

The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

Vol. 7 1995

Autumn Edition

Price \$3.95

HALL OF FAME FOUNDATION INAUGURATES THE CONSTITUTION



The Original Saturday Night Barn Dance, Internationally known as "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance" began as a recorded Radio Program in 1937, but it wasn't for long.

When W.T. "Doc" Cruickshank Founder of CKNX Radio, the Ontario Farm Station, envisioned the popularity of the Saturday night Barn Dance Radio show, composed of recording Hillbilly Music and Tear Jeker ballads, he thought of something better. "Doc" had the foresight to see by presenting a live

Studio Broadcast on Radio, it would serve the community much better than spinning recorded music.

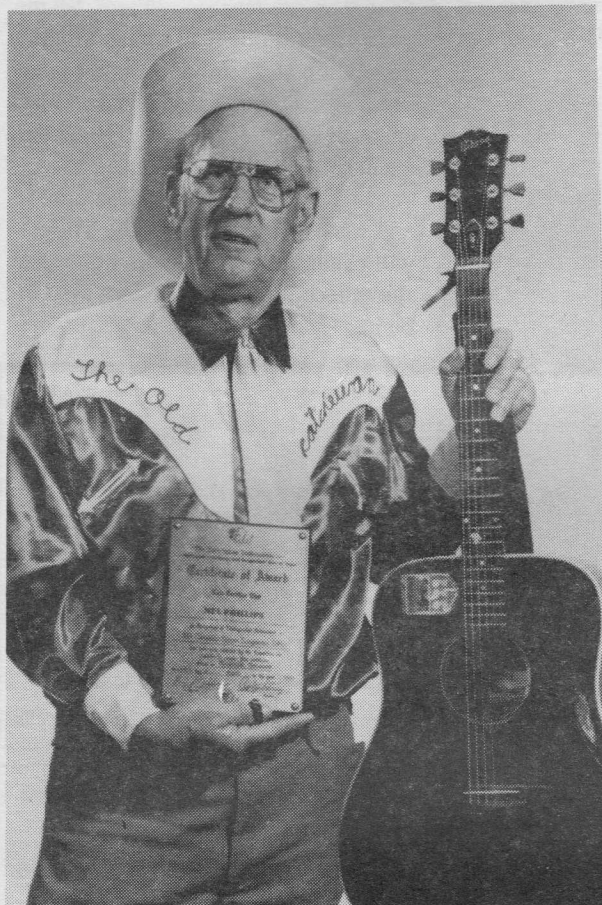
Once "Doc" took the show out of the studio and on the road, he engaged Johnny Brent as a manager and Emcee. Johnny gave it the name, "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance" and successfully booked it in almost every major auditorium throughout South Western Ontario.

The photo on this page taken from the cover of a Souvenir Book published in 1950 tells the story.

Left to right, (back row) - Jack Kingston, Earl Heywood, Ward Allen, Cactus Mac, Lloyd Bank, George Jordan, Reg Bitton, Archie Mann, Ernie King, Ross Mann and Don Robertson. (Front and centre) - Johnny Brent, and the Sweetheart of the Barn Dance Pauline Swanson. Also the photo you see here, was seen across Canada on the Rita MacNeil TV Show, and more recently, the Carol Baker TV Special featured, some historical mementos of this BARN DANCE.

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Mel Phillips Honoured in MUSIC CITY U.S.A.

Earlier this year Canadian singer, songwriter Mel Phillips born in Saskatchewan, now living in St. Thomas, Ontario, became recipient of a distinguished Songwriters Award at a presentation in the American Country Music Capital Nashville, Tennessee..

Mel, was born with a natural love for music and began his career when only seven. By the time he turned thirteen he had mastered playing the guitar, well enough for his own accompaniment.

It wasn't until 1934 while attending the Wilf Carter Show Mel became impressed with Wilf's presentation, singing songs he had written and recorded. This was the inspiration he needed to begin a writing career, then make recordings and public appearances on variety concerts across the country.

In 1994 Mel had been nominated for an Eagle Award for an outstanding achievement in Entertaining and Songwriting. In April of this year (1995) when the Indi Association's Springfest and Songwriters Awards Show was held in Nashville Tennessee, Mel was presented with the top Canadian Songwriters Award and a winning nomination for Radio Airplay in the United States.

For information on his current record releases, Mel Phillips "Salutes Wilf Carter", and songs like "Grandma's Bible" "On the Banks of the Old Saskatchewan" or "I Dreamed of Heaven And You.", recorded by Art Tec., contact M. Phillips 64 Regent St., St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 2A2.

It is with pleasure the Journal congratulates Mel Phillips for his outstanding achievement.

THANKING ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Directors of the Barn Dance Historical Foundation and Entertainment Museum wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Markdale Rotary Club for a \$200.00 donation to become a Member of the Barn Dance Friendship Club for ten years. May we also extend our thanks to Monkton Community Optimist Club for a similar donation to help with the development of a Home'n Centre for Musicians and Entertainers here in Western Ontario.

THE BARN DANCE SHOW

is Available

to anyone wishing to stage
a live musical production

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Church Bulletin Bloopers

The concert held in the Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Michael Kelly and Deborah Morris were married on Oct. 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in schooldays.

Fairlight

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While the spirit of the Original Barn Dance is still with us, so are the many Artists who pioneered the longest lived radio show of it's kind in the history of Canadian Broadcasting. These are the people now working together on the plans for the future to preserve the heritage of all types of music and entertainment. With more than 300 supporting members of the Barn Dance Historical Foundation, we inaugurated our Constitution while Celebrating our 58th. Anniversary of the Barn Dance Sept. 17, 1995.

Everyone should take note, there is no other organization of it's kind in the Canadian Music Industry that offers so much to mankind as the Barn Dance Historical Foundation. It is both a priviledge and indeed an honour, for anyone who becomes a supporting member of this Association.

Letters & Memories

Violet Hill writes: _____

I am really enjoying the Journals and especially the little notes you tuck in with them. I am looking forward to the 58th. Barn Dance Anniversary Party, Sunday Sep. 17th. to see and hear the Barn Dance Show again.

Over the years I played piano with several groups, such as Merlin White (Good Time Country) a cousin of Ernie King, Al Weatherall's (Country Troubadors) and Willis Rowbotham's Georgian Bay Islanders.

Violet Hill treated her friend Evelyn Elliott to a paid Membership to the Friendship Club. She says Evelyn played with the Barn Dance Gang on several occasions.

Message from The President

The Show must Go On!

Howdy Folks:

Welcome to our Autumn Edition of the Barn Dance Journal, and greetings to the many new members who have joined our association.

All of two years have slipped by since a group of Wingham Citizens sat around our kitchen table June 29, 1993 to grapple with the giant task of establishing a permanent organization with a special kind of plan to preserve the history of the CKNX BARN DANCE founded by the late W.T. Cruickshank.

Had we not hit the road with a Barn Dance Memorabilia Show, and a Barn Dance Draw for prizes donated by members of this Association we may never have established an institution unlike any other organization of it's kind in Canada.

It took hours and hours of volunteer labour to build substantial funds to accomplish our goals and establish the first phase of this project. We do wish to commend more than 300 contributing members who have joined our Barn Dance Friendship Club and became an official part of the **Barn Dance Historical Foundation and Entertainment Museum**. Without a Membership no organization can exist. We do appreciate your help.

Sunday, September 17, 1995 members of this organization met to finalize the acceptance of the constitution and elect twelve members to serve on the Board of Directors. They will be dealing with the Second Phase of this project, first the business of Incorporating an Entertainment Centre, and then the ultimate dream of establishing a Theme Park.

Because this publication was prepared for a deadline with our printer prior to Sep. 17th., watch for a full report on the finalization of the Constitution and newly elected Board of Directors in our next Journal. We will also report on the need of a Theme Park, and why it should be based here in South Western Ontario.

Always remember

The Show Must Go On!

Earl Heywood

President & Founder
Barn Dance Historical Foundation
and Entertainment Museum.

LEGENDARY BARN DANCE COFFEE MUGS

WOW ! The first Souvenir Barn Dance Coffee Mugs sold out the day after the last BARN DANCE Reunion.

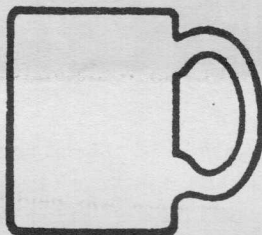
These were specifically designed to introduce the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME project. Only 48 were fired.

NOW AVAILABLE - is the introduction of another SOUVENIR Coffee Mug. This is a special **STARTER MUG** to become a part of the **LEDGENDARY BARN DANCE PIONEER SERIES**. Each edition will bear the International Barn Dance Trademark "Canada's Largest Travelling" BARN DANCE with a Maple Leaf Monogram.

The opposite side of each mug in this series will highlight a different era of the History of the Barn Dance, and For example include the names of the various groups and artists known to have pioneered the longest lived Radio Show of it's kind in the History of Canadian Broadcasting from 1937 - to - 1963.

Through time this Historical Collection can become a priceless conversation piece now priced at only \$10.00 each.

They will be available at all of our events. For further information contact- the BARN DANCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, Box 68, Wingham, Ontario N0G 2H0 - or phone - (519) 357-2355 or (519) 357-3474



EVENTS Notes 'N News

The Ronnie Prophet, Glory Anne summer show began on Music City Tonight, TNN Network, Nashville, July 1st. then covered 25 cities across the United States and parts of Canada with Fall Fair dates in Ontario at Barrie, Smith Falls and Ridgeway.

The Markdale Rotary Club staged their annual street frolic in July with Earl and Martha Heywood conducting the show. Appearing were the Masters Jubilee Country Gospel Band, Music Making Moms, Grey Country Cloggers, Madill Family and Al Weatherall's band.

The Rankin Family have been touring Canada, appearing at the Citadel Hill, Halifax, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, The CBC Special Canada Day, Big Sky Festival in High River, Alberta, Molson Amphitheatre, Toronto, The Blyth Festival of the Arts in Blyth, etc. The Rankin Family have sold over one million records in Canada. A new album will be released this fall.

Richard Knechtel was the headliner at the Zurich Fall Fair in July. President Lloyd Otterbein of the Fair Board introduced Richard to not only entertain but to conduct the presentation of the Ambassador and Princess of the Fair contestants.

MBC Productions promoters of Yesterdays Wine, introduced their new Country Music Group GRAPEVINE at a service club Fund raiser in Walkerton in August. Entertainment included Marions Country Music Band from Erin, Bonnie Sadler and Clive Prentice from Meaford, Paul Williamson with Detour from Tara, The Black Lightening Demo Line Dancers from Bloomingdale, Ont., and The Barn Dance Memorabilia Show from Wingham.

The Belgrave variety night school fair concert was a sell out with entertainment by school choirs, Cousin Clem, Brussels Carry on Cloggers, Hussey Family, Earl and Martha Heywood with old tyme music by Ron McBurney, Mary Coultres, Harvey McDowel, Bert Pepper, Bob McLinchey, Arnold Bruce, Frank Hallohan and Alex Robertson.



Drop us a line.

REF: 9113C/95

The Journal Salutes Seaforth Couple

*The Barn Dance Opera Journal is proud to
acquaint you with
Lila and Orville Storey
of Seaforth, Ontario*



Lila and Orville, the first official members to enroll for a five year \$100. membership in our Barn Dance Friendship Club. The Storeys are fully dedicated to the Barn Dance Hall of Fame Historical Foundation, and likewise have also contributed to the Barn Dance Building and development Fund.

Born near Cromarty, Ontario Lila married Orville Storey in 1945 and settled on a farm north of Seaforth, and there they raised a family while Lila taught dancing and Orville ran the farm.

In fact they are the proud parents of the popular Storey Sisters who danced to fame on the Barn Dance, Circle Eight Ranch Television,

The Tommy Hunter Show and Don Messers Jubilee. The list goes on and on. It was Lila who taught her own daughters how to dance, and now her daughters are teaching others. So the great tradition, the original routines, the artistic stepping and professionalism of the Storey Dancers will never cease, but remain etched in the minds of many who loved their style of dancing. What a wonderful couple and what a charming family. They will eventually become an honoured showpiece in the Barn Dance Hall of Fame.

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by sending \$1.00 per copy plus \$1.00 for postage & handling.

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*If you have an article, memory or
instrument that you feel would
be of interest to us for display or
publication please let us
hear from you.*

Customer: "I want a ticket to New York"
Airline Agent: "By Buffalo?"

Customer: "I guess that's OK, if the saddle's comfortable."

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We will mail them a special certificate enrolling them as a Founding Member of our

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