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# The Barn Dance Opera Journal



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The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.

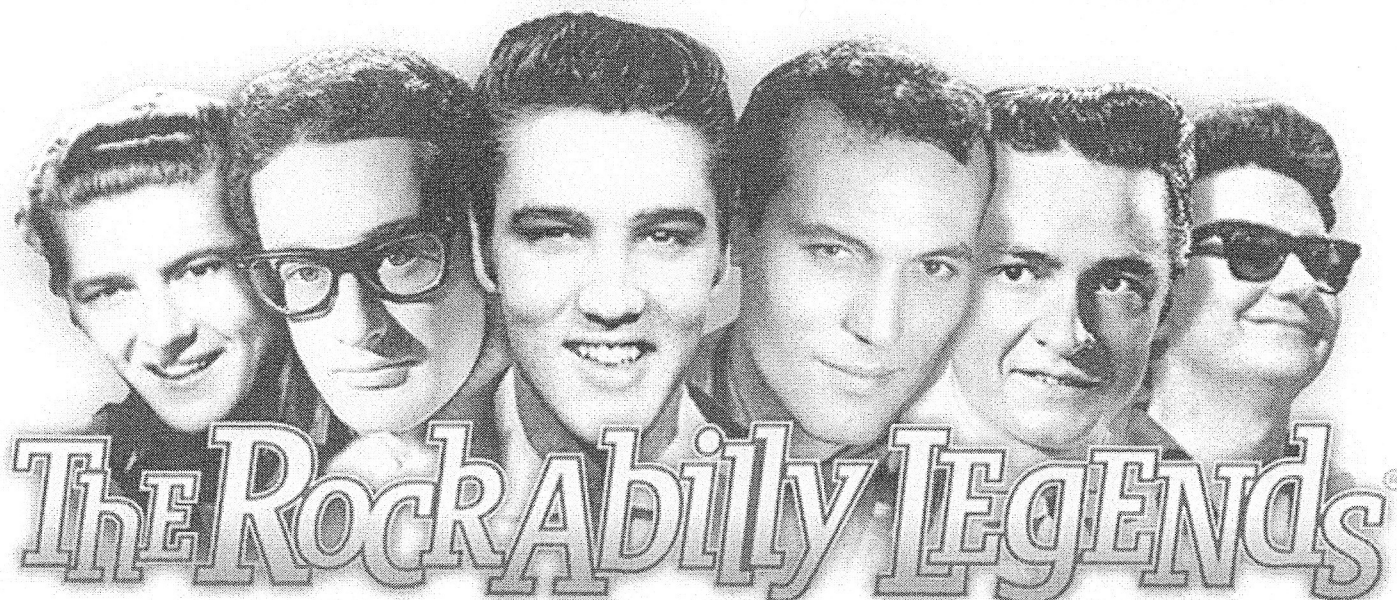


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**Vol. 103 2020**

**Winter Edition**

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## COUNTRY MUSIC'S TEENAGE SON ... ROCKABILLY

By Grant Heywood

Back in the 1950's traditional country music was really hitting its stride. Country music originated from southern Appalachian folk music in the southern U.S. or 'hillbilly' music if you will. It eventually merged with southern blues and gospel and branched into other genres such as western swing. Rockabilly was a hybrid of country hillbilly music blended with rhythm & blues from the southern states, performed by white musicians. It was likely the very first form of rock and roll and started making inroads since the early 1950's.

My father, cowboy singer, Earl Heywood, was making progress in the U.S. back in the early 1950's, making television, radio, and onstage appearances. About 1951 he spent about a month in Philadelphia at the request of his U.S. manager, Jack Howard. Jack had lined up about 4 or 5 weeks of performances for my dad and needed a place for my dad to reside when he wasn't touring. He had my dad stay at a farm north of Phila-

delphia where another burgeoning artist was residing as well. It was Bill Haley, later to become Bill Haley & the Comets.

Bill was playing country and western cowboy music and western swing, with his band Bill Haley and the Saddlemen. Bill told my dad he felt that music was taking a left turn and he wanted to be on the cusp of this new music that would become rockabilly music. Changing your music mid-stream is a risk, and Bill recorded one of the earliest rockabilly recordings, with *Rocket 88*. Bill's risk soon paid off in 1954 when Bill and the Comets hit it big on radio with hits like *Rock Around The Clock*, *Shake Rattle and Roll*, and *See You Later Alligator*. To this day, *Rock Around the Clock* has sold over 25 million copies. Dad remained friends with Bill for many years and soon cowboy music would take a back seat to the new rockabilly craze.

Billy Flagg, from Connecticut, first used the term *rockabilly* for his combi-

nation of rock and roll/hillbilly music as early as 1953. Prior to the 1950's, The Maddox Bros. & Rose were at the leading edge of the 'soon to be' rockabilly music with slapping bass and a boogie beat, and a record called 'Hillbilly Boogie'. Rockabilly music soon became popularized by the likes of Wanda Jackson, Billy Adams, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley. The rockabilly sound was defined by a slapping bass, jumping beat and an infectious dance sound, identified with a slap-back tape echo sound.

Record producer, Sam Phillips of Sun Records Recording Studio in Memphis perpetuated many of the rockabilly hits on the radio airwaves back in the 1950's. He convinced Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley to start recording rockabilly songs, breaking from the traditional country sound. *That's Alright Mama* by Elvis almost happened by accident when Elvis and the band were just fooling around in the stu-

*Continued on Page 3*

## The Editor Speaks

by Grant Heywood



Well, another early winter with snow and cold temperatures. Our climate sure has changed to say the least. I think we get about one month of spring and one month of fall if we're lucky. Now it's about 4 months of summer and 5 months of winter. Some folks have a hard enough time trying to figure out what day it is, let alone what season.

2019 was a good year for many of our Barn Dance Shows. Several Barn Dance Shows are booked for 2020, including our first Barn Dance at the Drayton Festival Theatre, which will be a fundraiser. Please check out our schedule below, for other Barn Dance Shows in the year 2020.

Hard to believe we're already in the year 2020. It only seems like yesterday that everyone was concerned their computers would shut down and there would be mass chaos because of the new millennium in the year 2000. I remember back when I was a kid, and how we were told what the future would be like.

From what was predicted back then, we should now be driving flying cars, working much less, earning much more, colonizing the moon. We are driving electric cars now, but working more jobs and earning less and the moon is being staked out by luxury hotel chains for those who are wealthy enough to be able to go there. 1984 came and went, but George Orwell's prediction in his novel of the same name, is becoming more evident in our society.

A totalitarian society under the 24

hour watch of Big Brother is or has become a reality in our everyday lives. Surveillance cameras are on many street corners, malls, stores, banks, homes, and vehicles. Dash cams, head cams, face recognition devices, security cams with remote intelligence. It's almost like living in a James Bond movie with all the high tech devices. And then there is 'Alexa', the device you sit on your table that has an answer for everything and knows everything you are doing. We have embraced technology at the peril of our own privacy for the sake of convenience and safety. Scary world we live in today.

We were told by our federal government that the telephone scammers would be suppressed, but it seems to have gotten worse. Phone calls from a foreign country demanding your personal information regarding everything from income tax to computer issues. Even your cell phone is not immune to these fraudulent money grabbing thieves. Charities must be having a very hard time raising money over the phone these days. I personally don't do any business over the phone, period.

Quite frankly, I'm quite satisfied paying cash for most purchases, listening to my old vinyl records, playing cd's when I'm in a vehicle that just might have a cd player. I still write songs with a pen and paper, wear long underwear when it's cold, use a map to figure out where I'm going, and go to live music events in support of musicians young and old, who are trying to get an audience to listen to their music. I guess you could say I'm 'old school'... and that suits me just fine.

Tradition falls into that category as well. If 'old school' is your cup of tea, then you should attend one of the upcoming Barn Dance Shows in the New Year. It's not called 'Canada's Largest Travelling

## The Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum

P.O. Box 68

Wingham, Ontario N0G 2W0

Phone (519) 530-8000

(or leave a message)

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Barn Dance' for nothing. It's an opportunity to hear some of Canada's well known and up and coming talent, perform traditional and some contemporary country music with a stellar band. It's kind of like the 'Grand Ole Opry' of Canada. I'm looking forward to 2020 with some great Barn Dance Shows. Hope to see you at the next Barn Dance.

Comments? Please contact:

Grant Heywood

5584 Deborah Glaister Line,

R. R. #2, Wellesley, Ontario NOB 2T0

Phone: (519) 656-2552

E-mail: [heywoods@xplornet.ca](mailto:heywoods@xplornet.ca)

or send a message on facebook.

## 2020 COMING EVENTS

Date	Event Name	Place
Sat., April 4	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 - 7:30 p.m.	Drayton Festival Theatre, Drayton, ON
Sun., May 3	Barn Dance Show - 2:00 p.m.	Purple Hill Opry, Thorndale, ON
May 21 - 24	23rd Annual Campout Jamboree	Blyth Arena and Campgrounds, Blyth
Sat., June 20	Barn Dance Show - 7:00 p.m.	Elma-Logan Arena, Moncton, ON



*Continued from Page 1*

dio and Sam hit the record button. The song was a marriage of black and white genres of music and was originally denied airplay on white only radio stations. It was like waging a war on segregated radio stations at that time. Soon, the radio airwaves were playing Jerry Lee Lewis's *Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On* and *Great Balls of Fire*. Gene Vincent sold over a million records with *Be Bop A Lula*. This was about 1956-57, and it was like honky tonk music on fire. The barrier of white musicians playing and emulating black music was about to be broken.

Bluegrass pioneer, Bill Monroe hated the new rockabilly music and was not a big fan of Elvis Presley, until Elvis recorded a new rockin' version of *Blue Moon Of Kentucky*. When Bill Monroe got his songwriters royalty cheque for the song, he said, 'Elvis can record any of my songs if he wants to.' Rockabilly music had arrived and would soon become a springboard for rock and roll to follow.

When the Beatles arrived in 1964, the British Invasion of music followed. Many of the British bands were influenced by and embraced the rockabilly sound, including the Beatles. Chuck Berry and southern blues also became a part of the British sound and it was interesting to hear their interpretation of early rock music which they incorporated into their music.

Rockabilly enjoyed widespread radio success from the 1950's into the early 1960's. It was around late 1970 and the early 1980's that rockabilly music enjoyed a revival, with the likes of rock musicians influenced by the music genre. Mostly English musicians like Dave Edmunds, Robert Gordon, Brian Setzer & the Stray Cats, and Nick Lowe helped rockabilly make a brief comeback. Even the successful super group Queen, had a huge hit with a rockabilly song called, *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* in 1980.

Rockabilly music can be attributed to influencing many styles of music, such as, punk rock, roots rock, rockin' blues, garage rock, and country rock. It can still be heard on recordings by Hank Williams Jr., Steve Earle, Los Lobos, Neil Young, Marty Stuart and many others to this day. As much as the country music

community doesn't always like to acknowledge their association with rockabilly or rock and roll, there is no denying where it all came from. There was a time when country music shunned the likes of Elvis Presley. Over time they learned to embrace all of his music. The original Rockabilly Hall of Fame is headquartered in Nashville. In 2000 an International Rockabilly Hall of Fame Museum, was established in Jackson, Tennessee. Rockabilly continues to permeate music today.

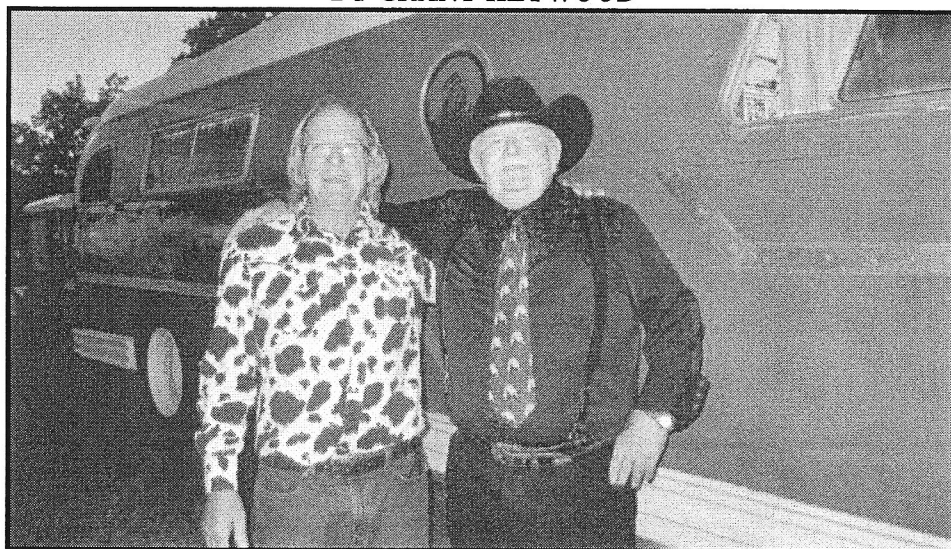
**Who Remembers This?**  
Article will return in  
Spring issue.

### 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@thebarndance.ca](mailto:webmaster@thebarndance.ca)

# TOUR BUS HEAVEN

BY GRANT HEYWOOD



**Grant Heywood with longtime friend Rick Norcross, standing beside the green Flxible Starliner tour bus (The Pickle) after a performance with Rick and the Ramblers in Vermont (2014).**

My good friend Rick Norcross, of Rick & the Ramblers western swing band, in Burlington, Vermont, have travelled in a 1957 Flxible Starliner bus for over 22 years. The bus, (named The Mighty Pickle) has had its fair share of celebrities and politicians on board over the years. I can remember partying with Rick and the boys on the bus a few times myself. Back in the day, Johnny Cash, Doc & Chickie Williams, Hank Snow, and other Nashville stars, used to tour in a bus just like the Flxible Starliner. Rick's vintage bus has been for sale since late last year.

Rick and the Ramblers continue to carry on with a new upcoming cd in 2020, but The Mighty Pickle has recently

been bought by Dave Wright, from Ocala, Florida. Dave has donated the bus to Country Music Award winner Marty Stuart, and his Congress of Country Music Museum, presently under construction in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where it will be on permanent display. Rick & the Ramblers have the honour of flying down to Mississippi for the Grand Opening of the new museum this year. They will ride into the museum on The Mighty Pickle and then join Marty Stuart onstage for a show in the historic Ellis Theatre at the museum. What a way to start off the New Year. Congratulations to Rick and the band, and to finding a very deserving home for the Mighty Pickle.

# DOREEN BROWN COUNTRY MUSIC FROM THE HEART

BY GRANT HEYWOOD



**Bob Everhart presenting Doreen Brown with America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame Award on stage in Iowa U.S.A.**

Doreen Brown was born into a fiddle playing, country music loving family. Doreen was the first of six siblings born near Creemore, Ont. and later moving to the Sudbury area where Doreen's dad worked in the mines. As a teenager, Doreen and a friend would take the bus to the Crystal Palace in Sudbury to listen and dance to country music. Her parents soon bought a farm near Singhampton, Ont. while Doreen worked in Collingwood. She later went to Shaw Business College, worked for a lawyer, then became a Reg. Practical Nurse, which led to working 20 years as a Reg. Psychiatric Practical Nurse.

Eventually, Doreen married country singer/entertainer, Doug (Slim) Rose. Doreen travelled with Doug, where he performed at Mart Kenny's Ranch, The Brass Rail on Yonge St., and CHML in Hamilton. It was in these early years where Doreen met a young Tommy Hunter, Gordie Tapp and even Wilf Carter and family. Doug was a great guitarist and worked in Wes Chapman's band and later on with June & George Pasher, and Chef Adams.

Down the road, Doreen and Doug divorced, and Doreen became more involved in the country music scene on her own. It was in 1995 that Doreen met retired recording artist, Chef Adams. They put a band together and spent several years performing and singing at The Classic Country Music Reunion shows in Trenton for many years, where Doreen received the Appreciation Award. Roy Thompson Hall Lobby, Opry

Orillia, Beeton Fair, Bond Head, Chef's Maple Leaf Jamboree, where places they had an opportunity to sing and play traditional country music. They even got to 'hang out' and meet with the likes of Stompin' Tom Connors, Juanita Garron, Kitty Wells, Johnny & Jack as well as fiddlers, Eleanor & Graham Townsend.

Country entertainer, Jack Look, and Doreen formed Opry Toronto, and had weekly shows with many country artists including Doreen. It lasted six years and Doreen kept up performances elsewhere as well, including performances on the Barn Dance shows at the annual Barn Dance Campout Jamboree in Blyth, Ont. where she received the Appreciation Award just a few years ago on the Main Stage. Needless to say, Doreen has been writing her Country Calendar column for the Barn Dance Opera Journal for 22 years now, and spreading the news to others about country and bluegrass events.

It was 2005 when Doreen was invited by the late Col. Buster Boss, to the Jamboree on The Mt., Mount Eagle, TN. She performed there, and met artists such as Tommy Cash, Billy Walker, Wolf Milestone, Ernie Ashworth and many others. An invitation by Branson World Radio, in Branson, had Doreen perform for Veteran's Day in the park and she got to meet with Moe Bandy. On CHKT Atlantic Canada Radio, Doreen announced station ID'S, commercials, and features for the Havelock Country Jamboree. She's been fortunate in meeting a lot of country music entertainers over the years, many who are no longer with us. Lefty Frizzell, Hawkshaw Hawkins, June Pasher, Norma Gayle, and Mac Wiseman are just a few of them.

Doreen's volunteer work has been instrumental in promoting country music shows. 'The Best Things In Life Are Free', and Doreen has been instrumental in promoting country music shows and events, doing benefits, and judging talent shows. A few years ago, two young fiddlers won at the Tottenham Talent Show and won. Doreen says, 'I'm so proud of them, now that they're playing the Main Stage'. Doreen's cd *Should I Cross the Line*, is a testament to her love for country music and has received radio airplay. She delights in helping others in the country music field like Larry Delaney of Coun-

try Music News, and other radio and media people.

Doreen's award winning cd, *Should I Cross The Line*, is a testament to her love for country music and received extensive airplay internationally. It was the death of Doreen's son Randy, in 1988, that compelled Doreen to write the song *Unending Love*, in his memory. It was written about getting over a loss and getting on with life. This song received the Unicorn and Uncle Buddy's Golden Boot Awards. To her credit, Doreen already has 3 albums to her credit, receiving consistent airplay on the Big Al Fields Radio Show in Australia.

Recently, Doreen was invited to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> National Old Time Music Festival, in Fremont, Nebraska, USA, to receive the 'CD of the Year' award and be inducted into America's Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. Her sister Donna went along to see Doreen perform on the Main Stage and receive the awards. As Doreen has said, her many awards came from the support of family, the Good Lord, friends, promoters like, Michael T. Wall, Larry Delaney, Barn Dance Historical Society, Tottenham Bluegrass, Jack Look, Opry Toronto, past CCMR, Chef Adams, Opry Orillia, and Bob/Sheila Everhart.

Doreen is an exemplary example of a country purist with a heart. She's a sharp dresser on and off stage, and is always willing to help someone else before helping herself. She is a good friend and continues to promote traditional country music wherever she goes. Gratitude is one of Doreen's most heartfelt emotions she displays, as she continues spreading the gospel of traditional country music.



**Doreen Brown looking classy after a Friday night Country Music Show in Fremont Nebraska recently.**





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## BARN DANCE JOURNAL

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Full Page (back cover) - \$300.00 plus HST

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## 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

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# CD REVIEW "SHINE"

## THE GHOST TOWN BLUES BAND

BY GRANT HEYWOOD

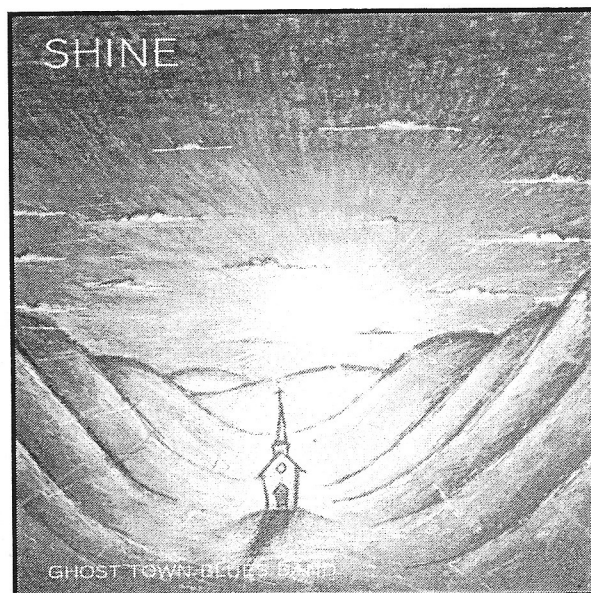
I had the opportunity to catch this Memphis band in concert, late last summer in Kitchener, and they've since recently played in London, Ont. as well as The Bruce Inn, Kincardine, Ont. Talk on the street was the band was making great inroads and topping the Billboard charts. With several awards to their credit I soon found out that their live show was second to none. With that, they already had my interest.

The live, Backstage Pass cd was just a teaser compared to the new *SHINE* cd. Lead singer/guitarist, Matt Isbell delivers a total entertainment package onstage with a band that is a melting pot of blues, r & b, New Orleans jazz, rock, and even tinges of country. To paraphrase, they are a new blues band with an old soul. The 12 tracks on *SHINE*, showcase every facet of what this band is all about. From Matt Isbell's gravel smoked vocals and cigar box slide guitar, to Suavo Jones magic trombone & trumpet, a powerhouse rhythm section featuring Matt Karner on bass/vocals, and Andrew McNeill on drums/vocals, rounded out by Cedric Taylor's Hammond B3 & piano prowess, and Taylor Orr's hot licks on guitar/vocals, these guys are a compelling breath of fresh air for tired ears.

Standout tracks include the Allman Bros. like, *Running Out of Time*, the crack-erjack, *Soda Pop*, the R & B title cut *Shine*, as well as the

lengthy but oh so worth it, *Givin' It All Away*. The trombone solo alone in *Givin' It All Away* is worth the price of admission. *Heading Nowhere Fast* could easily make some noise on any new country music chart. *Evangelie* and *Hey There Lucinda* also deserve honourable mention as well. All the songs written by Matt Isbell and Taylor Orr are well arranged and are right in the pocket of what Ghost Town Blues Band is all about.

It was great to meet these guys in person, backstage at a concert. Their countless hours on the road across the U.S., Canada and Europe, and dedication to their music certainly *shines* (no pun intended) through in performance. Produced by Kevin Houston, and co-produced by Matt Isbell, *SHINE* is a big step closer to Ghost Town Blues Band becoming a household name. Go see them live or check them out at [ghosttownbluesband.com](http://ghosttownbluesband.com).



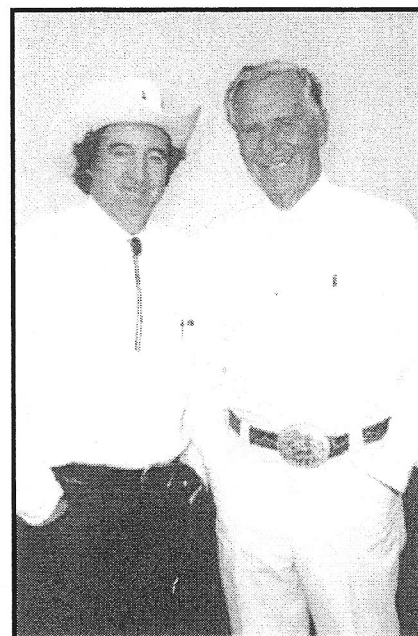
# MUSIC & MEMORIES



*Canada's Number One Singing Cowboy (Earl Heywood) seen here with Roy Acuff, backstage at the Grand Ole Opry at the Ryman in Nashville, around 1950/'51.*



*Clarence Adlam (fiddle) and the Rhythm Rangers with Hughie Elder right, on guitar in the 1950's.*



*Michael T. Wall with Hee Haw's Gordie Tapp at the Classic Country Music Reunion in the 1980's.*

*Country entertainers, The Paul Brothers and Shirley in the late 1940's, early 50's.*



## SOME WELL KNOWN COUNTRY ARTISTS WE LOST IN 2019

**Harold Bradley** – 93. Ace guitarist, Country Music Hall of Famer and most recorded instrumentalist in history. Brother to famous record producer, Owen Bradley.

**Fred Foster** – 87. Producer of iconic songs for Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, and so many others. Founder of Monument Records.

**Mac Wiseman** – 93. Country Music Hall of Famer & Bluegrass Music Hall of Famer. Founding member of the C.M.A. and famous recording artist, radio host, and recording label executive.

**Earl Thomas Conley** – 77. Famous country singer/songwriter, nominated for several Grammy awards.

**Ralph Murphy** – 75. Canadian born singer/songwriter. He penned hits for Shania Twain, Randy Travis, Ray Price, and many others.

**Dick Dale** – 81. Guitarist who pioneered the famous 'surf guitar' sound.

**Steve Ripley** – 69. Bandleader/musician with 90's country group The Tractors. (Baby Likes To Rock It)

**Jim Glaser** – 81. Member of the trio, Tompall and the Glaser Bros.

**Chuck Glaser** – 83. Member of the trio, Tompall and the Glaser Bros.

**Leon Rausch** – 91. Last remaining member and lead singer of the famous western swing band, Bob Wills Texas Playboys.

**Billy Adams** – 79. Rockabilly Hall of Famer.

**Jerry Carrigan** – 75. One of the Alabama Muscle Shoals studio musicians known as 'The Swampers'. He played on The Gambler and He Stopped Loving Her Today.

**Russel Smith** – 70. Nashville songwriter and lead singer/guitarist of the Amazing Rhythm Aces.

**Jimmy Johnson** – 76. Guitarist for the Muscle Shoals Swampers in Alabama. He played on sessions by Lynyrd

Skynyrd, Bob Dylan, and others.

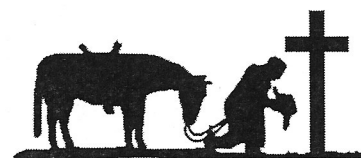
**Sonny Curtis** – 83. Famous steel guitarist for George Jones and Tammy Wynette.

**Dallas Harms** – 84. Canadian Country Music Hall of Famer, whose biggest hit was Paper Rosie, recorded by Gene Watson.

**Steve Cash** – 73. Harmonica virtuoso/songwriter with The Ozark Mt. Daredevils.

**Steve Mann** – 57. Leader/musician of Canadian folk band Spirit of the West.

**Jack Scott** – 83. Canadian/American, rockabilly, singer/songwriter. Hits include: What In The World's Come Over You, and Burning Bridges.



## COUNTRY CALENDAR



by Doreen Brown

(Toronto and surrounding area)

- \* **April 16** - Whiskey Jack will have a belated 7th annual Stompin' Tom birthday celebration at Zoomer Hall, Toronto. The show will be streamed on internet and streamed on broadcast line am740 and 96.7 fm. List of special guests announced soon.
- \* **May 21 - 24** - 22nd Annual Barn Dance Campout in Blyth. Main stage, open mic and jams in the upstairs arena. Will be a snack bar.
- \* **May 28 - 31** - 22nd Annual Barn Dance jamboree/campout weekend at Blyth Arena Complex. During the weekend, there campers' jams, bluegrass show at 7pm Friday night, continental breakfast Saturday morning, open stage. Lion's club dinner. For advance tickets only, Saturday night barn dance show and later dancing. Sunday a Lion's Club breakfast and gospel show. Entertainment line up will be online when available, at [www.barndance.ca](http://www.barndance.ca).
- \* **June 19 - 21** - Tottenham Bluegrass Festival. Tickets now on sale online at [tottenhambluegrass.ca](http://tottenhambluegrass.ca). Early bird prices available PO Box 922, Tottenham, ON, L0G 1W0. Children's talent show sat 1:30 main stage all w/e and gospel show sun. Call for more info at 647-209-2593.
- \* **July 16 - 19** - Norwood Country Jamboree. See main shows, open mic and food is available. Located at 48 Alma St., Norwood Fairgrounds. Go online at [www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com](http://www.norwoodcountryjamboree.com) or call 1-800-654-9998 or 705-741-6097.
- \* **Aug 14 - 17** - Annual Havelock Country Jamboree. Email for more information at [info@havelockcountryjamboree.com](mailto:info@havelockcountryjamboree.com) or call 1-800-539-3353.
- \* **Simcoe Manor Jam** - In Beeton, ON, on the fourth Friday of the month, 7 - 9 p.m.
- \* **Bluegrass Music** - At the Owen Sound Legion on every Monday.
- \* **Every Thursday** - Parkview Senior's Center, 189 Blake St., Barrie, Senior's dance at 1:30 with live music.
- \* **For Shows at Purple Hill** - Please contact Anna, 519-461-0538.
- \* **Michael T. Wall** - He is working on a new CD. More info in the next issue.
- \* Country music all w/e at Moose Lodge, Lakeshore and Hwy 27, Linda Wells, Roy Penney, Harold MacIntyre often share the stage as well as guest artists.
- \* **ANAF** - on Third St, Mississauga, also has country music all weekend, as well as guest artists.

- \* **Jim Beach** - Recording artist, the best in traditional country and gospel music. For bookings or information, call 519-353-5801 or email [jimbeech@bmts.com](mailto:jimbeech@bmts.com).
- \* **Pickin' in the park** - In Shelburne. visit their website at [www.pickinthepark.webs.com](http://www.pickinthepark.webs.com). Will be in July (no official date yet) Open mic jamborees, camping no hydro.
- \* **Live entertainment** - For all occasions, email Gisele at [gssl@eastlink.ca](mailto:gssl@eastlink.ca) or call 705-753-5225. Offer French and English songs.
- \* **Country music with down east style** - Contact Joe Tucker and Second Wind for bookings, call 905-855-335.
- \* **Appearances by Doreen Brown** - Jan 9 Thornton jamboree, upstairs. Jan 16 Holland Landing jamboree. Jan, Feb Mar jam sessions on the last Wednesday of the month at 1:30. At 7300 Industrial Parkway, Alliston Rec. Centre. The third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 (same place). Bring your own musical instruments. Thornton jamboree and dance, upstairs arena on second Thursday of the month. Holland Landing, third Thursday. Next issue dates for the barn dance annual campout, Pickin' in the Park, The Shelburne, Norwood Country jamboree, also the recreation centre, on bypass, Alliston, second Tuesday jam/dance, and last Wednesday of month senior's afternoon jam.
- \* **Planning summer shows** - Contact Hitchin Post Jamboree by email at [hitchin.post.jamboree@gmail.com](mailto:hitchin.post.jamboree@gmail.com) or online at [www.higchinpostjamboree.ca](http://www.higchinpostjamboree.ca). Address is Box 196, 10914 Country Rd. 2. Or call Al Martin 905-396-4013.
- \* **Marion's Country Band** - For bookings, contact Marion Armstrong at 519-833-2353, address is RR #1, Erin, ON N0B 1T0.
- \* **Scott Woods updates** - Call 519-843-8873.
- \* **Best in old time fiddle** - Step dance and country music entertainment, contact the Beckett family and friends, at RR #2 Kemble, ON, N0H 1S0 or call 519-372-0511.
- \* **Booking info for crystal gage** - Call 519-945-7142, or online at [www.crystalgage.com](http://www.crystalgage.com)
- \* **Next issue** - Will contain info on our Barn Dance Annual Campout, in Blyth, sometime in May.
- \* **Jam session every Wednesday** - At the Senor's Centre in Markdale. From 7:30 to 10:00, bring your musical instruments for an evening of fun and enjoyment.
- \* **Sunday Dances** - The Dundalk Legion has an afternoon of dancing with country music Sunday afternoons. Check current dates by calling 519-923-2528.
- \* **Tim Kennedy with Road House Band** - Entertains at the Moose Lodge, Lakeshore and 27 HWY. They often have invited guests up to sing at the Moose Lodge.
- \* **Fiddles and Squares** - Old time square dance parties, call Ralph and Sandy Price at 705-835-3159.

- \* **Queens Bush Bluegrass Club** - Owen Sound Legion, 1450 2nd Ave. W. Has a jam every Thursday 7:30. Go online for more info [www.queensbush.ca](http://www.queensbush.ca).
- \* **Havelock Country jamboree** - Date unavailable. Usually last week in August. See next issue for info, call 1-800-539-3353.
- \* **Auction Barn Jamboree** - Usually in the last week of August. For info email Gary Warner at [gwarner@eagle.ca](mailto:gwarner@eagle.ca).
- \* **For Dave Whalen appearances** - Email [starliteband@rogers.com](mailto:starliteband@rogers.com) for more info.
- \* **The Barrie Legion** - Call 705-728-1412, sometimes have country music on sat nights.
- \* **The Penetang Legion** - Country music sometimes on Saturday nights.
- \* **Tons of thanks and appreciation** - To all DJ's who play our music, nationally and internationally and a big "Hi" to Al Field, in Australia, who plays Canadian artists' music.
- \* **For your country music listening pleasure** - Tune in to the gospel trail with Peter Trenholm online, [www.cftfm.com](http://www.cftfm.com).
- \* **Bond Head Fiddle Club** - The 4th Tuesday of the month.

*As this journal is for Jan., Feb. and Mar., Christmas and New Year's will be over. Wishing all readers a wonderful, healthy and happy 2020. In my country music journey to Fremont, Nebraska, having received an award for "America's old time country music hall of fame" also "album of the year", my speech was as follows. "I did not receive these awards all by myself. Through DJ's internationally, promoters and supports; Larry Delaney's Country Music News, Michael T. Wall, The Barn Dance Historical Society, Oprey, Orillia, Oprey Toronto, Chef Adams, all my friends and family, and, very importantly, all the wonderful folks that come out to shows that support all artists." When you receive this issue Mr. Bob Everhart, thank you for making this weekend for me and my sister, Donna White, such a huge highlight of my life. Including being on the Main Show last year of our Barn Dance, Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance.*

*My Showcase will be in Our Canada Apr/May issue.*



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37 West St., Goderich (519) 524-4689  
E-mail: [webmaster@thebardance.ca](mailto:webmaster@thebardance.ca)



# BARN DANCE CORNER

by Peter Saros

Books about country music can be every bit as influential and important as the actual music and musicians about which they are written. The best of those books become dogeared and tattered through constant re-reading the same way favourite albums were worn out repeatedly listening to the best songs. Loyalties and relationships with writers develop to the point where I will purchase any title based solely on my trust of the author in the same way musicians have earned my unfailing loyalty to their craft. An author honestly sharing how a song, a moment, or a musician made them feel is something special. Better yet if it is done well. After all, there is writing that is pure puffery and then there is writing that is pure poetry. Just like we know real country music when we hear it, we know real writing when we read it.

Two titles published in 2017 about country music are excellent examples of writing that matters. The first is *Johnny's Cash & Charley's Pride: Lasting Legends*

and *Untold Adventures in Country Music* by Peter Cooper. The Second is titled *Women Walk the Line: How the Women in Country Music Changed Our Lives* edited by Holly Gleason. Both speaks to the ability of music to transform lives, the lives of those recording the music as well as the lives of those listening to it. In both books the writers are there as emotional guide to organize the messy and complicated feelings that come with that transformation. They provide personal accounts of how the music affected them. There is personal history, larger cultural context along with the unedited celebration of country music that comes with simply being a fan of the style.

Cooper, in a chapter about Tom T. Hall and appropriately titled "Storytelling" wrote:

*As a music writer –And I would suggest this is true of the vast majority of writers – I am here to say that objectivity is the mortal enemy. Now for sure you need a good bull-shit detector, and you shouldn't rant, and you shouldn't cheerlead. But objectivity is*

*dispassionate. And we're in the passion business. We're trying to make people feel something different than what they felt before they read our words.*

An essay in Gleason's collection, written by musician Grace Potter about singer Linda Ronstadt, captures that passion. Potter says, "Every piece of music I've ever written, I've seen first. I would only listen to records because of the way the covers looked to me." She later describes listening to Ronstadt's music as "invitations to an internal world."

And that's the magic of these collections in a nutshell. Music looks like something. The personal matters. People and places play out in these stories. Music is received as an invitation.

There are too many wonderful observations and anecdotes to go into here. Please accept my closing words as an invitation to read about country music as much as you listen to it in 2020.

The Show must go on!

## CANADIAN COUNTRY MUSIC ARTIST DALLAS HARMS 1935-2019

Canadian Country Music Artist Dallas Harms 1935 - 2019.

It was sad to hear of the passing of a great singer/songwriter, Dallas Harms this past year. Originally from Jansen, Saskatchewan, Dallas moved to Hamilton, Ont. and became a very successful songwriter of country music. His career began in the mid 50's, but his success came in the 1970's with songs such as *In The Loving Arms of Marie*, *Old Ira Gray*, *Georgia I'm Cheating On You Tonight*, *It's Crying Time For Me*, and *The Ballad of the Duke*.

His biggest hit was *Paper Rosie*, recorded by Gene Watson in 1977, and became the #1 single at that time.

Another one of his songs, *Honky Tonkin' All Night Long*, also hit # 1 on the charts. Others such as Billy Walker, George Hamilton IV, and The Osbourne Bros. also recorded some of Dallas Harm's songs.

Dallas was the recipient of several awards, such as the RPM Big Country Top Composer and Top Producer awards. He also won Best Album in 1978, Songwriter of the Year, Top Single of the Year, as well as multiple CCMA Awards.

He toured across Canada countless times and performed in New Zealand, and at Wembley Stadium in England. Dallas also represented Canada at the International Country Music Festival

in Nashville as well. When he was inducted into the Canadian Songwriter Hall of Fame, Dallas said, *'All I ever wanted was to be a songwriter, and when they inducted me into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, everything came true.'*

A Canadian Country Music Hall of Famer, he was inducted in 1989. He was a friend to many country music artists over the years including Carol Baker, Ronnie Hawkins and others. Dallas was also a special friend to Canadian Country Music recording artist, Paul Weber. Sadly, he will be missed by many, but his legacy won't be forgotten.