



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

**Vol. 87 2016**

**Winter Edition**

**1**

## Cowboy Singers and Old Dusters

by Grant Heywood

When you think about the origins of country music, most people forget that it was called country and western music back in the 1940's and 50's. Hollywood and the advent of television had a lot to do with glamorizing the cowboy lifestyle, and with that came the singing cowboy.

Believe it or not, it was Ken Maynard who became the first singing cowboy in a silent movie in 1923. His horsemanship and rugged good looks became the blueprint of a singing cowboy star, and soon followed by Bob Steele. It was a young John Wayne who appeared as 'Singing Sandy Saunders' in the movie 'Riders of Destiny' in 1933, which helped propel the cowboy craze even more, although Wayne couldn't really sing. The singing cowboy phenomena soon became a big screen hit with others to follow, such as Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Rex Allen, Tex Ritter and Ken Curtis of 'Gunsmoke' fame. But it was Gene Autry and Roy Rogers who really propelled the singing cowboy with a huge string of movies for Republic Pictures in Hollywood.

Gene Autry became the biggest selling cowboy singer and is still on the Top 10 list of Hollywood western box office moneymakers. Whereas Autry made his fame in movies and top selling records, it was Roy Rogers (who was a former member of 'The Sons of the Pioneers') who made his claim to fame in movies and TV "The Sons of the Pioneers" with Roy Rodgers (his real name is Leonard Slye) actually appeared in the 1935 Gene Autry movie 'The Old Corral.'

Gene Autry and Roy Rogers were also successful with TV shows. I was more into watching Roy Rogers likely

because of the characters involved. Who can forget Dale Evens (Roy's wife), or Roy's sidekick, Pat Brady with his old jeep NellyBelle, and trusted German Shepherd, Bullitt. It wasn't long before the singing cowboy would ride off into the sunset to be replaced by authentic western movie stars like Audie Murphy, Randolph Scott, Gary Cooper, Clint Walker, Tom Mix, James Arness, Lorne Greene, James Coburn, Henry Fonda, Jack Palance, Richard Widmark, Paul Newman, and of course the all-time 'Hang 'em High' favourite, Clint Eastwood. Many of these famous actors rode on to movie history fame, and later on the western movies, so liked, by so many to this day became known as 'dusters'. I still get glued to the television screen when I see an old 'duster' movie to this day. I think I've see all of Clint Eastwood's movies many times over and I still don't get tired of them.

I can remember gathering around the television on Sunday night to watch Lorne Greene, Little Joe, Adam, Hoss, & Hop Sing, the famous

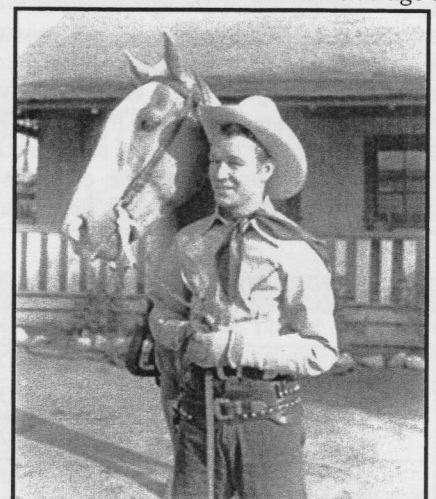
'Cartwright clan' of the hit TV show 'Bonanza'. And who can forget the long running 'Gunsmoke' series with James Arness, Miss Kitty, Chester, and then Festus. It was a treat to watch Chuck Connors in 'The Rifleman'. I loved 'Rawhide', 'Wagon Train', 'Have Gun Will Travel' and so many others. Black & white or colour ... it didn't really matter.

In Canada, we had our own singing cowboys. Wilf Carter, Hank Snow, Stu Davis and Canada's Number 1 Singing Cowboy, my dad ... Earl Heywood. I'm sure I missed a few, but my dad had a successful career when he signed with RCA records and became a star on the CKNX travelling Barn Dance shows as a cowboy singer. Dad made several records for RCA, had his own fan club, and 'dressed for success' of what a singing cowboy star should look like with his yellow cowboy outfit, fringes, and white hat. Dad even had his own show on CKNX-TV called 'Range Rider'. I remember him signing autographs when he'd just be walking down the street. For-

*Continued on Page 3*



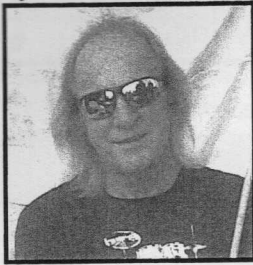
Canada's No. 1 Singing Cowboy



Roy Rogers and his horse 'Trigger'

## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Now that Christmas & New Year's Eve celebrations are behind us we can get on with the rest of the winter. Well ... that depends if we get enough of the white stuff. This being an 'El Nino' year it's not shaping up to be much in the way of outdoor winter sports. No doubt we'll either get it all at once or hardly at all. I'll settle for hardly at all.

Have you ever noticed as the years roll by, how much 'stuff' a person accumulates? The number of yard sales and garage sales from spring to fall, pretty much tell you everyone else does too. We have become one huge consumer gobbling society. The sad part of it is, do we really need all of this 'stuff'? I can remember a time as a kid when my grandparents instilled the idea of 'waste not, want not' into my growing young mind. Of course that was a time when you didn't have umpteen different choices, and couldn't afford to upgrade to the latest trend. You would have to make do with what you had until you could afford it or get a second job to pay for it. In the 50's and even the 60's and definitely before that, we were a recycling society, not by design but by necessity.

As recently as this past Christmas, we 'bit the bullet' and bought a new 40" flat screen TV (we are a one TV family by choice). Some people might think that we're behind the times, but our old 28" Sony Trinitron television is still working great after many years. It was just time to 'get with the times' and treat ourselves to a new era in viewing pleasure. The fact of the matter is, our old TV just didn't have the right connections to adapt to all the new fangled gadgets we wanted to use with the current television. I guess you could say we bought it out of necessity. So we retired the old Sony Trinitron and made room for the new flat screen. I thought our old TV would make a great 2<sup>nd</sup> set for someone, or maybe a gaming set, or TV for the cottage. Guess what?

Nobody wants an antique TV and our landfill is a testament to that.

I doubt very much that our new TV will last as long as the old one. Our original dishwasher lasted quite a while, but when we got a new one several years ago, we were lucky to get 2 or 3 years out of it. So we decided we'd wash dishes the old fashioned way ... by hand. It's much cheaper on water and energy too. Let's face it folks, the reason we buy anything new is because it's 'the latest technology' and it saves time. The real reason for that is because we are spending all of our time working to pay for new technology we can't afford to keep up with, and the new technology is supposed to liberate us so we have more time. It's a vicious cycle that continues to boggle my mind.

The word 'antique' or 'old fashioned' isn't even included in today's young society. Most would rather buy disposable, particle-board furniture from IKEA than grandma's old solid oak dresser which was made by hand and could most likely last for centuries. Hell, even on the PBS Network TV Antique Roadshow they are now showing what an antique is worth today, as opposed to some 20 odd years ago. Often time the value has gone down, which proves my theory. A lot of today's younger generation, really don't want to be a part of the past because it's 'not cool', and our corporations are too busy selling us the future as a disposable society, at the cost of our own planet. We recycle our cans, plastic bottles and glass just so we can keep making 'stuff' to put back into landfill sites.

Funny how some antiques aren't worth as much today, but old musical instruments, especially guitars, still hold their value. Collectors most certainly push the value of some guitars to unattainable levels for the average person to buy. I remember when Vince Gill commented on seeing some of his country hero's guitars displayed behind a plexiglass case. Vince basically said it was a crying shame to see perfectly good vintage instruments being held captive for people to look at when they should be used for what they were meant for ... to be played to make beautiful music. This is why priceless Stradivarius violins are being loaned out to players in symphonies, so that everyone can appreciate the sound of such a beautiful instrument instead of being locked up on display.

Getting back to my old Sony Trinitron TV, I wonder if it would have antique value that people

## 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  
**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.

could appreciate in years to come. Somehow I doubt it. Kind of like my dad's old typewriter. It did the job back in the day and now it's been replaced by the computer. Some things you just have to accept, but some things are just irreplaceable. Take the Barn Dance for instance. Traditional country music has been around for a long time and so has the Barn Dance. People still appreciate the musical value and nostalgia it generates so ... if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Irreplaceable for sure ... and that's the way our Barn Dance fans like it. Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance Show.

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](mailto:heywoods@xplornet.ca)  
or send a message on facebook.

## 2016 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
Sun., March 20	Barn Dance Show - 2:30 p.m.	Melbourne Agricultural Hall, Melbourne
Fri., April 1	Barn Dance Show - 8:00 p.m.	Crystal Palace, Mitchell
Sun., April 10	Barn Dance Show - 2:30 p.m.	Lucan Heritage Society, Lucan Community Complex
Sun., May 1	Barn Dance Show - 2:30 p.m.	Purple Hill Country Hall, Purple Hill
May 26 - 29	19th Annual Campout Jamboree	Blyth Arena and Campgrounds, Blyth
Sun., June 12	Barn Dance Show - 3:00 p.m.	Commercial Tavern, Maryhill

Continued from Page 1

ever the cowboy singing star.

Dad became friends with Hollywood star, Gene Autry, and his sidekick, Pat Buttram, (Mr. Haney of Green Acres fame). Dad took me to the CNE in Toronto in the late 1950's, to see Gene Autry and his horse. It was something to behold. I just didn't have the heart to tell my dad that my favourite singing cowboy TV star was Roy Rogers ... and my dad of course. It was a real treat though nonetheless. Dad kept in contact with Gene, who was now the star of radio, TV and movies. By this time Gene bought several radio stations and later on became owner of the Los Angeles Angels baseball team. It was because of Gene that my dad got an opportunity to do a screen test audition as a cowboy singer/actor, for Republic Pictures in Los Angeles, Calif. Unfortunately, by the time he submitted his resume, Republic Pictures had been making cuts to their cowboy movie roster as television was making huge inroads. My dad was so close to making movies, but I guess it just wasn't meant to be.

The singing cowboy image soon faded into history but was a burgeoning part of establishing today's country music. There are still remnants of the cowboy era around today. The group, 'Riders in the Sky' still sing authentic cowboy songs, Michael Martin



Famous cowboy singers, Earl Heywood (with daughter Patricia) and Gene Autry.

Murphy attends many of the cowboy festivals throughout North America, and the late rodeo cowboy singer, Chris LeDoux, was part of the cowboy genre too. Also, Ian Tyson, a truly famous Canadian cowboy singer, who is a real cowboy in every sense of the word.

But the times have changed and many of our cowboy actors and singers have rode off into the sunset never to return. How often I yearn for simpler times like the days of our cowboy heroes. I often think of them when I listen to Larry Mercey sing Gary Fjellgaard's cowboy song 'Heroes', or even Earl Heywood's last song on the Heywood Family CD, 'Riding Down The Trail'. Those days may be gone, but I'll never forget Johnny Cash singing 'Johnny Yuma, was a Rebel', or Slim Pickens riding that galloping horse yelling ... 'Hey Wild Bill, ... wait for me'.

## NEWS & NOTES

Barn Dance Pioneer and matriarch, **Martha Heywood**, has now moved to a new residence if you would like to send her a note and/or well wishes. She is at: **Pinecrest Manor, 399 Bob St., Lucknow, Ont., N0G 2H0.**

Barn Dance Pioneer/musician, **Al Widmeyer**, is now co-hosting the **Bluegrass Express** 1 hr. radio show every Wed. night from 7:30 – 8:30 on **CKWR radio 98.5.** Check it out, as it's a great show.

**Grant Heywood** will be the guest drummer for a **Stompin' Tom Connors** tribute show with **Whiskey Jack** on Sun., Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, from 3 – 6 , at the **Commercial Tavern in Maryhill.** It's going to be fun.

## ATTENTION

I am seeking information and/or pictures of **Bill (Slim) McLory**, of Monkton Ontario, who was a flamboyant entertainer and cowboy singer, along with his wife back in the 1950's and 1960's. He appeared on the Barn Dance and was well known throughout the southwestern Ontario area.

Please contact the editor: Grant Heywood at [heywoods@xplornet.ca](mailto:heywoods@xplornet.ca) or 5584 Deborah Glaister Line, Wellesley, ON, N0B 2T0.

I would appreciate any information or pictures for a future story.

## COWBOY TRIVIA

Can You Match the Horse's Name With the Cowboy Star?

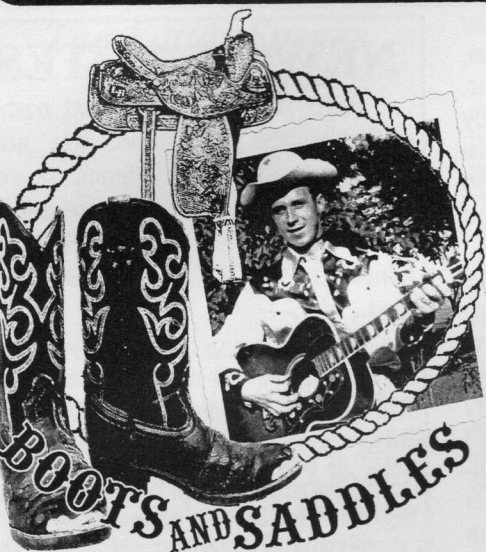
### Cowboy Singers

Roy Rogers  
Gene Autry  
Ken Maynard  
Earl Heywood  
Dick Foran  
Bob Baker  
Tex Ritter

### Famous Horses

Apache  
White Flash  
Champion  
Smoke  
Apache  
Hero  
Trigger

\*\*Turn to page 7 for answers.



by Lynn Russwurm

Just a few words on my recovery from a major illness of the past summer. I'm coming a little better with each passing day and I'm aiming for a full recovery over winter, and who knows, some pickin' and grinnin' come springtime. It was a grim reminder about how much our health means to us in the long run. Without health, what have we got? I want to thank my daughter, Liana, for her wonderful words in this column, in the last issue. What a wonderful writer she is, along with being a wonderful artist with a brush and palette. I also want to thank my son, Lance, for taking over the Sunday night concerts in Gore Park in Elmira and keeping the flames alive along with his crew. I understand they did a marvelous job and I'm looking forward to the new season. I'll be getting started on the bookings pretty soon.

I'd like to take a bit of time to spotlight a few of our local bands in the area. I've taken in quite a few shows and have been generally impressed. Recently, Steve Pittico did a back-up gig with Naomi Bristow at the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill. And what a wonderful acoustic Christmas program that was. My prediction for Naomi Bristow is that she will be our next super-star if she keeps going in her chosen direction. She handled about 2 1/2 hours of singing, playing guitar and carrying on a patter with the audience. I can only say good things about this talented young lady. Definitely the name to watch. Go Naomi, go!!

We've been following Diane & The Cavaliers for a while and find them a well rehearsed and disciplined group, playing many dance and showtunes in the area.

They have tight renditions of many old country standards as well as tunes from the current crop of country music. Diane usually asks me to sit in for a few numbers, which I am pleased to do with a good band to back me up. In fact, Diane has promised to do one of my Sunday night concerts in Elmira in the coming season. On New Years' Eve we'll be taking in the group at the Waterloo Rod & Gun Club. The year 2016 will be the 50th Anniversary of Diane & The Cavaliers. Quite a record when you consider the short life of most country bands.

Gerald Davidson & The Country Versatiles celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 2015, so this year marks the start of their second lap on the circuit. Good luck guys.

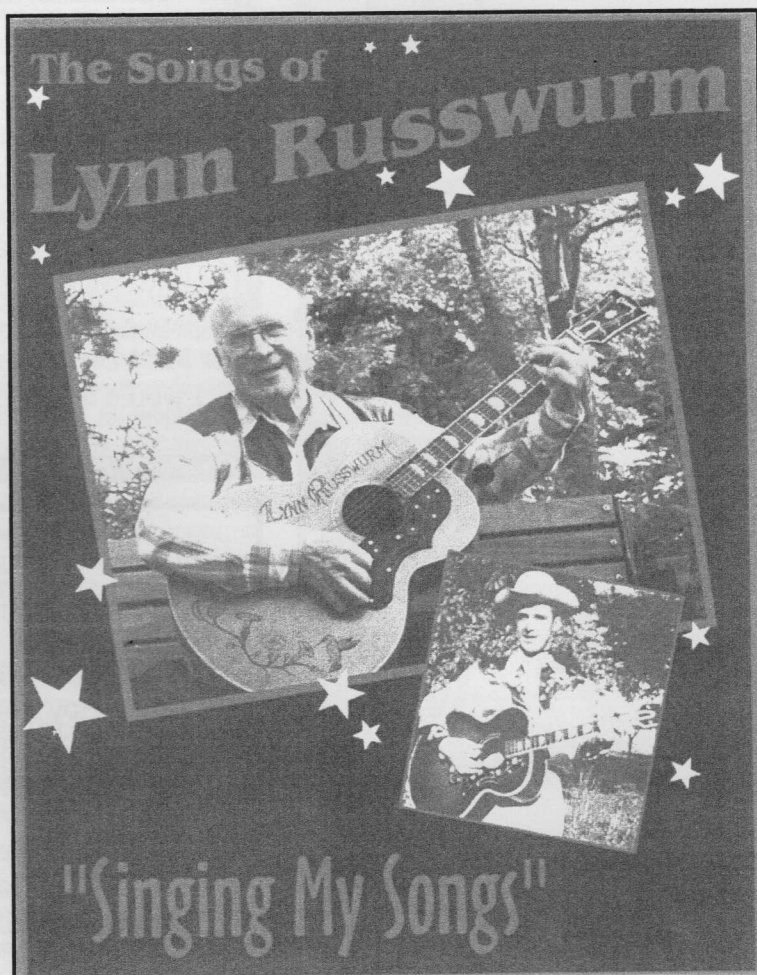
Southbound, with the smooth vocals of Rick Loucks is one of the most popular groups around the area. Rick was recently featured in tandem with Marie Bottrell at The Walters Family Dinner Theatre reprising the music of David Frizzell / Shelley West. Southbound also features the great steel guitar of Doug Johnson. And we can't forget Ridin' High with Fred Lewis on vocals and lead guitar and Bill Norris on fiddle. These boys also supplement the Barn Dance Band with their talents.

At a recent Barn Dance in Hanover, special guests The Crippled Ducks, Harry and Debbie Busby, pulled one of my old songs out of the bag when they dusted off "Just The Snap of your Fingers", which was the first recording effort of

The Mercey Brothers in 1961. It was a special thrill for me to hear a new rendition of this song. Thanks Ducks.

Lance Russwurm has signed with Top End Restaurant & Tavern in Neustadt to appear every third Saturday of the month throughout 2016. Lance's new CD is being proclaimed as one of the best in recent releases, featuring in addition to Lances' vocals, the many guitars of Al Widmeyer, steel guitar of Mike Weber, the fiddle of Dan Howlett, the drums of Grant Heywood, plus back-up vocals by Guylaine Basque and Kathy Kirker.

I hope you've seen my new song book with all 20 songs that are on my CD, plus some vintage pictures. If you would like a copy of this beautiful song book, I would be happy to send you a post paid copy for \$15.00 or \$25.00 for the CD and song book. Time was when all country artists issued song books of their material which have become great historical souvenirs. My new address is Lynn Russwurm, #306 - 223 Erb Street West, Waterloo, ON N2L 0B3.



Lynn's new song book.

## MICHAEL T. WALL 'Down Under'

Legendary singer/songwriter, Michael T. Wall, will be touring Australia for his 4<sup>th</sup> time this winter.

Michael will be performing and promoting his new double CD 'From Newfoundland To Australia'.

Michael is the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian to be inducted into the Australian Country Music Hall of Fame. In 2015 he also received the TCMA 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for traditional country music, in Anita, Iowa.

Michael T. Wall is undoubtedly Newfoundland's Singing Ambassador.

## 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)



## DAVID CARSON FARMS & AUCTION SERVICES LTD.

5531 Perth Line 86, R.R. #3  
Listowel, Ontario, Canada  
N4W 3G8  
Telephone: 519-291-2049  
Fax: 519-291-5065  
Email: [info@davidcarson.on.ca](mailto:info@davidcarson.on.ca)

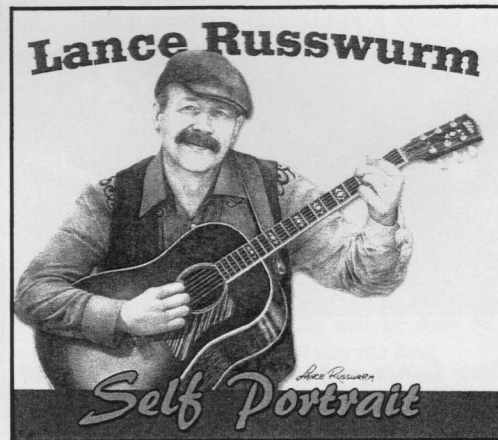
## FEATURE C. D. REVIEW

### "Self Portrait"

by Lance Russwurm

by Grant Heywood

I've known Lance Russwurm and his dad, Lynn Russwurm the better part of my life, and I even performed with them occasionally in the Hummingbirds. Lance is a well-known local artist in K/W, and has been a singer/songwriter/musician for many years. This being Lance's first CD release, I can only imagine how many songs he's been saving up for this moment. 'Self Portrait' contains 20 songs, many penned by Lance, some by Lynn and some interesting collaborations. Often considered 'low key',



Lance's voice on this outing is anything but, and shines on every cut in fine style. All the selections run the gamut from traditional country, western swing, folk, to bluegrass, honky tonk and rockabilly. Variety is the spice of life they say and this CD pays off in spades.

The opener, 'Get Rhythm, We're All Bopping The Blues' is a rousing rockabilly original that harkens back to that early Elvis/Carl Perkins sound and makes you want to hear more. This is followed by a great rendition of Hank Thompson's honky tonk tune 'A Girl In The Night' and Lance's nostalgic song 'Raise A Glass To The Past'. The song, 'It's A Living', written by Lance and Gerry Boppre, can be found on YouTube and has a haunting outlaw Waylon feel to it, and is one of my personal favourites. Lance covers a tune written by his dad Lynn and Hank Thompson, 'I Cast A Lonesome Shadow', as well as Clarence William's classic 'My Bucket's Got A Hole In It' and the Rex Griffin classic 'Little Red Wagon', which has been a standard in Lance's repertoire for quite a while. Lynn Russwurm's popular song 'Wildheart' is a great shuffle dance tune, with the driving delivery in the way it was intended.

The Goebel Reeves 'Hobo's Lullaby', really shows Lance is quite capable of making it his own folk song. The Lynn Russwurm/Larry Mercey tune 'Gone's A Lonesome Word' as well as Hank William's 'There'll Be No Teardrops Tonight' are also two of my favourites on this excellent CD. Other gems worth checking out are, 'In The Blue Room', and 'The Other Side Of Town'. It should be noted that being an artist, Lance was able to put his stamp of 'character quality' into every song, and attention to production in this CD really creates that 'retro' mood.

There are some great musical moments provided by the musicians on this CD. The list includes: Lance on lead vocals and guitar, Al Widmeyer vocals/gtr., bass, dobro etc., Dan Howlett fiddle/mandolin, Grant Heywood drums/vocals, Mike Weber steel gtr., Mike Eady piano, Lynn Russwurm gtr./bass, Barry 'Snake' Klein lead gtr., Guylaine Basque vocals, Kathy Kirker vocals, Jay Carruthers bass, Larry Johnston banjo. It really sounds like a labour of love from all the musicians/vocalists on this project, resonating true nostalgia for 50's era country.

Obviously the self-portrait cover art is by Lance and the CD is self-produced as well. 'Self Portrait' was recorded, mixed, and mastered by recording engineer Eric Durstein at DSP Studio in Waterloo, who is gaining a local reputation. The fold out package includes several pics of Lance, family, and other musicians, as well as a prologue by Lance and other important information.

It was an honour to be a part of this CD project which took some time in coming, but it was well worth the effort on Lance's part. Recording your first CD can be a costly and time consuming effort. I think Lance did a fine job of selecting the right songs for his vocal style and the superior musicianship certainly attest to that. No doubt this will be on permanent rotation in your CD player. Well done my friend. I'm sure you did your dad proud.

For more info. about Lance Russwurm's cd 'Self Portrait' go to:  
[www.lancerusswurm.com](http://www.lancerusswurm.com) or [www.facebook.com/LanceRusswurmmusic](http://www.facebook.com/LanceRusswurmmusic)

# Country Music Memories



*Barn Dance pioneers Larry Mercey and Bill Simmermaker, onstage at the Barn Dance.*



*Good times back stage with the infamous Ernie King and George Lonsbury Sr.*



*Grant and Jeaneet Heywood with the "Heywood Twins", Janessa and Kianna perform on the Barn Dance stage.*



*Barn Dance pioneer fiddlers Victory Pusowisty and Mike Slauenwhite, with fiddler Randy Morrison.*



*Backstage with Barn Dance pioneers, Mary Elliott Huyzen, Hank Bedard and his sister Nettie Bedard.*



*Barn Dance pioneers, Ron Coulthard and Cora Robertson, of the Ranch Boys, onstage at the Barn Dance.*



*At the Wingham Heritage Theatre Barn Dance with Barn Dance pioneers, from L to R: Lloyd Bank, steel gtr., Wayne Riehl, fiddle, Lynn Russwurn, gtr., and Ernie King on stand-up bass.*



*Royce Riehl, and Barn Dance pioneer, smiling' Hughie Elder, on the Barn Dance stage.*

## COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

In order to facilitate many who plan summer weekend shows, some have been listed on websites provided, or check later for dates.

\* **Cobourg Legion** - has jams and open mic, second and fourth Sunday from one to five. With backup band - Steve Smith, Tim Sanders, Bill Linton and Frank Woodcock.

\* **Pineridge Bluegrass Club Jams** - 1 p.m. at Woodview Community Centre, 151 Cadillac Ave., Oshawa as follows - Jan. 3, Feb. 7, Mar. 4, Apr. 11, May 1, June 5, none in July and Aug., Sept. 18 and Oct. 16.

\* **Annual Blyth Campout** - May 19 - 22, Blyth Arena. See web site for updates. www.thebardance.ca Looking forward to another fantastic year.

\* **June 16 - 19** - Annual Tottenham Bluegrass Festival. Line up pending. Vendors, children's talent show and various workshops.

\* **Norwood Country Jamboree** - (previous Windsor Jamboree) - July 14 to 17, 48 Alma St., Norwood, Norwood Fairgrounds. \$65 per person before Jan. 31; \$70 after. Albert, Kevin and Lynn are proud to announce this exciting move and look forward to seeing everyone at the new location. 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-0097 www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com

\* **For updates** of current show, please contact www.purplehillcountryhall.com or facebook also for dinner shows.

\* **Ron and Linda's Old Time Country Music** Oddfellows Hall, 42 Bagot St, Brooklin. Nights. Call Linda for upcoming shows 905-665-8687.

\* **July 21 - 24** - Pickin in the Park, Fiddle Park, Shelburne. Open mic jamborees. Camping no hydro. \$35 per person weekend pass. Gregg & Heather Holmes 519-925-3037. www.pickinthepark.webs.com Supported by the town of Shelburne.

\* **Artists wishing airplay:** Re: Gospel/country, Michael T. Wall proudly suggest the following - for gospels shows - Sun. at 9 am Gospel Trail; worldwide exposure, 50,000 listeners, www.cfta.fm. Radio friendly. Send material to Peter Trenholm, house number 0940, South Pugwash, Nova Scotia N0K 1L0. Also plays writers gospel music. For country music send to same address in care of George Longard, who has the show after the gospel

show.

\* **Appearances by Roger Long** with The Country Classics Band, Mount Elgin Community Centre, every month, after Jan. 17 - third Sunday of the month.

\* **Palmer Rapids** - 613-758-2747. July 21 to 24. www.palmerrapids.ca Entertainment pending.

\* **Havelock Country Jamboree** - 800-539-3353 Aug. 19 - Terri Clark is performing. www.havelockjamboree.ca Entertainment pending.

\* **March 26** - tribute to Kenny Chesney and Johnny Cash at Royal Canadian Legion, Cornwall.

\* **Rosemont Jamboree** will resume third Tuesday of month on March 16, and during summer months.

\* **Shelburne Jamboree** is second Sunday of the month, in arena upstairs.

\* **Dottie Kirkpatrick** and band is last Sunday of the month, ANAF in Barrie.

\* **Thornton Jamboree** is always the second Thursday of the month, except July and August.

\* **Upcoming appearances** of Naomi Bristow, the yodeling cowgirl www.naomibristow.com

\* **Contact Ginny McIlmoyl** for appearances, country singer / songwriter www.ginny.ca

\* **Joe Tucker** and Second Wind, country music band, with down east style. For bookings call 905-855-3351.

\* **Beeton Legion** has jam sessions the second and fourth Friday. For info call 905-778-9597.

\* **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - Dec. 13, Shelburne Arena, upstairs; Dec. 10, Thornton Arena, upstairs; Rosemount Jam 3rd Thursday in March; Jan. 24, Army and Navy with Dottie Kirkpatrick and band.

\* **Carden Fiddlers** - 20th Anniversary with Doug Leahy and The Next Generation, Aug. 27.

\* **Sept 1 to 4** - Auction Barn Jamboree.

Lineup pending. www.auctionbarnjamboree.ca

\* **13th Annual Mountain Top Jamboree** - usually in August. Sponsored by the Rotary Club, Markdale area. Date and lineup pending.

\* **Classic Country Music Reunion** is celebrating 25th anniversary in July. Date and lineup pending. This will be a special year to celebrate. Centennial Park, Trenton.

\* **Rosemont Jamboree** will resume third Tuesday of month on March 16, and during summer months.

*Looking forward to seeing many folks at jamborees over the upcoming months and wish to thank all who come out to support our country bluegrass music. Wishing all a very happy new year, with good health, happiness and all good things. Christmas will be over by this publication and trust it was the best.*

### Answers to the Cowboy Trivia from Page 3

Roy Rogers - Trigger  
Gene Autry - Champion  
Ken Maynard - Tarzan  
Earl Heywood - Hero  
Dick Foran - Smoke  
Bob Baker - Apache  
Tex Ritter - White Flash

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  
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

The year was 1906. It was Christmas-time, and a Canadian, a violin, and a carol were about to make history.

The carol was *Cantique De Noel*. It was old and European. It's lyrics were written in 1847 by Placide Cappeau at the request of a parish priest in Roquemaure, France. Cappeau, however, had renounced his Catholic faith and was a professed Socialist. The melody was written the same year by a Jew, but it wasn't until American Unitarian minister John Sullivan Dwight translated the song into English that the world would know it as "O Holy Night."

The pedigree of the song is more suggestive of a Christmas joke than a classic Christmas carol still sung in French churches at midnight Christmas Eve; a Jew, an Atheist, and a Yankee Unitarian walk into a French Bar on Christmas day ...

It would take a Canadian, however, to include the song as part of the first ever

radio transmission of voice and music for a general audience.

It was December 24, 1906 in Brant Rock, Massachusetts and Quebec-born inventor Reginald Fessenden was about to rosin up his bow and contribute his own modern twist to a night long celebrated for miracles.

And he did just that after first broadcasting a phonograph recording of a George Frederic Handel piece as part of his ground-breaking, and air wave-cracking, program. Fessenden performed "O Holy Night" on his violin and sang another number. He closed the broadcast with a reading of the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke and a request for anyone who had heard his program to let him know what they thought.

Reports from wireless operators as far as 100 miles away said they heard the sound of singing and speaking. Fessenden himself maintained the broadcast reached as far south as Norfolk, Virginia.

I share this story because we just celebrated the holiday season and I have always loved learning interesting information about the traditions, songs, characters associated with Christmas.

I also share it because it is so wonderfully reminiscent of "Doc" Cruickshank's first radio broadcast from his transmitter he toted around Wingham on the top of an old butter box in 1926. That pioneering broadcast sent out with the same enterprising and joyful spirit. People tuning in their crystal sets are purported to have heard the broadcast as far away as Detroit city. Cruickshank didn't even know he needed a license to do what he was doing. He did it for fun and even affectionately dubbed his first performance as J.O.K.E.

There are so many anecdotes about the early days of broadcasting. They are the earthly miraculous birth stories of radio just like the heavenly one Fessenden read from the bible over 100 years ago.

I like to tell "Doc's" story because it is part of the beautiful Barn Dance narrative that is Wingham's legacy. And we continue to tell it with every Barn Dance performance. By doing so we honor its past, present and future.

**Indeed, ... the show must go on!**

## 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