

# The Barn Dance Opera Journal

Official Publication of:  
The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.

A Not For Profit Organization

Barn Dance Website: [www.thebarndance.ca](http://www.thebarndance.ca)

Price: \$2.00 (tax incl.)

Vol. 69 2011

Spring Edition

1

## Lloyd Bank ~ Steel Guitar Virtuoso

by Lynn Russwurm

The steel guitar is the instrument, more than any other that defines country music. Some might say it is the fiddle, but the fiddle belongs to many other musical idioms. The steel guitar is country music.

A long-time favourite of mine is Lloyd Bank, that many of you will remember as one of Earl Heywood's Barn Dance Gang from 1959 until 1959. Although there have been many great steel men since that time, in his day, Lloyd was the best. I attended many dances and Barn Dances where The Barn Dance Gang was featured and found Lloyd to be very friendly, at intermission time I'd usually be gabbing with Lloyd. That friendship has remained to this day, and included nearly twenty years of a musical relationship with Lloyd in The Jamboree Reunion Band. But let's go back to the beginning.

Lloyd Bank was born in Kitchener on Sept. 14, 1927; the youngest in a family of 3 girls and 3 boys. His musical interests were awakened at an early age when he took up trumpet and won several gold medals in open competition. However, his musical tastes took a drastic change when he first heard a Hawaiian guitar. He was hooked on the beautiful sound of this instrument. It wasn't long until he was spending his spare time at mastering the steel guitar. When Lloyd heard the great Jerry Byrd play his steel guitar, he knew what his ultimate goal would be, to emulate that sound as closely as he possibly could. To this day I have never heard anyone come as close as Lloyd Bank.

It wasn't long until Lloyd found ways to express his music. He joined with Carl Lindsay

and they secured a spot on CKCR radio for a weekly program. They alternated on steel guitar and rhythm guitar. I would love to hear a sample of that program. Lloyd joined Roy Thompson's Westernaires and it was with this group that he found himself on the CKNX Barn Dance

for several guest spots. While with this group they recorded several transcriptions for CKNX that could be played on the air. However, this was during the recording ban that was imposed by the musicians union and it led to the band being severely reprimanded and fined.

An offer from Earl Heywood to join the Barn Dance Gang was too good to turn down, so Lloyd made the transition to full-time musician. Lloyd and his wife Grace made the move to Wingham, where David was born in 1951.

Here Lloyd worked with what was probably one of the best country music bands that Canada has ever seen with the twin fiddles of Ward Allen and Mel Lavigne, Jack Kingston and Earl Heywood alternating on bass and rhythm guitar and Bill Mankiss on accordion. They were also Earl Heywood's Serenade Ranch Gang on radio and records. This group lasted until 1952 when it started to fall apart. Ward was let go because of a drinking problem; Mel left to form his own group; Jack left to start The Main Street Jamboree in Hamilton; Bill left to work in the Toronto area. Through Jack, Lloyd got an offer to join him on The Main Street Jamboree in Hamilton.

The new line-up for The Barn Dance Gang was Hank McDonald on bass, Danny Grummett on steel guitar, Hap Swatridge on accordion and a young Al Cherny on fiddle, again a great band.

In Hamilton, The Mainstreeters were formed to back up Jack Kingston and included Roly D'Eon on bass, Maurice Bolyer on piano, guitar and banjo, Donny Steel on lead guitar, the great Wally Traugott on fiddle and Eddy Preston on drums. Lloyd still maintains this was the best band he ever worked with. They backed many acts on The Main Street Jamboree, on records, appeared on the Grand Ole Opry and were on Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts, as well as other shows. By 1957 this show had run its course and Lloyd opted to remain in Hamilton where he worked with various groups, along with operating a service station on Highway 6 for many years.

Finally, it was time to retire, the

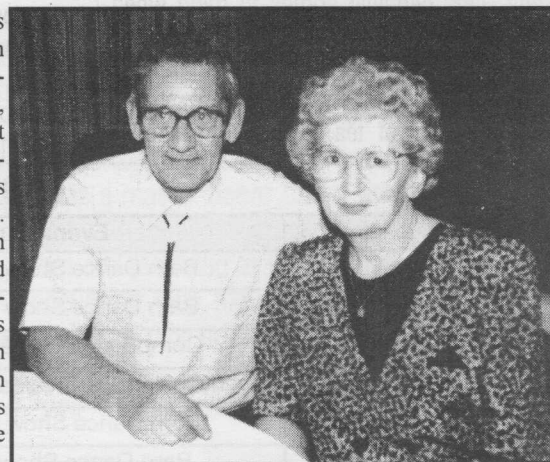
service station was sold and Lloyd and Grace decided to return to their home town of Kitchener. When I learned that Lloyd was available, I approached him with the idea of a new band. We had just completed our first Jamboree Reunion at Bingeman Park, got



Lloyd doing what he loves doing best

Lorne Prince on bass, Victor Pasowisty on fiddle and eventually Bill Mankiss on accordion and called it The Jamboree Reunion Band which continued for almost twenty years. Lloyd has pretty much retired from music, but enjoys listening to CDs of some of the bands he's played with through the years.

After the death of his beloved Grace in December of last year, Lloyd is living a quiet life with many musical memories. I can truly say Lloyd has been a friend for many years.



Lloyd and Grace Bank (approx. 1991)



A young Lloyd Bank

## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



If there is still snow around by the time you get this, and you see your own shadow ... then I'd suggest staying inside, keep warm, turn up the country music and wait six more weeks before venturing out and discovering that spring is way overdue. Only in Canada eh ....

I watched the Grammy Awards on television recently and realized why I never like watching awards programs. The Oscars were downright embarrassing as I witnessed one of the worst produced shows in Oscar history. These two shows are the top awards programs of the year and quite frankly couldn't even measure up to America's Got Talent or American Idol. Well, there's always next year to make up for it, but I won't be watching. Award programs, have run their course as far as I'm concerned. In my opinion, there's too many of them and fewer entertainers who have genuine 'star' appeal.

I do pay attention to the latest trends in music and movies and I admit there's a few out there that are appalling ... er, uh, ... I mean, appealing. But generally, when it comes to music, it all sounds so similar, and it is hard to distinguish one artist from another. If I were to draw an analogy, I'd say most were like politicians these days. Nobody really takes a chance anymore. Where are the visionary people and risk takers? Lady Gaga certainly comes to mind when I think of someone who pushes the envelope to gain attention, and even though she has a gimmick, she is quite talented. Maybe not quite my cup of tea, but she qualifies as

someone who separates herself from the mundane mainstream. Big & Rich would qualify as well, but I believe they've become a parody of themselves.

I always thought that Junior Brown was an anomaly in the country music world, but he was never really accepted by mainstream country. He never really portrayed a youthful image. But he has a unique voice, and can play damn good guitar. He has a gimmick with his 'gitsteel' double neck guitar (one neck he plays regular guitar, the other he plays slide steel), and he has a retro cowboy gentleman image. I guess it doesn't really matter to Junior Brown though. In his own world he has his cult followers and plays dozens of concerts a year and makes oodles of money by supplying the music for the most popular cartoon of all time .... Sponge Bob Square Pants. Obviously, he doesn't need a Top 10 Nashville hit to be famous. But his risk paid off in an unusual way and he still gets to record and perform what he wants without someone telling him how to 'make it' in the music business. A most envied position indeed.

When it comes to advice, almost everyone in the music business will have the same answer when asked just this one question. *What do I need to do to make it in the music business?* And the answer is ..... (drum roll please) .... Be yourself. Don't try to sound like your peers or use a phoney accent, just find your inner voice and be true to yourself. There is no one more unique than you and if you stay true to yourself, you will find that no one else sounds like you either. If there is something special that you are good at, then use it to your advantage and make it part of your persona. Unless you are in a tribute band or you're a tribute artist, don't try to be that Nashville star you so much admire. It's okay to pay homage to them but you won't get to the top by playing second fiddle. And so ends the lesson. LOL

## 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

Executive Board:

**President:** Ruth Baxter

**Vice President:** Grant Heywood

**Secretary:** Ron Coulthard

**Treasurer:** Gord Baxter

**Past President:** Shirley Russwurm

Directors:

Doug Dietrich, Ron Shaw, Shirley Russwurm, Bill Simmermaker, Doreen Armbruster, David Wall Ted Weishar and Richard Holm.

We've got a lot of great local country talent and some award winning performers lined up for the upcoming Barn Dance season. Please check the Barn Dance schedule in this journal or visit our website for details. More and more people are coming out to Barn Dance Shows. Each one is different, the entertainers may change, but you will always be assured of darn good music and a real good time. Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:

Grant Heywood

5584 Deborah Glaister Line, R. R. #2,

Wellesley, Ontario N0B 2T0

Phone: (519) 656-2552

E-mail: [heywoods@golden.net](mailto:heywoods@golden.net)

or send a message on facebook.

## 2011 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
Sun., April 10	Barn Dance Show - 2:30 p.m.	Purple Hill Country Hall, Thorndale
Sun., April 17	Barn Dance Show - 3:00 p.m.	Commercial Tavern, Maryhill
May 26 to 29	Campout Jamboree Weekend	Blyth Community Complex
Sat., July 9	Country Classics Breakfast - 10 11:30 a.m.	Holstein Rodeo, Holstein
Sat., Sept. 3	Barn Dance Show and Dance	Pioneer Threshers 50th Anniversary, Blyth
Sun., Oct. 30	Barn Dance Show - evening	Sheddon Keystone Complex, Sheddon



Barn Dance / Circle 8 Ranch personality, Hughie Elder and his wife Beth, celebrated Beth's 80th birthday along with their 55th wedding anniversary on February 15th, in Mount Forest. Sweethearts forever. Congratulations to a great couple, from all of us at the Barn Dance Historical Society.



# DSP

## Studio Engineering

Eric Duerrstein

(519) 886-8145  
Waterloo, Ontario  
duerrstein@kw.igs.net  
www.myspace.com/DSPstudioEngineering

Recording  
Mixing  
Mastering  
\$25/Hour

## PURPLE HILL COUNTRY MUSIC HALL

20903 Purple Hill Road, Thorndale ON N0M 2P0  
Just 5 miles east of London.

presents

# CANADA'S LARGEST TRAVELING BARN DANCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Show time 2:00 p.m.

\$20.00 per person  
(light lunch to follow)

Join Master of Ceremonies Jim Swan  
for the Countdown to Showtime.



You will not want to miss this Professional Country Show! See The Barn Dance Show Band, and Special Guests ~ Country Hall of Fame's **Marie Bottrell**, just inducted in 2010 into the Country Music Hall of Honour.

Award winning singers **Paul Weber, Eric Shain, Gerald Davidson, Amberly Beatty as Loretta Lynn**, and the amazing **Naomi Bristow**, Canada's Yodeling Cowgirl.

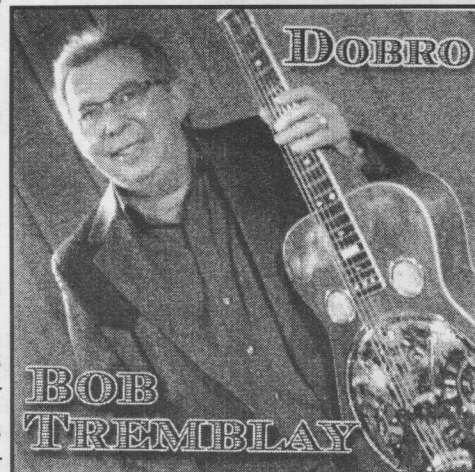
We are booking into 2011 now. Book the hall for special occasions such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and company parties.

Call 519-461-0538 for booking or questions.  
purplehillcountryhall@gmail.com

## FEATURE C. D. REVIEW

# BOB TREMBLAY ~ 'DOBRO'

Bob Tremblay has been playing steel and mainly dobro guitar since the age of 14. Along with his friend and fiddler, the late Mike Slauenwhite, Bob was also a member of CKCO TV's Silver Bar



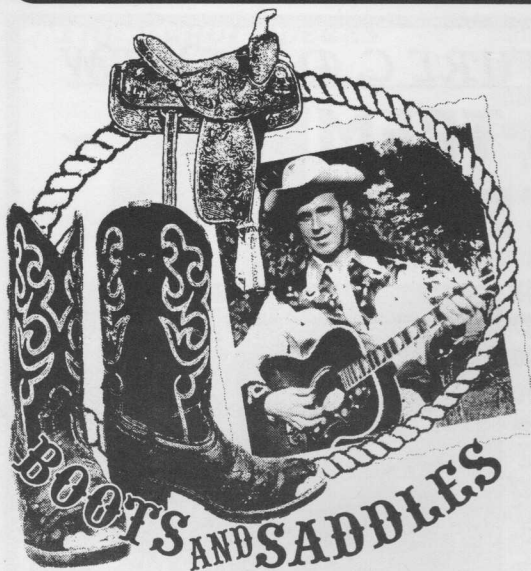
Ranch Group. He has toured the U.S. and Canada and most recently played with Lynn Russwurm and bluegrass group Crossover Junction.

This c.d. was recorded at Eric Duerrstein's DSP Studio in Waterloo, with Dan Howlett on fiddle, mandolin & guitar, Paul Weber on bass & rhythm guitar, (myself) Grant Heywood on drums, and of course Bob Tremblay on dobro. Everything from bluegrass, country and swing is covered on this c.d. with Bob tearing off some fine dobro picking and Dan sweetening up the tracks with some superb bowing and picking as well. I must say that playing in the studio, along with Dan and especially with Bob and Paul was a treat unto itself. I can only attest that the quick wit and sarcasm in the studio certainly made a difference in Bob's flying fingers. It was too much fun, which obviously shows up in the music here, and that's a good thing.

The c.d. opens up with 'gangbuster' versions of Black Diamond and Hail To The Redskins. Some of my personal favourites are Pick-Away, Crazy, Pan Handle Rag, Dobro Rhumba and Farewell Blues. A personal dedication to Mike Slauenwhite, on Amazing Grace, rounds out this 19 song instrumental c.d. package.

Bob Tremblay is a master dobro player and plays on a regular basis with many bands and solo artists. He's often found hanging out and jamming at the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill whenever he gets the chance. Superb playing on this c.d. shouldn't be missed

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



by Lynn Russwurm

In this country music business, there are many casualties, where some performer is very visible, then all of a sudden he is gone, where did he go?? It's hard to make a living off country music, or bluegrass for that matter, in Canada. There is not enough work around to sustain an artist if that is the life he chooses. The few that make it big are the exceptions, not the rule. In all cases they had exceptional talent, a fierce determination to make it and probably a spouse who sacrificed a lot for the sake of a dream. Also a lot of luck, to be in the right place at the right time.

Most artists have to have a sideline or a steady day job to fall back on in lean times, and believe me lean times come in this business. Personally, I've never been in the big leagues, though when I was younger I dreamed of it, however I was married, raised nine children and held down a full-time job, 36 years at B.F. Goodrich in Kitchener. Throughout the years, it was that steady job that put food on the table and paid the rent or the taxes. The music added a bit of gravy on the potatoes, if you will. After retirement from B.F. Goodrich, I became self-employed, buying and selling records to collectors all over the world, so my music was still a part-time thing.

To be in music full time today, you need big financial backing, or you might as well forget it. First you have to record, most people start out by financing their own record sessions which can be an expensive step. You need, a manager, probably an agent and be willing to tour across the country to support your new CD if you can get the radio stations to play it. If you have a unique

sound, they probably won't touch it, to them it has to sound like that last artist that had a hit, radio can be very frustrating to the artist.

Way back when, an artist could walk into a radio station, ask for an interview with the popular DJ that was at the station and could be heard if the DJ liked you. Today they have a tight playlist and they probably won't even consider you. If Hank Williams walked into a radio station today, they'd probably tell him to get lost, so what is an artist to do? Many times he will be discouraged and that's the end for him in the music business.

Even back then, you couldn't make a living at it. If an artist was lucky he might get a recording contract, but there was no money in it, a recording contract was valuable as a promotional tool, you had to get out there and hustle personal appearances or if you had a band you could work dances. Today there isn't much dance work left. Even the bar scene, where you could find steady work has disappeared with a few exceptions. So you could make a living in bars, but the drinking and driving laws have pretty well discouraged that end of the spectrum even though bar work was a dead end if you were looking for bigger things.

Throughout the years a few Canadians made it and made it big. Ones that come to

mind are Gord Lightfoot, Anne Murray, Walter Ostanek, Myrna Lorrie, Don Messer, Al Cherny, Ward Allen, etc. But for everyone of these (and they were all exceptional talents) there were dozens that didn't make it and have all but disappeared from the face of the earth. Terry Parker is one that comes to mind. Terry was a good singer and yodeller, she was a regular on the Barn Dance for a number of months, back in the fifties, but even then she had to hold down a day job. She went on to record several great albums, appeared on all the country music TV shows of the day, such as Holiday Ranch, Main Street Jamboree, and then nothing.

Bill Mankiss, the great accordionist that played with the Barn Dance Gang in the early fifties, went on from there to work with King Ganam on CTV, recorded several albums but ended up working in a music store in Chatham, where he was also the secretary-treasurer of the Musician's Union until he retired. He played with my Jamboree Reunion Band until Parkinson's Disease curtailed his activities in the music world. There are many more such instances, but probably the musician who held down a day job and moonlighted in music in the evening was a much happier and more fulfilled individual than the full-time musician.

So really nothing much has changed, it still takes great talent, tenacity and the will to succeed, and then you still might not make it.

Left to right -  
Ward Allen,  
Slim Boucher,  
Bill Mankiss,  
Eddie Menler.





**DON'T FORGET**

**Monday,  
April 4, 2011  
The Barn Dance  
Historical Society's  
Annual General  
Meeting.**

Starting at 7:00 p.m. at the  
North Huron / Barn Dance  
Museum, Josephine Street,  
Wingham, Ontario.

*All members are welcome  
to attend and participate.*

*General meeting  
to follow at 8:00 p.m.*

**See you there!!**

**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 HST.  
Please include \$3.00 per item for mailing  
or pick up at Ernie King Music.  
E-mail: webmaster@thebardance.ca*

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  
E-mail: webmaster@thebardance.ca

**BARN DANCE JOURNAL  
ADVERTISING PRICES**

**Business Card Size -**

**\$25.00 plus HST**

**1/4 Page -**

**\$75.00 plus HST**

**1/2 page -**

**\$150.00 plus HST**

**Full Page (inside) -**

**\$275.00 plus HST**

**Full Page (back cover) -**

**\$300.00 plus HST**

*All prices are per issue.*

**E-mail -**

**webmaster@thebardance.ca**

**WHO WROTE THE SONG?**

*(Blue Moon of Kentucky)*

Bill Monroe is the legendary father of bluegrass music. He wrote his trademark song, Blue Moon of Kentucky in 1946, and performed it with his band, The Blue Grass Boys which included Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs at the time. Bill Monroe sang his classic bluegrass waltz on the Columbia Records recording which became a nationwide hit in 1947.

Bill played his classic Gibson mandolin, (which he purchased in 1923), on the recording of Blue Moon of Kentucky. Bill Monroe's Gibson mandolin was almost as legendary as Bill himself, but it wasn't always that way. There was a time when Bill's mandolin was in need of repair. The neck was loose, the fingerboard, the frets, tuning pegs & finish all showed signs of past retirement. He returned the instrument to the Gibson Company for repair, but when they returned the mandolin to Bill, he was anything but pleased. Seems they just tightened the neck and that was all. Monroe was so aggravated, that he took out his pocket knife and roughly chiselled out the Gibson logo in the headstock. It remained like that for some time until the Gibson Co. finally heard about it and offered to refurbish his mandolin. After a lot of hedging, Bill finally accepted the offer.

Bill Monroe's style of playing on the Gibson mandolin, and his falsetto voice were a part of the sound that made Blue Moon of Kentucky a hit. Blue Moon of Kentucky soon became the official bluegrass song of the state of Kentucky. The song was ranked #11 on CMT's 100 Greatest Songs in Country Music. Originally it was a ¾ waltz time tune, but it has also been performed in 4/4 time as well. It was such a popular song, that everyone from Elvis, Ray Charles, Patsy Cline, Jimmy Martin, to Jerry Reed, Ronnie Hawkins, John Fogerty, and even Paul McCartney did a recorded rendition of Blue Moon of Kentucky. It has definitely been covered by many artists of varying musical genres', but Blue Moon of Kentucky will always be revered as the first bluegrass recording to make record history.

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

# COUNTRY MUSIC

## Memories

### The Carter Family



*Original Carter Family*



*Maybelle Carter*



*Helen Carter*



*Anita Carter*



*June Carter*



*June Carter, Maybelle Carter, and  
Helen Carter*



*Carter Sisters, Mother Maybelle Carter  
with Roy Acuff and Hank Williams - 1951*

*Mother Maybelle  
Carter with  
The Carter Sisters.  
Early 1960's*





## COUNTRY CALENDAR



by **Doreen Brown**

(Toronto and surrounding area)

\* **Barrie Thornton Old Time Fiddlers Night**, the second Thursday of the month. Barrie St., Thornton at 7 pm. All fiddlers, singers, callers, dancers and listeners are welcome. For info, call Cec Denney 705-458-9996.

\* **Appearance by Naomi Bristow** - April 16, Elmvalle Maple Syrup Festival; April 30, Steve Leacock Theatre, Keswick; May 28, Blyth Campout; June 26, Kinmount Country Jamboree; July 1, River Valley Country and Bluegrass Festival; July 9, Holstein Rodeo; July 15, Shawville Country Jamboree, Shawville, Quebec; July 16, Lindsay Country Jamboree.

\* **May 26 - 29**: 14th Annual Jamboree Campout Weekend by the Barn Dance Historical Society, Blyth, Ont. Come out and join the fun with a great line up of talent.

\* **Country Jamboree**: June 9 to 12, Marmora Fairgrounds. Specified site reservations deadline March 31. Food booth available. Legions breakfast Saturday and Sunday. More information at [www.crowevalleyionsjamboree.ca](http://www.crowevalleyionsjamboree.ca)

\* **June 17 to 19**, 28th Tottenham Bluegrass Festival, Conservation area. Line up - JD Crowe and the New South, Russell Moore and Third Time Out, Ray Legere and Acoustic Horizon, Audie Blaylock and Redline, Hometown Bluegrass, Bill White and White Pine, General Store, Concession 23, Honeygrass, Simcoe County Ramblers. Info - Peter Deveau, 1-888-886-4566. [www.tottenhambluegrass.ca](http://www.tottenhambluegrass.ca) Camping, food vendors and childrens activities.

\* **Bluegrass** every Monday night at Man or Yorke, Tottenham.

\* **Appearances by Doreen Brown**: April 19, Rosemont Fiddle and Square Dance; April 21, Thornton Fiddle Club; May 26 - 29, Blyth Campout; June 23 - 26, Kinmount Country Jamboree; July 14 - 17, Lindsay Country Jamboree; July 28 Weekend, Classic Country Music Reunion; Aug. 31 - Sept. 4, Auction Barn Jamboree.

\* **Honeygrass**, April 11, Police Association Hall, 141 Catherine St., Ottawa. Opening for 3rd Tyme Out; April 29, Katrine Community Centre, Katrine, just off Hwy 11 south; June 17 to 19, Tottenham Bluegrass; July 27 - 31, River Valley Bluegrass Festival.

\* **Gladstone Hotel**, 1214 Queen St. W., Toronto 416-531-4635. Bluegrass Sundays 6 to 9. Also Karaoke by Peter Styles, Country Melody

Bar 7 to 10.

\* **Kinmont Country Jamboree**, June 23 to 26, Kinmont Fairgrounds. Special guests Sat. eve. Harold McIntyre, Anita Perras, Larry Mercey, Johnny Burke. Open mic begins Thurs. night. Canada Day Celebration. Food. Info 705-488-2372. [info@kinmountfair.net](mailto:info@kinmountfair.net)

\* **June 30 - July 3**, 24th River Valley Country and Bluegrass gathering, presenting David Parmley and Continental Divide, Southbound. Country Bands, - Bedard Brothers, Naomi Bristow, Bonita Mercer, Bluegrass Bands, Hard Ryde, Badly Bent, Peace River Band.

\* **May 27 - 29**: Orono Bluegrass and Old Tyme Country Jamboree, 705-778-9887.

\* **June 17 - 19**, Trillium Jamboree, Hastings, 705-696-2897.

\* **June 30 - July 3**, Cargill's Pickin' by the Pond and Bluegrass Festival. 519-881-1716. Entertainment line up Freddie White, Winterline, Jim Patterson, Ben Lentir, Brontae Hunter; Kiley Jo Masson, Jim Beech, Crystal Gage, Wayne Bester, Cliff Short, Mafison Kozak, Beckett Family and Ronnie Prophet. Camping available.

\* **June 30 - July 3**, Just Past the Pines, Maryhill. 613-396-1372.

\* **June 30 - July 3**, Hollywood Jamboree. 613-967-9551.

\* **July 7 - 9**, Country Roads Music Festival. 613-396-2626.

\* **July 8 - 10**, Preston Springs Country Jamboree, Hastings. 705-696-2268.

\* **July 7 - 10**, Renfrew Valley Bluegrass

Festival. 613-696-8545.

\* **Aug. 7**, Musician's Corn Roast. 905-986-0292.

\* **Aug. 12 - 14**, Conestoga Bluegrass. 519-458-8515.

\* **Aug. 11 - 14**, Baldwin Country Jamboree. 905-337-9940.

\* **Music by the Dolsons**, Erin Legion, 4th Sunday of the month.

*Have a wonderful and safe summer. See you at our Blyth Campout. Bring a friend.*

*Thanks to all who helped make last year's attendance one of the best ever.*

## 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)*

*An Invitation to the*

## 14th Annual Jamboree Weekend Campout

# May 26, 27, 28, & 29, 2011

## Blyth Arena Complex

*Presented by the Barn Dance Historical Society & Entertainment Museum.*

### CAMPING PACKAGES AVAILABLE.

**MAY 27, 2011**

Blue Grass Show and Open Stage.

**MAY 28, 2011**

Barn Dance Stage Show and Dance. Master of Ceremonies Jim Swan with the Barn Dance Band and The Millennium Cowboys Band. Featuring Guests including **Walter Ostanek**, Jimmy Phair, Dianne Ditner, Betty Beer, Bob Tremblay, Dorothy Stoneouse, Tom and Rose Merrigan, Guylaine Basque and Travis Whiteman.

**MAY 29, 2011**

Gospel Show

Full details and schedule online at [www.thebardance.ca](http://www.thebardance.ca)

*To reserve camping space or order tickets, send cheque payable to*

*"Barn Dance Historical Society"  
P. O. Box 68, Wingham,  
Ontario N0G 2W0*

**519-530-8000**

## BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

Despite an array of number one classic country music songs over a career now spanning five decades, Bobby Braddock's response to being announced as the inaugural nominee in the newly birthed Songwriter category for 2011 induction into The Country Music Hall of Fame was appropriately off-base and humble: "Are you Sure?"

"Is this for certain? ... I'm still just wondering if someone's made a mistake. We songwriters are used to being low profile and traveling underneath the radar and not used to all this excitement," said Braddock.

Given his songwriting pedigree, and that Harlan Howard was beating the drums for Braddock's nomination up until his death, it's a bit hard to believe him. Braddock has been a virtual nuclear reactor of excitement for Nashville since penning a song for Marty Robbins as his piano player in 1964.

Robbins took Braddock's *While Your Dancing* into the top thirty which in turn took Braddock to Nashville where he signed with Tree Publishing Company as a staff songwriter. Incidentally, he was filling the spot left by an exiting writer named

Roger Miller.

Braddock's career has always been in lockstep with Nashville's hottest stars. His first foray into Billboard's rarefied Top 10 territory as a songwriter came in 1967 courtesy of two of country music's most loved and enduring bands: The Oak Ridge Boys and The Statler Brothers. The Statler Brother hits, *Ruthless* and *You Can't Have Your Kate and Edith Too*, revealed the quirky, off-the-wall style that would define much of his work.

But Braddock had more to offer than grimace-worthy puns in the best/worst tradition of country music word play. The same man who penned *Dolly Parton's Hits* and *I Lobster but Never Flounder* for his 1983 RCA "Hardpore Cornography" album floored Music City with *He Stopped Loving Her Today*, originally recorded by Leon Russell in 1977, but made famous by George Jones in 1980. Many fans and critics consider that to be the best country music song ever written.

And just in case it isn't, Braddock can bid for that title with several of his other monster hits.

Tammy Wynette's 1968 smash *D-I-V-O-R-C-E* was a Braddock composition, as was *Golden Ring* for both Jones and Wynette in 1976. Johnny Duncan took *Thinkin' of a Rendezvous* to the top of the charts the same year. T.G. Sheppard

took several Braddock songs to number one in the eighties with 1982's *Faking Love* as one of his most enduring.

Braddock's run of success continued into the nineties as his rhymes underpinned the rise of Tracy Lawrence to fame with *Texas Tomado* and his signature tune *Time Marches On*, both number one hits. Mark Chesnutt found success with *All My Old Flames Have New Names*.

Toby Keith came to dominance in 2002 with Braddock's *I Wanna Talk About Me*. Billy Currington took the Tom T. Hallesque *People Are Crazy* to the top in 2009.

And just to make sure the Florida songwriter who can bridge country music from Marty Robbins to Toby Keith is still relevant today, he is the man behind the white-hot career of Blake Shelton. Braddock discovered Shelton on a demo tape and went on to produce Shelton's earliest works.

Keep in mind that in the 89-year history of recorded country music, only 115 people have been inducted into Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame. Compare that to the 613 artists in Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

For a genre that claims the song is sacred, this nomination is indeed something to sing about.

## COME JOIN US!!

We need you as a member of

## THE BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and ENTERTAINMENT MUSEUM

P. O. Box 68, Wingham, Ont. N0G 2W0 Phone: (519) 530-8000 E-mail: [webmaster@thebardance.ca](mailto:webmaster@thebardance.ca)

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