

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. 60 2009

Winter Edition

1

Randy Satchell ~ *The Voice of Real Country*

by Grant Heywood

Many country singer / songwriters are blessed with a great voice, and then there are those who have earned the status of having a "signature" voice. Randy Satchell is definitely in that category. I have the pleasure on most occasions of playing in Randy's band, and it is always a treat to add sweet harmony to such a gifted singer. I recently became aware that Randy was born in Gadshill, Ontario, which is only about a 6 or 7 mile drive from where I live near Wellesley. But Mitchell, Ontario has pretty much been home for Randy and his wife Carol for many years now.

As a young lad, Randy won awards at music festivals, played occasionally with his Dad's band, and made a guest appearance with the "Ranch Boys" on the popular 'Circle 8 Ranch' TV show at CKNX studios in Wingham, Ontario. At age 14, he started the "Town and Country Gentlemen" playing weddings, and reunions, and then later started a new and more upbeat band called "Tyme".

But time marched on (excuse the pun) and Randy and Carol soon started a family. Randy kept on singing whenever he could and took top honours in the Canadian Open Country Singing Contest back to back in 1981 and 1982. Since then he has been an official judge for the Canadian Open, Ontario Open and Northern Ontario Open singing contests respectively. Now that's what I call respect! It wasn't just the contest scene that Randy really

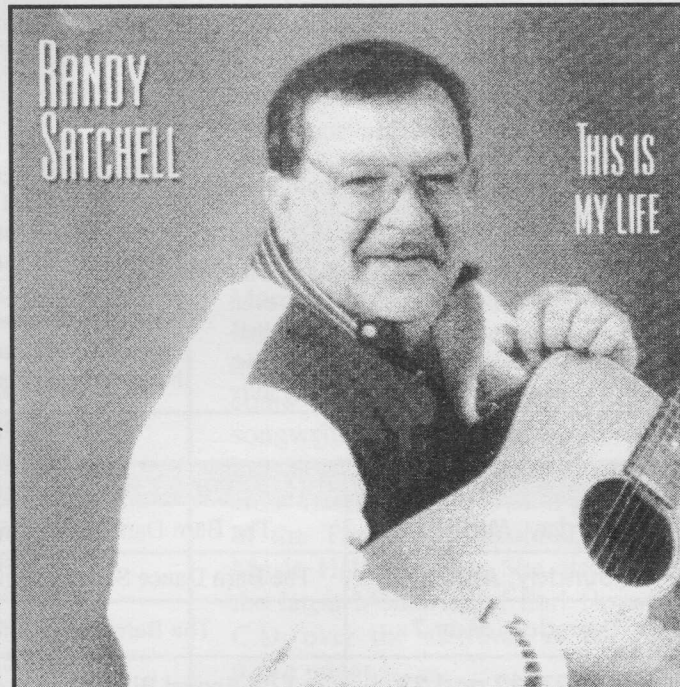
wanted to conquer. He wanted to be on stage like those Nashville guys and sing his heart out to a real appreciative country audience. Many of those opportunities came Randy's way when he opened for David Lee Murphy, Gil Grand, Blackhawk and John Landry. He's also played on-stage in Wheeling, West Virginia, as well as the popular Chew Chew Festival by Lake Champlain in Burlington, Vermont. Randy was honoured to play a part at the Blyth Theatre production of the highly successful 'held over' play about the original CKNX Barn Dance days.

It was in 1999 when Randy finally got to record his first C.D. "Memories", which included mostly original written songs. Three years later in 2001, Randy released "This Is My Life", his second C.D. which was recorded at Jay Riehl's studio and is ironically located in Randy's birthplace of Gadshill. Backed by the hot "South Mountain" band, this CD included original songs and covers by some of Randy's favourite artists including Merle Haggard, as well as a song by

bandmate and steel guitarist, Doug Dietrich, entitled "Till Myself Comes Back To You." Randy was elated when "This Is My Life" stayed in the Top 5 for two weeks on CKNX 920 radio in Wingham. When it eventually made it to the #1 spot, it became a high point in Randy's career that he wouldn't soon forget.

It certainly helped Randy in getting a lot of live gigs and dances including many guest performances on several of the Barn Dance shows. Fortunately for Randy, he now gets to sing his own songs as well as many of the traditional artists he idolized since

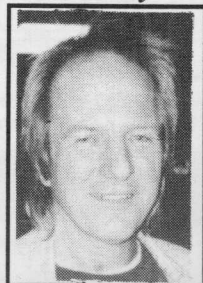
Continued on Page 3



**RANDY SACHELL'S 2001 C.D.
'THIS IS MY LIFE'**

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Winter came early this year and I'm sure hoping that we get an early spring to make up for all this snow. I'm really looking forward to a great year in 2009, be it prosperous or not we still have a lot to be thankful for. I had a few health issues over the Christmas season so I was quite content to leave 2008 behind and get on with the New Year. Good health, good friends and family are surely a consistent recipe for making day to day living worthwhile and satisfying.

It has been a couple of years now since my dad, Earl Heywood, passed away. Christmas has not been the same without him and I am so thankful that my mom, Martha, has been with us during the festive season. Dad used to be the television Santa Claus on CKNX T.V. in Wingham for many years back in the 60's and 70's. He would also perform as Santa for several events in the local area as well, but it was his appearance as Santa Claus, during our family celebration on Christmas Eve that would always be remembered. He would be outfitted in the traditional red costume complete with boots, bells and whiskers, and he had the 'ho, ho, ho' down to a science.

This year it was my turn to don the red costume and thrill some of the younger grandkids. I didn't even get a 'dry run' so to speak. I just did it like my dad would have done and turned on that entertaining charm and pretended I was really Santa Claus. Oh there was some crying, lots of smiles, twinkling eyes and looks of apprehension, even some beard tugging, but I can truly understand the gratification that my dad felt inside, now that I have taken my turn at being jolly

old St. Nick. It's a tradition I will always appreciate and cherish. It's during occasions like this that I think about my dad and reflect on the good times we had. I sure do miss him a lot.

On Christmas day we were fortunate enough to have a 'free range' turkey for dinner and with 6 cord of firewood stacked high in our shed we never had to worry about keeping the woodstove fired up. The family gathered 'round the Christmas tree as we unwrapped gifts and checked our stockings hung on the wall. Even the dog and cat got into the act hiding under the tree and playing with all the Christmas wrapping paper and ribbon. Christmas carols playing in the background, the smell of turkey and scented candles and having loved ones around surely makes for a lot to be thankful for.

And I was truly thankful for a gift from my twin daughters that I never even expected. They were anxious to see my reaction when I tore off the wrapping paper and opened the box and discovered a smaller than wallet sized object. Quite frankly, they couldn't wait to get their hands on the new ipod Touch they had given me, just so they could show me all the things it can do. Wow! What a surprise. I'm not much of a gadget type person but I do believe the kids have me hooked now.

They started downloading all of my favourite CD's into the ipod and I should have my entire collection at my disposal (over 5,000 plus songs) in a matter of weeks. I will be able to send and receive e-mail's, play Pac Man, use the navigational GPS, write in a notebook, check the clock & calendar, set the alarm, check the weather, watch videos, record on a 4 track studio or play guitar and drums with the downloaded programs. Unbelievable for such a small hand held device. My daughters told me that this was much more 'music friendly' than a Blackberry, and I already have a cell phone anyway. My daughter, Janessa, showed me over 20 pages of downloadable program features that I can add on to this little portable

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

Earl Heywood

Founder and Honourary President

Executive Board:

President: Ruth Baxter

Vice President: Wayne Otterbein

2nd Vice-President: Grant Heywood

Secretary: Ron Coulthard

Treasurer: Gord Baxter

Past President: Shirley Russwurm

Directors:

Doug Dietrich, Ron Shaw,

Shirley Russwurm, Bill Simmermaker,

Murray Armstrong and David Wall.

miracle. It all seems so incredible, and I can't thank them enough for bringing 'old Dad' into the 21st century. Life sure is full of surprises. Now if I could only get this thing to complete my wife's 'Honey Do' list, or better yet, write the B.D. Journal for me ... now that would really be something! Ah, but then I'd just be dreaming. Thank goodness that's something that I can still do on my own. See you at the next Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:

Grant Heywood

5584 Deborah Glaister Line,

R. R. #2,

Wellesley Ont. N0B 2T0

Phone: (519) 656-2552

E-mail: heywoods@golden.net

2009 Upcoming Events:

Date	Event Name	Place
Saturday, March 28	The Barn Dance Show and Dance	Columbus Centre, Wingham - Details to follow.
Sunday, April 5	The Barn Dance Society Annual Meeting	Barn Dance Museum, Wingham - 1:00 pm
Thursday, May 7	The Barn Dance Show	Norgan Theatre, Palmerston - Details to follow.
May 21, 22 and 23	12th Annual Blyth Campout Weekend	Blyth Recreation Complex & Campground
Thursday, November 12	The Barn Dance Christmas	Norgan Theatre, Palmerston - Details to follow.

Continued from Page 1

he was a kid, such as Ray Price, Buck Owens, and George Jones. Being a traditionalist at heart, Randy tries to keep the same gang together in the band line-up when he can. Usually it's me, Grant Heywood on drums, Al Alderson on bass, Doug Dietrich or George Webb on steel guitar, George Lonsbury or Fred Lewis on guitar and sometimes Mike Slauenwhite on fiddle, if he's not on a world tour or somewhere in Malaysia. And boy do we have fun onstage. There have been times that Randy has been doubled over in laughter and can hardly catch his breath to sing because of some crazy stunt one of the band members has pulled. (usually me)

But like most of us, Randy has his 'day job' duties as a licensed plumber

and maintenance supervisor at the Ritz Villa in Mitchell. The residents love to hear him sing before and after work and always know when he's nearby because he usually whistles while he works. Randy's wife Carol is a caterer in Mitchell and I can personally attest to some of the best darn home cooked meals I've ever eaten when Carol is in the kitchen. Her pies are to die for! Randy has been a volunteer fireman with the Perth Fire Department for several years now, and it was in 2004 that he barely escaped with his life after being attacked by a steer in a large barn fire. He still has pain from that incident but music seems to be the best therapy. That, and riding his Honda Gold Wing with Carol in the summer, or better yet, spending time with his

three grandchildren.

Hangin' out with the grandkids is really special for Randy. It has inspired him to get back into his songwriting again. He already has one written about his little grandson, Clayton. Nowadays, getting to play with good friends and perform songs that he can really identify with is where Randy is at. By the time he gets a few more songs together he has told me he's ready to return to the studio and record C.D. #3. I hope I can be a part of that. It's not everyday that you get to harmonize and record with someone who truly has a real country voice. Especially, when that someone happens to be a real good friend as well.

NEWS & NOTES

* Congratulations to Barn Dance Historical Society President, Ruth Baxter and Treasurer, Gord Baxter, who were the surprised recipients of the Barn Dance Pioneer Award. The event took place on Nov. 13th, 2008, at the sold out Barn Dance Christmas Show at the Norgan Theatre in Palmerston.

* Don't forget the annual Barn Dance Historical Society meeting on April 5th, 2009, being held at the Barn Dance Museum on Josephine St. In Wingham at 1:00 p.m. This is your chance as a member to vote and / or voice your opinion about the Barn Dance Historical Society.

* Pat Cook (daughter of Earl and Martha Heywood) and her husband, Bob, where in Australia during Nov. 2008. They were given a warm welcome by Australian country singer/songwriter and radio personality, Lorraine Pfitzner. Lorraine was a gracious host and gave them a grand tour of the Tamworth, Australia, Country Music Hall of Fame. She also played the latest Memories of Earl Heywood C.D. over the airwaves in the 'land down under.'



Former Ranch Boy and Barn Dance Pioneer Award winner, Hughie Elder seen here with singer / songwriter Randy Satchell backstage at a Barn Dance Show.

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

BARN DANCE JOURNAL ADVERTISING PRICES

Business Card Size -

\$25.00 plus GST

1/4 Page -

\$75.00 plus GST

1/2 page -

\$150.00 plus GST

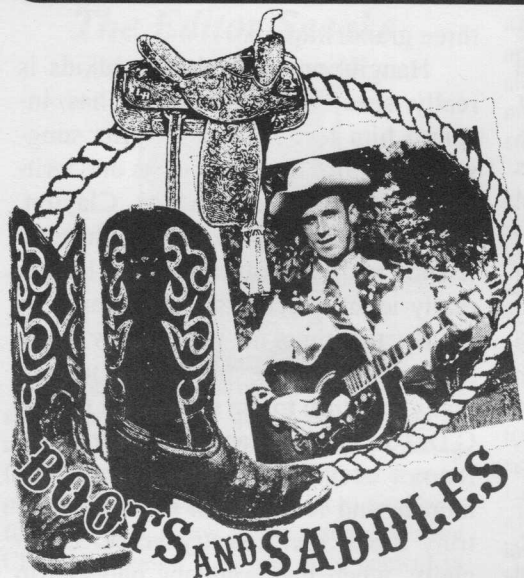
Full Page (inside) -

\$275.00 plus GST

Full Page (back cover) -

\$300.00 plus GST

All prices are per issue.



by Lynn Russwurm

I think I'm just going to reminisce and in this way you can meet some of the interesting people I've met in my travels. As you probably know, I was born and raised on a farm near Karlsruhe, where I was highly influenced by my Dad's country music 78 RPM records. He didn't have a lot, just enough to fill a cardboard box, maybe 60 or 70 records. His taste in music was passed on to me by such artists as Jimmie Rodgers, Gene Autry, The Carter Family, Bradley Kincaid, Red Foley and Vernon Dalhart, the real originators of country music. He even had Ernest Tubb's first recording on the old yellow Bluebird label, "The Passing of Jimmie Rodgers", backed with "The Last Thoughts of Jimmie Rodgers" with Ernest playing Jimmie's own Martin guitar. In collector's circles this record is worth about \$200.00 today.

When I was about ten years old and could stay up a little later at night, I discovered the Grand Ole Opry and The National Barn Dance from WLS in Chicago. Of course I was already familiar with the CKNX Barn Dance which was a must listening at our house. I started playing a bit of guitar around the age of fifteen or sixteen and sat in occasionally for a few numbers with bands at house parties and such where I got a taste for performing. The first time I played in an organized band was for a Luther league outdoor

wiener roast near Neustadt when I was eighteen. The band was made up especially for these occasions and included Henry Hill on accordion, Eddie, Ivan and Fred Kreller on accordion, guitar and fiddle, my brother Lorne and I on guitars.

In these teenage years I was also highly influenced by our own Earl Heywood. I bought his songbooks as they came out and this got me interested in song writing. I still have a letter from Earl when I sent him a few of my early efforts at song writing and he took the time to answer

with comments on my writing, which on looking back was not very good.

In 1949, I moved to Kitchener and went to work for B.F. Goodrich, where I stayed for 36 years. Here I met Stan Taylor, who had come from Nova Scotia and like me was playing a little guitar. We would go to the Kidd Baker shows every Sunday night at the Golden Lion Restaurant which was located where CKCO-TV is today. Others who went there were Karl Kuhn, Alec Mleinik and all the other young locals who were interested in country music. Kidd would

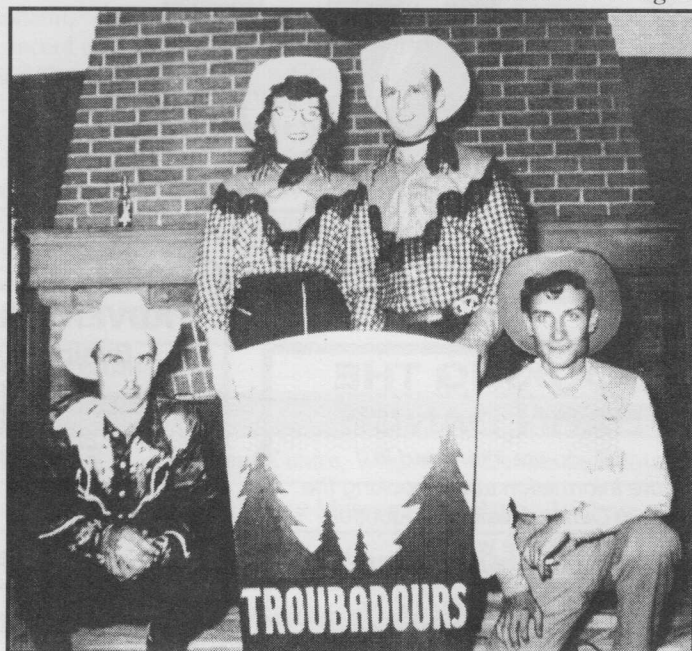
put on a one hour concert with his group which included Hank MacDonald, then after intermission all the young hopefuls would get up and do their thing. It was a great training ground for young talent and sometimes Kidd would bring in guests like Earl and Martha Heywood, Jack Kingston, Joe Spriggall from Brantford, Meleata and Dusty DeNyke.

In 1951, I organ-

ized my first band with Stan Taylor and The Karges Sisters, June and Marie. Stan later went to play lead guitar with Vic Mullen and The Hickorys on CBC-TV's "Countrytime". The Karges Sisters went on to become regulars on the CKNX Barn Dance in 1952 until marriage broke up the act. Our band was "The Pine River Troubadours" and we succeeded in getting a radio show on CKCR in Kitchener which lasted for about six months until we broke up. Stan went with Johnny Siska and The Westernaires to replace Roy Thompson who had joined the CKNX Barn Dance, eventually June and Marie also joined the Westernaires for a short time.

During this time I sent a song, "In Our Dreamboat Let's Pretend" to Ernie King at CKNX and to my surprise, Ernie sang it on the Barn Dance, you can't imagine what a thrill that was. Sometime later, in 1952, Jack Kingston took one of my songs, "Song Of The Yodeling Bells" and featured it on a tour of the East Coast with Earl Heywood. This was in 1952, an eventful year for me when I met my wife, Laura. We were married in early 1953, a marriage which produced seven children.

Continued on Page 5



PINE RIVER TROUBADOURS

Laura and Lynn Russwurm, Arsene Brier and Bill Szasz

Continued from Page 4

Also in 1952, I first met Don Steel. Don was with the Smiling Ernie Lindell Show, when one Saturday morning they arrived at my doorstep. They were looking for a musician to add to their band and had been told I might be able to help them. I took them to hear young Wally Traugott on the fiddle who was only about 16 at the time, but Wally's father would not agree to let Wally go on the road. So then I took them to a farm near Erbsville to hear young Marilyn Kroetsch, a gifted young accordionist. Marilyn joined the Ernie Lindell Show and traveled with them for over six months. This was my first meeting with Don Steel, who I again met on the Main Street Jamboree, where he played with the Mainstreeters, Wally Traugott, Lloyd Bank, Jack Kingston and Rolly D'Eon. And then again on the CKNX Barn Dance with Slim Boucher and The Golden Prairie Cowboys where he played with Al Cherny and Lucky Ambo. Today we're still friends and see each other occasionally.

In early 1952, I joined the Westernaires as guitarist, where I first worked with Mike Slauenwhite, who had already been with the band for over two years. Also in the band was Wally Boettger, who I believe was a distant cousin of mine. My mother was a Boettger and came from the same village in Germany that Walter's grandfather came from, however we've never been able to establish a definite connection. Eventually, my wife Laura came into the band to sing duets with me.

In the fall of 1954, we broke off from the Westernaires to establish our own band, again The Pine River Trou-

badours. We also managed to hook up with the Main Street Jamboree as Laura and Lynn, The Pine River Sweethearts, for many guest appearances. Gordie Tapp, emcee of the show delighted in calling us the Pine River Sweeties. Here we worked with Bill Long, Wally Traugott, and Jack Kingston and The Mainstreeters, also many guests such as Buddy Reynolds, Alonzo Marsh, Maurice Bolyer, Slim Gordon, Hank Gordon, who had the great Bill Mankiss in his band. What great days those were. We appeared at the Hamilton Forum, the Delta Collegiate, the Brantford Collegiate, Kitchener Collegiate and the Palace Pier in Toronto, among others.

About this time I connected with Hank Thompson as a song writer. Hank took a song of mine, "Girl Of The Night", rewrote and recorded it as "A Girl In The Night". Although he bought this from me outright and my name didn't get on it, he went on to record three more of my songs on which I received full co-writer's credit. One of these, "I Cast A Lonesome Shadow" was picked up about four years ago by Martin L. Gore, lead singer of England's Depeche Mode, which became the biggest money maker I've ever had.

That's about all the space I can use for this time, but I'm going to continue this trip down memory lane next time, 'till then stay tuned.

Laura and Lynn Russwurm on Main Street Jamboree with Buddy Reynolds and his Golden Eagle Ranch Boys.



WHO WROTE THE SONG?

(I Love You Because)

One of the greatest blind performers of our time was the late, great Ray Charles. Ronnie Milsap is also a successful country/pop performer with a vision handicap, but it was Ray Charles who 'crossed over' mixing country, blues and pop in some of his greatest song deliveries.

Country singer/songwriter, Leon Payne of Texas, lost his sight from an eye injury when he was a child. He attended a school for the blind from 1924 to 1935. When he graduated, he put his musical talents to work, and set out to make country music his career. Although he recorded on Capitol Records in the late 1940's, few country fans today remember or even recognize the name Leon Payne.

Unfortunately, Leon Payne never did establish a name on records. He was much better at composing and it was Leon Payne who was responsible for writing the classic country song 'I Love You Because'. It became one of the top sellers in country music as recorded by Ray Charles. It was later recorded by the late Jim Reeves as well, and has since been covered by many other country and pop artists including a fine arrangement by the Barn Dance Band.

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

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



Ernie King
Music (1993) Ltd.

*"The Complete Music Source
for the Amateur or Professional"*

70 Courthouse Sq., Goderich (519) 524-4689

Country Music Memories

as compiled by Lynn Russwurm



THE PINE RIVER TROUBADOURS

At the Pioneer Rod and Gun Club,
Kitchener, Ontario, 1955.

Don Zeeh, Reyne Kudrenecky,
Lynn Russwurm, Laura Russwurm
and Brian Dugan.

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.
Barn Dance Logo T-Shirts (gold logo on blue only)	
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$20.00 ea.
NEW "Heywood Family Three Generations" CD	\$20.00 ea.
NEW Al Cherny CD - "Live / The Lost Recordings"	\$15.00 ea.
NEW Eleanor & Graham Townsend CD "The Talented Townsends"	
(36 unheard recordings)	\$15.00 ea.
Best of The Barn Dance CD	\$15.00 ea.
All purchases include GST.	

Please include \$3.00 per item for mailing
or pick up at Ernie King Music.



THE STRING SERENADERS aka THE WESTERN RHYTHMAIRES

At the Bridgeport Casino, 1950.

Walter Boettger, Wally Traugott, Don Zeeh and Colin Saunders.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

* **Join Slim Celsie and Don Celsie** at the Orillia Legion, accompanied by Ed Murphy on fiddle, the second Sunday of each month.

* **Grant Carson Band** will be appearing as follows: Feb. 15 Fonthill Legion afternoon dance 2-6 p.m.; Feb. 28, Roselawn Theatre, Port Colborne, with Marie Botrell, for tickets call 905-834-0853.

* **Mar. 15, Apr. 19, & May 17**, afternoon dance 2-6 p.m.; for birthday/anniversary parties, contact Emily 905-680-4244.

* **Naomi Bristow** from Beeton, will be appearing at the Baltimore Arena / Community Centre on Sunday, Feb. 15. Naomi has a c.d. release.

* **The Jamborees at Caledon East** have been cancelled.

* **Appearances by Doreen Brown:** Shelburne Legion, second Sunday of the month; Warminster, first Sunday; Barrie Legion Bluegrass Bluesky Bluegrass Club, third Sunday. Also: every Thursday, 1 p.m. at the Groundswell Coffee House, 96 Victoria St. W. Alliston 705-434-0873.

* **Contact Len Murphy:** Double Barrel, Live music for all occasions 705-739-2306

* **Upcoming Appearances for the Beckett Family & friends**, call 519-372-0511.

* **Good Time Country Music Club**, Oshawa, King Side Park Jamboree every Sunday.

* **Hensall Circle Jamboree**, 456 Hensall Circle, Mississauga, Jan. 11, Feb. 8. Mar. 8 & Apr. 12 with Cliff Short and the Hensall Circle Band.

* **Coburg Auction Barn Jamboree / Jam / Dances**, Branch 133 Legion, upstairs, 133 Orr St., Jan. 25, Feb. 8, & 22, Mar. 8 & 22. Lion's Community Centre, Coburg, Apr. 18 & 26. All events from 1 - 5 p.m.

* **Old Tyme Musical Jamborees**, Dundalk Legion Br. 285 as follows: at 1 p.m., Jan. 25; Feb. 22; Mar. 22 & Apr. 26. Hot dinner at 4:30 p.m. For info. Call 519-923-3406. Everyone welcome.

Happy and healthy country music 2009 to all our readers, friends and supporters of our country music, with much gratitude for all your support.



In November, the Barn Dance did a Christmas show at the Norgan Theatre in Palmerston. A highlight of the evening was a duet by 9 year old Brontae Hunter with country music veteran Paul Weber.

FEATURE C. D. REVIEW

"I RODE THE TI"

by Rick & The Ramblers

Western swing music from the north-eastern states isn't what you might expect. This is the 2nd C.D. by the Vermont based Rick & The Ramblers. Band leader Rick Norcross's 'back to basics' songwriting really shines on songs like "What Goes Around", "Surprise, Surprise" and the historical ballad "I Rode The Ti", about the last steamer on Lake Champlain. Rick shares lead vocals with the satin voiced Mary Lee. The band is a perfect fit and does justice to the musical genre with a nod to the Light Crust Doughboys.

Rick really has some 'high profile' musicianship on this outing and it shows on all of the 12 songs, some with backing vocals by the Blue Gardenias. A fitting tribute to Gene Autry and Mary Lee with the 1940's "Swing of the Range" is definitely a C.D. highlight, as well as the Bob Wills standard "Right of Wrong".

Rick and The Ramblers are about as authentic as they come, right down to their 1957 Flixible Starliner tour bus. The band sounds like they were having a lot of fun when this was recorded. Happy and upbeat is what western swing music is all about, isn't it? I've been lucky enough to catch them live onstage and they deliver with that same conviction. They sure seem to have found their 'niche' on this one. Highly recommended, the C.D. is a gem.

Rick and The Ramblers are about as authentic as they come, right down to their 1957 Flixible Starliner tour bus. The band sounds like they were having a lot of fun when this was recorded. Happy and upbeat is what western swing music is all about, isn't it? I've been lucky enough to catch them live onstage and they deliver with that same conviction. They sure seem to have found their 'niche' on this one. Highly recommended, the C.D. is a gem.

Check them out at: rickandtheramblers.com

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



BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

While recently reading some biographies of Johnny Cash, and several tributes to The Man in Black, I was reminded of just how important white gospel music has been to the development of country music.

Cash's marketing machine, both before and after his death in 2003, would have us look only at his outlaw tendencies. His dark, dangerous side is always hyped and celebrated. It is often glossed over – if not ignored outright – that the man was a strong Christian witness. As a musician, Cash's first instinct was to record gospel music.

The first songs he sang in Memphis, Tennessee for Sam Phillips in the Sun studios back in the mid fifties were gospel numbers. He ended up leaving Sun Records because Phillips would not allow him to cut a gospel album.

Given greater artistic freedom at Columbia, Cash was able to record the influential spirituals of his childhood for his Hymns by Johnny Cash album in

1958.

At the height of his popular fame, which reached well beyond traditional country music listeners in the late 1960s, Cash chased his two live prison recordings – Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison and Johnny Cash at San Quentin -- with The Gospel Road, a two-disc soundtrack to a film scripted by Cash about the life of Jesus shot during a visit to Israel.

Even after his triumphant re-birth as a hipster in 1994 with the Rick Rubin produced American Recordings album, he talked of following its success with an album of religious material.

None of this should be surprising. Cash was just doing what so many other country musicians had done before him. He was acknowledging in song the simple fact he learned to sing in church.

Most country artists did. The songs they learned to sing always held significant sentimental, if not theological, value.

Southern gospel singing has its roots in the Sacred Harp and shape-note singing songbooks made popular by the traveling singing quartets that

canvassed the south promoting the songs and arrangements.

One of the strongest traditions to come out of this religious history is country music's ongoing infatuation with harmony singing.

There are no better examples of that than the gorgeous singing of the The Blackwood Brothers Quartet or the Statesmen Quartet. They have influenced scores of popular musicians including Elvis Presley.

The Louvin Brothers would honour that tradition as a sibling harmony singing duo. The Statler Brothers and The Oak Ridge Boys are two more recent examples of the ongoing legacy of the southern gospel tradition. Diamond Rio comes out of that mold. Rascal Flatts is carrying the musical torch on to the new country scene, even if the inspirational spirit has long since been washed from their music.

Alan Jackson's *Precious Memories*, an album of religious material he recorded specifically for his mother in 2006 at the height of his fame, is perhaps the closest contemporary example of a Nashville star bowing his head and raising his hand in the mold Johnny Cash cast over fifty years ago.

COME JOIN US!!

We need you as a member of

THE BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and ENTERTAINMENT MUSEUM

P. O. Box 68, Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0 Phone: (519) 530-8000

Membership is still only \$25.00 per year.

As a member you will receive:

- A personalized MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE and CARD.
- The right to VOTE at our annual meetings.
- Advance notice of SPECIAL EVENTS.
- A one year subscription to our quarterly JOURNAL.
- The opportunity to PARTICIPATE by sitting on Committees.
- Special membership only rates at some of our events.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone No. _____

Yes, I want to become a member of



**THE BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND ENTERTAINMENT MUSEUM**

P. O. Box 68, Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP

\$ 25.00 - 1 year

DUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$ 40.00 - 1 year