

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

SEPTEMBER, 1961

No. 18.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAGPIPE MUSIC

AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PIPE PLAYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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

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

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SEPTEMBER, 1961.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that the Games season is over for another year, I feel that a few observations concerning the piping and pipe band events are in order.

I feel that the Games were generally of a very high calibre this summer. Competition in the band events was extremely keen, and it was gratifying to see the increase in all band events. It is unfortunate that the "A" Class Competitions were not held at all games. I hope that in the near future the Games Associations will see their way clear to increasing the prize money and the appearance money in all band events. The prize and appearance money usually only pays for a fraction of the travelling and lodging expenses, and if the Games wish to attract the better class bands, they are going to have to help out the band to a greater extent. I realize that financing Highland Games is not an easy task, but I also am of the opinion that since the band events are the highlights of the Games, they should be encouraged as much as possible. The preparation which goes into getting a band ready for competitions is enormous, and involves thousands of man hours and hundreds of dollars, and I feel that sufficient recognition of this great effort is not always given.

The Amateur, Junior and Juvenile competitions were very good this summer. In the Amateur Class, it was not known until the last day who would win in International Trophy, the competition was so close. It is hoped that International Trophies will soon be awarded in the Junior and Juvenile Classes, as a recognition of the high standards achieved in these classes. A great number of the competitors in the Amateur, Junior and Juvenile Classes attended and competed at all games, and their performances were on the whole extremely praiseworthy.

It might be of interest to note that this year for the first time the classifications of Juvenile and Junior were used throughout the circuit. Let us hope that the standardization will now prevail throughout the local games.

A rather disappointing class this summer was the Open or Professional. The numbers in these events were low throughout. I feel that at certain games people were judging who should have been competing, and I would urge the Games Associations to engage their judges from the non-competing group of pipers. There were many pipers who could well compete in this class. I do not feel that the answer is in an increase in prize money. The prizes are generally quite good, although they by no means meet the standards exacted in the union-conscious east. There appears to be a general apathy in the Open Class, and I would welcome any suggestions on how it could be overcome. A more cheerful prospect,

however, is that some of the better players in the large Amateur Class should in all likelihood be moving into the Open Class, in the next few years. In the meantime, I would urge some of the pipers who have in the past competed in the Open Class to do a little "wood-shedding", so that next season we might have a larger entry in the Open Class.

In general the piping and pipe band events this summer were most enjoyable, and I would like to congratulate all participants, teachers, Games Associations, and committees, for their contributions in the furtherance of piping in this area.

- C. I. Walker -

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INTERNATIONAL TROPHIES

At the conclusion of the Portland-Astoria Games, held at Astoria, on August 19th, the Championship Trophies of the Pacific International Highland Games Association were presented to the International winners. These trophies are awarded annually to the competitors who obtain the highest points in any three of the five Highland Games under the auspices of the P.I.H.G.A. In addition to the trophies, the two Open winners were presented with cheques of \$25.00.

Our warmest congratulations are extended to the following Champions:

Open Piping	Ronald Ferman
Amateur Piping	David Wilson
"B" Class Pipe Band	Seaforth Highlanders Cadet Pipe Band
Open Highland Dancing	Marilyn Merry
Amateur Highland Dancing Under 16	Angus MacKenzie, Victoria.

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SEATTLE HIGHLAND GAMES

At the 15th International Scottish Highland Games, held on August 5th, 1961, at the West Seattle Stadium, the following persons were judged winners:

Novice Marches:

1. Barbara MacArthur 2. Stewart Morton 3. Angus Ironside

Novice Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Barbara MacArthur 2. Stewart Morton 3. Lorna Jenkinson

Juvenile Marches:

1. John MacLeod 2. Bruce Topp 3. Douglas Graham

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

1. James MacLean 2. Bruce Topp 3. Michael MacInnes

Juvenile Old Highland Airs:

1. Douglas Graham 2. Michael MacInnes 3. John MacLeod

Junior Marches:

1. Gordon Ross 2. Robert Stokes 3. Bobby MacDonald

Junior Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Gordon Ross 2. Bobby MacDonald 3. Larry Gillott

Amateur Marches:

1. Arnie Stone 2. David Wilson 3. Stewart MacAlpine

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Rae Marie MacInnes 2. Arnie Stone 3. C. I. Walker

Amateur Old Highland Airs:

1. Rae Marie MacInnes 2. C. I. Walker 3. Arnie Stone

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. David Wilson 2. Stewart MacAlpine 3. Bill Elder

Open Marches:

1. Alistair McRae 2. Ronald Forman 3. John Low

Open Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Ronald Forman 2. Colin McRae 3. Alistair McRae

Open Jigs:

1. John Low 2. Colin McRae 3. Alistair McRae

Open Piobaireachd:

1. John Low 2. Colin McRae 3. Ronald Forman

Bandsmen Marches:

1. John MacDonald 2. Tom Kinnear 3. Roy Cotton

Bandsmen Strathspeys and Reels:

1. John MacDonald 2. Tom Kinnear 3. Roy Cotton

Pipe Band Quartet:

1. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada

"A" Class Bands:

1. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
2. Canadian Scottish Regiment
3. Royal Canadian Engineers

"B" Class Bands:

1. Royal Canadian Engineers
2. Seattle Pipe Band
3. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadets

"C" Class Bands:

1. Kiwanis Junior Boys Pipe Band
2. Seattle Scottish Junior Boys' Pipe Band

Trophies:

Clan Gordon, Tacoma - Juvenile -	John MacLeod, Bruce Topp Douglas Graham (tie)
Amateur Marches Challenge Cup -	Arnie Stone
Aggregate Challenge Cup - Amateur	Arnie Stone
Governor's Cup - Amat. Piob. -	David Wilson
Open Piob. Challenge Cup -	John Low
Open Aggregate Cup -	John Low
Washington Scottish - Aggregate Bandsmen	-John MacDonald

The judges of these Games were Donald Sutherland, Albert Whyte, Col. Garnett Wilson, George Cameron, R.W. Lockie, Kenneth MacDonald.

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The following advertisement, inserted in a Games programme by one of the across-the-border pipe bands, will be of great comfort to all Sassenachs who wish to take up the noble art:

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CLAN CAMERON PIPE BAND, BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON.

The Clan Cameron Pipe Band, of Bellingham, Washington, was born in October, 1960. This band was one of the first projects of the newly constituted Clan Cameron, Order of Scottish Clans, and has now developed into a popular institution in Bellingham.

To start with, there were only four pipers, a bass drummer, a tenor drummer, six aspiring pipers and five aspiring drummers. Practise sessions were held weekly in the band room of the Shaksan Junior High School. This room impressed me as being the only warm, clean and comfortable place where I have practised, since pipe bands often seem to have a great deal of difficulty obtaining suitable premises. In addition, chanter practises were held at my house three times per week, and the number of prospective pipers grew to twelve. We now were also holding regular drumming classes under Keith McLeod.

By December, the band felt bold enough to appear in public, and ~~elad~~ in a conglomeration of civilian and highland garb, we played for the evening Christmas shoppers.

We raised funds from two pancake breakfasts, and we began negotiating for the purchase of the uniforms and drums of the defunct Crawford Pipe Band. These were finally purchased in March.

The highlight of our performances to date has been the Blossomtime Parade, held on May 27th. We appeared in this parade with eighteen players.

Since October, the Clan Cameron Pipe Band has performed publicly from twenty-five to thirty times. We now have twenty-six members, who are led on parade by our Drum-Major, W.A. McLeod. The pipe section uses Hardie Bagpipes, and Carlton Gaelic Drums are used by the drummers.

Pipe Major is John Wright, from Mt. Vernon, and I serve as Pipe Sergeant. Two of our pipers, Allen and George McKay, are nephews of the late John Paul, of Vancouver. Most of the members are ex Canadians or Scots. We plan to have eventually thirty-four members.

The band at the present time is not too concerned with competitions but plans to develop its repertoire and "show" for local engagements, for the next few years.

- William Paterson -

COLLEGE OF PIPING, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

The following article appeared in a recent issue of the "Weekly Scotsman", and we felt that our readers would find it of interest.

"Want to learn to play the bagpipes? If so you could not do better than attend the Glasgow College of Piping, the only college of its kind in Scotland.

The College, started in 1945, has already been in three buildings. Their first headquarters was a basement in Pitt Street, Glasgow. They were ordered out of the premises on a Sheriff's warrant. The neighbours complained of the noise, said Joint-Principal Seumas MacNeill of Bearsden. Next they went to Otego Street, Hillhead and now they have new rooms just across the road, on a 6d a year lease by whisky magnate Charles Hepburn.

In addition to Mr. MacNeill, who is a lecturer at Glasgow University, the other Joint-Principal is Mr. Thomas Pearston, bacteriologist in the Samaritan Hospital, Glasgow. The Honorary President of the College is Dame Flora MacLeod who, from her home in Skye, takes a keen interest in the work.

Tuition at the College is given three nights a week, and on Tuesday evenings, instructors to to Edinburgh to take another class. In all, piping is taught to about 80 pupils.

"We will teach anybody who is keen to learn", says Mr. MacNeill. "Although we charge for lessons, if some lad is keen to learn but cannot afford to pay, we teach him for nothing. We are anxious to keep bagpipe music alive".

The College only has one stipulation. They will not teach any more than two at a time from any one band - otherwise they might find they have trained a complete band, -which, when proficient, could just march off and leave them.

A set of pipes can cost anything from £20 to £150 but a pupil can learn on borrowed ones. The fees don't by any means cover the cost of running the College. "A good deal of our money comes through selling the "Highland Bagpipe Tutor" overseas", I was told.

How long before the pipes are mastered? An apt pupil can be "passable" in about three months and fairly proficient in a year. After this he can sit for a certificate.

One of the senior instructors is school teacher John MacFadyen who teaches in Carolside School, Renfrewshire. He has three brothers and a sister - all pipers. Mr. MacFadyen has a unique distinction. Along with Joint-Principal Pearston, he paced up and down the Red Square in Moscow, playing "Over the Sea to Skye". "It created quite a stir", said Mr. MacFadyen.

When Pakistan gained independence and had its own National Anthem, a copy of the music was sent to Otage Street for Mr. MacNeill to set it to the pipes."

ORIGIN OF THE THIN PIPE CHANTER

Who was the originator of the thin pipe chanter? In writing this article, I do not claim I was the originator, because I have no proof of it.

In the early 1900's I had an old MacPhee practice chanter, very thin and easy to finger. About this time I purchased a pipe chanter from Peter Henderson, Bagpipe maker, Glasgow. The idea struck me that if I pared the pipe chanter thinner it would be easier to finger, like my MacPhee practice chanter. I did this with a fine rasp and sand paper. Shortly after, this chanter developed a crack through the bell top. I sent it to Peter Henderson to have the cracked bell replaced with an ivory bell.

At that time Pipe Major John MacDougall Gillis was manager for Peter Henderson, and I received a letter from him asking me why I had made the pipe chanter thin; if it was that I thought of improving the tone or for other reasons. I replied that I hadn't thought of improving the tone. I wished a thinner pipe chanter like my MacPhee practice chanter, which I could finger better.

I still have what is left of that thin chanter, the lower part, four holes left, but this is for another story of how I took this set of pipes to Junin, Peru, South America, near the Cerro do Pasco Mining Co., Altitude over 14,000 feet. My pipes were stolen by Indians, and the lower part of the thin chanter was the only part ever found.

It would be interesting to hear from old time pipers regarding the origin of the thin pipe chanter.

- Donald Sutherland -
Glide, Oregon.

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J. T. McHARDY

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St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society of Vancouver.

PORTLAND-ASTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES

On August 19th, Highland Games were held for the first time in Astoria, Oregon. These Games, sponsored by the Portland Highland Games Association and the Astoria Sesquicentennial Committee, were held in the coastal town as part of its 150th Anniversary.

The piping results were as follows:

Novice Marches:

1. Michael Armstrong 2. Collin McRae 3. Collin MacKenzie

Juvenile Marches:

1. James McLean 2. Barbara MacArthur 3. Mark Burton
4. Bruce McRae

Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels:

1. James McLean 2. John MacLeod 3. Michael MacInnes
4. Louis Heaton

Junior Marches:

1. Bobby MacDonald 2. Gordon Ross 3. Angus Stanfield

Junior Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Bobby MacDonald 2. Gordon Ross 3. Larry Gillott
4. Robert Stokes

Amateur Marches:

1. Rae Marie MacInnes 2. Tom Richardson 3. Arnie Stone

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Arnie Stone 2. Rae Marie MacInnes 3. Ian Walker

Amateur Old Highland Airs:

1. Arnie Stone 2. Rae Marie MacInnes 3. Stewart McAlpine

Amateur Piobaireachd:

1. Stewart McAlpine 2. David Wilson 3. Gordon Ross
4. Rae Marie MacInnes

Open Marches:

1. Albert Duncan 2. Ronald Forman 3. Alistair McRae

Open Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Ronald Forman 2. Albert Duncan 3. Alistair McRae

Open Piobaireachd:

1. Ronald Forman
2. Albert Duncan
3. Colin McRae

Open Jigs:

1. Ronald Forman
2. Albert Duncan
3. Alistair McRae

Bandsmen Marches:

1. Sherea Barwell
2. Karen Ruddick & David Henderson (tie)

Bandsmen Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Karen Ruddick
2. Angus Ironside

"B" Class Bands:

1. Royal Canadian Engineers
2. Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadets
3. Seattle Pipe Band

"C" Class Bands:

1. Kiwanis Junior Boys Pipe Band

Oregon Band Competition:

1. Portland Scottish Pipe Band

Trophies:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Crieff Trophy - Juvenile - | James McLean |
| Associated British Societies - Junior - | Bobby MacDonald |
| Roderick L. Macleay - Amateur - | Arnie Stone &
Rae Marie MacInnes (tie) |
| Cowal Highland Gathering - Open Piobaireachd - | Ronald Forman |
| James McDonald - Open Aggregate - | Ronald Forman |

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A special treat is in store for all of our readers next month. Pipe-Major Donald MacLeod, of the Queen's Own Highlanders, has kindly forwarded a copy of his Piobaireachd "Cronan Padriug Iain" - "Peter John MacInnes's Lullaby", and has given us permission to publish this tune in the Newsletter. To our knowledge, this piece has not appeared in print before, and we are extremely honoured that Pipe-Major MacLeod has so kindly let us acquaint you with his composition.

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Our congratulations are extended to Kenneth MacLeod, a Trustee and Life Member of the B.C. Pipers' Association, who celebrated his 75th birthday on August 11th. Mr. MacLeod is in fine health and plays his pipes every day. We wish him many more happy birthdays in future years.

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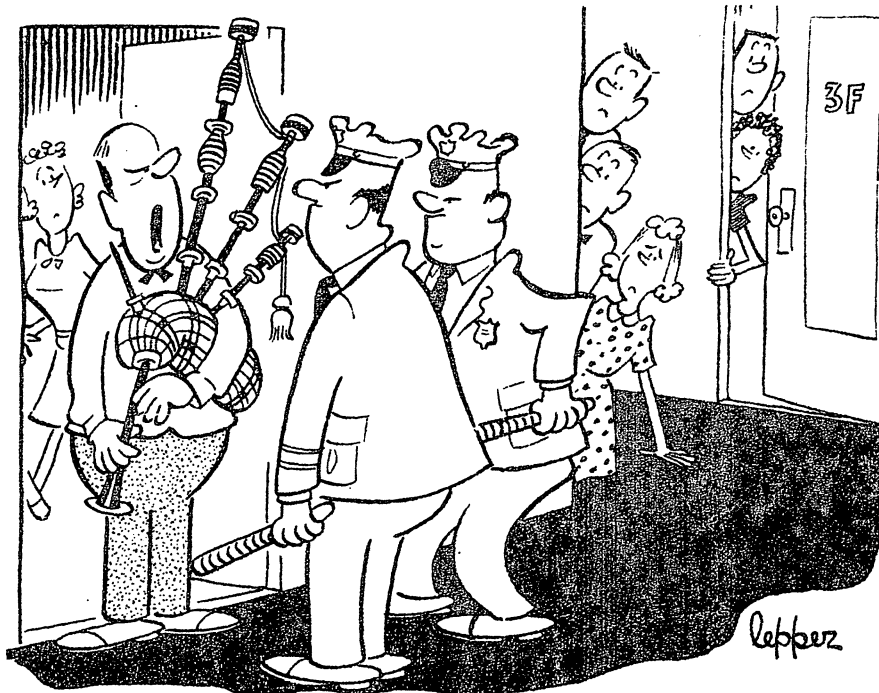
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"No, I am not beating my wife!"

CATHERINE MACDONALD'S WEDDING

Local members of the piping community will be interested to hear of the wedding of Catherine MacDonald, of Vancouver. Catherine was married to Allan MacLellan, of Edmonton, on August 26th, at St. Joseph's Church, Vancouver. An outstanding performer in the Amateur and Open Classes for several years, Catherine was an active member of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band.

Members of the Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band honoured Catherine and Allan by forming an honor guard at the church, and they were piped from the church by Pipe-Major Malcolm Nicholson, Catherine's teacher.

Although Catherine was not present at the local Games this season, she was by no means neglecting her piping. She won the Professional Aggregate at the Edmonton Games held on July 1st. The Trophy which Catherine won has been played for since 1922, and Catherine was the first lady to win the prize.

We would like to congratulate Mr. and MacLellan, and give them our very best wishes for the future.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

The schedule for this season's Bi-Monthly Competitions has now been prepared, and will be found on the following page. You will note that the first evening will be held on October 27th, at the Lecture Room of the Seaforth Armoury. All other dates will be subject to confirmation.

It is hoped that the entries in the Amateur and Senior Amateur Classes will be increased this season. We would urge all teachers to encourage the performers to move into more advanced classes wherever possible. If the children have enjoyed success in a particular class for a reasonable time, they should move into a higher class. This advancement will benefit not only themselves but will be of advantage to the less experienced pipers in the lower class. Only if the pipers keep advancing, will the higher classes be developed.

A Ceilidh is planned for November 10th, for the purpose of awarding the prizes to last year's Bi-Monthly winners. A variety concert will be presented, and selections will be given by the various winners. More details will be announced in next month's Newsletter.

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BI-MONTHLY COMPETITION SCHEDULE

DATE	NOVICE	JUVENILE	JUNIOR	AMATEUR	SR. AMATEUR
OCT 27	Marches	Old Highland Airs	Strathspey and Reel	Piobair- eachd	Jigs
DEC 8	6/8 Marches	Marches	Old Highland Airs	Strathspey and Reel	Piobair- eachd
FEB 9	Old Highland Airs	Strathspey and Reel	Piobair- eachd	Jigs	Marches
APR 13	Strathspey and Reel	6/8 Marches	Jigs	Marches	Old Highland Airs
JUNE 8	Marches	Jigs	Marches	Old Highland Airs	Strathspey and Reel

All dates are subject to confirmation.

Competitors will submit entries with Secretary at least one day before the competition.

Roderick MacVicar, Secretary,
2078 York Street,
Vancouver, B.C.

Telephone: RE. 3-9053.

NELSON HIGHLAND GAMES

On Labor Day - September 4th - Highland Games were held in Nelson. As well as local competitors from Nelson, Trail, Penticton, Rossland and Interior towns, these Games attracted entries from Alberta, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. We are told by James MacMillan and Georgina MacPhail, who judged piping and dancing respectively, that the standards had greatly improved in the past year. They were both very much impressed by the enthusiasm shared by the competitors, officials and spectators.

Piping results of the Nelson Games were as follows:

Amateur Marches Under 16:

1. Ian Dunnett (Slocan City)
2. John Jones (Spokane)
3. Peter Demers (Nelson)

Amateur Marches Under 19:

1. Ian Dunnett
2. Mary Jenkinson (Spokane)
3. Stephen Brown (Spokane)

Amateur Marches Open:

1. William Thomas (Spokane)
2. James Munroe (Nelson)
3. Mary Jenkinson (Spokane)

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels Under 19:

1. Stephen Brown
2. Mary Jenkinson
3. David McIntyre (Spokane)

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels Under 16 (Interior)

1. Donald Burns (Trail)
2. Ian Dunnett
3. Lorna Jenkinson (Spokane)

Amateur Slow Marches Open:

1. William Thomas (Spokane)
2. Raleigh Smith (Spokane)
3. James Munroe

Amateur Strathspeys and Reels Open:

1. James Munroe
2. Mary Jenkinson
3. Raleigh Smith

Open Jigs:

1. B. Eccles (Trail)
2. J. McCabe (Trail)
3. J. Robb (Penticton.)

Open Marches:

1. B. Eccles
2. J. Robb
3. J. McCabe

Open Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Jack McCabe
2. B. Eccles
3. J. Robb

GENERAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 28th

The first General Meeting of the Season will be held on Friday, September 29th, at the Band Room of the Seaforth Armoury. The meeting should be a short one, and will be followed by a Social Evening.

As a special treat, a tape of "Cronan Padriug Iain", composed by Pipe Major Donald MacLeod and played by the composer, will be played. You will undoubtedly enjoy Pipe Major MacLeod's performance of this very interesting Piobaireachd. We are grateful to Donald MacLeod for sending us this tape, and we know that you will all want to hear it.

We would ask all members who would like to have a tune to bring their pipes. We would welcome all guests, both ladies and gentlemen. Refreshments will be available.



GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 29th

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