

HALTON'S PEOPLE

Music is a way of life for pipe major

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald Staff Writer

Of all the world's musical instruments, none seems to raise the audience response of the great Highland bagpipe. You love 'em or hate 'em, but there's no in-between.

For Virginia Hulme, the reaction is a positive one. She has had other musical interests over the years, but the pipes have been a part of her life since she was a high school student.

Today, she is the pipe major of the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band and the only female to hold an intermediate instructor's certificate in piping. She also holds an advanced piping certificate and placed second in solo piping at the 1979 Speyside Highland Games.

Mrs. Hulme took piano lessons for a couple of years as a child and could play the mouth organ before she entered school. She also took accordion lessons and plays the ukelele. At nine, she took pipe lessons from Inez Crichton, one of the founders of the Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band. She dropped them, however, to concentrate on other things and didn't go back to her pipes until after she began high school.

"One of my classmates asked me to come and join the band," she says, "and I've been here ever since."

The fact that she stuck it out through her high school years is a bit of a change, since that is when many of their young band members decide to quit.

"My parents were pleased to see me in the band, but my mother got a bit worried when I was in grade 13 and turning down dates with eligible bachelors because of band commitments," she chuckles. "I think she thought I was imitating my social life, but she didn't know about all those 'good looking guys we'd meet at' and events. It was a great way to meet guys."



Music is a way of life for Ginny Hulme, whose association with the Georgetown Girl's Pipe Band goes back many years. In addition to filling the pipe major's role, Mrs. Hulme also teaches piping. There is nothing unusual about catching her practising in her backyard, since she practises outdoors as long as the weather is fine.

(Herald photo)

"It's okay marching down the street in a kilt when you're 17," she grins. "You have all the guys looking at you and it's really something to be in the band. But it's no ego trip at 13 or 14. That's when it's no fun to be different from your peers and a lot of the girls drop out because they are embarrassed to be seen in parades."

Mrs. Hulme prefers students to be around 10 years old before she starts giving them piping lessons. Prior to that they aren't always fully coordinated enough to handle the pipes.

She doesn't tell her students how hard they may find piping in case it frightens them off. In the beginning piping is very easy, she says, so she lets them go along in ignorance until they are too hooked to give up. It is learning proper control of the bag that is difficult.

Prospective pipers can expect to pay over \$400 for a new set of pipes. Pipers own their own because they are a fairly personal instrument and require a great deal of care as well as constant playing to keep them in good condition.

The Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band supplies the members' uniforms as well as drums for its drum section.

The band practises Thursday evenings in Park Public School. Gail Bennett is the drum major and, as far as the public can tell, the band's leader, as she marches ahead giving instructions to members parading behind her. The pipe major is the real leader in terms of musical choice and band organization, however.

Mrs. Hulme's father was a high school teacher and it was through him that she became interested in commercial art and piping. She says she always wanted to be a teacher and, if it wasn't for her teacher training, she wouldn't be teaching piping now.

In 1975, Sheridan College offered piping and drumming courses for the first time. Mrs. Hulme wanted to go and coaxed the band's drum instructor, Roy Cook, into going with her. He in turn coaxed her into signing up for the instructor's course.

"It was a five-day course," she says, "and at the end of the first day I was ready to quit. I felt really out of my depth. They taught all the theory we'd have to teach a band in one day and I was just going in circles with it."

SECOND DAY

The second day, however, they each had to teach an impromptu lesson and she was asked to go first. At the morning break, one of the instructors cornered her and asked if she was a teacher. He then asked if she would consider teaching the beginners' piping course at the college. Her first classes were January, 1976, and she now teaches three sets a year.

Mrs. Hulme attended Lakeshore Teachers' College and taught at Chapel Street School for seven years. Oddly enough, in those years she taught very little music. If she swapped a class with another teacher, she usually taught art or physical education. In the early 1960s, school music was usually vocal and so structured that she found the students didn't enjoy it much. As a result, she avoided it if possible.

As a child growing up on a farm in Peel, Mrs. Hulme learned to ride a pony around the age of three. At five, she was barred from showing her pony at the Richmond Hill fair because she was too young.

Later, she won prizes at fairs and even managed a prize at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair with her pony. She still enjoys fairs and goes out to help the lady directors set up displays in the hall for the Georgetown fair. She also does a lot of hand work which she

enters in the Georgetown fair and is already going over the prize list to figure out what she'll make to show this fall.

The pipe band wasn't Mrs. Hulme's first attempt at performing with a band. She was selected at the ripe old age of six to lead her school's rhythm band in the Peel Music Festival. The band included members from all eight grades and won the competition two years in a row.

She also sang solos in the festival and won three medals, gold, silver and bronze. Although she says she has lost her "solo-quality voice", she was a member of the high school choir and of the teachers' college glee club.

Mrs. Hulme's family moved to Georgetown when she was 13 and she found herself interested in cadets when she entered high school. She was in charge of the girls' cadet corps as a Cadet Major in Grade 13 and won several awards for rifle shooting including best girl rifle shot. It may seem a totally different field but she finds it helped considerably with her band work.

Mrs. Hulme's husband, Francis, is a supervisor at Smith and Stone. They have two sons, Bruce, 13, and Braden, 9. Both boys go to Sheridan College with their mother for band training. Bruce has just received his elementary drumming certificate and Braden is taking piping from his mother. If their interest in the pipes and drums continues, they may possibly be able to join Sheridan's band when they are ready, she says.

Mrs. Hulme gives lessons privately, but not all her students wind up in the band. All the teaching she does for the band is done on a voluntary basis, since she feels that is part of her job as pipe major. However, those interested in the band don't have to go to her for lessons. The choice of

instructor is theirs so long as it is someone of whom the band approves. It is preferable for new members to be able to play something on the pipes or drums before they begin coming out to practices.

The Georgetown band is one of only about six female pipe bands in North America and piping is still very much a man's realm. Mrs. Hulme says. Most of her students at Sheridan are males over 45. Most of them either found the pipes fascinating or they had some connection with the militia and became acquainted with the pipes that way. Since they are learning piping as a hobby she concentrates on helping them to do it to the best of their ability and making sure they're enjoying it, rather than on worrying about how perfect they become.

FOUR GAMES

The Georgetown Girls' Pipe Band has 20 members and averages four highland games and 15 parades a year, Mrs. Hulme says. The band won't

appear with less than nine pipers and four drummers. The girls are asked to sign up ahead of time and once they sign nothing short of a death (their own) can get them out of an engagement.

The girls placed fourth consistently in Grade 4 competition last year. Mrs. Hulme is hoping this will be the year they move up to Grade 3. They would have to learn a different type of music for competition and she'd enjoy the challenge of teaching it to them.

If she hadn't become a teacher, Mrs. Hulme says she would probably have gone into commercial arts. She enjoys sketching, oil painting, paper mache sculpture and most crafts including petit point, macramé, crewel embroidery, and crocheting. She does a lot of home sewing and likes to ride her bicycle, swim, play baseball and even ski (if conditions are right), although she leaves the difficult stuff to her husband, who is a director of the Caledon Ski Club.



Joy Lumsden demonstrates the typing skills she utilizes in her business, Joy's Gal Friday Services. Mrs. Lumsden says her business is just in the starting stages, but is progressing.

(Herald photo)

Joy launches Gal Friday co.

By MICHELLE MARTIN Herald Special

Many local residents can use some extra help now and then, whether they're business people or individuals in need of some secretarial assistance.

Either way, Joy Lumsden has a helpful solution, borrowed in part from the traditional story of Robinson Crusoe.

With 18 years of personal office experience, Mrs. Lumsden launched Joy's Gal Friday Services from her Metcalfe Court home in Georgetown last October and now provides secretarial assistance to businesses and individuals in the Georgetown and Brampton areas, she's also ready to extend the service into Acton and other areas around Halton Hills, and, concerning time commitments, states that there are no limitations.

Prompted by one too many apologies from would-be employers who answered her applications with a curt "you're overqualified", Mrs. Lumsden hopes to expand her independent service soon to include a temporary-help agency.

"There are women who haven't worked for years," she told The Herald recently. "If they just brush up on their typing and know their alphabet, then they could be temporary help."

So, for qualified assistance in typing, filing, telephone work and even export documentation preparation, Joy's Gal Friday Services is the business to contact.

Problems, Problems People are like tea bags. They don't know their own strength until they get into hot water!

TV is a useful tool for arts groups, television workshop director says

By LORI TAYLOR Herald Staff Writer

Georgetown's Centennial public school became another stop on an ongoing provincial tour by TV Ontario last Wednesday night when members and guests of the Halton Hills Arts Council participated in a demonstration of the channel's theory that television need not be simply "chewing gum for the eyeballs."

Eileen Thalenberg, who is conducting a series of workshops for TV Ontario, told The Herald last week that people view television as something which others just sit and watch; they don't seem aware of the medium's possibilities as a tool to inspire, motivate and teach the skills of a particular activity.

Georgetown's workshop was the fifth in the series of 24 workshops, which are being sponsored by the ministry of culture and recreation.

Ms. Thalenberg is conducting these workshops on a free-lance basis for TV Ontario, but she worked for the network for four years after it first went on the air. She has worked in the theatre as a director, as well as writing for radio and television, working in journalism and writing poetry.

Ms. Thalenberg said she hands out a questionnaire after each workshop, and there will be a follow-up to find out whether the groups were able to make use of some of the ideas contained in the workshop.

INTER-ACTION

"We're trying to show people how television can be a basis for interaction rather than sitting back and receiving the information," Ms. Thalenberg said. "These workshops are to show people in the arts how television can be used to stimulate interest in a particular craft, in an event or in a crafts group."

Ms. Thalenberg said there is a VIP service which allows members of the general public to purchase video tapes of programs in the TV Ontario library. Because the TV Ontario network is entirely government-financed, the tapes are sold at cost, and are available for purchase by libraries and schools.

The workshops include segments on music, dance, and visual arts and crafts. Ms. Thalenberg said. Many arts and crafts people get ideas from the segment on music, however, and many musicians get ideas from the section on dance, so there is a cross-pollination of ideas, she said.

The first thing on the agenda at each workshop is to find out which arts groups are represented and where the interests of the audience lie, Ms. Thalenberg said.

"I try to find out what the interests of the people present are, so I gear the workshop to them," she said. "And I find people learn to talk to each other during the course of a workshop. It seems to make for better communication

between the arts groups. At the workshop in Brantford, two groups got together to buy a video-playback machine to share."

REINFORCE WORK

Ms. Thalenberg said the different groups in the community have to learn how to reinforce what they are each doing. She suggested that if a musician were going to give a performance of a piece of modern music, but wasn't sure how his audience would react to it, he could interest and inform people on what modern music is about by having the library show a video-tape from a segment of the series "The Music of Man" dealing with modern music.

If an arts and crafts group

wanted to interest people in a course on mask-making, it could show a film on the history of masks, in different cultures, then a program on the actual technical steps involved in making a mask and conclude with a program on the use of masks in dance or in the theatre, Ms. Thalenberg said.

The idea of the workshops is to show the arts groups how to draw people into an activity through the use of television, she said.

"We have a service that people don't always know is available," Ms. Thalenberg said. "We also show people how to make use of the facilities that are available."



EILEEN THALENBERG

Federal contracts for Varian

Two federal contracts have been won by Varian of Canada Ltd., the department of supply and services announced Thursday.

The largest contract, worth \$39,812, is to provide the defence department with electron tubes. Varian will also provide the department of communications with radio communication equipment worth \$18,912.

The contracts were among 211 worth \$10,000 or more awarded to Canadian companies in the week ended Jan. 4. Total value of the contracts was \$17,169,606.

\$8,800 worth of Optimism

Members of the Acton Optimists club collected \$8,754.26 in pledges during the Cerebral Palsy Telethon two weeks ago. Since those preparing the television messages omitted the Acton, Georgetown, Milton reference on their telephone number and listed only Guelph, president Dave Henderson said he felt the group probably lost a few pledges from people who didn't realize there was a local pledge number and thus donated to Brampton or Oakville instead. They still managed to better their \$6,000 figure from last year's campaign.

Bridge club results

Results of the Caledon Bridge Club on January 23 were N-S 1. Maureen Walker and Diane Everingham, 2. Elaine and Ron Smith, 3. Anne Reid and John Franklin. E-W 1. Sue and Bert Barrett, 2. Stan Everingham and Gord Burdidge, 3. Betty and Adrian Van Oss.

Results of January 24 were N-S 1. Lil and George Thompson, 2. Gene and Ralph Gillespie, 3. Jim Paterson and Stan Everingham. E-W 1. Naureen and Des Devereaux, 2. Nancy and Brian Adamson, 3. Muriel Merlina and Fran Curry. Novice winners - Pat McLeod and Mary Burgess-Webb.

About the Hills Pomeroy talks to GARA

Mayor Pete Pomeroy will discuss his first year in office and his ambitions for the town's future tonight (Wednesday) as guest speaker for a general meeting of the Georgetown Area Ratepayers Association. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the GDHS cafeteria.

Aid in public health?

The Halton Regional Health Unit may be working directly with the University of Toronto in the near future. Regional council passed a recommendation last week launching a study into the possibility of formally affiliating with the University and its world-renowned school of medicine, in the area of public health. The high profile of the school in the medical community is also being considered as a possible source for finding a replacement for recently-retired Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Joseph Chamberlain.

Three-way stop

Rejecting a staff report recommending the contrary, the town's general committee has accepted the arguments of area residents and is recommending to council that a three-way stop be established at the intersection of Henry Street and Mary Street in Georgetown. The staff report, based on a limited study by regional police, recommended against the three-way stop at present, suggesting that further study be done in the spring. Committee voted in favor of the three-way stop after hearing from a delegation of area residents, who said that the intersection is potentially dangerous to the children of the area.

Ladies' Night

Acton Agricultural Society will hold a Ladies' Night dance in the Acton Citizen's Band Hall Feb. 16.

Wreckers' licences held

The town's general committee is recommending to council that 1980 licences for Johnson Auto Wreckers and York Aet Wreckers, both in Acton, be held in abeyance until the yards conform to town bylaws. The recommendation was made by Coun. Russ Miller, who said that he has received numerous complaints from residents about the conditions of wrecking yards within the town. Committee approved the licences of five other yards, but directed staff to begin files on each yard to determine more clearly whether conformity to town bylaws is maintained throughout the year.

McGlynn replaces Campbell

Captain Art McGlynn, fire prevention officer with the Burlington Fire Department, has replaced Captain Peter Campbell as chairman of Halton region's Fire Prevention Committee, a group of representatives from each of the region's four fire departments which meet monthly. Captain Campbell, who served as chairman for two years, was elected vice-chairman during the committee's executive election last week. Treasurer is Harold Penson of Milton, replacing Larry Brassard of Halton Hills, and secretary is Roy Downs, also of Milton.

Trucks prohibited

Responding to a request from Peel region, Halton region's works committee is recommending to council that truck traffic be prohibited on a section of Regional Road 19 in Halton Hills, between Terra Cotta and Regional Road 42. The recommendation was based on a Peel report which indicates the road is structurally and geometrically inadequate for any increase in truck volumes. The possible increase could come from a new quarry that is opening in Erin Township.