

The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

Vol. 3 1994

Summer Edition

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WINGHAM'S HOMECOMING PRELUDE TO THE FUTURE

Two years of preparation turned Wingham's Home Coming, July 1st weekend 1994, in to one big Whopping Success. The Canada Day Parade brought back memories of Frontier Days of the early fifties... and the big Centennial Celebration of 1979.....

Everything from costumes to the music blended with the great Heritage this town is known for. The live shows, Gordon Wall's Old Tyme music, the Variety Shows, a Pageant along with the first official showing of the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME memorabilia brought it all together. Thanks to the Chairman - Doug Layton, The Home coming Committees and the Volunteers for making it the biggest and best Home Coming Celebration ever.

The highlight musically was the Western Band Competition for a top prize of \$1,000. awarded for the best Band out of ten entries. The lucky winner was a band by the name of NEON BLUE who also received eight hours of recording time at Renaissance Recording Studios in Wingham. Runner up was a popular group by the name of DETOUR.

So the Big Show is over and memories are fading in to the past But hold on there's a Brand New Era Dawning. The creation of the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME, and a CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, for music and Entertainment here in Western Ont. The idea is no longer a dream. We must take steps to make this happen in the Wingham area where so much of our musical history began. Time is essential,

and we cannot afford to lose it, we must get moving with an organization such as the.....

WINGHAM BARN DANCE HALL of FAME HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, public support and a given length of time this major project can become a reality. It can become one of the most interesting and educational Tourist Attractions in Canada.

OUR APOLIGY

We regret our busy work schedule has hampered getting this Issue of the Journal to our Members on time.
Earl Heywood

Recording Artist Mel Phillips of St Thomas, Ontario, who sings and records Wilf Carter style songs has some great cassettes available.
Thanks Mel for getting nine more members to join our Friendship Club.

Our ever popular Member recording artist Larry Mercey has been riding the Charts with a new single release..... "Wild West Show" and now a new album "Lets Deal Again", which features the single and many other fine songs.

Looks like singer songwriter Grant Heywood, writer of the song "Dynamite" recorded by the Desert Dolphins has a smash hit on the Charts. It was in the top ten position in mid Sept.

Good Luck, and Thanks for joining our club.

WINNER OF THE FIRST BARN DANCE LOTTERY

It started at the International Plowing Match at Walkerton, Ontario, Sept.'93 and ended in a draw at the Wingham Legion Hall Sunday, July 3rd. 1994.

HERE ARE THE RESULTS.....

- First Prize - Afgahn made by Martha Heywood of Wingham won by R. Goodchild of Webbwood, Ont.(near Espanola, Ontario)
- Second Prize - A Fiddle Clock, crafted by Ernie King of Wingham, went to Bernice Lewis of Providence Bay, Manitoulin Island, Ontario.
- The 3rd. Prize - A Pair of Leather Cowboy Boots and a Stetson Western Hat, kindly donated by The Variety Store, Londseboro, Ontario Won by Yvonne Kempen of Mildmay, Ont.

All proceeds go toward the development of building the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME

Another great supporter of our Friendship Club - Bill Oja the reporter for Canada's National Newspaper Country Music News, covered the scenes of our Barn Dance Rally in Wingham on September 18th. Watch for more about this in our next journal.

Lorne Veale of Wasaga Beach, a fine entertainer performing comedy, Walter Brennan style, is pleased to be one of our Founding Members. He recently played the Blyth Steam Show in September and kept the crowd in stitches.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Please help us build the Hall of Fame

Hello Folks:

The day I wrote my first song I could foresee my accomplishment would become history and serve a useful purpose to mankind.

Through the passing of time I have learned more than ever how our Heritage would define our future.

What is always in front of us is not our FUTURE, but our past.

It is from our past we get our bearings and set our course. This was the kind of philosophy that prevailed in the minds of a dedicated group of Wingham Citizens who were most familiar with the history of the original Barn Dance first founded by the late "DOC" Cruickshank in 1937.

Immediately the group found it's bearings on the night of June 29th. 1993 at our kitchen table. Together, we officially formed a Board of Directors comprising of 11 members, and six Advisors under the non profit registered name - WINGHAM BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME, Historical Foundation.

Our first goal was to begin a Fund Raising Campaign combined with a Memorabilia Show... and to take it to the International Plowing Match and so we did.

We sold tickets on a draw for prizes and Founding Members to our organization. The outcome

was a phenominal success. I have been asked by our members to announce our next goals. Because various organizations have invited us to bring our Fund Raising Memorabilia Show to their events more than a year away, I would recommend that we hold an annual Barn Dance Draw for prizes. The main goal at this point in time would be to develop our Image of the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME.

We should begin with honouring the first pioneers who played a role in the development of the Historical Barn Dance now internationally known, and this year celebrating it's 57th. anniversary. Organizing a series of Award Shows incorporating live talent would bring together a new and fresh concept of entertainment enriching the lives of us all. This venture would serve two fold, - raise revenue for our project, and at the same time pay Homage to those the Pioneer Performers who helped to create the Original Barn Dance and made it what it means to us today.

There is no doubt that this combination would serve well as an ideal Fund Raising Masterpiece. This may be very well what is needed to stimulate Public interest in launching a Campaign for our Building and Development Fund. We need this input to buy

the property and build a permanent building to house the memorabilia.

Down the road, our organization sees this entire project as a Major Tourist Attraction just waiting to happen.

There are many goals ahead of us, and we must keep on track and handle one goal at a time.

Just remember
DON'T GIVE UP
THE SHOW MUST GO ON.

Earl Heywood,
President
**Wingham Barn Dance
Hall of Fame
Historical Foundation**

**Buy A
Membership
for a
Friend
for Christmas**

Give a Country Music Friend the Honour of becoming a Founding Member of the Wingham Barn Dance Hall of Fame Historical Foundation as a Christmas Gift We will send them a Certificate of Membership from you!



"TAKE ME DANCING" ————— Bruce County Cloggers

Here is a group of fine young ladies who specialize in the Art of Clog Dancing. Ranging in age from 16 to 34 the bottom line for this colourful group is fun.

Their instructor, Anne Dirven of R.R. #4 Hanover, Ontario, keeps them on their toes learning new routines to songs, both old and new.

In 1993, this group won the trophy for TRADITIONAL CLOGGING at the Dundalk Canadian Open Championship. They participated in the International Plowing Match at Walkerton in 1993, and in February 1994 the group was the highlight at the Agricultural Fall Fair Convention held in the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

They also appeared at Anne's School of Dance presentation in it's eighth Recital at the Hanover Town Hall in April of this year. This group plus other individual and combination dance acts from "Anne's School of Dance" are in public demand for all kinds of events in Western Ontario.

Pictured from left to right:
**Irish Ruetz, Cathy Eickmeir,
Donna Ditner, Lynn Rettinger, Darleen Robson,
Crystal Busby,
Anne Dirven, Bonny Fischer.**

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A LETTER FROM THE BARN DANCE MAIL BOX



April 15, 1994

Wingham Barn Dance Hall of Fame
Historical Foundation,
Box 443,
Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Hello to the Board of Directors

Enclosed you will find my Friendship Club membership cheque.

I have a warm spot in my heart for the Barn Dance for a very special reason. I am told I appeared regularly on the Barn Dance at age three - that would be 1939, maybe 1940. Would I have been a Barn Dance sweetheart?

I do remember my mother dragging me off to sing at all sorts of functions from our home in Clinton. But my older cousins remember hearing me singing on the Barn Dance radio program. In fact, they tease me about the night I stopped amid my rendition of Little Sir Echo and said, "I've got a frog in my throat."

I recall attending the Barn Dance Show at Clinton when it travelled from town to town. It was always a highlight of community life, well loved by many.

I must tell you I am not a country music fan. But like many Ontario folks, I often watched the Tommy Hunter Show because it was all that was on my television in those early years - and I know of some of the great "stars" who began their career on the CKNX Barn Dance.

I want to be part of this Club because it is Huron County history and as I grow older, I appreciate more and more the "specialness" of Huron County. Good luck on this endeavour.

Sincerely,

(Editors NOTE: Shirley Keller is Manager of the Goderich Star.)

Shirley J. Keller (nee Pearson)
339 Krohmer Drive,
Goderich, Ontario N7A 4G8

Please use this form or send a letter with the details as your Christmas Gift to a friend or friends, presenting them with Founding Membership of the Wingham Barn Dance Hall of Fame, Historical Foundation.

Please find enclosed \$20. as my Christmas Gift - _____

TO _____

Address _____

FROM: _____

PLEASE PRINT and include the complete mailing address.

Please make your cheque or money order payable to:
**Wingham Barn Dance
Hall of Fame - Historical
Foundation - & mail to:-
BOX 443 Wingham,
Ontario N0G 2W0**

We will upon receipt, send them a special Certificate signifying them as founding members along with the quarterly Journal.

Thank You!