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The Barn Dance Opera Journal



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25th Anniversary Edition

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FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO NOSTALGIC REVIVAL

by Grant Heywood



The CKNX Barn Dance Gang (circa 1949) Steel guitar - Lloyd Bank, fiddle/vocals - Ward Allen, guitar/vocals - Jack Kingston, guitar/vocals Earl Heywood, fiddle/vocals Mel Lavigne, accordion/piano/vocals Bill Mankiss.

When Doc Cruikshank started the CKNX Barn Dance back in 1937, he relied on local talent to provide the musical entertainment, in sustaining CKNX radio station's appeal on air, and eventually on stage. The Barn Dance back in those days was infantile in its conception, but with the power of radio, it soon grew to become the main source for entertainment on a local scale, in southwestern Ontario. Nobody knew at that time that the CKNX Barn Dance would become such a success, drawing several prominent musicians and entertainers to the small town of Wingham.

It was through the mid 1940's and well into the 1950's that the CKNX Barn Dance really hit its stride and was at its zenith. These were the golden years for sure. I was born in 1951, and I can still remember much of the Barn Dance throughout the mid 1950's until its demise in 1963. My mother would take me to many Barn Dance Shows when they were within the local area to save on getting a sitter. Often, my dad (Earl Heywood) would take me backstage to meet all the musicians and per-

formers. Being such a young age, I looked at the Barn Dance shows as being somewhat of a circus type atmosphere. When you're a kid, everything is larger than life and the Barn Dance always seemed to have this aura of excitement when they performed to packed halls.

To many of the people who listened to the Saturday night broadcasts of the Barn Dance live over radio, it was akin to listening to the Grand Ole Opry. Everyone associated with the Barn Dance knowingly, or unknowingly, had this persona of appeal with the general public. Some folks took it for granted that this was the 'star quality' lifestyle that many of the Barn Dance entertainers lived in real day to day life. Nothing could be further from the truth.

My dad was Canada's No. 1 Singing Cowboy whenever he performed on the Barn Dance or radio, but he was just my dad when he was at home. By day, he wrote radio commercials and looked after the farm market reports on CKNX radio. He also had a television show called Range Rider, on CKNX TV, where he would talk about cowboy life and showcase

short Hollywood westerns featuring the likes of Gene Autrey, Rex Allen, Bob Baker, Roy Rogers & others. Dad later went on to host a CKNX FM Radio country music show and previous to that, he was Santa Claus on CKNX T.V.

Others who worked with the CKNX Barn Dance also had 'day jobs'. Barn Dance emcee, Johnny Brent was a CKNX radio sportscaster and was associated with the WOOA. Clark Johnson, the Singing Irishman, was a farmer just outside Belgrave, Ont. The steel guitarist for the band was Danny Grummet. Danny used to make steel guitars in his spare time, but later when the Barn Dance was winding down in 1963, he started the popular Turnberry Restaurant just outside of Wingham. Barn Dance accordionist/piano player, Hap Swatridge, also worked at CKNX during the daytime hours and was a local church organist.

Ernie King, of the CKNX Ranch Boys, ran a fishing camp at Silver Lake, near Hollyrood, Ontario. Ross Man was the fiddler for the Ranch Boys, and he started a music store in the Bluevale where he lived and raised his family. Years later, Ernie King started Ernie King Music Store in Wingham, Ontario. Don & Cora Robertson were husband & wife respectively, and both were mainstays of the CKNX Ranch Boys. Before the Ranch Boys success on CKNX TV with Circle 8 Ranch, both Don & Cora ran the Bluevale Creamery by day and performed onstage at night. It must've been grueling.

Some of the musicians were lucky enough to find work on a semi-fulltime basis with CKNX radio in the early years when they would broadcast live music throughout the day. I remember as a kid, when The Heywood Family would do a live Christmas radio show from the radio station on Josephine Street in Wingham. People would stand on the main street and peer through the window on the outside of the station to catch a glimpse of us singing over the airwaves. It was almost magical when I think back on those days.

During those 'golden' days of the CKNX Barn Dance, my dad had a regular radio program on CKNX with the Serenade Ranch

Continued on Page 3

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



I'm sure everyone has had their fill of winter, what with snow, freezing temps, rain, ice, freezing temps, more snow, more ice, more rain etc. etc. I likely could have had an NHL game played on our driveway, the ice was so thick. Oh well, we'll most likely be complaining about the heat in the coming months. Variety is the spice of life they say, and so is the weather in Canada.

This past winter my snow blower quit on me and it was too expensive to be repaired. I was lucky enough to have my daughter's boyfriend deliver a brand new snow blower before the snow got too high in the driveway. Boy, I sure am lucky. I don't think we really got a mid-winter thaw this year at all. No wonder the snow was compacted with ice, and then snow and then more ice.....and then more snow. It was an endless cycle for sure, but the farmers will appreciate having the snow add moisture to the soil.

Next door to our country property is a Mennonite farm just across the gravel side road. Jantzi's have had a regulation sized skating rink there for the past several years, complete with boards, floodlights,and yes, even a Zamboni. They acquired the Zamboni when the Milverton Arena got a new one. It was great winter weather for the skaters this year and many a hockey game was played there on chilly nights. There is a big barrel of hockey

sticks to choose from just before you step onto the ice and a shed behind the barn with benches to put your skates on, complete with a pot belly stove and hot apple cider. Truly, a Canadian winter tradition.

We supplement our heat at home with an air tight wood stove and went through two bush cord of wood this year. I get my wood from a local Mennonite neighbor so I'm never short on wood. There's something about hunkering down on a cold winter night with stove full of wood keeping things warm. Our mailbox got knocked off several times from the wing of the snow plow so I ended up just strapping it to the post with a bungee cord until the snow was all gone. I'll fix it once the snow is gone.

I finally put snow tires on our SUV this winter and I'm glad I did. Usually, I drive with all-season tires on in the winter since the SUV is AWD and it hasn't been an issue. I think it's wise to have snow tires as you just never know what kind of a winter we'll have and this past winter proved I really needed them.

I put a bird feeder at the back of our house which is close to the patio door. The cat just loved to sit there staring and chattering as the chickadees, nuthatches, pine siskins, blue jays, juncos, and cardinals, all came to the feeding station. It was funny to watch the cat's reaction every time a bird came close to the patio door. I love watching the birds too, and now that I'm semi-retired I can take the time to enjoy nature.

I think that spring is finally upon us, and that means people getting out and about and attending some of our Barn Dance Shows. If you check our schedule below or online at thebardance.ca, you might want to attend some of the shows that may be in your area. If you have friends

that have never been to a Barn Dance Show, then it might be a good idea to treat them to a really fun time of top notch entertainment with real country music.

It's always a good time at every Barn Dance Show I get to perform at. We've all met so many people and made some long lasting friendships. Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:
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E-mail: heywoods@explornet.ca
or send a message on facebook.

The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment

Museum

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Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 530-8000

(or leave a message)

BARN DANCE WEBSITE:

www.thebardance.ca

Earl Heywood

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2019 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
Sun., March 31	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Listowel Agricultural Hall, Listowel
Sun., April 14	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Cargill & District Community Centre, Cargill
Sun. May 5	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Purple Hill Country Hall, Thorndale
Thurs.-Sun. May 23 - 26	Annual Campout Jamoree	Blyth Arena and Campgrounds, Blyth
Sun, Oct. 20	Barn Dance Show - 3:00 p.m.	Commercial Tavern, Maryhill
Sun. Nov. 24	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Heritage Hall, Hensall

Continued from Page 1

Gang, which was broadcast live every week. It wasn't uncommon for the CKNX Barn Dance gang to be playing dances throughout the week as well. Their itinerary might go something like this: Tues. night Carlsrue Community Centre, Wed. night Bayfield Beach Pavilion, Thurs. night Harriston arena, Friday night Mitchell Crystal Palace, Sat. night Port Elgin Casino live radio broadcast, etc. etc. Because of radio, and live music radio shows on CKNX, the Barn Dance musicians could be working playing music as much as the demand would allow. They were golden years for sure, but it soon began to diminish with the increase of record labels insisting their artists be played exclusively on radio stations including CKNX 920, and the advent and popularity of television didn't help either.

By this time, many of the musicians who were dedicated to the CKNX Barn Dance, either had to settle down to a regular job or find musical employment elsewhere. Resident fiddler, Al Cherney, with the CKNX Barn Dance and Western Roundup TV show, was fortunate to become the full time fiddler on CBC's Tommy Hunter Show. Piano player with the Ranch Boys, Reg Bitton, became the resident organ player for CKNX television programming and Circle 8 Ranch. Some stayed in the area and worked other jobs, while others scattered to find employment outside of the local area. The bubble had burst and it was time to move on.

I think it was in the late 70's and possibly the early 1980's that recording artist, Richard Knechtel of Walkerton, helped initiate in putting on some revival Barn Dance shows including Ernie King and others. It wasn't easy trying to locate some of the original Barn Dance performers as some were nowhere to be found and a few had passed on. These shows attracted an audience locally but eventually fizzled out.

Since the original CKNX Barn Dance was now history, both TV media and a play called 'Barn Dance Live' had sold out performances at the Blyth Theatre. There was no doubt, the Barn Dance was garnering nostalgic interest throughout the CKNX broadcasting area. Timing is everything. It didn't take long for my dad (Earl Heywood) to realize that there was a genuine curiosity & interest in the Barn Dance. And so it was. Around 1996, my mom & dad tried raising money by having handmade quilt draws at various events and fairs. They eventually got some local interest and put together a board of directors and started the Barn Dance Museum in the Wingham Armories. Once the Barn Dance Historical Society was established in the late 1990's, the Barn Dance Shows were resurrected to help shoulder the cost of funding the new Barn Dance Museum on Josephine St. in Wingham. The rest is history, they say, and the Barn Dance continues to this very day.

WHO REMEMBERS THIS?

by Grant Heywood

*As years go by, we start to take things for granted. This is a column for the Barn Dance Journal where I reminisce about paraphernalia, or lack of a better word, **stuff**, from days gone by.*

Grocery shopping has become a ritual for many of us over the years. Let's face it, we all have to eat and grocery shopping is a necessity, unless you can afford to eat out every day.....not likely. I can remember back in my hometown of Wingham around the late 1950's, there were maybe 4 or 5 grocery stores in town. There was a Dominion store which got lost in a fire on the main street. Mundy's was also on the main street but carried more confectionary goods. We used to buy candy there when we were kids.

There was also a corner grocery store at the north end of town. An IGA store soon appeared after the Dominion store was lost in the fire. Bondi's fruit market was also a fixture on main street. And then there was Finnegan's Groceteria on Diagonal Rd., and our house was right behind it on Cornyn St. Grocery stores in those days weren't huge arena style buildings. They were usually quite a bit smaller and some only had two aisles. There was a cashier or maybe two at the front and a butcher meat counter near the rear. The odd time you might find a smaller grocery store in a local town or village but most people nowadays go to the big supercenter grocery stores, complete with a bakery, meat counter, cake shop, pharmacy, flower shop, seafood counter, deli, and some even have banking services, clothing, electronics, cafe's, and hardware.

Times sure have changed since the old days. We used to get our groceries in big brown paper bags and our milk came in bottles. Even the grocery carts were smaller and not strewn all over the neighborhood and parking lots. Most often when you wanted cold cuts, it was never pre-packaged. You'd just tell the person behind the meat counter how many slices you wanted. We never put our vegetables or fruit in plastic bags either. It was a simpler time for sure and you never felt rushed to get through the store in record time so you could be first in line at the cashier.

I know in Wingham, that grocery stores never felt compelled to compete with the local butcher

shops, bake shops or dairies. Everyone was just trying to make a living and no one stepped on each other's territory. When people would go shopping in small towns they would quite often talk to one another and almost everybody knew each other. There was no such thing as a duplicate on things like loaf of bread or a list of ingredients on a box of cereal. We trusted that what we were eating was good for us or it wouldn't be advertised and displayed on the shelves.

That sure has changed today. I think it's a good thing that we have regulations that tell us what is in the food we consume. It has made most folks aware that you really are what you eat. Too many chemicals, MSG, salt, sugar etc. does not make for a healthy diet. Many, including my own family have resorted to eating organic food. It used to be quite expensive but since its popularity it has come down in price. Even packaging with plastic is starting to turn a corner, and cans and bottles and re-usable containers are making a comeback.

I guess the smaller grocery stores of yesterday weren't so backward after all. It seems that we are realizing that today, with the advent of specialized organic food stores, and the 'buy from your local farmer' attitude lately. Some places in Europe have adopted a project where leftover food at grocery stores is not wasted and given to the needy. We can only hope that this trend might happen in Canada. I believe there is an overabundance of food in the world, it's just not distributed properly. No one should go to bed hungry.

THE BARN DANCE MUSEUM

The Barn Dance Museum at 273 Josephine St. Wingham, is open for viewing by appt.
Contact: Dave Wall at 519-357-1016.

CD Review - Michael T. Wall

Island of Newfoundland

Michael T. Wall has been a fixture on the Canadian country/folk music scene for well over ½ a century. Known as the 'Singing Newfoundlander', Michael is a balladeer who has performed mainly throughout Canada and in the last several years, Australia as well. To say that Michael T. Wall doesn't get around, is an understatement. His original songs are usually about the Maritimes and especially his home province of Newfoundland.

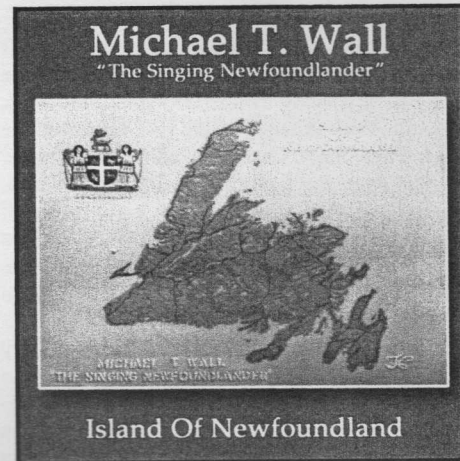
This collection of 18 songs is a reflection of many of the songs he has recorded about Newfoundland, also known as 'The Rock'. There are songs on this cd you may have heard before, such as original songs, *Memories of the Newfie Bullet*, *Cajun Queen*, *My Pretty Newfie Girl*, and *The Mighty Vikings Came To Newfoundland*, which was co-written with his daughter, Sabrina and Fay Herridge. Many of the other songs are by Canadian songwriter Roy Payne, and others, such as *Island of Newfoundland* by Burt Cuff, *This Old Guitar of Mine* by Graham Rodger, *The Newfie Sheik* by Larry Coad, just to name a few. Michael even pays homage to the late, great, Stompin' Tom Connors, with *The Hockey Song*, on this cd col-

lection.

If you are from Newfoundland or have even visited this lovely east coast province, then these songs will resonate with you for sure. The songs are all done in a 'down home' style that seems to suit Michael to a 'T'. (no pun intended) The cd closes out with *Ode To Newfoundland*, which has become an official national anthem of Newfoundland.

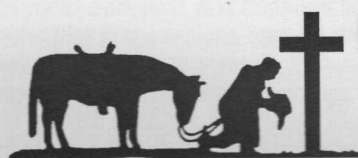
This latest cd is just one of several that Michael T. Wall has recorded over the long span of his career. His performances have also included Barn Dance Shows over the years as well. Michael continues to do what he does best, singing about Newfoundland. ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND is on Country Roads Records & distributed by Heritage Music.

To obtain a copy of this cd, or find out more about Michael T. Wall, e-mail Michael at: mr.nfld99@gmail.com



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MUSICAL FRIENDS GONE WAY TOO SOON

by Grant Heywood

I must be showing my age, but this winter was the worst for losing musical friends. Within a 6 week span, I lost 3 truly great friends, and I'm still dealing with the loss.

At age 51, Ross Mulligan of Stratford was a true virtuoso on guitar & bass. Ross was somewhat reserved and I only knew and played with Ross for a short time. It was unexpected to say the least, and Ross was just much too young to die. The sudden passing of Ross is a big loss for many in the Stratford area.

Bruce Gibb, of Parry Sound was indeed a 'one of a kind' musician. He was outspoken but full of creative ideas on guitar. I played with Bruce in Full Steam Ahead & in the studio. Bruce was always generous and it wasn't a surprise to hear he gave his body to science for study at the U of T. Like a mountain man, I can see Bruce riding his old Norton motorcycle to this day.

Dave Ferri, of Georgian Bluffs, was about as good as it gets when you want someone who could play guitar or do audio/video production. Dave was THE man. I played with Dave in a group called Stormcrow in Toronto, along with Wendell Ferguson. Dave was kind, generous, funny, and knew his stuff when it came to big or small productions at Orchard Sound Studios. Dave has worked on many video casts, cd's, live streaming and television production. And he worked with some of the top names in the business as well. But most of all he was a husband to Geri and a father to son Adam. Dave was only 64 and it was nice to see him honoured at the recent Juno Awards Show. His memory will undoubtedly continue at Big Bay Sound with Adam at the helm.



Earl and Marth Heywood with Michael T. Wall



Ernie King

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CD - Vol. 1	\$15.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 2	\$15.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 3	\$15.00 ea.
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E-mail: webmaster@thebardance.ca

ERNIE KING MUSIC TO CLOSE IN WINGHAM ONLY GODERICH LOCATION OPEN FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL

It was kind of expected, but certainly sad to hear, that Dave & Marie Wallace had decided to close the Wingham location of Ernie King Music store. Ernie King Music location in Goderich will continue to operate as usual, and you might even see Dave there doing some instrument repairs.

Both Dave & Marie put their heart and soul into Ernie King Music in Wingham. With changing times and the constant repairs, and sound equipment rentals operations, it became just a little too much to handle, especially when retirement was waving at them

through the window.

I think it's a good move for both Dave & Marie, as Dave will still be dabbling in the business as their son operates the Goderich location. The store will be greatly missed in Wingham, and the Barn Dance has always appreciated the good will that both Dave & Marie have shown to the Barn Dance Historical Society. We wish them much success in their retirement or semi-retirement. Please visit Ernie King Music in Goderich. Personal service is un-matched.

THE BARN DANCE OPERA JOURNAL TURNS 25

This is the 100th edition of the Barn Dance Opera Journal. It's hard to believe that the 'B.D. Journal' has been around for so long. Back when my dad (Earl Heywood) was starting the Barn Dance shows and eventually spearheading the Barn Dance Historical Society, he was editor for a small 4 page newsletter about the Barn Dance. With the help of longtime friend, Lynn Russwurm, the Barn Dance Opera Journal was conceived, and Lynn became the official editor.

I think it was around early to mid, 2000, that Lynn resigned as editor in chief and just became official historian and contributor. I remember quite distinctly being kicked under the table by Barn Dance board director, Wayne Otterbein, when the subject of who would take over the Barn Dance Journal, came up. With a sharp pain in my leg, and a show of no hands, I submitted to the challenge and have been here ever since.

And what a challenge it has been. I was finally able to put my Conestoga College Journalism experience to work. I really enjoyed receiving help from Lynn Russwurm on many of the stories and subject matter. Lynn was a true historian, not only about the Barn Dance history, but country music history in general. When Lynn passed on, a whole bunch of history and knowledge went with him, and it was a loss of major proportions. Lynn and I became quite close over the years and I still miss him to this day.

I have done my best to make the Barn Dance Opera Journal an interesting read for everyone, and sometimes I even get on my soapbox to stir the pot a bit. It has certainly been a fun ride and I hope to continue as long as it lasts. Feel free to let me know what you think. Oh yes, and...Happy 25th Birthday.

COUNTRY MUSIC MEMORIES



The Ranch Boys from left to right; fiddler Archie Mann, accordion/piano/vocals Reg Bitton, bass/guitar/vocals Don Robertson, Square dance caller George Jordan, fiddle/guitar/vocals Ross Mann, guitar/vocals Ernie.



The Serenade Ranch Gang in 1951: left to right; fiddle/vocals Mel Levigne, guitar/vocals Jack Kingston, accordion/piano/vocals Bill Mankiss, steel guitar Lloyd Bank, fiddle/vocals Ward Allen, and out in front guitar/vocals Earl Heywood.



CFRA "Happy Wanderers" left to right sitting: Joe Brown, Ward Allen, Vince Lebeau, Bob King. Standing: Lynn Strauff, Ken Reynolds.



The Barn Dance Band in the mid 2000's. Left to right; drummer/vocals Grant Heywood, bass/guitar/vocals Lynn Russwurm, fiddler Mike Slauenwhite, fiddler Victor Pasowisty, guitar/vocals Lance Russurm, steel guitar Ron Coulthard (out front).

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Barn Dance Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m.

At David Carson Farms
& Auction Services Ltd.

5631, Perth Line 86, Listowel, Ontario.
(2 km east of Listowel on HWY 86)

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

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown
(Toronto and surrounding area)

- * **Apr 2** - Barrie Thornton fiddle club jam/dance upstairs at the Thornton arena, starts 7 p.m.
- * **Apr 10, 17 and 24** - Square Dancing at the Active Living Centre, 54 Dominion St Bracebridge, ON. Dance starts 1:30 pm. Set band, not a jam. For more info call Aggie Helnel 705-645-4213.
- * **Apr 14** - Barn Dance Show at 2 pm in the Cargill District Community Centre.
- * **Apr 23** - Bond Head fiddle club jam session/dance at the community hall, starts at 7 pm. For more info call 519-941-2134.
- * **Apr 24** - Jam session/dance at the Royal Canadian Legion in Dundalk, ON, starts 1 pm, roast beef supper 4:30. For more info call 519-923-3406.
- * **April/May issue of Our Canada magazine** - They are doing a story on Michael T. Wall.
- * **May 23 - 26** - Annual Barn Dance Historical Society, box 68, Wingham, ON, N0G 2W0. Call 519-533-8000 or online www.thebarndance.ca Blyth campground presents a weekend of music, fun, enjoying entertainment, chatting with old and new friends. Friday night bluegrass show and open stage 1. Saturday night 12 - 3 open stage, 7:30 barn dance stage show Sunday 10 a.m. gospel show.
- * **June 14 - 16** - 36th Annual Tottenham Bluegrass Festival. Conservation area, Tues-Fri, call 905-936-4100, or toll free 1-888-8886-4566. PO box 922 L0G 1W0. Two concert areas to enjoy bluegrass music played by 20 groups across Canada and USA. Tickets on sale online at www.tottenhambluegrass.ca children's talent show sat afternoon and gospel show. Line up: Nothin' Fancy, The Special Consensus, Canucky Bluegrass Boys, The Foggy Hogtown Boys, The Bluegrass Unit, Hard Ryde, Maple Hill, Darin Parise And The Maple Sugar Sweethearts, Beet-on Creek Rising, Switchback Road.
- * **July 4 - 7** - 13th Annual Hollywood Country Jamboree located at 901 Harmony Rd, Belleville, ON. Email hollywood901@hotmail.com or call 613-967-9951 <http://www.hollywoodjamboree.com>.
- * **July 18 - 21** - Norwood Jamboree. On the 18 - Angie Austin; Sanda Glabb; Kent Hodgins; Will Murray; Kristen Scott; 19 - Becky Elliott; Murray Williams; Chuck Simms; Randy Satchell, Mark Laforme; 20 - Steve Smith; Dusty King, Jr; Brian Moon; Scotty Gartshore, Hecktor Sturgeon; 21 - Gospel Hour (to be announced), Darlene

Brooks, Gord Youmans, Gloria Downer Pearson. Visit the website at www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com for more info.

- * **July 25 - 28** - Annual Pickin in the Park, Shelburne, ON., Call Gregg or Heather 519-925-3037. Bring your musical instruments for a weekend of music and fellowship for the day or weekend. Bring chairs and sun hat. beauty contest Fri night ice cream social on Saturday. Country music all weekend. trail trash yard sale from truck or vehicle Saturday a.m. daily raffle table. Go online for more details www.pickininthe-park-webs.com. \$ 10.00 per day. Appreciation to Gregg and Heather for supporting our country music. also to the Shelburne freelancer for their support visit.
- * **Aug 1 - 3** - Hitchin Post Country Jamboree in Grafton, ON.
- * **Aug. 1 - 5** - Tweed Stampede and Jamboree at 12 pm. Located at 15 Trudeau lane, Tweed, ON K0K 3J0 Headliners; John Michael Montgomery and Craig Mogan. For more info go online to www.tweedstampedandjamboree.com.
- * **Aug 15 - 18** - 30th Anniversary for the Annual Havelock Country Jamboree. Hosted by George Canyon. For tickets call 1-800-539-3353. Canada's largest live outdoor country music and camping festival. Go online for the line up at www.havelockcountryjamboree.com
- * **Old time fiddle club, jam and dance** - Oshawa/Whitby, Wilson Rd and Dean St, 517 Tennyson Ave Kingside Park at 6:00 pm. For more info call Marg at 905-728-6646.
- * **Canadian Olde Yme Square Dance Callers Assoc.**, - celebrates over 60 years of traditional Canadian square dancing at the Royal Canadian Legion in Dundalk, ON. Jam session/dance, dance starts at 10.
- * **Live Band** - Westway United Church at 8 Templar Dr., Etobicoke, ON. For info call George Betts 414-247-1277.
- * **Appearances by Wolfe Milestone** - Music for all occasions band back to back. Call Wolfe at 647-667-4643.
- * **For upcoming shows** - contact George and Anna Taylor and family at 519-461-0538 or email purplehillcountryhall@gmail.com or online at www.facebook.com/purplekhillcountryhall. www.shelburnefreelancerarchives.com.
- * **Michael T. Wall** - Canada's singing Newfoundland, has a new CD released called Island of Newfoundland. Includes a song titled "sinking of the titanic", a true story. This CD receives airplay by Big Al Field in Australia, also in Wales, Germany, Poland and Belgium.
- * **Well known radio DJ, Allan Kellett** - Australia recently announced on his show Doreen Brown's CD review in our Barn Dance Journal, when reading this, Allan, thank you kindly for the support in Canada's largest travelling barn dance.
- * **Big Al Field** - Sunday evening country home-stated radio, also Peter Trenholm, should haven triple u fm radio have been playing numerous well known Canadian artists music, many of whom have shared the barn dance stage. Much

appreciation and thanks to wonderful DJ's that play our music - as outlined in Michael T. Wall's penned song, "thank you mister DJ".

- * **For upcoming shows at the Newfoundland Club** - on Birchmount Rd and Danforth Rd, Scarborough, ON. Call 416-267-8406 for more info.
- * **July 18-21**, 4th Annual entertainment and open mic. 48 Alma St., Norwood Fair Grounds. Call 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097, or email info@norwoodcountryjamboree.com for further info. Open mic each day at 10:30 a.m. Norwood Fairgrounds provide an amazing line up of entertainers and open mic. On site vendors and amazing breakfast on Fri., Sat., Sun., a.m. by lion's club. Buffet on Fri. and Sat. The event is indoors, protecting from sun and rain with rough camping. Bring your own lawn chairs.
- * **Upcoming appearances** - contact rhyme n reason bluegrass and gospel. Call Stefan 905-517-7478.
- * **Appearances by Naomi Bristow** - The Yodelin Cowgirl email tienomo@hotmail.com for more info.
- * **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - Apr. 11 in Barrie/Thornton fiddle club at 7 pm in Thornton, ON. Apr. 18 and 23 in Holland Landing Jamboree. May 23-26 in the 22nd Annual Blyth Campout. Apr 24 in Bond Head, last Wednesday of the month. June 14-16 in Tottenham bluegrass, judging panel children's talent show. July 25-28, Pickin in the Park in Shelburne, ON
- * **19th Marmora Country Jamboree** - Visit their website at www.maarmorajamboree.com for line up.
- * **15th Annual Auction Barn Jamboree** - In Colborne, ON. Contact, Gary Warner by calling 905-355-2106 or email auctionbarnjamboree.ca.

As of this writing have been informed that the Classic Country Music Reunion no longer exists. Would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate for the past 27 years the work that has gone into this wonderful organization from it's inception. Some of the initial folks that I can remember were Earl and Martha Heywood, John Lester, the late Lorne Hachey, Chef Adams, Johnny Burke, and Gary Hooper. Well known artists have graced their stage for the regular show and gospel shows. It has been an honour to serve on the board of directors in the past. For those who run shows/jamborees your valuable knowledge of understanding the time and work to help make it a success for all who come to support our county music. For those who read our Barn Dance Journal. I feel that all who have supported the above deserve recognition and appreciation.

Sadly, on January 8th, I lost my wonderful sister, Joyce Morgan, she has had alzheimers for quite awhile and we had been very close over the years. She lived in Collingwood and had been a Real Estate agent for many years. Hopefully, next column will have more line ups for all who plan summer shows. Look forward to our Blyth Campout and thanks to all who come out to our annual jamboree. Your support is appreciated, making them a success. Have a great summer!

BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

I recently took my ten year old son to make his first autonomous music purchase at Sonic Boom, a music store at Queen and Spadina. He loved flipping through the newly arrived used albums and seeing what artists he recognized. Sonic Boom is Toronto largest independent music store and is great for a first time music buying experience as it has everything to provide a memorable sensory overload: rows of vinyl, aisles of cds, two floors of shopping, dvds, books, graphic novels, quirky clothing, technology and.....candy!

Once he finished cruising the DVD section, and experimenting with the music listening stations around the store, he settled upon his purchases. He bought Michael Jackson's *Bad*, a greatest hits compilation of the Monkees produced by Bell Records titled *The Monkees: Refocus*, and a two song collection of Force M.D. Songs titled *Itchin' For a Scratch* from a 1985 movie named *Rappin'*. Don't ask.

I consciously made no effort to guide his decisions. I think establishing a musical identity

all your own is important to children. I just supported him in making his choices. I certainly remember my first experiences with music as a kid. I was gifted with The Oak Ridge Boys' *Fancy Free* and Marty Robbins' *Greatest Hits Volume IV* on my eighth birthday in 1982. The first album I ever bought with my own money was Conway Twitty's *It's Only Make Believe 20 Great Songs*. Just being able to remember who you bought, and that first time experience of doing it, matters. Music lovers love to share that information. It defines an important moment in our life.

Come March Break my twelve year old wanted to buy his own first album. So off to Sonic Boom went the three of us this time. While riding the 501 streetcar across Queen Street I pointed out The Rex, The Horseshoe Tavern, and The Cameron House as points of musical interest and historical significance, no doubt boring them as only a dad can.

Once at the store, my eldest settled on Travis

Scott's *Astroworld* and J. Cole's *KOD*. My youngest just had to add Drake's *Scorpion* to his growing collection. Naturally, all three records came with parental advisory warnings for explicit lyrics. I had no idea what I was purchasing but they were happy to have it. That was the point. (My job is now to make sure their mother or grandmother never hears them listening to them!)

Of course, I couldn't come home without some vinyl of my own. I found two records by Charley Pride, *Roll on Mississippi* and *A Shiny Day with Charley Pride*. Listening to that wonderfully meandering and nostalgic title track from the first album reminded me of the magical power music almost single handedly has to bring us instantly to another place in our life. Music, in the best of ways, can make us feel like a child again. It can feel like a long lost friend.

That lesson is worth learning at a young age and bears repeating through the years.

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