

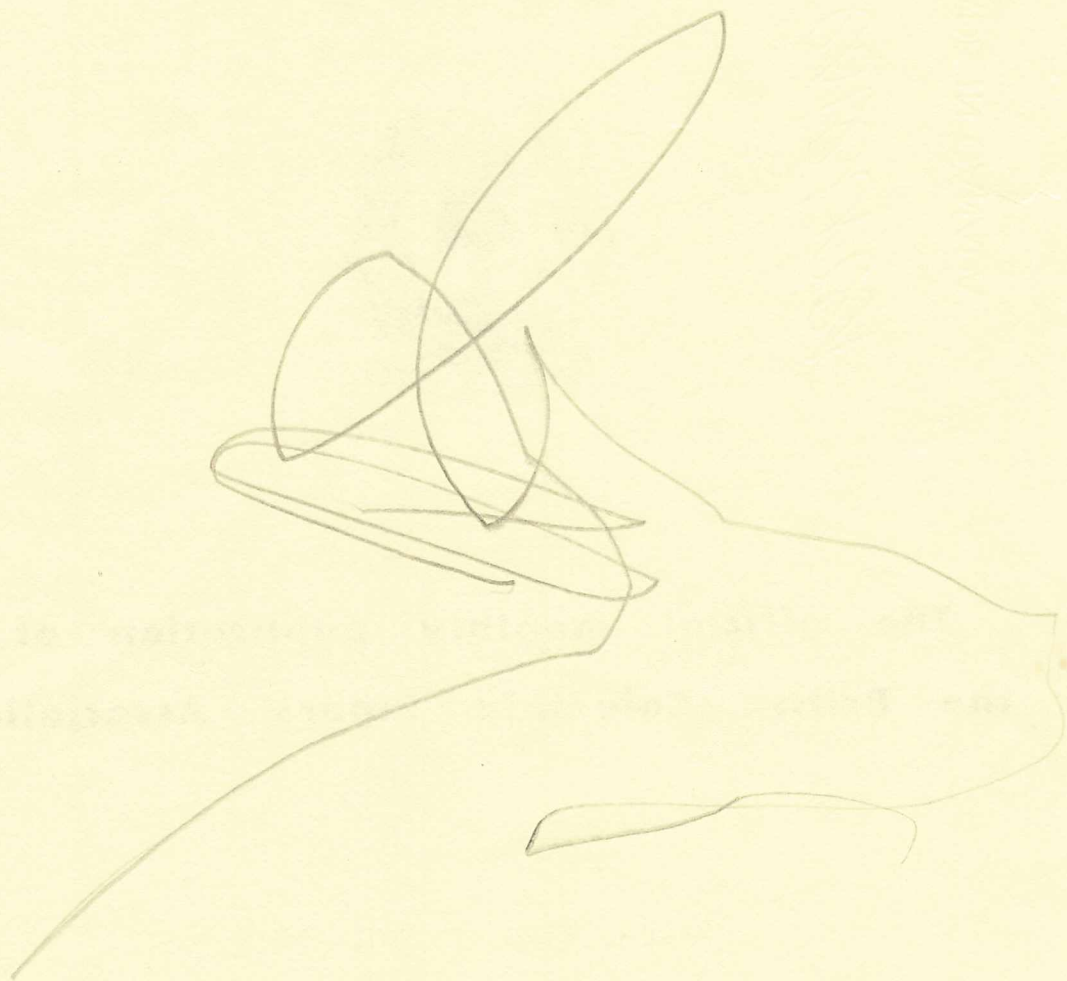
# B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

MARCH, 1973

NO. 130



B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT	Bill Lamont
VICE-PRESIDENT	David Wilson
SECRETARY	Ishabel Ross
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Association Pipe Major	Seb Nellies

The B. C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 5120 Spencer Street, Vancouver 16, B. C., by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and distributed to all members. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Mrs. D. Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster.

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MARCH, 1973

NO. 130

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Due to the Gathering at the end of April and the Annual Dinner and Knockout Final at the beginning of May, the next Newsletter will be a combined April/May issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

We will again be setting up a Newsletter booth at the Annual Gathering this year and Association memberships and extra Newsletters will be available to prospective members.

We hope that all members of the Association will take a few minutes to say hello and possibly to sit down and discuss the Newsletter with us.

See you there!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Editors have asked me if I would give a short report in the Newsletter from time to time during the year so that the members may be kept informed of the activities of the Association.

First, I want to thank the members for once again electing me as their President and I hope that with the help of the Board of Directors, I will be able to continue the good work that has been done by those who held this high office before me.

We are now into our most hectic period of the year with the Annual Gathering, Annual Dinner and White Heather show all in the short space of less than a month, but I am confident that all our members and friends will give us 100 percent support.

The first of these events is the White Heather show on Friday, April 20th and Saturday, April 21st, starring the ever popular Alexander Brothers. Full details will be in your local newspapers and on Radio C.J.O.R. starting on Monday, March 26th.

On Wednesday, April 25th, a ceilidh will be held at the Scottish Auditorium, 12th Avenue and Fir Street at 7:30 p.m. featuring Mr. John MacDougall of Arbroath, Scotland, who will be the judge for the Annual Gathering. This will be a great chance to enjoy another night of outstanding piping. Admission will be \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for those under 16, and bar service will be available.

Next, we have the 41st Annual Gathering on Friday, April 27th and Saturday, April 28th, at the North Vancouver Community Centre, 23rd and Lonsdale. This event is the Association highlight of the year and I look forward to seeing you all there.

On Saturday, May 5th, the Annual Dinner will be held at the Flame Supper Club. Last year was the first time we incorporated a dance with the dinner and afterwards the comments went as follows: the dinner was excellent, the piping in the Knock-Out finals even more so, but the dance music was a bit loud for some of us older folks with tender ears. This year the committee has made a change. Again, the dinner will be of the same high quality, the piping even better, and we have obtained the services of Andy Arnott's orchestra who I am sure you all know. This dinner is the once a year affair where we can all get together and spend an enjoyable night with our friends. Contact any Board member or the Secretary for tickets, or better still, make up a party and contact the Secretary for table reservations.

Before closing, I would like to express my thanks to the members who are working on the various committees to arrange these functions and a special thanks to Mrs. Dick Swanson for her untiring work on the Bi-Monthly competitions.

I sincerely hope, that when I make my next report, I will be able to say that all of the events I have mentioned were outstanding successes.

Bill Lamont

Dear Sirs,

The Simon Fraser University Pipes and Drums have reorganized after a lapse of several years. The band, with a very keen nucleus, invites any past or present, student, faculty or staff to participate.

Past members of the S.F.U. band are requested to have a rake in the closet, for any kilts that may have been, AHEM! mislaid. If there are any found (they'll be too wee for you now anyway) we would very much appreciate having them returned.

For further information please call Dennis Roberts at 291-3210 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) or Donald Ross, Jr. at 526-7905.

Donald Ross, Jr.

Dear Sirs,

First of all, let me add my congratulations to you and the Staff for the excellent job being done in producing the Newsletter. I look forward to receiving my copy each month in order that I may keep abreast of the "happenings" in the Piping and Pipe Band world out there in "God's Country". Keep up the good work!

Secondly, I would like to comment if I may on the current discussion reference the dress and deportment of competitors in solo and/or band contests. This subject was long the target of many competitors/bands in Ontario and never failed to incite extremely heated arguments pro and con whenever it reared its head. This dispute was resolved several years ago and dress and deportment no longer are factors weighing in the decision of Piping and/or Pipe Band contests here. Since being removed, the contests are decided by the musical performance alone and I have not noted any decline in the standard of dress of the contestants.

If anything, in Ontario at least, the personal pride of the individual or band has raised the standard. I feel certain that anyone who attempted to appear on a Platform or contest field in anything less than the recognized standard of dress (albeit a shirtsleeve order of dress) would be very quickly informed of their "misdemeanor" by the Stewards or Games Committee Officials. To date, I know of no such occurrence.

I feel that proper attire is a very important part of Highland Games and, if one is to be rewarded for the splendor/carriage/appearance/uniformity, etc., this is a good thing, but should be a separate competition and should in no way influence the outcome of a musical adjudication. I would like to relate a personal experience when the "Dress and Deportment" items were still "in" here.

At the time, I was Pipe Major of the Canadian Guards and took my band to one of the contests. Now, these Pipers and Drummers were all Regular Force soldiers and, being Guards, they knew what a "shine parade" was all about. The day before the contest we had been on Parliament Hill in Ottawa taking part in a ceremonial parade during which we had undergone severe scrutiny with regards to our dress. After the parade, I called a "shine parade" in order that our kit would be in first-class order for the Games. At the contest, we wore our full dress and played (I felt) reasonably well. The score sheets from the Piping and Drumming judges also reflected this. However, we had to accept a second as we had been "bested" by a band in white shirts and tartan ties! I was flabbergasted and queried the Dress and Deportment judge as to where we had fallen down. He had knocked us one full point because we were not uniformly dressed. The reason? My Pipe Sgt. and I were the only two people wearing Sgian Dubhs!!! When the fact was disclosed that in our Dress Regulations, we were the only two authorized to wear a Sgian Dubh, it was a "regrettable incident" but the decision had been announced and so had to stand.

Under our current setup in Ontario, no such event will ever again transpire. And so, I am all for a system where each individual is expected to be a credit to the dress they wear, and to be informed if they are not, but also where contests are decided by musical merit alone.

Third and last, I would like to inform your readers that we have established Highland Games in Ottawa, sponsored by the City, and this year they will be on Sunday, July 1st - and there is NO admission or parking charge! As Games Co-ordinator for the City, I wish to extend an invitation to any of our western friends (or to any of your readers) who may be planning a trip east this summer to come to Ottawa on the holiday weekend and attend our pre-games "Tartan Ball" on Saturday, June 30th, and the Games on Sunday which are being held in Lansdowne Park.

Anyone wishing further information should address their correspondence to me.

Thank you for allowing me to "bend your ear" a little and I wish you continued success with the Newsletter.

Kindest regards to all,

A. M. Cairns,  
3 Altair Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1K 0M2.

Dear Sirs,

Having been a member of the B.C. Pipers' Association for the last thirty years, may I ask why they do not have a novice strathspey and reel? My reason that there should be is that many novices have been competing for two and three years, and have never won a novice march, and yet are quite capable of playing a strathspey and reel. This could have the effect of more novices advancing to the juvenile class each year, wherein a novice might not win a competition in marches, but could win in strathspeys and reels.

One might say that novices attempt to handle too heavy a tune. This, of course, is not the fault of the novice, but of the teacher who is pushing his pupils.

The above is, I believe, worthy of open discussion, with due consideration to the novice who is anxious to play and parade his ability before the judge, and a firm decision taken, remembering that slow airs, strathspeys and reels, as well as marches are held in the novice class in some competitions. This could be possible providing, of course, that there are sufficient funds for prizes, the time element, and also space for enough platforms for the various additional classes.

Suggestions for a novice competition could be:

- |                      |    |                       |
|----------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1. Old Highland Airs | or | 1. Marches            |
| 2. Marches           |    | 2. Strathspey & Reel. |

Harry Mumford.

Dear Sirs,

Find enclosed the latest report on the Highland Games which are to be held at Waimea, Hawaii on October 5 and 6, 1973.

Besides the list of bands already mentioned, the Games Committee have received several other enquiries and they are



confident that the whole endeavour will be a great success.

Unfortunately for most bands in this area, there will be no financial help towards travelling expenses but the Committee are taking care of accommodations and meals.

I shall forward any further reports to you as I receive them and perhaps you could print them in the Newsletter and keep your members informed.

F. J. Hall, Drum Major,  
Vancouver Police Pipe Band.

Editors' Note: For more information, see "Next Month - In and Around the Association".

Dear Sirs,

Please accept my best wishes for your plan for one complete hall for all Scottish activities. I think it is a wonderful dream and hope that everyone moves forward quickly to make that dream come true.

With all the events under one roof, think of the driving miles saved. It might become known as the Scottish Hall of Fame of British Columbia. I cannot imagine anyone not supporting it, in which case it should more than pay for itself. Good luck,

Mrs. Vera Stewart.

#### EDITORIAL

#### Western Pipe Band Association

At the outset, it must be mentioned that this article is written not by editors or as representatives of the B.C. Pipers' Association, but by "frustrated" band members.

If anyone has ever attended a W.P.B.A. meeting, they will understand what is meant by "frustrated".

First of all, as a band member, one must ask oneself what would be the benefits of belonging to such an association? So far, we have been unable to come up with anything.

At the latest fiasco, known as a General Meeting, the President, Garnet Snow, presented the membership with the

contest rules for 1973. Note the word "proposed" did not precede "contest rules". When questioned about the legality of such a move, the chairman replied that the rules would stand for the season and be put up for discussion at the Annual General Meeting in November. That means my fellow band members that we will be competing this summer under rules that have not been passed nor even discussed by an Association that is supposed to represent us. So much for democracy.

The reason cited for this absolutely ludicrous legislation was the fact that the International Games Committee was becoming slightly peeved at the lack of action taken by the W.P.B.A. as far as rules were concerned. Thus it appears that the Western Pipe Band Association prefers to cater to the Dancers rather than pipe bands.

Perhaps some of the "disinterested" bands who did not attend this meeting (don't blame them) would like to know some of the rules under which they will compete this summer.

PART 1 - 2. "No members may take part in any Contest, not authorized (or recognized) by the Association, except with the written permission of the Association directors".

Anyone planning to play at the Annual Gathering, Trail, New Westminster, Bellingham, Coeur d'Alene, Nelson, Santa Rosa?

Better start writing to see if the W.P.B.A. recognizes these and other games because these games certainly don't recognize the W.P.B.A.

PART III - 1. "Each band shall contribute to the Association 5% of all prize money gained at the Contests. This will be deducted by the Promoters and remitted to W.P.B.A.'s Treasurer".

This 5% of all prize money is for the purpose of sending a team of stewards to all the contests. At the B.C. Championships, run solely by the W.P.B.A., they had to borrow officials from the B.C. Pipers' Association to steward, etc. Perhaps you haven't noticed but all the Games' committees supply their own stewards, most of whom perform their duties because of their love for piping. The annual membership dues should be sufficient to cover any costs accrued throughout the season.

PART II - 9. Dress

"At all contests, Bands must be suitably attired in acceptable Highland Dress, with the uniform of the individual members the same, except in minor details. Exceptions to this rule may be decided by the Field Committee and any decision reached shall be open to appeal before the

Executive board of the Association".

This means that Triumph Street and the City of Victoria Pipe Bands, in their multi-tartaned uniforms, will be at the mercy of the Field Committees at every contest sanctioned by the W.P.B.A. How quickly one forgets the grey trousered and blue blazered Highland Laddies who competed for so many years.

This rule can do nothing but discourage new bands from playing.

These rules are but one of the many forces of the W.P.B.A. The Association was born under a barrage of criticism but has managed to survive for almost five years. For most of that time, it has been a harmless, unorganized group which has been regarded as more of a joke than anything else. However, this recent legislation changes all that, and now every band in this area is directly affected.

The main point being made is that the Western Pipe Band Association is not doing anything constructive for pipe bands. Granted, the B.C. Pipers' have done nothing for pipe bands either but at least they haven't done anything destructive.

As the B.C. Pipers' was mostly to blame for the formation of the W.P.B.A., with their "We're a pipers' organization" attitude, perhaps they should try to salvage the whole situation before it is too late. We also urge bands to request that the W.P.B.A. put these rules up for discussion and a vote before the contest season begins.

#### LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

##### The College of Piping - A.G.M.

Another successful year was reported at the annual general meeting of the College of Piping held in Glasgow. Activities both extra-mural and domestic continue to expand on all fronts, reflecting the increasing interest in piping throughout the world.

Seumas MacNeill in the chair remarked on the increasing number of students being taught by the College. Evening class numbers were now just under one hundred per week, with excellent service being given by the team of instructors which included Duncan MacFadyen, Kenneth MacLean, Dugald MacNeill, Iain MacFadyen, Joe Wright, Alfred Morrison, Angus J. MacLellan, William Summers and Dugald MacIntyre, as well as College officials.

Day instruction continued to form an ever more important part of the work, and with Donald MacPherson permanently available, the numbers of students taking advantage of this facility was on the increase. Pupils from Glasgow Academy attended for lessons on three afternoons of the week, and College instructors visited Kelvinside Academy on one afternoon each week. Glasgow University Piping Society met now every Friday evening in the College.

A successful summer school had been held in July, with students coming from several countries of Europe as well as from Canada and the United States. One American student, Miss LuAnne Alward from Spokane, Washington, had come in August for a three-month course. She had competed with success, and her prizes had included the R.G. Lawrie Challenge Trophy for amateur piobaireachd playing at London in October the first time a prize at the London contest had been won by a girl.

Instructors and pupils of the College had, as usual, won a very large number of prizes in competition throughout the year. Worthy of special mention was the winning by former College pupil Dr. John MacAskill, of the gold medal for piobaireachd at the Northern Meeting in September.

Summer schools abroad had been very successful. College instructors had taught at Dallas, Texas; at the 1,000 Island, Ontario; and at Lake Sequoia, California. The instructors had been Seumas MacNeill, Thomas Pearston, Iain MacFadyen and Dr. John MacAskill. All these schools would be operating again this year.

The College continued to play an active part in the work of the Institute of Piping. Several certification tests had been organized and a course for teachers of piping had just been completed.

The financial report was presented and approved. It was noted that while the College was able to finance its own activities, it was unable to set aside funds for expansion or for new premises which were urgently required. It was suggested that supporter membership could be greatly increased if people knew such a thing was generally available, and this was remitted to the new committee for investigation. It was noted that apart from a 10.00 grant from the Piobaireachd Society, and a guarantee against loss on recitals from the Arts Council, the College with an annual expenditure of over 7,000 had to find its own income.

Sales of publications continued to increase. The Piping Times continued to supply an essential service to pipers although it was not a serious source of income. The Tutor sales remained the principal asset of the College, with Tutor Part I now having sold over a hundred thousand copies.

The College had been instrumental in having Angus MacKay's book reprinted and this was proving attractive to pipers.

Several donations to the College museum had been received during the year, including a lead 16th Century plaque depicting a German piper from Roderick M. Milne, a brass Belgian plaque from Dan Aird, and from Professor Alex Haddow a colour print of William Ross, Queen Victoria's piper, and a work-book of an early student of the Army School of Piping. To these, and the other people who had helped the College in one way or another throughout the year, the grateful thanks of the College were noted.

The election of office-bearers was preceded by an expression of regret at the death of one of the Honorary Vice-Presidents, Mr. Hector A. MacKenzie. Mr. MacKenzie had been a stalwart in the early days of the College and of tremendous help in planning the Tutor Part I.

Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod was unanimously re-elected Honorary President of the College, and Mr. George Beley, Ontario, Canada; Dr. Kenneth A. MacKay, Laggan; and Major General J.S.S. Martin of Glendale were unanimously re-elected Honorary Vice-Presidents. The names of Mr. Seton Gordon, F.Z.S., Col. Jock MacDonald, Viewfield, and Mr. Angus Macpherson M.B.E. were proposed as Honorary Vice Presidents and were carried with acclamation. Other elections proceeded as follows: Honorary Secretary, Angus J. MacLellan; Honorary Treasurer, Gordon M. Stevenson; Public Relations, Robert Swift; Representatives to the Institute of Piping, Seumas MacNeill and Thomas Pearston. Committee, Dugald MacNeill, Kenneth MacLean, Joe Wright, Dugald MacIntyre, Wm. Summers, Duncan MacFadyen, Iain MacFadyen, Finlay MacNeill, Dr. John MacAskill.

Seumas MacNeill.

#### Vancouver Island Piper's Club

The February meeting of the Vancouver Island Piper's Club was held February 3rd, 1973 in the Sergeant's Mess of the Canadian Scottish Regiment, at the Bay Street Armouries. The meeting was officially opened by V.I.P.'s Jamie Troy, Steve Geddes, Warren Fells, Rob Barrick, Hal Senyk and Bill Wishart playing the 79th Farewell, Orange and Blue, Jock Wilson's Ball and the Hills of Alva.

Pupil of the month was Jill Laurie, a Vancouver lassie, currently taught by Hal Senyk. Jill rendered Atholl Highlanders, Glenfinnan Highland Gathering, John Roy Stewart, and the Sound of Sleet in fine style. She certainly will be one to keep your eye on this summer around the games circuit.

Guest Speaker, Hal Senyk, departed from the usual prepared talk and instead organized two teams to take part in a competition to answer questions on general piping knowledge. Harry Mumford and Byron Barnard were pitted against P/M Peter George and Alistair MacDuff. It never became clear to me who actually won the competition. However, I'm sure that it was enjoyed by all and best of all we probably learned a thing or two.

John MacLeod came over from Vancouver to be our Guest Player and he did a fantastic job playing Marches, Strathspeys, Reels, Slow Airs, Jigs, and Hornpipes. As most of you know, John is one of the top Professional players on the West Coast as well as being the Pipe Major of one of the top Grade I band (Port Moody). You might say that he is a Robert Reid or Bob Hardie of the West Coast as both of these players had and still do have similar distinctions.

Steve Geddes next gave a little "About the Piobaireachd" the Finger Lock which was rendered by Jamie Troy in his usual masterful style. Jamie is also one of the top professional players on the West Coast and he too has recently entered a band in the Grade I competitions.

Impromptu playing followed.

The Annual Black Watch Gathering will be held on April 7th at the Seaforth Armouries in Vancouver, B.C., commencing at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Vancouver Island Piper's Club will be held in the Bay Street Armouries at 8:00 p.m. in the Spare Mess on March 10th, 1973.

This will be a rather special meeting inasmuch as members will be encouraged to bring along their own original compositions and play them or have them played for the enjoyment of the club membership.

Byron Barnard.

### Bi-Monthlies

Novice - Section 1 - Marches - held on March 23, 1973.

1. Patricia Hiebert -- Muir of Ord
2. Brian Friend -- The Duke of Roxburg's Farewell to  
Blackmount Forest
3. Ian Cherry -- South Hall
4. Maureen Lee -- Charles Edward Hope Vere
5. Graham Friend -- Abercairney Highlanders

Ian Cherry, Patricia Hiebert, and Maureen Lee are the three competitors from Novice Section 1 who will play on June 15th in the Novice Finals at the Ceilidh.

#### Junior - Jigs

1. Blake Keen - The SeaGull
2. Jean Laurie - Walking the Floor
3. Gordon Lyle - James MacLellans Favourite

The judge for the evening was Bill Lamont.

#### NEXT MONTH

#### General Meeting and Knock-Out

A knock-out quarter final and general meeting will be held on April 6th in the Steelworkers' Hall starting at 8:00 p.m. The contest pits fellow-Victorians Jim Troy and Steve Geddes. Jim has recently returned from a sojourn in Scotland after winning the Banner in Coeur d'Alene, while Steve has been cleaning up since he came out of "retirement" last summer. Both are now members of the Victoria City Pipe Band.

Following what promises to be a very close competition, an amateur march competition will be held.

#### Annual Gathering

On April 27th and 28th, the 41st Annual Gathering of the B.C. Pipers' Association will be held in the North Vancouver Recreational Centre, 23rd and Lonsdale. The chief adjudicator for the two day event will be John McDougall of Arbroath, a former member of the Invergordon Distillery Pipe Band and a gold medallist.

Depending on the number of competitors, short leets may be held in certain events.

See the last page for the programme and entry form.

#### Recital

A recital will be given by John McDougall at the Scottish Auditorium, Wednesday, April 25th. The bar will open at 7:30 p.m. and the recital will commence at 8:00 p.m.

\$1.50 ADULTS

\$1.00 JUVENILES

O.A.P. FREE

BLANCHISS



WANTS

YOU

AT THE 41ST ANNUAL GATHERING

of the

B. C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

APRIL 27 AND 28, 1973



SUMMER GAMES DATES

June 9	New Westminster
June 23	Bellingham & Legion
June 30	Victoria
July 7	B. C. Highland
July 14	Nanaimo
July 21	Portland
Aug. 4	Seattle

New Westminster Games

On Saturday, June 9th, the Sons of Scotland will hold the New Westminster Highland Games in Queens Park Stadium.

In the pipe band competition, "B" and "C" classes will play March, Strathspey and Reel, while the open competition calls for a medley. This event carries with it a \$100.00 first prize.

For more information, phone Donald Ross at 526-7905.

Ninth Annual Trail Caledonian Society Highland Games

On May 19th and 20th, the Trail Caledonian Society will present their 9th annual Tattoo and Highland Games in the Trail Memorial Arena.

The amateur piping events will again be governed by age.

In the pipe band event, the judges will grade the bands on the field.

First prize for Grade I bands is \$150.00.

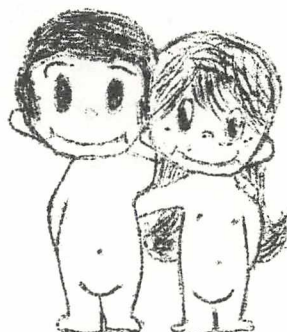
For more information, contact Bill Ferguson, President of Trail Caledonian Society at 112-368-3916.

\* \* \* \* \*

An Aberdonian, spying a three-penny bit in Piccadilly, stepped forward to pick it up and was run over by a passing bus.

The coroner's verdict was - "Death through natural causes".

L O V E I S



T A K I N G H E R T O T H E

B. C. PIPERS' ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

and

KNOCK OUT COMPETITION FINAL

S A T U R D A Y

M A Y 5, 1973

The Flame Supper Club  
Canada Way, Burnaby, B. C.

Social Hour 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Andy Arnott's Band

Tickets \$6.50

Bar Service Only

Tickets can be obtained from any Board Member of the Association, or write to the Secretary, Mrs. D. Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C., enclosing cheque or money order.

THE ST. ANDREW'S & CALEDONIAN SOCIETY  
and BRITISH COLUMBIA PIPERS' ASSOCIATION  
PRESENT

# WHITE HEATHER CONCERT PARTY STARRING THE Alexander Brothers

WITH A GREAT COMPANY OF ENTERTAINERS

LOU GRANT – *Comedian*

SALLY LOGAN – *Scottish Queen of Song*

JOE GORDON – *"The Gay Gordon" with a  
guitar, a smile and a song*

NANCY HAYS – *World Champion Highland Dancer*

PAT McCANN – *Accompanist*

**DIRECT FROM BONNIE SCOTLAND**



**Friday, April 20 & Saturday, April 21– 8:30 p.m.**

**QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE**

TICKETS \$4.00 \$3.00 \$2.50 (\$1.00 OFF FOR O.A.P.)

SPECIAL ADVANCE SALE BY MAIL ORDER FROM MONDAY, MARCH 12th

BOX OFFICE OPENS FOR GENERAL SALE MARCH 26th.

Tickets from VANCOUVER TICKET CENTRE, 630 Hamilton Street

Phone 683-3255

ALL EATONS STORES (use your charge acct.)

THE PLANETARIUM

THE BUTCHER SHOPPE, TSAWWASSEN  
BAYSIDE SOUND IN WHITE ROCK  
BELLINGHAM SOUND CENTRE.



Waimea Highland Games

Date: October 5th & 6th, 1973

Place: Grounds of Hawaii Preparatory Academy, Kamuela, Hawaii

Pipe Band Competitions

The following Pipe Bands have shown interest in attending and competing at the Games.

Pipes and Drums of the Vancouver Police  
Vancouver Senior Ladies Pipe Band  
Vancouver Junior Ladies Pipe Band  
Canadian Forces Base Ottawa Pipe Band  
Jasper Boys Pipe Band  
Seattle Boys Pipe Band  
Pipes and Drums of Alazhar (Edmonton)  
Ladies Southside Pipe Band (Edmonton)  
Royal Canadian Legion Pipe Band, San Jose, Calif.  
Clan MacNeil Pipe Band, Michigan  
Caledonian Society of Honolulu Pipe Band  
Black Raven Pipe Band of San Francisco

Time Limit Contest		<u>Prizes</u>	
Grade A (7 minutes)	\$300.00	\$250.00	\$200.00
Grades B & C (5 minutes)	\$175.00	\$150.00	\$125.00

March, Strathspey & Reel

Grade A	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$100.00
Grade B	\$100.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00
Grade C	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00
Open Slow March into 6/8	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$ 60.00
Open Drum Section Contest	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 30.00

Novice - confined to Hawaiian Islands (P/M Agnes Wallace Trophy)

Novice - open (Details later)

More than 5 competitors in a band contest and a 4th prize will be awarded.

All Bands will receive \$25.00 for each Massed Band in which they participate.

Any Band causing a delay to the Time Schedule of 5 minutes or more, may forfeit their participation award.

In an effort to keep accommodation costs at a minimum for Pipe Band and Dancing competitors, the Hawaiian-Scottish Highlanders are attempting to have the members of the Hawaiian-Scottish Highlanders Society, local clubs and the community,

provide hospitality accommodation from Thursday, October 4th to Sunday, October 7th, by housing competitors at their homes and guaranteeing transportation to and from the Games.

In this respect, a drive towards this goal will materialize shortly and while every endeavour will be made to accommodate all competitors in this manner, should they so desire, these complimentary/hospitality accommodations will be on a first come first served basis.

Any further information required, please contact:

Games Secretary,  
Hawaiian-Scottish Highlanders,  
P.O. Box 638,  
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743.

### The Spokane Piobaireachd Society

The Spokane Piobaireachd Society and the North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, will, because of the large number of applications already on file, hold two Summer Piping Schools - July 2 thru July 14 and July 16 thru July 28.

Principal Instructors will be P/M R. G. Hardie and Andrew Wright. Five (5) college credits are offered in Applied Music to eligible students.

Tuition Costs are as follows:

\$75.00 for each two weeks of school  
\$140.00 for the entire period  
\$ 12.00 credit is on file for students of  
class 1972  
\$ 7.50 per week for dorm accommodation  
- three to a room.

Sixty-one applications are on file as of February 20. Therefore, the dorm space will be very limited. Space will be allocated at the time the application is received.

For brochure and application forms, write without delay or phone to:

John McEwing,  
W. 3309 Dalke Avenue,  
Spokane, Washington 99208. FA 8-7920

. . . . .

Administrative Office,  
North Idaho College,  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

FOREIGN CORNER

GREAT PIPERS - GREAT MUSIC

The Great Pipe (in Gaelic, Piob Mhor) arouses enthusiasm in a Scotsman, and, indeed, in all who love wild music. Times change, but the character of pipe music remains more or less constant. For more than 60 years I have been in touch with the leading pipers of the day, and the friendships formed with them have been, and still are, a source of much happiness to me. Never (I write in 1972) has there been such a wide interest in piping, and I think it is safe to say that never has there been so large a number of good pipers, not only in Britain but in Europe and throughout the Commonwealth.

Brittany, officially in France but speaking a language of its own, has, in recent years, produced at least one family of expert pipers. In Canada and the United States there is great enthusiasm. Not long ago the Kincaig Cup at the Invergordon Highland Gathering was won by an American piper, playing a tune of his own composition, its name, "Salute To Iona".

Much of the credit for this upsurge of piping is due to the College of Piping, which has its headquarters in Glasgow and its heart at Dunvegan and Boreraig in Skye, home of the immortal MacCrimmons. Each year from the College of Piping, instructors fly to Australia and New Zealand, to Canada and the United States, to South Africa (where last year Pipe Major Robert Urquhart Brown had an enthusiastic class) and, indeed, throughout the world. The College of Piping is also to be congratulated in achieving harmony in the temperamental piping fraternity.

It is a remarkable achievement, for at the close of World War Two there was a danger that the continuity of the teaching of the great masters might be lost.

In age, and also in charm, the classical music of the Highland pipe is unique. Its name, still in use, is, in Gaelic, Ceol Mor, Great Music, sometimes called Piobaireachd, which may be anglicized as pibroch. Few of the tunes in Ceol Mor are modern, but their lights and shades have been carefully preserved, first in a special language of song known as Canntaireach, and mostly during the last century in staff notation. One of the oldest tunes in the Great Music is The Battle of Bealach nam Brog, a 15th century piece.

I have said that there are now more good pipers than ever; there are some great players, but there is no supremo or acknowledged king of pipers to take the place of the late Pipe Major John MacDonald of Inverness.

I was his pupil in Inverness for eight years and more, from the early 1920's, and in his small house near the River Ness I used to sit spell-bound listening to a flood of melody which I recall as one of the great experiences of my life.

His fingering was uniquely agile, clear and correct, but it was the expression in his playing which showed his genius - one imagined the shades of the great MacCrimmon pipers listening to him with respect and admiration. He used to say that perfect fingering could be achieved by constant practice, but without expression the best fingering was meaningless. Had John MacDonald lived today, his records would have been played throughout the world. He did, indeed, make a few records for the Columbia Gramophone Company, but, alas, the matrix was destroyed, and the records are now unobtainable, for any surviving are retained as family heirlooms much the worse for wear.

Few pupils of John MacDonald are now living. The most celebrated of them is perhaps Pipe Major Robert Urquhart Brown, who has been in the service of the Royal Family for nearly half a century, and who, now that he has partly retired, travels by air vast distances to hold classes.

We have now with us only one of the great players of the years before World War I. He is Angus Macpherson of Invershin whose 95th birthday is in July of the present year. His playing recalls the effortless grace, poise and charm of the old generation. His fingers are still nimble, his grace-notes are perfect, and he can make the pipes speak. In his life he has won all the outstanding prizes, but he still speaks of John MacDonald, his close friend, as king of pipers.

During my years at Oxford University before the First War, we had as instructor of the undergraduates' piping class, a very distinguished piper, Pipe Major Willie Ross, of the Scots Guards, who used to travel down from London each week (he was then stationed at Chelsea Barracks with his regiment). One of his pupils in this class was the Prince of Wales, who afterwards distinguished himself by composing the slow march named "Mallorca", and kept up his piping enthusiasm until a few years ago.

The Caledonian Dinner at Oxford in those days was a great function, many reels were danced, and the English guests of the members found Highland whisky so powerful that they usually had to be carried back to their lodgings. Pipe Major Ross was the pillar of the evening, his fingers becoming more and more nimble as the evening progressed. An enthusiastic member was an undergraduate who, later, as Major L. F. Hay of the Black Watch, became the tallest officer in the British Army, his height being 7 ft. 1 in.



At the close of the First War the Caledonian Dinner at Oxford University was revived, and Major "Long" Hay arrived at the dinner, which he expected to be a festive occasion. He found no piper at the dinner; there was little or no whisky, and there was no merriment. Major Hay at last called, in his deep voice, for twelve glasses of port. Rising to his great height, he drained each glass, one after the other, bowed to the assembly, and stalked majestically from the room.

In the years between the two world wars John MacDonald was still, in the late 1920's, acknowledged to be supreme (he was appointed Honorary Piper to King George V), and the late Pipe Major Robert Reid became a world figure. His teacher had been J. MacDougall Gillies, and represented a different traditional piping school. His masterpiece was the composition in Ceol Mor, known in Gaelic as Guileagag Mhorag, in English, usually translated as Marion's Wailing. It is a long tune, and if not well played, can be dreary and monotonous, but Robert Reid put depths of expression into it. There was a controversy about his timing of one of the variations in this great tune, but my own feeling is that he played it better than anyone, and, indeed, he won many prizes with it.

When he was asked to play at the funeral of the late Sir Reginald MacLeod of MacLeod at Dunvegan Castle, Robert Reid arrived over the castle in a light aircraft and made history by landing in a field.

Another man who became celebrated in the piping world about this time (he had begun to win prizes at a very early age) was Malcolm (Calum) Macpherson, only son of Angus Macpherson. Although he is no longer with us, he lived long enough to make some valuable recordings, one of which, The Bells of Perth, is played so well that it is inspiring. Shortly after the end of the First War I was one of the piping judges at the Kyleakin Gathering. John MacDonald and Calum Macpherson were both competing in the Ceol Mor competition. They both played faultlessly, and we decided to make them equal first. It was an unusual decision, but I still think we were right. It was, I think, one of Calum's greatest triumphs, to be placed equal to John MacDonald at his best.

Another Piobaireachd composition which Malcolm Macpherson played inspiringly was at the Argyllshire Gathering in or about the year 1926. His tune was Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon, almost the greatest tune in the world of Ceol Mor, and I can still, after almost half a century, hear him playing it. He had the great advantage of being first the pupil of his father, Angus, and afterwards of John MacDonald.

The oldest form of bagpipe music is the 'Ceol Mor', then came the jigs; the competition marches followed at a later date. Pipe Major George MacLennan, of the Gordon Highlanders, was a truly magnificent march player, and John MacDonald used to say that he was in a class by himself. His grace-notes were played at the speed of lightning, yet the whole effect was unhurried and musical.

I hesitate to name present-day pipers beyond mentioning that Donald Macpherson (no connection of Angus) can, at his very best, rise to supreme heights, but I will end this article with a short description of a unique piping ceremony without peer held each May at Dunvegan during Skye Week. Two outstanding, present-day pipers, John MacFadyen and Seumas MacNeill, combine by their music to fuse past and present. A small and select party - Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod (carrying her many years lightly), her daughter, Mrs. Joan Wolrige Gordon, the two pipers and a few friends - sail in the Chief's barge the seven miles across Loch Dunvegan to Boreraig, where is the ruined "college" of the great MacCrimmon pipers.

During the voyage, often cold and stormy, Seumas MacNeill and John MacFadyen take it in turn to play MacCrimmon compositions two or three centuries old. To me as a piper, the circumstances are unequalled. It is hard to play one's best in a pitching and rolling boat, one's fingers half-numb with cold; you might think it would be impossible to avoid a slip of the fingers and a note missed from time to time. This never happens; indeed, last year when a wave broke over John MacFadyen he continued playing, not only unperturbed but in his best style.

Another thing surprises me. With two first-class pipers playing under these conditions, one might expect to see a touch of rivalry; this is always entirely absent. Arrived at Boreraig, where there is no pier or slip, Dame Flora leaps nimbly into the small boat which meets us, and, with the pipers playing ahead of her, climbs the hill to the ruins of the MacCrimmons' house.

Here, an interesting ceremony takes place. Seumas MacNeill, as Principal of the College of Piping, tunes his pipes in the ruins, and pays, to General Martin of Husabost, owner of the land, the rent for the ruins and the land on which they stand. The rent is a token one - a penny and a pibroch. The penny has been handed to the General, or his son, and now Seumas plays in his masterly way any MacCrimmon pibroch he wishes. This is the end of the first ceremony; the second is a climb to the wind-swept MacCrimmon Cairn, where John MacFadyen is always at his best in playing one of the immortal compositions of the MacCrimmons. As he plays, he sees, if the day is clear, the serrated ridge of the Cuillin hills, their austerity softened by distance. Fields of wild hyacinths are deep blue near Dunvegan Castle across the loch.

Both pipers are busy men. John MacFadyen is the headmaster of a school in Glasgow, and Seumas is a lecturer at the University of Glasgow. There is, therefore, no rest for them that night, but they must start on the long journey from the heart of Skye to distant Glasgow. Without financial gain, they have given pleasure to many in Skye and maintained a fine tradition.

Seton Gordon  
- Reprinted from the Scots  
Magazine.

### PUZZLE CORNER

Last month's Puzzle Corner consisted of matching famous Scotsmen with their discoveries and inventions. Since there was more than one winner, we decided to draw the names out of a hat for one \$5.00 prize and two consolation prizes of \$2.00 each. The winners were drawn by a very reliable and neutral person who refuses to let her name be known.

Our \$5.00 first prize goes to Gwyn MacGregor of Nelson, B.C., and the consolation prizes go to Mrs. Vera Stewart of Richmond and Jimmy Lang of Burnaby.

The answers are:

- |     |                        |                             |
|-----|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.  | Sir Robert Watson Watt | radar                       |
| 2.  | John Paul Jones        | the American Navy           |
| 3.  | John Law               | Founded Bank of France      |
| 4.  | William Paterson       | Founded the Bank of England |
| 5.  | Sir Alexander Fleming  | penicillin                  |
| 6.  | J. B. Dunlop           | pneumatic tires             |
| 7.  | Charles Mackintosh     | waterproof fabrics          |
| 8.  | James Dowman Lindsay   | electric lamps              |
| 9.  | Alexander Graham Bell  | telephones                  |
| 10. | J. Logie Baird         | television                  |
| 11. | Jamie Simpson          | chloroform                  |
| 12. | James Watt             | steam engine                |
| 13. | John Napier            | logarithms                  |

PUZZLE CORNER

Criss X Puzzle - Based on the Hawaiian Islands

Words may be found vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. When a word is found, circle each letter of the word. Each new word must contain at least one not previously circled letter. When completed, one square, an X, will remain unused. Bracketted words are not to be circled.

The Hawaiian Language contains only 12 letters of which 5 are vowels.

Aina (Haina)  
Aina (Kea)  
Air  
Akaka  
Ala (Moana)  
Ala (Wai)  
Aloha  
Ancient  
Arizona  
Beach  
Camera  
Catamaran  
Coconuts  
Eels  
Emma (Queen)  
Ena  
Ewa  
Haili  
Haiku  
Halawa  
Haleiwa  
Hawaii  
Hawi  
Hilo  
Hole  
Honolulu  
Hotel  
Ilikai  
Imiola  
Kahana (Bay)  
Kahoolawe  
Kahuku  
Kahului  
Kai  
Kailua  
Kaiolu

Kalakaua  
Kalia  
Kanakakai  
Kamaaina  
Kauai  
Kawaiahae  
Kawela  
Keiki  
Kilauea  
Koko  
Kuhio  
Kula  
Lahaina  
Lanai  
Launiu  
Leahi  
Leis  
Luau  
Mai (Tai)  
Menu  
Molokai  
Muu  
Nanakuli  
Napili  
Nimitz  
Niu  
Olomana  
Outrigger  
Papaya  
Polo  
Punahou  
Sea (Life)  
Tahiti  
Wailuku  
Way

H A W A I I M I O L A H A I N A  
O S B A L H N A R A M A T A C R  
N T E R I A O U T R I G G E R I  
O U A E P E E L S A N I M I T Z  
L N C M A L S I E L E M M A A O  
U O H A N U P W A I L U K U H N  
L C I C O A A O I H U K A R I A  
U O L K P L L I A M X I U L T N  
M C O A O L O M A N A K N L I A  
O K Y O K A H U K U S I A U A K  
L A H A W I A A L A A E N A A U  
O A U K I A H L T I M K A K A L  
K A W A I A H A O N E A A A E I  
A L M K N I A U L A E W A L K L  
I A E A I L L L O E E I A I A I  
O N N T U I A I P L I I C A N K  
L A U A O A W A A Y A W A N I A  
U I U L U H A K A N A K A K A I

B. C. PIPERS' WINTER SCHOOL

(Correction) --

In January's installment, there appears "...if moving the bridle fails to diminish the flow of air without causing other problems, then the reed might best be discarded".

This is by no means the authors' intent (both were asleep during proofreading, it appears). Adjustment of the bridle is by no means the only criteria for determining a reed's usefulness, and we apologize for any misconceptions created. We reiterate - John MacLellan's "Handbook" is probably the best guide to reed maintenance available, and there is little we can add to it.

General Problems

Excess moisture is always a piper's problem and there are no easy answers, especially if a piper happens to be a wet blower. A degree of moisture is necessary for the proper functioning of reeds and for the seasoning to be most effective. In the face of wetness, however, there are a few things that can be done:

1. As mentioned previously, use a commercial seasoning which can absorb some of the moisture. Seasonings which do not will probably end up giving the water to the reeds, especially the chanter reed.
2. A sheepskin, as opposed to hide, bag will help, as it is more porous. It will dry out more quickly though, so it is not recommended for a piper who does not play his pipes regularly.
3. Water traps are a good aid, but care must be taken that the diameter of the tube in the trap is at least that of the blowpipe - otherwise, difficulty in blowing will result.

If the reeds do become wet, remove them, blow them out, and let them dry naturally. Be sure also to run a pull-through or such like through the drones to remove moisture. Otherwise, the water will simply run down the drone and again affect the reeds.

Chanter reeds, since they are made of unprotected cane, are particularly susceptible to wetness. They become soft and heavy and as a result tend to eventually go flat. In this case, a dummy chanter stock to place over the reed between playing sessions might help to stabilize the reed's moisture content.

Again, the old saw of care and patience applies, for the longer the reeds are exposed to excess moisture, the quicker they will deteriorate and lose their tone.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Association wishes our past president, Albert Duncan, a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HAWAIIAN TARTAN DESIGN

A Hawaiian tartan designed by Tambi Larsen of Hanalei, Kauai, won a \$100 first prize in a state-wide contest conducted by the sponsors of the Waimea Games to be held on the Big Island in October.

Design entries submitted by Nancy McIntosh Mount of Honolulu and Philip W. Harvey of Hilo, Hawaii, won second and third place recognition, respectively.

The winners were announced at the annual Robert Burns dinner at the Waimea Village Inn, Kamuela, by Angus Coombs, spokesman for the upcoming Waimea Games and an officer of the Scottish-Hawaiian Highlanders.

The Big Island social club is sponsoring the October pageant which will introduce to Hawaii unique Scottish games and revive ancient Hawaiian sports.

\* \* \* \* \*

Two Scots were watching a close football match in the Mainland League.

John had a bottle but Andy, just a thirst.

John was being very vocal about his knowledge of the game and his past ability on the field, and during the game he kept taking frequent swigs from the contents of the bottle.

Finally, the impatient Andy could no longer hide his dismay.

"Weel, I can see ye're a fine dribbler, but you're nae use at passin'!"

THE PROFESSIONAL - AN OPINION

I think it is well time for a re-education of our concept of the professional piper. At present, a "professional" piper is no more and no less than one who competes (or has competed) in the professional class - a rather meagre basis for using the title "professional", in view of the lack of demands made upon the West Coast professional today.

The professional class is supposed to represent the finest piping available, but I think there is also implied in the use of the term, a level of competence to be defined as more than simply "too good to play in amateur any more". A professional piper (or any professional musician, for that matter) should be expected to be in complete command of his music, his instrument, his repertoire - generally his or her entire performance.

A professional competition should thus be gauged to extracting the greatest effort and demonstration of competence possible from the piper. Hence, I would advocate instituting at our own professional competitions, the requirements usually set forth at Scottish contests viz., the submission of at least 3 marches, strathspeys and reels (and piobaireachds as well). Moreover, a competitor should be asked to play each tune (except the piobaireachds, of course) twice through.

The resulting contest would prove more entertaining (from my own experience and observations, the second time through a tune is usually by far the more musical), would provide extra criteria separating the "sheep from the goats" (steadiness of tone, blowing, tempo, consistency of phrasing, expression, etc., would be tested to the maximum) - in short, would give professional pipers the opportunity to prove themselves worthy of the title!

As for submitting three or more tunes (at Oban and Inverness, for instance, four tunes is the requirement, and for former winners, 6 tunes), what kind of professional piper can't play three marches, strathspeys and reels? My only answer (admittedly to beg the question in print) is "if you can't measure up to the standard of professional, don't compete". At a time when our own standard of professional piping is rapidly approaching acceptable Scottish standards, it's well time we took a lesson in professionalism.

I would urge the B. C. Pipers and the various highland games associations to institute the rules mentioned above, and to apply them with a bit more enthusiasm than which the farcical piobaireachd lists have been applied over the past while. We may well see a drop in the number of professionals on the boards (such as we witnessed when the piobaireachd lists drawn up by P/M Cairns were instituted), but we will have a class of professional pipers far more entitled to the name.

Hal Senyk.





"Come on Maggie, the higher you climb, the better the view!"

ADS

Wanted - Goose Bag. Phone Angus MacPherson at 526-8182.

For Sale -- Kilt, Black Stewart Tartan  
32"-34" waist, \$30.00 Phone Angus MacPherson  
(same number as above).

-- Red Premier Tenor Drum, case and sling included  
\$80.00 Phone Janet Abel, 435-7538.

The Scotch Shop (Century House Scottish Imports)

A full line of pipes, drums and accessories.  
10% off everything to members of the B. C. Pipers' Association.

Call in and talk to Tom Brown and his lovely wife  
at 2105 W. 38th Avenue, West Boulevard.

B. C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GATHERING

Friday, April 27th - 3:30 p.m.

- EVENT
1. Junior Piobaireachd
  2. Junior March
  3. Junior Strathspey and Reel
  4. Juvenile March
  5. Juvenile Strathspey and Reel
  6. Novice March
  7. Amateur Piobaireachd
  8. Junior Quartettes - March, Strathspey and Reel
  17. Junior Miniature Bands - March, Strathspey and Reel

Saturday, April 28th - 9:00 a.m.

- EVENT
9. Amateur March
  10. Amateur Strathspey and Reel
  11. Professional Piobaireachd
  12. Professional March
  13. Professional Strathspey and Reel
  14. Professional Jigs
  15. Pipers Over 60 Years (Tune of Own Choice)
  16. Senior Quartettes - March, Strathspey and Reel
  18. Senior Miniature Bands - Medley, 5 to 7 minutes

In events with an extraordinarily large entry, short  
leets will be held.

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

ADULTS - \$2.00      CHILDREN UNDER 12 - \$1.00      O.A.P. FREE

ENTRY FORM

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

_____	March	.....
_____	Strathspey	.....
_____	Reel	.....
_____	Piobaireachd	.....
_____	Jig	.....
_____	Quartette &/or March	.....
_____	Band Set	Strath.....
		Reel .....

Mail entries before April 21, 1973 to: Mrs. Swanson  
8363 Shaughnessy Street  
Vancouver 14, B. C.

