

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone:-

Your Board of Directors have just finished a work filled weekend meeting at which many things were accomplished. Everyone attending the meeting came fully prepared with information, thus many decisions were made. Minor decisions such as our official Logo, letterheads, membership certificates etc., were finalized while more major concerns such as the Barn Dance Format and presentation were fully discussed and "recommendations" were made to be passed at our next meeting.

A proposed "Budget", to be adapted at our next meeting was also prepared, thus our planning strategies are taking shape. It was especially helpful having Bob Carbert as our guest advisor. Bob was the prime mover behind the Ontario Agriculture Museum at Milton, Ontario, and his expertise and experience was a great help in us progressing towards the opening and operation of our Museum.

I would like to thank all for their hard work, patience and perseverance and I feel we are much closer to realizing some of our main objectives.

See you all at our Annual meeting on Sunday April 14th and at the Howick presentation of "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance". Sat. Eve. June 29th

Best regards,

Len Love, President R.P.M.R.



Len Love, President

THE EDITOR'S REPORT

Hello! - Im Ron Coulthard, chairperson of the Publicity and Public relations Committee of our Foundation. This newsletter falls into my basket, and although I'll certainly be calling Earl Heywood, who has been putting it together since the beginning, for his input and guidance, I guess I'm now the official editor. If any of you have any items for our publication, call me at (519) 284-3255 in St. Marys. (I have had a lifetime interest in the Barn Dance, and played for 10 seasons - 1967 - 1977 - on Circle 8 Ranch, as well as other shows. I've always lived near St. Marys, worked for many years as an industrial accountant, and since 1969 I have been Secretary-Treasurer of the Stratford Musicians' Association, of which most of the Barn Dance musicians are, or were, members.)

John Schedler has resigned from our Board of Directors, due to work commitments. To replace John we have persuaded Lois Schistad, who has already proved to be a valuable asset, to join us. Welcome aboard, Lois!

One of Lois' first tasks was to participate in our Board's March 9th, 10th & 11th planning session at Ranton Place in Palmerston. This was no holiday, believe me; we put in a lot of hours, covered a lot of ground, and hopefully made a number of the right decisions in such areas as the Museum, Membership Functions, Barn Dance Shows, Fund Raising, Publicity. Legal and Insurance requirements, etc.

Among other decisions made was that we would have to cancel the May 26th Fiddle Convention mentioned in the last newsletter. There are simply too many things to deal with right now to allow us to do this project justice. We will certainly reschedule it as soon as we can - maybe in the fall. At the fall meeting, we want to honour some of the early pioneer performers on the Barn Dance - more details in the next issue.

One fund raising possibility we considered was the sale of Nevada Tickets. This has great potential for

making money, but would require a suitable high traffic location (anywhere in our membership area) and someone to take it on. Anyone interested ? Call Vice-President Larry Mercey for details at (519) 746-8488

The Blyth Theatre is presenting, as part of the 1996 season, BARN DANCE LIVE! a play about the Barn Dance, running from June 18th to August 23. Paul Thompson, who is writing the play, joined us at our planning session to give us some details. Our Foundation could be involved, we don't know to what extent yet, but the publicity will certainly help to spread the word about our Foundation, and should gain us some more members.

Join the Celebrities Old and New

ORIGINAL CKNX BARN DANCE

For Howick's 140th Anniversary
THE HOWICK COMMUNITY CENTRE
(near Fordwich and Gorrie)

Saturday Night June 29th.

Show time 8:00 p.m. - Dance to follow

Admission \$10.00 per person

For Advance tickets and information
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or Diane Brown (519) 335-6325

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ANNUAL MEETING/ MUSEUM OPENS APRIL 14th!

The Barn Dance Historical Museum will have its official opening at 2:00 p.m. on April 14th, complete with speeches , ribbon cutting, and the grand tour. The museum is in the Wingham Armouries, located behind the Town Hall. Ernie King, Dave Wallace and others have put a great deal of time and effort in preparing the exhibits; obviously we'll have more and bigger displays as time goes on, but it's certainly well worth a look now.

If you can't make the grand opening, the museum will be open on the days when the Town Hall Heritage Theatre shows are presented: May 4th, 25th, & 26th, June 29th, & 30th, September 21st, & 22nd, October 26th, & 27th, and December 14th & 15th.

Tours may also be arranged by appointment - call Dave Wallace at Ernie King Music (519) 357-2811 for details.

Other dates will be announced later. **DO COME & SEE OUR EXHIBITS!**

Incidentally, we will soon have our own dedicated phone number, for the time being located at Ernie King Music; we don't have the number yet, but will give it to you in the next newsletter.

Preceding the opening ceremony, at 1:00 p.m. we will be holding our annual meeting, also at the armouries. *This should just be a short business session; do come and be part of it!*

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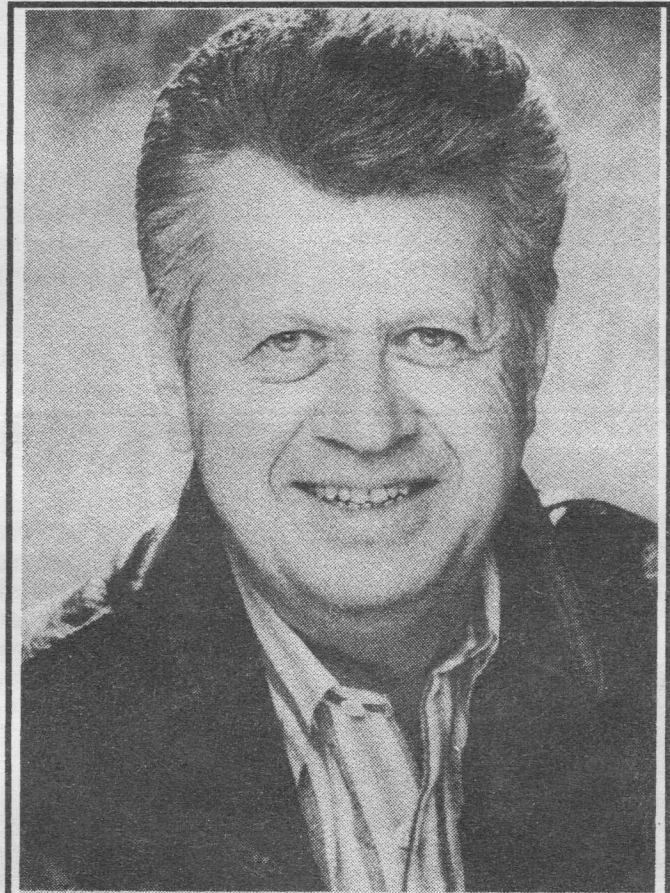
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LARRY MERCERY TOURS EUROPE



LARRY MERCERY

Back in December, our 1st Vice-President and Canadian Music Hall of Famer, Larry Mercey, did a 12 day tour of Europe, playing dates in Holland and Gemany. Larry found that traditional country music is still very popular over there, and some European musicians play it very well. It does get some airplay, and "new country" hasn't yet taken over, although there are some signs that it is coming onto the scene.

Larry did some shows with a band from Holland, and some solo jobs with prerecorded tracks. He found the people very friendly and receptive, and hopes to do another tour over there in the near future.

Larry will be playing some show dates around the area in 1996, and will be hosting bus tours to Branson, Nashville, and the Smoky Mountains.

(Call Hanover Travels Service at (519) 364-3270 for details).

For those who may not have received every issue of the Journal, we can provide you with photocopies of the original publications from Volume (1) up to (8). The fee is \$1.00 per copy for postage and handling.

Place your order with a cheque made out to Barn Dance Historical Foundation, Box 68 Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

The Barn Dance Opera Journal is our official magazine mailed to every one who becomes a Founding Member, four time a year. It's purpose is to keep us united, informed and provide exposure and recognition for our artists, etc. as
Country Song Roundup ... once did.



Howdy Folks:-

Hope you had a Happy Valentine, took in a Saint Patrick's Celebration and now getting dolled up for the Easter Festivities.

Right after Easter, above all, don't forget SUNDAY afternoon April 14th, at 2:00 o'clock for the Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies for the Barn Dance Historical Foundation's Exhibition and Museum of the history of "Canada's Largest Travelling" BARN DANCE. The location, directly behind the Wingham Town Hall, side entrance to the Wingham Armouries and Everyone is Welcome.

Here you will see the WINDOWS OF THE PAST in a colourful Story Book display of talented performers who helped the late W.T. "Doc" Cruickshank create and envision his dream of the popular Saturday night Barn Dance which became the longest lived Radio Show of it's kind in the history of Canadian Broadcasting.

Remember, the Wingham Armouries is a temporary location for our memorabilia show. It is only the first phase towards a permanent structure of it's own for the Hall of Fame and Museum.

I regret we had to postpone the Ole Time Fiddle Convention May 26th. No we were not prepared for it, and need more help. Since it involves showcasting the Art of Ole Time Fiddling I would appreciate Ole Time Fiddlers to forward your name and address and 3 tunes you would like to play. It is not a contest, and if you enter you will be recognized. If fiddlers send this information to me we can maybe stage this event at our 59th. Anniversary Barn Dance Party on Sunday Sept. 29th. at the Canadian Legion in Wingham. It was my pleasure to take in the Tommy Hunter Show when Tommy appeared at the Blyth Festival of the Arts Centre in February. Tommy packed the



EVENTS Notes 'N News



Lorne Veale, the popular Western Ontario Comedian who portrays Walter Brennen has been busy this past winter in Florida. He writes to let us know he also appeared on a couple of Country Music presentations in Lakefield, Florida which featured Johnny Brent as the Master of Ceremonies.

Don Gresham, a faithful member of our organization from far off Murillumbah, Australia, presented with an outstanding award for his 30 years in the world of Country music. Don has recorded 280 songs, a popular recording artist on Sunset, Hadley and Koala records. Don Gresham received his prestigious award in Tamworth, the Country Music Capitol of Australia, on the Anne Conway Show.

Congratulations from our organization on your achievement Don. All the best to you and your wife Noela.

Hank McDonald former celebrity of Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance and his wife Delores tell us they spend their summers in British Columbia, then travel back to Hank's birth place in Auld's Cove, Nova Scotia to spend the winter. Hank is a born traveller having travelled with the Kid Baker Show for several years. He has made numerous recordings but says he still has a soft spot in his heart for the many times he appeared on "Doc" Cruickshank's original Barn Dance.

On behalf of the Members of the Barn Dance Historical Foundation may we extend special congratulations to Cliff Ayrs, publisher and editor of the Music City Entertainer in Nashville, Tennessee, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of your publication. The Barn Dance Journal and Historical Foundation also wish to thank Cliff for reprinting the full page story and picture of our Board of Directors from our Winter Edition of the Barn Dance Journal

place for both performances, and invited me on stage to let the audience know he proudly supports the Barn Dance Historical Foundation.

Another project now underway is the creation of a BOOK OF MEMORIES of THE BARN DANCE, the lives and stories of those who helped make the Barn Dance History. More about the book in the next issue of the Journal. We also have another Big Barn Dance Draw underway for a Queen size Western Star Quilt, to be drawn Oct. 2nd. 1996. Everyone knows we must support to achieve our goals. We are on track and can't get off the bus now.

**THE SHOW MUST GO ON
and You can Help!**

Earl Heywood,

Founder and
Honourary President, Director and Advisor.

.....Events Notes 'N News continued
... in your 25 th Anniversary edition of the Music City Entertainer. Incidentally we note it has distribution throughout the United States, Canada, Hawaii, Vienna, Austria & Germany, etc. Thanks Cliff for helping the Barn Dance Historical Foundation become known in all those places.

Did you know - Larry Mercey, the first Vice-President of this organization started his career on "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance", when it came to his home town, Hanover, Ontario on December 10, 1955.

Drop us a line.



MEMBERSHIP

We Invite You

To Become a member of the
Barn Dance Historical Foundation
by sending your
Name and Address
with the \$20. fee to:-
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Brain teaser

A boy tells his teacher he has "as many brothers as sisters." His sister tells the teacher "I have twice as many brothers as sisters". How many brothers and sisters are there in this family?

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