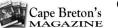


## Page 38 - The Bagpipe in Cape Breton: From a Conversation with Barry Shears, Piper ISSUE : Issue 52 Published by Ronald Caplan on 1989/8/1

of those Jamiesons. I found during my re? search that a lot of the pipers, their families sort of intermingled or intermar ried. One of the Jamiesons married a Mac-Intyre woman in Glace Bay. And the big saying was, that was the only way they'd let him into the band, if he mar? ried a MacIntyre woman. I remember Angus (MacIntyre) telling me, too, that -- I think it was One- Eyed Dan's sister that -- I think it was Charlie Jamieson that married her. Which is sort of funny, because those Ja? miesons, their father was Neil Jamieson, and his mother would have been a MacIntyre from St. Rose over in Inverness County. So it's amazing how that MacIntyre--it's a name that's been associated with piping Barry Shears: There's a story that Danny MacIntyre gave me, about how -those MacIntyres got their piping from the French Road. And that they sent Donald to get a bottle. And he was walking by a sithean, or a fairy dell. And the fairies-he could hear pipe music from inside. So the fairies said, "Come on in." So he went in. And they said, "Well, do you want to play the pipes?" "Yeah, I'd love to play like the fairies." They said, "We'll show you how to do that. You sit down and watch, and we'll teach you." So, he thought he was there like for an hour. Here, he was there for a year. His brothers were out looking for him and they couldn't find him. When he got guite proficient on the pipes he said, "Well, I have to get back. There's a party back at the house, and I have to get back with a bot? tle." So he left the fairy dell, and he went home. And they said, "Oh, we thought you were dead!" He said, "No. I was only gone an hour." And they said, "No. You've been gone a year." They said, "Well, where were you?" "I was with the fairies. I was in touch with the fairies. And they told me that I would be a great piper and my descendants would all be great pipers." OWNED BY ATLANTIC SHOPPING CENTRES LTD. A&W 539-7222 Olympic Shoe Repair 564-8112 Agnew Surpass 562-3129 Orange Julius 539-0134 Bank of Nova Scotia.... 539-6760 Radio Shack 539-4617 Bill's Pet Centre 539-2243 Reitman's 562-3177 Bi-Way 539-8860 Sam The Record Man Candy and Things 562-6292 Shoppers Drug Mart 562-1144 Carlton Cards 564-6531 Sobey's 562-1762 Cole's Book Store 539-6053 Sony Store. 562-8811 Fun Villa Arcade 539-2215 Super Touch Fashions... 539-4454 Gals and Guys Suzy Shier 539-5538 Hairworks 539-1811 St. Cinnamon Bake Shop. 539-4900 Heather Bowling Centre. 562-2695 Take-A-Break 539-1908 Homemade Memories... 539-1794 Toys & Wheels 564-6256 Home Brew Centre 562-3035 Tim Horton's 539-4287 Lynn's Gifts 539-7273 Uncle Chow's 564-6487 Lord Fin 562-6745 Vanelli's Mrs 539-7882 Mark's Work Wearhouse. 539-0441 Zack's Frozen Yogurt 539-3550 Metropolitan 562-1134 Zeller's 539-5600 Munroe's Barber Shop Zip Photo 539-1539 HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. MALL OFFICE • PRINCE ST., SYDNEY, N.S.B1P5K6 • 539-6912 HEAD OFFICE • 115 KING ST., STELLARTON. N.S. BOK ISO 755-4440 since, well, time immemorial, really. (You're talking about the pipers your fa- ther might have heard, that might have en? couraged him to have an interest. But he himself didn't play.) No, he didn't. But where we grew up,



in back of our house in Glace Bay is where the two lamieson brothers had their houses. But there's a brook there, as well, and when the bank started to break away and fall into the brook, they moved their houses farther down, on the same street, on Park Street. There were MacNeils that lived at the bot? tom of the lane, that were Gaelic speak? ers. I was very close to that family. Isa? bel MacNeil, she was like another mother to me. She used to talk about One-Eyed Dan MacIntyre, and there was another MacIn? tyre, Mickey the Dancer. And they lived between where we lived in Glace Bay, and Caledonia. And she remembers him playing. He won a couple of awards up at Antigon? ish, and I guess he rarely took them off his chest. When he was playing the pipes, he'd always put this jacket on with these piping medals that he won in Antigonish. Angus, the fellow that taught me, he would have been a nephew of this One-Eved Dan. He told me that his father loseph, or loe MacIntyre, walked to Antigonish for a com? petition one time and won a prize set of pipes. At one time they used to give out a prize set of pipes or a new sporran or a kilt and sporran as first prize for the pipers. And I've researched competitions around--they used to have competitions in Arisaig and Antigonish County and Judique --Highland Games they used to have--and all up through Inverness and Port Hood. Any place that had any sort of a Gaelic culture would have these Highland Games, ASHBY MEDICAL SUPPLY We Rent. Sell & Repair Hospital Equipment: wheelchairs, commode chairs, walkers, beds, canes (WALTER'S RENTALS) 4 SHERIFF AVE., SYDNEY (539-9616) Island Vinyl Siding Ltd. LeBlanc Siding Ltd. Authorized Dealer tor Aluminum & Vinyl Siding Aluminum Windows & Doors Shutters / Softfit / Fascia / Awnings 109 Reservoir Road SYDNEY Professional installation of Aluminum & Vinyl Siding in Cape Breton for over 15 years. Free Estimates forR.R.A.P., N.S.H.C, & C.M.H.C. Programs, and all other siding Inguiries. Call Collect: SONNY MacPHERSON 539-4626