

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association

NOVEMBER, 1963.

No. 44.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAGPIPE MUSIC

AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PIPE PLAYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

B. C. P I P E R S ' N E W S L E T T E R

Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

Officers of the B.C. Pipers' Association:

PRESIDENT: Ian McDougall
VICE PRESIDENT: Norma Nicholson
SECRETARY: Wm. A. McAdie
TREASURER: Georgina MacPhail

B.C. Pipers' NEWSLETTER:

EDITOR: C. I. Walker
CIRCULATION: Donald Urquhart
SECRETARY: Wm. A. McAdie
Georgina MacPhail

The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 3726 Blenheim Street, Vancouver, B.C., by the British Columbia Pipers' Association, and is distributed to all members. Subscription price to non-members is \$1.50 per year. Address all communications concerning the Newsletter to: The B.C. Pipers' Newsletter, 3726 Blenheim Street, Vancouver, B.C. Address all other communications to the Secretary, B.C. Pipers' Association, 3288 East 27th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

NOVEMBER, 1963.

CONTENTS

No. 44.

Piobaireachd Tunes - 1964	Page 3
"The Gallant Forty-Two" (A Tribute to The Black Watch)	Page 4
Ortona - December 20th - 28th, 1943	Page 7
Piping at Oban	Page 9
From Pipe Major John Robertson's Scrapbook	Page 12
Bi-Monthly Competition - October 25th, 1963.....	Page 15
The Brown Haired Maiden	Page 18
Odds & Ends	Page 21



Super "Gaelic"

SIDE DRUM

BREATH SENSITIVE SNARES

NYLON HEADS fitted as standard to ALL MODELS. Vellum or plastic heads available at no extra charge.

The choice of champions

★ INCONTESTABLY THE BEST !

Carlton "Gaelic" Drums are not judged by one spectacular success alone, but by the consistency with which Bands playing them gain the highest awards in National Championships, in fact, in every contest of note throughout the world.

ALL METAL SNARES adjustable on both heads, give "punchy" tone with minimum effort.

The unique floating action snares perfected by CARLTON and fitted exclusively to the super "Gaelic" Side Drum, "kiss" the head and bed down evenly over the entire diameter.

WIDE SELECTION of eye-catching super plastic finishes :

Consult your dealer to-day or write for Souvenir Brochure to:-

J. T. McHARDY CO., LTD.
Scottish Imports,
534 Seymour Street,
VANCOUVER 2, B. C.
JOHN E. DALLAS & SONS LTD.,



HUGH MACPHERSON
IMPORTS LTD.,
231, Lake Street,
ST. CATHERINES, ONT.
Clifton Street, LONDON, E.C. 2.

PIOBAIREACHD TUNES - 1964:

The list of Piobaireachd pieces to be played in the 1964 season has been increased from six to ten, in the Open Piobaireachd class.

All competitors in the Open Piobaireachd at the Annual Gathering and at the summer competitions adopting the rules of the B.C. Pipers' Association will submit two tunes, - one of their own choice and one from the following list. The judges will decide, immediately before the competition, which of the two tunes will be played. In case a competitor wishes to submit two tunes from the list, this would be permissible.

All of the pieces appear in the Piobaireachd Society's Collection, as follows:

The Battle of Auldearn - Blar Allt Eireann - Book 2, Page 45

The Battle of Waternish - Blar Bhatairnis - Book 2, Page 48

Hector MacLean's Warning - Caismeachd Eachainn Mhic Ailean
nan Sop - Book 2, Page 51

Isabel MacKay - Isebeil Nic Aoidh - Book 6, Page 182

The King's Taxes - Mal an Righ - Book 5, Page 137

Lament for the Earl of Antrim - Cumha Iarla Aontruim - Book 3,
Page 81

The Lament for the Only Son - Cumha an Aona Mhic - Book 6,
Page 160

My King has landed in Moidart - Thainig Mo Righ Air Tir Am
Muideart - Book 5, Page 157

The Old Men of the Shells (Setting No. 1) - Bodaich dhubha
nan sligean - Book 7, Page 207.

Salute to Donald - Failte dhuit a Dhomhnuill - Book 8,
Page 229.

If any of our readers know of any potential competitors who are planning on competing in the Open Piobaireachd in 1964 we would ask them to notify them of these tunes, if they do not receive the Newsletter.

"THE GALLANT FORTY-TWA" (A Tribute to The Black Watch)

I think it is all too frequently forgotten, in this impetuous age of piping and drumming competitions, that the pipe band unit as we know it today owes its origin to the British Army. And, in point of fact, military pipe bands were in existence long, long before any civilian organization ever even thought of such a possibility.

As far back as the middle of the 19th century, each of the Highland and the Lowland Regiments had its Pipes & Drums and it seems to me their formation was ennobled by virtue of the theory of those high-ranking military men of vision that pipers and drummers should be "soldiers first ... bandsmen afterwards". For does it not seem all too obvious that, despite the adoption of military kit, military insignia and military badges of rank by nearly all (if not all) civilian pipe bands sometimes even to an extent that appears ridiculous in the face of entitlement and tradition ... they rarely attain the standard of deportment of a pipe band of Her Majesty's Armed Forces unless some of the members happen to be ex-Servicemen ... and it is to the military we must turn for a proud marching performance, shining leather, gleaming silver and brass and splendid soldierly bearing?

As a soldier myself with some 35 years to my credit if I may be permitted to include Boys' Brigade and Cadet Service I am forever associating certain pipe tunes with particular events. When The Black Watch played "The Mist-covered Mountains", I at once thought of another time when I stood at Windsor Station on a grey afternoon in February, 1952, as the massed pipers of the five Highland and the five Lowland Regiments, led by the Pipe-Major and the Drum-Major of The Black Watch, drums muted and draped in black, played the earthly remains of the courageous King George VI to his last resting place in Windsor Castle to that same old Gaelic air.

Or, as I listened intently to "The Badge of Scotland", I was reminded of a scene I witnessed in Scotland years ago when the tattered remnants of the Regimental and Queen's Colours of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) were solemnly carried off the parade square for the last time and every soldier, young and old, shed silent tears of simple and honest grief at their passing; and the tune, in slow time, was that tune.

Or the massed Gordons and Seafortths coming over the brow of a hill on the links at Nairn, near to where I was born, to herald the official commencement of the Highland Games with "The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar" and "The Barren Rocks of Aden", with a 200-man Guard of Honour behind them, six abreast, in Full Highland Dress, and Edward, Prince of Wales, himself in his beloved kilt, taking the salute.

Or the pipes of the 5th Camerons at my own father's funeral, as they poured out "The Soldier's Return" and marched slowly ... ever so slowly through the gates of Auldearn Cemetery and stopped ... and a lone bugler followed with "Crimean Long Reveille", and the pipes burst into "Highland Laddie" and everyone marched out at a good llo to the minute. All of these and, I suppose, a thousand others of a like nature, are dear to me, as I am sure countless similar ones are near and dear to many of you.

It might well be that the Regimental Band of The Black Watch does not play the difficult melodies one associates with the Grenadier Guards, the Coldstream Guards or the Scots Guards, but I am equally sure that none of these can stir the heart of Scotsmen, and would-be Scots, and lovers of Scottish music, as can The Black Watch Regimental Band with its "Will Ye No Come Back Again" or an excerpt from the repertoire of the late Sir Harry Lauder or massed with the Pipes & Drums on "The Athol Highlanders", "Scotland, the Brave", "The Black Bear Hornpipe" or "You're No Awa Tae Bide Awa". I earnestly believe the soul of Scotland is enshrined for all time in those simple, touching tunes that are more precious to Scotsmen than pearls of a great price.

The Highland Dancers of The Black Watch are thrilling to behold. The torches of the Dancer Escorts blaze with that same glory as "Wha Saw the 42nd?".

"Morag of Dunvegan", a moving novelty number with Regimental Band and a duet of Pipers, is a shining example of the combination of military and musical faultlessness. The Fanfare Trumpeters, resplendent with banners of silk on which are embroidered the regimental crest and battle honours, bring to mind the medieval tournaments of knights of armour.

So long as there continues to be a Black Watch, people the world over will gather together to enjoy musical precision and skill. There is nothing quite like it.

All we have to remember is that the Royal Stewart tartan on the pipers, the Feathered Bonnets, the scarlet hackles, the piece cut from the spats and the title "Royal Highland Regiment" were not made a part of The Black Watch story without just cause. And so I say "well done!" to the men from Balhousie and Perth.

- Ian MacLeod -
The Seaforth Highlanders
of Canada

The CLANSMEN

15 SUNNYDALE DRIVE, TORONTO 18, ONTARIO

JOHN GILMOUR,
BElmont 1-3596

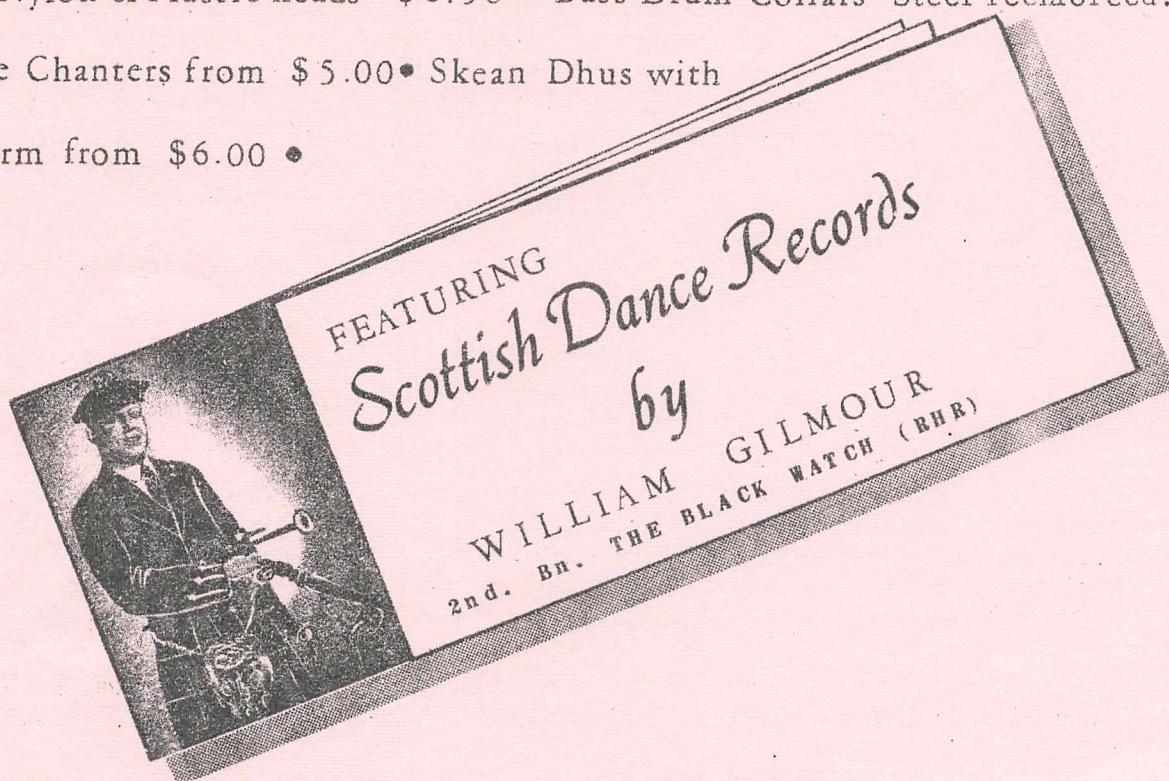
JAS. McRAE,
MElrose 5-6088

WE REPRESENT LEADING MAKERS OF ALL HIGHLAND EQUIPMENT AND HIGHLAND DRESS • PIPE BAND AND DRESS UNIFORMS • BAGPIPES BY ALL LEADING MAKERS • ALL PIPING REQUIREMENTS • FULLY TESTED REEDS DRUMS AND DRUMMERS SUPPLIES

No. 1, Nylon & Plastic heads \$6.50 • Bass Drum Collars Steel reënforced. \$6.00

Practice Chanters from \$5.00 • Skean Dhus with

Cairngorm from \$6.00 •



WE ALSO HAVE A LARGE STOCK OF MUSIC BOOKS, SCOTTISH NOVELTIES, STERLING SILVER CELTIC JEWELLERY, CLAN CRESTS, TIES, SCARVES, CLAN MAPS AND BOOKS, ETC.

PRICE LISTS FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY UPON REQUEST.

Bagpipes - Reeds - Clan Crests - Scottish Novelties

ORTONA - December 20th - 28th, 1943.

In last month's Newsletter we reprinted the composition "The Heroes of Ortona", by Pipe Major Edmund Esson, M.B.E.

A few words were mentioned about the Battle of Ortona. It has been felt that the following report, appearing on the 1962 programme for the dinner, would be of considerable interest to our readers:

" Ortona who shall forget it. Its tall narrow houses and dark cramped streets huddled against the massive 15th Century medieval castle which crowned the high promontory thrusting squarely into the sea. And the newer part of the town, laid out in a system of rectangular blocks, with only the main thoroughfares wide enough to allow passage of a tank. And the skilful demolitions designed to lead to the killing ground in the Piazza Municipale. And the fanatical defence by the 1st German Parachute Div. of the 76th Corps, defeated only by initiative and the "mousehole" technique of house clearing. And the stinking "Dead Horse Square" which we dominated by the 24th. And the "Padre", Major Durnford and his unforgettable umbrella and the "uplift in spirits" wherever he visited. And the wonderful Christmas dinner served by Capt. Cameron and his staff in the church of Santa Maria di Constantinopoli, where the Companies took turns to feed their men, for many of whom it was the last meal.

The report of the German Command testified to the bitterness of the fighting.

"In Ortona the enemy attacked all day long with about one Brigade supported by ten tanks. In very hard house to house fighting and at the cost of very heavy casualties to his own troops he advanced to the market square in the south part of town. The battle there is especially violent. Our own troops are using flame-throwers, hand grenades and the new "Ofenrohre" (the German counterpart of the bazooka)."

It is interesting to read a German report after the battle. In such dreadful circumstances did our men celebrate the greatest of all home festivals and so many of them died. We must not forget them; in Service to our Country and our Battalion can we keep alive the terrific spirit which overcame the vicious defence of what is now known as the "Stalingrad" of the Adriatic. We must not forget the "Eddies" who shared our victory at Ortona and other such delightful spots in "Italia la Bella."

And finally at 0430 hrs. on the 28th Dec. 1943, it was discovered that the enemy had crept away from Ortona during the night."



Royal-Scot

..... Again!

NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP, AUG. 3rd., 1963, MAXVILLE, ONT.

1st. Worcester Kiltie Pipe Band

3rd. City of Toronto Pipe Band

ALL USING

Premier

DRUMS, OF COURSE.

In fact, bands with Royal-Scot equipped drum sections keep winning practically every contest on this continent. Truly, a drum for champions.

Premier

24-Strand top snares, four-way adjustable;

Wire bottom snares with throw-off;

Unbreakable hoops;

Unbreakable brackets;

Everplay heads;

These are just a few of the winning features of this pipe band special. The drum with the quality and the sound to help you win championships.

SOLD IN 95 COUNTRIES. ILLUSTRATED BROCHURE FREE.

See your dealer or write for colour brochure to

CANADA MUSIC SUPPLY LTD.

472 De Lauzon Street, Montreal, Que.

PIPING AT OBAN:

(from Oban Times, Sept., 1963)

At the Argyllshire Gathering last week 10 competitors played in the open piobaireachd competition for the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Challenge Cup, in which the tunes set contained neither taorluath or crunluath variations. Despite this, 50 per cent either failed to complete their tunes or went astray. It was obvious therefore that the attitude of pipers generally was that they regarded those tunes to be of little competitive value on future occasions and made little effort to memorise or interpret the phrases.

This attitude is perhaps understandable particularly in view of the fact that the Northern Meeting Clasp competition is confined this year to former gold medallists.

Among the prize-winners Pipe Major Donald MacLeod, who was first to play, played "Salute on the Birth of Rory Mjor MacLeod" very melodiously but slowly. It was felt that his "F", a note so particularly important in this tune, was not so musical as it could have been.

Pipe Major John MacLellan played "The Park Piobaireachd No. 1" on a very good bagpipe indeed. He had obviously given thought to the nature and occasion of the composition but it was perhaps slightly "military exercisish" as a consequence. Nevertheless, it was a very good performance.

William MacDonald, Inverness, with again a very good pipe, played "The Nameless Tune". In places his execution, particularly on the high "G" notes, was suspect, but it was obvious that he had given thought to the phrasing and succeeded very well in putting it across.

There was very little between those three and they were difficult to separate in order of merit.

Donald MacPherson, about whose instrument it is sufficient to say that it was as perfect as one has come to expect of him, played "The Old Woman's Lullaby". This was a splendid tune and his final variation was a masterpiece of musical phrasing.

Playing "The Unjust Incarceration", Pipe Sergeant Angus Macdonald of the 1st Bn., The Scots Guards, stationed at Pirbright, won the Highland Society of London's Gold Mededal for piobaireachd.

The 24 year old Glasgow born piper, who has been in the Guards since he was 15, played what the three judges described as "a very steady and musical bagpipe in excellent tone". Lt. Col. D.J.S. Murray, colonel of the 4th/5th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (T.A.), one of the judges, said the winner's fingering was "excellent" and his playing was "well constructed and expressively ground".

In second place was John MacDougall, Bucksburn, who played "The Blue Ribbon", followed in third placed by Finlay MacNeill, Port Glasgow with "Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay".

The first thing Pipe Sergeant Macdonald did after hearing of his success was to telephone his wife in London of his win. "It feels great to win the medal," he said afterwards, "especially when I think of my previous two appearances in this competition, when I did not even finish my pieces."

The other two judges were Mr. James Campbell, principal judges, and Captain D.R. McLennan, formerly of the Seaforth Highlanders.

Prize List:

Marches:

- 1 and the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society Star - John Graham, Avonbridge
2. William M. MacDonald, Inverness
3. Neil McEachern, Islay

Strathspey & Reel:

- 1 and the Argyllshire Gathering Silver Medal, - Hugh A. McCallum, Campbelltown
2. John Graham
3. John MacDougall, Bucksburn

March, Strathspey and Reel: (former winners)

1. Pipe Major John A. MacLellan, Queen's Own Highlanders & Principal of the Army School of Piping, Edinburgh Castle
2. Lance/Sergeant Angus MacDonald, 1st Bn. The Scots Guards
3. John MacDougall

Local Marches:

- 1 and the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society Miniature Star - R.M. Stewart, Inverary
2. John MacCallum, Kinlochleven
3. T. Turnbull, Oban

Local Strathspeys & Reels:

1. R.M. Stewart
 2. John MacCallum
 3. T. Turnbull
- Cup presented by the late Major George Melville Duncan for the best performance in the local piping competitions - R.M. Stewart.

THE NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE TO NON-MEMBERS OF THE
B.C. PIPERS' ASSOCIATION FOR \$1.50 per year.

OLD COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED FOR 15¢ per copy.



The College of Piping

20 OTAGO STREET,

GLASGOW, W.2.

TELEPHONE No.
KELVIN 3587.

THE COLLEGE OF PIPING

.....gives a service to Pipers everywhere.

BAGPIPES AND ACCESSORIES

from Grainger and Campbell, R.G.Hardie,
Peter Henderson and R.G.Lawrie, Selected
by experts and speedily dispatched to any
part of the world.

....Matched chanters a specialty.

REEDSchosen and tested (small numbers only).

ALL PIPE MUSIC AND RECORDINGS, including.....

"THE PIPING TIMES"

\$2.50 yearly. Every month from the hub of
Piping.

"THE COLLEGE TUTOR"

Part 1- \$1.50 (Postage 15¢). Enjoy the
benefits of a College Education.

"THE SEUMAS MacNEILL COLLECTION"

\$1.50 (Postage 10¢). Best since
Willie Ross.

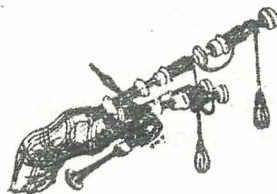
"SURVEY OF PIPING"

\$9.50 (Postage included). Tape recording
by Pipe Major, JOHN MacLELLAN and
SEUMAS MacNEILL

Write for catalogue to:

the College of Piping

20 OTAGO STREET



GLASGOW, W.2.

SCOTLAND

FROM PIPE MAJOR JOHN ROBERTSON'S SCRAPBOOK:

CANADIAN SOLDIER HONOURED:

(from "Piping and Dancing, January, 1941)

In a young Canadian now in Edinburgh has been revived the link between Clan MacLeod Chiefs and their hereditary pipers, the MacCrimmon. Claiming direct descent from those master pipers who carried on the MacCrimmon College at Borreraig, Skye, for many generations, Piper Malcolm Roderick MacCrimmon, aged 22, has arrived in Edinburgh for tuition under Pipe Major William Ross at the Army School of Piping.

He is serving with a Canadian regiment, and since his arrival in this country Flora Mrs. MacLeod of MacLeod, Chief of the Clan MacLeod Society, has appointed him her honorary piper. As a "MacLeod of MacLeod" piper he is enjoying a unique distinction among serving pipers in that his pipes bear, in addition to his battalion ribbon, the MacLeod dress tartan ribbon.

In an interview recently Piper MacCrimmon said: "I received the permission of the Colonel of the Scottish regiment with which my regiment is affiliated to use the clan ribbon."

The fact of Piper MacCrimmon's descent from the hereditary MacLeod pipers has been established by the Hon. Secretary of the Clan MacCrimmon Society, Mr. George C. B. Poulter, who has presented the young piper with an illuminated table tracing his descent from the "prince of pipers," Padruig Mor MacCrimmon.

Padruig Mor was born towards the end of the sixteenth century, and it was a great-great-grandson of his, Donald MacCrimmon, who emigrated to Canada in 1820. Donald was the great-great-grandfather of young Piper MacCrimmon.

Playing the pipes since he was 10 years old, Piper MacCrimmon wants to stay in the land of his ancestors.

"I was working on my father's farm at Scotford, near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, but I don't like the work. If I get on well with my piping," he said, "and can get the right situation, I'll remain in Scotland".

Before coming to Edinburgh he paid a visit to the Hebrides to see two sisters of his mother in Harris. He has promised Flora Mrs. MacLeod of MacLeod to visit Dunvegan Castle on his next leave if it is long enough to permit him to do so.

SHEEPSKINS: BY A FELLMONGERING PIPER:(from "Piping and Dancing, Jan., 1936)

All pipers know that the bags of the pipes which they play are usually made from sheepskins, but few of these same pipers have any idea of the work that is entailed in the preparation of the skins.

The first process in the skinning of the sheep after it has been slaughtered. It should be noted that Scottish butchers have a deserved reputation at this job, which is termed flaying. Their reputation is such that no matter how depressed the hide and skin trade may be, there is always a demand for the skins that come from their hands.

The flayed skins, with the adhering wool is next taken up by Fellmongers, that is dealers in hides and skins, who treat them primarily, for the wool which is adhering to the skin, and then dispose of the skins as a by-product of their business.

After purchasing the sheepskins and bringing them to the works the first process is one of soaking in pits in clean water. The method employed for extra dirty skins is to put them into a machine in which a strong pressure of clear water is projected on to the skin while it is at the same time, beaten by a chain arrangement.

After this the skins (with the wool still adhering) are treated with a mixture of lime and sulphide of sodium. This mixture acts a depilatory or, in other words, a fibre remover. Time being a factor in all the processes in use in this business, so much of it is allowed to pass before the skins are put through a washing machine which is a conveyor arrangement that takes the treated skins through a bath of clear water. Thereafter they go to a chamber for partial drying before going to the pulling shop where the removal and classifying of the wool takes place.

At this point we might be allowed to digress to inform our readers that this is a highly skilled business that calls for long training and keen perception. Just how well trained these operatives need be is best understood when we explain that at the present moment wool is fetching prices that vary from fivepence to fourteen pence per pound; its gradation according to value is in the hands of the operatives who remove this wool from the skins by a form of manipulation that looks partly like shearing and partly pulling, and is entirely effective in leaving the skin as skin. Each operative serves a five years apprenticeship, then a year as an improver, before becoming a fully fledged skinner.

The wool after removal is taken to a chamber located above a stove and it is there thoroughly dried before being stacked in different bins and packed subsequently, in bales.

It will be of interest to readers to know that wool not only varies with different breeds of sheep, it varies in every skin, there being as many as eight different classes of wool in one skin alone. The classification of all these variations is only learned in time, and that is why the operators have to serve an apprenticeship before they can be competent.

After the removal of the wool the skins, or as they are termed in the trade, pelts, are treated with a lime solution to preserve them before they are sent on to the tanners, or leather dressers.

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - OCTOBER 25th, 1963.

A record number of 72 competitors kept the Seaforth Highlanders ringing with bagpipes until 12:25 a.m., at the first Bi-Monthly Competition of the season, held on Friday, October 25th.

These numbers were indeed overwhelming, and gratifying to all except the hard-working judges and the caretakers. Most of the credit for the flood of pipers in this area must be given to the small handful of teachers who are responsible for tuition, and of course to the parents, who suffer through the lessons and practice sessions, and who induce their potential champions to keep practicing.

The Novice, Juvenile and Junior events were judged by Edmund Esson, and the Amateur and Senior Amateur events were judged by Albert Duncan.

The following persons were adjudged as winners:

Novice Marches: (35 competitors)

1. Richard Robertson
2. Colin Abel
3. John Wright
4. Michael Murdock
5. Bruce Holmgren
6. Dennis Collister

Juvenile Old Highland Airs: (24 competitors)

1. Robin Woods
2. Garry McBride
3. Colin Stuart
4. Sandy Reid
5. Dorothy MacArthur
6. Kelly Hagan

Junior Strathspeys & Reels: (7 competitors)

1. Raymond Irvine
2. Bruce Topp
3. Douglas Graham

Amateur Piobaireachd: (3 competitors)

1. Bill Elder
2. Larry Gillott

Senior Amateur Jigs: (3 competitors)

1. Bill Paterson
2. Jim Wilson

The next competitions will be held on December 13th, 1963.

The following events will be conducted:

Novice 6/8 Marches
Juvenile Marches
Junior Old Highland Airs
Amateur Strathspeys & Reels
Senior Amateur Piobaireachd.

In order that the evening will finish at a more reasonable hour, the Senior Amateur Piobaireachd Event will commence at 7:00 p.m. It will be followed immediately at its conclusion by the Novice Class, and then the Juvenile, Junior and Amateur events.

We would ask all competitors to be prompt, in order that the competitions might be proceeded with quickly

We would also remind all competitors or teachers, that entries must be received by the Secretary at least one day before the competition. Since it is necessary for the Secretary to prepare lists of competitors and tunes in advance of the competitions, the cooperation of all competitors and teachers is requested.

Please contact:

Wm. A. McAdie
3288 East 27th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.

Telephone: HE 4-1591

CONSULT

GRAINGER and CAMPBELL

FOR ALL YOUR PIPING REQUIREMENTS!

**BAGPIPES · DRUMS
UNIFORMS
HIGHLAND DRESS**

Grainger and Campbell Ltd.

(Incorporating Duncan MacRae &
Son—Established 1897)

Contractors to H.M. Govern-
ment and overseas and local
governments

1191-1193 ARGYLE STREET,

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND



Enquiries answered promptly
Quotations given—without
obligation



"THE" PIPE BAND SPECIALISTS!

Over thirty years in the business of supplying Bagpipes, Drums, and outfitting Individuals and Pipe Bands throughout the American Continent.

MACPHERSON ★ BAGPIPES & PRACTICE CHANTERS

The use of thoroughly seasoned materials, expert craftsmanship and careful inspection, assures you of getting the finest instruments on the market today.

WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP 6 TIMES
European, British and Scottish Championships
many times since 1947. WHAT A RECORD!

Improve your Pipe Section with our matched
"Macpherson" Pipe Chanters.

DRUMS ★

Carlton Super Gaelic.....
Premier Royal Scot.

Available from stock. All accessories.

★ A KILT BY MACPHERSON!

YOUR PROUDEST POSSESSION

Six full time Kilt Makers.....

..... Hundreds of Tartans to choose from.

Contractors to H.M. Canadian Government.

INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE ABOVE?

WRITE TODAY for PRICES - FURTHER DETAILS or SAMPLES

Hugh Macpherson Imports Limited

HIGHLAND OUTFITTERS

231 Lake Street, St. Catharines, Ontario

Telephone MU-2-1688

Associated Firms in Scotland:

HUGH MACPHERSON (SCOTLAND) LTD.

Bagpipe and Kilt Makers - Highland Outfitters

Tel. CAL. 4008

17 West Maitland St. (Western Continuation of Princes Street) Edinburgh 12, Scotland

INSTANT
MAIL ORDER
SERVICE!

THE BROWN HAired MAIDEN:

Reading, in the October issue of the Newsletter, of the passing of Pipe Major Robert H. Sim, who served with the 4th Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders during the First World War, brought back to my mind a day in France during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

When the war broke out in 1914, I was in Alberta, farming, and decided to enlist as soon as I could get my affairs in order. I went down to Calgary and tried to join up with a ballalion that was being mobilized there, but the Medical Officers rejected me on account of an injury to my right instep, received as a small boy when I missed the piece of firewood I was aiming at and stuck the axe in my foot, severing a tendon or two. Shortly afterward I heard that an outfit that I had served with as a militiaman was being mobilized in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, as as Horse Artillery Battery, so being an "Islander", I went down there early in 1915 and enlisted, after a bit of an argument with the M.O. about the foot.

As a large percentage of the population of "The Island" are of Scottish, mostly Highland, blood, this unit was about 75 or 80 per cent Scottish, many of them speaking Gaelic. We had no band, but voices strong, if not always harmonious, on our route marches sang the songs popular in 1914 - 15 as well as many of the old Scottish songs. But the most popular, and it came to be regarded as our regimental march, was "The Brown Haired Maiden". (We called it "The Nut Brown Maiden"). The verses were sung in English, but the chorus was always sung in Gaelic.

Every man in the unit, Scottish or not, learned to sing the Gaelic chorus....

"Ho-Ro mo nighean donn bhoideach,
Ho-Ri mo nighean donn bhoideach.
Mo chaileag, laghach bhoideach,
Cha phos-ainn ach thu."

So the countryside around Charlottetown, and later in Sussex and Kent, heard of the beauty and charm of "The Brown Haired Maiden". Perhaps we, being young then felt the same as did the British soldiers at Sebastopol in the Crimean War when they sang in the trenches before the forts of the Redan and the Malakoff the night before they were due to storm these forts at dawn. "Each heart recalled a different name but all sang Annie Laurie."

Eventually we got to France and when the Battle, or more properly the Battles of the Somme, started in June, 1916 (they lasted until the end of November), we were moved down to the Somme front. One morning in July, I believe it was the 12th, we were coming down from the Front and were

halted just above the crossroads in Fricourt village. We heard a pipe band playing and saw a kilted battalion coming up the Albert road on their way up the line. It was the 4th Gordons and their band was playing our old favourite marching tune, "The Brown Haired Maiden". It gave us quite a thrill as I don't think any of us had ever before heard it played by a pipe band, and we all crowded along the roadside to listen.

The Gordons were marching in column of fours, with the band about the centre of the battalion. Just as the rear company was passing the crossroads the Germans dropped a four gun salvo of 5.9 inch shells close to the crossroads, for which they were searching. One of the shells burst about the centre of the company causing a number of casualties. We also had one man killed and several wounded. We helped the Gordon stretcher bearers and also those of an ammunition column that was passing down the road and caught some of the shell bursts, but I don't think the Gordon's band missed a note or a drum beat as they went on towards the Front, where they went "over the top" at, I believe, 3:00 a.m. on the second day after that.

We remained at the Somme front until December 15th, and as we were Corps troops and did not move with the Divisions, we took part in all the battles of the Somme, including the Battle of the Ancre, November 13th to 19th, where at Beaumont-Hamel the 51st Highland Division added to its already famous reputation, and where their monument was erected after the war. It was there, also, that the 1/5th Gordons captured a German Regimental Band with its instruments. The 1/5th band used the German drums afterwards and they were always known as the Beaumont-Hamel drums.

It was during the Somme Battles, in the attack on Regina Trench, October 10th, 1916, that Piper J. Richardson, 16th Battalion, Canadian Scottish, played his company to the attack and continued to play, under heavy fire, when it was checked at the German wire; he then did good work as a bomber, but eventually was reported missing. He received the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross.

In July, 1916, when troops of the 9th Scottish Division were attacking a town, which was on fire, a piper was playing "Keep the home fires Burning".

After December 1st, we were attached to the 1st Anzac Corps until we were moved back north to rejoin the Canadian Corps on the Vimy front.

- D. R. MacDougall, D.C.M. -

J.T. McHARDY CO. LTD.

Highland Equipment

534 Seymour St.

VANCOUVER 2, B.C.

Phone: 681-6616

BAGPIPES, DRUMS and ACCESSORIES
BY ALL LEADING SCOTTISH
MANUFACTURERS



PIPE BAND UNIFORMS,
DANCERS' HIGHLAND DRESS and
ACCESSORIES, SCOTTISH NOVELTIES

The Largest Supplier of Authentic Scottish Goods In The West

BAGPIPES

DRUMS

HIGHLAND DRESS

Also Ladies' kilted and full pleated Tartan skirts and slacks,
made to measure in the Tartan of your choice.

HIGHLAND DRESS, by Thomas Gordon and Kinloch Anderson

BAGPIPES, by Hardie; Robertson; Martin; Lawrie; Grainger & Campbell

DRUMS, by Carlton Gaelic and Premier, the finest in the world today.

AUTHENTIC SCOTTISH JEWELRY; TARTANS BY THE YARD; NOVELTIES;

CLAN PLAQUES and CERAMIC TILES.

IN FACT EVERYTHING SCOTTISH EXCEPT SCOTCH.

ODDS & ENDS:

We received a letter recently from Harry Mumford, one of our stalwart members who moved to Victoria in the spring. Harry is now a member of the Canadian Scottish Pipe Band, and has rapidly entered the piping community of Victoria, becoming Vice President of the Vancouver Island Pipers' Society.

Harry informs us that this Society is starting Bi-Monthly competitions in November, with the hopes of encouraging piping and the teaching of the same.

We send Harry Mumford our best wishes, and congratulate the Vancouver Island Pipers' Society for instituting the competitions, which have proved so successful in our Association.

- 0 -

On Friday, November 15th, a 20 member Vancouver City Police Pipe Band left by plane for Hawaii, where they will perform and relax until the 24th.

Under the leadership of Pipe-Major Wm. Baird and Drum-Major Donald Bellamy, the band will take part in an interesting programme, intended to extend the good neighbour policy between our two countries.

Our own President, Ian MacDougall, is on the trip, and we shall look forward to getting a report of the enviable visit.

- 0 -

At last the Newsletter has entered the world of automation. Recently, an electric self-inking Gestetner machine was purchased for the Newsletter, which will save the staff from cranking the old machine, used since the inception of the Newsletter.

There will be considerable time saved from this improvement, not to mention wear and tear on the operators' arms.

- 0 -

Congratulations to Pipe Sgt. Robert Stoker for his fine lament, played at this year's Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Cenotaph.

- 0 -

ANNOUNCING OUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

KIRKWOOD DRUM SPECIALIST

Owing to the demand for KIRKWOOD drum sticks, drums, pipes, Scottish jewellery and novelties, etc., we are forced to expand in order to increase our production capacity.

As of July 1st. 1963, our NEW store will be located at :-

30 St. Paul Street West,
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO.

#8 Highway from Q.E.

Phone Number unchanged MU4-2124

AUTHORIZED PREMIER SALES & SERVICE DEALER

TRADE-IN your old drums now on

Premier ROYAL SCOT Drums

Good trade-in allowance on old drums.

Pitched and balanced drum sticks

Special designs for your drums

DRUM HEADS

EVERPLAY plastic non-slip

HEADMASTER plastic non-slip

NEW AND STRONGER NYLON plus EVENS plastic fibreglass hoops

Everything for the Piper and Drummer -- including music.

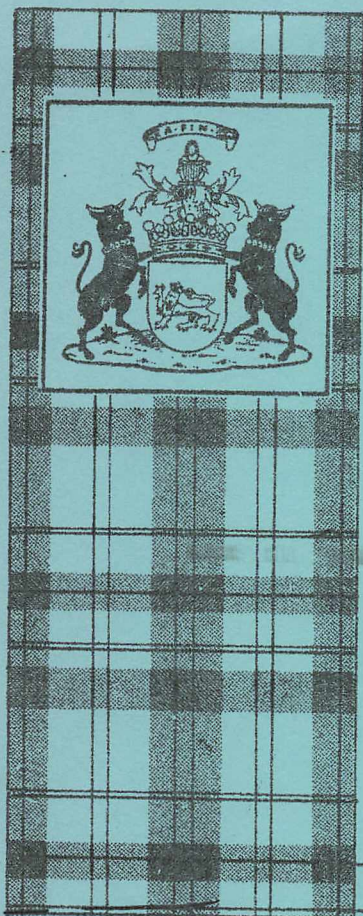
Finest Bagpipes and Accessories
Practice Chanters, standard and long,
same hole spacing as pipe chanter,
inverted holes (optional)
boy chanters

Wire snares to fit any drum,
drum belts, leg rests,
drum major maces and gauntlets
Scottish jewellery and novelties.

PROMPT MAIL ORDER SERVICE

DON'T WAIT. WRITE TODAY FOR PRICE LIST TO.....

DRUM MAJOR JOHN KIRKWOOD
30 ST. PAUL ST. WEST, ST. CATHERINES, ONT.



Robert C. Gilchrist

SCOTTISH IMPORTS BY MAIL

- Bagpipes
- Kilts
- Highland Dress
- Tartan
- Scottish Jewelry
- Souvenirs
- Etc.

2204 LITTLE LANE, ARDEN WILMINGTON 3, DELAWARE



GENERAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 29th

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION -

DECEMBER 13th

1900
1901
1902
1903
1904
1905
1906
1907
1908
1909
1910
1911
1912
1913
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927
1928
1929
1930
1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959
1960
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000

THE
STATE OF
NEW YORK
IN SENATE
JANUARY 15, 1900