

The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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Summer Edition

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Country Music News

25 Years-The Voice of Country Music in Canada

by Grant Heywood

In the music business they say that you're only as good as your last record. That is, if you can last that long. For Larry and Joanne Delaney of Ottawa, 25 years of promoting Canadian country recording artists in Country Music News has likely exceeded their expectations as far as longevity is concerned. 25 years, that's 300 issues folks! Not bad for a little monthly newspaper originally called Capital Country News, started by Ottawa Valley entertainer, Neville Wells, back in 1980.

Originally the plan was to publish a little newspaper about musicians in the Ottawa Valley, but by 1982 (when it became Country Music News), "The Voice of Country Music in Canada" was born. By this time Larry and Joanne persevered and carried on with the publication which became a national publication providing coverage and support for the Canadian country music industry and its artists across Canada and beyond. With the help of dedicated reporters and broadcasters like veteran personality Paul Kennedy, Walter Trott from Nashville, and many other Canadians as well, the publication soon reached 10,000 by the late 1980's.

Country Music News (CMN) was duly noted as an important publication to the Canadian country music industry and Larry Delaney was inducted (Builder's Category) into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame in 1996. Larry has also been named "Country Music Person of the Year" on 11 occa-

sions by the Canadian Country Music Association. An honour well deserved for someone who has literally "toughed it out" while promoting many Canadian traditional country artists and opening doors for so many of our up and coming young artists.

Personally, my hat goes off to Larry for having the guts to endure when so many others would have packed up and gone home. He establishes no criteria when it comes to traditional country or hot new country. Both get equal time in CMN. (although I know traditional country is his favourite). The reports of country music happenings across Canada in CMN are covered region by region and Nashville, too, is represented equally. Many of our Barn Dance artists and stories have been covered in CMN, and even the Barn Dance itself received a front page spot.

A brave move was to list Canadian country music artists recording releases on the CMN Top 100 'Cancountry' hits chart and follow it diligently through radio airplay, tracking reports, record labels, and charts compiled from Canadian Country Radio stations. Fiddlers and bluegrass artists along with gospel, traditional country and new country alike get to be heard in CMN, whether it's a cover story, a recent concert, or even a CD review which Larry handles personally himself, it's all here.

Larry Delaney must be a humble man, (or camera shy) because I surfed the net, checked with colleagues, and searched back issues of CMN but was unable to come up with a current picture of this dedicated Canadian just by himself. But I

can honestly say that he has the same spirit as the late Walt Grealis, who kept RPM magazine (along with Stan Klees) going for years while promoting Canadian recording talent and spotlighting them at the 'Big Country Awards' show in Toronto. Country Music News has outlasted RPM, Bluegrass Canada and The Record, which were all predominant Canadian publications.

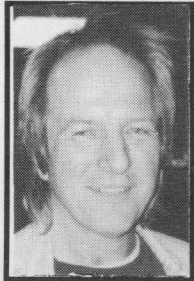
CMN has published first-ever cover stories on most of Canada's top country artists including Shania Twain, Terri Clark, Carolyn Dawn Johnson, Paul Brandt, George Canyon, The Wilkinsons, Jason McCoy, Charlie Major, Michelle Wright, George Fox, Prairie Oyster, etc. CMN has also chronicled the careers of such Canadian Hall of Fame acts as Hank Snow, Wilf Carter, Orval Prophet, Lucille Starr, Myrna Lorrie, Gary Buck, Family Brown, Carroll Baker, Dick Dameron, Ray Griff, Ian Tyson, Ronnie Prophet, The Mercey Brothers, Gordon Lightfoot and so many others.

Larry will certainly express his opinion at times in CMN and his CD reviews are honest and from the heart. With everything said here, I could honestly say that Country Music News is, and has become an industry standard for Canadian Country Music. To Larry and Joanne Delaney - Thanks for 25 years of Country Music News, the definitive 'Voice of Country Music in Canada'.

www.countrymusicnews.ca
larry@countrymusicnews.ca

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



For the first time in many, many years it was great to hear a Barn Dance show being broadcast over CKNX Radio 920 AM. The broadcast took place on the Friday evening opening of our Campout Jamboree weekend and it was a pre-recorded show from our spring performance at the Wingham Heritage Theatre. We are hoping to have the show re-broadcast again sometime this summer. Please phone CKNX Radio 920 AM in Wingham and tell them how much you'd love to hear more "live" Barn Dance shows over the airwaves in the future. We'd love to make it happen.

If you didn't make it out to this year's 8th Annual Campout Jamboree Weekend in Blyth, then you missed our biggest weekend ever! This year we had almost every seat on the arena floor full for the Friday night Bluegrass show and jam. Our Saturday AM continental breakfast had more room with the upstairs of the arena being accessed, and an early morning show by the Otterbein family got people in the musical mood for the day.

The Saturday afternoon jam was well attended but the Saturday night Barn Dance show and dance was filled to capacity. It was great to see a show of hands when the audience was asked who has ever been to one of our Barn Dances before. We must be doing something right since about one third of the hands that went up were newcomers. This year's raffle draw for a mandolin (courtesy of Sherwood Music in Kitchener) went to a lady in Durham and 8 hours of studio recording (courtesy of Gary Hintz at Riley Music in Kitchener) went to Al Alderson of Shakespeare. Thanks to all who participated in our silent auction as well.

A big attraction was an acoustic guitar with caricature paintings of "Circle 8 Ranch Boys" alumni (courtesy of Ernie King). This guitar will be shown at various Barn Dances and events throughout the region and tickets will be sold until

the final draw at the 9th Annual Campout Jamboree Weekend 2006, in Blyth, Ontario. There are still tickets available for the Barn Dance Quilt, which will be drawn on October 16, 2005 at the Heritage Theatre Show in Wingham.

The Sunday morning Barn Dance Gospel show has become almost as big as our Saturday night show. Directed by Ron Coulthard and hosted by Ernie King, this religious flavoured country show had some great guest artists that got people clapping their hands and getting the 'old time religion' feeling. Proceeds from collection were distributed to local service clubs and organizations who volunteered and are part of helping community efforts and charities.

Once again, on behalf of the Barn Dance Historical Society, a BIG THANK YOU to director, Bill Simmermaker and all of our hard working volunteers, and service organization people. And a BIG THANKS to all the musicians, guest artists, and to our members and audience for participating in a fun filled musical weekend. We couldn't do it without you. Also, THANKS to Wayne Greve and crew for sound and lights, as well as Dave Wallace at Ernie King Music in Wingham.

Remember that all monies raised at this event will help support and operate our Barn Dance Museum located on the main street of Wingham, just across from the Wingham Heritage Theatre. Please make a point of stopping by this summer and checking out the museum. It's a marvelous trip down memory lane.

Hope to see you all at the next Barn Dance.

Comments?? Please contact:

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Wellesley, Ontario N0B 2T0
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E-mail: heywoods@golden.net

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



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Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

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(or leave a message)

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www.thebardance.ca

Earl Heywood

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Full Page (back cover) -

\$300.00 plus GST

All prices are per issue.



FROM THE BARN DANCE MAILBAG

Re: The Recent Blyth Campout Jam-boree.

Many, many Thanks. Sunday - The Gospel Sing was the best in 8 years. It was simply wonderful - Thank You Ernie King. Saturday - What an improvement having the continental breakfast upstairs. Four sides went fast and places to sit down. "Wonderful" Hayloft Hoedown as just "Great".

The Barn Dance Show - wonderful performers. The stand-in for a sudden performer cancellation (not Pete) worked out perfectly. You must have the other fellow and gal again, (Jim Patterson and his wife), they were most enjoyable. Love to look forward to seeing and hearing Ron Coulthard and smiling adorable Hugh Elder. The floor for the dance was perfect!

And last but for sure not least. Bill Simmermaker. God Bless this man. We want him to know he makes everything work and come together and we all know this. The whole weekend was totally enjoyable. Thank you for this weekend, we would not want to ever miss it.

Earl and Kathleen Weiberg

THE 2005 BARN DANCE SCHEDULE

* SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 - *Annual Country Fiddling Convention*. Professional and amateur fiddlers of all ages. Also featuring: Barn Dance emcee Jim Swan. To be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Victoria St., Wingham, From 1 to 3 p.m. Fiddlers and Old Time Fiddlers take the stage; from 3 to 5 p.m. The Hayloft Hoedown Show including several fiddlers.

* SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 - *The Tradition Continues*. (show only). Held at the Town Hall Heritage Theatre, Main Street, Wingham. Sponsored jointly by the Heritage Theatre and Barn Dance Historical Society. Phone (519) 357-4082 for details.



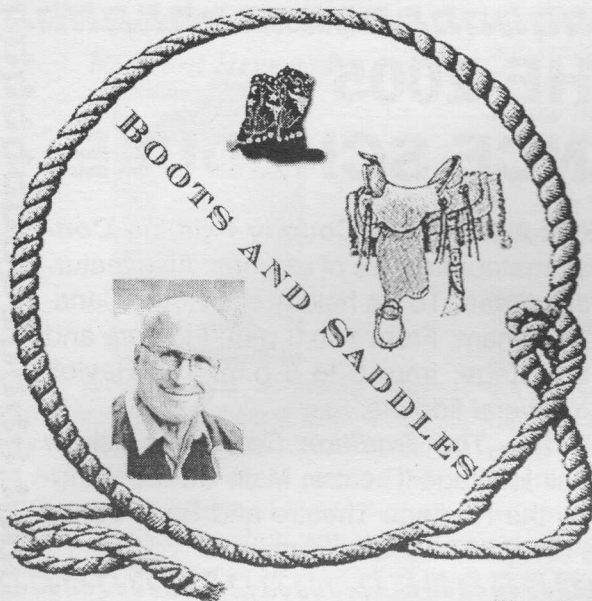
Michael T. Wall at Erin Wood Recording Studio in Erin, Ontario, seen here recording a vocal track for his New All Canadian CD. Barn Dance fiddler, Mike Slauenwhite also plays on some of the tracks including "The Ballad of Earl Heywood".

Photo by studio owner Sal Noguera.

COUSIN OPIE

BY LARRY RUSSWURM





by Lynn Russwurm

I've had some good comments on my diatribe against today's so-called country music in the last issue which was much appreciated. Which means I'll be touching on this subject from time to time.

I think we'll take a look at a few of the companies that are making some of the real traditional country music available to the public. First of all I want to talk about where these recordings are coming from. In the thirties and forties there were what was called 16" transcriptions which were made available to radio stations only. There was a lot of country music on these discs that the public never had a chance to hear unless their local radio station subscribed to this transcription service. And the unique thing about these discs was that they were recorded specifically for them and even if the artist had the song on a commercial record, this was a different recording altogether. The first recordings of the Sons of the Pioneers were all on transcriptions and there were literally hundreds of these songs, this also goes for Bob Wills, The Jimmy Wakely Trio and most of the artists from WLS' National Barn Dance. I was fortunate to be able to tune in to the Chatham radio station who played all the WLS people, because they subscribed to the M. M. Cole Service from Chicago, where

they were located. Most of you have probably seen the M. M. Cole song folios, which was their main business and the transcriptions served to advertise their songs, many of which came out of their song folios. One of the first songs Earl Heywood placed with a publisher was recorded this way, I believe the song was "There's a Pillow of Stars".

Anyway these songs are at last seeing the light of day by being released on CDs by various companies

like Bear Family, Cattle Records from Germany, Soundies from the U.S. Living Era, British Archives of Country Music, and our own Heritage Music here in Canada. Most of these CDs have from 20 to 30 songs on them, so even if you have to pay \$20.00 for them they are still a bargain when you compare them to 9 or 10 songs on the current CDs on the market where you often have to pay anywhere from \$10 to \$20. They also usually have a booklet of information on the artist and the songs which is very informative. Although I pretty much miss the back cover information that used to come with vinyl albums, these booklets pretty well make up for it. The reason that these transcriptions are very hard to find is that the subscribing station was to either return the discs after a certain date or destroy them. Johnny Brent told me one time of spending an afternoon in the back yard of CKNX burning them up. A lot of stations kept them in their files and were eventually purchased by some collector who bought their vinyl library. I personally own about 1,500 of them which I bought from a dealer down in Ohio, what treasures lie therein. Also some local artists would cut transcriptions at the station they were affiliated with so they could be played on the air when they were on tour and couldn't come in regularly for their

broadcasts, but these are exceptionally rare as most were destroyed by the stations.

A little bit about Bear Family in Germany. They've emerged as the top label in the re-issue market because of the volume and excellence of their product. Along with their traditional country music, they've also released some original country, reissues of pop artists like Doris Day, and a lot of rock-a-billy. Their main forte is the beautiful box sets they release, these usually come with a hard cover full colour book included. On one of their Wilf Carter sets, they reprinted the entire book as written by Wilf himself called The Yodelling Cowboy, which was published by Ryerson Press here in Canada in 1961. They've issued the entire Hank Snow repertoire from his early Bluebird recordings on CD, I believe on 3 box sets and several single CDs. Some of their box sets will have up to 12 CDs.

Richard Weise, owner of Bear Family, started out in Germany, issuing bootleg vinyl albums of artists like Hank Snow, Carter Family, Wilf Carter, Tommy Collins, Goebel Reeves sometime in the sixties. Eventually he went legitimate and started to lease much of his material from American companies who had all this stuff laying around in their vaults with no interest to reissue it. The amount of work he puts into it is incredible and he has his finger on many contacts around the world. I've been involved in some of his projects to a certain degree. Sometime in the 50's Earl Heywood and I had a song recorded by Tom Tall on the Fabor Label in California. About 15 years ago I received a phone call from Richard, asking if I had a copy of the song "Why Must I Wonder". He knew me as the writer and somehow managed to locate me, anyway he was putting out a vinyl LP on Tom Tall and the company he was leasing the masters from were missing this one record. My copy was in disas-

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

trous shape so I called Earl and drove up to Ingham to borrow his copy and I sent it over to Germany. Later on I supplied him with a picture of Orval Prophet for the cover of a CD by this great Canadian. Other times I'll get a call from him wanting some information on something or other. I supplied him with some written material for both his Wilf Carter box sets. Richard issued a Hank Thompson box set of all his Capitol material which included two songs of mine that Hank had recorded in the 50s and 60s, and to my surprise in the included book the interviewer with Hank talked about one of the songs of mine (co-written with Hank), "I Cast A Lonesome Shadow" on and he said it was probably the best Hank Thompson record ever. This song went on to be recorded by Martin L. Gore, the lead singer with British hard rock band, Depeche Mode about two years ago for which I've received a substantial royalty cheque just recently.

Bear Family issues a catalog which can be obtained by writing to: Bear Family Records, P. O. Box

1154, D-27727 Hambergen, Germany.

I think I'm running out of space and we'll look at some more of these available re-issues next time around. Once again, any comments will be appreciated and if there are other topics you'd like to see covered, drop me a line at: P. O. Box 421, Elmira, Ontario N3B 3A9.



NEWS & NOTES

July 30th will be a day of celebration for veteran Barn Dance performer Hughie Elder and his wife Beth. They will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. After all these years and Hughie still keeps on smiling. I guess Beth never told him to wipe that grin off of his face. Just as well. They are a super great couple and we wish them the best. I am sure it will be a big party and a 'taxing day' for both of them.

Barn Dance band members Al Alderson, Doug Dietrich, George Lonsbury, Grant Heywood and Mike Slauenwhite recently returned from a weekend in Burlington, Vermont where they headlined at the 20th An-

nual Chew Chew Festival on the shores of Lake Champlain. Dobrowizard, Junior Barber and Beartracks opened the show, followed by the Barn Dance crew featuring Randy Satchell. Grant (aka. son of Earl) came out front while his original drummer from the Desert Dolphins (Bob Richards) sang backup and handled drumming duties. The guys played several rockin' country tunes from Grant's Desert Dolphin CD and some new tunes as well. Special thanks to Rick Norcross for the invite and to WOKO Country Radio for all the air play and sponsoring our performance. Except for the barrage of mosquitoes, it was Awesome!! Great folks, incredible food, and a real good time with musical friends.

The new "Best of The Barn Dance" CD is now available. It is a compilation of songs picked from Barn Dance CDs Vol. 1, 2 and 3.

Barn Dance musical director, Doug Dietrich has got the new Barn Dance website posted up now and it will have new information as we continue to build on it. The new website home is now listed as:

www.thebardance.ca

BARN DANCE SOUVENIRS

- 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 (gold logo on blue only)
- Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL \$10.00 ea.
- NEW Al Cherny CD - "Live / The Lost Recordings" \$20.00 ea.
- NEW Eleanor & Graham Townsend CD "The Talented Townsends" (36 unheard recordings) \$20.00 ea.
- Best of The Barn Dance CD \$20.00 ea.

All purchases include GST.

Please include \$3.00 per item for mailing



Doreen Brown and Tommy Cash seen here at the Jamboree on the Mountain, May 6 to 8, 2005 in Monteagle, Tennessee. Doreen performed on the Friday show and helped emcee the Sunday Gospel show.

COUNTRY MUSIC MEMORIES

as compiled by Lynn Russwurm



BARN DANCE REUNION, MOUNT FOREST, JULY 3, 1977. Back Row left to right - Ron Coulthart, Bill Mankiss, unknown, Wayne Riehl, Don Robertson, Mel Lavbigne, Hugh Elder, Hank Bedard, Ernie King, unknown, Len Love. Front Row / Centre left to right - Johnny Brent, Norma Andre, Mary Elliott, Lynn Russwurm, Sharon Strong, Lloyd Bank, Cora Robertson, Elmer Purdon, Pauline Swanson, Earl Heywood, Martha Heywood.



EARLY PHOTO OF EARL HEYWOOD AND GANG -

L to R - Lloyd Bank, Maurice Bolyer, Earl Heywood, Jack Kingston, and Bill Simms.

WESTERNAIRES - 1954

Left to Right - Mike Slauenwhite, Brian Dugan, Johnny Siska, Laura Russwurm, Lynn Russwurm and Walter Boettger.



COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown
(Toronto and surrounding area)

ronto, starting Sept. after Labour Day. Also performing at Almaguin Music Festival, Sundridge, July 15 - 17 and Aug. 13. T.O.

* **Twang**, an alternative Country Festival, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto.

* **Appearances by Gordon Hildreth:** Aug 29 - Classic Country Music Reunion, open mike; Aug. 19 - Paisley Heritage Weekend; Aug. 29 - Sept. 4 - Missouri Valley, Iowa; Sept. 21 - 24 - Listowel Plowing Match.

* **Band Dance Band**, will be at the Lions Head Arena Country Music Weekend on Aug. 29 and will be the back up band for Crystal Gage, Gary Boyle and Randy Satchell.

* **Contact Dan McVeigh** for appearances at 905-453-6104.

* **Sept. 16 - 18 - Trillium Country Jamboree**, Hastings. Contact Han VanBaden or Chef Adams 705-324-7884, Hwy #45 half mile south of Hastings.

* **Contact Joe Tucker and Second Wind** for country music venues 905-855-3351.

* **For upcoming appearances** of Bluegrass Dixie Flyers, contact Kenneth Palmer at bigkenny74@hotmail.com

* **Cathy's Café**, Baldwin St., Brooklyn, has country music on Friday nights.

* **Sept. 18 - Chef Adams Jamboree**, Moose Lodge, Lindsay.

* **For future shows**, contact The Country Boys, 100% country music. Contact 705-835-3625, Glen McGregor, with Jennifer and Linda.

* **Appearances by Doreen Brown:** addresses above. Classic Country Music Reunion, open mike; 5th Annual Maple Leaf Jubilee, open mike; Sept. 18, Trillium Country Jamboree; Gospel show and afternoon show, Moose Lodge, Brown's Line and Lakeshore, some Sundays.

* **Newfie Corner** 3051 Lakeshore Blvd. W. has live country music.

* **Upcoming Bluegrass Festivals:** July 22 - 24, Palmer Rapids Twin Festival; July 27 - 31, River Valley Bluegrass Jamboree; Aug. 4 - 7, Willow Park Bluegrass Jamboree; Aug. 12 - 14, Sand Road Bluegrass Festival; Sept. 2 - 4, Bluegrass Jamboree; Sept. 8 - 11, Marmora Country Jamboree; Oct. 24 - 30, IMBA World of Bluegrass, Nashville, TN; Nov. 18 - 20, The Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards, Deerhurst.

Introduction to New Barn Dance Board Member, Peter Saros

I am thankful for having recently been elected as a member of the Board of Directors for the Barn Dance Historical Society. Not two months before joining the board, I accepted a position at 820 CHAM The Legend as an Account Executive responsible for new business development. I entered radio sales after six years as a foreman for Rosedale Landscaping in Toronto. I accepted the sales position not because I am a natural born salesman, but rather, because I am fanatical about the history, geography, and culture of country music. I was at a point in my life where I was able to translate my passion for country music into a profession. I was excited to work on behalf of 820 CHAM The Legend given its recent format change to classic country music.

It was an interesting series of contacts that brought me in contact with the Barn Dance Historical Society; I contacted Larry Delaney of Country Music News who put me in touch with Lynn Russwurm, who in turn invited me to attend the June meeting of the board.

New to radio and the Barn Dance, I am also relatively new to Canada. I have been living in Toronto since 1998. I was born and raised in the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota. I recently married a wonderful woman from the tobacco fields of Delhi, Ontario and have since become a permanent resident of Ontario.

I look forward to working with both The Barn Dance Historical Society and 820 CHAM The Legend to celebrate the past, present, and future of country music. It will be an honour to sit with the other board members every month to work toward that end.

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) 235-4783,
or (bus.) (519) 235-0559*

* **Meaford Tourism or visit www.mdcc.ca**, Sept. 13 - Jam, Leith Church; July 26 - 30, "Scatter the Ashes", a musical celebration of love with the sounds of guitar, piano and fiddle; July 31, Sunday concert series at 7 p.m. at Meaford Harbour Pavillon; July 13 - Fiddle Jam. For tickets call 519-538-3569.

* **Reminder:** The Classic Country Music Reunion, Trenton, Ont. July 28, 29 & 30, Centennial Park.

* **Monday Night Jams - Bluegrass music** at Man of York Bar, Mill Street, Tottenham, 8 p.m.

* **Bluegrass Appearances**, "The Spence Family" July 22 - 24, Palmer Rapids; Aug. 11 - 20, Nova, Ohio.

* **Georgian Bay 40th Anniversary Steam Show - July 29 to Aug. 1**, Cookstown, country music entertainment daily. www.show.ca Live music for all occasions, contact Len Murphy 705-739-2306.

* **Silverthorn Legion**, Rogers Rd. and Dufferin has country music every Saturday afternoon starting at 3 p.m.

* **Crossroad Country Music Bar**, 1544 Danforth Ave., Toronto. 416-406-4017.

* **5th Annual MapleLeaf Country Jubilee**, Aug. 26 - 28, Sentimental Journey, 4 km south of Sutton.

* **16th Annual Havelock Country Jamboree**, Aug. 28 - 31.

* **Alliston Potato Festival**, first week in August. 705-435-9708. Dances, parade, camping.

* **Roses in the Snow - Four girl bluegrass band.** A must. Sundays at the Underdown 3 to 7. 263 Gerrard St. East, To-



HOWDY FOLKS:

Seems like people don't dress up for special occasions as much as they used to. Aside from weddings, funerals and going to church, a lot of folks kind of dress semi-formal or casual most of the time. Call me old fashioned, but as an entertainer it was part of the 'showbiz appeal' to look like a star onstage and off.

In the early days of country and western music many band member would wear the same or similar outfits with the cowboy look, right down to the boots and hat. Back then, people almost expected the musicians and singers to have that 'star quality' look when they walked onstage. I remember Doc Cruickshank had the Ranch Boys all wear western style dress pants with cowboy boots and they all had similar matching embroidered yellow cowboy shirts with a neckerchief or bold tie. They always looked good when they appeared on the Circle 8 Ranch TV show every week wearing those outfits. They even found a big enough sized shirt to fit fiddle

player Rossy Mann as well. The Golden Prairie Cowboys were no exception and always dressed in smartly styled western outfits too.

Barn Dance emcee, Johnny Brent, would almost always wear a suede fringe cowboy jacket when announcing and I too would often wear my traditional bright yellow cowboy outfit onstage complete with a Stetson cowboy hat. Finding a store that sold dazzling western wear clothing wasn't always easy either. Most of us would usually buy our stagewear in Toronto or other cities at special western wear stores or even by mail order. But you always felt like a million bucks once you walked onstage in fancy new duds, and the audience took notice too.

Back in the 40's, 50's, and 60's, many of the popular Grand Ole Opry stars from Nashville became known for their flashy western outfits. Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton wore a lot of rhinestone studded clothing as did Hank Snow, Little Jimmy Dickens, Loretta Lynn, Hank Thompson and many others. Marty Stuart still carries on this tradition today by wearing showy outfits that reflect that bygone era. Johnny Cash was always sharply dressed in black western garments, hence 'the man in black'. Willie Nelson ... well now he's kind of hard to figure out. Usually it's just a shirt and torn jeans with a bandana around his forehead, but he has been known to wear a tuxedo once in a while.

I think a lot of the western style cowboy outfits came out of Hollywood, when television stars such as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Gene Autry, The Lone Ranger and others started becoming popular. Designers such as Rodeo Ben, and Nudie Cohn became synonymous with dazzling western wear

clothing. The 'Nudie Suit' became a brand name of rhinestone and spangle decorated cowboy attire worn by many popular country music artists from the 1940s until Nudie Cohn's death in 1984. It was Elvis's gold suit that Nudie had designed that really catapulted him to fame. Originally from Russia, Nudie became known as 'Nudie, The Rodeo Tailor'. One of the Burrito Bros. albums from the early 70's featured the whole group wearing specially designed Nudie suits on the front cover.

Manuel Cuevas worked for the flamboyant Nudie in Nashville, and has now become a famous western wear fashion designer for many of today's stars such as Bob Dylan, Dwight Yoakam, Marty Stuart and the late Johnny Cash. Johnny Cash once said, "I wore black before I met Manuel. It was Manuel who put me in good black." My son Grant was lucky enough to buy a 'one of a kind' Manuel rhinestone encrusted western wear shirt at a specialty shop in Toronto when he was performing with the Desert Dolphins. He sometimes likes to wear it on special occasions or when he is a guest entertainer at a Barn Dance.

My wife Martha has made many custom outfits over the years for the Heywood family for our onstage performances. Many times she would shop around for special material to make an outfit, and often without a pattern to go by. She is an excellent seamstress and I must say I am forever indebted to her for always making sure I am well dressed onstage. Martha always looks good, and thanks to her for making me look good too.

And remember -

The Show Must Go On.

Earl Heywood, Founder,
Honorary 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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- A one year subscription to our quarterly JOURNAL.
- The opportunity to PARTICIPATE by sitting on Committees.
- Special membership only rates at some of our events.

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 \$ 50.00 - 2 years
 \$ 75.00 - 3 years
 \$100.00 - 5 years

DUAL MEMBERSHIP

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 \$ 80.00 - 2 years
 \$120.00 - 3 years
 \$160.00 - 5 years