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Volume 13 – Edition 5

HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – June 2016

Welcome

Welcome to our June newsletter. There always seems to be plenty of new things happening in the world of John Denver, and thanks to everyone who keeps me in the loop in regard to what is happening across the world, especially Carolina Araya, who seems to know what all the tribute artists are doing and when. Her regular updates are a blessing.

HGA John Denver Tribute Weekend

Our tribute weekend will be held on the 14-16th October at CYC The Island in Cowes (Phillip Island). The address is 41-53 Church St Cowes 3922. It is approximately 2 hours drive from Melbourne airport. <http://theisland.cyc.org.au/> Cost is \$87.00 per person for the weekend. We have three sleeping cabins, a kitchen/activities room, BBQ, and they will also provide a fire pit for our 'campfire'.

Food Kitty is \$40.00 per person for all meals. The Victorian people will provide the casseroles for the Friday night's meal.

To secure your place, we will require a \$40 deposit (food kitty). The deposit can be paid directly into my account;

BSB: 733-039

ACC: 542649

Name: Mrs Janette Frawley

Please enter JD + your name in the description so I know who has paid, and follow it up with an email to jefrawley@bigpond.com.

Fundraiser for ARCC

Our fundraiser this year will benefit Australian Raptor Care and Conservation. Please check the website for information about the work that Peggy McDonald does in this area and how the money we raise goes toward the ongoing work with raptors in Australia.

<http://www.australianraptorcareandconservation.com/>

I am looking for ideas for a fundraiser to raise funds for Australian Raptor Care and Conservation. I think the silent auction has run its race for the time being, so I am looking at a simple way of raising those much needed funds. I have thought about a 'mystery box' second prize for the raffle. Only I would know what is inside the box, which might be fun, although I would encourage you all to donate something that would

be appropriate, if possible. What are your thoughts?

We would also welcome cash donations.

We received a lovely letter from Peggy with some exciting news about the work she is doing and a special project that she is working on. Your comments on her proposal would be most welcome – thanks Melanie, I have received your response. Now read Peggy's exciting news;

Dear High Ground friends,

I sincerely apologise that I have not been in touch for a while, and every time I receive one of your great newsletters, I always seem to be thinking to myself that I was just about to send you an email that I haven't got around to doing.

As you would imagine, a lot has been happening with a great many birds coming and mostly going again. Lots of interesting cases and lots more exciting stuff happening with www.australianraptorcareandconservation.com which you will be able to look up. In particular, if you go to the link that takes you to our Facebook page, you'll see some updates on birds I've had in care.

At the moment, it is university holidays, and I have had two students from Sydney university come last week for a week. Currently I have the lovely Kiara who is on a return visit and studies at Melbourne university, and next week three more students from Melbourne university arrive. It is wonderful to have these keen, young, future vets here, who are so interested in our wildlife and who will hopefully take away with them the inspiration to become involved with assisting wildlife, particularly birds of prey when they graduate.

A couple of months ago I had my car stolen in the early hours of the morning, and those of you who have been here, will know what a bizarre situation that was. As it turns out, now I know more from the police, I was incredibly lucky that a home invasion wasn't involved as well, but on the downside, dealing with the NRMA has been a long, mentally exhausting process, and I lost everything that was in my car, including all my rescue equipment, mobile phone, etc. However, I'm really grateful that both I and my dogs, and of course all of the birds came through unscathed and my car returned a couple of weeks ago, but I

am still going through the processes of having the repairs done.

One of the extra good pieces of news I have for you is that I have been lucky enough to receive a Lane Beachly 2016 Environmental Scholarship, which provides me with my tuition, accommodation and food for a month back at the Abu Dhabi Falcon hospital again – Hooray!! I will hopefully be going in October and doing the avian pathology course, which I am very excited about. And now, I have something which I hope you will think is exciting as well, that I would like to ask you. In an endeavour to separate myself and my daily carer work with the raptors from ARCC Inc., which I have founded with the intention of it being an organisation of learning and sharing knowledge, I have decided to give my facilities out here a name in their own right. In recognition of all the help you have given me, and the friends I have made in your organisation, I am hoping that you will approve the following:

Higher Ground

Australian Raptor Care, Release and Learning Facility

What do you think? Please feel free to be completely honest with your response. I would then create a website under this name and it would be a good way for you to follow all my comings and goings as well. Anything that went on this website, would then be shared with ARCC Inc. and hopefully, it would then become clearer for people to understand that I wear two completely separate hats – Peggy the Carer and Peggy the ARCC Inc. founder.

Kiara is typing all this up for me which is why I am able to send a nice lengthy 'newsletter' to you and we are also including a picture of a Little Eagle that is currently in care that I thought you might like to see – her story is featured on the ARCC Inc. Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ARCCInc/>

Thanking you all again for your wonderful support and friendship, and I hope to hear from you soon with regards to the naming.

Kindest regards to you all,
Peggy.

On the Road Quilt (Raffle – 2016)

The quilt is almost completed and it will be the first prize in our annual raffle.

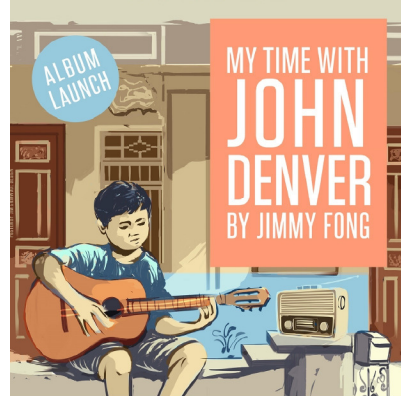
More details about ticket sales will be available later in the year.

HGA Website/MTWJD CDs available for sale

<http://hgavic.wix.com/hgavic>

In collaboration with Jimmy Fong, we are now able to sell his CDs through the HGA website. Please check out Jimmy's story and photos, including his personal photos of the time he met and performed with John Denver in Malaysia in 1994. We have included some sample tracks for

you to listen to. CDs are AUD\$25.00 each, including postage and handling. The CDs are also available to US purchasers. For our Canadian, British, and European customers, please email me on hga.vic@gmail.com for details. Transactions are securely handled by PayPal.



Jimmy will donate a portion of all CD sales made through the HGA website. Please make your Christmas list and start ordering.

Check out these videos of Jimmy's performances; <https://www.facebook.com/groups/194804173882789/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=Lpw6YRCMBXE


Mark Cormican – Free Concert

Mark will be performing at the **Castlewood Canyon State Park 2989 South State Hwy 89, Franktown Colorado** on Saturday, 9th July at 6:30pm. Donations are appreciated.

Mark's CDs are available for sale on Saturday, so please dig deep and purchase a CD or two to take home – they also make great gifts!

Check out Mark's website for his other scheduled performances.

<http://markcormican.com/schedule/>

FREE LIVE CONCERT
Mark Cormican In Castlewood

 Saturday July 9, 6:30 p.m.
 Castlewood Canyon State Park
 Valid Colorado State Parks Pass required.
 Donations greatly appreciated.
 All proceeds benefit
 Castlewood Canyon State Park programs.
 Visit www.castlewoodfriends.org/Events
 FRIENDS OF CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE PARK
 COLORADO STATE PARKS & WILDLIFE

Rocky Mountain Foundation for the Performing Arts/Fundraiser



<http://www.rockymountainfpa.org/donate> **Non-Profit Looks to Keep Music of John Denver Alive with Student Orchestra**

By Heather Jarvis • JUN 28, 2016

A new Summit County nonprofit will bring talented young musicians together to carry on the music of John Denver through performances and education. The Rocky Mountain Foundation for the Performing Arts, a 501 3(c), is currently looking for high school students throughout Colorado interested in participating with the orchestra, which will include concerts around the state.

"It's whole purpose is to ... bring high school musicians together to play our music, our contemporary-style music, in venues that they wouldn't normally get to play at," said Willie Hoevers, founder, president and CEO of Rocky Mountain Foundation for the Performing Arts. The concerts will focus on the music of John Denver as performed by him and many of the tribute artists from around the world. Included in these shows will be vocalists and the youth orchestra made up of high school musicians from Colorado. The Colorado Department of Education is on board to help the organization with music arrangements and getting the word out to high schoolers around the state.

"The arts content specialists are committed to collaborating with all arts supporters across education organizations, nonprofit organizations and community entities," said Karol Gates, director of Standards and Instructional Support with the Colorado Department of Education. "We strive to include all stakeholders in all facets of our work; thus, when Willie contacted us, we were very happy to offer ideas and suggestions on how to connect with the music education leaders across the state. Our role is that of a technical assistance provider."

The concerts will be fundraisers, with the money going back to the Foundation and also to the Department of Education, which will help distribute the money, Hoevers said.

The Foundation currently has concerts lined up for Sept. 4 at the Dillon Amphitheater, and two more lined up in Aspen, Oct. 14 and 15, which is also the week in October known as John Denver tribute week, where fans around the world get

together in Aspen to celebrates John's life and music, Hoevers said.

"What we are doing is with bringing on high schoolers, they will bring their parents and family," he said. "It's more than just the regular people that come from all over the world. I'm trying to expand John's music, keep John's music alive. That's what the whole idea is."

Hoevers said his future goal for the organization is to offer student scholarships for the young musicians as well.

"I just want to keep kids inspired to play," he said. "This gives them an opportunity to play in different venues around the state."

One of the bigger events the organization is currently working on is a celebration of 20 years since Denver's passing, with an all-day festival at Red Rocks on June 27, 2017.

"His music is still in demand, people will go and see it," Hoevers said. "I figured this is a great way to keep his music alive by inviting the younger generation to play it. The best way to introduce them to it is to play it."

He is a volunteer DJ with an online radio station called American Veterans Radio. He hosts a two-hour show every other Saturdays at 4 p.m. EST dedicated to the music of Denver that draws an audience from around the entire U.S. other countries around the world. He plays originals from Denver but also presents music by tribute artists, and he is working to get some of these musicians to play concerts with the orchestra. He also plans to record the concerts put on by the Foundation and play them on this station, giving the students an opportunity for their music to be heard globally. Interested high schoolers should apply through rockymountainfpa.org. Students will receive music for the instrument they play to practice over the summer, and then, once school is back in session, there will be auditions for parts and rehearsals. Click on the "Students Only" tab on the top right-hand corner. There is also a Facebook page Hoevers started called Colorado High School Pops Orchestra where students can go on to get more information.



<http://www.summitdaily.com/news/22681277-113/new-nonprofit-looks-to-keep-the-music-of>



The Enduring Appeal Of 'Darcy Farrow,' A Folk Classic Co-Written By A Vermonter

By STEVE ZIND • JUN 22, 2016

"My belief is the greatest songs of our generation may have yet to be written. I just think you have to proceed as if the next five words could change everything." — Steve Gillette



Let's face it, whether we're repairing cars or writing news stories, little of the work we do will be remembered years from now.

But that's not the case for one Vermonter.

More than 50 years ago, Steve Gillette of North Bennington co-wrote a song called "Darcy Farrow."

Since then, it's become part of the folk music lexicon, performed and recorded hundreds of times.

Gillette says the melody for the song came from a guitar part he'd been working on which was inspired by a Pete Seeger composition.

That was in 1964. Gillette was a young folk singer just learning how to write songs at the time, when his 12-year-old sister Darcy was kicked by a horse.

She wasn't hurt badly, but the incident became the idea for the song which Gillette wrote with his friend Tom Campbell.

The lyrics tell the story of a young woman who dies in a fall from a horse, and a young man named Vandermeer who was so despondent he took his own life.

The opening lines set the story in the wide open country along the California-Nevada border: *"Where the Walker runs down to the Carson Valley plain/ There lived a maiden Darcy Farrow was her name..."*

Gillette's sister Darcy and her horses. Gillette says he and Tom Campbell were inspired to write "Darcy Farrow" after his sister was kicked by one of her horses.

With the feel of an old cowboy ballad, and a dark vein of tragedy, many people who hear "Darcy Farrow" think it's a traditional song.

Gillette says he and Campbell sought to capture the language and style of songs that are part of the Scottish-Irish tradition.

"We had a great affection for a lot of the old story and ballad songs," he says.

The first time the world heard "Darcy Farrow" was in 1965, when it was recorded by the popular Canadian duo Ian and Sylvia Tyson. Gillette met them when they played in southern California.

"I got to be the opening act for their concert and that's where we got to show them the song," he says. "Ian and Sylvia's [recording] was such an exciting thing, such a wonderful break for us."

Where the Walker runs down to the Carson Valley plain,

There lived a maiden, Darcy Farrow was her name

*The daughter of old Dundee and fair was she
And the sweetest flower that bloomed o'er the range.*

*Her voice was sweet as the sugar candy
Her touch was as soft as a bed of goose down.*

*Her eyes shone bright like the pretty lights
That shine in the night out of Yerington town.*

*She was courted by young Vandermeer
And quite handsome was he I am to hear*

*He brought her silver rings and lacy things
And she promised to wed before the snows fell
that year.*

But her pony did stumble and she did fall.

Her dyin' touched on the heart of us all.

*Young Vandy in his pain put a bullet to his brain
And we buried them together as the snows began
to fall.*

*They sing of Darcy Farrow where the Truckee
runs through*

They sing of her beauty in Virginia City too.

*At dusty Sundown to her name they drink a round
And to young Vandy whose love was true.*

*(c) 1965, Compass Rose Music, BMI | Rumpole
Dumple Music, BMI Administered by The Wixen
Group*

A few years later, millions of people discovered the song through John Denver who recorded and performed "Darcy Farrow" when he was at the height of his popularity.

In 1972, Denver included the song on his Top 10 album Rocky Mountain High.

"I believe he actually heard it from me first, because we were friends. I met him when he first came to California," says Gillette. At the time Denver was fresh out of college and looking for work.



Denver and Gillette were among those hustling for gigs at southern California clubs like the Golden Bear and the Troubadour.

Gillette recalls trading songs with other musicians in the basement of the Golden Bear in Huntington Beach.

"That was a place where you could trade guitar licks and talk about things and share songs and play songs for each other," Gillette says. "Steve Stills showed us a lot of guitar stuff that he was into. I've thought many times about what a magic time that was to be in that environment."

Denver's version of "Darcy Farrow" was so popular some people named their daughters Darcy.

Gillette feels that in the beginning, the folk audiences of the 1960s were drawn to the song's story of youth and mortality. It was the era of the Vietnam War.

"For the longest time I've felt the song initially connected with people of my generation because it was the first time that most of us had confronted mortality. The Vietnam War loomed very large in our lives," he says.

The remembrance of young lives lost is also one of the song's messages:

"They sing of Darcy Farrow where the Truckee runs through/They sing of her beauty in Virginia City, too."

It's hard to tell how many versions of "Darcy Farrow" have been recorded and released. They range from bouncy pop to electric to acapella.

The popular recordings have inspired dozens of homemade videos uploaded to YouTube.

The song's popularity with folk and bluegrass players is the biggest reason for its endurance.

"I know a lot of traditional, bluegrass, folk, fingerpicking kinds of communities have always played it, and then there's the John Denver legacy and the Ian and Sylvia legacy. It's hard to account for it all," says Gillette.

There's a bit of a folk mythology surrounding the song that stems from a story that Ian Tyson spun years ago. He claimed Gillette and Campbell wrote "Darcy Farrow" to fool a college professor into thinking they'd discovered a previously unknown traditional song.

Looking back on the composition now, with the eye of an experienced songwriter, Gillette finds it has a few shortcomings.

"To this day I'm a little disturbed by a short-cut way of telling the end of the story: 'Young Vandy in his pain put a bullet through his brain,'" he says. "It's just a younger, more inexperienced person's way of bringing the story to a close. We didn't really have any expectations of the song becoming a multi-platinum big deal!"

Gillette's career doesn't begin and end with one song. Through the years he's continued to write and record. Like "Darcy Farrow," some of his songs have been covered by other artists.

"My main focus is to grow and write," he says. "My belief is the greatest songs of our generation may have yet to be written. I just think you have to proceed as if the next five words could change everything."

Since the late 1980s, Gillette has lived in Vermont with his wife, singer and musician Cindy Mangsen.

Together they keep up a touring schedule that takes them around the country. And "Darcy Farrow" is a regular part of their repertoire.

<http://digital.vpr.net/post/enduring-appeal-darcy-farrow-folk-classic-co-written-vermonter#stream/0>



Chris Westfall – Summer performances

Check out Chris Westfall's website for his concert list.

http://www.chriswestfall.com/in_concert.html

Chris Bannister

Chris Bannister has a full listing of his forthcoming John Denver tribute concerts on his website;

<http://www.chrisbannistermusic.com/events/>

Ted Vigil

Ted will be performing the following concerts. Check his website for more information.

www.tedvigil.com

Monday, July 11th 2016

Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt Pleasant Michigan

Friday, July 15th 2016

Music in the Park, Chehalis WA

Saturday, July 23rd 2016

Theater three Port Jefferson NY
call - 631-928-9100

Rocky Mountain High Concert

John Denver: A Rocky Mountain High Concert with the Colorado Symphony - September 10 at Boettcher Hall in Denver



We're excited to announce John Denver: A Rocky Mountain High Concert with the Colorado Symphony, featuring audio and video performances by John Denver backed by members of his former band, with the Colorado Symphony. Saturday, September 10 2016 7.30 at Boettcher Concert Hall.

Tickets available through Colorado Symphony Subscription through July 31. Single tickets on sale August 1, 10 am.

Andres Lopera, conductor

Musical legend John Denver is honored in a special concert celebration with your Colorado Symphony this fall. See and hear two-time Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter and Poet Laureate of Colorado John Denver on video performing in a concert spectacular featuring archival video footage of Denver performing classic songs backed by live performances from former members of his band with full symphony orchestra. This concert is an innovative musical treat and unforgettable tribute. Hear John Denver's voice, see vintage John Denver video performances, hear stories of John Denver told by old friends. The Concert will include hit songs spanning his career and honor Denver's memory and music.

Jim Curry's Newsletter/Concerts

Jim Curry's newsletter has been posted (click link below) Jim and Anne put together an excellent newsletter regularly. It also includes a link to Anne's blog, which is always fun to read, plus a full listing of where they are appearing in concert. Great news again – Jim and Anne will be travelling on a couple of Holland America ships during April.

Check out Jim and Anne's website at <http://www.jimcurrymusic.com/> for details of their upcoming concerts.

American Veterans Radio

TUNE IN: www.avradio.org

iPhone - <http://apple.co/1bxUvTh>

Google Play - <http://bit.ly/1E5iUvz>

TuneIn Radio - bit.ly/1EhuOqo

American Veterans Radio is honored to feature the wonderful music of John Denver. Please join Willie From Dillon 4:00 pm ET. Don't forget...Willie has set a goal of 1,000 new fans/listeners, so tell every JD fan you know! The next show will be on Saturday, 2nd July (Mountain time)

Time Zone Chart:

4 - 6pm Eastern time

3 - 5pm Central time

2 - 4pm Mountain time

1 - 3pm Pacific time

12noon - 2pm Alaskan time

5 - 7pm Chilean time

9 - 11pm UK time

10 - 12Mid European time

Next Morning

5 - 7am Japan time

6 - 8am Melbourne, Sydney, Australia time

8 - 10am New Zealand time

If you need to convert any other time click this link:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>

Here is the link to the radio player:

http://apps.streamlicensing.com/player-popup.php?sid=160&stream_id=4961

Here is the link to the tunein player:

<http://tunein.com/radio/American-Veterans-Radio-s215261/>

Here is the link to the chat picture:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10209479768371794&set=gm.270061436669054&type=3>

If you can make it to the chat that is wonderful. If you only have time to listen in that is very good too. The beauty of being an ONLINE concert, is that people can listen in from anywhere, enjoying the music of John Denver.

Aspen in October

Keep checking for the events planned for Aspen in October this year. The events thus far can be found at;

<http://www.johndenvercelebration.com/events>

Aspen in October/Denver Castles

For those of you with a few days to spare in Denver this October, how about checking out some of the iconic castles that are located in and around Denver. Follow the link to see the list of the top ten castles in Denver.

<http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/colorado/denver/castles-near-denver/>

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Cuts to the Bone

December 20, 2005

Joe Henry, a Roaring Fork Valley poet, lyricist and author, is not exactly a public figure around Aspen, at his own insistence. He is, however, an internationally renowned songwriter whose works have been performed by many instantly recognizable artists. Henry's list of writing collaborators includes such names as Burt Bacharach, Garth Brooks, Rodney Crowell, Vince Gill and John Denver. Recording artists who have performed his works include Bobby Darin, Roberta Flack, Emmylou Harris, Wynonna Judd, Patty Loveless, Kenny Rogers, Frank Sinatra and, of course, John Denver. His novel-in-progress, "Lime Creek," has spawned stage performances in Aspen, Denver, Nashville, Tenn., and other places, by actor Anthony Zerbe and others.

Around town, however, Henry keeps a deliberately low profile. Still, every now and then



he emerges from the solitude of his home for specific purposes. This Christmas season he spoke with The Aspen Times about how a personal tragedy gave birth to a national musical phenomenon. This year, his latest song made it to the top of the nation's country music charts, in spite of its initial status as a "hidden track" on the hit CD from Rascal Flatts, "Feels Like Today." The song, entitled "Skin (Sarabeth)," was co-written in summer 2003 with one of Henry's longtime collaborators, Doug Johnson, in Nashville. It is about a young girl undergoing cancer treatments and her concern that nobody will invite a bald girl to the high school prom. Without giving anything away, it is safe to say the song is upbeat in nature and has an unexpected ending that tugs powerfully at the heart strings. Johnson, who knew the producer for Rascal Flatts, played it for him one day and the producer "got all choked up," Henry said. When the band heard the song, they, too, were moved and wanted to put it on the CD they were recording. But they already had 11 songs, the number called for in the recording contract for the CD. "They really didn't know what to do with it," Henry recalled.

The band, according to a 2004 story in the Chicago Tribune, told a reporter that "Skin" didn't fit thematically with the other songs, so they hid it at the end of the last song on the playlist; the opening notes of "Skin" begin after a stretch of silence following the last song, "Oklahoma-Texas Line." The buzz about "Skin" began soon after the CD began playing on the nation's airwaves. Chicago radio host Ray Stevens told the Tribune that he discovered it when his wife was playing the CD in the family car and let it run after the last song while she talked with her son. When she got home, she told Stevens of the hidden song, and soon Stevens' phone at the station, WUSN, was ringing off the hook with calls from fans insisting that he play it on the air. Band member Gary LeVox said the band was deeply affected by the song in part because some of them had lost relatives to cancer, "So we're really in touch with just how much of a demonic disease it is." In keeping with this sentiment, the band in September of this year donated the proceeds of a concert in Nashville to the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University, which cares for a large number of children suffering from various forms of cancer. The donation reportedly amounted to \$600,000 - \$350,000 in concert proceeds and an additional \$250,000 from the band's record label, Lyric Street Records, and its parent company, Disney.

Henry beams at the idea that his song might have saved the life of "just one child" stricken with cancer. Responding to pressure from the song's growing legion of fans, the record company ultimately recut the CD with "Skin" formally listed

as the 12th song, after the song had hung steadily on the national country music charts for five months. Back in Aspen, Joe Henry recently decided to emerge from his solitude to discuss the song, its origins and its effect on him, "because it's touched so many people." He explained that the song was written in tribute to the strength of character shown by the late daughter of a friend, who more than a decade ago died of a rare form of childhood cancer at the age of 5. Henry was present at the home of the family in the week after the girl, Colette, was born, and he was with the family within hours of her death. The song, he said, came into being at a Nashville songwriting session, after Johnson offered the line, "Marybeth is scared to death" and Henry thought instantly of Colette. Some time later, after much of the song had been written, he met a long-lost friend named Sarabeth in a checkout line and, as they talked, he pondered the similarity between her name and the name of the girl in the song.

"I went back to Doug and said, 'It's not Marybeth, it's Sarabeth,'" and Johnson agreed. The song, Henry explained, is "sort of like a third in the trilogy" of songs written for Colette. One, called "The Flower that Shattered the Stone," was written while Colette was still in her mother's womb. It was created for an album of lullabies by Henry's longtime friend, singer Olivia Newton John, who also was a close friend of Colette's mother and who was pregnant at the same time. That song also was recorded by John Denver, Henry said. The second song in the trilogy, "When I Reach The Place I'm Going," was written shortly after Colette died. His motivation in writing the songs, he said, is "not to take advantage of a terrible situation ... it's to try to be a force for bringing people together." He said he conceived the song as a sort of "what if" hypothesis. "What if she hadn't been diagnosed with cancer until she was a teen?" Henry asked rhetorically. "And then my intention was that she would be a survivor."

Scientific researchers told Colette's mother that some kind of environmental toxin is thought to be the root cause of Colette's cancer, Henry said, which prompted the formation of a foundation, the Children's Health Environmental Coalition. Founded by Colette's parents, Nancy and Jim Chuda, with Olivia Newton John and Joe Henry as the founding board members, the organization raises money and promotes awareness of the need to protect pregnant woman against environmental toxins. Henry said it feels good to have his songs be part of such humanitarian efforts. "We all give thanks, and we all do the best we can," he said thoughtfully at the end of a recent interview. John Colson's e-mail address is jcolson@aspentimes.com

<http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20051224/ASPENWEEKLY/112250019>



The Snubbing of John Denver

October 12, 2004 – Dan Miller

I was reading over a list of historic events that happened on this date, and was reminded that on October 12, 1997, John Denver died when his small, experimental plane crashed into Monterey Bay in California.

I've always enjoyed John Denver's music.



In fact, one of my daughters is named Darcy, taken from a beautiful song titled "Darcy Farrow" on a 1970's John Denver album. I was smitten with that name from the first time I heard it.

The reason I bring this up is because when John Denver comes to mind, I'm reminded of how he received a "snub" of painful proportions.

In January of 1985, to raise money to help end hunger in Africa, a group of American singers gathered and recorded a song called "We Are the World".

I'm sure you remember the song and video.... it was a huge success. Not only did it raise money and awareness for Africans, it won Grammys in 1985 for Song of the Year and Record of the Year.

Those participating were a Who's Who of America's popular singers: Harry Belafonte, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Bruce Springsteen, Michael Jackson, Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Tina Turner, Hall & Oats, Dionne Warwick, Bette Midler, James Ingram, Diana Ross, Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers, Cyndi Lauper, Smokey Robinson, Bob Dylan, Lionel Richie and many others.

Even Dan Aykroyd was there!

But John Denver..... who probably put more effort into solving world hunger than any artist, ever..... wasn't asked to be there.

John called himself a "concerned citizen of the earth".

He was asked to serve on the Presidential Commission on World and Domestic Hunger.

He was one of the founders of The Hunger Project, an organization committed to the sustainable end of chronic hunger.

John Denver toured African countries devastated by drought and starvation as a representative of

UNICEF. He performed benefit concerts for global hunger and environmental efforts, and was even awarded the Presidential "World Without Hunger" award.

Yet, astonishingly, he was not even invited to participate in that "We Are the World" campaign.

And from what I read, it was not an oversight. It was probably because the popularity and sales of his records had slipped during the 1980's.

In his 1994 autobiography "Take Me Home", John wrote, "It broke my heart not to be included...."

Today, I was just thinking, he should have been there.

http://danmiller.typepad.com/dan_millers_notebook/john-denver.html

Some material included in this newsletter has been derived from the public domain, such as the internet and printed media. Articles and reviews are the opinion of the individual writer and as long as the content is of a reasonable nature and it is appropriate, it will be included. Organisations mentioned or featured in this newsletter are included to educate and inform people of their role and purpose. HGA does not profit from including the names of any organisation in this newsletter.

This newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.



Darcy Farrow

Where the Walker runs down to the Carson Valley plain,

There lived a maiden, Darcy Farrow was her name

The daughter of old Dundee and fair was she

And the sweetest flower that bloomed o'er the range.

Her voice was sweet as the sugar candy

Her touch was as soft as a bed of goose down.

Her eyes shone bright like the pretty lights

That shine in the night out of Yerington town.

She was courted by young Vandermeer

And quite handsome was he I am to hear

He brought her silver rings and lacy things

And she promised to wed before the snows fell that year.

But her pony did stumble and she did fall.

Her dyin' touched on the heart of us all.

Young Vandy in his pain put a bullet to his brain

And we buried them together as the snows began to fall.

They sing of Darcy Farrow where the Truckee runs through

They sing of her beauty in Virginia City too.

At dusty Sundown to her name they drink a round

And to young Vandy whose love was true.

