

OBITUARIES

Songwriter of ‘Secret Agent Man’ dies at 70

BY STEVE CHAWKINS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — When P.F. Sloan was 19 and living with his parents, he wrote five songs in one night, ending at 4 a.m. with “Eve of Destruction,” a Dylan-esque lament that would soar to the top of the charts in 1965.

“Eve of Destruction” was a bleak, angry look at what a bloody mess the world had become. It was about “violence flarin’, bullets loadin’,” about injustice, hypocrisy, the Bomb, racism, denial and doom.

But when Sloan, still excited from his night of creativity, tried to tell his mother about his apocalyptic new work, she shushed him.

“You’re going to wake your father,” she said. “Tell me about it in the morning.”

Sloan, who sold his first song at 13 and whose hits included Johnny Rivers’ “Secret Agent Man” as well as songs recorded by the Turtles, Herman’s Hermits, the 5th Dimension, and the Mamas & the Papas, died Sunday at his home in Los Angeles. He was 70.

He had pancreatic cancer, his publicists said in a statement.

A few years after he became famous for his protest anthem, Sloan dropped from public view. For decades, he suffered from severe depression. He was hospitalized and claimed he had been given “lobotomy pills.” Whole years disappeared from his memory.

“I was ill I guess for a good 20, maybe 25 years,” he told the Los Angeles Times in 2006. “It’s been overcome and there’s hope ... I mean, depression and hypoglycemia, it’s a tremendous battle ... Catatonia for a long time.”

But there was a flip side: “The only good thing about it was that I missed the whole disco era,” he jokingly told an interviewer earlier this year.

Born in New York City on Sept. 18, 1945, Phillip Gary Schlein was raised on Long Island before his family moved to Los Angeles when he was 12. His father, a pharmacist, changed his name to Sloan to avoid anti-Semitism. Phillip ended up choosing P.F. because his sister used to call him Flip.

When Sloan was 13 and still a guitar novice, he encountered Elvis Presley at Wallach’s Music City in Hollywood. The King gave him a quick lesson in the otherwise empty store, teaching him “Love Me Tender.”

“Elvis stared deeply into my eyes,” Sloan wrote in his 2014 memoir, “What’s Exactly the Matter With Me?” “He took me to a timeless place.”

Around the same time, his family’s cleaning woman heard that Aladdin Records, a mostly African-

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American label, was auditioning young singers. She encouraged young Phil, who made his debut recording with “All I Want Is Loving” and “Little Girl in the Cabin.” Aladdin soon folded.

By the time he was 16, Sloan was a professional songwriter. But even churning out pop hits for big labels with co-writer Steve Barri failed to make him feel like anything but an outsider.

His hits, with Barri, included the Turtles’ “You Baby,” the Grass Roots’ “Where Were You When I Needed You?” and many others.

Then “Eve of Destruction” happened.

“It was the night P.F. Sloan was born,” he wrote.

“I wanted to be loved. I wanted to be Elvis. I wanted to be Ricky. I wanted to be Bobby and Tony and Frankie ... But P.F. Sloan? He wanted honesty and truth.”

Seen as inflammatory, the song was condemned by educators and banned by some radio stations. But it remained in the top 20 in the U.S. for two months.

It also was credited with boosting momentum for passage of the 26th Amendment.

Signed into law in 1971, the measure lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. Supporters rallied around a couple of Sloan’s lines:

“You’re old enough to kill but not for votin’

You don’t believe in war but what’s that gun you’re totin’?”

But “Eve of Destruction” created a powerful backlash. Infuriated by its anti-establishment provocations, right-wing forces orchestrated his downfall, Sloan contended. Billboard magazine was pressured to get his song off the charts and his record label, Dunhill, cheated him out of his royalties, he said.

Sloan ended up living with his parents until they died, and then sleeping on his sister’s couch. He worked sporadically, delivering beer and doing telephone solicitations when he was up to it.

In 1986, he became a devotee of Sai Babi, an Indian guru, and started making periodic trips to India. Twenty years later, he began performing occasionally. Last year, he released his final album, “My Beethoven.”

In January, he performed “Eve of Destruction” at an Altadena, Calif., coffeehouse with Barry McGuire, the singer who



JANET EDNA SPELLMAN
LEWISTON and BANGOR - Janet Edna Spellman passed away peacefully on November 2, 2015, at St. Mary's D'Youville Pavilion. She was born July 25, 1924, in Bangor, the daughter of James Kerwin and Catherine Edna (Mazerall) Spellman.

She was predeceased by her siblings, Anna Thibodeau (Dan), Patricia DiMillo (Nuncio), and Norman Spellman. She is survived by her brothers James (Marlene) of Old Town, John (Lois) of Bangor, and William of Bangor. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She will be fondly remembered by her close friend of 33 years, Judy Soucier and her Son and family, Dr. Christian and Stephanie Soucier and daughter Fina Jane.

As a Sister of Mercy, Sr. Norma, Janet taught at many parochial schools throughout the state. After leaving the Sisters of Mercy, she resided in the Portland and Lewiston areas and was employed by LL Bean. Her great passion in life was watching her beloved Boston Red Sox and never missed a game. The family would like to thank the staff at St. Mary's d'Youville Pavilion for the excellent care she received while in their care.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. John's Catholic Church in Bangor on Nov. 21, at 11 a.m. Interment will immediately follow at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Following the service all are invited to gather with the family for a time of continued fellowship and refreshments in the parish hall.

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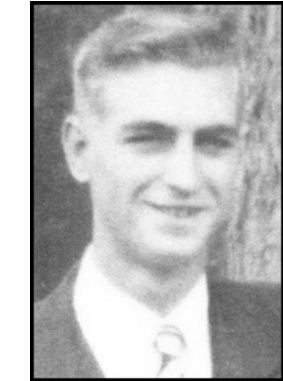
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helped make it such a raging success in 1965.

In retrospect, he told the Wall Street Journal, the song “sounds naive — especially in today’s world, with ISIS, ongoing wars and all these terror attacks. I was coming from the point of view that we can fix this, really — if we put



ROBERT CHASE GARDINER
UNITY - Robert "Bob" Chase Gardiner, 83, passed away on Tuesday morning, November 17, 2015, at Inland Hospital in Waterville.

He was born on February 1, 1932, in Thorndike to the late Rufus and Laura (Bolstridge) Gardiner. He was the 13th of 16 children.

Bob attended Freedom Academy, and joined the Army in June of 1949 until 1952, serving in the Isle of Vieques in Puerto Rico, and Germany. Bob had many jobs; the first one was at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in East Hartford, Conn. Others were at a paper mill, two plastic mills, and then he started to buy older buildings and remodeled them into apartments which he did for quite a few years.

Bob was married to Carolyn "June" Bowman of Thorndike for 62 years and together they raised four children. In 1977, they moved back to Maine. Bob's favorite past time was hunting and he was an antique collector.

Bob was predeceased by his children, Ronald, Judith, Carol, James and Kevin; his brothers, George, Merton, Lohman, Maurice, and Earl Gardiner; his sisters, Althea and her husband Bill Lassalle, Winnie and her husband Guy Howes, Coral and her husband, Walter Furrow, Verla Gardiner, Lona Gardiner, and Elinor and her husband, Carl Howes; and his sisters-in-law, June Gardiner, and Janet Gardiner.

He is survived by his wife, June; his son, Gary and his wife, Sheila; his daughters, Susan and her husband, Francis, Melanie Gray, and Angela Ahern; his grandchildren, James McCue, Ben McCue, Nicholas Gray, Torrye, Taylor, and Derik Ahern, Anita Waterfield and children, April Stayton and children, and Christy Land and children; his great-grandsons, Jackson and Kevin McCue; his brothers, Stewart and Austin; his sisters, Beatrice and her husband, Joe Bryant, and Pearl and her husband, Paul McFarland.

Visiting hours will be on Saturday, November 21 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Clinton Baptist Church, 10 Spring Street, Clinton, followed by a funeral service to begin at 11 a.m. with Pastor Robert Philbrick officiating. There will be refreshments immediately following the service followed with burial at Center Cemetery in East Thorndike at 2 p.m.

Arrangements are by Lawry Brothers Funeral Home, 107 Main Street, Fairfield.

An online guestbook may be signed and memories shared at www.lawrybrothers.com

our attention to it. Talk about naive.”

McGuire noted that audience members, like the performers, were of a certain age.

“Everybody’s embarrassed to get up and dance,” he said. “So when we played ‘Eve,’ we got a standing ovation.”



LEIGHTON N. PARLIN
CHAPMAN - Leighton N. Parlin, 82, passed away Sunday, November 15, 2015 at his Chapman residence with his family by his side. He was born April 10, 1933 the son of John and Nellie (Noble) Parlin. Mr. Parlin founded P&D Auto Body in 1973 and ran the company for 30 years; he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was deployed in Germany. He was a member of the Presque Isle VFW Post 2599 and served as Post Commander for seven years and as State Commander for one year. He married Rita Burnett in 1954, together they had five children and enjoyed dancing at Campers Paradise in Westfield.

Surviving in addition to his wife Rita are two daughters; Debbie Bevins of Easton and Brenda Parlin of Lebanon, two sons; John Parlin of Easton and James Parlin, a sister; Dawn Fuller of Easton, eleven grandchildren, twenty-three great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Parlin also leaves behind many close lifelong friends. He was predeceased by a daughter Sandra Parlin Boxwell in 2011 and a brother Marvin Parlin.

Friends may visit with the family from 12:00pm until the time of services at 1:00pm at the Calvary Baptist Church Main Street Westfield Saturday, November 21, 2015 with Rev. Larry Palmer Officiating. Interment will take place Monday, November 23, 2015 at the Northern Maine Veterans Cemetery, Caribou at 1:00pm with full Military Honors.

Arrangements are by Faye Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Presque Isle.

ELLEN O. FULLER
FLORENCE - Dr. Ellen O. Fuller, an educator and research physiologist whose career spanned more than a half-century, died Monday, November 16, at McLeod Hospice House. She was 92. Her husband, of 60 years, E.E. (Tom) Fuller passed away in 2006.

Dr. Fuller lived most of the year at her home in Searsport, Me., overlooking Penobscot Bay. She spent winter months at the Methodist Manor in Florence. While raising her two boys and two girls in Atlanta, Dr. Fuller returned to school in 1960. After receiving a B.S. in nursing from the Medical College of Georgia, she continued her education at Emory University, where she earned an M.Sc. and then her Ph.D. in physiology in 1968.

Her teaching career in Atlanta included appointments as an associate professor in applied health sciences at Georgia State University, assistant professor of physiology at Emory University, visiting fellow at Hershey Medical Center in Pennsylvania, and associate professor in physiology at Emory. In 1980, she was appointed director of the Center for Nursing Research and associate professor of physiology, a joint appointment to the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine.

In Searsport, she served multiple terms on the Board of Directors of the Mosman Memorial Park Association, the Penobscot Marine Museum, and the Searsport Historical Society.

She is survived by daughter Cynthia Fuller and husband Bill Cotterell of Tallahassee, Fl., son Mark D. Fuller of Florence, SC, daughter Marion Fuller Aller and husband Charles Aller of Crawfordville, Fl., son Andrew Y. Fuller of Smyrna, Ga., daughter-in-law Mary L. Fuller of Florence, SC.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Searsport Historical Society in Searsport, Me., or the American Heart Association.

A memorial service is scheduled at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Methodist Manor in Florence.

www.cainfuneralhome.com



MICHAEL R. TIBBETTS
PORTLAND - Michael R. Tibbetts, 48 of Portland died of a sudden cardiac event on November 13, 2015 in Portland.

He was born in Norwood, MA on February 18, 1967 the son of the late Robert Edward and Eleanor Mary (Haley) Tibbetts.

Michael attended Calais High School and the University of Maine at Machias.

All who knew Mike appreciated his intelligence, quick wit and his passion for history and debating politics. He was a devoted father to his son, Wally. He never missed any of his sons sporting events. They attended many Sea Dogs and Red Claw games and traveled to Boston to support the Red Sox and Celtics. He and his son, Wally, also shared a love of superheroes. Batman was his alter ego. One Halloween, Mike dressed as Batman and Wally as Robin. Both Mike and Wally enjoyed spending time with the newest addition to the family, their dog, Ace.

Music has always been a central part of Mike's life. He began deejaying as a teenager at WQDY in Calais and continued his career at various radio stations from Houlton to Portland. He also worked in the Telecom business.

Mike is survived by his son, Wally Tibbetts of Portland, sisters, Lisa Tibbetts of Portland and Michelle Tibbetts of Bath. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 580 Forest Avenue, Portland on Friday, November 20, 2015 at 11AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Walter Tibbetts College Fund, C/O LeBlanc and Young PA, PO BOX 7950, Portland, ME 04112-7950.

Arrangements by A.T. Hutchins Funeral and Cremation Services, Portland.

For online condolences, please visit our website at www.athutchins.com.

HILDRED I. "HILDA" THORNTON

HOLDEN - Hildred I. "Hilda" Thornton passed away on October 27, 2015 after a courageous battle with epilepsy, at EMMC in Bangor. She was born April 28, 1934 in Cary, ME, the daughter of the late Guy Marshall and Olga Sowers Marshall.

Hilda is survived by her sons, Weldon Thornton of Colorado, Curtis Thornton of Colorado and New Mexico, Robert Horace Marshall and wife Sandra or Holden, her sister Marilyn Crowe of Ellsworth and her sister-in-law Betty Marshall of Ludlow. She was predeceased by her husband Gene Thornton, sister Donna Graham and her brother Charles Marshall.

Hilda loved the outdoors and enjoyed gardening. She loved birds and dogs. She had a little dog named Boyd, who had a profound influence on her life.

Hilda was a graduate of Houlton High School, Houlton. She was a Certified Nurses Aide, always there to help others.

Hilda will be missed by her dearest life long friend, Sandra Marshall. Hilda and Sandra shared a special bond that made them inseparable. Hilda's friendship she formed with Thomas, his niece Debra and her friend Robert will also be remembered with the fondest of memories, always. Hilda has a great sense of humor, a magnetic smile and a wonderful laugh that would bring such joy to everyone. She was loved by all to whom were lucky enough to have met her. She will be missed immensely.

AMA calls for ban on drug advertisements

BY SUSAN KELLY
REUTERS

The American Medical Association on Tuesday called for a ban on advertising prescription drugs and medical devices directly to consumers, saying the ads drive patients to demand expensive treatments over less costly ones that are also effective.

The influential doctors' group said the new policy reflects physicians' concerns that marketing spending on a proliferation of advertising is helping to drive up drug prices. The group voted at its annual meeting in Atlanta to support a ban.

“Direct-to-consumer advertising also inflates demand for new and more

expensive drugs, even when those drugs may not be appropriate,” AMA Board Chair-elect Patrice Harris said in a statement.

The United States and New Zealand are the only two countries that allow direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs.

AMA said drugmakers' spending on advertising has shot up 30 percent in the last two years to \$4.5 billion. TV commercials for drugs such as Bristol-Myers Squibb's lung cancer medicine Opdivo and Gilead Sciences' Hepatitis C treatment Harvoni were among this year's ad campaigns.

U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has proposed

cracking down on direct-to-consumer advertising and other measures to stop what she called “price gouging” by pharmaceutical companies. Clinton's plan would prevent companies from deducting what they spend on direct-to-consumer ads from their tax bills.

A series of court decisions has determined the ads cannot be banned outright because they are a form of commercial speech protected by the U.S. Constitution. The AMA did not address how the ban could be accomplished without being overturned in court.

PhRMA, the largest U.S. trade group for the pharmaceutical industry, said the ads increase consumer

awareness of available treatments for diseases, including undiagnosed conditions.

“Providing scientifically accurate information to patients so that they are better informed about their health care and treatment options is the goal of direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical advertising about prescription medicines,” PhRMA spokesman Tina Stow said in an email.

According to a U.S. Food and Drug Administration analysis this year, 52 percent of Americans believe direct-to-consumer ads do not have enough information about risks and 46 percent say the ads lack information about benefits.