

The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

Vol.6 1995

Summer Edition

Price \$3.95

WILFORD THOMAS "DOC" CRUICKSHANK

POSTHUMOUSLY HONOURED

BY BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME FOUNDATION

Sunday April, 30th., 1995,

the Spirit of "Canada's Largest Traveling Barn Dance" prevailed again and once more made history when Founding Members and supporters of the Barn Dance Hall of Fame Foundation gathered at the Canadian Legion Auditorium in Wingham Ontario.

This time they came to Celebrate the 58th. Anniversary of the Internationally known Barn Dance founded in 1937 by the late W.T."Doc" Cruickshank, a Radio show that became known as the longest lived Radio production of it's kind in the History of Canadian Broadcasting.

Members of the Foundation arrived from various points throughout Ontario to honour the Cruickshank Family and pay tribute to their father who became better known as "Doc", a quiet humble individual who had dedicated his life in helping talented artists become known in Canada's Music and Entertainment industry. Although before his untimely passing he had created a precious and valuable legacy on which the Barn Dance Hall of Fame Historical Foundation was founded. In honour of the Cruickshank family special plaques were awarded to "Doc's" son G.W.Bud Cruickshank of Wingham, and daughter Lois McCall of Brussels, Ont., signifying a tribute in honour of the late Wilford Thomas "Doc" Cruickshank as founder of the original CKNX Barn Dance. Following this presentation a valuable contribution was made to the Barn Dance

Hall of Fame Foundation when May Lavigne donated the first Fiddle Trophy won at the Shelburne Fiddle Contest by her late husband Mel Lavigne in 1951-1952. Eventually the cup will become part of Mel Lavigne's showcase of his illustrious career in his honour of becoming the first Canadian Fiddle Champion at the Internationally known Fiddle contest.



G.W."Bud" Cruickshank and
Lois McCall
Earl Heywood in centre

After a financial report was read by Ernie King, music became the life of the party when musicians participated in the big jam session. The registered list included Laurence Thompson, George Sawadaski, Lloyd Warwick, Al Byers, Lorne Martin, Bonnie Brigant, Gord

Harkes, Lloyd Otterbein, Clare Adlam, Lynn Russwurm, Lloyd Bank, Hugh Elder, Ron Coulthard, Curly Walker, Gord Wall, Mary Hehn, Doris Walker, David Wall, Stan and Joan Purves, Dave Wallace, Bill Templeman, Marce Edith Elliott, Cora Robertson, Ernie King, Gary Pietrick, the Heywoods and others.

Our Board of Directors Thank all who volunteered to make this a happy occasion. *You are invited to the next Friendship Club get together at the Wingham Legion, Sunday Sept., 17th. 1995. Doors open at One p.m. Don't miss it - come for the good times.*

Joke: Did you hear about the four
Irishmen killed while drinking milk?
The cow fell on them.

**Join the
BARN DANCE
FRIENDSHIP
CLUB,
Be part of the
family.**

You are invited to Attend
**OUR ANNUAL
BARN DANCE GATHERING**
Sunday, September 17, 1995

at the
Wingham Legion Auditorium
(Doors open at 1:00 p.m.)
Bring Your Family, Friends & Instruments
Celebrate the 58th. Anniversary
of
"Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance"
"Come and enjoy the good times"

The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Folks:

Our Barn Dance Hall of Fame Board of Directors are particularly proud about mailing out the sixth edition of the Barn Dance Opera Journal.

Without this publication it would neither be economical or possible for us to keep all Members of the Foundation informed about our progress, a policy that was established by this organization when it began only eighteen months ago.

We are most thankful for the support from Hanover Music Centre in Hanover, Sorensons Music Centre in Listowel, Ernie King Music now managed by Dave Wallace of Wingham and Goderich and Fairlight Electronics Inc. of Kitchener, Ontario who subscribed for advertising space to help support this publication.

We hope you will remember these dealers when you make future purchases in music and Satellite Antenna's. All are reliable dealers.

Our Secretary, Sandra Jamieson, is back on the job, presently drafting and computerizing the Membership mailing list, which is a major task. Sandra will also be computerizing a mailing list of musicians and artists. It is important we have details about every performer interested in becoming involved in live productions to be developed in the future. Since we have a problem with incoming mail, please be sure you always include a return address on your letters and make sure you have the right postal code or we may not receive your letter.

Our organization can not be held responsible for cash sent in the mail, the safest way is to send a cheque or money order made out to:-

The Barn Dance Hall of Fame
P.O.Box 68,
Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

If any member should have a suggestion or even a complaint, always feel free to let the Board of Directors know, in writing and please remember to include your signature. We promise to acknowledge in writing and try to take the necessary

The Show must go on!

action to rectify any problems or to give serious consideration to your suggestions.

We are now in the midst of drafting our Constitution and By-Laws which will take several months. More exciting news should follow once this is in place.

Remember I said "*Without Dreams the World Stands Still!*" Complaining or remaining negative will never get the job done, so let us get with it because - The Show Must Go On!

Earl Heywood, President
& Ernie King, Vice President
Barn Dance Hall of Fame
Historical Foundation

Board of Directors
BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME
(A non profit organization)
P.O.Box 68
Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Bill Oja reminds us in 1972 only one percent of our Canadian Artists ever get air play on Canadian Radio Stations. In 1973 the Federal Government's agency Canadian Radio and Television Commission of Ottawa brought in regulations for Canadian Broadcasters to provide listeners and viewers with 30% Canadian content on the airwaves.

It is now more than 20 years since this policy came into effect. Bill goes on to say we have such fine talent here in Canada, we should be nurturing it, protecting it, praising it.

COMMENT: After 20 years and no increase in the 30% Canadian content ruling on Canadian airwaves it is clear the plan is not working and is now obsolete.

Remember the old adage, "You can lead a horse to the water but you can't make him drink", so the sooner the CRTC wakens up to reality and creates incentives rather than making demands of the Broadcasting Stations, the sooner Canadian content will once again dominate the Canadian airwaves. As long as the greater percentage of airplay continues to be foreign content the more damaging it becomes to our Canadian music and culture. Canadian content is the very essence of what creates an image for the country we live in. The way it is now is a disgrace to our country CANADA.

Please give Canadian performers an opportunity to show the world what they have to offer.

Earl Heywood.

The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

TILLSONBURG CABLE SYNDICATES Happy Seniors Television Special A SALUTE TO THE BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME

Rarely do we see local live Canadian talent on Television, but those who are lucky enough to live in the Tillsonburg area can tune in to regular local community programs transmitted from the Shaw Cable Studios where they do feature live talent.

Somewhere back in 1988 Cy Robinson became a member of the Happy Seniors Club when he moved to Tillsonburg, previously he had resided in Goderich and Wingham, Ont., where he experienced growing up in a hot bed of country music. In his early years he followed the legendary Saturday night Barn Dances and then Circle Eight Ranch, Sing Time and other live shows on CKNX Television. This leaves no doubt as to what inspired Cy to create the idea of a Happy Seniors Show for Cable Television.

With the support of the Seniors Club, Cy approached the management of the Tillsonburg Cable about his proposed show. He was immediately offered the Tillsonburg Cable facilities providing the seniors manned all the equipment themselves. Training was provided by studio staff, now the seniors run everything from Cameras, sound, lighting to Graphics by themselves.

Evelyne Matz produces the shows with a TV crew that includes her husband Olaf Matz, Jessie Allin, Julien D'Eon, Mary Goncz, Al Goodlet, Bob and Fran Hewitt, Phylis Honsberger, Frank Lohuis, Verne Reynolds, Helen Wallace and Cy Robinson as host. On their first mission they produced Telethons raising funds for the Tillsonburg Hospital and Senior Citizens Centre.

This year 1995 they produced four one hour long Country Music Specials to Salute the Wingham Barn Dance Hall of Fame, which when built will house the history of our music of Western



Some of the many artists who have performed on Tillsonburg Cable TV Station:
(Top row, left to right) - Singers Tom Maltby and Lois Tillotson with Shirley Maltby on bass, the steel guitarist and fiddler Curley Walker.

(Front row, left to right)- Singers Martha Heywood, Jonny B., Earl Heywood, Bruce Hodgson, Dollie Wilson and George Sawadski.

Ontario, right here in the heart of Canada. The shows will be seen periodically this season relayed by syndication from the Tillsonburg Station Cable System, in Woodstock, Beachville, Innerkip, Sweaburg, Oxford Centre, Ingersol, Strathroy, St. Thomas, Talbotville, Union, Port Stanley, Sparta, Fingal and Shedden.

Performers on these shows were Gerry St. Marie and the Music Makers, Singer Tom Maltby and Shirley on the fiddle, Al Buyers and the Mid Country Troubadors, Lynn Russwurms Jamboree Band with Bill Mankiss and Lloyd Bank, Len Love -; pianist, Roger Long and the Melody Makers, Fiddler Curley Walker, Bob Brabant and the Country Guys and Gals, Lorne Martin, George Sawadaski and Bruce Hodgson, Robert Harris and the Rubber Band, The Tillotson Sisters-

stars of the Newberry Barn Dance and Earl and Martha Heywood.

The Board of Directors of the Hall of Fame Foundation sincerely thank those who volunteered to participate in this event. We hope it kindles further interest in the development of this worthy project.

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EVENTS
Notes 'N News

The Rankin Family from Mabou, Nova Scotia Founding Members of our Barn Dance Hall of Fame project, headlined a tour in Australia and New Zeland earlier this year. On their return they toured parts of the USA promoting their third album -North Country.

John Conway of Harriston, Ontario reports a Beef BBQ and his old Tyme Jamboree hosted by the Optimist Club in Monkton, Ontario, Sunday June 4, 1995. Earl and Martha Heywood helped out with the entertainment.


The children of Vic Pasowisty held a surprise party in honour of the fiddlers 65th. birthday at Soccer City Whitby, Ontario, Saturday, June 10. Bill Mankiss, Lloyd Bank , Lynn Russwurm and the Heywood's dropped by for the celebration.

The Tenth Anniversary of the Grey -Bruce Nusicians Assoc. held their big Jamboree at Chatsworth Canadian Legion Hall on Sunday, June 11th. Dave Chittick, Al Weatherall, Earl and Martha Heywood appeared for this special occasion.

Roger and Donna Long who recently joined our organization staged a great Country and Bluegrass weekend, June 16 , 17 & 18th. at their farm at Route 3, Tillsonburg. Many brought their trailers for the three day event and the St. Williams Jamboree folks sponsored the show.

Stompi'n Tom Conners has been busy writing his autobiography. He is also going back to the recording studio to make more records. Thanks Tom for helping our organization preserve the history of our great Canadian artists. We appreciate your contribution and wish you every success with your book and new recordings.

Whatever you do don't miss the big Jamboree, Sunday, July 9th. at the farm of Al and Alberta Weatheralls, near Owen Sound. They are celebrating their 40th. Wedding Anniversary. Everyone is welcome to come to the celebration. Earl and Martha Heywood and Ernie King plan to participate for this special occasion.

 *Drop us a line.*

Hats off to the Country Classic Reunion in Lindsay, Ontario. This will be the fourth Civic Holiday weekend of entertainment taking place at the Lindsay Fairgrounds on Aug. 4, 5 and 6th. Opening night stars Country Music Legend - Diana Leigh and Saturday night Annita Peras and Larry Mercey, plus a jam packed lineup of other well known artists.

The annual Ghost Town festivities on May 26 in Wroxeter, Ontario featured a livewire group who called themselves POSITIVELY STOMPING now on recordings. The popular MUSIC MAKING MOMS played a show date in Ethel, Ontario, June 11th., and the Guse Family appeared in Hepworth, Ontario on June 16th.

**The Journal Salutes
Tillsonburg Couple**

*The Barn Dance Opera Journal is proud to
acquaint you with
Cy and Ev Robinson
of Tillsonburg, Ontario*



Cy and Ev joined the Hall of Fame Historical Foundation, Friendship Club when it first began in Jan. 1994. They became interested in the idea of a Hall of Fame to preserve the history of our music and performing artists. Since Cy became the Jolly Host of the Happy Seniors Television Show, he engineered on the Tillsonburg Cable System, he came forward with the idea of producing four, one hour long TV shows, to promote the Barn Dance Hall of Fame project on Television. Through a host of local connections along with Cy's grass roots

**Meet Your Friends
at
The Barn Dance Hall of Fame
EXHIBIT
during the
International Plowing Match
in Ayr, Ontario
September
19-20-21-22 & 23 1995**

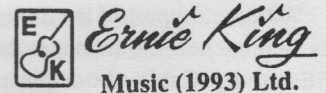
"I am not difficult to please; I am always satisfied with the best."
Oscar Wilde

Irish Blessings

May the sun rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May your roof never fall in
and those beneath it never fall out.
*May you be in heaven a full
half hour before the devil
knows you'r gone.*

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favourite quote or words of
wisdom?*

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of the Wingham area, The original Barn Dance members and his association with the Happy Seniors Productions on Tillsonburg Cable, it has been a major accomplishment. This couple deserves recognition for creating a bond and great friendship among us all and thanks to all for helping to keep our music alive.

*Give a Friend a Gift
of Membership*

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in the Wingham Barn Dance Hall of Fame
Historical Foundation
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