

The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.
and Entertainment Museum

A Not For Profit Organization

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Vol. 33 2002

Spring Edition

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Earl Heywood - 85 Years Young

by Grant Heywood

My Dad just celebrated his 85th birthday, and he says he's hoping to make it to 100 like George Burns did. That's quite possible if you know my father like I do. He doesn't smoke or drink, so that should add on a few more years, and he's always planning ahead, with literally too much unfinished business to be done. Heck, he's even got all the family plots taken care of. Now that's foresight.

Several years ago, we thought that he wouldn't make it through a major cancer operation, but he wasn't ready to relinquish his spot as "Canada's Number 1 Singing Cowboy". Not only that, Martha without Earl just doesn't seem right. Who would she sing with, clean up after, pamper? Not to mention, keeping all dad's countless memorable stories in order when he's in a conversation with someone. That's one thing my dad is "real" good at. Telling interesting stories. Even though the family has heard them hundreds of times, my dad has very fond memories of the past (and present) that he just loves to tell people. Problem is, sometimes he forgets when to stop. And lately sometimes he just forgets. Just ask mom. But he's still pretty sharp, and at 85, he still continues to chase his dream when others his age have long given up.

Most folks know my father as an accomplished singer/songwriter recording artist, with several awards to his credit including his induction into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame. He came off the farm in Exeter and moved to Wingham appearing regularly on CKNX radio and television including the CKNX Barn Dance. He recorded and performed with mom and our whole family which including many tours in Eastern Canada

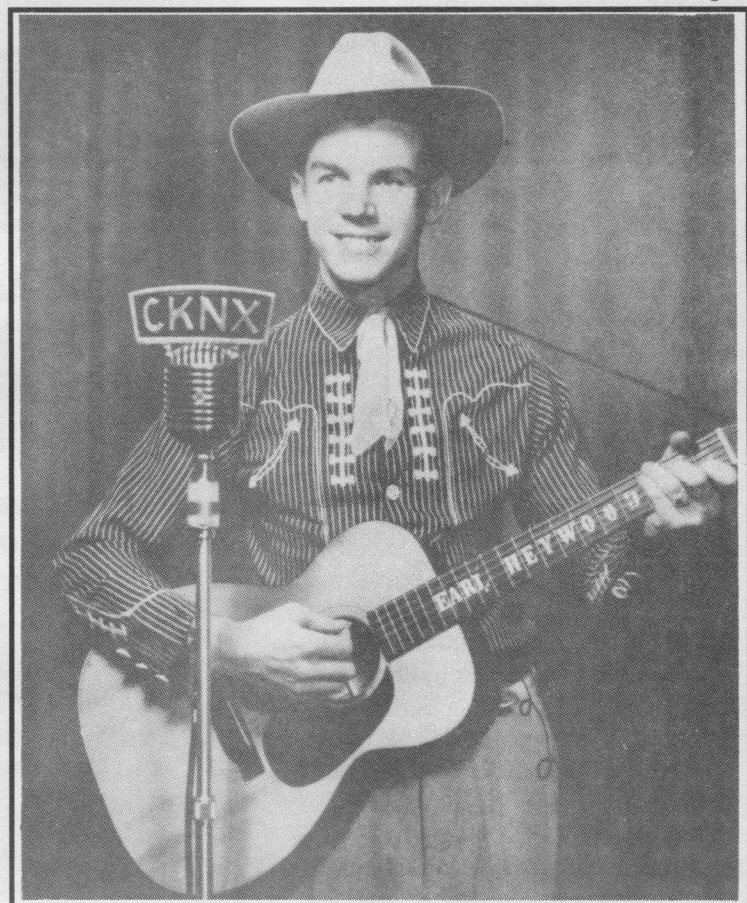
along with TV and radio performances as well. During the day he was writing commercials as a staff writer for radio. A lot of you may not know that back in the late 50's Earl was very close to closing a cowboy movie deal in Hollywood, just like his idol, Gene Autry. Dad spent a lot of time with Bill Haley in the U.S. just before Bill made it big with Rock Around The Clock. Dad was backstage at the Grand Ole Opry talking to Hank Williams just before he made his debut at the Opry in Nashville. Many Opry stars such as Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper, and Doc & Chickie Williams would stop by our home in Wingham to visit, after a special Barn Dance Appearance.

But dad has done many other things in his life besides being an entertainer. He was a Fuller Brush salesman for awhile, and has been a performing magician for as long as I can remember. He helped design and finish off his own house, as well as renovating my own stone house, along with countless other projects, as well.

Dad was the main guy who

helped resurrect the Barn Dance, organized the Barn Dance Historical Society, and has been the key person in developing and raising funds (with mom's help) for the related Barn Dance museum project in Wingham. He has a real passion for history, especially when he has been a part of that history. At 85, he has witnessed a lot of changes in the country music field, and has had a lot of close friends pass on, and that's got to be tough. But we have a family, and mom

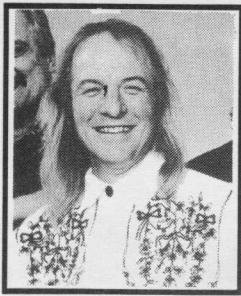
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EARL HEYWOOD - Featured Star of the CKNX Barn Dance

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Well, I thought I'd have a new picture of myself for this latest spring edition of the Journal. Quite frankly, I don't have a new picture yet, but I kind of like the old one anyway, as it shows me with more hair, since I don't recollect growing any new hair recently. Getting older can sure be interesting.

In February, I had the pleasure of taking a trip to Nashville with my musician buddies, Al Widmeyer and Bob Richards. We took in a bluegrass show in Gallatin, Tenn., attended the Friday night Grand Ole Opry, checked out the honky tonks on Broadway, and visited record and music stores, not to mention the new Opry Mills mall. It was great to hear older mainstream country music being played at the Opry, and then to find out that most of the groups playing in the bars downtown, were playing older country music too. WSM radio in Nashville is back to playing "real" country music, since Gaylord Entertainment (they practically own Nashville) backed off of turning the traditional country music institution radio station into an all sports network. Heaven forbid!!

I think the highlight of the weekend was when we took in a Cajun party at the War Veterans Hall. Joe-El Sonnier (of "Tear Stained Letter" fame) played some of the best Cajun music to be found on the planet. What a great time. Even got to met Joe-El and his wife, and do a taped interview with him after the show. His music just makes you want to get up and dance all night long. Great folks and a great time.

After talking to some of the people at the War Veterans Hall, I realized that this was their second annual Cajun dance, and it was a big success, thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen. And just to tie in with that, I'd just like to say a

BIG THANK YOU to all the people who volunteer their time and effort into making the Barn Dance show and dances a success. It is the people behind the scenes and the countless hours they give, that make our Barn Dance productions so professional. Without their volunteering spirit, we would be hard pressed to keep up the standard of our shows. Most of these folks are local, and we rarely have to ask the service clubs to help when we bring the Barn Dance to town.

We want to continue to provide professional, and local entertainers, a spotlight on the Barn Dance stage. So don't be afraid to pitch in, or ask what you can do, to keep this local country music entertainment tradition alive. The Barn Dance Historical Society is a not for profit organization. Money that is raised at Barn Dance events, is used to fund the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum. Call (519) 357-2160, to find out how you can become a Barn Dance Volunteer.

Comments? Please contact:

Grant Heywood,
5584 Deborah Glaister Line,
R. R. #2,
Wellesley, Ont. N0B 2T0
Phone: (519) 656-2552
Fax: (519) 656-9970
E-mail: heywoods@golden.net

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The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment

Museum

P.O. Box 68

Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 357-2160

(or leave a message)

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<http://www.barndance.ca>

Earl Heywood

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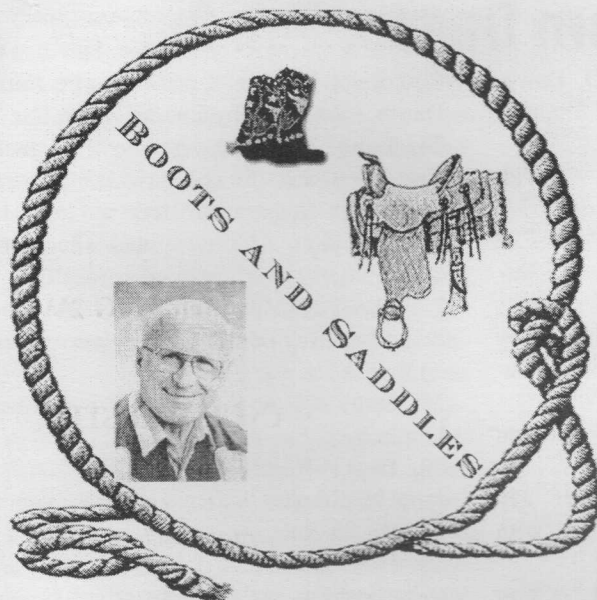
Doug Dietrich, Lynn Russwurm.

BARN DANCE BEAT

The 2002 Barn Dance season started on a high note. On February 10, a combination of Barn Dance regulars and local favourites performed to a full house at the Shakespeare Optimist Hall. The show was staged as a fundraiser for the Easthope Historical Society Inc. (Brocksden School).

Barn Dance veterans Earl and Martha Heywood and John and Geneva Heaman were featured guests. Well known local performers Randy Satchell, Bev Kobe and Ken Meadows demonstrated their vocal skills. Talented young fiddlers Ian Leith and Dan Mighton had the audience tapping their feet and clapping along. Wayne Riehl did a fine job as the featured fiddler in the Barn Dance Band. Pioneer Awards were presented to Ron Coulthard and Jim Swan. Congratulations to all the volunteers on a very well organized and successful event.

**Music Director,
Doug Dietrich**



by Lynn Russwurm

Hi, glad to be back again, I haven't heard any comments from you folks, pro or con, I would like to hear your ideas on what you'd like me to cover in this column. This time, I'm going to reminisce about some of the trail-blazing country artists that held sway in the Kitchener-Waterloo area in the forties and fifties.

First and foremost was the Kidd Baker aggregation who built himself a little empire of his own in the entertainment era. Kidd was a native of New Brunswick, who came into this world sporting the name of Ransford Lawrence Baker. This was soon changed when he started winning talent contests in the Maritimes and was called the Yodelling Kid, and from this, he coined the unique name of "Kidd". After breaking into the entertainment world in his native New Brunswick, he decided to try his luck in Ontario. I believe it was around 1947 that he hit the K-W area and in short order hit the airwaves over Radio CKCR with a daily noon hour broadcast, and later a half hour Saturday noon time spot.

Kidd and his wife Ada, handled everything themselves. They hired the musicians on a salary basis, gave them room and board as part of the deal, booked the dance halls, which ran 6 nights a week at that time, printed their own souvenir books, and when CKCO-TV came in the early fifties, there was The Kidd Baker Show for a weekly Saturday night appearance, which was usually followed up by a local dance somewhere in the area. I plan to do an in-depth study on the Kidd Baker phenomenon in a future issue, so we'll leave Kidd for a look at some of the other groups.

Hank MacDonald splintered off the Kidd Baker Show in 1951 or 2, and formed the Rhythm Rangers, which included Reinold Kudernicky, on fiddle, Don Zeen on accordion, Hank himself on honky tonk piano and

myself on rhythm guitar, plus songs by Hank. This group disbanded when Hank received the call to come to Wingham to replace Jack Kingston with the Barn Dance Gang.

Holding forth at the Bridgeport Casino for Wednesday night and Saturday night dances was Roy Thompson and The Westernaires, who we covered several issues ago, when Roy left to join the Barn Dance, Johnny Siska took control of the band and after a number of personnel changes became The Silver Bar Ranch Boys, and was eventually taken over by Earl Fries including several series on CKCO-TV.

Friday night dances were hosted by Don Reinhart and The Tumbleweed Troubadours, a very tight band that featured a great steel guitarist, Carl Lindsay and strong vocals from Lorne Prince. This was a very popular band and went on to become The Conestoga Trailriders with their own CKCO-TV show. Ah, for the old days of good country and western television. Too bad this was before the advent of video tapes: all these shows went out on the air and were lost forever.

Then of course we can't omit Jack Kingston and The Mainstreeters from CHML radio and CHCH-TV in Hamilton who set the

world on fire and also gave the CKNX Barn Dance a run for their money. The Main Street Jamboree started out in a great way in the fall of 1952 and their area encroached in some places with the CKNX area. It was also a travelling barn dance and Jack Kingston was lured from CKNX with a much higher pay offer, Lloyd Bank followed along soon after, others who appeared regularly were Jean and Les, The Colorado Kids, Bill Mankiss, Orval Prophet and many more with Gordie Tapp as the emcee. Several years into the show, Bill Long took over the reins and along with several other TV shows on CHCH-TV ran the Jamboree for several more years until it folded, but it was a great era for country music at that time.

Several other smaller groups and artists were also working in the area, including my band The Pine River Troubadours, The Waterloo County Boys, Art Bridgeman and The Canadian Cowboys, The String Serenaders, sometimes we'd have the Ranch Boys and the Barn Dance Gang as well as The Golden Prairie Cowboys in for a night's entertainment within the area.

I'm sure I've forgotten others and my apologies to them, but I'm sure this will give you an idea of the entertainment choices the country music fans had in those glory days, compared with the music or lack thereof today in the local bars. Besides the renewed Barn Dance, what is there today to compare with

THE 2002 BARN DANCE SCHEDULE

* **APRIL 7 - Annual General Meeting.** Royal Canadian Legion, Victoria Street, North, Wingham.

* **APRIL 27 - Woodstock Barn Dance.** Sponsored by Eastwood United Church. 8:00 p.m. show and dance. Oxford Auditorium, Woodstock Fairgrounds. For details call (519) 467-5437.

* **MAY 24, 25, & 26 - The 5th Annual Barn Dance Campout Weekend and Jamboree,** Show, Dance and more. Blyth Arena Complex and Camp Grounds. More details to follow.

* **JULY 27 - Mitchell Barn Dance.** Sponsored by the Mitchell Optimists. 8:00 p.m. show and dance. Arena, Mitchell, Ontario. For details call (519) 393-8245.

* **AUGUST 3 - Mount Forest Barn Dance.** Mount Forest Old Boys / Old Girls Reunion. 8:00 p.m. show and dance. Mount Forest Community Centre Complex. For details call (519) 323-2044.

* **SEPTEMBER 29 - Ole Tyme Fiddle Concert & Hayloft Hoe-down.** Sponsored by the Barn Dance Society. Talent Search. Royal Canadian Legion, Victoria St. W., Wingham. More details to follow.

* **OCTOBER 20 - The Tradition Continues.** Sponsored jointly between Heritage Theatre and The Barn Dance Society. Show only. Town Hall Heritage Theatre, Main Street, Wingham. More details to follow.

It's The Saturday Night Barn Dance, Vol. 3

Here's a rundown on our new CD and cassette which should be ready by the time you read this. We've gone all-out to try to bring you some of the old favourites of the Barn Dance, as well as some of the new artists. We're especially proud to have been able to come up with "The Squaws Along the Yukon" by Cactus Mac, a Barn Dance classic if there ever was one.

1. **Down Yonder / Forester's Hornpipe** by Wayne Riehl from a Barn Dance Reunion, introduction by Johnny Brent.
2. **I Wonder Who's Holding Her Now** - from Gerry Davidson's recent CD.
3. **Tiger Rag** - A Jack Kingston introduction for Don Steele, of The Golden Prairie Cowboys.
4. **Over The Santa Fe Trail** by The Golden Prairie Cowboys Trio, with lead by Tex Hodgins.
5. **Listen to the Mockingbird** - Title tune from Randy Morrison's latest album.
6. **Squaws Along The Yukon** - The classic Cactus Mac, taken from an acetate; cut by Cactus Mac and The Ranch Boys.
7. **Temptation Rag** - The great piano expertise of Hap Swatridge.
8. **Rainbow at Midnight** - by Roy Thompson from a 1948 acetate, cut at CKNX with a young Lloyd Bank on steel guitar.
9. **Take Me Back To Tulsa** - from the latest Randy Satchell album.
10. **Liebstraum** - Slim Boucher on the banjo, from Western Round-up.
11. **A-Courtin' & A-Bussin'** - by Georgie Faith from a 1952 78, with backup by Jean and Les Dowell, The Colorado Kids.
12. **Freight Train Blues** - A great traditional yodel from a Jack Kingston album.
13. **Flippin; Your Lid** - From a 78 by Slim Boucher / Golden Prairie Cowboys.
14. **Home In San Antone** - Everybody's favourite, Ernie King from Circle 8.
15. **Shotgun** - instrumental from Rusty Walker, with Roy Penney.
16. **Old New Brunswick Moon** - An Earl Heywood original, sung by Earl and Martha, from a Barn Dance broadcast.
17. **Whalen's Breakdown** - Another Barn Dance tune by Ross and Archie Mann.
18. **Through The Bottom of the Glass** -

from the Wayne and Carol CD, Dawg-Gone Country, featuring Bill Simmermaker.

19. **Great Speckled Bird** - by Al Widmeyer, played on an Ernie King dobro.
20. **Burgundy Waltz** - Twin fiddles of Victor Pasowisty and Mike Slauenwhite, from the Andy DeJarlis tribute album.
21. **Throw a Saddle on a Star** - by Floyd Sillito, who was featured on Western Roundup.
22. **Pizzicato Polka** - piano and organ duet by Reg Bitton and Mary Fisher.
23. **There's A New Moon Over My Shoulder** - a Tex Hodgins feature with The Golden Prairie Cowboys.
24. **Orange Blossom Special** - You haven't heard this tune until you hear this live version by Al Cherny from Western Round-up.
25. **Froggy Went A-Courtin'** - by Brenda Allen featured star of Western

Round-up, here on a cut from the Barn Dance, introduced by Johnny Brent.

26. **Long Lost Stranger** - by Lance Russwurm, a studio cut, written by Laura and Lynn Russwurm, back-up here is Rusty Walker, Al Cherny and The Mercury Brothers.
27. **She Taught Me To Yodel** - by yodeller Don Reynolds, featured many times on the CKNX Barn Dance.
28. **Dana's Tune** - An original by pianist Len Love.
29. **Paper Rosie** - The Dallas Harms song by Smoky Weber from the Weber Family Album.
30. **Hot Licks & Dirty Tricks** - a steel guitar instrumental by Doug Dietrich, our musical director from a Circle M album.

I think it will be well worth your time to pick up a cassette or CD of this when you are at one of our events. We also have a brand new Al Cherny album "Live/The Lost Recordings", an instant classic.



5th Annual Jamboree



Campout Weekend

Blyth Community Campgrounds

Stage Show and Dance - May 24, 25 & 26

★ May 24	7:00 p.m.	Blue Grass Show, free admission
★	8:30 p.m.	Open Jamboree on Stage, free admission
★ May 25	8:00 a.m.	Musical Flea Market, free admission (anything pertaining to Music)
★		Vendor fee of \$10.00 per table
★	9:00 a.m.	Free Coffee & Donuts or breakfast by the Blyth Lions
★	10:00 a.m.	Registration for afternoon Jamboree - free (anyone who plays or sings)
★	1 to 4 p.m.	Open Jamboree, free admission
★	8:00 p.m.	Show and Dance, tickets with campsite
★ May 26	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast by Blyth Lions
★	10:00 a.m.	Gospel Sing, free admission, collection

This is an all inclusive packaged weekend that includes RV camp sites with services and tickets to the 8:00 pm "Saturday Night CKNX Barn Dance".

★ # of Nights	★ 1 Member	★ 1 Non-member	★ 2 Members	★ 2 Non-members
★ 1 night	★ \$25.00	★ \$33.00	★ \$35.00	★ \$48.00
★ 2 nights	★ \$40.00	★ \$51.00	★ \$50.00	★ \$66.00

★ *For additional tickets or tickets at the door: \$10.00 for members; \$15.00 for non-members.*

★ **Food and Refreshment Booth on site operated by Blyth Lions Club.**

★ **Support the Society to have such events, join this weekend at reduced rates:**

★ **Single membership - \$10.00; Dual membership (2 people) - \$20.00.**

★ *Sponsored by the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum*

★ Reservations or volunteering, contact David Hedley at (519) 357-2329, evenings.

★ Jamboree Details, contact Bill Simmermaker at (519) 579-4983, evenings.



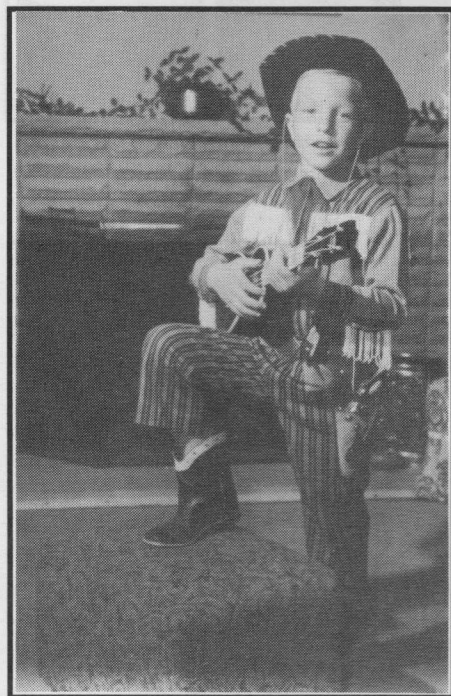
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and dad have been on many trips and adventures with both my sister's family and our family too. Dad has always been supportive in all that we do, including the grand kids' activities as well. His creative spirit has certainly "taken holt", as he would always say.

Right now, I'm trying to get dad into the studio to record some of his old cowboy songs, and re-record Moonlight On the Manitoulin Island. We're planning on doing three generations of "The Heywoods" on a C.D., including mom, dad, me and my wife, and our twin girls, Janessa and Kianna. All of the Singin' Heywoods will be on-stage at the Blyth Campout Weekend, Saturday night Barn Dance show. Dad's even writing a couple of new tunes for his upcoming Donnelly CD re-release.

Aside from all of my dad's career accomplishments, I still respect him just for being my dad, and I know he has the same feelings for me. Both my dad and his father before him, have been "young at heart", and I like that too. Love, understanding, and a sense of humour are some of the ingredients that my dad has fostered in me and my family.

Thanks Dad. Happy 85th Birthday, Love, your son, Grant. Or, as others would have me known as "Son of Earl".



"Son of Earl". Grant Heywood from the early years. A chip off the old cowboy block.

From the President's Desk

by Shirley Russwurm

Hopefully you will get to read this before the annual meeting at the Wingham Legion on April, 2002. I would urge you all to make an effort to attend this meeting, to vote for your new board of directors, and voice your opinions.

Our May campout should prove to be a very interesting event. Due to renovations at the Blyth Arena, our Barn Dance and other festivities will be held in a real barn at the back of the campgrounds, which should be a real blast.

With our new Barn Dance, Vol. 3 plus a brand new "Live" Al Cherny CD and cassette being available, you can take a large part of past and present Barn Dances home with you, to play at your leisure. We have to thank Marion Cherny for her generous approval of the Al Cherny project. The recovery of this live material is an important historical event that will be cherished by many. These CDs and cassettes will also be available in stores, once again on Rodeo Records, distributed by Holborne.

With a number of barn dances throughout the coming season, I look forward to meeting many of you somewhere along the line. Until then, please support real country music.

You may reach me as follows:
Shirley Russwurm,
Box 663,
Elmira, Ontario N3B 2Z7
Phone: (519) 669-2386
Fax: (519) 669-1814

BOOKING THE BARN DANCE

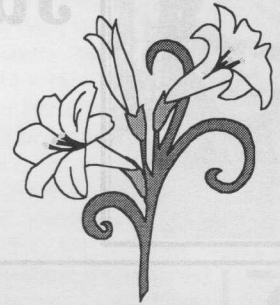
If you are interested in more information about booking the

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

IN MEMORIAM



BARBARA RUTH KINGSTON - Passed away at Smiths Falls Hospital on Saturday, February 23rd, 2002. Beloved wife of the late Jack Kingston. Loving mother of Harvey, Michael (Connie) and Bob (Kathy). Cherished grandmother of John, Dan, Barbie, Beckie, Jackie, Julie and little Jack and great-grandmother of Brendan, Jessica and Laura. Also sadly missed by her brother Douglas Randle.

IRENE OLIVE (Ann) DINGWALL (nee May) - Passed away peacefully at the Memorial Hospital St. Marys, on Saturday, March 9, 2002 in her 77th year. Beloved wife of the late Dr. William John (Jack) Dingwall (1998). Loving mother of Dale Dingwall and Heather, Cobourg; Don Dingwall and Charlotte, Lakeside, and mother-in-law of Dick Kramer, St. Marys. Loving grandmother of Judy, Joanne, Andrea, Erin, Gemma, Chardon and Jack. Predeceased by daughter Penny Kramer (2001), son William (Bill) Dingwall (1995), and sister Mary Rondo.

Ann was a professional trick horse rider with many awards to her credit. Her story and memorabilia are on display at the Barn Dance Museum in Wingham.

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.

326 Josephine St., Wingham (519) 357-2811



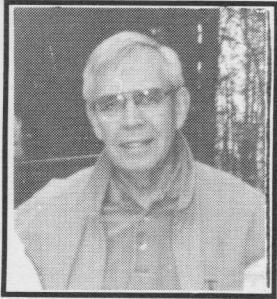
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Just Fiddling Around . . .

with Bill Oja



At the Orangeville Fiddle Camp 2002 are some of Canada's finest instructors. L to R: **ROBBIE DAGENAIS**, **BOB ARBUCKLE**, **ANN LEDERMAN**, **CHANDA** and **TRISH GIBSON** and **JON PILATZKE**. Jon, by the way, is one of Canada's top fiddler/step dancers and just came off a tour with world famous Chieftans.



The Dean of the Orangeville Winter Fiddle Camp **BILL ELLIOTT**, seen here with master violin maker **LOU CURRAH** (L) and father **SHANE**, of the up and coming fiddle stars, the Weiler youngsters.



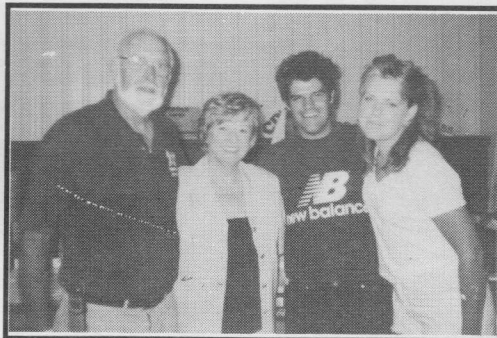
The **ROMANUCK SISTERS** of Saskatoon, Sask. pose with author / step dance judge **SHERRY JOHNSON** of Stratford at the popular Sturgeon Falls Fiddle and Step Dance Festival.



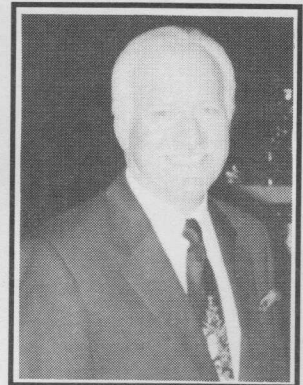
Seen at the Central Canada Bluegrass Awards show are L to R award winning fiddler **WAYNE FERGUSON**, festival promoter **AL SCHUTTE** and world famous M/C and man about town **ART JAMIESON**.



Some of the stars of the "Memories of the Don Messer Show" on their cross-Canada tour were the **BECKETT KIDS** with **SCOTT WOODS**, Shelburne Fiddle Champion.



Seen at the Huronia Fiddle / Step Contest in Penetanguishene are director **HERMAN DESROCHER**, step dance judge **GINNY ARBUCKLE**, country singer **KILEY JOE MASON**, and stepper **JANET MCGLYNN**.



The host on the "Memories" tour was dapper **JIM SWAN**, a favourite at the Barn Dance appearances.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- * **Al Brisco**, April 12 at the Grand Theatre, Kingston, 1:00 p.m., with Johnny Burke, Harold MacIntyre and Myrna Lorrie.
- * **Jenny and Josie** - April 26, Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway, Jigs Dinner/Dance. Tickets (905) 727-9932; April 28, Maple Community Center, 2 to 4 pm, Canadian Cancer Society.
- * **Country Music Jamboree** - with Joe Tucker and Second Wind at the Moose Lodge, 70 Advance Blvd. (Steeles east of Dixie Rd.), every Sunday 2 to 6 pm. Bring your guitars and join the fun. Info (905) 791-5073.
- * **Country Music Store** - 2889 Danforth Ave., Toronto, has a jam every Saturday 3 to 6 pm.
- * **Back By Popular Demand** - May 5, 6 & 7,

Stage West features Buddy Wasisname & The Other Fellers, world famous east coast trio. Tickets (905) 238-0042, 1-800-263-0684 or www.stagewest.com.

- * **Country Music Jamboree** - May 17 to 20, Port Hope. Contact Jack Reed, (905) 372-2139.
- * **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - April 18, Holland Landing; April 20, Oprey Orillia at the Sundial; April 10, Ukrainian Lviv Hall, 38 Lviv Blvd.; May 5, Maple Leaf Jamboree, 707 Srigley St., Newmarket; May 10, Chef Adams Maple Leaf Dance, Oshawa Legion; May 24-26, Blyth Campout; May 28, Bond Head Fiddle Club; June 5, Car Show, Sentimental Journey (see below); July 5, 6 & 7, Second Maple Leaf Jubilee, Sentimental Journey.
- * **Heads & Tails** - 847 Brown's Line, Alderwood Plaza, Etobicoke (416) 253-0037, features The Bay Boys every Sunday 4 to 8 pm.
- * **Show 'n Shine** - June 1, 10 to 4 pm, Sentimental Journey, 23906 Hwy. 48, south of Baldwin, produced by Mapleleaf Country Jubilee. Join the fun with live country music, car show, country music singing contest, good food and fun for the entire family. Proceeds to assist Southlake Regional Health Centre, Pediatrics Ward.
- * **Rod's Country Classics Jamboree** - With the Dolsons, every second Friday at the Alton Legion 8 pm. Also Rod's Band is at Erin Legion, fourth Sunday Sept. to May from 1 to 5 pm.
- * **Tottenham Bluegrass Festival** - 18th Annual, June 25, 26 & 27, three days of bluegrass music hosted by the entertaining and hilarious, Mike O'Reilly. Specials events are harmony workshop, kids program and beef BBQ Saturday afternoon and evening. For tickets and info: Tottenham Bluegrass Festival, Box 922, Totten-

ham, ON L0G 1W0. e-mail: tcoc@simcoe.igs.net. Phone 1-888-Blugras, toll free, or (905) 936-4100.

- * **Country Music Jamboree** - Greenbank, June 14 - 16. Contact Rick Johns, (905) 985-8424 or 800-416-8029.
- * **Second Maple Leaf Country Jubilee** - July 5, 6 & 7. One of the greatest Canadian Country Music events of the year will be at Sentimental Journey, address as above, There will be special guests Fri., Sat., and Sun. nights, starting at 7 pm. A Gospel Show Sunday 11 am. All weekend there will be a continuous lineup of entertainment on stage daily starting at 1 pm. Great Talent, come along, join the fun and sign up to entertain. (At last years show, folks were asking for tickets for this year).
- * **Country Music Jamboree** - Marysville, June 28 to 30. Contact Roger and Pat Brant, (613) 396-2132.
- * **Waterdown Legion Features Band** - Magnum, last Sunday of the month, 2 to 6 pm.

* *Enjoy the Springtime, folks, with beautiful birds singing, flowers blooming and supporting our great country music. See you at the Blyth Campout.*

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Contact:
Helen Carson
Wayne Carson



Jay Reihl and Jake Leiske (of Farmer's Daughter) are pictured here performing at the Barn Dance Show, March 17, at the Wingham Heritage Theatre.

**BARN DANCE
 SOUVENIRS**

Great Gift Ideas!!

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| Souvenir Mugs - | \$ 5.00 each |
| CD - Vol. 1 | \$19.00 each |
| CD - Vol. 2 | \$19.00 each |
| CD - Vol. 3 | \$19.00 each |
| Cassette - Vol. 1 | \$10.00 each |
| Cassette - Vol. 2 | \$10.00 each |
| Cassette - Vol. 2 | \$10.00 each |
| CD - Vol. 1 & 2 | \$30.00 set |
| CD - Vol. 1, 2 & 3 | \$45.00 set |
| Souvenir 1997 Calendar | \$ 5.00 each |
| Barn Dance Logo T-Shirts
(black or white only) | |
| Sizes M, L, XL | \$15.00 each |
| Souvenir Hats | \$12.00 each |

Please include \$2.00 per item for mailing or pick up at Ernie King Music.

**HOWDY FOLKS:**

Back in the 1950's, country music practically took over the radio airways in North America. In Canada, and especially here in Wingham, we were very lucky indeed to have CKNX radio as the voice of western Ontario which broadcasted "live" country music from the studio on Main Street, not to mention the Saturday Night Barn Dance as well. Most of those entertainers who pioneered Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance were drawn like a magnet to the Wingham area simply because the live Barn Dance shows, along with CKNX radio, provided a hotbed of opportunity for performers to be heard by thousands of people.

Wingham was the hub of country music back then, and since establishing Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance, it soon became recognized not only as the "Radio and Television Town of Canada", but as the country music broadcasting centre in the heartland of Ontario, where many a country music career was spawned. Farmers would be milking the cows as the music of Don Robertson and the Ranch Boys played over the barn radio. You could even walk up the main street of Wingham then, and gaze through the radio station plate glass window and maybe catch a glimpse of Al Cherney belting out a fiddle tune on a live radio broadcast, or maybe see the Heywood Family singing around the microphone together. When CKNX expanded to television, it boosted the careers of many of the Barn Dance pioneer performers. Weekly TV shows such as Western Roundup, and Circle 8 Ranch made household names for the likes of Ernie King, The Ranch Boys, and Sharon Strong, to name a few.

Nowadays it's not as easy for a country performer to become recognized locally or even get heard on the radio. Thanks to the

efforts of the Barn Dance Historical Society, the revival of Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance is once again providing the stage for pioneers, young and old alike, to be heard. Thanks also to my good friend, D.J., Shane Wilder, (who was a regular on the old Rawhide TV series) for getting many of the Barn Dance pioneers radio airplay on over 70 radio stations across the USA. I know personally how much all of our Barn Dance Show performers appreciate getting their records heard over the Trans American Radio Network. Hopefully, Shane can take time off from his busy movie schedule and join us sometime.

One last note: Martha and I will be appearing daily throughout the month of June, at Blyth, Ontario, singing songs about the Donnellys for a live play theatre production about the Black Donnellys. It's a great show, and we hope to see you there this season.

Remember - -

THE SHOW MUST GO ON. . .

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

COME JOIN US!!

We need you as a member of

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