

## **KENNY YOUNGS GIVES LISTENERS FIRST-HAND COUNTRY KNOWLEDGE**

**February 10, 1998**

Kenny Youngs, the popular host of WBRV radio station's country music "Jamboree" program, is the subject of this week's column.

WBRV went on the air in 1955, and has been serving the community since. It presents an interesting and informative format that caters to the needs and welfare of the citizens, schools, churches and businesses of the listening area.

He started in radio with WREM Remsen, when it went on the air in 1958, and was associated with it until it closed in 1963. On January 1, 1964, he joined WBRV briefly until changes in his farm operation presented a more pressing need. On May 10, 1982, he returned once again on a two-week trial basis. The rest, of course, is history.

Kenny and wife Sharon operate a dairy farm on 124 acres his folks bought in 1927, when he was two years old. The farm lies a mile or so east of Talcottville on the Denley Road overlooking the winding Sugar River.

There are six children, eight grandchildren, and three great grandchildren in the Youngs family. Kenny has two sisters, Dora Gilroy and Arlene Salmon of Port Leyden.

The "Jamboree" features country artists and music, subjects in which Kenny is well versed. His father was an old-time fiddler who tried in vain to teach Kenny the art.

I found we share a common affliction. We do not seem able to master the art of contorting our fingers into the positions necessary to master any string instrument. It has not stopped Kenny, however, from being part of a musical group. Square dance calling has been his forte and the rest of the group badgered him into learning to play the drums.

Kenny's group is called the Rhythm Riders. The other four members are Fred Carpenter, Bernie Lallier, Alex Stempien, and Vinnie Wawrzyniak. They have entertained in the area for years. They have performed for the guests at Brynilsen's Viking Village on Fourth Lake, just to mention one of many places in the Old Forge area.

Two of his sons and a daughter-in-law are also members of a musical group, appropriately named Family Tradition. Son Kyle and wife Debbie join his son, E. J. in the group.

Kenny brings his extensive knowledge of country music and artists to the airwaves in his daily program. He has visited the bastions of the industry and interviewed and seen the artists perform. His insights and experiences give the listener a look at country music afforded by few of his contemporaries.

My granddaughter Cindy and her friend Elizabeth Zerilli accompanied me to the Youngs ranch for my interview with Kenny and Sharon. Kenny characterized his show as being "corny to kids their ages and more apt to appeal to people our ages".

He is right, but it goes a lot deeper than that. His program brings a lot of light and recognition to many who seldom experience little of either.

To make a long story short, I am happy to reciprocate by giving Kenny a little salute which he richly deserves from one of his faithful fans.

This is Old Marty saying take 'er easy and good luck, Old Kenny".