B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

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MAY, 1963. No. 38.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAGPIPE MUSIC

AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PIPE PLAYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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MAY, 1963. CONTENTS No. 38.

ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 26th, 1963.

This year's Annual Meeting was held on Friday, April 26th. The evening was fine, the attendance was unusually large, and the interest and enthusiasm was much in evidence.

C.I. Walker, President, made a few observations concerning the activities of the past year, and recommended certain projects and policies to be considered by the new Executive.

The Secretary Wm. McAdie, in the absence of the Treasurer, Al Baillie, gave an interim financial report.

Donald Urquhart, on behalf of the Trustees, gave the Trustees' Report, which was duly adopted.

After the reports, a brief adjournment was held, enabling the members to ensure their current dues were paid, so that they would be eligible to vote in the coming elections.

The results of the elections were as follows:

President:	Ian MacDougall
Vice President:	Norma Nicholson
Secretary:	Wm. A. McAdie
Treasurer:	Georgina MacPhail
Directors:.	Tom Binnie Albert Duncan Charles Irvine Roderick MacVicar Alex Reid Ian Walker Robert Young
Auditors:	J.T. McHardy Al. Baillie

Following the elections, a vote of thanks was given to Ian Walker, retiring after four years as President of the Association.

On adjournment, Harry Mumford's fine-going pipes got a good workout, and the band room of the Seaforth Armoury was ringing with piping until almost midnight.

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MESSAGE FROM IAN MACDOUGALL, PRESIDENT.

It is indeed a great pleasure at this time for me to express my feelings on becoming President of the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

Although a member for a fairly short time, I have found great delight in associating with the membership. I shall endeavour in the forthcoming year to fulfill the obligations that have been bestowed upon me, and I shall encourage our goal of the betterment and advancement of the Piob Mhor in British Columbia, and in adjoining areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members for their support, and would personally congratulate the new Officers and Board Members.

- Ian MacDougall -

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PROFILE OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT:

We know that our readers would be interested at this time to learn a little about our new President, Ian MacDougall. One of the youngest persons elected to this office, Ian has had considerable experience in piping activities and is a member of a distinguished piping family.

Born in Vernon, B.C., Ian lived in the Interior until he was eleven, when he moved to Cloverdale. He started piping in 1947 under his uncle, Alex Ferguson, present Pipe Major of the St. Andrew's Pipe Band, White Rock.

Piping must surely be in the blood of Ian MacDougal, since his grandfather, Donald Ferguson, and two great uncles, Archie and William Ferguson were accomplished performers. Archie and William both served as Pipe Majors in the Argyll & Sutherland 'Pipe Bands during World War I. While Archie Ferguson was stationed in India, he began teaching the pipes to Ghurka troops. A composer of considerable talent, he composed among other tunes "MacLean of Pennycross".

Ian began competing in 1949, and had considerable success in competition, being a winner of the McIvor Memorial Trophy in 1951. He has had considerable band experience, having served at various times in the Fraser Valley Pipe Band, the band of the Royal Canadian Engineers, the Irish Fusiliers, and since 1958, the Vancouver City Pipe Band. He first competed in the Open Class in 1960.

We know that you will all wish Ian MacDougall success for the coming year.

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Bagpipes - Reeds - Clan Crests - Scottish Novelties

JOHN WILSON'S REPORT OF 1963 ANNUAL GATHERING:

I was pleasantly surprized when I received from the B.C. Pipers' Association an invitation to judge once again at their Annual Gathering. (the Thirty-First). I promptly accepted, for I had enjoyed my visit last year, and had been favourably impressed by the organization of the competitions, and by the quality of the playing. As I was expected to give selections at the Piping Ceilidh on the Thursday night before the Gathering, I laid down for myself a practice schedule which I rigidly adhered to, and I also took great care to get my pipe in the best possible condition for playing. All my plans nearly came to nothing, for I contracted a touch of influenza about ten days before my trip but luckily it cleared up fast.

It was a beautiful sunny afternoon when my plane took off from Malton airport at 3:50 p.m. Transportation for me was supplied through courtesy of Trans-Canada Air Lines, and I travelled first class by DC-8 jet airlines. The flight west was mainly in daylight and the visibility was very good. There was one stop at Edmonton for about 30 minutes. We arrived at Vancouver just after 7:00 p.m., P.S.T., after a most comfortable and enjoyable flight. I was met by Ian Walker, President of the B.C. Pipers' Association, and by Wm. McAdie, the Secretary. On the way to the Seaforth Armoury we stopped at the Hotel where a few of the Powell River boys were staying, and I had a wash-up and light refreshment. Then on to the Armoury, where the audience was waiting patiently in the band-room. I soon had the Piob Mor in good trim and the evening of piping selections commenced. I was very pleased to meet James MacColl for the first time, and I asked him to try my pipe, and, if it suited him, to give us a few tunes. This he did and he delighted everyone with his fine playing. Dave Westie also gave a selection, but my pipe was too strong for him. Later on, Jim MacMillan favoured the company with a few tunes, and I was pleased to hear that his fingers were in good form. It was mid-night when we finished and everyone seemed highly pleased with the entertainment.

I stayed again this year with James and Lena MacMillan, and, Friday, being a lovely day, Jimmie drove me first to Burnaby Mountain Park where the view from the top was really magnificent, and where the crocuses were in full bloom. Then down town where we paid a visit to P.M. John McHardy's fine shop in Seymour Street. After lunch we visited Stanley Park, a visit which I enjoyed greatly. I retired to bed early in order to be fresh and alert for the long day ahead of me.

Saturday morning was bright and sunny and we arrived at the Seaforth Armoury a few minutes after nine o'clock. The short leets were under way, judged by P.M. Donald MacKenzie, and I started with the Junior Amateur Piobaireachd competition at 9:30 a.m. Here are the results and points, and my remarks on the various events:-

Junior Amateur Piobaireachd: (3 competed)

1. Bruce Topp The MacFarlane's Gathering
2. Theresa MacInnes Lament for Sir Jas. MacDonald of the Isles
3. Robert MacDonald Lament for the Earl of Antrim

Bruce Topp played fairly well on a good pipe. He had a few little squeaks in the Urlar D'g, a little mistake in the 1st line, and also the 2nd line of the Taorluath D'g, and he missed a few gracenotes and made some indistinct gracenotes.

Theresa MacInnes had a good pipe too. The ground of her tune was very jerky. In the Crunluath movement she played a G gracenote on the first note after each Crunluath movement.

Robert MacDonald got through the ground and theCrunluath D'g correctly. In all the other variations he was more or less badly off. This boy's mind was obviously on other things. His pipe was o.k.

Amateur Piobaireachd: (7 competed)

1. Bill Elder I got a kiss of the King's Hand
2. David Ireland Dorald of Laggan
3. William Paterson Donald of Laggan

Poor playing in this competition.

Bill Elder had a good pipe, but the drones were out a little at the start and went further out. His expression was poor in the Urlar and jerky in the rest of the tune. He had at least 5 chokes and went wrong in the 1st line of the D'g of Var. 1.

David Ireland had a fairly good pipe. In the Urlar he made all the strikes on D with one finger. He went off in the 2nd line of the Taorluath S'g and made slips in the 3rd line. He had a choke in the 1st line of the Crunluath S'g and went off in the 1st line of the Crunluath D'g.

William Paterson had a good pipe. His drones started to go off in the D'g of the Taorluath. He had a choke in the 1st line of the Taorluath S'g. In the Crunluath S'g 1st line he had a choke and played a D for an A in the repeat. He went off in the 2nd and 3rd lines, and off again in the 3rd line of the D'g. I notice I have "expression poor" marked against the Taorluath D'g.

Ian Walker had a good pipe. His drones were going out a little at the Taorluath S'g. He went off in the very first line of the Urlar and again in the 2nd line. In the Taorluath D'g and Crunluath D'g he went off in the 2nd and 3rd lines. Considering his many other duties, it says a lot for Ian Walker that he finds time to practice and to show a good example to others by competing.

Gordon Ross played on a good pipe. He had a slight miss at the start of the first line of the Urlar, and went off a little in the 2nd line. He then all played all the variations correctly until the Taorluath when he made about 6 chokes, and stopped playing at the end of the 3rd line. He said he felt sick and I felt very sorry for him. I know how nervousness can effect one.

Harry Mumford had a fair pipe, but the drones went out just after the Urlar. He missed a whole line of Var. 1, and in the D'g played a line extra. He also played an extra line in the Taorluath S'g and F's instead of high A's. He also left out the last Crunluath of the tune.

Larry Gillott had a good pipe but drones a little out. He went off in the 2nd line of the Urlar and the 2nd line of Var. 1, and then broke down.

Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs (2 competed)

1. John MacKay	Loch Monar	83 points
2. J.W. Clarke	Loch Rannoch	70 "

John MacKay played quite nicely but the last phrase of each line wasn't properly expressed. Drones out a little.

J.W. Clarke had a very sharp top hand and his playing wasn't very accurate.

Novice Marches: Finals (5 competed in short leet)

1. Iola Peace	Donald MacLeans Farewell to Oban	83 points
2. Janice Taylor	P.M. Sam Scott	79 "
3. Ian MacInnes	Scotland the Brave	77 "
Bill Grout	Highland Wedding	68 "
Robert Jennings	Lady Lever Park	64 "

Iola Peace played very nicely on a very good and well tuned pipe.

Janice Taylor's playing was too pointed. Pipe Good.

Ian MacInnes played very correctly on a good pipe. One choke.

Bill Grout played 4th part 3 times and was too jerky. Fair pipe.

Robert Jennings played 2nd part 3 times and went off in 4th part, and had a lot of squeals. Pipe fair.

Juvenile Marches: (15 played)

1. Stephen Geddes	Dug. MacColl's Farewell to France	88 points
2. Colin Stewart	Lord Alexander Kennedy	87½ "
3. Barbara MacArthur	Glen Caladh Castle	87 "
4. James Penner	John MacFadyen's Farewell to Melfort	85 "

Wm. Heaton	Bonnie Anne	84½ points
Doug Graham	Stirlingshire Militia	84 "
Raymond Irvine	MacLean of Pennycross	83½ "
Kelly Hagen	Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban	80 "
Scott Marshall	Balmoral Highlanders	80 "
Gordon Hardy	Glengarry Gathering	77 "
Laurie McIlvena	Chas. Edward Hope Vere	75 "
David Irvine	74th's Farewell to Edinburgh	75 "
Greg Marshall	Donald Cameron	74 "
Donald MacMillan	Abercairney Highlanders	74 "
Gary McBride	Leaving Glenurquhart	72 "

This was a first class competition with some excellent playing and some very good instruments. I will confine my remarks to faults which should be corrected.

Gary McBride kept his little finger on while playing E. He went off in the 3rd part.

Gordon Hardy played 1st part 3 times.

Laurie McIlvena went off in 4th part. Had chokes and squeaks.

Donald MacMillan kept little finger on when sounding high G.

Greg Marshall kept little finger on when sounding high G & E.

Others had chokes, squeals, and/or drones out of tune. Five failed to get 20 points for execution.

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels: - Finals (6 played)

1.	Barbara MacArthur - Shepherd's Crook & Sandy Cameron	84 points
2.	James Penner - Dornie Ferry & Rejected Suitor	82 "
3.	Stephen Geddes - Cameronian Rant & Sheep Wife	80 "
4.	David Irvine - Dora MacLeod & Lord MacDonald	77 "
	Colin Stewart - Struan Robertson & Reel of Tulloch	76
	Scott Marshall - Maggie Cameron & Rejected Suitor	broke down

A very good event, although not as high standard of playing as in the March contest.

Stephen Geddes kept his B finger up when it should have been down in 1st part of Strathspey and 1st and 3rd parts of Reel, and G finger on in 3rd part of Strathspey.

Junior Amateur Marches (8 completed)

1. John MacLeod	The Duke of Roxburgh's Farewell	91 points
2. Michael MacInnes	Donald MacLean	90 "
3. Robert MacDonald	Argyllshire Gathering	89½ "

Bruce Topp	Hills of South Uist	88 points
Theresa MacInnes	P.M. Geo. Ross's Farewell	87 "
Sherea Barwell	Brig. Gen. Ron. Cheape	86 "
Scott Glabus	Lord Alexander Kennedy	82 "
Bruce McRae	Chas. Edward Hope Vere	81 "

Some excellent playing and fine going pipes in this event. Lowest points for execution - 23, for expression-23, for tone & tuning - 15, and Sherea Barwell played so slowly that I gave her 13 for time. She could easily play a bit faster for she has good execution.

Junior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels (8 competed)

1. Michael MacInnes	Arniston Castle & Alex MacGregor	84 points
2. Sherea Barwell	Maggie Cameron & Sandy Cameron	83 "
3. John MacLeod	Caledonian Society & Mrs. Macpherson	82½ "
Robt. MacDonald	Dora MacLeod & John Morrison	82 "
Scott Glabus	Islay Ball & Major Manson	81 "
Bruce Topp	Cameronian Rant & Sheep Wife	80 "
Bruce McRae	Arniston Castle & Alex MacGregor	75 "
Theresa MacInnes	broke down	-

Standard not so high as in the March contest.

John MacLeod had his D finger up when it shouldn't have been, in 1st and 2nd parts of Strathspey.

Robt. MacDonald went off in the 4th part of the Strathspey.

Bruce Topp had B's and D's up when they shouldn't have been in the 3rd and 5th parts of Reel.

Scott Glabus and Bruce McRae were behind in execution, expression and tone & tuning.

Quartette Competition (Junior) (6 competed)

1. Kiwanis Boys' (W. Elder) -	Bonnie Ann, Caber Feidh, John Morrison	(70 possible) 65 points
2. Optimists' Junior (S. Marshall) -	Highland Wedding, Caledonian Canal, Rej. Suitor	62½ "
3. Kiwanis Boys((D. Graham) -	MacLean of Pennycross, Dora MacLeod, Caber Feidh	61 "
Kiwanis Boys'(B. McRae) -	Abercairny Highlanders, Arniston Castle, A. MacGregor	57 "
Vancouver Ladie (MacArthur)-	Dugald MacColl, Highland Harry, Duncan Lamont	56 "
Seaforth Cadets(MacLeod)-	Lady Lever Park, Dorrotor Bridge, Dog's Ferry	55 "

The winner was a clear winner. Superior execution and tone told the tale.

Kiwanis (McRae) were a bit ragged all through.

Vancouver Ladies went off in 3rd part of March and had 3 squeals.

Seaforth Cadets went off badly in 4th part of March.

Amateur Marches - Finals (6 competed)

1.	Peggy Gillies	Highland Wedding	90½ points
2.	Bill Elder	Highland Wedding	84 "
3.	Alan MacLeod	Lady Lever Park	83 "
4.	Gordon Ross	Lord Alexander Kennedy	81 "
	Bill Forrest	Leaving Glenurquhart	80 "
	Angus MacLellan	Marchioness of Tullibardine	79 "

Another good event with Peggy Gillies an easy winner by virtue of superior execution, expression, and tone and tuning.

Gordon Ross had a very bad F which lost him a lot of points. He also had 2 chokes.

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels - Finals (5 competed)

1.	Peggy Gillies	Betty Strathearn & Sandy Cameron	87½ points
2.	Gordon Ross	Cam. Rant & Sheep Wife	85½ "
3.	Alan MacLeod	Highland Harry & Over the Isles	81 "
4.	Karen Ruddick	Arniston Castle & The Flaggon	76 "
	Bill Elder	Arniston Castle & Alex MacGregor	75 "

Peggy Gillies again played well and with fine expression. She had a little slip in the last part of the Strathspey and another in the 2nd part of the Reel. Pipe very good.

Gordon Ross was ahead in execution by 1½ points, but had 1 point less for expression and 2½ points less for tone and tuning.

Alan MacLeod had slips in the 3rd and 4th parts of Strathspey.

Karen Ruddick was behind in execution, expression, tone & tuning.

Bill Elder played 1st part of Strathspey once (4 bars only)

Open Piobaireachd (2 competed)

1.	Jas MacColl, Los Angeles	In Praise of Marion	90 points
2.	Albert Duncan	The Park Piobaireachd(#2)	70 "

James MacColl gave a splendid performance. His pipe was sweet and true and in perfect tune until the Crunluath, when the drones went out a little. The singlings of Taorluath and Crunluath were too fast; practically the same tempo as the doublings.

Albert Duncan made a good attempt until the Crunluath variations, where he went off quite a bit. Drones out at start.

Old Highland Airs - Vets. 60 & Over (1 competed)

1. Seb Nellies played "My Home" very well on a good pipe.

Open Marches: (8 competed)

1.	James MacColl	Arthur Bignold	92 points
2.	James Yardley	Duchess of Edinburgh	91½ "
3.	John MacKenzie	74th's Farewell to Edinburgh	91 "
	Angus Graham	Argyllshire Gathering	90½ "
	Albert Duncan	Donald Cameron	90 "
	Raemarie MacInnes	Mrs. John MacColl	89½ "
	Norma Nicholson	Stirlingshire Militia	88 "
	Ian MacDougall	Maj. Wright's Farewell etc.	84½ "

This was a close and most enjoyable contest. Only ½ point separated 6 of the competitors in execution and expression, and there was only 1½ points difference in tone and tuning over the whole 8.

Quartette Competition (Senior) (6 competed)

1.	Powell River (Taylor)	Young MacGregor March, Caledonian Society, Loch Carron	67 points
2.	Powell River (Westie)	MacLean of Pennycross, Inverary Castle, Sheep Wife	66½ "
3.	Vancouver Ladies	Dugald MacColl, Caledonian Society, Sandy Cameron	66 "
	Vancouver Police	Maj. Byng Wright, Arniston Castle, Loch Carron	65½ "
	Seaforth Highlanders	Balmoral Highlanders, Struan Robertson, Alex MacGregor	62 "
	Washington Scottish	P M. John Stewart, Dorrotor Bridge, Rejected Suitor	60 "

The winning quartette played very well. Drones were out a little.

The 2nd place quartette had slightly better tone but a slip in the 2nd part of the strathspey and another slip in the 4th part of the reel could not be ignored.

The Vancouver Ladies were splended. Drones were out a bit.

The Seaforths were a little ragged in their playing and too fast in the strathspey and reel. Tone not so good.

Washington Scottish were a little ragged in the march, and a bit laboured in the reel. Drones were out quite a bit.

Open Strathspeys and Reels: (5 competed)

1.	James Yardley	Cameronian Rant & Sheep Wife	92 points
2.	James MacColl	Cameronian Rant & Mrs. Macpherson	91½ "
3.	Albert Duncan	Struan Robertson & Rejected Suitor	86½ "
	John MacKenzie	Maggie Cameron & Sandy Cameron	85 "
	Ian MacDougall	broke down in 3rd part of reel	

Two excellent performances.

Miniature Pipe Band Competition: (5 competed)

		piping points - total 70	total
1.	Powell River	67	90
2.	Seaforth Cadets	64	85 3/4
3.	Vancouver Ladies	64½	85 1/4
	Seaforth Highlanders	63½	
	Kiwanis Boys	58	

Vancouver Ladies, Seaforths and Kiwanis all lost 1 point for time, because they all played the strathspey much too fast.

Open Jigs: (5 competed)

1.	James Yardley	Marjorie Lowe	91½ points
2.	James MacColl	Alex MacDonald	91 "
3.	John MacKenzie	The Goat Herd	88 "
	Albert Duncan	The Irish Washerwoman	85 "
	Ian MacDougall	Paddy's Leather Breeches	82 "

Very good playing and excellent pipes.

The first competition started at 9:30 a.m. and the last finished at 11:25 p.m.. On the front of the Official Programme it states 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., so the timing was rather amazing. I hadn't to wait one second for a competitor so the proceedings never lagged, and interest was maintained during the whole day.

I proceeded upstairs to the Bar for a much needed refreshment, and had a little talk with Jas. Yardley, whom I hadn't met before, but had heard about from Chris. Anderson. I also enjoyed Ed Esson's hospitality.

The MacMillans and I paid a short visit to the Nicholsons before we went home to Burns Street. Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Nicholson are known for their kindness and for their hospitality. The fun was just starting when we had to leave.

Only a few hours in bed, then up again. Another glorious day. At the airport we met Ian Walker, President of the Association, and shortly after I regretfully bade good-bye to him and to Lena and Jim MacMillan.

I didn't get a view of the Rockies last year, but this time Dame Nature had decided to roll back her curtain of cloud, and to disclose a scene of grandeur and magnificance. In the brilliant sunshine hundreds of snow sprinkled peaks were spread below us, each with its little white cap of cloud, and long arms of deep blue water wound their way among the feet of the mountains. Farther on, the view became obscured by cloud, but as soon as the Rockies were left behind, the clouds disappeared and the view was unlimited. There was a stop at Winnipeg for 30 minutes, then on to Malton. Altogether a most enjoyable flight and a fitting climax to a wonderful visit. I saw Vancouver at its best in brilliant sunshine, and I certainly was impressed. I met old friends, and also new ones. I was especially pleased to meet and hear James MacColl and James Yardley, and I think they are both excellent pipers, and real nice guys as well.

- John Wilson -

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - APRIL 19th, 1963.

The Bi-Monthly Competitions, held on Friday, April 19th, 1963, appeared to be in competition to the Tibetan Fair being set up in the main body of the Seaforth Armoury, but notwithstanding the confusion prevailing throughout the premises, our events were again successful.

George Allan was the judge for the evening, and chose the following prize-winners:

Novice Strathspeys and Reels:
1. Don Smith 2. Robin Woods 3. Jean Jarvis 4. Heather McBride
5. Bruce Holmgren 6. Georgina Lamont

Juvenile 6/8 Marches:
1. Raymond Irvine 2. Laurie McIlvena 3. David Irvine
4. Douglas Graham

Junior Jigs:
1. Bob MacDonald 2. John MacLeod 3. Bruce Topp

Amateur Marches:
1. Bill Elder

Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs:
1. Wm. Paterson (Bellingham) 2. Jack Flancher (Bellingham)
3. Jack MacKay

The final Bi-Monthly Competitions of this season will be held on June 8th, and the following classes will be held:

Novice Marches
Juvenile Jigs
Junior Marches
Amatuer Old Highland Airs
Senior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels

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CAMERONS GET PIPE MAJOR: (from "Aberdeen Press and Journal" March 8, 1963)

Pipe Major John Burgess (29),formerly of the Edinburgh City Police, has been appointed Pipe Major of the 4th/5th Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (T.A.), Inverness. A gold medallist, Pipe Major Burgess first joined the Cameron's as a regular soldier in 1952.

His first appearance with the pipes and drums of the Cameron's will be at the King's House Hotel, Glencoe, tomorrow after the Army skiing championships.

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FROM PIPE MAJOR JOHN ROBERTSON'S SCRAPBOOK:

ANGUS MACKAY AND PIOBAIREACHD:

(To the Editor of the Oban Times) Lochnagar, Edinburgh,
February 12, 1937.

Sir - Mr. Macpherson calls it my "Autobiography" when I give him facts, and I know he does not like that. He speaks of my "tree", and I am not ashamed of it. In this respect I am not alone. Mr. Macpherson has got a "tree", also, but the plums have fallen off.

Mr. Macpherson would have the readers of the Oban Times to believe that in becoming piper to Abercairny I got his cast off clothes. One of the conditions of service at Abercairny was that the piper must play a piobaireachd every evening. My master was a connoisseur in Ceol Mor. The Taorluath and Crunluath were his favourite variations, and they had to be played correctly, as did the MacCrimmons and all the old masters of the art. I could do that, and did it.

Mr. Macpherson draws my attention to a pipe tune which appeared in the Oban Times. Let me tell him there is not a tune nor a word that escapes my eye in the Oban Times. There is no need to draw his friend into the matter at all. I can form my own opinion of the tune, and I leave the rest of the readers of the Oban Times to do the same, other than to say there is no Taorluath movement in it.

Mr. Macpherson call in the Piobaireachd Society to his aid. Why? They will not help him out of the difficulty in which he finds himself.

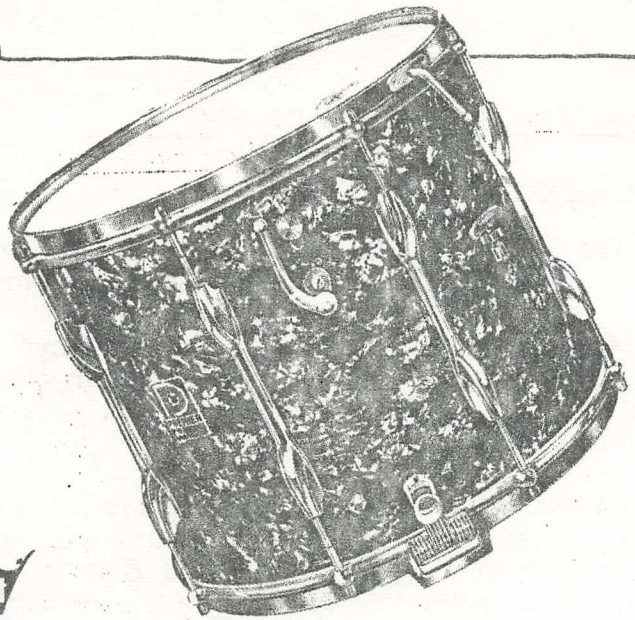
Angus MacKay was a piper of the very highest rank, and Her Majesty Queen Victoria honoured him by appointing him as her personal piper. He not only collected and preserved all the piobaireachd which we possess, he wrote them correctly. He had a perfect knowledge of the theory of music, and was a composer of a very high order.

If we are to compare MacKay with this family of Macphersons of which my opponent speaks, what then? We have not a note to play, nor a word to guide the perplexed piper from Mr. Macpherson or his forefathers. Had it not been for Angus MacKay we would have had no piobaireachd today. Mr. Macpherson say "when he (Mr. Grant) can emulate the record held by the family from whom I am descended he will then be in a position to write with authority."

In conclusion let me tell Mr. Macpherson that I do not stand on the ruins of departed glory, and boast of what my father did, but I lay before him the challenge (or more autobiography if he cares) that when he creates the record which I hold he will not only be able to write with authority, but have the necessary ability and knowledge to stand on his own.

- John Grant -

- O -



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CLASS A	1st.	Worcester Kiltie Pipe Band
	2nd.	City of Toronto Pipe Band
	3rd.	48th. Highlanders of Canada
	4th.	Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders
CLASS B	1st.	Clan MacFarlane Pipe Band

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LETTER FROM RODERICK MACLEOD:

Have our readers seen the last "Readers' Digest"? There's a story "Scotland is a state of mind", and in it an excellent tenor singer in an Edinburgh pub, is said to have burst into a most pleasing aria from "Pagliacci".

"Outside wi' that" said the proprietor, "We tolerate no singing here".

Just as the poor fellow stopped, a piper entered playing "The Cock of the North", and the proprietor right away poured him a drink.

The singer, of course, asked the proprietor why, if he allowed one kind of music, he would not allow another.

Said our dear friend the proprietor: "piping is no just music. It is a national sentiment". (I only hope he poured a good drink for himself after that.

You will see by the cutting I enclose that Princess Alexandra thinks the same as the proprietor:

> "Princess Alexandra's five-foot 130 pound wedding cake is decorated with five sets of icing bagpipes in her Scottish fiance's family tartan,it was announced Friday.
> The Princess, who marries Angus Ogilvy in Westminster Abbey Wednesday, asked especially that the bagpipes be put around the bottom of the three-tiered cake. They are set against a background of interlaced white satin ribbon."

- Your auld acquaintance -
Rod MacLeod
(The man wi' the sticks)

- 0 -

FOR SALE:

Large Argyll & Sutherland Kilt (box pleat)

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- 0 -

LATEST RELEASE

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Ceol. Mor.	OLD WOMAN'S LULLABY
Slow March:	LAMENT FOR THE OLD REEDMAKERS
6/8 March:	THE JUDGING WAS BAD HOLYROOD PARK
Hornpipe:	BOBBIE CUTHBERTSON COLIN MacKAY
2/4 March:	THE BRAES O' BADENOCH
Strathspey:	CAPT. DUNCAN McGREGOR
Reel:	TOM KETTLES
Jig:	PADRUIG OG THE LOCH NESS MONSTER JOHN GRIEVE

BELLINGHAM HIGHLAND GAMES: JUNE 22nd.

On June 22nd, 1963, commencing at 12:00 sharp, and continuing on through the day until 9:00 p.m., with no break, the 3rd Annual Highland Games will be held in Bellimgham, Washington.

We hope that this year will be favourable looked on by our friend "Sol" since last year he tried to freeze everyone off of the field. But we are two weeks later and feel that we have a much better chance of warm weather. This third games will have a far better arrangement for both competitors and spectators, since we are holding the games at the new Bellingham $50,000.00 Civic Stadium, located just off of the freeway going south --- we can even boast of heated dressing rooms - not that we will need them.

The reasons for the evening ending for our games are the same as last year - a farm area where people can attend evening functions and not day ones, and then of course our Ceilidh that seems to have gained such favor, this year will be held at the Eagles Hall, 1125 No. Forest (right in town) starting directly after the games and continuing until everyone has his fill of the free crab and has got out of their system all the wrong judging that went on during the day. It's just a get-together with nothing elaborate planned, and we hope to see a lot of new faces this year.

We are striving to better ourggames, and feel that one way to do this is to add events of interests to both the competitors and the spectators. For this reason we have added Athletic Events, to be looked after by the A.A.U., and a drumming competition open to all drummers. As of this date, the classifications have not been set up, but we believe that there will a senior and a junior drumming class. Drum Major George Pryde, of Powell River, will be the judge of this event, and we sincerely hope that it will prove of interest to many.

Hope that you will all be with us, for we need you all for a successful 1963 Highland Games.

- Isla Paterson -
Secretary Treasurer
Bellingham Highland Games

- 0 -

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
TO THE NEWSLETTER

VANCOUVER ISLAND PIPERS' SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET:

The Vancouver Island Pipers' Society can look back on its Annual Banquet, held in the Colonial Inn, Victoria, on April 6th, with no small satisfaction. Attendance was good.

After "Brose and Butter" on the pipes, and a hearty dinner, the tables were cleared, and the programme got under way. This was smoothly run off under the direction of President Peter George. All Scottish, it might have been staged in Inverness or Aberdeen. A party of pipers from the Canadian Scottish Regiment, under Pipe Major F.E. Knight, were loudly applauded for smart appearance, and good playing.

An exhibition of Highland dancing by pupils of Adeline Duncan, to the pipes of Gordon Ross, was also warmly received. Then, too, there was the fine singing of Georgina Harper, and the masterly concertina playing by Mr. W.S.N. Glover.

Competition among pipers was "softpedalled" this year, except for the over 60 class. The standard of playing was good, the honours again going to William MacGregor. Pipers are often durable chiels!

It was "up and gie them a blaw" for many of the company. The twelve year old lad, Stephen Geddes, earned special recognition for his capable playing.

The gathering was honoured by the attendance of Colonel M.W.E. Allen, of the Canadian Scottish Regiment, and his lady. Another welcome guest was Colonel Walter Bapty, formerly of the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Scottish, a lover of the pipes.

It is gratifying to have assurance from this happy event that piping in Victoria continues very much to the fore. To conclude on a materialistic but important note, the Society's Exchequer suffered nothing from "The Wee Spree", so that we enjoy, as Burns had it, "the glorious privilege of being independent".

- James A. Berry -
Secretary-Treasurer
Vancouver Island Pipers' Society

- 0 -

NEXT MONTH THE NEWSLETTER WILL CONTAIN AN ORIGINAL
PIOBAIREACHD BY JAMES MACCOLL

MASTER OF A GREAT TRADITION IN PIPING IS HONOURED: (from The Oban Times, March 14, 1963)

A complimentary dinner, organised in the George Hotel, Glasgow, last Friday evening, by the Scottish Pipers' Association, was the occasion of a presentation to Pipe Major Robert Reid in recognition of his lifelong service to piping.

This took the form of a framed scroll bearing the names of every member of the association and in making the presentation Pipe Major Hamish McColl referred to the recipient as the "King of Pipers". Looking around, he said, as there were so many piping stars present he preferred, in fact, to refer to Bobby as the brightest star of all and that the Scottish Pipers' Association wished to recognise Pipe Major Reid's services to piping in this tangible form.

Pipe Major Reid, replying, went on to pay tribute to some outstanding piping personalities of the past who had influenced his life, making particular mention of John MacDougall Gillies, his former teacher.

Hector MacFadyen (Pennyghael) Hon. Pipe Major to the association, and Pipe Major Donald MacLeod then gave a slection including a nameless slow tune from Bobby Reid's own collection together with "The Piper's Delight" "Bonnie Ann", "Lady Mackenzie of Gairloch" and "Mrs. Macpherson of Inveran".

Dr. Kenneth Mackay, Laggan, proposing the toast of the chief guest with great eloquence, said the company was gathered for the express purpose of paying honour to a man counted as one of the greatest masters of piping of our time and that all present were there not only on account of their admiration for the great piper but to show their esteem and affection for the man. Pipe Major Reid's career had been a long, full and satisfactory one and mentioning his successes would be mentioning everything worthwhile in piping. But, more important than these, was the standard attained by him, his dedication and discipline which was as unremitting and demanding as in the case of the great musical artistes who had attained international fame.

"There is no truer amateur, in the true sense of the word, than the professional piper, disciplining and driving himself for the pure love of the music, and that is the standard attained by Pipe Major Reid. He is endowed with certain natural gifts, a critical mind, enormous stamina, rare concentration and fingers of unusual power of quality," said Dr. Makay, before raising his glass to declare: "Pipe Major Reid is one of those who would always be regarded as a master of the great tradition, the piobaireachd. We make grateful mention of your dedicated and devoted service to piping, and thank you for the immense pleasure you have given to countless thousands by your playing."

Proposing the toast of the Scottish Pipers' Association, Mr. Seumas MacNeill, in a racy speech, said that today Glasgow was fast becoming the home of piping, and this was due in no small measure to the work of the association and their encouragement to learners and to young pipers. The proceedings throughout were competently conducted by President John MacFadyen, who made all the introductions and proposed votes of thanks.

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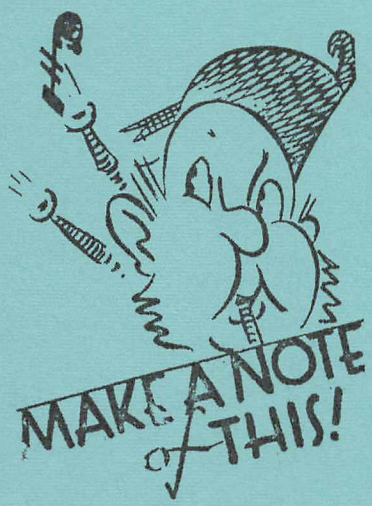

GENERAL MEETING - MAY 31st

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - JUNE 7th