

# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



MARCH, 1967.

No. 80.

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



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

Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT: Roderick MacVicar  
VICE-PRESIDENT: Albert Duncan  
SECRETARY: Ken. McIlvena  
TREASURER: Wm. A. McAdie

B.C. Pipers' NEWSLETTER:

EDITOR: C.I. Walker  
PUBLISHER: Wm. A. McAdie  
REPORTER: Cathrine Paterson  
COLLATORS: Donald Urquhart Bob McAdie  
Ken McIlvena

The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 3288 East 27th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., by the British Columbia Pipers' Association, and is distributed to all members. Subscription price to non-members is \$2.00 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, 2641 Ward Street, Vancouver, B.C.

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B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION 35th ANNUAL GATHERING: MARCH 17th & 18th, 1967.

The 35th Annual Gathering of the British Columbia Pipers' Association was held at The Gardens, Hastings Park on Friday March 17th, and Saturday, March 18th. Piping judge for this competition was the well known young Canadian piper, Pipe-Major William Gilmour, Barrie, Ontario.

This year it was possible to avoid the necessity of short leets, a matter of considerable satisfaction to the younger competitors, who often did not have the opportunity of compete in front of the visiting judge, when the short leets were used.

Novice and Juvenile events were held on Friday, and the remaining events took place on Saturday.

The following winners were chosen:

Novice Marches: (33 competitors)

1. Drew Noot 2. Tim Noot 3. Tina MacLeod 4. Glen Esdale

Juvenile Marches: (31 competitors)

1. Jim Leonard 2. Bill Russell, Langley 3. Sandy Marshall  
4. David Anderson

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels: (25 competitors)

1. Bill Russell 2. Jim Leonard 3. Marjorie Forsyth  
4. Heather Upton

Junior Amateur Piobaireachd: (15 competitors)

1. John N. MacLeod 2. Ron Skipsey, Nanaimo  
3. Stewart Crawford, Toronto 4. Bill MacAulay

Amateur Piobaireachd (9 competitors)

1. Harold Senyk, Victoria 2. Stephen Geddes, Victoria  
3. Dal Jessiman

Senior Amateur (Restricted) Old Highland Airs: (3 competitors)

1. John MacKay 2. John Munroe, Bellingham

Junior Amateur Marches: (25 competitors)

1. Mary Swift 2. Sandy Shatford, Abbotsford  
3. John MacLeod 4. Stewart Crawford

Junior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (21 competitors)

1. John MacLeod 2. Jean Jarvis 3. Alex MacInnes  
4. Stewart Crawford

Quartette Competition (Junior) (9 quartettes)

1. Vancouver Kiwanis "A"
2. Seaforth Cadets "A"

Open Piobaireachd: (5 competitors)

1. Albert Duncan
2. John Low, Victoria
3. Roderick MacVicar

Amateur Marches: (11 competitors)

1. Bruce Topp
2. Kelly Hagen
3. Stephen Geddes
4. Harold Senyk

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels: (9 competitors)

1. Bruce Topp
2. Donald MacMillan
3. Kelly Hagen

Open Marches: (8 competitors)

1. Rae Marie MacAuley
2. David Wilson
3. Albert Duncan

Dancing Under 16 - Seann Truibhas (9 competitors)

1. Julie Rhyddurch
2. Shawn Jackson
3. Lenore Stewart

Open Strathspeys and Reels: (8 competitors)

1. Rae Marie MacAuley
2. Bob MacDonald
3. David Wilson

Open Jigs: (8 competitors)

1. Rae Marie MacAuley
2. Albert Duncan
3. Bob MacDonald

Quartette Competition (Senior) (5 quartettes)

1. Vancouver Ladies
2. Port Moody

Miniature Pipe Band Competition (8 bands)

1. Port Moody Pipe Band
2. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

Trophies were presented by Dr. P.D. McTaggart-Cowan, Honorary President of our association, and President of Simon Fraser University, and Mrs. Gordon Sinclair, widow of the late Gordon Sinclair, who died while on duty with the Vancouver Police Department in 1955, at the same time serving as President of the B.C. Pipers' Association.

Trophy winners were as follows:

MacIver Memorial Trophy (Highest Aggregate Points in All Events)  
Rae Marie MacAuley

MacCrimmon Memorial Trophy (Open Piobaireachd) - Albert Duncan

Laurie Trophy (Open Jigs) - Rae Marie MacAuley

Wm. Campbell Memorial Trophy (Open Piobaireachd, Marches, Strathspeys & Reels) - Rae Marie MacAuley

Walter Douglas Trophy (Senior Quartette Competition) - Vancouver Ladies - Peggy Gillies, Rae Marie MacAuley, Sherea Barwell, Therese MacInnes

Nicholson Trophy (Amateur Piobaireachd, Marches, Strathspeys & Reels) Bruce Topp

Alex Lobban Trophy (Junior Amateur Piobaireachd, Marches, Strathspeys & Reels) - John MacLeod

Tait's Jewelers Trophy - (Drumming, Miniature Bands) - Seaforth Highlanders

Cabarfeidh Trophy (Amateur Piobaireachd) - Harold Senyk, Victoria

Gordon Sinclair Memorial Trophy (Junior Amateur Piobaireachd) - John MacLeod

Mrs. C.M. Crawford Trophy (Miniature Pipe Band) - Port Moody Pipe Band P.M. Wm. Elder

K. Nicholson Willis Trophy (Junior Marches & Strathspeys & Reels) Bill Russell, Langley & Jim Leonard (tied)

Mrs. Walter Douglas Trophy (Junior Quartettes) Vancouver Kiwanis "A" - Laurie McIlvena, John MacLeod, Bill McMichael, Robert Heggie

SUMMER GAMES:

A list of summer games to be held in this area, is as follows:

New Westminster	-	June 10th
Bellingham	-	June 24th
B.C. Highland Dancing, Vancouver		July 1st
Nanaimo	-	July 8th
Portland	-	July 15th
Victoria	-	July 29th
Seattle	-	August 5th
Vancouver	-	August 12th
Nelson	-	September 2 & 3rd
Penticton	-	May 20 & 21st

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SUMMER GAMES IN EASTERN CANADA AND U.S.A.:

For those who may be travelling to Expo, and will want to attend games while there, we are printing a list of dates, kindly supplied by John Wilson.

Kitchener	-	June 17th
Scarborough(Toronto)		June 24th
Embro	-	July 1st
Brantford	-	July 8th
Dundas-Hamilton	-	July 15th
Maxville	-	August 5th
Coburg	-	August 7th
Dutton	-	August 7th
Port Credit	-	August 12th
Chicago, Ill.	-	August 19th

- 0 -

LETTER FROM MACLEOD FAMILY:

Dear Members:

I wish on behalf of my mother, my brother Ian and myself, along with the rest of our family, to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Roderick MacLeod and Mr. Ian Walker, for the very fine tributes written by them to my dear father, the late Kenneth MacLeod.

We also wish to thank them and all of you for your kind expression of sympathy during our bereavement. It was very much appreciated by all of us.

Sincerely

Catherine Deildal  
(Mrs. J.G. Deildal)

- 0 -

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ARE PIPING AWARDS SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE? (from The Oban Times,  
March 2nd, 1967)

Lovers of music everywhere are fast realising the high standard of musical performance one can get at professional bagpipe competitions and I wonder, if the prizes or awards to the winners were higher in value than they are at present, might this not elicit more appreciation from all quarters for the music of the bagpipes. For an individual musical performance the bagpipe is your finest instrument for no other instrument can stir one as the bagpipes do!

Such was the opinion of Sheriff Stuart Bell, a distinguished lawyer and himself a piper of no mean repute, when he spoke in his capacity as chairman at the annual bagpipe competition for professionals organised by the Uist and Barra Association in the High School last Saturday.

This marathon competition which commenced in the early morning, attracted not only a record entry but a record audience. This was indeed gratifying to the directors of this association who are always at pains to give the competition an atmosphere worthy of such an occasion, not only for competitors but for their audience as well.

It was a great piping day for the listener, but a trying one for the judges, Pipe Majors Donald R. MacLennan, Donald MacLeod, Peter Bain, Nicol MacCallum and Piper Duncan Johnstone, who shared the duties of adjudication. It was no mean feat to separate this galaxy of star performers but their long experience and vast knowledge in this direction served them well.

It was pleasing to note that some worthy donor who wished to remain anonymous had presented a medal for the piobaireachd competition in memory of the late Pipe Major Robert Reid which will continue to be presented annually by the Glasgow Highland Club.

One must give special kudos to the stewards for the manner in which they carried out their enormous task and make special mention of the excellent purvey supplied by members of the ladies' committee. The success of the day must indeed be a source of gratification to the convener Mr. Ronald Morrison, whose organising abilities were amply manifested by the smooth running of the competition.

Mr. Alister MacInnes, president, was in charge of all introductions while all who took part were embraced by Dr. Donald MacLeod in his vote of thanks. Mrs. Ronald Morrison presented the prizes and trophies and she in turn was the recipient of a handsome marcasite brooch as a memento of the occasion.

Here are the results:-

Piobaireachd (The Finlay MacKenzie Challenge Trophy & the Robert Reid Memorial Medal) - 1. Hector MacFadyen, Pennyghael 2. James Macintosh  
3. John MacFadyen 4. Ian C. Cameron 5. Iain MacFadyen

Marches (The Oban Times Challenge Trophy)  
1. Iain MacLellan 2. John MacFadyen 3. Hector MacFadyen  
4. Kenneth MacDonald

Strathspey & Reel (The John Kennedy Challenge Trophy)  
1. Iain MacLellan 2. Hector MacFadyen 3. Kenneth MacDonald

Jigs (The Angus John Macdonald Challenge Trophy)  
1. Kenneth MacDonald 2. John MacDougall 3. Andrew Wright  
4. John MacCormick

The Pipe Major James Johnstone Challenge Trophy presented to competitor gaining highest aggregate points in the four competitions - Hector MacFadyen

The Captain Charles Hepburn Trophy for highest aggregate points in the light music - Iain MacLellan

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CITY OF CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP:

The Second Annual Pipe Band Championship and Tattoo will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on Saturday, August 19, 1967, as a part of the Lakefront Festival (Aug. 13 - 20). All bands in the U.S. and Canada are urged to attend and compete.

RULES OF ENTRY

Open Pipe Band Competition

Competition will be open to all pipe bands in the U.S. and Canada.

1st Prize	\$1,000 and trophy
2nd Prize	\$600 and trophy
3rd Prize	\$400 and trophy

All entries close August 5, 1967 and must be postmarked on or before midnight of that day. Entries should be mailed to:

Department of Special Events  
Room 610  
City Hall  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

CONTEST RULES (Open)

1. All bands entering the competition must have no less than 12 players, consisting of 8 pipers, 3 side drummers, and 1 base drummer.
2. All bands must submit a march, strathspey, and reel of their own choice. All tunes are to be of 4 parts. If 2 part tunes are played, they must be played through twice.
3. The draw for position of play will take place 30 minutes prior to the start of the contest.

MIDWEST PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Running concurrently with the City of Chicago International Pipe Band Championship will be the additional Midwest Pipe Band Association competition. The same basic rules apply in both competitions.

MINIATURE BAND COMPETITION

This contest is confined to bands resident in the U.S.A.

1st Prize	\$100 and trophy
2nd Prize	\$75 and trophy
3rd Prize	\$50 and trophy

### CONTEST RULES

1. Miniature bands will consist of no less than 4 and no more than 6 pipers, 2 side drummers, and 1 base or tenor drummer.
2. Miniature bands will submit 1 quick march (2/4 time) and 1 slow march. The quick march is to be a 4 part tune. If a 2 part tune is played, it must be played through twice.

### SOLO COMPETITION

There will be open piping and drumming competition, and no band affiliation is necessary to enter. Prize money will be awarded for both piping and drumming.

1st Prize	\$100
2nd Prize	\$50
3rd Prize	\$25

There will also be solo competition in the classes of amateur and novice.

Amateur competition will be confined to pipers and drummers with membership in pipe bands in the U.S.A. No age limit. They will play 1 quick march (2/4 time) and 1 slow march.

Novice competition will be confined to pipers and drummers registered with the Midwest Pipe Band Association. Novice pipers and drummers must be under 18 years of age as of August 19, 1967. Any piper or drummer who has been placed in a novice competition before will not be permitted to enter. They will play 1 quick march (2/4 time) or 1 quick march (6/8 time). Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.

### DRUM MAJOR COMPETITION

This will be an open competition. Drum majors will be judged on dress, marching, deportment, and flourish.

### TRAVELLING EXPENSES

All bands will receive \$100. Bands traveling between 100 and 200 miles to Chicago will receive \$200. Bands traveling over 200 miles to Chicago will receive \$300.

Traveling expenses will be paid to the above-mentioned bands who comply with the following conditions:

1. They must take part in the street parade commencing at noon on August 19.
2. They must compete in the band competition.
3. They must take part in the Tattoo in the evening.

All bands are requested to forward with their entry a recent black and white photograph with a short history of their band.

The competition is scheduled for Chicago's huge lakefront Grant Park. The Tattoo in the evening will be held at Soldier Field, also on the Chicago lake front.

Special rates for hotel accommodations will be arranged for through the office of Col. Jack Reilly, Director of Special Events of the City of Chicago.

Should there be any questions pertaining to the competition, it is suggested that communication be sent directly to Col. Reilly.

- Richard C. Eaton -  
Chicago Highlanders Pipe Band  
Director of Public Relations  
for Competition

- 0 -

SKIRLING THE BLUES: (from Newsweek Magazine, Jan. 30, 1967)

Three years ago, jazzman Rufus Harley was something of a 97 pound weakling. Today, the 6-foot 2-inch Harley is 230 pounds of structured sinew with a collar size expanded from 15 to 18 inches. Last week, in Newark, N.J.'s Front Room jazz club, Harley, backed by a trio of piano, drums and bass, was demonstrating how it happened.

He is the only jazz bagpiper in captivity. And since the piper's breath keeps the bag inflated, Harley, chest extended, cheeks puffed, neck straining, blew up during the night the equivalent of a circus full of balloons.

It's astonishing how in Harley's skilled hands, the ancient instrument adapts to modern jazz, once the ear adjusts to the screeching pitch of the three drone pipers and the oboe-like chanter, which plays the melody. The sound is sonorous as an organ, the rhythms supple and unforced, and the chromatic harmonies exotic and provocative, mixing the heather of the moor with the heat of the equator.

Samuel Pepys described the sound of bagpipes as "barbarous," and Harley plays them pretty low down and savagely making the haunting, keening skirl a natural vehicle for blues and jazz. When he takes off, blowing, squeezing and fingering, with all four pipes going, on a number like "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," he gets a whole orphanage wailing. "The clarinet," says Harley, who plays one, as well as the oboe, flute and saxophone, "is like a one-shot revolver. The bagpipes are a machine gun. You load her up and she just goes."



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Harley, a 30 year old Philadelphian, was first struck by the bagpipes at President Kennedy's funeral. "That sound was saying the way I felt. At the same time they had a good beat going." He tried to get that sound on his other instruments but wound up selling his clarinet and buying bagpipes at a pawnbroker's. It took him months to get the hang of it. One difficulty was learning to apply the air between the beats instead of on them. The piper doesn't "play" what he's blowing into the bag, but what he's squeezing out with his arm. "I had to create a new fingering," he says, "actually find the notes and give them names."

If restricted in range, the bagpipes have the advantage of playing four sounds at once, a continuous B flat mi or chord through the bass and two treble drones, and the melody through the agile chanter. "I associate colors with my instruments," says Harley, who has two albums out on Atlantic Records. "The clarinet is black; the oboe, white; the tenor sax, brown; the flute, kind of gray. The bagpipes are all of them put together, a mass of color you can change constantly, a real rainbow of sound."

On each of his instruments Harley is a thoughtful imaginative musician, whose hard-driving music is both jubilant and self-assured. "Each instrument expresses a different part of me," says Harley, who is a laughing kind of man. What part of him do the bagpipes express? "Why, the bagpipe part."



INTELLIGENCE AND BEAUTY DIDN'T SNEER AT THE PIPES:

In the "Oban Times" of February 2nd. it states that the Scottish Pipers' Association held their annual competitions in Glasgow, Scotland. on January 27th. At this meeting, Dr. Kenneth A. MacKay made a justifiable attack on those who scoff at the sound of the pipes. Many of these people appear on platforms and other places, where a certain amount of publicity is given to what they say.

This is unfortunate, and, although we have little to complain of in Vancouver, we have experienced something of the effort, on the part of certain peculiar characters, who would like to belittle our Scottish national instrument. We have never heard even a whisper of it where members of the B.C. Pipers' Association hold forth, and woe betide the simpleton who'd take the risk. Some blame members of a certain nationality, but I prefer to think it is a touch of jealousy, and lack of a thorough knowledge of what they jeer at.

Dr. MacKay made mention of the scores of youngsters who take part in competitions, and have the backing of parents, teachers and friends encouraging and supporting them, and yet they are seldom given the favorable publicity they deserve.

About the same time as I received the "Oban Times", I received from a MacLeod friend in New Zealand a magazine in which there appeared the picture of a young woman who was entered in the "Miss International" Beauty Contest, taking place at Long Beach, California, in February last. She was being interviewed by a reporter who came to her home at Levin, New Zealand. He said of her that she was highly intelligent, armed with good common sense; and an uncommon sense of humour. "This black haired beauty", he said, "is the darling of Levin, and won all the beauty contests in which she had entered".

I'll continue from here, and give the questions and answers as they appear in the magazine at the time she was being interviewed by the reporter.

Reporter - "Do you have any interest in music?"

She - "I love it. The whole family does!"

Reporter - "What sort of music?"

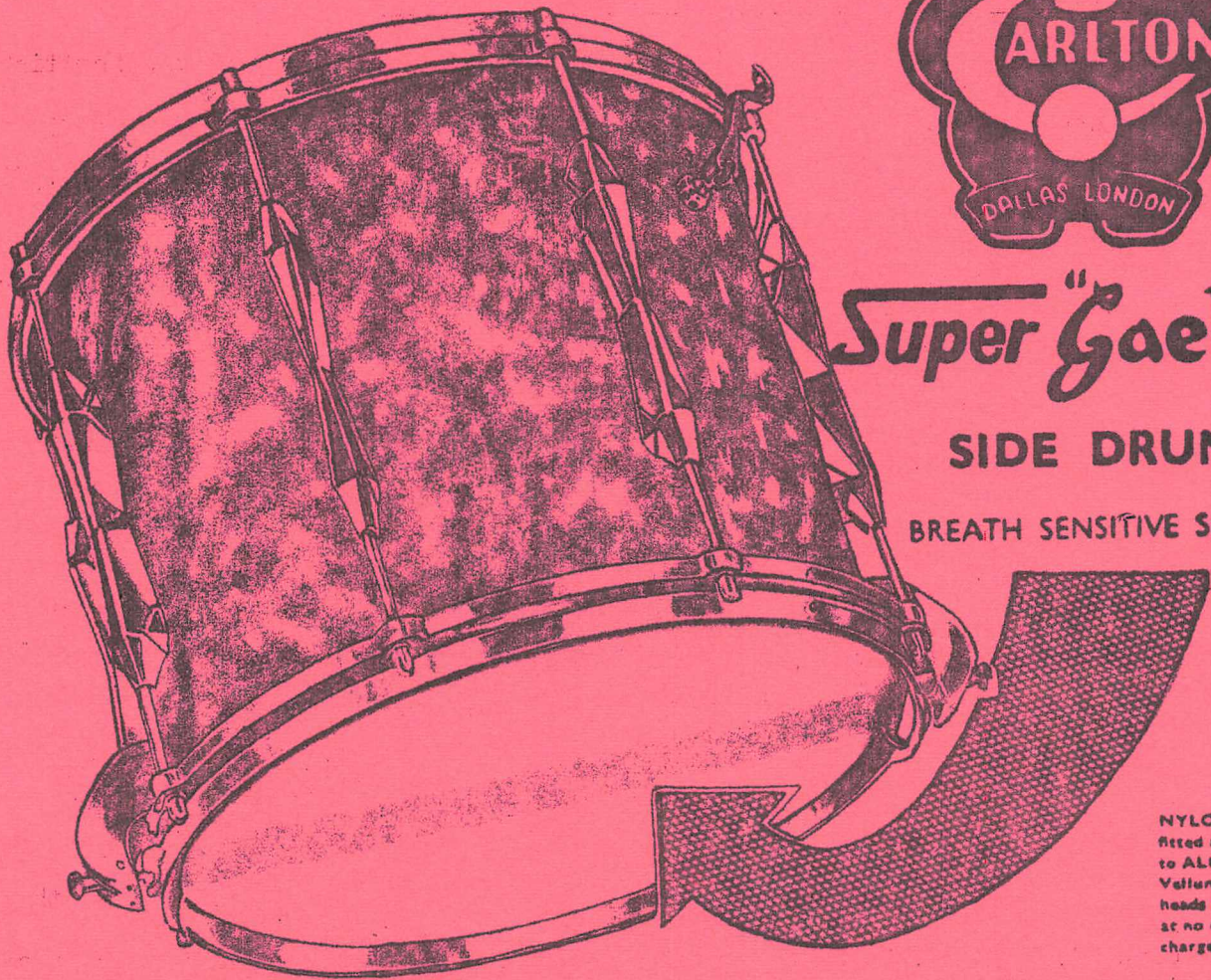
She - "Classical, mainly!"

Reporter - "Do you play an instrument?"

She - "Yes, the bagpipes. I love them. I love all Scottish music and play the pipes!"

I thought, after reading the "Oban Times", that this was quite a boost for the bagpipes, coming as it did from one described by the reporter as a New Zealand beauty, highly intelligent, and armed with common sense. Perhaps some day judges may put more emphasis on how beauties play pipes, than how they look in bathing suits.

- Roderick MacLeod -



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The following clipping was forwarded to us by Lt. Col. McEwing, well-known to pipers throughout the world. The article has not been identified, - neither the newspaper from which it is taken nor the date of its publication has been given. However, it would appear to be taken from a Washington, D.C. paper, or in any event written by a Washington columnist. Although part of the article does not deal with piping, we are reproducing the entire piece to show how the attitude of the American Government is similar to or differs from that of ours, when it comes to recognition and support of bands.

THE RAMBLER REPORTS SOME ACTION: by John McKelway

Some say the 90th Congress has done little so far, outside of preventing one of its members from sitting down. The Rambler finds this a scurrilous charge.

In two recent days of furious action, the House, for example, has passed several pieces of noteworthy legislation. Despite objections from those who do not want to see the Metropolitan Police Department Band enlarged, the House met the issue head-on and passed a bill which will allow members of the White House Police force as well as the Park Police force to play in the band and receive the same protection against injury or disability while the band is playing as that now enjoyed by Metropolitan Police Band members.

Curiously, the bill makes no provision for members of the F.B.I., the C.I.A., G.S.A. building guards or the Secret Service - or, as far as the Rambler can tell, the Capitol Police force. Obviously, you have to take things one at a time. Or, maybe these men just won't want to play in the band. At any rate, assuming the Senate will go along, the band which presently is made up of some 20 members will shortly be enlarged to a unit of 50 pieces.

Answering possible critics of the measure who might argue that the bill will merely serve to keep more police off the streets, or hand a horn to a man who thinks he can blow a horn, Rep. Basil Whitener, D-N.C. said: "Your committee (the House District Committee) is of the opinion that this Police Department Band represents a useful weapon in the war against crime ...."

Frequently the band plays before school groups and with school bands and obviously they **must** have been finishing together. The image of the department, the fact that policemen can actually play the tuba, is improved and the band is considered a good piece of public relations. There is also the possibility that the band can be used for recruiting purposes.

Disposing of the band business, without any silly debate over whether or not the police department might actually be considering the formation of a string quartet next, the House rested and then, within a matter of hours, swiftly handled another matter which has been hanging around for at least a year.

A gross inequity was corrected. In recent years, more and more Americans have started blowing bagpipes. There does not seem to be any clear reason why, but the fact remains and no one seems to be able to do anything about it. But, in a way, American pipers were being discriminated against. If, after wearing out a set of pipes, they ordered new ones from, say, Scotland, they had to pay a 15 percent tariff on the strange looking object, despite the fact that no bagpipes are being manufactured in the United States.

But justice has been done - at least in the House. The House Ways and Means Committee recommended abolishing the tariff and the full House agreed.

Rep. Dante B. Fascell, D-Fla., in an impassioned speech, before final passage, put it this way:

"Mr. Speaker," he said, "the bagpipe is a very ancient instrument, said to have been introduced by the Romans in England. From England the instrument was introduced into Ireland and Scotland. Through the centuries the sounds of bagpipes have accompanied feuds on the Scottish heath, marching revolutionaries in Ireland, and marching bands in parades and celebrations in those countries as well as here in America .... The haunting, indescribable sound of the bagpipes playing summons in each of us a sense of the mystery of antiquity. We know when the bagpipes have passed that we have lived through a few moments of history, preserved for us in its purest essence.

Well, you know, the Rambler feels the same way about the Metropolitan Police Band.

And so, perhaps, it is time to salute the 90th Congress, a culturally conscious group on the march, willing to let the band play on and the pipers to pipe.

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We frequently receive letters from our readers praising the Newsletter, and from time to time we receive words of criticism. We are grateful for both types of letters, and while we don't usually publish them, we would ask you to let us know your opinions. The words of appreciation are indeed an encouragement to us, and the criticisms and suggestions can often be extremely useful.

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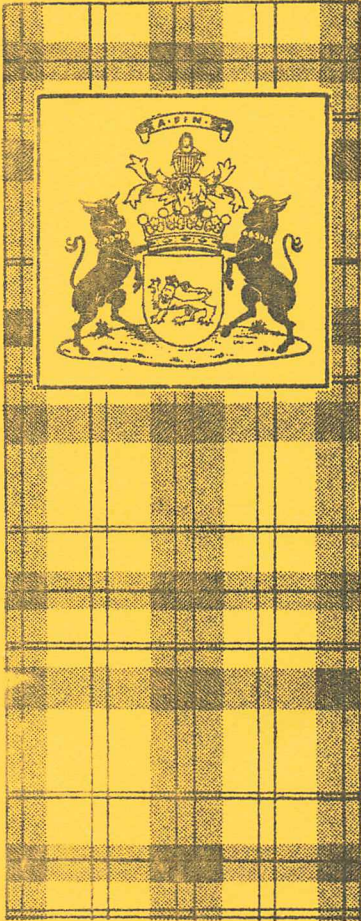
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