



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

THE DAY THE MUSIC DIED... AND CAME BACK TO LIFE *by Grant Heywood*



The Barn Dance stage is set awaiting the next show.

On February 3, 2021, it will be 61 years ago that Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and The Big Bopper died in a plane crash near Clear Lake Iowa. A young Waylon Jennings who was a band member with Buddy Holly at the time, gave up his seat on the plane, not knowing the tragedy that would follow. Don McLean encapsulated that moment in time with his song American Pie... *the day the music died*. That was supposedly the day that rock & roll music died, and yet it had really just begun. But time stops for no one, and the music continued on leaving that legacy and tragedy in the dust, as if it were a faded memory.

thought it was some sort of conspiracy, but there wasn't a music industry, or internet, like we have today. Other than virtual concerts, live entertainment has stopped completely, at least in Canada.

Link that to the hospitality industry such as restaurants and clubs that are fighting to stay alive. Many have already thrown in the towel and there are many musicians who depend on these venues for jobs. Big concert venues like the Air Canada Centre or Budweiser Gardens, Centre In the Square, Guelph River Run Centre, Drayton Festival Theatre, Stratford Festival Theatre and several others, are completely shut down. Local community centres, Le-

gions, taverns, and outdoor festivals are in limbo. The operators, ticket people, stagehands, set designers, costume people, ushers, merchandisers, sound and lighting techs., security, parking attendants, food and drink staff, maintenance, roadcrew, and yes the entertainers, musicians, and actors, are all out of work.

It's almost like everything is frozen in time. We don't think about it when we are in lockdown and we can turn on the radio or select our music on satellite, computer or watch it on television. But the reality is... *the music died*. I know many musicians who are still learning or creating music, songwriting, (me included), but there are also those (especially older musicians) who are retiring early, as it could be 2, possibly 3 years before they will be able to perform like they did prior to this disaster. Then there are those who have to find employment elsewhere just to exist.

Being a musician always appears appealing to those in the audience, but it is a struggle just trying to make ends meet, especially if you are a full time musician. Practice schedules, driving to and fro, deadlines, instruments to pay for, instrument maintenance, insurance, costumes, rental fees, agent fees, transportation costs and countless hours of travel,



The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood

By now I expect most people have gotten used to the protocol required for Covid-19 in our daily lives. No doubt this pandemic has led to a lot of changes, and made us appreciate those who must work with Covid-19 patients and those who must work in an environment where they may be exposed to Covid-19. For those of us at home, I'm sure that 'cabin fever' is the least of our worries, although it may be a daily occurrence.

This year many of our snowbird friends will not be making the trip south as the border to the U.S. is still closed. This is an inconvenience for sure, but with the rate of infections in the U.S. it is likely a wise choice. Our government's, both federal and provincial are doing the best they can and with the vaccine now being distributed it will be some time before we see results and a leveling off period. For most of us, this can't come soon enough.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought out the best and worst in people from my observation. Because of what people absorb through social media, it somehow has made them think that we are either experiencing some kind of worldwide conspiracy to control the population, or that they are somehow more intelligent than scientists and doctors, and they know what is best for themselves. Anti-maskers, anti-vaccine people can believe what they want, but I believe the proof is right in front of them, but they just don't want to believe it. It's great that we live in an environ-

ment where any and all information is right at our fingertips, but much of that information is just a personal opinion or dare I say it 'fake news'.

The best I've seen in people are those who tirelessly work the front lines, those who are willing to help others in need, and those who volunteer without asking to make a difference. We call these people '*the unselfish*' and usually kind. Then there are those who only care about themselves, whine because they have to stand in a line, can't get a flight, have to wear a mask, think they are privileged, etc.. These people are just downright '*selfish*' and often rude. This kind of behavior is unacceptable and any attempt to kindly correct it will either result in confrontation or just more blatant arrogance and rudeness. Commonly called the '*you can't tell me what to do,*' syndrome.

The end of this pandemic can't come quick enough for everyone. What the world will look like when we come out from under it will be quite a different kind of normal than what we are used to, no doubt. It has been uneasy for most of us as we live in a fast paced world. But we shouldn't forget the huge loss of loved ones and those seriously affected by this virus. I hope that we all learn from this experience that we are not infallible and maybe we need to reassess our moral compass. Respect, love, tolerance, kindness, compassion, generosity, sympathy, and gratitude, are some of the many attributes that we as humans cannot live without. During these uncertain times, the greed of a morally lost, corrupt, and defeated political leader in the U.S., has cast a shadow on what hope and goodness can do to uplift a society. Lest we forget.

Music plays a big part as well, and

we could use more of that right now. When the Barn Dance Shows are operating once again, you will see friends and neighbours with happy smiles and a genuine love for each other and for the music we've all missed for way too long. Personally, for me and my musician friends, the anticipation of playing live once again is at an all-time high. I can't wait until we are all able to get together when we hear Barn Dance emcee, Jim Swan say... '*From coast to coast, people love old time music most.*' It's then that we'll know that we are back in our happy spot. Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:
Grant Heywood
5584 Deborah Glaister Line,
R. R. #2, Wellesley, Ontario N0B 2T0
Phone: (519) 656-2552
E-mail: heywoods@xplomet.ca
or send a message on facebook.

The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

P.O. Box 68
Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0
Phone (519) 530-8000
(or leave a message)
BARN DANCE WEBSITE:
www.thebardance.ca

Earl Heywood
Founder and Honourary President

Executive Board:

President: Ruth Baxter
1st Vice President: Betty Beer Van Roy
2nd Vice President: Richard Holm
Secretary: Ron Coulthard
Treasurer: Gord Baxter

Directors:

Doug Dietrich, Grant Heywood, Carol Shaw, Bill Simmermaker, David Wall, Ron Shaw, Doreen Armbruster and John Smith.

2021 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
May, 2021	23rd Annual Campout Jamoree	Blyth Arena and Campgrounds, Blyth
June 19, 2021	Barn Dance Show - 7:00 p.m.	Elma-Logan Arena, Monkton

Continued on Page 1

practice, recording, arranging, etc. just to entertain people for 2 or 3 hours. Most people wouldn't even consider putting in the time for a below average wage when everything is considered. But musicians and actors do it because they **really do love what they do.**

Many of our local country groups like Gerald Davidson & the Country Versatiles, Dianne Ditner & the Cavaliers, Fred Lewis & Ridin' High, Jim & Cindy Dixon, Southbound, Sunrise, Western Swing Authority, and yes, The Commercial Tavern in Maryhill, with Paul, Mike, & Sue Weber, are all 'on hold' for most of 2020... part of 2021? or beyond. It really is the unknown that we truly fear. Nobody usually likes change, but when it is thrust upon you like this pandemic, you have no say in it at all, it makes you feel helpless.

I know many musicians who had a full slate of dates to play this past year, including the Barn Dance Shows and now everyone must wait and hope that it will turn around soon. **The music will come back**, but it might not take the same form as before. Until this virus is eradicated and everyone is vaccinated, music will come back at a slow crawl at first and eventually with a roaring vengeance. In times like these it is the power of music that gets people through times like these. Maybe there won't be any huge concerts for quite a while but I personally enjoy performing for people in a more intimate setting. Big music stars are hurting too, but they still maintain their reputation and drawing power and can coast on their bank account for quite a while. **It's the local full time and part time musicians who really need to get back to work and feel the audience appreciation.**

There will always be music listeners. When this is all over there will be lots of new music, as I know many musicians have been writing and recording at home. When we finally get to listen and dance to music in a live setting once again, please show your appreciation for the musicians and their music, buy their cd's, welcome them back and know that the music *really didn't die...* it just took a long, long, vacation. **I believe live music is what we're all craving and waiting for, and it can't come soon enough.**

THE BARN DANCE MUSEUM

The Barn Dance Museum at 273 Josephine St. Wingham, is **temporarily closed** until further notice. Sorry for the inconvenience.

BARN DANCE SOUVENIRS

Souvenir Mugs -	\$ 5.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 1	\$15.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 2	\$15.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 3	\$15.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 1, 2 & 3	\$40.00 set
Cassette - Vol. 1	\$ 6.00 ea.
Cassette - Vol. 2	\$ 6.00 ea.
Cassette - Vol. 3	\$ 6.00 ea.
Souvenir 1997 Calendar	\$ 5.00 ea.
Barn Dance Logo T-Shirts (gold logo on blue only)	
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL	\$20.00 ea.
NEW Heywood Family Three Generations CD	\$20.00 ea.
NEW Al Cherny CD - "Live / The Lost Recordings"	\$15.00 ea.
NEW Eleanor & Graham Townsend CD "The Talented Townsends"	
(36 unheard recordings)	\$15.00 ea.
Best of The Barn Dance CDS	\$15.00 ea.
<i>All purchases include HST.</i>	
<i>Please include \$3.00 per item for mailing or pick up at Ernie King Music.</i>	
<i>E-mail: webmaster@thebardance.ca</i>	

THE MUSIC TRAGEDY OF 2020

by Grant Heywood

This past year has been a disaster for all of us, what with the Covid-19 pandemic, racial & political unrest, and the loss of friends and family. I would also have to say, this has been the most devastating year for losing our musical heroes, I have ever witnessed. And that goes for all genres of music, including, country, rock, jazz etc.

I didn't set out to make this issue of the Barn Dance Journal a memorial. But I felt compelled to put into print, many of those who we have lost this past year, since we can't grieve together. It may look like a list of obits, but it is really meant as a testimonial of gratitude.

When I researched those who died, I was surprised that almost 40 of the musical artists in all genres, were Covid-19 related deaths. A scary thought indeed. Rock music took a hit with the likes of pioneering rock guitarist, Eddie Van Halen, Rush drummer, Neil Peart, as well as Spencer Davis, Bill Withers, Leslie West, Chad (of Chad & Jeremy), Johnny Nash, and so many others passing on. But country music was swept over like a tsunami in 2020, and it was like a domino effect or a bad movie playing over, and over again.

I usually do a bit of a story when a major country artist passes on. There are so many this year that there is not enough space to pay them homage like I would usually do in better circumstances. Thankfully, Barn Dance writer, Peter Saros, writes about Charley Pride in his column, Barn Dance Corner, but I would need another 7 or 8 pages to really do justice to the country artists who have left us so suddenly.

I just want to say that I'm sorry I can't pay my respects as a writer like I want to. It's much too overwhelming. When you read the list of those in the music industry that we lost this year I am sure you will understand. This list doesn't even include all of them! I have left at least 20 or more that I didn't even have room for. If I missed anyone on the list, it purely unintentional. Many of these artists are icons that we will never see or hear from again. Their contribution to country music will only live on in memory, every time we hear their songs.

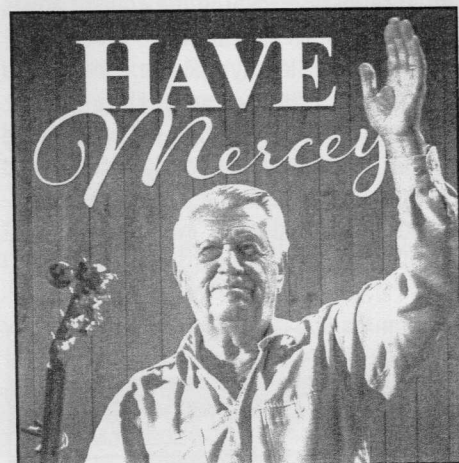
HAVE MERCY

by Grant Heywood

Larry Mercey's long awaited memoir book will be out by January, 2021, and includes everything you wanted to know about the Mercey Brothers and Larry Mercey's solo career, including 250 double sided pages and 102 pictures. The Mercey Brothers were 7 time Juno Award winners for Top Canadian Country Music Group. They were inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame and Larry has been a member of the country music industry for over 65 years.

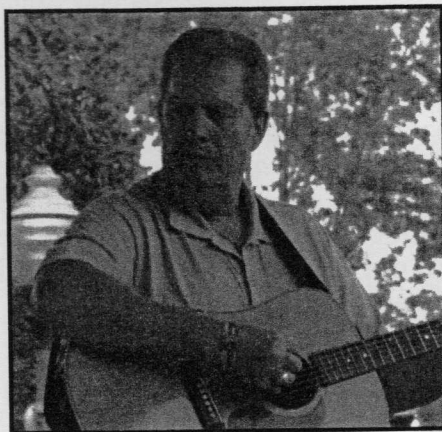
Hailing from their simple roots in Hanover Ontario, The Mercey Brothers and Larry Mercey's solo career catapulted them to fame as country music stars, in Canada and beyond. The book covers their early years, television shows, touring Europe and the U.S., and appearances on the Grand Ole Opry, and spans their careers from 1956 to 2020. Besides the Mercey Brothers, early performances on the Barn Dance stage and in the international spotlight, the book covers Larry's solo career as a songwriter, nominations for Male Vocalist of the Year, hit songs, his songwriting friendships with Charley Pride, friendships with many other country music celebrities such as Carroll Baker, Marie Botrell, Paul Weber and others. Also, his recordings and continuing performances with Al Alerson and George Lonsbury in the Larry Mercey Trio.

You can buy this book by contacting Larry Mercey at larrymercey40@gmail.com., or get the e-copy through kindle books on amazon.ca



POPULAR COUNTRY SINGER, JIMMY PHAIR PASSES AWAY

by Grant Heywood



Sarnia born country singer/entertainer, Jimmy Phair, died on Dec. 31st, from a long battle with cancer. His wife, of many years, passed away in January of 2020. Jimmy was a colourful guest singer, performing occasionally on the Barn Dance stage and throughout Southwestern Ontario. He was guesting on his own radio show out of Michigan at the age of 14. Jimmy was touring his live road show in the early 1960's, in Ontario, Quebec, and into the U.S. as well. In 1972 Jimmy released his debut single, 'Your Life Is One Bad Habit', off his first album, *Good And Country*. He made several T.V. and radio appearances and released his 2nd album on Boot Records, produced by Cdn. Hall of Famer, Dallas Harms.

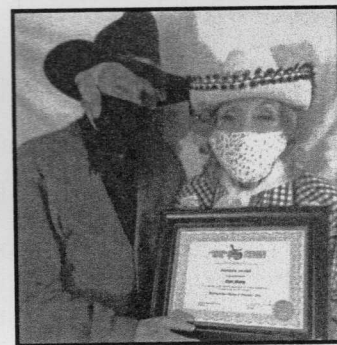
Jimmy was also a semi-regular performer at the Wheeling West Virginia Jamboree. He moved on to independent label, Reba Records. Some of his singles included, *Just The Same Old Story*, *Stop Me If You've Heard This One Before*, and others. About 5 years ago, Jimmy played some shows with dobro player Robert Tremblay, and singer/songwriter, Lynn Russwurm. Jimmy recorded a new album, *Something Borrowed, Something Blue*, including many of his own songs. Some of the guest musicians on the album, included Robert Tremblay, Lynn & Lance Russwurm, Doug Dietrich, Paul Weber, Dan Howlett, & Grant Heywood.

Jimmy continued to play country music events & promoting his album in 2019. He was a good guitar picker and singer, and had a humorous onstage presence. His 'old school' charm will be greatly missed. Jimmy received the Barn Dance Pioneer Award at Blyth in 2011.

NEW BRUNSWICK COUNTRY SINGER RECEIVES AWARD

by Grant Heywood

95 year old, Flora Martin of N.B. is not ready for the rockin' chair yet, & recently received the Pioneer Award from Ivan & Vivian Hicks from the N.B. Country Music Hall of Fame. Flora has paid her dues, singing overseas during WWII, & singing and playing her gtr. ever since, on both sides of the border. She's known as *N. B. favourite daughter* by her friends & fans. Flora was also inducted by Pres. Bob Everhart, into America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame, in Anita, Iowa, and also nominated again by Michael T Wall. Check out her singing *Me & My Radio, Just Keep on Trucking Home* on YouTube under the names, Flo & Curley. She is being considered for a 2nd round of inductees for the N.B. Country Music Hall of Fame in 2021.



FLORA PLAYED A MARTIN

Flora played a Martin,
and boy how she could sing,
And when she played that flattop,
she made the rafters ring,
People came to see her,
and watch her do her thing,
When she started strumming,
and picked up on the strings. (pick it now)
When Flora played her Martin,
folks came from all around,
Just to hear her sing and play,
that great old Nashville sound,
Now she's in the hall of fame,
with all the country stars,
Still singing and a-picking,
on that cherished old guitar.

Words & Music by Michael T. Wall
& Fay Herridge.

COUNTRY MUSIC STARS WE LOST IN 2020

This year has been bad enough with the Covid Pandemic taking front and centre stage. But it has also been one of the worst years for many of our early legendary artists as well, some of them larger than life. I had to update this list at the last minute after hearing K.T. Oslin passed away and Tony Rice died on Christmas day. The following is a list of those who didn't make it to 2021, and after reading this list you will understand the magnitude of not just who we've lost, but what we've lost as well. Many of these artists are true legends and will not pass this way again. Their musical legacy lives on.

In no particular order, here is the list:

JOHN PRINE, 73 - Very famous folk & country singer/songwriter who penned Angel From Montgomery, Paradise, and many others. Died from Covid-19.

BOE DIFFIE, 61 - Country singer/songwriter who penned If The Devil Danced in Empty Pockets, Pickup Man, and many others. Died from Covid-19.

CHARLEY PRIDE, 86 - Legendary country singer/songwriter who had 29 number one hits, including, Kiss An Angel Good Morning, Is Anybody Going To San Antonio, and many others. Died from Covid-19.

TRINI LOPEZ, 83 - Legendary guitarist/singer/actor who had hits with If I Had a Hammer, Lemon Tree and others. Gibson Guitars produced the Trini Lopez signature guitar. Died from Covid-19.

KENNY ROGERS, 81 - Originally from the rock group First Edition, Kenny became a country singer/songwriter who had hits with The Gambler, Lucille, Islands In The Stream (with Dolly Parton) and so many more. Died from natural causes.

EARL THOMAS CONLEY, 77 - Famous singer/songwriter who had 18 number one hits, with Holding Her and Loving You, I Can't Win For Losin' You, and many more. Died from cerebral atrophy.

CHARLIE DANIELS, 83 - Legendary country, Southern rock/singer/songwriter/musician who had hits with The Devil Went Down To Georgia, Long Haired Country Boy, The South's Gonna Do It Again, and others. Died from a stroke.

JIMMY CAPPS, 81 - 50 year guitar player for the Grand Ole Opry, as well as a popular session guitarist in Nashville who played on The Gambler, He Stopped Lovin' Her Today, and many more. Died from heart/stroke & kidney complications.

CADY GROVES, 30 - Promising young singer/songwriter who wrote popular songs such as This Little Girl, Forget You, and others. Died from chronic ethanol abuse.

HAROLD REID, 80 - Bass guitarist/singer with the popular country group, The Statler Bros. Died from kidney failure.

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE, 38 - Son of singer/songwriter Steve Earle. Justin was also a singer/songwriter who wrote popular songs like Mama's Eyes, Absent Fathers, Kids in the Street, and others. Died from drug abuse.

MAXINE BROWN RUSSEL, 87 - Country hall of famer and singer with the famous sibling trio, The Browns. Died from kidney and heart disease.

DAVID OLNEY, 72 - Famous folksinger/songwriter, who wrote songs for Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt, Del McCoury, Steve Earle, and many others. Died onstage from a heart attack.

BILLY JOE SHAVER, 81 - Influential country/folk singer/songwriter with famous songs like I've Been To Georgia On A Fast Train, Old Five And Dimers, Ride Me Down Easy and others. Many of his songs were covered by legendary country artists. Died from a massive stroke.

MAC DAVIS, 78 - Famous country crossover singer/

songwriter, and actor, who wrote songs such as In The Ghetto for Elvis, Baby Don't Get Hooked On Me, A Little Less Conversation, Lord It's Hard To Be Humble, and many others. He also wrote songs for Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Ray Price, Bruno Mars, and many others. Died following heart surgery.

K.T. OSLIN, 78 - Popular country crossover singer/songwriter with hits like 80's Ladies, Come Next Monday, and many more. She was the first middle aged woman at 45 to become a Nashville star. She also worked as an actor on Broadway and had success with T.V. jingles as well. She contracted Parkinson's disease in 2016 ending up in a hospice. Recently she was taken with pneumonia and succumbed to Covid-19.

TONY RICE, 69 - Ricky Skaggs said this about Tony Rice. 'He was the single most influential acoustic guitar player in the last 50 years.' Tony was the acoustic bluegrass picker with J.D. Crowe & the New South, which included J.D. Crowe, Ricky Skaggs, Jerry Douglas, and Bobby Stone. Tony Rice was initially influenced by The Byrds guitarist Clarence White. He played with almost every name artist associated with bluegrass and sometimes would dabble in jazz. There was no cause of death at the time of Tony's passing.

JOHNNY BUSH - 85, born: Houston, Texas, died from pneumonia complications. Johnny was a singer/songwriter known for his voice, and nicknamed 'Country Caruso'. His song, Whiskey River was a Top 10 hit for himself and Willie Nelson. Johnny played with Ray Price & Willie Nelson for a spell. He had hits with, Undo The Right, I'll Be There, What A Way To Live, and others. In the early 70's he developed a vocal condition and lost half his voice. Years later, he regained 70% of his voice and continued to record and perform. He became a Texas honky tonk hero to younger artists like Dale Watson. Willie Nelson inducted Johnny into the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame.

RAY PENNINGTON - 86, born: Clay County, Kentucky, died in a garage fire at his home. Ray was a country singer/songwriter and record producer. As a record producer for RCA Records and later Step One Records, he was a producer for Ray Price, Billy Walker, Clinton Gregory, and others. Besides recording his own songs including, Bubbles In My Beer, Ray had many others who had success on radio with his songs as well. His biggest break came when Waylon Jennings had a #1 hit with Pennington's song, I'm A Ramblin' Man.

JERRY JEFF WALKER - 78, born: Oneonta, N.Y., died from throat cancer. - A country/folk singer/songwriter, who was a leading figure in the Outlaw country music movement along with Willie Nelson, Waylon, Guy Clark & others. He resided in Austin, Texas, and was best known for his songs, 'Mr. Bojangles', Luckenbach Texas, and others. Many of his songs were covered by other artists and he was a good friend of Cdn. icon Gordon Lightfoot.

ERIC WEISSBERG - 80, born: Brooklyn, New York City, died from Alzheimer's. - Eric was notably a banjo player and multi-instrumentalist, performing folk, bluegrass and country. He is best known for the theme song 'Dueling Banjos' in the hit movie, Deliverance. Eric also performed and recorded with many big name artists including, Doc Watson, Bob Dylan, John Denver, & Billie Joel, to name a few.

DOUG SUPERNAW - 60, born: Bryan, Texas, died from lung & bladder cancer. - Doug was a Texas country singer and had a hit with the song 'Reno'. Later on he had a #1 hit, 'I Don't Call Him Daddy', back in the 1990's. He was also had several country music nomina-

tions.

HAL KETCHUM - 67, born: Greenwich, N.Y., died from senile dementia leading to Alzheimers. - Following his move to Texas, Hal was a singer/songwriter who landed a record deal in Nashville, with Curb Records. He garnered several hit albums and singles including, 'Small Town Saturday Night', 'Past the Point of Rescue', 'Hearts Are Gonna Roll', and many others. He was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry as well as receiving other numerous awards.

BUDDY CAGE - 73, born: Toronto, Ont., died from multiple myeloma. - He was known as the longtime steel guitarist for The New Riders of the Purple Sage, replacing Greatful Dead's, Jerry Garcia. Buddy was also a part of Ian & Sylvia's band The Great Speckled Bird. He went on to tour, and work on recording sessions for Bob Dylan, George Hamilton IV, Anne Murray, and many others.

BUDDY BAXTER - 65, born: Melbourne, Fla. died (no cause given) - Buddy was once asked to give Bob Dylan steel guitar lessons. He toured and recorded on some of Dylan's biggest records. He then became a founding member of Steve Earle & the Dukers, playing steel on Guitar Town and Copperhead Road. He also appeared on albums by R.E.M., Ryan Adams, Beastie Boys, and Ben Folds.

LITTLE RICHARD - 87, born: Macon, Georgia, died from bone cancer. - Without question the boldest and most influential of the 'founding fathers' of rock & roll. Coming from an evangelical Christian family it must have been hard for a gay man of colour becoming a rock & roll superstar in the 1960's. He was a singer/songwriter/pianist who had many hit songs and albums including, 'Tutti Frutti', 'Good Golly Miss Molly', 'Long Tall Sally', and so many more. He won countless awards and influenced so many, many rock & roll and country artists, including his contemporary, Jerry Lee Lewis. His showmanship was literally over the top. He has one of the longest biographies in Wikipedia history.

****Note:** I believe that Little Richard should be included amongst the country celebrities because of his huge contribution to the music world. Ironically, Little Richard died in Tullahoma, Tenn. just outside of Nashville, where he lived.

Rock & Roll celebrities we lost in 2020, include, pioneering rock guitarist, Eddie Van Halen, Helen Reddy, 'I Am Woman', jazz musician, McCoy Tyner, Wayne Fontana, 'Game of Love', Chad, of Chad & Jeremy, guitarist, Leslie West of Mountain, Bill Withers, 'Ain't No Sunshine', Spencer Davis, 'Gimme Some Lovin', and so many more. **We also lost many film stars**, like Kirk Douglas, Carl Reiner, Sean Connery, Wilfred Brimley, Olivia deHavilland, Brian Dennehy, Rhonda Flemming, and so many others. Even the beloved singer form WW II, Vera Lynn of 'We'll Meet Again' fame, passed away as well.

W.S. 'Fluke' HOLLAND - 85, born: Sattilo, Tenn., died from a brief illness. - He once said he was nicknamed 'Fluke' because everything he did playing drums was a fluke. He was the original 'Tennessee Three' drummer for Johnny Cash for 37 years and prior to that, he was Carl Perkins drummer for 6 years. He was the drummer on Elvis Presley's 'Blue Suede Shoes' and performed with the Million Dollar Quartet of Elvis, Jerry Lee, Johnny Cash, and Carl Perkins. It was 'Fluke' on drums at Folsom Prison with Johnny Cash. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Music Awards.

MUSIC & MEMORIES



The CKNX Circle 8 Ranch Boys around early 1960's. L to R: Hughie Elder (kneeling), Don Roberson, Cora Robertson, Ross Mann, Sharon Strong, Len Love, and Ernie King (kneeling).



Happy times at the Commercial tavern in Maryhill. L to R: Dough Dietrich, Mike Eagles (drums), Smokey Weber, and Sue Weber.



Clark Johnson, The Singin' Irishman, telling a joke to Earl Heywood, at a Barn Dance show back in the 1970's.



The Golden Prairie Cowboys, in 1957 at a CKNX Barn Dance show, somewhere in Western Ontario. L to R: Slim Boucher, Earl Heywood, Johnny Day, and Al Cherny.

DC **DAVID CARSON**
FARMS & AUCTION SERVICES LTD.

5531 Perth Line 86, R.R. #3
Listowel, ON, Canada N4W 3G8
Telephone: 519-291-2049
Fax: 519-291-5065
Email: info@davidcarson.on.ca

BARN DANCE JOURNAL ADVERTISING PRICES

Business Card Size - \$25.00 plus HST 1/4 Page - \$75.00 plus HST
1/2 page - \$150.00 plus HST Full Page (inside) - \$275.00 plus HST
Full Page (back cover) - \$300.00 plus HST

All prices are per issue.

E-mail - webmaster@thebardance.ca



Country Calendar

by Doreen Brown
(Toronto and
surrounding area)

Country Calendar updates
have been postponed. May
everyone stay healthy!

Country Cheers,
Doreen Brown



Country singer, Doreen Brown, seen here
with Earl Heywood, at a one of the earlier
Blyth Barn Dance Campout Jamboree's.

FAMOUS CANADIAN CELEBRITIES WE LOST IN 2020

by Grant Heywood

It's hard to believe, but there are more celebrities who have died this past year than you might imagine. I apologize for not listing them all as it's hard to cover absolutely everyone. Most of the important ones are on this list and they are not all musicians, but you will recognize many of them.

ANDRE' GAGNON – 84, born: Saint-Pacome, Quebec, died from Lewy body disease. – One of Canada's most prominent composers. He was also a conductor/arranger/actor, and a Juno award winner for music/film, and a recipient of the Order of Canada.

ALEX TREBEK – 80, born: Sudbury, died from pancreatic cancer. – Most well known as the television game show host personality of Jeopardy for 37 seasons. Along with other awards, he received the Order of Canada and was a well-known philanthropist.

HOWIE MEEKER – 97, born: Kitchener, Ont., no word on cause of death. – Four time Stanley Cup Champion with the Toronto Maple Leafs. Famous NHL broadcaster, a philanthropist and former Conservative M.P.. Numerous awards include The Hockey Hall of Fame and the Order of Canada.

BOB NEVIN – 82, born: Timmins, Ont., died from dementia/cancer. – Right wing for the Toronto Maple Leafs and a two time Stanley Cup winner. He played 18 seasons in the NHL with several other NHL teams as well.

DALE HAWERCHUCK – 57, born: Toronto, Ont., died from stomach cancer. – A Calder Memorial Trophy winner, Hawerchuck received many awards and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. He started with the Winnipeg Jets and later played on other NHL teams for 16 seasons.

SALOME BEY – 86, born: Newark N.J./moved to Toronto, Ont., died from dementia complications. – Canada's First Lady of the Blues. Canadian singer/songwriter/composer/actress. She was a gifted R & B, blues, jazz singer who received the Order of Canada.

EDDIE SHACK – 83, born: Sudbury, Ont., died from throat cancer. – Left winger for the Toronto Maple Leafs, and 4 time Stanley Cup Champion in the early 1960's. A colour-

ful 3d line agitator, he played 17 seasons in the NHL. Besides a popular Donut chain, he was immortalized in song with 'Clear the Track, Here Comes Shack.'

KEN CHINN – 57, born: Edmonton, Alta., died from addiction leading to pneumonia. – Punk rock vocalist for the popular band SNFU & Wong. He was a prolific artist and sardonic lyricist full of energy.

NICK CORDERO – 41, born: Hamilton, Ont., died from Covid-19. – Famous actor on TV, Broadway & film. Cordero was nominated for several awards including a Tony award nomination for the musical, Bullets Over Broadway. He also performed in Rock of Ages, and many other productions. His right leg was amputated due to a blood clot and he died from Covid-19.

HUGH FRASER – 62, born: Victoria, B.C., died from cancer. – Hugh was a multiple Juno award winning jazz musician. He was well known as a pianist/trombonist and composer.

MONIQUE MERCURE – 89, born: Montreal, Que., died from throat cancer. – She was a Canadian stage and screen actress who won the Canadian Film Award for Best Actress. She also won the Cannes Film Festival Best Actress Award and was the recipient of the Governor General's Performing Arts Award.

LAURA SMITH – 67, born: London, Ont., died from cancer. – Laura was a Canadian folksinger/sonwriter, and had a 1995 hit with 'Shade of Your Love.' Besides writing songs and recording albums, she won 2 East Coast Music Awards as well as 2 Juno nominations.

BRIAN GLENNIE – 73, born: Toronto, Ont., died from declining health. – Glennie mainly played for the Toronto Maple Leafs and played 572 career NHL games. He was known for the 'hip check' and was a Bronze Medal winner at the 1968 Olympics with Team Canada. He also won the 1967 Memorial Cup Award and was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.

SHIRLEY DOUGLAS – 86, born: Weyburn, Sask., died from pneumonia. – She was the daughter of Cdn. politician, Tommy Douglas and married to actor, Donald Sutherland.

Continued on Page 8



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

"The Complete Music Source
for the Amateur or Professional"

Continued on Page 7

She was a TV/film actress/activist, and received the Officer of the Order of Canada. One of her 3 children is actor, Kiefer Sutherland.

HENRI RICHARD – 84, born: Montreal, Que., died from Alzheimers. – Known as the 'Pocket Rocket', Henri was a hockey superstar, He was #16 and played centre for the Montreal Canadians and won 11 Stanley Cups. A fast skater, he was the 9th player to reach 1,000 career points. A Hockey Hall of Famer, he is known for his generosity to underprivileged children.

NORM AMADIO – 91, born: Timmins, Ont., died (no cause of death mentioned) – Famous Cdn. jazz pianist/composer/arranger/session player. Orchestra leader and conductor with CBC for 50 yrs., working on many TV series incl. Wayne & Schuster. He worked with Moe Koffman, Hagood Hardy, Ed Bickert, Buddy Rich, & Henry Mancini. He also backed up many stars at the Royal York Hotel & O'Keefe Centre, including Judy Garland, Englebert Humperdinck, Paul Anka, & The Supremes, to name a few.

THERESE' DION – 92, born: Gaspé, Que.,

died from Aliskiren overdose. – Cdn. TV personality and mother of Celine Dion. She became host of a TV cooking show and was involved in her daughter's career.

NEIL PEART – 67, born: Hamilton, Ont., died from brain cancer. – Neil was a musician/songwriter & author, best known as the drummer/lyricist for the Cdn. rock band RUSH. He was one of the most prominent drummers in history and was voted best rock drummer for 9 years. He also played jazz and big band music with the Buddy Rich band. A shy man, he toured the world with RUSH, selling out every show, & selling millions of records, plus writing 3 books as well as countless instructional videos. He used to ride his motorcycle to gigs all across North America. Tragedy struck when he lost his daughter, Taylor in a car accident on the 401. He lost his wife to cancer, 10 months later. Neil was inducted into the Cdn. Songwriters Hall Of Fame and also the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame with RUSH. There are still millions of dedicated RUSH fans throughout the world to this day.

NEWS & NOTES

♫ Country radio announcer, Randy Owen has left Radio 107.3 in Tillsonburg. No doubt, Randy will be working on a new project in 2021.

♫ Michael T Wall, *The Singing Newfoundlander*, is recording a new 'Best Of' cd for 2021.

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

BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

With the death of Charley Pride it sounds as if the volume on the sound of classic country music has forever been turned down.

Pride's twang was undeniably earthy and southern. There was nothing false about his handle "Country Charley Pride." Pride was country through and through. He became a classic country legend because he always insisted his music stay the focus of any conversation. The issue of race inescapably hung around that music but Pride handled it with a special grace, dignity, and directness throughout his life. He once simply said, "I didn't set out to be a crusader for racial harmony or to change anybody's mind."

Maybe not, but his music certainly changed my life.

Charley Pride was the first country performer I thought of as my own. The most charismatic performers have a way of making each of their millions of fans believe they are that fan's best friend alone. I discovered Pride's music by listening to WDGY and KEEY in Minneap-

olis/St. Paul, Minnesota in the early 1980s.

I knew all his biggest chart hits. He was my personal country music star. When Mr. Carlson, my grade seven English teacher, asked us to write a biography of a living celebrity, I didn't hesitate to choose Charley Pride as my subject. Mr. Carlson passed on our finished projects to all the celebrities. I still have the letter that came back from Charley Pride's fan club signed by Charley Pride himself. He also included a signed photograph addressed to me. Any wonder why a young boy like me thought of him as a friend?

One of the first albums I ever purchased with my own money was a K-Tel-type of greatest hits collection. The first cassette tapes I bought were all Charley Pride greatest hits collections. As a pre-teen I remember excitedly checking out vinyl albums of his from the Hennepin County Rockford Road Library in Crystal, Minnesota. I would bring them home and listen to them on my mom's big 1960's era Magnavox wooden stereo console. Mom

always called it "The Coffin."

I saved up money from my first job cleaning the garden beds at a strip mall - I earned \$4.25 an hour -- to buy tickets for my mom and me to attend his show at the Carleton Dinner Theater in Minneapolis. The theater went bankrupt before Pride's performance. I have strong memories of my mom bawling out someone on the phone when the dinner theater wouldn't refund her son's hard earned money for the show we never got to see.

And regrettably, I never did see Pride live in concert. He consistently toured in southern Ontario but I always thought I could catch him next year. As it stands, his performance and acceptance speech for The Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Awards at the 2020 CMA awards last November was the last time anyone would see him on stage.

Roll on and carry me home. Charley Pride was the country music dream I grew up on.