

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

JUNE, 1964.

No. 51.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAGPIPE MUSIC

AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PIPE PLAYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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B. C. P I P E R S' N E W S L E T T E R

Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - JUNE 5th, 1964.

On Friday, June 5th, 1964, the last Bi-Monthly competitions of this season (1963-64) were conducted.

We were indeed fortunate to have the services of Pipe Major Donald MacKenzie, of Powell River, who judged the Novice class at the last minute, due to the unexpected absence of the scheduled judge. Robert Young was the judge of the other events.

The following persons were chosen as winners:

Novice Marches: (42 competitors)

1. John MacDonald
2. Bruce MacKeddie
3. Merrill Maddock
4. Donald Taylor
5. Pamela Sparkes
6. John MacLeod

Juvenile Jigs: (15 competitors)

1. Allen McNeil
2. Kelly Hagan
3. Donald MacMillan
4. David Irvine
5. Bob Lamont

Junior Marches: (5 competitors)

1. John MacLeod
2. Bruce Topp
3. Raymond Irvine

Amateur Old Highland Airs: (2 competitors)

1. Bill Elder

Senior Amateur Strathspeys & Reels: (1 competitor)

1. Bill Paterson

Now that the season is over, we would say that the entries this year were most gratifying. It was very pleasing to see that the enthusiasm of competitors did not significantly wain throughout the season, and it is our hope that next year the events will be still more successful.

In next month's Newsletter, we will announce the aggregate prize winners, and those who will be awarded the pins for participation in the Bi-Monthlies.

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GENERAL MEETING - MAY 29th, 1964.

Although it was announced in error in last month's Newsletter that the General Meeting would be held on May 31st, causing a little confusion, a fair attendance indicated that the members were not to be outwitted. The meeting was a short one, and following it the members went down to the Seaforth's Sergeants' Mess for a little ceilidh. A quartette from the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band, under Pipe Major Norma Nicholson, entertained the members with an interesting selection. It is hoped that as special guests we will be able to have members from various local pipe bands, from time to time.

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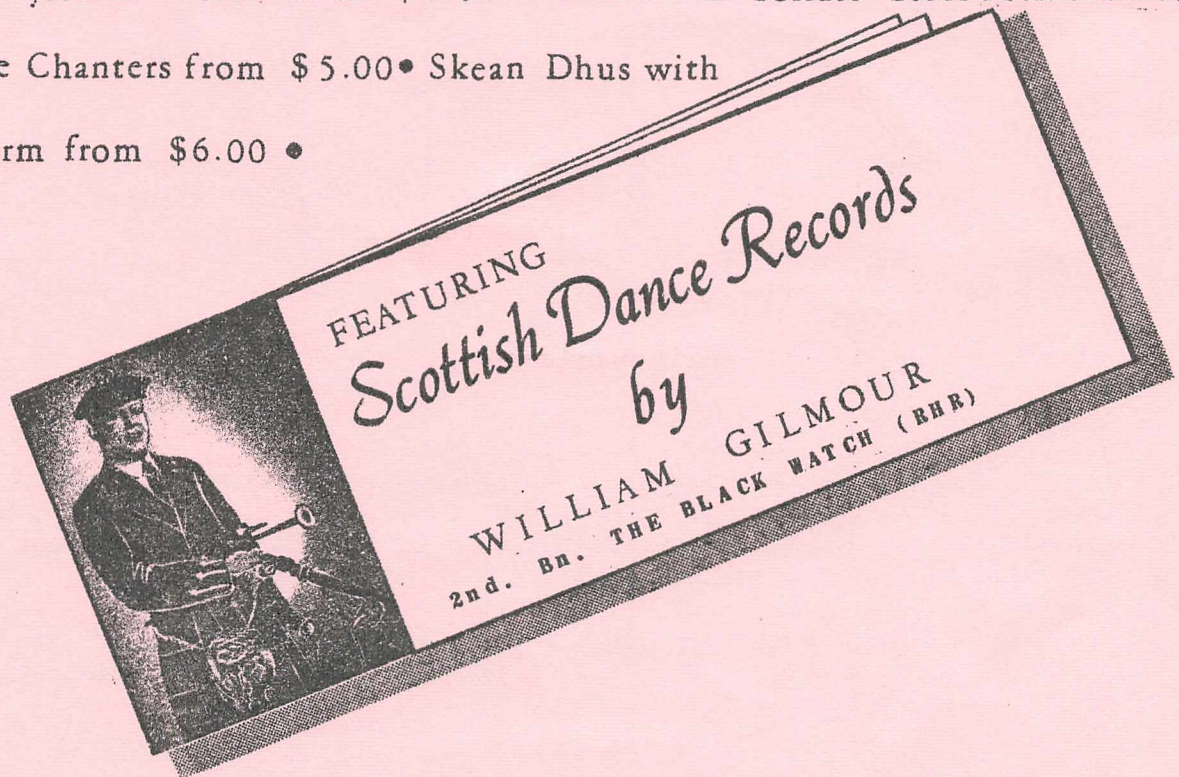
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RULES AND REGULATION OF B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION:

INDIVIDUAL PIPING:

PART 1:

- (a) Judges should have a thorough knowledge of and be conversant with all classes of Pipe Music. (Ceol Mor and Ceol Beag)
- (b) Individual competitions when practical should be adjudicated by three judges.

PART 2: Rules for guidance of Judges.

Points for individual piping will be allocated as follows:

Execution	30	Time	15
Expression	30	Deportment	5
Tone and Tuning	20	Total	100

The above headings will be defined as follows:

Section 1 - Execution - Clean fingering and the requisite number of grace notes correctly formed. (Overloading a tune with grace notes shall not be considered good playing). The weight of the tune played shall be given particular consideration under this heading, if, in the opinion of the judges, the execution is of a high standard, that is, a competitor playing a heavy tune WELL shall merit consideration over a competitor palying a simpler melody.

Section 2 - Expression - The interpretation of the melody, the phrasing of it, that is, having a melodious swing without semblance of jerkiness or over-accentuated beats. In piobaireachd, the competitor must give his interpretation of the spirit of the tune.

Section 3 - Tone and Tuning - The chanter shall be in perfect pitch and in complete unison with the drones. Pipes shall be judged for a full mellow tone, and a piper shall lose points under this heading if his pipes are thin and lifeless. Points to be deducted for the stopping of a drone, to be left to the discretion of the judges.

Section 4 - Time - In march playing, the time to be left to discretion of the judges. Steadiness of rhythm shall come under this heading. Time of strathspeys and reel playing to be left to the discretion of the competitor.

Section 5 - Deportment - (a) Neatness of wearing of the dress (actual value of the costume not to be considered)

(b) In competition, the posture should be an upright carriage and a natural swing in marching, and the instrument should be carried as if it were part of the performer.

PART 3:

Judges to be allowed a reasonable time at the end of each competition to compare notes before arriving at a decision. When the judges have come to a decision, the chairman will fill in a card with names or number of winning competitors, first, second, third respectively.

PART 4: Individual Competitions:

1. If a competing piper stops playing or "goes off his tune" for any reason whatsoever, it shall be considered as a breakdown and no second try shall be allowed.
2. Bandsmen competitions to be confined to bandsmen who are not entered in any other individual competitions that day.
3. Amateur competitions to be classified as Juvenile, Junior and Senior, none of which shall have any age restrictions.
4. Any competitor may choose to compete in a higher or more **senior** class but having done so would forfeit his right to again compete under his previous classification.
5. Ladies competing in ladies' class to be denied other events (with the exception of piobaireachd) on penalty of disqualification by the convenor of piping.
6. None.
7. 1st and 2nd Novice prize winners only, on day of competition, to be allowed to compete in amateur events.
8. First and second prize winners of annual competitions are disqualified from competing in further Novice events.

PIPE BAND RULES:

I CONSTITUTION OF PIPE BANDS:

1. A Pipe Band shall consist of a minimum of eight pipers, three side drummers, one bass drummer, and one tenor drummer.
2. In the event that the Pipe Major is unable to field the required number of pipers and drummers, the band will be penalized one twelfth (1/12) of total points obtained for each piper or drummer less than the minimum. This deduction will be made by the Chief Steward, and not by the judges.

3. "C" Class bands may compete without the required number of pipers and drummers without penalization.
4. No piper or drummer will be allowed to compete in more than one band in one day. An infraction of this rule will result in the disqualification of both bands involved.
5. Every member of a competing band must be a bona-fide member of this band, and have been such for at least 14 days previous to the date of the competition.

II CLASSIFICATION OF PIPE BANDS:

1. Pipe Bands will be classified as "A" Class, "B" Class and "C" Class Bands.
2. "A" Class Bands will consist of:
 - (a) those bands which choose to compete as "A" Class bands, and
 - (b) those bands which have place 1st or 2nd in an "A" Class band competition at any Games held within the auspices of the Pacific International Highland Games Association within a two year period prior to the current competition, except as provided in ss. 5 herein.
3. "B" Class Bands will consist of:
 - (a) those bands which choose to compete as "B" Class Bands, other than those as defined in ss. 2 above.
4. "C" Class Bands will consist of:
 - (a) those bands which are composed entirely of pipers and drummers 18 years of age and under on January 1st of the year of the current competition.
5. The 1st place "B" Class Band may compete in "A" Class, and unless it places 1st in the "A" Class competition, it may return to "B" Class at subsequent games.
6. Bands which are composed entirely of pipers and drummers 18 years of age and under may compete in "A" or "B" Class competitions, provided that they will not be permitted to return to a lower class during the year of the competition.

III JUDGING OF PIPE BAND COMPETITIONS:

1. A minimum of five judges will be required to judge all Pipe Band competitions. A minimum of three will judge piping; one will judge drumming; one will judge marching and deportment.

2. Points for Pipe Band competitions will be allocated as follows:

Piping	Drumming	Marching & Deportment	Total
70	25	5	100

3. The following breakdown of points will be used by the piping judges:

Attack	Tone	Break	Execution	Time	Total
5	10	10	30	15	70

These headings are explained as follows:

- (a) Attack: simultaneous start, avoidance of double tones, hitching of the bag or interfering with drones;
- (b) Break: change from March to Strathspey, Strathspey to Reel, and finish;
- (c) Tone: pitch, clarity of tone, and harmony of chanter and drones;
- (d) Execution: unisonant playing of melody, clean fingering and playing correctly the requisite number of grace notes;
- (e) Time: steadiness of rhythm, and appropriateness of tempo to tune played;

4. The following breakdown of points will be used by the drumming judge:

Tone	Rhythm	Execution	Quality of Beats	Time	Total
10	15	40	20	15	100

These headings are explained as follows:

- (a) Tone: pitch and harmony of side, tenor and bass drums;
- (b) Rhythm: accented measured beat, balance and swing;
- (c) Execution: technique, stick drill, rudiments and sticking of both hands, flourish of tenor and bass drummers;
- (d) Quality of beats; simplicity or difficulty of execution.
- (e) Time: breaks, adherence to metronomic number of beats per minute;

5. The following breakdown of points will be used by the judge of marching and deportment:

Neatness & Cleanliness	Dressing on the March	Circle	Deportment	Total
10	20	10	10	50

6. Total points will be computed by the Stewards as follows:
 - (a) The total of the piping points of each piping judge will be divided by the number of piping judges, the resulting figure being out of 70 points;
 - (b) The points of the drumming judge will be divided by four, the resulting figure being out of 25 points;
 - (c) The points of the judge of marching and deportment will be divided by 10, the resulting figure being out of 5 points;
 - (d) The total band points will be the total of the figures obtained in (a), (b) and (c) above.
7. No judge shall approach within six (6) feet of a band while in competition.
8. In the event of a tie, the bands with the tied points will play again to break the tie.
9. During the performance of any band, the judges will not be allowed to converse with one another or compare notes, until their results have been given to the stewards.

IV GENERAL RULES:

1. Any band not prepared to play five minutes after the completion of the performance of the previous band, shall have 5 points deducted from its total score. This deduction will be made by the Chief Steward, and will not be made known to the judges.
2. The Pipe Bands shall not be required to countermarch before forming the circle.
3. The Pipe Bands shall not be required to play the March, Strathspey and Reel twice over.
4. The local Games Committee will make available, at the request of the Pipe Major, the individual point sheets for the bands in his class, immediately following the Massed Band.

Extra copies of these rules can be obtained by contacting the Secretary.

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ANCIENT PIPES IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:

I don't know whether or not the following item would be of interest to the readers of the Newsletter, but I thought I would send it along for your consideration.

"There is on Prince Edward Island a set of Pipes which were played at Culloden. They are owned by a descendant of the MacGlasrich family. The MacGlasriches are descendants of a race of pipers who belonged to a Sept of the MacIver Campbells, and who came from the Parish of Glassary. These MacIvers migrated to Lochaber where they became hereditary pipers to the MacDonnells of Keppoch. They assumed the name MacGlasrich in allusion to the district whence they hailed.

The last of these hereditary pipers played at Culloden, and shortly afterwards the family emigrated to Prince Edward Island, and the set of pipes which was played at Culloden is still in the possession of one of their descendants.

There is a district in Prince Edward Island named Keppoch; it lies just east of the entrance to Charlottetown Harbour, and apparently was first settled by MacDonnells".

I hope this will be of use to you in your Editorial labours.

- D.R. MacDougall -

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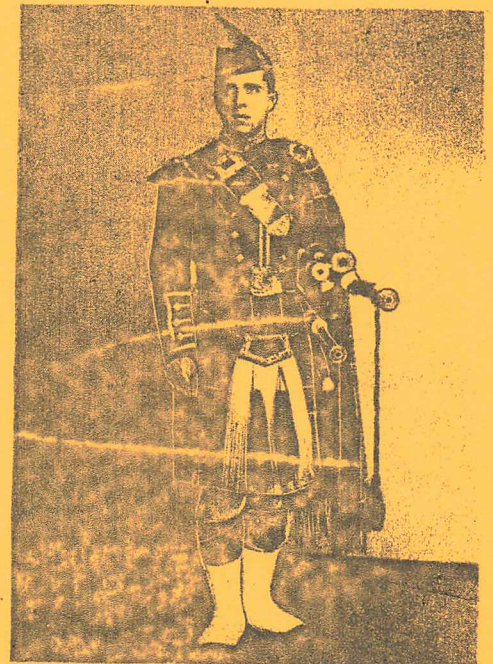
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SWORD OF JASPER PIPING RESULTS: MAY 16th, 1964.

The following are the piping results of the "Sword of Jasper" Games, held by the Alberta Highland Dancing Association on May 16th, at Jasper National Park.

The piping events were judged by Pipe Major Jim Stout, of Edmonton, Alberta.

March under 14:

1. Robert Heggie, Edmonton,
2. Patrick MacIntyre, Edmonton
2. Randall Stokoe, Calgary

Strathspey and Reel under 14:

1. Robert Heggie
2. Randall Stokoe
3. Ron LaPlace, Calgary

March under 16:

1. Margaret Whitley, Calgary
2. Hugh McQuiston, Calgary

Strathspey and Reel under 16:

1. Hugh McQuiston
2. Brian Dickie, Edmonton

March under 19:

1. Jim Lyons, Edmonton

Strathspey and Reel under 19:

1. Edmond Chilton, Edmonton

Slow March Open Under 19:

1. Alvin Johnston, Edmonton
2. Robert Heggie
3. Edmond Chilton

Aggregate Cups:

- Under 14 - Robert Heggie
- Under 16 - Margaret Whitley
- Under 19 - Edmond Chilton

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We were recently sent a copy of a quarterly magazine "The Highlander" published by the Pipes and Drums of The Highlanders of Oklahoma City. This professionally produced magazine, in its second year of publication, reports news of interest to pipers, band members, dancers, and Scottish enthusiasts, from throughout the United States. The issue we read contained much material of value and interest. If any of our readers are interested in seeing "The Highlander", an annual subscription costs \$2.00, and the address is:

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THE C.W.A.C. PIPE BAND:

Early in 1942, piping history was made in British Columbia, when something was added to the Canadian Army a Ladies' Military Pipe Band, also historically the first Women's Military Pipe Band in the British Empire. When orders came through from Ottawa, the Canadian Women's Army Corps Pipe Band became officially organized, in the Old Hotel Vancouver Barracks, Vancouver, B.C.

Stationed in this Depot as a stenographer was a girl with a dream in her heart, a well-known Vancouver Island piper, Sgt. Lillian Grant, and to her also came the official word to start recruiting for other pipers now, and organize a Pipe Band for the C.W.A.C.

Up on the roof of the Hotel Vancouver Barracks, Lillian had already taken her pipes and played for joy when she received the news of her commission. Now she started teaching for love, and training a handful of Army girls in the first lessons of piping, and some for drumming, while waiting for experienced players to join. This was the beginning of the Band's training, in these practise quarters of their own on the Barracks roof-top. Everyone was happy. Hours of earnest practise began to show good results. And the C.W.A.C. waited for the day when they would be much happier route marching behind their very own Pipe Band.

While I was contemplating which service to join, and what I could do, the call for pipers appeared in a news item in the local paper. That was enough. I hugged my pipes and said, "That's for us!", and went off to see Sgt. Grant in her little Army Recruiting booth. Once inspired, nothing could stop me, and after a talk with Lillian I set about enlisting in the Army. Recruiting was slow in this field because not many pipers could take this step. The next day I went to the Band quarters to meet the girls with Lillian, taking my chanter with me. I played and passed an audition, then went on to the enlistment offices.

By the time I was able to get enlisted and join them, they had reached a good start of six pipers and four drummers, a proud little Band with a list of tunes ready and memorized. Then orders arrived for them to leave for Ottawa, and expand to full strength by gathering new members while travelling through the Dominion on C.W.A.C. Recruiting duty. So the very day I became enlisted was the day they left ... without me. I was to be sent on to join them later. The days were busy for me now as I went through the routine of getting completely outfitted, billeted, and educated, while waiting for my orders. Time went by, and we corresponded. The girls had settled down now in Ottawa, our official Headquarters, as Lillian wrote, with all the news and these magic words ... "We had eleven sets of brand new pipes issued to us the other day, so I have put away a set for you". She gave me several tunes to practise up on while waiting, including a new March called "Queen Elizabeth", "which is going to be our March Past". Every afternoon they were playing now with the Cameron Highlanders in their Barracks.

The day came at last for me to leave for Ottawa, and I finally arrived at Glebe Barracks and was soon settled into a happy routine with the Band ... chanter practise in the morning, then a 20 minute walk after lunch to Lansdowne Barracks, Headquarters of the Cameron Highlanders, for Pipe practise. We had the grounds to ourselves, and pleasant hours to work in our own private piping practise. Although I had my own pipes too, we were not allowed to use them, and could only use Army issue. I had taken my practise chanter with me though, and was able to use it. So it has travelled over Canada with me twice.

Spring had come to Ottawa and nostalgic memory takes over here as I describe those weeks, because getting out in the early morning and afternoon sunshine every day for regular practise is something civilian pipers just don't do. Route marching, parades, Band practise mornings in that May sun and air could actually be pleasant, we found, and with pipes and drums who could stay weary?

The other side of our training included routine study and exams, etc., carried out at Lansdowne Barracks. It was there we stumbled through the gas huts, for practical experience in the different gases we had to learn about. For this was our Basic Training course, specially arranged so we could take it in Ottawa. Life was busy. And with it all, four flights of stairs to fly up and down every day, and under our own power .. no elevator here like the "service" in Vancouver Barracks. Our fourth floor quarters at Glebe were really something to reckon with, and sharpen up the wits... if you forgot something and woke up four flights down, there was nothing to do but fly up again. But with all this, plus drills, marches, classes and exams, these early days were special days to look back on later with tender feeling, because the worst was yet to come. We knew nothing yet, and less of the road-work ahead of us. We were still the "tenderfoots".

For now came the summer day we were ready to start out touring, a brave little Pipe Band of fourteen members, hoping to find more pipers on our tour interested in joining us. Lillian was now Pipe Major Lillian Grant, the first woman Military Pipe Major in the British Empire, and in Military history. From Ottawa as our Home Base, we set out by bus to tour through Lower Ontario on C.W.A.C. recruiting. Trips varying in length to several days were all scheduled ahead, billets arranged wherever available, often in homes.

The sunshine was not gentle now, just HOT. We loved our work but in time we began to feel the strain of over-work, the hot, hot uniforms, fatigue, and marching-feet-blues, and then we thought longingly of Ottawa and our homey quarters, with its four-story climb. The weary spells that seemed long when we were not playing were rough, with shoes rubbing in all the wrong pavements, and the still warm air with not a breeze in sight. And then the drum-beat would shatter the bad moments and feet would start itching... to march again anywhere, to the pipes. For we had our music... and we could pull ourselves up, by the heart-beats in it. Those were the tough days, but we took the bad with the good and carried on, for in time we realized a very important thing .. this was a necessary training and

good for us, if we were going to do those long cross-county tours, and then overseas. We were getting toughened up. By the time we were ready for the big Dominion tour we were much wiser, tougher, and prepared for it. On my pipe case I had pasted a smart post-card I came across, picturing a Scottie dog blowing up bagpipes, with these words "Hitler Has Naething To Blaw About ---- But We Have!" I was using this as my pipe case identification card, with name and regimental number. He never got tired, and always drew smiles.

Various news accounts I collected can take up the story now in many places, and the following item is from the Toronto paper at the start of the Ontario tour:

"C.W.A.C. Recruiting up 100 per cent.
Girls' Pipe Band Stirs Interest, Admiration.

Busiest band in the land these days is the C.W.A.C. pipe contingent from Ottawa, which played at St. Catharines and Welland yesterday, is booked for Brantford and Brampton this afternoon and Toronto Eaton Auditorium tonight. The 14-piece band will play at Hamilton Saturday afternoon, an Oshawa church parade Sunday morning and a Sunnyside Community Sing Sunday night. Tonight's parade at Eaton's will be in the charge of Capt. Phyllis Arnoldi and Sunday night's Sunnyside parade will be handled by Capt. Agnes Forster. Whether it is the presence of the band in this military district, the newly announced raise in pay for C.W.A.C.'s or the Sicilian action, or a combination of all three, recruiting has "more than doubled" in the last week, army officials have announced."

We stayed in Toronto a few days, and here is another news account of our busy days. And again we made history, leading all Toronto companies in Church Parade.

"Women Pipers Give Concerts:

Fourteen pipers forming the Canadian Women's Army Corps pipe band were heard in two concerts today - at noon in front of the City Hall and this afternoon at Centre Island. Controller Lewis Duncan welcomed the detachment of girls who had been stationed at Ottawa when they arrived at the City Hall. The pipers played at the central recruiting booth and later presented a concert at the island. All Toronto companies will take part in the evening church parade led by the pipers on Sunday from Devonshire Place to St. Paul's Church, Bloor Street."

- Cathrine Paterson -

(to be continued)



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PROFILE ON PIPE MAJOR JOHN MacLELLAN: (from Oban Times, May 21, 1964)
(from the "Glasgow Letter")

Although I go to the Capital this week for my subject for introduction let me say at the outset that he is just as well-known in Glasgow as he is elsewhere in Scotland and I refer to none other than Pipe Major John MacLellan, who is in charge of the Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle.

Reared in the glens of Glenmoriston and Fort Augustus, John MacLellan was first introduced to the music of his beloved pipes at the age of seven by his father, a Ross-shire man, and no mean piper himself.

Graduating from the nursery stage he attended the famous Willie Ross classes and in 1936 at the age of 15 joined the 1st Camerons where a further course at the hands of Pipe Major Iain MacLean, a native of Mull, added considerably to his dexterity.

It was no surprise to pipers of note that at the age of 20 years John MacLellan was appointed Pipe Major of the 9th Seaforths with whom he served in various campaigns.

At the end of hostilities, Pipe Major MacLellan was not altogether satisfied that he had gleaned all that was to be known about the art of piping and took further tuition under those great masters Mr. Willie Ross and Mr. John Macdonald. It was only then that he started competing regularly in open professional events and within a short space of time made his mark as a master himself.

During service in the early fifties with the 1st Seaforths which he joined at this time, he served in Malaya, Germany, Egypt, Aden and Gibraltar and was appointed Regimental Sergeant-Major of his regiment. During this time also, with Seumas MacNeill and James L. MacKenzie, he did a six week piping tour of Canada, although the tour entailed a great deal of hard work it was interesting and enlightening in that they met and had discussions with many fine pipers in that country.

Appointed to the Army School of Piping as successor to Willie Ross, John has found scope for his great piping talent and feels this work is the most satisfying he has ever done. The pupils vary in standard but it gives him great satisfaction to hear his efforts coming through them with success. The school is now able to give much guidance to the units and successful endeavours are made to help all aspects of piping. In 1963 he was accorded the M.B.E. for his services in this direction.

Pipe Major John MacLellan's personal record as a piper is one to be envied for part from winning all the major awards at Oban and Inverness, including the gold medals for the open piobaireachd competitions at both these great events, he has on various occasions won the "Oban Times" gold medal, the Bratach Gorm, the Dunvegan Medal and the James Johnston Trophy.

A true Highlander, he went to the far north to Rogart in Sutherland for his wife, Christine Murray, whom he married in 1946 and I would not be at all surprized if his daughter Kirsteen and son Colin are being acquainted with the intricacies of the Ceol Mor.

May I wish the Pipe Major a fair crossing to Skye this week end where he will participate in the Skye Week celebrations.

SUMMER GAMES SCHEDULE:

	D.C. Highland Dancing West Vancouver	July 1st
*	Nanaimo	July 11th
	Edmonton	July 11th
	New Westminster	July 18th
*	Victoria	July 25th
	Vancouver	August 1st
*	Seattle	August 8th
*	Portland	August 15th
	San Francisco	Sept. 1st
	Nelson	Sept. 1st

All details concerning names and address of Games Secretaries of the various games can be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Georgina MacPhail, Ste. 304, 2110 West 38th Ave., (263-4297)

* - members of the Pacific International Highland Games Association.

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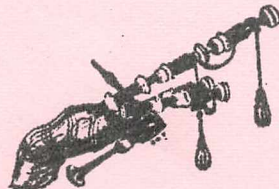
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SCOTLAND

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SOUND THE PIBROCH - NOT IN MULL: MUSIC DID NOT CHARM THE TOURISTS.
(from The Oban Times, April 30, 1964)

The Mull-hotelier Mr. William Evans - an Englishman - who claimed that a School of Piping next door would not be to the liking of his guests has certainly set the heather on fire. The publication of his views in last week's Oban Times was widely copied by the national press and many criticisms were voiced by patrons of the piobaireachd on his suggestion that such a school was detrimental to the business of the town.

Mr. Evans said he was not accepting bookings for his guest house, Strongarbh, for the duration of the school (July) and considered that if aspiring pipers wanted to practise they should "go into the hills".

Now Mr. Evans returns to the "fray" with the following letter to the Editor of the Oban Times:-

"I would like to take the opportunity through your paper to answer some of the comments made at the last meeting of the Tobermory Town Council.

Firstly, it is reported that the Provost deplores that the loss of revenue to Tobermory, through the cancellation of the visit of the School of Piping is about 1,000 pounds. He as a hotelier Provost should know better than anybody that the loss through the closure of my Guest House would have been more than double that figure. In addition, some six local people would have lost their employment for a month.

Secondly, Councillor F. McLean stated that this visit should be encouraged to give the local youth an opportunity to learn "the pipes". She should also know that on the last visit not one person in the whole of Mull enrolled at the school. So much for the stimulating effect on our youth.

Thirdly, any keen student of bagpipes knows that "it is much older than the Scottish nation" However I concede that the instrument is now accepted as a national one. By the same token porridge is a national dish but I cannot imagine even Baillie Henderson, with or without claymore, eating it for breakfast, lunch, tea and supper.

Lost of all I would like to say to all the supporters of this visit that if the music to be provided was to be so melodious and popular and the economic effect so beneficial why did not the Council invite the School in the first place and also ask them to do their playing in the Main Street so that the maximum number of inhabitants and visitors could have enjoyed this musical feast."

Footnote. - The proposed visit of the School to Mull has been abandoned. Instead the venue will be in Skye, birthplace of the MacCrimmons.

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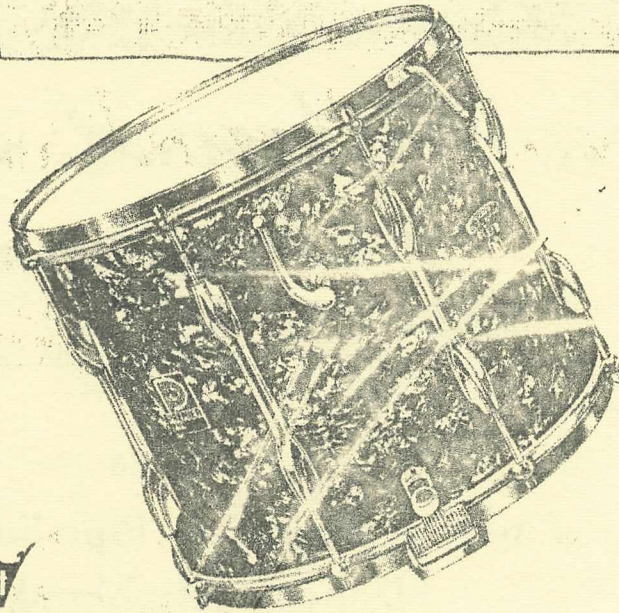
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FINDING THE PIPER WITH THE MOST AUDIENCE APPEAL: (from Oban Times, May 28th)
(Glasgow Letter)

Two of the most prominent pipers in the city at this moment are Pipe Major Donald MacLeod and Piper Duncan Johnston who this Saturday (May 30) will play off for the final of the knock-out competition organised by the Scottish Pipers' Association to decide, shall I say, the piper who gives the most pleasure to this audience.

In the process let me remind you that some of Scotland's leading exponents of the art have participated and true sportsmanship has been a feature of the competition throughout. To the finalists then. -

May I introduce.... Pipe Major Donald MacLeod and Piper Duncan Johnston.

A Lewisman, Pipe Major MacLeod in the last 30 years has won and re-won all the main piping awards from London to Inverness. Donald does not even remember when he first started to play the chanter. He thinks it might have been before he attempted to walk. It was little wonder then that when he joined the Second Seaforths 27 years ago he took advantage of putting the finishing touches to this noble art which he started at his father's knee.

A leading pupil of Willie Ross and of John McDonald, two of the foremost tutors of their day, Mr. MacLeod was a natural choice to become pipe major of the regimental pipe band and in this capacity served all over the world. Two years ago he retired from the army and now acts as manager for Grainger and Campbell, the well-known Glasgow bagpipe makers and Highland outfitters.

Honorary piper to the Highland Club and a prolific composer, Pipe Major MacLeod maintains that although the standard of playing is not any higher than it was in years gone by, yet there is a much greater number of first class pipers involved with competition piping today than ever before.

His adversary in the final is Piper Duncan Johnston who, although a descendant of the famous South Uist pipers and a leading contender on many occasions, has no claim to great achievement in the competitive field. Yet he has jiggled his way through this competition to the delight of many large audiences.

Duncan received his preliminary tuition from the late Angus Campbell, City of Glasgow Police, and pays tribute to Pipe Major Donald MacLean, also from Lewis, for the knowledge he imparted to him at a later stage. He benefitted considerably from his various appearances at Highland Games all over the north.

A gunner in the Navy during the last war, he saw much service in the Near and Middle East waters, but that period did not offer much spare time for practice. Today he is employed as a foreman joiner with the Clan Line Shipping Company in the city, which gives him ample opportunity to attend the meetings of the Pipers' Association. He applauds the fact that today new pipers, especially in the City of Glasgow, are encouraged in every way possible to further their art.

JOHNSTON BEATS MACLEOD IN PIPING KNOCK-OUT: (from Oban Times, June 4th)
(Glasgow Letter)

A veritable feast of piping - a well known cliché I know, but the only one to describe what transpired at the final of the knock-out competition organised by the Scottish Pipers' Association in the Institute last Saturday.

The interest aroused was manifest in a packed house and the fact that a number of bandsmen had scampered from the championships at Renfrew before the results were announced, just to be in at the kill. An air of anticipation and excitement permeated the hall, all eager to see the "mighty atom" of piping, the well known Pipe Major Donald MacLeod, slay the little known, but quite unperturbed Duncan Johnston.

I said before that Duncan jiggled his way into the final and he did likewise in the final to become the first holder of a magnificent new trophy presented by Seumas MacNeill, editor of the Piping Times. As runner up and semi-finalists, Pipe Majors Donald MacLeod and James MacGregor were in turn presented with silver tankards worthy of the occasion. The trophies were presented by Mrs. MacNeill, wife of the donor.

This competition started as a gimmick, but developed into a serious and well worthwhile affair which aroused the interest of not only professionals but of many lay persons who know little about the technicalities of the art.

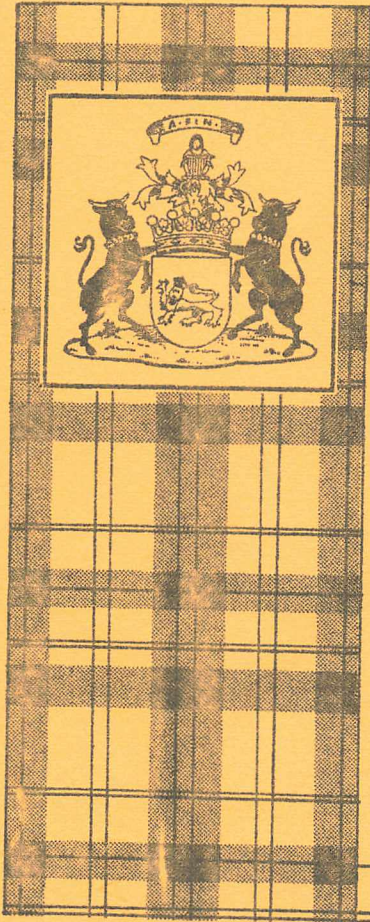
The president, Mr. John MacFadyen, in his remarks, said the committee hope to extend the number of competitors in the next session to 24 and will make every effort to attract the cream of Scottish pipers.

Sheriff Stewart Bell, president of the Highland Club, in his capacity as chairman paid tribute to the players for placing their reputations in the hands of amateur judges and acclaimed the sportsmanship displayed throughout the competition. Their co-operation, he said, had done a great service to piping interests in the Southern region.

Pipe Major Robert Reid accorded votes of thanks to all those who helped to make the evening a success.

A high compliment was paid to Pipe Major James MacGregor when he was presented with an exquisite silver medal, the origin of which was somewhat obscure, but which is known to have been won by one Corporal G. MacGregor at the Aberdeen Games in 1877. This medal became the property of Pipe Major Hector MacLean many years ago and he wished Pipe Major MacGregor to have possession of it, being the most illustrious MacGregor piper known to him. Mr. MacGregor, who earlier in the evening on behalf of the competitors, had acknowledged the honour the S.P.A. had done them in inviting them to take part in the competition, accepted the gift.

Let me also name others who entertained before and after the competition. They were Hector MacFadyen (Pennyghael), Pipe Major James MacGregor, Donald Lindsay, Malcolm Moss and James Jackson. The association now look forward to their annual ceillidh this Saturday at the same venue.



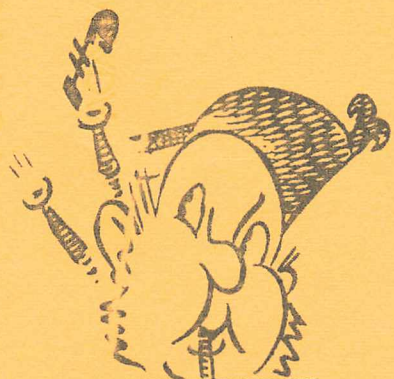
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