



Obituaries

Former Spokane songwriter dies

Daniel 'Danny' Hamilton
California

Service for Daniel "Danny" Robert Hamilton is planned for 10 a.m. today at Ball and Dodd Funeral Home-North followed by burial at Fairmount Memorial Park.

Mr. Hamilton died Dec. 23 after an 18-month battle with Cushing's Disease, a rare hormonal disorder.

He was 48.

Born in Spokane, he attended Eastmont High School in East Wenatchee, Wash. When he was 16, he was invited to go to Los Angeles by a group of young men getting started in music. The group was The Beach Boys.

Mr. Hamilton quickly established his song-writing ability by composing an instrumental piece for the group The Ventures. The song was "Diamond Head," which in Japan became the first million-selling single

in Japanese history.

A book and a feature film were made documenting the impact that recording has had on Japan.

As a guitarist, Mr. Hamilton began working with many of the top artists and in 1966, with his brother Judd, established the instrumental group The T-Bones for Liberty Records. With this group they scored a million-selling single called, "No Matter What Shape," a version of the popular mid-1960s commercial for Alka-Seltzer.

With Dan Hamilton as lead guitarist, the band enjoyed great success in both the United States and Japan.

In 1971 the band changed its name to Hamilton, Joe Frank, and Reynolds, allowing Mr. Hamilton to use his singing voice as lead vocalist.

Their first single, "Don't Pull Your Love Out," went to No. 1 with sales in excess of 2 million copies. Several top-20 singles followed until 1976, when

they released a song written by Mr. Hamilton, "Fallin' In Love Again." This song, with Mr. Hamilton as lead vocalist, again rocketed up the charts to No. 1 in the United States as well as many other countries.

As co-writer with Ann Hamilton, Mr. Hamilton received BMI's Millionaires award for songs that have received more than 1 million airplays on U.S. radio. Both "Don't Pull Your Love Out" and "Fallin' In Love Again" have been listed among the top 20 most played songs in American radio history and are still heard daily throughout the world.

Survivors include his wife, Fredrika, of Sherman Oaks, Calif.; a daughter, Danielle of Spokane; four brothers, Arthur Hamilton of Bucoda, Wash., John Hamilton of Sacramento, and Marvin Hamilton and Judd Hamilton, both of Spokane; a sister, Arlene Lee of South Bend, Wash.; and numerous nieces and nephews.