

A Final Gift for Bob

Each guest in the March 2015 Tanzania safari group was given a wrap called a kikoy. The one on this table is the one Bob received. Kikoys are a traditional garment unique to the coast of East Africa. They are traditionally a male garment worn like a sarong. Now, both modern-day men and women use kikoys. Francesco Pierre-Nina explained that kikoys are coastal wraps used, as he did in the photo below (far left), for casual evenings by the fire or down at the beach. Some men, himself included, will occasionally wear them to local club black tie events with white shirt, bow tie, and smoking jacket.



Tanzania Sundowner - March 18, 2015

**Bob's last full day...
March 20, 2015**



The day after Bob Grimm passed away, his fellow safari travelers gathered for a farewell toast to him and their time together on the Serengeti Plains. Below, Francesco Pierre-Nina, owner of the Tanzania Safari Company and safari guide extraordinaire, describes the setting of that event and shares the toast he gave that day.

The Setting - Western Marsh at Ndutu

In the golden hue of Africa's evening light illuminating the valley of nut sedge here in the Cradle of Mankind saunters a cautious giraffe. So much the symbol of peace, magnificence and serenity he stands tall, moving in slow motion towards the busy waterhole below. He is thirsty but wise, cautious and patiently observant with huge dark doe eyes framed by long black eye lashes. He is unperturbed by the plethora of birds racing between sips and the safety of the thorny acacia trees nearby, only interested in knowing if the lion of the valley are in the neighborhood. Seeing none and in the comfort that we, standing on the ridge above sipping champagne, are no threat he bends down to quench his thirst. In this moment the Songlines of our lives touch as we share a peaceful, magical moment of trust by treading lightly on these ancient lands.



The Toast

Through all these years of safari on the Serengeti Plains, this land of Ngai, the God of everywhere and everything, I have always been able to hear the sounds of tubular bells in the air, a musical whistling in the wind. A Maasai once suggested, it is the Spirits of those gone before us flying free over the plains. Whenever I hear these again I shall think of Robert Grimm, among others, because by these winds his spirit was taken and it is into these winds that his spirit leapt and with these winds that his spirit will soar through The Cradle of Mankind. This will forever be a part of his Songline.

Bob's Popcorn Machine

Bob was a hard person to buy gifts for- if he wanted or needed something, he bought it, so it was hard to think of things he might need or want. In the early 1980s, faced with the annual dilemma of "what to get Bob for Christmas" (not to mention his December birthday!), his wife Marion hit upon a truly genius solution. He had a passion for snacking on popcorn, so what better to get than a popcorn popper? But not just any popper... a super, colossal classic carnival-style wheeled popcorn machine!

So where does one buy such a thing? Why, at the venerable Sears Roe-buck, of course! Indeed, Marion ordered one from Sears, and when it came in, son-in-law Clyde Cummings picked it up from the local store in his pickup truck. Using several rolls of gift wrap, the huge box was readied for Christmas and placed near the tree. Bob was both surprised and delighted... success!

In the years since, the machine has been used for many occasions, and Bob (in his typical "what's mine is yours" way) generously lent it to a host of friends and family for parties, fund-raisers, and charitable events. For example, Bob's daughter Sue Cummings and her family have likely used it the most consistently: her husband Clyde has been "Popcorn Man" at their church's annual Spaghetti Dinner & Melodrama night every October for the past 18 years (as pictured here), and the family has given out free hot popcorn to trick-or-treaters (and their parents) every Halloween for 6 years now. Additionally, they've used the machine quite a number of times at fund-raisers for daughter Emma's school, The King's Academy in Sunnyvale.



Los Altos Festival of Lights Parade

During Bob's first term on the Los Altos City Council, he was approached by local businessman Jack Huston (of Russell-Huston Men's Clothing) and asked if he could provide technical help for the new holiday lights parade that Jack and 2 other store owners were creating. Problem-solving engineer Bob said "yes," of course.

Bob helped trouble-shoot electrical problems and assisted in the transition to the use of small generators to replace the car batteries that were borrowed each year from the Union 76 gas station. Improvements continued year to year.

In 1983, Mountain View's Mayfield Mall closed for business. Ever the opportunist, Bob purchased the Christmas decorations that used to fill the mall during the holidays. Of particular interest to him were the animated figures in the various scenes which portrayed many seasonal themes.

In 1985, Bob generously donated these decorations and animations to the Festival of Lights (FOL) annual Christmas parade in downtown Los Altos, an event in which he has been involved since its inception in 1978. Additionally, Bob bought and donated to the FOL a number of animated characters at an auction for a Chuck E. Cheese's Pizza location that was closing.



Over the years, many of these figures and pieces have been incorporated into a variety of the FOL floats, including the hard-working Mayfield Mall elves on the *Santa's Workshop* push-float sponsored by the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce (two versions pictured here).

This being Silicon Valley, land of innovation, the FOL has not been immune to technical improvements and upgrades over the years. Generators have become bigger with more output, some

floats have a car chassis base, others are pulled by small tractors, animations have become more complex, and even the lights have evolved (brighter LEDs, using less power, etc.). Through all of this, Bob has been a faithful fixture behind the scenes, coming up with creative solutions to inevitable challenges, but always working to make the experience fresh and new and delightful for the thousands of young (and not-so-young) folks who attend every year.



Annual Tech Challenge

For the initial few years beginning in 1988, the Tech Challenge was affiliated with and put on in conjunction with the Santa Clara County Science and Engineering Fair. The event was a program of the Technology Center of Silicon Valley, which eventually became The Tech Museum of Innovation.

Bob was involved with the Tech Challenge from the very early years. His primary role each year was in the brainstorming and design phases. In his backyard and shop, he built prototypes of the proposed challenge "rigs" which were reviewed by a design team. He implemented any adjustments or improvements according to the team's feedback. Once finalized, the design specs were handed over to the fabrication engineers at The Tech to build the official rigs for the competition.

The consummate host, Bob held a majority of the brainstorming sessions in his own home beginning over a year before the challenge being planned for. For instance, the recent 2015 challenge's first planning meeting was held in January 2014. The monthly meetings continued until mid-fall, when the plans were given to the Fab Dept. at the Tech for building.

Bob was very instrumental in keeping the planning process "on target," in regards to the educational goals to be met and the technical engineering skills to be fostered. He was keenly interested in keeping the challenges relevant and focused on solving real-world problems.

According to Greg Brown (far left in photo), Challenge co-founder with Jan Berman, "[Bob] liked challenges that seemed easy, but turned out to require a lot of thinking to actually do - "deceptively simple" he called them (always with a gleam in his eye). His early support of the fledgling event helped convince other leaders of the potential of The Tech Challenge to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. In the process, he inspired us all."



Bob and the design team on Bob's patio in 2011 with the prototype for the 2012 challenge.

Speeder Rail Car

In 2004, Bob expressed an interest to his friend Fred Vertel, a train enthusiast (formerly of Los Altos), about small rail cars called "Speeders" (previously used for track maintenance). He and friend Art Carmichael were intrigued by the idea of experiencing rail travel in interesting areas. Fred and his son Tom owned two such speeders and offered to loan one to Bob & Art on a long-term basis.

Once they became licensed and insured through the North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA), Bob & Art traveled to Oregon in June 2005 to pick up the car, a "Woodings 2-passenger all-en-closed fiberglass-body vehicle with an engine similar to a snowmobile." After trailering it home to Los Altos, Bob & Art made a few modifications to add some levels of comfort and safety (eg. seats & seatbelts). They took it for a trial run in Niles Canyon in October in preparation for their first NARCOA excursion. In 2007, they also joined Motorcar Operators West who organize excursions focused on locations in the western U.S. and Canada.



After booking an excursion, Bob and his "co-pilot" for the venture would trailer the speeder to the beginning point, aka the "set-on location." Once all the cars on the trip have set-on and the drivers have completed their safety meeting, everyone sets out on the railroad tracks and heads for the destination or turn-around point. The tracks are used by permission from the owner/manager of the rail line for the date(s) of the excursion, so these small speeder cars won't encounter any other trains while they are traveling. At the turn-around point, the drivers and their passengers get out and physically rotate their car 180° to begin the journey back to the beginning point; the cars that were in the rear are now in the lead.

Below are listed the 16 excursions Bob took over 8 years. The shortest was 20 total rail miles (Carson City to Virginia City, Nevada) and the longest was 584 (Fairbanks to Anchorage, Alaska).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Bob's Companion(s)</u>
Oct 2005	McCloud, CA	Art Carmichael
May 2006	Eugene, OR	Art Carmichael
Mar 2007	Santa Maria, CA	Art C.; Fred & Tom Vertel
Jul 2007	Klamath Falls, OR	Art Carmichael
Aug 2007	Prince George, BC (1st half of trip)	Art Carmichael
Jun 2008	Vernon, BC	Art C. & Paul Nyberg
May 2009	Willits, CA (Skunk Train line)	Patty Grimm (daughter)
Apr 2011	Felton, CA (to Boardwalk, Santa Cruz)	Art Carmichael
Apr 2011	Stockton, CA	Art Carmichael
Apr 2011	Oakdale, CA	Mike Grimm (son)
Apr 2011	Carson City, NV	Art Carmichael
Jul 2011	Willits, CA (Skunk Train line)	Julie Rose
Sep 2011	Fairbanks, AK (2nd half of trip)	Art Carmichael
Jul 2012	Port McNeil, BC (on Vancouver Island)	Art Carmichael
May 2013	Felton, CA (to Watsonville)	Patty Grimm (daughter)
Sep 2013	Rocky Mountains (NV, UT, and CO)	Art Carmichael

Bob's Parma Poker Parlor

One of Bob's favorite pasttimes was a good game of poker with good friends. For as long as the family can remember, Bob hosted a monthly poker game in the rec room at his home. He also frequently participated in games hosted by others.

True to his analytical nature, Bob even kept meticulous records of these games over the years, recording wins & losses and dollar amounts, and calculating the statistics to go with them (averages, percentages, etc.). He also wrote up a document outlining the rules as well as descriptions of 14 to 17 different poker games to choose from.

Apparently, Bob was a pretty good player (no doubt his inscrutable poker face was a contributing factor), as his own "Wins Percent" was 57% according to his spreadsheet for his "Parma Poker Parlor" games from 1984 thru early 2012.

On a typical poker night, Bob shifted the furniture around in the rec room to make space for this poker table. He'd lay out a spread of sandwich fixin's and plenty of beer. Each player was given \$400 in chips to start, denominations ranging from \$1 to \$50. At the end of the evening, the players would settle up by writing checks to each other.

On the occasion of Bob's 85th birthday (2011), the family surprised him with a party the day after Christmas while everyone was still in town. In recognition of his love of the game, these poker chip favors were ordered with his picture on the front and the date on the back.



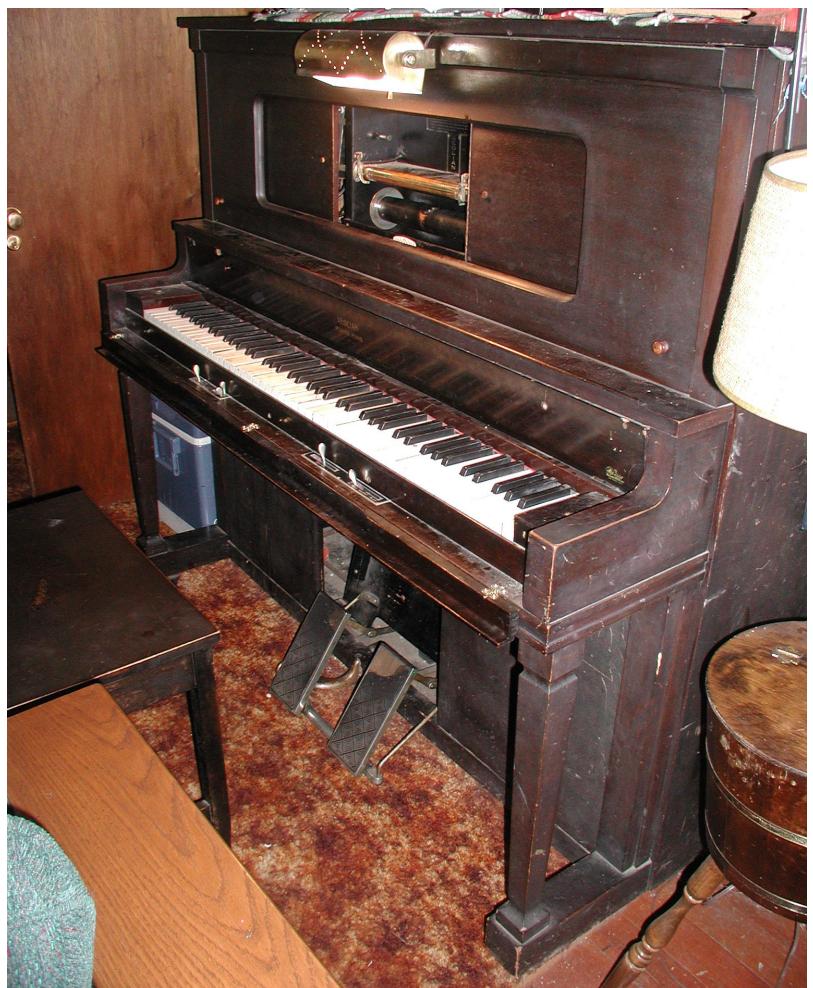
Bob's Mechanical Music Machines

Bob loved all things mechanical, especially machines that played music. One of his early acquisitions was a classic Aeolian player piano (pictured below), powered by pumping two foot pedals. He and Marion bought it in 1954 at the San Mateo county fair, thinking it would be a fun way to have music in their home.

Over the years, he also accumulated quite a large collection of piano rolls for it with music that includes classical, jazz, marches, rags (a particular favorite), Broadway show tunes, and even more contemporary popular music.

In 1968, with the help of friends, the player piano was hauled to the Sierras and maneuvered thru an early snow and up a steep incline into the family cabin on Pinecrest Lake. It has been a wonderful entertainment for family and guests for many years.

The small tabletop music box displayed at the memorial is a "Concert Roller Organ" which Bob acquired many decades ago. Internet research indicates that it was made by the Autophone Co. of New York between the 1880s and 1920s. It appears to have been in rough shape and it seems that Bob repaired it to be able to play. The "cob" roll currently in it plays "Yankee Doodle."



Bob's Mechanical Music Machines (continued)

In 1989, on a trip to Germany, Bob discovered a hand-cranked Harmonipan Hofbauer Göttingen "street organ" (pictured below). The machine includes 2 drums and a cymbal to accompany the pipe organ melody. Fascinated, he purchased one from Orgelbaumeister Hofbauer GMBH in Göttingen, Germany, and had it shipped home. This machine is more modern in that it utilizes electronic components (MIDI) to play its instruments; its power, however, is more old-school and comes from a human operator turning a large hand crank. It has slots for 8 cartridges (Bob had 7) with 10 songs on each. Bob made a list of all the songs with instructions on how to select them taped inside with the machine's controls.

In the last few years, Bob joined the Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association (AMICA) to connect with others who shared his interest and to learn about the machines they have collected.



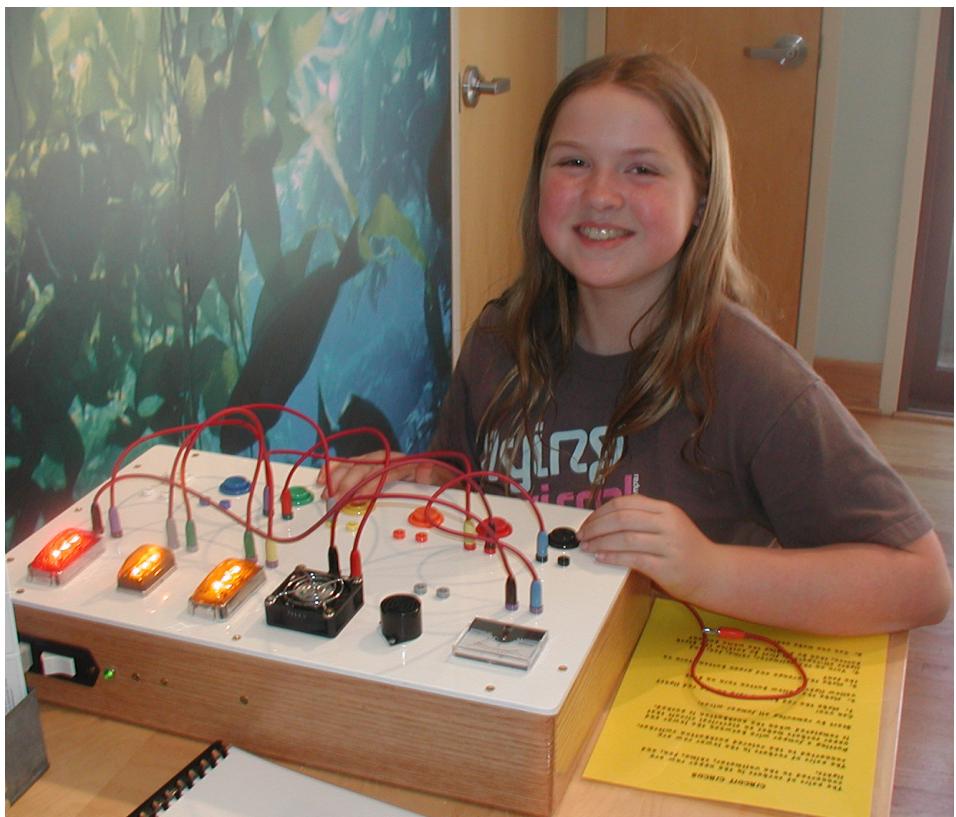
Bob's Electrical Demo Boards

Back in the 1960s, Bob designed a wooden box for his son Mike to demonstrate how electrical circuits work. He laid out a row of various types of switches (buttons, toggles, sliders, etc.) and another row of many types of devices that are powered by electricity (lights, blinkers, buzzers, bells, fans, etc.).

Between the rows are a series of terminals which allow the user to connect the switches to the devices with wires; when the switches are flipped, the circuits are completed and the power goes to the devices so that they turn on (ie. light up, buzz, spin, whir, etc.).

In 2007, Bob revisited this concept at the request of his daughter Sue who was homeschooling her daughter Emma. Bob taught Emma and her friend Tyler how to build their wooden boxes, and then how to add the electrical components. He showed them how circuits work and the various ways to configure the switches and devices.

The box physically on display here is the one Tyler created. The box in the photo with Emma (right) is one modeled after her board for an interactive exhibit at the Los Altos History Museum.

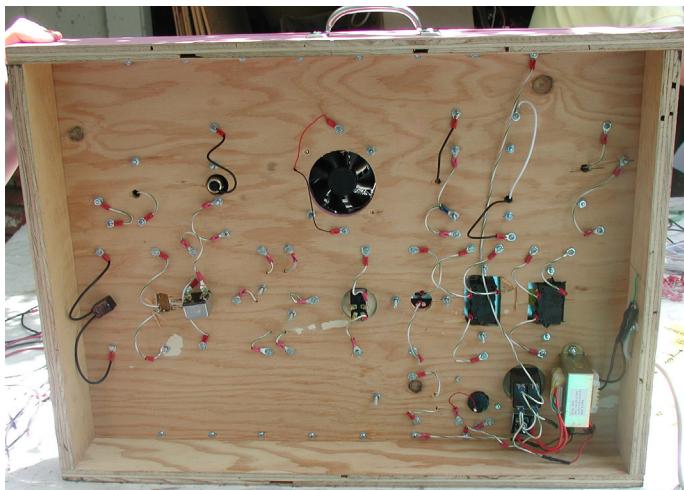
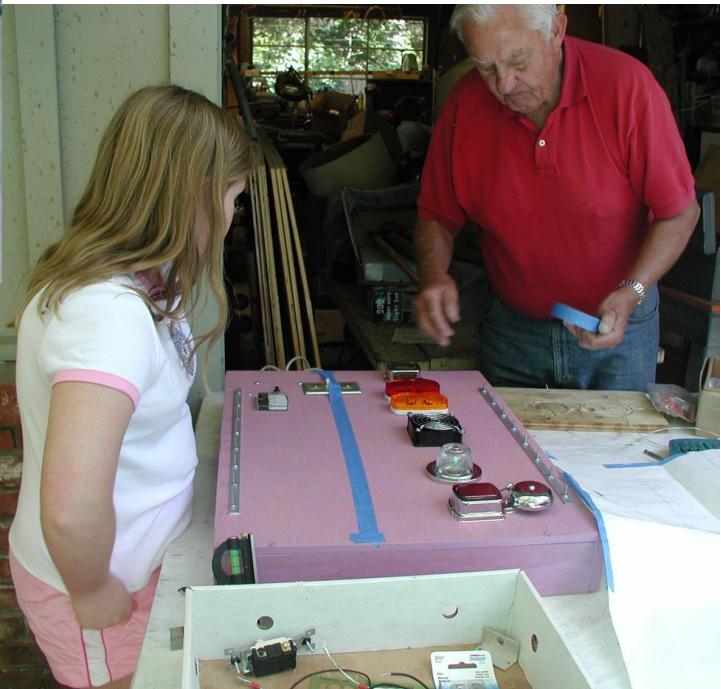




Bob teaching Tyler & Emma about
completing a circuit... with people!

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Bob helping Emma plan
the layout for her board.

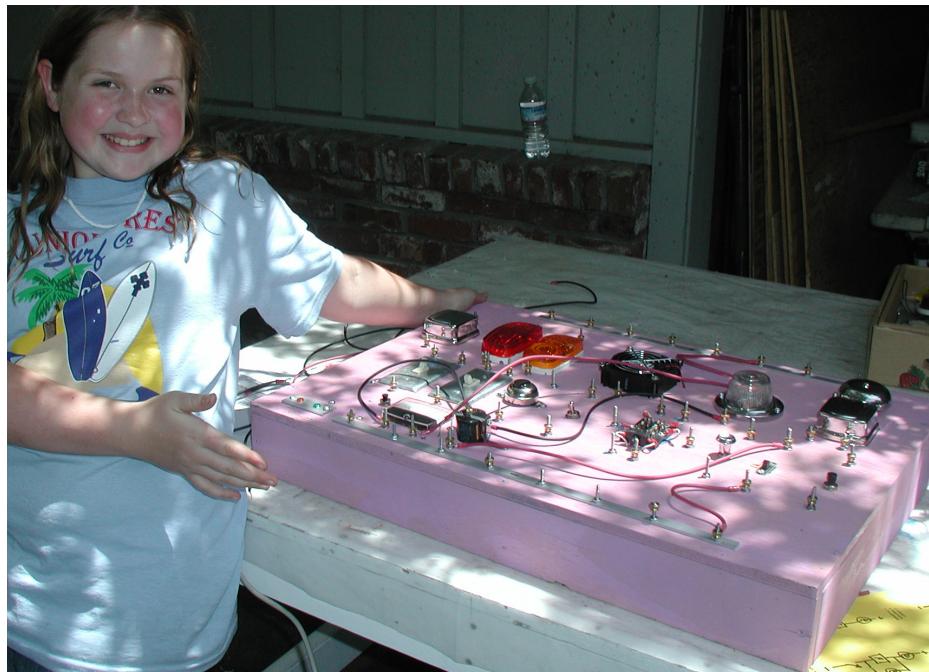


View of the back of the board.

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Emma with her completed
electrical demo board.

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**VOTE
TO
RE-
ELECT
BOB**



GRIMM
LOS ALTOS CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 8

COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT BOB GRIMM

In 1976, Bob was elected to a four-year term on the Los Altos City Council, and was appointed mayor of the City in 1979.

This poster is from his second campaign, when he was re-elected to another four-year term on the Council in 1980.

Bob's Fanciful Gifts and Hermit Stories

Garage sales (yard sales, estate sales, flea markets, rummage sales, and the like) have always held a fascination for Bob. The concept of "one man's junk is another man's treasure" was always in the background. Weekend errands often ended up in quite an assortment of side trips to follow any sale signs that were encountered on the way. Who knew what wonderful bargains might be found?!

When his kids were young, he would even make a project and an outing of this passion: he'd grab the garage sale listings from the local paper(s) and assign one child to take the addresses and plot a route on the map to hit them all. Sometimes the journeys were in the car, sometimes on bikes. Sometimes the routes weren't planned out; the course was random, with turns at signs or alternating rights and lefts when junctions came up.

In more recent years, after his kids were grown and out on their own, Bob continued to seek out garage sales. Often, he would come across very unusual or amusing items that he just couldn't resist. However, not having a personal need or use for them, he tapped into his creative side and took to gifting these oddities to his children, accompanied by some inspired and hilarious "back stories."

Usually, these stories featured a hermit and an electrical engineer (representing himself) and a convoluted tale to explain how he had come to possess the particular gift being given.

The gift item and its hermit story were given to the recipient on a birthday or at Christmas. The first few times, it was hard to know what to make of the gift, because it really wasn't something anyone would actually want, but you didn't want to be rude by laughing or expressing open dismay. It was very awkward! Added to that was Bob's unfailing poker face (other than a slight Cheshire cat grin) and his refusal to enlighten anyone as to where, when, or how he really came to get the present. Frustrating!

Eventually, after enough of these occasions, the family saw a pattern and knew that these gifts were indeed a joke and a way to have some fun with the unusual objects he'd found in his garage sale-ing adventures.

On display here are two of these "gifts" given to Bob's daughter Sue Cummings and her husband Clyde, along with their very creative accompanying "hermit stories."

A Vintage Grimm Hermit Tale

Once upon a time, not too long ago, a hermit lived in a cave high in the mountains, so he could get away from the life he had led monitoring cars for single drivers in the diamond lane during rush hours from an overpass on 101 in San Jose.

He liked the replacement of rushing traffic noise with the songs of meadowlarks and the cooing of doves.

He had a small vegetable garden, and he caught trout from a nearby stream. He lived in the front part of the cave, near its mouth. Beyond, it was deep and dark. One day he woke up and said to himself, "I wonder what is back in that cave." And he made a torch from some sticks and ventured into the depths of the cave.

He went a long way, and ended in an enlarged grotto filled with casks and bottles of wine. There was dust everywhere, and it was obvious no one had been there for a long time. So he took a few bottles and returned to his end of the cave.

The bottles had no labels, but the aged red wine had the fragrance of apples with a touch of pomegranate dusted with Balinese cinnamon.

So each day he enjoyed a bottle of this outstanding bounty.

But the hermit was lonely. So one day he held the corks and said, "You are my children and create the sparkle in my life."

And he talked with them each day, and they listened intently to everything he had to say. And they never disagreed with him, so he knew they were as wise as he.

But in more sober moments, he knew that living in a cave was not a good life for his children who had their whole lives ahead of them.

One day an engineer happened by the cave, and stopped to chat with the hermit and had a glass, or several, of the wonderful wine.

Following sufficient glasses to encourage observant discussions of world peace and asteroids, the hermit cautiously mentioned his children and the better life he hoped they would have. And after considerable discussion, the engineer agreed to take the children with him and find a better home for them.

And that, Clyde, is how I brought this gift to you.



How Godfrey's Dream Provided Sue's 55th Birthday Present (another vintage Grimm Hermit Tale)

Once upon a time, not too long ago, there was a hermit who lived in the California mountains. He had not always been a hermit. He was an electrical engineer, and after he retired he liked to work in his shop and build things.

But he thought he could think and design and build better if he could be in a quiet, peaceful environment. So he bought an old cabin in the mountains, built a shop, and installed a solar system to provide electrical power. He ordered all his food from Harry and David and the Corralitos Butcher and Grocer. All of his materials came by mail, too.

However, one day to complete an urgent project for a museum, he needed a #8 metric setscrew. So he decided to drive to the hardware store in the nearest village. While in the village, he decided to indulge himself at his favorite noodle restaurant. They had the best noodles that were the lightest and thinnest he had ever eaten. He had tried many times at his cabin to make noodles as good. But never had.

So again, he asked the Chinese owner and cook the secret of his noodles. Fen Wu again said it was a secret. But he had a problem and if the engineer could help him solve it, he would give him the secret. Fen Wu said his son, Godfrey, had run away, and since his son loved the mountains he may have gone somewhere there.

Fortunately the engineer knew Godfrey, because Godfrey often came to his shop, asked questions, and loved to work with the engineer on projects. So the engineer went back to his cabin, and as he had hoped, Godfrey was there waiting for the engineer to work on projects again.

The engineer told Godfrey his father was distressed because he had run away. "My father wants me to go into the family noodle business, and I want to be an electrical engineer like you," Godfrey said. "Maybe I can talk to your father and help him understand why he should let you follow your dream," the engineer said, "I would appreciate it if you would try," Godfrey said.

So the engineer drove back to the noodle shop and spoke with Fen Wu. "For each of us it is important to do what we enjoy. And for Godfrey to become an electrical engineer is just as honorable as being the owner of a noodle shop," the engineer said.

Fen Wu was silent for quite a while. "Godfrey is smart and has always been good at science and math. If that is what he wants to do, I will approve. And I can get his younger brother, Larry, to run the noodle shop."

"Thank you for bringing my son home. Now I must honor my promise. The secret of my fine noodles is in the tool I use to make them. I give it to you with thanks."



And that, Sue, is how I got your birthday present. [the really big, heavy rolling pin in picture]

Recognizing Bob's Many Achievements



Over the years, Bob has won many awards,
been recognized for numerous achievements,
and been honored by civic groups,
charitable organizations,
business ventures, and his peers.

True to his humble "aw shucks" attitude,
Bob never sought out
nor paid much attention to these honors;
the accolades were just not a motivating factor for
the generous and selfless things he did.

In fact, most of the many recognitions
showcased at the memorial were found by the family
stashed away in Bob's attic storage space!
(And this display features only
a portion of the large collection we discovered!)