



Herman Reimers Stalberg

April 12, 1928 - November 2, 2016

Herm passed away peacefully in his daughter's Corvallis, Oregon home on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, after an acute illness of 5 months. He had lived in Corvallis since 2011.

Born in New York City in 1928, Herm spent most of his childhood there in the Otilie Orphan Home, along with his older sister, Barbara (in the Depression, non-orphans could be admitted). His father, also Herman R. Stalberg, was a piano player and electrician, and his mother Anna, an English immigrant, was a stenographer and boarding house manager. Herm had fond memories of the Home; beginning his trumpet career there with the Home band, making lifelong friends, and enjoying his parents' visits. As a teen, he formed the Johnny Herman Trio (as he explained it, "who'd come see Hermie Stalberg??"), and played dance clubs around the city. He continued to play trumpet in swing bands, orchestras and symphonies deep into his 70s; he loved his horn.

Herm joined the Coast Guard at 18, became a Loran radio technician, and served in the South Pacific just after the end of WWII. He very much enjoyed his time in the Gilbert Islands. He married his high school sweetheart, Barbara, and they had a son, Herman George, in 1947. They divorced when Herm left the service, and after further radio engineering training with RCA, he moved west.

Herm met and married Gladys in 1952, and they lived in several California towns. There he helped build and operate radio stations, including KIDD, KXRX, KLOK, and his final station, KGO in San Francisco. While at KGO in 1979, Herm travelled to Egypt and Israel to engineer the broadcast via satellite of the Middle East peace talks between Sadat and Begin. In 1989, when the Loma Prieta earthquake struck the KGO transmission towers, Herm raced to repair them and get the station back on the air as the local Emergency Broadcast System anchor.

Meanwhile, he and Gladys had three children, Christian, Christina (Tina), and Andrew. In 1960 they bought 10 beautiful, isolated acres of Santa Cruz Mountains wilderness, where he built an amazing earthquake-proof glass house and lived off the grid, way before it was fashionable. Herm and Gladys divorced after 23 years, married each other again, divorced again, and remained friends until her death in 2009, often sharing holidays with the whole family.

Herman met Mary Ferlin in 1982, and they began a sweet companionship of over 30 years. He and Mary travelled the world together, enjoyed weekend evenings watching the Oakland sunset with a nice glass of wine, and danced at the Columbo Club. Mary's family and friends became very dear to Herm, making it difficult to leave them all in 2011 when his health forced a move to Oregon, where Tina could care for him.

Herm loved Trivial Pursuit, Jeopardy, and palindromes: "Do geese see God?," "Live not on evil," and of course, "Satan, oscillate my metallic sonatas." He loved baseball, and worked broadcast for the Oakland Raiders football team. He loved fine music, fine food, and the quiet beauty of nature. Herman was a humble, kind and generous man, a thoughtful and forgiving father, creative and reliable in his work. He was charming and had a great smile and ready

sense of humor.

Herman leaves behind his sister Barbara Code of Tacoma, WA; his children Herman George in NYC, Christian in CA, Tina Taylor in Corvallis, OR, and Andrew in Terra Bonne, OR; his companion Mary in Oakland, CA, and her family of Jim, Phyllis, Carrie, Tom, Rosalee, Peter and Mike, all in CA; and his grandchildren Shaloma, Keturah, Malachi, Micah, Ian, and Allison. He will be missed by these and many more, for the lively and lovely spirit that he lived out so well.

Memorial contributions may be made to Benton Hospice or Doctors Without Borders. There will be a small private memorial.

Tribute Wall

TT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tina Taylor - November 09, 2016 at 10:21 PM

PA

I became acquainted with Herman when I moved in across the hall from him at The Regent. What a delightful gentleman and interesting table companion. We lived in the Bay Area for twenty years, and it was interesting to hear his stories of the on-air stars of that time. Herman is missed. Pat Phillips

Pat - November 12, 2016 at 11:23 AM