



The Barn Dance Opera Journal



Official Publication of:

The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.



Price: \$2.00 (tax incl.)

A Not For Profit Organization

Barn Dance Website: www.thebardance.ca

Vol. 82 2014

Fall Edition

1

The Kidd Baker Story

by Lynn Russwurm

Born Ransford Lawrence Baker in 1915, Kidd Baker carved a name for himself in Canadian country music. Early in his career he worked with many who became legends. The list includes Hank Snow, Hal "Lone" Pine, Smilin' Ernie Lindell and Ned Landry. The name Kidd was given him after winning a yodeling contest in Maine, where he was dubbed "The Yodeling Kid" which became Kidd. During the war years Kidd would slip across the border from New Brunswick to appear at army bases with Hal "Lone" Pine. The money was good, \$100 dollars a night which at that time was a fortune. After the war these lucrative jobs disappeared and Kidd had to look elsewhere. After working with several other bands, he decided to strike out on his own, working one-nighters across the Maritimes with "The Pine Ridge Mountain Boys". After about 2 years of this Kidd set his sights on Ontario.

He took \$3,000. out of the bank as seed money to get started and when that money was gone he would go back to the Maritimes. For three years, he struggled to keep it going, he had a radio show on CKCR in Kitchener, booked his own dance halls, hired his musicians and provided room and board for them. At the end of the third year, he and his wife, Ada, went to New Brunswick for Christmas, their money almost depleted. They came back to Kitchener, intending to fill out their remaining bookings when they found increasing interest in their music and within three months had recouped their original investment of \$3,000. From then on his little empire prospered.

Kidd was a good showman and put on a good show whenever a stage show was required. He had comedy skits,

played fiddle, yodeled and anything else when needed to spice up the show. Kidd always had a helping hand out for other artists. His regular Sunday night shows at the Golden Lion Restaurant is still fondly remembered by many local musicians. Kidd and his band would put on a one hour show and after intermission all the young wannabe performers would get a chance to show their stuff. On any given Sunday you would see the local youngsters such as Stan Taylor, Alex Mlienek, The Karges Sisters, Doug Lasalle and myself honing their craft. Stan Taylor went on to become lead guitarist on CBC-TV "Countrytime", which would be aired after the Saturday night hockey game, the Karges Sisters went on to a stint with the CKNX Barn Dance, Doug Lasalle went to the Sarnia area and as Smiling Jack carved out a career for himself.

After locating to Kitchener, Kidd would head for the Maritimes every summer to do the same thing. Come fall he would be back in Kitchener to satisfy his many fans in Ontario. When CKCO-TV hit the air, Kidd signed up with Forbes Motors as a sponsor for a TV show. During this period he had the great Freddy McKenna as part of his troupe. Other musicians who were part of The Kidd Baker Show at various times included Hank MacDonald, Donny Steel, Mickey McGivern, his own brother Bob, who was a great comedian, Jimmy James, among others.

Kidd had a system whereby he would come into a town in the morning, rent the town hall, then drive up and down the main street and advertise his show that evening with speakers mounted on top of the car. Then he would get a local phone book, call every local number in the book and say "You are invited to the

Kidd Baker Show tonight in the Town Hall" then hang up. More times than enough he would draw a full house.

Eventually Kidd and Ada grew tired of the hectic life and bought a restaurant in New Brunswick and put his music career on a back burner. Occasionally he would pull out his guitar and provide entertainment for his customers. Then came sadness with the death of Ada, however in time Kidd remarried - Ada's sister.

He started back into music when he was one of the first inductees into the New Brunswick Country Music Hall of Fame. Offers came in for guest appearances. Yours truly and Kidd were instrumental in putting together "The Jamboree Reunion" at Bingeman Park and later at Sports World where we drew names such as Tommy Hunter, Gordie Tapp, Doc and Chickee Williams, Stew Clayton, Earl Heywood, Jack Kingston, among others for five years.

Kidd even went back into the studios to record two more albums, "Walking in the Mountains with My Lord" and a fiddle album. Kidd's earlier recordings on Gavoette and Quality were issued in album form by Cattle Records of Germany. It's

Continued on Page 3



KIDD BAKER
NEW BRUNSWICK LEGEND

KIDD BAKER

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



that night. Needless to say I will be back to see the band play again and visit with Rick. Last year I scored a hardcover copy of the Rick Norcross Story and was overwhelmed by Rick's musical journey throughout the years. But that's another story.

Next day my wife and I ventured into Portsmouth New Hampshire by the ocean. We got there early, around 2 p.m. or so and had some time to kill before we went out for our anniversary lobster supper at Chauncey's by the sea just across the bridge in Kittery Point Maine. Just like a musician I told my wife that the Drum Center store was really close by and maybe we could stop so I could take a look around. Being our anniversary and all my wife said, 'You've got 15 minutes! And then we're going for lobster'. The store was heaven if you're a drummer. One wall from end to end and 4 shelves high was nothing but snare drums of every kind imaginable. From \$100 to \$5,000 it was a drummer's dream for sure. Fifteen minutes isn't a whole lot of time and before too long we were out the door and heading for lobsterland.

We spent the night in Portsmouth and headed out early the next day to Boston. We took the subway into town and saw all the sights via the Grayline tour. Boston harbour is beautiful, and the downtown is great as well. Back at our hotel we had some authentic Boston Pizza from Polcari's Pizza, which has been around since 1926. Our large pizza came in at around 4 lbs.! Yikes! We got up early in the morning and headed home through Mass. and N.Y. state. We were lucky to have had sunny weather each and every day except on the way home. And by that time we didn't really care.

Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance ... and I might even see you at the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill on a Friday or Saturday night as I get a chance to play some real country music with Paul Weber & Top Hand on occasion.

Well I hope that everyone enjoyed the summer that never was. It was pleasant but it sure was nice not having to deal with the usual summer humidity. Sure saved a lot on air conditioning costs.

My wife and I celebrated our wedding anniversary this past August by taking a trip to Boston, Mass. via Vermont, New Hampshire and a bit of Maine. We have been down that way many times before but had never stopped to visit Boston. We planned to stop in Vermont to visit my good buddy Rick Norcross of Rick and the Ramblers western swing band. Fortunately for me I was booked to play drums with the band at a gig at the Addison County Fair in Vermont. I was a little nervous as these guys are pros and had just been nominated for western swing band of the year upon release of their latest CD.

It turned out to be a special night with Rick and the gang and I really enjoyed playing their style of western swing music, of which I love. Rick had his tour bus 'The Pickle' pulled up to the back of the stage. Rick's long time friend LeRoy Preston (co-founder of Asleep At The Wheel) was sitting in the bus talking music, weather, real estate or anything else in general. Rick told me LeRoy just moved back to Vermont to retire after a successful song-writing career in Nashville. LeRoy wrote many hit songs including 'My Baby Thinks She's A Train', a hit for Rosanne Cash.

Rick and the Ramblers are almost an institution in Vermont and their new CD 'Welcome to Our Vermont' is getting air-play on many east coast radio stations. The band members are a great crew and I was honoured to be a part of the concert

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

1st Vice President: David Wall

2nd Vice President: Richard Holm

Secretary: Ron Coulthard

Treasurer: Gord Baxter

Directors:

Grant Heywood, Doug Dietrich,

Bill Simmermaker, Ron Shaw,

Ted Weishar, Doreen Armbruster,

and Lynn Russwurm.

Comments? Please contact:

Grant Heywood

5584 Deborah Glaister Line,

R. R. #2,

Wellesley, Ontario N0B 2T0

Phone: (519) 656-2552

E-mail: heywoods@xplornet.ca

or send a message on facebook.

*The Barn Dance
Historical Society
would like to wish
everyone the very
best in the
upcoming holiday
season.*

2014 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
Sun., October 19	Barn Dance Show - 2:30 p.m. SOLD OUT	St. Anne's Church Hall, St. Thomas

Continued from Page 1

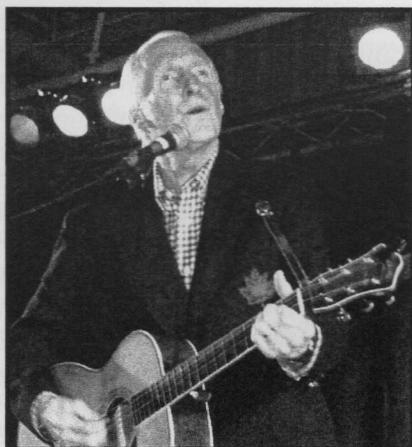
funny how we have to go overseas to get appreciation for the pioneers in our music.

However, The Kidd Baker Story came to an end at age 77, when Kidd succumbed to an aneurism. But his name deserves honour for his many years in the annals of Canadian Country Music.

**IN
MEMORIAM**



George Hamilton IV

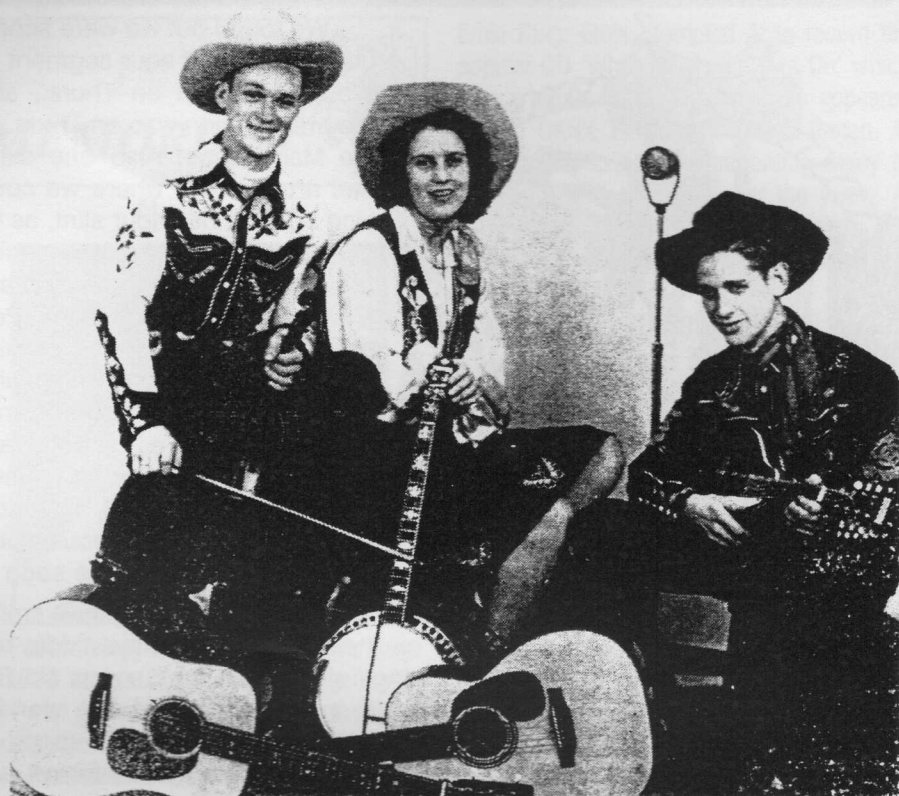


Passed away Sept. 7, 2014 in Nashville, Tenn. at age 77. Born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, George was truly a country gentleman. He had several recordings on the charts but his biggest hit was Abilene in 1963. George toured the world and hosted regularly TV programs in both Canada and the UK in the 1970's. Until recently he was a regular on the Grand Ole Opry. Because of his worldwide touring, George was nicknamed The International Ambassador of Country Music.

In May 2012, at the 15th Annual Blyth Barn Dance Campout Jamboree, George Hamilton IV was a special guest performer and received the Barn Dance Pioneer Award. He will be missed by family, friends and fans, as well as the Barn Dance Historical Society.

The Barn Dance Museum

Visit the Barn Dance Museum
273 Josephine St., Wingham
By appointment.
Phone 519-530-8000.



Kidd Baker, Ada and brother Bob.

FEATURE C. D. REVIEW

“Somewhere Between Midnight and Dawn”

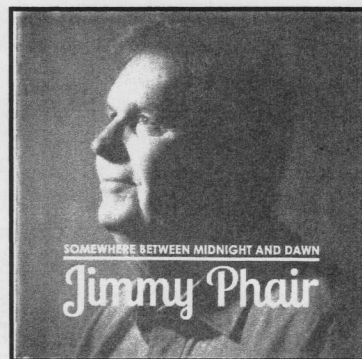
Jimmy Phair

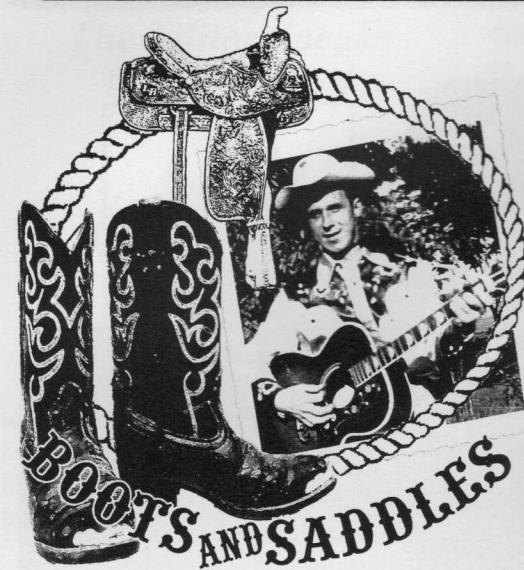
This latest 13 song CD by singer/songwriter Jimmy Phair, includes four original songs, including the title cut. Jimmy does a fine job on one of my favourite Bill Monroe classics ‘Little Georgia Rose’, and follows that with the moody self-penned, ‘Somewhere Between Midnight and Dawn’. Jimmy does some nice fingerpicking on the traditional tune, ‘You Are My Flower’, reminiscent of the Carter Family.

Jimmy proves his songwriting prowess on two other original songs, ‘Deep In the Heart of

Dixie’, and ‘We Need to Go Back’. Other picks on the c.d. include the cleverly written ‘Coors Lite Night Alone’ by Jimmy, as well as Billy Joe Shaver’s ‘Georgia on a Fast Train’, and Kris Kristofferson’s ‘The Pilgrim’. Jimmy does a nice rendition of the George Jones tune ‘From Brown to Blue’, and winds up with a lively positive performance of the popular Max Barnes song ‘In My Next Life’.

The c.d. was engineered by Eric Duerrstein at his Wtloo. studio and produced by Eric, Bob Tremblay and Jimmy Phair. Additional engineering by Jay Riehl. Musicians on this c.d. include: Jimmy on vocals/flat top guitar, Bob Tremblay on dobro gtr. Doug Dietrich on steel gtr., Dan Howlett on fiddle/mandolin, Paul Weber on bass gtr., and Grant Heywood on drums. A trio of backup vocals by Linda Murray, Jay Riehl and Grant Heywood, round out this highly versatile c.d. by award winning veteran country singer Jimmy Phair. Contact: Jimmie-Jack Jimie, Box 11 STN MAIN, Sarnia ON, N1T 7H8





by Lynn Russwurm

This time I'm going to take a trip to LeMars, Iowa. Come with me as I collect my award for songwriting on my CD "Singing My Songs". I don't intend this to be bragging, but several people have indicated interest in the trip. My award was for CD of the Year for songwriting. The festival is in it's 39th year and was the brainchild of Bob Everhart who with his lovely wife, Sheila, looks after all phases of this 7-day acoustic music festival, yes I said **acoustic**, no electric instruments. There were a lot of dobros, stand-up basses, flat-top guitars and fiddles. Even the odd accordion sneaked in.

My son, Lance, accompanied me and did the service of doing all the driving, about 1000 miles each way. The festival ran from Mon., Aug. 25 until Sun., Aug. 31. With 10 stages in use there was much to see with half hour performances continuously. With all acoustic music, each stage had a sound man and a host to keep things organized and running smoothly and on time, with minimal changes made by the sound men. We left home about 9 a.m. on Monday and arrived about 4 pm on Tuesday, just in time to meet John Carter Cash and get a picture taken and an autograph. John Carter dislikes singing engagements as he feels everyone compares him with his famous father, instead he's into the producing end of the business instead of performing, but he does accept the occasional gig as he did here.

We found out we were scheduled to do a half hour segment on Wed. and again on Thurs., also the presentation was on Thurs. on the Main Stage. Also one stage had an open mic, where we could sign up for a half hour stint, as we did. One of our spots was double booked, so we compromised and I played guitar with Elaine Peacock and her group. Out of this I was invited to play rhythm guitar with Keith Hiatt, from North Carolina, who also picked up an award. Talking to Keith and his banjo player, Glenn Paschal, I realized they were kind of dubious about my guitar playing, but as soon as

the first song started they had smiles on their faces. Keith plays fiddle and sings old-time country songs ala Roy Acuff and it was a pleasure working with them. They invited me to go on their next spot, but it conflicted with our schedule and I couldn't make it.

One act that played frequently was Annie Avery and her daughter. I was surprised to hear a Larry Mercey song "In My Father's House", so I asked where they got the song. They said they just picked it up somewhere. So the daughter looked it up and sure enough found it had been written by Larry Mercey. It just goes to show how a song can get around. We met some interesting people, including Janet McBride, a Texas yodeler, who was instrumental in teaching

LeeAnne Rimes the art of yodeling. I also found out she has been in contact with our own Naomi Bristow, all in all a beautiful 80 year old lady. Stew Clayton from Manitoba was making his first appearance in 4 years and can still yodel with the best of them, he can't be beat on a Wilf Carter song. In the early 90s Stew attended one of my reunions at Bingeman Park in Kitchener, so that was a nice reunion. From Ireland we met Greta Elkins, who has made the show every year for many years, another beautiful yodeling lady.

The real highlight of the show was getting into a jam session on Friday night where both Lance and I were made welcome and played from 8 pm until 1 am, even my fingers were sore, they liked my closed or bar style of playing guitar which is more or less unknown in bluegrass or old-timey music.

I also met Alan Karl and Donna Cunningham, who work out of Nashville. I knew the name of Alan Karl because he has a CD out where his duet partner is Elmira's own Amberly Beattie, nice people, very friendly. Also on had was Hank Sasaki, Japanese born and now working out of Nashville. This talented country artist is trying to make it on his own terms as a songwriter and singer in the USA after a successful career in Japan as a country club owner and performer, a man who deserves to be heard.

On Sunday night, threats of a tornado curtailed activities a bit and we retired to our motel room in preparation for leaving for home in the morning. As it turned out the tornado or the amount of rain that was forecast didn't happen so all in all we had good weather for most of our trip, a few light showers was all.

Wonderful memories will be with us, even for Lance, who expected to be bored by all the bluegrass music, was pleasantly surprised at how much he enjoyed the pure country and old-timey music and would be interested in returning someday. To me, the ideal way to go back would be to take about a 4-piece band along and line up a steady schedule



Lynn Russwurm receives his award

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

f performances. As it was, sometimes we went on with just Lance and myself, but sometimes we had a flat top picker and a stand-up bass player to back us up. CD sales you might as well forget; however, I traded a lot of CDs with other artists.

Bob Everhart should get a lot of credit for backing and promoting the music he believes in. Bob is trying to keep old-time and real country music alive in the face of all the garbage that comes out of Nashville. When up to 5,000 people attend something like this festival in LeMars, it shows that there is a demand for real country music which is not being met by the powers that be on the radio stations who play what the big corporations demand, regardless of what the public wants. Same as all the so-called awards shows that put rock bands on to showcase their so-called country music. Thank your lucky stars that there are still places where you can hear real country music and not have to listen to what is foisted on us by misguided people who make the decisions.



Lynn Russwurm's award

BOOKING THE BARN DANCE

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

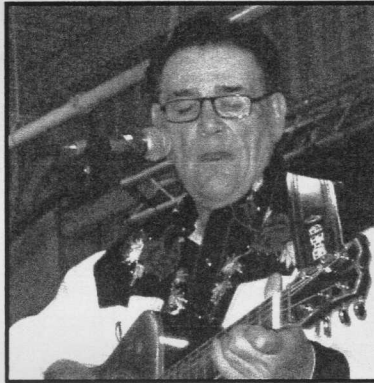
Barn Dance Bookings, P. O. Box 68,
Wingham, Ont. N0G 2W0;
or call ~ (519) 530-8000

E-mail: webmaster@thebardance.ca

IN MEMORIAM



Al Heiser



Passed away at his home in Gorrie Aug. 17, 2014 at age 61. Al was a singer/songwriter who performed as a guest on the Barn Dance stage. Al was a good friend of the late

Ernie King. Ernie prompted Al to record the popular CD 'When Circle 8 Came On' which was a tribute to those artists who appeared on the CKNX TV show Circle 8 Ranch. Al was hoping to continue recording many of his songs that he wrote over the years. Al will be greatly missed by family, friends, and all of us associated with the Barn Dance Historical Society.

Ella Shaw

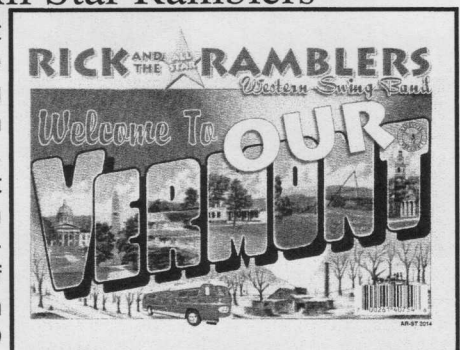
Passed away on Aug. 31, 2014 at the Wingham & District Hospital at age 78. Beloved wife of Ronald Shaw, of Wingham. Predeceased by her former husband, Fred Nicholls in 1972. Ella was a longtime member & volunteer for the Barn Dance Historical Society. Her efforts over the years have not gone unnoticed. Her husband Ron is a member and is also on the board of directors for the Barn Dance Historical Society. Ella will certainly be missed by family, friends and especially everyone from the Barn Dance Historical Society.

FEATURE C. D. REVIEW

"Welcome To Our Vermont"

Rick and the All Star Ramblers

I should start off by saying that Rick and the All Star Ramblers were nominated 'Best Western Swing Band' by the Academy of Western Artists, Gene Autry, Oklahoma. What I like about this group is that they have a definite original western swing sound with a real retro appeal. This CD captures the best of Rick and the All Star Ramblers with mostly original songs. The CD



opens with a new tune, 'Welcome To Our Vermont' penned by Rick Norcross, and pretty much sums up what this beautiful state is all about.

A lot of the songs are 'tongue in cheek' and this only adds to the enjoyable flavour of the music. The bluesier 'Paint It Like A Cow' was penned by Rick Norcross and his good friend, former Asleep At The Wheel luminary, LeRoy Preston. I can't quit smiling as I hum along to well crafted and 'laugh induced' songs such as, 'You Can't Make It Up' or the equally humorous, 'Tainted Money' ... 'taint yours and 'taint mine. All 12 songs on this CD tell compelling stories about Vermont from the legendary Vermonter himself, Rick Norcross.

This c.d. comes in a colourful post card package reminiscent of 1950's Vermont and is a souvenir in itself. Needless to say, the Ramblers are top notch professional singers and musicians and it shows on each and every song. This happy, upbeat c.d. was mainly produced at Lane Gibson/Charles Eller Studios, Charlotte Vermont and produced by Rick Norcross, w/exec. producer, Bobby Miller.

Contact: www.rickandtheramblers.com

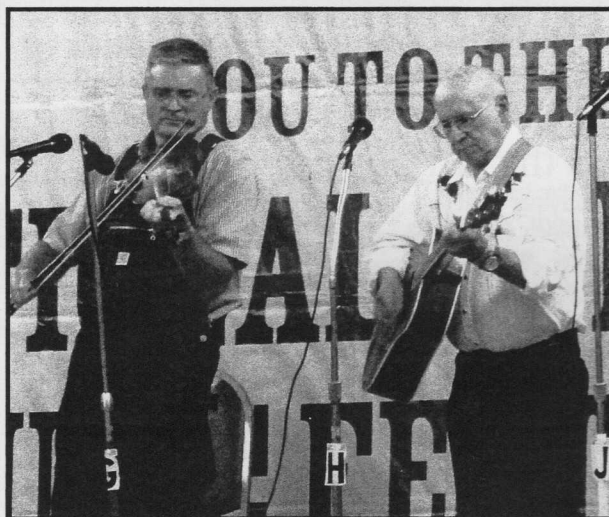
Country Music Memories



Alan Karl and Donna Cunningham perform.

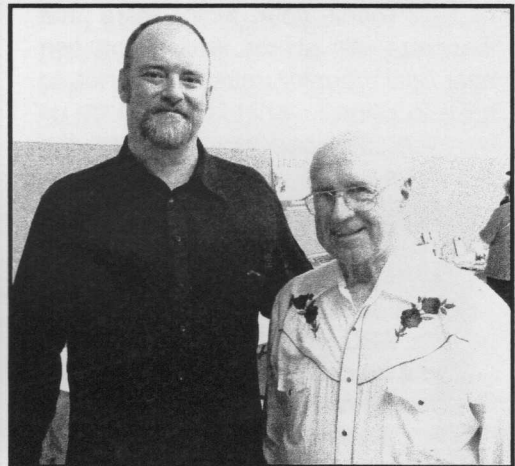


Lynn Russwurm filling in with Keith Hiatt's band.

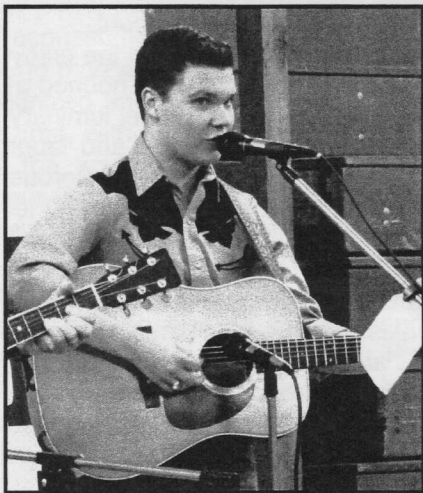


Lynn Russwurm and Keith Hiatt.

*Memories
from
Lynn's
recent trip
to LeMars,
Iowa.*



Lynn Russwurm and John Carter Cash.



17 year old Tanner Young from Oklahoma



Lynn jamming with Al Simonson from California, on accordion, and his spouse.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by *Doreen Brown*

(Toronto and surrounding area)

* **Appearances by Larry Mercey** - Oct. 4, Home Town Country Jamboree, Napanee Lion's Hall, 7 pm show; Christmas show with the Larry Mercey Trio, Naomi Bristow and Randy Satchell - Dec. 6, 8 pm, Blue Moon Hotel, Petersburg; Dec. 18, Hanover Civic Theatre, 7 pm.

* **Sun., October 5** - Appearance by Greg Holmes, 1 to 6 pm, Jamboree at Hornings Mills Community Hall. There will be a dinner.

* **Shelburne Jamborees** - are 1 to 5 pm at Centre Dufferine Recreation Complex, 200 Fiddle Park Lane, Shelburne - Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12 and May 10. Elevator accessible.

* **Appearances by Sunrise** - with Doug Dietrich, Brian Scholtzhauer, Ken Meadows and Don Maxwell - Oct. 11, Victory Legion, London, 8 to 12; Oct. 25 Wyoming Legion, 8 to 12; Nov. 15, Victory Legion, London, 8 to 12; Nov. 22, Stratford Legion, 8 to 12; Dec. 6, Wyoming Legion, 8 to 12; Dec. 13, Danceland, Lakeside, 8 to 12; Dec. 31, Stratford Legion, New Year's Eve.

* **October 24** - Gibson Centre, Alliston, Tribute to Stompin' Tom.

* **October 24** - Moe Bandy and Friends in Concert, Belleville Centennial Secondary School. Doors open 6 pm. Showtime 7 pm. Info call Gary Warner 905-355-2106.

* **Thirsty Thursdays** - at The Wee Pub, 371 Wilsdon Rd. S., Oshawa.

* **October 18** - Kendels. Open mic 1 to 4 pm. The Kendel Loyal Orange Lodge, Kendel Church St. and Monk St. Play, dance and relax. \$5.00 each.

* **Sat., Oct. 25** - Bluegrass Night, show 7 to 12. Wroxeter Community Hall, upper hall; with Dan Campbell and Bluegrass Edition. Special guest Al Widmeyer, Riverband Gentlemen. MC Dan Bieman. For info 519-335-3345.

* **November 21** - Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards Show, Deerhust Resort, Huntsville. bgpsy@northernbluegrass.com

* **Every Saturday Night** - at Black Dog there's country music and dancing. 665 Hwy. 15 and 35, at Taunton Rd., Orono. 905-983-5076.

* **Second Thursday of the Month** - Thornton at the Arena, upstairs. Jam/dancing starts at 7

pm. 519-436-3328.

* **Third Thursday of the Month** - Holland Lansing Community Centre, Country and Western Jam Session / dance, 7 pm. 905-473-7072.

* **Fourth Thursday of the Month** - Bond Head Fiddle Club Jam session/dance, 7 pm. 519-941-2134.

* **For future shows** - contact Manilla Fiddle Jam/dance, starts 1 pm. Info 705-357-3637.

* **Kawartha Music Jams** - every Saturday, 1 to 4 pm. Free admission. All musicians and fans welcome. Coach Horse Pub, 16 York St. S., Lindsay. 705-328-0006.

* **Country Jams** - for Burleigh Island Grill, 4791 Highway 28, Burleigh Falls. 705-734-3441 www.burleighislandgrimm.com First Sat. of month, bluegrass; second celtic; third acoustic; fourth acoustic; fifth celtic. Info Gerry Mitchell 705-799-5008.

* **Appearances by Johnny Burke** - Oct. 4, Bells and Whistles Tour with Naomi Bristow and Johnny Burke, Northern Lights Theatre, Haliburton, 8 pm \$25.; Oct. 5, Shrine Club, Peterborough with Paul Weber, Johnny Burke and Harold MacIntyre.

* **Appearances by Doreen Brown**: Rosemont, third Tues. of the month; Thornton, second Thurs; Warminster, first Sun; Barrie Army & Navy, second Sun.

* **Appearances by Scott Woods** - (all show 7 pm unless otherwise stated). Nov. 7, Knox Pres. Church, Meaford; Nov. 8, Grace Tipling, Shelburne; Nov. 9, St. Andrews Pres. Church, Fergus; Nov. 14, Holmesville Community Centre; Nov. 15, St. Pauls Congregational Church, Chatham; Nov. 16, RCL, Forest; Nov. 21, Faith United Church, Courtyce; Nov. 22, Piking Village United Church, Ajax; Nov. 23, St. Mathews United Church, Belleville; Nov. 25, RCL, Br. 631, Kingston; Nov. 26, North Grenville Municipal Centre, Kemptville. Nov. 27, Cornwall Civic Complex; Nov. 28, Alexander Galt Reg. High School, Sherbrooke, Quebec; Nov.

30, St. John Chrysostam Parish Hall, Arnprior; Dec. 2 RCL, North Bay; Dec. 3, RCL, Espanola; Dec. 5, Archie Stoufner Elementary School, Minden; Dec. 6, Elmvale Pres. Church; Dec. 12, St. Andrews United Church, Hamilton; Dec. 14, 2 pm, Dunnville Community Lifespan Centre.

* **Jam Sessions** - and dance, second Saturday and fifth Sunday, Longford Mills.

* **Deep condolences** to family and friends of Al Heiser. He surely will be sadly missed by so many. Enjoyed our many chats over the years. He was a delightful person and a wonderful entertainer.

* **Jessica Wedden** - young fiddler who also performs with trick fiddling and step dancing, will be performing at the Hometown Country Jamboree at the Napanee Lions' Hall on Sat., Oct. 4. Starts at 7 pm, doors open 6 pm. 613-770-6340. www.jessicawedden.ca

* **The Two Plus Who** - (Bob Tremblay and Lynn Russwurm) at the Top End Restaurant and Tavern, Neustadt, 2nd and 4th Saturday every month from 5 to 9 p.m., with a different vocalist each time.

* **Deep sympathies** - to the family and friends of well known entertainer George Hamilton IV, on his passing. He will be sadly missed. He was a strong supporter of country music also, The Barn Dance and Canadian entertainers; also condolences to American entertainers and friends in the US.

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

Cinnamon
Jim's
CAFÉ

Brussels, ON
519-887-8011

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!!

OPEN: MON. - THURS. 6:00 AM until 3:00 PM
FRIDAY until 8:00 PM SAT. 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM
cinnamonjims@tcc.on.ca

BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

I knew this day would come.

For the past several years, I shamelessly exploited the opportunity to immerse my two sons exclusively in the songs of country music. They loved sharing music with me while naively believing everything I offered them was somehow normal, if not cool, for young boys to listen to.

They shrieked along with Bobby Bare and "Marie Laveau." When I wasn't at my parenting best, my oldest son encouraged me to listen again to "Daddies Need to Grow Up Too" by the O'kanes. My youngest son was oddly interested in the music of Junior Brown. The grit and rumble of Fred Eaglesmith always excited them both. This past August, they stayed out later than they ever had before and danced deliriously to the music of the Mavericks at the CNE Band-shell on a dark summer night. Brooks and Dunn will forever be associated with insane dancing on

mom and dad's bed.

Then the neighbour kids and Toronto's #1 Hit Music Station 99.9 Virgin Radio happened.

The boys now realized they had musical options, and I quickly learned country music – classic, contemporary, or otherwise – can't compete with Katy Perry.

Nor should it have to. I guess it was time for the boys to roar and explore their own musical interests. It would be my turn to be naive if I didn't see this for what it is; a necessary and wonderful foray into musical self expression and identity separate from that of their parents.

Even though country music is the filter through which I experience the world I know my boys will develop their own. And the important thing will not be the genre or their play list, but the simple fact that listening to music matters to them. I want to encourage that. I want them to be confident enough to have their own musical opinions and sonic sensibilities.

I appreciate that despite not being crazy about their old man's music they,

nonetheless, recognize how much I enjoy listening to it. They will often negotiate we listen to 99.9 FM on our way to a destination and they will endure Willie's Roadhouse on Sirius XM on the return leg of the trip. We often go from Sam Smith's "Stay With Me" to Sammi Smith's "Help Me Make It Through the Night."

It is fascinating to hear their take on country.

My oldest told me, "Dad, there's nothing wrong with country, but ... it's just so ... slow."

More telling was a very thoughtful comment he made one night just before bedtime after listening to Junior Brown's "Gott'a Get Up Every Morning (Just to Say Goodnight to You)." He said, "Daddy, country songs are, like, more interesting but I still like 99.9."

My heart skipped a beat. If he knew how to listen to a lyric and let a story be told, I knew he would one day come home to country.

Until then, I will begrudgingly accept Brooks and Dunn's "Hillbilly Deluxe" as the only country song he likes.

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. _____

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP

\$ 25.00 - 1 year

Yes, I want to become a member of



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

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

DUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$ 40.00 - 1 year