

In Memory

Robert William Pundt

Bob passed away at home on December 8, 2009. He was comforted by his beloved wife Frances, a large and devoted family, and a blessing of wonderful friends. Fran, soul mate for 46 years, their children: John, Lyn, Steve (Lynn), Robert (Mary), Sandy and Brian (Kathryn) and their grandchildren came together to be with him and each other at the end. He is loved and missed by his grand-children: Jeremy (Mandy), Angi, Misty Rose, Julian, Grant, Becky (Josh), Matthew, Walker, Michael and John Travis; as well as great-grandchildren: Joey, Madison, Hannah and Jacob. Growing up in San Francisco during the 30s and 40s, Bob made his way by will and wits. As a young man, he visited and stayed with both the Pundt family in Illinois, and the Benson family in Alberta, Canada. In between, Bob served in the US Navy, touring Central America and the South Pacific, and was present at the post-war Bikini Atoll atomic tests.

The Illinois Pundt's and the Alberta Bensons fondly remember this boy who lost his father early and yearned for the embrace of family he had not known before. To the Bensons, he was the young man who joined them in western Alberta during the early 50s. Cousins John (Pat), Bruce (Carol), Edith (Ron) and Kayo and Benson cousins from Sonoma County, Wes (Linda), Robert (Suzanne), and Susan (Ken) will miss him deeply and remember him forever. Working in Canada and San Francisco, he found his passion for automobile repair. He forged his formula for success via hard work and craftsmanship early on. Turning his favored trade into his livelihood, he understood and applied the fundamentals of honesty and excellent service. In 1956, Bob opened Pundt's Body & Fender Repair in San Francisco. His quality work and business ethic resulted in consistent return customers as the business thrived. Looking for a more rural lifestyle, Bob and Fran settled in Occidental, CA in 1971.

They raised the family, built their home on Joy Road, and established a second Pundt's in Sebastopol. In his spare time, and later in retirement, Bob restored and rebuilt early V-8 Fords and spent 30 years touring the US and Canada with Fran in their favorite cars. As members of the Redwood Empire chapter of the Ford V-8 club, the two found adventure and lifelong friends who shared their passion. Husband and lover, father, grandfather - no less real in memory than life - in our thoughts, images, recollections and anecdotes - his spirit lives on. At his request, no funeral service will be held. A memorial to celebrate his life will be held in January. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice Care. Published in Press Democrat from December 15 to December 18, 2009

