

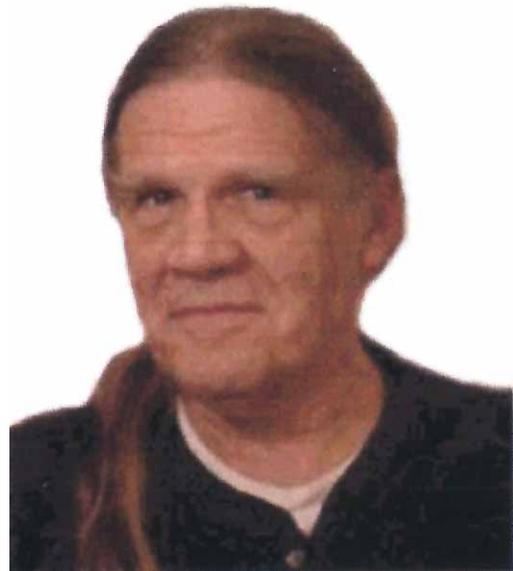
Artist Bio of Henry Diltz originally published at www.artofmusicproject.com for the Art of Music Project in association with The GRAMMY Foundation, March 2001.



Henry Diltz began his professional career in 1963 as a musician with the Modern Folk Quartet. While in the MFQ, he began taking photos of friends, a hobby which, when the MFQ disbanded, developed into a career. Starting out with photo shoots for the likes of the Lovin' Spoonfuls and The Hollies, Henry's laid back, unpretentious style perfectly complemented the *zeitgeist* of the music scene, and Henry soon found himself at the core of the rock 'n roll world that defined sixties and seventies America.

Of course, it helped when you could count among your friends Mama Cass or Crosby, Stills and Nash. Mama Cass ran a music salon of sorts, a place where the likes of Joni Mitchell or Neil Young came to hang out, make music, and hook up with potential collaborators. Capturing the mix on film — both 35mm stills and 8mm movies — was the ever observing Henry. But there was nothing calculated about this, more home movie than deliberate documentary. It is this truthfulness of the images, the eye of a trusted friend, that makes Henry's work so critical to our understanding of the people that fame turned into icons.

As Henry himself says, "I never thought of myself as a professional photographer, in capital letters. For me, it was always the experience of hanging out. Like that day with James Taylor, I had a great time listening to him play. I could listen to him play for hours, just watching and taking pictures. I have great patience in that regard because that's where I want to be anyway."



Though Henry's fame rests mostly with an earlier era, he's still active in the music industry. Most recently, Henry hooked up with his old friends Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young in support of their world tour; worked with David Crosby on the cover of his new book; and toured with Garth Brooks as the official photographer.

Henry's photographs have appeared on over 200 album covers, in magazines such as *Newsweek*, *People*, and *Rolling Stone*, and is the subject of *Under The Covers*, a television special that has also been released on CD and DVD.