sequoia, in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California. This was the combined effort of Seumas MacNeill, Joint-Principal of the College of Piping in Scotland, and of Dr. W. F. Casteen of Bakersfield, California. Dr. and Mrs. Casteen's six children are all pipers of considerable promise and will soon be making their influence felt far beyond their immediate surroundings.

Seumas MacNeill is probably the most famous teacher of piping in the world today. Since 1954 he has been coming to summer schools in North America - from Texas in the south to Nova Scotia in the north, and from New York to California. He is the joint author (with Thomas Pearston) of the standard text books for learners, and their Tutor Part 1 has now sold over 100,000 copies. It is a measure of their unselfish interest in piping that all royalties from this book are donated to the College of Piping.

His right hand man in recent years has been his former pupil, Dr. John MacAskill, who is generally looked on as being about the best player in Scotland today. Dr. MacAskill is a composer of merit and a teacher of great patience and skill. Together they form a talented and efficient team which guarantees success to pupils of all ages and stages.

As assistant instructors at Lake Sequoia, they had two young American girls of exceptional piping ability - LuAnne and Mary Alward, from Spokane, Washington. Both had been students with the MacNeill-MacAskill combination during the two previous summers, and both continued their studies at Lake Sequoia - in addition to spending a good deal of time helping to teach the younger players.

The school itself was a tremendous success. With thirty-six students enrolled, it was easily the biggest first year of any school, and the indications are that the numbers this year will more than double. Numbers of course are not all that important, except that - within limits - they tend to make for efficiency of organization. The important figure is the student to staff ratio, and this (according to the MacNeill system) must never be greater than twenty students to each professional brought from Scotland.

The Lake Sequoia school had probably in most respects the finest situation of any piping summer school in the world. At 6,500 feet the day temperatures were around 80 degrees while the nights were cool and comfortable. Flies, rain and mosquitoes were non-existent. The food was excellent. For those who lived in the camp, the costs were low, and there was convenient accommodation within two or three miles for those who preferred it.

Swimming, sailing, boating, canoeing and fishing were at hand, and free. The only snag was that there are so many trout in Lake Sequoia that each person's daily quota can be caught in an hour.

An impressive feature to most people was the presence of the giant Redwoods. Pictures cannot do justice to the majesty of these astounding trees, and just to wander through these groves with a bagpipe - or even a practice chanter - is an experience not to be forgotten.

The course followed the usual formula - "purification and piobaireachd" - with the principal effort being concentrated on improving each person's individual ability to the limit. As usual classes were also held to cover all branches of piping, including maintenance of the instrument, history, theory, competition work, etc. Each evening a recital was given by one or other of the Scottish instructors, and tapes of outstanding piping interest were played.

Many things happened at the school - some planned, some quite spontaneous - which leave happy memories for the years to come. One such was the playing by LuAnne Alward of "MacLeods' Rowing Tune", in the proper circumstances. The sound of this great Donald Mor MacCrimmon tune coming across the lake in the evening was an experience never to be forgotten. So far as can be determined this is the first time the tune has been used in living memory for the purpose for which it was composed.

The closing exercises on the final Saturday morning were a very happy affair, and an innovation was a questionnaire which students filled in (anonymously) to suggest changes for the future. Several excellent suggestions came from this, the most popular one being to spend more time on competition work. And so it shall be this year, even though the school is still primarily for those who love playing pipes for the sheer enjoyment of it.

* * * * *

WANTED

DANCING SWORDS

MR. I. ANDERSON

PHONE 526-5209

BANDSTAND

HAPPENINGS WHEN OUR CITY WAS VERY YOUNG

In the early days of the depression year of 1932, there was much discussion by the piping fraternity of Vancouver to get a pipers' society going again and one heard many dissertations praising the standard of playing "when the pipers had their own hall on Seymour Street". This was the pre-1914 world that was being recalled, a world that ended abruptly in the summer of that year, never to return. To name only some of the pipers who were around Vancouver those sixty odd years ago, one realizes that the playing must have been of a high calibre indeed. D. C. Mather, Donald MacIver, Hector MacKenzie, John Gillies, John Paul, Donald Cameron, Angus MacGruer, Alex Johnson, Gordon Ross. All these men were fortunate enough to have had the privilege of excellent tuition. D. C. Mather, of course, was a Gold Medallist in both piping and dancing and taught both those arts in Vancouver for some years. But all these men taught. Indeed, they taught a whole generation of pupils in Vancouver and Victoria. Those pupils, in their turn, taught a further host, some of whom are still being heard on the competitive board to this day.

When the Vancouver Pipers' Society was first formed, it was just that. The photograph in this issue, however, gives ample proof that by 1905 they had a well turned-out band on the scene as well. This photo was given to me by one of the founders of, and first president of our Association, Mr. Roderick MacLeod. Just looking at that handsome group, one can well imagine how busy that band was kept in the bustling young city of those long ago years.

It may just have been the stirring airs that they played that brought about an informal meeting of a few enthusiastic Scots to discuss the idea of a Highland regiment for Vancouver. That these enthusiasts were members of a Highland society is very much in the fitness of things. And so it was to come about that it was the Vancouver Gaelic Society that gave public utterance to the thought that the time had arrived for the establishment in Vancouver of a regiment of Highlanders. This was 1909. There were many immigrants in the city from the "land of the heather and the flood". In even greater numbers in the trek to Vancouver were those from Eastern Canada whose fathers or grandfathers had settled in the East, mostly in Ontario. All in all, there was a goodly sprinkling of Scots in our city at that time, and the moment for definite action seemed to be at hand. The Gaelic Society sent out requests to the other Scottish societies in the city to appoint delegates to meet and confer on the matter. Several meetings were held culminating in a letter of application being sent to the Minister of Militia in Ottawa asking permission to raise a Highland regiment.

(Cont'd. on Page 18)



Ranks left to right:

P/M Gillies, W. Stoddart, F. Matheson, A. Bruce; J. Grant, H. Middleton, C. Wallace; R. MacLeod, A.T. Smith, W. Smith, J.D. MacDonald; R. Crowe, E. Brenton; T. Mercer; L. Pettit, R. Hardey; C. Herbert, W. Edwards, C. Bryson.

The Pipes and Drums of the 72nd (Overseas) Bn. taken in France at the end of the first World War. At a Highland Gathering held in Tincques, France, with all Canadian corps units participating and almost all of the Scottish units in France also taking part, the 72nd from Vancouver took third place in the pipe band competition. (1st in C.C.)

The battalion took 1st place against all comers in the Tug of War, the Pole Vault, and the Foursome Reel. They also took 2nd in the Broad Jump (1st in C.C.) and 3rd in the Sword Dance (2nd in C.C.). Their total of points fell just short of equalling the points secured by all the other battalions at the Gathering. A really "good shew" for a gang from the "colonies".

In the photograph, the piper in the third rank, directly behind Pipe Major Gillies, is "Rod" MacLeod, the first president of our Association.



VANCOUVER PIPE BAND

© 1905 ©

J. WHITE, PHOT.

H. MACKENZIE, Pipe Major
J. L. WILSON

H. A. UROUHART
N. CAMPBELL

J. LAURIE

C. WENTWORTH SAREL, Secy. Treas.
A. PATTERSON
Master: FRANKIE R. STUART

F. T. OLIPHANT
A. LAING

WM. HENDRY

J. PAUL, Pipe Sergeant
ROBT. T. MORTON

Cont'd. from Page 16

Approval was forthcoming in July of 1910 and the first public appearance of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada took place on the 22nd of June, 1911, the day of King George V's Coronation in London. The Officers, the troops and the military band were all resplendent in scarlet and feather bonnets. The Pipes and Drums in the traditional full dress of pipers and drummers of a Highland regiment. There was superb organization somewhere to produce such a result between July of one year and June of the next.

The Pipes and Drums must have seemed like a lot of "kent faces" to a lot of people that day. As well they might, for practically the entire Vancouver Pipeband had joined the regiment.

Three years later, 25 officers and 514 men volunteered for overseas service and were quickly despatched to Valcartier, Quebec. There they were to form the majority of a new battalion to be known as the 16th Canadian Scottish. After severe training at Valcartier the whole proceeded overseas and rendered such valiant service in a battalion which subsequently established a fighting record second to none. Among their ranks was a very young ex-Seaforth cadet, "Jimmy" Richardson, the only Canadian piper to be awarded the Victoria Cross.

Meanwhile, back in Vancouver, recruiting was going on apace in the Seaforth depot. The objective was to raise another overseas battalion and hope that this time its identity would be preserved. Recruiting was started early in September of 1914 and by the end of that same month, the battalion was a full strength. It retained its identity with the very long title, "72nd Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada". The original Commanding officer was Lt.Col. J.A. Clark, the same man who is Honorary Colonel of the regiment today. He and his battalion landed in France in August of 1916 and fought in nearly every major engagement until the end came in November of 1918.

From the day of the initial public appearance of the regiment in June of 1911 until the Armistice, 238 officers and more than 5,000 N.C.O.'s and men had gone through its hands, from recruitment and training to serving overseas.

Ed Esson.

* * * * *

EARLIEST TARTAN

The earliest evidence of tartan is the so-called Falkirk Tartan, found stuffed in a jar of coins in Bells Meadow, north of Callendar Park, Scotland. It is of a dark and light brown pattern and dates from 245 A.D. The earliest reference to a specific named tartan has been to a Murray tartan in 1618.

BAGPIPES

The longest duration pipe has been one of 50 hours by William Donaldson, Donald Grant, John Lovie and William Wotherspoon of Aberdeen University on April 21-23, 1969.

The comment of some local inhabitants after the "long blaw" was "Thank God there's nae smell".

THE BOYS IN BLUE

Marching down the highway,
Marching straight and true,
We're known the province over,
We're known as the boys in blue.

We started out four years ago
Four years of tedious work,
We know not next which bands we'll beat
Or where our victories lurk.

The Vancouver Ladies are a fine young band
The Burnaby Ladies have stance,
But against the boys in blue
No one stand a chance.

We've got 'em beat before we play
This the pipers know,
But to make it fair and square
We fill our bags and blow.

We'll crack 'em down every time
Defeat 'em by a mile,
And for bands in fits of rage
We'll give a hearty smile.

But enough of this!
You all must know the rest,
As long as there are bands to beat
The Richmond boys are best!

Dedicated to the Richmond Boys
(C.P.A.) Pipe Band, Seniors and
Juniors by the "Piping Poet".

BAND CHATTER

The City of Port Moody has been invited to Toronto for the Intercontinental Pipe Band Championships. They also plan to compete at the Fergus Games.

Donald Shaw Ramsay has composed a new hornpipe called Calum McErlean. That's right, Willie's wee boy!

V.I.P.'s band have changed their name to The City of Victoria Pipe Band.

B. C. PIPERS' WINTER SCHOOL

Cleanliness

The next step in caring for the pipes is, in a word - cleanliness. This applies directly to the section in last month's Newsletter on seasoning in that, following the seasoning of the bag, care should be taken to clean any build-up of seasoning from the inside of the stocks. Seasoning can collect where the stock joins the bag and unsteady drones often result. A large brush with a rag wrapped around it can be used. Periodic cleaning of this kind is important.

As well:

(1) Use a pull-through and/or brushes to keep the drones free of moisture and dirt build-up. If left neglected, such build-up can affect the steadiness and quality of the sound produced.

(2) Make certain that the chanter is clean both in the bore and in the holes. A brush for the bore can be bought. It also is handy for keeping the inside free of moisture which collects from extended playing. The holes, if made smaller by dirt, will not give a sound which is on pitch, and tone and volume will be affected. The outside of the chanter, especially if tape is used to control note pitch, is often prone to be dirty and sticky. It should be cleaned very thoroughly to allow the fingers to operate at their best.

Hemping of Stocks and Slides

Far too commonly, pipers do not properly wrap the joints of their pipes. Plain, exposed hemp will swell with moisture and shrink with lack of playing. As well, it will often turn and bunch up, making the drones and chanter difficult to take out and put back in. What follows are two methods which involve slightly different materials and techniques but which accomplish the same purpose - that is, to put on wrappings which resist the effects of moisture, which provide a smooth but not slack surface, and which will last a long time.

(1) After carefully applying a good layer of black cobbler's wax to hemp, wrap the hemp tightly onto the joint. Stop periodically to roll the hemp down as tightly as possible. Continue doing this, applying the hemp as evenly as possible until the waxed hemp makes a very tight fit in the stock. Then put a layer of Teflon tape on the hemp and work the joint into the stock. The friction will bond the Teflon tape to the waxed hemp and make a smooth surface.

(2) Wax the hemp with black wax for the first few layers. While applying the unwaxed hemp, rub on a coating of paraffin wax and carefully melt it into the hemp with a match. Again, as above, wrap the hemp very tightly and evenly. On the final layer, apply a couple of extra layers of paraffin wax for extra protection.

In both cases the job should be done carefully and, if possible, somewhere where the mess created will not be a problem. Note that the tuning slides should be done the most carefully and also that the stocks at the base of the drones should be tighter than the tuning slides - otherwise easy tuning will be a problem. As well, the upper joining of the bass drone should be very tight since it is not normally used for tuning the bass.

The hemped joints are, next to the reeds, the most vulnerable parts of the bagpipe. For the reasons given above, it cannot be emphasized too strongly that time should be taken to make these joints as trouble-free and efficient as possible.

PUZZLE CORNER

To win this month's \$5.00 prize, you must correctly match these famous Scotsmen with their inventions. Only members of the Association are eligible, so send your entry to: Puzzle Corner, c/o B.C. Pipers' Newsletter, 5120 Spencer Street, Vancouver 16, B. C.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Sir Robert Watson Watt | a. penicillin |
| 2. John Paul Jones | b. television |
| 3. John Law | c. logarithms |
| 4. William Paterson | d. electric lamps |
| 5. Sir Alexander Fleming | e. founded Bank of France |
| 6. J. B. Dunlop | f. radar |
| 7. Charles Mackintosh | g. steam engine |
| 8. James Dowman Lindsay | h. telephones |
| 9. Alexander Graham Bell | i. chloroform |
| 10. J. Logie Baird | j. founded the Bank of England |
| 11. Jamie Simpson | k. the American Navy |
| 12. James Watt | l. pneumatic tires |
| 13. John Napier | m. waterproof fabrics |

McHARDYS' RECORD SALE

For one month, all these records will be discounted 10% to all B.C. Pipers' Association members. Mail orders welcome. Add 30¢ per record for post.

McHardy's Scottish Imports
538 Seymour Street,
Vancouver 2, B. C. 681-6616

Bilston Glen P/B (Grade 1 Band) Pipers Welcome	\$6.95 less discount
Invergordon Distillery Pipe Band	
- Pipes in Concert	\$6.95 less disc.
Queens Own Cameron Highlanders	
- Pipes & Drums of Scotland	5.95 " "
Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band	
- Scotland the Brave	5.95 " "
Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band	
- Sound of the Champions	5.25 " "
Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band	
- Champion of Champions	6.50 " "
Glasgow City Police Pipe Band	
- Choice of Champions	6.95 " "
Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band	
- Champions of the World	6.50 " "
Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band	
- Pipers Parade	6.95 " "
Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band	
- March of the Pipers	6.50 " "
Gordon Highlanders	
- Gordons for You	6.95 " "
Gordon Highlanders (With Brass)	
- Royal Deeside	6.95 " "
Edinburgh Tattoo 1968 - 69 - 70 - 71	6.95 " "
Red Hackle Pipe Band	
- Pride of Scotland	5.95 " "
Red Hackle Pipe Band	
- Spirit of Scotland	5.95 " "
Scots Guards (With Brass) - On Tour	6.50 " "
Powell River Pipes and Drums	
- Pipes and Drums	3.50 " "
Black Watch - March of the Royal High.	6.95 " "
Black Watch (With Brass)	
- War Pipe and Plaid	5.25 " "
Black Watch of Canada	5.25 " "
Queens Own Highlanders (Seaforth & Camerons)	
Pipes	3.95 " "
Innes Pipes and Drums - World Tour	6.95 " "
Innes Pipes and Drums - New Zealand Champs	6.95 " "

City of Wellington (N.Z.)			
- Champs. of Champions		\$6.95	less disc.
Kings Own Scottish Borderers		6.95	" "
- Blue Bonnets or			
Pipe Selections from all the Permanent Highland Regiments: Black Watch, Gordons, Greys, Guards, Queens Own, etc.		6.95	" "
R. U. Brown		6.95	" "
- Pipes of Balmoral (Piob.)		6.95	" "
Wm. Boyle - Bagpipes and Organ		6.95	" "
Wm. Boyle - Bagpipe Virtuoso		6.95	" "
Wilson Young D/M			
- Pipe Band Drum Tutor & Rec.		5.95	" "

REMEMBER - 10% DISCOUNT TO ALL B.C. PIPERS' ASSOC. MEMBERS

B. C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Annual Gathering

Friday, April 27th - 3:30 p.m.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|---|
| <u>EVENT</u> | 1. | Junior Piobaireachd |
| | 2. | Junior March |
| | 3. | Junior Strathspey and Reel |
| | 4. | Juvenile March |
| | 5. | Juvenile Strathspey and Reel |
| | 6. | Novice March |
| | 7. | Amateur Piobaireachd |
| | 8. | Junior Quartettes - March, Strathspey and Reel |
| | 17. | Junior Miniature Bands - March, Strathspey and Reel |

Saturday, April 28th - 9:00 a.m.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|---|
| <u>EVENT</u> | 9. | Amateur March |
| | 10. | Amateur Strathspey and Reel |
| | 11. | Professional Piobaireachd |
| | 12. | Professional March |
| | 13. | Professional Strathspey and Reel |
| | 14. | Professional Jigs |
| | 15. | Pipers Over 60 Years (Tune of Own Choice) |
| | 16. | Senior Quartettes - March, Strathspey and Reel |
| | 18. | Senior Miniature Bands - Medley, 5 to 7 minutes |

In events with an extraordinarily large entry, short leets will be held.

More information will be available later regarding the above and times of events.

THIS YEAR THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE. EVERY COMPETITOR WHETHER PLAYING IN A BAND, QUARTETTE, OR INDIVIDUALLY PAYS ADMISSION AT THE DOOR.

ADULTS - \$2.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 - \$1.00 O.A.P. FREE

ENTRY FORM

Please enter (Print Name).....
in event #..... Telephone Number.....

_____	March
_____	Strathspey
_____	Reel
_____	Piobaireachd
_____	Jig
_____	Quartette &/or March
_____	Band Set	Strath.....
		Reel

Mail entries before April 21, 1973 to: Mrs. Swanson
8363 Shaughnessy Street
Vancouver 14, B. C.

