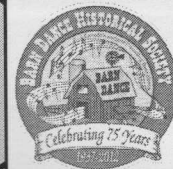


The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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. 76 2013

Winter Edition

1

The Good Old Days of Country Music T.V.

by Grant Heywood

Most of us remember watching television in black and white; that is if you're over 55. Country music became associated with television as a medium to promote the burgeoning country and western scene of the late 40's into the 50's. Many of our country music stars would not have become as well known had it not been for television. My dad, (Earl Heywood), always said that performing on television would garner countrywide recognition and the more times you were on television, the longer that recognition would last. Staying power pretty much equaled star power.

Radio was 'king of the airwaves' (so to speak) from the 1920's until television appeared on the scene in the late 1940's. Other than movies, television provided a medium for many musicians, singers and performers to be seen as well as heard. Television stations began cropping up everywhere and musical entertainment was a mainstay of television, and continued growing in popularity. City and rural folks were able to 'tune in' to see and hear the latest musical performers. The 1950's were known as the 'golden age of television' and most likely because of the pioneering efforts carried out during this period of time.

One of the first network T.V. shows featuring country stars was the ABC network show 'Ozark Jubilee' hosted by Red Foley. It ran from 1955 to 1960 and went through various name changes. Canada's 'Don Messer's Jubilee' featuring Marg Osbourne & Charlie Chamberlain, actually ran from 1957 until 1973. A very popular show, it was yanked by CBC, many say because it was too hokey for city folk. Porter Wagoner had a television show that ran from 1960 to '79 featuring Mel Tillis and a very young Dolly Parton. The Wilburn Bros. Show was in long syndication from 1963 to '74 and helped launch Loretta Lynn's career. There were other country music shows that became popular during the 60's and 70's. Who can forget the 'Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour', 'The Johnny Cash Show' and the ever popular 'Hee Haw' with hosts, Buck Owens and Roy Clark as well as our very own Gordie Tapp. It featured

hayseed comedy skits, country stars and sing-a-longs, and was likely one of the most well known syndicated country music shows to date.

In the early days of Canadian television CHCH Hamilton had the 'Main Street Jamboree' featuring many Canadian country artists at that time. CBC's 'Country Hoedown' was a continual favourite featuring Tommy Hunter and Gordie Tapp and eventually became the 'Tommy Hunter Show'. Many Canadian country artists broadened their career on the show including, The Mercey Bros., Ray Griff, Lucille Starr, Myrna Lorrie, Gary Buck, The Rhythm Pals and many others. After Hockey Night In Canada every Saturday night, we would be entertained by Juliette and her many guests.

There were several other Canadian country music shows and some were more country than others. 'Papa Joe' Brown and the Family Brown, Orval & Ronnie Prophet, Stu Davis, Anne Murray, Walter Ostanek, The Irish Rovers, The Carlton Showband and even Rita MacNeil all had television shows of varying popularity and longevity. Right here at home, on CKNX T.V. in Wingham, West-

ern Roundup became a popular country music television show featuring Earl Heywood & members of the Travelling Barn Dance show. It also featured a young fiddler, Al Cherney and occasional comedy by Gordie Tapp, who both moved on to CBC with Tommy Hunter. Gordie then be-

came a regular on Hee Haw.

The most popular show on CKNX T.V. was without a doubt, Circle 8 Ranch, running from 1955 until 1978. The show was first hosted by broadcaster and Barn Dance emcee, Johnny Brent, then later by the ever popular singer, Ernie King. The half hour show ran weekly every Tuesday evening and featuring mainly regional talent and sometimes national artists as well. Regular cast members developed into local celebrities in their own right. Don Robertson, Ernie King, Ross Mann, Cora Robertson, Hugh Elder, Wayne Riehl and later Ron Coulthard, all became popular via television. Gerald Davidson and the Country Versatiles also had a country music television show on CKNX called 'Good Time Country' winning a Can Pro award, and once featuring a very young Shania Twain on the show.

I also remember Nashville singer George Hamilton IV, having a popular country music variety show on CHCH Hamilton, Ontario featuring local & national country music artists. But television was changing. It started becoming a little less 'down home' and a little more 'glitzy' as

Continued on Page 3



THE CKNX RANCH BOYS in the 1950's. From L to R - Ernie King - vocals and guitar; Don Robertson - vocals and bass; Archie Mann - fiddle; George Jordan - emcee, vocals and square dance caller; Reg Bitton - vocals and accordion; Ross Mann - vocals and fiddle.

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Hard to believe we are already into a new year, 2013. It only seemed like yesterday that we were celebrating the year 2000, of the new millennium. I guess I'm showing my age now.

2012 was a tough year to get through as I personally saw a number of friends, especially musician friends, pass away, some of them much too young. It was particularly hard for Barn Dance folks losing Circle 8 Ranch heroes like Ernie King and Hughie Elder in 2012. That was a double whammy and they will never be forgotten. It really makes a person reflect on how precious life really is and those we hold dear to our hearts. The memories of those we knew and loved will always be a part of who we are. Those thoughts can be triggered by a word or phrase, music, conversation, even a joke or pictures and they immediately give us a brief but fleeting moment as if they were never really gone. It's sad to lose the ones we cherish but we must move on. None of us are immune to loss of life, but we will always remember the good times and friendship of family and friends who are no longer with us and that will never fade away. Check out the country classic song by Moe Bandy, 'Too Old To Die Young'. This song pretty much sums up the feelings of losing those closest to us. I sing this song quite often and it's all I can do to get through it without thinking of those I've loved who have gone on. 'Nuff said.

On a brighter note ... often times I'm asked about some new song on the radio or if I've heard the latest this or that. Sometimes in conversation with musicians or music lovers I've been asked what I think of the current country music scene. Well, I only listen to country music radio on occasion, and many times I hear about a great new country song through my musician friends and colleagues. My problem is that I listen to all kinds of music, rock, oldies, country, etc. as long as it's good ... otherwise I just change the channel. I have a lot of musical tastes and I guess it is reflected in the kind of gigs I take on as a musician. Currently, besides the Barn Dance Band, I am involved with a classic rock band, a

blues band, a Neil Young project band and various country bands. Sometimes it's hard to keep everything in order but it keeps my musical palate interesting and I am never bored.

I like discovering new music though, whether it's on radio or through a tip from a friend, or hearing a new singer or band. I personally love hearing something new and different, and it doesn't necessarily have to be country. When asked the question about what's missing from current 'mainstream' radio, my answer is ... "nobody takes a risk anymore". To get airplay on mainstream radio takes much more than talent. It takes a large amount of money, and lots of it. Too bad, because the risk takers that I remember from 60's and 70's radio, did get airplay. Sure it was a different era, but you don't hear instrumental music on radio anymore unless you like hearing the latest bombardment of pumped up dance music. You would never hear an instrumental on current radio today such as the country classic 'Wheels', Floyd Kramer's 'Last Date' or the Ventures 'Walk Don't Run'. It just wouldn't happen.

Novelty songs are also a thing of the past. Recording artists such as Jim Stafford (Spiders & Snakes) or Ray Stevens (Gitarzan & The Streak) can only be heard today on nostalgia type radio. Oh there are lots of musicians and songwriters who would love to get heard on radio but will only get limited airplay or none at all. Canadian CCMA Award winning guitarist and comedy songwriter Wendell Ferguson, who recently appeared on the Barn Dance certainly comes to mind. Our own Stompin' Tom Connors has had songs that fit this category as well, and local up and coming recording artist Kevin Westphal (The Gas Song & Timmy Tune) is starting to make some noise on regional radio and internationally as well. There is a market for instrumentals and comedy music these days but it takes a considerable amount of effort on the part of the musician/songwriter to promote it. I sure hope to hear more of it on mainstream radio or any radio station for that matter.

One thing is for sure. You'll still be able to get your fix of comedy and/or instrumental music on any of our Barn Dance Shows. We haven't forgotten how to tickle your funny bone with a laugh or two or show off some of our musical talents with professional musicianship during an instrumental number. Include top notch singers and musicians being introduced by one of the best emcee

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: Grant Heywood

Secretary: Ron Coulthard

Treasurer: Gord Baxter

Past President: Shirley Russwurm

Directors:

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

hosts in the business, Mr. Jim Swan, and you've got a recipe for one of the best entertainment shows north of the 49th parallel. As many of our patrons have said ... 'Every Barn Dance Show just keeps on getting better'. Hope to see YOU at the next BARN DANCE.

Remember 'The Show must go on'.

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
or send a message on facebook.

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: stlgrtman@rogers.com

Continued from Page 1

time wore on. Nashville went 'uptown' with 'The Nashville Network' and sponsored the Statler Bros. Show, and broadcast the Grand Ole Opry live every Saturday night. Country star Skeeter Davis's ex husband, Ralph Emery hosted the popular weekly country music variety/talk show 'Nashville Now', followed by an hour with 'Crook & Chase'. The Nashville Network was taking country music to the masses on a scale never seen before. It was like country music on steroids. The popularity of the 'Opryland' theme park and the Grand Ole Opry itself became the centerpiece of Nashville. Once the Gaylord Group took over operations of the Nashville Network though, things were about to change. The 600 room Opryland Hotel was built adjacent to the theme park. Since the Opryland theme park was seasonal and likely carried heavy liability insurance, it was replaced by the new Opryland Mall. It wasn't long before the airwaves changed too, and Nashville Now became history, Crook & Chase went into syndication and eventually the Grand Ole Opry ceased to broadcast live over the network.

All good things, it seems, must come to an end. Times change and so does the way we view or listen to music. Record stores are almost a thing of the past and country music television is now relegated to television talent contests. Unless you purchase or download a concert DVD, or watch a country music awards show, you can bet that will be the limit of what you can watch of your favourite country stars.

CIRCLE 8 RANCH GANG (with regulars and guests): Back Row, l to r: Earl Heywood, Gerald Davidson, Ross Mann, Don Robertson (standing with bass) and Hughie Elder. Front Row, l to r: Dave Curzon (emcee/comedian, sitting), Mary Elliott, Sharon Strong, two of the step-dancing MacIntosh Sisters, Cora Robertson, and Ernie King (sitting). Circa 1960.



CKNX WESTERN ROUND
UP: l to r : Dan Grummet, steel guitar; Lucky Ambeault, fiddle; Al Cherny, fiddle; Johnny Day, drums; Don Steele, guitar, and Slim Boucher, bass.

You can get your fix of 'real' country music on satellite radio ... but satellite television ... well, that's come and gone. Too bad really, I guess I'm just part of the

'here today ... gone tomorrow' generation. Pity. I guess it was just too good to last.

WHO WROTE THE SONG?

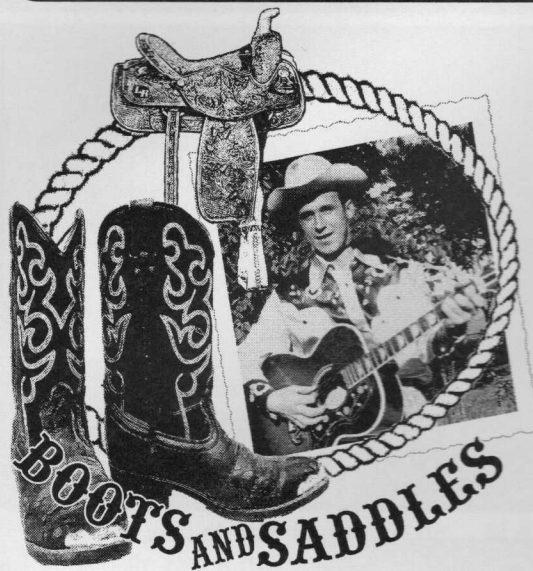
(Let's Say Goodbye Like We Said Hello)

Almost everybody who remembers the 'Circle 8 Ranch' CKNX TV show will know this song. Ernie King made it the closing theme song back when 'Circle 8 Ranch' was one of the most popular country music television shows in Western Ontario. I would venture to say that most folks only ever heard Ernie's version of the song and might have even thought it belonged to Ernie and the Ranch Boys. I can still hear Ernie singing ... 'Let's say goodbye like we said hello, in a friendly kind of way' ... and then Ross Mann would start fiddlin' 'Down Yonder'. Those certainly were the good old days.

The true story behind the song came from Blue Lick, near Berea Kentucky (home of the Renfro Valley Barn Dance). A little known bluegrass musician/songwriter named Jimmie Skinner hailed from this area and soon moved his family to Ohio. Skinner wore many hats, working as a radio DJ, performer, and even once had his own record label. It was in 1946 when Ernest Tubb had a hit record with Jimmie Skinner's 'Let's Say Goodbye Like We Said Hello'. This gave Skinner credibility in the music world and gained him international recognition as a songwriter. He went on to write many other songs including 'Doin' My Time' for Johnny Cash when he was on the Sun label in the 1950's. Jimmie Skinner was on the Capitol and Decca labels but had Top 10 charted hits on the Mercury label with 'I Found My Girl in the USA' and 'What Makes a Man Wander'. Later on in the 1960's he wrote 'Reasons to Live' and 'Careless Love'.

By 1974 Skinner moved to Nashville Tenn. Having several songs on the Billboard charts, Jimmie Skinner kept writing songs and continued to perform bluegrass music on the festival circuit. In Oct. 1979, Skinner died of a heart attack. I suppose it was Ernest Tubb who actually gave Skinner his first big break when he recorded 'Let's Say Goodbye Like We Said Hello'. Little did Jimmie Skinner know that it would become just as popular for many years in the 1960's as the closing theme song for Circle 8 Ranch on CKNX T.V.

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



by Lynn Russwurm

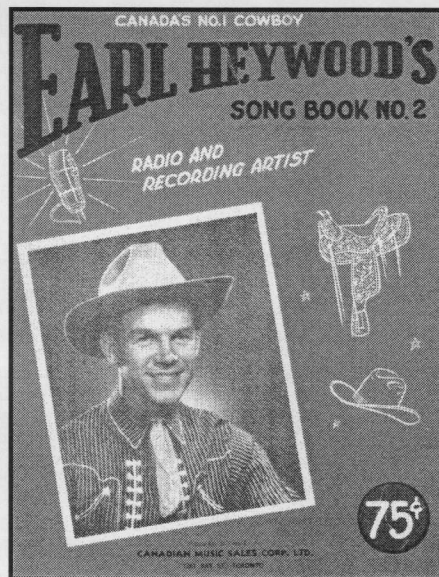
I'd like to talk about leaving some footprints. Many talented musicians make the mistake of not leaving some recordings or other visible and indelible signs that they were once a part of the country music scene. Aside from recordings, song books and sheet music elevated an artist in the eyes of the public. The greatest musicians will be forgotten over time if there is not some tangible evidence of their greatness. A musician can have many great nights of exciting music but when the night is over, the music is gone. I'd like to briefly touch on some of our Canadian artists who did go to the trouble of creating their own music and sharing it with us through song folios.

Wilf Carter and Hank Snow, of course led the field with many song books bearing their name, they are both so well known, I won't go into any particulars on their careers. But next in line we come to our own Earl Heywood. Earl of course knew the value of having song books and sheet music on racks in music stores, where they would be on view for months or even years. Earl had 4 song folios in the course of his career, and numerous pieces of sheet music. This also led to the possibility of other artists picking up a song from these sources and possibly recording one of his songs.

Stu Davis was another who is remembered by his recordings, and his numerous song books, many of which were only available in Western Canada. Through the recordings we get the sound, but the song books put a face on the artist, as there were always many great photos included. Next we come to Kidd Baker; Kidd was highly regarded for his radio programs and live appearances as

well as his recordings. At one point he compiled a souvenir picture book which he sold at his performances for 25 cents and he sold many of them, there is still an odd one floating around in the hands of one of his followers that is indeed a treasured memory. Kidd had three song folios to his name.

Another boy from western Canada was Buddy Reynolds. A real gentleman, I had the pleasure of doing a show with Buddy on the Main Street Jamboree when he toured through Ontario and having him and his band as guests in our home. Buddy lent his name to only one song folio but it's still evidence of one of our country music greats. Others with at least one song folio include Jack Kingston, Stu Phillips, Ramblin' Red Ross who had no recordings but the one song book and some sheet music gives us a picture of the man. Then we come to Allen Erwin, The Calgary Kid, who had two songbooks published in the States which were much more visible than his recordings. I found one of his books at a neighbour's and for many years I wondered how he sounded until years later I unearthed his recordings and compiled a CD for the British Archives of Country Music. Here was a man who understood the value of having your picture before the public. Lately, I've discovered him in bit parts in B Western movies, where I recognized him because his picture was familiar in my mind. The Kid also issued a song book in conjunction with Hank Snow, which certainly didn't hurt his image at all.



When it comes to fiddlers, there are some with song books, featuring their music such as Don Messer who issued a number song folios that also featured Marg Osbourne and Charlie Chamberlain. Ward Allen had his own song folio, as did King Ganam, Bob Scott, Bob King and Alberta Slim, who had several.

Some major artists that ignored the value of the printed word include Tommy Hunter, Myrna Lorrie, Orval Prophet and Donn Reynolds.

I've probably forgotten others, but the value of leaving something behind in printed word as a tangible souvenir of yourself cannot be understated. Of course in later years we had Country Music News and other current publications who put a picture to the voice, but in the early days, the song folios were an invaluable aid and left us with some



great souvenirs.

An interesting side note. When I was a teenager on the farm, my brother used to listen to Detroit Tiger ball games on a radio station in Pontiac, Mich. However for 15 minutes before the ball game came on, there was a Mountain Red singing with his guitar. I can still hear him but had no idea what his name was or what he looked like. In the past year or two, I've discovered two of his song books and at last I have some idea who he was and what he looked like. I consider these books as a real treasure.

Delay in this edition of the B.D. Journal was due to the unfortunate effects of the flu outbreak. Sorry for any inconvenience.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ The Barn Dance ★
 ★ Historical Society's ★
 ★ **General Meeting** ★
 ★ **Mon. April 8, 2013** ★
 ★ **at 7 pm** ★
 ★ at North Huron Museum / Barn ★
 ★ Dance Museum, on Josephine ★
 ★ Street, Wingham ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

.....
16th Annual Barn Dance
Jamboree / Campout
Weekend

at the Blyth Arena Complex,
 Blyth, Ontario

May 23 - 26, 2013

Get camping reservations and
 view the complete schedule at
 www.thebardance.ca

.....

BARN DANCE
SOUVENIRS

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Barn Dance CD's | \$15.00 ea. |
| Barn Dance Cassettes | \$ 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. |
| Heywood Family Three Generations" CD | \$15.00 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 \$20.00 for
 shipping and handling
 or pick up at Ernie King Music.

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



Ernie King
Music (1993) Ltd.

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

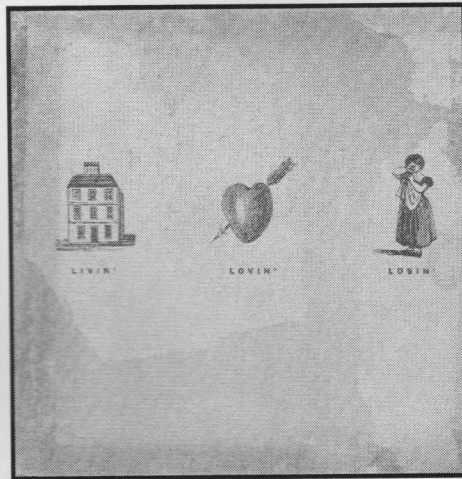
37 West St., Goderich (519) 524-4689

FEATURE C. D. REVIEW

Songs of the Louvin Brothers (Charlie & Ira Louvin)
"Livin' Lovin' Losin'"

I don't normally review c.d.'s outside of local artists let alone a c.d. that came out in 2003 ... but ... this is one of my all time favourite country music c.d.'s that deserves to be reviewed. The beginning liner notes say it all.

The Louvin Brothers are universally heralded as one of the greatest harmony duos in the history of country music. They wrote their own songs and performed them as well on stage as they did on record. Ira Louvin's high tenor voice would never be matched, but would inspire awe and admiration in countless singers – from already established stars like Bill Monroe to future stars like Emmylou Harris.



Gram Parsons paid friends to search used shops for Louvin Brothers records. It's been said that Elvis Presley had advance copies of records sent to him to give to his mother. A young Johnny Cash waited by the side of the road to catch a glimpse of Ira and Charlie Louvin drive past when he learned they were coming to his town. Cash never lost his admiration for the Louvins' music, as his work on this collection shows.

The Louvin Brothers were great because they could do it all. Country, comedy, religious songs that would send you to church, then break your heart with a tale of lost love. They are without question, the greatest songwriting/performing duo of all time and this c.d. proves that. The lineup of stars that pay tribute to the Louvin Brothers on this c.d. is a testament to their talent.

Rodney Crowell, Emmylou Harris, Rhonda Vincent, Vince Gill, Terry Clark, Merle Haggard, Carl Jackson, Patty Loveless, Glen Campbell, Marty Stuart, Del McCoury, Pam Tillis, Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash, The Jordanaires, Ronnie Dunn, Joe Nichols, Dierks Bentley, Jon Randall, Allison Kraus, James Taylor, Sonya Isaacs, Larry Cordle, Linda Ronstadt, and daughter Kathy Louvin and many more. Everyone is matched together as a duet to perform the song as Charlie & Ira would have done. The results are virtually incredible. Awesome hardly describes the heart wrenching lyrics and melodies much less the spine-tingling harmonies on this c.d.

Carl Jackson undertook this project at the request of Kathy Louvin. He personally picked some of the best musicians to play on this outing. A few of my favourites are 'I Can't Keep You In Love With Me', a 4/4 shuffle featuring Vince Gill & Terri Clark, 'If I Could Only Win Your Love' with Ronnie Dunn & Rebecca Lynn Howard. Glen Campbell & Leslie Satcher perform 'When I Stop Dreaming' which will send shivers down your spine. 'How's The World Treating You' with Allison Kraus & James Taylor is just short of heavenly as is the 'New Partner Waltz' with Carl Jackson and Linda Ronstadt. The classic 'You're Running Wild' with Larry Cordle, Carl Jackson & Jerry Salley can only be described as the crème de la crème of 3 part harmony.

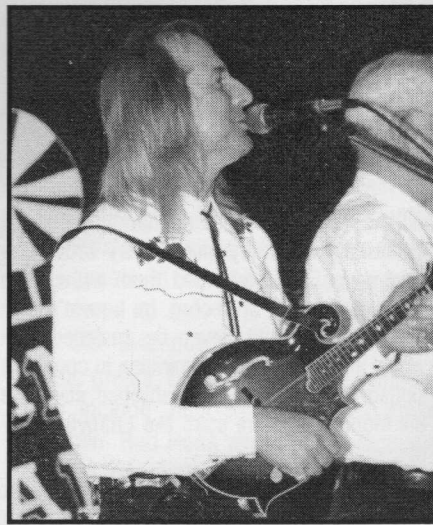
Quite frankly, I've worn out this c.d. and had to purchase another copy, that's how good it really is. There are 15 tracks on this c.d. and each and every song is stellar! The c.d. includes a booklet with a preamble about the Louvin Brothers, and each individual song includes the singers and musicians as well as a short paragraph about the song. If you are a country music lover or just a lover of good music, then you owe it to yourself to have this c.d. in your collection. I promise you will not be disappointed. I play it constantly and never tire of listening to the songs. It is simply a magnificent treat for the ears!

As Kathy Louvin says in the liner notes: 'I will always be in awe of the sweet magic the Louvin Brothers' music bestows on its listeners. It is truly timeless. It is impossible to experience that "sound" without being permanently affected. It was good to know that Charlie Louvin was still living at the time of this recording. In his own words he thanked everyone who worked on the project and said the end result was superb. Folks, it doesn't get any better than this. This c.d. is definitely a crown jewel when it comes to the best country music has to offer. It is just that beautiful. Very highly recommended.

Country Music Memories



Bruce Robertson



Grant Heywood

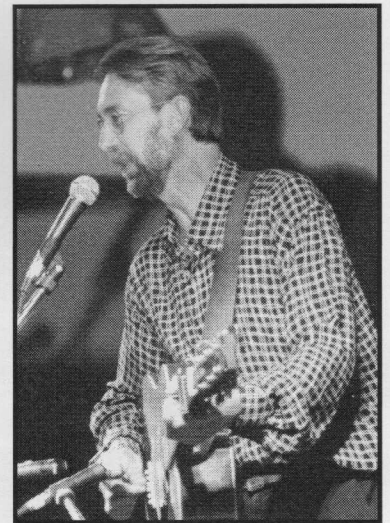
*Some of the
performers from
The Barn Dance
1998.*



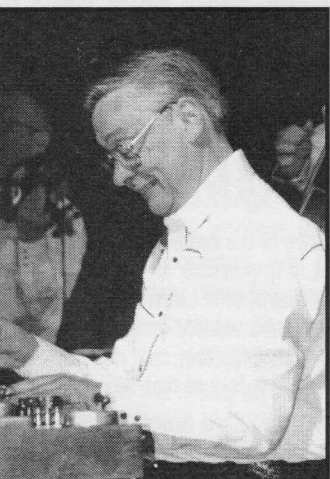
Lance Russwurm



Mathew Johnson



Richard Knechtel



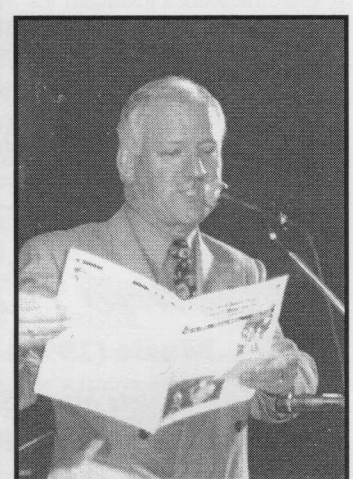
Ron Coulthard



Sharon Strong



Smokey Weber



Jim Swan

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- * **Feb. 10:** Purple Hill Country Music Hall presents Valentine Opry Show with Canada's Queen of Country Music, Caroll Baker. For tickets call Anna 510-461-0538. Mar. 2 - 2 pm - Talent Extravaganza, line up of outstanding artists. Apr. 7 - 2 pm - Bluegrass & Classic Country Festival.
- * **Jam Nights:** at Beeton Legion, the second and fourth Friday of the month at 8 pm. For info call 905-778-9597.
- * **Tottenham Bluegrass Festival** - see next issue for line up of talent. 1-888-886-4566 or www.tottenhambluegrass.ca
- * **Shelburne Muskie's Hockey Club Jamboree schedule** - Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10 at Recreation Complex, 200 Fiddle Park Lane. Dinner available. Contact Ross or Mary Warner 519-925-5017.
- * **Jamboree Hornings Mills Community Hall** - contact Greg Holms for details 510-925-3037.
- * **Barrie Thornton Fiddle Club** - 7 pm, Thornton, second Thursday of the month.
- * **Holland Landing Fiddle Club** - the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm.
- * **Jamboree Flower City Senior Centre** south of Queen on McLaughlin, Burford, every second and fourth Monday 7 to 9 pm. 905-874-3500.
- * **Fourth Sunday of the month** - Common Ground with Dottie Kirkpatrick at ANAF, Barrie. Contact 705-323-9862.
- * **Carol Hawke Jamboree** - Brampton. 416-889-0252. Entertaining Brampton and surrounding area. butterflylady38@gmail.com

- * **Annual Blyth Campout** - in May. check www.thebardance.ca for the schedule.
- * **Hollyrood Annual Country Jamboree** - July 5 to 7. 901 Harmony Rd., Corbyville, 4 miles north of Belleville. Line up next issue. hollyroodcountryjamboree.com
- * **Lindsay Country Jamboree** - July 17 to 21. 354 Angeline St., Lindsay. 1-800954-9998 or 705-741-6097. email info@lindsaycountryjam-boree.com www.lindsaycountryjamboree.com July 18 Gavin Gartshore, Wendy Whalen, Kevin Schofield; July 19 John Fraser, Carolyn Burchell, Gerald Davidson; July 20 Aaron Henry, Chuck D'oust, Adam Knapp, Guy Melanson, Bob Gill.
- * **Appearances by Doreen Brown:** Jan. 27 - Jamboree, Common Ground ANAF, Barrie; Feb. 10 - Shelburne Jamboree, always second Sun. of the month; Feb. 19 - Rosemont Fiddle Club; Feb. 14 - Thornton Fiddle Club; Mar. 8 - Jam at Beeton Legion, 8 pm; Mar. 19 - Rosemont Fiddle Club; Mar. 26 - Bond Head Fiddle Club, always the 4th Tuesday.
- * **Aug. 2 to 4** - Classic Country Reunion, Centennial Park, Trenton. 705-878-3102. For info www.cmr.ca Line up next issue.
- * **Aug. 2 to 4** - Boots and Hearts Music Festival, Bowmanville. The Band Perry, Meranda Lambert, Rascall Flatts, Jason Aldean, Dean Brody. www.bootsandhearts.com 1-877-569-7767.
- * **Fifth Sunday of the month** - Country Fiddle Jamboree, Longford Mills Community Centre, 1 pm.
- * **Cargills Pickin By the Pond** - Country and Bluegrass Festival. Line up available at www.gargillcdef.com
- * **Country Music** - at the Moose Lodge, 27 and Browns Line, Mississauga, Sat. and Sun. nights.
- * **Joe Tucker & Second Wind** - for booking 905-855-3351.
- * **Aug. 9 to 11** - Holstein Bluegrass Celebration. to book early campsites call 416-460-6489 or wjcrooks@sympatico.ca
- * **For upcoming performances,** Kiley Joe Music Entertainment, 519-485-6542. www.kileyjoe.com

- * **Aug. 15 - 18** - 24th annual Havelock Country Jamboree as follows - Reba McIntyre, Trace Adkins, Travis Tritt, Kathy Mattea, Gord Bamford, John Thompson, Bobby Bare, Dallas Smith, BR5-49, JT Hodges, Ambush, The Western Swing Authority, Colt Harley. Contact www.havelockcountryjamboree.com or 1-800-539-3353.
- * **Pineridge Bluegrass** - Woodview Community Centre, 151 Cadillac Ave. N., Oshawa - Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 3 and Apr. 7

A Very Happy New Year to all and may it be the best ever in 2013!!

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.



FLASHBACK PICTURE - Barn Dance Pioneer Award Winners, Michael T. Wall and Ernie King, seen here at a Barn Dance Fiddle Convention held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Wingham.

2013 COMING EVENTS

| Date | Event Name | Place |
|----------------|--|---|
| Sun., April 7 | Barn Dance Show - 3:00 p.m. | Commercial Tavern, Maryhill. Tickets (519) 648-3644 |
| Sun., April 21 | Barn Dance Country / Gospel Show - 3:00 p.m. | United Church, Hensall. Tickets (519) 262-2247 |
| Sun., May 5 | Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m. | Purple Hill Country Music Hall, Thorndale. Tickets (519) 461-0538 |
| May 24 to 26 | Blyth Campout Weekend | Blyth Community Centre & Campgrounds. (519) 530-8000 |
| Sun., May 26 | A Taste of Country - 2:00 p.m. Sponsored by 2013 Int. Plowing Match | Mitchel Arena. Info (519) 348-9053 Introducing 2013 IPM Wine. Dance. Randy Satchell. |
| Sun., Oct. 20 | Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m. | St. Anne's Centre, St. Thomas. Tickets (519) 633-3181 |

BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

"I'm as happy as God can make any man. Happy, appreciative, and thankful," said Charlie Louvin in the epilogue to his 2012 autobiography titled *Satan is Real: The Ballad of The Louvin Brothers*.

After reading the book, which was completed just two months before Charlie's death on January 26, 2011 from complications associated with pancreatic cancer, I shared his appreciation and thanks. His happiness was rooted in being the most long standing member of The Grand Ole Opry (he discredits Little Jimmie Dickens' hold on that claim, pointing out Dickens' "missing years" from the Opry between 1956-1968 when he left the Opry with fired Stage Manager Jim Denny) and his having had more Billboard radio hits as a solo artist than he and Ira enjoyed as the The Louvin Brothers, the most influential harmony duo in country music history. Mine stemmed from having read such an honest and frank first-hand witness to

one of the most gripping sagas of American music.

Sensitive readers, however, beware! Louvin makes blunt observations in language sometimes so shockingly blue it makes one consider the possibility that bluegrass music gets its name, not from Bill Monroe's band, but from the vernacular of Sand Mountain, Alabama. The unedited language is, after first blush, a refreshing change of pace from so many other country music memoirs that treat their subjects with kid-gloves and fill their mouth with phony platitudinous voices often at odds with less than virtuous deeds being described. The candour with which he shares memories and opinions of everyone from Colonel Tom Parker to Hank Williams to his childhood idol Roy Acuff is straight forward and raw, but above, all believable.

The tales of hauling tail across the mid-south United States in small Studebeaker with drivers' eyes wide open from pills affectionately called Old Yellers, arriving at venues just as they were about to start, is reminiscent of the many miles travelled by Barn

Dance performers in southern Ontario to make their frequent and widespread performances.

The most telling line in the book is a simple one Louvin drops when discussing giving autograph and the reluctance of contemporary country musicians to provide them outside of scheduled signing events. Louvin said, "Back in our day, we never had the luxury of not wanting to be hassled."

Charlie and Ira Louvin were just two boys trying to escape the monotony of a hardscrabble life filled with the brutal work of picking cotton and making charcoal, not to mention the terrifying physical abuse of a father who knew no limits when it came time to mete out punishment. Playing for audiences of people just like themselves, and giving autographs to those same people when asked for, was just what they did. There wasn't much separating the stars of the show from the fans in the crowd.

That can't be said of the stars of today. Many of them are about as accessible as those burr-guarded five locks of cotton hiding within a boll they never had to pick.

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

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