

# The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

Vol.5 1995

Spring Edition

Price \$3.95

## GLOBAL TELEVISION and CBC FM RADIO

### Proudly Presents Development of THE BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME

**The Barn Dance Hall of Fame Historical Foundation** can look back on the year 1994 as a phenomenal success. Like everyone else singing the last chorus of Auld Lang Syne on New Year's Eve, our thoughts began to focus on 1995. What a big question mark that was? However unpredictable as it may have been, two weeks later the phone was almost buzzing off the wall.

Toronto Television and Radio Broadcasters were on the line making arrangements to come to Wingham, to televise a story of the Barn Dance and the Hall of Fame.

David Wall an active Field Director working in the interests of the Barn Dance Hall of Fame was largely responsible for this activity.

#### BRAMAH REMEMBERS

Barn Dance - The Grand Old OPRY of Canada



Earl shows Bill Bramah the guitar he bought from Gordie Tapp.

The Bill Bramah show was produced at the home of Earl and Martha Heywood and presented on Global Television on January 18, 1995. Bramah talked about the Memorabilia and was aware of the popularity of **Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance**, and how the fans called it the Grand Ole Opry of Canada.

#### CBC FORSEES

##### MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION

When CBC - FM Radio Reporter Floyd Herman learned, there was an official Fund Raising Campaign under way, for another Major Tourist Attraction, for Western Ontario, he lost no time tracking down the story. He immediately contacted the office of the Barn Dance Hall of Fame, in Wingham, Ontario and learned the plans were already on the drawing board for a Hall of Fame. A centre for the Arts for Music, entertainment and much more. Floyd presented a very informative story on the project which was broadcast over CBC - FM Radio network on Thursday morning, January 26, 1995.

The results of these broadcasts drew a series of inquiries including contributions, one of which was from Lloyd Acheson a Fuller Brush Representative, well known throughout Ontario and now living in Gananoque, Ontario.

Lloyd and his good wife Gladys have now become Honorary Founding Members of The Barn Dance Hall of Fame. *If it were feasible to move a Barn they have on their property they would donate it for the Museum. Thank You Lloyd and Gladys!*

## Fairlight ELECTRONICS INC.

P.O. Box 26175 KVCPO  
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4P0  
519-744-3934

Satellite and Antenna  
Sales & Service



### Hanover Music Centre

*"The Store Where Your Satisfaction  
Is Music To Our Ears!"*

KEYBOARDS BY - TECHNICS - PANASONIC  
GUITARS BY TAKAMINE - NORMAN - PEAVEY  
SOUND SYSTEMS BY - PEAVEY - HUGHES &  
KETTNER  
PERCUSSION BY - PEARL - SABIAN - ZILDJIAN

CARL 'CAL' KUHN  
OWNER/MANAGER

428 10TH AVE, HANOVER N4N 2N9  
(519) 364-3317

204 Main St. W.  
Listowel, Ont.  
N4W 1A1

### Sorensen Music Centre

Musical Instruments & Accessories  
Pianos • Organs • Portable Keyboards  
Guitars • Amplifiers

(519) 291-3341

Tork Sorensen



*Ernie King*  
Music (1993) Ltd.

*"The Complete Music Source  
for the Amateur or Professional"*

326 Josephine St.  
Wingham  
357-2811

34 C Newgate St.  
Goderich  
524-4689

# The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Folks:

Our Board of Directors are pleased to announce the interest in the Hall of Fame Project of which we all share, is most encouraging.

We do need The Barn Dance Hall of Fame to preserve the history of our music and variety entertainment. We also need a Centre for the Arts, to create opportunities and train the younger generation of entertainers who may become the Stars of tomorrow. This then is our GOAL.!

Would you believe for almost 50 years we have seen our Hockey and Ball players and those in the line of sports, receive honourable recognition for their outstanding performances. The proof may be found in our Community Centres crammed with showcases filled with trophies and awards. Rarely do we ever hear about the hundreds of talented performers and musicians who have..... GONE UNRECOGNIZED.

Yet these are the citizens who are always called upon to perform for many benefit shows to raise money for a worthy cause. Yes, they always do it and rarely receive a single penny.

Why are entertainers and musicians always taken for granted?

*Good question* - This is all the more reason we must get together and raise the money to build the Hall of Fame and you can help by supporting this organization.

Most of our members of the first quarter (Jan, Feb. & March ) have renewed their memberships, some for one year, some for 2 years and others for 5. This helping greatly with our finances.

Two of our field Directors are to be commended for an excellent job, well done for enlisting new members to our Friendship Club. *May we congratulate Joyce Steuernol and Bill Leach for inviting so many friends to join the organization.*

With this issue of the journal those who joined our club (Apr., May & June 1994), will receive a request to renew membership for 1995 - Please respond.

9113a

## *The Show must go on!*

Also take note it has been confirmed we will be attending the International Plowing Match at Ayr, Ontario, Sep 19 to the 23rd. where we will have an exhibit of Barn Dance Memorabilia.

*Of special interest to all.*

**Plan to attend the Membership Barn Dance Rally on Sunday April 30, 1995 - 1:00 p.m. at the**

**Canadian Legion, Wingham**  
Bring your family, instruments and help celebrate the 58th. Anniversary of Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance.

Anyone wishing to attend and if not yet a member can obtain Membership at the door. We plan to have food and beverage available at reasonable fee.

So Come along & enjoy !

Always remember ....  
*Without Dreams the World Stands Still, so ....*

### **THE SHOW MUST GO ON!**

Earl Heywood, President  
Barn Dance Hall of Fame  
Historical Foundation.

&

Ernie King, Vice-President

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Founding Members may help by inviting other friends to join the organization.  
Or

You may take out a Membership as a Birthday or Anniversary Gift to become a Registered Founding Member.

Please Note and mail the Name, Postal address & phone along with your Cheque for \$20. *made payable to*

Barn Dance Hall of Fame  
Box 443, Wingham, Ont., N0G 2W0

*We want to see your friends at the party.*

### **BARN DANCE SOUVENIRS**

The Barn Dance Hall of Fame Memorability Shows, have been our main source of promoting this Barn Dance Hall of Fame for Western Ontario.

Many folks attracted to our exhibits often bring up the question.....

*"Do you have a Souvenir of the Barn Dance or The Hall of Fame?"*

*Just some momento we could take home to give to a friend, or loved one, a genuine memento of the Barn Dance.*

### The first thought was a **Barn Dance Coffee Mug.**

These would be practical for serving coffee or tea a novel conversation piece or a Gift item bound to bring back memories of a bygone Barn Dance. Therefore we have obtained the first edition of such Mugs, with only 48 fired and dated 1994, these will be available for purchase at our Barn Dance Rally in Wingham April 30, on a first come basis, to members only.

These will become a collectors item and will greatly increase in value due to the very limited firing of the first edition.

A series of other specially designed coffee mugs is planned for the future but only the first 48 members to purchase will ever have the joy of owning one of these particular 1st edition!

**You'r Invited  
to have the time of your  
life at the 2nd.  
Barn Dance Rally  
Celebrating the 58th.  
ANNIVERSARY of  
Canada's Largest Travelling  
Barn Dance  
Sunday, April 30 at 1 p.m.  
Wingham Legion Hall  
Bring your family & instrument!**



## FORMER BLYTH CELEBRITY Presents Nostalgic Performance



Left to right: Ron Coulthard, Doug McNall, Grant Heywood, John McNall. Front sitting: Tom Bell & Curly Walker

What a Memorable and Honourable experience it was for Country singer DOUG McNALL the night he appeared at the Blyth Festival Theatre on Saturday, January 28, 1995. Doug now makes his home in the Shakespearian Festival City of Stratford, Ontario, but the folks in the festival town of Blyth still claim DOUG McNALL as their home town celebrity.

A singing guitar picker, who once was their next door neighbor. When the folks heard he was appearing at the Blyth Festival Theatre for a Premier Performance to present his version of the legendary Hank Williams story it was like a homecoming. The local crowd made sure they saw Doug make his debut in live theatre. The performance no sooner began and Doug's son John McNall appeared on stage to greet the crowd, Then he proudly presented his father Doug as the Star Performer. From that moment on Doug crooned the great songs of Hank Williams and narrated the story of the life of this world famous Legend. It was evident that he had mesmerized the audience with the songs and sounds of a Golden Era of Country Music.

Doug McNall a member of the Stratford Musicians Association was supported by top professional musicians from this source - Ron Coulthard (Steel Guitar), Tom Bell (Lead Guitar), Grant Heywood (Drums), "Curley Walker" (Violin) and son John McNall (vocals and Bass). This production was sponsored by the Ladies Auxillary who are to be commended for supporting Canadian talent.

Terry Sumsion appeared at the Blyth Festival Theatre on March 5, 1995, Eleanor and Graham Townsend are scheduled to return to the Blyth Festival stage April 2, 1995.

## The Journal Salutes Tara Couple

The Barn Dance Opera Journal is proud to acquaint you with Paul and Eleanor Petrie of Tara, Ontario.



Paul and Eleanor were the first official members of the Barn Dance Friendship Club, as Founding Members of the Barn Dance Hall of Fame Historical Foundation.

Initially they joined the Association in Sep. 1993, at the International Plowing Match near Walkerton, Ontario. Paul and his wife recently renewed their membership for another two years and also made a contribution to the Barn Dance Hall of Fame Building Development Fund. Here is what they had to say in their letter - Both love Country Music, especially the fiddle and steel guitar. Paul doesn't claim to be a musician but Eleanor played piano for her father when she was a young girl. We assume her father played violin. Like many others - The Petries say it is unfair and not right that a lot of the music we hear today is misrepresented as Country Music, when it is something else. For these very reasons the Petries believe it is important to belong to an association such as The Barn Dance Hall of Fame, Historical Foundation, to help preserve and promote the true meaning of Country Music. *We must keep it alive!*

## Food for Thought

Bill Oja our faithful Member of the Barn Dance Hall of Fame Historical Foundation and Hamilton columnist who writes a column "South Western Ontario Happenings" for the nations "Country Music News" published in Ottawa, also writes a column "Country in the City" for Traditions Country Magazine, published in Hamilton, Ontario. For this story Bill had this to say Quote; "Did you know that Major Nashville Record Companies released and played over 400 U.S. Country Artists records on Canadian Country Music Radio in 1994 ... these same record companies only released FOUR CANADIAN ARTISTS records, for airplay in the United States ? The only Canadian releases were:-  
(1) by Michelle Wright  
(2) by Lisa Brokop and  
(1) by Charlie Major ?  
Doesn't seem fair, does it? " (UNQUOTE)

Bill Oja



Our Comment:

Thanks Bill for granting permission to the Journal to publish your article. We agree and will inform our local Federal Member of Parliament and suggest our members do likewise.

As I see it, what is required is Government Legislation with licensed control over foreign record releases and only permissible on a one to one basis.

Earl Heywood

## ADVERTISING NEWS

Tork Sorenson's Music Centre in Listowel,  
Carl Kuhn's Music Centre in Hanover,  
Peter Beacock's Satellite & Antenna Sales  
and Service in Kitchener and  
Dave Wallace of

Ernie King's Music in Wingham & Goderich  
are the first to have purchased advertising  
space in our Journal.

They are all members of our organization  
a policy set forth for all who wish to buy  
advertising space.

Visit their locations and tell them you saw  
it in the Journal.

## MUSIC Notes 'N News

The ever popular **Paul Bros. & Shirley** performed a record number of shows in 1994, including Dinner Theatre Shows in Paris, Ont., with the Walter's Family Roundup. This versatile trio have chalked up more than fifty appearances for the '95 season. They are loyal members of our society and may be contacted at-  
Box 21, Kirkton, Ont. N0K 1K0

Canadian Recording Artist, **Mel Phillips** recently made another milestone in his career, this time in Nashville, Tennessee. Mel was nominated for "King Eagle Award" for outstanding airplay international for his Wilf Carter style of singing. This member may be contacted at-  
64 Regent St., St. Thomas, Ont. N5R 2A2

Many thanks to our member **Cy Robinson** colourful Master of Ceremonies and organizer of the Happy Seniors Shows seen on the Tillsonburg Cable Station for several years. Cy is organizing three one hour shows on TV shows of live Country Music to help promote the Barn Dance Hall of Fame. Shows will be produced at the Tillsonburg Cable Studios and shown throughout the summer on various cable stations. More about our Tillsonburg friends and the TV special will appear in our next Journal.

**Smilin' Johnnie and Eleanor Dahl**, friends of

Vic Pasowisti of New Hamburg, Ont. invite Canadian entertainers to attend their 8th. annual show, 8 miles North & 1 Mile East of Wroxton, Saskatchewan. The show is Sunday and Monday, July 10 & 11. These folks are members of our association. Drop them a line at-  
Box 190-210 Wroxton, Saskatchewan  
S0A 4S0, for details.

*Thanks for all the memorabilia you sent us for the Hall of Fame*

Fri. Mar. 3, 1995 **Earl Heywood**. attended a meeting with Paul Steckley, M.P., negotiating Grants for the Hall of Fame.



*Drop us a line.*

**Board of Directors**  
**Wingham Barn Dance**  
**Hall of Fame**  
**Historical Foundation**

**A Non-Profit**  
**Organization**  
Box 443 Wingham,  
Ontario N0G 2W0  
(519) -357-2355

**Earl Heywood**, President Founder  
**Ernie King**, 1st. Vice President  
**Martha Heywood**, 2nd. Vice President  
**Gail Holmes**, Treasurer  
**Sandra Jamieson**, Director  
**John Jamieson**, Director  
**Gary J. Pietrek**, Director

Gerald, Bud, Cruikshank, Advisor  
Don Carter, Advisor  
Johnny Brent, Advisor  
Bob Carbert, Advisor  
Murray Gaunt, Advisor  
H.Hap Swartridge, Advisor