

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

JANUARY, 1973

NO. 128

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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

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JANUARY, 1973

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H A P P Y   N E W   Y E A R !

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sirs,

Please find enclosed some information which I hope you will find of interest. Pipe Major MacLeod and I would very much appreciate your making some reference to this "first" endeavour in a forthcoming issue of your "Newsletter".

The trip will, I am sure, be very exciting, and we would like to let as many people as possible know about it so that those interested will not be disappointed. I am also enclosing some brochures on Aviemore which I think will interest you. It is a fabulous place with more facilities than ever thought imaginable. I do hope that you will help us promote it through your very widely read publication.

If possible, I would also appreciate your advising your readers that there will be no Banff Gathering this year. I have had many enquiries and it would save some letters being written. We do plan a Gathering in 1974 and I will keep you posted as developments for this progress.

Thank you very much for your attention and for any assistance you may be able to give us.

Heather A. Jolley

(For more information, see "Next Month In and Around the Assoc.")

Dear Sirs,

Re Hal Senyk's letter regarding dress in pipe band competition.

Hal's basic idea I agree with. It does seem criminal that the best playing band could lose a contest due to dress and deportment. Therefore, I would agree to a separate competition for this category.

But, if such an idea was adopted, I feel the W.P.B.A. must incorporate a "minimum" requirement for dress and deportment, such as: e.g. All bands must be dressed in a minimum of Highland kilt, hose, sporran, belt, matching shirts, and bonnet.

If this isn't done, some donkey will surely show up in jeans, sweat shirt, and bare feet, and insomuch as no points would be deducted for dress, you can see where it "could" lead.

So, if Hal and the Triumph Street Pipe Band submit their usual proposals, with such amendments, maybe more bands will back them at the next W.P.B.A. meeting.

The same sort of amendments must also be incorporated with regards to deportment.

Terry McHardy

Dear Sirs,

I have been receiving the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter for some time now, so I thought I would drop you a line. First, to say that I enjoy it very much and secondly, I would like to comment or as they say, put in my two bits worth, on the pros and cons concerning the way some competition pipers dress.

I'll be very frank about it. All pipers should be in Highland uniform and their hair should be neatly cut; none of this long hair business. A mustache is fine or even a beard. I believe a piper should live up to the Scottish tradition of old - being loyal and having that feeling of great pride in being a piper. I'll grant there are young fellows that do not have the means to buy a full uniform at first, but they should be dressed proudly, and I suppose an exception can be made for them.

I, myself, was born and raised in Nova Scotia. As a young fellow of 12, I competed first in the Antigonish full uniform. The Lord knows money was scarce 48 years ago, but my pride was in that uniform as well as piping. I won a cup once for being the best dressed Highlander and it is my opinion that fellow Scots should have their hair cut neatly and dress as near as possible to the Highland dress. I must say also that dancers are always dressed very nicely and some of them are very young fellows and girls.

This is a hard old Scot's opinion and you must know just how hard-headed some of us can be. Anyway, keep up the great piping tradition whether a Scot or not.

John William MacKay,  
Elma, Washington.

Dear Sirs,

I was very interested in the letter from I. O. MacKinnon that was printed in the November/December Newsletter regarding non-paying or slow-paying members.

I fully agree with MacKinnon's statement in the first part of the letter. The various members of the Pipers' Association work very hard, and we all like to read the different articles printed, etc. Then Mr. MacKinnon asked,

"But who join the Association?" Then answers that very question by stating, "If a person gets the Newsletter handed to them, why bother paying".

This is exactly what is happening and the culprit is not the non-paying or slow-paying member but the Association for handing out the Newsletter irrespective of dues paid or not.

I would refer Mr. MacKinnon to the April 1972 Newsletter page 28 where it states:-

"It has come to our attention that over 50% of the membership have not paid their dues for 1972 and some have not been paid for two years."

Now I ask? How can a person still be considered a member if they have not paid their dues for two years? This is very unfair and discouraging to the members who do pay their dues on time. If the Association ceased to hand on the Newsletter to those people who like to put their hand in their pocket but hate like \*\*\* to take it out again, I bet you a broken reed the dues would be arriving "Pronto".

So, do not put all the blame on the members Mac.

This is the permissive society, don't embarrass so and so by asking them to pay their dues or don't offend them by not mailing them the Newsletter which they have not paid for but, someone has to pay the shot.

May I suggest the Association have a set date for membership dues to be paid. For example, at the Annual General Meeting next year's membership should become due, then say three months from that date those who have not paid are no longer members of the Association and all communication ceases, not just for the lesser known members, but for EVERYONE.

For example, I have not the faintest idea when my membership expires.

Thank you for allowing me to blow my "drone".

Peter George,  
Victoria.

Dear Sirs,

I have just finished reading the November/December issue of the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter. I like it, and as I.O. MacKinnon so aptly stated, "Many receive the letter second-hand."

I received this one second hand, mainly because I didn't know of the Association. Am I eligible for membership in the B.C.P.A.? I don't live in British Columbia, but I am a piper, and have been for twenty-three years. I don't belong to any other piping association, nor do I play in a band right now. I am very active in teaching, and hope to start a new band in about a year from now. I have been Pipe Major of two different bands in the Southern California area.

If I am eligible for membership, just send an application form, and inform me of annual fees.

Charles K. Lockhart,  
Fountain Valley, California.

Editors' Note: We hope the rest of you free-loaders feel guilty.

Dear Sirs,

June 23rd (Saturday) will be the date of the Bellingham Highland Games this year. We are hoping for the participation again of the Olympia Brewing Company, our 1972 sponsor, and the same good weather. Would you include us in your listing of Games for 73?

John Munroe,  
Bellingham Scottish Highland  
Games Assn., Inc.

Dear Sirs,

May I, through the Newsletter, commend the Committee responsible for providing the piping and drumming public with the Triumph Street Competition held on December 16.

Those who did not attend this delightful afternoon missed what, in my opinion, was a new dimension in competition confined to Mini Bands, Trios, Quartettes, etc. I have attended a number of similar programs over the years but this one was in a class by itself.

As I drove from Spokane to Vancouver on the previous day, my houseguest, a distinguished piper in his own right, Pipe Major Iain MacCrimmon from Edmonton, commented, "I fully expect we will be exposed to just about the tops in piping and drumming tomorrow". His prognostication was correct in every way and a joy indeed for everyone who attended.



I found the facilities where the competition was held to be first class. The acoustics in the competition hall were quite good and the rather colorful facilities set aside for tuning and chanter reed setting was excellent. Not at all like the usual damp, drab, basement environment that pipers too often are forced to use, thus lowering their morale at the very moment that it should be at its highest as they approach the competition area.

It appeared to me that the Director of this entire programme discreetly kept himself or herself out of the public eye. It was, however, obvious that someone was masterminding the entire operations and there did not appear to be a single hitch during the entire afternoon. When one unit finished, another was all set to march on and as far as I was aware, there was not a single "Dead Moment". The afternoon ran like a well-rehearsed production and the manager deserves a medal for it.

Some of the factors that made this such an enjoyable visit for me were, and not in order of priority by any means, the setting of the chanters. How Bob Hardie would love to have heard the way they all blended so beautifully! The tone and the volume of the drones, and the immaculate fingering technique by all the artists coupled with the over-all musical effect. I would be remiss if I did not make special mention of how much I enjoyed the drumming by one of the Vancouver Ladies' units. I should confess that in the past I have not been much of a drumming devotee but when I listened to the subtle treatment given in support of the pipe section, I was led straight into their camp. I found the over-all musical effect most palatable and from this day forward, I plan to pay more attention to the drumming potential. On the other hand, I was disappointed when I heard one of the male bands come up with their overpowering volume from their drum section. However, the Pipe/Major appeared to get a signal "locked on" to the leading drummer (culprit) and he was able to cut the volume down to where the entire unit was a real treat to listen to.

Vancouver is so fortunate to have so many able Adjudicators living in the area. It appeared that everyone was completely satisfied with the judging and from where I sat, I agreed with every decision and I am quite sure the judges thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they listened to a whole afternoon of really high quality performances.

If the format for this type of competition is followed, I see no reason why this new and exciting competition will not continue to grow and serve a very useful purpose. I will look forward to seeing and hearing all these excellent units in action during the summer and it goes without saying that I will make every effort to be on hand at every indoor competition that may be sponsored by the Triumph Street Organization.

John McEwing.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 1972

As president, it is my duty to give a report of the Association's activities during the past year:

At the end of 1971, Bob Gunn and I indicated that we would be resigning as editors of the Newsletter. We were somewhat pessimistic about the continuation of the Newsletter. Fortunately for the Association, Colin Abel and Angus MacPherson offered their services as editors and the Newsletter has become even bigger and better. A special thanks to Colin and Angus and also Barb Morley, Janice Taylor and Judi Taylor. It is the Association's sincere desire that these people will continue to do such a splendid job.

The Annual Gathering was its usual piping success and financial failure. This has happened for so many years now that I think most of us have come to accept it. James McColl was our judge and did an admirable job. Those of you who attended Mr. McColl's ceilidh know what an excellent piper this man is.

Bi-monthly entries were about the same as last year and the ceilidh was well attended. Of the 39 competitors who were eligible for perfect attendance pins, 34 were present to receive them.

Our knock-outs continue to be successful but we seem to have reached the maximum attendance. I suggest the new board look at this subject with the idea of changing the format to keep the interest high. The two finalists were Jamie Troy and David Wilson with the decision going to Jamie. The final competition was held at the Annual Dinner and although the new "swinging" format was criticized by some, generally I think it was a success.

There was a significant change in the promotion rule for Juvenile and Junior pipers. Rather than have these competitors promoted if they won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd, it was decided to institute a point system. A Juvenile and Junior piper must accumulate 20 points in a competition year before being promoted. A first receives 8 points, a second 5 points, and a third 3 points, and a fourth 1 point.

The Association again offered two scholarships to the Coeur d'Alene Piping School. Fortunately, the number of applicants increased from last year.

This year the Association is sponsoring a piping school. This school is under the instruction of John MacLeod and Hal Senyk and has an enrollment of approximately 25 pupils. It is progressing very well.

As much as we all like to listen to the best of professional piping and enjoy the good company of piping enthusiasts, we must not lose sight of the purpose of this Association. Things like the piping school, the piping scholarships, bi-monthly competitions and our annual gathering are of prime importance.

I'd like to thank Rose and Dick Swanson for looking after the Bi-monthlies, Ishabel Ross for being our Annual Gathering secretary, and last but not least, my board of directors for their dedicated work.

Bill Elder.

### EDITORIAL

Although we have mentioned this problem before, it still remains a thorn in our side so we feel we must do so again to start off the new year right and to make sure every member of the Association knows exactly how we feel about it.

When we took over the Newsletter last year, we felt we had some good ideas and a fresh new approach to the writing and editorship of the publication, but we were innocent young lambs when it came to the business end of it. Gradually we have learned how to keep the books and bills in order, but at the Annual General Meeting in January it came to our attention that to some extent it has all been for not. In the Treasurer's annual statement, it stated that membership dues for 1972 totalled \$977.00. Yet, when we checked our books, we noticed that we send out 255 Newsletters every month to supposedly "paid-up" members and it doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that the total should be \$1,275.00. Now, after a little adding, subtracting and dividing, we came to the incredible deduction that we send out 60 Newsletters a month to members who haven't paid a red cent in the last year. That is over 700 Newsletters written, printed, collated, enveloped, stamped, and addressed by the staff since we took over this job. We donated our time to put out the Newsletter but it's a little discouraging to know that we are putting some of our hours towards some "members" who don't bother to send in their dues on time. No wonder the Newsletter is a financial disaster!

We have some suggestions we wish to express although we realize that nothing can be done about it due to rules and regulations of the Society's Act.

If it was up to us, every member who receives his Association statement in the mail would have exactly two months after that date to send in his dues. If he failed to do so his rights as a member of the Association and thus the Newsletter would be terminated. We repeat that we realize this cannot be applied but as editors and staff, we feel something has to be done to solve this problem of carrying members for one or two or even three years. We hope we don't have to mention this subject of dues ever again as statements of dues and arrears will be in the mail later this month and are payable upon receipt. Please pay promptly.

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting and Knock-Out

The Annual General Meeting and Knock-out was held on Friday, January 19, 1973, at the Steelworkers' Hall on East Broadway.

Bill Elder opened the meeting with his President's Report for the year 1972 and the Association's secretary, Pat Dawson, read the minutes from last year's A.G.M. Nominations for the election of officers was next on the agenda and the following were elected to serve for 1973.

President:	Bill Lamont
Vice-President:	David Wilson
Board of Directors:	Bill Elder
	John MacDonald
	Seb Nellies
	John MacLeod
	Alex Reid
	Duncan MacInnes
	Donald Ross
	Angus MacPherson
	Alex Young

It was very pleasant to see that a total of fifteen nominations were accepted for the Board and it is encouraging to see this kind of interest developing in the Association.

In the Knock-out competition, Stephen Geddes, from o'er the sea in Victoria, played many rousing jigs and eventually defeated David Wilson, one of last year's finalists. The bar was opened, impromptu piping began, Catherine MacDonald won the raffle, and a "guid time was had by all".

Bi-Monthlies

The B. C. Pipers' Association's bi-monthly competition was held December 15, 1972 at the Seaforth Armouries. We would like to thank the judge for the evening, P/M Ed Esson, for his comments which accompany the results.

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels - 15 competitors

1. Asheley Stewart - Blair Drummond, Blackbird Reel

- an excellent pipe - execution beautifully crisp and clean - a dead-steady tempo in both tunes - a first class performance.

2. Alan Wilson - Arniston Castle, The Man from Glengarry  
- a fair pipe - chanter very good but drones could have been better tuned - execution of a high order, especially in strathspey - very good.
3. Graham Davidson - Bob of Fettercairn, Aleck C. McGregor  
- a very good pipe indeed - execution quite good - expression could be improved by more attention to pointing - a good performance.
4. Donny MacNeil - Captain Colin Campbell, The Highland Dirk  
- a really good pipe played with ability and feeling - some of the triplets were slurred a bit, marring an otherwise good performance.

All things considered, a fair standard of playing. Two things worth thinking about. Better setting of chanters, and ability on the part of the competitor to "touch-up" the drones once on the "platform". On this particular occasion there was a considerable difference in temperature between the area where most of the tuning was done and the room where the competition was held. A slight touch to the drones would have been advantageous to the competitor whose pipe needed just that. Still, it was a good competition and I enjoyed having been given a part to play in it.

#### Amateur Jigs - 8 competitors

1. Terry Lee - The Herringwife  
- a delightful performance on an excellent instrument.
2. Allan MacDougall - The Old Woman's Dance  
- a very good instrument - execution clean and crisp but tempo gave the feeling of a hurried performance - still, very good playing.
3. Alison Palmer - Tatamagouche  
- again a first class pipe - execution of a high order - tempo steady although perhaps a bit on the fast side - still a good standard.

With the exception of one competitor whose tune was inclined to drag, almost all the others, to my mind at any rate, would have given a far better account of themselves had they just slowed down a bit. To coin a pun, it might be said that this event ran the gamut from drag to drag racing! To put it another way, if one must choose between technical wizardry and a musical delight, to me, the choice is obvious. But could it be that today, wizardry is considered number one?

### Vancouver Island Piper's Club

The December meeting of the Vancouver Island Piper's Club which was held December 9, 1972, in the Sergeant's Mess of the Canadian Scottish regiment, Bay Street Armouries, was officially opened by pipers Warren Fells, Pete Jansen, Steve Geddes, Jamie Troy, Rene Cusson and Terry Lee.

Vice-President Harry Mumford was in the chair and he addressed his opening remarks to a well attended meeting of over 50 persons. The annual Christmas Indoor Highland Games had been held earlier in the day and this perhaps contributed to the excellent attendance.

Pupil of the month was Robert Barrick who gave a very nice rendition of Donald MacLeans Farewell to Oban, Marquis of Huntly and the reel Duntroon. Rob has been taught by the late P/M Ian Duncan and recently by Byron Barnard. However, as Byron is not currently teaching, Rob is being tutored by Jamie Troy.

The guest speaker for the evening was Jamie Troy who gave an excellent account of his summer experiences from Coeur d' Alene, Idaho (where he won the Bratach Nam Bean and a trip to Scotland) through to Scotland as a representative of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society. Jamie travelled much of the Scottish countryside with Richard Collette, also of Victoria, and managed to get up to Portree for the Silver Chanter Competition as well as the Oban and Inverness Competitions.

Guest player, Jack Lee, captivated the audience with a fantastic selection of marches, strathspeys, reels, jigs and hornpipes. This performance was one of the best if not the best guest player performance that the club members have had the pleasure of hearing. Many members were lucky enough to have the performance recorded. Tunes included many original tunes or arrangements thereof which are unknown to the writer as well as a few more familiar ones including the Jig of Slurs, the Fishwife and John MacKenzie's Fancy. Jack is truly one of the most gifted players on the West Coast. Most players have to practice hard for what they achieve with the instrument but for Jack Lee, the music just seems to flow naturally.

To top the evening off, Terry Lee, brother to Jack, gave us a fine interpretation of the Lament for Mary MacLeod. As many of you know, Terry is both a champion piper and dancer.

Impromptu piping, included selections from various members of the club, as well as a medley set from the Vancouver Island Pipe Band under the direction of P/M Jamie Troy. The band recently competed in the Triumph Street Competition in Vancouver.

Byron Barnard, Secretary.

## Triumph Street Band Contest

Perhaps the secret to success has been discovered. Keep the quality high and the length of the competition short.

This was the case at the B.C. Pipe Band Championships and the First Annual Triumph Street Band Contest held on December 16, 1972.

The competition got under way at 1:00 p.m. with the novice drumming. While Bart Shaw judged this and the other drumming events in the downstairs area, the piping judges, Bill Lamont, John MacDonald and Dave Wilson, were handling the Junior and Senior Trios.

The format for the trios proved to be very interesting with a fine and varied selection of tunes being presented. In the junior category, the Seaforth Plus Trio edged out the Vancouver Ladies' to capture the B.C. Pipers' Association Trophy.

The Senior event and the Spokane Piobaireachd Society Trophy was won by the Triumph Street Pipe Band. This trophy also carried with it a bottle of Grouse Whiskey, presented by Lt.Col. John McEwing, President of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society.

The miniature band competition was both disappointing and tremendous.

The junior contest was a disappointment due to the lack of entries. However, the two bands that did attend, Richmond Junior and the Vancouver Ladies', put on an excellent showing.

Richmond gained the edge over the girls and collected the Ed Skalazub Trophy and \$30.00.

The major event of the afternoon, the senior miniature band competition attracted five entries. These included the Vancouver Island Pipers and Richmond Senior who each played one member short.

For their performance, Port Moody won the Triumph Street Shield and \$60.00.

Port Moody also won the Dress and Deportment Prize which was judged separately from the competition. (just for the record, there were no reports of "donkeys" running around in jeans and sweatshirts).

In our quest for "ensemble" a prize was put forward for the best bass and best tenor drummers to be judged during the

competition. This was not a contest for the best metronome or the best fly-swatter, but an attempt to "extract" the most music from the pipe bands. Seeing as this new concept rests solely on the drumming judges' shoulders, we are faced with a group of inexperienced judges. Until we get a new contingent of drumming judges, the idea of ensemble will fall by the wayside.

Following the contest a very successful ceilidh was held. This format of afternoon contest/ceilidh proved to be an excellent idea and the Triumph Street Band looks forward to seeing you all there next year.

We would like to thank the following people who donated their valuable services:-

- Bill Lamont, John McDonald, David Wilson, and Bart Shaw - Judges
- Margaret MacPherson - Secretary of the day
- Donald Ross and Ruairidh McDonald - Chief Steward and scorer; also Ed Skalazub and George Abel
- John MacPherson, Angus MacMillan who helped round up the contestants
- Mrs. MacMillan, Mrs. MacPherson, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Abel, and Barb Morley who helped in the kitchen
- Mr. Harvey Gallaher - the announcer
- Mr. Allan Skalazub - Secretary.

#### TROPHY DONORS

B.C. Pipers' Association	Mrs. Betty Rowell
Western Pipe Band Association	Mr. and Mrs. Ed Skalazub
Spokane Piobaireachd Society	Mr. Keith Manifold
Vancouver Island Pipers	Mr. Jack Webster
White Spot Pipe Band	Triumph Street Pipe Band

#### RESULTS

Event #1 - Senior Miniature Bands

1. Port Moody
2. Triumph Street
3. Vancouver Ladies

Event #2 - Junior Miniature Bands

1. Richmond Junior
2. Vancouver Ladies



- Event #3 - Senior Trios
1. Triumph Street
  2. Vancouver Ladies
  3. Vancouver Island Pipers

- Event #4 - Junior Trios
1. The Seaforth Plus Trio
  2. Vancouver Ladies
  3. Richmond Junior

- Event #5 - Senior Drum Section
1. Vancouver Ladies

- Event #6 - Junior Drum Section
1. White Spot

- Event #7 - Novice Drumming
1. Danny McKillop
  2. Keith Clark
  3. Gary Miller
  4. Adam Bell
  5. Kennedy Cranswick

- Event #8 - Amateur Drumming
1. Murray Munroe
  2. Scott Robertson
  3. Pam Blenkin

- Event #9 - Senior Amateur Drumming
1. Jack Gallaher

Best Tenor Drummer: Glenna Glendinning (Vancouver Ladies)

Best Bass Drummer: Dan Williams (Port Moody)

Dress and Department Prize: Port Moody

\* \* \* \* \*

An 84 year old piper who played a lament at the burial service for novelist Sir Compton Mackenzie here Monday collapsed soon afterward and died.

The piper, Calum Johnston, had been a close acquaintance of Sir Compton who lived on Barra Island, off Scotland's west coast, between 1936 and 1946. Sir Compton died Thursday at 89.

Ruaridh MacDonald obtained Calum's set of pipes. Many members will remember Calum as the performer of the Cantaireachd on the record "Pibroch".

NEXT MONTH

Knock-Out and General Meeting

The next round of the knock-out competition is slated for Friday, February 2nd, at the Steelworkers' Hall. Hal Senyk and Jamie Troy will compete for the right to advance to the semi-finals.

Following the knock-out will be an open march competition (2/4 or 6/8). This event carries with it a \$10.00 prize. We hope there will be a better response than last month's strathspey and reel event!

Remember the time, 8:00 p.m. SHARP!

Vancouver Island Pipers

The V.I.P. Club are holding a meeting on February 3rd in the Bay Street Armouries. "Vancouver night" will include Jill Laurie, as pupil of the month, John MacLeod as guest player, and Harald Senyk as guest speaker. President Jamie Troy will give a rendition of the Finger Lock. "Impromptu" will be the order of the night following the programme which gets underway at 8:00 p.m.

Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Annual Festival

The V.L.P.B. are holding their annual festival for piping, drumming and dancing on February 23 and 24 at St. John's Church, Nanton and Granville.

The novice piping is being held on the Friday afternoon while all other classes will commence at 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

Both senior and junior quartettes and miniature bands will be required to play a March, Strathspey and Reel.

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.

OOPS!

Jimmy Warren will be happy to know that he is alive and well. The Association received a letter to this effect from Jimmy himself. It seems amazing that there could be two people with the same name, occupation and friends, However, we were informed that we were not the only ones to make this mistake.

We wish Jimmy all the best in the future and look forward to seeing him in April.

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.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held this year at the Flame Supper Club on May 5. We urge the membership to help make the Association's two most important events, the Annual Gathering and the Annual Dinner, a complete success.

\* \* \* \* \*

FOR SALE

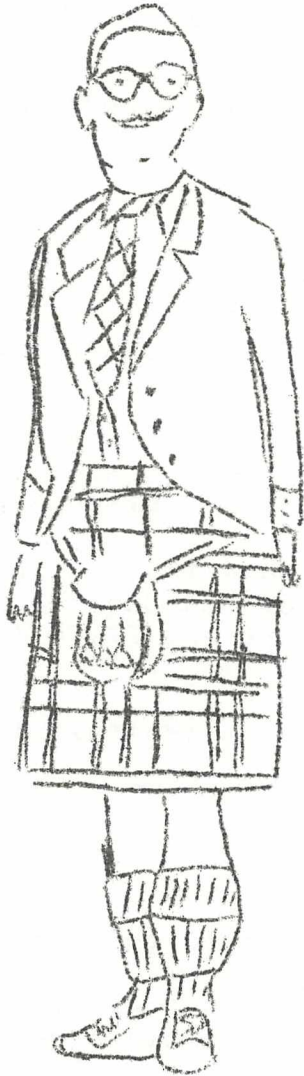
Boy's Blue Green Harris Tweed Piping Jacket with hose --  
Size 8 to 12 years.

Phone: 522-6417

C. P. Air Pipe Band

C O M E O N E

C O M E A L L



TO THE BRODIE  
BOYS' DANCE

MINORU PAVILION RICHMOND  
MARCH 24th, 1973

FOR TICKETS, CALL:

Stewart 273-3571  
Wilson 277-0352  
Peck 263-5140  
Hunter 929-3107

TICKETS \$3.00 EACH

SUPPER

## THE INSTITUTE OF PIPING

Recently, the name "The Institute of Piping" has been appearing in various reports, and enquiries are being made as to its origin and its function.

The Institute was formed to provide a body that could represent three authoritative organizations, namely The Piobaireachd Society, The College of Piping and The Army School of Piping - each having its own definite influence in Solo piping in all its branches and not being mainly social in their activities as most Piping Societies tend to be.

The Institute was successful in its negotiations with the Scottish Education Board in having Piping included in the Board's curriculum as a subject for examination, and will help and guide that body to achieve good results. Throughout the world various Piping Associations, Schools and Societies have in the absence of a central organization provided their own certificates, all which are admirable, but which tend to be founded on all sorts of differing standards. The Institute of Piping hope to offset this deficiency and have prepared a comprehensive syllabus which is graduated from Beginner to Expert, and which caters for all standards of piping and which can be studied in any part of the world, and when followed through step by step, misses out no facet of a piper's education be it Practical, Theoretical or Historical in aspect. Very handsome certificates are available in the grades of Preliminary, Elementary, Junior, Senior, Graduate and Diploma of Piping. There are also available a Teachers and a Senior Teachers certificate. As a guide to the standards set, the Graduate Certificate equates to the Army's "Standard" Pipe Major's Certificate, while the Diploma is equal to their "A" one.

The Institute does not require candidates to follow any style, or method of instruction in preparing for its certificates provided, of course, that the end product is covered by the term "Good Bagpipe Music" and is within the scope of the syllabus which is available from either the College of Piping or The Army School of Piping.

The Institute intends to run a Teacher's Course at the College of Piping, Glasgow in December/January 1972/73, and will make such courses available from time to time.

John MacLellan.

PUZZLE CORNER

Criss X Puzzle -- Based on Dogs and Cats

Words may be found vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. When a word is found, circle each letter of the word. Each new word must contain at least one not previously circled letter. When completed, there will remain four unused spaces marked X.

DOGS

Beagle  
Bouvierdes Flandres  
Boxer  
Briard  
Brittany  
Bull  
Coon  
Cur  
Dane  
Deer  
Dog  
Elk  
Fox  
Golden  
Greyhound  
Harrier  
Keeshond  
Kuvasz  
Lhasa Apso  
Malamute  
Otter  
Pointer  
Poodle  
Rhodesian  
Rottweiler  
Sheep  
Shepherd  
Skye  
St. Bernard  
Tan  
Tervuren  
Toy  
Trigg

Vizsla  
Walker  
Water  
Weimaraner  
Welsh  
West  
Wirehaired

CATS

Albino  
Brown  
Burman  
Cat  
Feline  
Hare  
Havana  
Ibizan  
Khmer  
Lilac  
Maine  
Manx  
Margay  
Ocelot  
Rabbitt  
Red  
Rex  
Seal  
Tom  
White

Related Words

Bad  
Fur  
Pet

S T B E R N A R D N O H S E E K  
E E W N N C W W G S N A M R U B  
R T E E A A A O P O A N A V A H  
D U L W I T I A R O D R A I R B  
N M S I E M A S D B I S K Y E S  
A A H R L S A M E A Z N C L H D  
L L K E A A T R A D B O T E E N  
F A X H D L C R A N O X P E F U  
S M L A M A T E F N X H R U R O  
E E N I L E F L O R E I R R A H  
D E X R P S R I X R R R U E E Y  
R S H E E P T E D A E M C K L E  
E E L D O O P W G B T A A L G R  
I N X L L N H T O B T R L A A G  
V X I E U I A T L I O G S W E G  
U M C A T B R O D T N A Z I B I  
O O O E M L E R E T O Y I D E R  
B R I T T A N Y N E R U V R E T

W. Gordon Taylor.

Tunes for  
Open Competition - The Argyllshire Gathering  
The Clasp Competition - The Northern Meeting

The Blue Ribbon  
The Finger Lock  
Lament for the Children  
Lament for Colin Roy MacKenzie  
The Daughter's Lament  
The Lament for the Harp Tree  
The Lament for the Laird of Anapool  
The Lament for the Earl of Antrim  
Lament for Ronald MacDonald of Morar  
MacLeod of Colbeck's Lament  
Donald Gruamach's March  
Nameless - Cherede Darivea  
The Park Piobaireachd No. 2  
Lady Margaret MacDonald's Salute  
Craigellachie (The Grant's Gathering)  
The Unjust Incarceration  
In Praise of Morag  
My King has Landed in Moidart

\* \* \* \* \*

Wanted: One set of pipes. Phone Alex Young, 939-0041.

\* \* \* \* \*

NORTH AMERICAN CULTURAL VISIT TO SCOTLAND

It is with great interest and pleasure that we announce the first North American Cultural Visit to Scotland, August 5th to September 1st, 1973. The highlight of this trip will be instruction in dancing, piping and drumming by some of Scotland's leading authorities and trips to the games, sight-seeing tours and social events.

This "first" of its kind will be directed by Pipe Major Iain McLeod of the World and Intercontinental Championship winning Edinburgh Police Pipe Band, who needs no introduction to piping and drumming enthusiasts and Heather Jolley, organizer of the Banff Highland Gathering for the past two years, who is also well known in all Highland dancing activities.



The visit was suggested in order to accommodate the many people who prefer organized tours to travelling on their own and it will include excursions to many of the scenic highlights of Scotland, e.g. the Isle of Skye. It will be centred in two of Scotland's most picturesque and historic areas - namely, Aviemore and Edinburgh.

The Aviemore Centre is in the magnificent Spey Valley in the Scottish Highlands amidst the grandeur of the Cairngorm Mountains. The accommodation facilities are superb and the available sports and interesting places to see are without end including - ice skating in the indoor rink, swimming in the heated indoor pool, four 18 hole golf courses nearby and an 18 hole putting course at the Centre, skiing on an artificial slope, fishing, go-karting, trampolines, crazy golf, pony trekking, hiking, etc.

Aviemore is probably the finest self-contained conference centre in Great Britain.

In Edinburgh, the group will be accommodated at the University of Edinburgh, Pollock Halls of Residence which is walking distance from Princess Street. It is adjacent to the magnificent Royal Commonwealth Games Swimming Pool, Queen's Park and the Prestonfield Golf Club.

Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city, is one of Europe's most interesting cities combining beauty and history second to none.

Owing to there being a limited amount of accommodation available to us and the chartering of buses for this group, the cultural visit will be limited. There is no age restriction nor any other necessary qualification -- everyone is welcome.

so

"RIDE THE BUS AND COME WITH US!"

For more details, contact:

Heather Jolley,  
2767 Mountview Place,  
Burnaby 3, B. C.

THE SCOTTISH HOMEMAKER

Powsowdie (Sheep's Head Broth)

1 sheep's head (singed)	2 tbsp. fine oatmeal
1½ lbs. Mixed vegetables:	4 oz. pot barley
turnip, carrot, potato,	6 peppercorns
leek, onion	Salt and pepper
1 tbsp. parsley	3 quarts water

Choose a fat, round, head. The head and feet are not skinned as in England, but the wool is singed off. On this depends the delectable flavour of the broth.

Soak the head overnight in lukewarm water. Take out the glassy part of the eye, scrape the head and brush till perfectly clean and white; then split it with a cleaver, and lay aside the brains, etc., and clean the nostrils and gristly parts. Wash the head once more, and let it blanch for the pot. Then put it on in cold water along with the barley. Bring to the boil, remove the scum carefully and add salt. After it has boiled for an hour, add the vegetables and peppercorns, and simmer very gently for two or three hours longer, according to the size and age of the head. Half an hour before serving, add the oatmeal. Season, and add the parsley last thing; and, of course, remove the peppercorns.

The head can be served separately with brain sauce, the brains, washed and dried, being tied in muslin and boiled with the head for twenty minutes. Or it can be made into brawn or a ragoût.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hearing the announcements in Liverpool Street railway station is hard enough as it is, forget the bagpipes.

So said the British Railways when it ordered pipe major Gordon Spiers to pipe down. Spiers was hired by the Scottish Tourist Board to promote holidays in Scotland by parading about the station playing such highland classics as Scotland the Brave.

Deputy station manager Gordon Wilkes said Spiers and the bagpipes wailing drowned out the train announcements.

## FOREIGN CORNER

### Famous Pipers - John MacAskill

The great thing about the piping scene is the number of colourful characters that go to make it up. In addition, however, to the average run-of-the-mill brilliant types, there occasionally appears - once or twice in every decade - one who is larger than life, destined to become a legend in an early part of his lifetime.

Such is this year's Northern Meeting gold medallist - Dr. John N. MacAskill. When the winner was announced, men of discernment looked for ways of escape, men of experience prepared to batten down the hatches, and men of neither are still wondering what happened. But everybody was delighted that to the roll of the immortals was added a name which will shine and sparkle with the best.

It was sixteen years ago that young John started on his eventful piping career. Before that, at the age of ten, he had been taken along by his father to the competitions in Glasgow, but so far as learning to play was concerned the boy did not fancy it. Eventually, however, the music got to him and he decided to have a shot at being a piper. So, on the 8th of January, 1957, at the age of thirteen and a half, John presented himself at the College of Piping and asked to be taken on.

Those who consider that this is a bit late for a boy to start learning - especially in Glasgow, with all the opportunities available - should consider this. John knew absolutely nothing when he arrived, but twelve days later he won third prize in a chanter competition! The tune was (naturally) "Scots wha hae". The judge was Hector MacFadyen.

John's progress was phenomenal. With two lessons per week he got through Tutor 1 in three months - completely and perfectly. By the time he went to the College summer school at Dunvegan in July, he was playing competition tunes. He rapidly overhauled everybody of his age group, although some of them had been playing for four or five years before he started.

The policy in the College, of course, has always been to "hasten slowly", taking the view that when God made time he made plenty of it, and that it is more important to get all the basic work correct than to rush ahead learning lots of new things. This made John's progress all the more surprising. He in fact caused the College to take a fresh policy on what is the best age for beginners.

John MacAskill had, of course, tremendous encouragement at home. His father and his two uncles were pipers. Although living in Glasgow, he had been brought up in Bernera, Harris, and is a native Gaelic speaker. All his holidays were spent on this remote Hebridean island where the music of the Gael sings from every blade of grass. Small wonder that the song and the great feeling are in his playing today.

His competition career followed the usual pattern of a boy of talent in Glasgow. He played in the S.P.A. amateur contests, winning the Chisholm Cup, the Farquhar Macrae trophy, the Cameron Cup - and on one famous occasion, all the College of Piping trophies in the same evening. At North Uist one summer he took a first prize, and this encouraged him to turn professional. At Glenfinnan in 1962 he was placed in the march event, against stiff opposition. The following year he won again at Glenfinnan, and also played at South Uist where, against some of the best players in the country, he won four prizes - first in the jig, second in the John Steele march, strathspey and reel, fourth in piobaireachd, fifth in strathspey and reel. All this when barely twenty, six and a half years after first touching a practice chanter.

But to the making of a piper go seven years. The following year, at the Northern Meeting in Inverness, he reached the short leet of the march competition. The hall was crowded to capacity as he tuned the bagpipe carefully. Then, head well back and the concentration full on he went twice through "Pipe Major John Stewart" to tremendous applause and the first prize.

By this time, young MacAskill was a medical student at Glasgow University (demonstrating that progress in piping and in academic study are not incompatible). His studies did restrict him a bit, however, but they also allowed him a fair amount of free time in the summer. He had always enjoyed summer schools and had attended all the College ones - the one at Staffin as one of the two junior instructors (Dugald Murdoch was the other one). In 1965 he decided on something more ambitious, and off he went to New York to help at the Invermark school. When it finished, he and Donald Lindsay set out, with a small car and a tent to see America, coast to coast. This is a saga which needs a long night and a peat fire for the proper telling.

The following year, he was too busy for competition but, in 1967, he showed again what a great march player he was by winning the Oban event. Then, in 1970, he took the strathspey and reel at Inverness. Now, not having competed anywhere in the interim, he wins the Inverness gold medal.

As John says of himself, "I just compete every two years - and then I'm lethal".

Already he has the three qualities of the complete piper -- he can play, he can teach, he can compose. As a composer he is looked on by everyone in Scotland as the best of his generation and one of the best in the country. His reel, "Lexie MacAskill," (composed for his mother) has been a hit tune for two years, and has obviously joined the ranks of the classics. The jig he composed for his father, Alexander MacAskill, has won many good prizes. One lasting regret is that Alex did not survive to see his son's greatest achievement.

But it may well be as a teacher that John MacAskill will make his biggest impact on piping. In 1970, when Seumas MacNeill needed assistance for his growing classes at the Thousand Islands, Ontario and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, his first choice was John MacAskill, and the success of this team is now a household word. In 1971, they repeated these courses. This past summer when they decided to open their own school in California, their reputation ensured its immediate and lasting success.

What does the future hold for Dr. John MacAskill? Certainly, we will have a continuing flow of new tunes from him because he just cannot help composing. So far as teaching is concerned, his medical work is so demanding that, unfortunately, Scotland will get little benefit of his tremendous talent, although he has agreed to continue to teach summer schools in the United States. And it is certainly to be hoped that he will continue to compete, even if it is only every two years. Captain D. R. MacLennan sums up his playing quite simply - "The best fingers in Scotland". It would be a great pity if they were not heard in action regularly.

Seumas MacNeill

#### GAMES SECRETARIES

With the advent of medleys in pipe band competitions in this area, the Newsletter, on behalf of the bands, asks that the secretaries of the various Games Associations advise us as to whether the bands will be required to play a medley or March, Strathspey and Reel.

We would print this information in a future issue so that the bands will have plenty of warning.

## B. C. PIPERS' WINTER SCHOOL

### Care and Maintenance of the Bagpipe

This is the first instalment of a series of articles on the care and maintenance of the bagpipe as prepared by John MacLeod and Hal Senyk for the B.C. Pipers' Winter Piping School. Further articles will be appearing in future issues of the Newsletter.

The bagpipe, probably more than any other instrument, requires special care and regular attention if it is to produce a desirable sound. Anyone who does not periodically tune their pipes need read no further. Those that do, or who stare at their instrument in silent confusion may find this article helpful. Much of the following may seem common sense and hardly the answer to piping problems. Both judgments would be quite true and yet it is also true that these are areas of constant neglect either through laziness or simply because no one has taken the time to emphasize the importance of periodic and careful work on the instrument itself. The list is concerned with those things which any piper should be capable of handling on their own and which should be attended to on the same level that one would the learning of pipe music.

#### Airtightness

In bagpipe maintenance, the first and most basic consideration is the airtightness of the pipes. If all of the air is not going through the reeds, then the pipes will be uncomfortable and unsteady blowing may also result. If this is the case:

1. Check the reeds themselves. Make sure they are not taking too much air. They should make a sound with only slight blowing and, with the reed in the drone, it should be possible to "blow it out". There is no easy remedy for this problem, certainly none that can be satisfactorily explained here. The subject of reeds belongs in a separate article.\* Suffice it to say that if moving the bridle fails to diminish the flow of air without causing other problems, then the reed might best be discarded.

\*John MacLellan's "Handbook for Pipers" contains an excellent and complete discussion of reeds, their problems and solutions.

2. Check the stocks. They should be securely tied into the bag. If any of them turn even slightly, they should be retied.
3. Check the blowpipe, chanter, and drones at all of the joints. These places, where the hemp is wrapped, are often far too loose and a great deal of air can escape. (More about wrapping later.)
4. Make sure that the blowpipe valve is functioning properly. It should be free moving so that when back pressure builds up, it will close instantly and securely.
5. If all the above are in order, then the bag itself is probably leaking. Place corks in the drone and chanter stocks and blow up the bag. If the bag soon begins to show signs of deflation, it probably requires seasoning. (Note however, that an old bag, especially if it has been sitting unused for a long time, may have deteriorated and the hide or skin might have cracked or dried out beyond help. Get a new bag.) As to seasonings, don't use home-made concoctions. They may make the bag airtight but they won't do the important job of absorbing water. They also tend to be smelly and have a poor consistency. A commercial seasoning such as Airtight or Lawrite, used judiciously, does a good job. With corks in the stocks, pour in the seasoning and rub it in thoroughly. Blow up the bag until it is very hard and apply extra pressure. This will force the seasoning deeper into the bag. Do not use too much seasoning. It may be necessary to pour off an excess but be sure that all seasoning that remains is well worked into the bag.

All of these things should be checked. Pipes which seem hard to blow often contain reeds which are easy to blow and in some cases, so easy that they are incapable of producing good volume and good tone. This is a situation which, if not remedied, will produce nothing more than frustration and poor music.

#### WESTERN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

The Western Pipe Band Association is seeking a design for a crest for the Association.

For further details, phone Katie Forsyth, 274-2535.

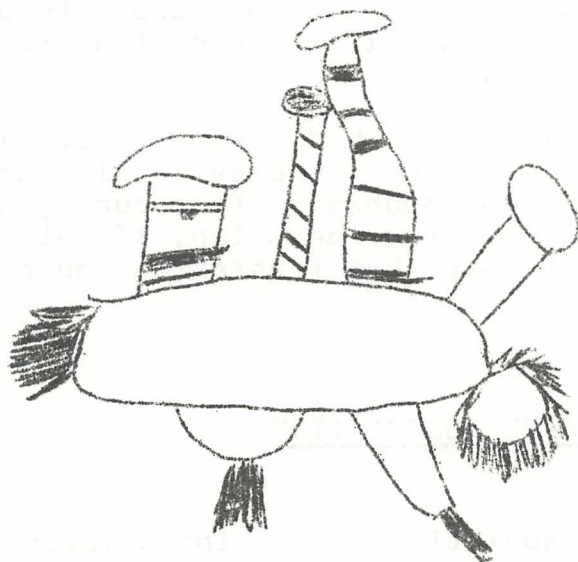
The following is submitted by Sherea Barwell, Pipe Major of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band. We wish to thank her kindergarten students for their impressions of the Highland bagpipes.

We played a guessing game at school,  
What was there in the box?  
Oh what could be so special that,  
It needed two big locks?

We dreamed of clothes and other things -  
And even one white pup.  
We thought and thought and thought real hard  
But finally we gave up.

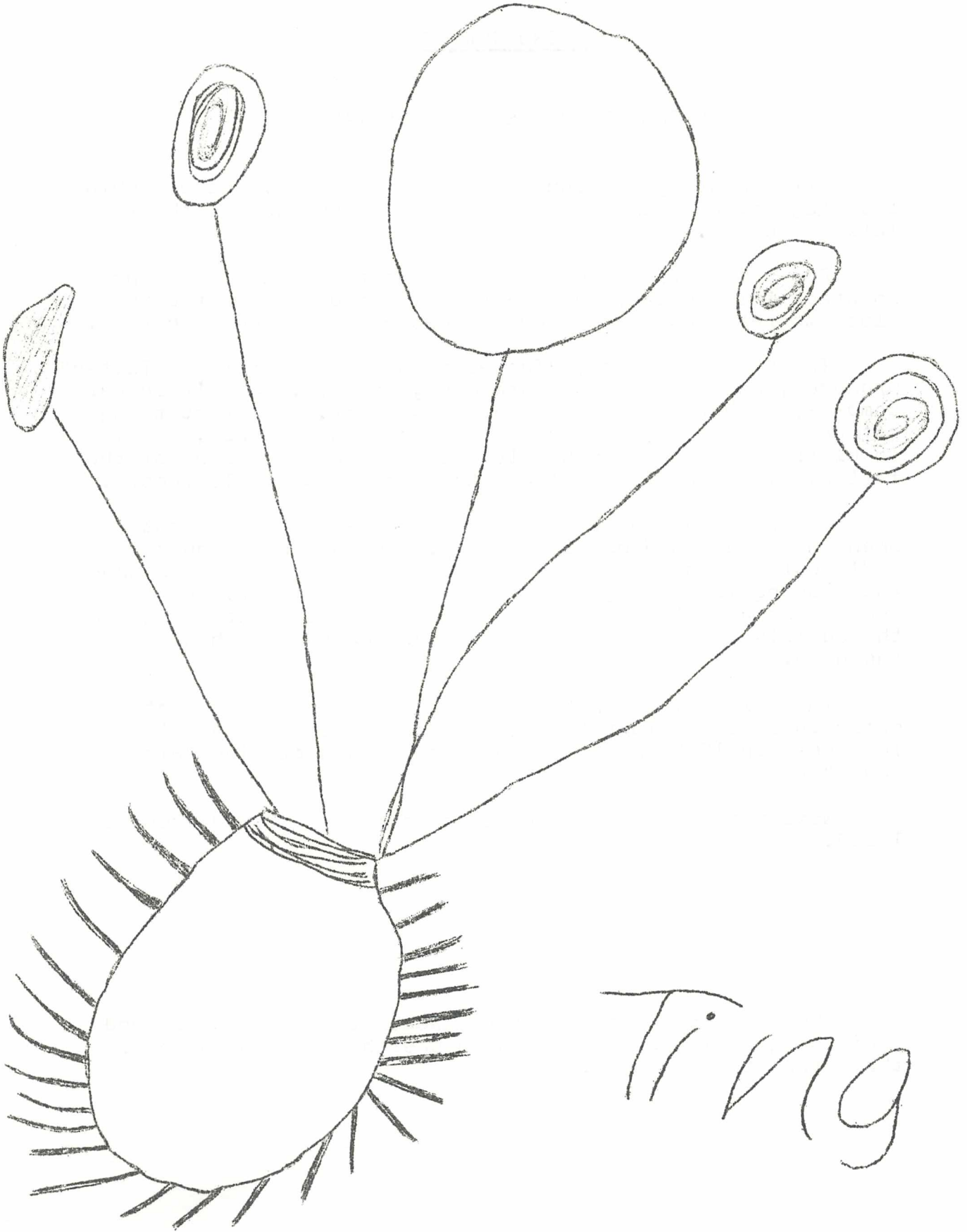
And so our teacher took them out -  
We really weren't afraid  
Not even when she blew them up,  
Not even when she played.

And so we drew some pictures here,  
And thought that you could see,  
What bagpipes really do look like  
To people who are WEE.



Audrey





Ting

RECORD REVIEW

PIPES AND DRUMS OF INNES TARTAN

After hearing the Innes Tartan at the B.C. Championship last August, one cannot help but be disappointed in their latest records.

For a band to place 8th in the Scottish Championships in Grade I is no easy feat, yet their records do not come close to reproducing the sound necessary to accomplish this.

Their first record, "The Pipes and Drums of Innes Tartan" produced, as far as I can determine, in 1970, doesn't compare remotely with the Innes we heard last year. To start things off on a sour note, the cover picture is a disgrace. It is so blurred that one can hardly distinguish the colour of the tartan. This tone is followed throughout the whole record.

The pipe tone of the pipe section is quite pleasant when the pipers are blowing steady. The unison is quite badly out in many parts but when it is fairly close and when the blowing is steady, the drum section spoils it. Partly due to the actual production of the record and partly due to the quality of beatings, the drum section adds nothing to the band.

The only bright spot in the record is the solo spot occupied by Lewis Turrell. Lewis won the Gold Medal at Inverness in 1958 and plays two hornpipes including "High Level" and three jigs.

Next month, we will review their latest record, "World Tour".

\* \* \* \* \*

The editors and staff of the Newsletter wish to extend their congratulations to Julie Rhydderch and Glen Palmer on their recent engagement.

FINALLY

A DRUM TUTOR FOR THE PIPE BAND DRUMMER

Not only a drumming tutor and record, but one written and played by D/M Wilson Young, "World Champion", and two times runner-up. D/M Young is the lead drummer of the Red Hackle Pipe Band (Champions of Champions), as well as having played with Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band.

Pipe-Major John Weatherston, of the Red Hackle Pipe Band, and Bob Hardie, Pipe Major of the World Champion Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band, both join in recommending this tutor as a "must" for adding performance to pipe band drumming.

The tutor consists of a 33 rpm L.P. recording as well as a written text book. The set of record and text book is priced at \$5.95 and 50¢ postage.

McHardy's Scottish Imports are the National Distributor for this great tutor.

Also in stock is the "Pipes of Balmoral" featuring Pipe Major R. U. Brown. This recording includes three piobaireachds and a number of small tunes, and is available for \$6.95.

(Please note there is a 24-hour phone service.)

\* \* \* \* \*

LATE FLASH!

Welcome home, Laurie and Janet! To the surprise of many, piper Laurie Robson and tenor-drummer Janet Abel of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band arrived home in time for the Annual Ladies' Burns Supper. They had spent five months travelling around Europe and after spending a cold Christmas in Edinburgh, arrived home on January 26, 1973.

Editors' Note: Unfortunately, we have no winner for last month's Clan Quiz.

B. C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GATHERING

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

- EVENT
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.

- EVENT
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.

The Pipe Band Competition will be under the jurisdiction of the Western Pipe Band Association.

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.

