

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



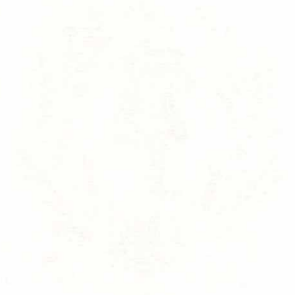
NOVEMBER, 1967.

No. 85.

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

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ATTACHED



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is hereby authorized to

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.

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NOVEMBER 1967.

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SCOTLAND

RODERICK MACLEOD, FIRST PRESIDENT PASSES NOVEMBER 23rd, 1967.

It is with considerable sadness that we note the death of Mr. Roderick MacLeod on November 23rd, 1967, at Vancouver General Hospital. Rod MacLeod served piping and the British Columbia Pipers' Association faithfully and with enthusiasm throughout the years. He was instrumental in the founding of this society in 1932, and served as its first President. Rod, who was 84 at his death, was made a Life Member in 1961, and on the occasion of his 80th birthday was given a banquet by the association.

Pipe Major Esson has been asked to write a fuller report on the life of Roderick MacLeod, and we look forward to receiving it for publication in a later issue of the Newsletter.

- 0 -

WILLIAM WHYTE PASSES DECEMBER 8th, 1967.

Another elderly piper and member, William Whyte died on December 8th, 1967, in Powell River, B.C. Pipe-Major Whyte was one of the early members of the Powell River Pipe Band, and served as its Pipe Major for several years. He was a frequent visitor to the Annual Gathering and Vancouver Games in later years, and in spite of his advanced years played pipes until a few years ago. William Whyte was aged 90 at the time of his death.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - NOVEMBER 17th, 1967.

Juvenile Old Highland Airs: (19 competitors)

1. Lynn Grocott
2. Tim Noot
3. Ross Marshall
4. Linda Savage
5. Linda Freshwater

Open Amateur Jigs: (16 competitors)

1. Bill MacAulay
2. Bob Gallagher
3. Donald MacMillan
4. John MacLeod
5. Alex McInnes

Department:

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| Juvenile | - | Dwain Roadhouse |
| Open Amateur | | Murray MacDonald |

Mr. Danny Murray was judge for the evening.

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The White Heather Spring Concert was been scheduled for April 25th, 1968 in New Westminster, and April 26th and 27th at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver.

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BEATING RETREAT IN ADEN - ARGYLLS' PIPERS SIGNAL THE END OF AN ERA:
(from The Oban Times, November 2, 1967)

Trouble-torn Aden, the colony on the Red Sea which the British have ruled since 1837, took a further step towards independence on October 26th when the pipes and drums of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Regimental Band of the Queen's Own Hussars beat retreat to signal the closure of RAF Steamer Point. On Wednesday GHQ Middle East Command moved from Steamer Point to RAF Khormaksar from where it will control the final stages of the evacuation.

October 28 was a page out of the past. As the craggy volcanic hills basked in the reflection of the setting sun, the pipes, drums and bugles enacted a pageant with which the whole world is familiar. March and counter-march, reel and strathspey - "Blue Bonnets", "The Battle of the Somme", "Port Askaig", "Dorrotor Bridge", "Scotland the Brave". The tunes were haunting and familiar.

And yet it was all slightly different. As the pipes and drums played into the distance, after the march past, one became aware of the sentries picqueting the arena. And the pipes and drums fighting soldiers, were clad operationally, in khaki drill.

For them too, the sunset ceremony had a special meaning. Corporal Jimmy Scott, the pipe corporal, will not be returning from Aden. Killed by a terrorist mortar bomb, he is buried along with four other Argylls in Silent Valley.

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LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

ST. ANDREWS AND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY ANNUAL BURNS DINNER AND DANCE

FRIDAY JANUARY 19th at THE COMMODORE - 838 Granville Street

Dinner 6:30 - Dancing 9 to 1 - Dress Informal.

PORT MOODY PIPE BAND will be performing.

Tickets - \$4.00 each. Contact Al. Baillie - 939 3921

- 0 -

VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND 17th ANNUAL BURNS SUPPER AND DANCE

SATURDAY JANUARY 13th at the HALLMARK HALL - 5550 Fraser Street

Cocktails 5:30 - Dinner 6:30 - Dancing 9 to 12.

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Watch, Dress McDuff, Hunting Chisholm. In 9 oz. weight, MacBeth,
Black Watch, Royal Stewart, Cameron of Erracht, Buchanan, Lindsay,
Dress Stewart.

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(continued from No. 84)

THE MACARTHURS - HEREDITARY PIPERS TO THE LORDS MACDONALD OF THE ISLES:

The MacArthurs who filled the important office of Pipers to the MacDonalds of the Isles, were esteemed next in excellence to the MacCrummens, and like them they kept a seminary for instruction in Pipe-music. Pennant, who visited the Hebrides in 1774 eulogises Sir Alexander MacDonald's Piper, in whose house or college he was very hospitably entertained; and was gratified by the performance of many Piobaireachds. He describes the building, as being divided into four apartments, the outer being for the shelter of cattle during winter; another formed the hall where the students appear to have practised; a third was set apart for stringers; and the fourth was reserved for the family.

The most celebrated of this race was Charles, whose musical education was perfected by Patrick og MacCrummen; and respecting him the following anecdote is handed down; - Sir Alexander MacDonald being at Dunvegan, on a visit to the laird of MacLeod, he heard the performance of Patrick og with great delight; and desirous if possible to have a Piper of equal merit, he said to MacCrummen one day, that there was a young man whom he was anxious to place under his tuition, on condition that he should not be allowed to return until such time as he could play equal to his master. "When this is the case", said MacDonald, "you will bring him home, and I will give you ample satisfaction for your trouble." "Sir Alexander" says Patrick, "if you will be pleased to send him to me, I will do all that I am able to do for him." Charles was accordingly sent to Borreraig, where he remained for eleven years, when MacCrummen, considering him as perfect as he could be made, proceeded to Mugstad, to deliver his charge to Sir Alexander, who was then residing there, and where Eain Dall Mackay, Gairloch's blind Piper, happened also to be. MacDonald hearing of their arrival, thought it a good opportunity to determine the merit of his own Piper, by the judgment of the blind man, whose knowledge of Pipe-music was unexceptionable. He therefore enjoined Patrick og and MacArthur not to speak a word to betray who they were, and addressing MacKay he told him he had a young man learning the Pipe for some years, and was glad that he was present to say whether he thought him worth the money which his instructions had cost? Mackay said, if he heard him play, he would give his opinion freely; but requested to be informed previously with whom the Piper had been studying. Sir Alexander told him he had been with young Patrick MacCrummen. "Then," exclaimed Mackay, "he could never have found a better master." The young man was ordered to play, and when he had finished, Sir Alexander asked the other for his opinion. "I think a great deal of him," replied Eain; "he is a good Piper; he gives the notes correctly, and if he takes care he will excel in his profession." Sir Alexander was pleased with so flattering an opinion, and observed that he had been at the trouble of sending two persons to the college, that he might retain the best, so he said the second one should also play, that an opinion on his merits might also be given. Mackay observed that he must be a very excellent performer that could surpass the first, or even compare with him. When Patrick og, who acted as the second pupil, had finished playing, Sir Alexander asked the umpire, what he thought of his performance. "Indeed, sir, no one need try me in that manner," returned the blind man, "for

though I have lost the eyes of my human body, I have not lost the eyes of my understanding; and if all the Pipers in Scotland were present, I would not find it a difficult task to distinguish the last player from them all." You surprise me, MacKay! and who is he?" "Who but Patrick og MacCrummen," promptly rejoined MacKay; and turning to where Patrick was sitting, he observed "it was quite needless, my good sir, to think you could deceive me in that way, for you could not but know that I should have recognised your performance among a thousand." Sir Alexander then asked MacKay himself to play, and afterwards he called for a bottle of whisky - drank to their healths, and remarked that he had that night under his roof the three best Pipers in Britain.

MacKay's opinion of Charles MacArthur was well founded, for he was so much admired for his musical taste, that a gentleman in MacLeod's country prevailed on Malcolm MacCrummen to send his son Donald Roy; afterwards Captain for six months to reside with MacArthur - not that he could learn more music, but would be improved by studying MacArthur's particular graces.

Charles MacArthur had issue, two sons, Donald and Alexander, the former of whom was drowned in passing between Uist and Skye. The latter went to America. His brother Niel had a son John who was taught by his uncle Charles, and who, settling in Edinburgh, was appointed Piper to the Highland Society of Scotland, a situation which he held until his death. He was much admired for his fine style of performance, and he gave instructions to students in Bag-pipe music, from which he was usually styled "Professor MacArthur".

John Bane MacArthur, another brother, had a son named Angus, who went with Lord MacDonald to London, where he remained till his death.

He left several MSS. of Piobrachds, most of which were noted down when he lay on his deathbed, by John MacGregor, for the Highland Society of London. Some of them are his own composition, and they are very creditable to his musical genius. I believe he was the last of the MacArthurs hereditary Pipers to The MacDonald of the Isles.

THE MACKAYS - HEREDITARY PIPERS TO THE MACKENZIES OF GAIRLOCH:

The MacKays were from an early period attached to the house of Gairloch. Ruairidh Dall or Blind Roderick, distinguished himself for the excellency of playing which was accounted second only to that of MacCrummen; yet conscious as he was of his own abilities, he felt that his son Eain, better known as am Piobaire Dall, from being blind, could not be rendered perfect in his profession without the finishing instructions of Patrick og MacCrummen, under whom he was placed by the Laird of Gairloch, and with whom he remained for a number of years. When he left the college of Skye, it was the opinion of the best judges that he had no equal except his teacher. He composed upwards of thirty excellent Piobaireachds, some of which are in the present work. He was also a good Gaelic poet, and is the author of many popular songs, among which is the celebrated one entitled "Corriness," adapted to a salute composed by his father; and a lament arranged by himself, both of which were much admired, but are now unfortunately lost. Being a superior singer, as well as a musician, he was often invited to the best families in the north. Captain Malcolm Macleod,

(grandson of the noted John Garve) who so materially assisted Prince Charles in his distress, and who played with great skill on the Bag-pipes, used to say, that from the agreeable manners of Eain Dall he added more to the conviviality of a company than any man he knew.

He left issue two sons, Angus and John. The first succeeded his father as family Piper, and left his son John Roy in the same situation. However, submitting to the changes which took place in the Highlands on the abolition of ancient systems, he emigrated to America about the year 1800, whither his brother John had proceeded 60 years ago. He had two sons, who were also Pipers, and who accompanied their father across the Atlantic.

THE MACLEANS OR RANKINS - HEREDITARY PIPERS TO MACLEAN OF COLL.

The Rankins, a branch of the clan, were Pipers to the MacLeans of Coll from time immemorial. The first of whom any particular notice is handed down, was Conn Dauly, who is said to have been a performer of first-rate ability, but it is not ascertained that he was indebted for his proficiency to the conductors of either of the Skye colleges. Conn's two grandsons, Niel and Duncan, were however taught by them. The first became Piper to Coll, and the second to MacLean of the isle of Muck.

When Dr. Johnson visited Coll, at Breacadale castle, the Piper who played regularly when dinner was served, attracted his particular attention. He expresses admiration of his picturesque dress and martial air, and observes that "he brought no disgrace on the family of Rankin, which has long supplied the Laird of Coll with hereditary music."

The representative of those Pipers, Conn Dauly, went to Prince Edward's Island, and is major of a regiment of Highlanders raised for defence of the colony.

THE CAMPBELLS - HEREDITARY PIPERS TO THE CAMPBELLS OF MOCHASTER.

This family, who, there is reason to believe, were long known in the Highland musical world, before they are recognised as hereditary Pipers, to the Campbells of Mochaster in Argyleshire, attained considerable eminence. The first of whom there is an authenticated account was Donald, who was sent by Colin Campbell of Corwhin to take lessons from Patrick og MacCrummen in Skye. He remained with him a considerable time and was esteemed a performer of merit, as was his son Caillan Mor or Great Colin, whose son John, late Piper to W.F. Campbell, Esq. of Shawfield and Isla, was also an excellent Piper. This man died at Woodhall in 1831. The following is the inscription on his tomb stone in the churchyard of Bellside in the county of Lanark.

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WALTER FREDERICK CAMPBELL, ESQ.

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To the memory of his faithful servant and piper,

JOHN CAMPBELL,

Who died, 24th August, Aged 36 years.

THE MACINTYRES - HEREDITARY PIPERS TO MENZIES OF MENZIES.

These Pipers lived in Rannach, but they were originally from the Isles. Donald Mor, the first of whom we have any account, was Piber to Menzies of Menzies. His son John learned with Patrick og at the college of Dunvegan, and is known as the author of the "Field of Sheriffmoor," a fine Piobaireachd composed on that battle, 1715. His son Donald Bane followed the same profession, and left two sons Robert and John. Robert became Piber to the late MacDonald of Clanranald, after whose deather he went to America.

John died about three years ago in Rannach, leaving a son Donald, who has a farm called Allarich at the top of Loch Rannach.

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ANNUAL GATHERING, 1942.

We know that you will find interesting the results of the Tenth Annual Gathering of the B.C. Pipers' Association. This competition was held on Saturday, January 31st, 1942 at the Elks' Hall. There is no record of the Judges for the Gathering, although we note in the expense column of the Profit and Loss Statement that \$3.00 was spent as Judges Fee. The door receipts were \$53.50, entries - 14.25, donations - \$83.00. Expenses totalled \$115.40, the grand sum of \$47.78 being spent on prizes. A Net Profit of \$33.35 was made on this gathering, a great credit to the Executive.

President of the Association at the time of the 10th Gathering was A.C. MacNab, while Mr. William Urquhart served as Secretary.

Here are the results:

Novices:

1. Alex Matheson
2. R. Gandy, Victoria
3. T. Farquhar, Langley Prairie

Marches Under 16:

1. Wm. Baird
2. A. Matheson
3. T. Farquhar

Strathspeys & Reels Under 16:

1. Wm. Baird
2. K. Nicholson

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. Ian MacKinnon
2. W.J.M. Duthie, Sardis
3. Ian MacIntosh, New Westminster

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Sergt. Jas. Watt
2. W.A. Urquhart
3. P.M. Wm. Barrie

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Amateur (Over 16) Strathspeys & Reels:

1. Ian MacKinnon 2. Ian MacIntosh 3. W.J.M. Duthie

Quartette Competition:

1. Seaforths (2nd Battln.) 2. Glengarry Girls 3. ~~Templeton~~ Boys

Open Marches:

1. Sergt. Jas. Watt 2. W.A. Urquhart 3. P.M. Wm. Barrie

Old Highland Airs:

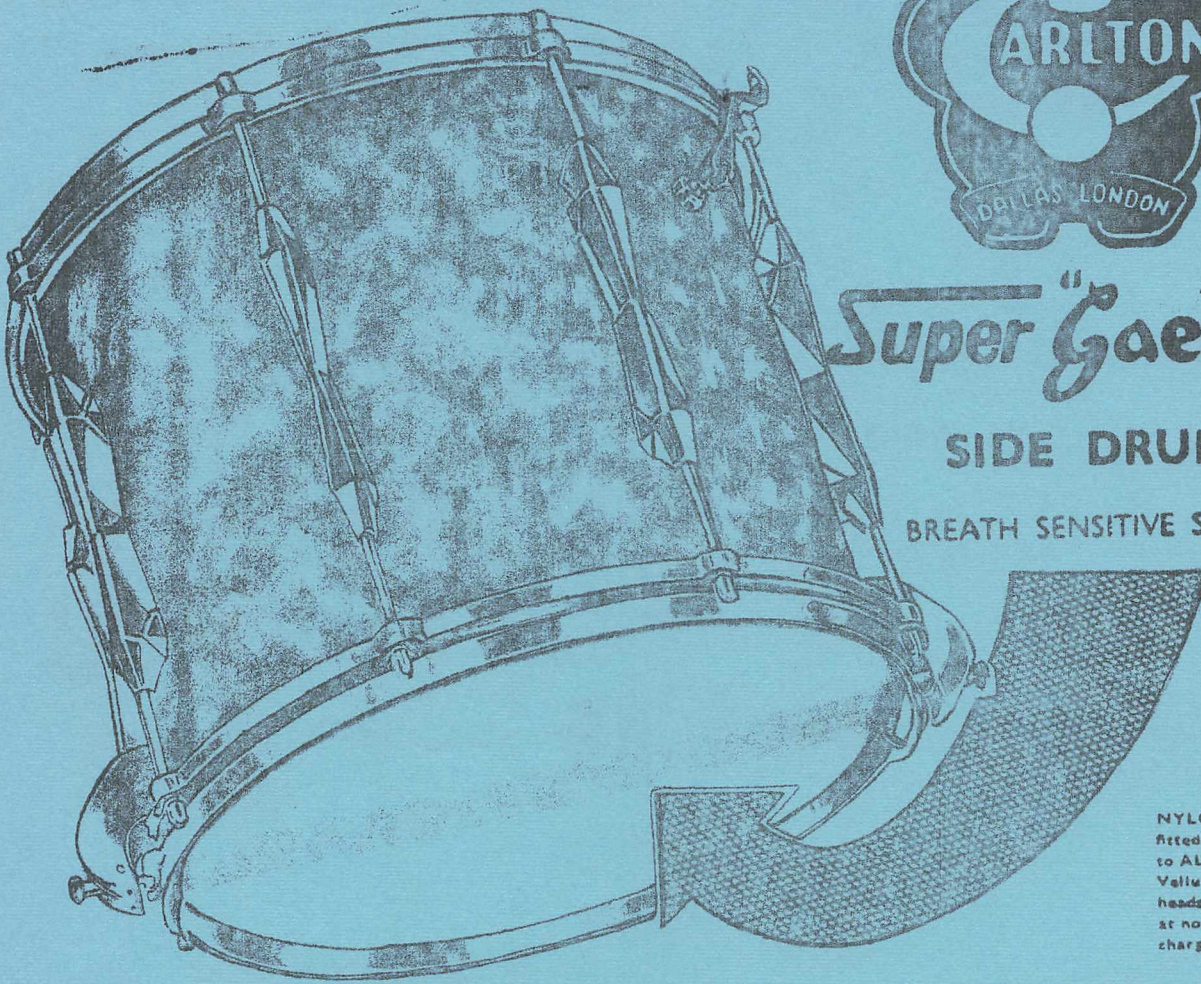
1. Kenneth MacLeod 2. H.M. Eddie, Sardis 3. A. MacLean

Open Strathspeys & Reels:

1. P.M. Wm. Barrie 2. Sergt. Jas. Watt 3. Sergt. D. MacDonald

Open Jigs:

1. W.A. Urquhart 2. Sergt. Jas. Watt 3. P.M. Wm. Barrie



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NEW BAGPIPE MUSIC PUBLICATIONS:

Two new publications are now available, which will undoubtedly be an essential item of your music library.

Pipe Major Donald MacLeod's Fourth Collection of music for the bagpipe is available, for \$3.00. It contains sixty-one tunes, including the piobaireachd "Hail to my Country". Most of these tunes are now published for the first time.

Another book, More Music for the Highland Bagpipe by Pipe Major J.A. MacLellan, M.B.E. is also now for sale. A well produced book, with a tasteful mixture of old and new tunes, this book contains a section on tempo and piobaireachd construction. Price is \$1.65.

Both of these publications should be available at your local bagpipe supply store. If not available locally, contact Grainger & Campbell Ltd., 1191/1193 Argyle Street, Glasgow, C.3., Scotland.

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NORTH VANCOUVER JUNIOR PIPE BAND NEEDS PIPERS:

Pipers, between the approximate ages of 11 to 14, who are not presently connected and active as members of other bands, are earnestly required by the recently formed North Vancouver Junior Pipe Band, to complement the already established Drum Corps. It is strongly anticipated that the band will make its first public performance a few months into the new year. However, the evident lack of pipers will preclude this.

Bill Baird, Pipe Major of the Vancouver City Police Pipe Band, and Bruce Topp, Corporal Piper of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, have just recently started to teach the boys piping. Boys from West Vancouver are being taught by Mrs. Cathrine Paterson, Reporter for the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter. The band's practice night is on Friday of each week from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Junior Secondary School gymnasium at 2132 Hamilton, North Vancouver. So, any parents having a son or sons, who might be interested in joining the band, are invited to attend a practice, or for further information please contact Dave Russell at 988-1795.

Also, two tall boys are sought for the respective positions of Drum Major and Bass Drummer.

- Dave Russell -
167 East Osborne
North Vancouver, B.C.

- 0 -

THE BURNABY LADIES PIPE BAND:

A new girls' Pipe Band has been organized in Burnaby. The twenty-six members have been holding regular practices and will be making their first public appearance early in the New Year, wearing the Dress Thompson tartan.

The Band, which will be called the Burnaby Ladies Pipe Band, is under the leadership of Pipe Major Norma Nicholson Thompson and directed by Pipe Major Malcolm Nicholson.

- 0 -

Mr. R. Leslie wishes to sell a tweed jacket, with or without vest, in very good shape. The jacket is bluish-grey in colour, and would fit a person 5' 8 - 10", of a slim build.

If you are interested in seeing this jacket, call Mr. Leslie's father at CY 9-3005, - Mr. S.H. Leslie, 3475 Oxford Street, Vancouver 6, B.C.

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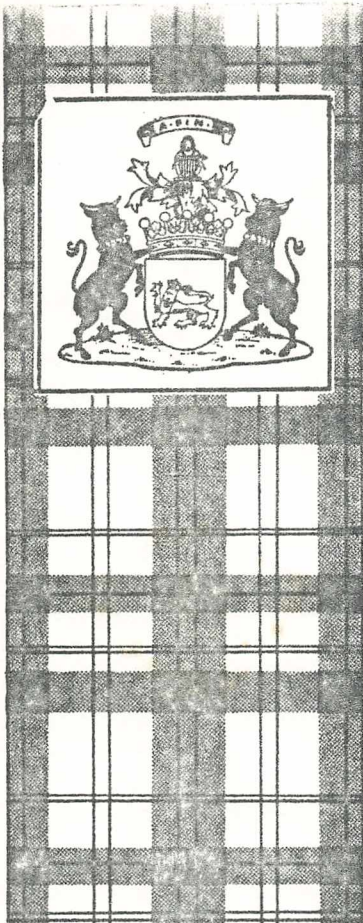
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