

## Half million will tune into radio programs taped in Norval Sunday

# 'Opry North' show may go video

By PAUL DORSEY  
Herald Editor

Outside, the pick-up trucks rubbed fenders with a six-door, chauffeur-driven limousine. Inside, the fans in their denim and polyester rubbed shoulders with the rhinestone cowboys in slick satins with gold lariat trim, their lanky frames boosted several inches by boots and stetsons.

It was a scene out of Robert Altman's "Nashville" Sunday at the Norval Junction, invigorated again by wall-to-wall crowds after months in moth-

musicians. The Junction could see more of the same action if featured two years ago, when pop artists Godo, Battered Wives and Valdy performed there.

**QUICKSETS**  
The country acts reeling through quick sets for Sunday's tapings are still unfamiliar to most Canadians, but the fans on hand to be part of what CFGM calls the show's "energetic two-way electricity" knew every performer and every song.

Nourished with the roast beef dinners Kenner's Catering provided as part of their \$7 admission charge, and soon mellowed by the drinks served by Georgetown Kinsmen and Kinettes as a fund-raising project, the audience greeted each act enthusiastically and cheered their welcome to each affiliate station, from Medicine Hat to Halifax, as it was introduced by emcee Bill Kelly.

Performing for shows that will be broadcast by CFGM (AM 1320 from Richmond Hill) this Saturday and Dec. 26 at 7 p.m. were Johnny Burke and Eastwind, whose reputation was forged by the early Opry North shows five years ago and who will soon depart for gigs in the Bahamas; Paul Weber, who performed his hit single, "Two Bits Worth of Hurlin'" the title track from his new album; the youthful Shryer Family, three boys a-fiddlin'; World Junior Banjo Playing Champion Chris Krienke, a 14-year old heart-breaker where teenage girls are concerned; Terry Sunston and Stagecoach, a colorful favorite with the crowd; the ever popular Carlton Showband, which mixed Irish jigs with tear-jerkin' Hurin' Music; Lillian and Manon from the group Skyline; and Seymour.

The second of Sunday's tapings had a Christmas theme, with most of the artists performing seasonal songs, and



Terry Sunston and his band Stagecoach were among the favorites at Sunday's taping of Opry North, both on and off the stage. Terry was surrounded by autograph seekers each time he ventured out into the packed hall at the Norval Junction. Also on the bill for the two shows taped Sunday (to be aired this Saturday and Dec. 28 on CFGM) were the Carlton Showband, Skyliner, Seymour and Paul Weber, all talented Canadian country acts hoping Opry North will boost their careers the way it did for Carroll Baker, the Good Brothers and Sunday's "house band", Johnny Burke and Eastwind.

featured a surprise treat for the audience with an appearance by Santa Claus and two charming elfettes.

**SMALL STAFF**  
Though relatively small in staff, CFGM has enjoyed tremendous success with Opry North, which began in May, 1976, with a broadcast from Seneca College featuring Canada's 1981 Entertainer of the Year, Carroll Baker. Subsequent shows not only provided an unprecedented showcase for struggling Canadian talent, they established international reputations for Miss Baker, Ronnie Prophet, the Good Brothers, Dallas Harms, the Family Brown and Eddie Eastman, who'll return to Opry North for a Feb. 14 taping at the Norval Junction.

Currently, an estimated 428,000 people tune into 17 different stations linked with CFGM to hear Opry North, putting the parent station in second place among Ontario's over-25 listeners, ahead of CIHM-AM.

Last year, more than 20,000 music fans attended Opry North tapings in Brampton's Chinguacousy Park, but these days CFGM believes Norval is the place to be. The packed parking lot and responsive audiences have convinced them that the Jacquelin Robertson Memorial Hall (named after Jim Robertson's young daughter, who was killed in a tragic car accident several years ago) provides an ideal "mini concert bowl atmosphere".

Opry North returns to the Junction Feb. 14 for another pair of live tapings. Tickets at \$7 per person will be on sale locally soon. Watch The Herald for further information.

### Footwear

Demand for footwear slackened in 1980. The only real gainers in sales were athletic and women's footwear.

balls. The club's past is nothing to cry about — it did good business as the Way-Jay and great business as the Riviera — but its future may be something to reckon with if the television cameras come to town, as proprietor Jim Robertson believes they will.

"Live from Norval Junction, just west of Brampton, Ontario — welcome to Opry North!" the announcer from CFGM-Am radio yells to the cheers of more than 600 country and western fans packed into the club's Jacquelin Robertson Memorial Hall.

Beleaguered by financial and legal wrangles while the club was still called the Way-Jay, Jim Robertson may finally have found his way onto the Yellowbrick Road. Not only are CFGM promoters delighted that the Junction offers near-perfect conditions for taping the weekly 'Opry North' program, but the need for television programmers to find adequate, quality, Canadian-content shows for the forthcoming Pay TV boom makes the Junction tapings ripe for the video pickings.

**TOP TALENT**  
With Canada's top country music talent trooping through the place, the eyes of the entertainment industry are turned toward Norval. And if a television deal can be struck, Mr. Robertson says, live simulcasts from the Junction will carry the Opry North programs cross country on CFGM and its affiliates and the TV network that buys a share. Representatives of both CBC and CFTO television watched the proceedings Sunday, and producer of CBC's new Sylvia Tyson series has shown definite interest.

Mr. Robertson envisions an opening sequence to the Opry North TV series that would start with a shot of the Toronto skyline and then whisk viewers by air through Brampton into — yes, sleepy little Norval.

That's not all. Joining prospective corporate sponsors and broadcasting officials in the crowd Sunday to see what the fuss is all about was a Toronto rock radio station programmer. According to Mr. Robertson, he was there to see if the hall can accommodate live broadcasts by rock



That's Chris Krienke on the left, at 14 the World Junior Banjo Playing Champion, and quite a hit with the teenage girls in the audience at Sunday's taping of the Opry North radio show in Norval. With a dozen different country and western music acts parading on and off the stage, the taping sessions give fans great opportunities to rub elbows with their favorites. Chris, backed by Eastwind, made the crowd marvel with blistering renditions of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" and "Orange Blossom Special".



There are big plans afoot for the ongoing Opry North music show tapings at the Norval Junction, formerly the Way-Jay and Riviera Club, and would-be corporate sponsors were checking things out Sunday. Carling-O'Keefe Breweries dispatched a team of sales and promotion people to watch CFGM-Am radio personnel tape two more live broadcast shows, and they brought along Miss Grey Cup 1981, Darlene Heaslip. Taping with the princess of Canadian football, who is also Miss Toronto Argonaut, are Carling's Fred Gallagher, Gord Walker and Brian Poach.



From their casual, matching outfits to their assured stage demeanor, the Schryer Family were the picture of cool professionalism for Sunday's Opry North tapings. The boys, all three teens or pre-teens, augmented Eastwind's sound with some harmonious, three-part fiddling, much to the appreciation of thousands of listeners who tune into Opry North each Saturday at 7 p.m. on CFGM-AM.

Dear Santa, YES, VIRGINIA... I know you are very busy. Lots of people tell me you are a fake if you are, don't tell me I don't want to know. Anyways I want Fabulose Fred, Space legs and Rag Apple Dumping. You must remember me, Kyla. I saw you today at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Is Rudolf always so silent? love Kyla!

P.S. Please write back.

Not to worry, Kyla, Santa is definitely real and very busy answering dozens of letters from Halton Hills youngsters just like yours. You'll find lots of letters, accompanied by Santa's personal responses, in "C" section of this week's Herald. Dozens more will appear in Friday's paper and next week's issues as well. Santa won't rest until he's had a chance to reply to all his mail!

## Brisk distribution for lifesaving Vials of Life

Having rounded its first week, the Georgetown Lions' Vial of Life campaign is enjoying a considerable amount of enthusiasm: distribution of the small bottles, which contain life-saving information, has been brisk.

Lion John MacIver, chairman of the campaign, told The Herald Monday that the various outlets aiding the program have each distributed about a dozen vials.

Meanwhile, the Lions Club plans to meet with tenants of the community's senior citi-

zens apartment buildings to answer questions about the program.

Similar campaigns have had a great deal of success in British Columbia and other communities in the province and the Georgetown Lions have about 500 of the vials.

The vials are available from any Lion, or they can be picked up at the Cooking Emporium, Co-op Insurance office in the Georgetown Market Place, Guelph Street's Dairy Queen and Akers and Clark Real Estate

on Main Street, Georgetown. Forms are enclosed in the vials, which contain time-saving information about the person's medical history enabling emergency crews and doctors at the hospital to promptly treat an incapacitated patient who may be unable to give them the information they need. The vials are attached by an elastic band to the inside of the refrigerator while a sticker on the fridge door advises rescuers that the patient is a participant in the Vial of Life campaign.

## Down town Dollars winners

Downtown Georgetown merchants have announced the names of winners in the second of three "Downtown Dollars" draws. Winners can pick up their \$50 prizes at the Barber and Henley Insurance and Travel Agency on Main Street. They are Tim Norton of Main Street North, M. Leslie of Hyde Park, Mrs. I. Lewis of Maple Avenue, E. McNeilly of Irwin Crescent, Mrs. B. Marsena of RR2 Georgetown, Jim Stoneham of Park Avenue, Laura Treble of RR1 Georgetown, Launa Quambury of Elizabeth Street, Jeff Dykxhoorn and Cathy Blair, both of Hewson Crescent, Donna Harrington of Sarah Street, Helena Wylie of John Street, Ivy Porter of Temple Road, Janet Teekens of Main Street South, Lois Barrager of Rexway Drive, Cindy Diane Schenk of Lane Court, Helen Livingstone of Hornby, Karen Riley of Mississauga, Joanne Vranic of Wallace Street in Acton and Shirley McLean and S. Rose, both of Kingham Road in Acton.

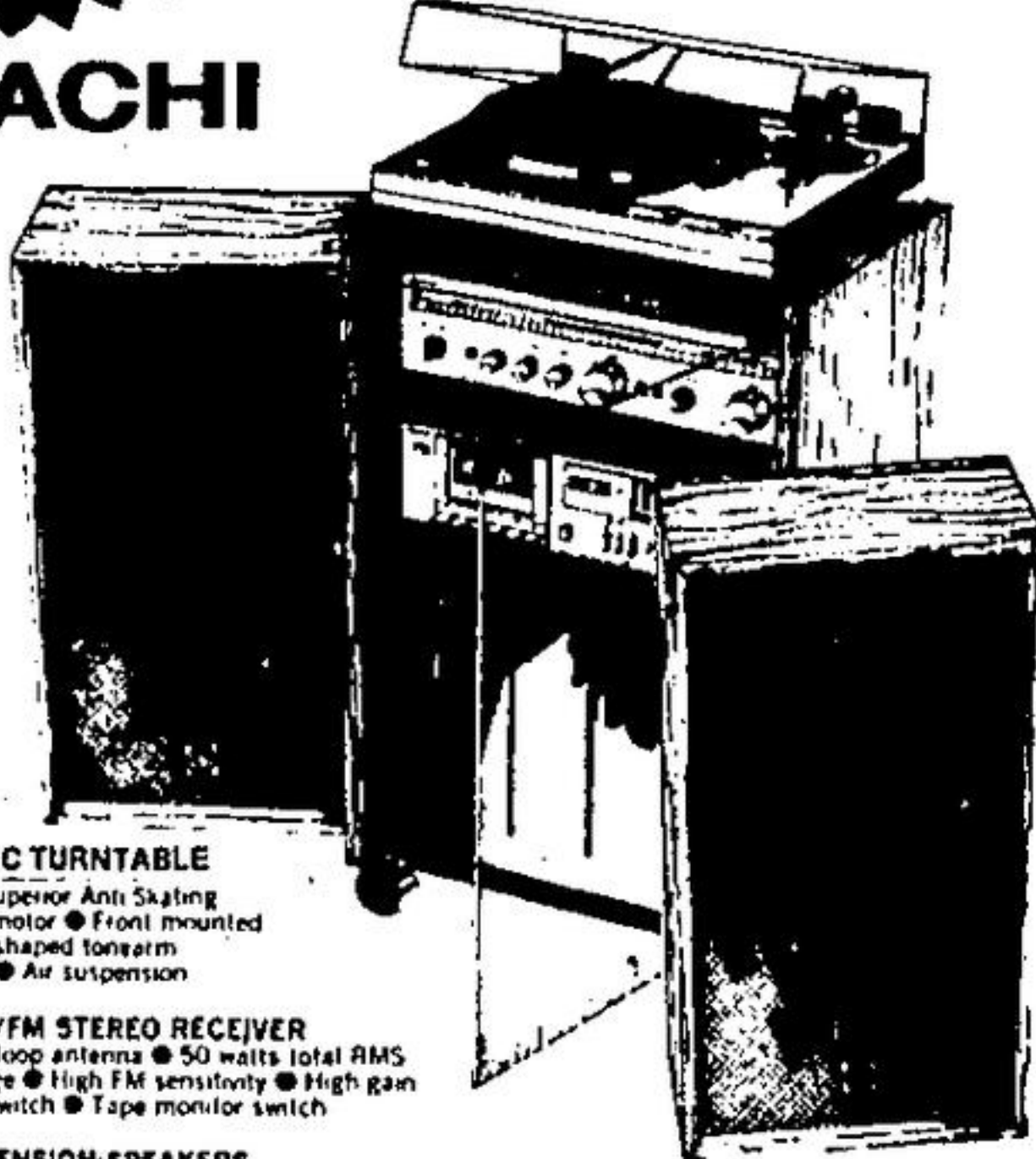
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