

The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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Winter Edition

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Ward Allen - Maple Sugar Fiddle Champ

by Lynn Russwurm

In a lifetime span of 41 years, Warden A. Allen, AKA Ward Allen accomplished more than most people could in two lifetimes. Blessed with an innate sense of musicianship, he gained immortality through his composition, "Maple Sugar" which is a 'must play' for every fiddler that's come down the pike. Probably the most famous of all fiddle tunes with the possible exception of The Orange Blossom Special, Ward's name will live on in the company of such elite composers as Stephen Foster, etc.

Yet, Ward laboured extensively on this particular number until he had it down to his liking. But what to call it? After rejecting different ideas, while on tour with Wilf Carter the problem came up again, here Ward had this great tune but no title to go with it. After hearing it a number of times, Wilf Carter himself suggested Maple Sugar, and Ward liked the idea, especially the Canadianism of the title. Where else would the name suggest but Canada, after all many of Ward's fiddle compositions had a Canadian connotation, so this was ideal.

Ward reaped many plaudits for this composition, the honour of having every fiddler play his tune, but also for the monetary benefits. His performance rights brought some pretty hefty cheques, especially when WWVA radio in Wheeling, WV adopted it as their theme song and played Ward's recording every hour on the hour over the air. Maple Sugar was included in every anthology of recorded fiddle tunes of that time in history and was leased out to many other companies to

be included in such anthologies.

Now, let's take a look at the man that was Ward Allen. Ward came from a musical family, a pianist mother and a step-dancing father. His older brother, Lorne, was a well known local old time fiddler who provided music for many a country gathering in the Ontario areas of Kirkton and Needham, so it was only natural for young Ward to be interested in the same instrument. He started playing by ear at the tender age of four, and he also became quite capable on piano. By the time he was 12 years old, Lorne would take him along to play, sometimes piano and sometimes fiddle to some of these country gatherings. As a young man he would often team up with Earl Heywood to entertain and in 1950 he joined Earl and The CKNX Barn Dance Gang as a professional musician. By that time he had already won several fiddle competitions including the prestigious C.N.E. fiddling championship. With the Barn Dance gang, he shared fiddle duties with Mel Lavigne and what a sweet sound these boys produced.

The three years with CKNX were good years for Ward, and in 1953 he stepped out and won the Shelburne Cup at the Canadian Fiddle Championships in Shelburne, which even today is considered the #1 fiddle competition. However, Ward had picked up a nasty little drinking problem and started missing dates, or showing up late. The band members of the Barn Dance Gang came to leader Earl Heywood and asked him to put a stop to the situation, so Earl

was put in the position of playing the meanie and letting Ward go. However it wasn't long until Ward showed up on the roster of CFRA radio in Ottawa, where he eventually became the fiddler with The Happy Wanderers along with Bob King and Joe Brown (later of the Family Brown). In 1954 he joined the Wilf Carter Cross Canada tour, while on leave from CFRA which continued for 11 consecutive annual treks. Here he worked again with his CKNX compatriots such as Jack Kingston and Bill Mankiss.

On the first such tour in 1954 the backup band was Red Garrett's band which consisted of Howard White from Nashville on steel guitar, Beverly Hopkins on standup bass and Ward as the fiddle player. An early stop on the tour was in Elmira and my ex and I were in the audience, hoping to get some pictures taken with the artists, and talking with Red Garrett, I was asked if I played guitar. After an affirmative reply he asked if I would

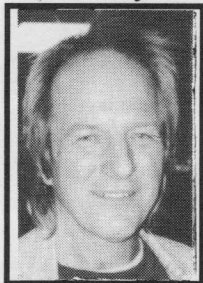
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WARD ALLEN

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Had enough of this winter weather yet? Winter really officially started on Dec. 21st, and I've almost used up about 1/3 of my woodpile. If it keeps on staying cold for too long, I told my wife I might have to chop up that nice oak kitchen suite of ours for the wood stove. She said that would be over her dead body and that one of my drum kits or guitars would likely burn just as long. We'll see about that. It would give a whole new meaning to that Christmas classic....."*Drumsticks roasting on an open fire*".... Guess I better get out the chainsaw and the axe, or better still phone up for another couple of cords of hardwood.

This is the time of year when our Barn Dances are relatively quiet for a few months especially since you can't count on what the weather will be like. But the Barn Dance Museum in Wingham is still active and our organization is getting prepared for another fantastic Barn Dance season in 2006. We will likely be having another great Barn Dance performance this spring at the Heritage Theatre in Wingham. We just haven't finalized a date as of yet, but keep listening to CKNX 920AM for details in the coming months.

I have always been interested in the history and format of Renfro Valley just off of I-75 in Kentucky. It has been around for a lot of years now and continues to draw the type of audience that appreciated the 'old' Grand Ole Opry style of country music entertainment. Wayne Otterbein and family were there as recently as this past fall and I talked to Wayne before he left so that he might go on a bit of a fact finding mission. We have been discussing for years now, the possibility of maybe taking a Barn Dance show to perform at Renfro Valley some weekend maybe in mid to late fall or even mid winter. We've thought about maybe setting up a package deal and run a bus trip to Renfro Valley for a weekend of country music that would include whoever they would have headlin-

ing a show and a performance that weekend of the Barn Dance as well. Of course accommodations, price etc. would have to be determined to see if it's feasible. It's just something that we've been thinking about for a while now, but we'd appreciate your input if you are interested in such a venture. It would be a lot of fun and a memorable trip for many of our members and fans.

Speaking of trips, Barn Dance member and Canadian country singer/entertainer Michael T. Wall is heading 'down under' to Australia for a month long tour from mid-January to mid-February. Michael has made a lot of friends in the country music industry in Australia and we hope to hear about his adventures when he safely returns. The winter months are when Australia has their summer so Michael will be enjoying some balmy weather.

This past summer while attending the A.F.M. convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, I was lucky enough to interview actor/radio programmer Shane Wilder, which was on our last fall issue of the Journal. I forgot to mention that I spent a short time with country singer/musician/producer, Bobby Kingston. Bobby is the son of the late Barn Dance (circa 1950's) singer/musician Jack Kingston. Bobby invited me out to his newly renovated ranch and studio on the northern fringes of Vegas. Bobby plays the Vegas circuit on a regular basis with some of the finest country musicians around. He's also busy with his new recording studio and soundstage and will be releasing his latest c.d. this year. I got to hear some of the cuts on the c.d. when I was there and was honoured when Bobby asked me to play mandolin on one of the tunes. Can't wait to hear how it sounds once he has it completed.

Speaking of completion. I've had a lot of people ask when the new 'Heywood Family 3 Generations' c.d. is coming out. Well.....after a long and tedious mastering session, I expect to have the c.d. pressed in February and it will be available by March 2006. The family c.d., which is dear to my heart, is kind of like an old soup or stew recipe. It may take a long time to simmer but the end result is tasty and well worth the wait.

I've also heard an advance copy of Larry Mercey's latest recording 'It's Not Over Yet' which was recorded at Uncle

The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

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(or leave a message)

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Gerry's Recording Studio in Kitchener. It's really the Larry Mercey Trio, with George Lonsbury on guitar/vocals and Al Alderson on bass/vocals with Larry on guitar and lead vocals. The new c.d. has a heartwarming gospel feel to it and the vocals are harmonious in their sincerity.

Comments?? Please contact:

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

BOOKING THE BARN DANCE

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

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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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take his place at the dance portion as he was feeling really sick and didn't think he could last the night. What a thrill, to get to play with these great musicians including Ward Allen, whom I had known since his days with CKNX. A month later a stop in the tour was at the Waterloo Arena and Red asked us to do a couple of numbers during the show, more thrills and I still consider that as a highlight in my career.

Meanwhile Ward had been honoured when CBC radio asked him to play a memorial tribute to well known fiddler Jim Magill who had passed away recently. Jim had his own show for a number of years on CFRB in Toronto and was a close rival to Don Messer at that time.

In 1956 Ward met and married an Ottawa girl, Ann MacLean. This marriage produced two sons, Wade and Randy. This short union of 9 years lasted until Ward's death in 1965 of a heart attack at the age of 41 years. The heart attack was completely unexpected as Ward was not known to have a heart problem. About two months before, Ward did his last recording session, backing up Mac Wiseman on an album of mostly Canadian songs, "Live At The Horseshoe". This recording is now a major collectible among country record collectors. Ward's recording career started in the early fifties with several releases on the Alvina label which I believe were produced by Ray Calder. These recordings were taken over by Sparton records and released along with a further approximately 20 discs on that label. Sparton was eventually taken over by GRT and Ward's records were again re-released. These records today are all considered as highly collectible. Most fiddlers who are familiar with Ward Allen say his fiddling was a very distinctive sound that most fiddlers were unable to duplicate. This is probably due to the fact that Ward was completely untrained whereas most of our other old time fiddlers had classi-

cal training in their earlier years.

During much of Ward's tenure in Ottawa his career was managed by Ken Reynolds who was the power behind the Wilf Carter tours. Ken was also Wilf's manager at that time.

Many people have wondered about the scar Ward carried over his right eye. This was the result of a childhood accident when Ward was playing in the driveway and a visiting relative's car backed over him. His scarf wrapped itself around the driveshaft and Ward suffered a crushed skull immediately above the right eye. This accident came close to curtailing the rest of his life. A skin graft failed to completely obliterate the scar that Ward was very conscious of.

Ward's beautiful gravestone with a fiddle on it stands in Roys Church Cemetery near Russeldale back in Ontario in the area where Ward was born and raised. Ward Allen will never be a forgotten entity as long as there is a fiddle bow drawn over the strings to produce the strains of "Maple Sugar".



Laura and Lynn Russwurm with Red Garrett at the Elmira Arena in 1954.

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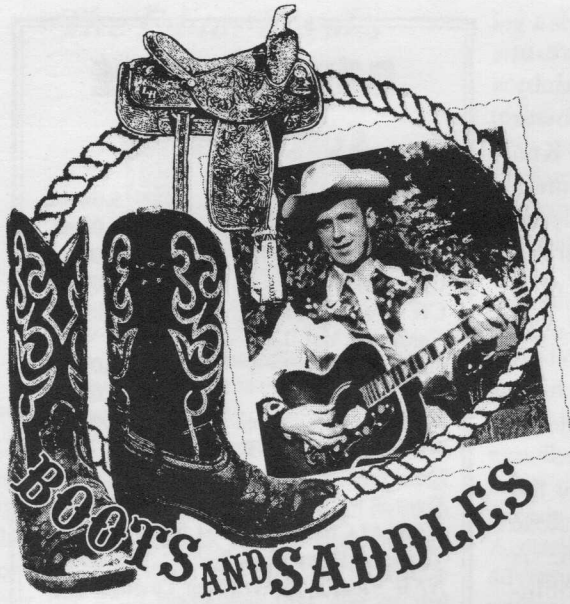
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by Lynn Russwurm

Another year has come and gone here at The Barn Dance Historical Society. The past year's highlight was the refurbishing of our museum. Our Trillium grant has now ended and much good use was made of it including the new lighting system and the new display cases that have also been installed this past season. If you have not seen the museum recently, you'll be surprised at the difference the new lighting has made for the displays. We owe a debt of gratitude to Gord and Ruth Baxter and the Otterbeins for their work days at the museum which have been a tremendous help.

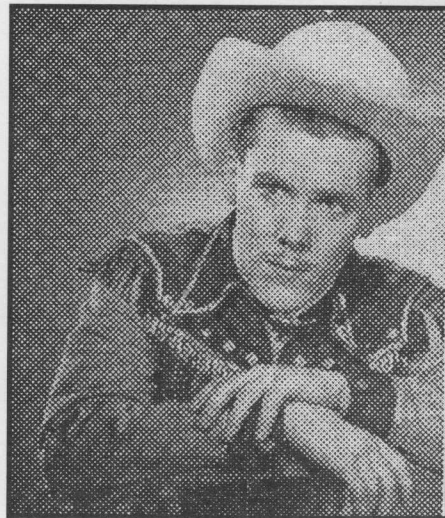
We are still in desperate need of artifacts. If you have any pictures, write-ups or anything else pertaining to Barn Dance artists, please, please get in touch with us. Even if we could loan pictures, we can have them copied and give them back to you. If you have any reel to reel tapes of some of the broadcasts, this could include Circle Eight Ranch, Western Round-up, etc. 78 RPM records would be greatly appreciated, especially some of the early people who appeared on the show, I would especially like to hear from anyone who has recordings of Georgie Faith, who made several appearances on the Barn Dance. Sheet music with our artists' picture on the cover would be appreciated, or if we

could find sheet music to Clarke Johnston's "Something's Always Sure To Tickle Me". Copies of the CKNX published magazine from 1942 on, The CKNX Almanac would be vitally important to us. There were many articles in the Almanacs of the CKNX artists. C'mon, search your attics for these items and let us know what you have.

We have some high profile projects coming up in the new year, I don't wish to go into details just as yet but there are exciting things

ahead, and we need help to accomplish some of these things.

I've been mentioning George Faith from time to time. Perhaps many of you don't remember George as he was with The Barn Dance only for a little while. He came to Wingham in early 1947 along with Jean and Les Dowell, The Colorado Kids. Jean and Les stayed for almost a year, but George travelled on much earlier. He was born in Forest Hill, Ontario and did his first radio show over CHUM radio at the age of sixteen. Then he met up with The Colorado Kids, playing in a circus. They left the circus in Owen Sound when they heard about the Barn Dance and struck out for Wingham with no money in their pockets. George did-



GEORGE FAITH

n't stay too long, but I for one remember him fondly. He was blessed with a tremendous voice that could "shatter the timbers". I saw him on Pick The Stars on CBC-TV in the early fifties where he sang "Trees". I also saw him in person in Kitchener where he appeared solo with just his guitar at a Labour Day variety show at the then new Kitchener Auditorium. One song I remember George doing at that show was the Frankie Laine song "Swamp Girl", in fact George had also recorded that song.

He recorded quite a number of 78's including several on the Beaver and Pioneer labels. One of these songs was Hank Snow's "My Mother" with just his guitar, absolutely beautiful. Other labels he recorded for were London, Apex and Biltmor Records. If I could find enough of his recordings, I would try to get a CD release on them. George apparently had a stormy marriage to a girl named Delores but I believe the marriage endured. Sometime ago Earl told me that someone had come back from Las Vegas and that a receptionist at one of the hotels asked him to say hello to Earl when they got back to Canada, along with an address for George, her name was Delores. But attempts to get in touch failed to bring results. I had most of his 78's but I sold my collection around 1975 and have regretted it ever since.

Sometime in the late fifties or early sixties, George was asked to join an American group from somewhere in the mid-west called "Sons of the Purple Sage, with Linna Shane". They subsequently recorded their second album with George handling the majority of solo spots, singing western songs ala The Sons of The Pioneers and what a great job he did. After that, George just seemed to drop out of sight and there was nothing more. We included a George Faith / Colorado Kids cut on our Saturday Night Barn Dance, Vol. 3. I still hope to get more on George Faith from someone out there who remembers him too.

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Somebody else I feel has been neglected in country music print is the dynamic young fiddler, Wally Traugott. I knew Wally when he was still taking music lessons from Rudy Roth at about age 16 or 17 in Kitchener. Our own Mike Slauenwhite was a contemporary of Wally's and they started out at about the same time. Mike settled in with local band, the Westernaires, while Wally had his sights set much higher. With perfect pitch, Wally could hear a tune and play it back to you, not for note. In the summer of 1952 Smilin' Ernie Lindell stopped by to see me as someone had recommended he talk to me about picking up some new musicians.

I took him to see Wally and Ernie would have hired him on the spot, but



George Faith, Ernest Tubb and Fred Roden.

was turned down by Wally's father who felt Wally was too young to hit the road. About a year later, Wally took the step to join the Main Street Jamboree along with Lloyd Bank, Roly D'eon and Maurice Bolyer to form the Mainstreeters which was probably the best country band that ever graced the stages of our Barn Dances and Jamborees that were so popular in those days. When Tommy Hunter had the opportunity to appear on CBC Radio as a summer replacement for another show, he persuaded Wally to join him. From there the next step was to Country Hoedown.

Wally soon became disenchanted with the state of country music in Canada and relocated to Los Angeles in California to work for Capitol Records as an engineer and producer. He reportedly gave up his fiddle completely and what a loss that was to country music. If you talk to any fiddler in Canada who came out of that era, he will tell you Wally Traugott was the best. When I first met Victor Pasowisty, I asked who was Canada's best fiddler, he said without hesitation, "Wally Traugott".

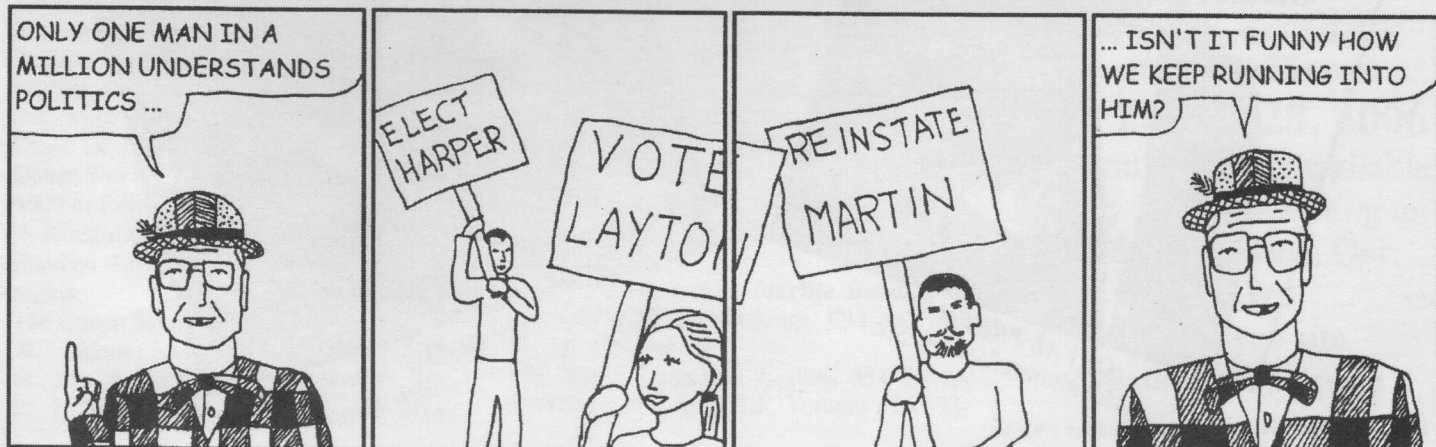
A permanent claim to fame for Wally was the fact that he composed "Snowflake Breakdown" for one of his recordings on the Quality label. This tune is thought by many to be in public domain, but not so, it came from the pen of Wally Traugott and is probably only second to Ward Allen's "Maple Sugar" in popularity with most fiddle players. Wally re-

corded a number of 78's for Quality Records, he played fiddle on the famous square dance album by Johnny Davidson which is noted for showing Gord Lightfoot on the cover with The Singin' Swingin' Eight from Country Hoedown. He also did a CBC album with the Rhythm Pals and that's about all we can find as mementos of this great Canadian fiddler.



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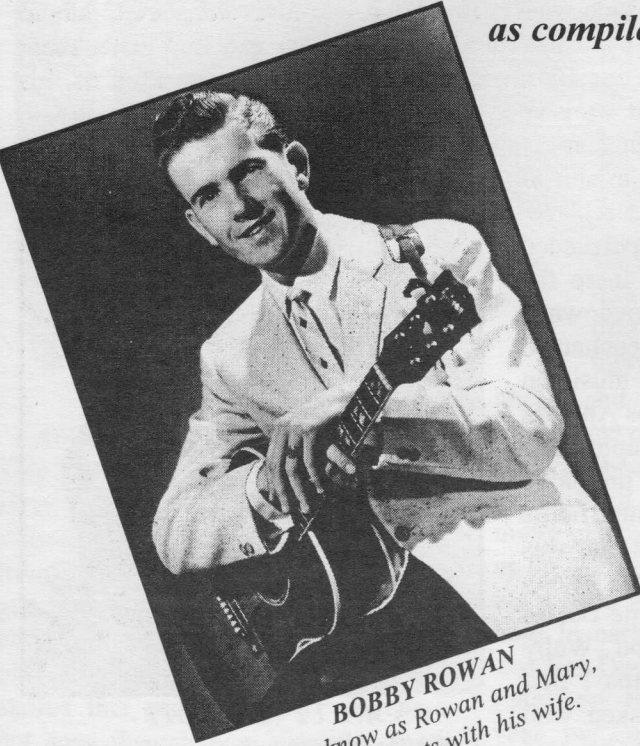
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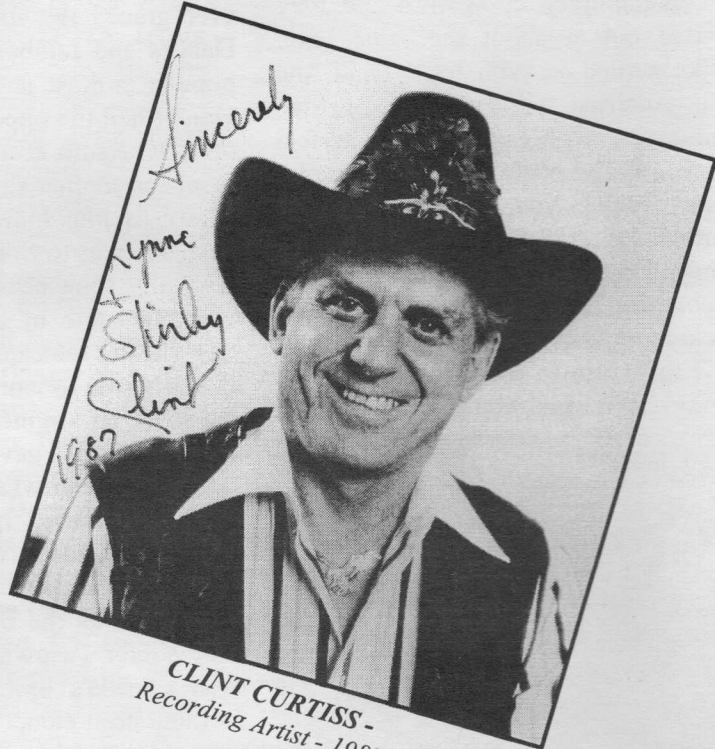
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Country Music Memories

as compiled by Lynn Russwurm



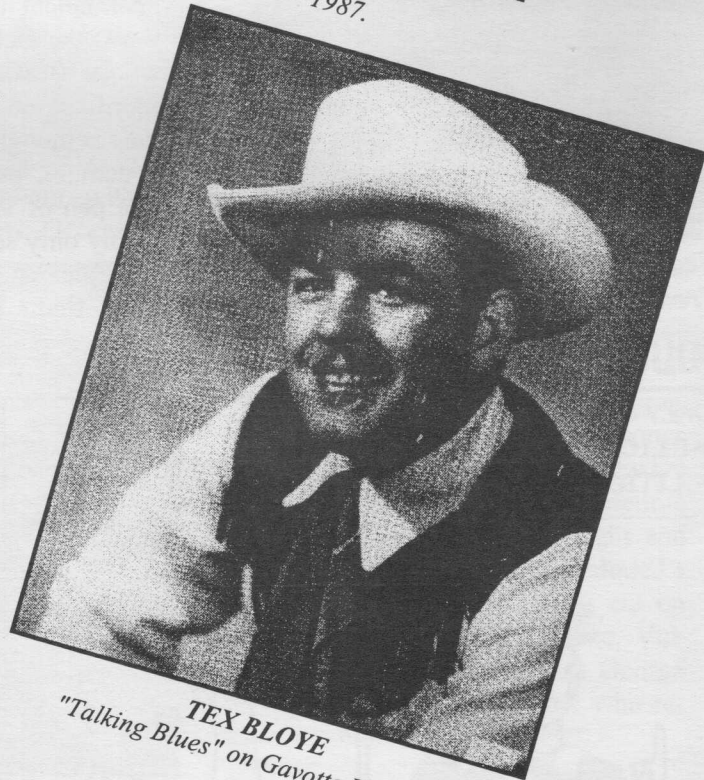
BOBBY ROWAN
later know as Rowan and Mary,
singing duets with his wife.



CLINT CURTISS -
Recording Artist - 1987.



ORVAL PROPHET
Also know as Johnny Six.



TEX BLOYE
"Talking Blues" on Gavotte Records.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

* **Join the Fun** at Shelburne Legion Old Tyme Jamborees. All musicians, singers, dancers welcome. Hot meal available. Acoustic instruments only. Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12 and May 14.

* **Grace O'Malley's Irish Pub** and Restaurant, Duncan and Pearl St., Toronto. 416-596-1444. Thurs., Fri. and Sat. featuring the best live Maritime Pub entertainment in Toronto. www.gracies.ca

* **Upcoming appearances of Darren Freeman** - Jan. 14 - 7 p.m., Royal Canadian Legion, Lindsay; Jan. 18 - 4 p.m., The White House Hotel, Peterborough; Feb. 1 - 4 p.m. The White House Hotel; Feb. 3 - 10 p.m., Eastcoasters, North York; Feb. 18 - 7 p.m., RCL, Lindsay; Feb. 25 - 9 p.m., The Newfie Corner, Toronto; March 4 - 4 p.m., The White House Hotel; March 10 - 9 p.m., The White House Hotel; March 10 - 9 p.m., RCL, Ajax; March 11 - 9:30 p.m. The Irish House, Lindsay; March 25 - 7 p.m. RCL, Lindsay. www.darrenfreeman.com

* **Come and Dance** at Schomberg Community Centre, 251 Western Ave., Schomberg, 8 to 12. Music by the Toe Tappin Fiddlers. Admission \$6.00. Ladies provide snack. Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 24 and April 28.

* **Shindig Olde Tyme Square Dance**, including a pre-dance clinic for new dancers, Sat., May 6. Newmarket Meeting Place, 474 Davis Dr., Newmarket. Clinic 6:30 to 7:30. Dance 8 to 11. For info call Linday 905-773-1909 or Ernie 905-887-9914.

* **Kuchulainns Irish Pub**, Jigs dinner every Sunday; Live music Thurs., Fri. and Sat. nights. 158 Queen St., Streetsville, Mississauga.

* **Army, Navy and Air Force**, 765 Third St., Mississauga, phone 905-274-9981. Jan. 6 to 7 Joe Tucker; Jan. 13 - 14 Mickey

Andres / Mary MacIntyre; Jan. 20 - 21 Blue Drivers; Jan. 27 - 28 Dave Whalen and the Starlites. Special events - Jamboree first and third Sunday every month. Come a pickin' or come a listener, or just come and have a look and see 2 to 6 p.m.

* **Royal Canadian Legion**, 486 Hensall Circle, Mississauga. Jamborees Feb. 12, March 12, April 9 and May 7.

* **Bluesky Country Bluegrass Jam**, Session at Royal Canadian Legion, Barrie. blueskycountrybluegrass@rogers.com Jam session for Jan. will be the 4th Sunday, Jan. 22, following schedule is the first Tues. evening and third Sun. afternoon of the month.

* **Appearances by Doreen Brown:** Jan. 11 - Bolton Community Centre; Jan. 15 - Caledon East Community Centre; Jan. 22 - Bluesky Bluegrass Club, Barrie; Jan. 18 - Holland Landing Community Centre; Feb. 19 - Bluesky Bluegrass Club, Barrie; March 12, RCL, Shelburne; May 5, 6, & 7 - Jamboree by the Lake, City Park, Winchester, Tennessee, great country music and fun for the entire family, an Indie fan fair with over a hundred acts from all over the world, free admission to all, this is the big event for 2006. I will be on the country show and gospel show and helping MC both shows. Visit the jamboree website: www.jamboree-by-the-lake.com

* **Grand Valley Jamborees**, first Sunday of Feb., March and April.

* **Erin RCL** - fourth Sunday of the month.

* **Appearance by Gordon Wilcox**, Wiley St. Records, Nashville, TN, call 416-465-4965.

* **Scrumdelicious**, 2408 Danforth Ave., Toronto, west of Main St. Musicians welcome to drop by with your instruments. Delicious food available.

* **Howard Johnson Express Inn**, 226 Queen St. E., Brampton, Hunny's, phone 905-455-3900. Tuesday, free buffet and karaoke with Don Weir; Jan. 13 - 14, Call Club, also 20 - 21; 17 - 28, Derek Pilgrim.

* **Appearances by Arlene McLellan** - Jan. 15 - Odd Fellows Hall, Port Hope; Jan. 27 and March 17 - Cathy's Café, Brooklyn.

* **Royal Canadian Legion**, Hensal Circle - Jan. 13 - Country Fever; Jan. 14 - Neil Groce; Jan. 20 - Taylor Creek; Jan. 21 - Barry Peat; Jan. 27 - Leo Legere.

* **Caven's Alley Bar**, 585B Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, 905-278-9108. Call for entertainment.

* **Dave Whalen, The Starlite Band**, 416-255-8387. Call for bookings. Old and new country rock and roll.

The Royal Canadian Legion, 351 Silverthorn Ave. at Rogers Rd., Toronto 416-653-

6757. Come and join us every Saturday afternoon 4 to 8 p.m. the best of live country and down east music.

Double Barrel Live Music for all occasion, new and old country, classic rock. Len 705-739-2306; Gerald 705-737-7652. Following appearances: Jan. 14 - Everett Legion; Jan. 20 - Army and Navy, 8:30 to 1, Barrie; Jan. 22 - Mactier Jam, all welcome, 1 to 5 p.m.; Jan. 27 & 28 - East Coaster, Weston Rd., north of Lawrence, Toronto, 9 to 2; Feb. 3 & 4 - 8:30 to 1, Army and Navy, Barrie, Calico Creek Band with Barry Brooks; Feb. 11 - Double Barrel, Newfie Corners, Toronto, 9 to 1; March 4, 9 to 1, Newfie Corners, Lakeshore, Toronto; Feb. 17 & 18, Michell's Place (previously Sandy's Place), Weston Rd., south of Lawrence; Feb. 26 - Mactier Legion Jamboree, 1 to 5.

Mactier Jamboree is the fourth Sunday, every month, except holiday Sundays, will be the third Sunday.

Country Music has lost another entertainer. Dick Nolan, who was well known for his recording of Martha's Sheep, passed away December 14 in Newfoundland. He will be sadly missed.

Enjoy an evening with the Good Brothers at the Caledon Inn every Thursday, Caledon East. Starts At 7 p.m. and lots of good food.

Wishing you and yours, our valued readers, a wonderful, happy, healthy country music 2006.

Will see you at our Annual Barn Dance Blyth Campout in May.

9th Annual Barn Dance Jamboree / Campout Weekend

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HOWDY FOLKS:

Martha and I have had a busy career over the years and I have to admit that it's nice to be able to slow down, kick back and relax more often. We have a collection of old albums, tapes, c.d.'s, film, and VHS tapes that we like to listen and watch when we have time to ourselves. And at our age we've been taking advantage of that time to reminisce and be entertained by many of our favourites of yesteryear.

With so many channels of music, television shows and movies at your disposal on satellite these days, it's enough to make your head spin. Yes it's true that we have the nostalgia channel, antiques roadshow, history channel, and some specialty programming but country music television seems to have all but forgotten some of the good old days. Last time that I remember really good programming was on the Nashville Network with Ralph Emery and later on with Crook and Chase. It's even a challenge to find a good old 'duster' (western cowboy movie) on television anymore.

Other than Larry King, CNN, PBS, or CBC, we tend to watch a lot of old re-run shows of Red

Skelton, old westerns, Perry Como, and Lucy Show videos when we want 'in home' entertainment. I guess we're just old fashioned folks, but it is nice to be able to have those captured moments to listen to and watch whenever we want to. Lately we were delighted by a Roy Rogers and Dale Evans video that we had never watched before. It was really great to learn about their family, their adopted children, and their careers in show biz during the highlight of the cowboy era and how religion has played a big part in their life. It really takes you back to a time when life wasn't so fast and how families really kept things together.

Speaking of the 'good old days', I can remember being on Western Roundup which was a country music show that CKNX broadcast from the Wingham studios. Circle 8 Ranch was a local favourite as well that enjoyed a long life on local T.V. Many of you might remember a CKNX television show I hosted called Range Rider from the late 50's. I used to wear my cowboy outfit with guitar in hand and talk about being a singing cowboy during the breaks of an old Tex Ritter, Lone Ranger, or Gene Autry movie. Country and western music was at its peak back then and this kind of local television entertainment was watched by thousands of families. Including myself, Ernie King, Ross Mann, Don and Cora Robertson, Al Cherny, and Sharon Strong to name a few, it wasn't long before we became household names and celebrities from those days of black and white T.V.

It's been quite a long time since those old television days at CKNX but Martha and I still tune into local radio station CKNX 920 AM. It's been nice to hear them play some of the older

country music that people our age can relate to. 820 CHAM in Hamilton has gone one step further with most of their programming catering to nostalgic country music. AM 740 in Toronto is also another radio station that plays only music from the 40's, 50's and 60's and makes for good listening pleasure. My son Grant tells me that there are some radio stations down around Kentucky and Tennessee playing more of the 'old stuff' as well. No doubt a lot of these stations are changing with the advent of satellite radio, where each channel can specifically cater to one style or era of music if they wish.

My how times have changed. It's nice to know that for a lot of us, what was once old is new again. Same thing holds true for a lot of our young folk who finally realized it was cool to like Johnny Cash or Patsy Cline. Good music is just that. Good music. It doesn't matter how old it is, it just becomes timeless. It would be nice to see a lot more young people in attendance at some of our Barn Dances in the future. But like anything else, it just takes a little time. Once they realize that there is a rich country music heritage that has helped keep today's Barn Dance alive it won't be long before they'll come around to our way of thinkin'.

Remember –

THE SHOW MUST GO ON.....

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

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