

# The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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and Entertainment Museum

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Vol. 35 2002

Fall Edition

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## THE STORY OF STEELE *(Don Steele, that is)*

by Lynn Russwurm

Don L. Steele was born at a very early age (his words) in Charlottetown, P.E.I. Music was big in his family, listening to Don Messer from CFCY radio in Charlottetown, Bob Wills, Sons of the Pioneers, and Spade Cooley records, and watching western movies at the Saturday matinees at the local movie house. Following in the footsteps of his musician father, Don could play "Guitar Boogie" by the time he was 12. About 2 years later, the family relocated to Toronto and it wasn't long until young Donnie was sitting in at local amateur gigs and learning his craft.

In the early 50's Don turned professional when he joined The Smilin' Ernie Lindell Show. An American from Maine who did a lot of touring in Canada, Ernie was a consummate showman who gave many a young musician a step up the ladder including Kidd Baker, Stan Taylor, Chuck Stewart, etc. After a tour with Wilf Carter, Ernie again decided to hit the road with his own show, and this is where I first met Don. Somebody told Ernie to contact me as a source for musicians and I put him in touch with Wally Traugott, a hot young 17 year old fiddler. However Wally's father wouldn't allow Wally to go on the road because of his age. Next we went to see Marilyn Kroetsch, a young accordionist who did join the troupe because Ernie's wife, Candy, who sang with the show, would be there as a chaperone. About a year later I attended a King Ganam show at the Waterloo Arena and lo and behold, there was Don Steele playing guitar. By this time he had become a hot guitarist, I remember King

saying after Don's guitar solo, "Who's Les Paul?", that's how good he was.

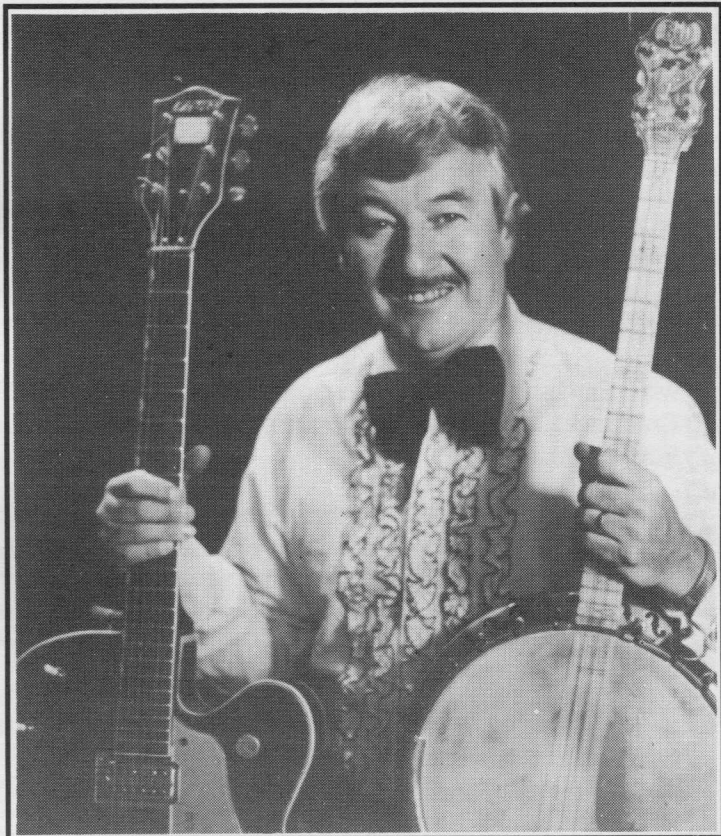
After the Ganam gig went sour, Don went to Montreal to work with Eddy Mehler, Slim Boucher and Ward Allen at the Monterey Candlelight room, then back to Toronto to join Tiny Vendetti's Band, along with Ward Allen. I met Don again when my wife and I started doing a series of guest spots with The Main Street Jamboree and Don was working with Jack Kingston and The Mainstreeters, Wally Traugott, Lloyd Bank, Roly D'Eon and Eddie Preston and what a sweet band that was. Next stop for Don was with The Kidd Baker Show starting in Kitchener, then down to New Brunswick and the east coast, doing jamborees, dances and their own TV shows.

Then came 1955 and the start of CKNX - TV. Slim Boucher reorganized his Golden Prairie Cowboys with Al Cherny and Lucky Ambo on fiddles, Don Steele on guitar, Jack Day on drums and Slim himself on stand-up bass and sometimes Earl Heywood on vocals or Hap Swatridge on

piano. This group recorded an instrumental on Spartan records, which you can hear on Vol. 1 and Vol. 3 of our "Saturday Night Barn Dance" CDs.

1958 found Don and his wife Shirley back in Toronto to join King Ganam on the CBC - TV show, "Country Hoedown" starring King Ganam on fiddle, Tommy Hunter and Tommy Common on vocals, Gordie Tapp as Cousin Clem, The Hames Sisters and Gordon Lightfoot as one of

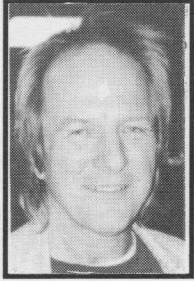
*Continued on Page 5*



DON L. STEELE

## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



First off, I'd just like to say a 'BIG THANK YOU' to all of our volunteers and members for coming out and supporting our many Barn Dance events during the summer. Secondly, there was no winner in our photo contest of fiddler, Dan Mighton, musician, Johnny Heaman, and myself, Grant Heywood. Either I've got to make the contest easier or try another approach. Maybe a wordsearch or crossword ... hmmm, I'll give it some thought.

Our 6th annual Fiddle Convention at the Wingham Legion on Sept. 29th included a host of fiddlers and entertainers, who put on a great performance. Fiddlers included, Mike Slauenwhite, Kitchener; Gerry Smith, Exeter; Dan Mighton, Hanover; Ian Leith, Priceville; and Mike Houston, Chatham. Entertainment fol-

lowed with 3 generations of "Heywoods" including the 'Heywood Twins' Janessa and Kianna. The legendary "Singing Newfoundlander" Michael T. Wall performed, as well as our good friends and neighbours from Michigan, Singin' Bill Winter and award winning yodeller, Joyce Leonard. A special THANK YOU to the volunteers and all of these folks as they donated their time and talent at this Barn Dance fundraiser. It was a fun-filled afternoon to say the least. We'll have pictures from this event in the next issue.

Barn Dance Show Director, Wayne Otterbein, says that several shows for the 2003 Barn Dance season are already booked. We'd sure like to see you at the next Barn Dance. Until then, on behalf of all of us working for the Barn Dance Historical Society, have a wonderful Christmas season and all the best in the New Year.

Comments? We'd love to hear from you!

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(or leave a message)

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<http://www.barndance.ca>

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*Founder, Honourary President, Advisor*

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## BARN DANCE BEAT

by Doug Dietrich,

Music Director

The Barn Dance had successful engagements in Mitchell in July and at the Old Boys' Reunion in Mount Forest in August. We're now preparing for an upcoming show and dance in Orangeville on November 2.

At this time, rather than elaborating further on the shows, I have some unfortunate news to pass on to you. J. Brian Oakes, a well known singer and recording artist, who appeared on our Woodstock Barn Dance in April and I'm sure many of our members have enjoyed his singing on countless other occasions over the years. When I wrote this article, I initially planned to tell you that Brian is waging a serious battle with cancer. However, as we were finalizing the journal, I am sad to say that I received word that Brian passed away on October 12. God needed another singer in his band. We ask that you remember him in your prayers.

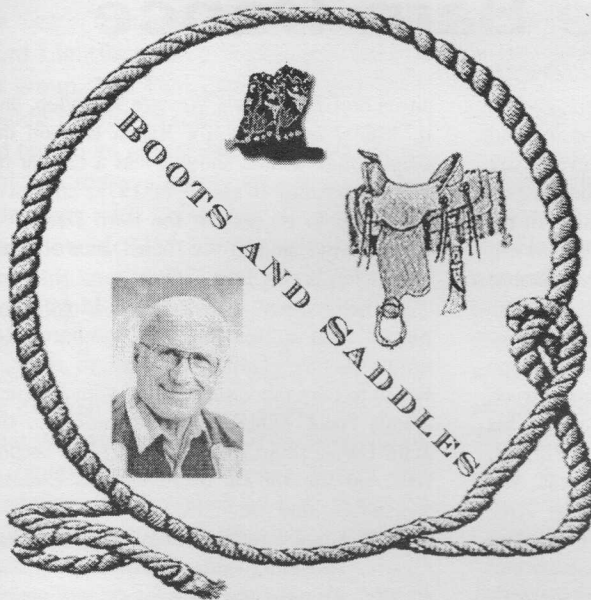
## THE 2002 BARN DANCE SCHEDULE

\* **NOVEMBER 2 - Orangeville Barn Dance.** Show and Dance. 8:00 p.m. Orangeville Agricultural Fairgrounds Complex, Orangeville. Featured performers include: CCMA and Juno Award winner, Larry Mercey, with Earl and Martha Heywood, John and Geneva Heaman, Mandi Craddock, and Jamie Gordon. For more details, call (519) 942-9597, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\* **NOVEMBER 16 - Ole Tyme Dance.** Royal Canadian Legion, Wingham, featuring Lynn Russwurm, special guests, and the Jamboree Reunion Band. Call (519) 357-2160.

\* **FEBRUARY 16 - Barn Dance Show.** Shakespeare Community Centre. 2 p.m. Show only. For details call (519) 625-8296.

\* **MAY 23, 24 & 25 - 6th Annual Blyth Campout and Jamboree Weekend.** Show and Dance at the Blyth Recreation Complex and Campgrounds. For details, call (519) 357-2329 (evenings).



by Lynn Russwurm

As per our little discourse on yodelling in the last issue, I would like to take a look at yodelling and country music in other parts of the world. First I'm going to stop over in England for a look-see at Harry Toranni. Although Harry wasn't the first to yodel in the British Isles, he took yodelling to a much higher plateau than anyone before him. A son of a miner, at an early age Harry discovered he could break his voice into the falsetto that identifies the yodeller. He started his singing career as a straight singer on the stages of the British Music Halls and gradually added yodels to his repertoire which was met with great enthusiasm from the staid British audiences. He always was a natty dresser, often wearing "tie and tails" in his performances. Eventually the record companies took notice of this yodeller and he signed a recording contract with Regal Zonophone and most of his records were done with only his voice and guitar. Many of the early yodellers came under the influence of Harry, such as Canada's Donn Reynolds who undoubtedly had the opportunity to listen to Toranni who was highly popular when Donn spent some years down under, and also the great Elton Britt.

Harry took an old song called "Mountain High", added his own yodels and personality and retitled it "Happy and Free Yodel", only to have the afore mentioned Elton Britt take his song, add his own yodels, rework some of the lyrics and introduce it to the world as "Chime Bells", arguably the most popular yodel song of all time. A few years back, EMI Australia issued three albums of the fine Toranni recordings in the wake of the excellent Rex Dallas 3-album tribute to Harry Toranni.

One of Australia and New Zealand's earliest country singers was Tex Morton who was a Toranni admirer. In fact a majority of Aus-

tralia's great country singers acknowledge Tex Morton and Wilf Carter as their major influences. In the early Tex Morton waxings you can hear bits of Harry Toranni, Wilf Carter, and Gene Autry, or if you like Jimmie Rodgers who Gene imitated widely in his early career. As popular as Wilf Carter was in Australia, he never managed to do a tour although one was scheduled, then cancelled, due to illness. However Wilf did an album of popular Aussie songs at a later date.

Other Aussie or New Zealand yodellers include several girl singers such as the late Shirley Thoms, and later, a transplanted German singer by the name of Mary Schneider, who often included tributes to Harry Toranni in her stage shows. Then there was Slim Dusty whose career spanned over fifty years, and is probably the best loved Australian singer (who never deserted his roots), has over 100 albums to his credit, many of which are still in print, had a movie made of his life, "The Slim Dusty Movie", is reputed to be the biggest record seller of all time in Australia and had an international hit with "A Pub With No Beer", and there's always a yodel or two on his albums. In addition to all this Slim is married to Joy McKean of the yodelling McKean Sisters who has shared with Slim in all the ups and downs of life on the road and all that goes with it. And if that isn't enough, their daughter, Anne Kirkpatrick, has made a name for herself as a recording artist and entertainer in her own right.

One of our Canadian yodellers from British Columbia, Smilin' Billy Blinkhorn received an offer to relocate to Australia, after his career in B.C. seemed to be at a standstill. He jumped at the chance and was soon recording for Regal Zonophone with scheduled sessions from 1939 to 1947, at which time he elected to pack it in for a more secure life style with his young Australian family. He passed away in 1974, a rather obscure but highly influential figure whose music was revived on a vinyl LP a few years back and just recently on a CD from Germany's Cattle Records. Strange how these small labels from overseas can resurrect some of this great talent of ours while the major labels deem it to be worthless and better left forgotten.

Of course we can't forget Frank Ifield who many consider a pop singer, which he became when he came to North America by way of England. He became immensely popular over here but retired back home to Australia some

years back. If we take a look at his early career in Australia we will learn that his early recordings were with guitar only in his teen years, singing and yodelling Wilf Carter, Hank Snow and Orval Prophet songs. In fact even in his "pop" music days he still yodelled on many of his records.

Now let's go to Germany and take a look at some of the Swiss yodellers who are still highly popular in Europe. Probably the greatest yodeller in the world would be Franzl Lang whose vocal calisthenics are something to hear. One of my favourites of Franzl Lang is "The Clarinet Polka". Franzl doesn't sing it, he yodels it all the way through. I find that Rex Allen's great yodels are very reminiscent of the Swiss yodellers. There are many European yodellers on record, one I would mention is the mother-daughter combination of Maria and Margot Hellwig which is one of the best.

England today still has some yodellers, but by and large it seems to be a dying art. And that's a shame, because yodelling is a thing you are born with, some people can do it, others can't. If your voice doesn't have the ability it can't be learned. Sometimes I feel there is still hope for yodelling, when every once in a while a young singer comes along with the ability to yodel. And it's a treat to hear.

In closing, I would like to say there are many who have been omitted, not by intention but by chance. Such as Canada's Shirley Field, Terry Parker, Russ Parker, Elaine, Jack Kingston, Billy Cake; from England there is Keith Manifold; from Germany Rudi and Inga Meixner, Marili Tschannen; and many more from Australia and New Zealand, such as John Hore, Owen Blundell, Zeta Burns, Kitten, Reg Lindsay, Buddy Williams and on and on. From the U.S. are Patsy Montana, Yodelling Slim Clark, Janet McBride, Cliff Carlisle and many more.

Much of my information on Harry Toranni was gleaned from the liner notes that come with his Cattle Records CD, written by Paul Hazell of England, thanks Paul.

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# Steel Guitars on The Barn Dance

*(and other CKNX shows)*

by Ron Coulthard

If you are going to play country music in your band you have to have a guitar or two, bass, probably drums, and you really should have a fiddle. However if you want that real authentic country sound, there's another instrument that's almost essential - a steel guitar! The Barn Dance and the CKNX radio and TV shows had some great steel players, and we still carry on the tradition in the new Barn Dance shows.

For me THE steel guitarist of the Barn Dance era was Lloyd Bank. There may have been a player or two before him - I believe Ken Goebel from Kitchener played on a few shows - but when I first attended a Barn Dance, Lloyd with his National Grand Console 16 string double neck was the highlight of the show, at least for me. At that time, I had been playing for a few years, and had a 6 string Gibson lap steel, but after meeting Lloyd, I had to have a double neck, so I saved up my money and became the proud owner of one of those Nationals. This was definitely THE steel guitar at that time - Lloyd had one, Dan Grummett, who came to CKNX after Lloyd left, had one, and in a picture taken in the CKNX studio Lucky Ambeault is playing one. (Lucky played various instruments, but I never did hear him play steel guitar.)

Anyway, back to the history: Lloyd Bank came from Kitchener, where he had been playing with Roy Thompson's Westernaires, and at CKNX he was featured on the Barn Dance, the Serenade Ranch and other shows, and played dances and shows all around the area with the Barn Dance Gang, from 1949 to 1953. Leaving Wingham, Lloyd moved to Hamilton to play on the Main Street Jam-

boree. After working in that area for several years and doing a great deal of recording and touring with various artists, Lloyd eventually moved back to Kitchener and joined Lynn Russwurm's Jamboree Reunion Band. In recent years Lloyd has given up hauling his big pedal steel around, but still plays some Dobro and non-pedal steel guitar.

When Lloyd Bank left CKNX, his replacement was Dan Grummett, who came from Seaforth, Ontario. Dan had been a truck driver in the Toronto area when he got his first steel guitar. Inspired by Roy Wiggins, who played on Eddie Arnold's records, and every steel players idol at that time - Jerry Byrd - Dan soon became a very competent player. After he came to Wingham, he began building steel guitars and other instruments, as well as amplifiers. When CKNX-TV came on the air, Dan worked there as a sound man and in other capacities. He also operated a restaurant (now Jag's Roadhouse) on the edge of Wingham, and later a tourist resort in Inverhuron. Dan began travelling to Texas in 1976 and moved there permanently in 1980. Dan did some playing with bands in Texas, but retired from performing in the late 1990's. Dan currently lives in Alamo, Texas, in the Rio Grand Valley.

Lloyd and Dan were the "big" steel players of the original Barn Dance era. After Dan there were a couple of players who performed with the CKNX groups for relatively short periods. Vic Pierce played steel and other instruments; he joined the Golden Prairie Cowboys in the mid 1950's. He performed on the Barn Dance, the Western Roundup TV show, and played other dates around the area. In 1958 he toured with Earl Heywood through eastern Canada, also did a tour with Wilf Carter, and eventually settled in British Columbia. Ross Rivett also played with some of the CKNX acts and did some TV work; he also now lives in British Columbia.

Someone else who deserves mention as a steel guitar player was Ross Mann. Ross was of course better known as a fiddler, but he had a little six string electric steel that he played on certain numbers with the Ranch Boys.

Finally, there was, and still is for that matter, yours truly, Ron Coulthard. I'm a multi-instrumental dabbler, but steel guitar was my first instrument, and it remains my favourite. In my high school years I played in the Coulthard Family Orchestra; in 1953 I joined Clarence Petrie's Nighthawks, and in 1963 I moved on to Royce Riehl's Country Cousins band. We played around Stratford, and made an album in 1965 for Arc Records in Toronto. I had done a few guest appear-

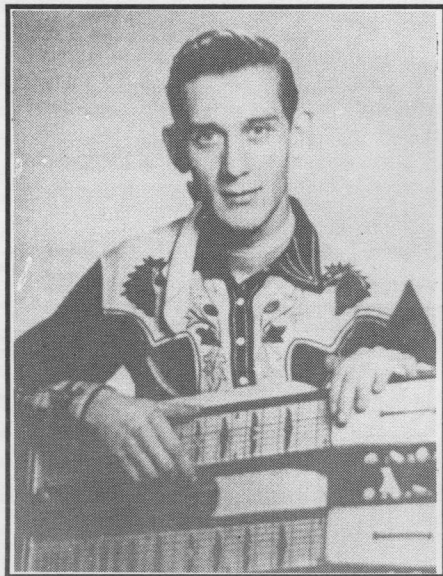
ances on CKNX-TV's Western Roundup, and in 1967 I became a TV Ranch Boy on the Circle Eight Ranch show. I was a regular on this show until it ended in 1977, and have continued to be part of the Barn Dance reunion shows, and of the Barn Dance Historical Society's new Barn Dances.

When the new shows started, Lloyd Bank played steel at first, with the Jamboree Reunion Band. When he decided to retire, I began to play these shows, first with the Barn Dance Band. (This band was known as the Barn Dance Band from the start.) The second band on the shows, originally the Country Versatiles, and now the Millennium Cowboys, has had a number of steelers, Pee Wee Charles (Ed Ringwald), Rusty Walker, Ken Coulter, Tony Leggio, and for the past couple of years, Doug Dietrich, who is presently the Barn Dance Music Director.

Steel guitar is a fascinating, but also a frustrating instrument. They are costly to buy - a new double neck pedal guitar will set you back \$5,000.00 and up; an amp to play it through another \$1,200.00 or more, and you will certainly want to add several hundred dollars worth of pedals, attachments, extra knee levers, etc. - new gadgets are coming out all the time! They are heavy and awkward things to carry around. Some new models are a bit lighter, but the guitar and amp together will weigh close to 150 lbs. Finally, steel guitars, particularly the pedal ones, are complicated to learn. There are many tunings, and variations of them, in fairly common use, and every player comes up with his or her own set of pedal and knee lever pulls. It's usually a bit scary to sit down at someone else's steel guitar; it's not going to work quite like your own! If you were to start on a double ten steel, with eight tuning pedals, and four or five knee levers, you would soon find that this instrument has a very high learning curve! Start with a six string Dobro, which is somewhat of a different instrument, but this is a great way to learn the basic techniques of picking, bar handling, vibrato, etc.

There have been many steel guitar builders, and after those 16 string Nationals, to be up to date, you had to have a Gibson - Lloyd Bank and I both had triple neck Gibsons with three 8 string tunings - great sound, but they weighed a ton! When pedal steels came in, you had to have a Fender, then a Sho-Bud, then an MSA, then an Emmons, and so on. On the new Barn Dance shows, Doug Dietrich and I are both playing Carters, arguably the "in" brand today.

Anyway, the sound is still there, and I hope it always will be!!



LLOYD BANK - STEEL GUITAR

Continued from Page 1

the Singin' Swingin' Eight. At one point Gord Lightfoot asked Don to join him in his group, The Two Tones, however they couldn't come to terms. The Two Tones did record an album on the Chateau label which is today a highly sought and valuable item with collectors. A mint copy can demand \$250.00. In order to hold down his spot on Country Hoedown, Don was told he had to learn to sight read music. Up to this time Don was a self taught ear musician who knew nothing of the chicken scratches on paper which is what written music was often referred to by country people who are mostly ear musicians. Don applied himself, enrolled with 2 different guitar teachers and by the end of the season was an excellent sight reader, it was a do or die situation. Don recorded one single on Chateau, "Take One" b/w "Steel Guitar rag", which made inroads on some of the charts of the day.

Meanwhile, Don had picked up a lot of banjo, and started doing gigs with many Jazz and Pop groups, such as with Larry Dubin at the Ports of Call, also doing some singing. Taking the guitar lessons had opened up a lot of new vistas

for Don and had widened his musical scope. Frank Hubbell of The Village Stompers in Cleveland offered a job with the Stompers on guitar and banjo which Don accepted which led to appearances in jazz clubs, on Mike Douglas' TV shows, The Jimmy Dean TV Show with Jim Henson and his muppets on ABC-TV network. About 1968, Frank Hubbell broke with the Village Stompers and formed his own Stompers, taking Don with him to work gigs in Montreal, recorded an album as "Frank Hubbell and The Stompers" on Phonodisc. From then on it was a series of gigs with his own groups and sitting in with others.

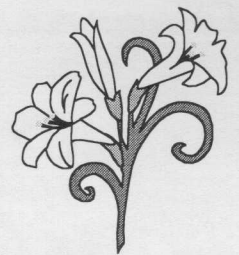
In 1969, he joined the cast of "Diamond Lil" on CTV on banjo, star of the show was Vanda King, along with Tommy Common. However the show only lasted one year as Vanda King's pregnancy ruled out a second season. Next for Don was a 5-string banjo gig on Ronnie Prophet's CTV show, "Grand Ole Country", where he worked with major guest artists from the States such as Dolly Parton, Charlie Pride, etc. The rest of the decade was spent gigging around with

various groups. Today Don operates as Steele Musical Services, booking various types of entertainment, doing engagements with his own Don L. Steele Five plus One, teaching students on guitar and banjo.

I consider myself fortunate to be involved in occasional jam sessions with Don and other musicians we've known through out the years, reminiscing about old times and just enjoying music. We all have a lot of musical memories that we like to share such as the ones I'm sharing with you through the pages of this little magazine.

By the way you can hear Don from one of the Western Roundup TV shows on CKNX-TV on our "Saturday Night Barn Dance, Vol. 3" on CD or cassette doing "Tiger Rag", man, that cat could play.

IN MEMORIAM



Always well-dressed and a kind friend to many, Bill will certainly be missed for his wit and charm, and forever be remembered as one of the best square dance callers on the Barn Dance. Sadly missed by family, Joyce, friends and all the gang from the Barn Dance Historical Society.

**BILL LEACH** - Passed away at the Wingham & District Hospital in mid-August of this year. Bill soon became a first class square dance caller during his younger years in Thunder Bay, Ont., winning many awards. He was well known in the Wingham area and especially the Barn Dance for being one of the best square dance callers around. Whatever Bill did, he did well, and he had a way of handling horses that put him in demand for driving prize teams at Ontario Fall Fairs.

Both Bill and his partner, Joyce Steurnol, have been avid country music lovers and staunch supporters, volunteers and members of the Barn Dance Historical Society.

Bill was buried at the Langside Cemetery in Kinloss Township.

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**DELORES McDONALD** - Passed away suddenly after an illness, on Saturday, Oct. 5th, in Nova Scotia. She was the wife of original CKNX Barn Dance performer and pioneer, Hank McDonald. Sadly missed by family, friends, and those of us from the Barn Dance gang who will fondly remember her. Delores was cremated and buried along side Hank's mother in Nova Scotia.

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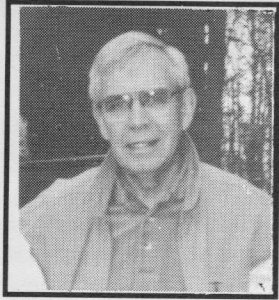
*On behalf of the members of the Barn Dance Historical Society, may our deepest sympathy go out to the families of those listed above, who were associated with our Foundation.*

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★  
★ **DON'T FORGET!!** ★  
★ **Sun., April 6, 2003** ★  
★ **The Barn Dance** ★  
★ **Historical Society's** ★  
★ **Annual General Meeting.** ★  
★ Starting at 11:30 a.m., at the ★  
★ Royal Canadian Legion, Victoria ★  
★ Street, Wingham, Ontario. ★  
★ *Come out and vote, volunteer, participate,* ★  
★ *have your say - or maybe even stand for* ★  
★ *election. We need your support.* ★  
★ *Donuts & coffee provided. See you there!!* ★  
★  
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**BARN DANCE JOURNAL ADVERTISING PRICES**  
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# Just Fiddling Around . . .

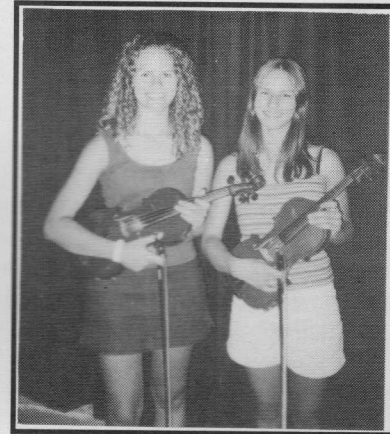
## with Bill Oja



Backstage at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championships in Nepean are l to r: **TRENT BRUNER** of Saskatchewan, piano, **BRIAN HEBERT**, of Pembroke, guest artist, and **CALVIN VOLLRATH**, guitar, of Alberta.



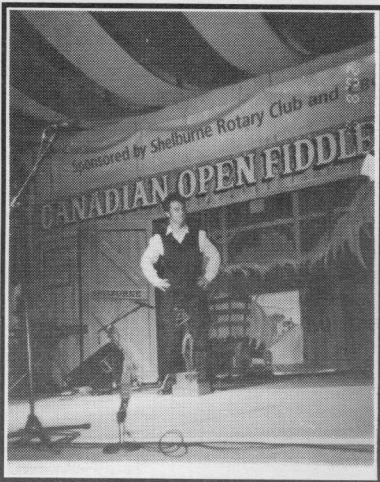
The Orangeville Fiddle and Stepdance Camp is North America's largest, with this year's enrolment at 109 with 18 instructors. Seen here with some of the out-of-country students are (L) renowned violin maker **LOU CURRAH**, and (R) **BILL ELLIOTT** founder and president of the operation. Students came from England and the U.S. was represented by enrollments from California, Ohio, Tennessee and Branson, Missouri.



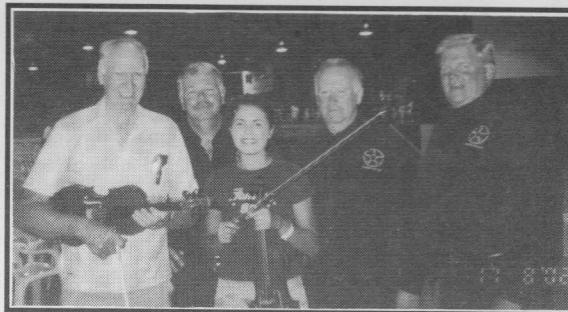
Not only did the **YAKABUSKIE** sisters, **PAM** and **TAMMY** win the 18 & Under and 19 - 49 categories at the Shelburne Canadian Championships, the two also took the Duet Class trophy. Looks like the next contest for the Yakabuskie beauties from Pembroke will be at Barre, Vermont at the end of September.



Canadian Senior Fiddle Champion **BRUCE ARMITAGE** with his wife **KAY** of Qyon, Quebec, welcome **ROBYN JESSON** and her Dad **JIM**, of British Columbia to the annual Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championships in Nepean, Ont. Robyn, who has her own band in B.C., wowed the full house with her presentation in the Youth Showcase.



**MARK SULLIVAN**, of Bowmanville is the 2002 Shelburne Canadian Fiddle Champion. Close on his heels were **SHANE COOK** of Dorchester and **SCOTT WOODS** of Fergus.



At the Sturgeon Falls Fiddle and Stepdance Festival, prize winning fiddlers **WEBB ACHESON** of Maynooth and **KRISTA ROSIEN** of Pembroke are made welcome by the executive **RON BEGIN**, **BOB ROWLANDSON** and **CHARLIE LANG**. The Sturgeon contest broke all attendance records and had a huge total of 278 entries.



For the CBC Radio portion of the Shelburne Canadian Open Fiddle Championships the great Canadian old time fiddler **CALVIN VOLLRATH** of St. Paul, Alberta was flown in to do the honours. Calvin, with over 40 CDs to his credit, never disappoints.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

\* Nov. 3 & 17 and Dec. 1 & 15 - Jammers plays a wide variety of country music, traditional, today's country and bluegrass. An invitation to all singers and musicians of any level to participate and have a good time. Presented by Country Music Club, Kingside Park, Dean and Wilson Rd. S., Oshawa.

\* Dale's Country Roadhouse - located at 9281 Hwy. 26, Collingwood - (705) 445-7744. Mon. and Tues. Karaoke; Wed. Night Jam with Dale's Roadhouse Band; Thurs. D.J.; Fri. Karaoke; Sat. Live Country Band; Sun. Karaoke.

\* Nov. 8 - 9, & Dec. 20 - 21 Josie and The Boys are featured at the European Bar & Grill, 3052 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Etobicoke. A beautiful new place, food available. Great down home fun. Come and check it out.

\* Maple Leaf Jamborees - Oct. 27, Oshawa Legion, 471 Simcoe St. Also Moose Lodge, Lindsay, Nov. 24.

\* Jamborees - presented by Pineridge Bluegrass Soc., 151 Cadillac Ave., Oshawa, Woodview Community Centre on Nov. 17 and Dec. 8.

\* Appearances by Doreen Brown - Nov. 21 - Holland Landing Jamboree; Nov. 13 - Heritage Olde Tyme Fiddle & Dance, 38 LVIV Blvd., Oshawa; Dec. 12 - Holland Landing; Dec. 14 - Christmas Show, Oprey Orillia. (Some of the addresses above.)

\* Nov. 18 - Stage West, 5400 Dixie Rd., Mississauga presents - Elvis - The Way It Was, featuring Stephen Kabakos. Dinner and Show. Tickets [www.stagewest.com](http://www.stagewest.com), 1-800-263-0684 or (905) 238-0042.

\* Christmas Shows - Holland Landing Jamboree Dec. 12; Bond Head Dec. 9; Oprey Orillia Dec. 14.

Early Happy Holiday Greetings, with thanks to Barn Dance Journal readers for all your support of artists and country music. You sure are appreciated.

**BOOKING THE BARN DANCE**

If you are interested in more information about booking the Barn Dance Musical Production, please write to:

Barn Dance Bookings,  
P. O. Box 68,  
Wingham, Ont. N0G 2W0;  
or call

Wayne Otterbein,  
(home) (519) 565-2102,  
or (bus.) (519) 235-0559

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?"

"No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My Mom is a good cook."

**BARN DANCE SOUVENIRS**

Great Christmas Gift Ideas!!

- Souvenir Mugs - \$ 5.00 ea.
- CD - Vol. 1 \$20.00 ea.
- CD - Vol. 2 \$20.00 ea.
- CD - Vol. 3 \$20.00 ea.
- CD - Vol. 1, 2 & 3 \$50.00 set
- Cassette - Vol. 1 \$10.00 ea.
- Cassette - Vol. 2 \$10.00 ea.
- Cassette - Vol. 3 \$10.00 ea.
- Souvenir 1997 Calendar \$ 5.00 ea.
- Barn Dance Logo T-Shirts (black or white only)
- Sizes M, L, XL \$10.00 ea.
- Souvenir Hats \$10.00 ea.
- NEW Al Cherny CD - "Live / The Lost Recordings" \$20.00 ea.

All purchases include GST.

Please include \$3.00 per item

for mailing

or pick up at Ernie King Music.



Old time youngster "Scotty Pawson", see here performing at the Mitchell Barn Dance this past summer, after receiving his Barn Dance Pioneer Award. He can still belt out a good country tune.



### HOWDY FOLKS:

Martha and I have been busy as bees this past summer. Organizing the pioneer awards, performing on the Barn Dance stage and for Paul Thompson's Black Donnelly's play, as well as the giant task of compiling a filing system for the Barn Dance Museum. With the heat we had this past summer, it really felt like we were burning the candle at both ends. But I realize there are others who have worked just as hard as we have in our efforts to preserve the Barn Dance history. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many "key" people who have been involved directly

or indirectly in our endeavour to carry on the Barn Dance legacy.

I'd like to thank John Carter, advisor for the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, as well as a representative for Human Resources Development Canada. He's responsible for supplying our Barn Dance Hall of Fame Museum at the Wingham armouries, with a very knowledgeable young lady, Julielyne Anderson of Brussels, Ontario. She did a super job working and looking after the museum this past summer. Especially when I couldn't be there all the time.

Over the last two summers, Martha and I helped the Blyth Festival of the Arts with their production of the outdoor Donnelly's play. It was a pleasure for us to sing Donnelly songs as people were being ushered in for the evening performance of the play. We thoroughly enjoyed singing to capacity crowds each and every night for the month of June. Martha and I highly respect the Blyth Festival people for including our participation in such a fabulous

production of the Donnelly story.,

Another thank you to Shane Wilder from Las Vegas, for continuing to program and playlist several cuts from the Barn Dance CDs. It's wonderful to know that some of the earliest Barn Dance performers and many of the new artists are now being heard all across the USA on the Trans American Broadcasting Network. We sincerely appreciate your effort, Shane, in promoting so many of our Canadian artists. It's nice to know that music and radio haven't any boundaries.

I've recently gotten the songwriting "bug" again, and hope to have some new songs ready for a CD release in 2003. Once studio production is complete, we hope to have the new "3 Generations of Heywoods" CD ready for release next year. Seasons greetings to all of our members and Barn Dance fans.

Remember - -

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

Earl Heywood  
Founder, Hon. President,  
Advisor, Museum Curator

## COME JOIN US!!

*We need you as a member of*

# **THE BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and ENTERTAINMENT MUSEUM**

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