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THE ICE JAMMERS

Those fortunate folks who attended the Icelandic Pavilion at the Lieutenant Governor's Winterfest on Friday and Saturday evenings were treated to a stellar performance by a new group calling themselves the **Ice Jammers**. These guys and gals, (or perhaps I should say gals and guy), kept the toes tappin' and the hands clappin' for about three and a half hours each evening. At times they even had a good ol' crowd sing along going. There were Country tunes, Folk, Cajun, some Dixie and even a little Bluegrass in the mix. There were tunes that challenged the audience to come up with the next verse and even a tune that had the audience howling like sled dogs. There were also tunes that had members of the audience trippin' the light fantastic, (*that means dancing for you hillbillies*). Now you're probably asking yourself "Who are these guys & gals that he's going on about?" Should I tell you or keep you in suspense a little longer, or should I just let you figure it out for yourselves...hmmm...decisions, decisions???

I'll tell you one thing for sure, as good as each of these folks are when they sing solo you should not miss the opportunity to hear them perform together. O.K. I haven't got the heart to keep you in the dark any longer.

Here they are: **The Ice Jammers**

Debbie Beaudry, Lorraine Comber, Ken Marshall and Cathy Olsen

Do you have anything you would like published?

We need input to keep our newsletter alive.

Send submissions to Wayne at email below or call 834-2130

You can read the monthly newsletter by email or in person by picking one up at the Jams.

To add your email to the subscription list (ITS FREE!!)

send your email to:

wayne@westmanjams.ca

Or call 834-2130 (Carberry)





REGGIE'S RAMBLINGS

Will the Circle be Unbroken

Usually, as our readers are aware, this column winds up being a bit whimsical and full of trivial nonsense. It's about time we learned a little more about our theme song, ***“Will the Circle be Unbroken”***. Every jam will be started with this song with as many jammers joining our praise as possible. This song has an awe-inspiring history. For the next few issues I will continue on this theme as I believe we should truly understand where this beautiful song came from and some of its history, from it's early beginnings to present day.

This song was written in 1907 by Ada R. Habershon from England while delivering lectures in America. Prompted by Charles Alexander, (1905 Torrey-Alexander Mission) from 1905 to 1906 she wrote 200 Gospel Songs. (hmmm..sounds like a modern day song tank). This mission was an evangelical event founded by the Church of England. Many of the lyrics sites list A.P. Carter as the author of this song so I can only imagine that he probably re-wrote the lyrics for the version we know today. The music and the chorus are very similar to Ada's version. The information and time-line history seems to be scarce for A.P. Carter's version. I would imagine that he probably didn't record it for a number of years, but rather, sang it at various churches that his group sang for. Like most of us, playing on stage is where we get most of our abilities and knowledge. Now A.P. Carter was born in 1891 in Poor Valley, known now as Maces Springs, Virginia. He was the first of eight children born to Robert and Mollie Bays Carter. His given name was "Pleasant" but later everyone knew him by A.P. Early in childhood he learned how to play the violin and it seems he was a natural musician as he travelled with his uncle, who ran a travelling singing school in and around Scott County, Virginia. As you could imagine, this wasn't gonna put food on the table, so he left his home in the shadow of Clinch Mountain and went to work for the railroad in Richmond, Indiana. Shortly thereafter he came down with typhoid fever so he moved back to Virginia, where his mother nursed him back to health, (hmmm Mothers have a habit of doing that, don't they?). When he recovered, he went to work for a company called Flander's Bay selling shrubs and trees. It was here that he met his future wife, Sara Dougherty as he was delivering some shrubs. From Sara's parlour, he could hear this sweet sixteen year old singing and was awestruck when he met her, as he thought she was the most beautiful gal he had ever seen. Hey look, we've all been there and gone through that experience, haven't we? Old cupid still shoots arrows around today. Imagine, musical... and looks too!... Well, this will have to be continued next month.....Meanwhile come on down to Westman Jams and help us sing our favourite song.

Remember!!!...No matter where you are...There you go!!

Reg



Ada R. Habershon



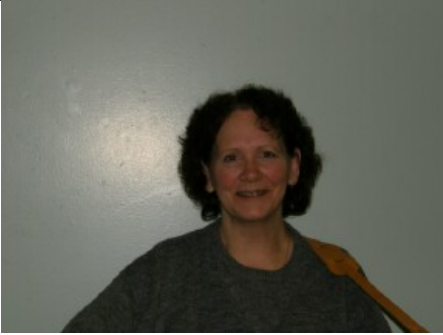
THE CARTER FAMILY MUSEUM

A.P. Carter



THE CARTER FAMILY MUSEUM

Sarah Dougherty

MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH - DEBBIE BEAUDRY

We have waited a long time to feature Debbie as Musician of the Month. The time has finally come to get to know a little more about her. She lists her hometown as Winnipeg. She has been playing and singing for 36+ years and is quoted as saying: "my father played guitar and fiddle and sang, my aunts on my mom's side also sang and played guitar."

Deb has 3 grown children, 2 girls and 1 boy. She says that two of the three are also interested in music and learning to play.

Debbie plays guitar, recorder, violin and piano and now has taken up the bass guitar as well. Can you say 'talent'? When asked about musical highlights and experiences she says: "I was in a group of about 40 teenagers when I was 16 called 'Enter the Young'. We sang gospel songs in the Shilo and Brandon area. We traveled to Winnipeg and made an LP. It is a treasured keepsake. I was also in a band in high school where we played for school dances, the Shilo country club and other small centers in the area. After that I played with different friends over the years adding extra fun and memories to my life. Now playing with the Westman jams has given me the opportunity to play and sing different places and get to know many really nice people. It has also presented me with the challenge of writing original songs and this has become a passion and a really big part of my life" Of Westman Jams she says: "I would like to say I have never met a group of people so willing to share their talents and help out on any project as the people at Westman jams. I feel really blessed to be part of this very special group."

We in turn feel blessed that Debbie has chosen to share her beautiful music with us and are tickled pink that she is finally our featured Musician of the Month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 28 - Carberry Legion Jam: 2 - 5 p.m. Supper to follow
\$12.00/plate. RSVP Wayne Morrissey@ 834-2130 by Feb. 23.

March 8 - ANAF Jam

March 15 - Minnedosa Jam: 2 - 5 p.m. Community
Conference Centre, Minnedosa: Potluck supper to follow.

**March 28 - 95th birthday - Fred Mansfield: Central
Community Centre, 529 - 4th St. Brandon: Come & Go
Tea from 2 - 4 p.m. Dinner - 5:30 p.m. (\$12.00 per plate).
Jam to follow, (free). RSVP by Mar. 10 to Nadean Ramsay
@ 728-7919 or e-mail Inramsey@hotmail.com**



March 2 - Wayne Morrissey

March 25 - Vi Barclay

March 27 - Norma MacMillan

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JAMMIN' IN WESTMAN

Ken Harman

part 2

MELITA:

Jams are organized by **Norm Cheyne in Melita on the first and third Thursdays each month from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Legion Hall.** Norm can be seen every weekend playing his fiddle, mandolin or tenor banjo wherever there is a jam. When I asked him how he got started holding jams he said, *"well I saw everybody else in the country having a great time with it so I decided to try it here. The only thing was, all the Sundays in Westman seemed to be taken up. Then somebody said; what's wrong with mid week?"* He pointed out that most of the pickers in his area are retired anyway and don't have much pressing to do during the week. They also have a good crowd of people who like dancing to old time music, even some square dancing.

Norm says they rely on the dance crowd to help pay the bills that the musicians alone couldn't handle.

Jams at Melita run from November through March.

VIRDEN:

Jams in Virden are held **on the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Virden Elks Hall.** Organized by **Art Maxwell.** Art is a hard working CP Rail road master during the day, a farmer / cattleman during the extra hours of any day and a musician / jammer / organizer during his spare time. Art plays solid rhythm on his Yamaha acoustic guitar and is also a backup singer when called upon. When I first saw Art at a jam two or three years ago I thought he was terribly shy. I didn't know then that he hadn't been playing very long and was reluctant to play in public. Since then Art has come into his own and will stand up and play along with any tune and now he hosts his own jam once a month.

Art also went out on a limb and put together a solid sound system that works well at jams.

Art has a heart as big as he is and in talking to him I found he's willing to help anybody out along the way, as he puts it, either with his equipment, muscle or talent. He says *"I received a lot of encouragement from others when I started, mostly from Milton and Elsie Henry, so I want to give something back.* That statement pretty well says who Art is. He is one who won't quit and is contributing much to the Westman music scene. Thanks Art.

ELKHORN:

Elkhorn jams are held **on the third Sunday of each month from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Elkhorn Legion Hall.** Organized by **Ed Clayton.** Ed is a retired banker who loves to play old time music on his fiddle and four string banjo. Another person who can't stay still in retirement, he and his wife have built up a nice orchard over the years on their farm near Elkhorn.

I asked Ed how and when he got to playing music. Like many of us he stated that he had been interested as a youngster but it was put aside while pursuing a career and raising a family. He picked up his instruments again as a hobby after his retirement from the CIBC. He inherited his father's four string tenor banjo and three fiddles so he wasn't short of instruments when he began playing again. Ed plays the mandolin as well.

Ed has organized a well run jam which includes several old time fiddle players making music for the dancers who attend the monthly jams. He can also be seen at other jams around the area playing his fiddle as backup for others or leading the group known as **Ed & Friends.**

To be continued in March edition.....