

IRISH PIPERS' CLUB

Several individuals have evinced interest in the establishment of a pipers' club. At this writing there are no precise ends in mind; a meeting will be held at

The Plough and Stars
116 Clement (near Second Avenue)
San Francisco

on Sunday, November 4, 1979, at 2:00 to explore the potential of such an organization. This meeting will be during closed hours so that we will have the use of the facility to ourselves. Bob Heaney has kindly donated the premises for our use at that time.

All individuals who are interested in the promulgation of pipe music as rendered on the Uilleann pipes are invited to attend. If you have an instrument, please bring it with you; if you are merely interested in supporting such a club you needn't have pipes, just be there!

All topics will be discussed and, if there is time before the bar opens at 6:00, we may be able to have a few tunes together. For further information, telephone:

Kevin Carr
San Francisco
665-1480

Ted Anderson
San Francisco
387-7717

Denis Brooks
Berkeley
548-5583

Some topics to consider might include instruction and whether the flute and whistle might be included; reed-making; establishment of a news letter, and so on. It will help vastly if those of you who are really interested will prepare a list of topics you are interested in and, needless to say, considering the time element, you will be at the meeting by 2:00.

Hope to see you November 4!

Slán go foill,

The Committee



This photo was taken at the first meeting of the San Francisco Pipers's club. Over twenty pipers, seasoned, intermediate and novice were in attendance. Aims and ideas were discussed. and at the second meeting the following charter was adopted:

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A LETTER OF INTEREST

The following letter was contributed to this maiden newsletter by Dennis Brooks, who received it from Patrick Meagher in November of 1957, when the latter was 86 years old.

"When I was a boy of 17 years I used to go every Saturday night to a tavern known as THE PLEASANT HOUR, on West 42nd St. in New York City. It was owned by Thomas Kerrigan. He was an excellent Uilleann piper. I paid 10¢ admission. There was a long extension in the yard, in the rear of the tavern. In it was a raised platform at the end. It had rough benches for seating the patrons. Kerrigan used to be seated on the platform, playing the pipes. He was accompanied by a pianist and an expert fiddler. The waiters were entertainers who took turns singing, dancing reels, jigs and hornpipes. As I was a minor I purchased cider, while the adult spectators drank beer or whiskey. A New York supreme court justice often times would be seated beside a hodcarrier. Kerrigan became afflicted with rheumatism - now called arthritis. Pat Touhey came up from Cherry Street, on the lower East Side, to sub. for Tom. I became very well acquainted with Touhey. He asked me to start and learn the pipes, and he would teach me, gratis. My wages in a printing office was small - hardly enough to buy the necessaries of life. I couldn't afford to buy a bag, bellows and chanter; so I missed the opportunity of becoming an Uilleann piper.

Later, when I learned to play the warpipe, I devoted my attention to that instrument, and with a few Irishmen, we organized the first Irish Warpipe Band in New York City. It was known as Cumann Piobairi na h-Eireann. Then when I secured a Brian Boru pipe from Montreal, Canada, I spent my time endeavoring to perfect it - which I have done. My idea was to get away from the Scotch pipes and organize an Irish Brian Boru band; but my own sons preferred the Scotch pipes and the Scotch pipers."