

# The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.

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Spring Edition

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## Wayne Currie Erwin Otterbein

by Grant Heywood

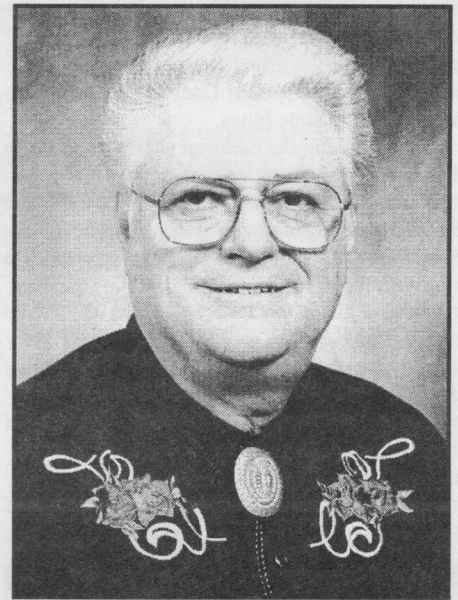
"Music is what feelings sound like". That is what I read on the wall as I left the visitation services in Dashwood, Ontario for Wayne Otterbein. I am sure that Wayne would have agreed. Wayne Otterbein was a musician and true team member and leader of the Barn Dance Historical Society. We will miss him immensely.

Wayne passed away on March 19, 2009 at University Hospital in London, Ontario. Wayne was expected to recover from an unknown illness and it was very unexpected when he passed on so suddenly. Wayne, who was 65, had a barber shop in Exeter, Ontario and for some time had a leather harness business as well. He lost his wife and singing partner Judy (nee Kaminiska), in 2006, and his mother Helen, just last year (2008). Wayne's father and musician, Lloyd Otterbein, is a recent tenant at the Exeter Villa. Wayne and fiancé, Beulah Patterson of Stratford, were just about to embark on a new life together but it wasn't to be. Loved father of musician Jim Otterbein of Exeter, Dennis and Cheryl Otterbein of Mount Forest, Carla DeVore and companion Ron Calder of Clinton and five grandchildren. He will be remembered by close family members and friends.

When I joined the Barn Dance Historical Society back in the 1990's, Wayne was already on the board of directors. My dad, Earl Heywood, who founded the organization was a passionate man with a vision for the future and always had ideas on how to make the Barn Dance Shows and Museum a Canadian success story. I do believe that there has only been one or two other people with a similar dedication for success as my dad. Barn Dance

singer / songwriter, Lynn Russwurm is most certainly one. Wayne Otterbein had the same enthusiasm and perseverance to keep the Barn Dance alive as well. Wayne was instrumental in getting the Blyth Camp-out Jamboree started 12 years ago and he was always thinking of new ways to get people to participate and become Barn Dance members. Wayne and Judy, their son Jim, and Wayne's dad, Lloyd, have been permanent fixtures on and off the stage at most Barn Dance meetings and events. Many times Helen would bring "homemade" crochet items to the Silent Auction table as well as some of Lloyd's famous carvings or Wayne's leather items. You could always count on the Otterbeins.

I remember when I first joined and Lynn Russwurm was about to step down as the editor of the Barn Dance Opera Journal. No one was putting up their hand when asked about replacing Lynn until Wayne gave me a swift kick under the table, which then inadvertently made my arm rise to the occasion. With that trademark Wayne Otterbein grin, I knew that he had his own way of getting things moving, and that meant me volunteering as the new editor. Wayne was a multi-tasker taking on the job as Barn Dance Show Manager, Fiddle Convention organizer, master of ceremonies when needed as well as being on several committees and singing on several stages. He rarely missed an opportunity or a meeting. He was often a "take charge" kind of person. But country music was what he loved most. It will be hard not to listen to "Polka on a Banjo" or "Charlie's Shoes" without thinking of Wayne.



WAYNE ERWIN OTTERBEIN

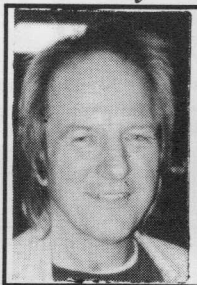
The last time I talked to Wayne I reminisced about when he took his wife Judy and his mom and dad to Renfro Valley, Kentucky on a driving trip for a few days. If I remember correctly, I think they went down a couple of times and were invited after the mainstage country performance to a jam out at a local barn somewhere in the surrounding countryside. What a time it was with Wayne and Judy getting an opportunity to sing with the locals, and patriarch of the family, Lloyd, on his trusty "Ernie King" dobro. I told Wayne that he would never regret taking such a trip, as it would become a treasured moment in time with good memories that would last forever.

Wayne's love for country music was boundless. The Otterbein Family was the heart and soul of that love for music and harmony. They gave a new meaning to the word versatile; Father, Lloyd played dobro and became the

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## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Let's face it folks. Old fashioned or not, this was certainly way too long a winter. Now that most of the snow has disappeared, it's time to get out to some outdoor activities that most of us can enjoy without freezing our butt off. I suggest taking in a Barn Dance show to get rid of those wintertime blues.

I'm keeping the editorial short this issue so that we may honour one of our own. Singer, musician, family man, and past president of the Barn Dance Historical Society, Wayne Otterbein. Wayne will most certainly be missed on a major scale. When I heard of Wayne's passing, it was like being hit by a truck you didn't see coming as you cross the street. The cover story just about says it all and I wanted to leave space for a pictorial of Wayne and The Otterbein's. The Otterbein family have been one of the pillars of the Barn Dance Historical Society and will be forever remembered for their untiring effort in volunteering and being a part of our country music and it's traditions. From the

Barn Dance Museum to the Barn Dance Shows, they will always be in our hearts and minds. Memories we will cherish forever.

We have several Barn Dance shows coming up this spring, summer and fall. Please check the Barn Dance Schedule in this issue or go to [thebardance.ca](http://thebardance.ca) to get more details. This will be our 12th annual Barn Dance Campout Jamboree at Blyth this May. We hope to honour Wayne at this event as he was also the Barn Dance Show Manager as well. Our 2009 Barn Dance Show season is going to be great. Hope to see everyone at the next upcoming Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:

Grant Heywood  
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R. R. #2,  
Wellesley Ont. N0B 2T0  
Phone: (519) 656-2552  
E-mail: [heywoods@golden.net](mailto:heywoods@golden.net)

## 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 ~  
(519) 530-8000*

*E-mail: [webmaster@thebardance.ca](mailto:webmaster@thebardance.ca)*

## The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment

### Museum

P.O. Box 68

Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 530-8000

*(or leave a message)*

**BARN DANCE WEBSITE:**

[www.thebardance.ca](http://www.thebardance.ca)

### Earl Heywood

*Founder and Honourary President*

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★ We need you to help continue the Barn Dance ★  
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*The Otterbein Family performing at one of the Barn Dance Shows.*



*Wayne Otterbein pickin' and singin' at the Blyth Campout Jamboree Barn Dance Show.*

Continued from Page 1

colourful comedian, known as "Cousin Opie", Wayne and Judy sang, as well as Wayne on guitar and sometimes bass, and son Jim Otterbein accompanied them as singer, guitarist, bass player and drummer or whatever was required. It's so hard to believe that those sweet family musical moments are just fond memories now. But it is now a part of Jim Otterbein's heritage and I do believe that his mission will be to carry on the tradition of music in the family as I have done with my family.

The following pictures are a tribute as we remember Wayne Otterbein and "The Otterbeins" ..... Go Rest High On That Mountain.



A PROUD MOMENT ~

From L to R: Wayne Otterbein and his dad, Lloyd and Wayne's mother Helen receiving the Barn Dance Pioneer Builders Award at the 2005 Blyth Campout Jamboree.



THE OTTERBEINS ~

Front, Lloyd Otterbein, L to R: Judy Otterbein, Jim Otterbein and Wayne Otterbein.

## FEATURE C. D. REVIEW

### "KING GANAM & His Sons of the West"

Born in 1914 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, King Ganam was playing the fiddle on radio and at dances as early as age 13. It was in the 1940's with his 'Sons Of The West' band that King started making inroads and by the early 1950's signed a record deal with RCA Victor. "Ridin' The Fiddle", was his first orig. single of which he had many more. With his distinctive style, he soon became one of Canada's top fiddlers appearing on CBC's Holiday Ranch, Country Hoedown in the late 50's and in 1961 King had his own 'King Ganam Show' on CTV. King Ganam also appeared on CKNX television and the Saturday Night Barn Dance as well. A 'Canadian Country Music Hall of Famer', King Ganam sadly passed away at his home in California at age 79 in 1994, and this CD is a testament to his legacy.



This CD compilation by Lynn Russwurm is an effort that even King Ganam himself would be proud of and it shows the legendary fiddler at his best. Starting off with a fast frolic on "Ridin' The Fiddle" to the harmony interplay of accordion, guitar and fiddle on "Alberta Stomp" you know this is going to be really good stuff. Guest vocalist, Buddy Fehrens sings on a hot swingin' version of "May You Never See Sunshine Again". The "Sons of the West" band are tight and had to be top caliber musicians to keep up with the expert fiddling' of King Ganam. This CD has everything, including jigs, reels, polkas, swing and even a 50's style rockin' version of "You'll Never Be Satisfied", and the ever popular "Orange Blossom Special". The "Marilyn Bell Reel" and "Holiday Waltz" are personal favourites.

Every young fiddler today should pay close attention to Ganam on "Hot Canary". It's a great showpiece to say the least and let's just say that the professionalism just doesn't get any better than this. Ganam doesn't always hog the spotlight and lets the guitar, accordion and steel guitar do some fine solo work as well. "King Ganam's Special" rounds out the 18 songs on this CD, and this final number proves just why they called him "KING" of the fiddle.

It's hard to believe that a lot of these songs transferred from vinyl so well. Even though most of these songs are from the 50's and 60's and are mono recordings, they sound just as good as ever. Great job Lynn, I'm sure it helps when you know that King and his band were at the top of their game when these were recorded. I would recommend this CD to everyone who loves great toe tappin' music and top notch fiddling' at it's finest.

(Have a C.D. you want reviewed, please contact the Editor.)

### BARN DANCE JOURNAL ADVERTISING PRICES

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1/2 page -

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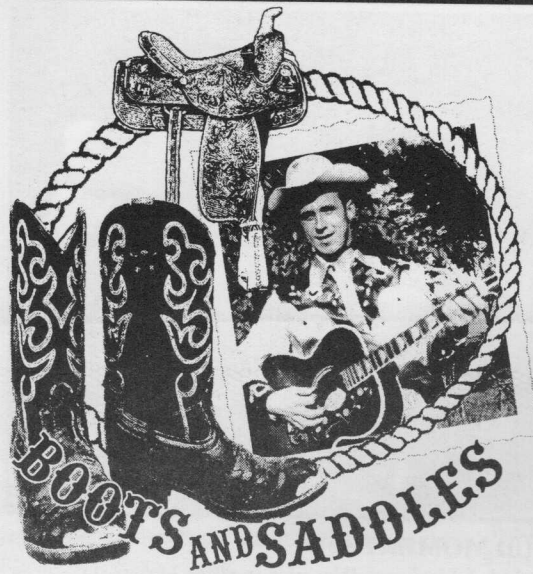
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webmaster@thebardance.ca



by Lynn Russwurm

Let's climb back in the saddle and continue our trip down memory lane. Throughout the 50's my wife, Laura and I performed at many dances with our band The Pine River Troubadours, also appeared as guests on many shows such as the Main Street Jamboree, The CKNX Barn Dance, on TV with The Conestogo Trail Riders, Western Round-Up and Circle Eight Ranch. As the 50's came to a close many country music venues disappeared and work for bands became hard to get so the decision was made to discontinue our performing career. I mainly tried to concentrate on my song writing career throughout the sixties. I had already connected with Hank Thompson as a writer and he continued to be very encouraging. In 1965 I signed with Central Songs in California as an exclusive song writer. Their stable of writers included Bobby Bare, Roy Clark, Ned Miller, Rose Maddox, Gene Vincent and about 25 others. It was rated as the #4 country music publisher at the time and was owned and operated by the legendary Clifflie Stone. My contract was for 5 years and boy, I thought now I had it made. However, about 10 months later they released me from the contract, saying they hadn't had enough time to work my songs. Soon after I found out that the company had been sold, so I believe that was the real reason.

Throughout the 60's I placed songs with a number of other publishers, and had recordings by The Lewis Family, Carl Smith, Hank Thompson and a few others. I received a lot of encouragement from various sources, such as Bill Anderson, Justin Tubb, Harlan Howard, but nothing much came of it.

In 1969, it seemed like the right time to get back into the performing end of things, not that I had given up, as I was working steadily with other bands. I was playing electric bass with Tim Gibbons and The Northwinds on a steady basis, as well as rhythm guitar with Johnny Siska and The Continentals. But the urge was there to front our own band again and as the bars had opened up with entertainment in the latter half of the 60's work was plentiful for musicians. We formed a group we called The Hummingbirds and for the next decade could be found every weekend in some smoky bar throughout this part of Ontario. The original group was my

wife Laura on electric bass, Victor Funk on lead guitar and myself on rhythm guitar. About six months down the road, Victor decided to spread his wings to become a full time musician with another group, so Rick Myers came into the group. About two years later he dropped out and about that time our son Lance turned eighteen just at the time the drinking age was lowered to eighteen and we drafted him into the group. Sometimes it was like pulling teeth but he managed to put in about 13 years with The Hummingbirds. Eventually we added a drummer, but drummers tend to move around from group to group and at various times we had Dave Turner, Gary Jacondo, Paul Girodat, as well as several more for short periods of time.

Things weren't always right at home and eventually Laura dropped out of the group but we continued and in about 1975 we decided to do some recording. We cut 4 sides at the RCA studios in Toronto with The Mercy Brothers producing. They managed to get us on the Columbia label for a single release, and our song "Down Home in Newfoundland" managed to get as high as #48 on the RPM charts. But then another disappointment came as Columbia decided to drop all their Canadian country artists and that included people like Dallas Harms, Orval Prophet, Ron McLeod, etc. A few years later we decided to cut an album on our own which we sold

at our gigs. One thing I'm proud of, we had Hank Thompson write the liner notes on the album. Plans are currently under way for the album to be released on CD by a firm in Newmarket.

After The Hummingbirds folded there was a period of musical inactivity until the mid-80's. Visiting with my old friend Kidd Baker, it was suggested that an old timer's reunion was in order. Somewhere along the line I mentioned this to Bill Oja, who was a regular writer for Country Music News, so what does he do, he mentions it in his column in the magazine. The next step was talking to Keith Sterling who was program director for CKGL radio in Kitchener. He says, "Put it together and we'll publicize it." The first Jamboree Reunion was mounted in 1985 at Bingeman Park, with old-timers like Kidd Baker, Hank Macdonald, Earl and Martha Heywood, Jack Kingston and a cast of about 25, it was a roaring success. We continued it until 1991, moving to Sportsworld where Gary Buck had the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame in 1990 and 1991. We attracted many of Canada's major country performers such as Tommy Hunter, Gordie Tapp, Stew Clayton from Manitoba, Ralph Carlson from Ottawa and even Doc and Chickie Williams from Wheeling, West Virginia who came up 3 years. Doc said it was an honour to perform with these great Canadian artists, oh yes, Stompin' Tom Connors graced our stage, even though at the time he was in a hiatus from the country music industry. After the first reunion, I formed the Jamboree Reunion Band with

*Continued on Page 5*



**THE JAMBOREE REUNION BAND**

L to R: Lloyd Bank, Bill Mankiss, Victor Pasowisty, Paul Hunter, Lorne Brings, Lorne B...

Continued from Page 4

hand picked musicians that I had admired for so many years. Lloyd Bank had come back home to Kitchener and was available on steel guitar, Lorne Prince was free at the time, Victor Pasowisty had just moved to the area and joined us bringing us up to over 200 years of music into the band. Gerry Beaupre joined us on drums and eventually Bill Mankiss on accordion. We went on to play dates at the Palmer Rapids Festival, The River Valley Country / Bluegrass Festival and many other dances and shows. Victor and Bill are now gone, Lloyd and Lorne packed it in about two years ago and the band folded, but what memories.

In the late 80's we recorded 14 albums, backing up various artists such as Kidd Baker, Hank MacDonald, Dusty King, George Pasher, Jo Brennan, for Holborne Distributing which are now in the process of being re-introduced on CD by a Newmarket company, I'm looking forward to this new development.

When the Barn Dance Historical Society came into being, I formed the original Barn Dance Band, Victor Pasowisty on fiddle, Lloyd Bank on steel guitar, Bill Mankiss on accordion, Lance Russwurm on rhythm guitar, Lloyd Mercey on drums and myself on stand-up bass. Lloyd Bank dropped out and Ron Coulthard took over on steel guitar, Bill Mankiss came down with Parkinson's and dropped out giving me the chance to bring Mike Slauenwhite into the band for some twin fiddle work with Victor Pasowisty and what sweet sounds that produced. Today at age 78, I'm playing stand-up bass with Crossover Junction, a bluegrass / gospel group in Kitchener and will appear on the Friday night Bluegrass Concert at the Blyth Campout Jamboree. Also at present we're in the process of recording our first CD which hopefully will be ready by Camp Out time.

So you see, there's still some life in the old dog yet. Hope to see you then.



**THE BARN DANCE BAND**  
L to R: Mike Slauenwhite, Lynn Russwurm, Lance Russwurm and Ron Coulthard.



*Celebrating Ernie King's 80th birthday at "Ernie King Music Store" in Wingham back in March. 80!!! C'mon, Ernie can't really be 80... can he? From L to R - Birthday Boy Ernie King, Dave Wallace, owner operator of "Ernie King Music", and special guest Martha Heywood. It was a great day for Ernie with over 250 people attending throughout the day. Birthday cake was provided by the Barn Dance Historical Society with Gord and Ruth Baxter serving. Everyone had a good visit and got to swap some old musician stories and catch up with old friends.*

## WHO WROTE THE SONG?

*(It Is No Secret)*

Movie star John Wayne never wrote the familiar gospel song 'It Is No Secret'. Furthermore, it is unlikely he would be able to carry a tune, let alone write a song. He was however semi-responsible for 'It Is No Secret' becoming a song.

One day John Wayne was in conversation with songwriter/cowboy actor and radio singing star, Stuart Hamblen on the set of 'Flame of the Barbary Coast'. Hamblen had just experienced a religious conversion at a recent Billy Graham Crusade. John Wayne quickly asked Hamblen, "What's this I hear about you Stuart?" "Well, Duke," answered Hamblen, "I guess it's no secret what God can do." It was merely a matter of conversation, but John Wayne was quick to point out to Hamblen the little phrase he had quoted would make a good song. Stuart Hamblen went home and gave some thought to what John Wayne had said and in 17 minutes he came up with the song 'It Is No Secret.' It quickly became a gospel classic and was translated into nearly every language in the world.

Hamblen's birthplace was Abilene, Texas, and his father was head of the Evangelical Methodist Church. He had a T.V. show in Hollywood called Cowboy Church. It was on this television show that he first introduced 'It Is No Secret'. Hamblen wrote over 225 songs including 'Remember Me' and 'Open Up Your Heart and Let the Sunshine In'. Another big hit for Hamblen was 'This Ole House.' Many people thought it was about a deteriorating old country home, but it was really about the body of an aging Christian.

Stuart Hamblen won many awards including The Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and he received a star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Hamblen was honoured posthumously by the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame recently. Appearing on stage to accept the award, his daughter Lisa said Hamblen was once approached by a Christian fan who said the East Texan didn't really write 'It Is No Secret.' The fan insisted that "Hamblen only held the pen."

*... And now you know who wrote the song.*

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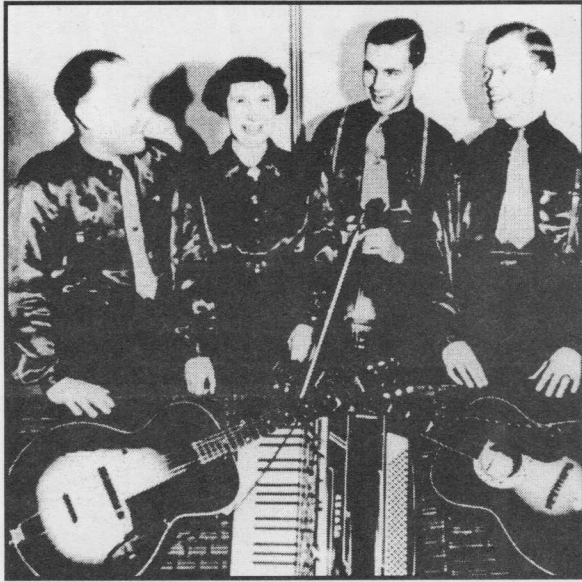
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# COUNTRY MUSIC MEMORIES

as compiled by Grant Herywood



**THE CKNX RANCH BOYS AND CORA**  
known as "The Earlybirds" (on a CKNX radio morning show circa 1942). From L to R: Cec' Merkley guitar, Cora Robertson accordion, Clarence Adlam fiddle, and Bob Hall banjo and guitar. They actually joined Clarence Adlam's CKNX Hillbillies to form the Ranch Boys.



**ELMER PURDON**, master radio sound control operator for live broadcast of the CKNX Saturday Night Barn Dance. This is the man Jim Swan always talks about when starting a Barn Dance show with the countdown, just like the old days.



**BARN DANCE PERSONALITIES:**  
From L to R: Mary Elliott Freeman and the step dancing Storey Sisters.



**CLARENCE ADLAM'S RHYTHM RANGERS**  
From L to R: Hal Fidler guitar, Clare Adlam fiddle, Verna Adlam bass, Barry Dunsmore accordion, Hughie Elder guitar.

## 2009 Upcoming Events:

Date	Event Name	Place
Thursday, May 7	The Barn Dance Show	Norgan Theatre, Palmerston - R.R. Museum Fundraiser
May 21, 22 and 23	12th Annual Blyth Campout Weekend	Blyth Recreation Complex & Campground
Sat., Aug. 29	Barn Dance Show and Dance	Hensall Arena, Hensall - 8 p.m. start
Thursday November 12	The Barn Dance Christmas	Norgan Theatre, Palmerston - Details to follow.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- \* **Join in the fun** at the Rosemont Community Centre Jam, 2nd Tues. of the month, 7 p.m.
- \* **April 21**, Bond Head Fiddle Club, Bond Head, 4th Tues. of the month.
- \* **Bluegrass Sundays** – May 22, The Orono Old Tyme Country & Bluegrass Jamboree. Further info, contact The Northern Bluegrass Winner Concert Series at [bgsundays@aol.com](mailto:bgsundays@aol.com) Ticket info at 416-779-2627.
- \* **For upcoming shows** at Johnny Burke's The Carpenter's Inn, Haliburton Contact Johnny at: 705-455-9177, or [www.johnnyburke.com](http://www.johnnyburke.com)
- \* **Thornton Jamboree** Community Centre 2nd Thur. of the month, Thornton, Ont.
- \* **Erin Jamboree**, with 'The Dolson's', 3rd Sun. of the month, roast beef dinner available.
- \* **Warminster Jamboree** w/Tex Howard's Band, 1st Sun. of the month.
- \* **Gibson Centre**, Alliston, 705-435-2828 [info@gibsoncentre.com](mailto:info@gibsoncentre.com), May 29, Sylvia Tyson, June 27, Buffy Saint Marie, Oct. 17, The Good Bros.
- \* **Jam sessions** 2nd Fri. of the month at Cedar Beach Grill, Musselman's Lake, Stouffville, 7:30-9:30, For info contact, Al or Trudy Yetman 905-642-6331.
- \* **May 2**, Hometown Jamboree, Napanee Lions Hall 7:30. May 3, Trent Valley Jamboree, Trenton High School 7:30. May 7, Barn Dance Show, Norgan Theatre, Palamerston 8 p.m.
- \* **June 13**, Marmora Jamboree, Marmora 4:00
- \* **June 19**, Fiddlers on the Trent, Trent River 7:00.
- \* **July 4**, Pickin' By The Pond, Cargill.
- \* **July 10 - 12**, Holstein Rodeo, Holstein.
- \* **26th Annual Tottenham Bluegrass Festival**, June 26-28, Tottenham Conservation Area w/Mike O'Reilly. Ticket info Box 922, Tottenham, Ont. L0G 1W0, Ph. 1-888-BLUEGRAS. Great lineup of bluegrass artists.
- \* **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - Warminster Legion Jamboree w/band, Tex Howard, Apr. 5, May 3. Thornton Comm. Centre Jamboree Apr. 9, Shelburne Comm. Centre Jamboree, Apr. 12, 1 p.m., supper avail. Jam at Gandy's Pub, Cookstown, Apr. 16 & every Thurs. night. Special Jamboree w/ country folk & blues at Rosemont Comm. Centre, Apr. 18, 3 p.m. w/pot luck. Apr. 21,

reg. Tues. night jam, at 7 p.m. Annual Blyth Campout, May 21-23. Bluesky Bluegrass Club, RCL Barrie, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. Rosemont Jamboree, June 16.

\* **Country Jamboree** July 3-5, Hollyrood, 901 Harmony Rd. Belleville, Ont. Great music lineup. Info. at 613-967-9551

\* **Invitation to celebrate** Buddy & Margie's wedding w/several bands. July 2 - 5 at Brice's Country & Western Jam, Bireem 2431 Hornes Rd., Queensville. Camping avail. Info. 905-478-4590 [www.bricecountryjamboree](http://www.bricecountryjamboree)

\* **July 16 - 19** First Annual Lindsay Country Jamboree at Farmer's Mutual Exhibition Building. Headliners: Terry Sumsion, Paul Weber, Larry Mercey Trio, Harold MacIntyre & Johnny Burke. [www.lindsaycountryjamboree.com](http://www.lindsaycountryjamboree.com)

\* **Vince Aguanno** appearances contact: 705-434-2222 Alliston.

\* **2nd Annual Kinmount Kountry Jamboree**, June 25-27, Kinmount Fairgrounds. Fri. – Will Murray, Marlene Leeson, Rick Jones, Robin Evans, Dennis Whitty & Crystal Gage. Sat. – Robin Edgar, Brenda Lynn, Norm Post, Naomi Bristow, Mike Korpi & Mike Pollard. Sun. Gospel Hr. – Norm Post, Cliff Short, Joanne Post, George Hillier, Angie Shepherd, Doug Deveaux & Dusty King Jr.

\* **Sarnia Bayfest** July 17, w/ Jason Blaine, Brad Paisley. July 18 w/ Doc Walker, & Deric Ruttan.

\* **Fergus Truck Show**, July 23, w/Adam Gregory. 24th w/Stamperders, Doc Walker. 25th w/ Abrams Bros.

\* **NOTE:** As of this writing I have just learned of the passing of our good friend in country music, Wayne Otterbein. He will be sadly missed and his presence on & off stage will be long remembered. He has been a wonderful asset to the Barn Dance Society. Deepest sympathies to his family.

*On a brighter note: Have a wonderful country music summer and looking forward to seeing you at our annual campout in May.*

**BARN DANCE SOUVENIRS**

Souvenir Mugs -	\$ 5.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 1	\$15.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 2	\$15.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 3	\$15.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 1, 2 & 3	\$40.00 set
Cassette - Vol. 1	\$ 6.00 ea.
Cassette - Vol. 2	\$ 6.00 ea.
Cassette - Vol. 3	\$ 6.00 ea.
Souvenir 1997 Calendar	\$ 5.00 ea.
<b>Barn Dance Logo T-Shirts</b> (gold logo on blue only) Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$20.00 ea.
<b>NEW "Heywood Family Three Generations" CD</b>	\$20.00 ea.
<b>NEW Al Cherny CD - "Live / The Lost Recordings"</b>	\$15.00 ea.
<b>NEW Eleanor &amp; Graham Townsend CD "The Talented Townsends"</b> (36 unheard recordings)	\$15.00 ea.
<b>Best of The Barn Dance CD</b>	\$15.00 ea.
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 \* tradition. There are vacancies on the Barn \*  
 \* Dance Executive Board, so if you are consid- \*  
 \* ering volunteering for a position, please con- \*  
 \* tact Gord or Ruth Baxter at 519-530- \*  
 \* 8000. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



## BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

I didn't want to write this column.

By that, I mean dedicating more gloomy thought and emotional energy to the nagging doubt about the future of traditional country music, and the Barn Dance in particular.

Who needs more hand wringing over what was? The arguments are tired and old. I have nothing new to offer than plain old pain.

But it's hard not to hurt after losing one of our own so recently. I'm not talking about a distant musical influence or some Nashville star from the past.

I'm talking about Wayne Otterbein. The guy who so often sat across from me at Barn Dance Historical Society board meetings with his mother and father. The fellow who booked the Barn Dance shows. The former President of the society. The barber and the tanner.

How do you replace that kind of wisdom and commitment? You don't. And

that's why the bitter pill of his passing goes down so hard.

Country music exists because of the ground work laid by its founding fathers and mothers. People who lived and breathed the music.

People like Wayne Otterbein who understood country music and its people at a gut level. They didn't need personal managers and audience demographics to know who they were playing to.

As talented as the big stars are today, I don't think the kids appreciate the salt-of-the-earth instincts the older generations have for country music.

Wayne Otterbein had it. To be fair, I knew what the man was about more than I knew the man.

His loss may hurt more because he was only 65 years old. We not only lost him but all he had to offer. The silver haired gentleman was just coming into his golden years.

So where does the Barn Dance take it from here? The show must go on. But with losses like this it's getting harder every day.

I think the best way to honour his

memory is to pay his years of hard work and dedication to the Barn Dance forward. Keep our shoulder to the plow and carry on the hard work.

Don't wilt beneath the weight of this loss and the others that time assures us will come. Don't give in to the impulse that I opened this column with. Put it behind us.

These days belong to another generation. That fact is inescapable. Our challenge is to insure they know about the Barn Dance. Don't let the healing hands of time inadvertently erase the legacy of what was so important to so many people.

We must sell it and celebrate it. Fight so that it is never forgotten.

Book the shows. Tell the stories. Sing the songs. Pass on the lessons learned from our elders such as Wayne Otterbein.

I opened the piece with honest despair but find myself taking flight on the wings of hope.

Reflecting on the lives of good people can do that.

And the Barn Dance family is full of good people.

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