



Tim Hardin

Born in Eugene, Oregon

ARTIST SNAPSHOTS

Timothy J. Hardin

Born:
December, 1941
Died:
December, 1980

Interesting Fact:
Hardin played at the Woodstock music festival.

Barrie James Wilson

Born:
March, 1947
Died:
October, 1990

Interesting Fact:
Wilson sat very low behind his drum kit and was once referred to as 'The Octopus in a Bath-tub.'

Johnnie Ray

Born:
January, 1927
Died:
February, 1990

Interesting Fact:
Johnnie Ray was wildly popular in England. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth reportedly announced her sorrow upon Johnnie Ray's death, recalling that Johnnie had taken British airwaves by storm in 1951 with his #1 hit "Cry."



John Alvin Ray

Born near Hopewell, Oregon

Our Secret Celebs

Ever-Popular World-Wide, Yet Little-Known At Home

by Roy Widing, Contributing Writer

World-class celebrities with a Willamette Valley connection? Believe it. Though Oregon is hardly a show biz haven, some seriously successful celebs have called this region home.

*If I were a carpenter,
and you were a lady
Would you marry me
anyway?
Would you have my
baby?*

In 1966, the popular song 'If I Were A Carpenter' was a top ten hit for singer Bobby Darin. Later, it was in the repertoire of others, including Robert Plant, Bob Seger, Johnny Cash, Joan Baez, Willie Nelson and Cheryl Crow. Yet few realize the one penning the tune sported Willamette Valley roots.

No 'One Hit' Wonder

Tim Hardin was born in Eugene, Oregon in 1941. After a stint in the US Marine Corps, he pursued music. A capable singer and guitar player, songwriting was another of Hardin's strengths. In time, he gained a loyal following, even playing at Woodstock. Hardin was also no 'one hit wonder.' That's because along with writing 'If I Were A Carpenter,' he enjoyed success with other melodies, including 'Reason To Believe,' a signature song for Rod Stewart.

Along with his music, Tim Hardin's life was replete with other successful high notes, including marriage and the birth of a son. Yet Hardin suffered through a variety of sour notes as well.

Hardin's challenges later included divorce and a

losing battle with drug addiction. It would bring his life to an end at only 39 years of age.

*Save my love through
loneliness,
Save my love through
sorrow,
I give you my only-ness
Give me your tomorrow.*

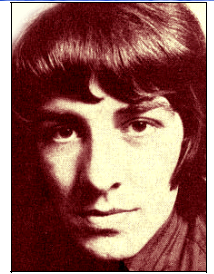
Tim Hardin is buried in Twin Oaks Cemetery on the outskirts of Turner, Oregon, a few minutes south of Salem.

Tim Hardin is not the only famous musical celebrity with a link to our region. A different Oregon native

**Admired by Bob Dylan
& Tony Bennett**

has been described by music legend Bob Dylan as '...the first singer whose voice and style I totally fell in love with' and '...the father of rock n' roll' by hit vocalist Tony Bennett. They were both talking about Oregon's Johnnie Ray. John Alvin Ray was born near Hopewell, Oregon in 1927. Later dubbed 'the Nabob of Sob' and 'the Prince of Wails,' Ray was partially deaf due to an injury sustained at the age of 13. That didn't slow down this much-acclaimed singer, songwriter and pianist. Some consider Ray to be the 'missing link' between smooth vocalists of the big bands and later rock and roll performers. That's because Ray bridged styles between early crooners like Frank Sinatra and the modern Elvis Presley.

Ray sang 1951's number one smash, 'Cry' and recorded plenty of other hits too, including 'Just Walkin' In The Rain' and 'Yes Tonight, Josephine.' Since his rhythm-based approach was close to what



Barrie J. Wilson

Corvallis, Oregon Resident

eventually became "rock 'n' roll," Ray was seen as a cutting edge artist. Johnny Ray died in 1990 from liver disease and is buried in nearby Hopewell Cemetery.

Procol Harum recorded tunes which remain perennial radio favorites, including the symphonic 'Conquistador.' However, their best known song remains the 1967 megasmash, 'A Lighter Shade of Pale.' Teaming with famed guitarist Robin Trower, future Oregonian Barrie 'B.J.' Wilson drummed for the group during some of the band's most popular years. British-born in 1947, the Oregon émigré was well-respected for his syncopated style.

Drummer In Demand

Wilson eventually left Procol Harum and later gigged as both a session man and touring musician with vocalist and fellow native Englishman Joe Cocker. In addition to performing on some of Cocker's best-known recordings, Wilson worked with big names like Supertramp, AC/DC and Tom Petty. BJ Wilson passed away in 1990 after a long illness and is buried in Corvallis at Oak Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

These gifted artists called Oregon 'home.' Yet upon their homecoming from the heights of worldwide musical achievement, they each encountered a difficult, final act. Yet together they leave behind a legacy, not merely geographical. The remarkable recorded talents of these fellow Oregonians is evidence of gifts transcending earthly existence. For each time we hear their artistic efforts today, it's as if their final curtain has been raised for yet another encore.

