

The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

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Premiere Edition

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International Plowing Match Puts Hall of Fame Project On The Map

Only five meetings, and a little soul searching, and a group of dedicated people got together in Wingham to become the Governing body of the THE BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME HISTORICAL FOUNDATION. The headquarters to be within the community of Wingham, Ontario, Canada.

There was now an organization, a Board of Directors, but NO MONEY.

The golden opportunity of officially introducing the idea of creating a BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME and Entertainment centre of the Arts was now under way.

It surely must have been the Luck of the Irish the Foundation was able to obtain a booth at the International Plowing Match held at

Walkerton, Ontario in September of 1993. Had it not been for the generosity of the Bruce County Plowmens Association, a major fund raising opportunity may never have happened. The Match proved to be a great success for our organization.

During the five day chain of events at the Plowing Match, THE BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME exhibit became a most outstanding attraction. Throngs of visitors commuting with our co-workers made their message LOUD AND CLEAR, they were supporting the idea for this worthy cause, and they did so in great numbers. More than four thousand tickets were sold on a draw. To achieve the honour of becoming an Official Founding Member of the organization, many also made a further contribution by joining the Barn Dance Friendship

Club. The response was tremendous and more and more members are joining by the day. Contributions were received from donors from all parts of Ontario, every Province across Canada, the states of Michigan, Ohio, and New York, as well as the British Isles and Australia.

A special mention must be given to the people that manned the booth throughout the five day event, Earl and Martha Heywood, Muriel Grummet, Gail Holmes and Donna Cornwall,

The members of the Bruce County Plowmans Association are to be highly commended for having the foresight of gathering all the local talent available within the county to present to the International show. Evidently the results were certainly not in vain, for seven mile of midway came alive with music and entertainment. Brass bands, Kiltie bands, choirs, Rock and Roll music Blue Grass and Country and Western music along with variety acts entertained the visitors daily. There must have been several hundred performers together with the Memorabilia Show of "CANADA'S LARGEST TRAVELLING BARN DANCE" making it one of the most popular and spectacular attractions ever staged at the International Plowing Match.

Our Barn Dance Historical Foundation hopes to come up with pictures of some of the performers to create a memorable, historical show piece to add to the Barn Dance Hall of Fame collection.



Message From The President

Hello Folks:

On behalf of the Board of directors, may I welcome you to the BARN DANCE FRIENDSHIP CLUB'S first newsletter.

Our organization now has enough funds to help cover some of the costs of getting this worthy project under way.

Since the word is getting around, it has been one surprise after another. A local service club in Formosa have booked the Original BARN DANCE GANG who played in their community hall in the 1950's for a BARN DANCE SHOW and Dance on Saturday, April 30th, 1994.

Friday, May 20th at 2:00 pm Archie Mann along with Martha and yours truly will be in Listowel, at Maitland Terrace providing entertainment. We will also be introducing and promoting the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME project at Wingham's Homecoming Celebration, June 29 to July 3, 1994.

The folks up in Holland Centre area have contacted us to say they are organizing an all day Country Music Jamboree and Fund Raising event to be held in the Rockland Community Centre in May. Negotiations are not yet complete, look for more information in our next newsletter.

Again don't forget Wingham's Homecoming Celebration, The highlight, of course, will be the Country and Western theme to be carried out for the five days. The outstanding highlight will be The Great Western Band Competition to be held at the Lockridge Memorial Arena after the gigantic

Canada Day parade. Be sure to attend the BARN DANCE SHOW to be held later that evening.

May we remind all Club members to keep rootin' for others to join. This is YOUR magazine and we want to see it grow. If you have news for our magazine, please pass it on to us.

Always remember, "The show must go on."

Earl Heywood President
Wingham Barn Dance
Hall of Fame
Historical Foundation

Spreading the Word

The popular University of Toronto CTIV-FM radio station covering the greater Metropolitan area of the Golden Horseshoe conducted a one hour broadcast Monday evening, November 29th, 1993 featuring Steve Fruitman with Earl Heywood as his guest.

The University of Toronto station has been playing a major role in promoting live performers, and informing their listeners of what's new in Canadian country music. The University of Toronto Press, another division within the campus, recently published Volume 2 of the Encyclopedia of music in Canada, with distribution

throughout the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. The 1500 page hard cover book included the history of a number of the most famous Canadian Country artists who got their start on the Wingham Radio station. The book included a lengthy but incredible story of the original Barn Dance founded by the late W.T. "Doc" Cruikshank in 1937 that became the longest live radio show of it's kind in the history of Canadian broadcasting.

It so happened a director from the University of Toronto Radio Station, attending the International Plowing match held in Walkerton in September of '93, came across the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME exhibit. He was so impressed with the showcase of the BARN DANCE memorabilia that he invited Earl Heywood to appear in a radio interview that covered his backgrounds and the story of his concept for the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME.

Throughout the interview Earl entertained listeners with songs, while Steve reminded listeners they could be kept informed about the HALL OF FAME project, its forth coming events and attractions, by joining the BARN DANCE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

Earl Heywood has been invited to make a second appearance on CTIV-FM in Toronto for an update sometime in April.



Barn Dance Hall of Fame Window Display

Should you be in the Wingham area in the near future, be sure to see the WINDOW DISPLAY of the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME fund raiser project at Gary Pietrek's Hill side Hearing Instruments on the main street, across from Mac's Milk.

You may obtain a Membership to the BARN DANCE FRIENDSHIP CLUB at this location as well as at Ernie King's Music Store or Mom's Place Fish & Chips in Down town Wingham.

Tickets are being sold to support the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME HISTORICAL FOUNDATION. The draw to be made at Wingham's Homecoming, the week of June 29 to July 3, 1994.

Prizes for the draw are a Hand made Afghan by Martha Heywood, a Fiddle Clock made and Donated by Ernie King, and a pair of Western Boots with a genuine Stetson Cowboy Hat that was made available by "Today's Variety Store" in Londesboro, a great place to get your authentic western wear.

If you live in the Hanover area you can purchase tickets and memberships from Carl Khun at the Hanover Music Store, in Mount Forest contact Clare Adlam, in Elora get in touch with Lynn Russworm, Brussels contact Lois McCall and Sarah Stephenson, also Lila Storey in Seaforth, Lola Mann and Cora Robertson in Wingham, or in Listowel see Archie Mann's daughter Marion

**Join the
Barn Dance
Friendship Club.
Be Part of the Family.**

Ernie King's Store Changes Hands

Ernie King Music has been under new ownership since October 1, but it's still business as usual at the Josephine street location in Wingham. In fact the new owner says the business has expanded.

Dave Wallace said Ernie King Music has provided sales and service for many years. However, He added service is getting as busy as is the sales part of the business.

Dave and Marie Wallace have taken over the retail end of the business with Ernie and Darlene King looking after service under the name E-K Repairs.

The sound studio, operating under the name Renaissance Sound, and owned by Mark Hussey and Wayne Taylor will offer 24- track digital recording capabilities.

Wallace said the owners of the studio hope to be recording by the end of the month and will be able to record everything from local artists' demo tapes to a full album. They eventually hope to attract artists from outside the midwestern Ontario area.

They hope to provide the big city recording quality with the small town atmosphere.

A musician for 30 years in the Wellington County area, Wallace bought a guitar from Ernie about 10 years ago.

"I knew Ernie by reputation from his playing on the Circle- 8 Ranch show for many years," said Wallace.

Wallace has talked many times with Ernie about who Ernie King really is and what the business was all about. He was also able to indicate his interest about getting involved in the retail business.

"I don't think I could've found a finer couple than Ernie and Darlene King to do business with," said Wallace.

He invites both old and new customers to come in and say hello. Ernie King will still be involved in the store in Wingham, working two days per week-Mondays and Wednesdays.

Wallace said he will be opening a second Ernie King Music 1993 Ltd. store in Goderich at 34 Newgate Ave. He pointed out that both stores will sell everything from acoustic guitars to amplifiers and P.A. systems. They will also be selling electric keyboards, records, tapes, drums and sheet music.

However, he noted that all the major repairs will be done by Ernie King in Wingham.

Wallace said he will do everything possible to make sure that the customer leaves his store a satisfied customer, whether with the right piece of equipment or satisfied with the repairs.

"We guarantee all of our work," he said.

Ernie King would like his friends to know that he is devoting more of his time to the HALL OF FAME PROJECT. He has gathered up an extensive collection of antique and rare instruments that will be the centre of a

If you have an article, memory or instrument that you feel would be of interest to us feel free to contact us at:

**The Barn Dance Hall of
Fame Historical
Foundation
Box 443, Wingham, Ontario**

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Earl Heywood...President & Founder
 40 years on the staff of CKNX

Ernie King...1st Vice president
 Long time CKNX personality

Martha Heywood...2nd Vice President
 Barndance Regular

Gail Holmes...Treasurer
 Daughter of Barndance Technician

Elayne Rintoul...Director
 Former CKNX employee

Ken Ducharme...Director
 Former CKNX employee

Stephen Pritchard...Director
 Promotions

Sandra Jamieson...Director
 Wingham Business Association

John Jamieson...Director
 Optimist Club of Wingham

Advisors

Gerald "Bud" Cruikshank...Son of "Doc"

Ian Moreland...Mayor of Wingham

Johnny Brent...Former Barn Dance manager

Bob Carbert...Former employee of CKNX

Murray Gaunt...Long time employee of CKNX

H. Hap Swartridge...Barndance performer

You Can Help by Joining the
Barndance Friendship Club

The **Friendship Club** is your way to get

involved with the foundation.

For a membership fee of \$20.00

we will make you a member of our

Special Barn Dance Family.

Members of this special club will receive:

*A *membership certificate* personally signed by Earl Heywood

*A *one year subscription* to our quarterly newsletter

*A *personal invitation* to our **BARN DANCE** summer family picnic

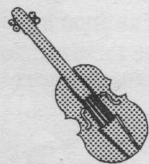
**Advance notice* of the many special events on our calendar

THE BARN DANCE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

Wingham Barndance Hall of Fame Historical Foundation

Friendship Club

Box 443 Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0



Yes I want to become a contributing member of the
 Wingham Barndance Hall of Fame Historical Foundation

Membership Fee of
 \$20.00 Paid by:

Cheque Money Order
 Cash

Name:-----

Address:-----

Postal Code:----- Phone:-----

Please feel free to copy this Journal and pass it along to a friend.