

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

June, 1975

NO. 145

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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JUNE, 1975

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

We, in Penticton, would like to extend our congratulations to the members of the B.C. Pipers' Association for a most enjoyable 43rd Annual Gathering. Three families went down from here and we all thought it was very well run, friendly and very enjoyable. When one has to make an early start in the morning, the concession is much appreciated too. I do think it would be good, however, if you would specify on the entry form if the Novice March is a 2-part or 4-part 2/4 March to make it the same for all competitors.

I reported in the fall about our first piping and drumming seminar in Penticton - our second took place on the 12th of April, and this time we had, as our guests, four members of the Triumph Street Band; namely, Pipe Major Hal Senyk, Ian Whitelaw, Scott Robertson, and Jan Laurie. What some enthusiasts will do for the betterment of piping-drumming! They travelled up overnight, conducted the seminar all day, an adjudication and social evening, then drove back overnight to Vancouver for an engagement the next day.

The seminar was a huge success and I can assure them the locals got a lot out of it. We also enjoyed hearing them play in the evening. A big thank-you to all four of them for a great weekend. We had representatives down from the Vernon and Kelowna Bands, but would welcome some more next time, maybe in the fall of '75.

Nigel Alakija

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Annual Dinner

This year the B.C. Pipers' Annual Dinner was held on May 31st at St. Francis de Sales School in Burnaby. Following the culinary formalities the finalists in the trio knock-out competition took to the floor. Bill Wishart, Rob Barrick and Warren Fells represented the City of Victoria in a losing cause. The knock-out champions, the City of Port Moody, were staffed by John MacLeod, Allan McDougall and Blake Keen. The remainder of the evening was spent dancing to the orchestra of Andy Arnott with interludes for an Eightsome Reel and a Gay Gordon.

Highland Games Results

We have repeatedly requested the cooperation of the various Highland Games Committees in submitting their results so that they may be published in the Newsletter. It is understood that several members of our local games' committees are members of the B.C.P.A., and are thus aware of our class promotion system.

We again request that the Games' Secretaries submit the results of the individual piping and pipe band competitions as soon as possible after their Games. Thank you.

Trail Highland Games

Following are the results of the Trail Highland Games held on May 18th:

Novice Under 16 Years - March

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 1. Mark Campbell | Spokane |
| 2. Sandy Duncan | Penticton |
| 3. Glenn Goddon | Penticton |
| and Robyn Nicol | Abbotsford |

Novice 16 to 19 Years - March

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. Ann Harrop | Vernon |
| 2. Ian Menzies | Penticton |
| 3. Heather Ferguson | Vernon |

Novice Over 20 Years - March

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Joan Harmon | Coeur d'Alene |
|----------------|---------------|

Amateur Under 16 Years - March

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Christine Waddell | Vancouver |
| 2. Valerie Pederson | Vancouver |
| and Billy Hawes | Calgary |
| 3. Alan Barclay | Calgary |

Amateur Under 16 Years - Strathspey & Reel

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Billy Hawes | Calgary |
| 2. Christine Waddell | Vancouver |
| 3. Brad Wakefield | Spokane |

Amateur 16 to 19 Years - March

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Heather Parker | Kellogg |
| 2. Jamie Robb | Penticton |
| 3. Michael Young | Green Acres |

Amateur 16 to 19 Years - Strathspey & Reel

1. James Wright Vancouver
2. Jamie Robb Penticton
3. Kathy Thomas Spokane

Amateur 20 Years & Over - March

1. Lee Ann Alward Spokane
2. Allan Skalazub Vancouver

Amateur 20 Years & Over - Strathspey & Reel

1. Dave Rutherford Vancouver
2. Lee Ann Alward Spokane

Professional Piping - March

1. Hal Senyk Vancouver
2. Allan Walters Calgary
3. Rob Menzies Vancouver

Professional Piping - Strathspey & Reel

1. Hal Senyk Vancouver
2. Iain Whitelaw Vancouver
3. Rob Menzies Vancouver

Professional Piping - Jigs

1. Iain Whitelaw Vancouver
2. Hal Senyk Vancouver
3. Allan Walters Calgary

Amateur Drumming Under 16 Years - March, Strath. & Reel

1. Ann Arbuthnott Portland

Amateur Drumming 20 Years & Over

1. Joe Hewitt Portland
2. Robert Byres Prince George

Professional Drumming

1. Katie Forsyth Vancouver
2. John Moore Vancouver
3. Jack Gallaher Vancouver

Pipers Quartette

1. Triumph Street

Class A Bands

1. Triumph Street

Class B Bands

1. Vancouver Ladies
2. Angus Scott Pipe Band

Drum Section

1. Triumph Street

Bellingham Highland Games

The Bellingham Highland Games were held on June 7th and the results were as follows:

Novice March

1. Sharon McKinnon
2. Moira Waddell
3. Roderick Weeks

Juvenile March

1. James Wright
2. Mike Guillemin
3. Kit Taggart
4. David Winter

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel

1. James Stewart
2. Jimmy Paterson
3. Kim Smith

Juvenile Aggregate

- James Stewart

Junior March

1. Ruth Tremaine
2. Donny McNeil
3. Duncan Fraser

Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. Ruth Tremaine
2. Grant Wilkie
3. Donny McNeil

Junior Piobaireachd

1. Ruth Tremaine
2. Grant Wilkie
3. Donny McNeil

Junior Aggregate

- Ruth Tremaine

Amateur March

1. Allan MacDougall
2. Jill Laurie
3. Alison Palmer

Amateur Strathspey & Reel

1. Allan MacDougall
2. Alison Palmer
3. Gordon MacDonald

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Graham Davidson
2. Gordon MacDonald
3. Alison Palmer

Amateur Aggregate

- Allan MacDougall

Professional March

1. Hal Senyk
2. John A. MacLeod
3. Donald MacMillan

Professional Strathspey & Reel

1. Donald MacMillan
2. John A. MacLeod
3. Iain Whitelaw

Professional Piobaireachd

1. Hal Senyk
2. Jack Lee
3. Jack McGilvary

Professional Aggregate

1. Donald MacMillan

Junior Quartettes

1. Richmond Senior
2. Richmond Junior
3. Vancouver Kiwanis

Amateur Drumming

1. Keith Clark
2. Terry Delziel

Professional Drumming

1. Keith Manifold
2. Willie McErlean
3. Scott Robertson

Open Drum Corps

1. Vancouver Ladies

Juvenile Open Bands

1. Richmond Junior
2. Vancouver Kiwanis

Grade I Bands

1. City of Port Moody
2. Triumph Street

New Westminster Highland Games - June 14th

Novice March

1. Glen McEachren
2. Heather Ann Lyle
3. Robyn Nicol

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel

1. Jean Nicol
2. James Stewart
3. Terry Smith

Junior March

1. Alan Wilson
2. Duncan Fraser
3. Grant Wilkie

Novice Drumming

1. Adam Bell
2. Cathy Guillemin
3. Duncan Redmond

Senior Amateur Drumming

1. Danny McKillop

Junior Drum Corps

1. Richmond Senior
2. Vancouver Kiwanis

Juvenile Novice Bands

1. Burnaby Ladies
2. Highland Laddies

Grade II Bands

1. Richmond Senior
2. Vancouver Ladies

Juvenile March

1. Mike Guillemin
2. Jean Nicol
3. Ian Putzin

Juvenile Aggregate

- Jean Nicol

Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. Ruth Tremaine
2. Alan Wilson
3. Bruce Gandy

Junior Piobaireachd

1. Ruth Tremaine
2. Grant Wilkie
3. Duncan Fraser

Amateur March

1. Gordon MacDonald
2. Alison Palmer
3. Blake Keen

Amateur Jigs

1. Allan MacDougall
2. James Wright
3. Graham Davidson

Amateur Aggregate

- Gordon MacDonald

Professional Jigs

1. Jamie Troy
2. Jack Lee
3. Hal Senyk

Professional Aggregate

- Hal Senyk

Class "B" Drumming

1. Allison McCarlie
2. Keith Clark
and Robbie McKendrick
3. Joe Hewitt

Drum Corps

1. Vancouver Ladies

Class "B" Bands

1. Richmond Senior

Junior Aggregate

- Ruth Tremaine

Amateur Strathspey & Reel

1. Jill Laurie
2. Allan MacDougall
3. James Wright

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Gordon MacDonald
2. Alison Palmer
3. Jill Laurie

Professional March, Strath. & Reel

1. Hal Senyk
2. Jack Lee
3. Jamie Troy

Professional Piobaireachd

1. Hal Senyk
2. Jamie Troy
3. Bob Leslie

Class "C" Drumming

1. Adam Bell
2. Paula Tremaine
3. Craig Smith

Professional Drumming

1. David McNicol
2. Jonathan Moore
3. Scott Robertson

Class "C" Bands

1. Richmond Junior

Open Bands

1. City of Victoria
2. City of Port Moody

The Vancouver Piobaireachd Club

As the winter season comes to a close, a little-publicized group, the Piobaireachd Club, would like to report a very successful winter. We held the club about once a month at Jim McMillan's, and attendance varied up to over a dozen participants. Of those, it was most gratifying to see the number of younger players taking a genuine interest in the Great Music, for it has been lying quiet for too many years.

Everyone there, be they beginner or professional, took a turn at playing a tune or two at each meeting, and the number of different tunes played every meeting was an excellent sign of things to come. The tunes were often talked about, different styles compared and evaluated, and often suggestions for improvement made. It was refreshing to play in a non-competitive atmosphere, where those who were "out of shape" still took a turn at playing without fear of judgment; it was strictly for enjoyment and appreciation. We often worked on pipes and reeds, for the instrument and its tone lies at the heart of every good tune, and we all learned more about how to get the best out of our bagpipe.

I'm looking forward to next year's club. It was a great stimulation to myself and to others to get together with others over a good piobaireachd during the "lean" months. For those who were there, it was a good winter-- for those who were not, try to make it next year. You'll find it worthwhile.

Hal Senyk.

* * * * *

West Coast Piping Imports

1307 Kingsway, Vancouver

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Vancouver's new piping supply shop, serving pipers and pipe bands throughout the West.....

Services supplied by Hal Senyk, Pipe Major of the Triumph Street Pipe Band.....

Featuring a complete line of bagpipes, chanters, pipe boxes, books, reeds, and maintenance supplies - all at competitive prices.

R.G. Hardie pipes and chanters in stock.

The following is dedicated to the local chapter of the
P.B.W.A. (Pipe Band Widows' Association)

THE GRASS WIDOW

The grass widow of the golf course is the butt of many jokes.
A scene of desolation her neglected state invokes,
But there exists another type who suffers more in life.
You don't believe me? Have you met a lonely piper's wife?

From the day that she accepts him she has to realize
That she will take but second place to some piping cup or prize.
In fact some poor souls have been asked whatever made them think
They even lay in second place; that honour goes to "Drink".

At first he'll manage home at nights in order to atone,
And when they have some children, well...she won't be left alone,
But later, his appearances are limited to few,
Till she asks him, "Are you staying dear or only passing through?"

Her wedding anniversary is coming round once more,
So she makes some preparations for a little treat in store,
But then she hears him stammer out those dreaded words so foul,
"I'm sorry, darling, but you know that's when I go to Cowal".

She gets the chance of a week-end to take the kids away
So he tells her to enjoy herself and if they like it, stay.
But when she breaks the news to him that she will need the car,
He then confesses he was going to take it to Braemar.

Of course the games and gatherings don't go on all year round,
So in his home one would expect he sometimes would be found.
But no! He must ensure he does not let his piping slip
And in some well known hostelries he plays between each nip.

When challenged he will answer, "What am I supposed to do?
I told you my religion, dear, when I proposed to you.
There's no use nagging on at me, I am above all strife.
The noble art of piping is a sacred way of life".

So for marriage plus devotion one should try to find a spouse
Whose hobby is the kind which keeps him stuck inside the house.
But if piobaireachd is her fancy, why bother him to wed?
Just join the Highland Pipers and live in sin instead.

Betty Dingwall and
Margaret Stoddart.

NEXT MONTH

Calendar

July 5	Vancouver/Triumph St. Dance
July 12	Nanaimo
July 19	Portland
July 26, 27	Coeur d'Alene
August 2	Seattle
August 31	Nelson

Glentruim Piping School - August 17 to 30

About the Principal of Glentruim Piping School

Pipe Major Donald MacLeod has achieved the distinction in the piping world of becoming a legend in his own time, as master player, composer, and teacher.

Born in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, he was first taught by his father at the age of four. For five years he was the pupil of the famous Willie Ross and for twenty-five years was under the tutelage of Pipe Major John MacDonald of Inverness, the great master player and a direct musical descendant of the MacCrimmons of Skye.

A professional piper all his life, Donald MacLeod served with the Seaforth Highlanders for twenty-five years - twenty-one as Pipe Major. His visits to many parts of the world, including Canada, the United States, South Africa, Rhodesia, giving recitals, talks, and tuition are as well known as his many broadcasts, recordings and personal appearances in Scotland.

A formidable competitor from an early age, his successes include one of the most remarkable records at the Northern Meeting, Inverness. In addition to the Gold Medal and eight clasps, a distinction shared by his former tutor William Ross, he has won the Silver Star for Marches, Strathspeys and Reels (former winners) six times, and is probably the only piper ever to win all the events at the Northern Meeting at one time or another.

Now retired from competition the Pipe Major is very much in demand as a judge, and although the pressure of business is heavy, he devotes a great deal of time to helping pipers all over the world, with his unique recorded tuition in Piobaireachd, in addition to his many broadcasts and personal appearances in Scotland.

About Our Instructors

Pipe Major Edmond Esson, M.B.C. Pipe Major 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.

Pipe Major Angus G. MacLeod - Like Donald MacLeod, Angus is a native of the Hebrides, served with the 2nd Battalion, 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.

Pipe Major William Thompson served in the Imperial Army and took his piping training in Scotland. He has served as Pipe Major 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.

From Penticton, we have Nigel Alakija. Nigel and his family moved from Dauphin, Manitoba a few years ago, where he had built up a nice band. I feel sure, given support, he can do the same for Penticton. Nigel practically lives and breathes piping. Another fine instructor whom we hope will be with us for a long, long time.

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 honours for his age and is possibly the finest young piper in Canada.

Jocelyn Mackenzie (nee Lange) formerly of Kelowna and now of Port Coquitlam has been with the school since its beginning. Jocelyn is an accomplished piper and a winner of many gold Medals in Piobaireachd.

About Our University

Notre Dame is situated on a plateau on the Northeast boundary or corner of the City of Nelson. Both its location and view overlooking the West Arm of Kootenay Lake make an ideal setting for a piping school. The dormitory accommodation is excellent and the food is good and wholesome.

The summer school generally runs from early July and includes art, ceramics, music, various courses in education and sports. The piping school commences shortly after the middle of August and winds up with the Nelson Highland Games on Labour Day weekend.

This year will be the fifth year of Glentruim Piping School which has increased its enrollment each year. It is suggested that you enroll early. Our office will be closed for three weeks in June.

There will be the usual scholarships awarded plus two from the B.C. Pipers' Association. These will be awarded by Pipe Major MacLeod at the conclusion of the school.

For further information and application form, please write to:

Glentruim Piping School,
P. O. Box 269,
Nelson, B. C.

Coeur d'Alene Summer School for Piping

June 29 to July 11 and July 13 to July 25, 1975

Tuition: \$75.00 for each two-week period.

Special Student Incentives: In addition to being taught by instructors whom we believe have no peers anywhere, two Medallions are offered with \$300.00 cheques attached to each - one played for during the last day of each two-week period. The cheques are for expenses for the winner to travel to Scotland to a designated Highland Games where they will represent the Spokane Piobaireachd Society.

Four piobaireachd tunes have been "set", all nominated by James Campbell of Kilberry. They are as follows: "The MacFarlanes' Gathering", "The Glen Is Mine", "The Little Spree", and "The Massacre of Glencoe", all in the Kilberry collection.

Students who fail to win in the first two-week competition may play the same tune in the second competition even though they are unable to remain for the entire month. This competition is confined to students only. Student/Instructors are encouraged to play for the prestigious Banner but are ineligible to play for either of the Medallions.

Students with zero skill levels, as are those with a high competitive skill level, are all encouraged to apply for enrollment. The latter have, in the past, come for "further polishing". A knowledge of music is not a prerequisite; however, it is sometimes a substantial aid. Students with ages from twelve to sixty-five will be considered for enrollment. Middle age and above individuals who, because of business or other commitments, were unable to obtain a satisfactory background in piping are strongly encouraged to enroll for a special "Refresher Course".

The "set" tunes for the Bratach Nam Beann, also nominated by James Campbell of Kilberry, are as follows: The Blue Ribbon, The Lament for Captain MacDougal, Lord Lovat's Lament, Mary's Praise, Nameless Hiharin Dro O Dro, Route of Glenfruin, and The Groat. Personnel wishing to compete in this invitational competition may write to the Society Secretary, Mr. R. Bruce Carrick, W. 1309 - 19th Ave. Spokane 99203, at any time and he will notify them of the tune drawn for them forty-five days prior to the date of the Banner Competition. All student enrollment applications should be sent to John McEwing, W. 3309 Dalke Avenue, Spokane, at as early a date as possible.

For further requirements, write to:

John McEwing, President,
Spokane Piobaireachd Society,
W. 3309 Dalke Avenue,
Spokane, Washington 99208

* * * * *

AD

FOR SALE: Set of bagpipes
Hardies - no chanter
\$275.00
Contact: Mr. Garrod, 521-7590

Seumas MacNeill Summer School, California

A change of scene is scheduled this year for the highly successful Seumas MacNeill Summer School for pipers. Held for the last three years at Lake Sequoia in the Sierra Nevada mountains, it moves in August to the Robert Louis Stevenson School, at fabulous Del Monico, Pebble Beach.

This is one of the scenic wonders of the world, unequalled in climate or natural beauty. The weather is temperate with universally sunny days and cool evenings, perfectly suited for the playing of the great Highland bagpipe.

The move has been brought about by the continuing increase and popularity of the school, and the requirements of adult students (and their wives, husbands, sweethearts, who attend) for more facilities for relaxation and entertainment. At 3 to 5 miles are several metropolitan areas with motels, restaurants, shopping centres and beaches.

Robert Louis Stevenson School is ideal for the purposes - apart from the obvious advantages of its Scottish background and interest. The full facilities of the School will be available, including classrooms, practice rooms, auditorium, band areas, swimming pool, etc. The ocean is half a mile away, as is Pebble Beach golf course.

Students will be accommodated in the well-appointed dormitory buildings, housing in most two per room. Meals are served cafeteria style, with a selection of menu, in the attractive dining room.

A feature of this school has always been the number and quality of the instructors who come out from Scotland. Last year Seumas MacNeill was accompanied by the ever popular Dr. John MacAskill, the legendary John D. Burgess, and the piper's piper, Duncan Johnstone. In addition was the lovely Miss Mary Alward, from Spokane, Washington, who has taught at the school since its inception. This is an array of piping and teaching talent far in advance of anything previously assembled anywhere in the world.

Dr. MacAskill is unfortunately detained on urgent piping business in Scotland this summer, but his place is being taken by the equally talented Iain MacFadyen, youngest of the trio of piping brothers. Iain has already taught at piping schools in Canada and has judged piping in British Columbia. This is his first visit to the United States.

Highlight of last year's school was publicized as the march past of the pipers in a television programme, made at the school. The real highlight was the unrehearsed march back again, through the forest paths, of twenty-two rows of pipers three abreast led by John Burgess, Duncan Johnstone and John MacAskill. Men cheered, ladies wept and children screamed with delight. The T.V. producer's only complaint was that his wife would kill him for not having taken her to see the real thing.

The school is organized by Dr. W.F. Casteen, M.D., of 3921 Claremont Drive, Bakersfield, California 93306, who will be happy to supply further information.

Seattle School of Piping

In Seattle in 1973 John MacLellan established the Seattle School of Piping and a year earlier in 1972 he organized the North California School of Piping. Both these Schools have flourished and will be held once again in 1975. At Seattle in 1974 Jack Ironside and Bruce Townsend were fortunate in obtaining the use of premises in the West Pacific College which were highly satisfactory, and which also allowed students, if they so wished, to be resident, and with a fine cafeteria open all day the mundane necessities of sleep and food were catered for.

Pipe Major Jimmy MacMillan joined John MacLellan and by organising the teaching into two parts - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. they were able to cater for a large class of varying standards. While this made a long day for the Tutors it did mean that many of the older and more experienced pipers were able to attend without having to give up their daily employment, while the more junior pipers could attend in the morning. Indeed, some pupils took advantage of this system to attend both sessions. In all some 35 pupils attended the School.

While the tuition was largely based on the needs of the individual student, all were introduced to Piobaireachd, with some "light relief" from always being on the "blow" being provided by talks on history of piping, basic theory and "Know Your Bagpipe" sessions.

The School will once again be in session during 1975 from August 4th through August 15th and will be located within the Music Department of the Seattle Pacific College.

Application may be had from:

Pipe Major Jack Ironside, M.B.E.
The Scottish Shopper Corporation
14202 First Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98168
Phone - 206-242-1768

Tuition fees are \$75.00 and cost of board at the College will be provided on application. The School will be restricted to 40 students thus enabling all to benefit from properly balanced instruction.

The North California School of Piping

The North California School of Piping is organized by Pipe Major Bill Merriman, 33 Pavo Real Circle, San Rafael, California. In 1972 the School was located at Santa Rosa, in 1973 at the Scout Camp at Arequipa, and in 1974 Bill Merriman was fortunate to secure the use of the Dominican Music College in San Rafael. This was a stroke of luck for the conditions were just ideal, cool classrooms for the chanter work and nearby a private park with fine large leafy trees to provide shade for the playing of the Bagpipe.

The teaching staff once again included Jimmy MacMillan, Reuben Santos and John MacLellan, and with the numbers kept restricted to 40 a tremendous amount of excellent work was achieved. In 1973 James MacColl gave his services as a Tutor, and we look forward to his company once again in 1975. In 1974 he took time off to go to Scotland and compete, proving his great skill as a player by being in the prize list for the Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting.

In the past two years the teaching of Piobaireachd by singing Canntaireachd has proved a great success and during 1975 the resurrection of this ancient method of musical communication will be extended. It is the method used by the MacCrimmon and MacArthur pipers in their Colleges in the Isles of Skye, and benefit has accrued from its use on a twofold basis. Firstly the tune is more easily remembered by class singing, and secondly the musical nuances can be more readily brought to the fore. It has also the added advantage that in a two week course the teaching of Piobaireachd to a class can be achieved in less time thus leaving more time to give individual "polishing" as time permits.

A most notable feature of both Schools was the tremendous enthusiasm of the pupils and their indefatigable industry which kept the Tutors fully extended, but, who with their own infectious love of piping kept the whole company permanently "on the boil".

The North California School will be once again held in San Rafael in 1975 at the Dominican Music College from 18th through 29th August, when many students will be able to go to compete at the Santa Rosa Games during Labour Day weekend. Full details of fees, etc. can be had on application to Pipe Major Bill Merriman at the address given earlier.

At both Schools opportunities will be given to provide facilities for pupils to take the Institute of Piping Certificates. Details of the syllabus are available from Captain John A. MacLellan, The Army School of Piping, The Castle, Edinburgh. These Certificates provide a properly thought out system of progression in piping, and enable students to work up from one stage to another, and also ensures that the work completed is properly tested and acknowledged by the award of the appropriate Certificate. These Certificates are not just an acknowledgment of attendance at a Summer School, but an acknowledgment of musical skill and knowledge, and a reward for hard work and practice.

Captain John MacLellan, whose name is a household word in piping will once again be coming from Edinburgh to conduct both these Schools, and with the same colleagues as in the past, the standard of tuition is completely ensured, for all are pipers of the first rank, tutors of long standing experience and life long students of all facets of the art of piping, so do not be disappointed in obtaining a place; early enquiry is advised.

* * * * *

On behalf of the members of the B.C. Pipers' Association, we would like to offer our sincere congratulations to P/M Jamie Troy and his bride, Louise.

Jamie and Louise were married in "The City of Victoria" on June 7th.

Pipe Major Archie Cairns

Senior Pipe Major of the Canadian Forces, Chief Warrant Officer A. M. (Archie) Cairns was recently awarded the Order of Military Merit, in the grade of Member, by His Excellency, Governor-General Jules Leger, at a Government House ceremony in Ottawa, Ontario.

Pipe Major of the Pipes and Drums of Canadian Forces Base Ottawa, C.W.O. Cairns is a graduate of the British Army School of Piping and holds the diploma and senior teaching certificate from the Institute of Piping.

He was the fourth pipe major in the world to gain this recognition and the first outside of Britain.

C.W.O. Cairns received the Order of Military Merit for exceptional service and conspicuous merit by his personal effort to appreciably enhance the Canadian national image, and in particular, to bring credit upon the Canadian Forces through his specialized expertise and professionalism.

A New Book

Iain MacCrimmon's recently-published Music for the Great Highland Bagpipe (Book 1), is the first compilation of Western tunes, and is an excellent effort. Professionally typeset, and remarkably free from the errors and musical blunders that plague so many piping books, it contains many worthwhile tunes by composers from all over Western Canada and the U.S. Many of the tunes are by Iain MacCrimmon, from Edmonton, and exhibit good imagination and musical taste. Some of them tend to overwork certain themes, but they are certainly lively, and pose a good challenge to the competitive player. There are other recent compositions, plus some by local composers that have been "in the woodwork" for many years and that have been well worthy of publication.

It is the first book of hopefully a series, and is a good addition to any piper's library.

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Overheard recently at a favourite watering hole:-

"Why don't we just play our set half a dozen times at the first Games of the season and pack it in for the rest of the summer?"

