

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



*Piper of the
Month*

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

JUNE 1970 NO. 103

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT	WILLIAM LAMONT
VICE PRESIDENT	WILLIAM ELDER
SECRETARY	ISHABEL ROSS
TREASURER	ROBERT GUNN

B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

EDITORS:	Robert Gunn
	William Elder

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NEW WESTMINSTER GAMES

The first major Summer Games were held in New Westminster on June 13th. The weather proved to be perfect for the competition and the Games' Committee are to be congratulated for their efficient organization and running of the event. The piping and pipe band results for the day were as follows:

NOVICE MARCHES

1. Janice York
2. Stuart A. Reid
3. Douglas Somerville
4. Teresa Collister

Glamis Camp Trophy - Janice York

JUVENILE MARCHES

1. Allan MacDougall
2. Cindy K. Chambers
3. Ian Keith

JUVENILE STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. Cindy K. Chambers
2. John R. McBride
3. Darrell Petersen

The Camille Mather Trophy - Cindy K. Chambers

JUNIOR STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. Hazel Ramsay
2. Angus MacPherson
3. Rene P. F. Cusson

JUNIOR PIOBAIREACHD

1. Terry Lee
2. Hazel Ramsay
3. Mike Bain

The Alex. Murray Trophy - Hazel Ramsay

JUNIOR MARCHES

1. Jack Lee
2. Angus MacPherson
3. Terry Lee

AMATEUR PIOBAIREACHD

1. Bill Russell
2. Bill MacAulay
3. John Wright
4. Glen Palmer

AMATEUR MARCHES

1. Bill MacAulay
2. Heather MacInnes
3. John F. MacDonald
4. Heather Abel

AMATEUR STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. Bill MacAulay
2. Bill Russell
3. Robert Manzies
4. John F. MacDonald

AMATEUR JIGS

1. Bill MacAulay
2. Bill Russell
3. John F. MacDonald
4. Robert Menzies

The Barry Trophy - Bill MacAulay

PROFESSIONAL PIOBAIREACHD

1. John A. MacLeod
2. David Wilson
3. Bob Leslie

PROFESSIONAL MARCHES

1. Bruce Topp
2. David Wilson
3. Bob Leslie
4. Robert MacDonald

PROFESSIONAL STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. John A. MacLeod
2. Robert MacDonald
3. Donald MacInnes

PROFESSIONAL JIGS

1. Bruce Topp
2. David Wilson
3. John A. MacLeod

The Donald Stewart Ross Trophy - John A. MacLeod

INDIVIDUAL DRUMMING CLASS 'C'

1. Ian Hunter
2. Mike Palmer
3. Barbara Donaldson
4. Sheila Roane

INDIVIDUAL DRUMMING CLASS 'B'

1. David Dickens
2. Katie Forsyth

DRUM CORP.

1. Seaforth Cadets - The Milne Trophy

PIPE BANDS CLASS 'C'

1. The Vancouver Kiwanis Pipe Band - The Sons of Scotland District 16 Trophy
2. Burnaby Ladies

PIPE BANDS CLASS 'D'

1. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 15 Matsqui - The Bollman Roofing & Sheet Metal Trophy
2. Royal Canadian Legion No. 88

PIPE BANDS CLASS 'B'

1. City of Port Moody Pipe Band - The McCrae Trophy
2. Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band

BLACK WATCH SAYS FAREWELL

The 1st and 2nd Battalions, the Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, laid up their colors Sunday in the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul as pipes and drums played the regiment's slow march down the aisle.

Soldiers, veterans and cadets stood silent, some with tears in their eyes, while the two battalions passed to what the department of national defence calls the Supplementary Order of Battle.

They no longer exist -- except on paper.

Col. J. G. Bourne told the overflowing church audience, "The regiment suffered a severe blow when it was told the two regular force battalions were to be disbanded."

But, he said, the regiment will "live on" through its militia battalion, the 3rd Battalion, at the Bleury Street armory in Montreal.

Outside, hundreds of Montrealers and tourists had watched the kilted Black Watch

knock on the door for permission to enter the church.

At the church, flowers were presented in memory of Lt. Col. Stuart Cantlie, a commander of the 1st Battalion, during the Second World War.

After the laying-up of the colors, the battalions paraded east on Sherbrooke past a saluting base.

The Black Watch originated in 1725 when six independent companies of clansmen were organized as a police force to help the British keep order in the Highlands.

A new tartan was designed to avoid jealousy within the clans comprising the force. It used the common colors, dark green, dark blue, and black.

Most of the members of the 1st and 2nd battalions will now become the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, to be based at Gagetown, N. B.

- The Vancouver Sun
June 15th, 1970

GUIDE TO THE GAMES

- INVERARAY - Tuesday, July 21st, beginning 10 A.M.
Entries by June 30th to M.P. Fisher, Royal Bank of
Scotland, Ltd., Inveraray.
- SOUTH UIST - Tuesday, July 21st, beginning 9:30 A.M.
Entries to D. MacMillan, Secretary, Schoolhouse, Garry-
namonie, Lochboisdale, Isle of South Uist.
- LUSS - Wednesday, July 22nd, beginning 11:30 A.M.
Entries by 11th July to Roderick M. MacLeod, 55 Robert Burns Avenue,
Clydebank.
- MULL - Thursday, July 23rd, beginning 11:30 A.M.
Entries by July 17th to Lorn M. MacIntyre, Hon. Secretary, Bank
House, Tobermory.
- ARISAIG - Wednesday, July 29th, beginning 12 noon.
Entries to A. MacEachern, Seaview, Arisaig.
- MALLAIG - Monday, August 3rd, beginning 12 noon.
- DORNOCH - Friday, August 7th, beginning 10:30 A.M.
Entries to T.A. Grant, Hon. Secy., Dornoch Highland Gathering,
Dornoch.
- STRATHPEFFER - Saturday, August 8th, beginning 10:30 A.M.
Entries by August 1st to K.A. MacMaster, Strathpeffer.
- LOCHEARNHEAD - Saturday, August 8th, beginning 1 P.M.

- NAIRN - Saturday, August 15th, beginning 11 A.M.
Entries by August 6th to Mrs. M. Morrison, 7 Dunbar Avenue, Nairn.
- CRIEFF - Saturday, August 15th.
- GLENFINNAN - Saturday, August 15th, beginning 11:30 A.M.
Entries by August 11th to R. MacKellaig, Secretary,
Glenfinnan.
- BALLATER - Thursday, August 20th, beginning 1 P.M.
Entries to I.E. Cruickshank, Deebank Road, Ballater.
- LONACH - Saturday, August 22nd, beginning 9:30 A.M.
Entries to G.C. McIntosh, Secretary, Post Office, Strathdon,
Aberdeenshire.
- STRATHARDLE - Saturday, August 22nd, beginning 1:45 P.M.
Entries to Capt. S.N. Anderson, Straloch, by Blairgowrie,
Perthshire.
- ARGYLLSHIRE GATHERING, OBAN - Wednesday, August 26th, beginning 9:30 A.M.
- COWAL, Friday, August 28th, beginning 10 A.M.
Entries by August 16th, to the Joint Secretaries, 29 Ferry Brae,
Dunoon, Argyll.
- INVERGORDON - Saturday, August 29th, beginning 10:30 A.M.
Entries by August 7th to R. Jackson, Municipal Chambers,
Invergordon.
- BIRNAM - Saturday, August 29th, beginning 1 P.M.
Entries to John Bruce, Secretary, Balgownie House, Birnam,
Dunkeld, Perthshire.
- ABOYNE - Wednesday, September 2nd, beginning 9:45 A.M.
Entries by August 24th to Alfred G.A. Grigor, Secretary,
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB3 5HT.
- BRAEMAR.- Saturday, September 5th, beginning 10 A.M.
Entries by August 23rd to J.N. Miller, Secretary, Braemar,
Aberdeenshire.
- PITLOCHRY - Saturday, September 12th, beginning 11:30 A.M.
Entries to John Campbell, Secretary, Heathbank, Pitlochry,
Perthshire, or on the field before 1:30 P.M.
- THE NORTHERN MEETING, INVERNESS - Thursday, September 17th and Friday,
September 18th.
Entries by September 4th to Secretary,
8 Ardross Terrace, Inverness.

FINAL GENERAL MEETING AND KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

At the beginning of this year the Directors of the B.C. Pipers' Association decided to encourage professional piping by sponsoring a Knock-out competition to be held at each of our General Meetings. The idea was also to encourage a more satisfactory attendance by our members at these meetings. The plan has been a tremendous success.

By moving the location of the General Meetings from the Seaforth Armoury to the Steelworkers Hall on East Broadway the opportunity to have bar facilities presented itself and we must credit this added attraction with a certain percentage of our attendance increase. The Steelworkers Hall is also excellent for piping. The acoustics seem ideally suited to pipe music which makes the competition a treat to listen to. In summary, it seems the combination of:

1. moving to the Steelhall
2. availability of bar service
- and 3. the knock-out competition

has increased the number attending the General Meetings from 10 or 15 to 75 or 100.

June 5th was the final meeting and Knock-out Competition until after the summer and it saw Ruairidh Macdonald defeat John A. MacLeod by the narrowest of margins; 1/10 of a point. Both competitors gave excellent performances and were indeed worthy competitors to reach the final night. Ruairidh collected a \$50.00 prize for his winning effort and John \$25.00 for his runner-up selections.

The fact that Ruairidh won the Knock-Out Competition this year exemplifies the worth of such competitions to the performers and the audience. As Ruairidh had not competed in Canada until this event I am sure he would agree that his preparatory practice improved his piping and we, the audience have had the pleasure of listening to a championship calibre piper who otherwise would be lurking in the shadows.

The editors, on behalf of the Association, extend hearty congratulations to Ruairidh on his accomplishments. The following diagram is printed for those of our readers who are not aware of the overall picture of the Knock-Out Competition.

John A. MacLeod	- John A. MacLeod	
Theresa MacInnes		- John A. MacLeod
Jamie Troy	- Jamie Troy	
Bruce Topp		
Ruairidh Macdonald	- Ruairidh Macdonald	- Ruairidh Macdonald
Bill Elder		Macdonald
		- Ruairidh Macdonald
Albert Duncan	- Albert Duncan	
David Wilson		

To help us celebrate the finals of our Knock-Out Competition, the Vancouver Island Pipers Club was invited to attend and provide the balance of the evenings entertainment. The contingent from the Island

was small, although it was nice to see P.M. John Robertson make the trip to the mainland to enjoy the evenings piping.

Next year we plan to make the competition bigger with an increased purse but we need the continued support of our professional pipers. Lets set our goal at 12 pipers at least.

FOR ME AND MY GIRL...AND 46 MACDONALDS

There weren't many Macdonalds left on Benbecula in the Western Isles on June 7, 1970 -- they were all over the seas to Windsor.

It was Flora Macdonald's wedding day -- with 21-year-old Richard Sant the English bridegroom -- at the St. George's Chapel.

So 46 Macdonalds from Benbecula -- where the 19-year-old bride's father was born -- came down, with 20 Mackenzies from the Highlands, to ensure it was a wedding in the best Scottish traditions.

The Scots Guards also made sure it was a fitting occasion for the daughter of the Macdonald who was 20 years the Royal Piper. They sent along eight pipers to keep the all-night celebrations going.

However, just in case any of the Macdonalds or the Mackenzies couldn't stand the pace, the groom's father Capt. Quarter-master Eric Sant of the Life Guards "laid on" bedrolls and pillows from Army stores and distributed them through his Windsor home.

But early the next morning the pipes were still skirling in Windsor.

Said a Mackenzie: "Blood runs very thick in the Highlands. We are all related to the Queen's former piper and when we learned his daughter was getting married we all came down to celebrate."

History note: In 1746 THE Flora Macdonald of history sailed from Benbecula for Skye with Bonnie Prince Charlie.

NEW NORTH VANCOUVER BAND

In the last 6 months the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society of North Vancouver have been recruiting boys and girls for a Junior Pipe Band. The band is under the direction of David Wilson who is the piping instructor. To date they have 8 pipers, 3 side drummers, a bass and a tenor drummer all who are learning the fundamentals of band playing.

On Saturday, June 6th the band had its first public performance in the North Vancouver Centennial Theatre, when they played at the Nann Wilson dance school recital.

This band practices at Lonsdale Elementary School, Friday evenings at 8:00 P.M. Anyone interesting in becoming a member of this new band should contact David Wilson at 985-3548 or Stan Reid at 929-3340.

THE VANCOUVER KIWANIS BOYS' PIPE BAND

In September, 1958, a pipe band was organized by Malcolm Nicholson, Pipe Major of the Vancouver Police Pipe Band, who had had many years' experience in teaching the highland bagpipe to young people. Practices were begun in the Golden Horseshoe Banquet Room on East Hastings Street, provided rent free by the owner, Mr. Henry Wong. The band still uses it without charge, thanks to Mr. Wong.

About 30 boys were in the group, with an age limit of 16, soon changed to 18 to conform with the usual Class C regulations for Pipe Bands.

Knowing Kiwanis' interest in youth work, Pipe Major Nicholson approached our Club regarding sponsoring the band. A committee visited a band practice and were much impressed by the enthusiasm and discipline that prevailed. Partial uniforms and some equipment were on hand, but drums and uniforms for public appearance were needed.

On November 13th, on recommendation of the Committee, the Club agreed to provide twenty-five hundred dollars for the first year, the equipment purchased to become the property of the Club.

By April, 1959, the new uniforms and equipment arrived from Scotland on time for the "Vancouver Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band" to make its first public appearance in the May Queen Parade at New Westminster, wearing the Ancient MacMillan tartan in honour of Kiwanian Hugh MacMillan, first Chairman of the Band Committee.

Appearances that season included Port Coquitlam May Day Parade, Victoria Drive Community Centre Parade, Brighthouse-Steveston Parade, Queen Elizabeth's visit to Empire Stadium, the Seattle Seafair Torch Light Parade, the P.N.E. Parade and Kiwanis Farm-City Celebration at Cloverdale. At the Vancouver Caledonian Games, the Seattle Highland Games, and the Portland, Oregon, Highland Games they won first place in C class competition.

In addition to these full band appearances, members performed as individuals, duets, quartettes, etc., at many concerts, installations, dances and competitions.

In 1960 the usual competitions throughout the Pacific Northwest found our band maintaining its reputation, again winning high aggregate at the Pacific International Highland Games and winning first place in Class C.

The record of success in competitions in the Pacific Northwest has year by year maintained the standard set in their first full year, and so has their willingness to take part in community events of many kinds.

In January, 1961, Band Director Nicholson asked the committee to consider the possibility of a visit by the Band to Scotland, to compete in the Juvenile Pipe Band Championship to be held there in August, 1962. Mr. Nicholson felt that the Band would be in excellent condition for such tough competition and the Parents' Auxiliary, which had been formed when the boys first got together, was prepared to undertake raising the needed amount.

The Committee secured approval of the Club's Board of Directors for planning to proceed, and later the Club approved a grant of \$1,000.00 to supplement the amount raised by the Parents' Auxiliary and the boys themselves.

Meantime the Band was participating in the usual pipe band competitions, with the usual successes and the reputation of the best junior Pipe Band in the Pacific Northwest.

They took off for Scotland by air on July 31st, 1962 to test their skill and ability against the best Junior Pipe Bands in the world, bringing the name of the Kiwanis Club of Vancouver to many thousands of people. Space does not permit a detailed account of their four week trip, during which they entered five competitions, winning one first prize, two seconds, and two thirds. They gave concerts and performances in many places, and not only brought credit to themselves but were in every way a credit to Vancouver and to Kiwanis.

Early in 1963 the band and the Club members were shocked by the sudden death of Hugh MacMillan, Chairman of the Band Committee from its inception. Rod MacRae, himself a piper of long experience, was appointed to succeed Hugh as Chairman, a position he still holds.

Canada's Centennial Year, 1967, was another worthwhile year for the Band. The boys and the Auxiliary had been hard at work raising funds for a tour of Eastern Canada as a Centennial project and a chance to compete in the Highland Games in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Though by the date of departure they were somewhat short of the needed funds, they took off by plane on July 30th. They competed first at Maxville, in Eastern Ontario, where they won the North American Championship and then at Coburg, Port Credit and Fergus, winning first place in every competition.

Word of their success resulted in an invitation from the Province of Nova Scotia Centennial Committee to come to Halifax for a four day visit. The offer was accepted and in competition with seven other bands our band took first place and the Canadian Championship for Junior Pipe Bands. By coincidence, second place was won by the Saint John, New Brunswick, Kiwanis Pipe Band.

On the last day of the celebration, there was a mammoth parade led by the World Champions from Scotland, followed by the combined Kiwanis bands from Vancouver and Saint John, marching and playing together.

A highlight for 1968 was a trip to California, where they played at Disneyland and then competed at Santa Rosa, winning their usual first place in Class C and second in a special event open to all classes at the 103rd Santa Rosa Highland Games, the oldest in North America.

Over one hundred boys have played in our bands due to the age limit of eighteen years and the consequent large turn-over of members. They have profited greatly from band discipline as well as enjoying travel and comradeship from belonging to a first class boys' pipe band.

All appearance money, prize money and proceeds from the fund raising efforts go into the band fund, administered by the Band Auxiliary, which pays travelling expenses and lodging as well as many incidental items. In ten years the Kiwanis Club has paid out approximately ten thousand eight hundred dollars for equipment.

Special achievements for the ten years since the band was formed may be summarized as follows:

1. Pacific International Champions for ten years straight.
2. A successful trip to Scotland in 1962 to compete against the world's best in five competitions, returning with one first prize, two second prizes and two third prizes.
3. A tour of Eastern Canada during Centennial year to win the Canadian and North American Championships.
4. A trip to California in 1968 winning first place in "C" class competition and second place in a special event open to all classes at the 103rd Annual Santa Rosa Highland Games.

The band averages about thirty public appearances a year for a full band plus countless other appearances by individuals and small groups, carrying the name of the Kiwanis Club of Vancouver, B. C. to many thousands on two continents.

The man responsible for this truly wonderful record is, of course, Pipe Major Malcolm Nicholson, whose patience and ability are amazing. He is ably assisted by his wife, Elsie, who is indispensable; especially on out-of-town trips, when she is a veritable second mother to the boys, tending the sick, looking after everything from misplaced parts of uniforms, repairs to clothing and gathering of laundry, to urging the boys to be sure to write home.

In 1969 the boys were the guest band at the Coeur d'Alene Inland Empire Games where they won 3rd place in the Open competition.

Now in 1970, the Band, having entered into the S.P.B.A., leaves for Scotland August 4th to write another major chapter of their already impressive history. Scheduled to compete in the Juvenile class at the Edinburgh Festival, Rothesay, Cowal and Shotts, the boys will have had plenty of opportunity to test their skills before they return September 6th.

R. F. (Rod) MacRAE

REMAINING COMPETITIONS

The remaining major competitions for 1970 are as follows:

B. C. Highland Dancing	July 4, 1970
Nanaimo	July 11, 1970
Portland	July 18, 1970
Seattle	August 1, 1970
St. Andrews & Caledonian	September 12, 1970 (Mission, B. C.)

Secretaries for these games are:

B. C. Highland - Mrs. D. Fraser
2470 West 19th Avenue
Vancouver 8, B. C.

Nanaimo - Mr. S. Dalzell
2043 Latimer Road
Nanaimo, B. C.

Portland - Mrs. U. L. Carlisle
1445 - 31st
Milwaukee, Oregon 97222

Seattle - Candy Burpee
20831 - 58th Place West
Linwood, Washington 98036

CEILIDH FOR BI-MONTHLY COMPETITORS

On Friday, June 19th the Children's Ceilidh was held at the Steelworkers Hall. Although the entertainment which included piping, dancing and acrobatic dancing was excellent the number of children attending was nothing short of pathetic. Approximately 20 attended the event and the majority of competitors receiving perfect attendance pins were absent. The aggregate trophy winners for 1969 - 70 were there, however, to receive their awards they worked so hard throughout the year to win. Each gave a short performance. Following the entertainment soft drinks, coffee and doughnuts were served.

The winners of the four classes were:

NOVICE

- 1st - Linda Flynn
- 2nd - Chris Grant
- 3rd - Pat Dawson
- 4th - Gordon Paterson
Peter Laks
- 5th - Mark Steffinch

JUVENILE

- 1st - Cindy Chambers
- 2nd - Darryl Peterson
- 3rd - Allan MacDougall
- 4th - Dierdre Sutherland

JUNIOR

- 1st - Terry Lee
- 2nd - Jack Lee
- 3rd - Angus McPherson

AMATEUR

- 1st - Bill MacAulay
- 2nd - Drew Noot
- Glen Palmer
- 3rd - Bill Russell

Each of the winners received gift certificates and the first prize winners the aggregate trophies.

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & TATTOO

July 24, 25 and 26, 1970

Events will commence Friday Evening, July 24 at 4:00 P.M. at North Idaho J.C. Campus, with special competition for the "Banner" sponsored by the Spokane Piobaireachd Society, with Air Fare to Scotland and Return, to represent the Spokane Piobaireachd Society at the Oban Games.

Individual Piping Events will be held in the City Park, which is on the shores of the lake commencing at 8:00 A.M. Saturday, July 25.

Band and Drum Major Competition, Saturday Evening in the Ball Park which is adjacent to the City Park.

Individual Drumming Competition, Saturday afternoon in City Park, Novice Piping, Sunday 10:00 A.M. to be followed by the Annual Scottish Picnic.

AWARDS AS FOLLOWS:

Professional Piobaireachd - March - Strathspey - Reel - Drumming, (4 events): 1st, \$100.00; 2nd, \$75.00; 3rd, \$50.00; with the Malcolm M. Ferguson Trophy for Open Piobaireachd.

Amateur: Five awards in each class and age group, with the Lt. Col. John McEwing Trophy for Amateur Piobaireachd.

Pipe Bands: 1st, \$150.00; 2nd, \$125.00; 3rd, \$100.00; 4th, \$100.00; 5th, \$75.00; 6th, \$50.00.

\$25.00 Appearance Money for all non-winning bands.

Adjudicating will be accomplished by Mr. Seumas MacNeill of Glasgow, Scotland.

For detailed information on Set Tunes, for Professionals, rules and complete program, entry fees, etc. Write to:

Alvin Halvorson, Executive Secretary
The Coeur d'Alene Scottish Festival and Tattoo
P.O. Box Manito Station 8032
Spokane, Washington, 99203

S.P.A. CONTEST

The last of the big professional contests of the winter season (other than the British Legion affair, which is a wee bit confined) was held on Saturday, April 25th, in Kingston Halls, Glasgow.

The judges were Captain D.R. MacLennan and Roderick MacDonald (for ceol mor), and Duncan Johnston and Nicol MacCallum for the rest.

Piobaireachd: 1, Hector MacFadyen ("The MacDougall's Gathering"); 2, Kenneth MacDonald ("The MacLeod Salute"); 3, William Macdonald, Benbecula ("The End of the Great Bridge"); 4, Duncan MacFadyen ("The Lament for the Only Son"); 5, John Garroway ("The MacKay's Banner").

March: 1, James MacGregor; 2, Kenneth MacDonald; 3, Norman Gillies; 4, Cpl. Iain Morrison; 5, Hector MacFadyen.

Strathspey and Reel: 1, Hector MacFadyen; 2, Cpl. Iain Morrison; 3, P.M. Ronald Lawrie; 4, John MacCormack; 5, William Macdonald.

The Duncan MacFadyen Memorial Trophy awarded to the competitor with most points in all events, was won by Hector MacFadyen.

Reprinted from the Piping Times,
June, 1970

PIPER OF THE MONTH

This months Piper of the Month, although one of the younger members of our Association, is also one of the better known. Bill Elder has been involved in the piping circles since he was 10 years old and has competed regularly both individually and as a member of Vancouver's most successfull pipe bands.

Bill is a native son of British Columbia, born in Vancouver. The original interest in Highland activities came from his paternal grandmother; who encouraged her daughters to participate in Highland dancing. When Bill was eight years old his mother decided he should become a dancer and Bill started taking lessons from Mary Isdale. These lessons lasted for about two years until it became apparent that Bill was not happy with his dancing and was not destined to become a champion.

Permission to give up dancing lessons was given under one condition; young Bill was to commence bagpipe lessons. Mr. Elder, Sr. was most insistent on this and arranged for Bill to take lessons from Malcolm Nicholson. Shortly after his lessons began, Bill won his first medal; a second prize in the Novice Marches at the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Festival.

Bill's active participation in pipe bands began immediately after his piping lessons started. In fact he was attending practices of the Hastings Community Pipe Band, which was under the direction of Malcolm Nicholson, playing his practice chanter. This band was later known as the Optomist Boys Pipe Band and Bill was a member until 1957 during which time he travelled as far as Las Vegas and Los Angeles to give performances.

In 1958 Bill joined the Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band as pipe corporal. This band was also under Mr. Nicholson's direction. Bill was active in this band for five years and retired in 1963 as Pipe Major.

During his tenure with the Kiwanis Band Bill can never remember losing a local competition, winning the International Class "C" trophy each year. This band travelled extensively highlighted by a trip to Scotland in 1962 where the boys won a 1st, two 2nds and two 3rds.

During these years individual competition was no stranger to Bill and he was always a regular member of the prize lists. His highest individual achievement was winning the International Amateur Trophy in 1963. Bill turned professional in 1964 and has competed intermittently as an individual piper since that time. Most of his competing since 1964 has been as a band member.

Teaching the Great Highland Bagpipe has not been one of Bill's more enjoyable activities but he has accepted several teaching responsibilities. After leaving the Kiwanis Band he assisted Mr. Nicholson on several occasions and even supervised the Kiwanis Band one summer when Mr. Nicholson was in Scotland.

In 1965 Bill travelled to Surrey each week to teach 15 pupils. After giving up this small school Bill has done very little teaching although he still has a couple of pupils.

After leaving the Kiwanis Band he, along with several other graduating bandsmen, joined the City of Port Moody Pipe Band. The bands newly acquired pipers formed the nucleus of the pipe section and Bill was appointed Pipe Major.

The Band started competing in "B" Class in 1965 and the band has either won or tied for the International Trophy every year except 1969 when the entire band took a competition leave of absence.

In 1967 Bill resigned from his position of Pipe Major and turned the reins over to P.M. Fred Brodie. Bill continued piping with the Band as Pipe Sergeant until early this year when he resigned from the band in order to continue his activities in the B.C. Pipers' Association.

Bill has been a member of the Association for 5 years. Three years ago he was elected to the Board of Directors and during the last two years has been the Vice-President. In addition to these offices Bill has been the co-editor of the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter since it was reactivated in March of 1969.

The B.C. Pipers' Association is fortunate in having a member with Bill's piping ability and knowledge complimented with such interest and enthusiasm in the Association.

