B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

The official monthly publication of

the British Columbia Pipers' Association

MARCH, 1965. No. 59.

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association:

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The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 3288 East 27th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. by the British Columbia Pipers' Association, and is distributed to all members. Subscription price to non-members is $1.50 per year. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to: The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter, 3288 East 27th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. Address all other communications to the Secretary, B.C. Pipers' Association, Ste. 304, 2110 West 38th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

MARCH, 1965. CONTENTS No. 59.

The CLANSMEN

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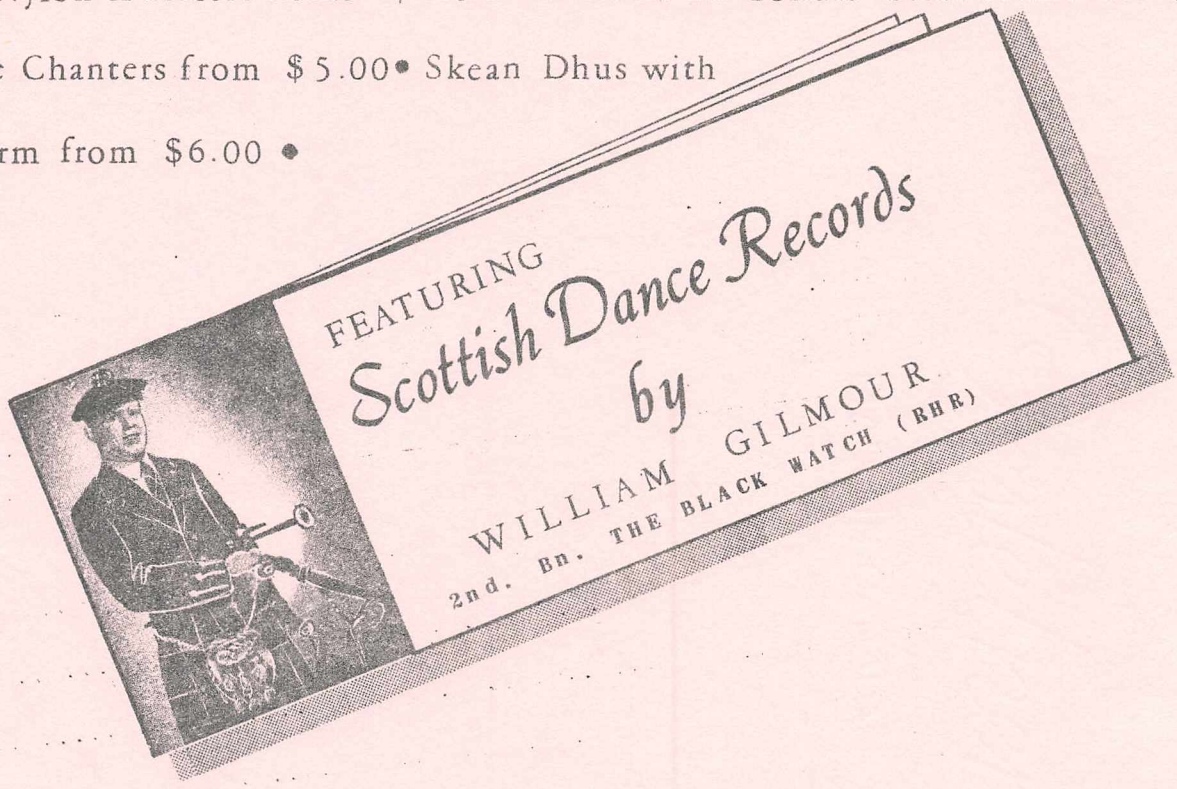

WE ALSO HAVE A LARGE STOCK OF MUSIC BOOKS, SCOTTISH NOVELTIES, STERLING SILVER CELTIC JEWELLERY, CLAN CRESTS, TIES, SCARVES, CLAN MAPS AND BOOKS, ETC.

PRICE LISTS FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY UPON REQUEST.

Bagpipes - Reeds - Clan Crests - Scottish Novelties

33rd ANNUAL GATHERING- B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION:

The highlight of the year for the Association is the Annual Gathering. For months we plan this event, and competitors practise for it, and when it is over we realize that another year has passed in the life of the B.C. Pipers' Association. The 33rd Annual Gathering, held at the Seaforth Armoury on March 19th and 20th was most enjoyable, with a good standard of piping in all of the major classes.

Chief piping judge was Mr. Colin T. Cameron, of Port Arthur, Ontario. We hope, in a subsequent issue of the Newsletter, to reprint Mr. Cameron's impressions of the gathering.

Drumming judge was Mr. George Pryde, of Powell River, and formerly of the MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band.

This year the large numbers in the Novice and Juvenile classes necessitated, as in the past few years, short leets. It was decided to hold these on the Friday evening before Mr. Cameron, rather than have these classes on the Saturday before another judge, and have the finals before the chief judge. Although it was intended to hold Novice Marches, Juvenile Marches and Juvenile Strathspeys & Reels on the Friday, the large numbers in these classes permitted the completion only of the first two events, and no short leet was held in the Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels.

The winners of the short leets (not in order of merit) were as follows:

Novice Marches: (34 competitors)

Marjorie Forsythe	Sandy Marshall	Ronald MacKinnon
Merrill Maddock	Sandy Shatford	Ronald Clarke

Juvenile Marches: (35 competitors)

Angus Ironside	Laurie McIlvena	David Irvine
Michael Murdoch	Bob Lamont	Harold Senyk

The winners of the events of the Gathering were:

Junior Amateur Piobaireachd: (5 competitors)

1. Theresa MacInnes - Sir James MacDonald of the Isles
2. Raymond Irvine - Massacre of Glencoe
3. Barbara MacArthur - MacFarlane's Gathering

Amateur Piobaireachd: (5 competitors)

1. Robert MacDonald - Lament for the Earl of Antrim
2. James MacLean, Seattle - The Desparate Battle of the Birds
3. Bruce Topp - MacFarlane's Gathering

Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs: (2 competitors)
1. John Munroe, Bellingham

Novice Marches:
1. Ronald MacKinnon 2. Merrill Maddock 3. Sandy Marshall
4. Sandy Shatford, Abbotsford

Juvenile Marches:
1. Angus Ironside, Seattle 2. Harold Senyk, Victoria
3. Robert Lamont 4. Michael Murdoch, Chilliwack

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels: (28 competitors)
1. Michael Murdoch 2. Harold Senyk 3. Jean Jarvis
4. Robert Lamont

Junior Amateur Marches: (8 competitors)
1. Kelly Hagan 2. Theresa MacInnes 3. Raymond Irvine

Junior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (7 competitors)
1. Theresa MacInnes 2. Kelly Hagan 3. Douglas Graham

Quartette Competitions (Junior) (7 quartettes)
1. Kiwanis Boys # 1 - P.M. Douglas Graham
2. White Spot Boys Pipe Band - P.M. K. Hagan
3. Seaforth Cadets - P.M. Bruce Topp

Amateur Marches: (7 competitors)
1. Robert MacDonald 2. John MacLeod 3. James MacLean, Seattle

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (7 competitors)
1. John MacLeod 2. Robert MacDonald 3. James MacLean, Seattle

Open Piobaireachd: (5 competitors)
1. Norma Nicholson - MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart's Salute
2. Rae Marie MacInnes - Black Donald
3. James Imlich Powell River - Lament for Donald of Laggan

Open Marches: (8 competitors)
1. Rae Marie MacInnes 2. James Imlich, Powell River
3. Albert Duncan

Highland Dancing: Professional - Flora Macdonald's Fancy:
1. Lyndia Wilson 2. Donna Fraser 3. Mary Margaret MacMillan

Open Strathspeys and Reels: (7 competitors)
1. Albert Duncan 2. John MacKenzie, Powell River 3. William Elder

Quartette Competition (Senior) (8 quartettes)
1. Powell River Pipe Band - P.M. Dave Westie
2. Port Moody Pipe Band - P.M. Wm. Elder
3. Washington Scottish Pipe Band - P.M. Allister McRae

Miniature Pipe Band Competition (5 bands)
1. Powell River Pipe Band - P.M. Dave Westie
2. Washington Scottish Pipe Band - P.M. Allister McRae

Open Jigs: (4 competitors)
1. Norma Nicholson 2. Albert Duncan 3. Rae Marie MacInnes

We should like to give thanks to the many people who helped make the day, or rather the days, a success. It is always dangerous singling out individuals for praise, since inevitably you will miss someone even more important. However, we will congratulate Wm. McAdie, Chief Steward, Ken McIlvena, Steward, Don Fraser, Announcer, Georgina MacPhail and Isabel Ross, Entry Clerks for their fine efforts in making the day run smoothly. There was hardly a delay during the entire competitions, which is a credit to the committee. We would also thank Albert Duncan, and his crew from the New Westminster Girls Pipe Band, who stepped in at the last moment, and took over the catering. The prize committee of Rod. MacVicar and Donald Urquhart, as always did a splendid job, and the various members and friends who worked on the doors deserve our praise. Special thanks, finally, should be given to Lt. Col. C.B. Campbell, Commanding Officer of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and Hon. Vice President of this Association, for enabling the association to hold its gathering in the Seaforth Armoury.

Trophy Winners:

MacIver Memorial Trophy (Highest Agg. in all events) Robert MacDonald & Theresa MacInnes (tie)

MacCrimmon Memorial Trophy (Open Piobaireachd) - Norma Nicholson

Laurie Trophy (Open Jigs) - Norma Nicholson

Wm. Campbell Memorial Trophy (Open Aggregate) - Rae Marie MacInnes

Walter Douglas Trophy (Quartette - Senior) - Powell River
Taits Jewellers Trophy (Drumming) - Powell River
Mrs. C.M. Crawford Trophy (Miniature Pipe Band) - Powell River

Nicholson Trophy (Amateur Aggregate) - Robert MacDonald
Cabar Feidh Trophy (Amateur Piobaireachd) - Robert MacDonald

Alex Lobban Trophy (Junior Aggregate) - Theresa MacInnes
Gordon Sinclair Memorial Trophy (Junior Piobaireachd) Theresa MacInnes

K. Nicholson Willis (Juvenile Aggregate) - Harold Senyk, Victoria

Mrs. Walter Douglas Trophy (Quartette - Junior) Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band

THE C.W.A.C. PIPE BAND: (continued from January Newsletter)

A slight correction I will make here in the previous paragraph -- November 29th was not the date we arrived in Vancouver. I believe it was the first week in November.

About a week later we were on the boat for Victoria, our first stop on Vancouver Island. In Victoria we were billeted in Work Point Barracks.

Here in our Pipe Major Lillian Grant's Island home-grounds we shared in the warmth of her home-coming welcome, including of course, a visit with her to the Caledonian Society one evening. Then after duty the next day the Pipe Band was invited out to her home for a pleasant afternoon visit with her family, Mrs. Grant serving tea for us, looking very proud and all smiles.

We set out from Victoria by bus for Duncan, the home-town of our Commanding Officer Lt. Ann Lendrum, and of course now it was her turn for a short visit home, while we browsed around Duncan for an hour, before leaving on a trip to Ladysmith. Then on to Nanaimo, in Barracks again, and performances next day.

We continued our busy tour through to Courtenay, and Doris Macdonald was home. Then to Alberni and Port Alberni, and three more Pipers were home, Kay Stephen, Mary Barrick and Mary Ginnever.

Vancouver Island covered now, we returned to Vancouver Barracks, our first Dominion tour almost ended, with the B.C. interior yet ahead of us. But here we were saying good-bye to the Brass Band for a little while, and doing that tour alone. They left for Vermilion, then furlough.

Please Write in my Book:

Whether you write with letters fat,
Or with letters curly and small,
I'll look at them in the future and say,
"They're my friends, I remember them all".

So say the words in the little autograph book I bought to collect their autographs while we were returning on the Victoria boat. They are good to look back on now.....

"Sure will miss you kids and hope to see you again and have the pleasure of travelling with the good old Pipe Band once again".

"Wish you all the success in life you deserve and more if possible".

"Perfect! ! of courseyou're not,
But still I like to say,
With all the little faults you got,
I like you just the same".

"Wish you the best of luck, health and happiness wherever you go and whatever you do".

"Remember the good old days on tour across Canada, especially the Brass Band. Best of luck".

"It was really perfect working with the two Bands".

"When memory draws a curtain,
And pins it with a Star,
Remember that you have a friend,
Though you may wander far".

"Hoping to see you again by next year. Wish you the best of luck wherever you go".

Today I never hear a brass band without seeing and hearing those girls, playing in turn as we marched.

We started our next tour now and by evening of December 5th we were in Nelson, where billets were provided for us in homes throughout the city. From the C.P.R. station we were taken to tea at the Canadian Legion Hall, where we met our hostesses. We had two parades scheduled here for the next day at 10:aa a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For that evening the Civic Theatre had already inserted in their regular advertisement in the local news ...

EXTRA --- On our stage at 9:00
"Canadian Women's Army Corpos Pipe Band".
Under the direction of Pipe Major L. Grant.

We left next morning for Trail, where again we stayed in homes. Then on to Castlegar, Brilliant, and Grand Forks for short appearances before leaving that area for Penticton and Kelowna, then Vernon. At Rossland we stepped out into snow and brisk cold air in the highest city on our B.C. tour. From Trail it is a steady climb up to 3461 feet. We countermarched and played for quite a crowd gathered at the station, then boarded the train and continued on to Penticton. From there we travelled by Bus through the Okanogan towns to Vernon, where this time barrackes and bunks were waiting for us. Quite an adjustment again after the pleasant home billets, so often appreciated after living out of kit bags on long dusty trips, and the witty comment of one girl ... "Oh goody, a real bathtub!" well described our feelings. We had sampled almost every barracks in the Dominion, and dusty travellers we were.

At Vernon our appearance had been announced in the local paper with our photo and this comment .... "The skirl of pipes and the smart, swinging march of Canada's only girls' military pipe band will be heard in Vernon on Barnard Avenue Friday, Dec. 10th at 4:00 p.m. Due to close schedules the afternoon parade will be the only opportunity for Vernon residents to hear the Band.

Pipers and Drummers have been drawn from all sections of the Dominion and all Canada shares in pride over the accomplishment of this talented group. Crossing Canada from Cape Breton to Victoria the girls of this splendid group have won acclaim wherever they have appeared, even when they piped for a Veteran's Guard unit guarding Axis prisoners of war in Alberta. The Nazis were obviously interested but too sullen to show appreciation".

But I was more observant perhaps, because I noticed some could not resist that hum-m-m of the Highland drone and the call of our music, as I remember, and the hammer-waving listener was one.

We left Vernon by train for Vancouver after our trip back from Salmon Arm and Kamloops. Then one more stop at New Westminster and we were back in Vancouver Barracks, by now transferred to the C.W.A.C. No. 11 Manning Depot on 27th Avenue. Our first Dominion tour ended, and our own well earned furlough due, we were now in time for the Holidays. Those who could went home, including me, and the others spent the time in Vancouver.

- Cathrine Paterson -

(to be continued)

- 0 -

BAG-PIPE (from the 11th Edition, Encyclopaedia Britannica) (continued)

The second class of instruments, inflated by means of a small bellows worked by the arm, has as prototype the musette, which is said to have been evolved during the 15th century; from the end of the 15th century there were always musette players at the French court, and we find the instrument fully developed at the beginning of the 17th centry when Mersenne gives a full description of all its parts. The chief characteristic of the musette was a certain rustic Watteau-like grace. The face of the performer was no longer distorted by inflating the bag; for the long cumbersome drones was substituted a short barrel droner, containing the necessary lengths of tubing for four or five drones, reduced to the smallest and most compact form. The bores were pierced longitudinally through the thickness of the wood in parallel channels, communicating with each other in twos or threes and providing the requisite length for each drone. The reeds were double "hautbois" reeds all set in a wooden stock or box within the bag; by means of regulators or slides, called layettes, moving up and down in longitudinal grooves round the circumference of the barrel, the length of the drone pipes could be so regulated that a simple harmonic bass, consisting mainly of the common chord, could be obtained. The chaunter, of narrow cylindrical bore, was also furnished with a double reed and had eleven holes, four of which had keys, giving a compass of twelve notes from F to C. This number of holes was not invariable. After Mersenne's time, Jean Hotteterre (d. 1678) a court musician, belonging to the band known as the "Musique de la Grande Ecurie", in which he played the "dessus de hautbois", introduced certain improvements in the drones of the musette. His son Martin Hotteterre (d. 1712) added a second chaunter to the musette, shorter than the first, to which it was attached instead of being inserted into the stock. The Hotteterre chaunter, known as "le petit chalumeau", had six keys, whereas the "grand chalumeau" had seven, besides eight finger-holes and a vent-hole in the bell. All these keys were actuated by the little finger of the left hand and the thumb of the right hand, which were not required to stop holes on the large chaunter. The grand and petit chalumeaux are figured in detail with keys and holes in a rare and anonymous work by Borjon (or Bourgeon) who gives much interesting information concerning one of the most popular instruments of his day. The bellows, he states, borrowed from the organ, were added to the musette about forty or fifty years before he wrote his treatise. The compass of the improved musette of Hotteterre was as shown: -

(illustrated on Treble Clef)

the eight holes of the grand chalumeau

F	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

the seven keys of the grand chalumeau

G sharp B flat C sharp E flat F sharp G sharp A

the six keys of the petit chalumeau.

High G sharp High A High A sharp High B High C High D

The four or five drones were usually tuned thus:

low C low G middle C G C

The chaunters and drones were pierced with a very narrow cylindrical bore, and double reeds were used throughout, causing them to speak as closed pipes, which accounts for the deep pitch of these relatively short pipes. Martin Hotteterre was hardly the first to introduce the second chaunter for the bagpipe, since Praetorius in 1618 figures and describes the Magdeburg sackpheife with two chaunters, but without keys and with a conical bore.

The surdelina or zampogna is described and illustrated by Mersenne as the "musette de Naples"; its construction was very complicated. Mersenne states that the instrument was invented by Jean Baptiste Riva (who was living in Paris in 1620), Dom Julio and Vincenze; but Mersenne seems to have made alterations himself in the original instrument, which are not very clearly explained. There were two chaunters with narrow cylindrical bore and having both finger-holes and keys; and two drones each having ten keys. The four pipes were fixed in the same stock, and double reeds were used throughout; the bag was inflated by means of bellows. Passenti of Venice published a collection of melodies for the zampogna in 1628, under the title of "Canora Zampogna".

The modern Lowland bagpipe differs from the Highland bagpipe mainly in that it is blown by bellows instead of by the mouth.

The Northumbrian or Border bagpipes, also blown by means of bellows, is chiefly distinguished by having a chaunter stopped at the lower end so that when all the holes are closed, the pipe is silent. There are seven finger holes, one for the thumb, and a varying number of keys. The four drones are fixed in one stock and are tunes by means of stoppers, so that, as in the musette, any one of them may be silenced.

The union pipes of the 18th century, or modern Irish bagpipe, blown by bellows, had one chaunter with seven finger-holes, one thumb-hole and eight keys, which together gave the chromatic scale in two octaves. The drones were tuned to A in different octaves, and three regulators or drones with keys, played by the elbow, produced a kind of harmony, the regulators correspond to the sliders on the drone-barrel of the musette.

(to be continued)

- O -

Have any of you ever noticed the lack of imagination which we pipers have in setting up publicity shots for piping events? After racking our brains for a new angle, we usually seem to fall back on the old idea of portraying an old and a young piper, or a large and a small one. At our recent Annual Gathering a press photographer thought it would be a good idea to take a picture of a real tall piper, beside a real short piper. It was mentioned that this theme was somewhat overworked, and perhaps a new approach could be taken. With this, the photographer said: "Well, what else can you do with the pipes, anyway!" You can't win!

- O -

Hugh Macpherson (SCOTLAND) Ltd.

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A PIPER NAMED "DONULLAN".

Despite the popularity of the best of music which is sweeping the world with much success, singing the praises of this "music of the pipes" is neglected more than it should be in the present day.

The little poem entitled "The music of the Pipes" published in the Newsletter a short time ago, was a brave effort on the part of the late Annie Park Kerr to help with what was to her a labour of love.

I have received a few more poems from her piper brother - Johnnie Kerr, Connecticut, and here we have a poem in praise of the piper.

The composer selected a piper that she, her brother and I knew well in our youth. He was one of those travelling tin smiths, many of whom were seen around the Highlands in those days, and known locally as "tinkers".

His name was Donald Stewart, but, in an area where Gaelic was spoken he was "Donullan" to the natives. To look at him you'd know by his erect figure, puffed chest, and proud swagger that this carriage was derived from something he was wealthy in, and I know it wasn't money, or any of the worlds' goods. It was talent far superior to any of those: he could play the pipes.

It might have taken more than a few lessons to rate him as one of the present day "greats" but to us, in those days, he was great enough, and we found the music just as easy to listen to. His clothes were not of the best - they were coarse and much mended. When mended at all, one could tell by the many patches, but the composer did not allow this to shake her confidence in him, for she says of him: "He was the piper who could charm our youthful hears". Donullan, his mother and sister often camped in a sheltered nook a few hundred yards from the Public School and the piper could always have a very interested audience there.

As the composer states the school still stands, but few of those who listened are left. The piper ended his days in a nursing home in Dornoch, Scotland, and the composer lost her life in the 2nd World War, and not, as erroneously stated by me, in the 1st World War.

- Roderick MacLeod -

"THE TINKER"

He was known I think as Donald,
Although maybe it was Jock.
I really can't remember for a start.
But he was one of the fraternity,
That lives upon the road,
With all his worldly wealth upon his cart.
There was nothing to distinguish him
From others of his clan.

A tinsmith or a "tinker" was his lot.
And his oddly balanced wardrobe,
Tho' in keeping with the man,
Seemed the only real attraction he had got.
But the tinker was a piper,
And the tinker he could play,
And that was how the tinker
Won our youthful hearts away.

The tinker loved his bagpipes.
They were his cherished own.
And they matched the tinker body, so to speak.
The tartan worn and tattered,
Was dimmed with dust and age,
And the sticks well stained and seasoned, with strong reek,
The colour of the mountings,
Was in keeping with the rest,
And their odor was a blend of peat and pine,
While the juicy looking mouthpiece,
He so fondly caressed
Had wallowed many years in nicotine,
The reeds - an odd collection,
Gleaned along the "King's Highway".
But the music of the tinker
Charmed our youthful hearts away.

You could hear him in the evenings
Sending forth his merry skirl
While we scurried from the school to gather round.
He sat, inside his tent,
And peering forth with bleary eyes,
He gave the hills the best he could expound.
Transported to elated heights,
As swift his fingers flew,
Oblivious to the campfire at his feet
He sent the smoke and ashes
Swirling round about our heads
As the smouldering pile gave echo to his beat.
But never was there champion.
Of finish or degree, Could charm our hearts
As could the tinker with his melody.

But the years are passing onward,
And tho' the school still stands,
There are many of its children long since gone.
And the poor old tinker body
He too has passed away,
While his pipes are wandering somewhere all unknown.
And tho' we can't remember
The tinker body's name,
Of piping he was sure a pioneer,
For he set our youthful hearts aflame
And unconsciously inspired,
Some future pipers on to a career.

And if you were to ask them
They would tell you just like me,
It started with the tinker,
And the tinker melody.

- Annie Park Kerr -

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UPPER ISLAND HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION:

Nanaimo Highland Games to hold Pacific Northwest Quartet Championships.

Two beautiful trophies have been donated for the event.

Class "A" will be restricted to Professionals and Open Amateur, and those who feel qualified to compete with the best.

Class "B" will be for those pipers who feel that this is the division most suited to their playing.

Each quartet will pay a four dollar entrance fee - this money along with a sum alloted by the Games Committee to be used for prizes.

Professionals and Amateur will be allowed to play together as a unit.

For further information, please contact Games Secretary:

Miss Ann Ross,
P.O. Box 231,
Nanaimo, B.C.

- 0 -

We stated in an earlier issue of the Newsletter that the Caledonian Club of San Francisco would be holding their 100th Games on Sept. 4th and 5th, 1965.

It has been pointed out to us that the Games Secretary is now:

C. Stewart Smith,
2317 15th Street,
San Fracisco, Calif.

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REPORT ON CHICAGO HIGHLANDERS PIPE BAND - 1964.

Thinking that friends of the Chicago Highlanders Pipe Band in the U.S.A., Canada, and Scotland would be interested, here are a few notes and comments on their 1964 activities.

1964 was another very busy year. The band played 30 different engagements. Engagements of particular note: a parade for President Lyndon B. Johnson in Chicago just prior to the national elections (sponsored by State of Illinois Attorney General William Clark); for the National President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the V.F.W. at their home headquarters, the V.F.W. Post in suburban Elmhurst, Illinois; at the State of Illinois competition at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield; and at the Midwest Pipe Band Association competition in Porter, Indiana.

The Chicago Highlanders Pipe Band has grown in membership during the past year. Currently, there are 25 pipers, 10 drummers, and the drum major on the roster. One drummer is in the service and one piper is on a leave of absence. Several apprentice pipers and drummers are making good progress in their preparation for applying for membership in the band. Meanwhile, the band regretted the departure of Pipe Bill Wilson, who, with his family, returned to Scotland to live.

On December 12th, the band sponsored a benefit Tartan Ball for former Pipe Major Pat Docherty, who has been incapacitated with a back injury for the past two years. His services have been missed very much since his injury occured. Pat is still in a cast, but all his friends hope that he will be back with the band in a few months.

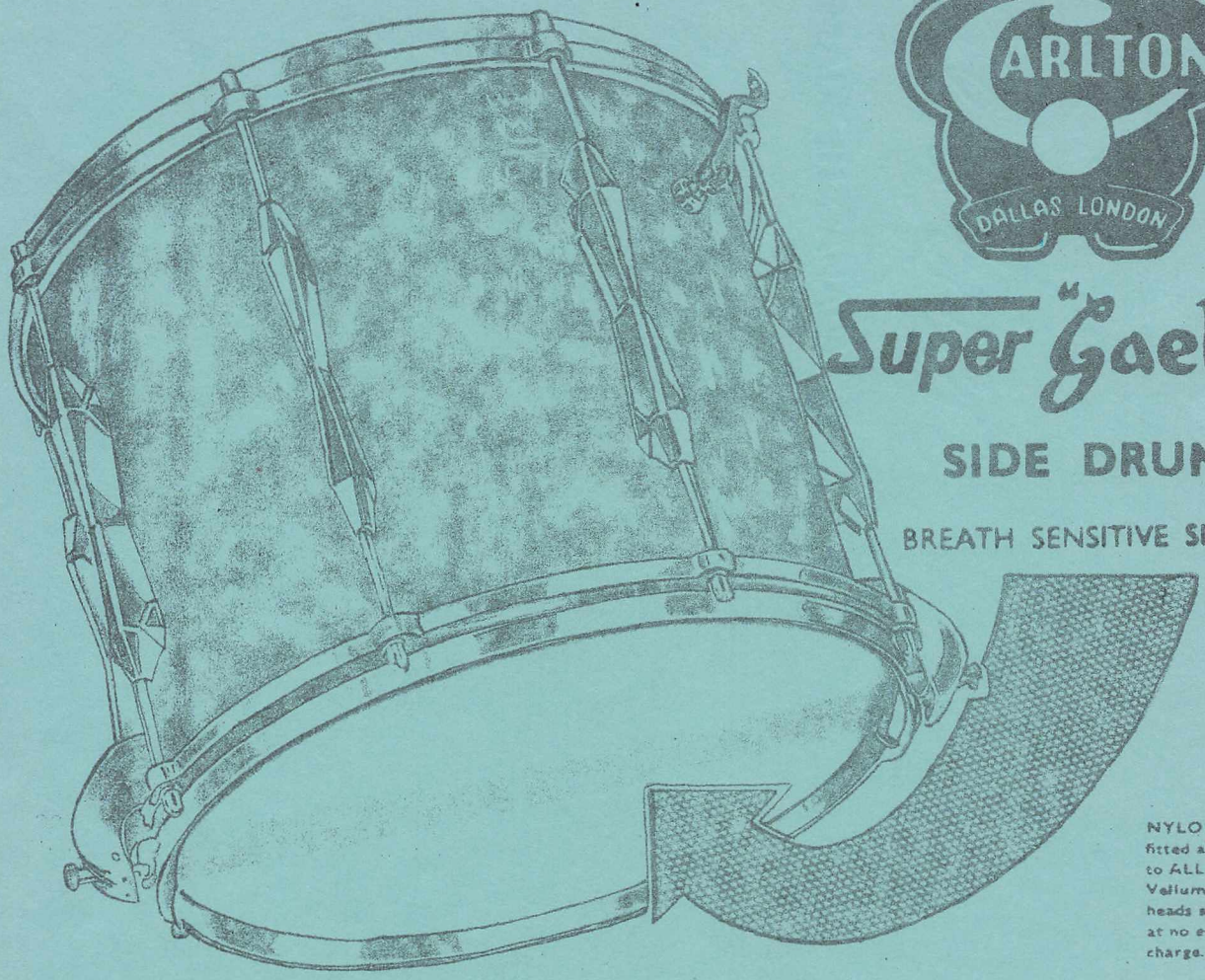
Former Pipe Major Dan Currie was made Honorary Pipe Major of the band after years of faithful service. To commemorate the occasion, Dan was presented with a beautiful bronze plaque. Pipe Major Robert Halcrow described Dan's good works over the years in making the formal presentation. Receiving this token of esteem on the part of the entire band was particularly meaningful, since Pipe Major Currie had only recently come home from the hospital following a heart attack. We are happy to report that he is in the best of health today and never misses a band practice!

Everett Riegel was taken into the band at the annual meeting in January as an honorary member. He has performed many services for the band in recent years and this action was in recognition of his devotion to the organization.

The band officers are as follows:

Pipe Major	Robert Halcrow
Pipe Sergeant	Peter Priest, Jr.
Drum Sergeant	Luke McCabe
Drum Major	James Harper
Sec - Treas.	Mrs. Peter Priest, Jr.

Practices are held every Thursday evening at 8:30 p.m. -- V.F.W. Hall, in suburban Elmhurst, Illinois. (30 minutes by auto from downtown Chicago) Visitors are always most welcome.



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LATE D.J. MacLENNAN, EDINBURGH - CELEBRATED HIGHLAND DANCER:

(from The Oban Times, Feb. 4,1965)

With the passing of Mr. D.G. MacLennan, Scotland has lost a great Highland gentleman and a celebrated dancer. Probably no family in Scotland could show such a long tradition of piping and dancing as his.

He traced his descent from a piper in the original Seaforths who participated in the famous mutiny and helped to dig the trenches, still visible on Arthur's Seat, when the regiment defied the orders of a perfidious English Government.

For many years Mr. MacLennan ran a successful dancing academy in Shandwick Place, Edinburgh. The business was originally founded by his elder brother, Willie, and his French wife. The former died in Chicago in 1893, whilst on a world tour with Scott Skinner, and is still remembered by the cogniscenti as a brilliant dancer, piper, and violinist. His uncle was Lt. MacLennan of Edinburgh Police, father of Pipe Major George MacLennan of the Gordons.

Mr. MacLennan trained under the Danish ballet master, Alexander Genee, and became a vice president of the Royal Academy of Dancing in London. He travelled extensively in many countries, teaching and examining, and collecting folk dances. He also possessed a wonderful collection of dance literature.

For many years he was the undefeated Highland dancer at Games, and was the Scottish sabre champion and taught bayonet fighting for the Scottish Command in the Kaiser War.

He published "Highland and Traditional Scottish dances" which ran through two editions. He is survived by his wife.

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THIS PIPING EVENT MAY SHORTLY RIVAL OBAN AND INVERNESS:

(from The Oban Times, Feb. 18,1965.)

The Uist and Barra Association annual piping competition is a unique event in the piping world and may well in time rank with Oban and Inverness for it is already attracting all the leading pipers in Scotland today.

This view was expressed by Mr. Hector Ross, secretary of the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society, in his capacity as chairman at the Uist and Barra Professional Piping Competition held in the High School, Elmbank Street, Glasgow, last Saturday.

There is no Highland Association, he continued, that does so much for this art, and, as piping today is very much in the hands of such societies, long may they continue to make a success of it. Mr. Ross deprecated the fact that the National Press completely ignored piping events on most occasions but lauded the "Oban Times" as the only paper of any significance to give piping its proper place.

In his introductory remarks, President Neil Mackinnon referred to Mr. Ross as one who was well known wherever piping is practised and in his capacity as secretary of the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society, had given invaluable assistance to the Uist and Barra in the task of organising competitions. As a further instance of his interest Mr. Ross had brought two extra prizes, two sets of two volumes on piping compiled and published by Dr. Roderick Ross and himself, one to be given to the winner of the pibroch and the other to the youngest piper in the competition who showed most promise.

At the end of the day Mr. Alister MacInnes gave a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who had taken part with special reference to adjudicators Pipe Major Robert U. Brown and Roderick MacDonald who had no easy task in judging the pibroch and Piper Majors Nicol MacCallum and Peter Bain who shared the rest of the competitions.

I must make special mention of pipers Ronald Lawrie and Hector MacFadyen (Pennyghael), who obtained the highest aggregate marks in the four competitions to share the Pipe Major James Johnston Challenge Trophy and again Ronald Lawrie on annexing the Captain Charles Hepburn Trophy for gaining highest aggregate marks in the march, strathspeys and reel and jigs. The award for the young piper showing the most promise went to John Wilson, Campbeltown.

Here are the results:

Pibroch (The Finlay MacKenzie Challenge Trophy)
1. Willie Macdonald, Inverness - McSwan of Roag
2. Kenneth Macdonald, Glasgow - Domhnal Gruamach
3. John MacDougall, Bucksburn - His Father's Lament for Donald Mackenzie
4. Hector MacFadven, Pennyghael - MacDongall's Gathering
5. P.M. John MacLellan, Edinburgh - Lament for Mary MacLeod
6. Donald Lawrie, Glasgow - Mackay's Banner

March (The Oban Times Challenge Trophy) 1. Ronald Lawrie 2. P.M. John MacLellan 3. Hector MacFadyen 4. Cpl. Ingram

Strathspey and Reel (The John Kennedy Challenge Trophy) 1. Ronald Lawrie 2. Hector MacFadyen 3. P.M. John MacLellan 4. Cpl. Ingram

Jigs (The Angus John Macdonald Challenge Trophy) 1. Kenneth Macdonald 2. John MacDougal 3. Hector MacFadyen 4. Ronald Lawrie

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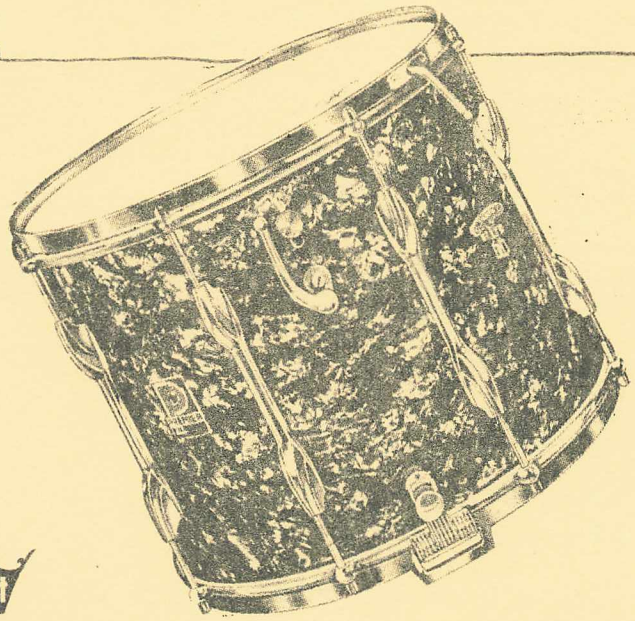
In the issue of the Oban Times dated February 4th, appeared a slow march entitled "Salute to Sir Winston Chruchill", composed by Mr. Seumas MacNeill, and broadcast on the Scottish Home Service and the General Overseas Service of the B.B.C., in the Scottish tribute to the late Sir Winston Churchill.



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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - APRIL 23rd.

There will be a Bi-Monthly competition held at the Seaforth Armoury on Friday, April 23rd.

The events will be:

Novice Marches
Juvenile Jigs
Junior Marches
Open Amateur Old Highland Airs.

The Novice class will start at 7:30 p.m.

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ODE TO SON ON HIS FIRST PIPING COMPETITION:

This month's Newsletter seems to contain its share of poetry, in praise of pipers and piping.

The following is a little verse composed by Mrs. Ellen Spittal, on the occasion of her son Brian's first piping competition. Brian is a member of the Kiwanis Boys Pipe Band. It was thought that the sentiments expressed in this verse apply to most competitors on their first competition.

To my son Brian on his first
PIPING COMPETITION.

The crowd was hushed
The people were still
I set my pipes
My first note shrill
I marched as I played
But oh dear me
What's that look in my tutors eye I see
A note played wrong
Out of step
It's one of these I'll bet.

I played and played in Scotland's name,
Hoping in this I'd find my fame
The judges watched
The judges listened
While medals shilds and cups before them glistened
I am a Scot in a new land
I must be worthy of the band
To keep the music proud and true
And to say when I'm thru
KIWANIS I'LL DO MY BEST FOR YOU.

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION
APRIL 23rd

ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 30th