

## The Barn Dance Opera Journal

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Official Publication of:
The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.

A Not For Profit Organization
Barn Dance Website: www.thebarndance.ca

11-1

Vol. 93 2017

Summer Edition

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### Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance

80 Years, and Better than Ever

by Grant Heywood

It's hard to believe the rebirth of Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance is 21 years old, and it's been 80 years since the original Barn Dance began back in 1937. It was W.T. 'Doc' Cruickshank who began broadcasting the Saturday Night Barn Dance live from the CKNX AM 920 studios in downtown Wingham. It featured local talent and soon became a big hit with everyone in the Western Ontario broadcast area. In the early 1940's 'Doc' realized the potential for the CKNX Barn Dance shows, and thus began Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance. Its popularity grew in leaps and bounds, especially in the 1940's and 50's. The show attracted top notch talent and featured up and coming and celebrity talent during its heyday.

Nashville talent would sometimes even grace the Barn Dance stage with the likes of Wilma Lee & Stoney Cooper, bluegrass legend Bill Monroe, Doc & Chickie Williams, Mac Wiseman and several others. Canada's own celebrities also made appearances on the CKNX Barn Dance shows, such as, Gordie Tapp, Gordon Lightfoot, Tommy Hunter, Myrna Lorrie, Stu Davis and more. The popularity of the Barn Dance contributed as well, to the star careers of Earl Heywood, Jack Kingston, Maurice Bolyer, Al Cherney, and Ernie King. And the CKNX Barn Dance also had some of the best musicians in Canada, including, fiddlers Ward Allen, Lucky Ambeault, Mel Lavigne, and other musicians such as Don Steele, Bill Mankiss, Lloyd Bank, and Slim Boucher.

Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance eventually wound down around 1963 when rock and roll music started becoming popular. From 1937 to 1963, it spanned 25 years. There was a reunion of the original Barn Dance show for Howick Twp. anniversary in the 1970's. The CKNX Barn Dance was also resurrected for a few years in the 1980's by local folk musician, Richard Knechtel from Hanover. Richard featured many of the artists who were on the original Barn Dance and used local talent as well. It was around the early 1990's that my dad, Earl Heywood decided to form the beginnings of the Barn Dance Historical Society in Wingham. The concept was to mainly stage Barn Dance shows to fund the Barn Dance Museum project in Wingham. In 1997 the first Blyth Campout Jamboree was staged and has now

been going for 20 years. The Blyth Theatre also staged a play about the original CKNX Barn Dance. It was so popular that it was brought back for a repeat season.

My mom & dad, Earl and Martha Heywood raised money by selling quilts and performing at local events to start the first Barn Dance Museum in the Wingham Armouries. Eventually grassroots support from other local folks and musicians, helped to organize the newly reformed Barn Dance by establishing the official

Barn Dance Historical Society. As a not for profit entity, a Trillium grant was acquired to institute and create the Barn Dance Museum. The Barn Dance Shows are the catalyst that provide the money needed to maintain the museum located in Wingham.

Looking back at the history of the Barn Dance which originated in Wingham, it's easy to see how much it has touched the lives of many generations. The original travelling Barn Dance operated not unlike the Louisiana Hayride, and even the National Barn Dance in the U.S. which eventually became the Grand Ole Opry. I am proud to be a part of todays' Barn Dance, a musical institution that my fa-

Continued on Page 3



This photo of the CKNX Barn Dance featuring Earl Heywood and the Ranch Boys in circa 1945. From left to right is announcer Bud Cruickshank, George Jordan and Cactus Mac (Albert Macdonald) with Pauline Swanson - the little sweetheart of the Barn Dance. In the front are Cora Robertson tends the accordian, Ranch Boys manager Don Robertson, Earl Heywood front and centre makes a draw from a bag held by Johnny Brent, while behind is Rossy Mann, Archie Mann - two fiddlers and Mandolin player Fred Templeman.

### The Editor Speaks by Grant Heywood



I'm sure almost everyone remembers the age old phrase..." things you can be certain of are death and taxes." I don't think anyone would argue with that. Quite frankly I think we could do with fewer deaths and a lot less taxes, but that's not going to happen anytime soon. if ever.

Too often we dwell on the negative perspective and this common phrase doesn't really make me feel great, just because it's true. I like to think of myself as an optimist and have my own ideas about what is certain or uncertain. Besides death and taxes. I've already learned that women are always right. what happens if you stick your tongue on cold frozen steel, how far I can drive on a full tank of gas, why musicians hate playing Crystal Chandeliers, and how they get the caramel into the Caramilk chocolate bar. I prefer to speculate or inquire about the things I don't know, such as...are there really aliens or are they just politicians in disguise, why do I have to sell electricity back to the grid when I can manufacture it through my own solar and wind devices, how come drug addicts get free drugs from an injection site and drugs that are meant to keep you alive cost thousands of dollars, and why haven't the Maple Leafs won a Stanley Cup in 50 years but still generate the most money in the NHL.

Okay, that was a lot of information to digest but I think you get my point. In reality, I like to believe in things I can count on or those things that are most important in my life. I believe that family comes first above anything else in my life. For some, family can take many forms such as a group of people living together for an extended time, a sports team, band, or individuals that have worked and lived together for many years etc. Friends are almost

the equivilant of family and sometimes they may even be on the same level. Our lives are so enriched when we have friends, especially those that last a lifetime. So we have family, friends...and for me the other elements are not quite as tangible. If family is the foundation and friends are the framework, then love and music is what fills the inside of that house. I've been blessed with all of these components in my life and I cherish them dearly.

Recently, I have been in contact with friends I haven't heard from in many, many years. I don't know why this happens and maybe it has to do with our communication technology or the fact that we want to connect again as we grow older. Some of us are fortunate to have so many friends while others may only have a few. That is irrelevant if the friendships you have last a lifetime. Many of my friends are musicians and most of them just love music. I have garnered many friends over the years from playing music. They are wonderful people as many of them have been Barn Dance followers, becoming friends along the way. It is disheartening when some of my older friends have passed on but there always seems to be someone new that comes into your life to fill the void. I never take friends for granted. Family is something we are usually born into. Friendship is something you cultivate with the intent it will last a long time. Sometimes our relationships need a little work, but it's usually our better half that sets that tone.

Speaking of a little work, I've had some folks ask me how the home renovations are going. Well I'm pleased to say the kitchen and upstairs bathroom are complete. I'm about halfway done on the family room and hope to install a new floor by the end of summer with the help of my good musician friend, Dan Munro. Obviously it pays to have good friends as professional as Dan. But I must say that 'honey do' list is getting shorter. Just a few more pages to go, uh,...well maybe. Darn, I'm only on page #2.

Sure would love to see you at the next Barn Dance Show. Check the schedule for location and dates. I always look forward to

# 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.thebarndance.ca

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meeting new friends at the Barn Dance. Hope to see you there.

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

### 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. NOG 2W0; or call ~ (519) 530-8000 E-mail: webmaster@thebarndance.ca

2016 COMING EVENTS			
Date	Event Name	Place	
Sat. July 15	Barn Dance Show - 1:30 p.m.	Listowel Fair Grounds, Listowel	
Sun., Oct. 22	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Southwold Community Complex, Shedden	
Sun., Oct. 29	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Shallow Lake Legion Auditorium, Hepworth	

#### Continued from Page 1

ther was part of and helped to resurrect and become almost as big as it was at its peak. Although most of the original artists of the Barn Dance have retired or passed on, it's inspiring to see new and younger talent become involved in an organization that is steeped in tradition. I don't believe I'm unassuming when I say that Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance has survived all these years, because it was the Grand Ole Opry of the north. With CKNX radio broadcasting live Barn Dance Shows every Saturday night for many years, it's not hard to understand why. A very rough estimate in calculating the live Barn Dance and radio shows since 1937 to present day would be upwards of almost 2,500 shows. That's not including the popular Circle 8 Ranch television show with Ernie King & the Ranch Boys, or Western Roundup and even Goodtime Country.

Once known as the Radio/Television town of Canada, Wingham was a 'hotbed' for country music entertainment, and the Barn Dance shows helped to put Wingham on the map. That still rings true today and you cannot deny your history or roots. Neither can the fans who remember the Barn Dance days, or their children and others who have realized the significance of heritage. People today, still fondly recall Earl & Martha Heywood whenever I'm performing somewhere. I am still overwhelmed at the end of every show by the number of people who proclaim that this was the best Barn Dance show they ever attended. It proves that Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance continues to exceed its own expectations. In fact, todays Barn Dance will soon attain 25 silver anniversary status.

Barn Dance Shows have become first class entertainment for those who love traditional country music and more. There's as much joy emanating from the performers onstage as there is from the audience. It was past MC Johnny Brent who coined the phrase 'from coast to coast, people like old time music most'. That ritual continues with current Barn Dance MC, Jim Swan who closes each show with, 'remember, the show must go on'. With the success of Canada's Travelling Barn Dance, the show will most definitely continue.



### Special Pioneer Awards Presented

by Doug Dietrich

An ongoing objective for the Barn Dance Society is to recognize the contribution of individuals who have helped to further the cause of the Barn Dance and help promote traditional country music. The Society does this through the presentation of the Pioneer Award to individuals who perform the music and to others behind the scenes that are also dedicated to keeping the Barn Dance and its music alive.

Recently the Barn Dance Society presented three rather unique and special awards. Two were announced on the Saturday night show at our recent Blyth Campout. These went to individuals who could not be at our show but who performed on the Barn Dance early in their careers and went on to international stardom. The third was a special builders award presented to a local establishment and the musical family that surrounds it.

In early April, my wife Tracey and I travelled to Casino Rama where we were honoured to be able to present a Pioneer Award to a true Canadian treasure, Gordon Lightfoot. Early in his career, Gordon made an appearance on an original Saturday night Barn Dance show. He recalled that performance and inquired about some of the Barn Dance performers of that era. Gordon's tour manager recorded the award presentation and the video was shown as part of the award ceremony at our Blyth show. A special thanks for helping to arrange the presentation goes out to my longtime friend and fellow steel player, Ed Ringwald, who played in Lightfoot's band for 16 years.

The second award announced in Blyth went to Canada's Queen of Country Music, Shania Twain. At the age of 14, Shania (then known as Eileen Twain) appeared on the CKNX Wingham TV show Good Time Country. We all know the amazing things that Shania went on to accomplish in her career. As you can imagine, Shania is not an easy person to contact. A few years ago, I happened to meet a cousin of Shania's, named Ken Derasp. I remembered he played for a time in Joe Firth's band, another friend of mine through music. Joe is a well-known country singer and agent who lives in Kitchener. Thankfully, Joe put me in touch with Ken. While Ken could not promise anything, he said he would let Shania know that we hoped to present a Pioneer Award to her. Ken came through for us and to my surprise; a short time later I received a phone call from Shania's office in Beverley Hills, California indicating she would be honoured to accept the award. I mailed the award to Shania and she intended to record a short acceptance video and send it to me so it too could be played at the Blyth show. Unfortunately, Shania's hectic schedule did not permit her to produce the video in time for the show. However, she did email a kind message thanking the Society for the award and saying she had fond memories of her appearance on the show.

The third award was presented at our June 11 show at the Commercial Tavern in Maryhill. It was a builders award, or in this case more of a "building" award, as the name on the certificate was The Commercial Tavern, Ontario's Home of Traditional Country Music. The award was presented to owner Paul Weber and his wife Donna but honours the management and staff of the Commercial, Paul's family who contribute so much, the many musicians who perform there and the dedicated patrons who faithfully support the Commercial. "musical family" creates a great atmosphere at the Commercial and supports the dedicated effort to keep traditional country music alive and well.



Paul & Donna Weber accepting the award from Jim Swan & Doug Dietrich

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 20TH ANNUAL BLYTH BARN DANCE CAMPOUT JAMBOREE



Barn Dance Gospel Show director/performer, Betty Beer.



Barn Dance performer Grant Heywood at the Sunday Gospel Show.



Mary Smith singing at the Sunday Gospel Show.



Ever popular Larry Mercey performing at the Saturday night show.



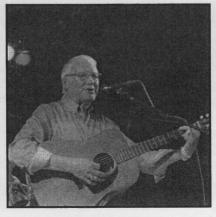
Gerald Davidson featured performer on the Saturday night show.



Two young ladies (Marilyn & Betty) sing a duet at the Saturday open stage.



Truelove Ways performed at the Sunday Gospel Show.



Barn Dance performer, Bruce Robertson on the Saturday night show.



Featured performer on the Saturday night show, Linda Elder.



The Stiff Family from Wellesley performing at the Friday night Bluegrass show in Blyth.



Father & Son Duo, Bill & Chris Simmermaker on the Saturday night show.



Former Barn Dance Gospel Show director, Mary Elliot Huizen was honoured and performed a song.



Featured performer, Naomi Bristow at the Saturday night show.



Doug Dietrich & Grant Heywood performing at the Sunday Gospel Show.



Legendary fiddler, Gerry Smith on the Saturday night show.



Smilin' Randy Satchell at the Sunday Gospel Show.

Tribute to Barn Dance matriarch, Martha Heywood, seen here with Royce Riehl, at the Sunday Gospel show.

### Thanh You

to all the volunteers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Barn
Dance Jamboree. Your hard work
& dedication is greatly appreciated.

#### **DRAW WINNERS**

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Winners of the Share the Wealth and Guitar Draws at the Barn Dance Jamboree/Campout

Friday Evening Share the Wealth Winners

Bert Rodgers and Murray Souch

Saturday Evening Share the Wealth Winners

Lois Robertson and Jim Hagey

Guitar Winner – Supplied by Ernie King Music in Wingham John Irvin

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### 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"			
NEW Eleanor & Graham Townsend			
CD "The Talented Townsends"			
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#### CD Review

#### In This is Love - The Stiff Family

by Grant Heywood

Gospel music can be very uplifting, so I was quite excited to give this cd a first listen. I'm happy to say the Stiff Family is from Wellesley, Ont. just about 2 or 3 miles from where I live. Besides mom & dad, (David, gtr. & Heather, standup bass) the siblings include, Abigail on fiddle, Elizabeth on fiddle, Hannah on mandolin and Aaron on banjo and dobro. Oh yes, and they all sing too. Boy do they sing. If I had to put my finger on their musical style I would say it reminds me of that hillbilly bluegrass gospel charm of another time. Old timey is the best way I can describe it, with a good dash of family wholesomeness. With local bluegrass group, Rescue Junction, hailing from the Millbank area and the Stiff Family from Wellesley, people might think there's something in the water here in 'Gods Country' that makes people want to play bluegrass music and spread the gospel.

The first cut starts with a strong family vocal entry on 'At The Cross', followed by The Stamps Quartet tune 'Hide Me Rock of Ages' laced with full instrumentation and vocals. Aaron Stiff wears many hats in the band. He's become a fine banjo/dobro player, singer, producer/engineer, and sings lead on two selfpenned well written gospel songs, 'I Am a Traveler', and the cd title 'In This Is Love'. The popular 'No Doubt Salvation' is very effective and seems to fit the Stiff Family's style.

'Going Home' features everyone on their respective instruments and is a praiseworthy instrumental song written by Hannah Stiff. This 10 song cd is rounded out with a spirited, acapella and choir-like vocal delivery, with the family singing 'All Hail the Power of Jesus Name'. Two of my favourite picks for best bluegrass gospel are, 'Hallelujah Our Lord Is Risen' and 'Just Over the Blue'.

This is a great first bluegrass gospel cd for the Stiff Family. The family is very talented and may sometimes go a bit over the top by including total family vocals on everything. But I am sure as the family matures, the music will too. I would look forward to hearing more duets, and 2 or 3 part harmonies to change it up a bit. Their playing prowess is already proving that the family that plays together, stays together. The Stiff Family are getting the word out with their own musical sound and it's a joy tohear.

CD info. Contact StiffBluegrass.com or Ph. 519-656-1002





Circa 1937-'38. One of the first CKNX Barn Dance radio studio broadcasts:

L to R - Cec Merkley, Clare Adlam, Pauline Swanson (the Sweetheart of the Barn Dance), and Cora Robertson.



#### **COUNTRY CALENDAR**



by Doreen Brown
(Toronto and surrounding area)

- \* Booking the barn dance For more info or rebooking as follows: Barn Dance Musical Production, Barn Dance Bookings P.O. Box 68 Wingham, ON NOG 2W0 or call 519 -530-8000, email: webmaster@thebarndance.ca
- **\*** Appearances for Joe Tucker email: joetucker@yahoo.ca, or online at www.joetuckerband.com
- \* Appearances for Doreen Brown Undetermined at this time due to illness in family.

  \* To enjoy an evening of country music
- \* To enjoy an evening of country music visit cavens alley/bar, 585b Lakeshore Road, East. Call 905-278-9108.
- \* Live bands and dancing every Saturday Army, Navy and Air Force Vets Club, 7 Third St, Mississauga, ON. Call 905-274-3821.
- **\*** June 30 July 2 Newfoundland reunion in Cambridge.
- \* July 13 16 Norwood Country Jamboree. Call 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097. Address 48 Alma St. Norwood. Fair grounds online www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com Line up in last journal.
- **\*** July 20 23 Napanee Country Jamboree with Lisa Hart/Johnny Burke. Call to confirm sites 613-476-6535 or 613-354-0000.
- **\*** July 23 Featuring Tim Kennedy and the Roadhouse Boys at rcl br 344. Doors open 12:00pm., band 6:00pm. Come out and join the fun.
- \*\* Aug 2 6 26th Annual Classic Country Music Reunion and Jamboree at Centennial Park, Trenton, ON. Visit the website at www.ccmr.ca or call 705-878-3102.
- **\* Aug 30** Apple Country Jamboree. Early bird show at Keeler Centre in Colborne, ON. Doors open at 7:00pm. Outline as follows; Rick Loucks, Paul Weber, Eddie Eastman, and Harold Macintyre.
- \* Aug 31 Sept 2 Auction Barn Jamboree, 13th, Keeler Centre, 80 Division St, Colborne, ON. For line up, go online at www.auctionbarnjamboree.ca
- \* September Country music entertainer, Wolfe Milestone will be accepting a lifetime achievement award at the 42nd Ole Time Country Music Festival in Lemars, Iowa. Way to go Michael.

The following line ups are for the Country Versatiles. Visit the website at www.countryversatiles.com or email music550fair@hotmail.com for more information.

- \* July 1 Lion's Park on Bleimheim St and Huron Road 8, Mitchell, ON from 1 -4 pm.
- \* July 1 Danceland 256440 Sunova Cres, R.R. #2, Lakeside, ON from 8:00pm 12am.
- **\* July 2** Jamboree Centennial Hall, 39 Main Street, Princeton, ON from 1:00pm 5:00pm
- **\* July 8** Alma Community Centre, 0051 Simpson Street East, Alma, ON from 8pm 12 am.
- **\*** July 21 Crystal Palace, 155 Wellington Street, Mitchell, ON from 8pm 12am.
- **\* July 29** Lambeth Legion, 7097 Kilbourne Street, Lambeth, ON from 2:00pm 5:00pm.
- **\* July 29** Victory Legion, 311 Oakland Ave., London, ON from 8pm 11:30pm.
- **\* Aug 4 -** Hanover Legion, 493 Eighth Ave, Hanover, ON from 8:00pm 12:00am.
- **\*** Aug 5 Danceland 256440 Sunova Cres, R.R. #2, Lakeside, ON from 8:00pm 12:00am.
- \* Aug 6 Jamboree Centennial Hall, 39 Main Street, Princeton, ON from 8:00pm 12:00am.
- \* Aug 11 Clinton Legion, 95 Kirk Street, Clinton, ON from 8:00pm 12:00am.
- \* Aug 24 Listowel Seniors, Listowel from 2:00pm 3:15pm.
- \* Sept 1 Apple Country Jamboree 80 Division Street, Colborne, ON from 8:00pm 10pm.
- **\* Sept 2** Danceland, 256440 Sunova Cres, R.R. #2, Lakeside, ON from 8:00pm 12:00am.
- \* Sept 3 Jamboree Centennial Hall, 39 Main Street, Princeton, ON from 1:00pm 5:00pm.
- \* Sept 8 Huron Pioneer Threshers, Blyth, ON from 8:00pm 12:00am.

- **\* Sept 9** Lambeth Legion, 7097 Kilbourne Street, Lambeth, ON from 2:00pm 5:00pm.
- \* Sept 9 Victory Legion, 311 Oakland Ave., London, ON from 8:00pm II:30pm.
- \* Sept 10 Huron Pioneer Threshers, Blyth from 1:00pm - 4:00pm.
- \* Sept 17 Brussels Legion, 620 Turnberry Street, Brussels, ON from 7:00pm 1 1:00pm.
- \* Sept 22 Ancaster Fair, 630 Trinity Red South, Jerseyville, ON from 7:00pm 10:30pm.

Many of the summer shows have been outlined in last issue. Much credit to all at the Barn Dance Campout for all their many hours of preparation and success of our 20th year. Also to all who attended over the w/e guests, fans and entertainers.

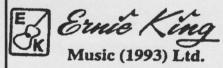
Anyone wishing to be added to this column re: appearances, please forward information to me at dbenterprises@rogers.com. Have a wonderful safe and fun summer!

#### The Barn Dance Museum

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### **BARN DANCE CORNER**

by Peter Saros

I have been trying to remember when I first became aware of Norro Wilson as a record producer. I think it was with Sammy Kershaw's 1991 Mercury debut "Don't Go Near the Water." That album, and subsequent Wilson-produced Kershaw projects, had a vitality and go-for-broke energy to them. They were built around powerful vocals and strong songs. Even in the halcyon days of 90's country these albums stood out despite Kershaw never achieving the level of chart success of many of his peers.

I certainly think a similar energy and appreciation for raw power defined the eponymous Keith Gattis 1996 RCA album that Wilson produced. Both Kershaw and Gattis were George Jones acolytes. It made sense that the man who penned George Jones' "The Grand Tour" was involved with both artists.

Born Norris "Norro" Wilson in 1934 in Scottsville, Kentucky, Wilson was involved in almost every imaginable aspect of the music business. At one point or another he worked as a: songwriter, performer, a song plugger, an A & R rep, a song publisher, and a record producer.

I am surprised at how many of my favourite musical productions have Wilson's fingerprints all over them. I mean what fuller, big singles are there than Charlie Rich's 'The Most Beautiful Girl" and "A Very Special Love Song?" Wilson co-wrote both. I guess Charlie Pride's "Never Been So Loved (In All My Life) and "Night Games" come close for that big, beautiful structure of a Norro Wilson penned tune. He would be involved in the writing of 11 songs that found there way to the top of the country charts. Another 20 cowrites would find their way into the Top 10. These accomplishments are why Wilson was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1996.

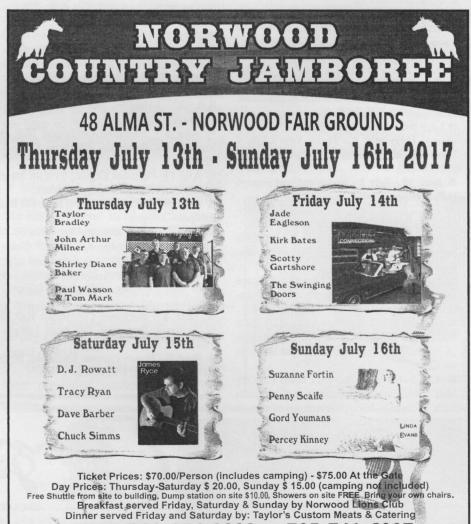
As far as accomplishments go, Ol' Norro signed Keith Whitley to RCA records in 1984. A fellow could do a lot worse than that. He would also later produce albums by Kenny Chesney, Shania Twain, and Reba McEntire.

The country music world lost Wilson on June 8, 2017. Of his passing, Kenny Chesney said, ""Norro Wilson was one of the great music men, not just of our time, but all time. He taught me so much about soul, and songs, and what it means to touch someone's life with music. I am so

fortunate to have not just known him, but made records with him — and I know wherever he is right now, he's making people smile, writing songs and showing everyone the time of their life."

In my listening experience a Norro Wilson project, whether it be a song he wrote or an album he produced, always came down to the song and a voice to sell it. It is important to note just how comfortable Wilson was collaborating creatively. Most of his biggest hits were co-writes. His ego never got in the way of his craft. One obituary referred to him as a steward of country music.

Norro Wilson will be missed.



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