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ISSUE : [Issue 64](#)

Published by Ronald Caplan on 1993/8/1

A Visit with Ray "Mac" MacDonald • In Honour of the 50th Year of CJFX Radio • Edited from Conversations with iVlarjorie MacHattie Rav "Mac" MacDonald.

Antigonish: The day CJFX first came on the air in 1943, we listened at home in Sydney Mines. My late brother Harold, who was killed in the mines, was a great fan of Clyde's. (Clyde Nunn was the first managing director of CJFX; he was born in Whitney Pier.) He really liked the 01' Timer (a Nunn radio character) and I was a little bit younger but I laughed along with him. But I guess I always admired CJFX for being different and going its own route. CJFX always had a particular style. The only relief - the only different station up and down the dial. CBC did its own thing of course, but it could be stuffy after awhile. But CJFX seemed to have that folksy spirit.... As far as the Scottish music, it was being promoted by CJFX when it wasn't the popular thing to do. When CBC began dabbling in it, people began to think that it was a little more permissible. But CJFX never really varied from when they started. It had a great influence on the fiddlers. Buddy MacMaster told me that he learned as much from the records on radio as he did from anything else. I mean you could go to the parish picnics. They were the big things in those days, but how many of those were there in the summer, especially when people didn't have that kind of money - and he didn't when he was a boy. But radio had that constancy and every fiddler had his own style. Buddy said he listened and learned and that was that. Which brings us again to the role Bernie MacIsaac played. (Bernie MacIsaac was the founder and moving force behind Celtic Records. He produced some of the very first recordings of Scottish music from Cape Breton and Eastern Nova Scotia.) If he hadn't made those records - if he hadn't gotten Angus Chisholm and Angus Allan Gillespie, Dan J. Campbell and all the rest of them - even Winston. He did an early one with Winston. If Bernie hadn't done that there wouldn't have been records for Buddy to listen to to be influenced by. You know, so it's a chain reaction. You know that I never believed in the myth of the "Vanishing Fiddler." I don't think it was true because CJFX never stopped playing it. And that was in the heart of it. I think it makes a nice story but I never believed it. I think it was a good thing in the sense that they certainly showed them at Glendale (where over 100 fiddlers filled the stage under the direction of Fr. John Angus Rankin at the first Glendale Fiddlers' Festival, July 1973). But CAPE BRETON OPTICAL LTD. • Retailer of Quality Eyewear 'Look Your Best!' • Medical Plans Accepted MOWOFFERIHG2'?''''''''. BRENT DENNY, Optician '???' • Jo'??v 564-8295 o'riens. Jonsered YOUNG'S POWER EQUIPMENT LTD. Millville * Boularderie * Phone 674-2008