

# CKNX BARN DANCE



PRICE  
25c

CANADA'S LARGEST TRAVELLING BARN DANCE

CKNX BARN DANCE THEME SONG

Hello there, Howdy friends and neighbors  
We're here to greet you with good cheer  
We'll bring you song and oldtime music  
All the while that we are here  
We are more than glad to meet you  
In your old home town tonight  
Laugh and smile with us awhile  
At the big Barn Dance tonight.

By Earl Heywood

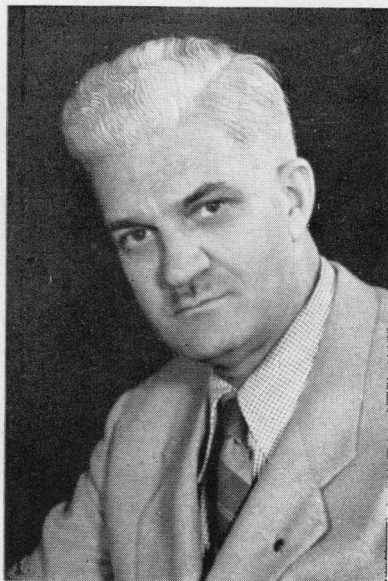
*Margaret (Marian)*  
*Barrett*

It's Time For The

CKNX

Barn Dance





## W. T. "Doc" CRUICKSHANK

Owner and Manager of Radio Station CKNX, Wingham, Ontario, W. T. Cruickshank is better known to his host of friends and listeners as "Doc". In answer to many inquiries, the name "Doc" was given him before his radio days when he was a chauffeur for a doctor. W. T. was born on the 1st line of Morris, 2 miles south of Wingham.

The CKNX BARN DANCE was his idea back in 1937 and since that time, he has played an active part as emcee and producer. His down-to-earth chatter has won him great admiration from a vast and faithful audience.

Doc's hobbies are carpentry, photography and sports. His enthusiasm in his undertakings is shared by his wife Mabel, his son Bud and daughter Lois.

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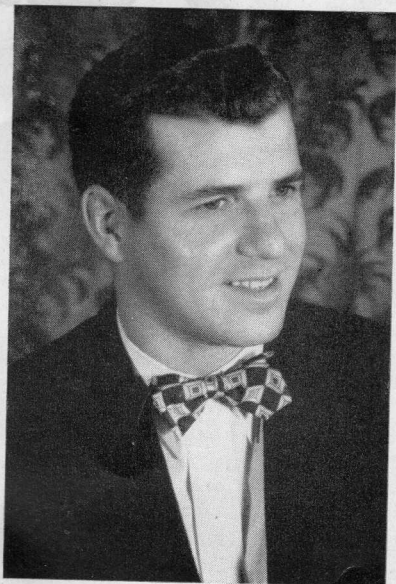
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## JOHNNY BRENT



Meet the manager of Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance. Upon his shoulders falls the supervision of all talent, programming and business transactions.

This 29 year old native of Waterloo, Ont., played before the footlights at the age of 6 and was the leader of his own hillbilly group at 13. His urge for show business followed him through his years at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and St. Jerome's College and in 1939 he started his radio career. CKNX listeners first heard his voice in January, 1942.

Johnny, besides emceeing part of the Barn Dance, is also featured on two other popular shows, The Hayloft Hoedown and The Top Of The Morning Show.

Johnny is 5'9" and participates in most sports. He likes hockey, baseball, boxing and horseback riding.

You are likely to hear more from the name Brent as Johnny has two sons, Gregory and Terry, who are following in his footsteps.

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## THE CKNX BARN DANCE

This is the story of THE CKNX BARN DANCE which started as a recorded program, switched to live talent and today is known as Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance.

THE CKNX BARN DANCE began back in 1937 when W. T. Cruickshank, owner and manager of Broadcasting Station CKNX thought that the Rural Audience who set their dials on the 920 spot, might enjoy a program of old fashioned songs and home chatter as a source of relaxation after a week of hard work. So it was that a half hour of recorded oldtime music was presented on Saturday nights and called THE CKNX BARN DANCE.

Favourable comments assured Mr. Cruickshank that his idea was a good one. Three months later another suggestion was offered; that of replacing recorded artists with local talent with the hope that it would bring the program closer to its listeners. That idea clicked too and probably was the main factor toward making the BARN DANCE the most-listened-to program on CKNX.

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In 1942, Johnny Brent joined the staff of CKNX and took over the reins of the BARN DANCE. His first move was to make the show a travelling unit, enabling listeners to see, as well as hear, the program. Since then, professional talent has been hired, the broadcast lengthened to three hours and the territory for travelling thrown wide open to enable THE CKNX BARN DANCE to visit many of the centres of the ten counties in its coverage. Each year, over forty thousand fans attend these remote broadcasts and it boasts one hundred and fifty thousand listeners every Saturday night.

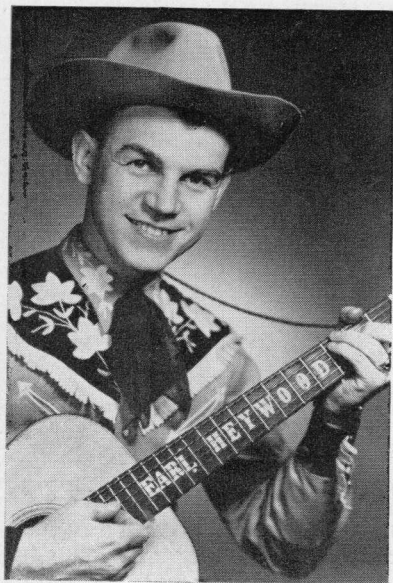
Charitable organizations are given the opportunity to sponsor the shows. For their endorsement CKNX has made it possible for them to realize close to ten thousand dollars annually to further their work.

From Tobermory to Port Dover . . . from Sarnia to Toronto . . . in some city, town or village along the way to these points, every Saturday night at eight o'clock, comes the invitation to join in the fun at another CKNX SATURDAY NIGHT BARN DANCE.

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*RCA Victor Star*



## EARL HEYWOOD

Earl Heywood, top hand of the CKNX Barn Dance Gang, is one of RCA Victor's outstanding recording stars. His most popular records are, *The Alberta Waltz* and *Picking Flowers*. To date, Earl has composed over 200 songs.

Earl was born and raised on his father's farm near Exeter, Ont. He first started singing and playing his guitar at community gatherings. Earl has been featured on CKNX since 1942.

He's married and has one daughter Patsy Anne, 6 years old.

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## MEL LAVIGNE

It was during World War 1, Sept. 25th, 1917 in Midland to be exact that Mel Lavigne said hello to the world. Some say he was born with a fiddle tucked under his chin but seriously it was 12 years later that he first put rosin on a bow. Up through the years, his musical ambitions have helped him accomplish the art of playing the piano, saxophone and many other instruments.

During the last war, Mel played in the Canadian Army Overseas Show and entertained for many veterans in Canadian hospitals. Mel moved to Wingham and joined the CKNX Barn Dance Gang in August 1950.

When not passing his talents on to his 3 daughters, Mel takes to his hobbies of wood-working and sports.

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## JACK KINGSTON

This popular singing star of the CKNX BARN DANCE was first discovered when he won an Amateur Contest and broke into radio by making guest appearances on CKNX. Since then, he has also appeared before the microphones of WGR Buffalo, WLS Chicago The National Barn Dance and CKTB St. Catherines.

Jack Kingston's talents paved the way to a recording contract; he's on the Capitol label.

His sparkling personality and talent has been a regular feature of CKNX since 1944. Jack is also a gifted songwriter.

Jack was born in St. Catherines, Ont., Oct. 4, 1925 and is the youngest of seven sisters and three brothers.

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*Champ of '49*



## WARD ALLEN

The distinction of winning first prize in the fiddler's contest at the Canadian National Exhibition and copping top honours at many local contests, proved to Ward Allen that his boyhood ambition to be a good oldtime fiddler had been realized. During his musical career, he has played in many bands and joined the CKNX Barn Dance Gang during the summer of 1950.

Ward was raised on a farm near Kirkton, Ont., and his love for horses has increased up through the 28 years of his life. Dan Cupid hasn't aimed his arrow at Ward as yet. His spare time is taken up with his keen interest in sports.

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*Steelin' is his business*



## LLOYD BANK

Lloyd Bank's first love for music was not for the steel guitar which he now plays. His ambition was to play the trumpet and his efforts won him 2 gold medals in open competition in 1938.

It was in 1940 that Lloyd first took a fancy to the guitar and bought one out of his spending money. Endless hours of practice and study made him one of the finest steel guitarists in the business. His solid backgrounds were heard over CKCR Kitchener, CJOY Guelph, CHML Hamilton and finally in 1949 over CKNX.

Lloyd is 24, married and was born in Kitchener, Ont. His hobbies include mechanics, hunting and fishing.

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BARN DANCE GANG GROUP

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# THE CKNX BARN DANCE GANG

- Concerts
  - Dances
    - Fall Fairs
      - Garden Parties
        - Social Gatherings
          - And other Entertainment

CKNX ARTISTS' BUREAU

Johnny Brent

Phone 158

Earl Heywood

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## THIS IS CKNX

The letters, CKNX, have no specific meaning but carry a personal feeling of friendship, service and goodwill to the people of Western Ontario. Each word and musical note is designed as a guide to better living.

CKNX, when a baby, was christened 10BP and its tiny voice of 2 watts reached listeners in Wingham only, in the days of the earphone era. Mr. W. T. Cruickshank, better known to the public as "Doc", kept a watchful eye on this newcomer to the world and with careful prescription of a tube here and a condenser there, soon strengthened the lungs of his mechanical baby. Little by little, 10BP outgrew the shoes that helped it take its first step.

February, 1926, the Department of Transport decided that this little fellow was old enough to leave home and granted W. T. Cruickshank a broadcasting license and he increased operations to 25 watts. As soon

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as the surrounding communities heard CKNX, they accepted this new radio station with open arms and proud personal feeling. This was the beginning, over a road of careful planning, harassed by many hardships and disappointments, unknown to most listeners.

Untiring efforts and constant improvement warranted CKNX an increase in power of 25 watts, then to 50 watts. A jump to 100 watts was made in 1935 when granted a commercial license and the call letters CKNX. In October 1941 the station increased to its present strength of 1000 watts; a power that enabled CKNX to serve listeners faithfully within a 75-mile radius of Wingham. During its infancy CKNX was on the air only a few hours each day, but now public demand calls for "The Voice of Community Service" to be heard sixteen and a half hours per day.

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## *Smiles and Songs*



### **DON ROBERTSON**

The leader of the Ranch Boys, Don Robertson is well known by CKNX listeners as he's been a featured artist on Saturday nights for many years. Don's voice lends well to ballads and folk songs and his ability to play the bass violin and spanish guitar makes him a handy man to have around.

Don was born near Bluevale, Ontario and has lived in Wingham for many years. Don's wife is no stranger to CKNX listeners as many will remember Cora when she played with the Ranch Boys. With two such artists around the house, one of their two daughters or son is slated for future billing on the Barn Dance. Who knows, it might be a trio.

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