

## *The Origin of "Seton's Ceilidh Band"*

Jack Seton was the Son of John Seton of Dunoon, Scotland, a member of the Glasgow police force, and one-time premier Drum-Major in the British Army. John Seton led one thousand pipers through the streets of Edinburgh during one of their famous Festivals.

Jack Seton was drum sergeant in the famous Glasgow Police Pipe Band, and in 1950, emigrated to New Zealand with his wife and son to settle in Hastings, where he became a probation officer. It was not long before he became drumming tutor to the Hastings Scots Highland Pipe Band, and tympanist in the local orchestral Society. Jack's style of drumming revolutionised pipe-band drumming in New Zealand.

To introduce some social life into the band for young bandsmen, their girl friends and wives, Jack started a Scottish Country Dance group, which in 1951 became the Hastings Scottish Country Dance club. He travelled extensively throughout the country, and in 1953 was instrumental in forming the Wellington-Hawkes Bay Association of Scottish Country Dance clubs, of which he was the first President.

In 1954, Jack Seton, Bruce Fordyce, Nancy Baxter and Shirley Child, ran in Napier, the first Summer School of Scottish Country Dancing ever held in New Zealand. From such small beginnings eventually arose the N.Z. Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, while Summer Schools have an unbroken line of descent from that original 1954 School.

About 1959, Jack Seton formed a small dance band to play live for scottish country dancing, and to record the music. The ensemble, which consisted of Arthur Young (piano), George Armitage (Accordion), Nolan McKay (Violin), Alex Loughlin (Clarinet/flute), Cliff Martin (Bass), and Jack Seton (Drums), was in great demand, particularly in the lower half of the North Island of New Zealand, and they also made several recordings. This wee band, may be considered to be the one that led the way in New Zealand.

So in 1961 when I composed the tune and devised the dance, there was no need to search for a title. There it was, full of life and vigour, fostering Scottish tradition, and bringing joy and pleasure to many, many people -

*"Seton's Ceilidh Band"*



So long as this dance is danced - the world over,  
May it continue to be a Memorial  
to one of the finest Cultural Ambassadors  
Scotland has ever had.