Neil Young pays friends tribute

BY DON MIDDLETON

In 1972 a very German father sent his 12-year-old son to T. F. Young College in Austin, Texas, for a football scholarship. Young, who now is a successful songwriter and music producer, had been playing the guitar since he was 12 and was interested in making music. He had been recommended for the scholarship by his mentor, the late Jimmie Dale Gilmore, who was a member of the Texas band Flaco Jimenez.

In his studio on the first floor of the old Board of Education building, Young sat for hours, singing and playing. He had a lot of musical baggage to work through, and he was determined to make something of it. "I had thought about becoming a doctor," Young said. "I had thought about becoming a lawyer. But I was interested in music, and I wanted to make a living at it." He decided to go to college to study music and later to become a famous songwriter.

By the time Young arrived at the college, he had already written several songs, including "Old Man," which was later recorded by Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. He also wrote "Heartland," a song that would later be included on his album "Harvest." Young was determined to make a name for himself in the music business.

When he sang "Heartland," Young's voice was raw and intense. He was just beginning to develop his distinctive style, which would later be recognized by fans around the world. Young was determined to make something of his talent, and he worked hard to achieve his goals.

In 1973, Young released his first album, "Journey." The album was a critical and commercial success, and it helped establish Young as a major force in the music industry. He continued to write and record music, and his albums "Harvest," "Rust Never Sleeps," and "After the Gold Rush" were all critical and commercial successes.

Young's music has been influential to many other musicians, and his songs have become classics in the music industry. He has sold millions of records worldwide, and his music has been featured in films, television shows, and advertising campaigns.

Young has been honored with numerous awards and accolades, including induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame. He has also been named one of the 100 greatest songwriters of all time by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.

Young has continued to write and record music, and he has released several albums in recent years. He has also been involved in various social and political causes, and he has been a vocal advocate for environmental issues.

Despite his success, Young has remained true to his roots, and he continues to be a force in the music industry. His music has inspired generations of musicians, and his influence continues to be felt around the world.

Neil Young's music has been a source of inspiration to many, and his story is one of perseverance and success. His music has touched the lives of millions, and his legacy will continue to be remembered for generations to come.

-- Don Middleton