

Remembering Peter Moran (Auld Peter)

Affectionately known to many in the band as “auld Peter”. Auld Peter was the father of Peter Moran, a piper with the Gordons when he is not driving trains up and down the Puget Sound. Peter and his wife Barbara and his family live in Olympia. Auld Peter lived in Scotland, the country of his birth, and he passed away in the early days of January. Peter visited often, usually in the summer months and he attended many of the local Highland Games. He enjoyed telling a joke or two in his broad Scots accent, so broad nobody could understand him but I think that was part of the joke !! Rosemary and I loved to be with him at those times because he reminded us of our family in Scotland. Peter and some of his family made the trip back to Scotland to say their last goodbyes.

Get Well Soon

To Beverly (see below), Ray (recent surgery) and Barry (ankle break), we keep you in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

Rabbie Burns Night

Feb 4 saw a number of Gordons attend the Rabbie Burns Night hosted by the Tacoma Scots Pipe Band. Ray Massie organized the table and all had a good wee night toasting the Haggis and tasty it was too.

St. Patrick's Day (March 17)

We will be performing as a mini-band at Doyles Public House in Tacoma. Probably a couple of times during the evening. We have performed at Doyles many times and we always receive a raucous welcome by an enthusiastic crowd.



World's Shortest Fairy Tale

Sent to me by a female friend (who was married once upon a time). Once upon a time, a girl asked a guy “Will you marry me?”. The guy said, “No”. And the girl lived happily ever after and went shopping, dancing, camping, drinking martinis, always had a clean house, and never had to cook. The End.

Good to see **Beverly Wright** back at practice since her terrible accident a few month ago. The healing process is on-going but Bev has taken the whole thing with a great attitude and a will to get better.

We also wish **Bruce Corns** all the best in his new vocation with Alaska Airlines.



Johnnie and Bessie Montgomery

Johnnie founded the band in 1955 along with his brother Archie. They had emigrated from Scotland in 1924 when Johnnie was just 15 years old. They hailed from Glasgow and had been taught pipes and drums in the Boys Brigade, an international youth organization similar to the Boy Scts. After advertising in the local newspaper for interested bandmembers they began their practices. They were active in the British and Scottish social clubs and they enlisted the help of the local lodge of the Order of Scottish Clans. That lodge was called Clan Gordon. The ladies of the lodge ran bake sales and raffles to raise funds for uniforms and drums and soon the Clan Gordon Pipe Band was ready to go on parade.

This photograph was taken in 1980 during an interview with the Tacoma News Tribune Sound Life. The reporter was a young lady who covered the band's history very well. The purpose of the interview was to cover the 25th Anniversary of the band. I still have a copy of the coverage. At the end of the interview we asked the reporter if she had more questions for us and as she hesitated and as she thought for a bit someone said “well people usually ask what's worn under the kilt”. So the young lady did just that and Johnnie replied “nothing is worn under this kilt ... everything works perfectly”. Bessie laughed and the young lady reporter blushed.