



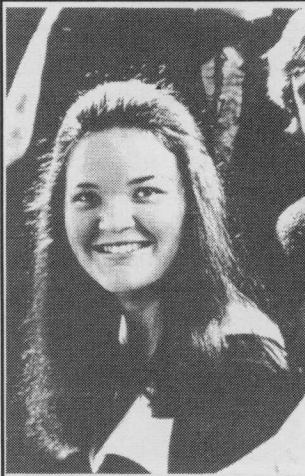
HUGH AND LINDA ELDER

Hugh is a wearer of many hats. He has been a school teacher, mechanic, farmer and musician. He has been a member of the "Ranch Boys", and appeared with them on "Circle 8 Ranch". Hugh recently teamed up with his daughter, Linda, and the duo has gained popularity with a wide range of audiences, including concert, dance and lounge patrons.



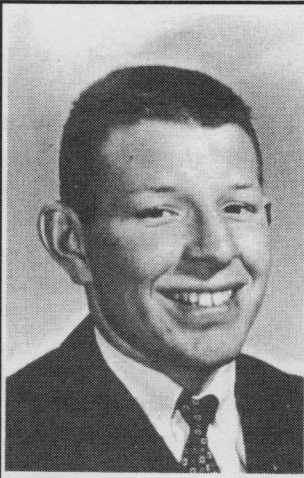
BRENDA ALLEN

Brenda was born in Toronto and moved to Harriston when she was 7. She was introduced by Al Cherney to "Western Roundup" on CKNX-TV when she was 16. Brenda soon moved into a regular spot on the Barn Dance and she also toured with Jack Kingston, a Hamilton performer. Now a resident of Collingwood, Brenda is looking forward to the new era of the Barn Dance.



CONNIE MANN

Daughter of the late Lola and Ross Mann, Connie is an accomplished pianist and vocalist. She has toured Ontario extensively, performing primarily in night clubs. Connie also appeared frequently with the "Ranch Boys" and on "Circle 8 Ranch".



HARVEY MANN

Harvey is the son of the late Lola and Ross Mann. Ross was one of the most popular of the many noted entertainers on the Barn Dance. Harvey acquired most of his musical training from his father, becoming a proficient guitarist, vocalist and banjo player. Harvey performed with the "Ranch Boys" and also appeared on the Barn Dance and on "Circle 8 Ranch".



THE McINTOSH SISTERS

Marjorie and Joyce McIntosh grew up in Tiverton. Music was always a big part of their family life, and the girls were involved from their early years. Along with brother Norm they played shows with Lloyd Wright's "Radio Rangers" from London, with the "Paul Brothers and Shirley", and did guest appearances on the Barn Dance and on CKNX-TV. After Norm left home to become an OPP officer, the girls became a duo, doing many shows with the "Ranch Boys" around the area and on "Circle 8 Ranch" on CKNX-TV. When husbands and children came on the scene, the girls pretty much left the entertainment business, but have come out of retirement to sing some songs on the Barn Dance this season.



THE COLORADO KIDS

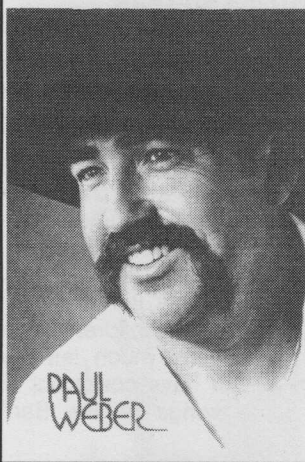
Les and Jean Dowell

Les and Jean originally came from Toronto. They married in 1945, and have been singing together ever since. They were featured on the CKNX Barn Dance in 1947. After this they played club and dance dates around Edmunston, New Brunswick, with banjo virtuoso, Maurice Bolyer, and later performed in the Toronto and Montreal areas. Since 1963, they have lived in Hamilton. They were featured on CHML's "Main Street Jamboree" and on CHCH-TV, and played clubs and shows around Ontario until they officially retired in the early 1970's. Obviously, Les and Jean have kept on performing locally and are featured on our latest Barn Dance CD, singing "Chime Bells, recorded in the spring of 1998!



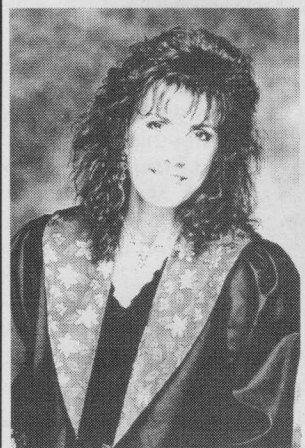
LARRY MERCHEY

At 16 years of age, Larry joined the Barn Dance. Elvis Presley was "King" of the music world. Larry could not only do all Elvis' songs, some say he could do them better. When the Everley Brothers shot to fame, younger brother Ray teamed up with Larry and the Mercey's proved to be a match for the Everleys too. The Mercey Brothers added to their success when youngest sibling Lloyd joined in. After Ray and then Lloyd retired, Larry continued to perform for a while with the "Larry Mercey Band", but he now limits his performances.



PAUL WEBER

Paul is the product of a musical family from Mildmay. His father, Smokey Weber, and other members of the family performed with the Barn Dance in its early years. Paul and his brother Mike later joined up with the "Joe Firth Band" and Paul eventually formed his own group. Now the owner of a hotel in Maryhill, Paul is still performing but limits his road work.



PAULA MANDERSON

Paula hails from Harriston and has become a well-known performer in the area. She appears frequently and in a variety of settings, such as stage shows, concerts, lounges and singing contests. She has also cut records and appeared on CKNX Road Shows.



GRAHAM AND ELEANOR TOWNSEND

Graham and Eleanor are North America's only husband and wife Championship Fiddle Team. Graham is five times undefeated North American Fiddle Champion, and Eleanor is the only woman ever to have won the Shelburne open championship. Graham has played for the Queen and Prince Philip, toured with many of the top acts in country music, recorded over forty albums, and appeared on countless radio and TV shows. Eleanor, in addition to her Shelburne win, has won many other contests, and both as a solo artist and in duets with Graham, significantly raised the profile of women fiddlers whenever she performs.



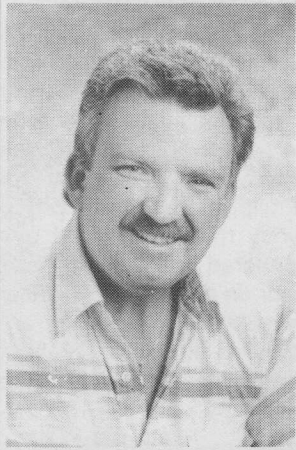
MICHAEL T. WALL

Michael T. Wall is sometimes referred to as "The Ambassador from Newfoundland". He strongly promotes "The Rock", as well as all of Canada wherever he goes, and in his long career he's been almost everywhere! He has sung in Europe, on the Grand Old Opry, and appeared on stage with folks like Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton and George Jones, to name just a few. Back in 1970, he was the first Newfoundlander to record in Nashville, and has many recordings available for his fans. He's also a great supporter of our Barn Dance Society, and we welcome Michael to our 1998 cast.



RICHARD KNECHTEL

Richard Knechtel has been a professional musician all his adult life. He's established himself as a highly respected artist through quality performances, recordings and song writing. Armed with an enormous repertoire of songs (swing, novelty, blues, pop, rock, children's, country, folk and western), he has what it takes to entertain any audience, young or old. His confident, creative and friendly performances have charmed audiences throughout Ontario and taken him to the southern U.S., Mexico, the Maritimes and western provinces of Canada. Richard's recordings are available on his Greentree Music label.



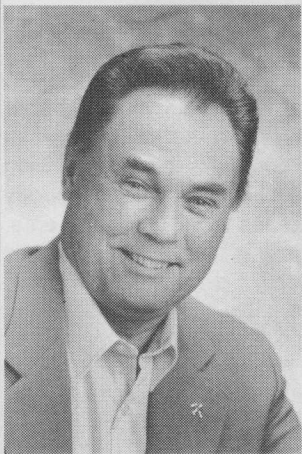
AL WIDMEYER

Now a Kitchener resident, Al's taste for country music was developed in his hometown of Hanover. He is a skilled player of six instruments, guitar, steel guitar, dobro, bass, banjo, and fiddle. Al has a hit record "Honky Tonk Saturday Night". He has played extensively with the "Dixie Flyers", Joe Firth and Carl Kees. Al has also performed as an opening act with George Jones, Conway Twitty, Johnny Cash and the "Nashville Stars".



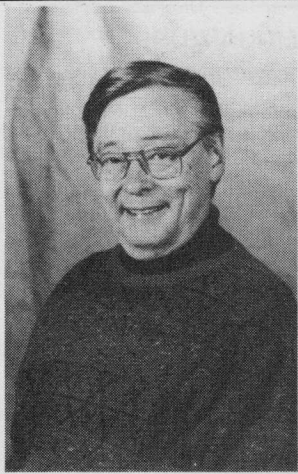
DOREEN BROWN

Country Classic artist, Doreen Brown has released a new cassette, "Unending Love", featuring renditions of country and gospel standards, and the original title track which is dedicated to her late son. Born in Sudbury, Ontario, Doreen has been a country music entertainer since the mid 50's when she performed with her husband, Doug "Slim" Rose, in the touring band "Prairie Dawgs". Doreen has guested on the popular Main Street Jamboree show on CHML (Hamilton) and has hosted radio shows in Toronto and Hamilton.



GERRY DAVIDSON

A native of Plattsville and son of country band leader Lee Davidson, Gerry has been winner of numerous singing contests, including the Simcoe Open and one sponsored by radio station CKFH. He has been on the Wheeling West Virginia "Jamboree" and will be performing there again. Gerry is a member of the "Country Versatiles" and has also appeared on the Barn Dance Reunion.



RON COULTHARD

The son of an old-time fiddler, Ron became proficient on steel guitar, lead guitar, banjo, and piano. His roots are in St. Marys, but he is also the secretary-treasurer of the Stratford Musician's Union. Ron has performed with a number of the Stratford area bands. He has been a member of the "Country Cousins", was featured for many years on "Circle 8 Ranch", and fronts his own band, "The Wildwoods".



BILL SIMMERMAKER

Bill originally came from Fordwich, in Howick Township, where he played in various local country bands, starting at age 15. He moved to Kitchener 15 years ago where again, he started pursuing his musical interests. During this time his bands have entertained at many dances, concerts, finished runner-up in a radio band competition and have done some recording. Bill has never strayed from his country roots and is looking forward to performing in this edition of the CKNX Barn Dance.



MOLLY WHITEDUCK

Molly is originally from North Bay, but now lives in Mount Forest. She sang for several years with a band from that area, and has entertained at various functions, including concerts for seniors in nursing homes, at a Seniors' Jubilee show in Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto, and at the Orangeville Theatre. She has also done some work in musical theatre, and in 1998 has been singing some songs as part of the Canadian Fiddlers Hall of Fame Tour of Champions. Audiences should certainly enjoy Molly's unique style on the Barn Dance this season.



BILL AND LINDA MURRAY

Bill and sister Linda, won the duet class at the Simcoe Country Singing Contest in 1992, and placed in the top five in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. Bill's band, "The Moonliters" has been a popular Stratford area act for many years, and Linda has sung with a number of local bands including "Loose Change", "Circle of Friends", "Spring Fever", etc. We know you'll enjoy their music on the Barn Dance this season.



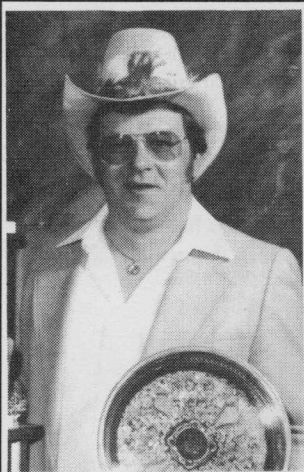
DOUG McNALL

Doug was born in Blyth, and started his musical career with the Jim Pierce orchestra. He was a guest on CKNX's Studio Party at age eleven. This led to several appearances on the Barn Dance in 1949 and 1950, and also many shows around the area with Cactus Mac and other CKNX artists. In 1952, Doug played with Mac Scott and "The Chuckwagon Boys" on CJCS in Stratford. His 1979 recording of "House on Mortgage Hill" was quite popular, especially in the western provinces. In recent years, when not playing with son John's band, "Countdown", he has been performing his Hank Williams Memories show in various spots around western Ontario.



MARYANNE CUNNINGHAM

Born and raised in Oakville, Maryanne's love of music started at the early age of three. She began by playing the piano by ear, just like her Dad. Singing came next, and with a 15th birthday gift of a guitar, a new venue was found. Moving to Durham in 1992, introduced many musical friends, and Maryanne feels most at home in front of a live audience. Maryanne now resides in Hanover with her two children.



RANDY SATCHELL

Randy has been singing as long as he can remember, and in 1981 and 1982, he won the Canadian Open Country Singing Contest in Simcoe. Since then he has been a judge there for 13 years, and chairman of the judges for the past 10 years. He has been part of several Stratford area bands, including "The Town & Country Gentlemen", "Tyme", and "The Country Versatiles", and guested on CKNX-TV's Circle 8 Ranch, and on the Blyth Festival's "Barn Dance Live"! He has also appeared on stage in Wheeling West Virginia. Question: Will Randy follow in the footsteps of his father Milt Satchell, who is still very active as a fiddler at age 89?



LISA STRONG

Lisa is Sharon Strong's niece, and shares her family musical background and talent. Lisa grew up in Seaforth, but now works in the job placement field in London. She plays piano and has sung with her sister, Lori, and sometimes with aunt Sharon, at over 135 weddings. She is also quite at home in country and other styles of music. We welcome Lisa to our Barn Dance family in 1998!!



LEE PICKEL

Lee is part of the very musical Habermehl family from St. Marys - all the Habermehls sing and play, and Lee has been doing so all her life. Lee has a husband and four children to look after, but still is active as a childrens' entertainer, in church music, and on shows and dances in the area as a member of the "Wildwoods" band from St. Marys. We're sure you'll enjoy her songs on the Barn Dance this year.



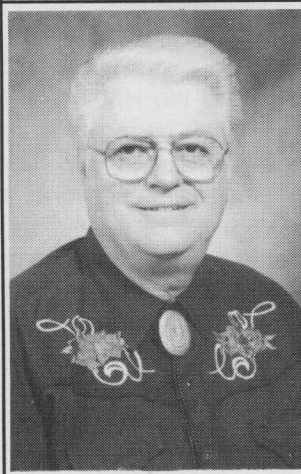
GARY J. PIETREK

Gary began his musical career as a singer winning one of John "Happy" Hodges' talent contests in Kitchener. He worked as a drummer for "Dianne and The Country Cavaliers" before moving to Wingham. He still performs at various public functions, as well as conducting his own hearing aids business in Wingham.



KIM SUCH

Kim Such is a "new talent" performer on the Barn Dance for 1998. Kim was born in St. Marys. She has been singing all her life, playing guitar since the age of ten, and has been writing songs since her teen years. She has recorded one album "Let's Open The Window", and was on a CD supporting the Women's Shelter in Goderich. She works with the Blyth Theatre, and performs with a Huron County band, "Cactus Jam". Kim is presently working on a new CD which should be released later this year.



WAYNE ERWIN OTTERBEIN

Wayne began playing guitar at the age of 14. He became accustomed to playing rhythm for his father Lloyd who played 5 string, steel guitar, dobro and fiddle. His interest in singing soon followed. Wayne went to every show that came into the Kitchener area and travelled with his father and mother to Buffalo where a friend Ramblin' Lou, hosted shows, and also to Nashville and the Opry. In 1963, Wayne, Lloyd and Wayne's wife, Judy, formed "Judy and the Blue Ridge Mountain Boys". Wayne met Gary Buck and recorded for Sparton in London. Sparton released a single and GRT released the album. In 1969, Wayne formed a group called "The Wind Jammers", with Ed Ringwald on steel, Dave Paul lead guitar, and Dave Pletz on drums. A year later the band was reformed with Keith McKay as lead guitar and Keith Seibert on steel. Dave Pletz remained on drums. "The Wind Jammers" were a very popular band in the Kitchener area for about five years. Wayne now makes his home in Bayfield and he and his wife and son, Jim, now have a group called "Junction 21".



TINA SCHIESTEL

Born in Palmerston, Tina began her musical career by singing in contests at an early age. She was a finalist at the London Western Fair and in 1993 won the 18 and under class at the Canadian Open Country Singing Contest held in Simcoe. Tina has performed on stage with the "Carlton Show Band" and the "Good Brothers".



KATIE ROTH

Still only 12 years of age, Katie's career accomplishments already rival those of performers many years her senior. Katie placed first in 1995 at the Canadian Open Singing Contest in Simcoe and at the CNE in Toronto. She also placed fourth at the CNE and Simcoe previously. She has won three competitions in Stratford and placed second once. Katie credits some of her success to lots and lots of practice singing at weddings, anniversaries, funerals, parties, sports events, picnics, and in church.



TRIPLE DYNAMITE Mathew, Jaimie and Katy

Triple Dynamite features the championship fiddling and dancing of sixteen year old Mathew Johnson from Stratford, along with more fancy footwork by Jaimie and Katy McCormack from Durham. All three are part of Judy Waymouth's Canadian Heritage tour group, which has performed in such places as Branson, Missouri, and overseas in Austria. This trio is a great example of young talent on the way up!!

THE OTTERBEINS



Lloyd Otterbein has been entertaining and playing since his early teens. Strawberry socials, garden parties and family gatherings were his beginnings at playing and singing. In 1935 and 1936 he made appearance on the Farm Forum program out of Wingham. In 1942 he had his own radio show on CKCR Kitchener. Lloyd plays dobro, 5 string banjo and guitar. Wayne, Lloyd's son, began playing guitar at 14 and would play rhythm for his father at dances. Wayne met Judy in high school and Judy began singing harmony with Wayne. When Wayne and Judy married in 1962, the family formed a group for dances

"Judy and The Blue Ridge Mountain Boys". The family started the C & W Barn Dance out of Wellesley, Ontario. A one hour show with various guests such as Sharon Strong, Gary Buck and Ron McCloud and a dance followed. Hoppy from CKKW was master of ceremonies. This show led to a 15 minute radio show weekly sponsored by Mountain Dew Beverages. In 1968, Jim Otterbein was born to Wayne and Judy. Jim showed musical ability at an early age. At 4 he started drumming, at 12 the 5 string banjo, and at 14 his favourite instrument was the guitar. This year 3 generations will entertain you with their blend of music.



THE COUNTRY VERSATILES

In 1967, Len Love, Wayne Riehl and Gerald Davidson joined forces and formed "The Country Versatiles". Playing shows and dances form more than 30 years. In 1978 CKNX-TV signed the group to headline their own show "Good Tyme Country". The TV show aired for four years and twice won CanPro Best Show

Awards. To complete the instrumentation for Barn Dances, Al Widmeyer is on guitar, Ed Ringwald on steel, Jim Otterbein on bass and drummer Karry Jackson will accompany The Versatiles.



THE BARN DANCE BAND

Comprised of the finest country musicians in Canada, The Barn Dance Band was formed to compliment the traditional artist of the show. The band includes 1955 North American Fiddle Champion Victor Pasowisty. Mike Slauenwhite from Kitchener adds his fiddle for the smooth twin fiddle sound of the band. Grant Hey-

wood is the drummer, Ron Coulthard on steel, Lance Russwurm on guitar and leader Lynn Russwurm on bass round out their sound.