



Robert W. Swerer

November 2, 2024

Robert (Bob) W. Swerer, Fort Collins' oldest Western entertainer, passed away on November 2, 2024. His wife Marian, and children Pam and Bob were at his side at his home.

Bob was born to Frank and Betty Swerer in Denver, Colorado on November 7, 1927. He attended Denver schools with his sisters Frances and Helen. He graduated from East High School. In 1947, he attended Colorado State University majoring in Animal Husbandry. He had moved into the SAE house and was soon entertaining his fraternity brothers with his music and formed a band called Bob Swerer and the Sons of the Rockies. They became very well known on the campus and throughout the city. Bob had two radio shows on KCOL that were heard at 7:30 A. M. and at 5:30 P.M . He met the love of his life, Marian Hettinger, when she would sing with him on many occasions. They married on September 2, 1950.

Bob was busy traveling with his band and quit college. He was drawing house plans for Bartran Homes and also had his own appliance repair business. He would travel to Wyoming, Nebraska and throughout Colorado playing with his band . He also played for several movie premiers.

Bob's Dad and uncle owned a bus line, but, it was lost during the Depression.

Bob learned good work ethics at an early age. His favorite job was working on several ranches during the summers.

After welcoming three wonderful children, Pam, Bob Jr. and Becky, Bob's dream was to own his own nightclub. Bob 'drew' the Safari plans and presented them to the County Commissioners. They turned him down. Not discouraged by three other restaurants in town who owned liquor licenses, he told them it was going to be a different kind of business. It would be a restaurant with live music, ballroom dancing and a dress code. Wagers were made that the dress code would never hold. The business became very successful with the dress code! Many of his employees included family and friends. Countless employees worked from the ages of 15 years through college age. They were like second family to the Swerer's and still are. After twenty years, Bob and Marian wanted more time with their family, friends and to travel. Many wonderful memories were made and Bob took movies/video of every trip, adding narration and music. They traveled most of the world, but, Bob still loved hiking with his daughters and son up Long's Peak. He had many hunting trips with his son Bob, Jr. They traveled many times to Alaska, taking pictures and video of the people and the animals. PBS soon came calling and their films are now shown all over the country. Their DVD's and books are sold throughout the US and Canada.

Bob's grandchildren remember his decorated house with Santa and his reindeer running on the roof. He was meticulous in everything he did. He was a gentle, kind man with never a bad word for anyone. He loved people and they loved him. He will be forever loved and respected by his family. Survivors are his beloved wife Marian, daughter Pam, son Bob, Jr., and daughter Becky (deceased); son-in-law Robert McNutt; sisters Frances Ellinwood and Helen Lanning (deceased); 6 adored grandchildren Matt Wells (Stephanie), Aubrey Baar (Chris), Morgan Sciacca (Chris), Falyn and Anastazia McNutt, and Bob Swerer III; 8 great-grandchildren; and many loved nieces and nephews.

There were two words that Bob never used - 'no' and 'can't' - a phrase 'where there's a will, there's a way'.

We will always love you . Happy Trails, Bob!

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **19**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

First Presbyterian Church
531 South College Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80524
crichardson@firstpresfc.org
<http://www.firstpresfc.org/>

Tribute Wall

SM

“ I am just now learning of this. So sorry for your loss. My mom (Kitty) was so very fond of him. My kids and I still have his records and DVD's. Hope you are having a nice holiday and are doing well ❤️

Stacey Young Mayfield - December 26, 2025 at 02:09 PM

JK

“ To, Marian, Pam and Bob Jr.
I am just reading this about your loving husband and dad.
He was a kind and gentle soul and loved by many in Ft. Collins and around the world. I went to school with Pam and got to know the family and loved them all. I would stop by their home and they always were so welcoming.
He was hard working man and enjoyed all the people that he met over the years.
He was a smart, talented and loving person and will be missed. He was a kind soul. The photo, depicts the man he was, kind, sweet and loving.
Marian, Pam and Bob, I send love and prayers in the loss of this wonderful husband and dad. He was a charmer and I cherished my time when I would visit the family..
Love, Julia Muniz Koepsell

Julia Muniz Koepsell - November 29, 2024 at 12:15 PM

JE

“ I loved Bob. He was my friend, my landlord and probably one of the kindest men I have known. Babysat for three kids when Bob and Maria started the Safari. And yes they were a handful.. Then ended up working at the Safari. My favorite song he sang was Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime . May you all find peace in knowing he is singing, laughing and so at peace now. Love to you all and will remember you in our prayers. Jacka Eyl

Jacka Eyl - November 23, 2024 at 01:32 PM

TE

“ Bob was a wonderful, caring man. The Swerer's have been a part of my life since childhood. I lived over 30 years in one of the duplexes he built using the brick left over from the 2nd addition of the PVH hospital. He treated me kindly and always had a smile. I lived that his eyes were 2 different colors. Always made me think he was an angel. He was dearly loved by his family, friends and the community. Peace be with you Bob. Peace be with your family.

Terra Eyl - November 23, 2024 at 01:09 PM

DW

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Swerer family. I was so deeply sorry to read about the loss of the Swerer patriarch, Bob. Even though I have regrettably lost track of the family over the years, at one time, Pam and I enjoyed a friendship that developed when we were both at Tavelli. Through that connection, I have fond memories of tales about the Safari as well as the father/son photography trips to Alaska. At one point, Bob so generously gifted me with one of his DVD's. What a talent! Sending comforting thoughts and prayers.

Dianne Whitaker

Dianne G Whitaker - November 21, 2024 at 09:29 PM



“ We lived next door to Bob and Marian for 8 years. I always enjoyed visiting with him, he always had a smile on his face. We just love this family and our hearts break for your loss. What a true blessing you were to our family. You will be missed.

Beth Winger - November 18, 2024 at 09:55 PM



“ As Bob and Marian's neighbors for 29 years, we always enjoyed visiting with them on their evening walks in the summer. And we loved their neighborhood potluck on a summer evening. Bob gave us one of his CD's, and we thoroughly enjoyed hearing his beautiful crooning voice. He was a gentle soul. He and his lovely wife Marian showed us a great example of a loving marriage and aging gracefully.

Kathy and Steve Miner

Kathy Miner - November 16, 2024 at 06:51 PM



“ I am not sure I ever met Bob myself, but my dad Don was his piano player in the band at the Safari and mentioned him frequently. He would also point out his house when we drove by it. Condolences to all and Happy Trails.

Gayle Roslund

Gayle Roslund - November 14, 2024 at 02:10 AM

SS

“ Rest in Peace Bob. I worked at the Safari all through high school and the Swerer family all treated me like a member of the family. I am sincerely grateful for the kindness that they always extended to me and the opportunity to work in a fun and supportive environment with some of the best people I've ever known. Families like the Swerers are what made growing up in Fort Collins so special. Bob had it all - kindness, character, great style and of course, a killer voice. If I close my eyes I can hear and see Bob and the Safari band singing "I'm going to Kansas City...Kansas City here I come". Sincere condolences to Marian, Pam and Bobby, the grandkids and extended family. I know Bob will be dearly missed by you all, but I hope you have some consolation in knowing that he lived such a great life pursuing the things he loved throughout it all. Steve Swoboda

steven b swoboda - November 13, 2024 at 11:39 AM

JM

“ What a great pleasure it was knowing this family during my teen years. We lived next door to the Swerer family. I would go over 2-3 nights a week and sit with the kids while Bob and Marian were at the Safari. Such a fabulous family. I have vivid memories of the TANK that Bob made Bobby and they would go up and down the street. It was a work of art. I also made the kids Christmas stockings one year. All these years have passed but the memories are strong. My deepest condolences to Marian, Pam and Bobby. Jan Feil Mesloh

Jan Mesloh - November 12, 2024 at 07:06 PM

SB

“ I am certain my parents were acquainted with Bob and the importance of what he did for Fort Collins cannot be overstated. Happy Trails to a good man and sincere condolences to all who loved him.

Stephen Bennett

Stephen Bennett - November 11, 2024 at 06:57 PM

DJ

“ It would be impossible to express how much Bob and his family have meant to two generations of the Joyner family. Bob will be missed more than we can say. Dawson & Brian Joyner

Dawson L Joyner - November 11, 2024 at 01:03 PM

JV

“ Bob was an amazing, multitalented, compassionate man!!! I first met Bob after I overloaded Mom's washer as a kid and broke it. We were all smiling and laughing when he was finished. Such a nice man!!

John Viets - November 10, 2024 at 01:02 PM

KS

We had our wedding reception at the Safari in 1972. My husband was a relation as a Schmidt. Bob was a great singer and man
Happy Trails Bob and condolences to your family. Karen

Karen Schmidt - November 11, 2024 at 06:07 PM

RC

Bob was a class act and will be missed. My condolences to Marian, Pam and Bobby.
Rebecca Chavez

rebecca jo morris chavez - November 19, 2024 at 09:24 AM

ST

“ *Bob was a wonderful caring man. The world needs more like him. So enjoyed the Swerer family over the years. Sorry for your loss and the communities loss.*

Scott Townsend - November 10, 2024 at 07:17 AM

LB

“ *Dear Bob Swerer’s family- because of my dear friend Pam, I know Bob. What a kind, strong, beautiful, & creative soul. Those deep, caring eyes & smile just lit up a room & connected with every person around. Such a brilliant, talented man! I sincerely send my thoughts, prayers & love to you all. Bob will continue to live on through his family, art, photography, his music, & his love for so many beautiful things. With love, Laura Brinks*

Laura Brinks - November 07, 2024 at 05:10 AM

LB

“ *Laura Brinks lit a candle in memory of Robert (Bob) Swerer*



Laura Brinks - November 07, 2024 at 04:59 AM