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Barn Dance Band Profile Series

Being a Country Music Star

A Survival Guide



by Grant Heywood

Throughout my career I have always tried my best at what I do and navigated my way through the weeds to attain a level of success that I am comfortable with. My dad instilled some of these qualities in me and the rest I had to figure out for myself. Country music hasn't always been my musical path, as I have had good fortune with rock music as well. Several albums, chart topping singles, award nominations, and media appearances don't necessarily make you a star, but for me, it has given me credibility to reflect on the roadmap to success, or what you may perceive as success. (not to be confused with 'celebrity status')

Quite often I have been approached by young 'up & coming' singer/musicians (sometimes songwriters) while playing a gig. Sometimes they ask questions such as, where to record, how to get higher profile gigs, where to find a manager or agent, or connecting

with the right people to help them get to the next level. I enjoy talking to young artists who appreciate and value the information I have experienced. Of course, there are those that think they know what they're doing even when you try to steer them in the right direction. Eg. Family member (mom or dad, sometimes the manager) and tell me that they're kid sounds like Martina McBride, Taylor Swift, or Luke Bryan, or even Keith Urban. They try to tell you they have been in contact with a record producer who really knows the business and has a studio where they will record their little darling's first hit record. Firstly, you don't want to sound like any of the above singers (unless you are trying out for a tribute act). Nashville already has a Martina McBride or a Keith Urban. Secondly, you don't want to deal with someone you don't even know (unless you've really done your homework) that says they can give you a hit record. You'll

just get hit in the pocketbook BIGTIME, with a garage full of cd's you couldn't give away.

Shania Twain has a background of hardship, good looks, talent, and songs. She didn't make it until she hooked up with world award winning producer Mutt Lange. He helped her career with money, assisted in songwriting, world class musicians and production. The *luck of the draw* is what it's called. When me and my band The Desert Dolphins, were on CTV for the RPM BIG COUNTRY AWARDS, she was standing behind me while the camera was panning the nominees and winners. I tugged on her arm and told her to stand in front of me as she had won many awards that evening. She laughed and said, "Oh that's okay, it's just an awards show." She knew how to be humble, even though she won many of the awards we were nominated for. But she was not an overnight success.

Continued on Page 3

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



My wife and I have been contemplating the cost and timing, of when we can afford to maybe head to warmer temperatures in Florida, like some of our friends do. I think this was the year we should've gone, like maybe just before Christmas. I don't mind the winter, and I don't mind the cold if the sun is shining, but minus 22 or minus 24 for weeks on end, isn't my idea of a happy winter wonderland. Others may beg to differ, but I'm more of a summer type person. Five or six weeks would be enough for me in the sun, under a palm tree. I guess I'll continue with the home reno project and see what's in the cards for next year.

This Christmas, recently, our family enjoyed a *free range* organic chicken from a local farm. We broke with tradition as we didn't need to have a big turkey supper for just the immediate family. The chicken was a bit pricey but sure tasted like chickens should taste. In fact we've been eating more organic food recently since it's more available, regardless of the higher price. Which begs the question: If the regular food you buy at a supermarket has a list of ingredients and various chemicals that reads like a novel... then why is organic food so expensive, since it doesn't have all the hormones, guar gum, monosodium glutamate, carrageenan, potassium sorbate, xanthan gum, mono and diglycerides, stearate, sulphites, and sodium benzoate added to it.

It doesn't make sense that we now pay more for natural organic food than we do for food that is pumped full of chemicals, flavourings, fresheners, etc. It's crazy! And speaking of paying more or paying less, what is it with these gas prices? We live about 3 miles from Wellesley where the gas price has been hovering around \$1.20 a litre. When I drive to Stratford, which is about 20 minutes down the road the gas price magically changes to \$1.12 a litre. Oil companies used to say the price fluctuation

reflected the cost of delivery. Hmmm I guess that is why there is such a hefty price on the delivery of our hydro when we get our electric bill. Then again that seems awful strange when it costs more to deliver it to our house but it is cheaper to sell the hydro to the United States which is farther away. Maybe there is something wrong with my calculation or I just enjoy being taken advantage of.

I remember when satellite television was all the rage. Big satellite dishes began popping up in rural backyards but it wasn't cheap. For about \$3,000 you had access to much more than cable television could offer, (which country folk couldn't get because it cost too much to deliver cable to the country) You could get unlimited access to 100's of channels, including movies, world news, specialty channels etc., and usually commercial free. Then the dishes got smaller and the media companies began slicing and dicing the satellite codes and information until you had to buy a 'package' to get your satellite programming. Now, just like cable used to be, you have a limited package of maybe a dozen channels you like with about a 150 you don't even watch and all the commercials run at exactly the same time no matter what channel you're on. Of course, if you want those 'other' channels you will have to pay an extra fee to download them or pay more money to get better package with maybe 4 or 5 channels you want and another 200 you don't care about, or pay another fee and get Netflix. It never ends.

Some folks are watching television and getting their entertainment on their phone or computer. They download the information or watch YouTube. Don't worry, I'm sure that the media companies will find a way to make us pay for that as well. Advertising constantly pops up on the screen whether you're watching YouTube, perusing Kijiji, or messaging on Facebook. It's everywhere!

I have several friends who now listen to Sirius satellite radio in their vehicles. They like being able to get channels that play the genre of music they love commercial free. Of course, satellite radio comes with a monthly cost which I am sure escalates over time and will no doubt be divided up into packages that cost more but will still be commercial free. We are constantly being 'nickel and dimed' to death by new technology. Even the banks find ways of making you pay fees that at one time were absolutely free, and they use OUR money

The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

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(or leave a message)

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and make us pay for added fees. It's a brave new world. Where do I sign up.

If you want good value for your hard-earned dollar, then look no further than one of our Barn Dance Shows. Two hours of top notch country music hosted by one of the best MC's in the business, and backed by one of the best professional country music bands around, and at a price that doesn't rob your wallet. Check out our Barn Dance schedule for 2018. You'll be glad you did. Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:

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or send a message on facebook.

2018 COMING EVENTS

| Date | Event Name | Place |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Sun., March 25 | Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m. | Listowel Agricultural Hall, Listowel |
| Sun., April 15 | Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m. | Fundraiser - Knights of Columbus K of C Hall, Walkerton |
| Sun., May, 6 | Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m. | Purple Hill Country Hall, Thorndale |
| | 21st Annual Campout, Lambrook | Blyth Arena and Campgrounds, Blyth |

Continued from Page 1

My dad always told me, 'don't give up your day job' and he was right on the money. Many people who have had success may have been lucky enough to have access to lots of money, to finance their dream. I remember when I had financial backing from a consortium in Toronto. It was around the mid 1990's when me and my band had a Top 10 Canadian country single charted and several award nominations. The financial CEO told me to prepare for the next cd to take the band to the next level. He said, 'You will need to raise half a million dollars to get there in Canada and another half a million to break into Nashville.' I had financial backing to the tune of approx. \$150 thousand and they weren't prepared to risk any more investment. I told him 'if I had a million dollars, I might reconsider being in the music industry'. I just didn't have access to funds like that. Behind the scenes in the music business are, managers, agents, producers, marketing people, publicists etc...and they all need to be paid. You DO need a lot of money!

Just getting started comes with a cost. You must be prepared to play almost every gig that comes your way. Have access to a car and pay the expenses, and pay the backup band and expenses as well, which may include accommodations and meals depending on the situation. Stage clothes and promotional material, music and/or singing lessons are another item that requires money. If the band has to learn and chart songs, especially any original songs, that will be an expense as well. Managers, promoters, and agents will eventually be standing in line for a paycheque based on percentage. Sound and lighting techs can be an added cost possibly. Hauling equipment is free. We haven't even touched on recording demo tracks or video yet. Are we having fun yet?

If there is one myth in the music industry that rings true it is the term '*overnight success*'. Don't believe what you hear from others in this regard. It just ain't so. I still know people who have been in the music industry and Nashville for years, and they're still struggling. I've realized that there are 3

main components to fast track your way to the top. **1.** Being at the right place at the right time. **2.** Knowing the right people. **3.** Having access to loads of money. You've probably noticed that nowhere in this article have I listed '*talent*' as a key element to success. That's because there are many people in the music industry who are not necessarily gifted with great talent but are fortunate to have many of the other attributes to '*making it*'. Not even the most talented singers make it to the top. Most of the Talent Search television shows are a testament to that. In the music business, only one half of one percent of those trying to win the big prize ever make it to the top. Not very good odds I'd say. I guess that's when desire takes over.

I've covered several of the *don'ts*, and the following are some of the *do's* and key points I have learned along the way with viewpoints from other respected entertainers I know. Remember that there is no tried and true formula for success. This is just a guideline, in no particular order, of what you should be prepared to face on your journey in the music business. And this is before even tackling the Nashville scene. An element of luck might help too.

30 Key points to 'getting there' as a country music performer

1. Have **passion, and desire** to want to do this.
2. Focus and have a plan.
3. You need tenacity & perseverance.
4. Have a **good attitude**.
5. Play as many local area gigs as possible.
6. Try to establish a fan base.
7. Learn to play an instrument.
8. Learn to write songs.
9. Join a performing rights org. to protect your songs
10. Join the musician's union. (essential for radio, tv., movie performances and international travelling gigs)
11. Find a niche', **be different**, don't follow the crowd, but **be yourself**

Everyone can spot a phoney. Believe me!

12. Willingness to accept rejection. (Rome wasn't built in a day, or a year)
13. Hang out with other singer/songwriters.
14. Hook up with a band.
15. **Stay humble**. (keep repeating this to yourself everyday)
16. Be prepared to starve or get a day job.
17. Perform wherever & whenever you can.
18. **Be honest with yourself**. Put heartfelt emotion into every performance.
19. Listen to people who have '*been there*'.
20. Listen to all music styles and singers.
21. **Be willing to make sacrifices**.
22. Ask questions from others in the industry and those who support you.
23. Try to work with people you can trust.
24. Have access to a lawyer. (preferably an entertainment solicitor) Remember that **this is a business**.
25. Take singing lessons. (whether you need them or not)
26. Learn and study the music business. (Mountains & pitfalls)
27. You have to believe in yourself and not just what others say about you.
28. Use social media and YouTube to your advantage.
29. Remember, you're not just a singer. You're an entertainer as well.
30. **Smile... as often as you can**. (because there'll be a lot of tears)

After all this, you may want to weigh your options as this can be a rollercoaster for your personal 'well being' and family members too. Walter Payton once said: "*When you're good at something, you'll tell everyone. When you're great at something, they'll tell you.*"

... Oh yes, did I mention having a **good attitude** and lots of **money**? Selling your soul or maintaining control...you decide.

American Country Music Personalities We Lost in 2017

One thing always gives me that lonesome feeling at the end of every year, and makes me feel somewhat older as well. It's when I read the list of entertainers, musicians, and personalities that have passed on. It has become synonymous with awards shows every year, where they honour and reflect on those who have made their final journey. Often we forget some of those who have left us and are surprised when we read the list at the end of the year that they are actually gone. The following article is dedicated to those we've grown to love over the years and for their contribution to the entertainment world. If for some unforeseen reason I have left anyone out, I apologize. I realize there may be some from the local scene I may have overlooked who also gave of their talent. The following is mainly of those who dedicated their talent as well, and were able to reach the stars.

In no particular order we have lost many personalities related to country music. **Sam Louvello**, was the producer/director for the famous *Hee Haw* syndicated TV show. **Greg Trooper** was a singer/songwriter for artists like Vince Gill. **Dan Markham**, was a multi-instrumentalist and horn player for the late Merle Haggard. **Don Warden**, was a Steel Guitar Hall of Famer who performed for five decades with Dolly Parton. **Bob Wooton**, played lead guitar with the Tennessee Three for Johnny Cash. **Moon Mullins**, was a famous country radio Hall of Famer. **Jimmy LaFave**, was a Nashville songwriter based in Austin City Texas. **Norro Wilson**, was a famous songwriter/producer/publisher, who wrote *The Grand Tour* for George Jones. **Earl Cranston Clark**, was a songwriter for George Strait, Willie Nelson, Tanya Tucker, Tim McGraw and others. Steel guitarist, **Kayton Roberts**, played with Ricky Skaggs, Marty Stuart, Emmylou Harris, Randy Travis and more. **Geoff Mack**, songwriter who wrote *I've Been Everywhere* for Hank Snow. One of my favourite singer/songwriters, **Michael Johnson**, also passed away. **Billy Joe Walker**, singer/songwriter/musician who wrote songs for Eddie Rabbitt, John Anderson, Trisha Yearwood, Tanya Tucker and others. **Legendary Don Williams**, who wrote and sang such classics as *Amanda*, *I Believe In You*, *Tulsa Time*, *You're My Best Friend*, *Lord I Hope This Day Is Good* and many more. **Troy Gentry**, one half of the hit duo, Montgomery Gentry. He died in a tragic helicopter crash in New Jersey. **Ben Dorcy**, was 92. He was the world's oldest roadie and worked for country stars such as, Willie Nel-

son, Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, and even Elvis Presley. **Mark Selby**, songwriter who wrote *There's Your Trouble* for The Dixie Chicks. **Kenny Beard**, songwriter who wrote songs for Tracy Lawrence, Trace Adkins and others. **Legendary Mel Tillis**, a singer/songwriter/performer, who appeared on television, movies, as well as the Grand Ole Opry stage. One of the 'old school' country stars, Mel had many, many hit songs. **Jim Nabors**, aka Gomer Pyle, also appeared on the Andy Griffith TV show as Goober. Nabors was also a fantastic singer. **Hurshel Wilington**, 79, member of the Nashville Edition. He appeared on over 12,000 recordings and the Nashville Edition enjoyed 20 years as singer on *Hee Haw*. **Leon Rhodes**, 85, was lead guitarist with Ernest Tubb's Texas Toubadours. Leon spent 20 years with the 'Hee Haw' band and over 30 years with the Opry staff band. **Curly Seckler**, 98, mandolin player with the Foggy Mountain Boys. He also played with Mac Wiseman, Jim and Jesse, and the Stanley Brothers. Curly was inducted into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame. **Steve Chapman**, 74, guitar player on the road and in the studio for Ernest Tubb, Bill Anderson, Reno and Smiley and Mandy Barnett. Richard Dobson, 75, singer/songwriter and author. He made more than 20 albums and wrote songs recorded by, Guy Clark, John and June Carter Cash, Nanci Griffith and others. **Corki Casey O'Dell**, 80, was a guitarist who played on many of Duane Eddy's most memorable hits, including *Rebel Rouser* and the *Peter Gunn* theme song. O'Dell was one of only three women inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame. **Dan Warden**, 87. He was Dolly Parton's manager for four decades. He was inducted into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame and was a founding member of the Porter Wagoner Trio. **Legendary, singer/songwriter/musician/performer, Rhinestone Cowboy, Glen Travis Campbell**, died from Alzheimer related illness. Glen was a singer/songwriter/performer/guitarist as well as a movie actor, and the host of his own

television show. Glen was a session musician who played on *Mama Tried* for Merle Haggard, *You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'* by the Righteous Bros., *Strangers in the Night* by Frank Sinatra, *Dang Me* by Roger Miller, as well as songs by Elvis, The Monkees, The Beach Boys, Dean Martin and many others. Glen was part of the famous Wrecking Crew studio musicians who were always on call to play on some of the most famous recordings of our time. Glen was once married to country singer Tanya Tucker. Hits included, *By the Time I Get To Phoenix*, *Galveston*, *Wichita Lineman*, *Everyday Housewife* and many more. Definitely a sad ending to a great singer and musician.

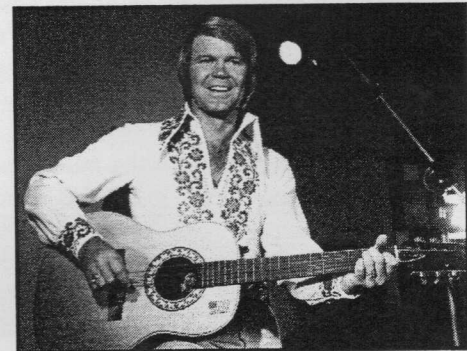
Also: Three rock and roll musicians who left an indelible mark on country music-

Gregg Allman, 69. Gregg lived in Nashville and was a singer/songwriter, musician with the Allman Brothers band. Pre-deceased by his famous brother Duane, Gregg and the Allman Brothers southern rock style band lasted five decades, including such hits as *Jessica*, and *Ramblin' Man*. **Fats Domino**, 89, the man who sang and made *Blueberry Hill* famous. The New Orleans born singer/pianist, had a signature style influencing Elvis and the Beatles. Selling over 65 million records, *Ain't That A Shame* and *I'm Walkin'*, helped catapult him into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. **Chuck Berry**, 90. Likely one of the most influential pioneer and icon of rock and roll. Even Marty Robbins made the Top 10 with Chuck Berry's *Maybellene*, and Buck Owens with *Johnny B. Goode*. Chuck Berry's famous guitar playing and duck walk got him inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as well as the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

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;
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E-mail: webmaster@thebardance.ca*



Legendary Glen Campbell died in 2017.



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Canadian Entertainers/ Celebrities We Lost In 2017

It always seems to sink in at the end of the year when you read the list of popular Canadian personalities we have lost. There are many here who may not have contributed to the country music genre but are most definitely famous Canadian artists who have made a contribution as artists, broadcasters, singers, musicians, or have been a part of the industry in some form. This list is not as big as some years and maybe that is a good thing. Nonetheless, there may be a few famous and not as famous, people that you may recognize. As Canadians, we will always remember them for their achievements and for some, the joy of music they left for us. Once again, I apologize if I have left anyone off this list.

John Dunsworth, 72, actor, was best known as the comic drunk, **Mr. Lahey**, on the world famous, Trailer Park Boys TV show. He also was a movie actor and was from Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. **Skip Prokop**, 74, was the founder, leader and drummer for the famous 60's/70's Toronto rock band Lighthouse. Lighthouse featured a horn section, gained international recognition and won 3 Juno Awards. Award winning fiddler/guitarist, **Nathan Condon**, 32, was also a singer. He played everything from Celtic to old time country and rock. Beloved Acadian singer/songwriter, **Denis Richard** died at age 55. **Daisy Sweeney**, 92, was a pianist. She taught her brother Oscar Peterson, how to play piano. **Gerry Lacoursiere**, 80, was the head of A & M Records in Canada. As a record exec., he helped launch the careers of Bryan Adams, Rita MacNeil, Jann Arden and many others. CBC Radio host of the Vinyl Café', humorist and author, **Stuart McLean**, 69, was a CBC institution. Stuart's Newfoundland drawl helped many Canadian musicians and groups get their music out to the Canadian masses on radio and on the Vinyl Café' road tours. **Trish Doan**, 31, bassist for the famous Canadian heavy metal band Kittie was originally from South Korea before making her home in Canada. **Steve Lang**, 68, was bassist for rock band April Wine. He replaced original bass gui-



Our Pet Juliette died in 2017.

tarist Jim Clench in 1976 and played with them until 1984. **Stuart Hamilton**, 87, was an award winning Cdn. pianist. He was also a broadcaster and famous operatic vocal coach as well. **Kenny Shields**, 69, became the lead singer for the Winnipeg based rock band, Streetheart. The band recorded and toured Canada extensively. They garnered 6 gold and 4 platinum recordings as well as a Juno award, and had hits with *Hollywood*, *Under My Thumb*, and *Here Comes the Night*. Kenny died from a serious heart condition just prior to playing a farewell concert in the band's hometown of Regina, Saskatchewan. The ever-popular **Juliette Cavazzi**, 91, hosted one of Canada's most popular TV shows called 'Juliette'. It always followed Hockey Night In Canada every Saturday night on CBC. An attractive singer, Juliette would always play host to many Canadian entertainers and musicians on her show. **Gord Downie**, 53, rock singer/songwriter, musician, writer, and activist. Gord was the lead singer/lyricist for the Canadian rock band The Tragically Hip. (from Kingston Ont.) They recorded 14 albums and garnered 16 Juno Awards. They had several hits songs on Canadian radio including *New Orleans Is Sinking*, *Bobcaygeon*, *Ahead by a Century* and many others. Gord and the band members all received the Order of Canada. Not long after a Canada wide farewell tour and one final concert in Kingston, Gord Downie died from terminal brain cancer. He became a Canadian icon along with many of his Canadian contemporaries.

Last Barn Dance of the Year At the Hepworth Shallow Lake Legion, Oct. 29, 2017



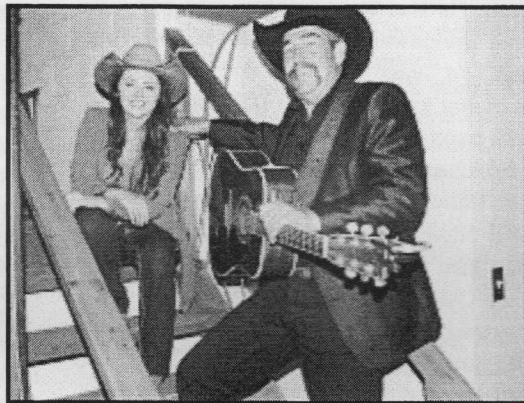
Now this is what you call properly dressed for a Barn Dance, Shirley Glousher from Chesley.



Mitchell's own Randy Satchell sings one of his own songs 'Two Little Girls'.



Linsey Beckett and Bill Norris do a little fiddling back-up for Larry Mercey.



Naomi was coming down from the stage as Paul Weber was going up, which prompted this photo op.



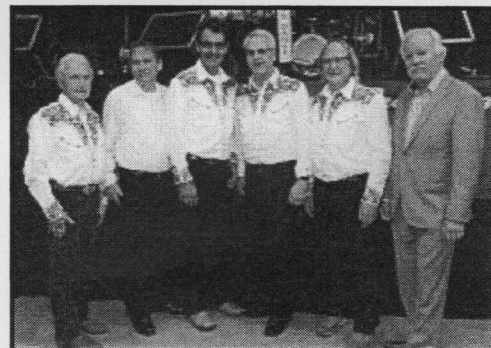
Tyler Beckett, mother Maria Beckett, Linsey Beckett (with her Heritage Award) and father John Beckett.



Barn Dance Heritage Award winner, Linsey Becket, smiling and bowing the strings.



Jim Swan giving the last song to Larry Mercey.



The Barn Dance Show Band (L-R) Bill Norris, Fiddle; Roger Williamson, Lead Guitar; Al Alderson, Bass; Doug Dietrich, Steel Guitar; Grant Heywood, Drums; and MC Jim Swan.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- * **Jan. 20, Feb 17, March 17, April 21 & May 19** - Open mic, door prizes, and spot dances at the Royal Canadian Legion br. 238, 23 Veterans Way, Fenelon Falls, ON 705-887-3041. For more details, call Kimberly Love 705-731-0843.
- * **Appearances as follows for group, Silver Wings, with well known, Linda Wells, Roy Penney and Derek Pilgrim** - Jan. 14 at the Moose Lodge, on Lakeshore and Hwy 27, Mississauga, ON. Jan. 27 at the Army, Navy and Airforce, located at 765 Third St. Mississauga, ON. Feb. 24 Royal Canadian Legion, br. 11, located at 9 Dawes Rd., Toronto, ON. March 3 at the Army, Navy, Airforce located at 765 Third St. Mississauga, ON. March 12 at the Royal Canadian Legion, br 344, located at 1395 Lake Shore Blvd. W., Toronto, ON. March 24 at the Royal Canadian Legion, br. 11, located at 9 Dawes Rd., Toronto, ON. March 31 at the Army, Navy, Airforce, located at 765 Third St. Mississauga, ON.
- * **February 11th** - Stories & Songs of Stompin' Tom featuring Whiskey Jack, from 1-4 pm, located at Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON in Hugh's Room 2261 visit their website www.hugh'sroom.com or call 416-533-5483.
- * **Friday, Saturday and Tuesdays** - For country music entertainment. Open mic at Big Daddy's, 400 Elgin Mills Rd. E., Richmond Hill, ON from 9:30 - 1pm. On Tuesdays all genres welcome, newbies, including solo, duo, build your own band from 8:30 - 12:30. Visit their website at www.yropenmic.com
- * **Barn Dance Shows** - March 25, Listowel Ag. Hall, 2 p.m., April 15, K of C Hall, Walkerton, 2 p.m., May 6, Purple Hill, Thorndale, 2 p.m., May 24-27 Campout Jamboree, Blyth, June 10, Commercial Tavern, Maryhill, 3 p.m.
- * **The First Sunday of the Month** - At Warminster, ON, will be having a jamboree.
- * **The second Sunday of the month** - Shelburne Arena, with Greg Holmes.
- * **The third Tuesday of every month** - Formerly Rosemont Hall, now at Rec Centre bypass in Alliston, ON.
- * **Third Thursday of the month** - Thornton jamboree. Located upstairs in the Thornton Arena.
- * **Fourth Tuesday of the month** - Bond Head Jamboree.

* **Second Sunday of the month** - Jamboree and dance with Don Celsie. Located at the Army, Navy, Airforce in Barrie, ON.

* **Fourth Wednesday of the month** - Country music jam from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Rec Centre in Alliston, ON.

* **Second Tuesday of the month** - previously at Rosemont jamboree/fiddle, now at Rec. Centre in Alliston, ON. Bring your musical instruments at 7 p.m.

* **Every Thursday** - At Parkview Senior Centre, 189 Blake St., Barrie, ON. Old time senior dance starts at 1:30. Set band, not a jam. Call 705-737-0755 for more details.

* **First Wednesday of the month** - Oshawa/Whitby old time fiddle club. Located at 589 Water St., Haydeshore Pavilion. Jam/dance starts at 6:15 p.m. Call Marg 905-728-6646 for more information.

* **Every Tuesday** - Square dancing from 7 - 9 p.m. at the community centre in Katrine, ON. Call 705-636-7019 for more details.

* **July 12 - 15** - Annual Norwood Country Jamboree. Call 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097. Located at 48 Alma St., Norwood Fair Grounds, Visit them online at; www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com (first come, first served for reservations.)

* **For upcoming appearances at Caven's Alley Bar** - Located at 585B Lakeshore Rd, E, Mississauga, ON. Call 905-278-9108.

* **York region open mic** - Located at 1070 Major Mackenzie E, Richmond Hill, ON.

* **Purple Hill Country** - Opry, George and Anna Taylor and family. You're invited to upcoming show. Call 519-461-0538 or go online at purplehillcountryhall@gmail.com or on facebook www.facebook.com/purplehillcountryhall

* **For upcoming shows in Hensall** - Hensall Circle Jamborees 905-277-2902.

* **For upcoming appearances with Len Murphy** - Call Caribou Country at 705-259-1195.

* **Appearances of Joe Tucker and Second Wind** - Country music band, with down east style, call 905-855-3351.

* **Second Sunday of the month** - Upstairs in the Shelburne arena, at 1pm. Dancing, bring your musical instruments.

* **For the best in old time, fiddle, step-dance and country music entertainment** - Contact the Beckett family and friends at 519-372-0511.

* **Appearances of Naomi Bristow** - To see the yodelling cowgirl, call 905-729-0956.

* **For upcoming appearances of Echo Mountain** - with Lois and Bill White, call 613-372-2883.

* **Live entertainment for all occasions** - Country, variety, rock and roll, french and english songs, call Gisele for more details at 705-753-5225.

* **For upcoming appearances of Gerald**

Davidson - with the Country Versatiles schedule, call 519-539-2653 or go online at www.countryversatiles.com or email music550fair@hotmail.com

* **Square dance** - At the Active Living Centre. Located at 54 Dominion St., Bracebridge, ON. Starts at 1:30 pm. Set band, not a jam. Call Aggie Hendel 705-645-4213 for more information.

* **Carden fiddlers, jam session/dance** - In Carden Township, at the Community Centre in Lake Dalymple. Starts at 1 pm. Call 705-325-0009 for more details.

Please check the website www.thebardance.ca for our annual campout and list of barn dance bands' appearances.

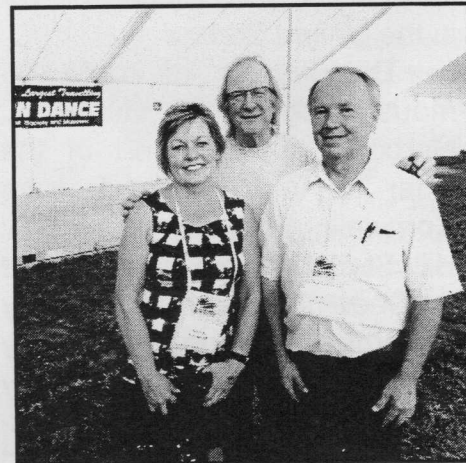
As I mentioned in my last column, my husband was very ill and sadly passed away on Oct 5th, 2017. Family and friends have been most supportive. When I am feeling stronger, I will return to my love of country music.

Wishing all a wonderful healthy and happy country music 2018 and will look forward to our next campout in May, see you then!



IN MEMORIAM

This past fall of 2017 Barn Dance director Doreen Armbruster lost her husband Delmar. As well, Barn Dance entertainer/columnist, Doreen Brown lost her husband David Dick after becoming ill. Our hearts go out to family and friends of Delmar and David. Condolences from the Barn Dance Historical Society.



Grant Heywood met up with his cousin Bob Heywood (R) and his wife Martha (L) at the Barn Dance Show at the Plowing Match in Walton this past fall.

Barn Dance Corner

by Peter Saros

Trying to tear apart the tangled relationship between radio as a commercial communication technology and country as a commercial music form is about as easy as trying to isolate the plaintive wail and cry of bent strings from a steel guitar.

But try we must because understanding the history of broadcasting in Canada is essential to understanding the significance of the CKNX Barn Dance to Canada.

Starting with the history of radio broadcasting just makes sense. It predates the first commercial country recordings by nearly 20 years. It is also a stand-alone fascinating tale with significant Canadian content, and recall, the goal of this series of articles is to establish the Barn Dance as a distinctly special *Canadian* version of a radio show style made popular in the United States.

The history of radio famously begins with Guglielmo Marconi's transmission of the letter "s" in Morse code from Cornwall, England to Signal Hill, St. John's in Newfoundland on December 12, 1901 (as way of comparison, the first country music recording is generally agreed by historians to be Texas fiddlers Eck Roberston and Henry Gilliland's recording of "Sallie Gooden" backed with "Arkansas Traveller" (recorded

in the New York City offices of Victor Records.)

It is Canadian Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, however, who is credited with making the first broadcast of the human voice. A year before Marconi's Morse code transmission, Fessenden successfully spoke into a microphone in Cobb Island, Maryland for the first time and said, "One, two, three four. Is it snowing where you are Mr. Thiesen. If so, telegraph back and let me know." Thiessen, Fessenden's lab assistant, replied from a receiving station in Arlington, Virginia that it indeed was! Fessenden is also credited with broadcasting the first ever recording (Handel's "Largo" played on an Edison, a wax cylinder phonograph system) on Christmas Eve in 1906. That historic broadcast originated in Brant Rock, Massachusetts and was transmitted with the intent of reaching several United Fruit Company ships out at sea.

Despite these technological firsts, Fessenden was repeatedly betrayed by the Canadian government; he was denied patents and construction right to build wireless stations. Rather large American companies benefited from his work. This is important in establishing the early technological tension between the United States and Canada.

Following Fessenden's Christmas broadcast, a prescient editor of the *American Telephone Journal* said the following, "...the wireless telephone [radio] is admirably adapted to the transmitting of news, music, etc. As owing to the fact no wires are needed, simultaneous transmission to many subscribers can be affected as easily as to a few."

Though some time would pass before commercial radio would emerge riding the backs of news and entertainment as identified by the prophetic editor, it is there we will next turn our attention in the spring edition of *The Barn Dance Opera Journal*. Again there will be an interesting play-off between the American and Canadian broadcast stations. Perhaps most interestingly we will begin to see the importance of radio to rural communities.

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