

# The Barn Dance Opera Journal

An Official Publication of:  
The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.  
and Entertainment Museum

Vol. 24 2000

Winter Edition

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## CKNX RANCH BOYS -

*A Long and Memorable Career*



THE C.K.N.X. RANCH BOYS (circa 1946). L to R - Don Robertson, Cora Robertson, Freddy Templeman, Archie Mann, Rossy Mann, and Geordie Jordan.

A RANCH BOYS VERSION from the 1960's. Back Row: L to R - Ian McLaurin, Cora Robertson, Rossy Mann, and Geordie Jordan. Front Row: L to R - Hank Bedard and Dan Tiffin.

by Grant Heywood

Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance can also boast Canada's longest running Country group. The CKNX Ranch Boys started around 1940 and retired around 1980. Practically forty years in the music business is no small feat, considering that they also appeared weekly on CKNX's Circle 8 Ranch TV show from 1955 to 1978, a run of twenty-three years. Many band members came and went, but the Ranch Boys just kept on performing. Their huge following spread to every corner of Southwestern Ontario.

Ernie King was a long time, popular member of the Ranch Boys and I had the pleasure of interviewing him at his fiddle/guitar studio in Ingham. This is the first part about the Ranch Boy's long history and illustrious career.

**When did the Ranch Boys get started and who were the members?**

The Ranch Boys Began around 1940 with Claire Adlam, Freddie Templeman, Cecil Merkley, Cora and Don Robertson, with Rossie Mann joining later. I joined around 1948.

**What were the various member changes over the years?**

Well, the basic changes were when Maurice Bolero and Slim Bouncer stayed for less than a year. Next came the longest-running version with Reg Bitton, Rossie and Archie Mann on fiddle, and Don and Cora Robertson and myself. Then Hughie Elder, Hank Bedard, and Bruce Robertson made up the fourth generation of Ranch Boys.

**How often would you play at the height of the band's career?**

It was pretty much a full time job. We were playing six days a week - all one-nighters. London Arena was a favourite venue where we performed with the Paul Trio. We played twenty years at the Sauble Beach Pavilion with line-ups every night.

**How did the Ranch Boys become affiliated with CKNX?**

We played nightly at various places from Windsor to Tobermory to Toronto, but every Saturday night was reserved for the CKNX Barndance. There were always two bands that performed every Saturday night - the Ranch Boys and the Golden Prairie Cowboys.

**What would a typical evening with the Ranch Boys be like?**

It was just like a variety-country show. We had duets, trios, and quartet harmonies. Usually Don, Rossie, and myself would sing together and solo. Archie Mann played bagpipes and Rossie and Reg would entertain with slapstick comedy, and Geordie Jordan was our square dance caller.

**How did Rossie come up with the name for the Black Velvet Waltz?**

Rossie used to call it the No-Name Waltz after he had written it. After we were finished playing one evening, we were sitting around relaxing with a few drinks and Reg admitted he was tired of the name and held up a bottle of Black Velvet and the rest is history.

**Did you have a big following with a lot of fans?**

We always had a regular following. We were amazed at how far people would travel to come to our dances. We used to get a lot of fan mail especially after we began to appear on Circle 8 Ranch on TV. We got a lot of fan mail with a lot coming from Michigan.

## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



The year 2000 is finally here. Boy, have we seen a lot of changes over the last century. In fact, the last year alone had enough changes, what with corporate mergers, cutbacks, downloading ... downsizing ... reloading, unloading, outbacks, downshifting, bottom line, bottom feeders, bottoms up ... Phew!! I've bottomed out. Enough already.

With a bright new future ahead of us, let the politicians wallow in all that technical jargon of their own making. The best way to brighten up a brand new year, or, for that matter, a brand new century, is to rise up out of your chair. That's right, just get up to your feet, go directly to the nearest window and throw up the sash, and yell out to the world: "I'M MAD AS HELL, AND I WANT TO HEAR GOOD COUNTRY MUSIC."

Phone your radio station, and demand more country music on the airwaves. Better still, get out of town to hear and enjoy the REAL thing, at the next Barn Dance show, in your area. You'll be so glad you did when you realize that you're supporting local talent, young and old. The stress will leave your body relaxed and comforted as the true country sounds from the Barn Dance stage performance, soothe your country heart and soul.

Heck! All of this could be FREE, for some lucky couple, if they know the right answers to our Barn Dance 2000 Contest.

All you have to do, is answer 2, that's right, 2 not-so-hard, skill testing questions, and you and a friend could be going to see the next "LIVE" performance by Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance, featuring: Marie Botrell, April 29th, 2000, at Kitchener's Bingeman Park, in Marshall Hall.

### \* CONTEST \* CONTEST \* CONTEST \*

Contest Rules are as follows:

**FIRST PRIZE:** Two tickets to the Barn Dance show/dance, featuring Marie Botrell and guests, April 29, 2000, at Marshall Hall, Bingeman Park, Kitchener, Ontario. Plus - two free CD's of the Barn Dance, Volume 1 and 2.

**RUNNER UP PRIZE:** Two souvenir Barn Dance ball caps, with adjustable backstrap. (black only)

**TWO SKILL TESTING QUESTIONS:**

1. Name any two (2) fiddle players who have won at least once at the Shelburne Old Time Fiddle Contest, and have also performed on the Barn Dance.

2. What do Gordon Lightfoot, Tommy Hunter, and Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys all have in common regarding the Barn Dance.

Send your answers by mail, include your name, address, and phone number, on the answer sheet. Mail your answers to: Grant Heywood, R. R. #2, Wellesley, Ontario N0B 2T0.

All correct answers will be held for a random

draw, to be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, in Wingham, Ontario, on Sunday, April 2, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. You may attend the draw, if you wish. In the event that only 1 question is answered correctly by all contestants, then only the First Prize will be awarded, without a runner-up prize. This contest is not open to anyone associated with the Barn Dance Historical Society, Board of Directors, and/or performers and musicians of the Barn Dance productions.

GOOD LUCK to all the entrants, and get your answers in as soon as you can.

Information and opinions regarding the newsletter, can be sent to:

Grant Heywood  
R. R. #2, Wellesley, Ontario  
N0B 2T0  
Phone/Fax: (519) 656-2552

We'd like to hear from you, about your ideas for news stories, or just to let us know how we're doing.



## The President's Report

by Wayne Otterbein

On behalf of the Barn Dance Historical Society Board of Directors, I wish you, one and all, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Welcome to the new millennium.

You will be reading this report in early January. The holidays will be over and routines will return to normal. I always feel a little let down in January and February because it becomes so quiet after all the bustle of the holiday season.

Work is still continuing in earnest to try to re-situate the museum and I hope to have news very soon about some new displays donated to the museum and even maybe news concerning a new location. The Barn Dance show Committee is busy putting the 2000 schedule of shows together. "Something New", our new web site is in the designing stages - www.barndance.on.ca. This should be running by early January. Anyone with access to a computer and the Net will be able to keep abreast of recent barn dance news.

The Barn Dance Historical Society continues to receive new memberships monthly and I thank everyone for their support. Our next annual meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2000, at the Wingham Legion at 1:00 p.m. I encourage all members to attend the most important meeting. I invite you to have a say in the workings of your society - if only to meet and enjoy new friendships.

I know this sounds like a broken record but our committees are in need of more help. If you can help us at one of the functions, with setup, or souvenir table, or cleanup, please give me a call.

I thank everyone again for being a member and if you have anything to comment on, drop us a line or phone me personally at (519) 565-2102 or use e-mail in the new year.

## The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

P.O. Box 68

Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 357-2160

(or leave a message)

BARN DANCE WEBSITE:

<http://www.barndance.on.ca>

Earl Heywood

Founder, Honourary President, Advisor

### Board of Directors 1999:

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John Heaman, Hugh Elder.



## FROM THE BARN DANCE MAILBAG

Dear Grant:

After reading your report on Don Messer and Marg and Charlie, I decided to send you what information I have on them.

They are the ones who made my song, "The Rose Upon The Bible", a hit, in 1969-70. My royalties were only 2½ cents per record sold. Along with performance rights, I received \$1,500. on that one song alone. I'm surprised someone else didn't pick it up after they passed away. It was out on four different labels.

Every Mother's Day, Marg and Charlie were sure to sing it on TV. And of course, other artists were singing it also, on other days on the radio. It was a top number, as a sacred song.

Earl probably has a news item on my induction into the country music 'Hall of Fame', in 1984, so I won't include it. I will underline the data you need, on Marg and Charlie and Don.

My, how I miss them.

Sincerely,  
Geraldine Copeland

*EDITOR'S NOTE: We will hopefully try to include this information in a future edition.*

# IN MEMORIAM

**CLARENCE PETRIE** - Passed away in Stratford, Ontario on Monday, August 30, 1999. If ever there was a Country and Western artist who worked out of the Festival City who played a good rhythm guitar and sang a good country song it had to be Clarence Petrie. For many years Clarence and his popular band the Nighthawks, filled the dance halls throughout Southwestern Ontario, everywhere they performed. Clarence Petrie and the Nighthawks will long be remembered for their genuine style of Country Music.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BOB WOOD** - Popular accordion artist passed away in Kitchener, Thursday, September 23, 1999. Bob was born near Burns Lake, British Columbia, April 5, 1935. It was here he began his career in a 5 piece orchestra.

Through time he organized his own band. In the late fifties he played a series of one nighters in the Western provinces. By 1958, he had arrived in Wingham, Ontario,

and landed a job on CKNX television, as a writer of commercials, and a musician. Bob was often seen on TV Focus, and Western Roundup as a featured accordionist on Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance. In 1961, he joined the CTV network on a popular Country Music show. Shortly after, he moved to Kitchener with his wife and family. Bob Wood leaves to mourn, his wife, the former Mary Runstedler, 3 boys - Mark, Chris, Wayne, and one daughter, Calarie. Prior to his passing, he had donated his fancy Western attire to the Barn Dance Hall of Fame and Museum, in Wingham.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MILT SATCHELL** - Passed away on Sept. 13, 1999. Milt was an active musician all his life. When he reached his 90th birthday in April, he was still entertaining with his violin at area nursing homes. Carrying on the musical tradition, Milt's son Randy is well known as a country singer/songwriter and guitarist around the area. Randy's new CD "Memories" is befitting of the classic coun-

try sound and definitely worth a listen. Call (519) 346-9481 for a copy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GORD BLECK** - Passed away in November of 1999. Gord, was from Huron Park, and was a well known guitar and bass player in the area as well as a member of 'The Barn Dance Historical Society'.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WALT MAYNARD** - Passed away on November 25, 1999. Walt was an accomplished musician at just about anything he got his hands on, including fiddle, acoustic guitar, steel guitar and bass. He was a member of the ever-popular bluegrass group "The Dixie Flyers". Walt also played on many recordings and performed on a regular basis. He played in a group with Richard Knechtel of Walkerton, for several years as well. Walt will be missed by his family, friends and many colleagues. Walt was only 46.

*On behalf of the members of the Barn Dance Historical Society, may our deepest sympathy go out to the families of those listed above, who were associated with our Foundation.*

## WINNER OF THE ANNUAL QUILT DRAW 1999

The annual draw for a Queen Size Quilt has never ceased to be a highlight of our Barn Dance Memorabilia exhibit at live Barn Dance Shows, our annual Campout Jamboree in May at Blyth, the Annual Old Tyme Fiddle Convention held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Wingham each year and the Annual International Plowing Match coming up this year 2000 on Sept. 19 - 23 near Fergus and Elora, Ont.

The Flower Garden Quilt created in 1999 by a ladies group in Zurich, Ont., was another great fund raiser for the Barn Dance Historical Society. More than 2,000 tickets were sold in 1999. The money is spent on keeping this organization alive and for the development of a Barn Dance Hall of Fame and Museum.

The winning ticket for the 1999 draw was held at the Studios of CKNX Radio under the supervision of Earl Heywood, Honourary President and Founder of the Barn Dance Historical Society. This draw was conducted by Bonnie Holliday of CKNX Radio. Murray Gaunt, farm editor of CKNX Radio, drew the winning ticket, Wed., November 17th at 12:05 noon

1999.

The lucky winner of the Flower Garden Quilt was Jean Bernard of R. R. #2, Thorndale, Ontario.

Now another group of ladies in Bluevale are in the process of quilting another quilt for the annual draw in November 2000.

See us at our chain of events where you can buy a ticket on the draw. Maybe you could be a winner in the year 2000.

## Don't Forget.

Membership Renewals are actually due Jan. 1, 2000, but with the busy holiday season, delays and such, we're extending that deadline to Feb. 1, 2000. Please try to get your membership updated as soon as you can, so we can keep you updated on recent activities and future events.

Thanks

## HELP!!

### Attention All Members!!

We are looking for volunteers to help organize the Barndance Campout Jamboree in Blyth on May 26, 27 & 28, 2000. We could use some more committee members and we need lots of help the weekend of the campout itself. This is your chance to get a behind the scenes look at the makings of a Barn Dance! If you or any of your friends and family can help, please call

Bill Simmermaker at  
(519) 579-4983.

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# 4th Anniversary of Canada's Ole Tyme Fiddle Convention - 1999

The history of this event actually began as a Barn Dance Reunion in the fall of 1993 and 1994. It would be that one time in the year Barn Dance fans could meet and enjoy a family get-together with friends who enjoy country music and the good ole days. It is also a fund raiser and opportunity for new artists to present their talents and be recognized.

This year's show held on October 3, 1999 at the Royal Canadian Legion

in Wingham was another success.

The show opened with the Ole Tyme Fiddle Concert with Grant Heywood and Joe Carter, from CKNX, emceeing the shows. First on on the show was the Barn Dance Fiddlers. Vic Pasowisty of New Hamburg and Mike Slauenwhite of Kitchener; then Stan Purves of Hanover, Johnny Heaman of Point Clarke, Randy Morrison of Toronto, and Bill Irving of Mitchell.

Anne Dirvins School of Dancing from Hanover presented Crystal Tobin, an award winner from Harriston, and Angela Hauck of Teeswater. Also instrumentalists and vocals by Carolyn Batte and her sister Lacie Batter of Wroxeter.

Those who performed on the Search for Talent Show - Hayloft Hoedown - were fiddlers: Norman Priebe of Michigan, and John Lang, of Richmond Hill, Ontario; Vocalists included Bruce Hodgson of Delhi, Gordon Harkes of Clinton, Crissy Obrien of Stratford, the Otterbein Family, Wayne, Lloyd and Jim, Earl and Martha Heywood, and singin' songwriter piano player Joan Purves of Hanover.

Gordon Martin won the 50-50 draw and donated a fair share to the Society.

The highlight of the show was Michael T. Wall, the Singing Newfoundlander, his daughter Sabrina, and friend Jesse Paul.

Ernie King held a seminar on fiddle strings. Dave Wallace supplied the PA system.

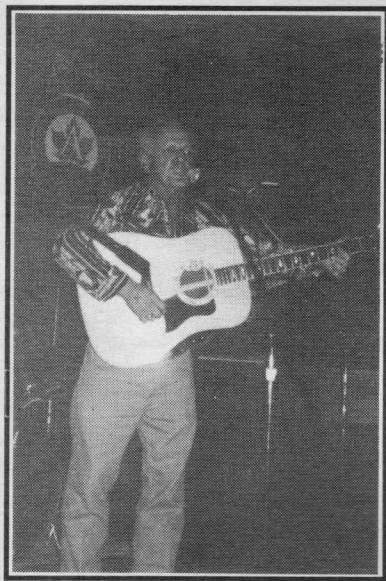
Volunteers included: Beth Elder, Pearl Hodgins, Lois McNally, Dave Wall, Bill Leach, Joyce Steurnal, Verna Steffler, Marg Cook, and Martha Heywood.

Also the backup musicians included Al Widmeyer, Hugh Elder, Royce Riehl, and Ron Coulthard.

Hope we didn't miss anyone. All had a good time.



*C.K.N.X. Radio personality, Joe Carter (centre) helped emcee a portion of the fiddle convention show. Joe is sandwiched between Michael T. Wall, the "Singing Newfoundlander" (left) and Earl Heywood, the "Singing Cowboy" (right).*



*Singer guitar player, Bruce Hodgson entertains the folks, just to give them a breather from all that fiddlin' around.*



*Fiddlin' favourites, Barn Dance Band personalities, from left to right are: Randy Morrison, Mike Slauenwhite, and Victor Pasowisty.*



*Joan and Stan Purves, pictured here with Earl Heywood. Joan is a singer/songwriter, and piano plyers. She also wrote and recorded, "The Hanover Waltz". Husband Stan, is the fiddle player, and pretty darn good at it too.*



*Three generations of Otterbeins. From left to right: Lloyd on dobro guitar; Jim on acoustic guitar, and Wayne pickin' and singin'. (It looks like Wayne has 2 left fretting hands. How does he do that?)*

**FROM THE STAGE**

**WAYNE OTTERBEIN,**

*Show Manager*

2000 is going to be a great year. The Barn Dance Society and the Barn Dance Gang will be on the road again.

On April 29, 2000 we're looking forward to doing a big show and dance at Marshall Hall in Bingham Park located on Victoria St., Kitchener. We'll be teaming up with CHAM Radio, Hamilton for this extravaganza.

Our annual Jamboree Campout will once again be held at the Blyth Arena Complex during May 26 - 28. This will be the Society's annual membership drive and Entertainment Museum fund raiser.

The Barn Dance will also be performing at the Tara Community Centre, Aug. 5, 2000. The Barn Dance Gang has been invited to be part of the Sidewalk Sales in Forest, Ontario, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Forest, who will also be hosting a barn dance on Saturday night, August 12 in the Forest Arena.

Anyone out there who knows of a Service Club or Community who would like to host a barn dance in the near future, please drop us a line. You will be able to find our up to date show dates on the Net and our web site is [www.barndance.on.ca](http://www.barndance.on.ca). File these dates and we'll provide an update in our April newsletter.

So long for now.

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 \* **THE BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY** \*  
 \* **WILL BE ANNOUNCING UPCOMING** \*  
 \* **APPEARANCE DATES FOR THIS YEAR IN A** \*  
 \* **SPECIAL MAIL OUT FLYER IN** \*  
 \* **MARCH/APRIL.** \*  
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 (black only)
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**Memories in & Around Toronto of  
 Country Music in the 50's - plus**

**by Doreen Brown**

In the 1950's, bands had no drums. At that time, there would be 4 or 5 people in a band. Starting time was 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The band would start on one side of the room and then move over to another location after 12:00 o'clock.

There was no P.A. system until later years. They used a system called Muzak. This music was also supplied for in between sets, until PA systems arrived.

There was no dancing in the bars. People came and listened to country music and that was what made it pleasant. No crude language was allowed.

There were jamborees at Crang Plaza, The Log Cabin, Kingsway Club, Palace Pier, Thornhill Farmers' Market, and Johnny Elashes's at the Polish Hall on Queen Street. A musician would get about \$2.00 for playing on a jamboree.

In those days, local bands were, to name a few, Brady Bros. - Bill Long, Slim Rose, Bunty Petrie, Chef Adams; Siebert Bros. - Bill Long, Jack Kingston; Western Sweathearts, June and George Pasher, Wally Dean, Bob Gillen, King Ganham and Diana Leigh.

On Queen Street, Fred Roden's Record Corral was a meeting place for entertainers on

Sundays to have jam sessions. It was so much fun.

Then there was the night spots: Horseshoe Tavern, Brass Rail, Famous Door, Brown Derby, Silver Dollar, 300 Club, Edison and El Mocambo.

Radio played a big part. CHUM and CHML used to be country.

During those times, entertainers were laughed at if they walked down the street wearing a cowboy hat and boots and carried a guitar. The Horseshoe attracted many bands, local, as well as across Canada, such as Stompin' Tom Connors, Chef Adams, Al Hooper, Johnny Burke, Prairie Dawgs (Wes Chapman), and many others.

Later, American musicians arrived, such as Waylon Jennings, Ferlin Huskey, Bill Monroe, Mac Wiseman, The Stonemans, Jimmy Dickens, Dottie West, Jim Ed, Maxine and Bonnie Brown, and many more.

Pleasant memories remain with many people of the bus trips to Nashville, TNN and Wheeling, WV, from the Horseshoe to the Ryman and Wheeling. Some readers will remember the tour guides, "Aunt Bea" and "Juanita Garron", mother of country music, who have been of tremendous support to entertainers on both sides of the border.

**HANK SNOW, THE 'SINGING  
 RANGER' DIES AT 85**

Born in Brooklyn, Nova Scotia, near Liverpool, Clarence Eugene Snow is undoubtedly the biggest country music legend to come out of Canada. He soon became inspired by Jimmy Rogers, and began performing on radio and across Canada, at an early age. He signed with RCA Victor Records when he was in his early 20s, a contract that spanned nearly 50 years.

Hank moved to the US about the mid-1940s, played the Grand Ole Opry regularly, and penned his first No. 1 hit, "I'm Movin' On" in 1950. It was No. 1 for almost a whole year, and was followed by 40 more Top 10 hits, like "I Don't Hurt Anymore" and "I've Been Everywhere". He sold an estimated 70 million records, and penned over 800 songs. In 1979 he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, in Nashville

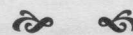
In 1996, Hank returned to the Opry stage, after a 7 month absence due to ill health, and received a standing ovation. Hank once said, "When you've got country music fans, then you've got friends for life."

Hank is survived by his wife Minnie B. Snow, son, Jimmy Snow, and sister Marion Peach of Nova Scotia. The legend continues on, with the great volume of country music he has left for us to enjoy.

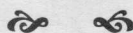
Thanks Hank. We'll miss you old buddy.

**NEWS, NOTES 'N EVENTS**

Tommy Hunter, Canada's Country Gentleman, and his Travelin' Men, will be playing concert dates across Canada beginning January 7th in Vancouver, B.C., and five other dates in that province. Then on to Calgary, Medicine Hat and Red Deer, Alberta. Tommy has five more dates to perform in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, plus 12 cities in Ontario and four more dates in the Maritimes. Tommy's final date in rural Ontario is Blyth, Ontario on February 13th.



The International Plowing Match at Dashwood in September 1999 was the biggest success since it was founded in the early 19 hundreds. More than 70,000 people attended this event. One of the major events at this Plowing Match was the presentation of "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance".



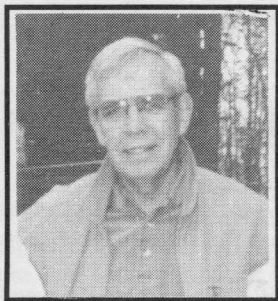
Richard Knechtel from the Walkerton area has released his latest CD "Home and Away" on his Greentree label. Musical diversity prevails on this disc which includes an all star cart of musicians like, Wendell Ferguson, Ken Whiteley, Ian Tambllyn, David Woodhead and James Gordon. Recorded at Jay Riehl's Signature Sound Studio, this is great music from a seasoned professional.



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

# Just Fiddling Around . . .

with Bill Oja



Up and coming fiddlers from Brampton, **ERIKA**, (11), and **PATRICK** (9) **WIELER**, are congratulated on their success at the Collingwood Fair Fiddle Contest by Canadian Stepdance Champion of Orangeville.



Fergus' famous fiddling **WOODS FAMILY**, and their band were the featured act at the Callander Canadian Legion benefit. Left to right: **Merv**, **Scott**, **Kendra**, **Bruce**. The good looking one on piano is mom, **Carolyn**.



At the Wingham Legion Fiddle Fest, contributing their talents were **LLOYD OTTERBEIN** on dobro and son **WAYNE** on vocals.

## FINALLY!!!

After 11,000 signatures on a petition and some 22,000 cards to Shelia Copps, our Heritage Minister, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has agreed to start playing Canadian fiddle music on C.B.C. radio. They have asked Canadian fiddle recording artists to send their c.d.s with bio, to: Sandy Mowat, "Ontario Morning", CBC Radio One, Box 500, Station A Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6

**IMPORTANT:** The only way we can keep the CBC playing our music is to get our friends and neighbours to send cards / letters or phone calls to the CBC mentioning that they've heard the music and how much they enjoy it. Ontario Morning is aired between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. weekdays.

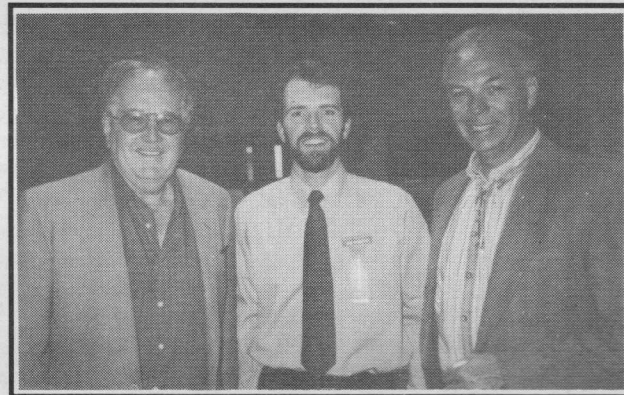
For those of you who have access to the internet you can get the FM frequency for your local area off their web site [www.toronto.cbc.ca](http://www.toronto.cbc.ca). Unfortunately this program is only in Ontario, but it's a start.

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e-mail [ontariomorning@toronto.cbc.ca](mailto:ontariomorning@toronto.cbc.ca)

There are some interesting developments in our attempts on getting a Don Messer type television show. We'll bring you up to date real soon, hopefully with some good news.



The Wingham Legion was the site of this year's Fiddle Test, where fiddlers **MIKE SLAUENWHITE** gives us a few bars of "Mason's Apron" capably backed by **GRANT HEYWOOD**, **ROYCE RIEHL**, and **RON COULTHARD**.



Three reasons why the Aberfoyle Fiddle Contest runs so smoothly are shown here in organizer **MIKE WEINSTEIN**, (C), with top fiddle judges, **JIM FLANIGAN** of London, and **DOUG McNAUGHTON** of Stratford.



**ERNIE KING** co-ordinated the workshop at the Fiddle Fest and is showing a brand new model of fiddle to Watford fiddler **BECKY GEERTS**, 12.



**MURIEL DAY**, President of the Collingwood Fair presents the Graham Townsend Trophy to fiddle contest winner **JAMES BICKLE** of Tavistock. Keeping James on his toes were runners up **MARK SULLIVAN**, **SHANE COOK** and **MATHEW JOHNSON**.

## COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- \* **Opry Toronto**, bringing classic country music to the big city, every Saturday 1 to 5 p.m. (except holidays) Jamboree - MC Jack Look, all musicians, singers and fans welcome. Silverthorn Legion (Rogers Road and Silverthorn), (416) 553-6757. Entertainers free, hot and cold drinks and food available.
- \* **Opry Orillia**, Sundial Rest., and Galaxy Lounge, Orillia, Jan. 22, Feb. 19 and March 18.
- \* **Moose Lodge**, Lakeshore and 39th St., Long Branch presents an Old Tyme Country Jamboree, 3rd Sunday of every month from 2 to 6 p.m. Entertainers Free admission, hot food and drinks For further info, call (416) 255-8375.
- \* **Appearances** - Rod's Country Classics at Alton Legion 2nd Friday; Erin Legion 4th Sunday; and at the Moose Lodge, Lakeshore and 39th St., Long Branch, 3rd Sunday.
- \* **Fergus 'Night WI' Burns**, Sat., Jan. 22,

Royal Can. Legion, Fr. 3275, 500 Blair St., Fergus. Following performers: tenor Bill Ennis, McLeod returns with group The Four Fiddlers, led by Scott Woods, also in group James Bickle, Shane Cook and Mark Sullivan. For tickets call, Joe Gerrie (519) 843-1926.

\* **Welcome to the St. Williams Jamboree**, every 4th Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

\* **Chef Adams presents Maple Leaf Country Jamboree**, Jan. 9, 2 to 6 p.m., Newmarket Veterans Assoc., 406 Millard St., Newmarket. Also Feb. 6 and March 5. This location is temporary until the legion on Srigley St. is repaired, due to fire damage.

\* **Jenny & Josie**, country music recording artists will be appearing at Jubilee Pavilion, Oshawa, Jan. 22 and at Halton Naval Club, Burlington, Feb. 13.

\* **Bring your Musical Instruments** out to the jamboree at Club 86, east of Listowel, the last Sunday of each month. Shows starts at 1:30 p.m. All welcome!!

\* **Join Johnny Mostoway** and his band at "Adventures on the Grand", the first Sunday of the month at 147 River Road, Paris.

\* **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - Jan. 9, Maple Leaf Country Jamboree, Newmarket; Jan. 16, Moose Lodge, Lakeshore, Opry Toronto; Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29, Erin Jamboree; Jan. 23, Feb. 12, Benefit for Cancer Society, Lakeshore and Brown's Line, Toronto; Feb. 13, Collingwood Legion; March 5, Maple Leaf Country Jamboree, Newmarket.

\* **Keepin' Traditional Country Music Alive**, with Geordie's. Traditional country music jubilee, Royal Can. Legion, Br. 356, 21 East St., Sutton, Jan. 30. For further info, call (705) 348-3417. All welcome.

\* **Grand Valley Jamboree** is the first Sunday of the month in arena, upstairs, 8:00 p.m. Sept.

to June. Pot luck, all welcome. For further info, call Eddie at (705) 734-4229.

\* **February 12 Valentine Dance** and Benefit for Canadian Cancer Society, Dinner at 7:30. \$20.00 per person, entertainment by John Prince and A Piece of the Rock, at Moose Lodge, Hwy. 27 and Brown's Line, Toronto. For tickets, call Wilf Cook at (416) 234-8656. Tickets were sold out for the Harvest (Maritime) Dance in Nov.

\* **Appearances by Len Murphy**, (of Caribou Country Productions) are Jan. 22 Opry Orillia; Jan. 30 Geordie Grey's Jubilee; and Opry Toronto every Saturday.

\* **The Collingwood Legion** now has dances every Saturday night with country music entertainment.

\* **Bring your musical instruments** to the Barrie Legion 3rd Sunday of every month, at 1:00 p.m. St. Vincent and Cundles Streets.

\* **Kawartha Old Tyme Music Assoc. Dance**, 105 Lindsay St. S., Fenlon Falls, 3rd Saturday of month, 3 p.m. Sept. to June. For info, call Woody Jones (705) 734-3100.

\* **Havelock Hootenany**, Town Hall, 3rd Saturday of month (except July and Aug.)

\* **Collingwood Jamboree**, 4th Saturday. Call Len Carr (705) 778-5176. Masonic Temple, Front Street.

\* **Cobourg Jamboree**, 111 Hibernia St., 2nd Saturday of each month. For info call Amos Jones (905) 372-7690.

\* **Kyle Brandon**, who recently performed at Opry Orillia as well as Opry Toronto, has won the 1998 Male Country Vocalist of the Year award at the Canadian National Exhibition and recently took the same trophy home for 1999. Kyle will also be part of the performance at: The Stars of the 21st Century, Mon., April 3, at Stage West Theatre Restaurant, 5400 Dixie Rd., Mississauga, with Sarah Pacheco and Friends, namely, Mathew Arron Dusk, Britany Anny Arrigo and Kristin Arrigo. For tickets, call 1-800-263-0684 or (905) 238-0042. Dinner and show \$29.95 per person.

*NOTE: Happy Holiday Wishes for the year 2000 and an abundance of love, happiness and health and God bless!!*

*The Barn Dance Society and Entertainment Museum  
is proud to present*

## BARN DANCE 2000

*featuring:*

**MARIE BOTRELL, and Special Guests,  
with The Barn Dance Band,  
and The Millenium Cowboys.**

### APRIL 29, 2000

Show from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Dance to follow.  
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### HOWDY FOLKS:

By the time you read this 24th volume of the Barn Dance Opera Journal, a whole new century will have arrived. We've seen more progress in the last 100 years than we've witnessed over the course of the last 1000 years.

Speaking of progress. This was a subject that the late W. T. "Doc" Cruickshank used to talk about at the annual CKNX staff Christmas party. Doc was a firm believer in the progressive approach. He always

told the staff that positive thinking was the road to success.

People of the Southwestern Ontario broadcast area and especially citizens of the Wingham area, are beneficiaries of the legacy left by "Doc" Cruickshank's success.

Had it not been for the foresight of the late W.T. "Doc" Cruickshank, whose voice was first heard over the airwaves as Station J.O.K.E. in February 1926, the town of Wingham may have never become internationally known as the Radio and Television Town of Canada. For this reason, the town of Wingham is sitting on a golden opportunity that will definitely promote a premier tourist attraction here in the heart of Southwestern Ontario.

Also: A word or two about the Barn Dance Book. The history of Canada's largest travelling barn dance, the life and times of W.T.

"Doc" Cruickshank are focused in the book, which also includes information of those who helped pioneer the music and entertainment relating to CKNX radio and television.

Now that the book has been completed, co-writer Dave Wall and I have yet to sort out photos best suited for the publication.

We're now seeking out a good publisher, but it will take time before everything is finalized.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to preserve this fabulous story of our colourful heritage.

and remember ...

**"THE SHOW MUST GO ON".**

Earl Heywood  
 Founder, Hon. President,  
 Director, Advisor

## COME JOIN US!!

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