



MARCH, 1961. No. 12.

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Gathering of the British Columbia Pipers' Association will be held on Saturday, March 25th, at the Seaforth Armoury. This Gathering is the highlight of the activities of this association, and is probably one of the largest indoor piping meets outside of Scotland.

The programme of the Annual Gathering will be as follows:

Morning Session: - 9:00 a.m.

1. Junior Amateur Piobaireachd
2. Amateur Piobaireachd
3. Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs
4. Novice Marches

Afternoon Session: - 1:30 p.m.

5. Juvenile Marches
6. Juvenile Strathspeys & Reels
7. Junior Amateur Marches
8. Junior Amateur Strathspeys & Reels
9. Quartette Competition (Junior Pipe Bands)
10. Amateur Marches
11. Amateur Strathspeys & Reels
12. Open Piobaireachd

Evening Session: - 7:00 p.m.

13. Old Highland Airs - Veterans 60 and over
14. Open Marches
15. Open Sword Dance
16. Quartette Competition (Senior Pipe Bands)
17. Open Strathspeys & Reels
18. Miniature Pipe Band Competition
19. Open Jigs

The Piping judge at the Indoor Gathering will be Mr. George Duncan, from Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Duncan is one of the most eminent piping authorities in the east, and is frequently employed as a judge in Eastern Canada and in the Eastern States. We are very fortunate to be able to have Mr. Duncan with us at our meet.

It should be noted that in Events No. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, it may be necessary to hold a short leet. The judge of this short leet will chose the top five performers (not in order of preference), who will play in the final contest. A word of explanation concerning the necessity of the short leet should be given. This elimination contest, which was introduced for the first time at last year's gathering, was decided necessary because of the fact that the large entries in the novice, juvenile and junior events were putting the entire competitions completely off schedule. With the ever increasing entries, there were only three alternatives, if the Indoor Gathering were to function properly. We could cut down our classes, we could hold certain events on an earlier day, or we could use an elimination contest.

Due to the increase of interest in piping here, it was considered very undesirable to curtail the classes. Holding certain classes on another day would be unfeasible if these classes were to be an integral part of our Annual Gathering, from the audience, judging and administration points of view. Therefore, it was decided that elimination contest would be necessary. Although we have received a number of complaints from indignant parents, who feel that their children are being discriminated against, in that they are not allowed to perform in front of the chief judge, we hope that everyone will realize the necessity of this course of action. The short leets will be held in the lecture room on the second floor, and will commence at 9:00 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded as follows in solo competitions:

1 - 2 Competitors	1 prize
3 "	2 prizes
4 - 9 "	3 "
10 & more "	4 "

Admission to the Annual Gathering will be \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children. This admission will cover all sessions. Refreshments will be available, and parking facilities at the rear of the Seaforth Armoury are excellent.

We hope to see all of you at the Indoor Gathering, and would appreciate you making our meet known to all who are interested in our cause.

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The March General Meeting will be held on Friday, the 24th, the night prior to the Indoor Gathering. This meeting will take the form of a work party, which is required to prepare the Armoury for the competition, and we would ask as many as possible to come out, preferably in old clothes. Refreshments will be available for the work party. It is hoped that it can be arranged for our judge, Mr. George Duncan, to drop in during the evening, and meet informally with the membership present. Your assistance is necessary, and we would ask you to come out and give us a hand.

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This issue of the "B.C. Pipers' Newsletter" marks the completion of its first year of production. We hope that you have enjoyed reading the Newsletter. It is intended to include even more material for your information and interest in the coming year.

We plan to produce the future issues of the "Newsletter" in a new and more attractive form. It is hoped that you will approve of the change.

We have received a number of requests from members who would like the "Newsletter" sent to friends, who are not members of the B.C. Pipers' Association. We would be pleased to send it to anyone at \$1.00 per year. If you have any friends who might be interested, why not send them a subscription?

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Recently elected to membership were the following persons:

Mrs. Vivian Bennie	Port Coquitlam, B.C.
Wm. Lamont	Vancouver, B.C.
Donald MacAulay	Vancouver, B.C.
Ian MacDougall	Vancouver, B.C.
Garnet Snow	Vancouver, B.C.
Robert Young	New Westminster, B.C.

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A good audience enjoyed the Bi-Monthly Competition held on Friday, February 10th, in the lecture room at the Seaforth Armoury. It was very gratifying to hear the fine performances given by all of the competitors, who numbered thirty-three.

Ian Inkster judged the following persons the winners of these competitions:

Novice Old Highland Airs:

1. Bob Lamont
2. Lauries McIlvena
3. Stewart Morton
4. Ken Warder.

Juvenile Strathspey and Reel:

1. John MacLeod
2. Michael MacInnes
3. Glen Snow
4. Bruce Topp
5. Douglas Graham.

Junior Piobaireachd:

1. Bobby MacDonald.

Amateur Jigs:

1. Bill Elder.

Senior Amateur Marches:

1. William Paterson
2. David Ireland.

At the competition one of the younger performers asked the following question:

"Is the old man with the sticks going to give out the prizes?"

This of course made reference to the fact that our ever popular Rod MacLeod has been unable to attend the last few competitions. We hope to see him out again soon.

The next Bi-Monthly Competition will be held on April 21st.

We extend congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth MacLeod, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on February 21st. Kenneth MacLeod, who became a Life Member of this Association on January 14th, 1961, and his popular wife, are well known to the piping circle in Western Canada, and we are pleased to be able to offer our good wishes on this happy occasion.

On February 21st, 1911, in Winnipeg, Kenneth, who had migrated from Tolsta Lewis, near Stornaway, Lewis, just four years previously, married a lass from Leurboist Lochs, also on the Island of Lewis. Mrs. MacLeod, whose maiden name was Margaret MacLeod, had come to Canada in 1909.

The MacLeods arrived in Vancouver in 1911, where they raised one son and one daughter. Kenneth MacLeod retired from the Customs and Excise Branch in 1946, having served thirty-four years with that department.

We hope that both Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod will remain in good health for many years, and we look forward to the day when they celebrate their Diamond Anniversary.

NEWS FROM SPOKANE, WASHINGTON:

We recently exchanged correspondence with Mr. John Swan, of Spokane, Washington, who brought us up to date with the piping activities in his region. It would appear that Spokane is the centre of a thriving little piping community.

There are three pipe bands in Spokane: the Angus Scott Memorial Pipe Band, the Spokane Valley Junior Pipe Band, and the Shadle Park High School Pipe Band.

The Angus Scott Memorial Pipe Band was formed six years ago, and was named in honour of the late Angus Scott, of Kimberly, B.C., (and of the Calgary Highlanders Pipe Band during World War II), who taught the pipes to many of the senior pipers of the district. This band is led by Pipe Major George Mars, formerly of Victoria, Pipe Sgt. John Swan, and Drum Sgt. Harry Prout, formerly of Calgary. It can muster up to twenty members.

The Spokane Valley Junior Pipe Band has been fairly recently formed, and is composed of members whose ages range from eight to fifteen.

Both the Angus Scott Memorial Pipe Band and the Spokane Valley Junior Pipe Band are sponsored by the St. Andrew's Society of the Inland Empire. As well as sponsoring these bands, this society stages an annual Scottish picnic at Coeur D' Alene, presents a Burns Night Dinner, and puts out a bulletin called the "Thistle Epistle". This bulletin, which is edited by Mr. Swan, is intended to further the good will and fellowship of the various Scottish bodies connected with the St. Andrew's Society.

The Shadle Park High School Pipe Band, although independant from the other two bands, serves as a source of good young pipers for the senior pipe band. Its Pipe Major and tutor is William Thomas, also a member of the Angus Scott Memorial Pipe Band.

Finally, we are told that there are three dancing groups in Spokane. The leading teacher is Mrs. Viola Wallace (nee Campbell), formerly of Kimberly. Mrs. Wallace also pipes on occasion with the senior band.

We are most grateful to Mr. Swan for his informative letter concerning piping in Spokane, and would be pleased to include from time to time news dealing with piping in his district.

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Dear Sirs:

Possibly some members of the piping fraternity in your area knew or had heard of Dr. John C. Simpson of Inverness, notice of whose death appeared recently in a North of Scotland newspaper. Under the heading "Leading Authority on Piping Dies", the article notes that Dr. Simpson, a native of Wick, served as a medical officer in Gallipoli in World War I, and was afterwards medical superintendant of Gracemount Hospital in Edinburgh. An able piper, Dr. Simpson often judged at Highland gatherings; was Vice-President of the Inverness Piping Society, and a committee member of Comunn na Piobaireachd.

"Lochaber no More"

James A. Berry
Secretary
Vancouver Island Pipers' Society.

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A good crowd enjoyed the Piping Evening held after the General Meeting on Friday, February 24th, in the Band Room of the Seaforth Armoury. Many enjoyable performances were given by the members present. James MacMillan played "Millbank's Salute", George Cameron played "MacCrimmon Will Never Return", and Ian MacDougall played the ground work of "MacKay's Banner". Ian MacDougall, a new member, is a fine piper, and is a member of the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band, and the Irish Fusiliers Pipe Band. We think much will be heard of him in the future. Also especially enjoyable were a number of duets played by Ed Esson and Jim MacMillan.

Terras McHardy, son of Pipe Major John McHardy, played a selection of jigs, which were well received. Terry has recently been appointed Pipe Major of the Seaforth Cadet Battalion Pipe Band. He has been a frequent competitor since a very small boy, and we would like to wish him good luck in his new position.

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SEATTLE PIPERS' & DRUMMERS' STAG:

Seattle's 10th Annual Pipers' and Drummers' Stag was held in the New Washington Hotel on Saturday, March 4th. This stag is sponsored by a joint committee of Seattle's four pipe bands: Seattle Pipe Band, Keith Highlanders, Washington Scottish and Clan Gordon Pipe Band. It is intended to establish a closer relationship between the members of these bands and those interested in piping and drumming from Washington, Oregon and British Columbia.

A large crowd gathered for the evening, and although the banquet and competition were officially being held in the Windsor Room, the entire hotel was inundated by pipers and drummers getting their instruments tuned. The contingent of members from the B.C. Pipers' Association who travelled down for the Stag included Hugh Aird, Edmund Esson, David Ireland, Donald MacDonald, John McHardy, Ian MacLeod, Donald Murray, Malcolm Nicholson, Ian Walker, Jim Wilson, Ian Milne, William Paterson and Harry Mumford.

The winners of the various trophies were as follows:

Seattle & Vicinity March, Strathspey & Reel: Jack Bergstrom
Amateur March: Ian Walker
Drumming Competition: Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
Open Jigs: Donald MacDonald
Open Slow Airs: Alistair MacRae
Quartette: Vancouver City Police Pipe Band
Totem Contest: (novelty) Donald Collins

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The following note was sent to us from James A. Berry, Secretary of the Vancouver Island Pipers' Society:

"The Annual Banquet of the Vancouver Island Pipers' Society is to be held at Loughheed's Banquet Club, 1406 Douglas Street, Victoria, on Saturday, April 15th, 1961. Bar, 6:00 p.m., Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Double tickets are \$5.00, single, \$3.00. These may be got at the door, or obtained from Pipe-Major Peter George, 3838 Saul Street, 'phone EV. 5-3074, President of the Society.

A good programme is being arranged, and we should like to be favoured with the attendance of a group from Vancouver."

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A meeting of the Pacific International Highland Games Association was held on March 4th, at the New Washington Hotel, Seattle, Washington. At this meeting, Ian Walker and Georgina MacPhail of this Association were elected President and Secretary, respectively, of the P.I.H.G.A. for the following year.

The following dates have been set for the Games:

July 8th - Nanaimo
July 22nd - Vancouver
July 29th - Victoria
August 5th - Seattle
August 19th - Portland-Astoria

On May 27th, Games will be held in Bellingham, Washington for the first time. In the event that the Bellingham Games prove to be successful, they will become part of the circuit of games held under the P.I.H.G.A. A full slate of piping, pipe band, and dancing events are planned.

We will provide further details concerning all of the games when they become available.

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VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND FESTIVAL:

Since the late twenties, the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band has been holding its annual dance festival. It was first held in the Women's Building at Thurlow and Robson, with classes in character and Highland dancing. The programme was extended to include elocution and in the early thirties, singing, piping and solo drumming, confined to band members, was held for a short time.

Since 1946, this festival has strictly been a dance festival, with amateur piping classes included in 1956. Last year a drum corps competition was included for the first time, and this year a solo drumming class is planned.

The Festival will be held on March 16th, 17th, and 18th, at the Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Ave. (17th & Main). The piping and drumming events will be held on Saturday, March 18th, and the sessions will commence at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The following classes will be held:

2:00 Under 12 - Novice - March
Under 18 - Novice - March
Under 12 - Amateur March
Under 12 - Amateur Strathspey & Reel
Under 16 - Amateur March
Under 16 - Amateur Strathspey & Reel
Over 16 - Amateur March
Over 16 - Amateur Strathspey & Reel

6:00 Under 14 - non-prize winners - Strathspey & Reel
Members of Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band - March, Strathspey & Reel
Individual Side Drumming
Drum Corps Competition.

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Dear Sir:

In your Newsletter of the B.C. Pipers' of October issue you made reference to a letter received from James A. Berry of Victoria, B.C. in which he mentions the Gordon Highlanders and Dargai. This brings back memories of over sixty years ago when Piper Findlater won the Victoria Cross at Dargai.

As a laddie of about six years I was spending my Hairst Play at my Grandmother's (Isabella Findlater) near Turriff. Fine I remember the night Piper Findlater arrived at my grandmother's from Netley Hospital where he was invalided after having being wounded at Dargai.

After supper he played his pipes in the yard and he must have played "O gin I were where the Gadie rins at the back of Benachie", as it seems to have become my favourite tune. When Queen Victoria visited Piper Findlater she presented him with a set of silver mounted bagpipes. In the conversation she said: "Where do you come from, my man!" Without hesitation he proudly answered: "Turra, Turra, far sorra ither".

Piper Findlater organized the Turriff Pipe Band, playing at local Cattle Shows, etc, and the last time I saw them was at Foggisloan around 1903. One of his Pipers was Alick Milne who emigrated to Emerson, Manitoba, and I renewed his acquaintance at our own Caledonian Games I think in 1954 and the tragic death of Mrs. Milne in Winnipeg soon after culminated a romance started in Scotland over fifty-five years ago, (but that's another story).

Enclosed is a cutting of Piper Findlater as appeared in the Weekly Scotsman.

John Thomson

Secretary

St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society

Story of a Brave Piper: (letter printed in the Weekly Scotsman)

"Recently you published a photograph of Piper Findlater, V.C. I am enclosing a picture of Piper Findlater himself. I well remember the Battle of Dargai when the Heights of Dargai were considered impregnable. Several attempts had been made to take the positions, but all had failed. Then Colonel Mathias, in command of that fine regiment the Gordon Highlanders, addressed the gallant Gordons. Says he, the General says, the position must be taken at all costs, and the Gordons shall take it. And take it they did, with Piper Findlater, V.C., playing the bagpipes. If my memory serves me well, I think that other loyal and gallant regiment, the Indian Gurkhas, went up with them. I am sure Scotland is very proud of her sons and India of the Gurkhas, two fine bodies of men."

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DON'T FORGET:

WORK PARTY: MARCH 24th.

ANNUAL GATHERING: MARCH 25th.

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