

Bob Dorough Brought Delight Around the World and at Home Through His Music

By Aralee Dorough

Robert Lrod Dorough died peacefully at his home in Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania on April 23, 2018, at 12:55 p.m. surrounded by family and friends. He was the devoted husband of Sally Shanley Dorough of Stroudsburg, with whom he shared over 25 years of marriage. He will be remembered by everyone who met him for his enormous love of life and generosity.

Born on Dec. 12, 1923 in the small rural town of Cherry Hill, Arkansas, Bob was the oldest of four children of Robert Lee Dorough and Alma Audrey Lewis. His father had to do many different jobs to make ends meet during the depression, and the family often took in relatives who were down on their luck. Bob's first piano lessons came about because his father allowed the teacher to catch up on her bread delivery payments by giving lessons to his young son, Robert, who loved singing songs learned from the radio.

The family left Arkansas and moved to Plainview in West Texas, where Bob attended high school and one semester at Texas Tech before going into the military in 1943 for basic training. It was in high school that Bob had began playing the clarinet and became enthralled by the magic of playing in an ensemble, announcing to his parents that he wanted to become a musician.

Bob met his first wife at his final army post in Hot Springs, Arkansas. They were married and moved to Denton, Texas, where he studied music at the University of North Texas. In 1951 the couple moved to New York City.

When their marriage ended, Bob began to get work as a pianist and band leader, touring the U.S. and Canada by bus and train, and eventually spending some formative time in Paris and later Los Angeles. But New York City would remain his home base from then on.

This early part of his career was the beginning of Bob's incredible musical output, his first recorded albums as a singer — songwriter — pianist, and the first immortal

songs of an impressive catalog of compositions, both words and music, and his musical associations with some of the most famous names in jazz, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Gil Evans, Stan Getz, to name a few.

Like many other New York musicians Bob soon came to the nearby Poconos to work in the area's thriving country resorts, fell in love with the scenic beauty, and eventually bought a home there. Bob spent a summer of 1960 as pianist at Mount Airy Lodge at the invitation of band leader saxophonist Bob Newman.

Performing at Mount Airy that summer was a dance team, Corine and Ravell (German-born Ruth Corine Oeser and Ralph Ravel Meinert.) Bob and Corine were soon married (Dec. 10, 1960) and had Bob's only child, daughter, Aralee. In 1967 when Aralee was ready to begin school, they purchased a small farm house in Mount Bethel and made their permanent move from New York. The rolling farmland and woodland of Mount Bethel appealed to Bob's Arkansas farm heritage and Corine's childhood summers in rural Germany and soon their 3½ acre place was home to a large vegetable, garden, fruit trees, chickens and all manners of pets. Aralee attended and graduated from the Bangor Area schools.

When Bob first began working on what became known as "Schoolhouse Rock" the Emmy-award winning ABC TV animated series, the elementary school children at his daughter's school were the first to hear what have become Bob Dorough's most universally known and loved songs.

While Schoolhouse Rock, and an eclectic variety of recording work, jingle writing and producing, sustained Bob creatively and financially, he continued to work in his favorite mode: by singing at the piano.

This launched what has amounted to four decades of live performance in places as far away as South Africa and Tokyo. Bob loved to travel, and was often accompanied by his wife, Sally, who he married in 1993. He was an outgoing

man and made lasting friendships where ever he went.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Alma Dorough; one sister, Alma Jean Dorough Hess; one brother, Lewis Edward Dorough; first wife, Jackie Wright; his second wife, the mother of his only child, Ruth Corine Oeser; beloved sister-in-Law, Nelda Early Dorough; and beloved niece, Nelda P. Dorough Cook.

Because of his longevity he was also predeceased my many dear friends and musical associates.

He is survived by his wife, Sally Shanley Dorough; her sons, Peter Wolf and wife, Jessica; grandchildren: Jocelyn and Alexa Wolf; Christopher Wolf and wife, Monique; and Corin, Carly, and Gabrielle Wolf; his daughter, Aralee Dorough and husband, Colin Gatwood; one grandson, Corin Gatwood; one brother, Colonel Aaron Gregory Dorough, U.S. Army (Retired) and wife, Daisy, of Fort Worth, Texas; 12 nieces and nephews; a multitude of great-nieces and nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews; and more friends and fans than we can number.

A viewing was held Saturday, April 28 at the Abeloff Auditorium at East Stroudsburg Universty (Bensing-Thomas Funeral Home, 401 N. Fifth St., Stroudsburg). A celebration of Bob's joyful life was held Sunday, April 29 at Ridgecrest at Stroudsmoor, Stroudsburg.

Note from Editor: Bob's last performance professional performance was held at 'The Back Room,' Comunale's Italian Market banquet hall on April 8th 2018 hosted by Jim and Desire Comunale co-owners of Market. The event was the 45th anniversary of School House Rock & All That Jazz by the legendary Bob Dorough. The sold-out event featured Bob on the piano and his longtime friend Steve Berger on acoustical guitar.



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38TH ANNUAL HISTORIC EASTON HOUSE TOUR

Saturday
May 5th

**Visit 6 Historic Homes
+ 3 Public Spaces
from 10am to 4pm**

Tour Begins at
Riverside Park, Easton
Advance \$25 • Day of Tour \$30

PURCHASE TICKETS
ONLINE OR AT THESE
LOCATIONS

DOWNTOWN EASTON
Bloomie's Flower Shop
Mercantile Home
Mercantile Outpost at EPM

COLLEGE HILL
Giacomo's Market
Eileen Reccia Hair Design

FORKS TOWNSHIP
Something Different Boutique

NAZARETH
Mycalyn's Florals

Presented By

**Lehigh Valley
Health Network**

www.eastonhousetour.com

Annual Fundraiser for Easton Main Street Initiatives A Subsidiary of GEDP



**Ken
Field**

*Owner of Slate
Belt Energy
Services*

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Getting What You Pay For

It's hard not to notice today how everything we buy either gets more expensive or smaller. Food that used to be sold in one lb. packages now is sold in 11 oz. packages at the same price. Why would they do that? One reason is that nobody likes to see a price increase on anything without seeing value increase too. You can't add features to a package of cheese so the reality is that it will just cost more and hopefully taste the same. If the recipe you are using calls for one lb. of cheese will your family know if there is only 11 oz. in it? Do you want to cheat them and take the chance or does the cheating stop with you?

The situation is similar for contractors. Every year prices of equipment increase. The amount varies but it's never a negative number. Some years it is 3% and some years it is 6%. We have no choice but to pass this increase along to the customer in the jobs we do. We don't like it any more than you do but we can't absorb a \$200 increase on a \$5000 job. I'm not a fan of number games and tricky rebate offers so if I give someone a price, it is already my bottom line. Partly because if they accept it and I had 5% added just in case they asked for a discount, and they didn't, I would feel like I ripped them off.

We could eliminate some of the features we build into a system, or use cheaper components, but the value of the system will be less and that's not how we roll. You shouldn't have to know how to do my job to know you are getting a great air conditioning system. Every component we install needs to be there and will work in harmony with all the others to give you 20 years of headache-free operation. I have proven this in the field over the past 30 years. And I see other systems every day that were built to be inexpensive and they have failed very early in their lives.

In reality, we can't even use the least expensive equipment made anymore because it is so bare bones to meet a price point that I have no confidence in its longevity. But one step above that level or two and you have your real performers. You just have to invest a little more money to get a lot more value.

We put 1 lb. of cheese in your recipe, not 11 oz.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

Pump Operations Class

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR – North Bangor fire co-hosted a Pumps 1 and Pumps 2 courses in preparation of receiving their new engine in the coming months. For two weekends North Bangor Fire Co. along with Roseto Fire Co., Plainfield Twp Fire Co., Mt. Bethel Fire Co., Bangor FD, and Wilson FD attended the course.

“The Pump Operations class benefits our members in teaching everyone the latest technology on apparatus and new ways to do our job safer and more efficiently, resulting in a higher level of safety for the residents we all serve” said instructors Merlin



Repsher and Barry Leck. The class was provided through the Northampton County Fire School.

“The Pennsylvania American Water Company was kind enough to let us use their property to conduct the hands-on part of the classes where all participating companies and members were able to flow water and learn different types of pumping operations” said Chief Todd Pinto of North Bangor Fire Co.

“Our Company is excited about our new truck that is being built as we speak and should be delivered in the coming months.” This class was extremely important to us so that we have the knowledge to put the 2018 Pierce Velocity Rescue Pumper to work to protect our community as soon as we receive it.”



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160 Roseto Avenue, Roseto

A few years ago this home was completely renovated from top to bottom. This detached property is priced for the same price as a semi detached home but has newer siding windows, roof and siding. Inside features hardwood floors, modern kitchen and tiled full bath. The lower level has an additional bedroom, plenty of storage, laundry area and walk-out door. Enjoy the huge covered patio and quiet yard. \$110,000
<http://160.KesslerHomeTeam.com>

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