

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



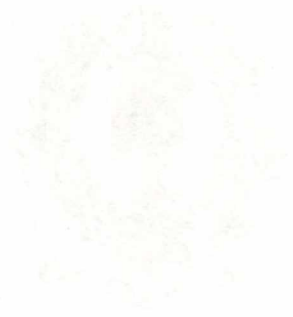
**The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

NOVEMBER 1969 NO. 96

REVIEWS

NEWSLETTER

1993



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for official monthly publication of

B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

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B.C. Pipers' Newsletter

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

400 Edinburgh Road
Glasgow E2
14 - 10 - 69

To The Editors
B. C. Pipers' Newsletter

Dear Friends:

Firstly, my belated sincere thanks for the regular monthly issue of the Newsletter, which I look forward to so very much and may I add, which undoubtedly improves with each issue.

My main reason in writing is to make mention of one or two youngsters who impressed me so very much with their playing during my stay with you, and who I notice, over the months and years are still maintaining their place in the prize lists of the various competitions reported in the Newsletter. It is extremely gratifying to me personally to read the reports on those who figured in my prize list at the Indoor Meeting four years ago now figuring prominently in the Professional Classes.

The names that spring to mind are John MacLeod whose Strathspey and Reel timing in his particular event was splendid and I must make mention of John MacLellan's remarks regarding John's playing at Couer d'Alene Games when he states his performance in the Open Piobaireachd was up to "Gold Medal" standard and also stating that he had "an excellent performance marred by a few imperfections" in the March, Strathspey and Reel event - this indeed is great praise and knowing Lieut. MacLellan I'm quite sure this statement would not be made unless justified. John MacLeod to me, as an Amateur player, had the "Professional touch" and I'm delighted to read of his successes.

Norma Nicholson is a long established Professional competitor and I shall always remember the Trebling variation of the Piobaireachd she played at the Indoor Meeting which was just finger perfect and played on a first class pipe, which as Lieut. MacLellan states, and rightly so, is of vital importance competitively. I was very impressed with her playing and her successes prove this point.

Therese MacInnes was also prominent in the John MacLellan prize list, and again I was so pleased to read his remarks of her "technique and expression" which impressed me tremendously, she appeared cool, calm, and professional in her approach and it's nice to see her still doing so well. Her sister Rae-Marie whom I don't see in the prize lists recently impressed me very much - a first class performer who blew a grand tone and who incidentally could blow my pipes with ease, I do hope she hasn't allowed her marriage to interfere with her piping.

Donald MacMillan and Bill MacAulay were both excellent players and still appear to be so, I always notice them prominently in the prize lists.

At St. Andrews and Caledonian Games the following names were familiar to me - Donald Taylor, Bruce Topp, Drew Noot and Sandy Marshall. Nice to see them all figuring in the prize list. At Nanaimo Games, Lynn Grocott, Tim Noot, Jan Taylor and of course those already mentioned, and the main

events won by John MacLeod, Norma Thomson, and Therese MacInnes.

I know there were many more very promising youngsters and I'm sure if I were to hear them now that I would be impressed. You are extremely lucky in Vancouver to have so many talented players and a great amount of credit must be directed to those responsible for imparting their knowledge so expertly.

Your article in the current issue - Piper of the Month - Pipe Major Ed Esson was tremendously interesting to me and it's so nice to read of someone's career especially when he's known to you. Ed was extremely helpful and friendly during my visit and trust he and his Good Lady are enjoying a happy retirement.

I should be so grateful if you could convey through Committee Meetings or any other means available, that I should like to be remembered to the following who made my four weeks stay in Vancouver so pleasant namely - Ian and Mrs. MacKinnon, Johnny and Mrs. McHardy, Rod and Mrs. McVicar, Mr. and Mrs. M. Nicholson, Rod and Mrs. McRae, Albert Duncan, Mr. McMillan, all members of the Powell River Pipe Band, Bill Lamont, Danny McLeod, Georgina McPhail and her Mother and the many more whose names elude me, but, who nevertheless I can remember, such as the splendid evening I spent at Abbotsford, when one meets so many people and such nice people, names mean very little, if I met any of them in Glasgow I would recognize them.

I close now by wishing the B. C. Pipers' Association and its members continued success and look forward with anticipation to next month's issue of the Newsletter.

Hector MacFadyen
"Pennyghael"

*

1092 Moyse Crescent
Nanaimo, B.C.
September 30, 1969

Dear Editors:

My good friend Albert Whyte mailed this entry form to me sometime back just to bring back old memories. It would have to be the year 1931 possibly some of the others might verify it in one of the editions.

The dancing entry has an interest - five that I can remember were pipers. At the same time Zelpha Murray was a well known dancer and a competitive piper as can be noticed.

There are some very interesting names included among this entry list, many have carried on over the years so that the future of piping and dancing would survive. I am sure that many of our readers will read down the list and look back with fond memories.

Oh yes, this is the Caledonian Games in Vancouver. I'm not sure if they were at Brockton Point that year or Hastings Park.

My best regards to Bob and Bill, you are doing a fine job with the Newsletter and the best of good luck from here on.

Yours truly,

Ian Wallace

*

COMPETITORS' LIST

PIPING - Open

Albert J. Whyte, Vancouver, B.C.
Archie MacIndewar, Vancouver, B.C.
Ian Wallace, Victoria, B.C.
Jas. Ross, Mission, B.C.
Colin Sutherland, Port Coquitlam,
B.C.
Edmund Esson, Vancouver, B.C.
Malcolm Nicholson, Vancouver, B.C.

DANCING - Open

Marion F. MacIndewar, Vancouver
Kathleen Anderson, Vancouver
Katherine L. Moore, Courtenay
Bob Butler, Vancouver
Miss Sadie Gemmell, Vancouver
J. M. Macbeth, Calgary, Alberta
Clyde Tibbatts, Seattle, Wash.
Mona Elder, Vancouver
Thelma Collins, Vancouver
Rob Roy MacGregor, Vancouver
Lillian Hardy, Vancouver

DANCING - Amateur

Kathleen Nicholson, Vancouver
Janet Grant, Calgary, Alberta
Dorothy Begg, Vancouver
Margaret Jones, Vancouver
Margaret Mills, Vancouver
Margaret Dow, Laidlaw P.O., B.C.
Betty Lillian Pringle, Vancouver
Audrey Bell, Vancouver
Doreen Henderson, Cumberland, B.C.
Ella Doig, Vancouver
Barbara Brown, Calgary, Alberta
Hellen Lipp, Vancouver
Isabel Martin, Vancouver
Donna Cameron, Vancouver
Duncan MacGillivray, Vancouver
Peggy Lyons, Seattle, Wash.
Jean Sharman, Cloverdale
Marjory Hicks, Agassiz
Faye Bradley, Cloverdale
Jernadine Leinbert, Agassiz

PIPING - Amateur

Johnny Gibson, Vancouver, B.C.
Billy Armstrong, Vancouver, B.C.
Pearl Marshall, Vancouver, B.C.
Billy Lamont, Vancouver, B.C.
Jimmy McMillan, Victoria, B.C.
Zelpha K. Murray, Vancouver, B.C.

ATHLETICS

Chief John Cameron, Vancouver
O. Pelttari, Vancouver
A. Jarvela, Vancouver
E. Kurvi, Vancouver
Cliff Leuty, Vancouver
Jack Cooper, Clayburn, B.C.
Rex Moore, Vancouver

TUG O'WAR

Vancouver City Police
Matsqui Farmers

Jean Lunbert, Agassiz, B.C.
Millicent May Hicks, Vancouver
Pearl Marshall, Vancouver
Ada Currie, Calgary
Geo. MacDonald, Paris, Vancouver
Jean M. Meston, Vancouver
Thelma Bell, Vancouver
Phyliss Mikkelsen, Vancouver
Mary Gair, Vancouver
Jean Miller, Vancouver
Anne Martin, Vancouver
Maisie Smith, Burnaby
Rence Collins, Vancouver
Gwenie Collins, Vancouver
Geo. Wood, Vancouver
Myrtle Dewar, Vancouver
Roland Fraser, Agassiz
Joan Johnstone, Cloverdale
Geneva Green, Agassiz
Mary Hicks, Agassiz

Violet Murchison, Cloverdale, P.O. Leonne Irene Ingram, Cloverdale, P.O.
Doris Livingston, Cloverdale, P.O. Gladys Code, Mission, B.C.
Phillipe Leinbert, Agassiz Aileen Fraser, Agassiz
Agnes Mcchera, Agassiz Mabel Green, Agassiz

HORSE SHOE PITCHING

A. Kindlaw, Port Haney, B.C.
G. Struthers, Port Haney, B.C.

ANNUAL DINNER

The 1970 B.C. Pipers' Association Annual Dinner will be held February 21st, 1970 at the Sports Tea-Room in Stanley Park. Those of our members who have attended in the past will surely agree that the setting for a Piper's Dinner could not be better.

The Annual Dinner has long been a very successful event and the highlight of the social activities sponsored by the B. C. Pipers' Association. It is an excellent opportunity to don ones' kilt and visit all those you have been meaning to see all year but never quite managed.

The evening will commence with a cocktail hour followed by the dinner. The entertainment proves to be most novel this year with some of our more influential members offering their piping, singing and dancing talents.

We recommend this Scottish Social Evening to all our members and encourage you to attend. UNFORTUNATELY, the number of tickets must be limited and we suggest you contact Mrs. Ishabel Ross as soon as possible to confirm your tickets. Don't miss this event.

Reserve this date - FEBRUARY 21st, 1970
...for the... - B. C. PIPERS' ANNUAL DINNER
...at the... - STANLEY PARK TEA-ROOM
...price... - \$4.00 PER TICKET
...tickets... - Mrs. Ross 526-7905

ADDITION TO NEWSLETTER STAFF

We are pleased to announce the addition of Michael Evans to our Newsletter Staff. Mike is a member of our Association and is active in the pipe band field, playing for Port Moody and directing the St. Thomas More Pipe Band.

Mike will be keeping us up to date on Pipe Band activities and news in his articles entitled "Band Chatter". Any of our members having band information that would be of interest to our members should contact:

Michael Evans - 218 - 10th Avenue
New Westminster, B.C.

We look forward to Mike's contributions in future issues.

MORE ON THE MACCRIMMONS

Lt. Col. John McEwing of Spokane, Washington has been kind enough to send us the following article on the master pipers, the MacCrimmons. Mr. McEwing informed the Newsletter that the article is an excerpt from a larger collection of piping literature written by a clergyman in Glenelg, Rosshire around the year 1840.

BAGPIPE ...It is well known that the great bagpipe, the instrument on which the national music of Scotland was chiefly played for so long a time, and which has still so striking an effect in rousing the martial spirit of the Highlanders, was cultivated with greater success by the MacCrimmons, the hereditary pipers of the Macleods, than by any others in the Highlands. The name of MacCrimmon, whether on fanciful or on conclusive ground we pretend not to say, has been derived from the fact of the first musician who bore the name having studied his profession at Cremona in Italy. Certain it is that, what rarely happens, high musical talent as well as high moral principle and personal bravery, descended from father to son during many generations in the family of the MacCrimmons. They became so celebrated that pupils were sent to them from all quarters of the Highlands, and one of the best certificates that a piper could possess was his having studied under the MacCrimmons. Finding the number of pupils daily increasing, they at length opened a regular school or college for pipe music on the farm of Boreraig, opposite to Dunvegan Castle, but separated from it by Loch Follart. Here, so many years of study were prescribed, regular lessons were given out, certain periods for receiving the instructions of the master were fixed. The whole tuition was carried on as systematically as in any of our modern academies; and the names of some of the caves and knolls in the vicinity still point out the spots where the scholars used to practise, respectively on the chanter, the small pipe, and the "Piob mhor," or large bagpipe, before exhibiting in presence of the master. Macleod endowed this school by granting the farm of Boreraig to it, and it is no longer ago than seventy years since the endowment was withdrawn. It was owing to the following cause: The farm had been originally given only during the pleasure of the proprietor. For many ages the grant was undisturbed: but when the value of land had risen to six or seven times what it was when the school was founded, Macleod very reasonably proposed to resume one-half of the farm, offering at the same time to MacCrimmon, a free lease of the other half in perpetuum; but MacCrimmon, indignant that his emoluments should be curtailed, resigned the whole farm, and broke up his establishment, which has never been restored.

The MacCrimmons were well educated, intermarried with highly respectable families, and were universally regarded as vastly superior to the common class of the country people. A son of the last family piper holds the rank of captain in the British army, and is said to inherit the musical talents of his race. There are a few of them still residing in this parish, but they are born of what was reckoned a very low marriage for MacCrimmon, and they do not possess either the talents or respectability of their progenitors. A MacCrimmon still acts as piper to Macleod, but is not descended of the Boreraig MacCrimmons, who appear to have renounced their profession with their endowment.

We know not whether there were establishments similar to that of Boreraig in other parts of the Highlands; but it certainly is to be regretted that it was dissolved, and also that we have not minuter information as to the mode of training pursued by those who were universally acknowledged to be the first masters of bagpipe music.

Kilmuir was formerly famous for its pipers: but they are now extinct. The leading performers and teachers of this ancient and martial music, were the MacArthurs. When the proprietors resided in the parish, a free grant of the lands of Peingowen, a hamlet in the place, was given to the MacArthurs, in the same manner as Boreraig was given by the Macleods of Dunvegan, to the MacCrimmons. Peingowen, like Boreraig, was a sort of musical college, to which pupils were sent by various Chieftains, to acquire a correct knowledge of "piobaireachd". A little green hill in close vicinity to Peingowen, called Cnoc-phail, was the general rendezvous of the MacArthurs and their pupils. To the top of this eminence, they almost daily resorted, and practised their tunes. The MacArthurs vied with the MacCrimmons of Dunvegan, the MacGregors of Fortingall, the Mackays of Gairloch, the Rankins of Coll, and the MacIntyres of Rannoch, who were all renowned performers in their day.

Some years ago every funeral procession was attended by one or more pipers, who always played a lament, or melancholy piobaireachd, suitable for the occasion. The attendants silently listened to the quivering notes of the bagpipe, as they rent the atmosphere, and re-echoed from the surrounding hills. The inhabitants in the remote parts of the district were also warned by these doleful and protracted peals, floating on the air, that a fellow-creature was about to be consigned to his kindred dust.

DUES INCREASE

It finally had to happen!! We have been postponing this odious announcement for several years now but finally we can wait no longer. As you are all aware, the cost of running a business, family, and yes, even an association has sharply increased during the last ten years. Our Association has been hit by the inflation bug along with everyone else and we must sadly announce an increase in our dues to \$5.00 per year effective January 1, 1970.

Your Association has not had a dues increase during the last ten years and we are sure you can appreciate the situation. Remember, however, that your Newsletter is FREE with your annual membership.

Cheer up, your dues reminder won't arrive until after Christmas!

The Directors,
B.C. Pipers' Association

Charlie MacKenzie, a Life Member of the Association, has been ill in hospital. However, he is progressing nicely and for those who would like to visit him he is in the Vancouver General Hospital. On behalf of the membership, the editors wish Charlie a speedy recovery and we are looking forward to seeing him at our functions in the near future.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Under our present system the Members of our Association pay \$2.00 per year, which includes the Newsletter. As you know, the subscribers also pay \$2.00 per year. It has been deemed necessary to increase the annual membership dues to \$5.00 and likewise the subscribers will also be advised of an identical increase.

Since both groups, members and subscribers, pay the same amount per year we have decided that all those receiving a Newsletter must be a member of the Association.

Don't panic! We will not bill you for membership until your present subscription expires. We sincerely hope our literary efforts are worth this teeny, weeny increase.

FOR SALE

- KILT
- Full walking-out kilt in excellent condition
 - Cameron tartan
 - Tweed jacket and waist-coat worn only three times
 - Size 42-44
 - Reasonable price
- For further information telephone 263-4723
- PIPE CHANTER
- Granger and Campbell
 - Royal Stewart pipe bag cover
 - Both articles in good condition
- For further information telephone 922-7332

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION

Juvenile Old Highland Airs and Open Amateur Jigs were played at the October 24th Bi-monthly Competition at the Seaforth Armoury. A good number of our piping enthusiasts turned out to listen to the high calibre performances.

The results of the Juvenile Old Highland Airs, judged by Ruairidh Macdonald were as follows:

- 1st - John McKay
- 2nd - Daryl Peterson
- 3rd - Gordon Peterson
- 4th - Allan MacDougall
- 5th - Linda Freshwater

Department - Cindy Chambers

There were eighteen competitors in this class.

The Amateur Jigs were judged by Alex Young who placed the following competitors:

1st - Bill McAulay
2nd - David Anderson
3rd - Colin Abel
4th - Drew Noot
4th - Glen Palmer

Department - Margaret Swanson

There were fourteen competitors in this class.

ANOTHER EXAMINATION

Earlier in the year, the Association sponsored a series of lectures on piping conducted by P.M. Archie Cairns.. At the conclusion of these lectures an examination was given and the successful candidates were presented with a judging certificate.

We have had several inquiries from individuals wanting to write such an examination. We contacted Mr. Cairns and he has agreed to set another paper based on his lecture material. This is not the same examination written in June of this year. The exam is different but based on the same material.

Although the exam will be based on Mr. Cairns' lectures it is not restricted to those who attended. Anyone may sit this examination. If you want to be a candidate, contact Mrs. Ishabel Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B.C.

The examination date has not been set but those wishing to write will be notified of the time and place as soon as possible.

The Association was saddened to hear of the death of one of our Past Presidents, Donald MacDonald. Donald passed away on November 8th, 1969 after a lengthy illness.

He had long been active in piping and pipe bands including the Vancouver Police, Engineers and Crawford Pipe Band, and was President of our Association from 1949 - 1951.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. MacDonald and family.

SIXTY YEARS OF THE GREAT MUSIC-continued

I am often asked how the present generation of pipers compare with the master players of the past generation who were at their best during the twenty years of uneasy peace between the two wars.

It may be of some interest if I place here on record some of the most memorable performances I heard given, at competitions and elsewhere, during those years.

The playing of the late John MacDonald of Inverness was always outstanding. It used to be said that he could not play badly even if he tried. I have heard him forget his tune, but I never heard him play indifferently.

One of his finest performances was in the Edinburgh studio of the B.B.C. in the nineteen thirties. He was broadcasting in the Overseas Programme, and I had to describe the background of the tune before it was played. This particular composition was the triumphant "I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand". Charles II was reviewing his Army. Sir Rory More MacLeod and his hereditary piper were present. The piper in the contemporary manuscript account is named John McGyurmen, but it seems that he was in fact Patrick Mor MacCrimmon.

"The King saw no less than 80 pipers in a crowd bareheaded, and John McGyurmen in the middle covered. He asked what society that was? It was told his Majesty, 'Sir, you are our King, and yonder old man in the middle is the Prince of Pipers.' He called him by name, and coming to the King, kneeling, his Majesty reached him his hand to kiss: and (he) instantly played an extemporaneous part, I got a Kiss of the King's Hand, of which he and they all were vain."

There is another version of the incident, that the MacCrimmon who was so honoured was "the Earl of Sutherland's domestick," and that his name was John, and indeed the MacCrimmons had associations with Sutherland in the seventeenth century. Records of these have been recently found in old Dunrobin papers.

But to return to John MacDonald's broadcast; his playing that night when most people were asleep (a weary announcer announced him as "Piper MacLeod") was remarkable in its execution and beauty. There were only two people in the studio, beyond those whose business it was to be present. As the variations followed the ground of the tune, one of these listeners rose to his feet as though drawn by an irresistible force and (unknown to the piper) followed him as he walked slowly backwards and forwards. It was so impressive a tribute that it remains clearly in my mind, although it occurred thirty years ago.

Another memorable pibroch was played, at the Skye Gathering in the year 1926, by the late Pipe Major George MacLennan, his tune being the immortal MacCrimmon composition "Lament for the Children", composed on the death, by fever brought by a sailing vessel to Loch Dunvegan, of seven of the composer's eight sons within a year. George MacLennan, in the most vivid and moving manner, brought out in his playing the depths of grief in that great tune; no one who heard him that day will forget it. I remember that I was judging at the Braemar Gathering later that year, and that I asked him there to play the same tune. Braemar is not Skye, and the magic touch on this occasion eluded him.

It was about this time that Malcolm Macpherson played a memorable pibroch at the Argyllshire Gathering at Oban. His tune was "Donald Ban MacCrimmon" a long and difficult piece to which few pipers, even in the front rank, can do justice. Malcolm played this tune in a masterly manner, with good timing and with clear, crisp fingering.

Malcolm's grandfather, also named Malcolm Macpherson (Calum Piobair) taught John MacDonald and Malcolm's father, Angus Macpherson of Invershin, is a piper of renown, who still, at the age of 87, is a well-known piping judge at Highland gatherings. I think that Angus also competed on that occasion and I recall the justifiable pride he had on listening to the performance of his only son.

Another memory I have is of Pipe Major William Ross, at the Northern Meeting in 1919. The weather was exceptional. I had, the previous day, walked through the Lairig Pass from Braemar, and there were snow drifts of mid-winter depth on the Cairngorms. Next morning cars arriving at Inverness had half an inch of snow on their wind-screens. At that time the Northern Meeting piping was not held under cover and Pipe Major Ross played his pibroch in a storm of whirling snow.

His tune, if I remember rightly, was "Too Long in this Condition" which seemed to be appropriate for the occasion. His fingers were impervious to the bitter cold, and he played his tune as correctly and as tunefully as though the morning had been warm and sunny.

One of the great pipers of the past generation is Pipe Major Robert Reid, who, helped by his devoted wife, presided over a business in bag-pipe making in Glasgow. The pibroch in which he excelled, and with which he won many competitions, is a testing one. It is centuries old, and the composer is unknown. The name of the tune is "Marion's Swan Song", sometimes called "Marion's Wailing", Robert Reid used to bring out the "song" in this long tune in a way that few pipers can equal; lovers of Ceol Mor, the classical pipe music, owe him a debt of gratitude for many a fine tune.

Judging long piping competitions can sometimes be a feat of endurance. One year when I was judging at Oban the hills of Mull were white, and snow and sleet fell at the Gathering ground. There were something like 30 pipers competing and they, and the judges, became colder and colder as the hours progressed. The last to play was Pipe Major Chisholm. He was the only man unaffected by the cold and he played "The Gathering of Clan Chattan" in his best style and easily won the Gold Medal.

People often ask me whether the art of composing a pibroch has died. It is true that most of these classical tunes are centuries old, but the art still lives, although the conditions in the turmoil and hurry of the present age are not favourable to it.

Pipe Major John MacLellan has recently shown this by broadcasting a masterly pibroch of his own composition, and another piece of recently-composed classical bagpipe music we heard broadcast in the summer of 1963 was "Salute to the Cairn at Boreraig". This bold tune was composed by Angus Macpherson in, I think, 1931, when a memorial cairn to the MacCrimmons was erected above the site of their piping college at Boreraig. Pipe Major John Burgess of Edinburgh broadcast this tune, which has impressed pipers everywhere by its charm and distinction. I hope that we may soon hear it broadcast again.

This article may be closed by my recording a remarkable coincidence. In the autumn of 1962, friends with whom I was staying on the Tummel rang up Macnab of Macnab at Kinnell, and suggested we might drive over for tea that afternoon. I happened to have my pipes with me and thought that I would take them and play, as a surprise to my host, that fine piobroch, "Macnab's Salute". We arrived at Kinnell, to find there a French Macnab cousin of the chief and, still more surprising, he held in his hand a copy of "Macnab's Salute", which he was learning on the piano. He had, of course, never heard the tune played on the pipes, and as I played, he followed me as closely as the admirer of John MacDonald followed him in the Edinburgh studio, many years ago.

NANAIMO PIPING SOCIAL

Mr. Ian Wallace kindly sent us the following report:

The Nanaimo Special Piping Night on Saturday, October 18th was most successful and entertaining. Close to eighty adults and teenagers attended the affair.

The feature pipers were Jamie Troy and Harold Senyk from the V.I.P. Club. Harold played a varied setting of tunes while Jamie played the piobaireachd "Sir James McDonald of the Isles". Both had good pipes going and it was an inspiration for the young band members to hear such fine piping.

The program ran from 8 until 10. The film on the Nanaimo Pipe Band activities while in Honolulu brought back memories to former bandsmen and at the same time it was quite hilarious to the audience.

The Nanaimo band had the cosmopolitan type of member to make such a trip with names such as Lorne Rozzano, Sam Sebastiano, Brian Lestrangle, John Bohoslovitch, and Albert Serriani. With names like these we have no trouble proving that everyone likes to belong to a pipe band.

The bar opened at 10 and the impromptu piping started at this time. There were duets, quartettes and miniature pipe bands and this kept up until 2 A.M. Sunday morning. Some of our pipers were Ed Drummond, Ken Nelson, Bill Mossie, Jock Lowe, Jamie Troy, Harold Senyk, Frank Knight, Karen Patterson, Don Ainsley, Ian Wallace and David Hewitt. There were many others, too numerous to mention. P.M. Frank Knight and Harold Senyk played together Marches, Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs and Hornpipes and had a most enthusiastic reception.

From us here in Nanaimo, we thank all those who came, with special thanks to the Victoria Pipers' Club Members and to the people who helped do the various chores.

My thanks to the B.C. Pipers' Newsletter for publishing the event.

Best regards

PIPER OF THE MONTH

One of our more active professional pipers is this month's "Piper of the Month", John A. MacLeod. John's piping career started in 1958 under the guidance of Donald Adamson, ex Pipe Major of the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band. In 1962 Malcolm Nicholson, with the assistance of Norma Nicholson Thomson, continued John's training until 1968 and since then John has studied on his own.

John has compiled an impressive record of individual championships climaxed by his recent victory at Coeur d'Alene in the Piobaireachd Competition. In 1964 John started competing and in 1966 won the International Championship in the Juvenile Class. In 1967 at the B.C. Pipers' Annual Gathering John won three firsts in the Junior Class and in the summer of the same year went into the Amateur Class and finished the season by winning the Amateur International Championship. At the Annual Gathering in 1968 John again won three firsts, this time in the Amateur Class. He entered the Professional Class in the summer of 1968, and he narrowly missed winning the International this past summer. One of the highest compliments ever paid to one of our local pipers was given to John by P.M. John MacLellan in his recent article describing the Coeur d'Alene Competition where he states, "This competition was won by John MacLeod from Vancouver who played a very fine tune (up to Gold Medal Standards) on a bagpipe which was well tuned, well toned and held rock fast during the whole performance."

John A. MacLeod has also been active in bands playing in the Highland Laddies and Kiwanis Boys' Pipe Band. In 1967 John became Pipe Major of the Kiwanis and led the Band in their Canadian triumphs - first place at Cobourg, Ontario, Port Credit and Fergus, Ontario. The Band also won the North American Championship at Maxville and the Dominion Championship at Halifax. These accomplishments were made in addition to the Band winning the International Championship for Class "C" Band Competition here on the coast. John has played for the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band and for the last year the Port Moody Pipe Band.

John was one of the five individuals who passed the B. C. Pipers' Association's judges examination. Not only is he an accomplished player but has demonstrated his in-depth knowledge of our music. Through John's piping abilities he should prove to be an influential member of our piping community in years to come.

John is presently a third year student at Simon Fraser University where he is majoring in English.

The Editors wish John good luck in his future endeavors and look forward to seeing him "on the boards" for many years to come.

The next Bi-Monthly competition will be November 21, 1969 at 7:30 when the Novice competitors will play 6/8 Marches and the Juniors will play Piobaireachd.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again I have been asked by the Editors of the Newsletter to submit a report to the readers.

First, I would like to thank the Editors for the fine job they are doing in keeping us all up to date with the news of the piping world. I was unable to attend any of the games after Nanaimo this year, but reading the various reports in the Newsletter was certainly the next best thing to being there in person.

At one time, when the summer games were concluded, we were all able to sit back and relax and look forward to the next years gatherings. However, this is no longer the case. With the continued growth of piping in this area and the many activities your Association is connected with, the Directors are kept busy all through the year.

This month, rather than dwell on some of the events that have happened I would like to report on some that are coming up in the future.

First, the Bi-monthly competitions. These are now underway and are in the capable hands of the secretary, Mrs. Donald Ross. Organizing these competitions is a king sized job and I can think of no better way to thank her than by having more members attend them to show their appreciation. Look for the dates in the Newsletter and mark them on your calendar. A new innovation this year is the Open Knockout Competition, these will take place at each General Meeting through the winter and the spring.

Next, the Annual General Meeting. The date for this is January 9th, 1970 and it will be held in the Seaforth Armoury. You will notice that this date is a change from previous years as our fiscal year now ends in December instead of March. The Directors are looking forward to a large turnout for this meeting.

On Saturday, February 21st, 1970 the Annual Members Dinner will be held in the Stanley Park Tea-Room. Arrangements for the dinner are being looked after by Directors Alex Young and John McHardy and Director Bruce Topp is in charge of entertainment. More information will be sent to the members at a later date.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the 38th Annual Gathering to be held on April 3rd and 4th, 1970 at the North Vancouver Community Center, 23rd and Lonsdale, North Vancouver. We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Neil Angus Macdonald of Barra, President of the Inverness Piping Society to act as judge for these two days and we are all looking forward to his visit with us. Arrangements for the Annual Gathering are being looked after by Directors Rod MacVicar and Rod MacRae and already they have brought suggestions to the Board for various improvements. In order to assist them in setting up their program for the two days ALL LOCAL ENTRIES will have to be in the hands of the secretary, Mrs. D. Ross, 834 Burnaby Street, New Westminster, B. C. no later than MARCH 20th, 1970. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS CLOSING DATE.

I sincerely hope I will have the opportunity of meeting the members at these forthcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,
William Lamont, President

FROM J.M. ROBERTSON'S SCRAP-BOOK

TALES OF THE PIPERS

The anecdotes of the pipers of Scottish regiments are numerous. On more than one occasion they have been known, when badly wounded, to cause themselves to be conveyed to some eminence, and there to play encouraging tunes until their strength quite failed them.

The 71st Highland Light Infantry was greatly distinguished on the heights of Rorica, and, with the other corps of Sir Ronald Ferguson's brigade, charged the assailants repeatedly from the ground. They were then commanded by that fine officer, the late Sir Dennis Pack, and fully maintained the high station which they had always held in the military records of their country. Among their wounded was poor George Clarke, their piper, who was struck by a musket-ball while cheering up his comrades in the charge. Unable to proceed, the intrepid Clarke still continued to play in animated strains the favourite national music, and with a noble spirit remained upon the spot under a heavy fire, until, having fully accomplished the object of their mission, his regiment came back victorious to the station on the hill.

At the battle of Assaye the musicians were ordered to attend to the wounded and carry them to the surgeons in the rear. One of the pipers, believing himself included in this order, laid aside his instrument and assisted the wounded. For this he was afterwards reproached by his comrades. Flutes and hautboys, they thought could be well spared; but for the piper, who should always be in the heat of the battle, to go to the rear with his "whistles" was a thing altogether unheard of. The piper was quite humbled. However, he soon had an opportunity of playing off this stigma; for, in the advance at Argaum he played up with such animation and influenced the men to such a degree that they could hardly be restrained from rushing on to the charge too soon and breaking the line.

At the battle of Porto Novo, in 1781, the 73rd was on the right of the first line, leading all the attacks to the full approbation of General Coote, whose notice was particularly attracted by one of the pipers, who always blew up his most warlike sounds whenever the fire became hotter than ordinary. This so pleased the general that he cried aloud, 'Well done, my brave fellow, you shall have a pair of silver pipes for this.' The promise was not forgotten, and a handsome pair of pipes was presented to the regiment with an inscription in testimony of the general's esteem for their conduct and character.

From "The British Soldier"

FOR SALE:

Boys Kilt - Fit boy between age 13 - 15
- Good Condition
- MacDonald Tartan

For further information call 922-7332

GENERAL MEETING

The Association's October General Meeting, previously postponed, was held November 14th at the Seaforth Armoury. The prizes and attendance awards for last season's bi-monthly competitions were presented with the prize winners putting on a short program of entertainment complimented with dances performed by students of Mrs. Betty McHardy.

The following pipers were awarded pins for having a perfect attendance at the bi-monthly competitions:

Cindy Chambers	Wade Calder
Susan Lowden	Ian Keith
Paul Klick	Allan MacDougall
Patrick McGranahan	David Nicholson
Linda Flynn	Carol Silver
Ian Stubberfield	Marion Wood
Angus MacPherson	Susan Purdy
Hazel Ramsay	Deirdre Sutherland

The next group of bi-monthly contestants received bars for perfect attendance which are to be attached to the pins they were awarded in previous years:

Duncan Fraser	Drew Heggie
Glen Esdale	Kevin Paterson
Mitchell Bain	Ian Cameron
Brian Carse	Linda Freshwater
Jack Lee	Terry Lee
Donna Duncan	Glen Creamer
Robert Menzies	Drew Noot
Joe Shearer	Margaret Swanson
Lynn Grocott	Colin Abel
Bill MacAulay	John MacDonald
Bill Russell	John Wright

The prize winners for the 1968-1969 competitions were:

NOVICE

1st - Cindy Chambers - B.C. Pipers' Association Trophy
2nd - Chris Dawson
3rd - April MacDonald
4th - Allan MacDougall
4th - Linda Flynn
5th - John MacKay

JUVENILE

1st - Jack Lee - The Nicholson Trophy
1st - Angus MacPherson - The Nicholson Trophy
2nd - Susan Purdy
3rd - Terry Lee

JUNIOR

- 1st - Joe Shearer - The MacRae Shield
- 2nd - Tim Noot
- 3rd - Lynn Grocott

AMATEUR

- 1st - Bill MacAulay - Douglas Shield
- 2nd - Bill Russell
- 3rd - Sandy Marshall

DEPARTMENT

Margaret Swanson - B.C. Pipers' Department Trophy

The highlight of the evening was to be the first of our Knockout Competitions for the Professional Class. John A. MacLeod was to compete against Therese MacInnes, however, as Therese was unable to attend John advanced to the next round automatically. John played his competition tunes for the interested sixty people in attendance who all thoroughly enjoyed his excellent performance.

The piping ceased for a short time while tea, coffee, soft drinks, scones, cheese and cake were served. Following our refreshments the impromptu piping commenced and all enjoyed performances by Angus MacPherson, Alex Young, Ruairidh Macdonald, David Wilson, Michael Evans and Duncan Watson.

REMEMBER: THE SECOND PROFESSIONAL PIPING KNOCKOUT COMPETITION WILL BE AT THE ARMOURY, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH WHEN BRUCE TOPP WILL COMPETE AGAINST JAMIE TROY.



- 1 - Bi-monthly Competition
November 21, 1969
Novice 6/8 Marches
Junior Piobaireachd
- 2 - General Meeting
November 28, 1969
Professional Knockout Competition
- 3 - Annual Dinner - February 21, 1970
- 4 - Annual Gathering
April 3 - 4, 1970

ANNUAL GATHERING

The B.C. Pipers' Association will hold its 38th Annual Gathering at the North Vancouver Community Centre, April 3rd and 4th, 1970.

The program for the competition is as follows:

- Event # 1 - Junior Piobaireachd
 - Event # 2 - Novice Marches
 - Event # 3 - Juvenile Marches
 - Event # 4 - Juvenile Strathspey and Reel
 - Event # 5 - Amateur Piobaireachd
 - Event # 6 - Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs
 - Event # 7 - Professional Piobaireachd
 - Event # 8 - Junior Quartettes
 - Event # 9 - Junior Marches
 - Event # 10 - Junior Strathspey and Reel
 - Event # 11 - Amateur Marches
 - Event # 12 - Amateur Strathspey and Reel
 - Event # 13 - Professional Marches (14)
 - Event # 14 - Professional Strathspey and Reel (15)
 - Event # 15 - Professional Jig (16)
 - Event # 16 - Dancing (18)
 - Event # 17 - Senior Quartettes (19)
 - Event # 18 - Pipers Over 60 Years - Tune of Pipers Choice (25)
 - Event # 19 - Miniature Pipe Bands (20)
- PIPERS OVER 60 (13)*
SCOTTISH WRESTLING (17)

Approximate times will appear in the March issue.

Note: Event # 6 is restricted to Amateurs not competing in other events.

Note: ENTRY DEADLINE IS MARCH 20th, 1970. DEADLINE IS TO BE ENFORCED.

A competitor will not be allowed to play in more than one quartette or miniature band at the same Annual Gathering.

Miniature bands will consist of:

- A minimum of 7 - 4 pipers, 2 side drummers and 1 bass
- A maximum of 9 - 6 pipers, 2 side drummers and 1 bass

"Marked In"

