

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

JULY, 1974

NO. 137

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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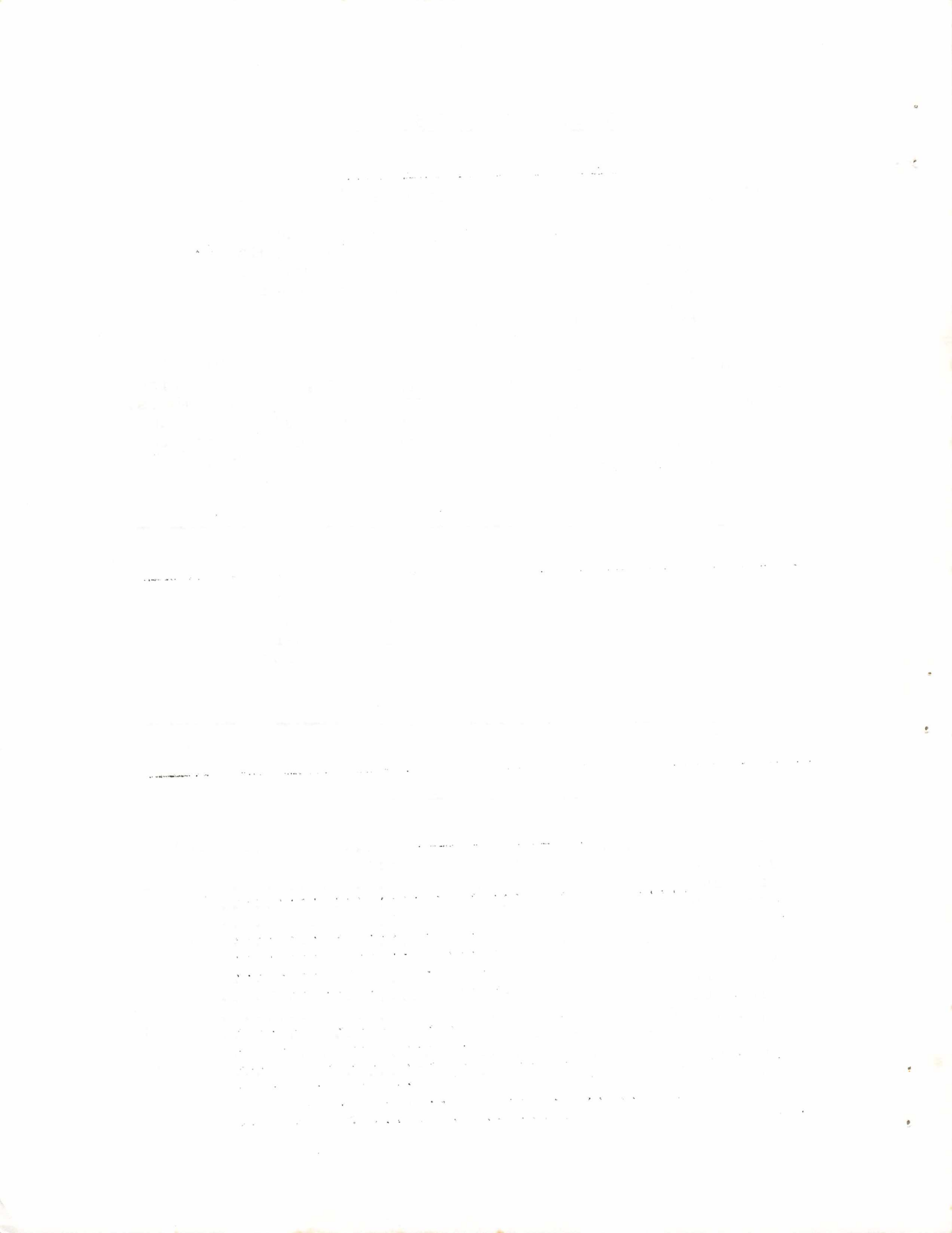
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EDITORIAL

WE'RE BACK!

Better late than never! We realize that consistency has been sadly lacking over the past few months. However, a variety of reasons account for this.

The main reason was the reluctance of any interested party to volunteer his or her services in undertaking the publication of the Newsletter. The second, after deciding to withdraw our resignation, was the departure of our co-editor and staff member, Colin and Barb Abel. The Abels have given up the good weather of Vancouver for the frosty reaches of Kelowna. However, we do not consider this move as losing an editor, but rather as gaining a "Roving Reporter". The third reason was some wedding in the middle of May. I don't know whose it was, but it sure threw a wrench in the works.

We regret any omissions in the form of games results, etc. made in this edition but, as you can appreciate, it is impossible to chronicle the events in the piping scene since last March.

Further to the above, it is imperative that the Newsletter receives the results of the "major" games. These results are used to determine which individuals will move to a higher class the following year and if the results are not published in the Newsletter, serious problems could arise.

We hope the various Games' committees will comply with this request and that all our members will continue to contribute to the Newsletter as they have in the past.

We would also like to welcome a new member to the Staff - Jim MacDonald. Jim, a fine piper in his own right, is also the son of Neil Angus MacDonald.

Once again, we apologize for the inconsistency in previous editions, but we look forward to publishing the "Newsletter" again.

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Vancouver Island Pipers Club

March was a busy and a rewarding month for VIP Club pipers. The two events which were well attended were the Empress Scottish Gathering in Victoria and the Vancouver Indoor Games held in North Vancouver.

The Empress Scottish Gathering, an extension of the Banff Gathering, was highlighted by the presence of P/M Iain MacLeod of the Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band. Every competing piper eventually had his moment of truth in front of him in at least one event and our club pipers won a lot of the honours. Among those club members who were on prize lists were: Byron Barnard, Steve Geddes, Jamie Troy, Harald Senyk, Billy Wishart, Robbie Barrick, Alan Strachan, Robbie Cross, and Bruce Gandy.

The band contest which was to determine who represented B.C. at the Canadian Championships in Ottawa, was won by the City of Victoria Pipe Band. The Monday seminar was not long enough for those who attended. There is a limit as to what can be done with so many entries in such a short space of time. Everyone did eventually have a short session with Iain MacLeod and, I'm sure, was inspired by what he had to say. He did remark later that he was impressed with the standard of playing in this part of the world.

The Vancouver Indoor Games were held March 29 and 30. Again in the prize lists were club pipers, Steve Geddes, Byron Barnard, Jamie Troy, Robbie Cross, Alan Strachan, and Bruce Gandy. Congratulations to them all.

We are all happy to hear that Jamie Troy recovered his pipes after having had them stolen from his car. They had been missing nearly two weeks.

Our club presented a trophy for professional piping at the Empress Gathering. The trophy, in the shape of a large rose bowl, was won this year by Harald Senyk.

Bill Mossie,
President.

Portland Ladies' Pipe Band

The following are the results of the March 16
Portland Ladies' Pipe Band Indoor Competition:

Chanter Class

1. Diane Sherwood
2. Kent Withycombe
3. Ronald MacKenzie

Juvenile March

1. Christie McKendrick
2. Steve Shipley

Junior March

1. Dave Hennigan
2. Bill Wishart
3. Robbie MacNeil

Piobaireachd

1. Jack McGilvary
2. Mary Alward
3. LuAnn Alward &
Jeff Brewer

Junior Amateur Drumming

1. Robert McKendrick
2. Bonnie McKendrick
3. Laurie McKendrick

Bass Drumming

1. Portland Ladies

Grade II Drum Corps

1. Seattle

Grade II Miniature Bands

1. Seattle
2. Portland Ladies

Novice March

1. Sue Arbuthnott
2. Martin Curry
3. Andrew Burns

Juvenile Slow Air

1. Michael Young
2. Ember Stewart

Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. James Wright
2. Mary Alward
3. LuAnn Alward

Novice Drumming

1. Anne Arbuthnott
2. Ronald Galloway

Senior Amateur Drumming

1. John Fisher

Tenor Drumming

1. Triumph Street &
City of Victoria

Senior Trios

1. City of Victoria #1
2. Triumph Street

Grade I Drum Corps

1. City of Victoria

Grade I Miniature Bands

1. City of Victoria
2. Triumph Street

B. C. Pipers' Association Annual Gathering

The following are the results of the B. C. Pipers' 42nd Annual Gathering held on March 29 and 30, 1974:

Junior Piobaireachd

1. Philip Gordon
2. Robbie MacNeil
3. James Wright
4. David Hennigan

Junior Marches

1. Robbie MacNeil
2. Bruce McIntosh
3. Graham Davidson
4. Rob Barrick

Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. Graham Davidson
2. James Wright
3. Rob Barrick
4. Aileen Arnott

Novice Marches

1. Jean Nicol
2. Graham Friend
3. Martin Curry
4. James Stewart

Juvenile Marches

1. Val Pederson
2. Steve Ramsden
3. Tom Bergin
4. Bruce Gandy

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel

1. Rob Cross
2. Rob Fraser
3. Val Pederson
4. Alan Strachan

Junior Quartettes

1. Richmond Senior (R. McNeil)
2. Richmond Jr. Boys

Junior Miniature Bands

1. Richmond Junior
2. Kiwanis

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Terry Lee
2. Rene Cusson
3. Blake Keen
4. Robert Menzies

Amateur Marches

1. Robert Menzies
2. Ian Keith
3. Alison Palmer
4. Allan MacDougall

Amateur Strathspey & Reel

1. Allan MacDougall
2. Terry Lee
3. Gordon Lyle
4. Robert Menzies

Professional Piobaireachd

1. Byron Barnard
2. Hal Senyk
3. David Wilson

Professional Marches

1. James Troy
2. Steve Geddes
3. Hal Senyk

Professional Strathspey & Reel

1. Steve Geddes
2. John MacLeod
3. Hal Senyk

Professional Jigs

1. Steve Geddes
2. John A. MacLeod
3. Hal Senyk

Senior Quartettes

1. Vancouver Police
2. Northwest Pipes & Drums

Senior Miniature Bands

1. Triumph Street
2. Port Moody

Drumming

1. Triumph Street

Pipers, Over 60 Years Old

1. Duncan Watson
2. Harry Mumford

New Westminster Highland Games

The New Westminster Highland Games were held on June 8, 1974. The results were as follows:

Novice Class

1. Carolyn Paterson
2. Debbie Stephen
3. Leigh Shelley

Juvenile Marches

1. Valerie Pederson
2. Alan Wilson
3. Donny MacNeil

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel

1. Donny MacNeil
2. Valerie Pederson
3. Gregory Flavall

Junior Marches

1. James Wright
2. Robbie MacNeil
3. Jill Laurie

Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. Jill Laurie
2. Grant Wilkie
3. Graham Davidson

Junior Piobaireachd

1. Philip Gordon
2. James Wright
3. Ruth Tremaine

Amateur Marches

1. Allan MacDougall
2. Robert Menzies
3. Terry Lee

Amateur Strathspey & Reel

1. Terry Lee
2. Gordon Lyle
3. Allan MacDougall

Amateur Jigs

1. Gordon MacDonald
2. Allan MacDougall
3. Robert Menzies

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Terry Lee
2. Gordon Lyle
3. Robert Menzies

Professional Marches

1. David Wilson
2. John A. MacLeod
3. Hal Senyk

Professional Strathspey & Reel

1. David Wilson
2. John A. MacLeod
3. Jocelyn MacKenzie

Professional Jigs

1. Hal Senyk
2. John A. MacLeod
3. Jocelyn MacKenzie

Professional Piobaireachd

1. Hal Senyk
2. John A. MacLeod
3. David Wilson

Drumming Class "C"

1. Allison McCarlie
2. Danny McKillop
3. Terry Dalziel

Drumming Class "B"

1. Murray Munro
2. Scott Robertson

Professional Drumming

1. Keith Manifold
2. Willie McErlean
3. Katie Forsyth

Drum Corps

1. Vancouver Ladies Senior
2. Vancouver Ladies Junior

The Committee for the Sons of Scotland New Westminster Highland Games wish to thank all the members of the seven pipe bands who put on such a wonderful massed band display, both at the official opening and at the close of the Games, and for the excellent piping they treated the spectators to when they played as individual bands.

The Committee really appreciate the cooperation of all the band members, especially when the New Westminster Games had encountered so much opposition from the Western Pipe Band Association.

May we take the opportunity to wish all the competitors the best of luck for the rest of the season, and we will see you all next year at New Westminster.

Sons of Scotland,
New Westminster Highland
Games Committee

Donald Ross
Piping Chairman

NEXT MONTH

Lake Sequoia Piping School

Lake Sequoia, California, will this summer be the setting for the return to North America of the legendary John D. Burgess who, according to his latest album, is "King of the Highland Pipers".

It was in 1952 that young John at the tender age of 18 years electrified pipers in Canada and the United States with his dazzling performances, when he made a coast-to-coast tour with his teacher, Pipe-Major William Ross of Edinburgh Castle. Even then he was a veteran performer, having begun to play at the age of four and having won the two Gold Medals for piobaireachd at Oban and Inverness in 1950 when he was sixteen - the earliest age he could be allowed to compete.

From that memorable start he established all kinds of records in the piping world. Then for a time - with no more world to conquer - he stopped competing, and the piping contests in Scotland were not the same, lacking his brilliant playing. A few years ago, however, he came back and the king was on his throne once again.

It is difficult to say which facet of John Burgess's playing is most remarkable - the immense depth and beauty of his piobaireachd playing, the grace, rhythm and elegance of his marches, strathspeys and reels, or the sheer genius of his hornpipes and jigs. Perhaps the last is the most immediately appreciated - certainly no other piper in the world can, in the middle of his performance, evoke gasps and shouts from Scotlands' top, tough professionals.

John Burgess can do things with his fingers nobody else ever believed possible. This indeed may be his greatest contribution to piping, because while most listeners just stare unbelievably there are always a few young people in the audience who are inspired to go away and work hard in an effort to emulate his dexterity.

Many stories are told of his fantastic technique. Two will perhaps be sufficient to illustrate the point.

Quite a number of years ago now a contest was proposed to determine whether John Burgess or Peter MacLeod, newly returned from South Africa, had the faster and more accurate fingers. The arguments, with supporters on both sides, were

carried on for several weeks wherever pipers met. One such place was the tuning room of the Northern Meeting. Through this particular discussion John Burgess sat quite unconcerned, playing a jig on his practice chanter - left-handed. The contest never took place.

The second story is told ruefully by Seumas MacNeill. "At the Uist and Barra contest in Glasgow one year John Burgess won the jig, to a tremendous ovation. Being a competitor I did not hear his performance, but the following week at the College I was almost attacked by seven or eight enthusiastic teenagers demanding to be shown how John Burgess produced his strange effects on the top hand. "Birls with his thumb," one lad described the movement.

It took us two weeks to work out what he had been doing and a month's hard practice to achieve something approaching the correct sound. But we all improved as pipers in consequence."

John has been for several years now the full-time instructor of piping in the schools of Easter Ross-shire, teaching over a hundred pupils every week. By a strange coincidence his bailiewick includes Glenstrathfarrer, where Willie Ross was born and raised and learned his piping.

The school for pipers at Lake Sequoia, which runs from August 3rd to 17th, will also have John MacAskill (considered by many to be the heir apparent - or the rightful ruler depending on your degree of involvement). A writer in Scotland recently gave this opinion: "We may not all have the fingers of a Burgess or a MacAskill, but we can all become better pipers from hearing them, and from even attempting to raise our standards to theirs.

When these two get together in California the situation will be dynamite. Anything can happen. One thing is sure - this will be one of the most memorable summer schools of piping to be held anywhere, anytime.

Also on hand will be Seumas MacNeill, doyen of piping teachers, to organise the instruction and continue his work of raising the standard of playing - and of enjoyment in playing - for young and old alike throughout the piping world.

The school is being organised as in previous years by Dr. W. F. Casteen of 3921 Claremont Drive, Bakersfield, California 93306.

Seumas MacNeill

Glentruim School of Piping

Nelson's own Kootenay Kiltie Pipe Band Association and Notre Dame University of Nelson, co-sponsors of Glentruim Piping School, invite you to attend a two week school beginning Sunday, August 18th and finishing with the Highland Games and Tattoo on Saturday, August 31, 1974.

Our school this year will continue with P/M Donald MacLeod as Principal and P/M Edmond Esson, P/M Angus G. MacLeod, P/M William Thompson and Allan MacLeod on the instructional cadre.

The fee has increased to \$150.00 because, of course, the cost of food has increased and everyone will agree that John Watson of Notre Dame produces the finest meals available in these parts.

We are still catering for all pipers from beginners to the most promising experienced pipers. Because the school is now in its fourth year we have those that have progressed through all the phases.

Our principal establishes the policy and curriculum and the emphasis is on practical. Much use is made of tapes and students are encouraged to bring their own recorders.

We now have our own tune "Glentruim" also "Angus G. MacLeod". Both of these tunes appear in Pipe Major Donald MacLeod's latest book of compositions - Book #5.

We are hopeful that this book will be available at the school at cost to enrolled students who have not yet had the opportunity of obtaining a copy.

Thumbnail Sketches

P/M Donald MacLeod, P/M of the Imperial Seaforths for many years, eight times winner of the Gold Clasp at the Northern Meeting. Possibly the greatest piper, teacher and composer of modern times, yet a humble man who instills enthusiasm for the pipes into all those with whom he comes into contact.

P/M Edmond Esson M.B.E., P/M of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada for many years and a senior pipe major in the Canadian Army. Ed is an excellent instructor and a fine example for young pipers.

P/M Angus G. MacLeod. Like Donald, Angus is a native of the Hebrides, served with the 2nd Bn. Seaforths. Angus was taken prisoner at St. Valery and made his own chanter in prison camp. He kept up his piping. Angus came to Canada after the war and also served in the Canadian Seaforths and has instructed youngsters for the past ten to fifteen years. He lives on Salt Spring Island. Angus is very popular with the youngsters and a good administrator.

P/M William Thompson, served in the Imperial Army and took his piping training in Scotland. Has served as P/M of the Kootenay Kilties and the Trail Pipe Band. Bill continues a school in Nelson in the winter months. Bill is also an excellent example for youngsters and a great piper.

Allan MacLeod. Born and raised in the Nelson area whose father, Neil MacLeod, served as drum major of the Kootenay Kilties. Allan received his early instruction from P/M Kip Underwood, attended Glentruim two years as a pupil and last year was school supervisor. Allan has won many honors for his age and is one of the finest young pipers in Canada.

Pupils are asked to bring pipes, chanter, music, highland dress for morning parade and outings, sleeping bag, sheets and pillow, changes of underwear and socks.

Tape recorders are encouraged.

Fee - \$150.00 for full time pupils living in.

Fee - \$ 75.00 for day pupils.

Please mail your application to W. D. Sutherland, Box 269, Nelson, together with deposit of \$25.00. Mail early and avoid disappointment.

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The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band will be having a "Fall Dance" on September 21st at St. Francis de Sales School, Sperling & Balmoral. (One block north of the Gai Paree.)

Tickets are \$2.50 each and may be obtained from any of the band members or by phoning Mrs. Ramsay at 584-4398.

Dancing from 9-1 and BAR SERVICE ONLY. Refreshments.

Rules for the 1974-1975 Knockout Competitions

1. To consist of trios, playing a medley of their choice, lasting at least 5, but not more than 7 minutes.
2. Roster of trios to be in the hands of the Secretary by August 24th, 1974. Draw for order of play will be made at the August 28th Board of Directors meeting.
 - 1) Roster to include 4 names any three of which may play.
 - 2) A player's name can only appear on the roster of one (1) trio.
 - 3) No age limit for members of trios entered.
3. First competition on evening of first monthly General Meeting, October 4th, 1974, in the Lodge Room of the Scottish Auditorium, 12th and Fir, Vancouver, B.C.

Subsequent competitions will coincide with the monthly General Meetings thereafter, as:

November 1st, 1974
December 6th, 1974
January 17th, 1975
February 7th, 1975
March 7th, 1975
April 4th, 1975
May 2nd, 1975

4. Finals to be held at Annual Dinner, time and place to be announced.

First Prize - \$150.00
Second Prize - \$ 75.00
5. Return entries to Secretary at:

#1402 - 750 Jervis
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 2A9

Tel: 683-7808

Results of the draw will be sent to entrants in early September, 1974.

BAND CHATTER

The City of Victoria Pipe Band has just returned from the Inter-provincial Championships in Ottawa. The band placed second in the Inter-provincials and third in the open event. The band also took in the Embro games.

Who is the mystery piper at the Vancouver Whitecaps Games? Maybe he'd better put his pipes away. The team is in last place!

Quite a parade of "brass" at this year's Indoor. As well as the guest adjudicator, Iain McFadyen, Pipe-Majors Hardie, McLeod and Weatherstone were also in attendance.

The Newsletter would like to offer its congratulations on the launching of "Amazing Grace". On June 27th at 6:00 p.m. the sleek ship slid down the ways at Mosquito Creek Yacht Basin. As the proud skipper Tim Noot looked on the converted lifeboat slowly settled in the water.

This event culminated three years of hard work by Tim and fellow skipper Dave Boise. The boys are planning a shake-down cruise to California before plotting a course for the South Pacific. Best of luck!

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band also participated in the Inter-provincials. The girls placed second in the Grade II competition.

On behalf of the Association we welcome Jim Barry to Vancouver. We last saw Jim two years ago when he was a member of the Innes Tartan Pipe Band from New Zealand.

Katie Forsyth, leading drummer of the Vancouver Ladies, is currently enjoying a stint as a playing member of the Muirhead & Sons Pipe Band. We wish Katie the best of luck.

The City of Victoria Pipe Band captured first prize in the trio knock-out. The final, held during the Annual Dinner, was a close contest between the Police and Victoria.

B.C. Championships

On Saturday, August 10th, the Western Pipe Band Association will be sponsoring the 3rd Annual Championships at Queen's Park Stadium.

As well as the pipe band events there will be quartette, drum corps and drum-major competitions.

Bands will be required to play medley while quartettes will be faced with March, Strathspey and Reel.

Admission for spectators will be \$1.00 for adults, 50 cents for students, and O.A.P.'s and children are free.

The contest gets underway at 1:00 p.m. SHARP.

Following the day's competitions, a ceilidh will take place at Centennial Lodge in Queen's Park. Admission is \$3.50 each and bar service only. There will also be a light snack. Dancing 8:30 - 1:00 a.m.

* * * * *

FOR SALE

Male Hunting Stewart kilt and matching hose. \$60.00
Approx. 36" waist Hose 10-11 Call 942-0980

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Again we urge the Games' committees to forward their results to the Newsletter. They must be published in the Newsletter but we don't wish one issue to be devoted entirely to results. Please forward them as soon as possible after the Games. Thank you.

* * * * *

This was the year for indoor competitions - five in all. There appears to be a trend towards this type of contest. They are easier to organize, cheaper to run and, perhaps, more enjoyable for the competitors.

