

SEPTEMBER 1981  
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# B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



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

SEPTEMBER 1981  
# 189

## NEWS BULLETIN

The recent gathering of the Clan Gunn at Wick, heard a remarkable display of piping by an American woman who is paralysed down one side.

Paula Johnson (27), from Anchorage, Alaska, was paralysed seven years ago in bicycle accident near her home. She searched for someone who would adapt her pipes so she could play them on her right shoulder and with only her right hand, and eventually Mr. Ed McLaughlin, Fairbanks, Alaska, came up with a design. After that it took several years of practice for Paula to learn to play again.

She was in Scotland travelling with friends who came from America especially for the Clan Gunn gathering.

She received a warm ovation from the audience who heard from the Piper to the Clan, Mr. Robert Gunn, West Banks Avenue, Wick, that there had never been a one-handed piper in Scotland since the legendary MacCrimmon, whose hand was cut off while he slept.

Paula and her mother toured the Clan Gunn country in Orkney and Caithness and are now visiting Wales before returning to Alaska, where Paula works as a computer programmer.

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CONGRATULATIONS to our President, Donald MacMillan, and his wife Raffaella, on the birth of their son Patrick Ryan, born July 27th, 1981.

### OUR JACK

Our Jack went off to Scotland  
This was to be a test,  
Which was for world champion,  
A piper who'd be best.

Our Jack was still undaunted  
Another test he tried,  
And once again, he made it,  
We're all fit to be tied.

Our Jack plays a pibroch  
Which we think is hard to beat,  
Lo! and behold, He Did It!  
We feel so proud of this, his  
feat.

So in our humble way  
We gather to give praise  
And thankfulness, to Our Jack  
And all his winning ways.

Kay Partin

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Published by the British Columbia's Pipers' Association

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The B.C. pipers' Newsletter is published monthly at 1664 Lincoln Avenue, Port Coquitlam, B.C., V3B 2J6, by the British Columbia's Pipers Association and is distributed to all the members.

All other communications to the B.C. Pipers Association is to be sent to Mrs. Mary MacKinnon,  
6959 Halligan Street,  
Burnaby, B.C.,  
V5R 1R4.

PIPE MAJOR EDMUND ESSON M.B.E., E.D., C.D.

Ed Esson passed away on June 25th, 1981, leaving with us all, the memory of a gentleman, devoted to his family, his country, his regiment, our Association, and his countless friends. Above all, we remember his life long love for the music of the Great Highland Bagpipe.

I first met Ed in early December of 1939, when I heard the Seaforth quartette (Ed himself, Bill Armstrong, Dan Murray and Jim Watt) play at the B.C. Pipers' in the Elk's Hall. Even though a young lad only a few months on the practise chanter, I can still remember the superb tone, tuning and music of that quartette.

A few days later, Ed left for overseas. Throughout the war years, I heard many stories of Ed from his good friend and my teacher - Donald MacIver.

In 1946, I was proud to become a member of the Seaforth Band, under Ed, and over the ensuing thirty-five years, have felt fortunate indeed to have counted myself his friend.

Ed was one of the few remaining links with that generation of fine old pipers - Donald MacIver, William Campbell, John Gillies, Alick Johnstone, Duncan MacTavish, Bill MacIndewar, and many more who came here in the early years of this century, bringing with them their knowledge of, and love for the great music inherited from their teachers. Ed did a noble job in helping ensure that this knowledge was not lost with them, but rather passed on to succeeding generations - as witness the present wonderful young players of whom he was so proud.

Let us not forget him, and let us not forget Ann, who in Ed's passing, has lost more than any of us - a devoted husband.

We salute the memory of a gentleman, a fine piper, and a good friend.

Hugh Aird

Editors note: Pipe Major Esson was the first elected Secretary of the Association, a past President and Life Member as well. He took an active part in the Association from the time it was started in 1932.

## WHITE HEATHER CONCERT

The Fall Concert will be presented on Friday, October 2nd, in the Orpheum Theatre and will headline the Alexander Brothers and a full supporting cast.

Tickets are priced at \$8.50, \$7.50 and \$6.50 and may be purchased at the Vancouver Ticket Centre, 630 Hamilton Street, or any of their outlets. Unfortunately, due to labour problems at the time of the Spring White Heather Concert we had to withdraw our offer for a reduced rate on a block of Twenty (20) or more tickets. We are again offering this discount for the Fall concert. For further information regarding this discount, please contact:

Julia Switzer  
Marquee Attractions  
Telephone: 683-3944

This Fall Concert will be in the form of a ceilidh.

It has recently been brought to my attention that perhaps there are members of the Association who are not familiar with the connection between the White Heather Concerts and the B.C. Pipers Association.

The shows have been presented every year since 1950 and are jointly sponsored by the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society and our Association.

The profits we have received from the White Heather Shows over the past years is the only source of income we have and has allowed us to carry on the operation of the Association and grow to the position we are presently in. However, with the escalating costs of operating the Association, and the increasing competition in the entertainment field it is important that our members support the shows by their continued attendance.

The committee that sets up and presents the shows in Vancouver is composed of 5 members from the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society and 5 members from the B.C. Pipers Association, plus a non voting recording secretary.

At the present time we require two (2) or possibly three (3) members to fill vacancies on the Pipers Association half of the committee. If any member (active or associate) would like to act on this committee please contact W. Lamont. Phone 327-7569 after 5:00 p.m.

The White Heather Committee wish to thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued help in the future.

Bill Lamont  
White Heather Concert Committee  
327-7569

## 1981/82 MINI GATHERINGS SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 3/81	Chanter Novice Juvenile Junior Amateur	Choice of any March Slow Air Strathspey & Reel 6/8 March & Jig Jig & Hornpipe (submit 2 sets)
NOVEMBER 7/81	Chanter Novice Juvenile Junior  Amateur	Slow Air 2/4 March Jig March, Strathspey, and Reel Piobaireachd (submit 2)
JANUARY 9/82	Chanter Novice Juvenile Junior Amateur	Choice of any March Strathspey & Reel 2/4 March Piobaireachd MSR (submit 2 sets)
FEBRUARY 6/82	Chanter Novice Juvenile  Junior Amateur	Slow Air 6/8 March Piobaireachd (ground and a variation) Hornpipe Musical Selection (4 to 6 minutes)

The Chanter Class is limited to competitors who have never won a prize in chanter or competed on the bagpipes.

There will be a new event during the October and February Mini Gatherings. This will be open to any competitor over 18 years of age who has never won a prize in piping. The October competition will be a 2/4 March and the February competition will be a Slow Air and 6/8 March.

All Mini Gatherings will commence at 10:00 a.m. except the November Gathering which will commence at 9:00 a.m.

PROMOTIONS FOR THE MINI GATHERINGS

Novice to Juvenile

Shauna Stephens  
Robert MacLeod  
John Miller  
Malcolm Bokenfohr

Juvenile to Junior

Brian Goldie  
Moiria Lee  
Tracy Charette

Those people who have been promoted to a higher class must move up into that class. Anyone not promoted, but who wants to move into a higher class, may do so.

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KNOCKOUT AND GENERAL MEETING

The 1981-82 edition of the monthly knockout competitions will kick off this year on November the 6th. Following regent practice, the Scottish Auditorium will once again host these successful evenings.

This year in an effort to increase participation and supply more entertainment, the knockouts will be organized more towards a céilidh. For the November meeting the Triumph Street Pipe Band will be the featured guest. In order to defray the added expense of this entertainment, a raffle will be conducted at each meeting.

For entrants in the Professional competition, the requirements this year will be slow air, march, strathspey and reel, jig, and hornpipe (order to be of piper's choice). Entries for the knockout must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than October 16th, 1981. The draw will be conducted on October 18th, with those pipers drawn first being notified by telephone.

Come out and support your Association and hear some of the best pipers and pipe bands in the world.

REMBER FRIDAY NOVEMBER THE 6TH, 8:00P.M. SHARP!  
SCOTTISH AUDITORIUM - 12TH AND FIR

ENTRY

Entry form for Knockout

NAME

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Address all entries to the Secretary

Mrs. Mary MacKinnon

6959 Halligan St.

Burnaby, B.C. V5E 1R4

Entries must be in the hands of the Secretary no later than October the 16th.

PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION

DELEGATE'S REPORT FROM EVERETT, WASH. MEETING, AUG. 2/81

The August meeting of the Association, hosted by the Seattle Highland Games Association, was held in the Everett Indoor Rifle Club at Everett Memorial Stadium. Proceedings got underway at 10:00 a.m. - Wallace MacLean, Chairman, opened the meeting. Helen Upton, the Association secretary was absent. Her place was very ably taken by Irene Wright of Seattle. A light breakfast was served, and partaken of, as business was conducted.

As I, your delegate, had nothing consequential to report, and as there was no representative of the Western Pipe Band Association present, no business of any moment concerning piping events, drumming events or pipe bands took place at this meeting.

Twelve delegates were in attendance. The Nanaimo Caledonian Society were represented by Bill White of Ladysmith, B.C. They are very much still with us and expect to be back in action again with Games next year.

Heavy Events were well discussed and Dave Rickard, Chairman, was happy to announce that standardization of measurements and equipment has finally been accomplished. Heavy events can now begin to take their rightful place in Highland Games, and suitable trophies, prize money, etc. will be sought after. Wayne Bell is the President of the recently formed Western Canadian Scottish Field Events Association. The "Heavies" were very popular at the Seattle Games.

A discussion of some length took place regarding Perpetual Trophies. Presently winners of trophies, in some cases, are returning these symbols of their achievements in deplorable condition; Pipe Bands being singled out as the worst offenders. One suggestion put forth as a cure for damaged trophies was, to add to the competitor's entry form, a proviso that he or she would sign, that any trophy won would be returned in redeived condition or the competitor held liable for any necessary restoration. Another suggestion was to give a keeper trophy and retain master. Still another idea was to simply take a photograph of the trophy being presented, retain trophy and give winner a photo for display. The Pacific International Highland Games Association would welcome input from member associations regarding ideas for the cure of their trophy problems. Comments should be ready for submission at the November Meeting.

Wallace MacLean has announced again that he will not be running for the office of President for the coming year. Some thought should be given to a choice of a successor. The next meeting will be held in November. Date still to be announced. It is the Association's Annual General Meeting and Nanaimo will be the venue.

Suas leis a'Phìob Mhoir,  
A.M. Reid



GRADE FOUR PIPE BANDS

This year at their annual Port Coquitlam pipe band contest, the Western Pipe Band Association introduced a Grade 4 classification for Pipe Bands. This classification was designed for bands that have not competed before, in an attempt to involve them in participation in the highland games. The rules for Grade 4 competition are as follows:

Bands will begin their performance on the march and form a circle. Bands will complete their performance while standing in the circle. Bands will play 8-10 parts of marches (any time signature). A part shall be considered an 8 bar measure played twice except in the case of a 4/4 tune where a part shall be an 8 bar measure played once. A band shall consist of no fewer than 6 pipers, 2 side drummers, 1 tenor and 1 bass.

For further information about Grade 4 or other Western Pipe Band Association activities contact 2551 Pandora St. Vancouver. Phone 254-1245

Allan Skalazub

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IN MEMORIUM

Agnes Wallace Hendrix passed away on July the eleventh in Honolulu.

Aggie, as she was called, was well known to many members of the B.C. Pipers Association. She was the first female piper to win a prize in open competition away back when the Caledonian Games were held at Hastings Park. Piping was her love and joy and remained with her throughout her entire life.

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FOR SALE

Evening jacket, like new, Size 12-14, PHONE 942-0034

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LOST !

SGIAN DUBH - on July 4th at the B.C. highland Association Games at the Eric Hamber School - Phone 941-9872 if found.

RESULTS OF THE SEATTLE GAMES, AUGUST 1, 1981

NOVICE UNDER 14

MARCH

1. S. Stephens
2. J. Finsness
3. K. Mark

STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. S. Stephens
2. K. Mark
3. J. Finsness

NOVICE OVER 14

MARCH

1. M. Thorpe
2. P. Presson
3. J. McNaughton

STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. J. Miller
2. F. Miller
3. M. Thorpe

JUVENILE

MARCH

1. M. Goslie
2. B. Goldie
3. B. McGonigle

STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. B. Goldie
2. M. Goslie
3. B. Porter

OLD HIGHLAND AIRS

1. B. Goldie
2. M. Golsie
3. B. Porter

JUNIOR

MARCH

1. S. Miller

JUNIOR STRATHSPEY AND REEL

1. S. Miller

JIGS

1. S. Miller

AMATEUR PIOBAIREACHD

1. B. McGonigle
2. S. Miller
3. J. Miller

SENIOR AMATEUR

M.S.R.

1. A. Bonar
2. S. MacKinnon
3. S. Richendrfr

PIOBAIREACHD

1. S. MacKinnon
2. S. Arburthnot
3. S. Richendrfr

OPEN

MSR

1. J. Troy
2. R. Cusson
3. C. Gemmel

HORNPIPE

1. J. Troy
2. S. Geddes
3. C. Gemmel

PIOBAIREACHD

1. D. Diessner
2. A. Palmer
3. J. Troy
4. P. Aumonier

PIPE BANDS

- |             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| GRADE ONE   | 1. City of Victoria    |
|             | 2. Simon Fraser        |
| GRADE TWO   | 1. Washington Scottish |
|             | 2. Seattle             |
| GRADE THREE | 1. Eugene              |
|             | 2. Kent                |

## CONGRATULATIONS JACK LEE

Early piping for Jack Lee began at the age of five, when he was given a half-size chanter from his Uncle Jack Ironside of Seattle, Washington.

Jack's earliest ambition was, "I'se going to be a piper".

He began piano study at the same time, covering technique, theory and practical for three years. He also tried Highland dancing, which concluded with a charming and humourous effort, but two left feet.

Piping was always uppermost in his mind. At the age of nine, he was taken to Scotland along with his brother Terry (also an excellent piper). Jack had to take his pipes along, or he didn't want to go. He carried them proudly and played for anybody who asked him.

His first exposure to band was to attend a band practise with the Highland Laddies under the leadership of Malcolm Nicholson. He then played with the Abbotsford Legion with Pipe Major Ian MacDougal. When this band dissolved, he turned his efforts to the geaforth Highlander's Cadet Pipe Band. This band also folded up but Jack's desire to be a piper was undaunted. After continuous successes in individual piping, he was given the opportunity of training the C.P. Air Junior Band. In 1976 they went to Scotland and won the Grade Two World's competition.

We know that his whole piping career has been under the guidance and teaching of Mr. James MacMillan, who says he's an excellent and hard working pupil.

Jack Lee is the fourth generation of successful pipers. He is the proud possessor of a large volume of piping music written by his Great, great grandfather in 1887. This was presented to him recently by his Uncle Jack Ironside, M.B.E. who is also a piper and has been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen for his efforts in continuing Scottish tradition outside the British Empire.

This year Jack Lee won two of the top three prizes at the world famous Northern Meeting at Inverness. The prestigious GOLD MEDAL was won playing Black Donald's March. The SILVER STAR for MSR, he won playing Bonnie Ann, Cameronian Rant, and Little Cascade - against a field of eighty. This is the first time that a Canadian has won the Gold Medal and the first time that anyone has won the Gold Medal and the Silver Star in the same year.

The B.C. Pipers' Association salutes Jack Lee.

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In conjunction with the first Knockout Competition on November the 6th; there will be a JACK LEE APPRECIATION NIGHT.

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AN ODE TO JACK LEE

So many like you have tried it, Many that tried have failed  
Jack - we're happy you made it. On the ocean of fame you  
have sailed.

Eric Tornquist

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