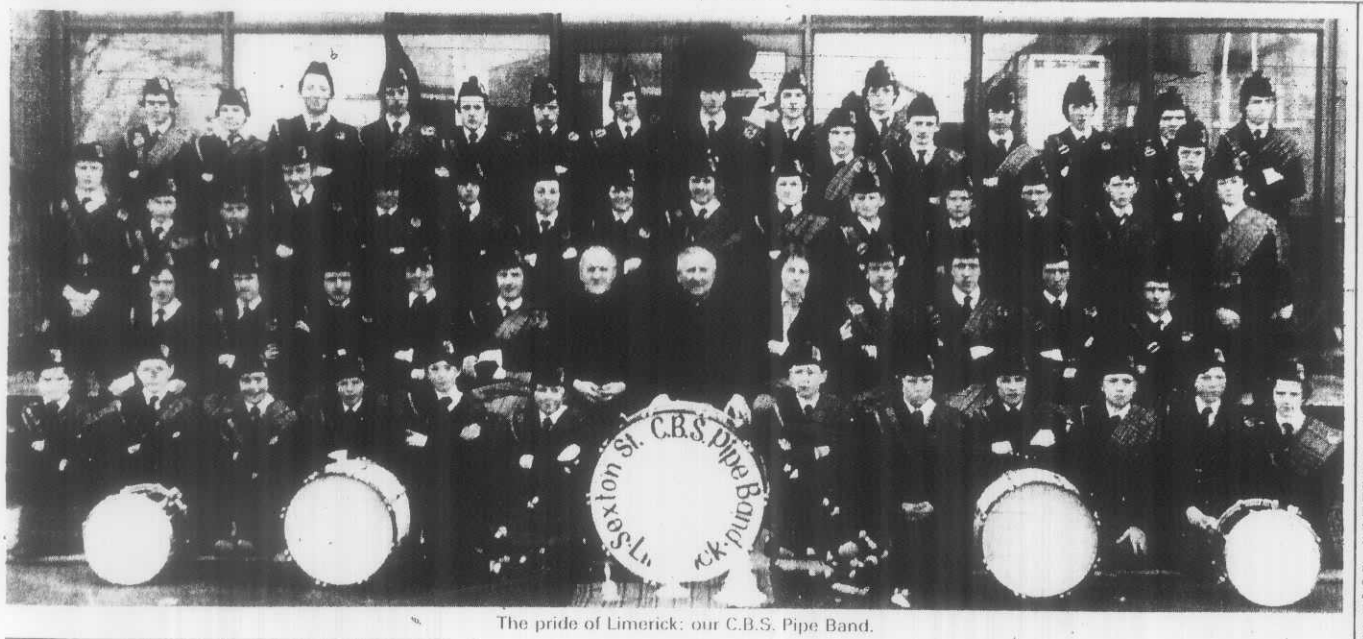

The pride of Limerick: our C.B.S. Pipe Band.

Limerick CBS band, biggest and best

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LIMERICK C.B.S. Pipe Band is now the biggest pipe band in the world.

And many experts also regard it as among the best.

At Limerick's recent international Parade the C.B.S. beat 47 contingents to win the coveted Shannonside Trophy for the best overall band.

Founders

The band was founded in 1963 by Brothers Kenny and Wright on the ideals of fellowship, discipline and musical talent. Loyalty to these ideals has, according to the members of the band, been the key to their success in the 19 years since.

The tough groundwork of teaching the new members piping and drumming skills is undertaken by the senior members of the band each September, with Pipe Major Laurence Duggan and his assistant, Des Boland, teaching the pipes, while Jim Nestor, Michael McDonagh and David Frawley teach the drummers.

General discipline, organisation and management is in the capable hands of Anthony O Byrne, who joined the band in 1973.

Since last September, the band members have spent endless hours at practice lessons on Mondays, Saturdays and Sundays. Naturally enough, the last few weeks before the Limerick competition were very demanding, as the boys worked hard putting the final touches to their efforts.

The members of the band range in age from 10 to 19 years, and there are 79 boys in the current line-up. All members are either pupils or past pupils of Sexton Street C.B.S., and great credit is due to the boys for their dedicated efforts to keep alive such a specialised form of music.

Director

Rev. Bro. Power, headmaster of Sexton Street and director of the band, is very pleased with the work these eager students put into the band, and he has given every co-operation to them in their efforts over the past few months.

"The dedication and discipline of the band members, and the amount of work that they and their parents put into the band, is unique in my experience", says Brother Power.

Although the band is usually associated with Limerick, it has in fact travelled widely, since the first trip abroad to Holland in 1975. Then 45 members visited the Netherlands and played a number of engagements over a two-week period, culminating in the civic reception accorded to them by the Irish Ambassador in the Hague.

In 1978, the band toured Scotland and performed at the World Pipe Band Championships. In 1980, the boys found themselves in France where they visited Paris, Brive, Poitiers, and Brittany.

However, the highlight of that trip was their visit to Lourdes. Here the band joined forces with the Galway Diocesan Pilgrimage led by Bishop Casey, and had the unique privilege of playing at the International Mass in the underground Basilica, as well as at the torchlight procession.

The band is self-supporting, financing itself through engagements, two annual flag days, and a membership fee of £5 paid by each boy.

The CBS Pipe Band, is the only school pipe band in Ireland, and its members have certainly developed their individual musical talents to a high degree.

Some of the members of the Limerick C.B.S. Pipe Band holding the trophies won at the Limerick band competition. Front row (left to right): Des Henn, Brendan O'Mahony, Neil Carey, John Doherty, Back row (left to right): Tim Cusack, Anthony O'Byrne, Andrew O'Byrne.

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By A SPI CORRESPC

THE NEXT proc Torch Players Miracle Worker' staged at the 'B Centre, Limerick day, March 29th April 3rd.

The play is se U.S.A., in the 188 exciting story of H was left deaf, d following a childho tral to the play is the Helen and her go Sullivan.

When they first little more than a spoilt and unable t Annie's own strugg ness and poverty l great courageous determined to let Light.

Teaches

She first succeed Helen's animal b turn teaches her and eventually t beautiful compelli humour, pathos story which will a and old alike.

The part of Hel is considered on difficult female excellently by B Playing opposite Assumpta Wallac another great perf

The child's fatl are played with gr Stephen Joyce an both of whom wer Belltable Actor's doctor is play McBride

Declan McCom plete credibility step brother while in the experience O'Conaill Joh plays the America a "T" and Cath superb as the neg

Children

There are also the play, Niar Johanne McDi Deedigan and Fio whom turn in w ances. To comp Stanley, a dog f who takes to the to water.

The task of making the per entrusted to Phi design is by Br construction by na. Eamon Tuol lights while stage the capable ha

Deba comp

The Munster Gael-Linn/Allie Schools' Irish D tion take place t Central Hotel, p.m.

In the junic Cert.) section, tw will be competi North Circular F Convent, Laurel from Mount St. J College, Roscre (Leaving Cert.)

The winning will qualify for semi-finals in Ma meet the winne competition.