

# B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



#220

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

MARCH 1985



B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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MARCH 1985

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## EDITORIAL

I've been accused of being a little "non-controversial" in recent editorials and while those comments haven't prompted this particular piece, I feel it may precipitate some discussion.

Suppose that non-pipers were to have voting privileges in the B.C. Pipers' Association! Now before you jump off your chair and swear that no drummer is going to run the B.C. Pipers, sit back and read on.

First of all the statement doesn't refer to drummers in particular, but rather to anyone willing to participate in the affairs of the Association, whether he be a drummer or a nuclear physicist.

It's becoming increasingly difficult to find nine volunteers to stand for election on the Board of Directors each year. Most of our active pipers are just that - ACTIVE pipers. They are involved in teaching, playing, judging, running bands, etc., and are not able to offer a commitment to the B.C. Pipers. The problem is that because these people are active in piping, we need their expertise and knowledge.

By opening up the Board to non-pipers we could draw from the wealth of talent we have in Vancouver to assist in organizing our various functions. Perhaps then we would have the manpower to form a permanent Annual Gathering committee; one that could meet regularly year-round, investigate new sites, seek corporate sponsorships, etc. Maybe we could have a permanent judges' committee where people could take the time to examine judges' remarks, plan judging seminars, update judges' lists, etc. How about a pipe band committee? With the W.P.B.A. seemingly fading, perhaps a committee of four pipers and two drummers could discuss and recommend improvements in our present system. A competing pipers committee? How many piobaireachd should be submitted at various contests? Should we mix M.S.R.'s? Should we have separate gradings for piobaireachd players? These are things they could discuss. A B.C. Pipers field committee at all the highland games? A big highland games? The list goes on.

It's true that under our present rules there is nothing to stop these committees from being formed. The problem is nine directors can only sit on so many committees in addition to regular meetings before they get spread too thinly. I feel that rather than going on volunteer recruitment drives for each function we should have permanent "work parties", for want of a better term, and I think to ask people for this kind of commitment they must be offered some say in the running of the affairs.

Let's be honest. Does it take a piper to be involved in the building of the new Auditorium, investing our trust fund, organizing the Annual Dinner, the Gathering, etc.? I wouldn't be opposed to a situation where non-players took over the day to day running of the Society, leaving any matters relating to piping to the various committees. There are many different ways this could be set up and safeguards installed to prevent a completely non-piping Executive from happening. For those of you completely opposed to the idea, three of the hardest workers on the present Executive are non-pipers.

I must emphasize that I believe the present Board is giving the membership an enormous amount of their time and energy and are doing a first-rate job.

I'm interested in your comments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

Remember the old Scottish Auditorium? Terrible old thing. Gas leaks. Smells. Questionable plumbing. Terrible acoustics. But lots and lots of character. I loved it!

Who used It? Pipers, for a few things. Vancouver Film Board. I don't know what for. And a host of other organizations, some even connected to the Scottish community of Greater Vancouver.

Who owned It? Officially, the United Scottish Societies Auditorium Ltd., incorporated as a company April 22, 1938 under number 16,197. I know because I have a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation. Quite an impressive name, and a very desirable objective:- "United Scottish Societies". Seems back in 1938 or so, during a time of very slow economic times, occasionally referred to as a depression, some bright lights in the Scottish Community said, "We need a home!".

So, who were these United Scottish Societies? Initially, its a bit uncertain but in 1974 the then erstwhile directors I suspect realized they were sitting on a reasonably valuable asset and they should bring the records up to date. It seems that share certificates were issued to replace "lost" certificates to Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band; Royal Scot Camp, S.O.S.; Lord Twedsmuir Camp, S.O.S.; Glengarry Camp, S.O.S.; Glamis Camp, S.O.S.; Heather Lodge, D.O.S.; Royal Scot Camp, Ladies Aux.; B.C. Highland Dancing Assoc.; B.C. Pipers; Caithness Assoc.; Gaelic Society; Glasgow and District Assoc.; Moray, Nairn and Banff Assoc.; St. Andrews and Caledonian Soc.; St. Andrews and Caledonian Ladies Aux. and Royal Scottish Country Dance Soc.

Then in January, 1976, and I don't know why, some additional shares were issued, one each to B.C. Pipers; Gaelic Society; Moray, Nairn & Banff; St. Andrews & Caledonian; and Royal Scottish Country Dance Soc. Each paid \$2,000.00 to the Company. It was probably spent on some sort of maintenance and repairs for the dear old building.

Well, here we are in 1985, and economic times "ain't so good". The old building apparently was condemned, so in 1984 the Directors of the United Scottish Societies Auditorium Ltd. decided the old girl should be sold. And the deed was done, rightfully so in my mind. They got \$640,000.00 for It. And they want to keep the "Nova Scotia" Societies in Greater Vancouver united, so they bought a lot, in Marpole. There are only two things noteworthy, in my mind, about Marpole; the first being that it is in an industrial area and it smells; and the second being the Fraser Arms Hotel where my buddies and I used to drink when we were at University. The area stunk back then in the '60's, too.

The Directors of the U.S.S.A. Ltd. want to build a new Scottish Auditorium on the lot they bought. The lot cost about \$230,000.00 and the building

they have had plans drawn for will cost somewhere between \$800,000.00 and \$1,000,000 to build. In December, 1984 they started talking about a fund raising committee, and in January, and in February.

Should the building be built? I have an opinion and I have voiced it to the directors of the Company. I am one of those directors. But I am not going to tell you my opinion right now. I want to know yours. Why not write c/o the Newsletter, and we can discuss it at the Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Pipers on May 10, 1985.

Incidentally, did you know that a new Society was incorporated with the intent that it build the new building? Its called the United Scottish Cultural Society, but there is still some doubt if it can be used for its expressed intent, because of tax complications.

Ted Mark

Dear Sir:

Each year, Legion Pipe Bands from throughout the province gather for a day of fellowship and competition. This year the Highland Gathering will take place in Courtenay on June 22. We expect 10 to 14 bands to participate in this event with approximately 200 pipers and drummers taking part in the day's activities.

For your information, we enclose a list of the activities scheduled together with a schedule of the events and a map of the Park indicating the locations of the competition platforms.

We would appreciate your assistance in helping us publicize this Gathering. Also, your Association might like to cover this provincial cultural event which is being held in Courtenay for the first time since the inception of the Gathering.

We look forward to seeing you in Courtenay on June 22.

Ella Clarke  
Publicity Director

Editor's Note: Please see Next Month In and Around the Association for details.

DUES

A small reminder that some members are delinquent in their annual subscriptions.

Please forward your payment to:

Mr. Neil Palmer  
4694 West 7th Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C. V6R 1X5

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL DINNER

A crowd of close to 300 attended the Dinner and Knock-Out Final of the B.C. Pipers' Association held at the Gizeh Temple in Burnaby. The fine surroundings were further enhanced by Janice MacDonald and Ishabel Ross, whose hard work provided a touch of Scotland to the hall. The formalities of the evening included a few words from the President, a toast to the Association from Past President Peter McNeil, greetings from Vancouver Island Pipers' President Bill Mossie and a "sales pitch" from Vice-President Duncan Fraser on the new Auditorium. Other head table guests included Life Member Malcolm Nicholson and his daughter Kay, and Life Member Jack Lee.

Following dinner the Knock-Out Final got underway with each player being introduced by Peter Aumonier. First up was Duncan Fraser who started off confidently with a lovely sounding instrument. Unfortunately Duncan didn't get too far into his selection before breaking down. Robbie McNeil took the floor next and although executing a rousing medley, fell victim to the relatively cool temperature in the hall and was unable to keep his drones quite in tune through the performance. The third player of the evening, and the eventual winner, was Andrew Bonar, who executed well on a good sounding instrument. Next was Angus Macpherson, who should have heeded Ian McKinnon's advice (and that of his wife) and thrown away his chanter reed. The high A spoiled an otherwise decent performance. The fifth and final player for the night was Steve Geddes of Victoria. Steve had some problems with his pipe initially, but settled down to produce what couldn't be called vintage Geddes, but nonetheless a strong performance.

The judges for the evening, Peter McNeil, Bill Mossie and Jack Lee, awarded first prize to Andrew Bonar, second to Steve Geddes and third to Angus Macpherson. Andrew received the Davie Moore Memorial Trophy along with a cheque for \$200.00 and charter flight airfare to compete in Eastern Canada. Steve was awarded \$175.00 while Angus received \$150.00. Runners-up Duncan Fraser and Robbie McNeil each received \$75.00 which they immediately donated to the Auditorium Building Fund.

The balance of the evening was devoted to socializing (much to the consternation of the disc jockey) with a Gay Gordons and Eightsome thrown in for good measure.

Many thanks to all who attended and special thanks to Jim MacDonald and Donald Ross, the organizing committee.

DRUMMING RECITAL

Jim Kilpatrick, World Champion Solo Drummer and Drum Sgt. of Polkemmet, treated an appreciative Vancouver audience to his talents at a recent recital sponsored by the S.F.U. Pipe Band. Accompanied by Jack Lee and Andrew Bonar, Jim gave a tremendous display of pipe band drumming.





VANCOUVER ISLAND PIPERS CLUB

VANCOUVER ISLAND PIPERS CLUB

*Victoria, British Columbia*

Our February meeting was presented by the Sooke Highlanders Pipe Band led by Pipe Major Barney Barnard. The programme featured the band playing a nicely balanced selection of tunes. Walter Muir gave an interesting and informative talk of other varieties of bagpipes,

highlighted by recordings of Central European and Irish pipes. Selections were played by a trio and a quarette from the band. The Piobaireachd "MacLeod of Raasay's Salute" was introduced by Walter Muir and played by Jock Low. It proved to be a very entertaining evening.

Jock Low  
Secretary

NEXT MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GATHERING

A last reminder that the 53rd Gathering of the B.C. Pipers' Association will take place on April 5th and 6th, 1985 at Vancouver Technical School, Broadway and Penticton.

All Amateur events (Chanter, Novice, Juvenile, Junior and Senior) will be held on Friday. Open Piobaireachd will take place on Friday evening starting at 4:00 p.m. Open piping will get underway at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, with the M.S.R. competition being followed by the Jigs. Over 20 entries have been received in the Professional class so it promises to be an entertaining day of piping.

Following the piping events spectators are invited to attend the solo drumming events to be held, as last year, in the staff room. These events coincide with the opening of the bar at 3:00 p.m.

As was the case last year, catering facilities will be provided in the staff room both Friday and Saturday.

Please note that the pipe band competition will start at 5:00 p.m. Saturday.

Mini Gathering aggregate winners please note that these awards will be given out at the conclusion of the pipe band competition. Perfect attendance pins may be picked up at the Secretary's table on Friday or Saturday.

As has been the tradition the ceilidh will follow the prize-giving ceremony.

All volunteer (and non-volunteer) help will be greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to assist please call Mary McKinnon at 522-9697.

TIME SCHEDULE

Friday:

Chanter	10:00 a.m.
Novice March	9:00 a.m.
Novice Slow Air	9:00 a.m.
Juvenile Piobaireachd	10:15 a.m.
Juvenile March	11:00 a.m.
Juvenile Strath. & Reel	1:00 p.m.
Junior M.S.R.	9:00 a.m.
Junior Jigs	11:00 a.m.
Junior Piobaireachd	12:30 p.m.
Senior Piobaireachd	9:00 a.m.
Senior M.S.R.	1:00 p.m.
Senior Jigs	2:00 p.m.
Open Adult March	1:00 p.m.
Open Piobaireachd	4:00 p.m.

Saturday:

Open M.S.R.	10:00 a.m.
Open Jigs	1:30 p.m.
All Drumming	3:00 p.m.
Pipe Bands	5:00 p.m.

Admission:

Friday	No admission
Friday Evening - Open Piobaireachd	\$ 2.00
Saturday - Open Piping	\$ 2.00
Saturday Evening - Pipe Bands	\$ 4.00
Saturday Evening - Ceilidh	\$ 6.00

A souvenir programme has been published for the Gathering and will be available Friday and Saturday.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Friday, May 10th, 1985 at the Nurses' Residence, Vancouver General Hospital, Heather & 12th Avenue in Vancouver.

Included on the agenda will be the election of Officers and some Constitutional changes (details next month). Following the formalities an Open "Impromptu" contest is scheduled. Admission is free and bar service will be available.



LESSONS

Anyone wishing to take lessons from John MacDougall, Adjudicator at this year's Gathering, please contact Donald Ross at 526-7905.

Times are limited so please inquire early to avoid disappointment.

### RECITAL

A Recital given by John MacDougall will be held on Monday, April 8th at the Carpenter's Hall, 12th Street (Kingsway) and Hamilton Street, New Westminster. John has provided Vancouver audiences with a taste of his talents on two previous occasions and on that basis should promise a treat for us on his third time round. John has been and still is a major prize winner in Scotland, exhibiting a style second to none.

Tickets may be obtained from any Board member, at the Secretary's table at the Annual Gathering or by phoning Mary MacKinnon at 522-9697.

### CASINO NIGHT & DANCE

Simon Fraser University Pipe Band presents its 3rd Annual Cash Casino Night and Dance, April 20th, 1985, Southcourt Lounge, S.F.U., 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Tickets are \$5.00. Parking underground.

### ISLAND WEEKEND

A trip to Hawaii, Fiji or maybe the Caribbean? Not quite, but hopefully it should be about as much fun. Okay, not even close, but still it should be a good weekend. It's the Big Double! Nanaimo and Victoria on the long May weekend.

By borrowing a page from the book of our Eastern relatives, the Nanaimo Games Committee is hoping for a revival in what was once a pretty decent highland games. With Nanaimo on Saturday and Victoria on Sunday, the organizers from both events are anticipating a large contingent from the mainland. With only one return ferry fare to contend with, this arrangement sounds very attractive. Details from Nanaimo are forthcoming, but word is that special rates have been secured at a new Best Western Motel in the town and that a ceilidh is being planned.

More details in next month's Newsletter.

### ATTENTION HIGHLAND GAMES' COMMITTEES

Please forward your entry forms to the Newsletter where all pertinent information will be reprinted. The distribution of entry forms has always been haphazard to say the least. By printing them in the Newsletter most competitors should have access to them.

### SEAFORTH ASSOCIATION

The Seaforth Association Pipes & Drums are holding their 1st Annual Dinner & Dance on Saturday, May 25th, 1985 at the Seaforth Armoury. A buffet dinner and dancing to "The Gunners" (a 16 piece band) are featured. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and can be obtained from Hugh Aird 921-8506, Mel Parsons 526-7228 or Jack Mellis 591-7538.

SUMMER GAMES

		<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II</u>
May 18	Nanaimo	M.S.R.	Medley
May 19	Victoria	Medley	M.S.R.
June 1	Bellingham	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
June 29	Vancouver	Medley	M.S.R.
July 13	Kelowna	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
	Athens	"	"
	Vashon Island	"	"
July 20	Portland	Medley	M.S.R.
July 27	Spokane	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
August 3	Nelson	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
August 10	Seattle	M.S.R.	Medley

INTERIOR HIGHLAND GAMES

The Interior Highland Games will be held July 13, 1985 at the Apple Bowl in Kelowna. An open house will be held at the Lodge Motor Inn at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 12th. Everyone welcome. Ceilidh to follow the games on Saturday.

For further information, please contact Shelley Vanston, R.R. #2, S9, C13, Westbank, B.C. VOH 2A0, phone 768-3872.

THANKS "OLY" AND "BELLS"

The B.C. Pipers' Association would like to thank the local distributors for Olympia Beer and Bells Scotch Whisky for their generous donations to the Annual Gathering.

QUIET PLEASE!

The noise level at recent indoor band competitions from our younger members has reached deafening proportions. We obviously want to encourage our junior bandspeople to sit and enjoy the rest of the contest, but when their antics distract other people from enjoying the evening, enough is enough!

Please consider the people around you when listening to the bands at the upcoming Annual Gathering.

Thank you for your co-operation.



# *The Royal Canadian Legion*

COURTENAY BRANCH (PACIFIC) NO 17  
P. O. BOX 3034, V9N 5N3

*Courtenay, B.C.*

PHONE 334-4322

## 1985 LEGION HIGHLAND GATHERING

Lewis Park Courtenay, B.C.

June 22, 1985

### PROGRAM

8:30 a.m.	Final registration and pick up individual competition numbers	
9:00 a.m.	Band and Colour Party inspection	
9:15 - 9:45 a.m.	Street Parade from Lewis Park to Fifth St. and England Ave.	
10:15 a.m.	Massed bands parade from England Ave., down Fifth St. to Lewis Park	
10:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies	
	O Canada	
	Parade at Ease	Parade Marshall
	Opening Remarks	President of Branch 17
	Prayer	Branch Chaplin
	Parade at Attention	Parade Marshall
	Last Post	Bugler
	Colours dipped during Last Post and raised during Reveille	
	<b>Silence</b>	
	Lament	Piper
	Reveille	Bugler
	Parade at Ease	Parade Marshall
		<b>Official Opening</b>
	Amazing Grace	Massed Bands
11:15 (approx.)	Individual Competitions begin	
2:30 p.m.	Drum Majors' Competition	
3:15 p.m.	Class "C" Band Competition	
4:15 p.m.	Class "B" Band Competition	
During the afternoon	Sports Events	

### at the COMOX VALLEY SPORTS CENTER ARENA

6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hour
7:00 p.m.	Banquet
8:15 p.m.	Presentation of Awards
9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.	Dance and Celebrations



# United Scottish Cultural Society



March 4, 1985

Dear Members:

Enclosed is a photograph taken from an artists' rendering of the Scottish Cultural Centre. Except for minor adjustments, plans for the centre are progressing steadily. Provision is being made for installing an elevator for handicapped people and senior citizens.

A FUNDRAISING Committee has been established and will keep you informed. Our suggestion that all members and friends especially those of Scottish ancestry, donate \$100.00 each in the year 1985 is having an excellent response. We thank most sincerely, each person who has contributed to date, including one gentleman from California. Let us hope he spreads the word! Enclosed are forms which may make it easier for donations to be sent. Would you kindly distribute them amongst your members and friends.

We are now appealing to all Scottish Associations, Camps, and Scottish Societies to send a donation to the United Scottish Cultural Fund. Some have already donated. Please accept our most gracious thanks. Others have gone down in members resulting in reduced finances. It would be appreciated if they could pledge their time by volunteering their services in completing the construction of the new centre. Carpenters, electricians, painters, labourers, tea and coffee makers, will be required at a later date.

ALAS! the old auditorium is flattened! We must look forward with trust and confidence in seeing our brand new Scottish Cultural Centre established in 1985.

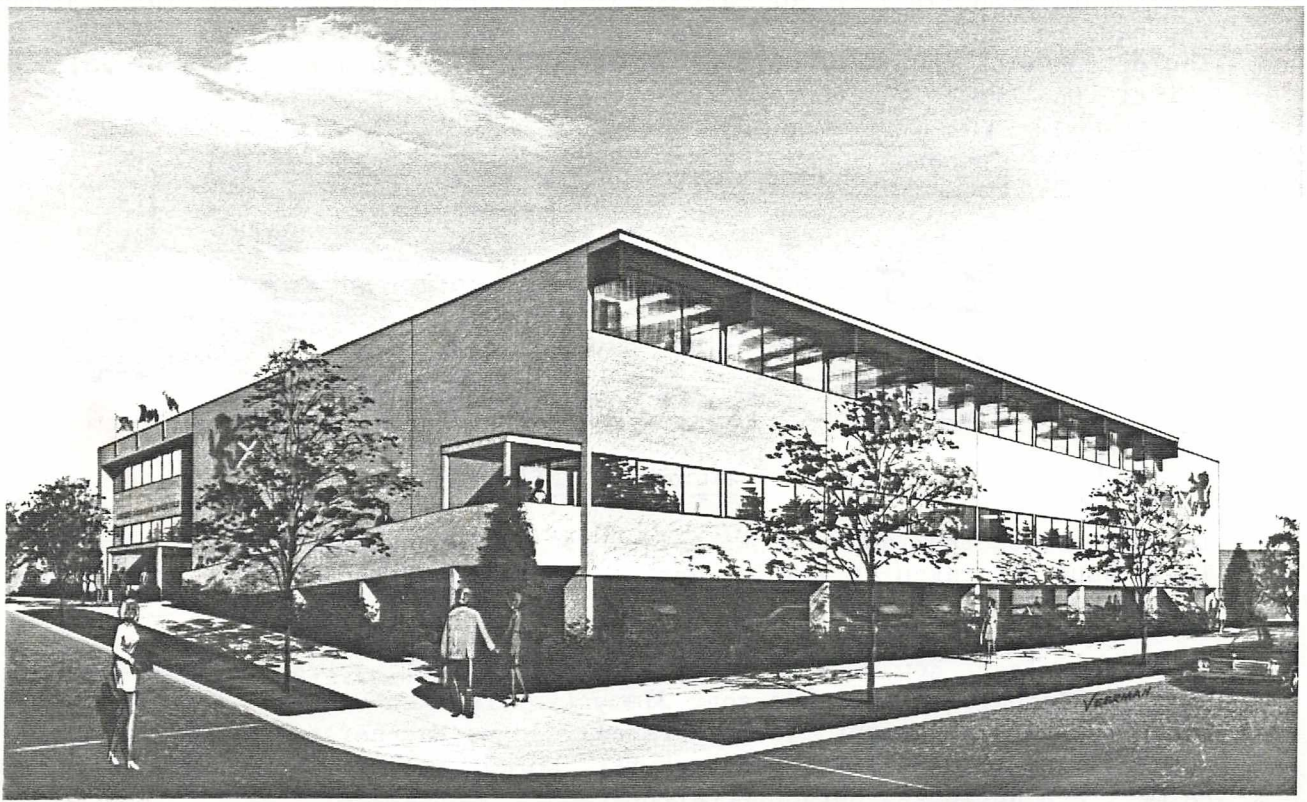
Thank you all. Please keep the funds rolling.

Yours sincerely,

Mary MacIver, Chairperson

**FUND RAISING COMMITTEE:**

Mary MacIver - Chairperson, 224-4173  
John Patterson - Co-Chairperson, 274-0316  
Bill Hurst - Treasurer, 872-2754  
Marion MacAulay - Secretary, 874-1778



#### BAND CHATTER

Congratulations to the MacBlanes on the birth of their son, Angus. Rory is a piper with S.F.U.

Another possible recruit for S.F.U. came with a new arrival for the Richendrfers. Try to remember what it was like to sleep in on the weekends. Forget it from now on!

At the time of printing, entries have been received for the Indoor from Victoria Park, Regina; McBain from Calgary, and Prince Charles from San Francisco.

Triumph Street, relative home bodies the last couple of years, are planning a trip to Chicago this summer.

NAME THAT TUNE

This month's puzzle is eight bars of a tune scrambled. The idea is to place the bars in the proper order, name the tune and name the part of the tune. The person with the first correct answer will receive a B.C. Pipers' golf shirt. One snag! The contest is only open to Junior members.



DO YOU REMEMBER?

The picture of the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band which appeared in the last issue was taken at Mission during the St. Andrews and Caledonian Games, September 1970.

They are: Front Row left to right - Donald MacMillan, Drew Noot, Alan Skalazub, Malcolm Nicholson, Dave Anderson, Jimmy Leonard, Ken Ringham.  
Second Row - John Wright, Sandy Marshall, Angus Macpherson, Tim Noot.  
Top Row - Malcolm Willis, Dave Dryhurst, Norman Speirs, Terry Leonard, Mike Palmer, Stu Rutledge, Gordon McCartney.

CLASSIFIED

Wanted

One Prince Charlie Highland Jacket; Boys Size 10 - 12 years. Please phone Mrs. Pamela Myhre at 986-6340.

Wanted

Set of older Henderson's or Laurie's. Please call Steve Raymer at 325-3705

For Sale

Small black jackets. White Spot Pipe Band. For information please call Jack Clark at 261-5763.

... Knee Muffs...







