

It is with great sorrow that I report the unexpected and sudden death of Peggy Dole. Peggy was a gifted educator, musician, and healer. She used research, science, and her connection with the natural world to develop her healing powers. Aided by “Red Bird”, she shared her knowledge freely with her husband and friends and she was considered an expert on natural healing, the importance of diet, vitamins, and the use of essential oils, extracts and ointments. Her circle of friends benefitted from her experience and determination. I described her as both a “healer and a shaman”; she saved my life on more than one occasion.

Peggy Dole was born on October 16, 1951 in Oak Park Illinois, the daughter of George and Virginia Price. She was the third child born to this family with two older brothers, Ron and Dennis, the oldest sibling. She grew up with a loving family; George was a WW II vet who worked for Commonwealth Edison and Virginia raised a family before going to work for Sears. Peggy grew up in an ideal environment with two loving parents, a nice secure home in the suburbs, a public school education where she played flute in the orchestra, and with the Hustling Huskies Marching Band. After high school Peggy attended Northern Illinois University and got a “secretarial” degree from a business college. When I met her she worked as a loan officer for St. Paul Federal in Chicago.



George and Virginia

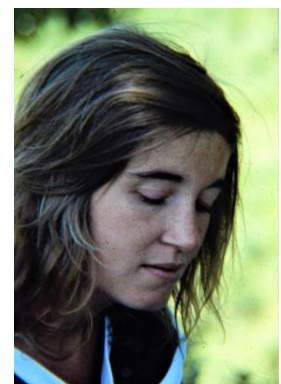


Virginia with Peggy, Dennis, Ron



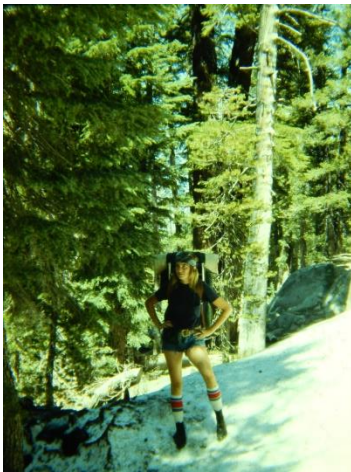
Ron, Peggy, Dennis

In 1977 Peggy Price took a trip to sunny Arizona to visit her brother Dennis who lived in Tempe at the time. I had been friends with Dennis Price since 1970 when we both attended Eastern Illinois University. I was single at the time and I admit I went by Dennis’s home to see if his sister was cute. What I found was this drop dead gorgeous young woman with the most beautiful and intense blue eyes. I was immediately smitten, and this smiting only grew over the decades we have spent together. We “hooked up”, although that wasn’t a common term back in the 70s, and when she had to return to her Midwest existence we continued for several months in a long distance relationships, back in the day when we had to call “long distance.” In the summer of 1977 I went to visit Peggy in her Chicago apartment and convinced her that quitting her well-paying and secure job with St. Paul and moving to live with a dirt-poor biology teacher in Arizona was a good idea.



This is Peggy Dole when she was Peggy Price and lived in Chicago, 1977.

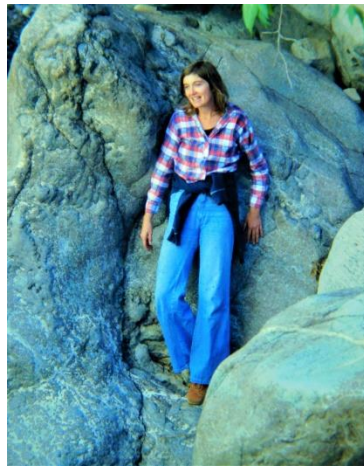
She shoved all her possessions into her Honda Civic and headed west into her future. We lived in a nice duplex for the first two years of our cohabitation, then a cheap apartment for a few months before we found a really nice rental home with a yard where we lived for 6 years before purchasing the Dole Compound in the same neighborhood in 1986 where we have lived up till and including the present. Although Peggy grew up in the big city she soon grew to love being outdoors, camping and backpacking in wilderness areas here in Arizona. In 1980 we went on our first whitewater rafting trip in the Grand Canyon with our life-long friend Bob Hallett. That trip started a 40 year love affair with rafting and kayaking where Peggy and I floated on many of the white-water rivers in the West. That first summer together in 1978, we drove that little Civic up the coast to Washington, spending about 6 weeks on our journey. We had two backpacks, a small cooler, and a cardboard box for our stash of food. That little car was never the same after that trip. Peggy Dole carried backpacks into snow banks, up mountains, down into canyons, camped in heat and cold and rain and wind; she was in the front seat of the first raft on literally hundreds of river trips over 35 years. She was as strong a fit a partner as I have ever had on any expedition.



In Yosemite 1978



Haunted Canyon Wilderness



Fish Creek, AZ



Green River ,1982



Salmon River Lower Gorge, 1985



Peggy's birthday on the San Juan



Klamath River in OR

After pursuing a degree in Biology from ASU, Peggy Dole decided to become an elementary school teacher and returned for a Master's Degree and a teaching certificate. She worked as a 4th and 5th grade educator for 20 years at Gilbert Elementary School where she was a very successful teacher with an unfortunate reputation for being good with "problem boys", so as you can probably guess her classes were often full of those students. Her classroom was always full of wonderful animals, plants, fossils, shells, feathers, nests, and all sorts of stuff from the natural world where she instilled her love of nature into her students. I recently received a glowing testimonial from one her previous students highlighting the incredible impact that Peggy had made on her life. Peggy Dole was an integral part of the Gilbert Elementary staff, performing with students and was often a featured singer in the annual "Faculty Follies" which was presented every year just before winter break. She and Jan Hays started and maintained the recycling program at Gilbert El and developed relationships with Matt Wheeler's students from Mesquite High School who visited and interacted with their Elementary Buddies.



Some of Peggy's students



Teacher hiking in the Superstitions, 2010

Mrs. Dole retired from Gilbert Elementary in 2014 to be able to spend more time with her aging mother who lived in care center near our home. She visited her mother every day and became friends with many of her fellow patients at the care center. Peggy was an avid birder and somewhat of an expert on identifying various species. Following her retirement she spent hours on the deck of our mountain home watching the variety of birds that came flitting by. Friends often called her with questions about birds they had seen and she always took the time to help when she could. The Verellens have often said they wanted a "Pocket Peggy" to consult when they spotted a bird they could not identify.



Peggy with her Mom Virginia



She always had her binoculars handy.



Peggy Dole had the “voice of an angel” and sang with great power and perfect pitch. She taught herself how to play the guitar and sang with the **Riverproof Band** for many years at a number of performances and paid gigs. When she and Margey Verellen harmonized together on a song the whole world would stop to listen. I could not believe I was married to a singer in a rock and roll band. My favorite times were evenings around the fire on a river trip or camping expedition when she would play her guitar and sing a bunch of my favorite songs.



The **Riverproof Band**: Peggy, Margey, Eric, and Phil Verellen, John Hays, and Dennis Price



Taken on our last river trip together in 2016

In 2019 she fell in our hall at home and broke her hip which required complete replacement, this injury limited her mobility and brought our long history of camping to an end. The following year scans showed that melanoma she had removed from her lower leg back in 2002 had returned in a lymph gland. She had successful surgery and was undergoing immunotherapy and radiation. A second site was found in November of 2020 and she underwent a second lymph gland removal. On February 5, early in the morning she experienced some stroke related systems and was transported to Banner Desert where she died early in the morning of February 7 from massive bleeding in her brain caused by the melanoma. The staff at Banner Desert did everything they could to help Peggy, they allowed me to visit with her to say some final goodbyes.



This is a horrible photo but I decided to include it because it shows our last time together

I have loved Peggy Dole from the first moment I laid eyes on her and I will continue to do so in perpetuity. Her death has left a huge hole in my heart that will never be closed. I love you Honey! Thanks to everyone for your outpouring of love and support that reflects the huge circle of friends that Peggy impacted throughout her life. Peggy is survived by her loving brother Dennis Price, Ron Price, her niece Michele and her grand-niece Abbey. As a life-long nature and pet lover, Peggy always gave freely to environmental organizations, animal shelters, wildlife conservationists, and Native American schools. If you would like to honor her make a donation in her name to one of those organizations.



Hawaii 2007



Hawaii 2017

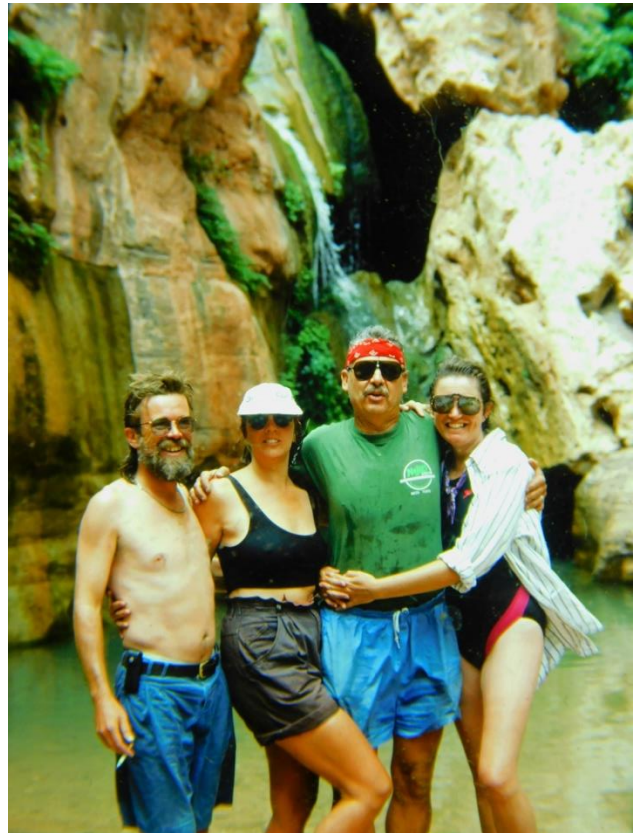
Bonus: Lots of photos of Peggy, many with friends she attracted from all over



She was genuinely happy person, here eating soup from her cup on a backpacking trip.



She was fun to photograph



Elves Chasm, Grand Canyon 1995



It use to snow in the winter here and we had our own x-country skis.



With Lindsey and Katie Barber while camping on the Oregon Coast



Happy Hour on the San Juan River



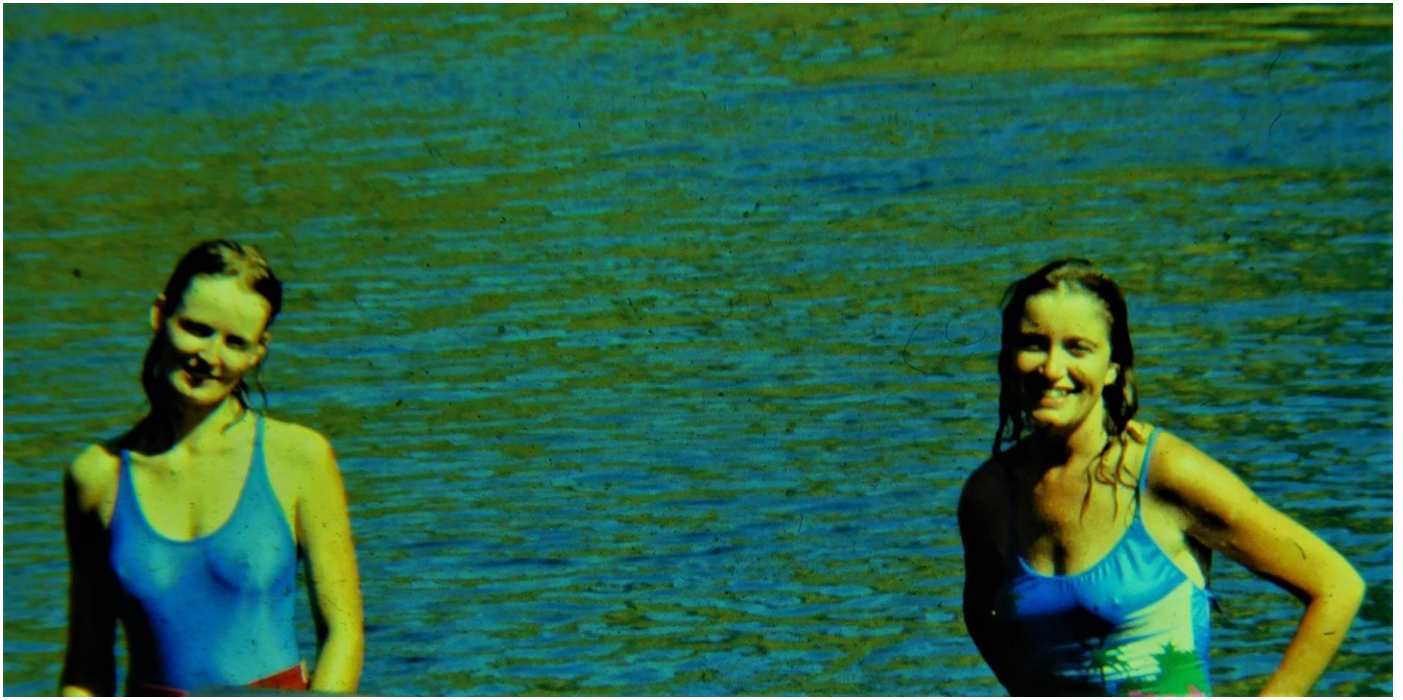
Paradise Campground, McKenzie River



Yes we did go to see them perform



A trip to San Francisco to meet up with Jan's parents



Bonnie Barber and Peggy on the Lower Gorge of the Salmon 1981



Rita showed up at GHS in 1982



We went camping with John and Jan and Fred many times.



One of our favorite campsites, Haunted Canyon Wilderness



Brian met Gayle on a Grand Canyon trip in 1995; Brian, Peggy, and John performed at their wedding.



Sequoia National Park, 1978



Peggy loved sleeping in



Thanks to our friend JC Middleton, Peggy arranged for her parents to take a hot air balloon ride.



With Lora Louthan



We skied out to the rim for a picnic. She was pretty much up for anything.



Jan, Jackie, Peggy, Charlotte (Brian's sister)



Mesa Verde, 1996 camping with Brian.



Want to put on a pfd and float through some rapids on the Little Colorado River? Of course she did.



Several times we celebrated Thanksgiving by camping out in the desert.



Near the top of Mt. Graham in AZ. The “High Water Cienaga” 10,400’ elevation



At the Phoenix Zoo with the Suns Gorilla



Slickhorn Canyon San Juan River



Did we hike to the very top of Mt. Chriacahua? Here she is; the night before we camped at Booger Springs.



Peggy and her brother Dennis Price.



Peggy and Rita singing, Kelly is on the drums



Having a beer with Dennis and Kelly



The Olympics at Dennis' house.



Watching basketball with Regina



Bears with the Super Bowl, 1985 with Jane and Jan



Christmas



Super Bowl Champs



Moonshiner's Cabin, Desolation Canyon, Green River 1998



Another great happy hour on the San Juan



Toehold steps, San Juan River



The Dole family with Cliff Bachman



For several years we took backpacking trips twice a month.



We visited with Bill Hays when we were in Illinois in 1977



Roaring Fork of the Colorado River with John Bagwell and JC Middleton



Skiing with Steve and Bonnie Barber on the rim.



Steve, Tim, and Peggy. Idaho



Lava Falls, 1980



Breakfast on the Oregon Coast, around 1985



Halloween was Peggy's favorite holiday, mine too.



Couple of Goobers reacting to the request to stand still for a photo



Shortly after this photo was taken we had sex right there on the forest floor.



Bonnie with Peggy in Fish Creek 1979 I think



Peggy and I attended 17 consecutive Proms



With Bobby near Box Canyon AZ



Grand Canyon, 1995



Peggy Dole was a cutie!



Peggy is second from the left, photo in Chicago paper when she was 15



Peggy in our Vernon home this past Thanksgiving.



1978



We took a trip to Benson with this bunch



Sheri and Peggy went on many river trips together



Honey, Honey! Jump out now! Grab that bowline! And then she would.



I chose this trail for biking when we were camping on the North Rim. She was not happy.



Peggy with Sonora the Cat and Gary OBrien



Near Dane Canyon on the Mogollon Rim



Following a Main Salmon Trip



A very private camp site in Tim's Saddle, Superstition Wilderness



With Tom Louthan and Lora in our pool



The Riverproof Band, performing at the Mesa Arts Center



Peggy and Virginia



In the early 90's in Wheeler Oregon



Hang on Honey! Granite Rapid in Grand Canyon



Golf Bluff Beach State Park, Northern California



Hatch Trip in Grand Canyon, 2004



She loved places, just like this



Seven Devil Wilderness, Idaho, 1981



Cowboy shack on the Gila River 2016



Backpacking in West Clear Creek with the Hays' and Tim and Marsha



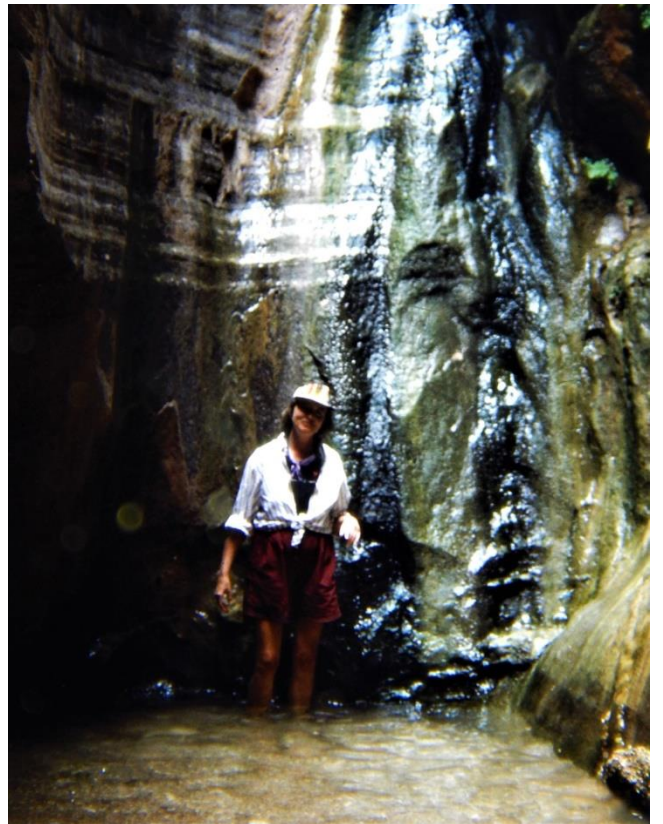
Rainbow Park, Green River with Tom



At the bottom of the Fish Ladder on the Rogue River



Holding our cousin Sarah at Crystal Creek Grand Canyon



Blacktail Canyon, 2004



Peggy, along with Kelly, Rita, Jane, Regina, and Betty were members of the "Society of Women", they called themselves the "Sows", and they were dedicated to eating and drinking and having a good time.





Peggy and Rita at Halloween



Peggy on an early trip with Wade, and John Hays, and Jane



Kelly and Peggy, sisters-in-law



Here she is with her first husband Tim, and Regina and Dennis



I miss her terribly

