

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

MARCH/APRIL, 1966.

No. 71.

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

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MARCH/APRIL, 1966.	CONTENTS	No. 71.
34th Annual Gathering, March 11th and 12th		Page 3
Hector MacFadyen's Recent Visit to Vancouver		Page 5
Summer Games Schedule		Page 6
Penticton Highland Games, May 21st & 22nd		Page 6
Annual General Meeting, April 29th		Page 7
Bi-Monthly Competition, April 15th		Page 8
Annual Members Banquet		Page 8
The Pipe Tune "The Battle of Harlaw"		Page 11
Simon Fraser University Plans Pipe Band		Page 14
Tape and Disc Aid teaching of Pipers the Modern Way		Page 16
News from Bellingham		Page 17
William MacKay Passes in Victoria		Page 17
The Queen's Piper - Appointment for Argyll's Pipe Major		Page 19
Letter from Nanaimo		Page 20
Pipers of the Canadian Forces		Page 22



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34th ANNUAL GATHERING - MARCH 11th & 12th, 1966

Results:

Short Leets Competition - March 11th, 1966

Novice Marches: (25 Competitors)

Richard Nichol	Allan Johnstone, Pr. George
Kenneth Ringham	Valerie Stout, Abbotsford
Terence Leonard	James Lindsay
Stephen Wilson	Bruce Baycroft, Pr. George

Juvenile Marches: (46 Competitors)

Heather Abel	Bruce McKeddie
David Irvine	Ian MacInnis, Pr. George
Jan Taylor	Ronald Skipsey, Nanaimo
James Leonard	Jean Jarvis
Lindsay Maddock	Harold Senyk, Victoria

Juvenile Strathspeys & Reels: (33 Competitors)

David Irvine	Jan Taylor
Bruce McKeddie	Mary Swift
Ronald Skipsey	Jean Jarvis
John A. MacLeod	

March 12th, 1966:

Junior Amateur Piobaireachd: (9 Competitors)

1. Barbara MacArthur - "The MacFarlene's Gathering"
2. Dal Jessiman - "Cabar Feidh Gu Brath"
3. Harold Senyk, Victoria - "Kinlochmoidart's Lament"

Amateur Piobaireachd: (4 Competitors)

1. Therese MacInnes - "Black Donald's Salute"
2. James McLean, Seattle - "Lament for Rev. Dr. Norman MacLeod"
3. Bruce Topp - "Isabel MacKay"

Senior Amateur (Restricted) Old Highland Airs: (2 Competitors)

1. John Munroe, Bellingham

Novice Marches: (9 Competitors)

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Wilson | 2. Terence Leonard |
| 3. Richard Nicholl | 4. Bruce Baycroft, Pr. George |

Juvenile Marches: (9 Competitors)

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Jan Taylor | 2. Jean Jarvis |
| 3. Bruce McKeddie | 4. Ronald Skipsey, Nanaimo |

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels: (7 Competitors)

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. John MacLeod | 2. Jean Jarvis |
| 3. Jan Taylor | 4. Ronald Skipsey, Nanaimo |

Junior Amateur Marches: (12 Competitors)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Dal Jessiman | 2. Barbara MacArthur |
| 3. Donald MacMillan | 4. Allan MacNeill |

Junior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (11 Competitors)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Barbara MacArthur | 2. Kelly Hagan |
| 3. Raymond Irvine | 4. Donald MacMillan |

Quartette Competitions (Junior): (6 Competitors)

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Seaforth Cadets | 2. Vancouver Kiwanis "B" Boys |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|

Open Piobaireachd: (5 Competitors)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Norma Nicholson | - "Battle of Auldearn" |
| 2. RaeMarie MacInnes | - "Hail to my Country" |
| 3. Albert Duncan | - "MacCrimmon's Sweetheart" |

Amateur Marches: (5 Competitors)

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bruce Topp | 2. Therese MacInnes | 3. Douglas Graham |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (5 Competitors)

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Therese MacInnes | 2. Bruce Topp | 3. Peggy Gillies |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|

Open Marches: (8 Competitors)

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. RaeMarie MacInnes | 2. Robert McDonald | 3. Albert Duncan |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|

Professional Dancing - Reel of Tulloch: (8 Competitors)

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Donna Allan | 2. Mary M. MacMillan | 3. Catherine Elder |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|

Open Strathspeys and Reels: (7 Competitors)

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Robert McDonald | 2. Norma Nicholson | 3. Albert Duncan |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|

Open Jigs: (8 Competitors)

1. RaeMarie MacInnes
2. Angus Graham
3. Albert Duncan

Quartette Competition (Senior): (6 Competitors)

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band
2. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipe Band

Miniature Pipe Band Competition: (5 Competitors)

1. MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band
2. Port Moody Group #1
3. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Pipe Band

HECTOR MACFADYEN'S RECENT VISIT TO VANCOUVER:

Hector MacFadyen, of Pennyghael, has left a definite imprint on piping in Vancouver. His primary obligation, of course, was to act as piping judge at the annual Indoor Gathering on March 11th and 12th. He adjudicated over one hundred individual competitors, ten quartettes, and five miniature pipe bands, covering a period of twenty hours, managed at the same time to note each performance on paper.

During the course of eight days Mr. MacFadyen gave individual adjudication to each and every performer from the smallest novice to the oldest professional (Mr. President, Sir). The manner in which this adjudication was carried out far exceeded the desires of those responsible. He would show a competitor where he was wrong, correct his mistakes, and then end up giving words of praise and encouragement. Any questions that were forthcoming, and there were plenty, were answered in such a way that nothing was left to the imagination.

An indication of the respect and admiration the competitors had for Hector MacFadyen was brought out, I thought, very well by their attendance at the Ceilidh held for the younger competitors on Thursday, March 24. A total of forty-two boys and girls turned out in a display of band blazers, uniforms, and the presence of at least twenty sets of pipes. Several of the youngsters played marches, strathspeys and reels, etc., and to top it all off they came up with two Highland Fling'ers from their midst. The young performers were not disappointed as Hector MacFadyen gave forth with a selection of tunes that they all enjoyed, and marvelled at his mastery of the bagpipes. Truly a most successful evening.

May I take this opportunity to commend the parents of all these youngsters. They respected our wishes by being kind enough to stay away. I am sure that after talking to their sons or daughters they know they certainly did the right thing.

I am sure that we all learned something from this man and that his many hours of toil and sweat shall never be forgotten in B.C. piping circles for many years to come.

To you, Hector MacFadyen, our heart-felt thanks and "Guid Luck" as you proceed along the trail of piping immortality. We certainly think so here.

- Pipe-Major Albert Duncan -
Vice-President

- 0 -

SUMMER GAMES SCHEDULE:

The following list represents the summer Games Schedule, as we have it, to date. If there are any additions to this list, we will print them in a future issue.

Penticton Highland Games	- May 21st & 22nd
Bellingham Highland Games	- June 25th
B.C. Highland Dancing Assn.	- July 1st
Nanaimo Highland Games	- July 9th
Portland Highland Games	- July 23rd
Victoria Highland Games	- July 30th
Vancouver Highland Games	- August 6th
Seattle Highland Games	- August 13th

We are pleased to see that the Seattle-Vancouver conflict was resolved.

If any of our readers have dates of any other local games, kindly send them along.

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PENTICTON HIGHLAND GAMES: MAY 21st and 22nd.

The Third Annual Penticton Highland Games are planned for May 21st and 22nd, at King's Park, Penticton. All entries must be received by the Secretary before May 7th, 1966. Contact:

Mrs. C. Longdo,
Competition Secretary,
1355 Government Street,
Penticton, B.C.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 29th, 1966:

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in the band room, Seaforth Armoury, on Friday, April 29th, 1966, commencing at 8:00 P.M.

We hope to see a good turnout of members at this important meeting. It is at this meeting that the rank-and-file member has the opportunity of deciding whether he approves or disapproves of the manner in which the Association is being conducted. If he feels that there are people better qualified to hold office than those presently in office, and if he feels that newer blood should replace the incumbents, now is his chance to give voice to these ideas. In our Association, as in many organizations, from time to time murmurings are heard to the effect that it is the same old crowd running the same old programme year after year. If this is the case, it is the fault of every member from the President down to the newest active member. Let us not fall into the trap of mediocrity. We must ensure participation by all facets of the piping fraternity, in order that our Association might continue to promote our worthy goals.

To foster and encourage piping in British Columbia, come on out and give your support, at the Annual General Meeting.

The order of business will be as follows:

Reading of previous minutes
Report of President
Report of Treasurer
Report of Trustees
Election of President, Vice-President and 9 Directors
Election of Auditors
Motions
Notices of Motions.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - APRIL 15th, 1966

The Bi-Monthly Competition held on April 15th, 1966, was judged by Mr. Rod MacVicar, Association President.

There were 21 competitors in the Juvenile Strathspey & Reels Class, and the following persons were judged winners:

1. John MacLeod	2. Alex MacInnes	3. Robert Gallaher
4. Sandy Shatford	5. Ronald MacKinnon	6. Dennis Collister

Mr. MacVicar chose Douglas Bernon as winner of the Dress and Department Class. Since there were no Amateur competitors, the Amateur Jig Class was not held.

The next Bi-Monthly Competition is planned for May 20th, 1966, with the following classes:

- . . Novice Strathspey & Reels
- Junior Marches

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ANNUAL MEMBERS BANQUET - MARCH 25th

The Annual Members Banquet, postponed from January, was held on March 25th, to coincide with the visit of Mr. Hector MacFadyen, of Pennyghael, Scotland. A good turnout attended this annual event, held for the first time at the Oakridge Auditorium.

Following the dinner, Mr. Roderick MacVicar, the President, called upon the various Past Presidents to say a few words. He then paid tribute to Mr. MacFadyen, and presented to him an Honourary Membership in the B.C. Pipers' Association, together with the society's pin. Mr. MacFadyen gave a short address, outlining some of the highlights of his visit. He stated that he was very pleased with what he had heard while visiting British Columbia, and gave thanks to all who had helped make his stay enjoyable. He gave special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ian MacKinnon, his hosts, while in Vancouver.

The evening will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to hear Hector MacFadyen's mastery of the bagpipes. He played numerous selections to a highly attentive audience, and thrilled all with the inspiring and interesting repertoire, played in his forceful manner. Although he possesses indeed a modest manner, his exceptional ability obviously places him to the fore of the current masters.

Piping selections were also given by Norma Nicholson, Albert Duncan, Bill Elder and James MacLean, of Seattle. Mrs. Cathrine Paterson gave two vocal selections, accompanied by Mrs. Marshall, and Georgina MacPhail danced the Highland Fling.

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Has anyone noticed that a piper managed to make the Art Show currently very much in the news in Vancouver, surrounding the excavation for the Court House Fountain? A painting of a piper appears on one of the panels, and we are wondering whether this could be a hint of the statue to be erected at that spot of mystery. How splendid - to have a twenty foot statue of a piper in full Highland Dress, adorning our local Court House!

- 0 -

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THE PIPE TUNE - "THE BATTLE OF HARLAW"

(from The Oban Times, March 10, 1966)

It is a fault of our old collectors of tunes that they do not tell us where, when or how they came into the possession of their tunes; indeed they tell us nothing at all.

An instance of this is the piobaireachd "The Battle of Harlaw", which appears in the collections, usually with the date 1411, leading many to think that this tune goes back to that date.

The Battle of Harlaw was fought on July 24, 1411, between Donald, Lord of the Isles, and a hastily mobilised force from Aberdeen. Angus and Kincardine commanded by the Earl of Mar. The men from the Isles proved no match for the better equipped and trained men of Mar and victory rested with the latter. The loss on both sides was heavy.

The battle is commemorated in two ballads, one a traditional and the other a literary one. Three versions of the traditional ballad have been collected from oral sources. The first was communicated by Lady John Scott to Professor Aytoun and appeared in his "Ballads of Scotland" in 1858.

A Mr. Ferguson contributed an almost identical ballad to Notes and Queries, third series, Vol. VII, May 20, 1865.

The late Gavin Greig, schoolmaster in New Deer, Aberdeenshire, collected a version in that district towards the end of the last century. Mr. Greig's version is similar to the older ones printed but contains three extra stanzas, so is the longest yet published. It also contains some other variations but only such as might happen when a ballad is handed down orally.

This traditional ballad is largely unhistorical; it errs in the size of the armies engaged, in the part played by Forbes, in the omission of the actual leaders, in the killing of MacDonald, and the duration of the conflict. These things led Professor Child to think that the ballad was a comparatively recent invention.

The literary ballad appears in Ramsay's "Evergreen", "being a collection of poems wrote by the Ingenious before 1700". (Edinburgh, 1724). According to Motherwell, no mean authority, this was copied from a broadsheet printed in 1668. This ballad gives a minute and accurate account of the circumstances which gave rise to, as well as the progress and issue of, the battle.

It is often printed as a ballad though not in popular ballad form and is never sung, though a tune has been fitted to it. It mentions the musical instruments used in the battle:-

The provost of brave Aberdeen,
With trumpets and with tuck of drum,
Came shortly in their armour sheen.

Trumpets and drums are mentioned twice in the ballad but there is no mention of the bagpipes.

Now for the tune. In the "Complaynt of Scotland" published in 1549, mentioned among the melodious songs of the shepherds is one called "The Battle of Harlaw", but as there is neither words or music printed in that work the reference does not convey any information to us.

In Sir William Mure of Rowallan's lute book "probably noted some-time between the years 1612 and 1628" is a tune entitled "Battle of Harlaw". The airs are noted in tablature and are difficult to read, but they have been transliterated into modern notation. This may be the tune referred to in the "Complaynt".

Drummond of Hawthornden refers to the tune in his "Polemo Middinia", this may refer to the one in the Rowallan lute book. However this may be, the tune in the Rowallan lute book has not the remotest resemblance to the tune we know as the "Battle of Harlaw".

No tune appears to have been collected for the versions of the ballad collected by Lady John Scott and Mr. Ferguson. Gavin Greig collected ten airs for the version of the ballad he found in Aberdeenshire; these airs appear to be only different versions of one another, and two of them are variants of the tune "The Miller of Drone", composed by Nathaniel Gow, son of the famous Neil. The only previous tune published for this ballad is in Child's appendix of ballad airs, where Sir William Walker gave a record closely agreeing with some of those collected by Greig.

The second ballad, that in the "Evergreen" has no tune there. There is no music in that work. No trace of any tune for it can be found anywhere, though there were many collectors at work - Playford, Thomson, Ramsay, Oswald, Bremner, Aird and others. It is strange that if any tune existed all these men missed it.

In 1775 Daniel Dow published his collection of "Twenty Minuets and Sixteen Reels". Dow was an excellent composer of reels and strathspeys, and popular teacher of music, the guitar, etc. He was born in Perthshire in 1732 and died in Edinburgh, January 20, 1783. As a composer he was highly esteemed.

In his book we find for the first time the tune "The Battle of Harlaw". There is little doubt but he himself composed it. From Dow's collection the air was copied into the sixth volume of the "Museum", the second strain being altered a little.



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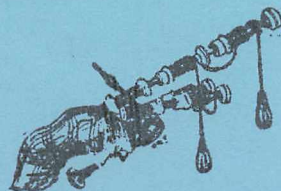
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SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY PLANS PIPE BAND:

In keeping with its deep Scottish heritage, Simon Fraser University has begun preparations to have a Pipe Band formed on campus this fall. With regards to this, two announcements are now being made public.

Firstly, in accordance with the University's policy to make available the best possible instruction, academic or otherwise, the band will be under the expert supervision of Mr. Edmund Esson M.B.E., recently retired Pipe-Major of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. A drumming instructor will also be appointed.

Secondly, when the University awards were established it was clearly in the minds of the Board of Governors that they would recognize all forms of contributions to the well being, and growth and character of the University, other than contributions in the fields of academics or athletics. Accordingly, several awards amounting to full semester fees, will be offered to individuals who have displayed their proficiency in piping or drumming, providing of course that they meet academic entrance requirements.

It is intended that, due to the tradition of Simon Fraser, the Pipe Band will be THE University band, and will represent the University at different functions. Thus bandsmen will have an excellent opportunity to take part in the building of the traditions and character of the University.

Uniforms and most equipment will be provided. For bandsmen in the Greater Vancouver area, it is not intended that participation in the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band will mean that membership in other bands must be discontinued. However, we regret that for financial reasons, membership is being restricted to males.

It is hoped that this information will be passed on to any pipers or drummers who are planning to attend university this fall. Additional information may be obtained by writing to:

Simon Fraser University Pipe Band,
c/o Simon Fraser Student Society,
Burnaby 2, B. C.

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"TAPE AND DISC AID TEACHING OF PIPERS THE MODERN WAY"

(from The Oban Times, March 17, 1966)

Teaching the pipes the modern way! In favour of it was Pipe-Major John MacLellan, Edinburgh Castle, when he spoke in his capacity as guest chairman at the Scottish Pipers' Association annual dinner in the Bath Hotel on Friday evening.

"As a tutor," he said, "I am well aware that canntaireachd had its place in the teaching of bagpipe music and especially ceol mor, but today tape recordings and records of expert pipers can be used to useful advantage."

The trouble is that although there are records of piobaireachds, marches, strathspeys, and reels available for the expert, there are few, if any, for the learner. Mr. MacLellan suggested that the Scottish Pipers' Association, which has done so much for the art in the last 40-odd years, should get together with other piping associations and produce tapes and records for beginners.

Pipe-Major MacLellan, who has won every major award in piping, has now given up competitive play and joined the ranks of the judges. He advocated that the members of the usual panel of judges should be separated at every competition, that each one should give his own individual marks and that the "huddle" should be completely abolished.

Mr. John MacFadyen, president, extended a cordial welcome to the company and introducing the chairman said that after a distinguished career in the Seaforths he had now carved a new career for himself as "John MacLellan of Edinburgh Castle".

The social side of the evening was not in any way neglected and among those who sustained the programme which followed the formal side of the evening were John A. MacRae, Mrs. MacRae, Seumas MacNeill, Alan Beaton, and Hugh Ferris, while the president showed his versatility by contributing vocally. Angus MacLellan, honorary pipe-major to the association, played a most entertaining selection on the pipes.

A Comprehensive vote of thanks to all who took part was accorded by Pipe-Major Nicol McCallum.

LETTER FROM BELLINGHAM:

At the first meeting of this year the Bellingham Highland Games Association decided some changes in the format of this annual event should be considered for this year's Games, which will be on Saturday, June 25th. At this time, the officers and committee workers are busy checking out different ideas.

We do know there will not be an A.A.U. Track & Field Meet because of conflicting schedules and other complications. There will instead be a greater emphasis on Scottish athletics and there will be more of these events than in the past few years.

It was suggested that the Games be held in a different location - with a park-like setting - to allow an informal viewing of all platforms by interested spectators. Several possibilities are being surveyed.

Some improvements in the Ceilidh are being considered, but it will follow the Games as usual.

The staff of the 1966 Games is sure that this will be the best ever for those interested in the piping, dancing, and drumming competitions.

- Bellingham Highland Games Association -

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WILLIAM MacKAY PASSES IN VICTORIA:

William (Bill) MacKay died on March 7th in the Veterans' Hospital at Victoria.

Bill was Pipe Sgt. of the Transcona Pipe Band (C.N.R.) around the late twenties and early thirties, when under Pipe-Major Alex Cameron that Band was making a name for itself at the various Highland Games, and was a member of that Band when they won the Stewart Trophy at Vancouver.

Bill was also prominent as a solo competitor at that time, and won the open aggregate at Vancouver in 1933.

Although he was unable to play his pipes for the past few years he still maintained a lively interest in everything pertaining to piping. He was a piper with the Imperial Seaforth Highlanders in the first World War.

- Peter George -
Victoria, B.C.

- 0 -

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THE QUEEN'S PIPER - APPOINTMENT FOR ARGYLLS' PIPE-MAJOR:

(from The Oban Times, Feb. 10, 1966)

Pipe-Major Andrew Pitkeathly, who retired last month from the 1st Bn. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has been appointed the Queen's piper in succession to Pipe-Major Alexander MacDonald who has held the post for the past 20 years.

Pipe-Major Pitkeathly, who comes from Perthshire, joined the Argylls just after the War and was appointed pipe-major in 1952. He has seen service with the Argylls in many parts of the world. But his travels overseas have not been solely confined to those countries in which the battalion has been stationed, for as a member of the pipe band he has visited every continent and nearly every country of the Commonwealth, playing the pipes to enthralled audiences at tattoos, military tournaments and Caledonian gatherings. With all this travelling, Pipe-Major Pitkeathly has found little time to compete at Highland games in this country but he is a first-class piobaireachd player and won the gold medal at Inverness in 1949 and has also been placed in the medal competition at Oban.

When his battalion was posted to Malaysia in 1963 Pipe-Major Pitkeathly went with them and was soon on active service in the jungles of Sarawak. For the pipers it was an active and varied life for if they were not on ceremonial duties at H.Q. they were either on patrol near the frontier or teaching the natives the finer points of piping.

In the summer of 1964, Pipe-Major Pitkeathly took over the duties of regimental quartermaster sergeant from R.Q.M.S. Campbell and held the post until last month when he was appointed Queen's piper.

His new duties which he takes up in March will include piping outside the Queen's window wherever she is in resident at 9:00 a.m. and leading the pipers at State banquets.

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NO NEWSLETTER IN MARCH.

If you think that we forgot you in March, don't be concerned! No Newsletter was produced last month, and it was decided to make this issue a combined March and April edition.

We have tried to include two month's material, so all you canny Scots can get your money's worth.

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LETTER FROM NANAIMO:

Here are a few lines giving a little information on things to happen this coming summer.

Our Games will be held Saturday, July 9th, and we do hope that the weather will be better than in 1965.

We have retained our membership with Pacific International here on the Island, for we feel that it is a benefit to belong.

Once again we will hold the Pacific Northwest Quartette Championships "B" Class and "C" Class. At present the Vancouver Ladies hold the "B" Class cup while the Kiwanis Band hold the "C" Class. This year the Quartette will be required to play a March Strathspey and Reel.

Here in Nanaimo there are some twenty-five youngsters taking lessons from four teachers. This is more than ever before and they average in age from nine up to twenty-one. The older pupils realize that there is more satisfaction gained from piping when one puts extra effort during practice. Some of them are moving along quite well and we hope to have a few good individual pipers emerge to the fore within the next year.

The Junior Band moves along quite well and have added in numbers the past few weeks. They are now seventeen strong with ten pipers and seven drummers. They all seem to enjoy the thrills of being in a band; I hope it continues. After all, the band will only be as good as the members in it.

I look back on the sixteen hundred days and nights put in with lessons and band practice sessions, not forgetting the upkeep and maintenance on the kids pipes. It looks more promising now than when I started back in the Fall of 1959. With the extra teaching now possibly we can come up with a fairly good band in a year or so.

- Ian Wallace -
Nanaimo, B.C.

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FAMOUS BAND MAY CHANGE NAME AGAIN!

We read with amusement recently that the MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Ltd. are planning on changing their name once again, by dropping "Powell River", and taking the new name "MacMillan Bloedel, Ltd."

Does this mean that the famous pipe band is going to have to change their name once more. Originally the Powell River Pipe Band, upon amalgamation between the Powell River Company and MacMillan & Bloedel Ltd., the band took on the name of the new company. It has taken until now for the public to become accustomed to the name and now its time to change it again.

How about a sweepstake on what the name will be?

What about "The MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. (Powell River Division) Pipe Band."

PIPERS OF THE CANADIAN FORCES:

(The following article, entitled "Pipers of the Canadian Forces" is a chapter from "The Piper in Peace and War", by C.A. Malcolm, M.A., Ph. D., and published in London, in 1927. We may reprint further excerpts from this interesting volume in future issues).

Many of the Canadian Militia regiments had pipe bands long years before the Great War; they were mostly regiments affiliated to Highland regiments of the Old Country, whose titles they bore and whose traditions they sought to preserve. Oldest of all were the 5th Royal Highlanders of Canada, dating from 1816, affiliated to the Black Watch. There were the Highland Light Infantry of Canada, with headquarters at Galt, Ontario; the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada at Vancouver, and - also allied to the Seaforths - the Pictou Highlanders of Nova Scotia; the 48th Regiment (Highlanders), Toronto, affiliated to the Gordons; the 43rd Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada at Winnipeg and the Ottawa Highlanders, each affiliated to the Camerons; Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland) Highlanders of Canada, at Hamilton, Ontario, and the Calgary Highlanders, were both representative of the old 91st and 93rd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Pipers were not only in abundance in these units but also in certain mounted contingents. The 1st and 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles had full pipe bands, which, in times of peace were also mounted.

In addition to these old established units many regiments raised for service in the Great War adopted pipe bands. There were pipers in France with all the following regiments: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the 13th, 15th, 16th, 19th, 21st, 25th, 26th, 29th, 42nd, 43rd, 46th, 48th, 67th, and 85th Regiments; the 107th (Pioneers), the 35th (Forestry) Battalion, and the 1st and the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles.

The Princess Patricia's Light Infantry had the advantage of getting en masse the Town Pipe Band of Edmonton, the members of which journeyed to Ottawa in August 1914, and offered to "play the battalion into France and back again." the pipers, who were all good Scots, had volunteered for that distinguished regiment, though only 15 per cent. of its members were Scots, and they learned that the tunes often in request were not always of the type appreciated by true disciples of McCrimmon. For example when marching through a village in France occupied by American troops, the pipers played "Marching through Georgia" to the immense delight of the Americans. They had to keep on playing, no matter how long the march; pipers are expected never to tire or allow the men behind them to tire, but a march that requires no fewer than forty-two different tunes to be played seems something in the nature of a record. That, indeed, was the sum totalled one day by the P.P.C.L.I. after an exceptionally long march and was put down to the credit of their pipers!

In action the Canadian pipers were, as in the home regiments, employed as stretcher-bearers, runners, ammunition and ration carriers and

transport men. Frequently they were found at the head of their companies, playing them into action, and then resuming their work of stretcher bearing. The pipers of the P.P.C.L.I., two of whom were awarded the D.C.M., played the leading wave of the battalion up the lip of the crater of Vimy Ridge in April 1917, and then went back for their stretcher duties.

The 13th (Royal Highlanders) seem to have been badly handicapped at the outset by lack of pipers, only five having gone out with the original force and of these two were lost in the battle of Ypres in April 1915 - H. Robertson, a Muir-of-Ord man, who died of his wounds, and Alexander Singer, who, in consequence of wounds, had to be invalided out. The pipe-corporal, Neil Sinclair, an old piper of the K.O.S.B., who hailed from Islay, was wounded in June 1916, and after recovery was posted pipe-major at Bramshott camp. George Robertson, a Dundee man, was killed in April 1917. Matters were improved in April 1917, by a reinforcement of eight pipers under Pipe-Major A.J. Saunders, an ex-piper of the H.L.I., all the nine being transferred from the 73rd (Reserve) Battalion. They were not as a rule allowed to play their companies into action, but at Amiens, on 8th August 1918, Piper James W. Macdonald played his company and Piper G.B. Macpherson, a Wick man, played his in the action at Arras on 27th September 1918, and returned without casualty.

The 16th (Canadian Scottish) Battalion kept to the old Highland clan system of having the pipers play whenever and wherever possible; no battle seems to have been fought without the strains of one or more of their pipers resounding in the ears of some of the fighters. One colonel had the taste for pipe music so much developed as to have a piper march alongside him whenever he went into action; the music doubtless acted as a tonic for thought as well as action. Casualties in consequence of all these demands on their services were very high among the pipers. Seventeen pipers had set out with the 16th Battalion in 1915 but only three remained in November 1918. The pipe-major, James Groat, was a worthy successor of the pipers of Vimiera and Waterloo. Thrice he had his gallantry recognised in the awards of D.C.M. and M.M. with bar. Groat was severely wounded and had to be invalided out. The other pipers of the 16th were equally gallant; eight of these were awarded the M.M., one of their number, George Firth Paul, causing a sensation at Amiens in 1918 by getting atop a tank as it proceeded into action and there playing his pipes, as though that were the latest development of the complete piper in action.

The crowning award of the Victoria Cross was also reserved for a piper of this battalion, James Richardson, a native of Rutherglen, Glasgow, whose brief, glorious service is summed up in the London Gazette recording the deed performed on 8th October 1916, at Regina Trench:-

"This piper performed deeds of the most extraordinary valour. He implored his commanding officer to allow him to play his company over the top. As the company approached the trench they were held up by very strong wire and came under a most terrific fire. The casualties were appalling, and the company was momentarily demoralised. Realising the situation, he strode up and down outside the wire, playing his pipes with the greatest coolness.

The effect on the company was instantaneous, and, inspired by his splendid example, they re-formed and sprang at the wire with such fury and determination that they succeeded in cutting their way through and capturing the position. After entering the trench he asked for some bombs from the company sergeant-major, and they together bombed a dugout, capturing two prisoners. He was afterwards detailed to take these prisoners out, together with the company sergeant-major, who had been wounded."

"After proceeding about two hundred yards he remembered that he had left his pipes behind. Although strongly urged to do so, he refused to leave his beloved pipes and, putting the prisoners and company sergeant-major in a shell hole, he returned for them. He has never been seen since. An unrivalled tale of Scottish valour, worthy of the finest traditions of Highland pipers".

Not many pipers were so circumstanced; those of the 19th (Central Ontario) Battalion acted as stretcher-bearers until 1916, when they were allowed to play their companies to and from the front line, finishing in the advance against Amiens in November 1918. The pipers of the 21st (Eastern Ontario) Battalion also, like their friends of the 19th Battalion, began the campaign as stretcher-bearers, but they all became casualties and were replaced by pipers, of whom two won distinction: Piper W. Currie who in addition to getting a Military Medal, was promoted lieutenant, in which rank he again was honoured for his "fine work and good leadership during a raid." For that the ex-piper was awarded the Military Cross. The pipe-major, J.K. Mackenzie, had also been appointed a lieutenant; he fell in action on 11th October 1918.

As stretcher-bearers the twenty-five pipers of the 25th Battalion did duty, the pipe-major, J. Carson, a Greenock man, being awarded the Meritorious Service Medal; Pipers W. Brand, and N. J. McInnis for bravery, getting each the Military Medal. The 26th (New Brunswick) Battalion pipers continued as pipers whenever an opportunity presented itself. There were eighteen of a pipe band, thirteen of whom were emigrants from Scotland; three were natives of St. John's, one of Montreal, and the eighteenth was actually an Englishman who belonged to Southend-on-Sea! They all escaped sickness and wounds until the attack against Amiens in 1918, when three were so severely wounded as to be unable for further service. Military decorations did not come to the pipers except the Military Medal, which was awarded Piper Gallacher.

The 29th (British Columbia) Regiment, the pipers and drummers of which were all Scots of Vancouver, suffered severely, losing before the close of 1916 two from wounds and two sick, while four were killed in action on 6th November, 1917.

The 46th (Saskatchewan) Battalion pipers numbered many ex-pipers of pre-war Highland regiments who, in the Great War, found themselves bearing stretchers instead of playing in action, as in former times. There was George Allan, an Edinburgh man, who had been for twelve years a piper in the Scots Guards, with the two medals for South Africa; Piper Allan died of

wounds in August 1917. There was also Peter Baggett who hailed from Leith and who had piped in the Black Watch for twelve years before settling in Canada. Baggett was wounded so severely that he had to be discharged from service, as had likewise Pipers John Smith, ex-Seaforths, Wm McGeachin, John Fraser, and Charles Maclachlan. Another piper who had to leave was the veteran corporal James Hogg, whose earlier Army record extended over a period of twenty-six years, twelve of which were spent as a piper in the K.O.S.B. and fourteen years in the Black Watch. Length of years and increasing infirmities had at last forced him to retire, just as these disabilities forced his comrade, Piper William Finlayson, an ex-Seaforth belonging to Stornoway.

All these departures left but three pipers to the 46th Battalion, but these three did prodigies of valour while serving as stretcher-bearers, Piper Fraser was awarded the Military Medal and Pipe-Sergeant George McIntosh, a native of Forfarshire, after gaining that medal, had a bar added in 1918.

Into the 67th Battalion - Western Scots of Canada - went the pre-war pipers of the Gordon Highlanders of Canada, with the exception of three, who were transferred to the 16th Battalion. There was a delightful variety about the personnel of these pipers of the 67th. The youngest was a sixteen years-old boy, and the eldest a veteran of sixty-nine years, and each, curiously, received much military honour. Boy Piper D. Campbell showed himself a brave soldier at Vimy Ridge and was awarded the Military Medal; he was then promoted staff-sergeant and, having attracted the attention of General Ironside, was appointed confidential clerk to that officer, whom he accompanied later to the Russian Front. J. Wallace, the veteran piper, whose soldiering had been learnt several decades back as a piper in The Royal Scots, won the admiration of H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught and of Field-Marshal Haig. These officers, as they watched the massed band performance at Cambain l'Abbe in 1917, made special inquiry into the military history of Piper Wallace, and after the recital, saluted him to the utter embarrassment of that most modest soldier. Another old soldier was Piper George Leslie who, as a Gordon Highlander, had played his pipes in 1897 on the hills of Dargai and carried them over the veldt of South Africa in the war of 1899-1902; he had the good fortune to be promoted pipe-major at the base.

The pipers could not complain of monotony in their duties, for they were at times at the head of their companies playing them into action, at other times they were out with the stretchers bringing in the wounded, or again were back and forth with ammunition for the front line, and when food was required they were sure to be sent for it. On the eve of the Armistice the battalion was disbanded and the pipers were transferred to the 102nd Battalion.

The pipers of the 85th (Nova Scotia) Battalion belonged to a province where pipe music was the favourite form of entertainment, "the people preferring it to all other kinds of music." So spoke an officer of the battalion. The sixteen pipers therefore who composed the band on the outbreak of the War were certain of having an appreciative audience among their comrades who kept them piping as often as occasion would permit. Ten of the pipers were native born - six Cape Bretoners and four were Ontarians - but there was room for a much-travelled Scottish soldier in the person of J. McIntosh, who, after

his period of service as a piper in the Gordons, which included the campaigns of Chitral and South Africa, had emigrated to Massachusetts. Thence he had journeyed to Nova Scotia to join the pipe band of the 85th and was appointed pipe-sergeant.

The sixteen pipers who comprised the pipe band of the 107th Canadian Pioneers were Scottish emigrants who had come from various townships of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. They were pipers only when duties allowed. Making trenches and wiring occupied much of their time, but when the Pioneers rested from these labours the pipers tuned in their pipers for the delectation of all. Illness and wounds resulted in the death of one and in the discharge of five others.

The 1st and the 4th Battalions of Canadian Mounted Rifles resembled the Scottish Horse and the Lovat Scouts in their love of pipe music. The fifteen pipers of the 1st Battalion who mobilised with the troops at Brandon in August 1914 and the ten pipers - all Scots - of the 4th Mounted Rifles found that the conditions of war did not permit of the practice of their art on horseback, nor even of their ordinary routine duties as pipers. They became infantrymen like the rest of the battalion, and were either using the rifle and bayonet or were engaged in the strenuous duty of stretcher bearers. Two pipers of the 1st were killed in action and four were wounded, while one of the 4th was killed and three were wounded.

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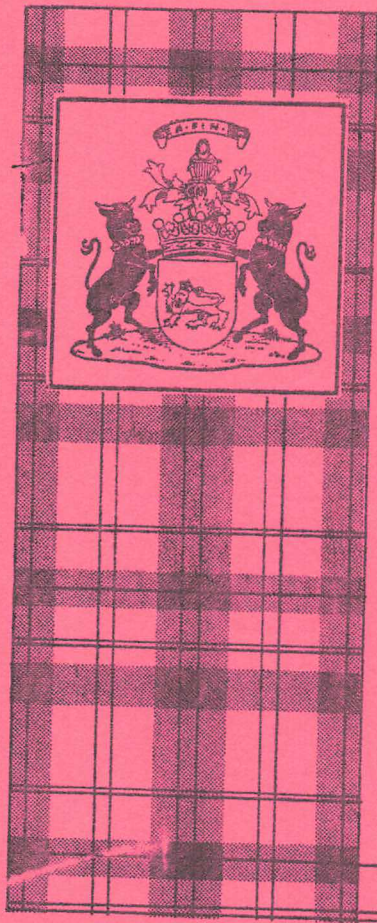
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