B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

The official monthly publication of

the British Columbia Pipers' Association

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1964. No. 54.

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Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1964. CONTENTS No. 54.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER COMBINED:

No doubt, our readers are wondering what happened to the September issue of the Newsletter. Well you can rest assured, that you were not missed last month, and nothing happened to the Newsletter. However, something did happen to its Editor, Mr. C.I. Walker.

On Sept. 5th, Ian Walker was married to Miss Jane Elliott, of Vancouver. After a two week honeymoon, and after moving from Vancouver to Squamish, September was just about finished. It was therefore decided that it would be best to combine the September and October issue of the Newsletter.

We are therefore putting out a larger issue, and would ask our readers to excuse the lapse. We hope that you will find this Newsletter of special interest.

As announced in August, the Newsletter is now produced by Mr. William McAdie, at the following address:

3288 East 27th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.

All material and correspondence should be forwarded to this address.

Now, in a lighter vein, we are printing a poem forwarded to us by Mr. Phil Yandle, President of the B.C. Highland Dancing Association. The subject matter of this epic, will soon be evident.

YOUNG LOCHINVAR OF SQUAMISH - OR, IAN'S FATE:

I've a tale to relate
Concerning the fate
Of Walker - Carl Ian;
Who, the 5th of September,
A day to remember,
Became a different human being.

'Twas a glorious day
In every way
And 1:00 p.m. was the call;
So the guests invited
Were getting excited
To see the mighty fall.

From every pew
The excitement grew
As at 1:15 no bride;
"He's left in the lurch
Right at the church",
Some of the pessimists sighed.

Then the groom appeared
And all eyes veered,
As the bride walked down the aisle;
To the wedding strain
Walked Elliott - Jane
With a most enchanting smile.

Both were subdued
As each "I do-ed"
And the minister tied the knot;
And arm in arm
They exuded charm
As they left that hallowed spot.

Then McDougall assayed,
As his pipes he played,
To send them both off rejoicing.
At the reception to follow
There was something to swallow
And many a toast a-voicing.

When the words were said
And the punch was "dead",
And pictures in various poses,
Now the bride she throws,
Before she goes,
Her bouquet of red, red roses.

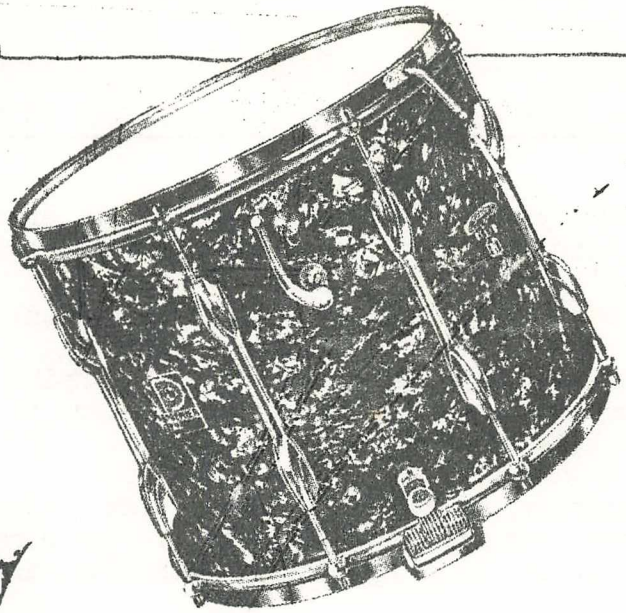
How little we knew,
When we thought we were through,
The surprise the groom was withholding.
As our eyes opened wide,
He stole from his bride
Her garter, while she was a-scolding.

With it held in his fist
And a flick of his wrist,
It was thrown to the bachelors gay;
And so some poor chap
Will be caught in a trap
And end up in Ian's way.

They then took flight
And pity their plight,
For confetti you cannot hide;
At some wayside inn
It will gather a grin
As the car was well littered inside.

They're man and wife
For the rest of their life
And with them goes every good wish;
It's a rather a pity
They're leaving this city
To live in the land of Squamish.

- Phillip A. Yandle -



Royal-Scot

Royal-Scot

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3rd. City of Toronto Pipe Band

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PROPOSED MEMBERS' FLIGHT - "THE PIPERS FLIGHT TO SCOTLAND"

For a year or two now, the Executive of the B.C. Pipers' Association has been considering the pros and cons of sponsoring a trip to Scotland.

The purpose, if brought to fruition would be twofold.

Firstly, it would provide an inexpensive fare compared to scheduled summer rates thus enabling more of our members to consider a trip to the land we all hold so dear.

Secondly, it would be timed to take in possibly Braemar. For sure Oban, and the Northern Meeting. The duration would be more or less mid August to mid September - the cost around the three fifty mark.

Interested? Your Executive sure is too but would want an indication of membership support before committing the Association to sponsorship, and the accompanying financial responsibilities.

Below you will find a questionnaire form. Fill it out without delay, incidcating approval or otherwise, and your Executive will carry it from there.

- -

THE PIPERS FLIGHT TO SCOTLAND (1965)

I am interested and would like to know more about details, and favour

1965 .....
1966 .....

I am not interested personally but would help to organize same in any way I can.

.....

Telephone No. .....

.....
Member,
B.C. Pipers' Assn.

Returning this questionnaire in no way can or will be considered as a committment to take part in the proposed charter flight.

B.C. Pipers' Association,
Ste 304, 2110 West 38th Ave.,
Vancouver 13, B.C.

THE C.W.A.C. PIPE BAND: (continued from July's Newsletter)

By train again we left Quebec City and headed for the Maritimes. We arrived at Halifax, and were billeted in Army Headquarters where a hut had been set aside for us, full of the old familiar uppers and lowers again .. and I was soon asleep on my airy Upper Cloud. We had busy days ahead of us.

The progress had been widely published in the local papers, and here is the advertisement:

"The Canadian Women's Army Corps
PIPE & BRASS BANDS

These talented ALL-GIRL Bands, comprising fifty-four attractive musicians, now on a coast-to-coast tour of the Dominion, will present a series of free concerts in the Halifax area as below. See at least one of these musical treats.

Sunday, Sept. 12 - Brass Band Concert, Public Gardens, 3 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 13 - Brass & Pipe Bands, Parade - 7:30 p.m.
Concert 8 p m. at Crichton Avenue and Ochterloney Street, Dartmouth M.D. No. 6 Precision Squad will perform during the intermission.

Tuesday, Sept. 14 - Brass & Pipe Bands, Concert, "The Parade", Halifax, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 14 - Brass & Pipe Bands, Concert, The Forum, with all C.W.A.C. Companies on parade, 8 to 10 P.M.

All concerts free to service men and civilians. Unaccompanied children not admitted to Forum Concert.

Every physically fit young and older woman is urgently needed now to replace male soldiers for combat duty. It is YOUR DUTY to back up our soldiers overseas. No occupation is so essential as the need for women in the C.W.A.C."

We were joined in these performances by a smart precision Squad from the local C.W.A.C. Depot. Darthmouth was included too in the program, and this little trip across the Harbour was our first encounter with reality as we learned the grim facts of these dangerous waters. Halifax Harbour had just been cleared of high-explosive German mines which had been planted to block the Harbour in June, and here is the dramatic story I saved from the local paper before we left the Maritimes ....

"Nazi Attempts to Blockade Halifax Harbor with Mines Foiled by Canucks, British:

Ottawa, Sept. 21, 1943. The Germans tried but failed to block Halifax Harbor with mines to sink outgoing and incoming ships last June, a naval announcement disclosed today. They laid some 60 mines in the ship channel leading into the big port but they were discovered promptly and a clear path through the minefield was swept within 24 hours so a convoy could go out.

Canadian and British minesweepers stationed on the east coast, many of them patiently sweeping for mines which had not appeared since the outbreak of war, swung into action for their first real job on an enemy's death trap and completed the work of clearing the minefield in three days. No lives were lost and no ships of importance were lost. One small freighter, a straggler from a convoy and sailing in waters labelled dangerous, was sunk and is believed to have been a victim of a mine, although the cause of loss is not certain.

The first enemy mining operation in Canadian waters since the start of the war, the mines are believed to have been laid by a submarine. In the First Great War about four mines were found off the Nova Scotia coast but were believed to have been dumped overboard from a neutral merchant ship.

The mines laid in June were of the "moored magnetic" type and were described by veteran minesweeper seamen who operated overseas as more powerful than any they had seen before. They were moored to the ocean bottom but designed to explode magnetically. The enemy made just one fatal slip that gave his game away. He left one of the mines on the surface where it was spotted and the minesweeping fleet was rushed into action.

"Enemy submarines mined the approaches to Halifax harbor in early June in an arc intended to close the port to all shipping," said the navy announcement. "Minesweepers of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Navy cleared a six-cable (1,200 yards wide) channel within one day to permit a convoy to sail, a feat which drew the congratulations of the admiralty." The mining operation was kept secret until now for security reasons. Immediately upon discovery of the mines, long-prepared plans for action by the minesweeping fleet went into action. Its first task was to clear a channel for ships and to keep that channel swept

Navy Minister Macdonald said the in statement these operations were carried out "like clockwork," and he had high praise for the officers and men of the minesweeping fleet for their unrelaxed vigilance in a tedious and monotonous job since the outbreak of war.

After the operation, crews of the minesweepers hastened to put up their newly-won "mine destruction insignia", in the form of bars, chevrons and stars painted on the ships to signify the number of mines destroyed. The top scoring ship got 18 mines but had close rivals for honors. The crash of exploding mines as they were touched off gave many a seaman whose work has been dull for a long time the thrill of direct contact with war.

Lt.-Cmdr. R.M. Barkhouse, Halifax, port mine sweeping officer who spent three sleepless days and nights at sea personally directing the operations, was highly pleased with the results. "We knew exactly what we were going to do," he said. "We had made our preprations for this long in advance. I must say we were lucky - very lucky - for the best plans in the world can go astray." Barkhouse is a veteran minesweeper, who sailed the first Canadian drifter sweeper to Gibralter in the First Great War and put it to work."

It was certainly cleared well now, for we were crossing safely over to Dartmouth. The next afternoon a group of us from the Pipe Band were taken for a pleasant little cruise over to a small island and round the Harbour on the R.C.A.S.C. Motor Vessell "General Bunstall", from which I have the autograph of the Skipper, F.A. Dingle S/M WO I, who let me take the wheel a little ways when he thought it safe enough. When I think of it now ...the nerve of my hot little hands!

My autograph hunting started when I thought of all the Pipers we would meet through Canada, and why not keep a memory's record in music books I had with me by asking some to autograph their own favourite Pipe tunes?

Then in Ottawa I met someone from home, a well-known lawyer and distinguished scholar, Sherwood Lett. Now Brigadier Lett, he was Commander of the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade, seriously wounded in the Dieppe raid in 1942, and now convalescing in Ottawa. We had accidentally met at the same table in a cafe, and as we talked over tea he told me he was not long out of hospital, and while waiting for his right shoulder to mend he was back on duty in Defense Headquarters, and was in charge of all Basic Training for the C.W.A.C. at the time, among other things. But his mind was overseas with his men. It was what he said next that impressed me so I could never forget it, and I especially like to remember it now ... "I am going back as soon as I can. I am just waiting until I am able to go". And he did, this quiet man, with the spiritual strength of ten.

I thought of my autographs ... why only Pipers? Soon I was asking for his, forgetting about his bad arm, but he kindly offered to try his left hand and asked me to leave the books at his office. When I got them back I was amazed. He had not only patiently signed his name to many tunes, but wrote me a wee letter as well ...

Ottawa
23 May 43

Dear Piper:
Many thanks for your note and your Pipe scores. I have signed several, or rather put my name to them, for it could scarcely be called a signature. My right hand is not quite strong enough to write with yet.

I signed "March of the Cameron Men", "Road to the Isles", "Highland Laddie", "Cock o' the North", "Hot Punch", and a couple of others.

It was nice to meet you the other evening. I hope you are liking Ottawa and are not too lonesome for Vancouver. The best of luck to you in your Army career, and be sure, whatever happens, to keep on piping, and smiling - pipers have always been brave lads, and cheerful.

Sincerely,
Sherwood Lett Brig.

P.S. Please excuse my left handed scrawl. S.L.

In 1944 he was back in France again in Command of his men up to D-Day, then wounded again and forced to keep away from the battlefront, in other duties. But he never stopped, was mentioned in dispatches several times, and later received an O.B.E. for outstanding service. Back in Vancouver, he returned to his law firm and continued in his remarkable and brilliant career, until he became Chief Justice Lett, and top jurist in British Columbia.

But I knew him when he said "I am going back", and when he took those books and painstakingly autographed all those tunes, and wrote a letter ... with his left hand.

My next autograph came from Jeanette MacDonald, in Ottawa. When we saw she was appearing in person in Romeo and Juliet, we went to see it. Seeing her in real life was something we just had to do, and next day I sent in my books with a note, and received them back signed "Sincerely, Jeanette MacDonald" across the covers.

From then on I kept collecting whenever I took time to think of it, and the next one I should mention here came when we saw Winston Churchill standing by his private car in the Railway yards in Montreal. As we passed by he raised his hand in the familiar V sign and smiled to us when we waved. After that I gave my books to a security guard with a note. They reached me at Quebec by messenger in a large official envelope addressed to our Y.W.C.A. quarters. The autograph was Lady Churchill's. Across the face of three books she had graciously written Clementine S. Churchill, bless her, for the great man, and for me. I realized then this must be protocol, and I was just as happy. On the cover of the Kilberry book are three autographs ... under Jeanette MacDonald's, Sherwood Lett, Brig., and under his, Clementine S. Churchill.

Sir Winston and Lady Churchill were in Quebec while we were there, and on the Plains of Abraham we played for them before they left Canada. The story of the autographs has brought my historical narrative back again to Quebec, but now I will get on with the tour.

Leaving Halifax by train, through Truro and Moncton again, we arrived at St. John and marched to the Armoury, where each Band was photographed as we marched in playing. The local paper carried these photos with this announcement: "Women's Military Bands to Parade This Evening. The C.W.A.C. Pipe and Brass Bands, pictured here as they arrived at the Armoury yesterday, will parade uptown this evening, each leading a company

of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. The Bands and companies will fall in at the C.W.A.C. barracks at 7 o'clock and will march up Sydney Street to North King Square, down Charlotte to King Street and return to St. James Street down Germain. Both Bands are scheduled for a concert in the bandstand in King Square at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon."

During our stay there we made trips out to Fredericton and Woodstock. We had been out to Cape Breton Island, visiting Sydney and Glace Bay also, before leaving Halifax. Now we were ready to visit Prince Edward Island, our last Province in the Maritimes. At Sackville we left the C.N.R. line to take the connecting Railway that runs to the coast and joins up with the ferry to P.E.I. This is a large Government Ferry steamer which runs from Cape Tormentine to Borden on the Island, across the Northumberland Strait. As well as automobiles and passengers this ferry carries the Railway freight and passenger cars to connect with the Island Railway. So right on to the ferry, on its own railway track our coach kept on rolling, and we sailed away to the Island, where we rolled off on to the tracks waiting there at Borden, and joined the train to Charlottetown! This trip was a little gem by the mile, in unique and picturesque travel. The train was in no hurry, very slowly winding through the quietest, greenest, sweetest country-side a lazy train could wish to wind-a-way through. Gently rolling hills, little evergreens standing alone by the wayside or in bunches, peaceful farms and pastures, quiet streams and lakes, and off in the distance silver birches everywhere. It is an island of peace and beauty, a panorama worth seeing from a little train. And Sept. 21 was a pleasant autumn day to arrive and enjoy it.

From the local paper here is the story of that visit: "Concert in Queen Square Garden Last Night: Not since th days of Prof. Harry Watts and his Fourth Regiment Band of forty pieces was such a large crowd drawn to Queen Square than last night when the C.W.A.C. Pipe and Brass Bands, which are on a tour of Canada, gave a concert in Queen Square Gardens. They marched up from the station and took over the band stand and an area fenced off for the Pipe Band for playing and marching. The concert was featured by an impressive talk on the work of the different divisions of the C.W.A.C., and stressed the need of more recruits. The playing of the Scots Band particularly and their marching was of a very high order. They received warm applause from the audience. They will leave here tomorrow morning to continue their tour. The Bands were welcomed on their arrival by a large group of members of the Charlottetown Branch of the Red Cross Corps. Following the concert they were given a luncheon at the Canadian Legion prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary and served by members of the R.A.F. Then they were taken to quarters at the Red Cross."

There was much to see on that historic Island if we only had more time, but the old home of Louise Montgomery, the "Green Gables" still stands today, in a beautiful national park.

(to be continued)

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NELSON HIGHLAND GAMES: SEPTEMBER 7th, 1964.

The Nelson Highland Games were held on September 7th, 1964, at the Civic Centre arena.

The piping, drumming and pipe band results were as follows:

Marches (Junior under 16 years)
1. David Hogg 2. William Muirhead 3. Gary Marshall

Strathspeys & Reels (Junior under 16 years)
1. David Hogg 2. David McIntyre 3. Gary Marshall

Marches (Junior under 19 years)
1. Clive MacDonald 2. John Jones 3. Dennis Cockburn

Strathspeys & Reels (Junior under 19 years)
1. Clive MacDonald 2. John Jones 3. Richard Ward

Marches (band members not entered in any other event)
1. Christine Wickburg

Marches (Professional)
1. Angus MacDonald 2. David Saul 3. James Munroe

Strathspeys & Reels (Professional)
1. Angus MacDonald 2. David Saul 3. James Munroe

Jig (Professional)
1. David Saul 2. Angus MacDonald 3. James Munroe

Marches (Senior Amateur)
1. Mary Jenkinson 2. Keith Langhorn 3. Malcolm McCulloch

Strathspeys & Reels (Senior Amateur)
1. Alistair Gilchrist 2. Stephen Brown 3. Malcolm McCulloch

Slow Air (Amateur, all ages)
1. Clive MacDonald 2. John Jones 3. Stephen Brown

Strathspeys & Reels: (under 16, confined to Kootenays)
1. David Hogg

Jig (confined to Kootenays, all ages)
1. Clive MacDonald 2. John Jones 3. Jack Titsworth

Drumming: Marches, Strathspeys & Reels (under 16 years)
1. Gordon Jenkinson 2. John Ellison 3. Gregg Young

Drumming: Marches, Strathspeys & Reels (Senior Amateur)
1. Gordon Jenkinson 2. John Ellison 3. Gregg Young

Drumming; Marches, Strathspeys & Reels (Professional)
1. John Swan

Pipe Bands:
1. Strathcona Legion Pipe Band - Edmonton
2. Kootenay Kiltie Pipe Band - Nelson
3. Angus Scott Inland Empire Pipe Band Spokane.

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"THE PIPERS' HANDBOOK" BY PIPE-MAJOR JOHN MacLELLAN, M.B.E.:

We would like to take this opportunity to publicize a recent book, produced by Grainger and Campbell Limited, "The Pipers' Handbook", written by Pipe-Major John MacLellan, M.B.E., senior piping instructor at the Army School in Edinburgh, and an acknowledged authority on the teaching of piping.

The book contains a comprehensive collection of notes on the components and maintenance of the bagpipes together with instructions on the maintenance of the bagpipes together with instructions on the manipulation of reeds and testing of the pipe chanter. The book also contains information on the major piping organisations and other useful information concerning the pipes.

The book is a must for every piper. Copies are available from Grainger & Campbell Ltd. at a price of $1.00 post paid to your address.

Below is an order form for completion by you if you wish to purchase one of these very useful books:

* * * *

To: Grainger & Campbell Ltd.,
1191 - 1193 Argyle Street,
Glasgow, C.3., Scotland.

Please supply ..... copies of "The Pipers' Handbook" by P/M John MacLellan at $1.00 per copy. I enclose remittance for $....

From: Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

BRETON PIPES WILL SKIRL IN TATTOO DISPLAYS: (from Oban Times, Aug. 6, 1964)

A holiday in Brittany gave us an interesting opportunity of contact with another branch of the Celtic family, and one with many of the characteristics familiar at home.

The Breton language, so far as one can gather, is not really in any healthier condition than our own Gaelic, though a Chair, the only one on the subject in France, is devoted to it in the University of Rennes, the capital of Brittany. But down at the foot of the Rue de Dinan in St. Malo - there is a strong suggestion, incidentally, that "Malo" was a MacLeod - there is a splendidly stocked bookshop kept by a young man called Robert Cabioc'h who can show you not only a Breton dictionary but also elementary grammar of the language.

The spelling of his name is typically Breton. In the ordinary course a "ch" in France sound like our "sh", but when the Breton puts an apostrophe in between the two letters you get exactly the same guttural pronounciation as in our "loch".

It was interesting to find the people well conscious of their links with the Welsh, but not nearly so sure of their affinities with the Gaels, perhaps because a certain amount of Welsh writing has been translated into Breton, which is of the same dialect group. Nevertheless, they share very strongly the independent and adventurous spirit of the Scottish Celt. Brittany, though nominally incorporated into France nearly 500 years ago, maintained a substantial autonomy until the French Revolution, and the people of St. Malo carry their clan spirit even further, for they have a saying that they are not French and not Bretons, but Malouins.

When the naval band from Brest comes to the Edinburgh military tattoo later this month about 200,000 Scots will get an introduction to the binious, the Breton bagpipe. We heard three bands of these pipers one Sunday, and are still wondering if the difference lies in their reeds or in our own ears. The sound did not seem so powerful and martial as our Great Highland pipe, but to outward appearance there is not a noticeable difference in the two instruments. Some of the Breton pipes even had tartan bags, and the players wore a tartan cummerbund with their traditional dress of embroidered velvet jacket and black shallow-crowned hat with broad black ribbons hanging down the back.

The tunes, apparently without gracenotes, are somewhat less stirring and varied than our own. At regular intervals the pipers are reinforced in their efforts by players of the bombarde which looks rather like a slightly smaller edition of the pipe chanter blown on the open reed. Again the tone is milder than ours, but the general effect of the two sets of players in combination with drums goes well with a marching crowd of enthusiastic followers.

The presence of the Brest pipers at the military tattoo will help Brigadier Alasdair Maclean of Pennycross, the tattoo producer, for the loss of two of the Scottish regimental bands on which he was relying - the pipes and drums of the Royal Scots, who are still in Aden on active service, and the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who are due to go on leave following service overseas. The Brigadier has managed to get the military band of the Royal Scots Greys into the programme to achieve representation of five Scottish regiments.

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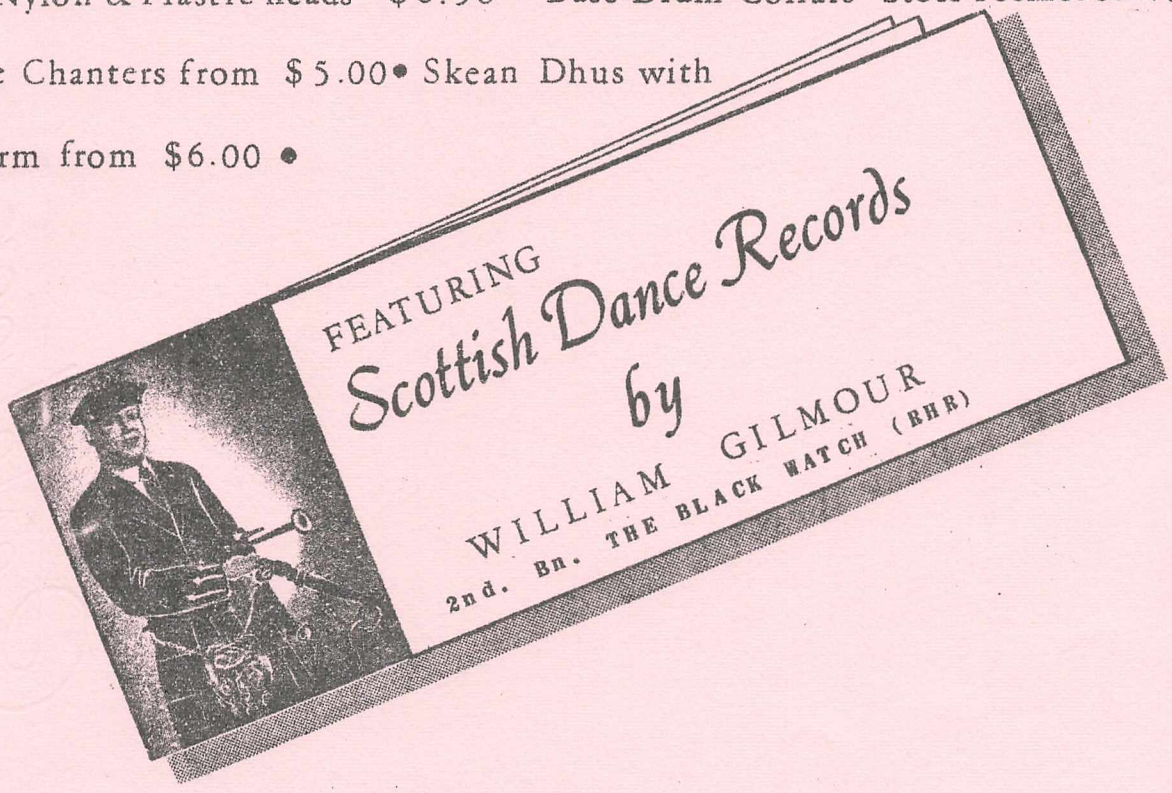

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PRICE LISTS FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY UPON REQUEST.

Bagpipes - Reeds - Clan Crests - Scottish Novelties

COLLEGE OF PIPING IN SKYE: (from Oban Times, Aug. 13,1964)

At the end of their summer course at Dunvegan, the Glasgow College of Piping held a competition which was most successful.

In the piobaireachd competition, players were required to play a tune which was new to them and which they had heard played only five days earlier. The playing was quite outstanding, and a young Breton, Jean Francois Allain, played "You're Welcome Ewen Lochiel" in professional style and without a mistake. Jean is one of a family of three boys. They, and their father, are all pipers. Their mother, who was with them, comes to this contry to perfect her English. She is a French teacher.

The summer course of the College of Piping has this year been supervised by Pipe Major John MacLellan and Mr. John MacFadyen, and judging by the results has been most successful.

The piobaireachd was judged by Mr. Dugie MacLeod, Mr. John MacFadyen and Mr. Seton Gordon. The results were: 1. Jean Francois Allain (You're Welcome) 2. Jim Peter, of Schenectady, N.Y. (MacLeod of Raasay) 3. Yves Marie Allain (You're Welcome); Robert U. Brown (who has no connection with his illustrious namesake) also played well.

In the march competition the results were: 1. Jim Peters 2. Jean Francois Allain 3. Robert U. Brown

During the course Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod entertained the pupils, with Pipe Major John MacLellan and Mr. John MacFadyen to tea at the Castle, and heard them play.

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VANCOUVER GIRLS' NEAR WIN AT PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS: (from Oban Times, August 13, 1964)

Some surprizes were awaiting the record crowd at the Scottish Pipe Band championships last Saturday in Princes Street Gardens. Edinburgh City Police, world champions, were beaten into fourth place for the championship, which went to Muirhead and Sons Ltd., from Grangemouth.

A colourful last-minute entry, the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band, took second place in the Grade IV contest.

The Canadian girls arrived in Edinburgh just at the end of the week. When they heard that the championships were being contested on Saturday, they asked if they might make a last minute entry and Scottish Pipe Band Association officials, whose Lothians and Borders branch co-operated with Edinburgh Corporation in organising the contest, were delighted to agree.

A total of 49 bands competed and a parade of 150 pipers and drummers before the start of the contest gave the Princes Street holiday crowds a fine and stirring spectacle.

Results:

Juveniles:

1. 214th Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade (P.M. A. MacIver)
2. 1st Port Glasgow Company Boys' Brigade (P.M. D. Brown)
3. Knightswood Juvenile (P.M. J. Crichton)

Grade IV:

1. B.H. Chemicals, Grangemouth (P.M. A. Kiddie)
2. Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band (P.M. Norma Nicholson)
3. Arniston and Bilston Colliery (P.M. Ian Ness)

Grade III:

1. St. George's C.L.B. (Chorley) P.M. R.S. Walkingshaw)
2. Kilrae (P.M. J. Proctor)
3. Vale of Nethan (P.M. T. Finlay)

Grade II:

1. 51st (Highland) Div./Dist. Colm. R.A.S.C. (T.A.) (P.M. F. Brodie)
2. Lady Victoria Colliery (P.M. A. MacKintosh)
3. Edinburgh Corporation Transport (P.M. D. Connor)

Open:

1. Muirhead and Sons, Ltd. (P M. R. Hardie)
2. Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia (P.M. J.K. MacAllister)
3. City of Glasgow Police (P.M. A. MacDonald)
4. Edinburgh City Police (P.M. Iain McLeod)

Drum Majors' competition:

1. Drum Major Kirk, Edinburgh Corporation Transport
2. Drum Major Macdonald, 4th K.O.S.B.
3. Drum Major Hair, East Lowland R.A.S.C.

The Vancouve girl pipers, 35 strong, arrived at Prestwick at the end of the week with the 26 British Columbia "Highland Lassies" - daughters of Canadian ex-Servicemen who specialise in Highland dancing, and who are to appear in the military tattoo on Edinburgh Castle esplanade. Brigadier Alasdair Maclean of Pennycross, the tattoo producer, had the dancers in the Vancouver Searchlight Tattoo, which he produced a few years ago.

The pipers wear MacNab tartan in honour of their founder, Mrs. Mary MacNab, who left Glasgow as a young girl 50 years ago for Canada. Mrs. MacNab is now principal teacher of the Vancouver Highland dancing school, and she has come with the girls on their first trip to Scotland. Band funds are meeting the fares and expenses of the players, but the 26 dancers have each saved 200 pounds in order to be at the tattoo.

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LETTER FROM ROBERT S.S. GRAY:

Recently, we received a letter from Robert S.S. Gray, Coalsnaughton, By Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, in which he enclosed the following amusing verses, which we thought you might like to read.

THE SINS OF THE PIPES:
(Inspired by the news that the Kirk in Skye has attacked the bagpipes because they lead to "worldy gatherings where immorality is practised."

Oh ye canna play your bagpipes up in Skye,
The ministers will slay you if you try,
Oh a man may take a skinful
But the pipes, you know, are sinful,
They just lead to songs and dancing by and by.

Singing we're no Holy Willies, but oh my!
Our point of view you simply can't deny,
Think of all the carnal sinning,
Such as laughing, joking, grinning,
Naw, ye canna blaw yer bagpipes up in Skye.

THE HIGHLAND BAGPIPES - A Touching Incident

'Twas in a crowded hospital,
In western U.S.A.
A Caledonian, far from home,
Sick, lonely, dying, lay.

"Oh Doctor! could I hear but ance
Oor ain bagpipes again,
I'd shut my e'en an' dee in peace,
In spite of a' my pain."

The kindly doctor searched the town,
A brother Scot was found,
And soon within the hospital
The cheery pipes resound.

Along the great wide corridors
The pibroch echoed clear,
Till every poor sick sufferer heard
The Highland tunes so dear.

And by that glorious music
The weary Scot revived,
Regained his health and walked abroad,
.... The other patients died.

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SEE HOW BAGPIPES AND KILTS ARE MADE

PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON ASKED FOR PIPERS:

Needless to say, pipers and lovers of pipe music were proud to know that President Lyndon Johnson had specially requested that a pipe band should play at the ceremony taken part in by himself, and the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Lester Pearson, on September 16th, in Vancouver, B.C.

This is not surprising to those who know the bagpipe, as the instrument can provide music suitable for any occasion. The strains of the pipes can inspire fighting men, when in front of the enemy, to contempt of danger or death!

The instrument can also provide musical entertainment with a lilt that brings joy and happiness to listeners. It can also move the emotions of the human heart to a great depth of sadness, as it sings its appealing song of sorrow.

We all remember how happy hearts were at the White House, with the music of the pipes, when the late President Kennedy entertained a pipe band from Scotland, that was touring the U.S.A., shortly before his assassination.

We remember too that Mrs. Kennedy, though in deep sorrow after her husband's death, asked that a pipe band would take part in the funeral procession of the late President. No band could tell better of grief, and on this occasion the whole world wept with it.

No doubt that it is on account of the late President Kennedy's love of the pipes, and the mark of respect shown by the Vancouver Police Pipe Band, to the memory of the late President, while the band was in Hawaii, that President Johnson requested that it should play, on the occasion of his visit to Vancouver.

As there is an account of the above given in the Vancouver Times of September 17th, I will , with the Editor's permission, quote it here:

"Vancouver's twelve piece Police Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Detective William Baird, provided a sentimental touch to Wednesdays airport ceremonies, with a command performance for President Johnson. The band, which has won many trophies, became world famous last November, when on a visit to Hawaii, it cancelled a scheduled concert, and instead played a "Lament" shortly after the 50th State heard of President Kennedy's assassination. President Johnson heard the story, and previous to his trip here with Prime Minister Pearson, sent word he would like to have the band play during his Vancouver visit. The band obliged with the rollicking "Scotland the Brave". "

Now, to many who read this matter, it may seem of little importance, but to pipers and pipe bands that have visited the U.S.A., and throughout many years have been cordially welcomed, it is most gratifying. The pipes can very well be said to be a symbol of the friendship existing between the Americans and Canadians, and have undoubtedly played a big part in strengthening the ties that exist between the two nations.

- Roderick MacLeod -

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GENERAL MEETING - SEPT. 25th.

The first meeting of the season took place on Sept. 25th.

A sad note was cast over the meeting, when it was announced that two illustrious Scotsmen and friends of the Association had recently passed away. Robert Wilson, the first outstanding artist to come to Vancouver in what became the White Heather Concerts, was well known to Vancouver audiences, and indeed to audiences everywhere. Donald MacLean of Lewis, famous throughout the piping world, visited Vancouver in 1954, where he judged our Annual Gathering.

It was decided that the Senior Amateur would be dropped from the Bi-Monthly competition schedule. The Amateur event was made Open Amateur, and would be open to those who formerly competed in the Senior Amateur.

After the meeting, Tom Binnie entertained, with a quartette from his Canadian Legion Pipe Band. Seb Nellies brought the house down with his own rendition of "When the Saints Come Marching In".

Due to the heavy schedule, no General Meeting will be held in October.

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CEILIDH - OCTOBER 16th.

The Ceilidh will be held on October 16th, at the Stry Hall, 124 East 8th Ave., (enter off parking lot).

As in past years, aggregate prize winners at last season's Bi-Monthly competitions, will be awarded with their prizes.

Also, there will be a variety concert, which will include highland dancing singing, and a Scottish ensemble. Refreshments will follow.

Pins will be given out to the winners.

All are welcome. The Ceilidh will begin at 8:00 p.m.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION - OCTOBER 30th.

This season's Bi-Monthlies will start on October 30th, at 8:00 p.m.

The place for the first set of competitions is the Scottish Auditorium, 12th & Fir, in the Lodge Room.

The Novice event will start at 8:00 p.m.

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THE STORY BEHIND BAGPIPE TUNES: (from "Sunday Post", Glasgow)

"THE PIPER'S WARNING"

The traditional story attached to this pipe tune depicts an instance when the pipes were used as a warning. Long ago, Coll Kitto, a chief of the Clan MacDonald, set out from Ireland to raid the Castle of Dunivaig, on Islay, which was at that time held by the Campbells. Before attacking, he sent an advance party to Islay, which included his piper.

The Campbells, however, had been warned of the raid and they ambushed the advance party and took them prisoner. All of theprisoners were hanged except for the piper, who asked leave to play a lament for his dead comrades. The Chief of the Campbells granted the piper's request, but first laid a trap for the main body of Coll Kitto's men who were following the advance party.

The piper saw this and adapted his pibroch so that the advancing men would be warned of the ambush. On hearing the pibroch, Coll Kitto turned his men about, away from danger.

The Chief of the Campbells also understood the pibroch and plunged a dagger into the piper. It is said that Coll Kitto's gallant piper died with a smile on his face, knowing that he had saved his comrades.

"RORY MHOR'S LAMENT"

This tune is considered by many pipers to be the most melodious and melancholy lament ever written.

Sir Roderick MacLeod of Dunvegan was famed for his military prowess. Anyone who crossed the threshhold of Dunvegan Castle was treated with unbounded hospitality. He was called Mhor, or great, becuase he had all the qualities of a great Highland chief and leader of men.

When Sir Roderick died about 1630, his piper, Patrick MacCrimmon, took his death so much to heart that he could not live at Dunvegan afterwards.

Shouldering his pipes, he made for his house at Boreraig, composing and playing as he went, Camha Ruaraidh (Rory Mhor's Lament).

"Fetch me my pipes, my heart is breaking,
For Rory Mhor his rest is taking;
He walks no more, and to its core
My heart is sore for Rory Mhor."

"TOO LONG IN THIS CONDITION"

The composer of this pipe tune is said to have been Donald Mor MacCrimmon, one of the most celebrated pipers of all times.

Because of some misdeed, Donald had to run for his life to the wilds of Sutherland. He made his way to the house of a man called McKay, who, although a relative, did not recognise him. McKay was due to be married on the day of Donald's arrival, and Donald attended the festivities, but contented himself by just sitting in a corner.

However, when McKay's piper began to play, Donald unconsciously fingered the notes on a stick he was carrying. The piper noticed this and asked Donald to play.

At first Donald refused, but eventually he agreed, and taking up the pipes he played:

"Too long are we thus, too long are we thus,
Too long in this condition,
Too long lacking meat or drink,
At McKay's marriage am I."

Immediately everyone recognized Donald's fine playing and understood the meaning of his tune. He was then given royal treatment and a fine feast.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION SCHEDULE: 1964/65

DATE	NOVICE	JUVENILE	JUNIOR	OPEN AMATEUR
OCT 30	Marches	Old Highland Airs	Strathspeys and Reels	Marches
DEC 11	6/8 Marches	Marches	Hornpipes	Strathspeys and Reels
FEB 19	Old Highland Airs	Strathspeys and Reels	Piobair-eachd	Jigs
APR 23	Strathspeys & Reels	6/8 Marches	Jigs	Piobair-eachd
MAY 28	Marches	Jigs	Marches	Old Highland Airs

All dates are subject to change.

Competitors must submit entires with Secretary at least one day before the competition.

Georgina MacPhail,
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Vancouver 13, B.C.

Telephone: 263-4297.

A PIPE MAJOR WHO UPHELD THE BEST OF HIGHLAND TRADITIONS:

(from Oban Times, Sept. 10th, 1964)

The sudden and untimely death of Pipe Major Donald MacLean in Dunoon last Saturday night, after having taken part in this year's Cowal Gathering, has saddened the hearts of all who love the art of piping or who are associated in any way with preserving the best of of Celtic and regimental traditions.

"Big Donald", as he was affectionately known to countless friends and admirers, was born in Ballantrushal, Lewis, in 1908. He joined the Seaforth Highlanders at Fort George in 1926 and later that year was posted to the 1st Battalion then stationed in Aldershot. There he came under the capable instruction of Pipe Major D.R. McLennan.

It soon became evident that young Donald was a piper of considerable promise and this was later borne out when, in 1936, he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion and appointed Pipe Major. When hostilities commenced in 1939 he accompanied the battalion to France and was taken prisoner at St. Valery, when the 51st Highland Division had to surrender. He spent the remainder of the war in various prison camps in Germany.

On the cessation of hostilities in 1945, Donald was appointed Pipe Major of the Lowland Brigade Pipe Band in Edinburgh. Subsequently, when the Highland Brigade was re-formed, he took over the pipe majorship of that band and remained in that post until his retiral from the Army.

After teaching piping and dancing in Skye for a season he took over as manager of the Bagpipe Department of R.G. Lawrie Ltd., Renfield Street, Glasgow, while for the past two years he was the Pipe Major of the 5th/6th Battalion, the Highland Light Infantry.

Pipe Major MacLean won the gold medal for piobaireachd at both Oban and Inverness Gatherings and the Bratach Gorm at the Highland Society of London competition. He was a familiar figure at all the principal Highland gatherings and piping competitions since the war and was always prominent in the prize list.

He will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. The esteem in which he was held was amply manifest in the large crowd who turned out to pay their respects when his remains were flown from Renfrew to his native island last Friday morning.

Pipe Major John MacLellan, representing the Army, Pipe Major Donald MacLeod, a long standing colleague, James Young, honorary Pipe Major to the Scottish Pipers Association, and Ronald Lawrie, representing the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band, saluted their departed comrade with the lament "The Flowers of the Forest".

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SCOTTISH PIPE BANDS - FROM ULSTER: (from the Ulster Commentary, August, 1964)

It is interesting to find Scottish Pipe Bands from Ulster challenging the Scots in their own element. It is news when they do so successfully. But it happened recently when 27 bands - members of the Northern Ireland Branch of the Scottish Pipe Bands Association - travelled in a specially chartered ship from Belfast to engage in an annual tournament with South West Scotland. The contest took place in Stranraer. The ship carried 2,300 people and the spectators amongst this number had the pleasure of seeing their own bands taking the first three places in the premier competition of the day.

Nobody whose heart fails to beat faster to the skirl of the pipes can appreciate the hold this wild, mountainy instrument can gain over its adherents. And in Northern Ireland it reighs supreme, its appeal surpassing that in its native country. There are more pipe bands on a population basis in Northern Ireland than anywhere else in the world, including Scotland. And within Northern Ireland, Co. Down sets the pace. "We have one at every cross-raods," theysay.

It all began, it is said, in the misty past when hardy Scots crossed the sea for piping contests with the men of the Glens of Antrim. But the staggering upsurge of interest in the Scottish pipes - distinct be it noted, from the native pipes - is of recent date.

It was in 1950 that two men had a vision of Ulster as a great piping country. They were Eddie McVeigh, from Ballynahinch, Co. Down, and Tom Hart, an official of the Transport and General Workers' Union in Belfast. They took nine bands from the North of Ireland Bands Association to form the Northern Ireland Branch of the Scottish Pipe Bands Association. Their vision was no mirage, for today there are 94 affiliated bands, and no one doubts that the century will be reached very soon. The ood thing is that many of the traditional Ulster flute bands changed to pipes, careless of the fact that instruments and uniforms were much more costly.

Musically too, great advances have been made. Gone are the days when pipers learned by ear. Now they study music, and they can acquire diplomas at colleges run by the association. For his elementary certificate the piper learns to read, write and score music. For his "advanced" he does a course which is mainly practical.

Finally, there is a postgraduate course. The piper taking this must have his elementary certificate in drumming and the drummer his elementary in piping. These colleges sit during the winter months in Belfast and in places like Londonderry, Coleraine, Ballymena, Portadown, Newry and Ballynahinch. Enthusiasm is high among the younger bandsmen so it is small wonder that the standard is rising all the time. Need it be pointed out that in this world wide organisation, the branch producing most college graduates year after year is Northern Ireland.

One reward of all this devotion was the victory at Stranraer in May. This was the first time Ulster gained the premier award, but she did even better than this for she won eight of the eleven competitions.

The Ulsterman, with his feet firmly on the ground, knows that his bands are not yet at the top of the tree, and no one sees the prospect within a reasonable time of the world championship crossing the Irish Sea. On this subject, Tom Hart says - "No one will play a march or a reel better than an Ulster band, but the strathspey, an essential element in the world championship, is a different matter. The strathspey is not a local dance; it belongs to Scotland, and the Scots have an idiom of their own. Unless it becomes a national dance here as well, we may always lag that little behind."

Ulster, however, has already achieved the near-impossible in Scottish piping and there's no knowing what the future may bring.

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LIST OF PIOBAIREACHD TUNES FOR 1965 SEASON:

Below is a list of the Piobaireachd tunes to be used for the 1965 season. As in past years, competitors will have to submit one tune from this list, and one of their own choice to the judge, just before the competition. The judge will select the tune to be played.

The Battle of Auldearn
Battle of Vatternish
King's Taxes
Earl of Antrim
My King Has Landed in Moidart
Massacre of Glencoe
Chisholm's Salute
Kinlochmoidart's Salute
Millbank's Salute
MacLeod of MacLeod's Lament

- 0 -

PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATION IN HOSPITAL:

Our sympathies are extended to our President, Ian McDougall, who has been recently hospitalized.

Get better soon, boss!

- 0 -

CEILIDH OCTOBER 16th

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION
OCTOBER 30th