

DOENOTES, Vol.7

Earth Day, April 2010

The DoeHEAD website has seen more than 22,000 home page visits since our Doenotes, Vol. 6 in May of 2008.

Recall, though, that that only represents visits to the home page.

Most visits to the site come through search engines like

Google and go directly to internal pages instead of to the home page.

So there are likely many many more that are not counted via our current method.

PERFORMANCE INFO

The last two years have seen *Baby Doe* performances in Bozeman, Lubbock, Berkeley and the continuation of the Labor Day "chamber" performances in the Tabor Opera House. After a good run of almost a decade, those Leadville performances have now concluded and will no longer be a part of the Tabor Opera House season. By the way, the house itself commemorated its 130th anniversary with a special postal envelope cancellation on November 20th of 2009. You can follow this link

http://www.kcfr.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=94&Itemid=234&target_pg=com_search, and put "Tabor Opera House" in the search bar, to hear a Colorado Public Radio story about Sharon Bland's yeoman efforts to restore the Opera House.

The next production of the full opera will take place in June at the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The performances by the Ars Nova School of the Arts will occur on June 11, 12 and 13. A contingent of DoeHEADS, including Leyna Gabriele, Gareth Rosenau, Susan Perry and Gene Bowen will be there on Saturday the 12th. On that day Ars Nova currently plans to have Leyna and me reprise our popular Power Point presentation from Calgary at a mid-day symposium in the Von Braun Playhouse, at a time yet to be determined. Performance details are at this link:

<http://www.arsnovahsv.com/productions/2010/ballad-baby-doe-douglas-moore>

We should also mention the next edition of the annual Douglas Moore Memorial Concert on the Green in Cutchogue, Long Island, New York. Taking place just "down the road" from Moore's birthplace and family home, and adjacent to Cutchogue's unique historic buildings (including the oldest building in New York State—from 1649), this charming outdoor concert and family picnic typically features show tunes, opera arias, Sousa marches and even music by Douglas Moore performed by the Long Island Sound Symphony. This year's date is Moore's actual birthday, Saturday, August 14th.

SUMMER READING

We wish to call your attention to a few DOEpublications that have recently come to hand. Though more than 10 years old now, *Creating Colorado: The Making of a Western American Landscape, 1860-1940* by William Wyckoff is a formidable look at

Colorado's unique geography before and during the state's formative years, as well as focusing in turn on the settlement of each part of the state in subsequent chapters; from mining camps to ski resorts

Published in January of 2009 by Leisure Books, *The Silver Queen*, joins the already substantial canon of fictional treatments of the Tabor story. Written by Pulitzer nominee Jane Candia Coleman, the book, according to its publisher, is "based on the actual memoirs of August Tabor."

Perhaps the most unorthodox addition to the DoeHEAD literature comes from composer Jack Beeson, who has written a rich autobiography that includes considerable background on Douglas Moore and his other colleagues at Columbia during the amazing period that brought us a cornucopia of new American operas, including *Baby Doe* and Beeson's own distinctive works like *Lizzie Borden* and *Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines*. Published in 2008, the book is titled *How Operas are Created by Composers and Librettists: The Life of Jack Beeson, American Opera Composer* (a title that Beeson himself apparently hates) and is available from The Edwin Mellen Press. Good luck getting a copy, though. The publisher is inexplicably stingy about allowing customers to purchase a copy.

IN OTHER NEWS

You'll certainly want to check out the newest addition to the babydoe website—the Lux Radio Theater adaptation of the 1932 movie *Silver Dollar*. In 1939, the live radio broadcast of that same story, adapted from David Karsner's popular book, was performed by Edward Arnold, Anita Louise and Marjorie Rambeau. The program was narrated and hosted by none other than Cecil B. DeMille, and featured William Jennings Bryan's daughter as a special guest. You can find the complete broadcast via this link: <http://www.babydoe.org/radio.htm>.

We regret having to note the passing early in 2009 of dear friend and loyal DoeHEAD Lisa Lundgren of Windsor, Colorado after an extended battle with cancer. You may recall that in Doenotes #5 we mentioned that her house barely missed being flattened by a tornado that devastated much of her neighborhood and hometown of Windsor, Colorado in the summer of 2008. Happily Lisa was with us in Central City for the memorable events of the opera's 50th anniversary celebration in 2006.



I to r Stanley Burk (Burc Lander - 1956 cast - one of the four dandies), Lisa Lundgren, Carole Lundgren, James Grathwohl at Johnson House luncheon

Spring is threatening to occur here on the "North Coast," though my house's furnace doesn't seem to believe it, and has been pretty active lately. Here's hoping you'll have a good summer when it finally arrives.

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Home Page Hits:

January 2004: 15,000
September 2004: 20,000
February 2006: 35,000
October 2006: 46,000
November 2007: 53,000
May 2008: 65,000
April 2010: 88,000