

The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

Vol. 10 1996

Summer Edition

Price \$3.95

MUSEUM GRAND OPENING A BIG DAY FOR OUR FOUNDATION!

Back on April 14th, as promised, our Barn Dance Historical Museum, in Wingham Armouries, behind the Town Hall, had its grand opening, complete with ribbon cutting, speeches, and lots of visitors. Dave Wallace, who, along with Ernie King and several other helpers, put many hours of work into preparing the room and setting up the exhibits, did a great job as master of ceremonies.

Foundation President Len Love said that the opening was the culmination of a lot of hard work, but that it was just the first phase of a larger project. Expanding on this thought, Founder and Honourary President Earl Heywood expressed the hope that we might some day be able to develop a theme park with camping and trailer facilities, and a barn where musicians and other entertainers can perform.

Dave then introduced Don Carter, Mayor of Wingham, who commended the Foundation members for their work, and promised the support of the town in any way possible.

The next speaker was Paul Steckle, MP for Huron and Bruce Counties, Mr. Steckle let it be known that he liked the genuine country music as broadcast on Doc Cruishank's Barn Dance and radio station CKNX over the years. He also stated that he thought a theme Park with accommodation for tourist trailers sounded like a good future project; he suggested that it should be on a small river or lake.

Gerald "Bud" Cruikshank also spoke, congratulating the Foundation's Board of Directors for bringing the project this far, and wishing us continued success.



Huron County M.P., Paul Steckley, Mayor, Don Carter, Martha Heywood, Earl Heywood and Committee President, Len Love.

The next step was the official opening. The ribbon was cut jointly by Paul Steckle, Don Carter, Martha Heywood, Earl Heywood and Len Love. With all the snippers in action, that ribbon didn't have a hope! The formalities out of the way, everyone toured the Museum, and we heard a lot of favourable comment. We'll certainly get bigger and better as time goes on, and while we will eventually need a bigger display place, the present one will serve for the time being. If you didn't make the grand opening, the museum will be open on the days when the Town Hall Heritage Theatre shows are presented: June 29 & 30th, September 21 & 22, October 26 & 27, and December 14 & 15. Tours may also be arranged by appointment - call our new phone number (519) 357-3021 for details. Other dates will be announced later. Do come and see our exhibits!

You better get your cowboy boots shined up for 1997, for the 60th Anniversary of "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance" Tune up your fiddles and guitars too 'cause plans are now in the making to celebrate 60 years of the Barn Dance Fun in 1997.



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THE EDITOR'S REPORT

Ron Coulthard

**NEW PHONE
NUMBER
(519) 357-3021**

We told you in the last newsletter that we would soon have a phone number for our Foundation, and it is now in service. It still rings at Ernie King Music, but if you call this number Dave Wallace assures us that he will answer with "Barn Dance Historical Foundation"! Dave has or can get for you, information on anything to do with our Foundation - just give him a call!

SPEAKING OF NEW BARN DANCES- by the time you receive this we will have performed the first one - at the Howick Community Centre on June 29th. If you were there, we hope you enjoyed the show, and we would be interested in your comments on format, content, sound quality and other factors. We want to do the old show, sort of, but brought up to the 1990's, and it's hard to know how "NOW" we should try to be. If you didn't get to Howick, we will be doing some more shows, and if any group in your area, would be interested in sponsoring one,

please have them call that new phone number (519) 357-3021 and we'll do our best to accommodate them!

SOUVENIR CALENDAR -

2nd VP Lynn Russwurm and I have put together an 18 month (July 1996 to December 1997) souvenir calendar featuring some great photos of CKNX performers dating back as far as 1937 - the Ranch Boys, The Golden Prairie Cowboys, The Barn Dance Gang, Earl Heywood, Ernie King, Jack Kingston, Clark Johnston, Cactus Mac, and many others. We'll be selling these calendars at various shows and other events in the coming months, and they are available from Ernie King Music Centre and other local outlets. The price is \$10.00, certainly a bargain for the pictures alone.

Lynn and I would like to apologise, in advance, to any performers who didn't make it to the calendar. To meet the printing deadline, we had to use photos immediately at hand, and we just couldn't come up with pictures of some other performers who should have been included.

If you have any good pictures of CKNX artists over the years, we would really appreciate copies for our displays. (Laser copies, available at M&T Instaprint and similar shops, are quite inexpensive and the quality is quite good).

VIDEOS of the BBS TV special re CKNX-TV's 40 Years, and of the February Town Hall Concerts are also available from Ernie King Music. Call 357-2811 or 357-3021!

If you write or use music, take note of SOCAN

SOCAN, Canada's performing rights society, collects license fees from music users and distributes royalties to members — songwriters and music publishers — based on performances of their work. Call or write for information about membership or license fees.



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Did you know one of the great headlines in Country Music in August of 1952 took place in Hensall, Ontario. That was the year the Hensall Chamber of Commerce sponsored an old time Fiddle contest for the Ontario Championship. The contest was open to both Canadian and American fiddlers with big prize money which included the Ward Allen Trophy.

CANADIAN POSTAGE STAMP

Honouring Canadian Fiddler - Possible

Lynn Russwurm, 2nd Vice President of the Barn Dance Historical Foundation has a campaign underway to have Canadian fiddle players commemorated on a special postage stamp series issued by Canada Post. Lynn has petitioned Canada Post with letters of support from various organizations of the music industry in Canada to feature famous Canadian fiddlers on a series of postage stamps. Fiddlers like Don Messer, Ward Allen, (maple Sugar), Al Cherney and others would be eligible if the Stamp Advisory Committee of Canada Post accepts the idea.

Contact - Lynn Russwurm, Box 63, Elmira,
Ont. N3B 2Z5
or phone (519) 669-2386
Fax (519) 669-1814

A book of _____ BARN DANCE MEMORIES

and the complete history of the lives and times of the Barn Dance Folks is forthcoming. Dave Wall and Earl Heywood the founder are working on the book and anyone who was associated with the Barn Dance has something to offer - drop us a line at - Box 68, Wingham, Ont. N0G 2W0

Send us your memories.

Smile Awhile

*Sign on a psychiatrist's office:
"Amnesia patients must pay
in advance".*

BARN DANCE LIVE!

- the Blyth Festival's play about the Barn Dance, written by Paul Thompson, is running from June 18th to August 23rd. None of the original Barn Dance performers are actually in the show, but several are being portrayed by actors, and the author and producers of the show have been interviewing many of the veterans to recreate the Barn Dance era as authentically as possible. I'm certainly curious about how well they have succeeded; I can only recommend that you go and see the show! (For dates, times, prices, etc., call the Blyth Festival at (519) 523-9300.

THE FIDDLERS CONVENTION is coming up at our Barn Dance Party on September 29th, at the Wingham Legion. This was originally planned for a spring get together, but the museum opening forced a postponement. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar, as this should be an interesting day! It will NOT be a fiddle competition, but more of a fiddle concert, featuring several players chosen in advance by our committee, who will be interviewed briefly by our MC and featured on three numbers each - not necessarily the usual, waltz, jig and breakdown. I'm sure that you'll hear some great playing, and get to know something about the performers.

The day will start at 10AM with a fiddle workshop, arranged by Ernie King, until 12.00 Noon. After a lunch break, the concert will start at 1.30PM. Following the concert, we'll have an open hoedown/jam dance party with a couple bands and whoever would like to perform. Food will be available, and there will be a small admission charge for non-members. We're still working out some of the details, but we hope to see YOU there! Don't forget - that's September 29th, at the Wingham Legion!

Philosofacts

If you laugh at yourself, there's hope.

*Kindness is a hard thing to give away.
It keeps coming back to the giver.*

Another feature we had tentatively planned for the fall party, the Pioneer Awards, honouring some of the area's veteran performers, will be held next spring. These presentations deserve more time than they could get if we squeezed them into the September gathering. Stay with us folks, we will get caught up eventually!

Hope all have a great summer, and if we don't meet somewhere in the meantime, we'll see you at the 59th Anniversary Barn Dance Party on September 29th!



JACK KINGSTON died on May 18th at the age of 71, Jack, who was born in St. Catherines, joined the Barn Dance in the late 1940's, and was the first Canadian Country act signed by Capitol Records. Leaving CKNX in 1952, Jack became one of the headliners of CHML Hamilton's Main Street Jamboree, along with Gordie Tapp, the Hillbilly Jewels, and others.

Jack toured extensively, appeared on all the big U.S. shows, including Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, and had some popular recordings - The Springhill Mine Explosion, How Far Is She Now?, The Noronic Disaster, etc.

Jack came back for some of our Barn Dance Reunions in the 70's, and we had hoped that he might join us for some of our new shows

*maybe on some higher stage
someday*

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 (9). 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

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Did you know?

FIRST RADIO VOICE MESSAGE

Reginald Fessenden, from East Bolton, Quebec, was the first person to transmit sounds through radio waves. In 1906, Fessenden transmitted the world's first radio broadcast from his transmitter in Brant Rock, Massachusetts. Sailors in the Caribbean reportedly heard Christmas carols and music, sung by Fessenden himself.

Source: "Farmers' Almanac"

The only job where you start at the top
is digging a hole.

Some minds are like concrete
- all mixed up
and permanently set.

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Howdy Folks:-

While preparing my column for the summer edition of this journal, I suddenly realized June 29th, 1996 is the third anniversary of our Foundation.

As the founder of this institution I personally wish to thank everyone for their support including Margaret Stapelton who introduced the HALL OF FAME project on the front page of PLUS, a supplement of the Wingham Advance Times, dated April 7, 1993.

From this point and time the word has spread. It has never ceased and it never will. The truth about the Original Barn Dance Radio Show founded by the late W.T. "Doc" Cruickshank in 1937 has always been as much of a topic as the daily weathercast or daily news, and because what it was and still is, it will never be forgotten. Without any doubt this Barn Dance Show has merit as the longest living form of Art of it's kind in our Canadian culture, and still continues to make the headlines in the Canadian Music Industry. We who are Canadians should be proud of this achievement. It is - we Canadians who must preserve it.

On April 25, 1991 the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations of Ontario registered the BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME HISTORICAL FOUNDATION as the name of this foundation in my name.

It was June 29th a group of seven Wingham area citizens sat around our kitchen table while Martha put the coffee pot on. Together we organized the first Board of Directors who began the crusade of laying the groundwork to preserve the Barn Dance and it's history. Within two hours we had organized a Fund Raising campaign, unanimously agreed on a Barn Dance Logo that portrayed the image of the BARN DANCE project, arranged to take our exhibit to the International Plowing Match, and begun to campaign for members to join a Membership Club for the Foundation. Two years later this group stashed away \$10,000. in

EVENTS Notes 'N News

Canada's RANKIN FAMILY from Cape Breton began their summer tour at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and continued to other centres in Ontario. Make sure you catch their spectacular performances when they come your way. They are the greatest and - Canadian.

North American Fiddle Champions, Graham and Eleanor Townsend were special guests at the first annual Teddy Bear Fiddle and Step Dance Competition, June 20 and 21 at the Chelmsford Community Centre on Highway 144 north of Sudbury.

Congratulations go out to Canadian singer....

Canadian Corral - continued.....

GIC's and placed it in reserve for a Building Fund as a starter for a Corporate Fund raiser to develop a theme park, a home for Country Music and a Major tourist attraction.

Sunday Sept. 17th, 1995 a twelve member Board of Directors was installed to create a Constitution and spearhead the general plans that were laid down for a Theme Park. As I had promised I would transfer the ownership of the title and the name of this Foundation legally into the hands of the governing body of the Foundation and it's supporting members, this I did.

The name was shortened in the process from and now on make all cheques out to The BARN DANCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, soon to be incorporated. The BARN DANCE HALL OF FAME and MUSEUM - CENTRE OF THE ARTS etc will come under the umbrella of this slightly shorter name of the organization.

Evidently no one entered the LOGO CONTEST to change it's design. What we had in the first place was and is the true identity of our entire project. Let us not lose track of the IMAGE of the BARN DANCE, it is bound to benefit our communities everywhere and a new generation of artists.

We have THE KEY TO IT ALL -
THE SHOW MUST GO ON.

Earl Heywood,

Founder and
Honourary President, Director and Advisor.

songwriter Grant Heywood and those Desert Dolphins who have just signed a contract with Quality Records. Latest news FLASH FLASH FLASH their first release was released to stores across Canada June 21st and will also be released and promoted throughout the United States. Watch the journal for more news next issue.

Get on the band wagon with Earl and Martha Heywood and the Otterbeins and many more. They are all out fund raising for the Barn Dance Historical Foundation. Remember Helen Otterbein, Sandra Jamieson and Martha Heywood donated the money to buy the materials for the quilt and had it made. There will be a big Barn Dance Draw on CKNX AM Radio on October 2, at 11:55 a.m. when someone will win this beautiful Western Star, Queen Size quilt. Tickets may be purchased at \$1. each, 3 for \$2. or a book of 10 for \$7. For more information phone Wingham 357-2355 or 357-3021 or drop in at Ernie Kings Music Store in Wingham.

Earl and Martha Heywood will be in charge of the Barn Dance Memorabilia Exhibit at the Agricultural Museum at Milton, Ontario, Saturday and Sunday, July 21 and 22, and at the International Plowing Match at Selkirk, Ontario from September 17 to 21st.

The 4th. Harbourside Jamboree featuring 18 country bands and performers proved to be a great success at the Thornbury Arena Grounds near Collingwood, and Warton June 15 & 16.

**ANYONE WHO HAS NEWS
FOR THIS COLUMN -
PLEASE DROP US A LINE.**

