

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

MAY, 1971 NO. 113

B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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ANNUAL GATHERING

The B.C. Pipers' Annual Gathering was held April 30th and May 1st at the North Vancouver Recreation Centre. As usual the event was well supported by the active competitors with over 200 entries. The number of tickets sold this year was almost identical to the previous year with approximately 500 adults and 50 children attending.

A refreshing change was the increased number of professional pipers. There were seven competitors in the Professional Piobaireachd and ten in the other Professional events. The short leets for the Amateur Piobaireachd and Novice Marches proved successful in reducing the work load for our visiting judge but the encouraging turn-out of professional pipers, senior quartettes and miniature bands made the evening session quite long. There were fourteen senior quartettes and twelve miniature bands.

Generally the event was run quite smoothly and although the acoustics in the gymnasium are not good, the abundance of tuning rooms makes the North Vancouver Recreation Centre a fairly good location for the Gathering. The Burnaby Ladies Pipe Band handled the food concession in the lower gymnasium of the complex and through all reports served very appetizing lunches, dinners and snacks. Having this concession on the premises was very convenient for all.

The Board of Directors of your Association are always looking for ways to improve the Annual Gathering and we would appreciate any constructive criticism or suggestions our members would care to submit.

Archie Cairns, our competent judge from Ottawa had a busy but enjoyable session and placed the following contestants:

Novice March

- 1st - Phillip Gordon
- 2nd - Laurie Robson
- 3rd - James Wright
- 4th - Jill Laurie

Glasgow & District Trophy
- Philip Gordon

Junior Piobaireachd

- 1st - John MacKay
- 2nd - Allan MacDougall
- 3rd - Cindy Chambers

Junior Strathspey and Reel

- 1st - Cindy Chambers
- 2nd - Darroll Peterson
- 3rd - Robyn Palmer
- 4th - Ian Keith

Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs

- 1st - Spike Odlen
- 2nd - John Munroe

Pipers Over 60 Years

- 1st - Ian Wallace
- 2nd - Seb Nellies

Junior Marches

- 1st - Allan MacDougall
- 2nd - Cindy Chambers
- 3rd - Gordon MacDonald
- 4th - John MacKay

Junior Piobaireachd Gordon Sinclair
Memorial Trophy - John MacKay playing
"The Lament for the Old Sword"

Junior Aggregate - Roderick F. MacRae
Trophy - Cindy Chambers

Juvenile Marches

- 1st - Stuart Reid
- 2nd - Elouise Roane
- 3rd - Drew Heggie
- 4th - Duncan Fraser

K. Nicholson Willis Trophy - Elouise Roane and Stuart Reid

Juvenile Strathspey and Reel

- 1st - Elouise Roane
- 2nd - Stuart Reid
- 3rd - Linda Flynn
- 4th - Drew Heggie

Amateur Piobaireachd

- 1st - Hazel Ramsay
- 2nd - Jack Lee
- 3rd - Terry Lee
- 4th - Heather Upton

Amateur Strathspey and Reel

- 1st - Terry Lee
- 2nd - Jack Lee
- 3rd - Hazel Ramsay
- 4th - Heather Upton

Professional March

- 1st - Bruce Topp
- 2nd - David Wilson
- 3rd - Therese McErlean
- 4th - John A. MacLeod

Professional Jigs

- 1st - John A. MacLeod
- 2nd - Bruce Topp
- 3rd - David Wilson
- 4th - Therese McErlean

Professional Piobaireachd
- MacCrimmon Memorial Trophy
John A. MacLeod playing
"I Got a Kiss of the Kings Hand"

Junior Quartettes

- 1st - Vancouver Kiwanis # 1
- 2nd - Seaforth Cadets "C"

Mrs. Walter Douglas Trophy
- Vancouver Kiwanis # 1

Miniature Bands

- 1st - Port Moody
- 2nd - Vancouver Ladies # 1

City of Port Moody Pipe Band
Trophy - City of Port Moody Pipe Band

Highest Aggregate Points - MacIver Memorial Trophy - Terry Lee

Amateur March

- 1st - Terry Lee
- 2nd - Iain MacCrimmon
- 3rd - Mitchell Bain
- 4th - Robert Menzies

Amateur Piobaireachd Caberfeidh
Trophy - Hazel Ramsay playing
"Black Donald's March"

Nicholson Trophy - Terry Lee

Professional Strathspey and Reel

- 1st - Therese McErlean
- 2nd - Jamie Troy
- 3rd - John A. MacLeod
- 4th - Bill MacAulay

Professional Piobaireachd

- 1st - John A. MacLeod
- 2nd - Jamie Troy
- 3rd - David Wilson

Professional Jig Lawrie Trophy
- John A. MacLeod

Professional Wm. Campbell Memorial
Trophy - John A. MacLeod

Senior Quartettes

- 1st - Vancouver City Police
- 2nd - Port Moody #2

Walter Douglas Trophy - Vancouver
City Police

Drumming Trophy

Tait's Jewellers Trophy - City of
Port Moody Pipe Band

Most Promising Piper - Roderick
MacLeod Memorial Trophy - Allan
MacDougall

BANFF GATHERING

Results as judged by P.M. Donald MacLeod

Professional Piobaireachd

1st - E. Chilton, Edmonton
2nd - Patrick McIntyre, Edmonton
3rd - John MacLeod

Professional Jig

1st - E. Chilton
2nd - Harold Senyk
3rd - John MacLeod

Amateur Open Piobaireachd

1st - Mary Alward, Spokane
2nd - Hazel Ramsay
3rd - Lu-Anne Alward, Spokane

Open Strathspey and Reel

1st - Sherea Barwell
2nd - Iain MacCrimmon
3rd - Hazel Ramsay

Amateur Open Aggregate - Iain MacCrimmon

Amateur 17 Yrs. & Under March

1st - Judi Taylor
2nd - Heather Zinck
3rd - Alan Walters, Calgary
4th - Robyn Palmer

17 Yrs. & Under Jig

1st - Heather Zinck
2nd - Ian Cameron
3rd - Alan Walters
4th - Ian Peterson

Amateur 15 Yrs. & Under March

1st - Cindy Chambers
2nd - Mary Alward
3rd - Ian MacDonald, Regina
4th - S. Shipley
5th - Douglas Sommerville

Amateur 15 Yrs. & Under Jig

1st - Cindy Chambers
2nd - Robert Menzies
3rd - Robbie MacNeil
4th - Mary Alward
5th - Gordon McDonald

Professional March, Strathspey & Reel

1st - Pat McIntyre
2nd - Don Maxwell, Sr., Calgary
3rd - M. Ireland, Saskatoon

Professional Aggregate
- E. Chilton

Amateur Open Marches

1st - Iain MacCrimmon, Edmonton
2nd - Sherea Barwell
3rd - Hazel Ramsay

Amateur Open Jig

1st - Iain MacCrimmon
2nd - Gary Marshall, Calgary
3rd - Sherea Barwell

17 Yrs. & Under Strathspey & Reel

1st - Alan Walters
2nd - Douglas MacKenzie, Banff
3rd - Elouise Roane
4th - Ian Peterson, Calgary

Amateur 17 Yrs. & Under Aggregate
- Alan Walters

15 Yrs. & Under Strathspey & Reel

1st - Mary Alward
2nd - Cindy Chambers
3rd - Terry Lee
4th - Douglas Sommerville
5th - Robgie MacNeil

Amateur 15 Yrs. & Under Aggregate
- Cindy Chambers

Amateur 13 Yr. & Under March

- 1st - Allison Palmer
- 2nd - Allan MacDougall
- 3rd - Kelly Todd, Calgary
- 4th - Terry Lunney, Saskatoon
- 5th - Gordon Lyle

Amateur 13 Yrs. & Under Strathspey & Reel

- 1st - Allison Palmer
- 2nd - Jack Lee
- 3rd - Kelly Todd
- 4th - Allan MacDougall
- 5th - Gordon Lyle

13 Yr. & Under Slow Air

- 1st - Jack Lee
- 2nd - Allan McDougall
- 3rd - Allison Palmer
- 4th - Gordon Lyle

Amateur 13 Yrs. & Under Aggregate
- Allison Palmer

Special Chanter 11 Yrs. & Under March - Allison Palmer

- Quartettes Open Any Age -
- 1st - City of Port Moody "A"
 - 2nd - City of Port Moody "B"
 - 3rd - MacBain Pipe Band "A"

Drum Ensemble Open Any Age - 1st - City of Port Moody

Mini Pipe Band Grade I

- March, Strathspey & Reel - 1st - City of Port Moody
- 2nd - MacBain Scottish

Mini Pipe Band Grade I

- Musical Selection - 1st - City of Port Moody
- 2nd - MacBain Scottish

Mini Pipe Band Grade 2

- March, Strathspey & Reel - 1st - Pipes & Drums of Strathcona Legion
- 2nd - McIntosh Girls Pipe Band

Mini Pipe Band Grade 2

- Musical Selection - 1st - Pipes & Drums of Strathcona Legion
- 2nd - McIntosh Girls Pipe Band

2030 Nootka Street
Vancouver 12, B.C.
May 5, 1971

Dear Editors:

It came to my attention at the Indoor Meet as I was selling tickets that many of the pipers did not know of the admission fee. These pipers and drummers were members who were to compete in the band competition. This I feel was the fault of the Pipe-Majors or Band leaders. It was up to band leaders to inform their members of this admission and some certainly fell down on their job. Next year please inform your members.

Catherine McNicol

PIPER OF THE MONTH

At the May General Meeting one of our Knock-Out Judges was Mr. Ian MacKinnon. Ian has been a member of the B.C. Pipers' Association since 1938 and served as Secretary in 1941-1942.

He was born in Victoria, B.C. but remained in the Capital City for only 7 weeks before his family moved to Vancouver. As a very young child he was interested in piping although no members of the family had been pipers. Both parents were born in Scotland, his father on the Isle of Mull and his mother in Harris, but neither were active participants in Highland Games events. Ian's father once started to play the Highland Bagpipe as a child but he was never encouraged to continue his interest.

At eight years of age Ian had finally reached the stage where his fingers would reach all the holes on the practice chanter and he began taking lessons from Donald MacIvor. Donald taught young Ian for eight years before his health failed to the extent of not being able to carry a full teaching load. Donald had taken a keen interest in Ian and introduced him to Mr. Alex Johnston who then continued with Ian's lessons. Although he was taking his formal tuition from Mr. Johnston it was an unusual week that didn't see him playing for Donald MacIvor and receiving additional coaching.

Playing on a half size set of pipes Ian won his first and probably most memorable and treasured prizes. He placed third in the Amateur Under 16 March competition at the B.C. Pipers' Annual Gathering in 1937. He continued his prize winning through two years of Amateur Under 16 and two years of Open Amateur competition winning the aggregate trophy in each of these two classes at the St. Andrews and Caledonian Games. During these years, many of our younger readers must keep in mind, the Caledonian Games were the only Summer Games in the Vancouver area.

He first played in the Professional Class at the 1942 Annual Gathering after placing first in his Amateur class the same day.

World War II interrupted Ian's competitive piping. He joined the Navy in 1943 and served Overseas on a frigate. His overseas time was divided equally at sea in the North Atlantic and ashore in England, Ireland and Bermuda. The Navy, however, was to hear the pipes of Ian MacKinnon. He played aboard ship when arriving and leaving port and as far as Ian is aware his ship was the only one in the Canadian Navy having a piper perform this duty.

Navy duty required Mr. MacKinnon to attend the University of Alberta. One of his daily chores was to play his pipes through the Barracks at 6:30 each morning. The startled servicemen would then dress for their physical training exercises. All except Ian, that is! He was allowed to return to bed as compensation for his "wake-up" duty. Ian found he had to be quick on his feet at times to avoid buckets of cold water, etc. while making his rounds. He found it advantageous to use a different route through the barracks each morning to avoid these hazards.

Probably Ian's most enjoyable piping experiences was piping for the dancers. He was always a popular dance piper and spent many long days at competitions and dancing schools. He still has the reputation as being one of the best dance pipers although he has not played for dancing during recent years.

Ian's individual piping was always complimented by pipe band activity. Today he is a member of the well known Shrine Pipe Band. The first band Ian joined was the Templeton Boys' School Band in 1938 under the direction of Malcolm Nicholson. Ian MacIntosh was the Pipe Major during the four year existence of the band. The boys competed regularly and won their share of competitions. While attending the University of British Columbia between 1946 and 1948 Ian was one of the founders and first Pipe Major of the U.B.C. Pipe Band. This was a non-competitive band but played at many University functions. From 1956 to 1958 Ian played with the Crawford Pipe Band under Pipe Major Ronald Foreman. The band was always a keen contender and Ian was a strong member of the pipe section.

In 1956 Ian once again entered Professional competition. He was just beginning to be a regular member of the prize winners when his work with the B.C. Telephone Company required Ian to move out of the competitive piping areas of the province. He never returned to competition but played for dancing on many occasions after returning to Vancouver.

Ian's most recent contribution to the Vancouver piping scene has been in the field of judging. His services have been requested in and around Vancouver at all major games and has been recognized as a competent judge for many years.

Piping has been an interesting aspect of Ian MacKinnon's life and we hope to see him continue active piping participation.

ANNUAL DINNER

The final Professional Knock-Out competition for the year will be held on May 29th at the Oakridge Auditorium located in the Oakridge Shopping Centre at 41st and Cambie in Vancouver. The competition to determine a winner between John A. MacLeod and Bruce Topp is the entertainment highlight of the B.C. Pipers' Annual Dinner. Those interested in attending our social highlight of the year should contact Mrs. Ishabel Ross by mail at 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster B.C. Tickets \$4.00 per person.

Be sure to purchase your ticket as soon as possible as entry to the Auditorium will only be permitted on presentation of a ticket. This rule will apply throughout the entire evening. In previous years people have been admitted after the dinner hour free of charge. This practice will not be continued this year.

The bar facilities will be opened at 6:30 with dinner being served at 7:00 P.M. This has always been a most enjoyable evening and we encourage all members and their friends to attend. We encourage as many of our members as possible to wear Highland dress to this event.

Parking at the Oakridge Auditorium is unlimited and those relying on bus transportation will find this location very accessible.

See you on Saturday, May 29th, 1971.

CHAMPION PIPERS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT continued

1812, 1, Donald Macgregor; 2, Adam Graham; 3, John Mackay; 4, Alex. Mackay, 9th Royal Veteran Battalion; 5, Don. Scrumgeour, from Strathhtay. A special prize was given to Malcolm Macgregor, piper to the High Sec. of London, for improvements on the pipes and also on the Union and Northumberland pipes.

1813, 1, Finlay Macleod; 2, Robert Mackay, from Lord Reay's country; 3, Kenneth Logan, Piper-major 71st Regiment; 4, Alex Macgregor, Fortingal; 5, Francis Macgregor, Scots Royals. There were fewer competitors, as the Highland Regiments were on foreign service. 1814, 1, Rob. Mackay, from Lord Reay's country, 2, Ken Logan; 3, Don Scrumgeour, piper to Col. Kinloch of Kilrie; 4, Murdoch Maclean, Pipe maker, Glasgow; 5, Farquhar Macrae, piper to Hugh Innes, of Lochalsh, M.P.

1815, 1, John Mackay, from Lord Reay's country; 2, Murdoch Maclean; 3, Donald Gunn, piper to the Perthshire Militia; 4, John Campbell, Nether Lorn, formerly piper to W.F. Campbell of Island, M.P.; 5, Donald Campbell, a boy from Breadalbane. George Clark, Piper-major of the 71st, who had previously received a set of pipes from the Highland Society of Scotland, continued playing after he had been wounded at the battle of Vimiera, and it was resolved not to consider him as a competitor, but to give him a special gold medal.

1816, 1, Donald Mackay, piper to the Highland Society of Glasgow; 2, Wm. Mackay; 3, John Campbell; 4, John Gordon, from Dincastle; 5, James Kennedy, from Strathhtay. Sir John Macgregor Murray addressed the gathering in Gaelic.

1817, 1, Don Macdonald, Argyllshire Militia; 2, Donald Gunn, Perthshire Militia; 3, Duncan Mactavish, Pipe-major 42nd Regiment; 4, Peter Mackenzie, Breadalbane; 5, John Macpherson, piper to Macpherson of Cluny. 1818, 1, Allan Macdonald; 2, John Campbell; 3, John Gordon; 4, John Forbes, from Killichassie; 5, Alex Sutherland, Pipe-major 79th. Sir J. Macgregor Murray, in addressing the gathering, pointed out that the piper's post was in front of his comrades in the day of danger.

1819, 1, John Campbell; 2, Duncan Mactavish; 3, John Forbes; 4, Duncan Smith, 92nd Regiment; 5, Alex Dewar, from the estate of Sir John Macgregor Murray; 6, Kenneth Logan. 1820, 1, Wm. Mackay, piper to the Celtic Society; 2, Donald Scrumgeour; 3, Don Mackay, piper to James Macleod of Raasay; 4, John Mackenzie, piper to Mackenzie of Allangrange; 5, James Macdonald, son of Don Macdonald, Edinburgh; 6, Adam Graham.

1821, 1, Adam Graham; 2, Don Mackay, piper to Clanranald, and afterwards to the Duke of Sussex, Earl of Inverness; 3, John Mackenzie, piper to Davison of Tulloch, afterwards to Breadalbane; 4, John Cameron, 5th Lanarkshire Militia; 5, Donald Macdonald, son of Donald Macdonald, Edinburgh; 6, Duncan Mactavish. 1822, 1, Donald Mackay; 2, John Mackenzie; 3, Kenneth Macrae, piper to the Hon. James Sinclair, afterwards to the Earl of Caithness; 4, Alex Dewar; 5, John Smith, piper to Col. Grant of Grant; 6, Donald Scrumgeour.

1823, 1, John Mackenzie; 2, Kenneth Macrae; 3, John Cameron; 4, Donald Macdonald; 5, Wm. Fraser, from Breadalbane. 1824, 1, Donald Scrimgeour; 2, Donald Stewart, 79th; 3, Donald Macdonald; 4, John Smith; 5, Wm. Gunn, from Glasgow; 6, Kenneth Mcrae, who declined it, holding that he had won first. It was then awarded to Alex Dewar. 1825, 1, Donald Stewart; 2, John Gordon, Atholl Club; 3, Ronald Mackenzie, from Ross-shire; 4, Wm. Smith, Inverness-shire Militia; 5, John Macdonald, Fortingall, a boy.

1826, 1, John Gordon; 2, Don Macdonald, 72nd; 3, James Macdonald, his brother; 4, Angus Mackay, 14 years of age, son of John Mackay, piper to Lord Gwydyr; 5, Don Farquhar, from Breadalbane, also a boy. The pipers played strathspeys and reels between the competitions. 1829, these competitions had now become triennial, 1, John Macnab, 92nd Highlanders; 2, Adam Macpherson, Stirling and Bannockburn Caledonian Socy.; 3, John Macdonald, Fortingall; 4, Roderick Macdonald, piper to Macdonell of Glengarry; 5, John Scott, piper to Butter of Fascally.

1832, The proceedings were commenced with a tune by John Mackenzie, piper to the Earl of Ormelie. 1, Roderick MacKenzie, piper to Moray of Abercairney; 2, Donald Macinnes, piper to Macneil of Barra; 3, John Macbeth, piper to the High. Soc. of London; 4, John Scott; 5, George Murchison, piper to Davidson of Tulloch. 1835. Competition for those who had won formerly the first prize. This was won by John Mackenzie, piper to Breadalbane. A special prize was given to Donal Macrae, from Kintail, who had won in 1791, and was now in his 80th year. Ordinary competition - 1, Angus Mackay, son of John Mackay, piper to Lord Willoughby de Eresby; 2, John Stewart of the 79th; 3, Archd. Munro, Oban; 4, John MacKay, piper to Sir Robert Gordon of Balmorell; 5, James Macpherson, previously piper to Macpherson of Cluny. A special prize was given to John Macdonald, 14 years of age, piper to Macdonald Seton of Staffa.

1838, 1, John Macbeth, High. Soc. of London, 2, Donald Cameron, piper to Mackenzie of Scatwell; 3, Duncan Campbell, Foss; 4, Peter Bruce, Glenelg; 5, Duncan Mackay, piper to Cluny Macpherson. In 1835 and in 1838 eliminating trials were held on the day before the competition. 1841, Don Macinnes, Barra. 1844, Don Cameron, Scatwell. 1859 and onwards at Inverness Northern Meeting, Don Cameron, piper to Seaforth.

1860, Alex MacLennan, Inverness. 1861, Don Mackenzie, 25th K.O.S.B. 1862, Alex Cameron, Greenock. 1863, Ron Mackenzie, 78th Highlanders. 1864, Alex Macdonald, Gentryim. 1865, Colin Cameron, Glenmasog. 1866, And. Gordon, Castle Grant. 1869, Wm. Macdonald, Abergeldie. 1870, Alex Cameron, Aboyne. 1871, Mal. Macpherson, Cluny. 1872, Don Mackay, Ballindalloch. 1873, Dun. Macdougall, Breadalbane. 1874, John Smith, 93rd Highlanders. 1875, Ronald Mackenzie, Dunach. 1876, John Mackenzie, London. 1877, John Macbean, Applecross. 1878, Lewis Grant, Castle Grant. 1879, Wm. MacLennan, Edinburgh.

1880, John Connon, Inveran. 1881, Angus Macrae, Raasay, 1882, And. Longair, 93rd Highlanders. 1883, Angus Macdonald, Morar. 1884, John MacColl, Oban. 1885, J. Macdougall Gillies, Aberdeen, 1886, Robt. Meldrum, 93rd Highlanders. 1887, Alex Fletcher, Invermoriston, 1888, Wm. B. Macrae. 1889, John Mackay, Paisley. 1890, John Macdonald, 1891, Colin Thomson, Inverness. 1892, John Cameron, Inverness. 1893, Don Mathieson, Hamilton. 1894, Donald Campbell, Hamilton. 1895, Murdo Mackenzie, Fascally. 1896, Alick Mackenzie, Resolis.

ARCHIE CAIRNS' RECITAL

The judge for our Annual Gathering this year was Pipe Major Archie Cairns. P.M. Cairns is currently a resident of Ottawa, moving to Ontario after spending approximately 18 months on our own West Coast. In order to give his many friends and acquaintances the opportunity to hear Archie play, a recital was held at the Steelworkers' Hall on East Broadway on April 29, 1971.

Archie has an enviable command of the Great Highland Bagpipe and the capacity audience thoroughly enjoyed his very musical recital. He is a personable individual and is happiest when discussing the art of playing or judging bagpipe music. Many of our members took the opportunity to "talk piping" with this knowledgeable gentleman, and it is indeed a shame we lost his full time services to Eastern Canada.

The Association always enjoys hosting Mr. Cairns, as it has done several times in the past for Recitals and Judging Schools, and we look forward to his next visit.

DONALD MACLEOD'S RECITAL

On April 19th, 1971 the piping enthusiasts in the Vancouver area had the pleasure of hearing one of the worlds finest pipers. Although not great in stature the "Wee Man" as he is often affectionately called, can produce great music. Not only has Donald MacLeod won the Gold Medal for Piobaireachd at Oban but a record eight clasps to accompany the prize. He has proven his piping prowess many times over and those who attended his recital at the Seaforth Armoury Lecture Room heard the very best.

Mr. MacLeod is a well recognized composer of pipe tunes and he delighted the audience with a grand selection in each of his two performances that evening.

Approximately 200 people attended the recital and several of our local professional pipers demonstrated their confidence by playing during Donald's "coffee" break.

The evening proved to be a memorable event for all those fortunate enough to attend.

THE MACLACHLANS' MARCH

The story behind this tune, also known as Moladh Mairi, is a very romantic one.

Angus MacKay, of Gairloch, was attending a piping competition in Edinburgh. The other competitors were jealous of him and so afraid of his superior talents that they formed a plan to destroy his chances of winning the competition.

They managed to get hold of his pipes and pierced the bag in several places. When Angus began to practise on the day of the competition he discovered the damage.

But his sweetheart, called Mary, managed to get hold of a sheep's skin, from which, although it was undressed, they managed to make a new bag for his pipes.

With this, the piper carried off first prize and, in gratitude to his helper, Angus MacKay composed "Moladh Mairi" (In Praise of Mary).

CHARTER FLIGHT TO SANTA ROSA GAMES

The City of Port Moody Pipe Band has chartered a plane to the Santa Rosa Games in California in September of this year. These games are a two day affair and draw top competition.

The flight is from Vancouver to San Francisco and a chartered bus will transport passengers to Santa Rosa.

The combined plane and bus fare is \$100.00.

Anyone interested in further information should contact Mr. Archie Walker at 876-0894.

FOR SALE

One set of Hardie Pipes

- imitation ivory and plain silver
- 10 years old
- new bag
- MacKenzie tartan
- \$80.00

For further information contact Dennis Martin - 224-9297

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION CEILIDH

Once again we have reached the end of a very successful Bi-Monthly Competition Schedule. In order to reward the many competitors for their competitive spirit and participation the Association has arranged for a Ceilidh for all the competitors, their parents and members on June 18, 1971 at the Steelworkers Hall at 33 East Broadway.

The various aggregate trophies will be awarded on this evening and the perfect attendance pins as well. In order to receive a perfect attendance pin the competitor must be present at the Ceilidh to accept the award. Every competitor must consider attendance as a requisite for perfect attendance.

The Novice class this year was so large it was necessary to divide the competitors into two groups. The aggregate winners of each group will compete at the Ceilidh to determine a final Aggregate winner. This should be a keen competition well worth hearing. These pipers,

after all, are our future professional knock-out contestants.

The evening starts at 8:00 P.M. and refreshments will be served after the presentations and competition. One and all are encouraged to attend.

GENERAL MEETING AND KNOCK-OUT COMPETITION

One of the most interesting Knock-Outs of the year took place on Friday, May 7th, 1971. Over 90 people attended and saw Bruce Topp defeat Donald MacInnes and John A. MacLeod edge out David Wilson. Although the pipers have played better in previous rounds their piping was enjoyed by all.

Congratulations should be extended to all the Knock-Out competitors and especially to these quarter finalists. Many competitors have indicated that the Knock-Out series has been their most tense piping experience. The keen competition, the length of time the pipers are required to play and the presence of approximately 100 avid "judges" contribute to this tense competitive atmosphere.

John A. MacLeod and Bruce Topp have successfully completed three competitions; a most difficult feat. They now must meet to determine a final winner at the May 29th Annual Dinner. Both pipers deserve membership support and sincere congratulations.

THE CEILIDH

MARCH

LAST 6 BARS 1ST PART

ARR. BY P/M A.M. CAIRNS

INVERNESS PIPING SOCIETY PROBLEMS

Many of our readers know or will remember Neil Angus Macdonald our 1970 Annual Gathering Judge. The following item is the transcript of an interview between Seumas MacNeill and Mr. Macdonald, first broadcast on "Chanter" on March 17th, 1971, and reprinted from the Piping Times, May, 1971.

Seumas MacNeill:

In "Chanter" we usually concentrate on the piping scene around Glasgow and Edinburgh, which is only right, I suppose, because most pipers and most activities are going on around this area. But piping is active and thriving in many places, so tonight we've moved the spotlight to Inverness, and I have with me now Neil Angus Macdonald, famous piper from Barra, educated in Glasgow, spent some of his time in India, and now, headmaster of a school in Inverness, where he has lived for quite a long time. Neil, tell us about piping in Inverness. What goes on here?

N.A. Macdonald

I would say, Seumas, that piping was in a very flourishing condition in Inverness. We have a strong piping society - the Inverness Piping Society - which, when I came to Inverness in 1954, I found in a very flourishing condition under the late Col. Grant of Rothiemurchus. After his death I was asked to take on the work of the President of the Society. We meet weekly, and we have changed our places of meeting several times. In fact, you could almost call us the "wandering pipers".

S. MacNeill

You have a wee bit of difficulty with a place, I understand.

N.A. Macdonald

We used, of course, to meet in the Castle at Inverness, and we did so for many years. Then, by some strange miscarriage of justice on the part of one or two officials of the legal profession and the County Council, we were shown the other side of the door. We took this as a great disappointment, because the Castle had the proper atmosphere for piping, and to me a Highland castle is not a castle without a piper. I would say it is rather like an egg without a yoke.

S. MacNeill

Why did you get the other side of the door? Do you think this was bias against piping in general?

N.A. Macdonald

Well, of course, there is a lot of alien blood in Inverness nowadays, and very often you find this alien blood in officials occupying positions of authority. You can't blame them in a way if they are not alive to the traditions and the heritage of the Highlands, although we do our best to promote it.

I think that the plea was that we were distracting the civic affairs of Inverness by playing from eight to ten. Perhaps some conscientious officials were working out the destiny of Inverness in the lower chambers of the Castle. But they must have been working in darkness, Seumas, because I never saw a light.

S. MacNeill

Well, I am afraid this is a thing that pipers have to face, you know. I have always thought that the way of the transgressor is hard, but it's nothing to the way of the piper. We're always up against difficulties of this kind. It is particularly sad that this should happen in Inverness, because it's one of the Capitals of the Highlands I suppose. If you have a University here, no doubt there will be a chair of piobaireachd, and you have a lot of very good pipers in Inverness, haven't you?

N.A. Macdonald

Yes, and to me piping - especially piobaireachd - is real culture, and tourists from all over the world made for the castle - and the castle was easily found, and there they were sure of hearing some very good piping on Thursday evenings from William MacDonald (Benbecula), John Rennie, John Thomson, John Riach - I could mention so many more. Every one of them played their best and delighted their audiences, so these visitors went away entirely satisfied and with a beautiful picture of Scotland and the Scottish Highlands in their minds.

S. MacNeill

There must be a great tradition of John MacDonald in Inverness and in the piping of Inverness.

N.A. Macdonald

Oh yes. Piping in Inverness is John MacDonald's piping. It was his own town, and every piper made his way to John's house - No. 3 Percival Road - where they were sure of a warm welcome. In fact, I can remember his carpet had a well-worn path where the pipers paced backwards and forwards, and I wouldn't be surprised if there were a few dents in old John's chair when he thumped it loud when he heard something that didn't just meet his taste.

S. MacNeill

You were taught by John MacDonald, yourself, were you?

N.A. Macdonald

Yes, indeed.

S. MacNeill

Was this your first introduction to piobaireachd - from John MacDonald?

N.A. Macdonald

I may say so. But when I was in Glasgow I went to John MacColl, and he put me through what I would call a "crash course" within a fortnight, "Lament for Mary MacLeod", "Kinlochmoidart's Lament", and several other piobaireachds. He was a careful teacher, but John was meticulous, and he wasn't content until all the lights and shades, as he called them were brought out in a piobaireachd.

S. MacNeill

Neil, you are one of the very select band of pipers, who not only play well but have been able to compose an acceptable piobaireachd. Have you been composing any piobaireachds recently?

N.A. Macdonald

Well, sometimes in my leisure hours I run through various things

in my mind, but it falls so far short of the other great piobaireachds that I have learned, that it is really not a very satisfying task.

S. MacNeill

I think that is the difficulty, of course, in composing piobaireachd, that there are so many good ones. We can't learn them all, so it's hard to find space for a new one. But the one that you won a very good prize two years ago with in the Saltire competition - "Lament for Dr. John MacInnes" - what was the occasion of composing this one?

N.A. Macdonald

Well, Dr. John MacInnes was a great piping personality, and a personality in his own right, and I feel myself that a lot of the sparkle has gone out of the Northern Meeting competition with the disappearance from the scene of Dr. John MacInnes and Pipe-Major Young and these great personalities.

It so happened when I was struggling through trying to compose this piobaireachd, who happened to come into the house but Mary MacInnes, his sister, who dearly loved her brother, and she asked me, what are you doing? Well, I said, "I am trying to compose a little bit of a piobaireachd"; and she says, "What are you going to call it"; and knowing Mary's regard for her brother, I said, "We'll call it "Lament for Dr. John MacInnes of Glenelg", and I wish it were more worthy of so great a man.

S. MacNeill

I think it is a very beautiful tune, and I think we couldn't finish this part of the programme better than by hearing you playing part of it.

BANFF ANECDOTE

While attending the Banff Highland Games Angus MacLeod of Port Moody had his previously misplaced Pipe Major Ross Book # 4 returned to him by P.M. Donald MacLeod. The event is not particularly noteworthy unless you are aware of the complete story.

In 1945 Angus was a German Prisoner of War in Stalag 375. It was his misfortune to lose his Ross book while in the prison camp. Sometime after Angus left Stalag 375 his book was found by P.M. George Ackroyd of the Gordon Highlanders. P.M. Ackroyd was unable to locate the gentleman whose name appeared in the inside cover of the book so he added the volume to his music library.

In later years P.M. Ackroyd moved to South Africa and was visited by P.M. Donald MacLeod in 1968. George enquired if Wee Donald might know of an Angus MacLeod who had spent part of World War II in Stalag 375. Donald replied that he knew Angus well and was immediately prevailed upon to return the music book.

Donald took good care of Angus' book until the Banff Games provided the opportunity for the two men to renew old friendships and for Wee Donald to return Angus' long lost Ross Book # 4.

SUMMER GAMES BEGIN

The long series of Summer Games in British Columbia, Washington, California, Oregon and Idaho is about to begin. Most of these events are sponsored by Associations that operate on a very limited budget and they would dearly appreciate your support at the box office.

The Victoria Highland Games will be held May 23rd followed in three weeks, June 12th, by the New Westminster Games at Queens Park. Even if you are unable to participate, come and appreciate!

SEE YOU AT THE GAMES!

"Inconsiderate"

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