

## **Robert Linn Balsley**

Died: January 9, 1980

Bob died as a result of an overwhelming strep infection at the age of 40 in the Community Hospital of Boulder, Colorado, on Wednesday, January 9. He had been in the hospital less than 24 hours.

He loved Boulder. Since 1973 until his death he had headed Madison Avenue West, a local advertising agency, having spent the previous seven years as a social studies teacher at Boulder High School and getting his master's degree at the University of Colorado in 1970. In Boulder he was active in civic affairs, promoting continuing education, social studies, and social sciences programs. He was a leader of the local historical society, and was head of public relations for the Boulder Valley Educational Association.

Bob came to Dartmouth from Aurora, Illinois, where he went to high school. As a high school student, Bob was in the honor society, and active on the school newspaper, the yearbook, and dramatics. He played basketball, managed the football team, and was captain of the golf team.

At Dartmouth he majored in history was on The Dartmouth his sophomore year, and in the outing club for four years. He designed the Carnival Poster his junior year.

Brett McEntagart, a classmate from Ireland, who roomed with Bob their last year, offers some remembrances of Bob, his talents, and energy. "My senior year I roomed off campus with Bob Balsley and Tom Hewitt," writes Brett. "I was particular friends with Bob, as he and I shared an interest in art. Bob was extremely talented and did some fine poster designs for the Dartmouth Winter Carnival and also a portrait of Ken Dehaven. We used to go on sketching trips together. He advised me to apply to the University of Colorado to do a masters in Fine Art. He was getting married to his longtime girlfriend, Shari, after graduation and going to live in Boulder, Colorado. He said Colorado was a great place to live. He was certainly right about that."

Brett continues, "We had some great times in Boulder. Initially we stayed in a log cabin in the old mining village of Gold Hill some miles up the mountains from Boulder. The village had been abandoned years before but people had recently started to move back, people looking for a freer and more laidback lifestyle. The old post office had been renovated by the Finn family and they used to have square dancing and a keg of beer every Saturday night. It was great fun and I got to dance with Shari as Bob didn't dance! My lasting memory of the log cabin is of clouds of moths – or millers as they used to call them – flying around the lamps. I used to fill a bucket with sudsy water and hold it up to the light and they

would all fly in. I was very sad to hear of his death as we had been very close in those years and he was a really talented artist.”

Bob was survived by Shari, two sons, and a daughter.