

# The Barn Dance Opera Country Music Journal

**Vol. 16 1998**

**Winter Edition**

**Price \$1.95**

## *The Editor Speaks -*

*by Lynn Russwurm*

As the newly appointed editor of the Newsletter, I'd like to mention some of our goals for the coming year. First in the order of business is to get the newsletter back on a proper schedule. We're supposed to be coming out to you on a quarterly basis, around the first of each quarter, to get back on this schedule my aim is to get this one out about the first of February, the next one around the first of April, and we'll be on track again for the Summer issue on June 1st.

I would also like to mention, that the comments of our contributors are not necessarily the views of your editor, but that the contributors have their columns to put forth their own ideas, this is their freedom.

I would like to encourage our readers to submit letters to the editor and if we feel they have merit, we will gladly print them, I'm hoping for a letters to the editor column by the next issue, so come on and help me out. I would welcome your ideas for the newsletter, your ideas for the Barn Dance, your ideas for our association, etc.; tell us what you want to see, what direction you would like us to take. I'm planning to have contests, etc., to get your participation in this project. After all this newsletter is for you.

I'm also planning to expand to at least 8 pages by the next issue, and eventually to becoming a magazine, so we need lots of help. If you have any photos of barn dances past, or any of our artists and would like to share them with us, please let us know. Any photos will be returned if you wish after we have reproduced them, or they will be turned over to our museum. Our main interest will still be preservation of the Barn

Dance, but we would also like to hear about country music in general. Also to the end of expanding, we will need a few advertisers, especially advertisers along country music lines.

Hopefully this will give you some things to think about and please let us hear from you. And oh, yes, we need more people to join the Friendship Club, it's this membership that brings this newsletter to you but to make it viable we need more members. For

memberships, write to: - The Barn Dance Historical Society, Box 68, Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0.

For input into the newsletter, write directly to me:  
LYNN RUSSWURM  
P. O. Box 63,  
Elmira, Ontario  
N3B 2Z5  
(519) 669-2386

## *How Well Do You Know Your Barn Dance?*



Be the first to identify this couple from the Barn Dance in the 1947 season, and you will be eligible for a prize. First letter to give us their names will receive a Barn Dance CD and souvenir 1997 calendar, 2nd will be a Barn Dance cassette and calendar.

Send your entries directly to the editor:

### CONTEST

c/o Lynn Russwurm,  
Box 63  
Elmira, Ontario  
N3B 2Z5

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone!!

Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope 1998 will be as successful and fulfilling as 1997 was.

We will be having another six to eight Barn Dances in 1998, and look forward to seeing all our fans there.

I would like to thank Larry Mercey who was our First Vice President and Musical Director in 1887 for all his hard work. The commitment, time, effort and conscientiousness Larry brought to this organization was tremendous. Unfortunately Larry has had to resign due to work commitments.

Our Annual Meeting will be held in Wingham Legion on Sunday, April 5, 1998. This is where our Board is elected by the membership for 1998.

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## FROM THE STAGE

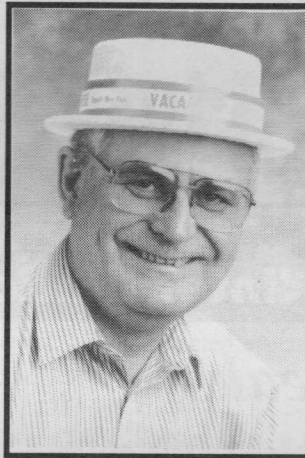
by Wayne Otterbein

I hope everyone out there had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Well, here we are at the beginning of a brand new year, 1998.

One thing for sure, as manager of the CKNX Barn Dance, I won't have time for the January blahs or the February blues. The countdown to the first CKNX Barn Dance of 1998 begins.

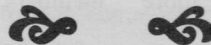
I'd like to welcome Ron Coulthard as musical director and Hugh

by Len Love



Come on out and exercise your vote. Also reports will be presented by this Board, so you can become informed of what the organization is all about.

Until we see you next time, good health, enjoyment and thank you for your support.



Elder as promotions and publicity chairman on the Barn Dance Committee.

I'm still travelling the roads and burning up the phone lines, booking the shows for '98. Dates booked at this time are June 6th in Palmerston for the Hand Car Races, June 20th for the Monkton Lions Club and August 22 the Durham Huskies are our hosts in Durham. Saturday, Aug. 29, the Barn Dance returns to the Stratford Coliseum.

Other dates are booked but the mail strike slowed down communications for verification of dates.

The Barn Dance still has some choice open dates, so if your service club would like to sponsor a show and dance, write or phone today -

**WAYNE OTTERBEIN,**  
Box 2106  
Bayfield, Ontario  
N0M 1G0  
(519) 565-2102

## The Barn Dance Historical Society

P.O. Box 68  
Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0  
Phone (519) 357-3021

### Founder:

Founder, Honorary President, Advisor  
Earl Heywood

### Board of Directors 1997:

President: Leonard Love  
1st Vice-President: Dave Wallace

### Directors:

Ron Coulthard, Betty Dale, Hugh Elder,  
Earl Heywood, Wayne Otterbein, Lynn  
Russwurm, Lois Schistad, June Therrien,  
Jerry Boppre, Shirley Russwurm.

## CHANGES

Several changes have occurred in our Board of Directors. Carl Kuhn has resigned due to health problems and has been replaced by Gerry Boppre for the remainder of his term. Larry Mercey handed in his resignation, citing lack of time due to other business. He is replaced by Shirley Russwurm for the remainder of his term. Dave Wallace automatically moves up to first vice-president.

Several changes also took place in the Barn Dance Band in mid-season 1997 when Bill Mankiss bowed out due to ill health, he was replaced by Mike Slauenwhite on fiddle. Lloyd Bank also resigned and his seat at the steel guitar was taken over by Ron Coulthard.

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**WEEKEND JAMBOREE CAMPOUT**

Mark this one on your calendar. Plans and negotiations are underway for a giant weekend jamboree campout at the Blyth Fairgrounds and Arena, on May 22, 23 and 24, 1998. Tentative plans include weekend camping for the whole family with hydro hook-ups available from Friday night on. Saturday morning to include a free continental breakfast, an afternoon open jamboree starting at 2 o'clock and a full scale Barn Dance for Saturday night at 8:00. Sunday's highlight will be a Gospel Sing at 10:00 in the morning and probably another open jamboree in the afternoon.

This event will be in the form of a membership drive, with special rates for members, yet to be announced. Many details are still to be finalized and you will be updated within the next few weeks.

**TOUR OF CHAMPIONS**

Don't miss the "Tour of Champions" when it comes to your town. Mounted by the Canadian Fiddlers Hall of Fame out of Orangeville, Ontario, and featuring past fiddle champions Victor Pasowisty and Rudy Meeks, also Ed Gyurki added at selected venues. It will be presented somewhere in Ontario on most Sunday afternoons to small town audiences where there is a concert hall available. At this writing the first one has been successfully completed at the Dundalk Town Hall on January 18, 1998. Also featured on the show are Lynn Russwurm and The Barn Dance Band, along with Mike Slauenwhite on fiddle, Lance Russwurm and Molly Whiteduck on vocals and Ron Coulthard on multiple instruments.

Next time around will be at the Blyth Theatre on Sunday, January 25, 1998. See you there!!

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**IN MEMORIAM****IN MEMORY OF  
WALTER REHBERG**

Walter Rehberg passed away on Monday, November 3, 1997 at his residence at R. R. #2, Gadshill, Ontario. He was born 81 years ago in Ellice Township. Walter enjoyed his music and in particular his fiddle. He first played on CKNX Radio when "Doc" Cruikshank name it Station JOKE. Besides being a member of the Royal Canadian Legion in Milverton, he was a member of the Barn Dance Historical Society and leaves to mourn, his wife, the former Ellen Sears and family.

**IN MEMORY OF  
GEORGE MacKAY BEATON**

George MacKay Beaton of Wingham, formerly of Lucknow and a world war two veteran, passed away on Saturday, December 6, 1997 after a lengthy illness at the age of 76. George was born in Elbow, Saskatchewan and leaves to mourn his wife, Flora and family. Both George and Flora were faithful members of the Barn Dance Historical Society and enjoyed the CKNX Barn Dance.

*On behalf of all the members of the Barn Dance Historical Society, may we extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Walter Rehberg and George MacKay Beaton.*

**MIKE SLAUENWHITE,****Newest Regular on  
The Barn Dance**

Mike Slauenwhite joined the Barn Dance Band midway through the 1997 season when it became apparent that Bill Mankiss could no longer carry on due to ill health. Bill was definitely missed, but Mike proved to be a great replacement with his fiddle, especially on the twin fiddle numbers with Victor Pasowisty. We'll be doing a feature on Mike in the near future, so you'll have a better chance to meet Mike.

**BARN DANCE QUILT  
RAFFLE DRAW  
MADE ON CKNX RADIO**

The Barn Dance Historical Society's quilt draw was made on CKNX Radio recently with Glenna Cameron, of R. R. #2, Barrie having the winning ticket. The quilt, a queen-size double wedding ring quilt was made by a Bluevale Ladies Church group. The draw was made on the Bonnie Holliday program, "Voices of Midwestern Ontario" by Gord Dougan of CKNX, on hand was Earl Heywood of the Barn Dance Historical Society. Profits of the draw go toward realizing the goals of the Society.

Earl also noted that there was considerable interest in the society's exhibit at the International Plowing Match again this year.

**BARN DANCE  
SOUVENIRS**

Coffee Mugs -	\$ 5.00 each
Calendars -	\$10.00 each
Barn Dance Cassette -	\$10.00 each
Barn Dance CD's -	\$19.00 each

*(Available by calling  
(519) 357-3021)*



Howdy Folks:

Oh hum, Oh my, it is 1998 and how the time flies. Would you believe it if I told you I was born March 12th, 1917 on a farm on Concession 2, Osborne Township, Huron County. I arrived on earth before the doctor hitched up his horse to the buggy to come to my parents' farm, and when he did arrive he told my parents there would be no grass grow under this child's feet. He was right, and I can vouch for that, for I'm still fit as a fiddle.

I first became associated with CKNX Radio and Television on a remote broadcast on a Saturday Night CKNX Barn Dance, December 5th, 1942 in the Hensall Town Hall. To make it short it was the late W. T. "Doc" Cruikshank who gave me a full time job for life in the field of broadcasting. I was involved in all facets of the business for CKNX Radio and TV, serving a vast area of communities throughout south western Ontario, lasting more than 40 years. The rest is history, valuable to the heritage of Canada and most valuable to the heritage of the many communities of the immediate area it serves. This we cannot afford to lose.

It has been difficult for me to fathom eight years have slipped by since I was one of 25 other Canadian artists nominated by an advisory board of 45 members, and honoured to be inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame. The ceremonies for this event were held on November 1, 1989 in Kitchener's Centre In The Square and was televised by CKCO-TV to millions of viewers.

Immediately following this event an idea formed in my mind that I just had to pursue. It was W. T. "Doc" Cruikshank, owner of CKNX Radio and Television who had spawned more live music through his broadcasting facilities

than probably any other private Radio and Television station in Canada. All this happened right here in Huron County.

I realized I had a wealth of knowledge and experience, why not start a foundation? So I introduced my ideas to our local members of parliament and thank God I did.

Before officially forming a board of 15 Wingham residents as directors to lay the groundwork for a foundation, I had contacted my members of Parliament, advising them I was dedicating the rest of my life to create the Historical Barn Dance into a tourist attraction in Huron County. Their letters were most encouraging that I should carry on. To my surprise, Thursday evening on April 29th, 1993, I was invited to the Clinton Town Hall to attend a presentation. Here I was united with 25 other volunteer workers in Huron County to receive the Governor General of Canada Award, along with a medal. These awards were given in honour of making a significant contribution to Canada, to our community and to our fellow Canadians.

Right now, Dave Wall is co-authoring the Barn Dance Book with me, on the story of "Canada's largest Travelling Barn Dance". Hopefully we may be able to launch this publication sometime in 1999. The story will cover the Life and Times of all the people connected to the Barn Dance, and those who performed on radio and TV at CKNX. We do need help, editing and laying out the book. Anyone interested in giving us a hand, please drop me a line, or phone (519) 357-2355. We're also looking for more memorabilia.

*Remember, the show must go on.*

Earl Heywood,  
Founder,  
Honourary President, Advisor.

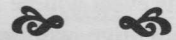
## NEWS, NOTES 'N EVENTS

Rick Jackson, author of the first Encyclopedia of Canadian Country Music, published by Quarry Press, Inc. in Kingston, reports that more than 2,000

copies have been sold in a little over a year since it appeared on the market. Rick is already working on another book, covering a different aspect of the broad dimensions of Canadian country music. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of his Encyclopedia of Canadian Country Music, drop a line to:

Rick Jackson,  
200 Queen Mary Road, Apt. 603,  
Kingston, Ontario K7M 7K4

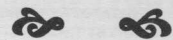
This is a great collection of Canada's greatest stars of country music, with many colour photos and stories of the artists. Before you forget, write to Rick for details.



The Rankin Family from Mabou, Nova Scotia had a busy summer in 1997. After recording their Christmas Album early in the year they were off to New York to appear on a highly syndicated public radio show that is heard on over 400 radio stations in North America. Throughout August, they appeared at the Big Valley Jamboree in Camrose, Alberta and a concert in the Alpine Bow in Whistler, B.C. Then heading east, they played dates in Toronto and Ottawa in Ontario, and finally wound up in Hawkesbury, Cape Breton, N.S. The Halifax Herald sponsored the show, with a fabulous crowd in honour of the Rankin Family, where the fame began. They will embark on another tour in the spring of 1998.



According to the charts, Quality recording artist Grant Heywood and the Desert Dolphins continue to receive airplay across the nation. Grant has persuaded his father, Earl Heywood to go back into the studios and record another album. No doubt this one will feature a song or two by his twin grand daughters, Kianna and Janessa Heywood, only 5 years old. The project is well on the way and with Daddy on it too, it will be 3 generations of The Heywood Family.



*NOTE: Artists wanting mention in this column, please forward your information to Earl Heywood, Box 443, Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0*