

The Legendary Jack Young 'loved by more than he knew'

Hundreds of friends respond to musician's suicide

By ED DUNN
Norwich Bulletin

PUTNAM — The Legendary Jack Young was well traveled and well known. He had parents, a brother and a girl. They loved him — as did others, many others. They all loved him more so and in greater numbers than he would have guessed, than he could have guessed.

Jack was a musician who also kept journals, wrote stories and poetry. He was inspired by his mother, Grace Young, who once was the "barefoot pianist" at Victoria Station in Putnam.

Jack's parents, Grace and Jack L. Young Sr., had given him his first guitar when he was 15, and he taught himself to play. He played acoustic guitar, elec-

tric guitar and piano.

What Jack didn't have and couldn't find was peace. The Legendary Jack Young died May 8, his 27th birthday. The demons caught up with him in Pittsburgh, and Jack hanged himself.

His brother Ben, 25, wrote the obituary. It was simple and succinct and spoke for Jack's parents and his girl.

The obit read in part: "He left a bit of himself with everyone he met and was loved by more than he knew."

That much is clear. In his 27 years, Jack Leon Young Jr. touched an awful lot of people both in this country and abroad.

Tony Aguilar, 27, who manages the Brooklyn Xtra Mart, had known Jack a long time. Aguilar played bass guitar with "August Train" when Jack was with "Inani-

mate Carbon Rod." The bands played together all the time, Aguilar said.

"I saw him every day for three years. It's a terrible loss," Aguilar said. "Jack was like a brother all through high school. He was a wicked smart kid, always there for everyone, and his parents are wonderful people."

"So many memories ... it's ridiculous."

See YOUNG, A2



Contributed

The Legendary Jack Young performs.

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Young: 'Outpouring of love' at wake in Putnam

FROM A1

The downside of being prodigious in his writing, drawing and music was the depression.

"If a person has demons and is depressed — but has an outlet — that can mean a healthy outlook. But for Jack, that wasn't enough," Grace Young said.

To overcome depression, Jack self-medicated. He drank. He had no health insurance. In February, at a "family thing," they spoke on the phone with four health insurance agencies, his mother said. All turned down Jack, who was seeking help for his mental health.

"The girl of your dreams was just a dream. And all the times have stopped for you. Without the ugly, beauty does not exist. I sat down, drew another picture of the clouds (my favorite thing). And all the boredom turned the bedroom blue."
— From the notebook titled, "lyrics," by The Legendary Jack Young

Jack traveled in Europe and in this country. He wrote under the pen name Janeck Zell and played with the bands "Moist Chicken," "Inanimate Carbon Rod," "The Godly Spirits," "The Zells," "The Bloodhound Gang" and, finally, "The Legendary Jack Young." His musical versatility was formed listening to Perry Como, Elvis, Frank Sinatra and Johnny Cash, among others, his mother said. His music included punk, rock, jazz and folk.

Oliver Carnahan, 27, grew up with Jack; he played keyboard and was a backup singer in "Moist Chicken."

"The Youngs were like my second family. Jack was a great



From left are father Jack Young Sr., mother Grace Young and brother Ben Young.

Contributed photos

person and a nice kid," said Carnahan, who lives in Auburn, Mass., and works as the art director for Budweiser in the Worcester region.

'Always inspired others'

"He always inspired others to be the best; he always had a positive outlook," Carnahan said, adding, "He introduced me to a lot of great music."

After Jack died, Grace questioned how they would notify one of Jack's best friends, Mike Woodis. Mike had lived four houses away; he and Jack had grown up together. Woodis now lives in San Francisco.

Grace didn't know that as she wondered aloud, "How will we get in touch with Mike?"

At that moment, the phone rang.

"I'm on my way," Mike said, adding, "I've got pictures, drawings and recordings." Jack's grapevine of friends had reached Mike.

Woodis, 26, is a musician and a customer service representative for areyougame.com.

"Jack was a great guy and lived a couple of houses down from me. We started out in junior high writing comic books," Woodis said, adding, "In high

school, we got guitars and played punk rock. It was a way to have some clean fun and not get into trouble."

"This is open to interpretation, but the point is this: The other night on the phone you looked outside and mused that you saw no stars in the sky, and that's because they were all in my eyes."
— From the notebook titled, "lyrics," by The Legendary Jack Young

Grace Young, 45, said the family was surprised at the turnout for Jack's wake last month at the Smith & Walker Funeral Home in Putnam.

"We expected 60 to 100 people. But more than 300 showed up," Grace said. "The line went down the street, and the wake lasted five hours."

"They came from Switzerland, England, Florida, South Carolina, San Francisco, Kansas, Maine, D.C., New Jersey, Kansas," Jack Sr. said.

Raymond Morin lives in Pittsburgh and founded "Sort of Records" there. He and Jack had grown up together. He brought Jack's guitar to the funeral.

The wake was an "outpouring of love," Grace said, adding she



Jack Young feeds beer to an inflated plastic cow next to a photograph of him feeding beer to an inflated plastic cow.

had lived with Ben for a time in New York. Ben is planning a career in movie-sound work.

Schubach, 26, has returned to Switzerland. Her visa expired after she visited Pittsburgh shortly after Jack's death. The Youngs have Jack's cat, Wiggy, a brown Manx.

Grace is cataloguing the pictures, the photos, the poems, the journals and the music. She said she may try to get some of it published. Woodis said he is working on the Web site, psychonotart.com, helping Grace place Jack's artwork and images. The Legendary Jack Young's presence continues on myspace.com.

Some friends are putting together a benefit concert for the end of August, Aguilar said, adding the bands will play for free and will "cover" some of Jack's songs. Money raised will be donated to Suicide Awareness.

"You never know how many friends you actually have until

something happens," Grace said.

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LOTTERY

Sunday drawing

CONNECTICUT

Play 3: 8-5-9

Play 4: 0-9-0-9

Cash 5: 2-16-18-26-28

MASSACHUSETTS

Daily: 8-6-9-3

RHODE ISLAND

Daily: 6-7-6-7

Saturday drawing

CONNECTICUT

Play 3: 0-6-9

Play 4: 4-6-9-8

Cash 5: 3-19-25-28-32

Powerball: 2-22-32-36-47; Powerball 36

Powerplay 5

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