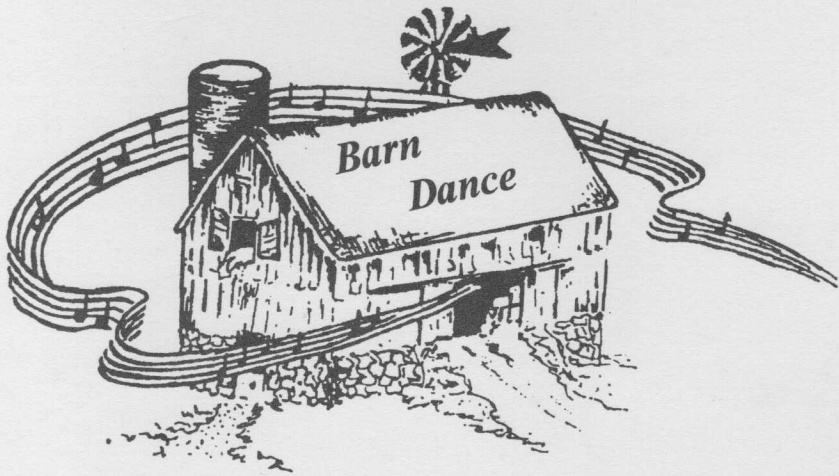


**Barn Dance Historical Society and  
Entertainment Museum**

# **the BARN DANCE**



# **2000**

## **Souvenir Program**

**Canada's Largest Traveling Barn Dance**

**\$2.00**

# A message from the President

Welcome! On behalf of the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum, board of directors and our members, thank you for your interest and support. We believe you will find our shows and dances entertaining and fun.

At your leisure check out the tapes, CDs, and pictures available of our entertainers. The souvenir table will allow you to pick out a memorable souvenir keepsake and music from our many talented performers.

We ask that you to talk to our entertainers or members and tell us what you liked or disliked about the show. Your comments mean the world to us and your insights are valuable.

The proceeds from the Barn Dance sponsors will go back to the betterment of your community, usually with the help of your local service club. The Barn Dance Historical Society also funds the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum located in Wingham. Enjoy the show.

President Wayne Otterbein

## 2000 Board of Directors

The annual meeting is held the first Sunday in April every year. Our meeting place is the Wingham legion. Directors are elected from and by the membership (12). Executive officers are then elected from and by the directors (5) (President, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, treasurer and secretary.)



**KEIL  
INSURANCE  
BROKERS  
(WINGHAM)  
LTD.**

A Member of The Keil Insurance Group

182 Josephine Street,  
Wingham,  
Ontario  
NOG 2W0

Tel.: (519) 357-2636  
Fax: (519) 357-3224  
1-800-890-8555  
email: keil@keilinsurance.com

***Enjoy the Music - Let us worry about your insurance!  
We wish you continued success!!***

*We represent*



**howick** MUTUAL INSURANCE  
COMPANY



# History of the Barn Dance

In February of 1926, the late W.T. "Doc" Cruickshank founded one of the earliest radio stations in Southwestern Ontario. The station was granted a licence to broadcast publicly on 920 kilocycles AM in Wingham.

During the difficult economic times of the late 1920's and early '30's, Doc couldn't afford to buy enough broadcast recordings to fill his air time so he invited local talent to come to the studio and entertain on the air.

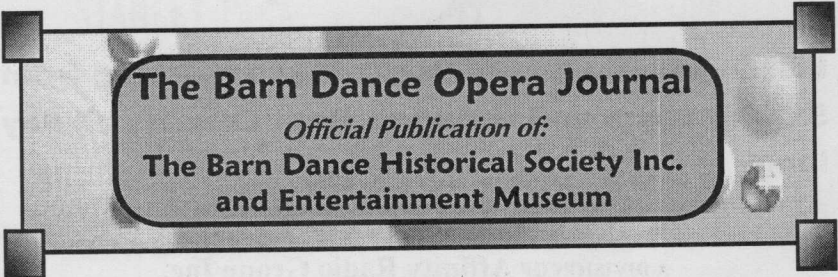
On a Saturday night in 1937, one of the stations announcers ran a program of recorded country music which he called the "Barn Dance". Doc liked what he heard and decided to turn it into a regular program utilizing live music. Crowds soon gathered on the street to watch the Saturday Night Barn Dance through the front window of the studio.

When it became apparent that the show was popular both at home and with the radio audience, Doc decided to take the show on the road. By utilizing long distance telephone lines, he was able to transmit the Barn Dance back to the studio and from there onto the air waves.

By 1950 the program was a hit throughout all of Southwestern Ontario and had become known internationally as Canada's Largest Traveling Barn Dance.

Earl Heywood was a member of the internationally known Barn Dance for 25 years. During that time he amassed an incredible collection of artifacts, memories and contacts.

Not wanting to let this piece of history disappear into the sunset, he initiated the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum to preserve the memory of all the good times and the talent of the many performers that eventually went on to receive international acclaim.



## **The Barn Dance Opera Journal**

*Official Publication of:*

**The Barn Dance Historical Society Inc.  
and Entertainment Museum**

# **Barn Dance Museum**

In April 1996 the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum opened it's doors with a speech from founder Earl Heywood.

There are pictures, stories, displays and artifacts from Al Cherney, Ward Allen, Earl Heywood, The Mercy Brothers, to only to name a few. You will learn about Doc Cruickshank, the man who brought Radio and television to mid-western Ontario. There is an original P.A. system used by the Ranch Boys in the 1940's, built by Scott Reid .

The Barn Dance Society and Entertainment Museum is located directly behind the Town Hall Theatre in the upstairs of the Armories Building in Wingham. To confirm operating hours, please call (519) 357-2160. Admission is only \$2.00.

## **Barn Dance Historical Society**

Single membership is \$20.00 annually or a Dual membership is \$30.00 annually.

Benefits to being a member include: performing privileges, subscription to the quarterly journal, voting rights, advance notice of special events, opportunity to be elected to the board, personalized membership certificate and special discounts.

## **Committees**

If you want to become involved, join one of the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum's committees. They include membership, volunteer, fundraising, finance, special events, artifacts, history and memorabilia, public relations, promotion, legal, insurance and property.

## **Booking Barn Dances**

Call or write:

Barn Dance Society and Entertainment Museum  
Box 68, Wingham, Ontario. N0G 2W0  
Phone: (519) 357-2160

# Pioneer Awards

One Saturday night in 1937, a radio announcer by the name of Reg Douglas was working on the night shift on the local radio station in Wingham, Ontario. He was playing records of hillbilly singers and old-time music. On the break he called it the "CKNX Barn Dance".

The owner of the radio station, W.T. "Doc" Cruickshank was listening that night. Based on that radio show, Doc started featuring live talent at the CKNX Barn Dance and it clicked with the audience. After Doc had invited local talent to come and perform on the radio, the show became an immediate success.

Doc then decided to take the show on the road, using telephone lines to transmit from the stage to the airwaves. By 1950 the radio show grew so big it became known as "Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance".

CKNX Barn Dance could be heard on the radio for 25 years as noted in the Canadian Encyclopedia of Music (University of Toronto Press) as the longest live radio show in the history of Canadian broadcasting.

In 1992 Earl Heywood began the groundwork for the Barn Dance Historical Society and Entertainment Museum. Funding was needed and Earl and Johnny Brent organized the reunion of the CKNX Barn Dance gang. This began the process of preserving the history of the Barn Dance.

The Pioneers who helped to keep this show alive over so many years have not been forgotten. At each Barn Dance there is an ongoing Tribute and Pioneer Award presented in honour of one of the Barn Dance builders or celebrities.



**When in Huron County  
Visit our Museum!**

**BARN DANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
and ENTERTAINMENT MUSEUM**

Call 519-357-2160 for information.

# 2000 Barn Dances and Shows

Date	Venue	Location
Saturday, April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Bingeman's	Marshal Hall, Kitchener
Saturday, May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jamboree Campout	Arena Complex, Blyth
Saturday, June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Paradise Lions Club	Arena, St. Clements
Saturday, July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Freelton Lions Club	Arena, Carlisle
Saturday, August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tara Rotary	Tara-Arran Community Arena
Saturday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Forest Rotary	Arena, Forest
Friday, September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ontario Steam & Antique Show	Fairgrounds, Milton
Sunday, October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Barn Dance Show	Heritage Theatre, Wingham

## Barn Dance Production

The Management, Musical Direction, Promotions and Stage Management is by the Barn Dance Historical Society.

Treasurer - Gordon Baxter

Master of Ceremonies - Jim Swan

Tribute Coordinators - Ron Coulthard, Earl Heywood

Souvenir Table - Martha Heywood, Beth Elder, Shirley Russwurm

Sound and Lighting - Wayne Greve Productions

## Souvenirs

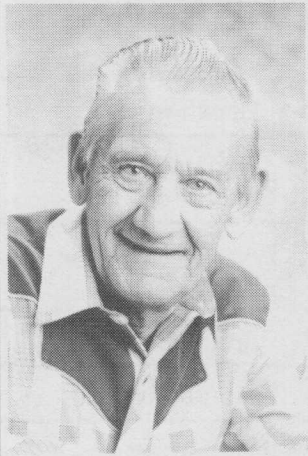
Mugs \$ 5.00

Calenders \$10.00

Barn Dance Tape \$10.00

Barn Dance CD \$19.00

\*\*Shirts and Hats are also available at all shows and dances.



**Lloyd Bank**

*Retired Performers*

A Kitchener native, Lloyd began his musical career as a steel guitarist with the "Tumbleweed Troubadours" and the "Westernaires" before joining the Barn Dance. He then moved to Main Street Jamboree in Hamilton as a member of the "Mainstreeters" and appeared with that group at the Grand Old Opry. Lloyd also did TV shows out of Toronto and toured with other stars. After a temporary retirement, he joined the "Jamboree Reunion Band" in Kitchener.



**John Brent**

In 1942, Doc Cruickshank was in need of an announcer for CKNX radio and a manager for the Barn Dance. He chose John Brent, an experienced announcer at CKCO Kitchener to fill the dual role. John quickly became popular with CKNX audiences as an on-air personality and as emcee of the Barn Dance. His talents and energies seemed endless as he personally attended to the hiring, promotion, ticket sales and setting up chores associated with the shows.



**The Colorado Kids, Les and Jean Dowell**

Originally from Toronto, they married in 1945, and been singing together ever since. They were featured on the CKNX Barn Dance in 1947. They played in New Brunswick with banjo virtuoso Maurice Bolyer, and performed in Toronto and Montreal. Since 1963 they have lived in Hamilton. They were featured on CHML's "Main Street Jamboree" and on CHCH-TV. They played around Ontario, officially retiring in the early 1970's, but only recently from the Barn Dance.



**Ernie King**

*Retired Performers*

A product of Penetanguishe, Ernie arrived in Wingham after a stopover in Kitchener. His musical career as a member of the "Ranch Boys" and his performances on the Barn Dance, along with his dual role as emcee and star entertainer on "Circle 8 Ranch" established Ernie as one of the most popular and best remembered Barn Dance performers. Formerly a staff member at CKNX and proprietor of the Ernie King Music Center, Ernie still finds time to perform musically on occasion.



**Mercey Brothers**

Because of their age differences, Hanover natives Larry, Ray and Lloyd Mercey began their country music careers at different times during the 1960's. Larry performed as a solo artist before being joined by Ray and later by Lloyd. The brothers went on to Country Music fame. Among their many successes are: Canada's Country Group of the Year (several times); Charter Members of the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame; and numerous hit records and albums.

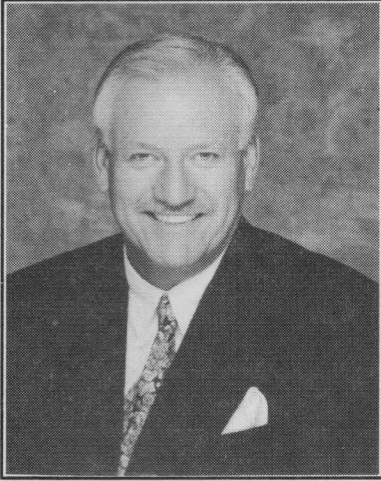


**Cora Robertson**

In addition to being the wife of Don Robertson, the legendary founder and leader of the "Ranch Boys", Cora was also a factor in the success of the group. She is a popular performer with excellent musical abilities. Cora is a music teacher, organist, accordionist and pianist. Her rendition of "Down Yonder" was the opening number of the Barn Dance for many years and became the most widely recognized musical introduction in this area.



## Jim Swan



Jim Swan has been the Morning Host at AM 1410 CKSL "the River" since October 1995.

Jim's return to radio on CKSL followed nearly 20 years with CFPL-TV. Jim served as Community Relations Coordinator, a position he held for close to a decade. During that time he appeared on "What's On", a daily community events program. His career with CFPL-TV began when he joined the "Morning Break" program as co-host, and continued

as co-host of "First Edition", a program he eventually produced.

Jim appears annually as the co-host of the Children's Miracle Network Telethon.

Jim was born in Bright, Ontario and went to Huron Park Secondary School in Woodstock. His broadcasting career began in Woodstock as a CKOX-AM Radio announcer (now 103.9 The Hawk).

In 1964, he moved to CKNX Broadcasting in Wingham, appearing on both radio and television. Jim hosted the radio morning show and is remembered for his participation on the children's program, "East of the Sun". Jim also hosted "Circle Eight Ranch".

Jim has been an active member of the Board of Directors for the Agape Foundation, Board of Directors of the Blythe Canadian Theatre Festival and also served on the Fanshawe College Business and Applied Arts Advisory committee and The Public Relations Committee of Mission Services London.

Jim received the Howard Caine Award for outstanding Public Service, presented by the Central Canada Association of Broadcasters in 1991. He was recognized by the London Community Foundation with the Ivey Award for Excellence in September of 1993. Named for the Richard Ivey family, the award recognizes distinguished community service by a Londoner. Jim lives in London with his wife Joanne and their teenage children Jill and Adam.



### **The Barn Dance Band**

Many of the Barn Dance Band members have appeared on the original CKNX Barn Dance, as well as the popular CKNX TV series, and "Circle 8 Ranch". No strangers to

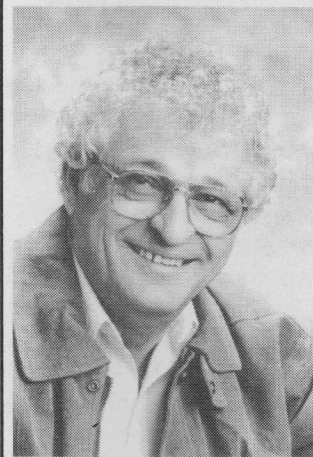
traditional country, the Barn Dance Band is definitely true to the authentic sound of country and western music from that era. No doubt you will recognize some of their familiar faces from the Barn Dance Band. From left to right: Bruce Robertson, acoustic guitar, Ron Coulthard, steel guitar, piano and electric guitar, Hugh Elder, electric guitar, award winning fiddler Vic Pasowisty, Grant Heywood, drums and Royce Riehl on bass.



### **Millennium Cowboys**

The Millennium Cowboys are made up of some of south western Ontario's finest musicians. Live on stage or in the studio these guys have backed up and accompanied many well known

traditional and newer country artists. Formed especially for the Barn Dance of the new century these multi talented cowboys consist of left to right: Al Widemeyer on dobro and acoustic guitar, Karry Jackson on drums, Ralph Hetke, keyboards, Bill Simmermaker on bass, Doug Dietrich on steel guitar, George Londsburz, electric guitar and Jim Otterbein on electric and acoustic guitar.



### **Hank Beddard**

Hank apprenticed musically with the "Ranch Boys" and became a popular member of the Barn Dance cast. He went on to perform with a number of other groups including "Pete Brady and the Playboys" and also fronted his own groups. Hand now resides in London, Ontario and performs at functions in the area.



### **Marie Bottrell**

Marie Bottrell is from London and has recorded five albums; two on the MBS and three on the RCA labels. Marie has had several Juno nominations and won two CCMA awards for Female Vocalist of the Year. She has toured with the late Marty Robbins and Lee Greenwood. She has been on stage at Fanfare, the Calgary Stampede and the Big Valley Jamboree. Marie has been on several TV shows and recently performed two seasons of a Closer Walk with Patsy Cline.



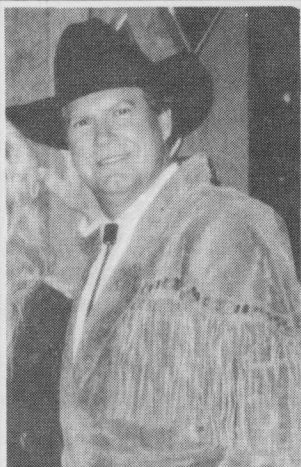
### **Doreen Brown**

Country Classic artist Doreen Brown was 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.



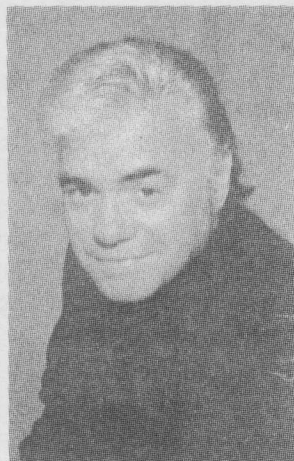
### **Scotty Campbell**

Hamilton's Scotty Campbell is making music that is pungent with the atmosphere of the great old country records of yesteryear. He has taken lessons from the masters, but has created music uniquely his own. Campbell is deadly serious about what he does, sticking to the traditional fiddle and steel archetypical sound. "Country Music is music that makes it good to feel bad," he says. "If it is done right, it can cut right through you". His new album is called, "Damned If I Recall".



### **Buddy Carlton**

Take pop, country and blues, put them all together and you have got Buddy Carlton. He is a guilty singer and a great guitarist who spearheads a band called the "Northern Rebels". Having releases on both RCA and Capitol has enabled him to open for such stars as Garth Brooks, Glen Campbell, Tammy Wynette and Ricky Skaggs to name a few. On Stage Buddy shows strength and maturity that contains special enthusiasm, energy and dynamism that is his trademark.



### **Michael Cary**

As a kid, Michael Carey was transplanted from Newfoundland to Cambridge. "Mick" bends the rules of country. With his country rock band "Whiskey River" he was able to emulate his favorite singers such as Delbert McLinton and Conway Twitty, developing his own soulful, energetic style. Mick's latest recording "Mick's Feelings" are self penned original songs that became a feature on a CBC radio special and receiving special mention by Rita McNeil.