

The Barn Dance Opera Journal

Official Publication of:
The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.

A Not For Profit Organization

Barn Dance Website: www.thebardance.ca

Price: \$2.00 (tax incl.)

Vol. 50 2006

Summer Edition

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by Grant Heywood

As Canadians, our pride runs pretty deep, especially when it's Canada Day, or defending our country and our way of life, maybe even defending our favourite brand of beer! But there seems to be a real pride when people turn on the radio and hear a truly Canadian song over the airwaves. Canadian country and folk artists alike have written some real gems over the years. From 'Farewell to Nova Scotia' and 'Canadian Pacific', to 'Blue Canadian Rockies' and 'Alberta Bound', there is no doubt we're talkin' about Canada here.

Who could forget such classics as 'Northwest Passage' by Stan Rogers, 'Four Strong Winds' by Ian & Sylvia or Gordon Lightfoot's masterpiece, 'Canadian Railroad Trilogy'. We always hear about Texas, or Memphis or Wyoming or whatever from our neighbours to the south, but it always makes us feel proud when we hear a truly Canadian song being played on radio, or at least mentioning some place in Canada. My dad, Earl Heywood, wrote his fair share of Canadiana type songs including 'Moonlight On The Manitoulin Island', 'Old New Brunswick Moon' and 'Alberta Waltz'. I would have to say too, that Larry Mercey's, 'I Love You Canada' is likely one of his proudest moments in songwriting.

But if there is one person who stands out as embodying Canada in song and spirit (regardless of urban CBC ignorance), that person would have to be none other than, the one, the only, truly '*roots to the boots*' voice of Canada, our very own Stompin' Tom Connors. Who can argue with someone who writes songs about regular Canadians and real Canadian places. Tom grew up in P.E.I., so it only seemed right that his signature song would be 'Bud The Spud'. Feeling restless, Tom travelled to Ontario with just a guitar on his back and little money in his pocket

Truly Canadian Eh!

hoping his song ideas about people, cities, and smalltown Canada, would become a dream come true on record.. My Dad said he can remember when Tom was trying to get established and came to our house in Wingham one time asking dad for advice about the music business. Tom came from humble surroundings which made it easy for him to relate to the places he wrote songs about. Places like Tillsonburg (tobacco-town) - "Tillsonburg, Tillsonburg, my back still hurts when I hear that word" or how about "Sudbury Saturday Night", a song about the miners from Inco drinkin' away their paycheques on the weekend, while the women went out to try and win it back at bingo.

Many of today's young folk are familiar with 'The Hockey Song' commonly called 'The Good Old Hockey Game', which certainly qualifies for Canadian content, but there are other Canadian Stompin' Tom nuggets as well, such as 'Take Me Back To Old Alberta', 'Muktuk Annie', 'Red River Jane' and 'Believe In Your Country'. One of my personal favourites is one of Tom's earlier recordings on the Boot record label called 'Another Dang Twang'.

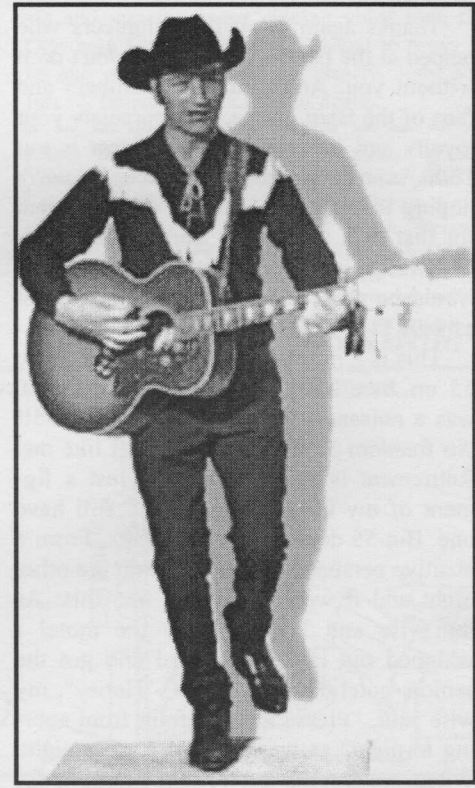
Tom became well known for pickin' and singin' his own songs about Canada and stompin' on a hunk of plywood every night he played the smoky bars and beer halls. I can remember when Stompin' Tom made a big splash in Toronto when he paid for a billboard sign erected in downtown T.O. which read, 'Stomp Out Stompin' Tom Connors'. It caused such a furor amongst many of his transplanted east coast fans that he soon established a reputation for himself with near legendary status in the bars and nightclubs where he performed. Let's not forget the time when Tom gave back the six Juno awards he had won because the industry wouldn't even recognize Stompin' Tom Connors with radio air-

play. That certainly raised his profile another notch or two. Tom seemed to know when to seize the moment without having to compromise his music or his integrity.

From those early days in the 60's and 70's Stompin' Tom Connors has stuck to his Canadian roots and never wavered. He has been honoured with the Order Of Canada, the Governor General's Award, a citation from Queen Elizabeth, an Honourary Doctorate of Law from the U. of T., and a place in Canada's Walk of Fame. He has written his own autobiography, as well as some children's books. A play at the Blyth Festival Theatre directed by Eric Coates, called 'The Ballad Of Stompin' Tom' is being performed this year. Tom also received the keys to the city of Peterborough, Ont.

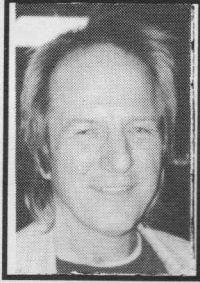
Ask anyone from today's younger generation and you'll be pleasantly surprised

Continued on Page 3



The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



By now many of you are aware that the Barn Dance Historical Society is undertaking the task of hopefully producing a documentary for future release. At our recently successful Blyth Campout Jamboree Weekend, we had cameras shooting from every angle thanks to Bob Gibbons and his crew. Bob is a former CBC producer and being somewhat of a 'local boy' has always been very keen about capturing Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance on film.

With any luck, we hope to have a DVD of the recent Saturday night Blyth show for sale sometime soon. We'll keep you posted on developments regarding the DVD and the documentary as we go along. We were pretty excited to have Steve Mann as one of the camera crew filming the Blyth Barn Dance event. Steve is the son of Harvey Mann, whose father was that famous fiddler from the Ranch Boys and Circle 8 Ranch on CKNX TV - none other than Ross Mann.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who helped at the Blyth event. We couldn't do it without you. And to all the members and fans of the Barn Dance, we appreciate your loyalty and participation. Next year is our 10th Annual Campout Jamboree, so we're hoping to plan some special entertainment for that one. Our recent Barn Dance show in Kirkton, was a real success as well. It would be great to make it an annual event as well.

This is a milestone year for me as I turn 55 on June 26th. Thirty was painless, 40 was a nuisance, 50 was a secret - but 55!! No freedom 55 for a working stiff like me. Retirement is still a mirage or just a figment of my imagination ... if I still have one. But 55 does have a few perks. From a positive perspective I had a dream the other night and it went something like this: As my wife and I pulled into the motel I whipped out my CARP card and got the seniors hotel discount. Great! "Honey", my wife said, "Please try to refrain from snoring to-night" as we turned in for the night. When we got up early next morning for

breakfast, I was able to make all of my food choices from the seniors menu. WOW! Then it was off to the department store, Zellers I think, for some shopping - and you guessed it - it was seniors day with a whopping 10% off any purchases. 'I must be blessed', I thought. We took in a movie early on that evening and again we got the reduced seniors rate. Ahh ... life was good I thought, everything was just going great, or at least until I pulled up to the gas station to fill up.

Yikes!! Those oil companies certainly weren't about to discount their over inflated, extravagant, extremely high, gouged out pump price to anyone, including me, an unretired 55 quasi type senior. But wait a second ... I see they do give out points and I noticed they had some special promo for every fill-up.

I went to pay at the kiosk and was immediately congratulated by the attendant. She handed me my receipt and told me that I received triple points on my card and because I was the 100th customer over 55, I qualified for the special bonus seniors mystery prize. "How lucky can I get?", I murmured. I quickly grabbed the prize package, jumped in the car, and told my wife about my windfall as we whisked off back to our room.

My wife couldn't wait to open the package, as she just loves surprises. I told her that the service station attendant told me that it was a \$250 value seniors prize package. I was thinking along the lines of free coupons for oil change, car wash and maybe even two or three fill-ups ... nah! at \$250 maybe one fill-up. Well, it wasn't long until my wife unwrapped the package. It wasn't too bad, a bottle of 2nd Debut, but then, what was this ... a years supply of Seabond denture adhesive, two tickets to see the Geritol Follies stage show, from this point on it quickly went downhill (ha ha, excuse the expression), a free hearing test, Grecian Formula samples, a 12 piece jigsaw puzzle including a free wonder word book, ... "anything for snoring?", my wife amusingly questioned, ... okay where was I ... oh yeah, an electric nosehair clipper, a free scooter rental, a jug of Metamucil and to add insult to injury - a sample six pack of Depends. What!! no Viagra. "Anti-snoring medication would have been nice" said my wife as she chuckled. "Ain't life grand", I said to myself somewhat despondently.

Just then, I awoke from my dream, or nightmare, if you will. I was just happy to

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(or leave a message)

BARN DANCE WEBSITE:

www.thebardance.ca

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Doug Dietrich, Earl Heywood, Ron Shaw, Ruth Baxter, Lynn Russwurm, Peter Saros, Bill Simmermaker and Doreen Armbruster.

be healthy and alive. I laid back on the bed to catch just a few more winks when all of a sudden WHACK!!! A pillow smacked me right out of my dozing state of mind. "What the....." as I sat bolt upright startled by the blow. "Quit that damn snoring!" my wife shouted. Yup, I'm sure not dreaming now.

Comments?? Please contact:
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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

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to find that Stompin' Tom is 'most definitely cool'. So why is it that mainstream Canadian radio stations continue to ignore Stompin' Tom? I mean, the man has written over 300 songs, recorded 30 or 40 albums and sold some 3 million records to boot. (excuse the pun) Hey, even Canadian rock guitarist, Kim Mitchell honoured Stompin' Tom by recording his version of 'Sudbury Saturday Night'. It just seems like a travesty of justice that someone who has dedicated their musical career to singing songs about Canada and it's people can rarely get the radio recognition they deserve after all these years. Sure, maybe Stompin' Tom's appeal is in the simple humour of many of his songs, but that's likely what has been lacking in the corporate music industry all these years.

I guess for Tom it doesn't really matter as he continues to just keep doin' what he does best, writing songs that people can relate to and performing them live in concert. Barn Dance personality and Journal columnist, Lynn Russwurm, has been a long time personal friend of Tom and was instrumental in getting Tom briefly out of self imposed retirement at a jamboree reunion at Bingeman Park in Kitchener a number of years ago. Currently on his Canadian tour, Tom has hired on Barn Dance performer/dobro player, and member of the Dixie Flyers, Al Widmeyer as part of his 2006 touring band lineup. I am sure that Al will be a worthy addition to Tom's lineup of 'Moosehead' musicians, with many a road story to tell when he gets home. Check out the paper to see when Stompin' Tom will be in your area. It's not everyday you get to see and hear someone who is truly a Canadian icon.

Membership News

Just a reminder, this is the last newsletter that you will receive unless you have a paid up membership for 2006. We typically allow a grace period for the renewals until after the annual Blyth Campout. Well, as you all know, the campout has very successfully come and gone for another year. So, we would very much appreciate your continued support in the form of a membership renewal. There is a membership form on the back cover of the newsletter.

A committee of Directors recently performed a review and recommended changes to the Society's Constitution and By-Laws. The amended version was unanimously approved at the Society's Annual General Meeting in April and has been put into effect. Each member will receive a copy in a future mailing.

One noteworthy change in the Constitution and By-Laws applies to Memberships. The expiry date for the annual membership is being changed from December 31 to February 28. As a result, your 2006 membership will be good through to February 28, 2007. We will continue to allow a grace period until after the annual Campout. This revised date aligns better with our fiscal year and the fact that a lot of new memberships and renewals occur at the Campout.

Thanks again for your support!
Membership Chairman,
Doug Dietrich

IN MEMORIAM

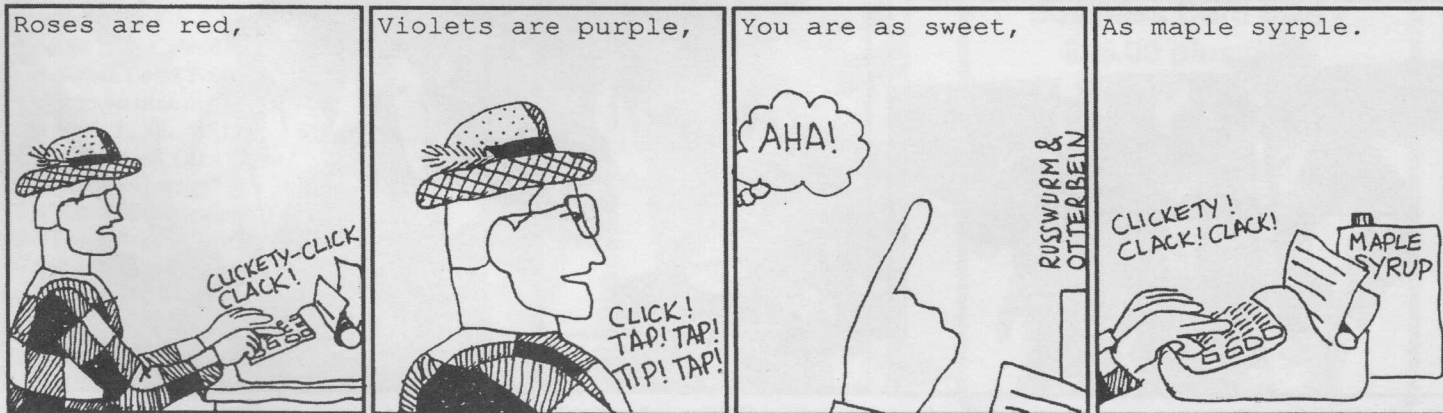


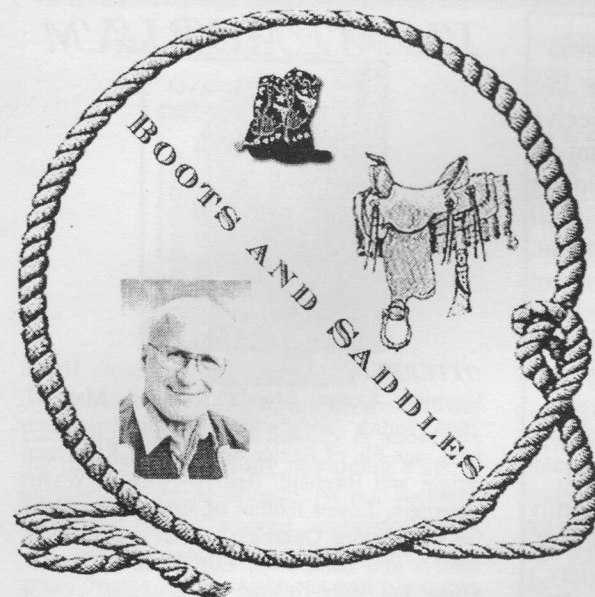
OTTERBEIN: Unexpectedly, at South Huron Hospital, Exeter, Monday evening, May 22, 2006, Judith "Judy" Anne (Kaminska) Otterbein, age 60, of Exeter, formerly of Kitchener, Bright and Bayfield. Beloved wife of Wayne Otterbein. Loved mother of Jim Otterbein and his wife Joanne Otterbein of Varna, Dennis Otterbein and companion Lori Cook of Exeter, Carla and Rob DeVore of Brussels. Loving grandmother of Owen, Kate, Ashley, Rileah and Shealyn and also remembered by Ryan and Nicholas. Cherished daughter of Mildred Kaminska of Kitchener and daughter-in-law of Lloyd and Helen Otterbein of Exeter. Dear sister of Larry and Katherine Kaminska of Waterloo, David and Judy Kaminska of Kitchener. Remembered by her nieces, nephews and their families. Predeceased by her father Carl Kaminska and brother Jim Kaminska. Judy worked for Murphy Bus Lines in Clinton, Exeter (formerly Laidlaw) for over 12 years, was a member of the Barn Dance Historical Society, Exeter Legion Women's and Mixed Dart League's and St. Peter's E. L. W. Besides being a very active volunteer for the Barn Dance Historical Society, Judy loved singing country music and was the sweet singing voice with the Otterbein Family. She was a friend to many of us and we will all miss her dearly. Judy will forever be remembered in our hearts.

John Green of Wingham was the winner of the Fender guitar draw (courtesy of Sherwood Music, Kitchener) at our Blyth Campout Jamboree. Also, the raffle draw for the Circle 8 Ranch 'Special Edition' guitar went to a ticket drawn from Tiverton, Ont. Thanks to all who participated.

BY LARRY RUSSWURM

COUSIN OPIE





by Lynn Russwurm

Howdy once again folks. We'd like to review a few things from the past little while, personal and otherwise. The Blyth Camp Out has come and gone, leaving behind some good memories. Personally, I'm proud of a few things. One of the exciting moments for me was the appearance of the Lalonde Brothers first time on our Barn Dance. I have a personal interest in these two boys as they are nephews of my son-in-law and as such they've come to me for advice in the past few years. They hail from the Kingston area and are definitely in the category of "talent to watch". The boys, Teddy and Johnathan, are aged 18 and 16 and are avidly interested in a musical career. They love the old songs as well as any good country music. About two years ago they were brought to my attention and at that time Teddy was playing guitar and Johnathan was singing. The major advice I gave them was that Teddy had to start singing as there would be no opportunities for just a guitar player, and I suggested that Johnathan start working on



Ted Lalonde, Lynn Russwurm and Johnathan Lalonde.

the guitar. Last year they came to Blyth just to take in the jams. Both were playing guitar and singing. However, most of their singing was done in unison, so my words of wisdom were that the unison singing had to go, they had to harmonize.

They had made a good enough impression on Doug Dietrich to be invited up to be on the Barn Dance. And lo and behold, they had their harmonies worked out to a T. I would say these boys are here to stay. Some of the remarks heard included "the new Mercey Brothers", and comparisons with the Everly Brothers. At the dance

following the show, guests usually are asked to do two numbers with the band, when the Lalonde Brothers did their bit it stretched out to five numbers by audience demand. As I said before, I'm proud of these boys.

Another highlight for me was the Sunday morning gathering. Most of you probably don't know that for the past year I've been playing bass with a bluegrass / gospel band around Kitchener called "Crossover Junction". Ernie King gave us a spot on the gospel show and the band was really excited about it. Playing to 700 people rather than the 20 to 30 people that we usually do in coffee houses, bar-be-ques, etc. was a real landmark for the group. We had a bit of a set back when our lead vocalist, Rick Bell found himself with a dead mike for the first two numbers, however after this was corrected things went OK, quite a comeup for a band that one year ago had

no self-confidence, and basically no direction. Dan on mandolin, Jim on 5 string banjo, Rick on flat-top guitar, Cathy on washboard. I'm also proud of how you conducted yourselves at your first big concert in spite of all the cold feet and butterflies. Congratulations.

I'm looking forward to seeing "The Ballad of Stompin' Tom" at the Blyth Theatre this summer, aren't you? The story of one of our Canadian living legends come to life on stage will be an inspiration to many aspiring country artists. What can be done in this great country of ours with fresh ideas, perseverance and belief in yourself is nothing short of miraculous. Here is a man who is by and large ignored by our radio stations, yet he has become nothing short of a Canadian icon in spite of them. You go to one of his public appearances and chances are about half the audience will be university students and younger people who hail him as their hero at the age of 70. Tom is currently on a six week tour and has taken our own Al Widmeyer with him as lead guitar and I believe as front man. Have fun, Al.

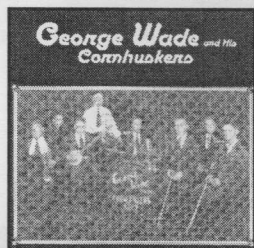
I'm still desperately looking for copies of the CKNX Almanac which was put out by CKNX for a number of years starting in 1942. What a wealth of information will be packed in these little magazines. At one time it was a weekly magazine, although it started out as monthly. Also at one time there was a small program handed out at the Barn Dances, which would feature one of the entertainers on the front, did they all disappear?

That's about all for this time, see you somewhere down the road.



Crossover Junction: L to R: Jim, Lynn, Dan, Lynn, Cathy and Rick

Four New CD's released through Heritage Music



GEORGE WADE & HIS CORNHUSKERS

The comings and goings of George Wade & His Cornhuskers have largely faded in the mists of time. About all that remains of the very popular group of Canadian country musicians is what can be found in the grooves of the 13 - 78 RPM records they left behind. Recorded mostly in the mid thirties on up for RCA, it remains a mystery why they have never been highlighted on an album. They were featured on CFRB radio for many years, and their shows were heard on many other stations that carried their shows in syndication. As far as I can determine, George was a square dance caller and showman who always carried a crowd pleasing performance in his public appearance. He always carried two excellent fiddlers in his group and for many years one of those fiddles was the great Jean Carignon. An integral part of the group was "Pete, The Mountain Boy" who played the yodeling cowboy on several of his records. Although he was primarily based in Toronto, he was also known to be in Montreal and several other places at various times in his career. This was one of the true pioneers.

Tunes include: Devil's Dream, Little Brown Jug and Mountain High Yodel Song.



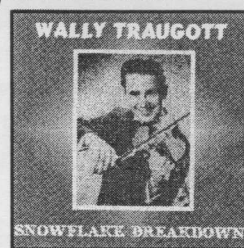
JIM MAGILL (1905 - 1954)

AND THE NORTHERN RAMBLERS

One of Canada's finest old time fiddlers was James Creighton Magill. There are several versions of his birth, one says he was born in Northern Ireland in 1902, another version has him born in Montreal in 1905. He died in 1954, leaving a legacy of 34 or more recordings, re-released on the London label in Canada, England and the U.S.A. Jim was a contemporary of Don Messer and they would often exchange tunes. He had a lengthy stay on CFRB radio every Saturday night at 10:00 from 1946 to 1954. He worked for the CNR along with his brother Joe, who was the stand-up bass player in the Ramblers for over 20 years while moonlighting at dance halls all around Toronto including the Palace Pier and the Labour Lyceum Hall. Fred Townsend and Joe Weller were his square dance callers and can be heard on many of his 78's. Jim's hobbies were hunting and fishing and he was known to buy a pail of "Winkles" at the St. Lawrence market, take them home to be cooked by his mother, sit down and eat the whole pail while telling stories. Jim Magill - one of the pioneers of Canadian fiddling.

Vol. 2 contain one half hour radio show, which was given to us by Jim's nephew, Don Shervington.

Tunes include: Fred Roden's Reel, Farmer's Jamboree and St. Anne's Reel.



WALLY TRAUGOTT

Wally Traugott, a native of Kitchener, Ontario, was trained on the violin for years by popular teacher Rudy Roth. But fiddling came easy to Wally who had perfect pitch as well as complete retention of any tune he heard. Apparently the perfect pitch was rampant in the Traugott family. Wally's older brother Erich went on to be the top trumpeter in Toronto musical circles where his talents were elicited for a major number of recordings to come out of that city, and here was young Wally in the country field with the same awesome talent. Today he's considered the finest fiddler ever to come out of Canada. Still in his teens, Wally was drafted by the new Main Street Jamboree in 1953 to be part of the Mainstreeters with Roly D'Eon, Lloyd Bank, Eddy Preston and Maurice Bolyer. From there it was a natural progression to join Tommy Hunter on CBC radio and a regular spot on Country Hoedown. Eventually, Wally became disenchanted with the Canadian country music scene and relocated to California where he gave up his fiddle and went to work for Capitol Records in mastering and engineering on many Capitol cuts as well as for outside people who came in to use Capitol facilities. He became known as one of the best at his trade. But I can't help feeling the great loss when Wally Traugott put his fiddle down.

Tunes include: Snowflake Breakdown, Kansas City Railroad Blues and Maple Sugar.

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) \$10.00 ea.
- Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- 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 or pick up at Ernie King Music.



Michael T. Wall, and one of his biggest fans from his latest Australian tour, Bobby Bare ... I mean Bobby Bear.

BARN DANCE JOURNAL ADVERTISING PRICES

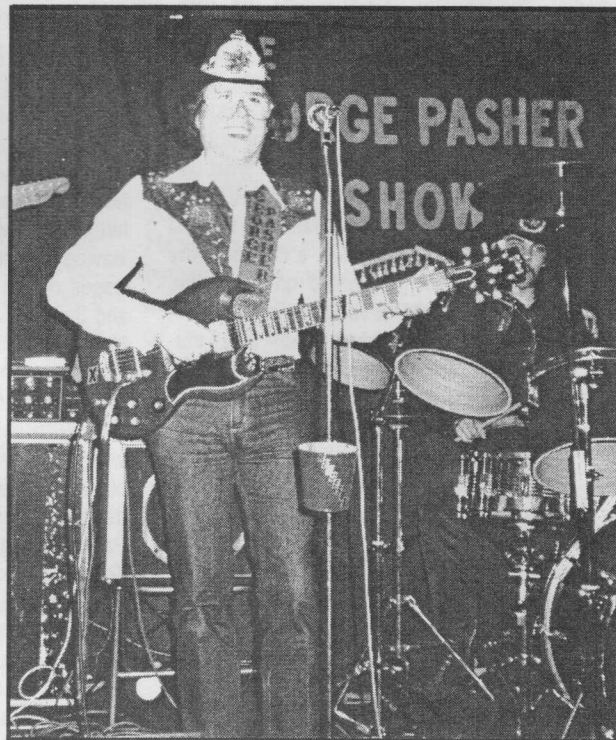
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 - 1/2 page - \$150.00 plus GST
 - Full Page (inside) - \$275.00 plus GST
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Country Music Memories

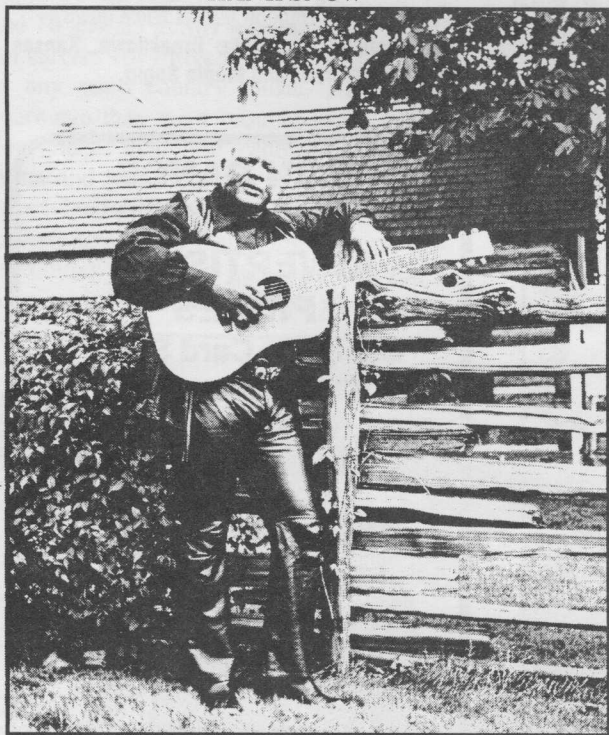
as compiled by Lynn Russwurm



HANK SNOW



GEORGE PASHER



SWEET DADDY SIKI

DON'T
FORGET
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL!!
(See
Page 3
for
details).



JOHNNY BURKE

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

*** 15th Annual Classic Country Music Reunion** - Trenton, August 4, 5 & 6, at Centennial Park. Three full days of classic country music with a gospel show on Sun. at 11 am. Some of the artists appearing on the show are Josie Wilkinson, George Pasher, Chuck Simms, Kevin Parrish, Johnny Burke, Cliff Short, Brenda Lynn, Paul Weber, Donny Anderson, Brenda Mullen, Harold MacIntyre, Laura Lavery, Anita Perras, Jennifer Hare, Trenton old time fiddler - Ron McMunn; just to name a few. Also open mic. Legends, pioneers, a reunion of the artists and history of Canada's country music. For info refer to website: www.ccmr.ca.

*** Now in it's 4th year** - Scrumdelicious, 2408 Danforth Ave., Toronto, just west of Main St. Phone 416-690-6794. A little bit of Newfoundland on the Danforth.

*** Royal Canadian Legion** - Br. #57, 351 Silverthorn Ave. at Rogers Rd., Toronto, 416-653-6757. 4 to 8 every Saturday with live country and down east music.

*** Caven's Alley Bar** - 585B Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga - Weekend Entertainment: July 7 & 8 - Eastern Storm; July 14 & 15 - Darren Freeman; July 21 & 22 - Derek Pilgrim; Aug. 11 & 12 - Eastern Storm; Aug. 18 & 19 - Darren Freeman; Sept. 1 & 2, 29 & 30 - Derek Pilgrim; Sept. 8 & 9 - Eastern Storm; Sept. 15 & 16 - Darren Freeman.

*** Performances by Chuck Simms:** July 14 - Cathy's Café, Brooklyne 5 pm; July 25 - New-castle Park 7 - 8:30 pm; July 27 - Bobcaygeon Open Fiddle Step Dance Contest 7: 30 pm, in the area; July 29 & 30 - Courtice Flea Market; Aug. 1 - Cathy's Café; Aug. 4 - 6 - Classic Country Music Reunion, Trenton; Aug. 12 & 13 - Courtice Flea Market; Sept. 1 - 3 - Auction Barn Jamboree, Keeler Center, Colborne; Sept. 9 & 10 - Courtice Flea Market; Sept. 15 - 17 Trillium Jamboree, Hastings; Sept. 23 & 24 - Courtice Flea Market.

*** Stompin' Tom Conners**, July 13 - Centennial Hall, London; July 24 - North Simcoe

Sports & Rec Centre, Midland; July 29 - North Greville Municipal Centre, Kemptville; Aug. 3 - Sudbury Arena; Aug. 6 - Heritage Festival, North Bay.

*** Hugh's Room**, live music, 2261 Dundas St. W., Toronto, 416-531-6604. July 5 - Mad Violet; July 6 - Valdy; July 20 - The Grande Mothers; Aug. 12 - Buffy Sainte-Marie; Aug. 14 - Danny Brooks and the Memphis Bros.; Aug. 19 - Martyn Joseph; Aug. 20 - Lennie Gallant; Aug. 21 - Patricia O'Callaghan; Aug. 22 - Retrocity; Aug. 24 - David Francey; Aug 2 - 3 - Jane Siberry; Aug. 27 - Fred Eaglesmith. for further info check www.hughsroom.com.

*** 17th Annual Havelock Country Jamboree** - Aug. 17, 18, 19 & 20. Line up previously mentions. For tickets 1-800-539-3353. www.havelockjamboree.com.

*** Eastern Passage**, 30 Melanie Dr., Unit 4, phone 905-789-0857. July 7 & 8 - Derek Pilgrim; July 14 - 16 - Eastern Storm; July 28 - 30 - Scuffle. www.eastpass.homestead.com.

*** The Rhythm Kings:** music for all occasions - weddings, benefits, country music and all types of music. Call Joe Micallef 905-584-6025.

*** Appearances by Johnny Buts and Quarry Road:** July 14 & 15 - Army / Navy Club, Mississauga; July 21 - Halton Navy Club, Burlington; Aug. 11 & 12 - Noah's Ark, Toronto; Sept. 9 - Moose Lodge, Lakeshore Blvd. W.; Sept. 23 - Beatties in the Country, Port Perry.

*** Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans**, 765 Third St., Mississauga, 905-274-2821. Jamboree first and third Sunday every month. Come a pickin or come a listener 2 to 6 pm. July 7 & 8 - Dave Whalen Starlites; July 14 & 15 - Johnny Butts / Quarry Road; July 21 & 22 - Eastern Storm; July 28 & 29 - Jack B Nimble; Aug. 4 & 5 - The Gibbings Family.

*** Appearance by Robbie Lane and the Disciples:** every Sunday 5 to 9 pm at Hollywood on the Queensway, 1184 The Queensway, Etobicoke. 416-251-9288. www.hollywoodonthequeensway.com

*** Appearance by Scott Woods:** Aug. 4 & 5 - 7 pm, Dorchester, 519-268-0217; Aug. 20 - 7:30 pm, Gravenhurst, Gull Lake Park, 705-687-8426; Sept. 9 - 7 pm, Brockville, Wall St. United Church; Sept. 17 - 2:30 pm, Meaford United Church; Sept. 22 - 7 pm, Keene United Church; Sept. 23 - 7 pm, Campbellford Presbyterian Church; Sept. 24 - 2 pm, Selby Community Hall; Sept 29 - Acton Presbyterian Church; Sept 30 - 7 pm, Aberfoyle Presbyterian Church. www.scottwoods.ca

*** Shawville Country Jamboree**, July 14, 15 & 16, Armsstrong Heritage Farm, Hwy. 48, Shawville, Quebec.

*** Appearances by Doreen Brown:** July 16 - Moose Lodge, Lakeshore & Browns Line, Sun. afternoon; July 16 - Army & Navy Club, Mississauga; Aug. 4 - 6 - Classic Country Music Reunion Trenton; Aug. 15 - Musicians Con-

roast, Blackstock; Aug. 25 - 27, Maple Leaf Jamboree, Baldwin; Aug. 28 - Bond Head Fiddle Club

*** Preston Springs**, Hastings. Annual Canadian Country Bluegrass Family Jamboree, July 7, 8 & 9.

*** Maple Leaf Jamboree** - Aug. 25 - 27. 6th annual event at Sentimental Journey in Baldwin. Headliners are Harold MacIntyre, Neville Wells, Winston James, Laura Lavery, Kevin Parish and a gospel show on Sun. with Reg Benoit.

*** Erin Jamboree**, 4th Sunday of the month with the Dolsons at the Legion.

*** Bruce Grey Jamboree**, contact info - David Chittick 519-364-5264. David Cittick Country Pals band.

*** Upcoming Jamborees:** July 9 - Participation Lodge Fish Fry, Holland Centre; July 21 - St. Marys Fairground Jamboree, 4 to 10:30 pm; July 22 - Drayton Fair Grounds; Upper Canada Two Cylinder Club Show 12 to 5 pm; July 23 - Zurick Community Centre; Jamborees start at one pm unless stated otherwise. Meals available.

*** Bill Beattie Dance Schedule:** Aug. 4 - Dufferin County 150th Anniversary, Orangeville Rec Complex, 8:30 to 1; Sept. 23 - Danclead, Lakeside, 8 to 12.

*** Rita MacKeill**, will be on tour in 15 Ontario cities with her 2006 spring touch. info at www.ritamacneil.com

*** For upcoming appearances** by Darren Freeman - www.myspace.com/darrenfreeman

*** Country Sensation**, Aaron Pritchett following appearances: July 15 - The Holstein Rodeo; Aug. 2 - Peterborough Delcroy Park; Aug. 4 - Carlton Place, Riverside Jamboree; Aug. 18 - Stirling Fairgrounds; Aug. 19 - Wallacetown Fair grounds; Aug. 25 - Barrie Event; Sept 3 - Port Perry Fairgrounds. www.aaronpritchett.com

*** Bluesky Country Bluegrass Jam** will resume at the Barrie Legion the third Sunday in September, starts at 1:30 pm.

*** The Blyth Campout** was great and nice to see Michael T. Wall and know he had a great time in Australia; also to chat with Larry Mercy, guest appearance.

Have a Great Summer,
and let's all "Keep It Country"!!

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HOWDY FOLKS:

Today's music scene seems to be overflowing with bright new 'wannabe' stars, dreaming of being the next singing sensation. Who can blame them when the opportunity for near instant fame is available to showcase their talent on such nationwide T.V. shows such as American or Canadian Idol or even Nashville Star.

Of course getting there is half the battle and that 'instant overnight fame thing' will only happen if they make it to the winners' circle.

Early on in my own musical career, I realized that singing wasn't always enough. It was my own choice to become a country cowboy singer so wearing cowboy suits and western duds was a must. Playing the guitar and writing my own songs certainly didn't hurt either. I too, had my fair share of reaching for that brass ring and I fondly remember a CBC

television talent show from the 1950's called 'Pick The Stars'. I was competing with Robert Goulet on the show and well, maybe if I had a moustache like Mr. Goulet I might have won.

It wasn't long until I established my own career though and I eventually introduced my wife Martha, and our family, via live radio broadcasts from CKNX Radio in Wingham. We soon started performing on stage and set our sights on recording a family album to promote our new family act. Performing as a family was a real treat and I soon became aware of the entertainment value of our family's individual talents. As a young family of entertainers we held our own when it came to singing and soon started putting a travelling variety show together.

Martha and I would perform songs in full costume from the gay nineties era followed by our daughter Patricia who would sing, tap dance and twirl fire batons onstage. Sometimes Patricia and Martha would share duties playing the vibraphone while the family sang in harmony. I would accompany the family vocals on acoustic guitar and harmonica. Sometimes I'd play the musical saw or bring out Jerry the ventriloquist dummy. Our son Grant was only about 6 or 7 years old when he first started singing with the family and quite often stole the show at times.

Just like Minnie Pearl and Grandpa Jones,

Martha and I often did a comedy skit dressed in corny hillbilly type apparel. Those old jokes sure got a lot of mileage. I was always intrigued by variety shows on television back then, such as Ed Sullivan, and soon became interested in some of the magicians of that time. I always had been a big fan of Houdini since I was a teenager. Magic seemed like the next step and it didn't take long until I was pulling rabbits out of hats, making doves disappear, and actually floating my wife, Martha, in mid-air. I would often invite someone from the audience to participate in some of the onstage illusions such as a guillotine act, or rope tricks. It always met with audience approval.

We'd always wind our show up performing some uplifting country/gospel standards with some of our own songs for good measure. There was always something to please everyone and it wasn't always just about the singing. Times may have changed but I still believe that people enjoy a variety of entertainment, as long as it is done well. The Barn Dance shows often follow that criteria and are always a ticket to good entertainment value for young and old alike.

Remember –
THE SHOW MUST GO ON.....

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

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