

B.C. PIPERS'
NEWSLETTER



ROBERT BURNS'
211TH ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY 1970 NO. 98

1870



B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors:

In reply to the article which appeared some time ago concerning amalgamation of many of the Highland Games into one big gathering, I would like to make a few comments. Mr. Gunn seems to be treating the symptoms and not the disease itself. His suggestion is the easy way out and if I may I would like to make a few suggestions.

First, by amalgamating the summer games it is hoped that attendance will rise. I think that no matter where the gatherings are held on the North Pacific Coast, the spectators are perhaps 75% of the same people who attended the previous weekend. The majority of the paid admittance consists of parents or friends of competitors and would not be increased by combining games.

Second, the very nature of Highland competition and for that matter all serious competition is that the individual or group involved be working continuously, year out if possible, to maintain a degree of perfection. Without competition, at which a great deal is at stake, (prize money, prestige, satisfaction, etc.) it is impossible to maintain the fine edge that every serious competitor seeks.

Therefore, I would think that although the One Big Games theory seems initially to solve the problems of finance, dwindling attendance and poor organization, it leaves us in the long run with the same old problems.

May I suggest that the present number of Games is adequate and that what is badly needed is some reorganization and imagination on the local level.

Primarily the problem is to attract people who would not ordinarily go out of their way to attend Games but who are interested enough to come if they know about them. Organization of Games should therefore be directed towards maintaining the highest possible efficiency of competition while attracting through a bit of flourish the highest amount of public participation.

In regards of effective competition there seems to be few complaints. Attracting the public however is a different story. More local advertising would help to bring in people outside the piping and dancing circles. This could include the occasional newspaper, radio or television ads, the contacting of tourist bureau's and travel and entertainment magazines and the more effective use of posters and possibly the rental of a billboard.

This initially would be a bit expensive but I'm sure that it would be repaid in increased attendance.

Concerning the Games themselves it would be desirable to orient their production more towards public consumption. This would not mean a degradation of quality in piping and dancing but only a reorganization to emphasize the more spectacular and interesting events.

In view of this I have a few suggestions I would like to make.

1. permitting a local Highland House to set up a display on the field.
2. giving a more prominent place to caber and hammer throwing.
3. elimination of the majority of large piping and dancing classes in the morning so that the best competitors are in the afternoon.
4. presentation of a few of the more spectacular prizes (professional piping, dancing and pipe bands) to be made during massed bands while the crowd is still there not an hour later.
5. alternating the use of the platforms in front of the grandstands for the top classes of piping, dancing and drumming. No casual spectator wants to see hours upon hours of continuous dancing no matter how good it is.
6. a more efficient P.A. system to inform spectators what classes are being held, where and when.
7. finally if our liquor laws ever leave the 19th century we could be blessed with a beer tent!

These are only a few suggestions and I'm sure that with a little imagination there could be many more improvements in the general presentation of the Games.

In conclusion I realize that the various games committees have a great deal of work to do and very few people and resources to do it with. Efforts will reward themselves, I believe with more money and attendance and therefore the capability to present much better and bigger games. It is obvious I think that in a period when piping, dancing and drumming is flourishing on the West Coast, the Games are at the very most languishing in a state of stagnation. Some improvement must be made if they are to survive for many more years.

Sincerely,

Bruce McRae

*

January 5, 1970

The Editors
The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter
1073 Doran Road
North Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sirs:

In the December publication of the Newsletter there was an article entitled Something to Think About and it is in respect to this article that I am now writing.

Although I have not attended any of the meetings of the Western Pipe Band Association and am not very well acquainted with its policies, I, as a member of a local pipe band, do recognize the need for such an association on the West Coast.

As has been pointed out in your article, Pipe Bands do much to encourage the majority of young pipers. However, what is being done to encourage pipe bands, more specifically competing pipe bands, on the West Coast? In order to be eligible for the International Trophy in it's class, a band is required to attend those Highland Games recognized by the Pacific International Highland Games Association. I think that it is a pretty sad state of affairs when a band is more or less forced to attend a Highland Games when the combined money for First Prize and that given for appearance is insufficient to cover the bands travelling expenses! Furthermore, the money which bands receive for playing in local parades is either negligible or non-existent. Bands cannot exist on trophies and publicity!

It is in these two areas that I feel a pipe band association could make vast improvements. Strength lies in numbers and a pipe band association would enable bands to have bartering power. This would result in the establishment of minimum rates that all pipe bands are to receive for their appearances at a Highland Games or in a parade. Making appearances worth while and prize money worth competing for will, I feel, do much to encourage pipe bands and their members.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Reid

* December 18, 1969

The Editors
B.C. Pipers' Newsletter
1073 Doran Road
North Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sirs:

It was with a great deal of interest, that I read the article "Something to Think About", in the December issue of the newsletter, and I for one wholeheartedly endorse the comments made by the writer, Robert Gunn.

I had the opportunity of attending one of the meetings held by the "Western Pipe Band Association", and although I made several inquiries from members of the Elected Executive, I was unable to get a satisfactory answer to the question, "What will we gain, over what we already have, if we were to become members?". The only answer that I received was that unless we were a member of the association, we would not be permitted to enter, or compete in Highland Games in this area, and also that the new association would have stronger bargaining powers with groups sponsoring parades etc. I took this to mean that unless appearance money was paid to pipe bands taking part in parades, the association would forbid, or fail to recognize the needs of the sponsoring committee, and in turn the bands would not take part. This impression is also supported in the article, "On Associating Pipe Band", appearing in the same issue of the newsletter, and signed by Michael Evans, and he states "Also, there is the obvious collective bargaining power inherent in any organization such as this". Does this mean what I think it means? A Pipe Band Union.

I agree with Robert Gunn, that it would be indeed much more sensible to have drummers included as active members in the B.C. Pipers', and if that means changing the name, to that suggested by Robert, "The British Columbia Pipers' and Pipe Band Association", why not? I agree that this

would not be an insurmountable problem.

To Robert Gunn I say thank you for thinking the way he does, and I do not think it is too late.

Yours sincerely,

F.J. Hall
Drum Major
Vancouver Police Pipe Band

*

For months now the editors of the Newsletter have been pleading with our readers to contribute to their monthly journal. This month we hit the jackpot. We have three Letters to the Editor and I wish to thank the individuals responsible for taking the time to put their opinions in writing.

Before making any further comments on their viewpoints I would like to make it unquestionably clear that any articles written by the editors reflect their opinions only. The Editors are not necessarily expressing the opinion of the B.C. Pipers' Association.

Mr. Bruce McRae's thoughts on improving the Highland Games and thereby encouraging a larger attendance should be given consideration. I am in favour of any plan that will put an end to the apparent apathy toward our Games. If the Games Committees of our various Scottish organizations have not given thought to Bruce's ideas they should undoubtedly do so, but I still maintain that the biggest problem is money and only an amalgamated effort will save the Games from extinction.

The letters from Messrs. Sandy Reid and F.J. Hall deal with last month's editorial criticising the need for two Associations on the Canadian West Coast concerned with piping and drumming. In addition to the views of the above I have been bombarded with criticism. Possibly I did not make my point entirely clear.

Firstly contrary to thoughts expressed by many Western Pipe Band members I am not against the idea of having an Association to handle Pipe Band activities. If the Pipe Bands, in general, feel they are not being properly treated they should by all means have the opportunity and the vehicle to express their views and take corrective action. The point I was trying to make was, why have two Associations?

If the B.C. Pipers' were to accept drummers as active members the Association would automatically become a Pipe Band as well as a Piping Association. However, if the B.C. Pipers' and the Western Pipe Band Association cannot see their way clear to entertain such a radical idea I sincerely wish the latter the best of luck in establishing their new Association.

R.D.G.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On January 9, 1970 the B.C. Pipers' Association held its Annual General Meeting in the Gym of the Seaforth Armoury. Unfortunately the attendance was poor. Approximately 25 members saw the following people elected:

President	- Bill Lamont	
Vice-President	- Bill Elder	
Board of Directors	- Tom Binnie	Rod MacVicar
	Bob Gunn	Seb Nellies
	Ian MacDougall	Bruce Topp
	John McHardy	Alex Young
	Rod MacRae	

The new Board of Directors appointed Mrs. Ishabel Ross as the Secretary for 1970 and Bob Gunn as the Treasurer.

The Report of the President, as presented at the Annual Meeting is as follows:

Due to the change in the ending of our fiscal year my report tonight should not take up too much time. However, there are a few items I would like to mention and I will try to present them in their order of importance.

1. Increase in dues - This was probably the hardest decision the Directors had to make during the last eight months, and I would like to explain some of the reasons for the increase from Two Dollars to Five Dollars. There has been no dues increase during the last ten years and during that time and even prior to that time our income from the White Heather Concerts has enabled us to subsidize the various events that have been put on, such as the Annual Gathering, Bi-Monthly competitions, Members Dinner, Newsletter, etc. In 1969 this source of income was reduced drastically. For example, in 1968 the Association received a total of \$4,800.00 from the two shows and in 1969 it dropped to \$400.00 a reduction of \$4,400.00, and at this point there is no guarantee that it will take a rapid upsurge in 1970, although we all hope it will. Consequently, the Directors, on two occasions had to go to the Trustees and draw money from the Trust Fund to keep the Association operating. It was at this second meeting that a suggestion was made that we take a look at the dues structure and see what could be done. The first thing we looked at was the cost of the Newsletter and we found that the cost of material and mailing alone worked out to approximately \$2.80 per member a year, so in effect every time we signed a new member we were losing money on the Newsletter alone. I would like to point out at this time that all the work involved in the publishing of the Newsletter is done on a voluntary basis by Bob Gunn and Bill Elder and their wives and they receive no remuneration of any kind from the Association. Also, at no time in our discussions did the Directors consider the possibility of discontinuing the Newsletter. After considerable discussion, the Directors agreed to increase the dues to \$5.00 per year, this will cover the cost of the Newsletter and leave approximately \$2.00 per member to help cover other operating costs.

There were two schools held during the past year, Pipe Major Cairns school of judging and Lieut. MacLellans school of instruction and both were well received. It is to be hoped that classes of this kind can be continued

in the future and that the attendance at these classes will increase.

Since the last Annual Meeting the revised Constitution and By-Laws and the revised Rules and Regulations have been completed. Each member received their copy of the Rules and Regulations in the last copy of the Newsletter and copies of the Constitution and By-Laws will be sent to the members at an early date. I would like to thank Mr. Rod MacRae and Mr. Rod MacVicar for the many hours they spent on this particular job.

Once again the Bi-Monthly Competitions were well attended. However, one problem has arisen and that is the large number of entries in the Novice Class. As we have an 11:00 P.M. deadline in the Armoury it is becoming almost impossible to run this class in its present size. I would like to recommend to the incoming Directors that they deal with this as soon as possible so that a solution can be found before the start of the Fall Bi-Monthly competitions.

On Friday, February 21st, 1970 the Annual Dinner will be held at the Stanley Park Tea Room and I would urge the members to send their applications for tickets to the Secretary as soon as possible so catering arrangements can be made.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Directors for their co-operation and support during the last term. I would like to give special thanks to the Vice-President, Bill Elder who took over when I was absent during the summer, and the Secretary, Mrs. Donald Ross whose hard work and attendance at every Board Meeting, General Meeting and Bi-Monthly Competition made my job a very easy one.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes my report.

VANCOUVER ISLAND PIPERS HOST MAINLANDERS

In March of last year the V.I.P. Club of Victoria invited the B.C. Pipers' Association to sponsor a Vancouver Night at their monthly meeting. We accepted the invitation and had several members of our Association perform during the evenings program. On the completion of the formal program the bar was opened and impromptu piping continued into the wee small hours of the morning.

The whole affair was extremely successful and the Vancouver Island Pipers proved to be excellent hosts. Those who attended from Vancouver had a grand weekend and looked forward to a return visit.

It seems the V.I.P. Club thought the evening a success as well since we have again been invited to attend their "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.

A BRIEF PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIE MacPHAIL

by Lt./Col. John McEwing, USAF (Ret.)

Many people, including pipers, all over the world will be saddened to learn of the death on September 10th, 1969 of Doctor William MacPhail, MD/MB CH.B at the Hitchin Hospital, England.

"Willie" MacPhail, as he preferred to be called, played host to many pipers who were stationed in England during World War II. He took a special interest in the welfare of pipers from the Dominions and his hospital located at Frimley, Surrey, became a happy rendezvous for many of the "lads" away from home. He looked back upon these months as the happiest of his entire life, and the friendships established there continued for many years until his death.

Through a mutual friend, the late Dr. Lewis Beaton, I had the good fortune to meet Willie MacPhail in the spring of 1944, at which time he departed Frimley and was stationed at the Middlesex County Sanatorium in Harefield just outside London. By this time most of his piping colleagues had departed to the many fighting fronts. From Canada the 48th from Toronto, and the Seaforth from Vancouver were in Italy, the Calgary Highlanders in Western Europe, as were so many others. However, even though the fighting was very intense on most fronts so many of his friends somehow took time out to "report" to him by letter, by personal emissary or indeed any available means. Even his "Corporal" Piper of the famous Frimley Pipe Band, John Churchill of Commando fame, (later Brigadier Churchill, who parachuted behind enemy lines in Yugoslavia) somehow managed to get communiques through to him. Another, and a staunch friend to pipers, Bernard Fergusson with Ord Wingate in Burma, surrounded by Japanese hostile forces, with his Black Watch Pipers, sometimes subsisting on reptiles in lieu of starvation or surrender got the "word" back to his esteemed friend. In 1949 I returned to Europe for a three year tour-of-duty and it goes without saying that I hastened to revisit "Willie" at the Middlesex Hospital.

I found things much the same at his quarters, which he referred to as "Gun and Panda." The stuffed Ailuropus Melanoleucus, a small bear found in Australia, was in its usual place, the donor an Australian Piper. The wooden gun, of which he would smilingly never reveal the history, still hung above the door. The Spanish bagpipe, given to him by a distinguished Piper later killed fighting with the Free French, and his most prized possession, a silver engraved practice chanter, presented to him by the Pipers of the "Canadian Section" of the mythical Frimley Piper Band, had a place of honor above the friendly fireplace.

In 1950 he kindly accepted my invitation to spend two weeks with me in Western Europe - Belgium, France and Germany. I picked him up at Calais, we visited Vimy and the Somme with its gravestones of the "Old Contemptibles" - many pipers rest there in beautifully maintained cemeteries, a lasting tribute to British compassion and thoughtfulness. Enroute Frankfurt we spent a pleasant weekend in Duisburg, Germany, guests of the Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn. Black Watch, Lt. Col. Fergusson, later Brigadier, and still later Sir Bernard Fergusson, Governor General of New Zealand. The Battalion was sent there to maintain "peace and order" in the proposed dismantling of the Ruhr Manufacturing Complex, an idea proposed by the then U.S. Presidential Advisor, Henry Morgenthau, and agreed upon by the Allied Governments, which would transform Germany into a defenseless agrarian state.

Dr. MacPhail vigorously opposed this policy at that time and he subsequently made his views known to his many friends in Whitehall, with some success.

His delightful companionship during this visit was a great joy to me. We visited the City and University of Heidelberg and places in the Bavarian Alps where, as a medical student in 1913 he visited.

During my last visit with Dr. MacPhail in 1962 he was a patient in a convalescent hospital outside Inverness. He had been in poor health for some time but his morale was high and he looked forward to a trip to Canada to visit with his many friends. Later on his letters indicated a worsening of his health and the realization that he would not be able to make the journey. However, he frequently mentioned the great joy that was his when the piping soldiers of World War II wrote and visited him whenever they could.

I once visited with him in his native Kintyre. My late wife and I spent a memorable night with him in Kilmartin, the hamlet of his birth, where his father was the Presbyterian minister. Upon the following day we drove north to Melfort where together we played that fine MacColl composition composed to MacFayden, the "bar keep" at the Melfort Arms.

And now, together with comrades all over the world, a salute to the memory of this kindly, distinguished gentleman, and a great friend to pipers.

KIWANIS PIPE BAND DINNER, CASINO AND DANCE

On February 21st, 1970 the Vancouver Kiwanis Pipe Band is having a "Dinner, Casino and Dance" for raising funds towards their trip to Scotland this summer. It is to be held at the No. 83 Legion Hall, 5289 Grimmer, Burnaby, B.C. Everybody welcome.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and may be obtained by phoning John McPherson at 526-8182 or Mrs. M. Nicholson at Cy.9-3989.

VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Annual Festival, February 27th and 28th, 1970 is being held at St. John's Shaughnessy Church Annex, Nanton Avenue (27th and Granville), Vancouver, B.C. Entry forms may be obtained from the Competition Secretary, Mrs. A. Burgess, 4467 West 16th Avenue, Vancouver, phone 224-4921.

Please note that this year this Festival is classed as a major competition and the piping events are being governed by the rules and regulations of the B.C. Pipers' Association.

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION

On December 19, 1969 the December bi-monthly competition was held in the Gym at the Seaforth Armoury. Juvenile Marches and Amateur Hornpipes were played and the judge for the evening was Bill Lockie.

The results were as follows:

Juvenile Marches - 1st - Darryl Peterson
2nd - Cindy Chambers
3rd - Ian Keith
4th - Robyn Palmer
5th - Glen Esdale

Department - Angus McKay

Amateur Hornpipe - 1st - Glen Palmer
2nd - Donald MacMillan
3rd - Heather Abel
4th - Robert Menzies
5th - Bill MacAulay

Department - Judy Taylor

In the Juvenile class there were 15 competitors and in the Amateur class 13 competitors.

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

THE VETERANS CLASS IN COMPETITION

I have always looked forward to this class, and enjoyed it - when there was one. So few competitors take part today, and often there is no class at all. I would like to see it active again, with maybe four or five pipers. Make it a good class anyhow, Veterans, even three. I am sure we will all welcome you back.

It is always pleasant to relax with the Old Highland Airs, and enjoy the performance of our good old timers. They are just as important to us, and bring back memories of past years. We like to remember you now.

Come on Veterans, this class is for you. Make it live again. Tog orm mo piob.

Cathrine Paterson

THE NORTHERN MEETING

In splendid autumn weather the Northern Meeting in Inverness saw what was certainly the biggest agglomeration of pipers in its long history. The Gold Medal event in particular attracted the gigantic entry of 48 competitors, and many people no doubt wonder how a reasonably accurate result can be arrived at when the adjudicators are subjected to over nine hours almost non-stop piobaireachd.

Strangely enough, the judges agreed afterwards that the day had not dragged at all for them because the standard was good and the bagpipes, on the whole, were musical and well tuned.

Honours on the first day went to young Iain Morrison for winning the coveted medal with a fine rendering of "Lament for the Viscount of Dundee", to Dugald Ferguson for annexing the march competition, and to Iain MacLeod for winning the march, strathspey and reel for former winners.

The main event of the second day - in fact the main event of the meeting - was the Clasp piobaireachd, confined to former gold medal winners. Three of the set tunes had been set the year before, so there was an excellent chance that the average competitor had a better-than-usual grasp of the pieces he professed, and so it turned out. A good competition was enjoyed by the large and enthusiastic audience, and the eventual winner - John MacFadyen - was warmly applauded. This makes three clasps that John has won in four meetings, so he is well placed for a crack at the record.

John Burgess played a good steady "MacNeill of Barra's March" for second, and the other prize-winners gave commendable performances.

The only unfortunate snag was a last-minute reversal, by the judges, of the Northern Meeting committee's decision to adhere to the former practice of giving competitors in this event advance notice of their tune. This high-handed attitude was obviously resented by the players and resulted in the withdrawal of one from the competition.

The strathspey and reel event was another victory for Iain Morrison and the jig went to one of the big representation from the Edinburgh Police, Lawrie Gillespie.

Among the juveniles, young Gary Lumsden from Elgin was the outstanding player, winning both the under 15 and the under 18 competitions. This was quite a blow to the young men aged 15, 16 and 17, but, no doubt, they will recover.

In the under 15 event it was intriguing to see young Roderick MacDonald, son of William MacDonald (Benbecula), giving a good account of himself. No doubt there is a bright future in piping ahead for him. Another young lad who has the stamp of real ability on him is William Whyte of Inverness, who was placed second in the under 15 event.

The results were as follow:

Piobaireachd - 1, Cpl. I.M. Morrison, Army School of Piping, Edinburgh ("Lament for the Viscount of Dundee"); 2, James MacIntosh, Dundee ("Park Piobaireachd No. 2"); 3, R.A. Barron, St. Andrews ("Lament for the Children"); 4, William Connell, East Kilbride ("MacGregor's Salute"); 5, John Garroway, Glasgow ("The Big Spree"). Judges were General Frank Richardson, Lt. J. MacLellan, Donald P. MacGillivray.

March - 1, Dugald Ferguson, Kirkintilloch ("Ross-shire Volunteers"); 2, Gordon R. Spiers, London; 3, Frank Annan, Glasgow; 4, James MacIntosh, Dundee. Judges were Dr. K.A. MacKay, Major G.B. Murray, Capt. D.R. MacLennan.

March, Strathspey and Reel for former winners - 1, Iain MacLeod, Edinburgh; 2, Hugh A. MacCallum, Bridge of Allan; 3, John MacDougall, Arbroath. Judges were Dr. K.A. MacKay, Mr. James Campbell, Capt. D.R. MacLennan.

Piobaireachd - Gold Clasp - 1, John MacFadyen, Busby ("Campbell of Kintarbert"); 2, John D. Burgess, Alness ("MacNeil of Barra's March"); 3, John MacDougall, Arbroath; 4, Hugh A. MacCallum, Bridge of Allan. Judges were Mr. James Campbell, Dr. K.A. MacKay, Capt. D.R. MacLennan.

Strathspeys and Reels - 1, Cpl. I.M. Morrison, Army School of Piping, Edinburgh; 2, John MacDougall, Arbroath; 3, John Wilson, Campbeltown; 4, Ian G. Duncan, Pitlochry. Judges were Major G.B. Murray, Lt. J. MacLellan; D.P. MacGillivray.

Jig - 1, J.L. Gillospie, Edinburgh; 2, Gordon R. Spiers, London; 3, Iain MacFadyen, Rutherglen.

Junior March Strathspey and Reel (under 18) - 1, Garry R. Lumsden, Elgin; 2, L.Cpl. R. Veitch, Black Watch; 3, Andrew J. M. Hill, Alness; 4, Duncan MacPhee, Fort William.

Junior March (under 15) - 1, Garry R. Lumsden, Elgin; 2, William Whyte, Inverness; 3, George MacKay, Huntly; 4, William G. Hopburn, Turiff.

Reprinted from the
Piping Times, November, 1969

ANNUAL DINNER

Just a reminder to reserve February 21st, 1970 for the Annual B.C. Pipers' Association Dinner. This event proves to be an entertaining evening each year and a highlight of the social activities sponsored by your Association.

Date - February 21st, 1970

Place - Stanley Park Tea Room

Price - \$4.00 per ticket

To receive your tickets please complete the following and send to Mrs. I. Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C.

.....
NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
PHONE NUMBER.....NUMBER OF TICKETS.....

Enclosed please find \$.....

PIPER OF THE MONTH

A very well known and hard working Director of the British Columbia Pipers' Association, Roderick Finlay MacRae, has been selected Piper of the Month. Mr. MacRae's ancestors migrated from Kintail, Ross-shire to St. Johns Island, British North America (now the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island) with one of Lord Selkirk's colonizing expeditions in the year 1803. They crossed the Atlantic in a small brig named the "Polly" and took up land on the Big Point at the mouth of Flat River. A monument commemorating the landing of these settlers stands near the Belfast Church. Names and dates on one side are in English and on the other in Gaelic.

Roderick, fondly known in piping circles as Rod, was born during his parents temporary residence in Baltimore, Maryland, U. S. A. in 1897, but returned to "the Island" at an early age where he remained until the family came West in 1903. He has always considered himself a Prince Edward Islander.

His keen interest in pipe music was inherited from his father who, though not a piper himself, never missed an opportunity to hear good playing. It seemed only natural that Rod should buy himself a second hand set of pipes and a practice chanter. This was about 1913. Rod's career at sea and in the Navy during World War I made practice and progress very haphazard and it was not until about 1936 that playing was resumed at all seriously.

Rod has never had a regular teacher but thanks to hints and suggestions from such masters as William Campbell, Donald MacIver and William Barrie he was able to progress to the point where playing pipes was one of the most enjoyable things in his life.

He played in 2nd Battalion Seaforth Band under Pipe Major McHardy during World War II and at present plays with the Pipes and Drums of Gizeh Temple A.A.O.N.M.S., again under Pipe Major McHardy. He served this Band as president for seven years.

He is a Life Member of the B. C. Pipers' Association having joined thirty years ago as near as he can remember, during which time he was twice elected Vice-President. The first time was when Bill Urquhart was President. Bill died in office and Rod took over to finish the term and was elected President for the following year. He was later elected Vice-President again to serve with President Gordon Sinclair. The situation occurred again. Gordon died during his term of office to be succeeded by Rod who finished out the term and was elected President the next year for the second time.

Over the years Rod has been a very valuable asset to the B. C. Pipers', serving the Association as a Trustee, Chairman of the White Heather Committee and for many years a very active Director. He is also the B. C. Pipers' competent delegate to the International Highland Games Association.

We thank Mr. MacRae for all the time and effort he has given so graciously to our Association and look forward to his interest and guidance for years to come.

TUNED IN

Here is a tune that perhaps might be of interest to Vancouver Pipers. I found it amongst some old hand written music given to me by my Grandfather. As far as I can determine it was written by a Jimmy Richardson, a piper who won a V.C. during the First World War.

Bruce McRae

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FAREWELL TO THE VANCOUVER SCOTTISH (29th BTTN.)

Handwritten musical score for "FAREWELL TO THE VANCOUVER SCOTTISH (29th BTTN.)". The score is written in 6/8 time and consists of six staves of music. The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes. The score is divided into sections by repeat signs and includes the following markings:

- Staff 1: 2ND PART 2ND TIME
- Staff 2: 1ST TIME
- Staff 3: 4TH PART 2ND TIME
- Staff 4: 1ST TIME
- Staff 5: 1ST TIME

BAND CHATTER

A few notes ... Registration for the Western Pipe Band Association closes January 31st, 1970. Any bands which have not received registration forms and wish to do so are advised to contact P.M. Thomas Binnie at 433-7209 ... Here is a little advance notice of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Annual Festival. Scheduled for February 27 and 28, it will be held in St. John's Church Hall, 1490 Nanton Avenue. Entry deadline is February 6th, so if you have any queries, the competition secretary is Mrs. Aileen Burgess, 224-4921... Those individuals who have grown weary attempting to locate a dealer with a franchise for Premier musical equipment (pluch) i.e. drums, should contact me, Mike Evans at 522-7644.

It was gratifying to receive the following letter...

January 15, 1970

Editor
Band Chatter

Dear Sir:

We welcome the opportunity, through your column, to inform your readers of the newly formed Western Pipe Band Association, chartered September 8, 1969, with a membership of 17 bands. Our President is Pipe Major Fred Brodie.

Our objectives are to:

1. Promote and encourage the culture and advancement of pipe band music.
2. Create and maintain a bond of fellowship among pipers and drummers...etc.
3. Devise a proper system of pipe band contest rules...etc.

Membership:

Active Membership - open to pipe bands only, functioning on the principle of: 'one band - one vote'.

Associate Membership - available to players and non-players, but does not entitle holder to vote nor to hold office.

Primary objectives are to promote and encourage pipe bands and pipe band music, by the establishment of a school in piping and drumming, and the publication of pipe band music.

The importance of a world wide standardization of pipe band contest rules and exchange of information between member associations will not be summarily dismissed. Affiliation with the parent Scottish Pipe Band Association will insure reciprocal agreements with other member associations, entitling member bands, particularly those travelling on summer tours, to compete in 'Games' held under association rules.

In the near future the W.P.B.A. will hold monthly competitions for quartettes and miniature bands only. We hope in this way to encourage more participants in the Indoor and summer games, by keeping them active during the normal layoff season and also to provide enjoyable evenings of

of piping and drumming.

Many of us in the W.P.B.A. hold active membership in the B.C. Pipers' Association and will continue to do so.

On behalf of the President, our thanks for the co-operation shown us by the attendance of those members of the Executive and Board of the B.C. Pipers' at our earlier meetings.

Please address inquiries to:

Secretary, W.P.B.A.
Mrs. Norma Thompson
3460 Triumph, Vancouver, B.C., Phone 298-8707

or phone:

P.M. Fred Brodie - 522-2151
P.M. Garnet R. Snow - 299-4869

Garnet R. Snow

NEW MEMBERS

The B.C. Pipers' Association welcomes the following new members:

Mrs. S. Palmer, Vancouver	- Associate
Mr. G. Ramsay, Surrey	- Associate
Mrs. M. Purdy, Richmond	- Associate
Mrs. T. MacDougall, Murrayville	- Active
Mr. D. Alfredson, Vancouver	- Associate
Mr. W. Campbell, Red Rock	- Active
Mr. John McEwing, Spokane	- Active

HAGGIS

(Traditional But-and-Ben Recipe)

1 Sheep's Pluck:	1 breakfast-cupful Fine Oatmeal
Liver, Lights, & Heart	2 or 3 Onions
The Large Stomach Bag	Salt and Pepper
½ lb. Fresh Beef Suet	Pinch of Cayenne

1 Breakfast-cupful Stock or Gravy

Clean the paunch or stomach bag thoroughly; wash first in cold water, then plunge into boiling water and scrape; then leave to soak overnight in cold, salted water. In the morning put it aside with the rough side turned out. Wash the small bag and the pluck, and put them on to boil in cold water to cover, letting the wind-pipe hang out over the pot to let any impurities pass out freely. Boil for an hour and a half, then remove and cut away the pipes and any superfluities of gristle. Mince the heart and lights, and grate half the liver. (The rest is not required.) Mince the onions and suet, and toast the oatmeal very slowly before the fire or

in a warm oven. Mix all these ingrediants together and season with salt, plenty of black pepper, and a pinch cayenne. Pour over this sufficient of the pluck bree to make the mixture sappy. Fill the bag rather more than half full -- say five-eighths. It needs plenty of room to swell. Press out the air and sew the bag up securely. Put it into a pot of fast-boiling water, and prick it with a large needle when it first swells, to prevent bursting. Boil slowly but steadily for three hours, without the lid, adding more boiling water as required. Serve very hot without any garnish.

At a Burns Supper the Haggis is usually piped in and is served with "Neeps" and "Nips" -- massed turnips and "nips" of whisky -- and, of course potatoes.

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

For the first time Professional Piping prizes will be monetary. They will be as follows:

Professional Piobaireachd -	1st -	\$50.00
	2nd -	\$30.00
	3rd -	\$20.00
Professional Marches, Strathspey and Reel, and Jig -	1st -	\$25.00
	2nd -	\$15.00
	3rd -	\$10.00

A special added feature at this year's Gathering will be an exhibition of Highland Wrestling. Look for more information in next month's Newsletter.

"KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION"

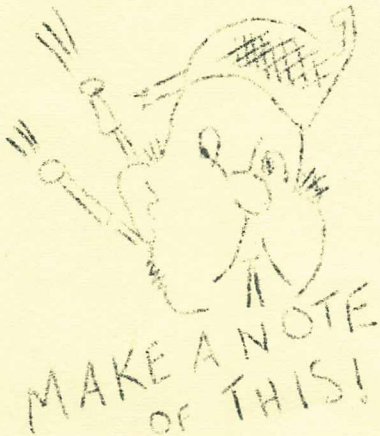
The next Knock-out Competition will be February 6th, 1970 when Ruairidh Macdonald competes against Bill Elder.

The location for this General Meeting and Competition is to be the Steelworker's Hall at 33 East Broadway (one block west of Main). We anticipate a favourable attendance at this event which will start at 8:00 P.M. and bar facilities will be available - 50¢ per drink.

We look forward to your support and trust that this meeting will be better attended than the Annual Meeting!!!

OLD AGE PENSIONERS

Any old age pensioner receiving a 1970 Annual Dues Notice for \$5.00 please remit only \$2.00.



- Knock-out competition February 6th
- Bi-Monthly competition " 20th
Juvenile Strathspey and Reel
Open Amateur Piobaireachd
- Annual Dinner February 21st
- Tartan Ball - February 28th

"ALL TALK"

