

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

MAY/JUNE, 1972 NO. 123

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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NO. 123

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

URGENT CORRECTION FOR THE MAY B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

The Highland Games in Nelson will be held on Labour Day Weekend as usual, not during the Diamond Jubilee week Aug. 6th - 12th, 1972 as you stated in the April issue of the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter.

The May 1, 1972 competitor deadline is also incorrect. Entry forms for the 1972 Nelson Highland Games will be mailed to all last year's competitors by the end of this month - to others on request only.

W. Kortegaard. C.E.T.

For more information, please contact:

1972 Highland Games Chairman,
W. Kortegaard,
1402 Vancouver Street,
Nelson, B. C.
(Home 352-6323) (Business 352-2211 ext. 222)

Dear Sir,

Regularly and unfailingly, the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter arrives at my door. I appreciate very much, this very kind gesture, all the more so as it helps to keep me in touch with the activities of so many friends. I find the contents of great interest and give full marks for Terry McHardy's first letter to an editor, in your recent issue.

Interesting also to note that one of my pupils, Andrew Wright, will teach at Coeur d'Alene this year. Andrew has come a long way in a few years and I'm sure he will be an asset to John McEwing.

To one who has spent his whole life around the bagpipe, it is very gratifying to note the increasing popularity of the instrument and its music. Who knows, one day, the bagpipe may even be of commercial value.

I'm sure James McColl was in great form during his recent recital. A slight error in this report, when it is said that Donald MacPherson has won the most clasps in history. This is well within the bounds of possibility, but has not yet been achieved. Check it out for the record.

Writing of records, since retiring from the competitive field, five years ago, I have been bombarded from all angles by people who ask why I did not carry on and add more clasps to my total. The short answer is that I have no interest in records as such and, in any case, who is to say that more clasps would have come my way. All that a collection of prizes mean, is that on the day, everything went well for the competitor.

Summer is coming round again and my thoughts are beginning to turn to schools at Fort Qu'appelle and Nelson. The prairie school is now well established and a model for all such ventures.

Nelson will be purely "practical" this year and if enthusiasm counts for anything, this will be the year of "anchorage"! It looks as if my luck is in this year, for Bill Sutherland tells me that both Ed Esson and Angus MacLeod are coming to teach at Nelson. Ed and Angus are men of great ability and experience and I look forward very much to working with them.

This was meant to be merely a letter of thanks for the continued delivery of the Newsletter. My regards to all.

Donald MacLeod,
Glasgow, Scotland.

Dear Sir,

May I reiterate my thanks, as expressed to you both at the Indoor Meet, for the contribution(s) you - and your fairer colleagues - have made to keep the Newsletter alive and well! As noted in the letter from Nelson in the April issue, it is particularly appreciated by those of us remote from regular contact with the Vancouver piping scene.

The editorials are an interesting, and - I am sure not by accident - a provocative adjunct to the general format. As one whose piping background has been especially influenced by Regimental service (1st KOSB and 1st BW), my reaction to your March editorial is no doubt predictable.

With regards to the comments thereon that you published in the April issue, I must compliment you on the astuteness that prompted you to carry Terry McHardy's cogent observations right behind your editorial query to Albert Duncan's letter. Terry's comments on the aberrations re uniform, that some bandsmen relapse into when they are not before the judge(s), were a very salient rebuttal to the exact question you raised in the lines just preceding. Apparently, on the North American

piping scene at least (you raised the question why are not rules good enough for Scotland good enough here), some form of compulsion - in the form of scoring demerits - is needed for a few participants to achieve what self-respect would normally provide.

If spectators had no other reason to attend a piping/drumming competition, than just to "hear" good playing, they could very well reach the conclusion that such an objective would be better served by just staying home and surrounding themselves with the growing choice in Grade I band recordings. And, it is - I believe - usually the case that the admission fees of such spectators are a vital contribution to the prizes and appearance money so cherished by all bands.

Yours aye,
Dick Herring

Dear Sirs,

In reply to P/M Albert Duncan's letter regarding losing points by not wearing a head dress, he states that "a standard of uniformity, outside of a novice competitor, should be adhered to."

In this day and age, I am sure Mr. Duncan realizes it is difficult enough to dress youngsters for school, let alone outfit him (or her) in full Highland dress. Even in the Senior Amateur Class there are many teenagers - and usually behind each of these pipers there is a dancing sister, a drumming brother (or a multiple of these) plus entry fees, maintenance of pipes, travelling expenses, etc. etc.

When these boys and girls have finished growing, then is the time to build their Highland wardrobe - when, hopefully, it will serve them for many years.

At a recent indoor meet - one Glengarry was passed around amongst a number of pipers - because, it was said, the judge took off points, if a head dress wasn't worn. The whispered cry of "Don't forget the Glen!" was probably misconstrued by strangers as a plea akin to "Remember the Alamo!" to stir the boys into their best performance.

Anyway, this seems a little foolish, if a judge worries more about an ill-fitting Glengarry than a youngster's piping ability. Deportment should be judged on the set of the shoulders, the swing of the kilt, or the general air of the piper, even if he was wearing a loin cloth and beads.

Pride doesn't cost money and that, we all agree is where department, as such, starts.

Your newsletter is terrific - keep up the good work!

Barbara Keen

Dear Sirs,

Greetings from Spokane. Is it too late to give the Summer School a small plug in the next issue of the Newsletter? e.g. Indications are that the Piping School at Couer d'Alene will be bigger and better than ever. Applications are up over thirty percent from this time last year. P/M. Hardie will be bringing his tool kit and will demonstrate to the students the techniques required in making one of his famous chanters, drone components, etc. In the evenings, along with Mr. Andrew Wright, they plan to teach "Bandsmanship" to several groups who are deeply involved in Bands. P/M Hardie has the Muirhead and Sons Band in Scotland - four times World Champions with an excellent chance of winning it again this year. Andrew Wright is a member of the Red Hackle Band - another band of renown.

Col. McEwing reports that he has received an application from Scotland and one from Australia from pipers who plan to come and compete for the Banner, "The Bratach Nam Beann". The Medallion, also with its round trip air flight to Scotland, is like last year confined to school students. However, the winner is free to compete at any of the Games in Scotland. Last year, this splendid prize was oriented towards the Cowal Gathering but, since a great number of the students are just about ready to play in the Professional ranks, the Spokane Piobaireachd Society feels that absolutely no restrictions should be placed upon the winner and he or she is encouraged to compete at as many old country Games as time will allow.

Last year's winner of the Banner was Mr. Hal Senyk of Victoria. He remained in Scotland and is currently a member of P/M Hardie's Muirhead and Sons. He will be playing with them in Toronto and also plans to be at the Couer d'Alene school to get further polishing from the team of Hardie and Wright, prior to defending his Banner title on the last day of the school.

The Newsletter readers are reminded that the four "Set" tunes that have been established for the Bratach Nam Beann competition are as follows - Farewell to the Laird of Islay, Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks, I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand, and Lament for Mary MacLeod. Prior to this competition each competitor will be invited to play any one of Angus MacKay's competition marches. This will be the player's choice and will take place just prior to the playing of his or her Piobaireachd. The Medallion competitors will be required to submit three of their "own choice tunes". They will have an excellent opportunity to polish these during the two weeks of the school and, like last year, all concerned will have an opportunity to listen to some extremely high quality playing on Friday, July 28.

John McEwing,
President,
Spokane Piobaireachd Society.

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Triumph Street Pipe Band, I would like to thank the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band and the Vancouver Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band for the loan of their drums in Trail. We greatly appreciate the use of these drums for without them we would have been unable to compete.

Terry Leonard,
Triumph Street Pipe Band.

Dear Sirs:

I would like to take this opportunity to use the Newsletter in order to express my feelings about the Trail Games. The concept of the Games was a good one. The Tattoo on the first evening must have been entertaining for the spectators and the idea of having a ceilidh Sunday night after the games is one that should be copied here in Vancouver. It is unfortunate that the Games had to be indoors but considering the inclement weather, the facilities were adequate. I am left, however, with a poor, overall opinion of the Games as a result of a few incidents. I think the time has come for competitors to stop accepting conditions which are unfair. There has always been an idea that anyone who complains is a poor loser, but when things are very obviously wrong, something must be done.

Let me deal with my complaints systematically. Firstly, all results were announced in the dancing room and very few, if any, were announced in the arena where the piping was taking place. This may be considered as more of an inconvenience than a complaint but the results were never posted and were very hard to get from the secretaries. You either had to be in the dancing room the moment the results were announced or try to find someone who was. With most of the pipers and band members present in the arena, it seems strange that the results were not announced there.

Perhaps the most frustrating experience in Trail was trying to get band marks. The secretary refused to release the band marks to anyone or let anyone see them. Her stock reply was, "We'll mail them to you in order that we may check for mistakes." However, marks received a week after the competition will have little relevance to anyone. I must question this unorthodox procedure. I cannot truthfully see any logical reason for this without becoming suspicious, and paranoia isn't my game.

The last and most serious of my complaints concerns judging. There were four judges for the band competition - a deportment judge, a drumming judge, and two piping judges. The deportment judge was a military man and although this seems par for the course, I still fail to understand it. I don't know what this man would know about highland dress and, as far as I can remember, I didn't join the army, I joined a pipe band. Army standards are not important in a pipe band contest - what is important is how well you play. The breakdown of the piping judging also puzzles me. One judge dealt with tone and tuning and the other judged technique and execution. Why? This seems stranger still when you consider that one judge had almost twice as many points at his disposal as did the other. The "execution" judge could easily cancel out the "tuning" judge. A rather strange breakdown. Lastly, I must question the ability of some of the judges. Someone should check the credentials of a judge such as one of the piping judges who was at a loss as to what class the various bands should be placed in. This same judge placed a competitor who had missed an entire part of his tune. All in all, a frustrating experience, especially when the competitors from this area had to travel 400 miles and, in some cases, miss a day's work in order to attend the games. I seriously doubt that I will ever make the trip to Trail again.

Yours sincerely,
Allan Skalazub.

EDITORIAL

This month's editorial concerns the care and maintenance of pipes. It is fairly obvious that a depressingly large majority of pipers in the Vancouver area are unable to tune and/or maintain their own instruments. Who is to blame? Is it the fault of the teacher who fails to take the time to provide the young piper with an adequate working knowledge of his pipes, or is it the student who is too lazy to learn and shows no interest at all in his instrument?

We believe that the teacher is often at fault as he has caused the student to be completely dependent on him. Major maintenance work at a lesson is acceptable, of course, but we feel that on the competition floor where tone and tuning is a major factor in the results, pipers should be able to tune their own pipes.

We are not suggesting that the juvenile ranks fall into this category but the senior and professional pipers should certainly have the ability to accomplish this. When a piper has reached a certain plateau then he should be singularly responsible for his performance. After all, does the piper share his medal or prize money with his teacher?

A possible answer may be a piping school which is concerned mainly with the care and maintenance of the bagpipe. It is indeed a sad state of affairs when people from Vancouver travel 500 miles to Coeur d'Alene or Banff when the facilities and knowledge are right at our doorstep.

We suggest an informal night school for interested students which would perhaps meet once a week to study "the great highland bagpipe". Possible instructors could be Fred Brodie, Jimmy McMillan, Malcolm Nicholson, John MacLeod, Jamie Troy, Alec Reid, and Ed Esson, along with many others.

If these teachers would be willing to give up some of their time, we are sure that there are many pipers who would be most interested in attending such classes.

All those interested, please complete the following application and mail it to the Editors.

APPLICATION FOR PIPING SCHOOL

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Phone

Age

Piping Experience (years).....

Preferred Night.....

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Knock-Out -- General Meeting

The May General Meeting was held on May 5, 1972 in the Steelworkers' Hall. As there was no meeting in April, the audience was treated to a "double-header". The amateur event opened with Cindy Chambers who played an admirable selection which included "Jolly Beggarman". Her opponent was Angus MacPherson who turned in a rather rusty performance. In the other semi-final, Kelvin Wood was unable to attend due to a trip to Spain the following morning, so Allan McDougall and Cindy Chambers will meet each other in the final.

The first professional competition pitted David Wilson against John MacLeod. John's performance was marred by chokes and his election to play two complete sets somewhat reduced the variation in his selection. David's selection, on the other hand, supplied much variation although his pipes were perhaps a little sharp on the top hand. David won two of the three judges' votes and he will play against Jamie Troy in the final to be held at the B. C. Pipers' Annual Dinner. Jamie's opponent, Albert Duncan, was unable to attend the competition, however, Jamie treated us to an enjoyable selection of jigs and hornpipes as well as Amazing Grace. As usual, impromptu piping (due to the "encouragement" of Donald Ross) was the order of the evening. Mrs. John McDonald won the raffle.

It's quite evident that the incorporation of the knock-out competitions in the General Meetings have been a complete success and we look forward to another successful year of these "get-togethers". Thanks must go to all the judges, the competitors, the barmen, and all the other people who helped make them so successful.

However, it's not over yet. Attend the Annual Dinner and find out.

Bi-Monthly Competition

April 28, 1972

Judge - Alec Young

Juvenile Marches

1. Wade Calder
2. Jamie Wright
3. Aileen Arnott
4. J. Laurie

Amateur March, Strathspey and Reel

1. Terry Lee
2. Robert Menzies
3. Jack Lee

May 19, 1972

Judge - David Wilson

Novice Marches (Section 2)

1. Ronald Tait
2. Howie Speer
3. Ruth Tremaine

Junior Piobaireachd

1. Allison Palmer
2. Pat Dawson
3. Carol Silver

Trail Highland Games

The Eighth Annual Trail Highland Games were held on May 21, 1972 (See Roving Reporter).

The results were as follows:

Novice Girls Marches (Confined to the Kootenays)

1. Danne Mykietyn, Trail, B.C. (Trophy)
2. Annette Eccles, Rossland, B.C.
3. Chris Milne, Trail, B.C. and Heather Roemer, Nelson, B.C.

Novice Marches - Under 16 Years

1. Ashley Stewart, Richmond, B.C. (Trophy)
2. Ronald Tait, Vancouver, B.C.
3. Kelly Sutton, Coquitlam, B.C.
4. Ruth Tremaine, Vancouver, B.C.

Novice Marches - Under 19 Years

1. Alex MacIntyre, Edmonton, Alta.
2. Susan Cushing, Oyama, B.C.
3. Heather Zeleng, Vernon, B.C.

Novice Marches - Over 19 Years

1. Bonnie Lynne Gordon, Haney, B.C.
2. Hugh Sutherland Sr., Grand Forks, B.C.

Under 16 Years - Marches

1. Jean Laurie, Vancouver, B.C.
2. Allan MacDougall, Langley, B.C.
3. Stuart Reid, Coquitlam, B.C.
4. Jack Lee, Surrey, B.C.

Under 16 Years - Strathspey & Reel

1. Allan MacDougall, Langley, B.C.
2. Shelley MacLean, Burnaby, B.C. and Stuart Reid, Coquitlam, B.C.
4. Jean Laurie, Vancouver, B.C.

Piping Aggregate - Under 16 Years - Allan MacDougall

Under 19 Years - Marches

1. Alan Walters, Calgary, Alta.
2. Robyn Palmer, Vancouver, B.C.
3. Allan MacLeod, Nelson, B.C.
4. Wendy Mattocks, Vernon, B.C.

Under 19 Years - Strathspey & Reel

1. Alan Walters, Calgary, Alta.
2. Candace Parker, Kellogg, Idaho
3. Allan MacLeod, Nelson, B.C.
4. Wendy Mattocks, Vernon, B.C.

Piping Aggregate - Under 19 Years - Alan Walters

19 Years & Over - Marches

1. Janice Taylor, Burnaby, B.C.
2. Duncan MacDonald, Edmonton, Alta.
3. Sherea Barwell, Burnaby, B.C.

19 Years & Over - Strathspey & Reel

1. Sherea Barwell, Burnaby, B.C.
2. Duncan MacDonald, Edmonton, Alta.
3. Angus MacPherson, New Westminster, B.C.

Piping Aggregate - 19 Years & Over - Sherea Barwell

Professional Marches

1. Patrick MacIntyre, Edmonton, Alta.
2. Theresa McErlean, Coquitlam, B.C.
3. Sandy Marshall, Vancouver, B.C.

Professional Strathspey & Reel

1. Theresa McErlean, Coquitlam, B.C.
2. James Hamilton, Calgary, Alta.
3. Donald Maxwell, Calgary, Alta.

Professional Jigs

1. Theresa McErlean, Coquitlam, B.C.
2. Patrick MacIntyre, Edmonton, Alta.
3. Sandy Marshall, Vancouver, B.C.

Quartettes

1. Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band #1
2. Vancouver Kiwanis Boys' Band "A"
3. Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Band "A"
4. Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band #2

Best Dressed Bandsman - Carol Silver, New Westminster, B.C.

Drumming Results

Novice - 10 to 19 Years

1. Heather McCarlie, Vancouver, B.C.
2. Sheila Brown, Richmond, B.C.
3. Alyson McCarlie, Vancouver, B.C.

Under 16 Years - March, Strathspey & Reel

1. Ian Hunter, Vancouver, B.C. (Trophy)
2. Bruce Roane, Coquitlam, B.C. and
Bobby Walters, Calgary, Alta.
4. Gordon Anderson, Surrey, B.C.

Under 19 Years - March, Strathspey & Reel

1. Susan Manifold, Burnaby, B.C. (Trophy)
2. Jack Gallaher, Vancouver, B.C.
3. Sheila Roane, Coquitlam, B.C.

Over 19 Years - March, Strathspey & Reel

1. Ivan Walgren, Nelson, B.C.

Professional Drumming

1. Alex Brown, Calgary, Alta.
2. Keith Manifold, Vancouver, B.C.
3. William McErlean, Coquitlam, B.C.

Band Competitions

Class 1

1. Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band #1, Vancouver, B.C.
2. MacBain Scottish Pipe Band, Calgary, Alta.
3. Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Band, Burnaby, B.C.

Class 2

1. Kiwanis Boys Band, Vancouver, B.C.
2. Trail Pipe Band, Trail, B.C.
3. Angus Scott Pipe Band, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Winner of Drum Section of Pipe Band Competition

MacBain Scottish Pipe Band, Calgary, Alta.

White Heather Concert

This year's Spring White Heather Concert was held at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, April 21 and 22, 1972. Headlining the show were the very popular Alexander Brothers who treated the audience to three separate performances during the night. Anne Fields who sang many of the old favourites was very popular with the older folk and Josephine McQueen sang some beautiful ballads. Neil Owen, a young up-and-coming comedian was extremely popular with the entire audience with such jokes as:

Tourists from Edinburgh go into the Gorbals for laughs and come out in stitches.

Smiling Bill Marshall made a return visit with his accordian and surprised everyone (including himself) with a few songs. Ken Haynes was the pianist for the evening. Tom and Jack Alexander played and sang old favourites and some newer songs such as, "These Are My Mountains", "Nobody's Child", and "Jean". One of the highlights of the evening was the playing of "Amazing Grace" on the accordian, giving the impression of the pipes. The Alexander Brothers also played the Dark Island which bore an amazing similarity to an Edinburgh City Police record.

Prior to the concert, we had the honour of interviewing the Alexander Brothers backstage. Before meeting Tom and Jack, we talked to Jimmy Warren who is the tour manager for the White Heather Concert. He has a full-time job which consists of organizing and signing the cast, writing to all the societies and sponsors in North America and drawing up an itinery, that is, hotel reservations, car rentals and plane trips. So actually the tour itself is just like turning the pages of a book with everything pre-arranged and laid out.

This tour, headlined by the Alexander Brothers, opened in early April in Montreal and follows a tight schedule which includes Ottawa, Cornwall, Winnipeg, Regina, Brandon, Edmonton, Vancouver Island, Vancouver, Calgary, Lethbridge, Toronto, London, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Petersburg, Florida, New York, back to Montreal, and home. Vancouver is the most popular stop on the tour for the cast mainly because they get three days rest and can spend some time looking at the sights. At other times of the year, the White Heather Concert travels to such places as South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

An Interview with the Alexander Brothers

Tom & Jack: Before we get started, we'd like to mention "Amazing Grace". I don't think it's reached Vancouver yet but it's now Number One on the pop charts in Britain. It's by the Royal Dragoon Guards and starts off with a lone piper, who is joined by the rest of the pipes and drums, and then the brass band. If you can imagine all these dolly birds (girls) dancing around a lone piper on the telly! I'm sure it will be released here soon because it really is fantastic.

Editors: Did you ever think of making a record with pipes to accompany a piano or accordian?

Tom: Well, not exactly. We've heard some of the pipe band records with an organ but the best record I've heard is by Stan Hamilton. It's called the "Flying Scotsman" and consists of a chanter playing with a single accordian. Tonight, I'll be playing "Amazing Grace" on the accordian where I try to give the impression of the pipes.

Editors: Do you have any new records coming out?

Jack: Well, we've been with Pye or Allied records for years but we've just signed a new contract with R.C.A. that we're very excited about. You see, we could never get our records released in the States where there is a good market for our material, particularly San Francisco and Florida. Our latest album consists mainly of Shetland reels and music for fiddle lovers. We try to get Scottish musicians and the best of those play out of London. There's a drummer there from Glasgow named Bobby Orr - not the hockey player - who's now Britain's top drummer and used to play in a pipe band.

Editors: How do you pick your songs?

Tom: Normally, we just hear people playing them on an accordian or a fiddle or even a band and if we like it, we'll try to arrange something. Sometimes we do go through old piping books like the Scots Guards and pick up something there. One of our best selling records back home was "Jean" which we heard while watching Oliver on Ed Sullivan in New York one night. We arranged for a studio session, the song was rush released, and it did very well. "Nobody's Child" was our biggest hit back home which proves that a little bit of sentiment in a song is still popular today. "These Are My Mountains" was written for an old T.V. show called, "Find a Song for Scotland" and came second in the actual contest. The song that won has never been heard of again.

Editors: What are your commitments when you get home?

Jack: We're going for a holiday after this tour ends to Disney World in Florida. It's been nearly two years since our last holiday and we've been doing one-night stands since the beginning of January. We're kept busy playing theatres in Glasgow and in little towns and villages with only a couple of days break here and there.

Editors: How did you get started?

Tom: Oh, we've been doing talent contests for years. Our parents decided that we must learn a trade so they brought us up singing.

Editors: Did you ever think of taking up the pipes?

Tom: When I was about ten years old, I was given a chanter and an old piping manual but nothing ever came of it.

Editors: What is your favourite stop on the tour?

Jack: Well, the greatest piping town in Canada is probably St. Catherines because most of the Shotts and Dykehead band of 12-15 years ago came across to the city and have stayed ever since. But, we're not just saying it to please you that we love Vancouver and the rest of B.C. also. If we ever decided some day to retire, it would be Victoria or somewhere on Vancouver Island. Honestly!

Tom: What are you doing with this tape then?

Editors: It's for an article in the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter.

Tom & Jack: Well, give them all our best wishes and happy playing in the future, but I wish you had told us that the ?!?! thing was taping.

Editors: It still is, so watch it, and thanks very much for your time.

* * * * *

Highland chieftain Ronald MacLennan, 47, is looking for his clan. After years of research, he has proved himself head of the MacLennans, a clan whose origins have been traced to this west coast town (Ullapool).

Ronald, a teacher, plans to launch a world-wide appeal to other members to join his newly-formed clan association.

Secretary Resigns

The resignation of our Secretary, Bill Russell, was accepted by the President at the last board meeting. Considering the short time that Bill held the position, his contribution to the Association was tremendous. However, don't think his work is finished yet. We expect a flood of material from Fort St. John! Good luck, Bill, and thanks for a job well done.

Our new Secretary is Pat Dawson. Pat is currently playing with the Vancouver Ladies' and is active individually also. We wish her all the encouragement and luck in her new post.

NEXT MONTH

New Westminster

The New Westminster Highland Games will be held at Queen's Park Stadium on Saturday, June 10, 1972. Professional drumming and an Open Pipe Band Competition are new events. The Open Contest consists of a medley, 5 to 7 minutes for pipes and drums only.

Bellingham

On Saturday, June 24, in the Civic Field, Bellingham, the Bellingham Highland Games Corporation are holding their ninth Scottish Highland Games. Entry forms must be in the hands of the Games Secretary not later than June 12. For further information, please contact Bill Lamont at 327-7569.

Nelson

DIAMOND JUBILEE PARADE -- Monday, August 7, 1972.

You are cordially invited to take part in the Grand Parade that will mark the opening of a week of celebration of Nelson's 75th Birthday.

The parade is along a two mile route ending at beautiful Lakeside Park where contestants will be provided with refreshments. Bands will then have an opportunity to put on individual performances for the benefit of the crowds and judges. Bands will also be judged along the entire route of the parade for their music, general deportment, appearance and routines. Bands may select any music and fancy marching routines are encouraged. These must, however, be in a forward direction.

The parade will be attended by the Premier of British Columbia and many members of the Provincial Cabinet and it is hoped to have the parade led by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Honorable Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Parade Prize List

- a. Best brass band
1st \$250.00 2nd \$150.00
- b. Best drum and bugle band
1st \$250.00 2nd \$150.00
- c. Best pipe band
1st \$250.00 2nd \$150.00
- d. Best youth and/or school band
1st \$750.00 2nd \$500.00
- e. Best overall band (all categories)
\$500.00

Accommodation

Visiting bands and those directly associated with the bands will be housed at no cost in both school auditoriums and residences of Notre Dame University. Band members must bring their own sleeping bags or bedrolls.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner for band members and chaperones will be provided at the university cafeteria at an approximate cost of \$3.50 per day per person.

Entries

These should be addressed to Nelson Diamond Jubilee Committee, 502 Vernon Street, Nelson, B.C.

These entries should include information with respect to the type of band, number of band members, number of persons accompanying the band, an indication of planned length of stay and any preferences for free-time entertainment.

Coeur d'Alene

In keeping with the "Angus MacKay Festival" theme of the school, there will be a March competition concurrent with the banner competition and each competitor will play any competition march composed by Angus MacKay preceding the playing of the selected piobaireachd.

G-RANT WILKIE.

DONNIE SPEER

GETS PERFECT ATTENDANCE PIN.

Pipers at all levels of progress are invited to attend the school. The past years have shown that there will be skill levels ranging from the most advanced players to those who have never played a practice chanter. There are members of various Symphony Orchestras who have been briefly exposed to piobaireachd and will be attending the school as beginners.

Our warmest appreciation goes to the many bands, organizations and to the dedicated individuals who provide annual scholarships enabling students to attend what we believe is an excellent training opportunity.

Lt/Col John McEwing

B. C. Highland Games

The B. C. Highland Association will hold their Games this year on July 1, 1972 at Brockton Oval. First prize for professional Piobaireachd is \$25.00 with \$15.00 for professional drumming and the other professional piping. This year there is also an Open Tenor Drum competition.

In the pipe band competition, the programme states Grades 1, 2, Juvenile and Juvenile Novice (see Bandstand). However, this has since been changed to Class A, B, C, and D.

Closing date for entries is Friday, June 16th. For further information, please phone Mr. Upton at 434-3331.

KID'S CEILIDH

On Friday, June 16th, the Novice final and Amateur knock-out final will be held at the Steelworkers' Hall at 8:00 p.m.

As well as the competitions, the year pins will be awarded. Those eligible for the 1971/1972 year pins are as follows:

Novice Section 1

Winners

- David John Anderson
- Gail Burnett ✓
- Nancy Darling
- Neil Dowie
- Bonnie-Lynne Gordon ✓
- Michael Guillemain ✓
- Vern Kennedy
- Scott MacPherson ✓
- Bruce McIntosh ✓
- Ashley Stewart ✓
- Ember Stewart ✓

- Bonnie-Lynne Gordon 4
- Ken McDonald 5
- Ashley Stewart 1

NOT FIRST
Bonnie MacNeil

Grant Wilkie
Novice Speer

NORWAY HALL
2:00
DANCE
TRAV. ST. P. BAND

Novice Section 2

- Owen Reid ✓
- Kimberly Smith ✓
- Kellie Sutton ✓
- Ronald Tait ✓
- Ruth Tremaine ✓
- Linda Williams ✓

Winners

- 1. Ronald Tait ³
- 2. Howie Speer ²
- 3. Linda Williams ⁶

Juvenile

- Aileen Arnott ✓
- Gail Dawson ✓
- Debbie Fraser ✓
- Philip Gordon ✓
- Blake Keen ✓
- Jean Laurie ✓
- Jill Laurie ✓
- Susan Lowden ✓
- Gordon Lyle ✓
- Robbie MacNeil ✓

Winners

- 1. Blake Keen
- 2. Gordon Paterson
- 3. Wade Calder
- 4. Laurie Robson

Junior

- Patricia Dawson ✓
- Glen Esdale ✓
- Alison Palmer ✓
- Douglas Sommerville ✓
- Carol Silver ✓

Winners

- 1. Alison Palmer
- 2. Patricia Dawson
- 3. Brian Carse

Amateur

- Cindy Chambers ✓
- Terry Lee ✓
- Robert Menzies ✓

Winners

- 1. Cindy Chambers
- 2. Terry Lee
- 3. Robert Menzies

* * * * *

Tartans Tattered

One of Metropolitan Toronto's oldest and proudest kilted regiments, the Toronto Scottish, is embarrassed to appear in public these days.

Its tartans have become tattered and its bagpipes battered, and in 3½ months it must troop to the colours at the Canadian National Exhibition grandstand.

Lt.-Col. Hugh Stewart, commanding officer of the 200-member militia regiment, said it is holding a \$25,000 lottery to buy new equipment and dress.

"We get a lot of mileage out of our pipes and drums," he said. "But our full dress, after 16 years, must be refurbished, and in some instances, replaced."

Will the regiment also buy something new to wear under their kilts?

"That's classified information," said Stewart.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

May, 1960 - 12 years ago

The last of the Bi-monthlies was held at the Scottish Auditorium and was judged by Ed Esson.

Novice Strathspey & Reel

1. Gordon Hardy
2. Sherea Barwell
3. Robert Heggie

Juvenile Jigs

1. Bob MacDonald
2. Larry Gillot
3. Bruce Topp

Junior Marches

1. Tom Richardson
2. Bill Elder
3. Peter McNeil

Amateur Old Highland Airs

1. Peggy Gillies

Quartettes

1. Vancouver Kiwanis
2. Optimist Pipe Band

May, 1964

The first Annual Highland Games were held in Penticton, May 16th and 17th, 1964: Held in Kings Park, a location eminently suitable for a Highland Gathering, competitors attended the piping, dancing, and track and field events from the coast, the interior, Alberta, and Washington. Seven pipe bands competed in "B" Class and "C" Class, and enthusiastic residents gave considerable support to the fledgling games.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Mrs. M. Kent - Active
Drew Noot - Active

TATAMAGOUCHE

Robyn Palmer



This lively jig was composed by Robyn Palmer, a member of the Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Band. She played this tune at a recent competition and placed first.

Centered between Pictou and Pugwash, Tatamagouche is one of the many small towns that dot the northern shores of Nova Scotia. The community, though settled by the French in the 1700's, still carries its original Indian name, meaning "meeting place".

The Seumas MacNeill

S U M M E R S C H O O L O F P I P I N G

July 15th through 29th 1972

at

LAKE SEQUOIA, CALIFORNIA

Instructors

SEUMAS MACNEILL

JOHN MACASKILL

with additional assistance as enrolments require.

The location is a summer camp, set amid pine woods at the edge of an 88 acre lake at an elevation of 5,500 feet.

Tuition fee \$75.00 Room and board \$84.00

Lodge accommodations at 5 miles in Sequoia National Forest for those who prefer the more deluxe living.

Register now for full details from:

W. F. Casteen, M.D., 3921 Claremont Drive, Bakersfield, California, 93306, or Seumas MacNeill, The College of Piping, 20 Otago Street, Glasgow, Scotland.

Following last month's editorial, some changes in Part IV of the B. C. Pipers' rules governing individual piping were affected.

PART IV - INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

1. Amateur competitions to be classified as Juvenile Amateur; Junior Amateur; and Senior Amateur; none of which shall have any age restrictions.
2. A Novice Piper shall be required to move up to Juvenile Class at the end of the competition year, if he or she places first, second, or third, at any major competition during the course of one competition year. The competition year to be a calendar year.
3. A Juvenile Piper shall be required to move up to Junior Class at the end of the competition year, if he or she accumulates 20 points at any major competition during the course of one competition year. The competition year to be a calendar year.
4. A Junior Piper shall be required to move up to Senior Class at the end of the competition year, if he or she accumulates 20 points at any major competition during the course of one competition year. The competition year to be a calendar year.
5. Any competitor may choose to compete in a higher or more senior class, but having done so, would forfeit his right to again compete under his previous classification.
6. Bandsmen competitions to be confined to bandsmen who are not entered in any other individual competitions that day.
7. Ladies competitions to be confined to ladies who are not entered in any other individual competitions that day.
8. If a competing piper stops playing or "goes off his tune" for any reason whatsoever, it shall be considered as a breakdown and no second try shall be allowed.
9. Pipers not ready to play when called are liable to be disqualified.
10. Individual piping points for the purpose of promotion and aggregate winners:

1st place	-	8 Points
2nd place	-	5 Points
3rd place	-	3 Points
4th place	-	1 Point

N.B. This rule comes into effect retroactive to the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band Festival.

RECORD REVIEW

Champion of Champions

Muirhead & Sons Pipe Band

Ideally, reviews of any kind concern themselves with new works. Until new records of pipe bands become available, this column will have to rely upon albums which, to a large extent, have already made their impact - some good and some not so good. For those that have already bought "Champion of Champions" for example, this review will have little practical value. But for others, such reviews as this may be of more help.

This Muirhead's record is not really that old. It was released sometime in 1967 and it has certainly made an impact. I am sure that all of those who have listened to it have been favourably impressed. The selections are not as varied as on their more recent "Scotland the Brave" (see March issue), but it does, to my mind, sustain a better standard of playing excellence.

The album's prime quality it seems is a recognition of tunes which are not necessarily difficult but which are, above all, musical. Muirhead are notably successful in their selections of two part 2/4 and 6/8 marches. They are played well and that is a deceptively difficult thing to do. To me, this record is somewhat revolutionary in bringing these little tunes to the forefront of pipe band repertoires. The trend of the late fifties and early sixties was to emphasize extremely difficult competition tunes which were more endurance contests than musical performances. The above mentioned selections on this record are good evidence of the basically positive changes which have lately taken place.

As for other sections of the record, there are two particular standouts. The break from Dark Island to Liberton Polka is one of the most effective and well done to be heard on any record, and Loch Rannoch, a very beautiful tune, is, even considering its simplicity, very impressively played. To a lesser degree the competition sets, especially the one containing Blair Drummond, are notable for their preciseness and clarity.

The shoddiest playing is on the final track of the second side. The strathspeys and reels lack the vigour and polish which are so important to making them successful. As well, the tunes listed on the dust jacket for that cut are partially inaccurate. "Lord Lovat's Lament" is not played at all and the strathspey, "Lord Blantyre", played between "Marquis of Huntly" and "Dancing Feet" is omitted.

There are, of course, the odd squeals and slips and the usual problems here and there with the sound of the pipes. They require little note here because they are not major and are not detrimental to the album as a whole.

One final note - there is no indication of whether or not this record is stereophonic. This caused me some confusion but it does in fact seem to be stereo inasmuch as the separation seems to be present and is overall better sounding played that way.

John MacLeod

THE MAGIC PIPE

Twas in a crowded hospital
In Western U.S.A.
A Caledonian far from home
Sick, lonely, dying, lay.

O Doctor could I hear but once
Our dear bagpipes again
I'd close my eyes and die in peace
In spite of all my pain.

The kindly doctor searched the town
A brother Scot was found
And soon within the hospital
The Cheerie pipes did sound.

Along the great wide corridors
The Piobaireachd echoed clear
Till every poor sick sufferer
Heard Highland tunes so dear.

And by that glorious music
The ailing Scot revived
Regained his health, soon walked abroad
But the other patients died.

Submitted by
Marjorie Kent.

PUZZLE CORNER

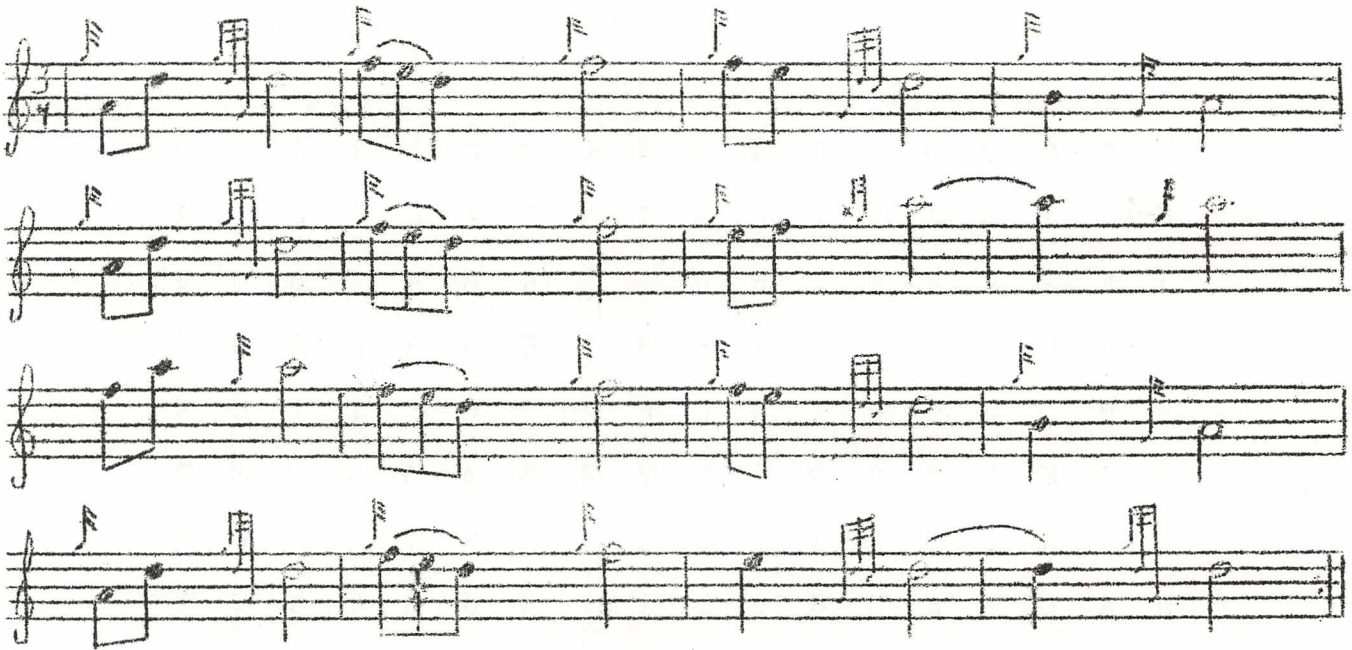
Criss X Puzzle - Based on Titles of English Cities, Towns and Villages

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, there will be six uncircled letters "Z". Words bracketted in the names are not in the puzzle.

Aberdare	Ford	Otley
Acle	Frisby	Otterton
Acre	Garforth	Ower
Ascot	Goring	Par
Ashby	Green	Park
Bala	Goole	(a) End
Bingham	Herne	Pett
Bix	Highbridge	Preston
Boston	Honiton	Roberts Bridge
Bow	Hoo	Rillington
Box	Iken	Romford
Bournemouth	Ingham	Rufford
Bramshott	Irby	Ryde
Brandsby	Irlam	Sternfield
Bride	Ixworth	St.Ive
Bath	Keld	St.Germans
Chailey	Ketton	Stretham
Chirk	Leadgate	Templeton
Daventry	Lincoln	Tenterden
Dale	Lingen	Thorpe
Dean	Liss	Totland
Dishforth	Liphook	Tonbridge
Doncaster	Littleport	Tong
Dover	London	Towton
Durham	Magor	Two (Bridges)
Earby	Margate	Tyldesley
Elm	Nebo	Ugthorpe
E.Looe	New (Radnor)	Ware
Erith	Newington	Winchester
Eton	Oakford	Wing
Eye	Oakworth	Wingham
Farmers	Ore	Wrentham
		Yetminster

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

AMAZING GRACE



At the time of this printing, the Number One record on the West Coast is an R.C.A. single by the Pipes and Drums and the Military Band of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, called Amazing Grace.

"Amazing Grace" recently made famous by Judy Collins and since recorded in Gaelic by Alisdair Gillies has to be one of the oldest tunes to reach the Top Ten. It was written in 1789 by an English Divine, John Newton, a man who became a sailor at the age of 11, was publicly flogged for desertion, mocked religion and scorned believers, and was master of his own slave trade by the time he was 30. However, the suffering and misery of the slaves tormented his conscience and on the long, slow voyages from Africa, he began to read the Bible. At age 40, Newton abandoned the sea and became the minister of a country church. Every week, he composed a hymn for his flock and among them - Amazing Grace.

However, the presence of a pipe band on "top of the pops" could present an interesting situation. In other words, it may "make or break" the pipes. According to Lorne Parton, "Now, I personally have agreed that bagpipes are best heard across the water - say, Lake Superior - but there's a new R.C.A. record on the market that may change a lot of minds beside mine".

The day of its release, half a dozen people phoned Jack Cullen enquiring about it. Judging from the above, reaction appeared quite favourable, yet we all know how a radio station can ruin any song, let alone a pipe tune with a limited melody. Random comments from the piping fraternity tend to show a resentment towards the use of the pipes as a novelty item. However, time alone will tell.



"Look, kid - if we can't get on this fella
Noah's shindig, there's a little lake I
know up in Scotland..."

* * * * *

The highlight of Jock Wilson's Ball at Windsor Castle last month occurred when the Eight Men of Moidart did a Reel of Tulloch and The Fairy Dance to the accompaniment of the Piper of Drummond.

BANDSTAND

This month, through the courtesy of the Vancouver Sun, we are taking a look at the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band.

Today, when police forces all over the world are striving for a better image and understanding of the work they do, it's refreshing to find in Vancouver that we probably have the greatest public relations team anywhere.

The team has been in continuous operation since 1914 and not only does it show the Vancouver Police Department at its best, it represents Vancouver wherever it goes and on many occasions it represents Canada.

This is the Vancouver Police Force Pipe Band, holder of 80 first place trophies, won in international and national competitions, 40 second place awards, 20 third place citations as well as numerous individual and senior quartet awards.

At present it is the oldest, and Vancouverites must agree, the most famous marching pipe band in the Pacific Northwest. It is the senior police band in Canada and third senior in the western world. Only the Glasgow and Edinburgh police pipe bands are older.

It has been chosen many times by the federal government to represent Canada in west coast U.S. cities. One such appearance was during the Canadian centennial celebrations in 1967 when they journeyed to San Francisco to help publicize Montreal's Expo '67. At the 1937 opening of the famed Golden Gate Bridge, the pipe band also was there.

They have played twice in Hawaii - 1951 and 1963. On the second visit, U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. In tribute the band played a full retreat ceremony in Honolulu. Each member of the band was given the Hawaiian Silver Medal.

The band is sponsored by the Vancouver Police force with participation on a voluntary basis. Members are subject to all disciplinary requirements and while on parade they are on duty.

At present there is an authorized strength of 21 regular policemen - four side drummers, two tenor drummers, one base drummer, 13 pipes (including Pipe Major A.D. Perrie) and one drum major - Fred Hall.

You can be sure that wherever the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band plays, Vancouver's colours and goodwill goes with it.

The Western Pipe Band Association

The W.P.B.A. are having a general meeting while the Newsletter is going to press. So any earth-shattering developments will have to wait until the next edition.

I can inform you, however, that the Pipes and Drums of the Innes Tartan will definitely be here for our British Columbia Championship and indeed will be performing at the P.N.E. for a week prior to the contest. The McBain Scottish have been contacted officially in Calgary, and they have been invited to join the Grade I bands in competition. We are now in a position to help them with their travelling expenses.

The P.N.E. is most enthused at the prospect of hosting the championships and making it a yearly event. We have been assured of more prize money in the future and help with expenses for visiting bands. The site of the gathering has not been decided but it is possible it will be the Coliseum. The admission to the exhibition will be your pass to the championships. We hope to have mini-massed bands playing during the day to publicize the events.

We also have an offer to consider at our meeting, that we provide bands for a two week period to mass with the Innes Tartan for a one half hour show each evening. Bands participating will receive a remuneration for their efforts.

We have been unable to visit our American bands as we had hoped this month, but we are making plans to resolve this sometime in June. Being geographically separated, we are unable to give them fair hearing on their thoughts and wishes, so we will probably set up a branch representative to keep each other abreast of developments. The Abbotsford band is alive and well under Ian MacDougall. They are registered and have their dues all paid up. Are yours?

James Lang,
President, W.P.B.A.

The W.P.B.A. has reorganized the rules governing pipe bands as well as the grading system. Although the system will not be in effect at the games this summer, they will be in effect at the B.C. Pipe Band Championship at the end of the summer.

The following is the breakdown of the bands into their respective grades:

Grade I

Anavets
Canadian Scottish
Port Moody
Seaforth Highlanders

Grade II

Can. Legion #15
Can. Legion #83
Can. Legion #88
Can. Legion #179
Clan MacLeay
Seattle
Seaforth Cadets
Vancouver Ladies
Triumph Street

Juvenile (Open)

Burnaby Ladies #1
Richmond Senior
Kiwanis Boys
Portland Greys
Vancouver Ladies #2
White Spot Boys

Juvenile (Novice)

Burnaby Ladies #2
Richmond Junior
Highland Laddies
White Spot Girls

The Western Pipe Band Association is planning a trio and miniature band knock-out competition next winter.

Interested bands please complete the form below and send care of the Newsletter.

.....

Trio & Miniature Band Knock-Out Competition

Name of Band.....

Grade.....

Trios (number).....

Miniature Bands (number).....

Band Chatter

Norma Broderick, a member of the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band received the Governor-General's Medal for outstanding scholastic achievement. Norma earned an average of 98% during her year at U.B.C.

Jack Lee has recently joined the Seaforth Cadets and we hope that some lucky band will be able to recruit the services of his brother, Terry, in the near future.

The mystery piper of the C.P. Transport is Hugh McIntosh, a pupil of Fred Brodie. Hugh is a "latecomer" to the piping world and is enjoying his new hobby.

C.P. Air bands are officially known as the Richmond (C.P.A.) Senior and the Richmond (C.P.A.) Junior bands.

Jack Gallaher, formerly a drummer with the White Spot and Seaforth Cadets Pipe Bands is now playing with the Triumph Street Pipe Band.

The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band starred in the recent movie, "Another Smith for Paradise". However, the movie was cancelled after one week. Hm!

Ian McDougall from Abbotsford is starting up another band out there. If they're half as good as his last band, they should be worth listening to.

The Burnaby Ladies, as host band at Trail, put on a tremendous show at the Tattoo which must have taken them hours to perfect.

* * * * *

The Gordon Highlanders for Top of the Pops - that's what they're saying in the music business.

We've already had the Royal Scots Dragoons with "Amazing Grace." Now an L.P. recorded by the Gordons in December has been released.

In just a week it's selling well. The pipes are included on two tracks of the LP entitled "Gay and Gallant."

Look out for the "Doctor Finlay Theme," specially arranged by bandmaster Frank Renton. Or "Up, Up and Away", which includes a pipe solo.

Either could make it a chart buster for the Gordons.

FOREIGN CORNER

When Polish-born Joe Loszak first arrived in Winnipeg by way of Scotland in 1949, his possessions included 65 pounds of ivory, several cans of an ages-old formula for seasoning sheepskins, some African blackwood, and a 150 year old steel lathe. But most important, he arrived skilled in the ancient Scottish craft of bagpipe making.

Joe, a woodturner in Poland, wound up in Scotland as a member of the Polish armed forces during the war. Later, as a civilian in Edinburgh, he found work with the 130 year old firm of David Glen & Son, bagpipe makers. His first day on the job he was handed some African blackwood and the middle part of a bass drone to copy. From then on it was drones and chanters for 2½ years at Glen's, where he learned about bagpipes and how to speak English with a Scottish burr.

Now, 22 years later, Joe has a small woodturning shop on Broadway Avenue in Winnipeg. His chief customers are members of pipe bands in Manitoba and beyond. He draws from his stock of blackwood, which he says "is like good Scotch whisky, it has to be aged," and tells about a Scot working up north on Hudson Bay. "He broke his beloved bagpipes and caught the first plane here. It was Sunday, but he was so upset - they get quite attached to them, you know - I worked all day. He flew back up north the next day and he was one happy man, I can tell you."

Reprinted from
Canadian Panorama May, 1972

Old-Time Pipes Make A Hit

Twelve months ago, Mr. Grieg Sharpe (32), 24 Renfrew Court, Glasgow, was manager of a Scottish goods shop specialising in bagpipes.

One day he came across 250-year-old plans of the original Kintail bagpipe used in the 17th century.

To Mr. Sharpe, it was the discovery of a lifetime. He set up business on his own. And, with the help of the tattered plans, produced the first set.

Now, just a year later, Mr. Sharpe and his bagpipes are famous.

They're being sold in America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, London, Dublin, Belfast -- even in Brittany! The company is producing 15 different models, ranging in price from 50 - 250 pounds.

B. C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

As was mentioned in last month's issue, the B. C. Pipers' are presenting two scholarships to the piping school in Coeur d'Alene. Since the last issue only ONE person applied. If you read our editorial this month, then this course would be ideal in rectifying the situation.

The date has been extended for two weeks, so the closing date is now June 14th. The scholarships are open to all classes except novice and prospective applicants must submit a brief account of their piping career and reasons for wishing to attend the school.

Please send your application to Bill Elder, 2204 E. 33rd, Vancouver, B.C.

ROVING REPORTER

Editors' Trip to Trail

Roving Reporter, this month, takes us to Trail, B.C. where a very enjoyable weekend of piping took place during the Victoria Day Holiday.

As this was the first official excursion of the Triumph Street Pipe Band, as well as the first venture past Chilliwack for two members, it proved to be a very interesting experience. Because we were under the impression that it would be too hot to travel during the day, we left Vancouver at 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening in the designated Triumph Street Bus. The first stop of the scenic 400-mile trip was the Hope slide and then Princeton, where Jackie Gallaher received a mosquito on his pickle free of charge from a local restaurant. However, after the odd deer sighting and reports of rattlesnakes, we rolled into Trail at 4:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Reluctantly, we woke the motel manager of the Glenwood where we stayed for a reasonable \$4.00 each per night, although other bands were accommodated in large halls. Needless to say, we spent the most of the day sleeping and, early in the evening, our two other carloads of members arrived.

Eating is a pleasant experience in Trail, especially if one visits the Kootenay Hotel where a smorgasbord of salad, chicken and spaghetti is well worth \$2.50. Other popular eating spots were Mr. Mike's and Syd's Chicken for the late sleepers.

Saturday afternoon was spent shopping, sans the hustle and bustle of Vancouver, in the three main streets of Trail where people are so friendly that after five minutes, you feel you've lived there all your life.

But, back to business as the Tattoo was scheduled to commence at 8:30 p.m. In order to qualify for prize money at the Games, every band had to participate in this event - a good rule when you consider that ten bands turned out. The show was run very efficiently and a good crowd was on hand to view the Vancouver bands, McIntosh Girls from Vernon, McBain Scottish from Calgary, and the Trail Pipe Band, to name a few.

On Sunday morning, we awoke to the sound of rain so the Games were switched from Butler Park to the Cominco Arena, site of the Tattoo. Most events started at 10:30 a.m. and the day wound up about 7:30 p.m.

As Editors of the Newsletter, we enjoy hearing from our members in outlying areas, as was the case in Trail, where the reaction was very favourable. Mrs. K. Shaw and Mrs. Ann Ward, both of the host town, were very busy most of the time, but we managed to wrangle a few words out of them. We also spoke to Hugh Sutherland of Grand Forks and Bill Burns of Trail, who both promised to send in any material that was passed their way. One of our most enjoyable conversations was held with Lt-Col John McEwing who had driven up from Spokane to see all his friends from Vancouver and take in the Games as well.

After a full day's competition, a ceilidh was held at the Terra Nova Hotel commencing about 9:00 p.m. Continuing through to the wee hours of the morning, it included singing, dancing, piping, drumming (and drinking) and was, undoubtedly, the success of the entire weekend. We left for home Monday morning after the Ceilidh and arrived in Vancouver about 11:30 a.m. (exhausted).

All in all, a very enjoyable weekend of piping in Trail. However, as representatives of the B.C. Pipers' Association we think it only reasonable that competitions held within the boundaries of B. C. should adopt the rules and regulations of this Association and the Western Pipe Band Association.

Angus MacPherson
Colin Abel.

