

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



MARCH, 1971 NO. 111

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

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 1073 Doran Road, North Vancouver, B.C. by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and is distributed to all members. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications to the Secretary, B.C. Pipers' Association, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

834 Burnaby Street
New Westminster, B.C.
March 16, 1971

The Editors
B.C. Pipers' Newsletter
1073 Doran Road
North Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sirs:

The Sons of Scotland, New Westminster Highland Games Committee, held their Annual Tartan Ball, in the Gizeh Temple Friday, February 26, 1971, and despite the dreadful weather conditions it was a great success.

A quartette from the Vancouver Police Pipe Band, played a fine selection of tunes for the guests to dance to and to sit and listen and enjoy at the intermission. The piping fraternity was very well represented, and we feel this was largely due to the co-operation of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Association, who went to a great deal of trouble to change their competitions at their Festival from the Friday evening to the Saturday evening so as not to conflict with the Tartan Ball. The time and effort this last minute change incurred is very much appreciated by all concerned - "Thank You Ladies".

We would also like to express our gratitude to the B.C. Pipers' Association for the publicity given to the Ball in the Newsletter, it was a great help.

Yours sincerely,

Donald Ross
New Westminster Highland
Games Committee

THE STORY BEHIND BAGPIPE TUNES

"I HAVE HAD A KISS OF THE KING'S HAND" was composed about 1660 by Patrick Mor MacCrimmon, the piper to Roderick MacLeod of MacLeod.

Pipers in olden times always had a "guid conceit o'themselves" -- and Patrick was no exception. He accompanied his master to London after the Restoration to pay homage to Charles II and received a very warm welcome.

The king and his court were very pleased with Patrick's fine appearance and the piper was asked to entertain them with some pipe music.

King Charles was delighted with Patrick's performance and allowed the piper to kiss his hand. Patrick was so elated over this that he composed the tune to commemorate the honour that had been paid to him.

"I have had a kiss, a kiss, a kiss,
I have had a kiss of the King's hand.
No one who blew in a sheep's skin
Has received such an honour as I have."

PIPER OF THE MONTH

Most piping enthusiasts in the Vancouver area are very familiar with the piping achievements and talents of the MacInnes family. One of the semi-finalists in this years Knock-Out Competition is Donald MacInnes, our Piper of the Month.

Donald is the second son of Mary and Michael MacInnes and the brother to well known pipers Duncan, Rae Marie, Therese and Heather. He was born in Vancouver and was initiated into the Highland Games atmosphere as a dancer. His mother, an exceptional highland dancer herself, encouraged Donald to become a dancer when he was six years old. He was taught by Phyllis Murray who made a prize winner of him in but one year. At seven years of age he entered his first competition at the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Festival and won no less than five first prizes. During his dancing career he won over 100 medals and won the aggregate trophy in his respective class in each of the years 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954 at the B.C. Highland Games.

Although an excellent dancer, he decided to be a piper, after older brother Duncan began taking lessons from Malcolm Nicholson. Donald went to his first piping lesson with Mr. Nicholson at age 8. Donald quickly began competing as a piper and managed to run from the dancing platform to the piping platform. He continued this hectic pace until he was sixteen years old. At this stage he decided he would have to give up one of his activities and chose to discontinue his competitive dancing. One of his last dancing competitions enabled him to win the piping and dancing combination trophy at the Caledonian Games.

All during his early years of piping he was eager to out-pipe brother Duncan who was almost two years older than Donald. Although he didn't manage to place better on too many occasions there were evidently several tie competitions. Donald moved up from the under 16 class to the Amateur class ahead of his brother due to a rather "unfortunate" circumstance. He arrived too late to compete in his proper class in Victoria one year but asked officials if he could play in the Amateur class. They allowed him to do so and at 13 years old won three first prizes. However, when he tried to enter the under 16 class at the next competition he was informed that he couldn't return due to his success in Victoria. Entering this class somewhat earlier than most competitors did not seem to bother young Donald too greatly however. In 1956, 1957 and 1958 Donald won the Pacific International Highland Games Amateur trophy. In 1958 he won the Amateur Aggregate Trophy at the Annual Gathering and received a Centennial Tartan Kilt for his efforts.

Donald's band activities began when he was twelve. He joined the Seaforth Highlanders Cadet Band under P.M. Ian Sinclair and competed as a band member for four years. He then joined the Crawford Band under P.M. Ron Foreman. On joining the Crawford Band he also began taking lessons from Mr. Foreman, and continued for the two years while a Crawford Band member. Donald left the band in 1959 to accept a job near Great Bear Lake. He took his pipes and managed to play at various social gatherings to keep in practice. He remained in the far north for 18 months.

On returning to Vancouver Donald returned to the Seaforths but this time as a member of the Battalion Band under P.M. Ed Esson. He

was not long with the Band before his interest in piping seemed to wain somewhat and there were several years when Donald became a spectator at the Games rather than a competitor. Being a natural competitor however, he decided to try his hand at tossing the caber during these non-piping years and won the competition at Bellingham, Penticton and Portland. One of his most enjoyable competitions was winning the Pillow Fight at the New Westminster Games. As you can see he is an all-round competitor and has always been a winner. One of his most unusual accomplishments, and by no means insignificant, was winning the Vancouver Marble Championship when he was 13. I understand he still plays a keen game of marbles!

His renewed interest in piping began in 1963. Bill Baird of the Vancouver Police Band asked Donald to join the Band for an engagement in Hawaii. The Band was to perform in the Festival of the South Pacific. Unfortunately, soon after arriving in Hawaii, John F. Kennedy was assassinated and all festivities were cancelled. The band, however, was asked to play a lament for President Kennedy at the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbour.

Donald then played with the Port Moody Band under P.M. Bill Elder and as usual the band won the International Championship. He then returned to the Police Band and presently is a regular member of their competition quartette. The quartette is a regular first prize winner at the Seattle Pipers Stag and placed second at the 1970 Annual Gathering.

Donald has been a most active and keen member of the Police Band and received the Bandsman Award in 1970 for outstanding service. He never missed a practice or a parade and started a Highland Dancing Group within the Band. Four bandsmen plus Donald put on quite a show from what I have been told.

Competing in the professional ranks has not been a familiar event for Donald but during the last year or so he has entered several events. Entering the knock-out competition has given many of the piping fraternity the opportunity to hear this talented piper for the first time.

Donald is married and has a three year old son, Gordon, whom I understand has already been introduced to the practice chanter. Having a father, uncle and aunts as talented as his will surely influence this youngster's piping endeavours.

The editors of the Newsletter wish Donald success in his future competitions and hope to see his competitive spirit continue.

WESTERN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

A competition is being held by the W.P.B.A. for the design of an emblem or crest to represent the activities of the Association. The creator of the winning design will receive the \$25.00 prize.

All designs should be submitted to P.M. Jimmy Lang, 954 MacIntosh Street, Coquitlam, B.C.

KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

The monthly knock-out competition was held March 5th at the Steelworkers Hall on Broadway. As usual we had an excellent turn out with over 100 people enjoying the fine music and pleasant company.

The competition commenced with Donald MacInnes and Bill MacAulay competing in the first of the quarter final events. Donald played extremely well. Many people commented on his strong performance which was just too much for Bill MacAulay to overcome. Bill gave a creditable effort but was not able to match Donald's professional performance.

The second event saw Bruce Topp defeat last years knock-out competition winner, Ruairidh Macdonald. Both played excellently giving very musical performances.

The judges for the evening were Ian MacKinnon, Bill Lockie and Malcolm Nicholson.

Bruce Topp and Donald MacInnes will now meet in the semi-final round on May 7, 1971.

Next month in the remaining quarter final events Bill Elder will meet David Wilson and John A. MacLeod will meet Fred Brodie. Remember the date - April 2, 1971 at 8:00 P.M.

Steelworkers House
33 West Broadway

February Bi-Monthly Competition

John M. MacDonald was the judge for the February 19th Bi-Monthly Competition held in the Seaforth Armoury. The Juvenile class played 6/8 Marches and the Open Amateur Class played Piobaireachd.

The results are as follows:

Juvenile Marches

1. Brian Carse
2. Stewart Reid
3. Gordon Patterson
4. Aileen Arnott

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Jack Lee
2. Bill Stockler
3. Hazel Ramsay
4. Terry Lee

There were 13 competitors in the Juvenile class and 11 in the Amateur Class. The next bi-monthly competition is April 16 with Juveniles playing Marches and Amateur March, Strathspey and Reel.

NO INSTRUCTION FOR PIPE BAND

The Cariboo Indian Mission Pipe Band is "almost defunct", according to Father Lobsinger, because of the lack of an instructor.

In 1967 the Pipe Band travelled to Expo and toured Eastern Canada with great success but since then the band has been in difficulty because of the impossibility of finding an instructor close enough to give the girls enough practise.

Last year Ramsey Parker commuted from Vancouver to teach the band but the arrangement didn't work out satisfactorily due to the long distance Parker had to travel.

In the beginning of this year a PGE employee began to direct the girls but he was transferred, leaving the band without leadership.

"We don't even have a nucleus of a band now", said Father Lobsinger, "which is a great shame because there is a great deal of interest here".

Training a piper takes two years and as the girls grow older they either leave school or transfer to another school and pipers must be coming up to take their place.

From an Expo band to nothing in four years is quite a jump backwards, but Father Lobsinger feels that if an instructor could be found the band would be back playing in a short time. "There is just nobody that I can find to instruct them", the Father said, "but I am still looking".

From the Williams Lake Tribune
February 17, 1971.

FOR SALE

Mrs. Esdale has a set of pipes for sale - these pipes would be most suitable for a beginner in piping.

The price - \$100.00 which includes a good case.

For more information please contact Mrs. Esdale at 733-9240.

BAND EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

The following band equipment is for sale. Items will be sold individually or in any quantity. For further information on this equipment please contact Dave Russell at 988-1795 or write to 167 East Osborne, North Vancouver, B.C.

- 1 fully mounted cougar skin (new)
- 1 full size Drum Majors mace
- 2 Carlton tenors (nylon heads)
- 12 feather bonnets (argyle) new
- 30 uniforms to fit ages 8 - 16
- Tunics (blue with red and gold trim), doublets, kilts, spats, hosetops, glens, plastic waist belts (black and white), flashes, pipe bags and cords, sporrans (embossed tops).
- Many items are new and have not been worn or used.
- 16 drum slings (nylon, swivel hook)
- New everplay drum heads
- 12 collapsable chrome leg rests (fit any drums)
- 1 new fibre tenor drum case

PIPING SCHOLARSHIPS

During the last few years a piping school has been sponsored by the Spokane Piobaireachd Society in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho under such competent piping teachers as John MacLellan, Seumas MacNeill and John MacAskill. The B.C. Pipers' Association has decided to take advantage of this school to further encourage pipers in our Province. We are prepared to offer two scholarships to attend the school for the two weeks July 19 to July 30, 1971.

The scholarship will consist of return bus fare from Vancouver to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, tuition fees and dormitory fees. Meal expenses will be paid by the student.

A committee of three has been appointed to make the decision as to whom will attend the school.

If you are interested in applying for one of these scholarships apply in writing in 300 words or less giving your reasons for wanting to attend the school in Coeur d'Alene, your age and piping experience. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. Ishabel Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C.

Applications must be received by April 30, 1971.

THE SPOKANE PIBBAIREACHD SOCIETY'S SUMMER PIPING SCHOOL . / /

The Spokane Piobaireachd Society's sponsored "Summer Piping School" will again be held from 19 through 30 July at the North Idaho Junior College, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The tuition and dormitory fees will be the same as last year, \$75.00 and \$22.00 respectively. Mr. Seumas MacNeill assisted by Dr. John MacAskill will again be the Director of Training. In the event enrollments justify it, Mr. MacNeill will be asked to invite a third instructor from Scotland with a College of Piping background and a record of prize winnings at some of the more important Games held in the beautiful Scottish Highlands.

It is suggested that students arrive not later than 3:00 P.M. on Sunday the 18th for the normal school processing. The dormitories are constructed to accommodate two to a room -- upper and lower beds. The college provides sheets and pillow cases only. In the event a pillow is required it should be brought from home. In the event students wish to bring their wives along they can be accommodated in the dorm. The College does not provide cooking facilities, however there are numerous moderately priced eating establishments within walking distance of the College Campus. In the event students wish to bring families along and have a requirement for motel facilities having housekeeping capabilities, I will be happy to act as their liaison agent if sufficient "lead time" is provided. There are several camper parks in the vicinity.

Those who arrive via air should travel from the airport to the Davenport Hotel in downtown Spokane via limousine. The bus terminal which provides service to Coeur d'Alene is two blocks away. They normally make four trips per day to Coeur d'Alene, however my home may be called (FA.8-7920) as there is a very good chance that I will be able to provide other than bus transportation for students.

It is expected that all students will arrive with a good going set of pipes, tight bag, proper hemping, a supply of reeds, bag seasoning and College of Piping tutors and manuals. The Piobaireachd music can be obtained by the use of a local fax machine in the event it is not convenient to bring one's own Piob music.

For the purpose of a class photograph, scheduled TV exposure and the fact that the local Games are on 31 July it is suggested that the Highland Dress be included as an item of wardrobe. Students are also invited to bring tape recorders and cameras if they so desire. Tape recorders are especially valuable in the event a student comes as a "band representative" since in all probability they will be expected to teach and assist their colleagues upon their return.

It should be noted that only piping, maintenance of pipes, toning of pipes and proper teaching and playing techniques are dealt with. This school is unique in-as-much as there is no co-mingling of highland dancing or drumming. These in themselves are most important cultural undertakings, however they have a tendency to distract from the prime mission of piping where the individual's task is to concentrate to the very best of his or her ability in correctly memorizing these movements in all facets of the music but especially in mastering the most intricate classical music known as Piobaireachd. Other comparable summer schools report that the progress of the piping student is noticeably affected by other attempted studies conducted at the same time or place. Therefore, because of the very limited time, length of course, etc. we do not intend to expand the curriculum to include anything other than "pure piping" which includes Piobaireachd, marches, strathspeys, reels, jigs, horn-pipes, etc.

On Friday evening, 30 July, a Piobaireachd competition will, as last year, take place. It may be preceded by a six/eight march competition confined to those who enter for the Banner prize. This evening's competition should be highly educational for the students attending the school. The Banner properly called the Bratach Nam Beann or Banner of the Mountains, carries with it an air trip to Prestwick and return in order that the winner may represent the Piobaireachd Society at the Oban Games. Last year's winner was Mr. John MacLeod from Vancouver, B.C. Mr. MacLeod enrolled as a student for the purpose of "polishing" a number of the tunes required to be played at Oban. At Oban he placed third in the Gold Medal competition in a class of thirty-nine of the world's foremost pipers. This was the first time that anyone from outside of Scotland ever placed in this world renowned competition. This year we are receiving early applications from individuals who not only wish to improve their playing techniques but are also interested in adjudicating techniques. This, of course, is greatly encouraged by the school.

It will not be necessary for applicants to send with their application a check or advance down payment of any kind as it is felt that a student of the pipes who is unable to come after planning to do so, does not simply because of reason over which he or she does not have control. Tuition fees will be paid direct to Mr. MacNeill on the afternoon or evening prior to the start of the school. For purposes of planning, it is hoped that written applications will arrive not later than 1 June, and much earlier if convenient, for purposes already stated re additional instructors.

The Glasgow College of Piping was founded twenty-five years ago. Mr. MacNeill was one of its founders. During its existence, a great deal of research in the field of teaching has been accomplished and when one examines the list of prize winners at the more important Games in Scotland, you will find College of Piping graduates firmly established. The Spokane Piobaireachd Society's Executive Board places high value upon the teaching techniques employed by Mr. MacNeill and members of his staff.

The Society is grateful to the officials of the North Idaho Junior College located at Coeur d'Alene, who have made their splendid facilities available at no cost to us. The College President, Barry G. Schuler, and all the members of his staff have done everything possible to insure that classrooms, dormitories and other facilities are comfortable and adequate. Without their enthusiasm and interest in our summer piping programs, it is very doubtful if we would be enjoying the very high level of regard by people all over the world who are also interested in raising the standard of piping.

John McEwing
Pres. Spokane Piobaireachd Society
W. 3309 Dalke Avenue, Spokane, Wash.

NELSON'S CENTENNIAL SCHOOL OF PIPING

Nelson's Own Kootenay Kiltie Pipe Band in conjunction with Notre Dame University of Nelson are staging a two week piping course.

Pipe Major Donald MacLeod of Glasgow, Scotland will be conducting the course. P.M. MacLeod is a distinguished soldier and piper who needs no introduction to experienced pipers who have heard his records and know of his accomplishments.

The course will be geared to the need of the pupil and the first day will be spent testing the applicants.

Applications must be received prior to June 1st together with an initial deposit of \$25.00. The remainder of the fee being \$75.00 is payable on or before August 1st. This fee includes tutoring, classrooms, dormitory and meals. The course will be limited to 25 pupils on the basis of first come, first served. Standards acceptable will be sent to all pupils on request.

Pupils are required to supply:

- A. Bagpipes
- B. Practice chanter with spare reed.
- C. Manuscript book & note paper
- D. Any music on which they may be working at the particular time.

The date for the course is from Monday, August 23 until Friday, September 3. At the conclusion of the course Nelson's Highland Games will be held in the Civic Centre Grounds. P.M. MacLeod will be the piping judge at the Games.

Further information on this years Centennial Highland Games will be sent later. Applications should be addressed to:

W.D. Sutherland
P.O. Box 269, Nelson, B.C.

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Queen Elizabeth Theatre
Friday, April 23rd -
Saturday, April 24th - 8:30

TICKETS GO ON SALE: MONDAY, MARCH 1st at 10:00 a.m.
AT ALL VANCOUVER TICKET CENTRE LOCATIONS: 683-3255
Main Office 630 Hamilton Street (Queen E Theatre Bldg.)

ANY EATONS STORE where you may use your charge card.

UNION JACKS AND JEANS 951 Denman Street (West End)

37th and West Boulevard (Kerrisdale)

Nelson and Kingsway (Burnaby)

735 - 6th Street (New Westminster)

THE BUTCHER SHOPPE

3388 Kingsway

THE PLANETARIUM After 12 noon.

THE THUNDERBIRD SHOP
University of British Columbia

PRICES FOR WHITE HEATHER CONCERT PARTY \$3 \$2.50 \$2 \$1.50

ANNUAL GATHERING

The 1971 B.C. Pipers' Association Annual Gathering will be held April 30th and May 1st at the North Vancouver Recreation Centre. This year's judge will be P.M. Archie Cairns from Ottawa.

There are two rather significant changes to the format of the competitions this year. Short leets will be held in the Novice March and the Amateur Piobaireachd competitions. The leets will be judged by one of our many competent local judges and only the top six amateur players and top ten novice players will compete for Mr. Cairns. As the leets will be conducted while the competition proper is in progress, it will greatly reduce the length of the Annual Gathering. Rather than have two complete days of competition it will be shortened to a day and a half this year. The events will start at 3:00 P.M. on the Friday and at 9:00 A.M. on the Saturday.

The schedule for both days is as follows:

Friday, April 30th - 3:30 P.M.

- Event # 1 - Junior Piobaireachd Play off for Novice March
- Event # 2 - Juvenile Marches
- Event # 3 - Juvenile Strathspey and Reel
- 7:30 P.M.
- Event # 4 - Junior Marches Play off for Amateur Piobaireachd
- Event # 5 - Junior Strathspey and Reel
- Event # 6 - Junior Quartettes

Saturday, May 1st - 9:00 A.M.

- Event # 7 - Finalists Novice March
- Event # 8 - Finalists Amateur Piobaireachd
- Event # 9 - Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs (Restricted)*
- 1:00 P.M.
- Event # 10 - Professional Piobaireachd
- Event # 11 - Amateur Marches
- Event # 12 - Amateur Strathspey and Reel
- Event # 13 - Pipers Over 60 Years Old (Tune of own choice)
- 6:30 P.M.
- Event # 14 - Professional Marches
- Event # 15 - Professional Strathspey and Reel
- Event # 16 - Professional Jigs
- Dancing - Invitational exhibition of the North Vancouver Dancers
- Event # 17 - Senior Quartettes
- Event # 18 - Miniature Bands

* Event # 9 will be restricted to pipers not competing in any other event.

PLEASE NOTE!

THIS YEAR THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE. EVERY COMPETITOR WHETHER PLAYING IN A BAND, QUARTETTE, OR INDIVIDUALLY PAYS ADMISSION AT THE DOOR.

ADULTS - \$1.50 CHILDREN UNDER 12 - 50¢

ENTRY FORM

Please enter (Print Name).....
in event # Telephone Number.....

_____ March

_____ Strathspey

Reel

_____ Piobaireachd

_____ Old Highland Airs

_____ Jig

_____ Quartette & or March.....

_____ Band Set Strath.....

Reel.....

Mail entries before April 16, 1971 to: Mrs. I. Ross, Secretary
834 Burnaby Street
New Westminster, B.C.
526-7905

"Self wrought pity is hardly healthy"

