

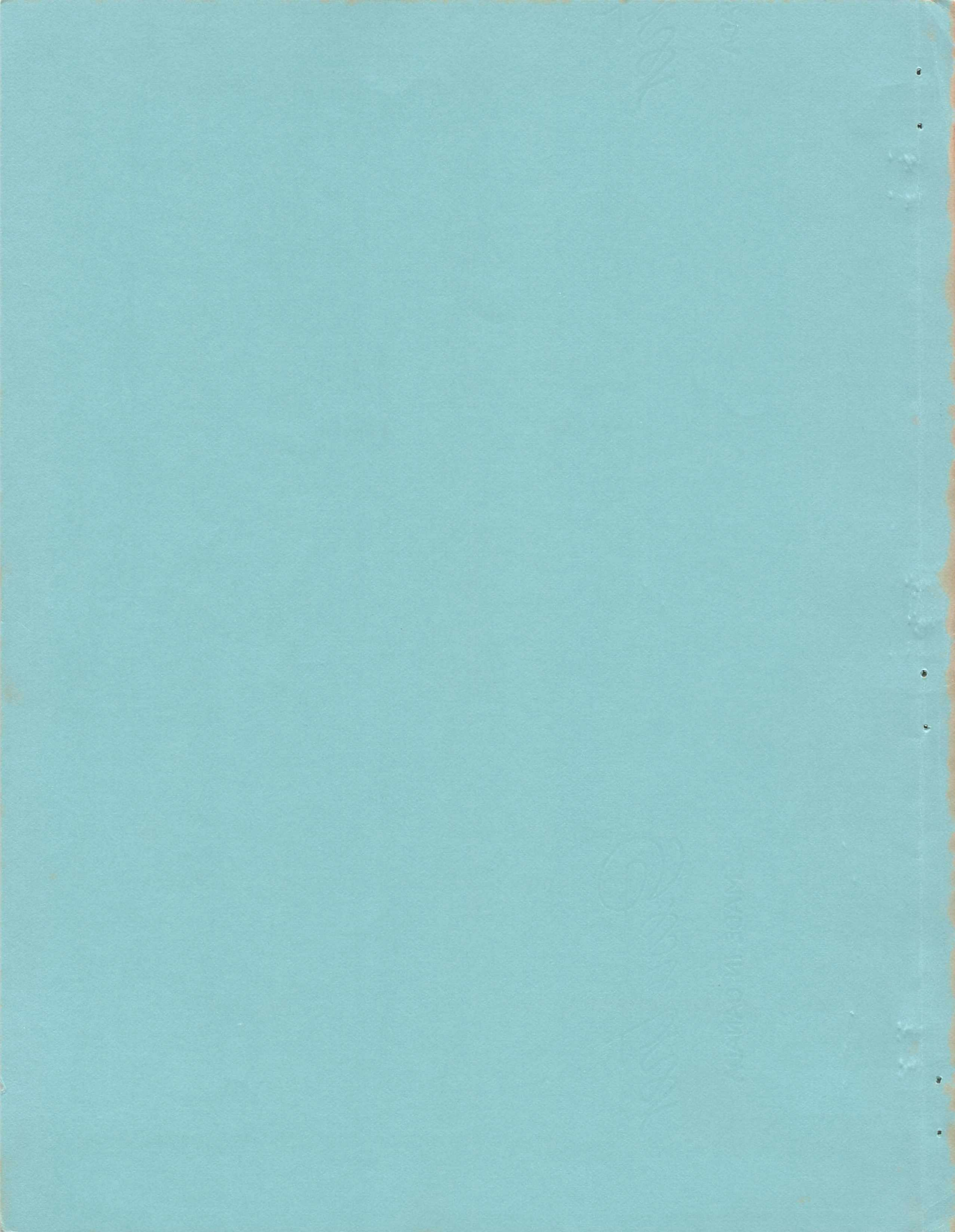
B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1973

NO. 135



B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

Published by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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The B. C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 6286 Empress Avenue, Burnaby 1, B. C., by the British Columbia Pipers' Association and distributed to all members. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to the above address. All other communications should be sent to Mrs. D. Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster.

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NEWSLETTER STAFF RESIGNS

The Editors and Staff would like to take this opportunity to inform the membership of their recent resignation from the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter.

The past two years, since taking over from Bob Gunn and Bill Elder, have been for the most part enjoyable, but we have found that we cannot devote the time that is necessary to put out a publication such as this.

We would like to thank the many people who contributed to the cause, especially Mr. and Mrs. Taylor who, aside from offering their literary talents, kindly donated their basement for our headquarters. Two other names that come to mind are Col. McEwing and Capt. MacLellan, two of our more prolific contributors.

However, the biggest vote of thanks should go to the staff - Judi, Janice and Barb. Without their talents and most grateful assistance, there would have been no Newsletter.

As mentioned before we have enjoyed our stint as publishers and hopefully some other group or individual with a flair for journalism will continue to publish the Newsletter.

Anyone interested, please contact Bill Lamont, Colin or myself. Thank you.

Angus
Colin
Judi
Janice
Barb

P.S. We will continue to put out a small bulletin until the new editors take over.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sirs,

In the spring of 1973 there were quite a few letters regarding dress and deportment.

I myself do not like long hair on men or boys whether they are in a civilian dress or military uniform. The ladies bands and individual pipers are far smarter than the male pipers. What amazed me at the New Westminster Games which was the only one I was able to attend, was of the four judges who judged that day only one wore his kilt. I don't know if the drumming judge has a kilt but I do know that all the piping judges have a kilt they could have worn.

If the Chairman of the Piping Committee and the President of the B.C. Pipers' Association went to the trouble of being properly attired in kilt, surely the judges could set the example for the young pipers they were judging.

Anyone who attended the first "Knockout Competition" on Friday, November 2, where one of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band trios competed had to admit their dress was impeccable. It seems some of the male pipers don't know that you can press a kilt with an iron, polish brass, and put whitening on their spats if they wear them.

Maybe at the Highland Games this summer and the Indoor Meet, some of the men and boys could smarten themselves up in properly clad highland dress if they have it. Nothing looks worse than an unpressed kilt with pleats sticking out here and there.

Mrs. Peg Topp.

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for reflecting the picture of our Banner winner, Bill Livingstone, and the article by John Pearson in the last issue of the Newsletter. All these things are a great help to our summer program. May the Newsletter continue to flourish for many years. I am very aware that it is far from an easy chore to turn out a publication like this month after month. I just hope the piping fraternity realize how important it is to have such a magazine. I can so well remember that the only publication we had to turn to was a three month old Oban Times. This was years prior to air flights across the Atlantic and, before I got the Oban Times, it had gone from household to household in Ontario where I was born.

I was happy when I read that there would be more on the Spokane Piobaireachd Society next issue - The Resume. And speaking about the Resume, I sent a copy to the great Angus MacPherson and yesterday I received a wonderful three page letter from him. It was filled with encouraging words and delightful comments regarding our program. He is in his ninety-seventh year and has never missed a Northern Meeting since 1894.

A few days ago I received eleven, two-hour cassette tapes from James Campbell of Kilberry. James is the head of the Law School at Cambridge. He played the entire one hundred and eighteen tunes that are reflected in his late Father's collection, "The Kilberry Collection". I will turn this priceless gift over to the library of the Spokane Piobaireachd Society so that the summer school students will have a chance to listen to the way the late Mr. Campbell hoped they would be played. This taped collection will be for reference purposes only and I do not have any authorization from James regarding reproducing them. However, I plan to ask him for permission to make copies of our "Set" tunes upon the request of any who plan to compete for the Banner. I am quite sure he will agree to this. He is a super player. The tone of his pipes is, in most cases, unbelievable, and his phrasing is in a class by itself. You can well imagine what a joy it is for me to sit in front of my fire these wet and cold days and just soak up all this heavenly music. I suspect James Campbell had judged more gold medalists at Oban and Inverness than any man alive. I met him first in 1949 and he had been judging then for a number of years. He is very, very impressed with our program out here and places high value upon his framed certificate of Honorary Membership in our Society. This gives me much need encouragement.

As you can imagine, I many times feel like turning it off and start enjoying other things such as travelling about the world, but I must not do this. There are so many young people who regularly write and even phone me and for them it would be a tragedy if they did not have some form of a fountain head to look to. I have had one of our summer school instructors follow up with tapes to his students and this is proving to be a major asset. Next year I will be very select when I invite Student/Instructors to participate in the program and it will be with the understanding that they will exchange a tape a minimum of six times with each student during the year. The Society will, of course, provide the tapes and the postage involved. Our entire mission is to help people to play a better tune on the Bagpipe and it seems to me that this will be a forward step especially to those who live in remote areas and do not have access to the enormous pool of excellent instructors who live in Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, etc. etc.

If the roads are at all decent, I hope to look in on the Triumph Street program on December 1st. I have been encouraging the Angus Scott Band to go up there and do some competing. They put on a fine show at Nelson and I think they will surprise many people as did the band from Edmonton.

John McEwing.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to comment on the "Knockouts" we have been treated to, and especially lately. I really do not think that most of the piping we have listened to could be bested for how much better, that good, or perfect can anything be?

We are members of the piping association primarily because we enjoy the pipes. In the past we were privileged to hear some of the Scottish Greats and I must say hearing them was a treat.

Now that the Knockouts have been instituted, I am surprised just how good our home-grown talent really is. Anyone who likes the pipes and enjoys a flawless performance should bestir themselves and come out.

Hector Turnbull.

Dear Sirs,

Through your publication, I've been introduced to the world family of Pipers and "kindred spirits"; so following two years of "exposure", I would present some guarded opinions in response to concerns already expressed in previous Issues of your publication.

In the interests of the sympathetic and interested spectator at Games, be they ever so varied, could I suggest through the medium of the P.A. system that some explanation be offered (briefly) on the system of judging and points awarded. Spectators are either "fond parents", relations or relatives, or those who seek to identify for vast assortments of reasons. These are the public who will flock to Games because of their colour, etc. Angus MacPherson called for participation which in my idiom means to communicate with executive who eventually discover themselves isolated from the membership if care is not taken to directly consult even the most insignificant of its members. If the executive makes the extension, the "grass roots" will feel included rather than alienated.

Wherever I've gone in Game Circles, the unselfish openness of pipers and dancers to share their knowledge with their fellow competitors is a foundation of the personality Games can acquire - "a tribal happening" which the modern Rock Festival (for all its negative aspects) has managed to reflect, rather than the dangerous sterility of efficiency in its extreme in processing competitors.

The Burnaby Ladies' Pipe Band has provided the answer to the hair issue, and "dressing down" after one's competitive event robs the Games of its colour which the spectator comes to see.

However, the quiet, resolute dedication of the dancing and piping instructors, be they professionals or the novice piper who helps the 4 year old "cover all the holes", looms as the backbone of this entire Gaelic presentation. The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is the essential cohesive fiber of it all. May it prosper!

Hugh Sutherland,
Grand Forks.

LAST MONTH IN AND AROUND THE ASSOCIATION

Bi-Monthlies

November 9, 1973

Judge - Bill Lamont

Juvenile Strathspey & Reel
(18 out of 23 played)

Amateur Jigs
(11 out of 14 played)

1. Steve Ramsden
2. Chris Taggart
3. Ember Stewart
4. Donny MacNeil
5. Ronald Tait

1. Jack Lee
2. Blake Keen
3. Brian Carse
4. Gordon MacDonald

General Meetings & Knock-Outs

A General Meeting of the B.C. Pipers' Association was held on November 2, 1973 in the Scottish Auditorium. A trio competition was scheduled following the usual formalities between the Vancouver Ladies No. 1 and No. 2. However, because of the rule prohibiting pipers under 19 years from playing, the Ladies were only able to field one trio.

The No. 1 trio of Sherea Barwell, Janice Taylor and Pat Dawson treated the audience to an enjoyable medley of tunes. The Ladies later "saved" the night with an exhibition of dancing. Impromptu as usual was the rule for the remainder of the evening. Gordon MacDonald, Dave Wilson, Don Ross, and a duet from Victoria, Jim Troy and Steve Geddes, provided some of the piping while Nancy Darling handled the singing.

The second "Knock-out" of the year took place on Friday, December 7. at the Scottish Auditorium. The meeting commenced at 8:00 p.m. with the President, Bill Lamont, in the chair. The Secretary, Ishabel Ross, read the minutes from the last General Meeting. The Trio Competition was supposed to be between the Vancouver Police, Port Moody #2, and Triumph Street #2. However, only the Vancouver Police showed up. Triumph Street was unable to field because of the age restriction. I don't know Port Moody's reason.

However, it is clear that if this competition is to be repeated next year, age restrictions will have to be thrown out. A possible solution would be members of Grade I and Grade II bands. However, there are many fine younger players who are not in bands. Let's face it! Our best pipers are under 19 and we should be trying to encourage them, not discourage them. We have been trying for the last couple of years to "dig" the adults out of the woodwork and half of them sound like that is where they have been. The rest are either too lazy or too busy to participate. Maybe in the past professional pipers were the backbone of the Association but all the interest, with a couple of exceptions, lies in the junior and senior amateur categories.

Getting back to the Knock-Out. Although they had no competition, the "Polis" put in a fair performance and will go on to meet the Ladies in the semi-finals. The "regulars" supplied the entertainment for the rest of the evening. Next month pits the City of Victoria against the Seaforth Highlanders.

* * * * *

Two shipwrecked Scots had been hanging on for hours to an upturned boat. Jock, realizing that he might not be able to hold out much longer, began to recount his past misdeeds, and to vow that if he escaped he would in future lead an entirely new life. Suddenly, there was a cry from his comrade in distress:

"Haud on, Jock! Dinna commit yersel' - A think A see land!"

Triumph Street Band Contest

The 2nd Annual Triumph Street Band Contest was held on December 1 at St. Francis de Sales School in Burnaby.

Commencing at 1:00 p.m. with solo drumming, the afternoon proceeded without any hitches. As Miss Susan Burgess judged the individual drumming events in the downstairs area, Mr. Jimmy Yardley of San Francisco had his hands full with junior and senior trios upstairs. The selection of tunes proved to be entertaining for both the audience and the competitors. I think March, Strathspey and Reel become boring for bands after awhile and they tend to sound the same to the audience.

The big upset of the afternoon was in the senior miniature band competition. The City of Victoria captured the Triumph Street Shield beating out Port Moody by $\frac{1}{4}$ point and Triumph Street by $\frac{1}{2}$ point. Five bands entered the senior event, including Blue Heron Bay from Lake Oswego, Oregon, who plan to play Grade I this season.

The junior event consisted of four bands including the Portland Ladies. Although the girls from Oregon placed second in the band competition, they did very well in the drumming events including best tenor drummer. One disappointing note in the junior contest was the absence of the Kiwanis, Burnaby Ladies, and Highland Laddies. This competition was not run for any great monetary gain or claim to fame by Triumph Street but to give pipers and especially drummers an opportunity to compete at a time when interest starts to wane, and it is a shame that the members of these bands are denied the chance to compete because of politics and inter-band strife.

The other disappointment of the Contest was the drum corps event. Only one corps, the Vancouver Ladies, entered. It was the same story last year. As an introduction to the Contest last year it was noted that the Contest was started to give everyone a chance to compete but with the emphasis on drumming because drummers don't have the same opportunities to compete as pipers do. So, what happens? Out of a possible nine drum sections, one enters. Makes one wonder what it's all about!

Otherwise, the Contest was run very well with a good turnout, spectator and competitor wise. There are always people to thank in a competition such as this but please excuse me if I miss anyone as there were so many. I would like to single out a few that helped make the Contest the success it was. First of all the judges - Jimmy Yardley, Donald Ross, Don Collins, and Susan Burgess.

As well as judging department, Donald Ross also doubled as Chief Steward and, along with James MacDonald, John MacPherson and Angus MacMillan, helped keep the events running smoothly. Gordon Taylor was the scorer and his wife, Kay Taylor, assisted in stocking the kitchen. The Secretary of the day was Margaret MacPherson and the announcing duties were handled by Harvey Gallaher. I think the mothers and girlfriends who worked in the kitchen (including Mrs. MacPherson, Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Noot) and, of course, all the people who assisted at the door and the bar, deserve a vote of thanks for a job well done.

Results

Senior Mini Bands- 5 entries

1. City of Victoria
2. City of Port Moody
3. Triumph Street

Senior Trios- 4 entries

1. City of Victoria
2. Triumph Street

Senior Drum Corps- 1 entry

1. Vancouver Ladies

Novice Drumming- 10 entries

1. Danny McKillop
2. Paula Tremaine
3. Adam Bell
4. Keith Clark
5. Tom Gifford

Senior Amateur Drumming

1. Murray Munroe

Bass Drumming

Triumph Street

Junior Mini Bands- 4 entries

1. C.P. Air Senior
2. Portland Ladies

Junior Trios- 7 entries

1. C.P. Air Senior #2
2. Vancouver Ladies #2
3. C.P. Air Senior #1

Junior Drum Corps- 2 entries

1. C.P. Air
2. White Spot

Amateur Drumming- 5 entries

1. Laurie McKendrick
2. Scott Robertson
3. Bonnie McKendrick

Department

Vancouver Ladies

Tenor Drumming

Portland Ladies

Bi-Monthlies

December 2, 1973

Judge - Bill Elder

Novice Old Highland Air
(2nd section)

Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. Carolyn Patterson
2. Leigh Shelley
3. Debbie Stephens
4. Brad Desmarais
5. Kim Smith

1. Wade Calder
2. Robbie McNeil
3. Shelley MacLean
4. Jill Laurie
5. James Wright

General Meeting & Knock-Out

On January 4, the first general meeting of 1974 was held in the Scottish Auditorium. It was also the first knock-out competition of the year featuring the Seaforth Highlanders and the "City of Victoria". The Seaforth trio of Mel Wilson, Terry McHardie and Glen Palmer opened the competition with a nice medley including "Jimmy's Return". Jamie Troy, Steve Geddes and Colin McGee responded for Victoria with a selection opening with the "Drunken Piper". The decision of the judges was awarded to Victoria and they will advance to the quarter finals against the winner of the Port Moody-Triumph Street contest.

The rest of the most enjoyable evening was devoted to impromptu piping and included Hal Senyk, John MacDonald, Alison Palmer and Jill Laurie.

NEXT MONTH

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Pipers' Association will be held on Friday, February 1, 1974 at the Scottish Auditorium, 12th and Fir. The meeting will start at 7:30 SHARP! The major order of business will be the election of officers for 1974. The President and Treasurer will present their annual reports and any changes to the Constitution will take place. Following all the business there will be a trio competition between Triumph Street and Port Moody. There will, of course, be bar service as usual and the promise of another enjoyable evening of piping. Support your Association. Attend the Annual General Meeting.

VANCOUVER LADIES' PIPE BAND FESTIVAL

February 22 & 23, 1974

St. John's Church Hall
1490 Nanton Ave. (Off Granville)

PIPING & DRUMMING EVENTS

Piping

- Chanter Class - March
- Novice - 2/4 March, Slow Air
- Juvenile - 2/4 March, Strathspey & Reel
- Junior - Slow Air, Jig
- Amateur - Hornpipe, Strathspey & Reel

Quartettes

- Junior - 6/8 March to Jig
- Senior - Jig, Slow March, Hornpipe

Miniature Bands

- Grade I - 5-7 minute medley
- Grade II - 5-7 minute medley
- Juvenile - 4-6 minute medley
- Novice Juvenile - 4-6 minute medley

Open Event

Slow March to 6/8 March

Drumming

- Novice Tenor - 2/4 March - Provide own side & piper
- Amateur Tenor - Slow March, Jig - Provide own side & piper
- Novice Side - 2/4 March - Provide own piper
- Junior Side - March, Strathspey & Reel - Provide own piper
- Senior Side - 3-5 minute selection - Provide own piper.

Drum Corps - 3 sides, 1 tenor, bass

Junior - 2-4 minute drum salute

Senior - 2-4 minute drum salute

Bass Drum Contest

- Judged during drum corps (only if entered).

BANFF IN VICTORIA

Although the Newsletter has received no official word as yet, there is a big competition in the offing planned for late March. Organized by the promoters of the recent Banff Games, the competition is scheduled for the Empress Hotel in Victoria, one week before the B.C. Pipers' Annual Gathering.

Rumour has it that it will be held in conjunction with Archie Cairns' Ottawa Games; the winners in respective piping, drumming and pipe band classes to be sponsored by the Provincial Government to compete next summer in Ottawa. We are looking forward to the Games at the Empress and believe that if anyone can do a good job it is the promoters of Banff. As far as Government participation, I won't hold my breath.

* * * * *

There will be no Intercontinental Pipe Band Championship held in Toronto this summer. There will, however, be a parade and Tattoo. The organizers are inviting bands from B.C. to participate in the festivities. Anyone interested, please contact Donald Ross at 526-7905.

DO YOU REMEMBER PICTURE PUZZLE

ANSWER

This month's five dollar prize goes to Ed Esson who correctly identified Pipe Major William Campbell and Kenneth McLeod as the two pipers in last month's photo. Mr. Esson added that the picture was taken at the Harrison Hot Springs Games way back in 1934.

Mr. Esson has kindly donated his prize to the Annual Gathering.

We would like to thank Mrs. Kenneth McLeod for lending us the picture. Mrs. McLeod is staying at the Blenheim Rest Home (16th and Blenheim) and is keeping fairly well.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

September, 1960

Juvenile Marches

1. Robert MacDonald
2. David MacKenzie
3. John MacLeod
4. Lyalla Nairn

Junior Marches

1. Terry McHardy
2. Karen Ruddick
3. Tom Richardson

Junior Strathspey & Reel

1. Karen Ruddick
2. Tom Richardson
3. Allen MacLeod

Amateur Marches

1. Rae Marie MacInnes
2. David Wilson
3. Jamie Troy

Amateur Strathspey & Reel

1. Rae Marie MacInnes
2. Jamie Troy
3. Jack McGilvary

Amateur Piobaireachd

1. Jamie Troy
2. Bill Elder
3. David Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The staff of the Newsletter is pleased to announce the engagement of Barb Martin to Steve Geddes. Steve is a member of the "City of Victoria" and lives in the capital city while Barb resides in West Vancouver.

* * * * *

FOR SALE:

One set of Grainger & Campbell's. Silver slides.
New bag. Phone - 731-7459.

ROVING REPORTER

A Piping Visit to North America

- Capt. John MacLellan

My annual visit to North America in 1973 began at Ottawa on June 30th where I was one of a contingent of pipers from Scotland who were to judge at The Ottawa Highland Games, and at which I was allocated the pleasant duty of adjudicating the Open Piobaireachd competition.

The Piobaireachd Society had sanctioned that their name be given to the main trophy for this event, and was to be called "The Piobaireachd Society's Gold Medal" which was to be designed and made in Canada, and will be played for annually at the City of Ottawa's Highland Games. This is the first time that the Society has allowed their name to be used on a trophy for such a purpose, and indeed it is a mark of their confidence in the upsurge of and in the standards reached in Piobaireachd playing in the New World over recent years particularly by those who are not immigrants from Scotland. The design of the medal shows the figure of a Piper on one side and on the reverse, the City of Ottawa's Coat of Arms. The ribbon has the colours of the City and marked on the obverse side are the words "Outstanding Performance". Both the officials of the Ottawa Games and the Piobaireachd Society have safe-guarded the standards by having a clause inserted in the rules that the medal will only be awarded if standards warrant, and this will be decided by the judge who must be a member of the Piobaireachd Society's judges panel.

In common with so many of the competitions in Canada and the U.S.A., the competition was scheduled to begin at an early hour - 8:30 a.m. to be precise, but in common with so many competitions generally did not get underway for about another hour. In all nine competitors played, and one can say that the standard was more than satisfactory. The Instruments were overall well toned and tuned, and the tuning time on the platform was minimal, due I believe to the edict that no recognizable tune would be played before the actual competition piece - indeed, this habit is prevalent of Scotland and one that doesn't endear the player to the judge, especially when the mood to be set is for Piobaireachd, and one is treated to a burst of Jigs beforehand, instead of being lulled into the right frame of mind with some well chosen tuning phrases to settle the Bagpipe, the Player and listeners for the Ceol Mor to come.

My main criticism of the playing in the competition was the lack of that indefinable quality - "Music". As I said the Bagpipes were good, and so too in the majority of cases were the fingers, but I got the impression that most were still trying to remember as they played how each phrase was to be produced as per their tutors' instructions, so that we missed the nuances and musical flow that comes when, as it were, a player "lets his hair down", but of course to be fair this is a criticism that is not confined to younger Piobaireachd players from North America or abroad for that matter.

The winner of the handsome Gold Medal was Pipe Major Ed Neigh, Guelph, who played "MacNeill of Barra's March", a tune that has gained in popularity lately - it was set for the competitions at Oban and Inverness fairly recently. His production of the tune was well thought out and he maintained interest throughout as he varied both rhythm and tempo from variation to variation. In particular his finger manipulation in the Tripling variation produced fine brisk movements. The general effect of his Urlar playing I felt could have been improved by shortening the connecting and passing notes thus making the "Song" a little more melodious. His instrument was the perfect foil for his playing and was most accurately tuned, well toned, and of a pleasant resonant pitch.

Second place went to Pipe Sgt. Jim Thomson, Toronto, who I asked to play that favourite tune, "The Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon". Once again here was a fine bagpipe which was a little higher in pitch than Ed Neigh's, what a difference it makes to Piobaireachd playing when the Pipe is right. His performance was fairly mature, but lacked sensitivity in the middle variations, where perhaps had he taken a slower tempo more time would have been available to exploit the excellent melodic phrases to be found in these variations. Also the various cadences in Patrick Og need delicate handling and at times Mr. Thomson gave these a rather clipped effect which detracted from the beautiful flow this tune can have. However, there was no doubt that this was a well played tune.

For his playing of the "Big Spree", Mr. Robert Worrall won the third prize. His tune was quite well thought out and the variations balanced each other nicely. He was handicapped by a Bagpipe which at the beginning of his performance was not as well tuned as it might have been and also because it did not hold the initial tuning and got steadily out of tune.

Of those who were not in the prize list, mention must be made of Mr. Bill Livingstone's playing of "The MacDougall's Gathering". This was a fine tune on an excellent pipe, but which was precluded from consideration for the prize list by a very serious error in the Taorluath doubling, when he unfortunately slipped back into the Singling again. It was a performance that gave a lot of pleasure to those who listened to it. The other competitors were Cpl. Hugh MacPherson - "The Lament for the Only Son"; Sgt. George Robertson - "The Prince's Salute"; Mr. S.L. MacBride - "Lament for Donald of Laggan"; Mr. Jim MacGillivray - "MacGregors Salute"; and Pipe Major Roderick MacDonald - "The End of the Great Bridge".

Apart from the games I was delighted to renew many friendships in the Ottawa area, as well as taking the opportunity to visit Mrs. Aileen Scott, the late Sam Scott's widow at Manotick. How sad it was to go to his renowned piping room, and to see everything as he had it in his great love for piping, with the two great ingredients that made the room so alive missing, the figure of Sam himself and, of course, the sound of the bagpipe which was seldom silent at his riverside home.

My next port of call was on the western seaboard at Vancouver where I had intended to drop in, find a place to lay my head, and later make a few calls on friends. But the grapevine was at work and as I left the Customs hall there was the tall elegant figure of Ed Esson to meet me. So into the boot (trunk) of the Jaguar went my bags and in no time I was having a MacEwans in his most hospitable home. The B. C. Highland Games Committee had also sent me an invitation to the Games which were on the following day, so I took a busman's holiday and went along to listen for the sake of pure enjoyment and, of course, to meet the piping fraternity. It was an ideal day and I found it just a little difficult to choose what I'd listen to for there were so many classes going on at the same time. As usual, one never ceases to be amazed at the standards of piping reached by the fair sex in Vancouver. I am sure that no where in the world can one find so many expert female pipers, which fact was of course reflected in the results. I was a little disappointed in that there was no professional Piobaireachd competition and too, just a little at the standard in the open competitions where I thought the playing was a shade colourless. On the other hand the Pipe Bands were in fine form and the competitions at the end of the day made very good listening indeed. Is it perhaps the time devoted to the bands that is having an effect on the solo piping, for I note that most of the leading lights are Pipe Majors of bands?

Anne Esson advised me to take the bus to Seattle where I was going next instead of the usual plane flight. How glad I was that I did just that for I was able to see the countryside and what with the reporting time at airports being so early for flights, the time taken wasn't so much longer and of course it was much easier on the pocket. At Seattle I was the guest of Jack and Daisy Ironside for about ten days, during which time I ran what turned out to be a very successful class. So many were forward and at so many different standards, I decided to split the teaching day into two parts with a class in the morning and one in the late afternoon and early evening. This arrangement was admirable as everyone seemed to be suited as to timing. This class was somewhat of a trial run for a more ambitious School that will be organized and run during the first two weeks of August, 1974. Staying with Jack and Daisy was a great treat and, like the Essons, their home is a truly highland one and of course the accent is on Pipes and Pipe Bands. While in Seattle, I was most impressed with the chanters that Cameron Wyllie had made from a man-made material. They were very good and there is no doubt that he has a success on his hands.

A highlight of my stay in that area was a two day visit to the 6th Army Division at Fort Lewis. I was the guest of General Fulton and Colonel John Henshaw who are both Pipe Band enthusiasts and who are at the moment endeavouring to build up a good Band for their Headquarters. At the time of my visit the Division was undergoing "Fitness for Role" inspections as well as celebrating their first year of being re-activated. I was most intrigued to view the parades and to see how the American soldier lived, and also to see how another country's Army coped with visiting Generals. The Pipe Band at the moment is small, but there is no doubt that the enthusiasm that is present will see a big improvement as time progresses.

My last two weeks on the West Coast were spent in San Rafael, California, at the Northern California College of Piping and Drumming which I had helped to establish the previous year. To make sure that standards will be kept high we have made it a rule that no more than forty pupils can attend in the Piping section and twenty for the drumming. In this way the Instructors are certain to know every pupil personally and be able to build up a good relationship between both. I was fortunate in having to assist me on the piping side, Pipe Major Jimmy MacMillan from Vancouver and Pipe Major Jimmy McColl from Los Angeles. Our colleague for the Drumming was once again Drum Major George Pryde from Powell River. What a success the School was and what a tremendous amount of progress was made, by all the pupils - boys, girls, and adults since 1972 due of course largely to Pipe Major Bill Merriman and Drum Major Trevor Atkins who guide the fortunes of the Prince Charles Pipe Band, the personnel of which make up the bulk of the students of the School.

One of the students who came from outside the "home" area was Alison Palmer from Vancouver. She had great success in the knock-out competition when she vanquished students old and young, large and small, to win. We were all most impressed with her melodic playing which had such a fine swing to it and, too, in the way she varied the programme for each round. The audience were simply rooting for her and her victory was most popular and well deserved. The competition was judged by a panel of Instructors and Pupils.

Because of the location, a hutted camp with all the mod cons in a nicely wooded area, the whole school was able to devote themselves entirely to Piping and Drumming, and the fervour that was whipped up had to be "heard" to be believed. Not to be outdone we Piping Instructors were barricaded each evening in "Boreraig" (the name given to our quarters) and the sound of Piobaireachd after Piobaireachd could be heard rolling out as we ourselves were rejuvenated by the enthusiasm of the School. I was particularly pleased with the progress made in Piobaireachd playing, and also the attainment of good tonal qualities from the Bagpipes. Behind any good camp must be good administration, and while the plans were laid by the Committee of the School, the business of getting them into action lay very much in the hands of Mrs. Peggy Richey who was Auntie Peggy to us all and saw that good piping and drumming was complemented by satisfied stomachs. She was ably assisted by Mrs. Lena MacMillan who had come along with Jimmy for the trip but who can never be idle when work is available. We thank them both and their helpers for a fine job well done. The School will be in session in 1974 during the final two weeks of August with the Santa Rosa Games coming at the end of them as a testing ground for the previous two weeks work.

I then skipped home for a few days before I joined the Scottish Pipe Band contingent that was attending the Scottish Festival at the C.N.E. Toronto. This time my task was to rehearse and supervise the display being put on by the fifteen Scottish Pipe Bands. After much hard work on everyone's part the whole exercise was a great success and showed that not only militarily trained Pipe Bands are capable of putting on a Massed Band display of some magnitude.

The competitions on the final Sunday of this visit afforded me another opportunity of a busman's holiday, and having used what little influence I have to secure a "Grandstand" seat I had a most pleasant time listening to the bands, particularly those in first grade on which I concentrated. There is no doubt that some of the Scottish contingent found the humid and hot conditions trying and were not able to plan their "Campaign" successfully.

However, there is no doubt that the Pipe Majors of those bands that I often call the "Big Bands" - The Shotts, Red Hackle, The Edinburgh Police, etc. are so experienced that they cope with all conditions be they hot or cold and they turned in selections of their usual high standards. Listening to all the bands play made me realize just how much each individual piper and drummer must forego their individuality and subject themselves to the musical discipline of their leaders - an irksome hindrance that the Solo player does not have, but one so essential in creating a good pipe band.

During my time in North America, I took the opportunity to conduct a number of examinations for the Institute of Piping's certificates. I am glad to be able to congratulate the following on obtaining after stiff practical and written examinations the certificates noted before their names:

Diploma of Piping

Pipe Major A.M. Cairns, C.D. Canadian Armed Forces.

Senior Teacher's Certificate

Pipe Major J. MacMillan, Burnaby, B.C.
Pipe Major J. MacColl, Los Angeles
Pipe Major A.M. Cairns, Canadian Armed Forces.

Teacher's Certificate

Pipe Major J.W. Merriman, Prince Charles Pipe Band.

Senior Piping Certificate

Mike Reynolds
Jan Richey
Seth Walker
Matt Burgin
Gordon Sherman
Stuart Drown

Junior Piping Certificate

Brian Hamilton
Diane Ring
John Darcy
Pat Connolly
Marcia Campbell

Elementary Piping Certificates

Carey Pipe

Teri Ewell

It has been said that Piping certificates mean nothing and do not make the holder a better player. While this statement can be taken any way one likes, the holder of any type of certificate has the satisfaction that they have studied under a properly thought out and graduated plan, reached a certain degree of proficiency according to that plan, and that the degree of proficiency has been thoroughly tested in all branches of piping.

The syllabus built up by the Institute of Piping ensures that a student of piping is able to progress from one grade to another moving through from Elementary stage to the Diploma which covers every aspect that is in Piping. Further details can be had from me or from the College of Piping, Glasgow.

My visit ended in mid-August and by that time it was time to think about reopening The Army School of Piping for the next year's session and to commence another round of teaching.

Capt. John MacLellan.

FEMALE CHALLENGE TO TOP PIPERS

Competing against 12 top male pipers in the Scottish Piping Society of London's annual competitions in Chelsea Town Hall will be Mrs. Rona Lightfoot, 4 Sycamore Crescent, Inverness, the first lady piper to take part in the society's Bratach Gorm Piobaireachd competition.

South Uist-born Mrs. Lightfoot - who plays under her maiden name, Rona MacDonald - made news two years ago when her protests caused the London society to think again about their ban on female pipers.

Although this is her first appearance at the London competitions, her stand meant that last year for the first time, some ladies did in fact enter, although only in the amateur section.

Mrs. Lightfoot, who is recognized in piping circles as a master of the art, has never quite had the public acclaim accorded to some of those she will be up against because her sex has barred her from so many top competitions.

Wife of a Merchant Navy skipper and mother of a 14 year old son who is also promising well as a piper, Mrs. Lightfoot is descended from long lines of island pipers on both her father's and her mother's side.

Entry to the Bratach Gorm contest is confined to previous winners of the open or medal competition in Oban or Inverness, the Dunvegan Medal, the Uist and Barra Association piobaireachd, the London Gillies Cup or the South Uist open piobaireachd, which Mrs. Lightfoot has won three times.

The standard is thus very high, and the Bratach Gorm is regarded as one of the top piobaireachd events in competitive playing.

Prizes are substantial. First is 100 pounds, given by a London department store, while there are second, third and fourth prizes of 40, 30 and 20 pounds respectively.

In addition to the Bratach Gorm there is also an open piobaireachd competition with a top prize of 100 pounds, and three amateur contests in march, strathspey and reel, march alone, and jig.

One of the Bratach Gorm judges, John MacFadyen - himself the winner six times - will have the unenviable task of judging among the top 13 his two equally-famous brothers, former gold medallists Duncan, from Linwood, and Iain, from Plockton, now piping instructor to Wester Ross schools.

Other pipers in the principal contest are:

John Burgess, Alness, piping instructor to East Ross-shire schools; Ronald Lawrie, Glasgow, ex-pipe major of Glasgow Police Pipe Band; Willie MacDonald, Benbecula, piping instructor in Skye schools;

John MacDougall, piping instructor in East Inverness-shire schools; James MacGregor, piping instructor at Glenalmond College, Perthshire; Angus J. MacLellan, Glasgow City Police Pipe Band;

Donald Morrison, Aberdeen, a native of South Uist, and former pipe major of Aberdeen City Police Pipe Band; William J. Morrison, South Uist; John Wilson, Glasgow, a member of Glasgow Police and Jimmy Young, Cumbernauld.

* * * * *

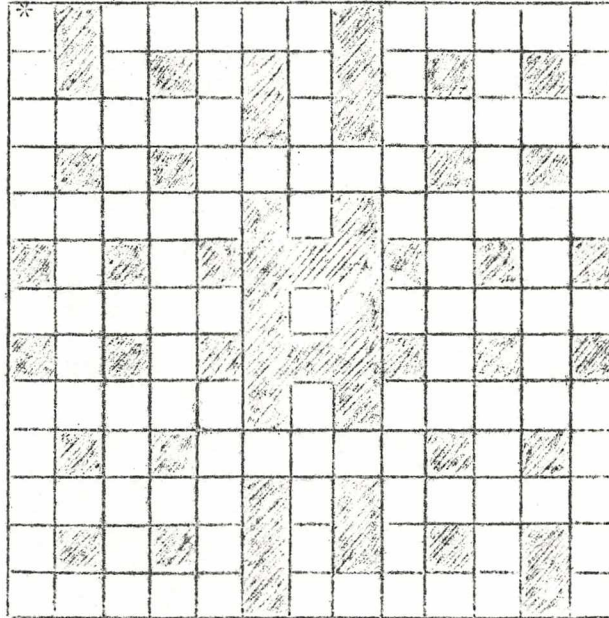
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F I V E R S



This puzzle is quite different from the normal crossword puzzle in that you are already given all the answers below.

All you have to do is fit them in the proper places. The first word down is given to start you off. After you have inserted that word, see which other words fit in with it, and go on until you have used them all once only.

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| WRIST | MODEL | JEWEL | BEVEL | SOBER |
| RENEW | CRIMP | LIEGE | BANDS | PEDAL |
| SCOUT | RADII | RARER | SORTS | CLASP |
| BROWN | LULLS | EVENT | BRING | JEMMY |
| CRUMB | URBAN | REALM | AGAIN | DOORS |
| YARDS | DRONE | ANGRY | RODEO | STREW |
| UNDER | REPLY | WIDER | BATON | |

* First word down: SOBER

THE SPOKANE PÌOBÀIREACHD SOCIETY

Summer School for Piping

A third generation Highlandman named Sutherland who hails from the majestic state of Montana with its mountains, glens, cool lakes and clear rivers made this comment upon completion of the entire four weeks of piping instructions. "We are not the best because we are the largest - we are the largest because we are the best." It seemed that this feeling prevailed in the minds of the entire student body during the four exciting weeks of this internationally famous school.

During the first session, July 1 to 14, thirty students, Student/Instructors were enrolled. P/M John Wilson from Toronto, Canada, was the Staff anchor man. Unfortunately, because of prior commitments, he was unable to remain for more than the first week. When he departed there were some misty eyes and sad hearts because these students quickly realized that they had had this unique opportunity of studying under a Master who has no peers in the New World and very unlikely any beyond its shores. With his renowned teaching skill, delightful personality and infinite patience he led the senior students through four piobaireachds which included that one of great beauty, "Tullach Ard", having its roots in the Old MacKenzie Country.

"John" Wilson, as he prefers to be called, found the time to spend several sessions daily with the lesser skilled classes and also gave continuing guidance to the four Student/Instructors. Of the thirty students who attended the first two-week class, thirteen elected to remain on for the following two weeks.

Each evening recitals were given from 7:00 until 8:00 p.m. The majority of the students were encouraged to have their tape recorders with them. P/M Hardie and Andrew Wright gave two recitals each week. James Hardie gave one each week and the Student/Instructors were given an opportunity to let their students listen to their considerable musical talent. This year this particular program was expanded in order to let some of the more advanced students become involved in these recitals which, of course, was responsible for building confidence on the part of the participants.

The first two-week program was divided into five classes, while the second was divided into eight classes under the watchful eye and inspiration of P/M R.G. Hardie, affectionately referred to by the students as "Our Robbie". His eighteen year old son Jim and Mr. Andrew Wright, also from Bonny Scotland, are held on the same level of affection by all.

Currently, Andrew Wright is one of the great stars in piping in Scotland. In 1970 he established a record as being the eleventh individual in the history of piping to win the Oban and Inverness Medals the same year. Mr. Hardie, in addition to being the largest manufacturer of what is considered to be the finest bagpipes in the world, is the P/M of the famous Muirhead & Sons Pipe Band. Under his leadership this band won the world's championship for five consecutive years. This summer they won the great Cowal Games championship at Dunoon, Scotland where over one hundred crack bands from many parts of the world competed.

Class number eight was made up of ten boys over forty. They had about the same skill level. Several had been more or less self-taught. Their instructor stayed with them for at least six hours each day and was relieved only when either P/M Hardie or Mr. Andrew Wright would sit in to give them a lesson on Piobaireachd or a special tune that was part of their assignment. This special class of "Over Age in Grade" made such progress that they were invited to play several selections upon the day of graduation.

Upon several days the noon hour was shortened in order that demonstrations/lectures could be given on the fabrication of reeds and the construction of the bagpipe itself - how to distinguish the excellent from the inferior. Mr. Wright brought a stockpile of raw kane with him and all the students were given an opportunity to fabricate a set of drone reeds. The intent of this special training was not to make reed makers out of the students, but to simply provide them with a complete knowledge when selecting reeds and to know how to adjust reeds in order that they will obtain optimum tonal qualities from these very sensitive components. Mr. Gordon Sherman, a student from California, also gave an extremely interesting lecture/demonstration on the fabrication of chanter reeds. He is one of the leading authorities on reeds in America, and his research into the specialized tools necessary in the fabrication of the chanter reeds is recognized in Scotland, as well as in the New World.

On the weekend July 21 and 22, two chartered Greyhound buses transported almost eighty students to the Portland, Oregon Games. This trip served as a splendid opportunity for the students to take a "break" from their extremely busy training schedule and test their new skills on the competition boards. The summer piping school has been receiving wonderful support from the entire state of Oregon, and a continuation of this type of reciprocity between the school management and the Portland Games Committee is looked forward to with great pleasure.

July 27, which was the final day of the school will, I am sure, remain in the minds of all who were present for many years. At 9:30 in the morning one hundred and one kilted students posed for their class picture. At 10:00 the graduation ceremony got under way under the shade of the magnificent Ponderosa pines which adorn the campus grounds of the North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene. College President Barry Schuler was the principal speaker. He thanked the staff and students for coming into the community. He reminded them that this was the fifth consecutive year that his college had the opportunity to host this program with its immortal classical music called Piobaireachd. President Schuler congratulated the students on their conduct while guests at the college. He touched briefly on the construction of this ancient music and how it had survived in its pure form for at least four hundred years. He had it on good authority that the bagpipe is the only instrument upon which the Piobaireachd can be properly played, therefore, the music and the instrument itself must be native of the Scottish Highlands. President Schuler made mention of the dramatic growth of the summer school over the past few years. He dramatized this by displaying a chart which reflected the school enrollment during the seven years of its existence. In 1971, 51 students were enrolled. In 1972 82 were enrolled, and this year the student body, together with Student/Instructors, exceeded 130. It is anticipated that this number would soar to 150 next year and at least 200 in 1975. He had kind words for those who were responsible for establishing this college associated program, and he hoped that the Spokane Piobaireachd Society/North Idaho College partnership would continue for decades. Upon the conclusion of President Schuler's remarks he was given a standing ovation by the piping students and their instructors.

From 11:00 until 12:00 an event of unusual interest took place. Two couples were, after twenty-five years of marriage, remarried in celebration of their silver anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shields from San Rafael, California had their ceremony performed by the Very Rev. Father Haffie. The Shields had two delightful teenagers enrolled in the school. Mr. and Mrs. Robert May from Wenatchee, Washington, had their ceremony performed by the Rev. Lyman Winkle, the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Coeur d'Alene. Mr. May was a student and a member of class eight.

During the marriage ceremony an honor guard of 100 pipers was in place, fifty on either side of a twenty-foot wide corridor. When the marriage vows were completed the principals and the clergy were led down this grassy aisle by none other than P/M Hardie and Andrew Wright playing that most appropriate of tunes, "The Highland Wedding". When the couples arrived at and mounted the Reviewing Stand, the pipers formed into a square and passed "in review" to that beautiful melody, "Happy We've Been A*together". As the music from one hundred pipes

faded in the distance, four lassies and four lads performed an eightsome reel with Jimmy Hardie from Scotland providing the music on beautiful sounding pipes.

This happy and dignified hour will be long remembered by all those who were present. The television station, a CBS affiliate, which captured scene after scene of this hour-long spectacular has been deluged with letters and phone calls from hundreds who viewed with admiration and pleasure this delightful moment in the lives of all who participated. This "Highland Wedding" marks the "first" of such an event that will surely become an annual part of the program on graduation day. Already several enquiries have been received from young couples who would like to play the leading roles next year.

The first competitor for the Medallion started his Piobaireachd on schedule at 1:00 p.m. This event is confined to students attending the school. There were twenty who tried for this coveted prize with a cheque for \$300.00 attached. It was won by eighteen year old Brian Carse of Vancouver who played "The Lament for the Old Sword." Pipe Major Hardie judged this event. The playing for the Medallion finished at 5:00 p.m. and right on schedule at 6:00 p.m. commenced the competition for what has become the most prestigious prize in the New World, the "Bratach Nam Beann" (The Banner of the Mountains). There were ten who competed for this great prize which also carried with it a cheque for \$300.00 in order that the winner may represent the Spokane Piobaireachd Society at the Argyleshire Gathering at Oban, Scotland, where they compete for the Gold Medal established by the Highland Society of London in 1875. A twenty-six year old lawyer, Mr. William Livingstone, from Whitby, Ontario, won this prize by playing that magnificent Piobaireachd, "In Praise of Marion". The judges for this event were Messrs. Hardie and Wright. It is the consensus that few in the audience will ever forget Mr. Livingstone's immaculate fingering and the truly magnificent tone of his pipes. His entire tune which lasted slightly over nine minutes was faultlessly executed. His phrasing and shading was a joy to listen to by the experts and the devotees alike. The playing of this great tune by a great performer was recorded by many of the students who will, during the ensuing months, work very hard in an effort to acquire the same standard of musical skill. The offering of these great prizes is not for the purpose of "competition" per se but, simply, to afford the students an opportunity to listen to a demonstration of the very best playing of the ancient music of the bagpipe, "The Piobaireachd". This cherished classical music which North Idaho College President Barry Schuler referred to as a purely Highland product came close to becoming extinct were it not for one or two imaginative musical geniuses who lived during the early part of the nineteenth century.

The MacKays, the MacDonalds, the Thomasons and the MacArthurs were largely responsible for "rescuing" these immortal masterpieces from oblivion, and it is most encouraging to find that of the one hundred and thirty students who were enrolled in this internationally famous summer school for piping at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, every one was found to be studying and committing to memory these exciting, ancient classics, along with the normal Marches, Strathspeys, Reels, Hornpipes and Jigs.

Students who were enrolled in this enormous (all piping) summer school (the largest because we are the best) came from Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Ohio, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Minnesota, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Lt/Col John McEwing.

BANDSTAND

At the Annual General Meeting of the Western Pipe Band Association, the following people were elected to office:

President	Garnet Snow
Vice-President	Tom Binnie
Treasurer	Jim Rankin
Secretary	Jessie Roane
1st Vice President	Dave Rutherford
Directors	Albert Duncan
	Malcolm Nicholson
	Hal Senyk
	Angus MacPherson
	Keith Manifold
	Don Bellamy

WANTED

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