

The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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Winter Edition

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From The Barn Dance to The Opry

By Grant Heywood

In their 'heyday' (1950's) Barn Dances were the showcase of country music and dancing, as well as ruling the radio airwaves. Even today several organizations continue the tradition and legacy of that era. I went online and typed in Barn Dance and many web sites popped up on the screen. Renfro Valley in Kentucky is an obvious one, plus The Central Iowa Barn Dance, The Chicago Barn Dance Co., The Denver Barn Dance, The Great Canadian Barn Dance in Alberta, many Barn Dance organizations in Great Britain as well as our own Barn Dance Historical Society which promotes Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance. The 'credo' of the Denver Barn Dance reads: 'Real Country Music' - *You can't find it in Nashville, and it's died in all the great cities like Bakersfield, Detroit and Cincinnati and Shreveport. But it's still alive and well in Denver, Colorado.* Many of the North American Barn Dance organizations run country shows and dances similar to ours as well as dinner theatre type functions, festivals, campground facilities, fundraisers, you name it. Obviously, we're not the only ones keeping the tradition alive.

But where did the Barn Dance idea get its humble beginnings? The Barn Dance actually originated in Scotland in the 1860's. Also known as the "Pas de Quatre" which basically was a generic term for American folk dancing in rural communities or the 'poor people's ballroom' of the times. These parties were usually thrown after the raising of a barn or would be given as a birthday party, homecoming, or wedding, etc., and soon merged with square dancing in the US and continued into the early 1900's.

Enter the founder of the Grand Ole Opry. In 1924 George Dewey Hay, a former journalist from Memphis turned radio announcer, known as the 'Solemn Old Judge', helped start the National Barn Dance program on the WLS radio station in Chicago. With high listener ratings, he soon moved to WSM in Nashville instigating a similar Barn Dance program. By 1925 the show became a regularly scheduled program. The Grand Ole Opry didn't happen overnight, but it wasn't exactly slow in coming, either. In fact it didn't take

Hay very long to inaugurate country music programming on WSM at all. Since radio was live in those days it, of course, depended on live performers. Hay knew that there was plenty of talent in the surrounding hills. He just had to find it and get it heard on radio.

It wasn't long before the Saturday night show was being called the "WSM Barn Dance". Uncle Jimmy Thompson, a hard drinking 80 year old fiddler was one of the first performers. He said he knew a thousand tunes and announced over the air he'd play any and all requests. Instantly, telegrams flooded into WSM, and after playing for over an hour Hay asked Uncle Jimmy if he wasn't tired and wanted to quit. Jimmy replied "no". "In fact," he said, "It takes me an hour just to get warmed up so I can play good." Many more performers were recruited by Hay, such as The Fruit Jar Drinkers (a name that alluded to moonshine being drunk from fruit jars), the Crook Brothers, and Uncle Dave Macon who was a professional banjo picker and singer.

On December 8, 1928 the WSM Barn Dance was preceded by a program featuring the NBC Symphony Orchestra. Hay quipped, "Friends, the program which just came to a close was devoted to the classics. The conductor told us that there is no place in the classics for realism. However, from here on out for the next three hours, we will present nothing but realism. It will be down to earth for the 'earthy'".

Hay then introduced one of the Barn Dance's most frequent and popular performers, the man he dubbed the "Harmonica Wizard" - DeFord Bailey, a black American, born and raised east of Nashville (but regrettably unrecognized, even to this day in Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame). After a typically great performance of his classic train song, "The Pan American Blues," Hay mouthed the phrase that would become music history. "For the past hour we have been listening to music largely from the Grand Opera, but from on we will present *The Grand Ole Opry*." The legendary Opry and Bailey, it's first star, were born.

WSM soon grew in broadcasting power and listenership as George D. Hay added more and more country entertainers to the show to keep it both vital and fresh. Country gospel, bluegrass, old time country music and later on country and western and western swing were being broadcast

all over North America. Besides WSM radio, and the Opry, in Nashville, Tennessee, the Louisiana Hayride, a live radio broadcast soon took to the airwaves along with live performance radio in Wheeling, West Virginia and north of the border to Canada, where a young Doc Cruickshank started broadcasting the CKNX Travelling Barn Dance, live on location every Saturday night. There were many others, spread out across the country as well, as the popularity of country and western music filled the airwaves and dance halls. In those days, television was merely beginning and radio was the main source of music entertainment besides live shows.

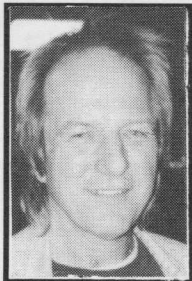
The Grand Ole Opry and country music radio soon spawned its own legendary performers, such as Jimmie Rodgers, Roy Acuff, Minnie Pearl, Ernest Tubbs, Bill Monroe, The Carter Family, Gene Autry, Kitty Wells and Bob Wills. Roy Acuff joined the Opry in 1938, and quickly became its best known star. Acuff, though he stopped having major radio hits by the 1950's, ruled as the patriarch of the Grand Ole Opry for the rest of his life. He became the first living member of the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1962. Acuff died in 1992. George Dewey Hay, founder of the Grand Ole Opry, was elected posthumously to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1966. The Grand Ole Opry recently had a 75th birthday celebration this past October 2003.



Minnie Pearl and Roy Acuff onstage at the Grand Ole Opry, 1987

The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Now that 2004 has arrived, I'll bet everyone is likely placing bets on who will break their New Years resolution first. I was watching CNN on television recently and they listed the top 5 New Years Resolutions. I'm not sure of the correct order, but getting a better job and making more money was at the top of the list. Followed closely by ... you guessed it - Losing weight, then living a healthy lifestyle and being a better person.

These seem like reasonable choices with attainable expectations. No doubt there will be those who will be glad just to have a job, and as far as making more money ... well ... there's always moonlighting, buying less so that it seems like you have more money, having a bigger garage sale, buying lottery tickets, the casino. You get the picture. Getting a raise would be nice though too, if you're lucky.

The last three resolutions could be pretty much lumped in together. I mean, if you live a healthy lifestyle your weight should be normal and if you feel good about yourself, that should make you a better person. In theory this all seems like it should work, but most of us have a hard enough time getting through our daily routine. Like politicians, a lot of this may have to do with "PERCEPTION".

There are some people out there who have bought Huge Monster homes big enough for three families, let alone one, with a three car garage and two brand new SUVs. They must have a good job and be making more money. Then again ... maybe they played the stock market and did well, won the lottery, worked as a CEO for an oil company, inherited big money, or just took a chance by trying to look like they're doing well and promised their first born male child to the bank, along with the \$800,000.00 plus mortgage. Who knows? It's only natural to want to improve your lifestyle. I guess it just depends on your priorities.

Losing weight to some folks means, looser fitting clothes and wearing black all the time to look slimmer. Or paying some TV diet guru or buying the latest diet fad book where they tell you to eat tofu, rice cakes and pine nuts ... or working out at some fancy gym where they charge you double. With less money in your wallet you will definitely be a lot lighter. And after all of this, you hope to be a better person. Sure...

Common sense would dictate that if you really want a better job then you have to work hard for it. Same goes for making more money, (unless you get lucky or you were born rich). As for losing weight, eat moderately or eat less and exercise more. A healthy lifestyle should include eating fresh fruits and veggies, spending more time with family and friends, getting out more and being involved in church and community, reaching out and helping those who can't help themselves or are less fortunate than others, or just making the world a better place to live. These are the things that will help make you a better person.

We are living in times where too few have too much, and too many have too little. Learn to share and it will not only make you a better person. It will make you feel good as well. Caring does make a difference. Happy New Year to all.

Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance.

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(or leave a message)

BARN DANCE WEBSITE:

<http://www.barndance.ca>

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and Lynn Russwurm.

THE 2004 BARN DANCE SCHEDULE

* **MAY 15 - Stratford Barn Dance.** Show and dance. Stratford Colliseum. Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser.

* **MAY 28, 29 & 30 - 7th Annual Blyth Campout Weekend.** Show, dance and much, much more. Sponsored by the Barn Dance Society. For details see: www.barndance.ca, or Phone (519) 357-2329 evenings between 7 and 9 p.m.

* **JUNE - Owen Sound.** (tentative). Details in next issue.

* **JULY 28 - Hanover Town Hall.** (Show only). Details in next issue.

* **SEPTEMBER 26 - Old Tyme Fiddle & Hayloft Hoedown.** Sponsored by the Barn Dance Society. 1:30 p.m. Royal Canadian Legion, Victoria St. W., Wingham, Phone (519) 357-4082.

* **OCTOBER 3 - Wiarton Show.** Propeller Club, Wiarton. Show only. Phone (519) 357-2160.

* **OCTOBER 17 - The Tradition Continues.** (show only). Heritage Theatre, Main Street, Wingham. Sponsored jointly by the Heritage Theatre and Barn Dance Society. Phone (519) 357-4082.

BARN DANCE NEWS**TIDBITS**

* Barn Dance performer and dobro player extraordinaire, Al Widmeyer was nominated for dobro player of the year at the Canadian Blue Grass Awards ceremonies in Deerpark, Inn, Ontario, this past fall. Al will be appearing onstage with several celebrities, including Joe Issacs, in Nashville during bluegrass week around the first week of February.

* Young fiddler, Dan Mighton will be recording his first CD this spring at the Walters Family studio in Bright. Dan's dad, John Mighton will be the piano accompanist along with guest musicians, Doug McNaughton, Al Alderson and Grant Heywood, to name a few. The CD will include a varied selection of fiddle tunes and should be released around April or May.

* Last year The Barn Dance Historical Society was proud to release Al Cherny "LIVE", The Lost Recordings. Now, just recently, The Barn Dance Historical Society has acquired several outstanding unreleased fiddle performances on tape, by the late, great Graham Townsend. Barn Dance board members, Lynn Russwurm and Grant Heywood are carefully selecting some of the better cuts, for an upcoming release of tunes that have never been heard before, including old time fiddle, celtic, jazz and even Eleanor Townsend singing one of her own songs with Graham on guitar. This will definitely be a collectors item for anyone interested in one of Canada's greatest award winning fiddlers of

all time. We hope to have it ready for release this year. We'll keep you posted.

* The Singing Newfoundlander, Michael T. Wall, sure gets around. He was recently invited to perform in the country music capital of Australia, in Tamworth, N.S.W., at Australia's biggest Country Music Festival. As well, Michael will be heading to Nashville with Gary Boyle, through an invitation from Jimmy Kish, "The Flying Cowboy", to participate at Fan Fair. Michael has been quite busy wrapping up his next CD release with his two daughters, Sarah and Sabrina. Barn Dance fiddler, Mike Slauenwhite performs on the new disc. The CD includes all Canadian songs as well as an original song and tribute to his long time friend, titled "The Ballad of Earl Heywood".

* The new Heywood family CD "Three Generations" recording session is about halfway completed. The new disc features Earl and Martha Heywood, Grant and Jeanette Heywood with their twin daughters, Janessa and Kianna, as well as Grant's sister Patricia. Some of the songs include a new version of Moonlight on the Manitoulin Island and I Overlooked an Orchid, with Earl and Martha. Songs with the family include, I'll Fly Away, The Bible on the Table, and the twin girls sing This Little Light of Mine, Hey Good Lookin' and a few others. Grant does a western swing version of an early recording of his dad's titled "I Want a Roof Over my Head" and Patricia sings the old Carter Family tune, "I Never Will Marry". There will be a few surprise cuts on the CD as well. Expected release date is spring/summer 2004.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LLOYD OTTERBEIN

Lloyd is 84 years young December 13, 2003. Lloyd and his wife Helen are members and volunteers at the Barn Dances; and he appears on the barn dances playing dobro with The Otterbein Family.

Lloyd started playing fiddle at age 7 but soon turned his interest to guitar. He began entertaining at country schools and garden parties.

In 1935, Lloyd was featured on The Farm Forum Hour broadcast on CKNX radio out of Wingham. Lloyd married Helen Hoffmann in 1941 and farmed with his father until 1949.

During the 1960's Lloyd and his son Wayne and Wayne's wife Judy formed "Judy and The Blueridge Mountain Boys". The band recorded a 13 week radio show at CKKW radio in Kitchener and played Midwestern Ontario, New York State and Pennsylvania State.

Lloyd plays some fiddle, guitar, banjo and is best known for his dobro playing.

Lloyd and Helen currently entertain at seniors homes, hospitals and church groups with The Zurich Connection.

In his spare time, Lloyd enjoys wood carving. Well known for carving sides on the show wagons manufactured in Bayfield, as well as animals and religious art forms.

Keep an eye for Lloyd on future barn dances.

Happy Birthday, Lloyd, from the Barn Dance Gang and fans.

Barn Dance Nostalgia - ELMER AND JED - The Singing Sign Painters

Les Reynolds and Elmer Poynton arrived on the Wingham scene in the early 1950's to participate in television. They appeared on CKNX TV and on Canada's Largest Traveling Barn Dance as a comedy team. Elmer Poynton played "Cousin Elmer" to Les Reynolds "Jed". Elmer spent three years at CKNX as a professional sign painter and Jed learned the trade too. Not only were they sign painters but they made many of the props that were seen on television. When they appeared on television and radio they became known as "The Singing Sign Painters". The two portrayed a pair of hillbillies and sang songs such as their own compositions Bath Tub Saturday Night and TV Nightmare. Elmer and Jed were extremely popular in 1954 at the Wingham Frontier Days celebration.

In the 1950's a bad snowstorm was raging on the night the Barn Dance was to take place in the Arena in Lucan, Ontario. The CKNX mobile wagon arrived with all the broadcasting equipment and all the cast for the Barn Dance made it through the storm. Everything was set up to do the broadcast but not a soul arrived. All the performers were tuned up and on stage

when Johnny Brent announced that it was time for another Saturday Night Barn Dance. All the chairs were empty but the show went on.

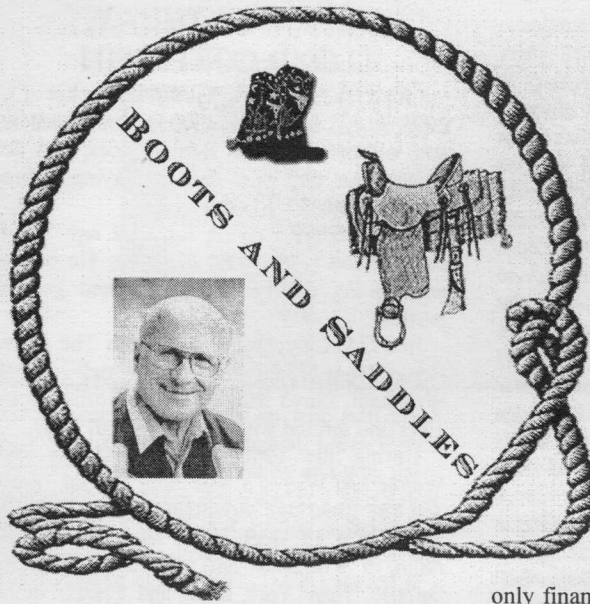
When comedians Elmer and Jed "The Singing Sign Painters" were introduced on stage they came running out of the wings and began presenting their routine. In the meantime Al Cherny slipped into a painter's cap and overalls and began pushing a large broom across the stage behind Elmer and Jed. In the midst of it all the entire cast broke out in laughter and began hollering and yelling at the top of their voices to make it sound like a big crowd. Some of the cast had also sat in the front row to get the applause going. This was one Radio broadcast that went over the air without an audience. The irony of it all was that the storm subsided and by ten o'clock that night a loyal group of Barn Dance fans began to arrive and before the night was over the place was filled as usual. Elmer and Jed remember taping that show off the radio and listening to the rerun. They said it sounded like the best show they ever heard in their life.

The Poynton family decided to move back to the Hamilton area and shortly after Elmer

secured employment in California. When he was about to leave for the new job Elmer Poynton was suddenly stricken with a heart attack and died at the age of forty-four. He left to mourn his wife, the former Isobel Hendershot of Hamilton, Ontario, and three daughters, Maureen, Jane and Katherine.

Les Reynolds, his wife and two daughters lived for many years on Highway 86 between Wingham and Whitechurch, and later moved to Puslinch, Ontario.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ **YOU'RE INVITED!!** ★
★ **Sun., April 4, 2004** ★
★ **The Barn Dance Historical** ★
★ **Society's General Meeting.** ★
★ Starting at 1:00 a.m., at the ★
★ Royal Canadian Legion, Victoria ★
★ Street, Wingham, Ont. ★
★ *Come out and vote, volunteer, participate,* ★
★ *Have your say - or maybe even stand for* ★
★ *Election. We need your support.* ★
★ *Coffee and Donuts provided. See you there!!* ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



by Lynn Russwurm

In my teen years, throughout the late 1940's, I was still on the home farm near Carlsruhe, Ont. At that time radio was at its' peak, before television had entered the picture. I delighted in listening to the many country music programs which proliferated the air waves. I can still hear some of those artists in my head and I'm sure I'll never forget them. Of course there were all the Barn Dances such as the Grand Ole Opry, the National Barn Dance and our own CKNX Barn Dance among many others.

But my greatest delight came in listening to the Chatham radio station over the noon hour which featured the 16" transcriptions that were not available to the public. They were only available to radio stations on a subscription basis. When the subscribing radio station was finished with them, they were supposed to either send them back or destroy them. Apparently CKNX also subscribed to some of these because Johnny Brent told me one time that he spent an afternoon in the back yard of CKNX burning them up. Now the neat thing about these transcriptions was that they were recorded especially for this purpose. Even if the artist had recorded some of the songs on a commercial record, these were a different version and many times they were a much better version than was released by the record company. They mostly did these songs without much time to do them, but they came out as much more relaxed and not like the watered down commercial recording. I've probably mentioned this before, but the ones that really stand out for me were the ones by Rex Allen, Judy Martin and the Mountain Rangers with Red Foley, Doc Hopkins, Jimmy Wakely, Roy Rogers and The Sons of the Pioneers and Spade Cooley.

Today, some fifty years later, many of these are being made available to the public via compact discs, so at last we can enjoy them at will. Also many radio artists recorded

their shows at their local radio station so they could be on the air on a regular basis while they were on an extensive tour. These are really hard to find but a few have surfaced on CDs, possibly by a grandson or other family member to keep the memories alive.

I'd like to run over some of the ones that have been made commercially available, items that can easily be found, especially by mail-order. First and foremost is Cattle Records of Germany who have issued some of the best of these. They even put out some vinyl records of this type of material, while vinyl was still in force. Today, they only manufacture CD's as they are the

only financially feasible form to use. Two of their most recent efforts were by Judy Martin and The Mountain Rangers and of course we know that The Mountain Ranger was none other than the great Red Foley. I was personally involved in these two as I supplied them with cassette tapes of all their shows and there are approximately 150 songs that they had done for these transcriptions. To show the extent of their lack of time, there are two instances where there were mistakes that were not corrected. One time you can hear Red saying "way too fast" and another time he stops the band completely and says, "there's a dischord in there" and it was released that way. Now Judy Martin was Red's wife, she had come to WLS National Barn Dance with two sisters as The Three Little Maids. Another of the sisters was the great Jenny Lou Carson who became one of the all-time great songwriters of such songs as "Marriage Vows" and "Jealous Heart". Judy's real name was Eva Overstake, their daughter Shirley married Pat Boone, so Red Foley and Judy Martin were actually the grandparents of Debby Boone, what a family tree. I was never a great fan of Red Foley's until these transcriptions came back to light, and I heard Red sing all the old cowboy songs like "Home on the Range" and yodel right along with the best of them. You wouldn't associate that with the great gospel singer of "Peace in the Valley" and yet Red was all of these.

Being a record collector and a lot of collectors are in constant touch with each other, I found a collector in Alberta by the name of Keith Titterington who had all these on cassettes, taped for him by another collector who had the 16" discs. Eventually Keith made copies for me and I in turn sent them over to Germany to Cattle Records who issued them on their very next release. If you are interested in this type of thing, write to Cattle Records, P. O. Box / Postfach 1350, D-97443 Gerolzhofen, Germany, and ask for their catalogue of CDs and also still some vinyl al-

bums, I'm sure you'll be glad you did.

Another of their great releases is by the Jimmy Wakely Trio. These boys which consisted of Jimmy, Johnny Bond and Dick Reinhart, first came to light on Gene Autry's Melody Ranch radio shows. But at the same time they also appeared in a number of B Westerns with such as Hopalong Cassidy, Johnny Mack Brown and Charles Starrett. They had such exquisite harmonies that they were easily on a par with the Sons of the Pioneers. And they did this with only 3 voices with 2 guitars and a bass for accompaniment, Cattle has about 4 CDs with their material, and it's so much better than the later recordings of Jimmy Wakely or of Johnny Bond, actually they also have a solo cassette by Dick Reinhart who was the bass player in the trio. Their career as a group came to an end when Jimmy was offered a contract to star in his own series of "oaters".

Rex Allen and Roy Rogers had some of their early transcriptions released on different labels such as Simitar (US), Bloodshot/Soundies (US) and Jasmine (UK). Now all the releases on Cattle, Jasmine and Bloodshot have at least 20 songs on each one, which makes them a real bargain. Roy has several (with the Sons of the Pioneers) on Pulse, Prism Leisure, as well as one on Cattle. Rex had some of these transcriptions on vinyl from way back such as an LP on Design, and one on Hilltop which were both budget line labels

Continued on Page 5

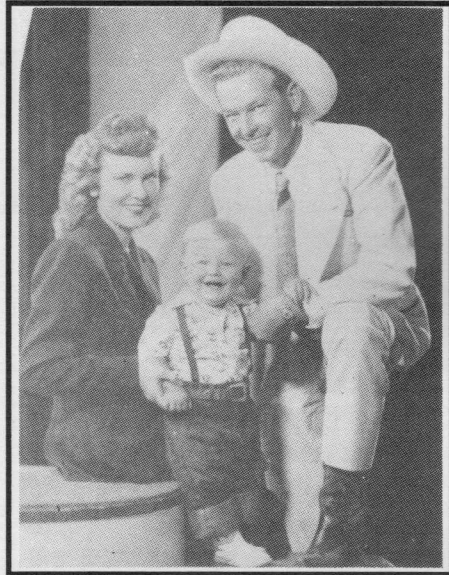


THE FOLEY FAMILY - Clyde Julian Foley, better known as "Red", Mrs. Foley, (Judy Martin) the former Eva Overstake of the Three Little Maids and their daughter Shirley Lee, who became Mrs. Pat Boone and mother of Debbie Boone.

Continued from Page 4

with sometimes great material such as this.

Once again, I'm running out of space. It seems like I've left so much out, I wanted to tell you about some others, such as Tex Ritter, Foy Willing and The Riders of the Purple Sage, Ken Curtis (you remember Festus?), and one called "Rhubarb Red". Can any of you give me his real name. I'll print your name in the next issue.



THE ALLEN FAMILY - Rex Allen, "The Arizona Cowboy" was really a cowboy from an Arizona ranch, Mrs. Bonnie Allen, the former Bonnie Linder, who also was a singer on WLS, and one year old Rex Allen Jr., who currently is a Nashville recording artist.

IN MEMORIAM

GARY BUCK - Canadian country music personality, born in Thessalon, Ontario, died Oct. 14, 2003 in Didsbury, Alberta, at age 63. Buck reached No. 11 in Billboard's country singles chart in 1963 with "Happy to Be Unhappy", a rare feat for a Canadian at that time.

In addition to scoring future Canadian hits on Capitol and RCA, his publishing company helped bring songs like "Snowbird" to prominence. He also won several Juno and R.P.M. Big Country awards as a performer and producer. After 12 years as international director of the Country Music Association in Nashville, Buck founded the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame in 1989, of which he was inducted himself in 2001.

Gary is survived by his wife, Debbie and five children, Raymond, Trudy, Kailie, Christine and Matthew.



LOIS McNALLY - of Wingham, passed away on Oct. 20, 2003 at age 64. Former Lois Hammond, beloved wife of Paul McNally, sister of Wayne Hammond of Athens, Ont. Predeceased by parents, Wilfred and Marion (Neil) Hammond. Lois will be greatly missed as a friend, and member of the Barn Dance Historical Society, of which she was a staunch supporter and regular volunteer.



GRAY FREDERICK JAMES TOWNSEND, of Barrie, passed away suddenly in December 2003. Gray was an accomplished piano player and was the son of two of Canada's greatest fiddlers, Eleanor and Graham Townsend (who both died in 1998). Gray leaves behind one step-sister. Gray was only 27 years old. A tragic loss, he will be missed by friends and family.



JUNE SLAUENWHITE, of Kitchener, passed away on Dec. 13, 2003, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. June was the wife of Barn Dance fiddle player, Mike Slauenwhite. She was always a supporter of Mike's musical ambitions. A most unselfish person herself, June was well known as the "Bowling Queen". Another angel called to heaven. June will be sadly missed by all her friends and family members.



J. ALAN WOOD, Vice-President of the American Federation of Musicians from Canada Emeritus, died on Nov. 28, 2003 at age 82. Alan was a brass musician and President of Toronto Local 149 before becoming elected to VP of Canada in 1965. He attended a number of General Meetings in the Stratford Local 418 over the years and was a definite force for many years as a top executive in fighting for musician's rights. He will be missed by wife Vicki, family, colleagues and friends.



CALVIN BURKE and **WILLIAM OGRAM** are two long-standing Barn Dance members who also recently passed away.



The Barn Dance Historical Society extends condolences to the respective families.

BARN DANCE JOURNAL ADVERTISING PRICES

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**Bill Oja's "Just Fiddling Around" Column will return next issue.
Sorry for any inconvenience.**

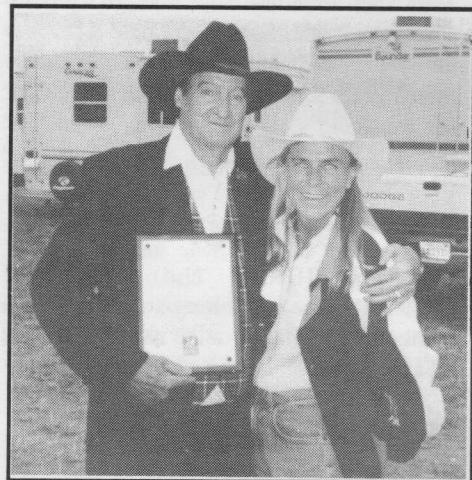
Assorted Photos from various events -



South Mountain with Barn Dance Personnel - Back Row - L. to R. - Martha Heywood, Wayne Otterbein, Shirley Russwurm, Grant Heywood, Doug Dietrich. Front Row - L. to R. Steve Piticco, Don Reed, Kurt Bernard, Jay Riehl.



Award winning C.C.M.A. steel guitar player, Smilin' Doug Johnson, was a Barn Dance Band guest musician at the Grand Bend Barn Dance Show.



Michael T. Wall, Canada, holding award, and Jett Williams, daughter of Hank Sr., both were inducted into "America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame" in Missouri Valley, Iowa Aug. 31, 2003. Hank Sr. was also inducted.

Photo from Joyce Leonard



MUSIC MAKIN' MOMS - receive their Pioneer Award at the recent Wiarton Barn Dance.

Winner of the Barn Dance 2003 Quilt Draw

The lucky winner of the Barn Dance Quilt draw for 2003 was Carol Ariss, Kenmore Ave., Cambridge, Ontario. The draw was made over CKNX Radio AM 920 at noon hour, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2003. Congratulations to Carol on winning this beautiful queen size quilt.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to the ladies group from Bluevale, Ontario for making the quilt. Another quilt is now underway for 2004, and draw tickers will be available at all Barn Dance events. Draw for the 2004 quilt will take place in November 2004.

NOTICE OF MOTION

To be presented at the General Meeting April 4, 2004.

Add to Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution and Bylaws.
"No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms on the Board of Directors."

(submitted by Wayne Otterbein)

(If passed by the membership at the General Meeting of April 4, 2004, this bylaw change shall be effective as of that date.)



FROM THE BARN DANCE MAILBAG

Dear Barn Dance Mailbag:

I am a member because I sang and yodeled on the Barn Dance in 1947. At that time Johnny Brent was the M.C.

I am now a widow in my 70's, living alone, so I don't travel too far. However, I must say that the Fall Edition, Vol. 39, was so interesting, with Grant's front page article, "Whatever Happened to Our Heroes". I really enjoyed it. Back in the 1940's, I enjoyed Patsy Montanna, Rosalie Allen, Wilf Carter and my favourite, Elton Britt. Later, of course, Ernest Tubb, Roy Acuff, Hank Sr. and many more in the 1950's, 60's, and even the 1970's.

Some of today's so called country artists are not country. A lot of them sound the same.

Thank You.

Sincerely,
Catherine Moyer,
Guelph, Ontario

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are always happy to hear from you, our readers. Any comments, good or bad, will be greatly appreciated and we will try to print all in upcoming issues.



Barn Dance Pioneer Award winner ALFIE FROMAGER, seen here performing at the Wiarton Barn Dance this past fall.

COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- * **Johnny Burke presents** Acoustic Traditional Country Music in an intimate setting in the Loft at 12 Graham St., Newcastle. For tickets call (905) 987-1693. Feb 1 - Lisa Logan; Feb. 25 - Norm Post; Feb. 22 - Larry Mercey; March 14 - Terry Sumson; March 28 - Don Cochrane.
- * **Join Juanita Country Fever**, phone (905) 823-5723. Jan. 27, Army, Navy Airforce Club, 2780 Dufferin St., Toronto, starts 9:00 p.m.
- * **Sundial presents** Chuck Moore and Oprey Orillia the third Saturday of every month. Info call (705) 325-2703. The home of great country music. Showtime 8 to 12.
- * **Brampton Moose Lodge** - Branch 2124, Good Tyne Jamborees, acoustic only. Free admission. Every Friday night 7 to 11 p.m. Welcome singers, pickers, fiddlers and spectators. 70 Advance Blvd., off Steeles, Unit 11, Brampton. Info call (905) 791-5073.
- * **Open Country Jam Session** - every Friday night at the 5 Pin Restaurant, Scotland. Start 7 p.m. (519) 446-3500.
- * **Steel City Jammers** - 1253 Barton St. E., Hamilton, from 7 to 10 p.m.
- * **St. Williams Jamboree** every 4th Sunday. Starts at 1 p.m. St. Williams, Ontario.
- * **Pioneer Country Jammers** - every Thursday night, Club LaSalle, Arthur St., St. Catharines.

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

Wayne Otterbein,
(home) (519) 235-4783,
or (bus.) (519) 235-0559

Open mic.

* **Wednesday Night Jamboree** - Waterford Legion from 7 to 11 p.m.

* **Oprey Toronto** - is now the second Saturday of the month from 3 to 7 p.m., your host Jack Look. Bring your musical instruments for a great afternoon of fun, pickin and with Norma Gale and friends, Brown's Line and Hwy. 27.

* **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - Jan. 31, with Len Murphy & Caribou Country at Roger's Rd and Silverthorn Legion; Feb. 9, with Rod's Country Band in the Alton Legion; also with Rod's Country Band, the 4th Sunday of the month at Erin Legion; Feb. 24, Bond Head Fiddle Club; March 9, Shelburne Legion, starts at 1 p.m.; March 20 Oprey Orillia; March 24, Commerical Tavern, Maryhill.

* **Maritime Club** - Wolsley Barracks, London, Jamboree every Wednesday from 7 to 11 p.m.

* **Jamborees** - every Thursday with Paul Weber and Tophand, Commerical Tavern, Maryhill. Music Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Call Paul Weber (519) 648-3644.

* **Army Navy & Air Force Veterans** - 765 Third St., Mississauga, (905) 274-9981. Jan. 26-27, Reg Benoit Birthday Bash; Jan. 23-24 Ron/Corvairs; Jan. 30-31 Keith Fitzgerald.

* **Kingside Jammers** - Country dance and jamboree, Kingside Park, Oshawa, Jan. 29, Feb. 2 & 16, Mar. 1, 15 & 31. Info call (905) 433-8662.

* **Len Murphy & Caribou Country** - Jan. 23-24 Len Murphy & Blue Diamond Trio, Army & Navy, Barrie 9 to 1; Jan. 31 Jamboree, Silverthorne & Roger's Rd. Legion, lots of entertainers and fun; Feb. 7 Durham Legion, Len Murphy & Blue Diamond Trio. Info call (705) 739-2306.

* **Maple Leaf Country Jamboree** - Lindsay, with Chef Adams; Feb. 28 & Mar. 28. A reminder, don't miss the annual 4th Maple Leaf Country Jubilee, Aug. 20-22 at Sentimental Journey, Hwy. 48, south of Baldwin.

* **Appearances by Myrl Blaine** - Feb. 22 Erin Legion; Feb. 21 Oprey Orillia; Mar. 12 Alton Legion; Jams on Friday nights at RCL 486 Hensall Circle; Sunday afternoon with Norma Gale & Friends, 27 & Brown's Line.

* **Eastern Passage** - 30 Melanie Dr., Unit 4, Bramalea, (905) 789-0857. Jan. 9-11 Moose Stew; 16-18 Seaborn; 23-25 Clearwater Country; 30-1 Derek Pilgrim.

* **NOT TOO SOON** - to make plans for our Annual Blyth Jamboree Campout Weekend. May 28, 29 and 30. For information, call Dave Hedley at (519) 357-2329.

* **Hunny's Bar & Eastern**, 226 Queen St. E., Brampton—Jan. 16-17 Tony Prior & The Posse; 30-31 Moose Stew.

* **Caledon Agricultural Society** - presents the following jamborees at the Caledon East Complex Center, Caledon. Feb. 15, Mar. 21 and April 18. Show starts at 1:00 p.m. Bring your musical instruments. Roast Beef dinner available. Info call Jim at (905) 584-2549.

*Have a great Easter, Summer and Fall,
And see you at our Jamborees and Shows.
With thanks from all at the Barn Dance
for your support of country music.*



Barn Dance Museum

by David Wall,

Museum Committee Chairman

Following the Heritage Theatre Barn Dance Concert, the Album Launch party for South Mountain on October 19 brought a great number of people into our museum building. South Mountain presented us with six albums for our museum. We were able to display twenty-two albums by the Mercey Brothers from the Lynn Russwurm collection that day when they were on the Barn Dance Show. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help with the event.

During our winter off season our museum will be undergoing many changes. Our museum committee and other volunteers will have to rearrange exhibits to incorporate our seven new cabinets and show artifacts never before viewed by our visitors. People wishing to help with this task may contact me at (519) 357-1016.

Thanks to David Hedley, our webmaster, for displaying pictures of some of our museum items on the website - www.barndance.ca.

Next summer the Wingham Homecoming 2004 is scheduled for June 30 to July 4. The North Huron Museum (in the same building as our Barn Dance Museum) is to be the headquarters for registration, information and souvenir sales. This should bring a lot of visitors into the building and hopefully they will tour the museums. A listing of events and souvenirs may be found on the website www.wingham2004.com. Unfortunately one of Wingham's greatest claims to fame - a Barn Dance Show and Dance, was not scheduled as part of the festivities.

Thanks to the North Huron Museum, our museum can be toured Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays. Group tour appointments can be arranged at other times by calling (519) 357-2160.

BARN DANCE SOUVENIRS

Souvenir Mugs -	\$ 5.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 1	\$20.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 2	\$20.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 3	\$20.00 ea.
CD - Vol. 1, 2 & 3	\$50.00 set
Cassette - Vol. 1	\$10.00 ea.
Cassette - Vol. 2	\$10.00 ea.
Cassette - Vol. 3	\$10.00 ea.
Souvenir 1997 Calendar	\$ 5.00 ea.
Barn Dance Logo T-Shirts (black or white only)	
Sizes M, L, XL	\$10.00 ea.
Souvenir Hats	\$10.00 ea.
NEW Al Cherny CD - "Live / The Lost Recordings"	\$20.00 ea.
All purchases include GST.	

Please include \$3.00 per item for mailing
or pick up at Ernie King Music.

