B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

The official monthly publication of the British Columbia Pipers' Association

MAY, 1966. No. 72

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

PRESIDENT:	Roderick MacVicar
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Albert Duncan
SECRETARY:	Ken. McIlvena
TREASURER:	Wm. A. McAdie

B.C. Pipers' NEWSLETTER:

EDITOR:	C. I. Walker
PUBLISHER:	Wm. A. McAdie
COLLATORS:	Donald Urquhart
	Bob McAdie

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MAY, 1966. CONTENTS No. 72

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 29th, 1966:

The Association's Annual General Meeting took place on April 29th, in the Band Room of the Seaforth Armoury. The Association must indeed be in good hands, as evidenced by a poor turnout at this most important meeting.

The President gave a very fine President's Report, copies of which are being sent to all association members. Mr. MacVicar stated that he had enjoyed his year in office, and stated that the time had passed too quickly, and that he had been unable to accomplish some of the things he had hoped to do. He mentioned the chronic problem of attendance - that although we have 124 members (79 Active Members) we have only 12 to 18 members present at the monthly meetings. The Bi-Monthly Competitions have been successful and because of the large entries in the Novice and Juvenile classes, a committee has been set up to study the rearrangement of these classes.The White Heather Concerts in New Westminster and Vancouver, were, as always, a great success, and similar shows will be held in the fall, with a Spring Show planned for 1967. The Charter Flight to Scotland is gradually progressing and Mr. MacVicar urged all members to try to publicize the trip wherever possible. The Annual Gathering, held for the first time at the Exhibition Gardens was successful, with an attendance of 700 persons. The change was considered a worthwhile one, both from the spectators and the performers point of view. The President made special mention of the fine job done by Hector MacFadyen, in judging the huge meet, and giving each competitor an individual adjudication. It was felt that this adjudication was more valuable to the competitor than knowing how he placed in his event. The Annual Dinner was held on March 25th, with an excellent performance given by Mr. MacFadyen. Mr. MacVicar gave thanks to the staff of the Newsletter for their efforts.

Speaking for the future, Rod MacVicar stated that he believed now was the time to consider seriously the acquisition of a pipers' hall. Since Vancouver is becoming a city of apartment dwellers, our association should provide pipers with a place to play, as well as storing a library of music and tapes.

Following the President's Report, Reports were given by the Treasurer, Wm. McAdie, outlining the finances of the year, and by Donald Urquhart, on behalf of the Trustees, reviewing the associations investments.

The results of the election of officers are as follows:

President: Roderick MacVicar (acclamation)

Vice President: Albert Duncan (acclamation)

Directors:

Roderick MacRae	Wm. Lamont
C.I. Walker	Tom Binnie
Wm. McAdie	Robt. Green
John MacLeod	Seb. Nellies
John McHardie	

Auditors: A. Baillie
D. Watson

At the conclusion of the General Meeting the President made a presentation of an engraved cigarette case - lighter to the retiring Secretary Georgina MacPhail. Georgina, who has served the association for many years as a Director and Secretary, has been posted by the Canadian Government to Rome, Italy, for three years. Upon accepting the gift, Miss MacPhail said that she had greatly enjoyed her association with the B.C. Pipers', and although she was very much looking forward to her new assignment, she would miss all her old friends in this part of the world.

A Directors Meeting was held following the General Meeting, the chief order of business being the election of Secretary and Treasurer. Ken McIlvena was elected Secretary for the coming year, and Wm. McAdie was re-elected Treasurer. An Associate Member for several years, Ken has been one of the hard working Stewards at our competitions, and at the summer games. He is the father of Laurie McIlvena, well known in junior competition circles.

Ken McIlvena's address, which will now be the address of the B.C. Pipers' Association is:

2641 Ward Street,
Vancouver 16, B.C.
Tel. HE 1-3621.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - MAY 27th.

The Bi-Monthly Competition, originally scheduled for May 20th, will be held on May 27th.

The events will be Novice Strathspeys and Reels and Junior Marches.

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NORMA NICHOLSON WEDS:

Norma Nicholson, Pipe Major of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band, and winner of practically every trophy awarded for Amateur and Open Piping in the local piping circuit, was wed on April 12th, 1966 to Mr. Donald W. Thompson, of Vancouver. The daughter of Pipe Major and Mrs. Malcolm Nicholson, Norma is one of the outstanding pipers born and trained in Canada, who has also brought great credit to herself, her band and her city, when the Vancouver Ladies visited Scotland in 1964, gaining considerable honours while there.

Norma and her husband, a musician, will settle in Los Angeles, and we wish them both much happiness in the future, and much success in their musical endeavours.

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LETTER REGARDING ALLAN CAMERON MacNAB:

In reference to your article in the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter, in the April issue - "Pipers of the Canadian Forces", the late Allan Cameron MacNab, Past President of the B.C. Pipers' Association, was one of the original pipers of the Canadian Scottish 16th Batt. Previously he served under Pipe Major John Gillies, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. The 16th Battalion was the first to leave Vancouver and served from 1914 - 1918. He was awarded the Military Medal and also the long Service Medal.

I feel that a piper with this record is worthy of a mention with other pipers in the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter.

- Mary I. MacNab -

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BRIGADIER MACLEAN TO RETIRE - THIS WILL BE HIS LAST TATTOO:
(from The Oban Times, April 21,1966)

After 16 years in charge of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Brig. Alasdair Maclean of Pennycross is to retire at the end of this year's festival.

It was in 1950 that Brigadier Maclean staged his first military spectacle on the Castle Esplanade, and since then hundreds of thousands of spectators from all parts of the world have witnessed the tattoo and been enthralled by the playing of the massed pipe bands, the Highland dancing, the precision drill of various service units and all the other military pageantry which has made it a world famous show.

When he first took over the running of the tattoo, which had formerly been staged by Lieut-Col George I Malcolm of Poltalloch, it had been performed largely by units of the British and Commonwealth services but as the years went by and its popularity increased, Brigadier Maclean travelled all over the world in search of new acts and novel items for the show. It is reckoned that in search of last year's items for the tattoo he travelled over 40,000 miles.

His services for staging military shows in other parts of the world were also much in demand and he produced them in the United States, Canada, Australia, Bermuda, Portugal, Denmark, and Malaya.

Brigadier Maclean retired from the Regular Army at the end of 1952 after 32 years' service with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. In 1947 he succeeded his father a chieftain of the Macleans of Pennycross.

Brigadier Maclean is to be entertained at a complimentary dinner in Edinburgh on April 27 in recognition of the contribution of the tattoo to the success of the Edinburgh Festival.

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FAMOUS IRISH BAND GAINS MORE HONOURS:

Robert Rae of Ballycoan Pipe Band, Belfast, Northern Ireland, won the World's Championship Senior Solo for drumming, in the Scottish Pipe Band Association contest in Glasgow, in February. This award, ranking Rae among the greatest in the drumming world, has come to Ireland for the first time. However, prizes come naturally to this famous Irish band, for they have received many awards in Scotland. They finished second on nine occasions in the World Championships for Drum Corps, last year they won the Ulster Senior Championship for the ninth time, and they have won the All-Ireland Championship on six occasions.

Northern Ireland now have two World Champions, as Drum Major Cecil Shaw last year won the Drum Majors' Championship.

Mr. Stanley McBride, now of Vancouver, tells us that his father was responsible for the founding of this famous band in 1935, and has been the Drum Major throughout all the years in the contesting field, until a few years ago, when he retired. However Richard McBride, who is still President of the band, was honoured last year by the Scottish Pipe Band Association, and was made "Chieftain of the Day" at the All-Ireland Championship, in honour of his over forty years service to the pipe band world in Ireland. Stanley McBride was himself one of the first members to join the band in 1935, and was a playing member and secretary of the band until 1948, when he came to Vancouver. His son Gary was formerly Pipe Major of the White Spot Pipe Band, and is now a member of the Seaforth Cadets Pipe Band, having studied under Pipe Major Albert Duncan. Mr. McBride, although not active in any band here in Vancouver, states that you never get the pipes out of your blood.

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GAMES TO BE HELD AT NEW WESTMINSTER AND CHILLIWACK:

Details have been received concerning two extra games to be added to the list printed in last month's Newsletter.

The New Westminster Highland Games, sponsored by the Lord of the Isles Camp No. 191, Sons of Scotland, will be held on Saturday, June 11th, 1966, at Queens Park, New Westminster. All entries should be sent to Mrs. J. McCrae, Games Secretary, 10960 - 86th Ave., North Surrey (tel. 596-3455) on or before June 1st, 1966.

The Fraser Gathering is planned for Wednesday, August 17th, 1966, and will be held in Chilliwack.

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Tom Hammond's programme of Scottish music and news, "Among the Heather", has now a new time - Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Station KARI, 550 kc. Listen for news and entertainment to this programme.

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The CLANSMEN

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Pipes and Chanters by Hardie, Henderson, Grainger and Campbell, Robertson. Long Hose, Tartan and Lovat Hose tops, Dancing shoes.

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We also have received the North American agency for the famous Inverness Cape known as the bandsmen's cape. Can be worn in comfort by all musicians. They are Nylon and wind and rain proof and made specially with holes out for drummers. Tested and proven to be very successful by the 1st and 2nd Battalion Black Watch Regular Army. Deal with the Clansmen with confidence. We guarantee our products. Fast and efficient service. Price lists forwarded upon requests.

ARMY PAYS ITS TRIBUTE TO A FAMOUS PIPE-MAJOR: (from The Oban Times, April 21, 1966)

Probably for the first time in its long history the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle, hung with the weapons and armour of other years, was the setting last Sunday of a memorial service for a piper - the late Pipe-Major William Ross, M.V.O., M.B.E.

Nothing could have been more fitting. As Major-General Frank M. Richardson said in his address, it was particularly appropriate that the Army, for which Willie Ross did so much, should have decided to honour him in that historic place, for he had a place in history; and there they were within earshot of his school and of that wonderfully hospitable and friendly home to which so many of them toiled up the Castle Brae to get their lessons - "and to get so much more than lessons, for we got friendship, encouragement, enthusiasm, and an inspiration which caused us, as it were, to float down the Castle Rock, the steps having more or less disappeared."

All 10 Scottish regiments - the four Highland and four Lowland, the Scots Guards, and the Royal Scots Greys - were represented officially among the congregation of fully 200 who filled the hall to pay their final tribute to one who, as General Richardson said, would never be forgotten so long as piping endured. The military band of the 1st Bn. the Gordon Highlanders led the praise during the service, which was conducted by Rev. Gordon M.R. Bennett, Assistant Chaplain-General, Scottish Command.

General Richardson, outlining Pipe-Major Ross's career, said that in 1919, when the Army School of Piping was transferred from Inverness to Edinburgh Castle, there was only one man in the world who could be thought of to lead it and to take it to great heights, and that was Willie Ross.

"He had a dual allegiance, to the Piobaireachd Society and to the Army," said General Richardson, "and a fortnight ago I visited the president of the Piobaireachd Society, John Graham-Campbell of Shirvan, and he asked me to join his tribute to yours here this afternoon."

No one there would dispute that Willie Ross was, and would remain as long as any of them could foresee, the best-known piper in the world, he went on. "The other day his able successor at the castle, Pipe Major John MacLellan, showed me a reference to an article written by an American who had referred to him (Pipe-Major Ross) as "the world's pipe-major'."

General Richardson spoke of the dignity and charm of the pipe-major's late wife who predeceased him a number of years ago, and of Willie Ross's own directness and simplicity - the simplicity of the truly great master. It was the keynote of his composition, and his playing seemed to pour out without any conscious effort, the mighty frame not even seeming to find the necessity to blow.

He was a prince of story-tellers, and there was never anything cruel or unkind in a Willie Ross story. There was always humour and a twinkling eye, for he loved human beings and was loved by human beings in return.

"He was almost perhaps too gentle with some of us in correcting our faults," General Richardson said. "But you don't rise to a position of being a leader of men, and 'someone' in the Brigade of Guards, by being soft, and there are men here who could testify to the quality of the Guards' discipline with which Willie Ross made his school what it is. It was a kindly discipline, but it was the acceptance that only the best was good enough in the Guards, and only the best would ever be good enough for a product of his school.

"This is not really a sad occasion," the General concluded. "We cannot feel sad. We are remembering a very long and useful and important life, a life which had a profound influence on piping. Those of us who were lucky enough to know him feel happy that we did so, and when we talk of him it is in happiness. So long as piping endures in the world, Willie Ross will never be forgotten.

Just before the National Anthem closed the service, Pipe-Major John MacLellan played the lament "Loch Monar", composed by Pipe Major Ross.

Pipe Major Ross's daughter, Mrs. Bastow, attended the service with her two daughters. The G.O.C. in C. Scottish Command, was represented by Brigadier E.R.D. Snowball. Among others present were: -

General Sir Gordon MacMillan of MacMillan, former Colonel of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and G.O.C. in C. Scottish Command, from 1949-52; Sir George Campbell of Succoth, Bt., honorary secretary and treasurer of the Piobaireachd Society; Major Sir Ronald Orr Ewing, Bt., ex-Scots Guards; Brigadier A.H.C. Swinton, ex-Scots Guards.

Bailie Hugh Macpherson, senior magistrate of Edinburgh; Dr. Kenneth Mackay, Laggan; Mr. Seumas MacNeill and Mr. John MacFadyen, of the College of Piping, Glasgow; Captain D.R. MacLennan, North Berwick; Mr. Neil MacKillop, Perth, British Legion Scotland; and officebearers and members of piping societies, including Mr. Thomas MacCallum, honorary pipe major of the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society; Pipe Major Duncan R. Cameron, honorary pipe major of the Highland Pipers' Society.

Pipe-Major Gordon Asher, vice-president of the Eagle Pipers' Society, and Mrs. Asher; Pipe Major Ronald Ackroyd, chairman of the Eagle Pipers' Society; Captain Ian C. Cameron, Mr. Robert Bruce, Mr. Iain F. MacLaren, Pipe Major George Stoddart, Mr. Gavin Stoddart, Pipe Major Daniel Bryce, Mr. Hugh MacRae, Mr. James MacRae, Mr. Edward Ross, Mr. Andrew J. Ross, Mr. J. Hector Ross, Mr. Calum Macphee, Mr. Hugh Berry, Mr. John Gubbins and Mr. Hugh MacCallum.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - JUNE 3RD.

The final Bi-Monthly competition of the season will be held on June 3rd, and the classes will be Juvenile 6/8 Marches and Open Amateur Piobaireachd.

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CITY CADETS SKIRL WAY TO VICTORY: (from The Vancouver Sun, April 25,1966)

Vancouver's Seaforth Highlanders Cadet Corps skirled their way to a first place finish in pipe band competition Saturday.

They did it on their home grounds, the Seaforth Armoury, 1650 Burrard, as part of a 15 band meet sponsored by the Vancouver Cadets.

This, the fourth annual tri-services cadet band competition, marked the local cadets' contribution to B.C.'s centennial celebrations.

Royal Canadian Navy Cadets from R.C.S.C.C. Fraser, New Westminster, took honours in the brass band classification.

And navy cadets from R.C.S.C.C. Cougar, in Shawnigan Lake, won first prize in the combined bugle and trumpet division.

Originally judges had decided to award separate first place recognition for bugle and trumpet categories. However, the judging committee later decided to lump the two together.

Award for highest second place finish, regardless of category, went to the Queen's Own Rifles army cadet corps of Esquimalt.

Prior to this year's competition, one prize for general excellence was awarded. In all three previous contests, Lonsdale Corps of North Vancouver captured the award.

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DOESN'T BRITISH COLUMBIA HAVE A PIPE BAND ?

We were very much amused to read Jack Wasserman's column in the May 6th edition of the Vancouver Sun, and we know that some of the local piping buffs will be outraged to learn of the indignity played upon us by the misinformed B.C. government tourist bureau.

"In view of the fuss I made over Union Oil's "theft" of Little Mountain to pretty up its advertising of Southern California I hesitate to mention a similar incident - especially something from somebody else. B.C. government tourist bureau is running large ads throughout the rest of Canada with a drawing of a birthday cake and carrying the legend, "It's our bloomin' birthday - This year in British Columbia." Come to think of it, that's a pretty sick way to boost B.B. but that's beside the point. The main illustration in the ad is a large picture of a kilted Scottish pipe band. And does that ever bug the people of Winnipeg because the picture that we're using to sell B.C. actually shows the Winnipeg City Police Pipe Band. Now I can understand California borrowing our beautiful gardens and Manitoba borrowing out that big fish for their tourist promotions. But we have a pipe band! Or three".

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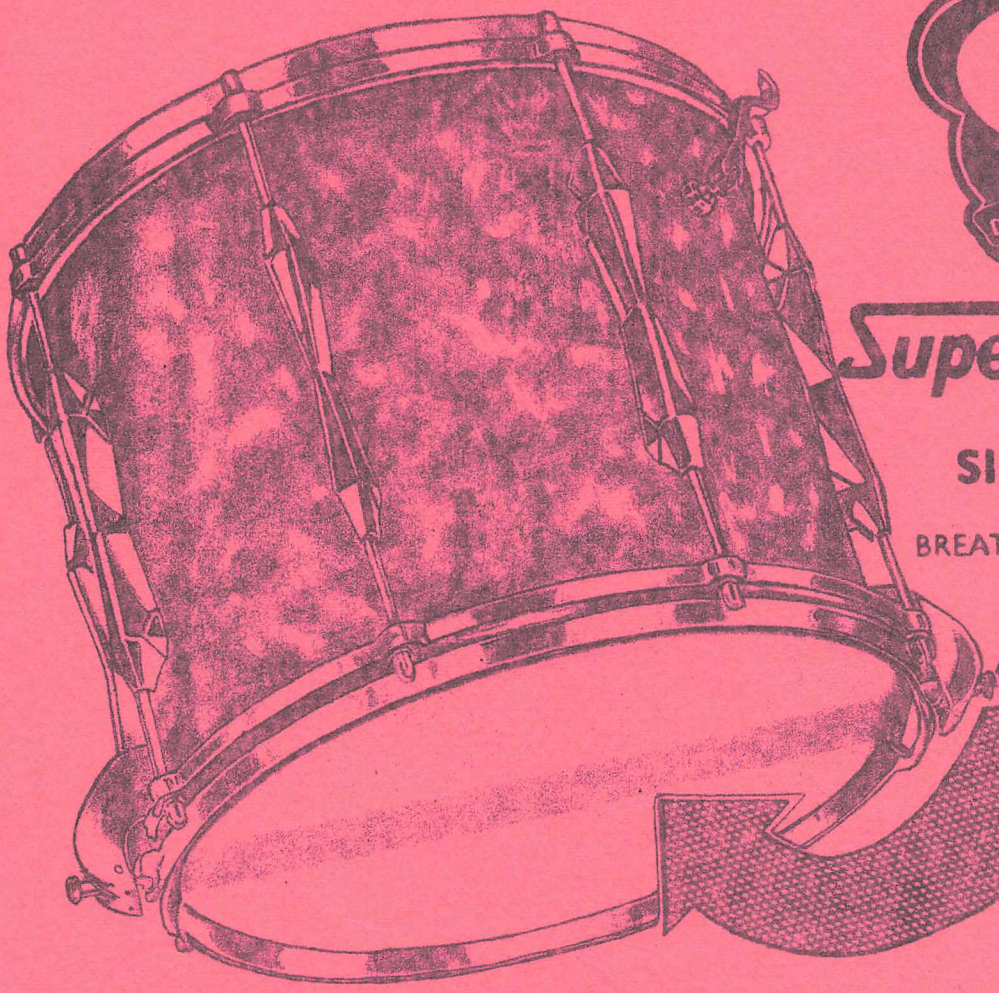

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LETTER FROM JOHN WILSON:

GODERICH INDOOR JUVENILE COMPETITION:

Any doubts I may have had about the quality of our Juvenile Pipers were thoroughly dispelled at Goderick Collegiate on April 23rd. I judged the 16 and under and the 20 and under classes and I was very pleased with the standard of playing in both of them. The prize winners were really excellent, and some of the others had little or no reason to be disappointed, for they played well too, and, I have no doubt, will steadily show improvement. Here are some interesting figures:

March 16 and under:

No. of Competitors	Exec. Pts.	T & T	Total Pts.	
11	(25 or more)	(15 or less)	(90 & over)	(85 & under)
	4	4	3	5
	(24 or less)		(86 - 89)	
	7		3	

March 20 and under

	Exec. Pts.	T & T	Total Pts.	
15	(25 or more)	(15 or less)	(90 & over)	(85 & under)
	10	4	6	2
	(24 or less)		(86 - 89)	
	5		7	

The Quartette competitions brought out 7 contestants in Class "C", 5 in Class "B" and 3 in Class "A". The Class "C" and Class "B" contests proceeded in a normal manner with the playing much as expected. I thought Class "A" would be a simple little contest with only 3 entries, but I received a rude surprise. Goderich # 2 was fairly good and then Clan MacFarlane came on and I sat back expecting to hear something really good. I didn't. Chanters were off; drones sounded as if the pipes had just been taken out of the pipe boxes, and someone kept cutting out for bars at a stretch. I thought it would be a walk-over for Goderich # 1, but I was wrong again. Someone went off the tune in the first part of the March and twice again later. The rest of the performance was very good and the T & T excellent. I had Goderich # 2 first, Goderich # 1 second and Clan MacFarlane third. The other judge, P.M. John Wakefield, placed them in the same order. The combined judges points show that the 1st and 2nd "B" Quartettes received more points than any "A" Quartette. The 2nd and 3rd "B" Quartettes received more points than the 2nd and 3rd "A" Quartettes, and the winning "C" Quartette received more points than the 2nd and 3rd "A" Quartettes. Quite a turn up!

Novice March: (Judge - Duncan Gibson)
1. Martin Wilson, Woodstock (90½ pts) 2. Dennie Tatham, Woodstock (89½ pts) 3. Gary Galbraith, Wanstead (87 pts)

14 & under March: (Judge - P.M. J. Wakefield)
1. Garry Hall, Toronto (95 pts) 2. Roger Salts, Petrolia (94½ pts) 3. Douglas Robertson (94 pts)

14 & under Strathspeys & Reels (Judge - P.M. J. Wakefield)
1. Garry Hall (95½ pts) 2. Douglas Robertson, Woodstock (93½ pts)
3. Gail Brown, Milton (93 pts)

16 & under March:
1. Trudy Campbell, Detroit (95 pts) 2. Bob Worrall (91 pts)
3. John Noble, Detroit (90 pts)

16 & under Strathspeys & Reels:
1. Bob Worrall, Teeswater (94 pts) 2. Trudy Campbell (92 pts)
3. Stewart Crawford, Toronto (91 pts)

20 & under March:
1. James Miller, Goderich (95 ½ pts) 2. James Fryer, Woodstock (95 pts) 3. Robert Hilbert, Hamilton (94 pts)

20 & under Strathspeys & Reels:
1. Robert Hilbert (95.pts) 2. James Fryer (94 pts)
3. Charlie Macdonald, Goderich (93 pts)

"A" Quartettes:
1. Goderich # 2 (125 pts - 61 & 64)
2. Goderich # 1 (121½ pts - 59 & 62½)

"B" Quartettes:
1. St. Andrews (133 pts - 66 & 67)
2. Woodstock # 1 (127 pts - 63 & 64)
3. Woodstock # 2 (122 pts - 61½ & 60½)

"C" Quartettes:
1. Bay City (123 pts - 60 & 63)
2. Forest Legion # 1 (119 pts - 58 & 61)
3. North Easthope (117 pts - 57 & 60)

Trophies:

Novice March:	Martin Wilson
14 & under:	Garry Hall
16 & under:	Trudy Campbell
20 & under:	James Fryer
"A" Quartettes:	Goderich # 2
"B" Quartettes:	St. Andrews
"C" Quartettes:	Bay City

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A GREAT LOSS TO PIPING: (from The Oban Times, March 31,1966)

The greatest piper of his day passed with the death in Edinburgh on March 23 of Pipe - Major William Ross, at the advanced age of 88. He had come back to Edinburgh only recently after a number of years' residence in the South, and one of his last appearances on a public occasion was at a meeting of the Eagle Pipers' Society two or three months ago, when he sat quietly enjoying the music to which he had devoted his life.

No one did more in his time to enhance the status of the bagpipe and its music and he was fortunate in that his gramophone records and broadcasts, even more than the books he published, enabled him to reach the wider audience denied to the masters of earlier days.

Willie Ross was born in Glenstrathfarrar, where his father was head stalker on the Lovat estate, and he had his earliest piping lessons from his mother, an accomplished piper as well as master of several other instruments.

At the age of 10 he played in his first competition and in 1896, at the age of 17 he enlisted in the Scots Guards, and for 17 of his 24 years service in the regiment he was their pipe-major. On retiring from the Guards he became pipe-major of the Lovat Scouts, serving in that capacity for 14 years, and at the same time was appointed official teacher to the Piobaireachd Society and principal of the Army School of Piping at Edinburgh Castle, which the Society were instrumental in establishing as far back as 1908.

It would be hard to know how many prospective pipe majors aspiring to the certificate essential for the rank passed through the school at the Castle, now directed by Pipe-Major John MacLellan. In 1952, when Pipe-Major Ross was presented with a cheque for 2,000 pounds from friends all over the world, Brigadier Alasdair Maclean of Pennycross said that since taking up residence at the Castle Willie Ross had trained no fewer than 1,000 Army pipers.

In addition Pipe-Major Ross had trained countless civilians, among his pupils being the Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales.

As a teacher he was responsible for an undoubted improvement in the standard of playing both in the Army and elsewhere; as a player his competition record was unsurpassed in his time. For four successive years he held the title of champion all-round piper of Scotland. He had won nine clasps to the gold medal for piobaireachd at the Northern Meeting.

King George V awarded him the Royal Victorian Medal in 1910, and in 1945 King George VI invested him as a Member of the Order of the British Empire. While these were honours well deserved, a more distinctive one was the request from King George VI that an air composed by Pipe Major Ross and played in the hearing of the then King and Queen before it had been "christened", should be given the name "Queen Elizabeth".

Pipe Major Ross is survived by his married daughter. His wife died in 1942.

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THE PIPERS AND PIPE BAND SOCIETY OF ONTARIO - 18TH ANNUAL INDOOR GAMES:

by John Wilson

The 18th Annual Indoor Games were held on March 26th, 1966, in Fort York Armouries, Fleet Street, Toronto, before a gratifying attendance. There were large entries for all the piping events and five piping judges were employed. I was given the task of judging the Open March and the Open Strathspey and Reel competitions on the main floor where a nice clean canopy had been erected to improve the accoustics. I decided to allow each competitor to re-tune his Pipe after playing his March and then play his Strathspey and Reel.

The first competitor started at 10:00 a.m. and they kept coming steadily until the last player finished at 1:30 p.m. The standard of playing was very good in both events and the Pipers who figured in the prize lists were very strong in all departments. I could hear each player perfectly, although sometimes, doors left open allowed tuning to interfere to some extent. After lunch I had the opportunity to listen to some of the Class "B" Quartettes, and I was much impressed by the calibre of the youthful members, both girls and boys. Their Pipes sounded very good indeed.

I also had short talks with a few of the Piobaireachd enthusiasts. They were not at all enthusiastic about the Piobaireachd competition. Seemingly only 10 competed out of an entry of two dozen, and there were long intervals between players. Now where have I heard that story before? To top it off, the standard of playing was poor. We must remember, however, that a high standard of playing cannot be expected every time. Even the Argyllshire Gathering, Oban, and the Northern Meeting, Inverness, have lean years when the playing is much below par. I remember one year at the Northern Meeting, Inverness, when both day's competitions were held in the open air in Cathedral Park. The Gold Medal competition had just finished when the late Col. J.P. Grant of Rothimurchas strode up to me and said: "For God's sake, Wilson, will you play a piobaireachd for us: we haven't heard a decent tune all day." I obliged the Colonel, for whom I had a great respect, and managed to give a good performance on an excellent pipe. But now comes the ironic part. The following day was dull and chilly, and when I was right in the middle of my Piobaireachd in the clasp competition, my chanter reed, which had behaved beautifully all summer, suddenly gave up the ghost and went off. I wasn't at all pleased, I can tell you, but then, I thought, it's only a competition after all; no one has been killed or even injured except ego-wise, and we would all live to fight (and compete) another day.

Alex McNeill and I judged the Class "A" Quartettes and we certainly heard some excellent playing from the 16 entrants. Tuning seemed to me to be the weak point. The final tabulation showed three quartettes tied on total points for first place, but when I asked the lady computor how they stood with regard to execution points she replied that if this method was used they were separated and a play off rendered unnecessary. My recommendation to use the execution points was over-ruled because it

wasn't in the rules.

I would like to make it quite clear that when a point of judging arises which isn't covered by the rules, the judges should be consulted and their decision should be final. When judges with years and years of experience of piping and judging can be over-ruled (and by non pipers at that) then the situation is indeed farcical. The play-off by the three quartettes took place around 7:30 p.m. and I don't think anyone likes playing over again at that time. The City of Toronto again played very well and their tuning was better than previously, but the C.G.E. were not as good as they were in the competition proper. As for the Goderich foursome; well, it was awful, to be perfectly candid, and hardly recognisable as the same quartette which played so brilliantly earlier on.

Supperless, and pleasantly tired, I drove home with two old friends and over a few drinks, talked Pipers and Piping 'till after midnight.

Here are Alex McNeill's comments on the Piobaireachd competition.

Out of 23 entries, 10 competed, seven scratched out, and other seven got lost in the Armouries.

Chris Anderson played first. Tune "The Bells of Perth". He seemed to rush Var. 1 a little, also had a choke Taorluath, and chanter out a little on top. Execution was good as usual. 93 pts.

R. Henderson played Corrienessan's Salute but broke down.

D. Martin played "Earl of Antrim". Fingered the tune well, but drones were out badly. Miss in Taorluath. 90 pts.

H. Workman played "MacLeod of MacLeod's Lament". He expressed and fingered this tune very well; good pipes, but had a couple of chokes. 91½ pts.

John Goodenow, played "The Battle of the Pass of Creiff". Pipes were excellent all through, also tuning and execution. 94 pts.

J. Fryer (The Wee Spree) wrong timing of Var. 1, also choke (89 Pts.)

R. Eller (Tulloch Ard) Broke down.

Stewart Crawford (The Sound of the Waves) This boy played very well (88 pts.) Good timing and very good executiong but his chanter was terrible, to say the least. The "F" was all out of proportion. With a good instrument, this boy would have been farther up the list.

There was a ridiculous delay between competitors; sometimes intervals of three quarters of an hour. I should have grought my reed making equipment along with me and passed the time between contestants.

Alex McNeill

Well! I will not add one single word to that. J.W.

No. of individuals in piping - 156
" " drumming 17
Quartettes 33

Open Piobaireachd (Judge - A. McNeill) 10 competitors.
1. J. Goodenow (94 pts) 2. C. Anderson (93 pts)
3. H. Workman (91½ pts) 4. D. Martin (90 pts)

Open Drumming (Judge - G. Clark) 6 competitors
1. W. Jarvis (96 pts) 2. N. Nash (95 pts) 3. F. Fisher (94 pts)

Drumming 17 to 22 (Judge - G. Clark) 8 competitors
1. J. Kirkwood Jr. (95 pts) 2. E. Rookard (94 pts) 3. C. Miller (93 pts)

Drumming 16 & under (Judge - G. Clark) 3 competitors
1. C. Paige (82 pts) 2. A. Robertson (75 pts) 3. D. Constant (70 pts)

Open Marches (Judge - J. Wilson) 20 competitors
1. C. Anderson (97 pts) 2. N. Slagle (96½ pts)
3. G. Tuck (96½ pts)

Open Strathspeys & Reels (Judge - J. Wilson) 19 competitors
1. C. Anderson (97 pts) 2. N. Frew (95 pts) 3. H. Workman (94 pts)

Marches 17 to 22 (Judge A. Dewar) 29 competitors
1. J. Fryer (95 pts) 2. R. Hilbert (94½ pts) 3. D. Ross (94½ pts)

Strathspeys & Reels (Judge A. Dewar) 27 competitors
1. D. Ross (93 ½ pts) 2. J. Fryer (93 pts) 3. F. Hodgson & C. Macdonald (92½ pts)

Marches 16 & under (Judge S. Keith) 22 competitors)
1. T. Campbell (86½ pts) 2. B. Worrall (85½ pts)
3. R. Eller (85 pts)

Marches 14 & under (Judge J. Wakefield) 30 competitors
1. J. Carey & R. McLaughlin (94 pts) 2. A. McLeod (93 pts)
3. C. Osborne (95 pts) (3 way tie here played and C. Osborne got 95 in play off.)

Quartette "B" Class: (Judges - S. Keith & J. Wakefield) 15 Quartettes
1. St. Andrews # 1 (69 3/4 pts) 2. Denny & Dunnypace & Highland House # 2 (tie) (67½ pts)

Quartette "A" Class: (Judges - A. McNeill & J. Wilson) 18 Quartettes
1. City of Toronto (71 3/4 pts) 2. Canadian General Electric (69¼ pts) 3. Goderich # 2 (65½ pts)

Best piper of the Day C. Anderson
Best Girl Piper T. Campbell
Best Girls Quartette T.J. Connor

- John Wilson -

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

MAY 27th

JUNE 3rd