

The I.C.M.A. Newsletter



March/April 2010

The Illinois Country Music Association, Inc.

Rick Roy Memorial Spring Concert **Saturday, April 17, 2010**

Mt. Hope/Funks Grove Community Hall,
on the square in McLean, Illinois

Doors Open At 6:00 p.m. SHARP!!!
Show begins at 7:00 p.m.

- * Adult -- Members -- \$7.00 each * Non-Members \$9.00 each
- * Children 12 and under -- Members \$2.00 * Non-Members -- \$3.00

Advance Tickets (no reserved seats)

will be available from ICMA, PO Box 79, Downs IL 61736-0079
(add 50 cents for postage & envelope) and from various Oprys in the area

*** *Cake Raffle* * *50/50 Drawing* * *Concessions***

Live Band

A pleasant mixture of classic and new country.

(Watch our web site www.ILcountrymusic.com for a list of entertainers.)

The Illinois Country Music Association is a Non-Profit Organization.

The I.C.M.A. Newsletter

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In Memory

We extend our sympathies to the family of Clarence Roy, who passed away late last year. Clarence was the father of the late Rick Roy and a loving grandfather to Derrick and Heather Roy.

Board News

At the February meeting, we accepted the resignation of board member Ray Fidler. Ray wasn't able to keep up with his board duties, but wishes to continue working on an ICMA chapter in his area of the state. With the loss of our good friend Larry Brown, we now have three vacancies on the board. We have a few people who are interested in serving, so we will be contacting them to see if they are still interested. If not, we will continue our search.

Ray, thanks for your service on the board; we really appreciate it. We know you have a love for country music and country music people, and will continue to share your talents around the state.

Dissolution Clause

The following has been added to the ICMA By-laws. As specified in the By-laws, any change must be submitted to the general membership at least fourteen days prior to implementation, and this was done via the January/February newsletter.

Article XIII

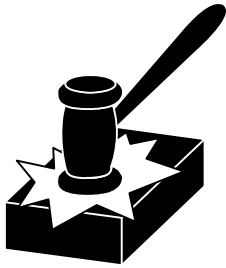
In case of dissolution of the organization, all funds left will be first applied to outstanding debts, and all remaining monies shall be donated to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

The choice of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital as recipient of our funds in case of dissolution was put into the form of a motion by Larry Brown, in what was probably his last action with the board before his untimely death.

Larry epitomized the goals of the ICMA; promote country music, support and encourage our entertainers, and don't forget those less fortunate than us.

See the article on Larry elsewhere in this issue.

I.C.M.A. News



BEHIND THE GAVEL By: *President Ray Prince*

To: All members and Board of Directors:

Welcome to a new era in the history of the ICMA Newsletter. After being printed and mailed for many years, we are forced by economics to use e-mail as our primary method of distribution. Printed copies are available for those who do not have access to the Internet or have dial-up connections.

One thing about e-mail distribution; if you would like to have a copy sent to you at home and also at the office, no problem. It doesn't cost any more to send two or three to a member than just one. Also, the newsletters will be posted on our web site, so any advertising or other information is available to a much larger audience than before.

As promised, we have another in our series of articles stolen from our Oklahoma counterparts, the Oklahoma Country Music Singers Association. Nancy Cox is leading us through the A-B-C's of entertaining in an easy to understand way. Read and heed her excellent advice. Do the exercises she recommends. You will be surprised at the difference they can make in the way you present yourself and your music.

By the time you read this, the folks representing Illinois at the North America Country Music Associations, International (NACMAI) Music Week 2010 in Pigeon Forge will be making their final preparations and making sure they have just the right inflection on that one particular song. I have also spoken with some ICMA fans who are going to make the trip just to cheer for our entrants. We really appreciate this. It makes us feel that we are really supported by our members.

We are having our first Spring Concert since 2008. It will now be known as the Rick Roy Memorial Spring Concert. We are going to do our utmost to make this an interesting experience for entertainers and audience alike. A live band will be featured, and many of Rick's "trademark" songs will be performed. Please come out and support this effort.

I really encourage any and all to come to our events. We have gotten to the point where the audience mostly consists of the parents and grandparents of the performers (with the exception of a loyal few.) Not that we don't welcome their presence, but we just aren't generating enough income to be "comfortable" in some of the services we provide. The printed newsletter has already bitten the dust. Let's see what we can do to better support the ICMA!!!

Handwritten signature of Ray Prince.

In Memory, Larry Brown



Larry O. Brown, 68, singer, songwriter, ICMA state board member, of Urbana died Monday, December 28, 2009, at home. Larry was born on July 24, 1941, in Danville, the son of Carl Omar and Hazel Leona Myers Brown. He married Judith Stout in Urbana and she died on June 4, 1995. He then married Joyce Ann Clayorn on Aug. 6, 2000, in Hoopeston. She survives. Other survivors include three daughters, Angel Brown Reiterman of Rantoul, Angela Durbin of Westville and Michelle Cloyd of Danville; three sons, Aaron Cook of Mililani, Hawaii, Mike Colleen of Hoopeston and Gary Brown of Texas; two sisters; four brothers; and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers.

Larry was a member of the Chestnut Street Church of Christ in Hoopeston where he was the lead singer. He also was a member of Western Star Lodge 240 A.F. & A.M., A.A.S.R. Valley of Danville, Shriner, VFW 5520 and a board member of the Illinois Country Music Association.

He was a member of the Country Gentleman Band in the 80's, he was awarded the Gospel Singer of the Year in 2008 by the ICMA, North American Country Music Gospel Entertainer of the Year 2008 and Song Writer of the Year.

Mr. Brown was a Cubs fan, loved his grandchildren and loved playing the guitar.

Picture a 13-year old boy quietly playing a guitar

and singing his favorite country songs in an old barn on a farm near Fithian. At that time, Larry Brown never dreamed he would enjoy such a varied career in country music and other pursuits, even recording several albums.

Larry's musical career included singing in the Ryman Auditorium, singing "Song of Songs" with Boxcar Willie at Box's (aka Lecil Martin) theater in Branson, singing for tips at Tootsie's Lounge in Nashville, touring Norway with Wynonna Judd, being a demo singer for MCA records and singing with Charlie Walker, Kitty Wells and many others, including a stint with Sonny Norman at the Rose Bowl in Champaign, where he got the chance to sing with Gene Watson.

Larry retired from the University of Illinois after 17 years, where he had attained the position of Supervisor of Building Services. He also spent 14 years in the U.S. Army Green Beret Special Forces Group. He was a police officer for one year in Luling, Texas, and worked as a welder and heavy equipment operator on offshore oil rigs. Another stint was working on a tow boat on the intercoastal canal for Texas Gulf Coast Construction Company. He was a ranch hand in Braketville, Texas, part-time jockey and rodeo rider, 3rd degree black belt in judo and 1st degree black belt in Karate.

His education consisted of high school and an Associate degree in business administration. He attended the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy and graduated 14th out of 260. Further education consisted of leadership and management courses at the University of Illinois.

Larry had been a member of Cloud 9 Ranch in Caulfield, Missouri, since 1990. He and Joyce spent time there every year. When running for the Ranch board, Larry stated his goals as "return to ranch to a nice place to be. To listen to and act upon all legitimate concerns. Help safeguard and protect the rights of all members, both those living on the ranch and those who visit. To help keep the ranch functioning and solvent."

Larry will always be remembered as a mentor to the younger members of the ICMA. He loved all children, and is sorely missed by his grandchildren, to whom granddad was someone to really look up to.

*Never Forgotten
by Dave Nevius*

Larry Brown's faith was as strong as a boulder,
And his wife Joyce was always at his shoulder.

One of the first to join the Illinois Country Music Association,
And to every one of us, he was a great inspiration.

He could play a guitar with his gentle hand,
And sing a gospel song as good as any man.

Larry wrote songs that came from the heart,
And to those who loved him, this will never part.

He was basically a young man, only sixty-eight,
But our Lord called him home and met him at the pearly gate.

An inspiration to us all, from golden years to a tot;
Our ICMA family will miss him a lot.

Larry was an entertainer and loved by all,
And we know heaven is where he'll make his next curtain call.

Richard & Marge Brown, Rick Roy, Roy Satterfeal & Sam Carlin,
just to name a few,
Are now sitting beside him in heaven's glorious pew.

We will all get together when we pass on,
Sit, remember, and write us some country & gospel songs.

Never forgotten,
Always remembered
Love for always,
Your ICMA Members

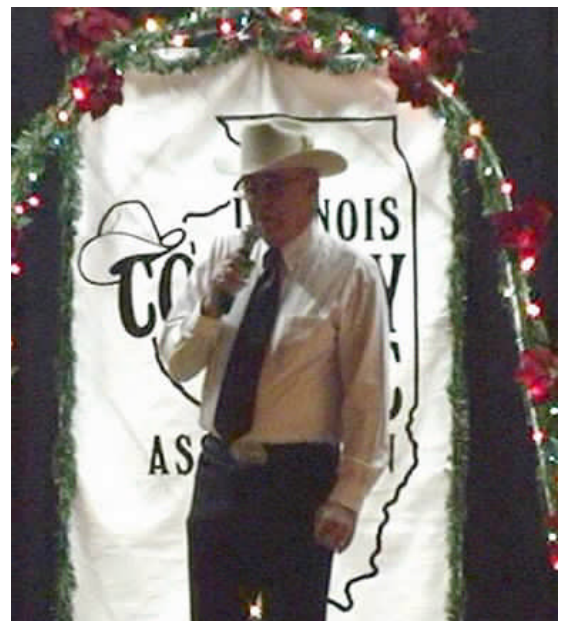


Larry always looked his best when performing. I always told him he was the best looking cowboy we had in the ICMA.



Left, Larry with Anjanel Folkens, in the "green room" of the Country Tonite Theater, Pigeon Forge, NACMAI Week 2009

Right, Larry's last performance for the ICMA, at the 2009 Christmas Spectacular



PrimeTime Country

OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

SHOW TIME IS 7:00 P.M.
(Meal served prior to each show, beginning at 5:30 p.m.)

March 13

Marc Patterson

April 10

New Blood Gospel/Bluegrass Band

March 27

Steve Hall & the Shotgun Red Show

\$17.50 in advance,
\$27.50 at the door

April 24

7th Anniversary Show

Mike Porter & Marsha Banning



PrimeTime Country Opry Band

- * Janet Durham - MC & Vocals
- * Jason Zilm - Bass Guitar & Vocals
- * Polly Sampson - Rhythm Guitar & Vocals
- * Danny Cunningham - Drums
- * Al Alsman - Lead Guitar
- * Ron Riddle - Steel Guitar & Vocals
- * Linda Thomas - Keyboard and Vocals
- * Anita Man - Comedian
- * Eric Burgett - Keyboard

Janet Durham was chosen to receive the 2009 Kelly Holt Memorial Humanitarian Award and Recording of the Year for her CD, "Counting My Blessings." Check out her web site at www.janetdurham.com (web site designed by Anjanel Folkens)



www.primetimecountry.com

ALL shows start at 7:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Please call for info (309) 449-5484
Sign up for our mailing list! You'll get
lots of Great offers by mail!

Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs

The annual IAAF gathering was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield the third weekend in January. We had two spaces this year, to give our folks more room to display their promotional material and to interact with the talent buyers.

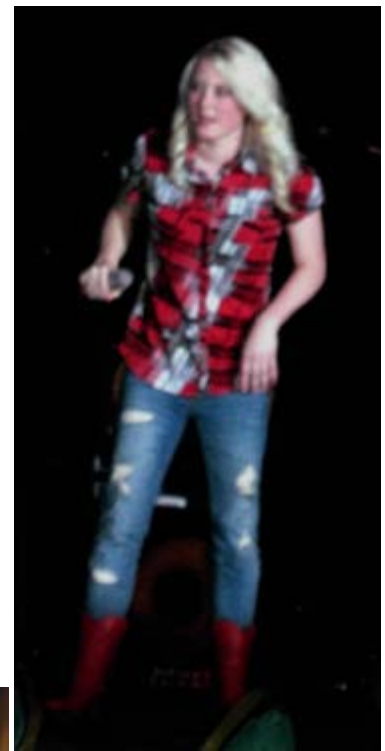
In the State Talent Contest, the ICMA had Ali Nicole Browning, Calhoun County, in the Junior Division and Gracia Harrison, Sangamon County and brand new member Taylor Trousdale, Menard County, in the Senior Division.



Our display spaces, with TeJai catching up on Facebook.

Showcasing on Friday night were Elise Marie and the Maries (Elise and Ashley Mehl) backed by the PrimeTime Country Band, and recent member Addie Freeman.

Sorry we couldn't get pictures of everyone, but the venues were just too dark in some spots.



Right, Addie Freeman also showcased her talent on Friday evening. Below, Bailey Prince and Ali Nicole Browning model their new balloon headgear.



The Maries, Ashley Mehl, left and Elise Marie, right, showcasing their talents, backed by the PrimeTime Band. You can see Jack Sampson playing the guitar and Craig Durham on the drums.



Below, Paul Farmer helps with the magic.



Showcase of Talent

Sunday, January 24, ICMA members gathered in the Mt. Hope Community Hall in McLean to show off their talents for the talent scouts from the various fairs and festivals throughout the state, to follow-up on the contacts made the previous week at the IAAF fair in Springfield. The event was also open to the public.

Was it a success? I think so. There were not a lot of talent scouts in attendance, but a few did make contact with our entertainers. And, most of all, the entertainers got together and had a great time. In my mind, that makes it all worth while.

Dave and Donna Nevius did a great job of putting this event together, and they want to express their heartfelt thanks to all who helped set up, work concessions, and to all who stuck around to help tear down and put things away afterwards. Dave said he "turned around and all of a sudden everything was put away." This certainly helps to make a good program really terrific.

Thanks also to **Chris and Craig Durham** for providing the sound, and thanks to **Deanna Bennet** for sharing the MC duties.

And, of course, we want to thank our entertainers for their participation. Those performing included **Eric Burgett, New Blood Gospel/Bluegrass Band, Erica Nevius, Chris Krause, Stephanie Foster, Taylor Trousdale, Lizzie Mladic, Anjanel Folkens, Jenny Bennet, Amanda Mines, Janet Durham, Ashley Mehl, Elise Marie, The Maries, Ray Prince, Breeann Dawson, TeJai Burgdorf and Addie Freeman.**



Chris Krause



Deanna Bennet shared the MC duties



Lizzie Mladic



Elise Marie



Ray Prince



Anjanel Folkens



TeJai



Ashley Mehl



*Tracy Trousdale -
brand new ICMA
member*



Erica Nevius



Amanda Mines



Breeann Dawson



Janet Durham



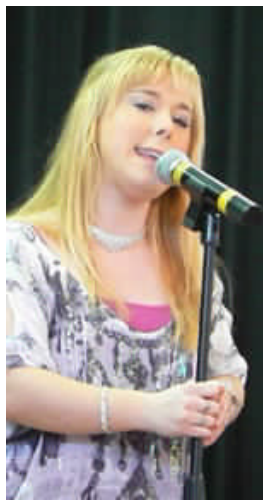
← *Addie Freeman, another
recent member of the ICMA*



Jenny Bennet



Eric Burgett



Stephanie Foster



New Blood Gospel/Bluegrass Band

*Illinois Country Music Association, Inc.
Chapter 617*

Jam Session

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Carlock Community Building
Carlock, Illinois
12:00 p.m. til ???

No Charge

Potluck Dinner

Bring Covered dishes to share!!
Coffee, Tea and Table Service will be provided.

There will be:

* Open Mic * 50/50 Drawing

For information, call William Grubb,
309-564-0228 or 309-824-6404

All **players, singers and listeners** are welcome to attend this jam session. You do ***not*** have to be a member of either the ICMA or Chapter 617.

The Illinois Country Music Association, Inc. is a nonprofit organization

The ABC's of Singing by Nancy Cox



This is another article stolen from the newsletter of our Oklahoma counterpart, the Country Music Singers Association. When you are in front of an audience, you want to present your material in the most professional manner possible. These articles are written to help you

accomplish this goal. Thanks, Nancy.

A ~ Articulate

Using your articulators (lips, teeth, tip of the tongue) more specifically to create your words will help you sing better and easier. So many of us swallow our articulation (meaning further back in our mouth) and that habit gets in the way of resonance, tone placement and other important singing mechanics. To improve your skill, quickly say the articulator tongue twister five times in a row: "lips, teeth, tip of the tongue, etc." Be sure to really concentrate on exaggerating the movements with the articulators. See where all the action is? That is where you feel the action of articulation when you sing. Keep in mind that you will probably feel like you are moving them in a ridiculous fashion if you are not used to using them actively. Check a mirror; you'll be surprised.

B ~ Build Your Song Performance

Think about how a well-constructed roller coaster builds in intensity and suspense throughout the ride. Your song should have the same sort of ups and downs. For the best results, plan the dynamics (volume and intensity) of your singing. Don't just sing as powerfully as you can from the get go. Figure out the emotional and natural build of the music and sing accordingly. As an example, using a basic song form, you would do your initial build from Verse 1 through Chorus 1, bring them back a bit for Verse 2, only to get a slightly bigger build than the peak of Chorus 1 on Chorus 2 before exploding into bridge. Remember, singing is as much an art form as a skill.

C ~ Cope With Unexpected Singing Events ...

... and challenges the smart way. Figure out which part of your vocal instrument is out of balance and make an instant adjustment. If you are not sure what actually makes up your "vocal instru-

ment," you would definitely benefit from learning vocal mechanics. (One source on the Internet is <http://singSMART.com/vocalmechanics.html>)

D ~ Dare to Try Something Different

So many singers practice the same song, the same way, over and over and over again. If it didn't work the first twenty times, why is it going to work the twenty-first? Try altering different aspects of your singing and attempt to find an easier way to accomplish your best sound. For example: increase/decrease articulation, increase/decrease the amount of airflow, increase/decrease diaphragm support, alter tone placement, alter resonance, etc. Get the picture?

E ~ Energy, Not Effort

This is one of the most confusing concepts in singing. **Energy in the tone is what we want and Effort is something we want desperately to avoid.** *Energy is created naturally when our vocal instrument is in balance and our body is involved in the singing process. It feels good.* It feels easy. Sometimes it occurs naturally and other times we may have to make adjustments. **Effort usually occurs when singers use their throat muscles/membranes and vocal cords improperly to create volume.** *We should actually feel and see very little happening in our throat area.*

F ~ Feathers

When learning to sing your full range and accomplish the desired one voice (same power with similar tone throughout the whole range) singers often experience cracks and breaks. **One way to test this is to practice a siren.** Slide on the syllable "he" from the bottom of your range to the top. **If you do not experience cracks or breaks, try it on all syllables at all volumes.** *When you find yourself faced with this challenge, it is the common response to "try harder" or "give more effort" on those notes. This is not the way to solve this issue.* What you want to do is to lighten up just a bit on these notes, **let them float like a feather instead of trying harder and stomping on them.** Understand that most often this is caused because muscles and membranes not having the memory they need to make the transition you require, as quickly as you want it made. **Repetition will give them memory, so keep practicing.** Lighten up just a bit on those notes and sing through the break. **Don't develop the habit of stopping when you "crack" or it will come back to bite you later.**

G ~ Get Over It and Go For It

So many talented young singers come into my

my studio with a good voice and with work, really shine on their vocal skills ... but when it comes to performance, they suffer the "I'm afraid I'll look stupid" syndrome. Why do we do that? We see music videos and concerts every day when artists give us their all, and yet we feel less stupid singing like a statue than we do really going for it? Makes no sense, but this is not a random occurrence. And unfortunately, when you don't really "perform" the song, you will never be able to give your absolute best performance. Why? Performance involves some sort of emotional connection with the song. When you put the emotion on your face and in your body, you will sing completely differently than the statue, no matter how knowledgeable.

H = Humming

Humming should be easy and sound alive. If you cannot hum well, you are not singing up to your potential. Humming is a good way to determine which part of your vocal instrument is not warmed up or pulling its weight. When you hum, you should be able to feel the resonant vibration on the front of your face.

I = Increase Your Air Speed ...

for high notes and decrease your air speed for lower notes. Each frequency requires a specific air speed to create the absolute best tone. Many singers push too much air, too quickly, while singing low notes in an attempt to make the note louder. All this does is add stress and tension to the tone. Use your ears to tell you when the proper balance is reached. The tone should sound clear and pure before adding stylistic nuances.

J = Jaw Tension

Most people don't realize how tense their jaw is ... because it feels perfectly natural to them. Be sure to stretch out your face and jaw muscles and even make a specific point to monitor your jaw when singing to be sure it truly is relaxed. If your jaw is tense, you will not receive your best tone and perhaps even have trouble hitting some of the higher tones.

K = Keep It Clean

When practicing your vocal skills, focus on creating a pure and clear tone first, free of airiness, rasp and other tonal changes added for stylistic purposes. If you cannot create a clear tone full of life and energy, you are not singing up to your potential.

L = Lift Your Diaphragm

So many singers learn to "belly breathe" (breathe into the belly) and therefore tend to think that lifting their diaphragm feels similar to holding in their stomach. You can sing like this, but you are only using half your resources and not making full use of the power provided by the muscles in the back. To get your best breath for singing, you want to fill up your abdomen like an inner tube. You should feel expansion all the way around your body; yes, even in your back. Then, to compress the air and support the vocal tone release, you lift the diaphragm muscle straight up from the center of your body. If you are used to the other way, it takes some practice to get the new diaphragm muscle memory, but well worth the effort!

M = Money Notes Matter

Let's face it, if you are singing a song with a big money note, let's be real. You can knock the rest of the song out of the park, but if you miss the money note, that's all your audience will remember. A lot of times singers miss money notes because they are worried about it and if you even think for a moment that it might not happen; you just increased your odds of it not happening by a great deal. Usually it is only one or two notes of a phrase that reach that "money" potential. When you focus specifically on the note, you compartmentalize it and tell your subconscious to watch out for it. Instead, in practice, try concentrating on the phrase. Figure out how to use the phrase to your advantage. Sometimes changing your placement on the note(s) just before your money note can make a huge difference. As, of course, during performance, see yourself hitting that note like a pro. If you can see it and you believe it, you'll hit it almost every time. *(Quick advice from Ray ~ if you are having problems with a word or two in a song, drop it and move along to something else. I love "Farewell Party" but stay away from it because I can't nail that final high "money notes" phrase.)*

N = Never Let Them See You Sweat!

The perception of the audience is the reality. Say that out loud ~ "the perception of the audience is the reality." What they think is true, is true. So if you sing with confidence and handle that "creative" phrase you accidentally added like a professional, most of your audience will be convinced that you meant to sing it that way. Professionals sing creative nuances, amateurs make mistakes.

(To be continued next issue.)

GRASS Clippings



What's Happening In the World of Bluegrass?

20th Annual Gateway City Bluegrass Festival

This festival will be held March 5-6-7 at the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet Hotel located off I-270 exit 16A at Page Blvd. in St. Louis, MO. Four separate stage shows featuring national and regional award winning bands will be presented. Entertainers include Bobby Osborne & Rocky Top Express, Little Roy Lewis and Lizzy Long Band, Josh Williams Band, Monroe Crossing, Summertown Road, Sorghum Hill, Kody Norris

& Watauga Mountain Boys, Bankester Family, Open Range, Southern Raised and others. Also, 24 hour pickin' rooms, guitar show, open stage and talent showcase. Hotel reservations, 314-878-1500, Band Information 217-243-3159.

16th Annual Naperville Indoor Bluegrass Festival

March 26-27-28, Holiday Inn Select Hotel, I-88 exit Naperville Road South. Featuring Nothin' Fancy, Donna Ulisse, Barry Scott Band, Monroe Crossing, Josh Williams Band, Next Best Thing, Balsam Range, Morgan Daniels Band, Illinois Rail, The Harmans, New Heir Bluegrass and others. Open stage Talent Showcase, 24 hour pickin' rooms, guitar show, instrument workshops and Keigh Yoder Jam Camp. Hotel Reservations 630-505-4900, Band Information 217-243-3159.

Any members who might take in these shows, be sure to write us a review and take a few pictures.

The First Christian Church of Farmer City
Lincoln & Market Streets, Farmer City
Cordially Invites You To Attend

The Cowboy Church

Every Sunday
5:00 p.m. Food & Fellowship Service

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Featuring

The Cowboy Church Band
(Kathy Brake, Mike Brake, Don Hurt, Ted Shaffer, Ted Long, Ray Prince, Marcia Shelton, Jack Roberts, D.J. Koester & Pastor Bob Beckman)

with
Different Guests Every Week

Nondenominational



Schedule

March 7, Living Water Trio
March 14, Bill Polson
March 21, Gospel Messengers
March 28, Amy Shelton/
Eric Gordon, *Methodist Church, Farmer City*
April 4, Band Night, Bobby Dalton
April 11, King Family
April 18, Kenny Prince
April 25, Ken Honeker
May 2, Stephanie Foster



Sam Carlin Memorial NACMAI Fundraiser

The Sam Carlin Memorial NACMAI Fundraiser was held on Saturday, February 6, at the Mt. Hope/Funks Grove Park District building in McLean.

At 6:00 p.m., the entertainers, who double as the wait staff for this event, began serving a meal that was highly praised for its quantity and quality. The kitchen staff consisted of Dave, Donna and Rachelle Nevius, who cooked the meat, Della Prince, who prepared the desserts and helpers Deanna Bennet, Janice Nevius, Sue Burgess and others.

Around 7:00 p.m., the show started. Jim, Wynonna and Stephanie Foster provided the sound system for the evening, which was compared to the sound in Carnegie Hall. The Emcee duties were handled by Ray Prince and Deanna Bennet. Jodi Mines checked people in at the door,

and Amanda Mines, Bailey Prince and Amanda's friend Alyssa sold the 50/50 tickets.

We want to thank Hal Joyce, the winner of the 50/50, who donated the jackpot back to the ICMA.

Entertainers consisted of the **New Blood Gospel/Bluegrass band**, plus their individual NACMAI entrants **Paul Everly, Jr., Leah Beth Everly, Kenny Elam and Paul Everly, Sr.** They were followed by **Ali Nicole Browning, Amanda Lee Mines, Jenny Bennet, Vanessa Scahill, Erica Nevius, Ashley Mehl, TeJai, Stephanie Foster, Elise Marie, Terry Cottrell and Terry Lynn Barton.** The show closed with all entertainers gathering on stage to sing "God Bless America."

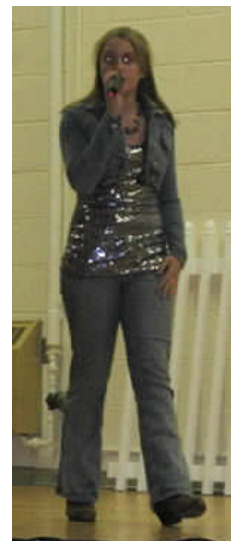
Once again, folks stepped forward to help clean up and put things away after the show. Thank you for your efforts; you are truly appreciated.



New Blood Gospel/Bluegrass Band



Vanessa Scahill



*Jenny Bennet,
above*



Jobs, gigs, etc. sidelined a few of our NACMAI entertainers, including **Lizzie Mladic, Danielle Grimm, Eric Burgette, Colleen Wild and Eva Hunter.**

Chris Krause made it as far as McLean, but an incident with a hot cup of coffee put him in the emergency room with 2nd degree burns. He is doing fine and thanks everyone for their prayers.



*Amanda Lee
Mines, left*



Look out, Coco, here comes little sis! Vanessa Scahill, center, leads a rousing "Hoedown Showdown" with guest dancers Amanda Mines, left, and Ali Nicole Browning, right



Stephanie Foster



Elise Marie



TeJai



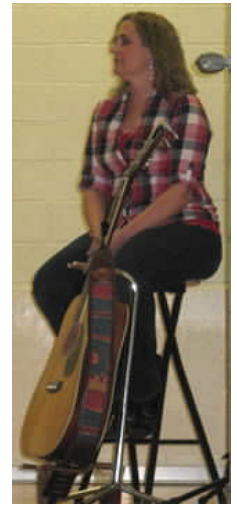
Erica Nevius



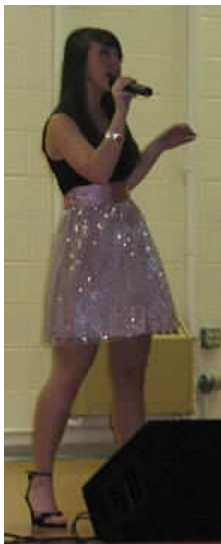
Terry Cottrell



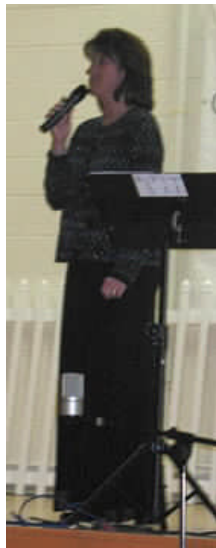
Ali Nicole Browning



Deanna Bennet served as EmCee for the second half



Ashley Mehl



Terry Lynn Barton



The whole gang closed with "God Bless America"

Branson Style Entertainment Comes To Central Illinois!

Bellflower

Country Opry

Saturday, March 27, 2010: Wear Something Green

“Tribute to Classic Country Music” Show!

Saturday, April 24, 2010: Wear Something Pastel colored

“Mother’s Day/Spring” Program

SHOW STARTS AT: 7:00 p.m.

DOORS OPEN AT: 6:00 p.m.

TICKETS: Adults: \$10

Kids under 12: free

<http://www.bellflowercountryopry.com>



Country Music Tonight

Where can you find country music in Illinois?

You all know the feeling ~ there is nothing worth watching on television, you are Facebooked, Texted and Twittered out, and you would just like to find some good country music to listen to or play along with. This series is going to explore some of these venues. The first place we are going to check is:

Thursday Night Jam, Heyworth VFW

Every Thursday, folks in gather at the VFW in Heyworth for a potluck supper and a round of country music. You don't need to sign up, just join the circle of singers and when it comes your turn, sing whatever you want, as long as its country, and you can accompany yourself. I didn't see any tracks in evidence, so I assume it is all live music.

This jam, while not the oldest in the area, has been going for several years. Folks start gathering around 6:00 p.m. for supper. There is no charge, but they welcome donations for expenses. When everyone has finished with their supper, the musicians start in. The music is 99% classic country. Everyone is welcome to come and sing or just sit and listen to the music.



Roy Hicks



Rex Bean, Janet Bond



Dave "Moon" Embry



Scott Hursh



Gene Bach



*John Jennings,
Barry Clesson*



Charlie Huff takes his turn on bass.



Dawn Shannon, Don Baker.



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New Members

To the members who have signed up since the last newsletter, we want to take this opportunity to say "welcome," glad to have you with us, and let us know how we can serve you better. Entertainers ~ take a supply of ICMA membership forms with you whenever you perform. We can print special forms with your name preprinted so you get credit for the new members.

New Members

Charles C. Crabtree, Normal
Kathleen K. Crabtree, Normal
Adam L. Ramage, Mapleton
Lottie Heckman, Roanoke
Frannie Heckman, Roanoke
Mickey Williams, Ipava
Terry Smith, Nashville, TN
Jacqueline Durham, Hopedale
Alexis Durham, Hopedale
Taylor Trousdale, Oakford

New Commercial Members

Studio 401 Recording
Bellflower Country Opry

Welcome Back Old Friends

Andy Heckman, Roanoke
Jennifer Heckman, Roanoke
Amy Shelton, Franklin, IN
Brad Durham, Hopedale
Nelson R. Kellems, McLean

Referred by

Ray Fidler
Merle & Marcia
Shelton
Jack Simmons
Bob Payne
Brad Durham
Brad Durham
Elise Marie

Bob Payne
Merle & Marcia
Shelton

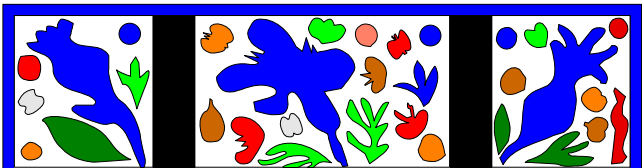
Merle &
Marcia
Shelton

have a number of new entries and it is important that they are aware of this policy. Hopefully, everyone has read the back of the entry form, but just in case they haven't, they all need to be reminded of this policy.

(For ICMA folks, I printed the back of the form separately, in larger print, to keep as reference.)

A Talent For Song

That's the title of the article in the winter 09-10 issue of American Concierge Magazine, which features ICMA's own Anjanel Folkens in a story about her singing and songwriting. I am not sure where you can get a copy, but I see them all around Bloomington-Normal and surrounding areas. In addition to the story, Anjanel's photos grace the Table of Contents page and also the calendar pages. Congratulations, Anjanel, for being chosen for this honor.



Thank You

The ICMA would like to thank the late Marge Brown for the generosity shown to the organization in her will.

Richard and Marge Brown helped the ICMA while they were living, and thanks to their legacy, we can continue to offer services to our members, even in these difficult times.

A Note From the NACMAI Folks

We received this notice from NACMAI:

It is important that those in Duos, Groups and Bands realize that if everyone in that Duo, Group and Band is not present at the Awards Show to accept their award, a representative of that Duo, Group, Band or State Association may *not* pick up the awards for the other members that are not present. Those that are not present at the Awards Show to receive their award, if they are winners, will have to pay to have the award sent to them. All of this information is on the back of the entry form and the shipping & handling is \$50 per award.

Please remind your competitors of this policy. We

Trails and Tales by Bob Payne



Setting - Southern Illinois Turf Fest on the Larry Overturf Farm and Country Music Theater. The Theater is a converted barn with hay stacked - large round bales. The stage and seating are in the east end where tables and chairs make for a com-

fortable evening, where you can drink your coffee or soft drinks, enjoy a sandwich or chips. It is located on a blacktop road about five miles from Benton, IL. A tall handsome John Wayne looking cowboy greeted us at the door. The theater was already partly filled and we were a little early and those there were visiting. I realized at once that we were going to be entertained and would leave with a memory of great country music and newfound friends.

There was an assortment of entertainment at the Turf Fest both nights on September 25 & 26. Not whatever it is they call "new country." As George Jones says, they can't even find a name for it, so they call it "new country." I have a good name for it, but can't put it in print here. On the stage during the Fest were entertainers from Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, Georgia and Terry Smith from Nashville who really put on a TOP concert. This man was truly 100% country, really. I wrote about Terry in the last issue so we'll leave it there.

I interviewed Larry and asked him a number of questions, here's the basics of that. I would have thought that Larry was probably a three sport letter winner ~ wrong ~ he didn't play sports. Well, that's the coaches' loss and our gain. Even then, he was dedicated to his love and that makes us all winners. Thanks, Larry. You see, Larry started to play at age five.

The members of the band came forward one at a time and performed a song or two. They were also very good in their own style and I was personally somewhat surprised at the talent that came from the area. There were a lot of folks that blessed the stage those two nights in September. One sharing the stage with Larry was his son, Jim, who I felt



was quite talented and probably learned a lot from his dad at an early age, no doubt. We don't want to forget the Cowboy Church band from Edgewood, Illinois, who also showed up and did a bang up job. I believe it's the best show I've seen from a Cowboy Church band. I have been to many and that's my opinion.

The next night was equally as great and the crowd, if anything, was into it even more. Two nights of Pure Country and I found out one more thing. Larry, I really enjoyed the CD, "Larry Overturf --Singer Like Hank,." a 10 song CD on which Larry wrote all the songs. Larry, I'll not say you sing as good as Hank, and you may not be as handsome as the Duke, but you're a mighty close second. And, you showed me something else; there is coal in Southern Illinois, but there is GOLD on the stage at Larry Overturf's Turf Fest. See you in 2010.

For a copy of Larry's new CD, phone 618-439-4053. Buy a copy - you'll like it - it's country.

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Tanya Tuckers parents, Beau Tucker and Juanita Cunningham, were both 15 years old when they married in 1943.

~ Bill Littleton



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How Can We Help You?

At our state board meetings, we often discuss just what we can and do offer our members. I like to think we offer our folks:

- Opportunities to Perform country music - new/modern country, classic country, gospel or bluegrass.
- A newsletter which publicizes your activities. Now that we are publishing via e-mail, your information goes out over a much wider area. We ask that you read more than just the headlines. Several people got the idea from our last issue that we were discontinuing the newsletter. I have been in this business for over a half a century, and one thing I have learned is that a good house organ holds the membership together.
- Access to an international group, the North America Country Music Associations,

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Betty Giacobazzi
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Chris Hawkins
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Church, Farmer City, IL, 6:00 p.m.

Every Tuesday evening, 6:30 p.m., (as
schedule permits) Bon-Aire Jammers, Emo's
Family Restaurant, Farmer City, IL.

Every 3rd Wednesday, ASTA HealthCare,
Bloomington, Illinois, with Prairie Ramblers

Every 4th Wednesday, Heritage Manor,
Bloomington, Illinois, with Prairie Ramblers

International (NACMAI). This is another valuable asset, giving our people the opportunity to be judged by a panel of international experts.

- An opportunity to advertise in the newsletter - an ad that will reach all corners of Illinois and surrounding states. If you would like for local fair boards and festival groups to see our ads, send their e-mail address to an-janel.folkens@frontiernet.net.

These are a few things we offer. It is not an all-inclusive list. We realize that there are probably needs that aren't being met. One thing we aren't equipped to do, and that is act as a booking agent. This takes a licensed professional to do a proper job for you.

But we are sincere - if there is a way we can serve you better, just contact any state board member. We'll do anything within our power.

Have You Noticed? by: Jack Blanchard

People don't talk face-to-face so much anymore. They send simplistic text messages. They exchange emails, a medium so cold that it needs little cartoon faces to express emotion.



We stare into various electronic screens television, computer, cell phone, I-Pod, and whatever else is new. We sit nearly motionless and watch the motions on the screens; actors, athletes, game show contestants, reality show competitors, and computer animated figures that battle intergalactic foes, steal cars, kill cops, and generally duke it out.

When our guys win a TV sports event, we take it as our personal victory, as if we'd done something special, when all we did was watch. They live. We watch.

More than 20 minutes of every television hour are commercial, injecting fake needs, desires, and disease symptoms directly into our brains. Ask your doctor. The TV's even talk to us in stores and malls. You can't turn them off or tune them out. Big Brother.

Traveling between our home screens and the store screens, we stick digital things into our ears to talk to people without actually having to be with them personally, or we carry around 5,000 of our favorite songs to ward off real life. Who has 5,000 favorite songs? Or even 500?

Do these new music lovers know that an mp3 made at the standard bitrate of 128 is much lower in sound quality than a CD, lower in quality than



Come see Amanda perform at Tina's CountryTime Opry in Galesburg the 2nd Friday of each month and at Emo's Restaurant in Farmer City the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Contact Jodi at 309-335-1993
or email amandamines@hotmail.com

a good vinyl LP on a high-end sound system, and way lower than analog studio wide tape?

Digital music is all numbers. Think of the numbers as a flight of stairs, with a ball of music bouncing down in small hops. Analog music is more like a ramp, with the music ball rolling smoothly down. Listening to a piece on digital and then on analog, is like looking out a window, and then taking the screen off.

Major labels don't mail as much hard product to radio stations as they used to. It's cheaper and faster to put MP3's up on the Internet, and have the radio people download them.

With the public being hooked on plugging stuff into their heads, you'd think that music sales would skyrocket, but just the opposite is happening. CD sales are way down, and nobody's making much on digital downloads, except the makers of I-Pods. Once a fan downloads a song he can share it around the world for free.

Still the record companies keep selling \$.99 digital downloads, killing their own CD album sales. They're afraid to be left behind in case it ever starts to pay off.

Today it seems to be about keeping up with the trends. To some of us it will always be about the music.

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ICMA Recognition Program to Replace Awards Show

Your state board has decided to replace the annual "People's Choice" Awards Show with a Recognition Program which might draw more interest.

In the past, the Awards Show has been a real class event, top notch talent, huge crowds and a lot of interest. Last year, we had the class event and top notch talent, but the crowd was sparse and even those who had been nominated did not attend.

The process starts out with a Nominating Ballot, which is checked out by the ICMA to make sure everyone who is nominated is a member, and, if they are not members, we give them a chance to join.

The next step is the Primary Ballot, which lists all nominees from the Nominating Ballot who are eligible. These ballots are mailed to a CPA who makes the count and forwards the results to the ICMA Board.

The Final Ballot is produced and mailed to the

membership, and the final total is tabulated by the CPA, who prepares the envelopes for the Awards Show.

Last year, the mailing process cost us \$529.48 printing and postage, with the printing being done on ICMA equipment. The trophies cost \$1,158.31, of which we recouped \$1,140 through sponsors.

After a considerable amount of work by a considerable number of people, our net income for the 2009 Awards Show was *minus* \$116.67.

Discouraging? Absolutely!

This tells us that the Awards Show is just not the draw it used to be, and our membership is not prepared to support such a program.

We are still in the "thinking" stage, but we plan to retain the Pioneer, Fan of the Year and Kelly Holt Memorial Awards, with the remainder of the program recognizing those who have helped further the organization in the previous year, attended our events, etc.

We will keep you posted as plans are finalized.



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He was on HEE HAW for many years also!

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**One of the "Country Hanks"
Hank Thompson**

Country Music Legend Hank Thompson September 3, 1925 –November 6, 2007, was one of the most prolific of the "country Hanks." Few country music artists can claim a longevity and track record to equal that of Hank Thompson. Between 1948 and 1974 he scored no less than twenty-nine Top Ten hits, with another nineteen in the Top Twenty, and continued to chart into the 1980s. Many of these, including "Green Light," "Whoa Sailor," and "Waiting in the Lobby of Your Heart," he penned himself, thus proving his stature in country music's great singer-songwriter tradition. Along the way Thompson forged a potent blend of honky-tonk and western swing that has long served as a source of continuity amid country's experimentation with rock and pop sounds.



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Like many country stars, Henry William Thompson took an early interest in music, winning several amateur contests on the harmonica. After he became enthralled by cowboy movie idol Gene Autry, however, the guitar became Thompson's instrument of choice. With a Christmas present from his parents, a four-dollar guitar bought at a secondhand store, young Hank was on his way. By the time he finished high school he was broadcasting over radio station WACO as Hank the Hired Hand, sponsored by a local flour company.

After graduating, Thompson enlisted in the U.S. Navy. While stationed in San Diego, he persuaded his superiors to let him play area clubs, and after putting out to sea, he entertained his shipmates as well. He kept on broadcasting, too, over a network of small stations organized by American military personnel in the South Pacific. While in the navy he also took advantage of training programs and studied electrical engineering at Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas, and Princeton University-making him one of country music's better-educated stars.

Although he pondered an engineering career after

his navy stint was over, radio work and his first hit record, "Whoa Sailor," kept him on a show business track. Thompson also recorded four sides with the Blue Bonnet label before Tex Ritter, then a prominent star on Capitol Records, helped him gain a contract with this larger, major label. During 1948-1949 Thompson justified Ritter's faith in him with hits such as "Humpty Dumpty Heart" (based on the children's nursery rhyme), "Green Light," and a remake of "Whoa, Sailor."

During the 1950s Thompson's songwriting talents, smooth baritone, precise diction, and powerful combination of western swing and honky-tonk sounds helped him continue his string of hits. The year 1952 brought his first #1 disc, "The Wild Side of Life," a song that inspired the hit that launched Kitty Wells' career: "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky-Tonk Angels." Subsequent Thompson chart makers of the 1950s included "Waiting in the Lobby of Your Heart," "Rub-A-Dub-Dub," "Yesterday's Girl," "Wake Up, Irene," "Honky Tonk Girl," "Most of All," "The Blackboard of My Heart," and "Squaws Along the Yukon," all in the Top Ten.

During these years Thompson also made inroads into television, hosting a variety show on WKY-TV in Oklahoma City from 1954 to 1957. In addition, he was one of the earliest country performers to entertain in Las Vegas showrooms, and he recorded one of country's first live albums, *Live at the Golden Nugget*, there in 1960. Meanwhile, he brought his engineering knowledge to bear on his stage show and built topflight sound and lighting systems that heightened his drawing power at the more than 250 show dates he typically played each year. Thanks to his musical and technical leadership, his Brazos Valley Boys were *Billboard's* top-ranked band from 1953 to 1965, a record that has yet to be equaled.

Into the 1960s and beyond, Thompson's easy manner made him a welcome guest on network TV variety shows, as did a dynamic stage presence magnified by his size (he stands six feet, two inches tall); a roughhewn, handsome appearance; and custom-made western outfits for which he became famous. But following "A Six Pack to Go" (#10, 1960) and "Oklahoma Hills" (#7, 1961), he didn't make the Top Ten again until 1968's "On Tap, in the Can, or in the Bottle" and "Smoky the Bar," both recorded early in his association with Dot Records, which he began after a brief stay at Warner Bros. in the late 1960s. Two more Top

Ten hits came in 1974, but the 1970s belonged to country pop, and Thompson's chart success dwindled to the point where he pared down his road schedule and spent more time hunting or tending to his various real estate, broadcasting, and music publishing interests.

In the 1980s, however, as harder-edged sounds enjoyed renewed popularity, Thompson hit the road again in earnest, playing dates in Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America as well as in the United States. He also kept recording, and he signed with Nashville's Step One Records in 1987. In 1997 Curb Records released *Hank Thompson and Friends*, a critically acclaimed collection of duets pairing Thompson with Lyle Lovett, Vince Gill, George Jones, Kitty Wells, and others. Thompson's hard-core honky-tonk-western swing sound-marked by a strong rhythm section of piano, bass, guitar, and drums; lead and fill parts supplied by twin fiddles, electric guitar, and steel; frequent shifts from 2/4 to 4/4 time, and above all his powerful vocals-continues to influence country artists such as George Strait, Dwight Yoakam, Asleep at the Wheel, and others among country's newer generation. Hank Thompson was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1989.



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**WATCH - CLOCK
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In Memory, Carl Smith



Carl Smith, one of the most successful and distinctive country artists to emerge in the 1950s, died January 16, 2010, at his home in Franklin, Tennessee, south of Nashville. He was 82.

A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame (inducted in 2003), from 1951 to 1955 he placed a uninterrupted string of 21 singles in the Top 10, including five No. 1 hits -- among them 'Loose Talk' and 'Hey Joe!' In all, he scored nearly 100 charted singles throughout his recording career, right up until he retired from music in 1978. At that time, he retreated to his 500-acre Tennessee ranch to breed champion cutting horses.

The singer, whose easygoing singing style earned him the nickname "The Country Gentleman," married June Carter in 1952. They divorced four years later, just after their daughter, Carlene Carter, was born. In 1995, Carlene coerced her dad out of retirement briefly, to duet on a version of his hit, 'Loose Talk.' He married singer Goldie Hill in 1957.

Carl was born in 1927 in Maynardville, the small eastern Tennessee town which was also the birthplace of another country music legend, Roy Acuff. In 1944, while he was still in high school, he began singing on WROL radio. After serving in the Navy and guesting on many other radio stations, he appeared on the Grand Ole Opry, as a guest of Hank Williams. In 1950, he signed with Columbia Records and also with WSM radio.

"My first job at WSM was six or seven days a week at 5:15 in the morning," he told Nashville's Tennessean newspaper in 2003. "The announcer would put me on and then just leave. I started being on the Opry pretty regularly. They didn't say you were a 'member' of the Opry back then. You just were on it or you weren't."



"He was on shows when I was real, real young," recalled Hank Williams Jr. "The guy was real striking to the ladies. I remember their reaction when he went on stage."

In 1954, Carl also became one of the four founders of Cedarwood/Driftwood, a powerhouse Nashville music publishing company. After leaving the Opry in 1956, he was part of the first live television broadcast from Nashville, on WSM Channel 4. In Canada, the 'Carl Smith Country Music Hall' show ran for five years.

Carl was buried at Franklin's Williamson Memorial Gardens, alongside Goldie Hill, his wife of 48 years, who died in 2005.

ed. note: My only connection was back on July 22, 1955. After a busy day visiting the sights, at 11:00 p.m. my friends and I visited the "Swamp Varmint Show" with Eddie Hill, WSM dj, whose guests that evening were Justin Tubb, Jimmie Newman, Argolda (Goldie) Hill, and Don Winters. I got up and gave Goldie my seat. Talk about a thrill!



Here's Carl whipping a hug on your treasurer, Della Prince, at a concert in Bloomington. Was Ray jealous? Nope, he was there but they hadn't met yet.

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Commercial Members Illinois Country Music Association, Inc.

Our commercial members are on the rolls because they are interested in country music and country music people. Let them know we appreciate their support.

We want to encourage our commercial members to submit a story letting the members know who you are. The deadline for the next issue is April 1, 2010.

**Fraternal Order of Eagles,
Champaign, IL**

**Bill Robinson & Friends,
St. Charles, IL**

**WBWN - B104 FM,
Bloomington, IL**

**B. P. Records and Production
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Georgetown, IL**

**Bement Country Opry, Inc.,
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**Emo's Farmer City Cafe,
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**Dewey State Bank,
Saybrook, IL**

**Gym Bob's,
Louisville, IL**

WIRL Radio, Peoria, IL

**PrimeTime Country Opry,
Hopedale IL**

**Cowboy Church Band,
Farmer City, IL**

**Percfection Coffee House,
Gibson City, IL**

Watkins Jewelry, Clinton, IL

**Marvin Lee Band,
St. Joseph, IL**

**Eric Gordon,
Downs, IL**

Cattle Bandits, Downs, IL

**Feudin' Hillbillies,
Tolono, IL**

**Iroquois County Country Line
Dancers**

**James F. Pomeroy, Jr.,
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**RC3 Entertainment,
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**Ashton Gap,
Sandwich, IL**

**Country Music Chicago
Carpentersville, IL**

**Village of McLean
McLean, IL**

**Russonic Recording Studio
Mattoon, IL**

**Studio 401 Recording
Georgetown, IL**

**That's Country (D.J. & Pat)
Homer Glen, IL**

Studio 401 Recording, Georgetown, Illinois New Commercial Member

by *Rick Sadowski*

In a small Midwest town on the eastern side of the state you'll find Georgetown, Illinois, home of Studio 401. The studio is down about mid-state and in close proximity to Champaign, Illinois, home of the University of Illinois and only about 90 miles west of Indianapolis, Indiana. In this area, I have the opportunity to work with local talent and artists in a low-key, friendly atmosphere. The talent in the area encompasses every type of music from Country to Symphonic. I relocated in Georgetown a little over three years ago looking for a larger location to build the home studio of my dreams.

In taking over a year to build, the studio combines a pro-level recording environment with a down home feeling. The studio is attached to a 2,500 square foot home on about 1.5 acres of land in the quiet part of Georgetown. I feel the studio gives a pro-level recording environment with more than what a home studio is expected to look and sound like. I have combined the best of both worlds: giving the artists a comfortable home environment but with all the quality of a pro studio.

I have been involved in music starting from the young age of 10. Having been in a band who recorded a record while still in Jr. High School, I found that sitting on the other side of the glass was where I wanted to be. While in High School, I helped other musician friends with their efforts in recording their music in a small local monaural studio. With all of this in my past, I feel I have the ability to get performances out of musicians that they didn't realize could be done. My approach to recording is "Less Is More," and using the "KISS" method (Keep It Simple, Stupid) to creating great productions.

I have over 35 years of recording experience to offer my customers. I have worked with all talents, ranging from Christian to Big Band and even doing Symphony Orchestra projects. I have also



done Jingle work and voice-overs for local radio stations. One of the artists that I have had the pleasure of working with in the studio is today's "Lady of Bluegrass" Alison Krauss. I have just finished up a few CD projects with some local Christian artists from the area and I'm now working with Dave Denman, a Bluegrass artist who has recorded and play with Alison Krauss on many of her projects over the years.

The soul of the studio is an analog Tascam 3500 console with a Mackie HDR 24/06 digital recorder along with a host of both analog and digital outboard gear. Monitoring is done on HR824 speakers by Mackie. Also, using the Motu Digital Performer software opens all sorts of doors in the mixing process. I have found using both analog and digital together gives me the ability to do things in recording that could never come from just the analog tape world. I also feel my ADK condenser microphone collection give me an upper hand in obtaining great vocal and acoustic performances. One other thing I have to offer my customers is an open minded approach to their ideas and making them feel comfortable and at ease in the studio.

You can reach me at 217-260-6972. You are also more than welcome to stop by and talk about your next recording project and what Studio 401 and myself, Rick Sadowski, can do for you. Rates available on request.

Entertainer's Directory

Any member in good standing of the Illinois Country Music Association, Inc., is entitled to free listing in the Entertainer's Directory. If more information, photo and/or show information is needed, it will be necessary to purchase an ad. (See scale at "Ramblings," in this issue.) To be listed in the Directory, just e-mail ICMAIllinois@aol.com or call (309) 378-4203.

David Alan info@davidalancountry.com

Terry Lynn Barton Contact Russ at 309-531-7499

Bement Country Opry (217) 877-6499 info@bementcountryopry.com, www.bementcountryopry.com

Jason Benefield www.jasonbenefield.com

Jenny Bennet Deanna Bennet (309) 392-2108 bnet90@verizon.net

Bluegrass Festivals (217) 243-3159 info@bluegrassmidwest.com www.bluegrassmidwest.com

Heather Bradford Roger or Leslie Bradford (217) 249-2562 or (217) 249-2608

brdfrd87@yahoo.com www.heatherbradford.com

Bill Brooks www.billbrooksmusic.com

Ali Nicole Browning (217) 653-2128 sbrowning74@hotmail.com

Eric Burgett eburgettmusic@yahoo.com

Jordan Carter (618) 755-0155 injdist@yahoo.com www.myspace.com/jordancarter86

Brittany Clarke Scott or Sandy Clarke (618) 755-9933 ssc15@mvn.net

Clementine Cowboy Church Dennis Farmer (217) 638-2045

D.J. Pat & Company D. J. Seneker (708) 301-3734

Janet Durham jedurham@mchsi.com

Danny Everhart Band Mona Wilcoxon & Assoc. (309) 639-2787

Emo's Family Restaurant, Farmer City Emo Balazi (309) 928-2926

Farmer City Cowboy Church Evelyn Henry (309) 928-2333

Feudin' Hillbillies Derrick Roy (217) 649-1196

Ray Fidler (309) 785-5117 rayfidler@msn.com

Mark & Pam Fisher www.markandpamfisher.com mark@markandpamfisher.com

Anjanel Folkens (309) 310-5588 anjanel.folkens@frontiernet.net www.anjanel.net

Stephanie Foster (309) 370-7232 stephaniefostermusic@gmail.com www.stephaniefostermusic.com

Addie Freeman contact Lynn Freeman (217) 833-2066 or (217) 247-0411 g-pchick@hotmail.com

Eric Gordon (309) 826-8710 redbandana@yahoo.com www.ericgordonmusic.com

Jason Gordon, 309-392-2625

Gospel Opry Lonnie Emmert (309) 963-4929

Gospel Voyagers Dennis & Tracy Farmer (217) 891-6479 prairiecountry2@aol.com

Danielle Grimm Pamela Scahill (815) 546-3131 Pamelas_3angels@yahoo.com

Gym Bob's Jamboree Show Mike Porter (618) 665-3956 Mcleop@wmconnect.com

Happy Heart Entertainment Betty Giacobazzi (309) 648-8648 Chris Hawkins (309) 699-8968

Gracia Harrison (217) 801-5312 graciariamusic@gmail.com www.myspace.com/graciariamusic

Mariah Henderson Dave Henderson (217) 454-9592 Julie Henderson (217) 412-7956

Naomi Hills & Spirit Road (217) 382-4263 naomi@lmymailstation.com

Eva Hunter www.evahunter.com

Chris Krause Tammy Schenke (618) 452-0820 www.christopherkrause.com

Jackie Lawson Freeze Entertainment (217) 232-6969 www.jackielawsonmusic.com

Marvin Lee's Country Opry (217) 694-4177

Dena Lewis (309) 453-9361 buckhorn.cowgirl@gmail.com
Elise Marie (641) 236-4730 or (641) 821-0033 gstrecc@mchsi.com www.elisemariemusic.com
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Justine Milligan Julie Milligan Justine94@yahoo.com
Amanda Mines Jodi Mines (309) 335-1993 amandamines@hotmail.com
Margaret Moore (618) 531-4306 margaret@margaretmooremusic.com
 www.myspace.com/countrydivamargaretmoore
Panther Creek Duo Mike Porter/Marsha Banning www.MikePorter.com www.Gymbobs.com
Travis Parks Gary Raye Productions (309) 694-2726 elvis@garyraye.com ~ www.garyraye.com
Percfection Coffee House (217) 784-4112
PrimeTime Country (309) 449-5484 www.primetimecountry.com/
Ray Prince (309) 378-4203 swampvrnm@aol.com
Phyllis Proctor pp6233@aol.com
Gary Raye elvis@garyraye.com www.garyraye.com
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Paul Summers Ministry (217) 589-4918 psks6470@verizon.net www.summersministry.com
TeJai (309) 627-2277 tejaicountrymusic@live.com www.tejaiscountrymusic.webs.com
Taylor June Trousdale 217-341-5712 President@BlueStreamRecords.com
Missy Vail Connie Vail (309) 334-2697 cone@winco.net www.missyvail.com
Colleen Wild Pamela Scahill (815) 546-3131 Pamelas_3angels@yahoo.com

Entertainers Ads

Why not give folks a better idea of who you are and what you do, with a low cost entertainer's ad, showing your photo and contact information? It only costs \$15.00 for three issues.

If you want to include your upcoming shows, consider a larger ad, which will be billed at the same rate as regular advertising (see Ramblings for current prices).

We will ask the entertainers to pay for these ads, in advance, for three issues. Since they will now be paid ads, prices for your events may be listed. If the size of your ad fluctuates, we will ask you to pay for the largest size of ad you will be

running in the three issue period.

Below is a typical "entertainer's ad" which you can run for three issues for only \$15.00.

<p> Taylor Jane Doe (217) 555-1212 visit my web site at www.taylorjanedoe.com e-mail taylor@taylordoe.com </p>	
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Ramblings

Newsletter Editor

*The Illinois Country Music Association, Inc.,
is a non-profit organization.*

Pictures In the Newsletter

We can use color photos, black and white, CD's, digital camera memory cards, almost anything you can name can be used. *If you want your photos returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.*

Newsletter Schedule

Our bimonthly Newsletter is scheduled to go out around the first of January, March, May, July, September and November. The *deadline* for submitting material is the *first of the month preceding* the scheduled mailing, i.e..

Jan/Feb issue.....	deadline December 1st
Mar/Apr issue	deadline February 1st
May/June issue	deadline April 1st
July/Aug issue.....	deadline June 1st
Sep/Oct issue.....	deadline August 1st
Nov/Dec issue	deadline October 1st

Advertising Rates

ICMA Members

(10% discount for commercial members)

1/8 Page.....	\$15 for 3 issues
	\$6 for one issue
1/4 Page.....	\$24 for 3 issues
	\$11for one issue
1/2 Page.....	\$53 for 3 issues
	\$20for one issue
Full Page.....	\$90 for 3 issues
	\$40 for one issue

Non-ICMA Members

1/8 Page.....	\$45 for 3 issues
	\$18 for one issue
1/4 Page.....	\$81 for 3 issues
	\$32 for one issue
1/2 Page.....	\$158 for 3 issues
	\$59 for one issue
Full Page.....	\$270 for 3 issues
	\$90 for one issue

Web Site ~ www.ILcountrymusic.com

Webmaster ~ Anjanel Folkens

Newsletter Committee:

Ray Prince, Anjanel Folkens

Proof Reader: Della Prince

Published by the Illinois Country Music Association, Inc. Articles and news items may be submitted to the I.C.M.A. Newsletter in typed or printed form for publication, or submitted on a floppy disc in Text format. We reserve the right to refuse to print submissions based upon our editorial policies and judgments. We cannot be responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited photos or manuscripts, but those sending a self-addressed stamped envelope will normally be returned.

Mail to: I.C.M.A. Newsletter
P.O. Box 79
Downs, IL 61736-0079

e-mail to: ICMA Illinois@aol.com

The I.C.M.A. Newsletter is published periodically by the Illinois Country Music Association, Inc. It is distributed exclusively to members of the organization, and to others by the Board of Directors for promotion of the organization.

I.C.M.A. Board of Directors

Terms expiring April, 2010: Ray Prince, Dave Nevius, Leigh Troyer, Bonnie Hill, Janice Nevius

Terms expiring April, 2011: Della Prince, Anjanel Folkens, Donna Nevius, Chris Durham, Jerry Foley, Glen Dawson, Lori Dawson

Board of Directors

Ray Prince, President	309-378-4203
Dave Nevius, Vice President	309-212-5807
Della Prince, Treasurer	309-378-4203
Anjanel Folkens, Recording Secretary	309-963-6490
Donna Nevius	309-212-5807
Leigh Troyer	309-829-4513
Bonnie Hill	309-475-6301
Chris Durham	309-449-5484
Janice Nevius	309-826-5300
Jerry Foley	309-674-5872
Glen Dawson	309-454-8068
Lori Dawson	309-454-8068

NACMAI Member
The Illinois Country Music Association, Inc. is a proud member of NACMAI, North America Country Music Associations, International.
"Keep Country Country"



Application for Membership

Join Illinois' Most Affordable "Country Club"!

Join us today and become an active member of the I.C.M.A. When you join, you receive, as just one of your benefits, the I.C.M.A. Newsletter, the official publication of the I.C.M.A. We will keep you informed of upcoming events, awards shows and special offers only available to I.C.M.A. members.

"General Members" will receive a membership card, issues of the I.C.M.A. Newsletter, ballots for awards, ballots for Board of Directors voting and special notices and offers throughout the year.

"Family Members" (persons residing at the same address) will also receive a membership card, ballots and special offers. Only the sponsoring General Member will receive the Newsletter.

"Commercial Members" will receive a special plaque and recognition for their business, band or organization designating it as a supporter of the I.C.M.A. Commercial members will not receive any ballots, but will receive all Newsletters and publications of the I.C.M.A.

- Yes, I want to join as a GENERAL MEMBER.** Enclose \$12.50 for each General Membership. (For a two year membership, enclose \$20.00.)
- Yes, I want to join as a FAMILY MEMBER.** Enclose \$7.50 for each **additional** Family Membership. (For a two year membership, enclose \$11.25.)
- Yes, I want to join as a COMMERCIAL MEMBER.** Enclose \$30.00 for each Commercial Membership.

PLEASE PRINT IN INK

General Member Name _____ Check if Under Age 18

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Family Member 1 _____ Check if Under Age 18

Family Member 2 _____ Check if Under Age 18

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Were you referred by another ICMA member? (name) _____

Mail this form and check to: I.C.M.A., P.O. Box 79, Downs, IL 61736-0079

ICMA USE Renewal New

Moving??? New Address? Please Let Us Know!!!

Name: _____

New Address: _____

City/State/ZIP _____

E-Mail Address _____

(for newsletter and "What's Happening"
Mail to ICMA, PO Box 79, Downs, IL 61736-0079