

FAREWELL TO FRED HOBBS

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With sadness we announce that Fred Hobbs died on December 4, 2014. Fred was a retired broadcaster, public relations executive and educator and an active member and leader in the Windsor Gardens Writers Group. His stories have graced the pages of Windsor Life for several years.

“Back in the early days of his career when I used to watch a TV news personality by the name of Fred Hobbs, it never entered my mind that someday we would become friends,” said Marilyn Reeves. “But about 3-1/2 years ago, Fred joined our Windsor Gardens Writers Group. We felt honored to have him with us.”

“Fred was a consummate journalist who quickly established himself in the Writers Group as one of our best writers and emerged as a leader,” said Dennis Knight. “We became friends soon after he joined, and I enjoyed many hours and lunches listening to his stories of life in the trenches of Denver broadcast journalism and public relations.”

“Despite his having achieved a degree of celebrity, Fred always presented himself – and his writing – with a degree of humility,” said Marilyn. “He was always kind and considerate of others. I am having a difficult time accepting the fact that I will no longer be hearing his cheery greeting at our Monday morning meetings...or listening to his amusing stories. His presence at our table will be sorely missed.”

From the funny to the poignant, Fred’s stories illuminate rich moments with friends and family, the famous and not so famous, everyday things as well as singular events and people. If you’d like to revisit Fred’s writing, and perhaps read for the first time some of his other stories, go to <http://www.wg-wg.com/FHobbs/FredHobbsFolio.html>.

A graduate of the University of Colorado School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Fred began his longtime broadcasting and public relations career as a teenage student disc jockey on KFEL-FM in Denver (the first FM radio station in the city) in 1948. During his college days, he worked at KBOL-AM in Boulder, where he eventually became program director. From 1954-1956, Hobbs served in the US Army, as a disc jockey and feature reporter on the American Forces Network’s station in Berlin, Germany. He worked at Denver radio stations KDEN and KLZ and in the news departments of television stations Channel 2 and 7. Later, he formed his own public relations firm, while serving as part-time instructor in the CU Journalism School.

After retirement, Fred retained an involvement in broadcasting by combining “old time radio” with the modern technology of the Internet. He hosted a monthly online program of selected vintage radio network shows, interviews and special features on behalf of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado.

Fred married the late Mary Ellen Rostetter in 1963. The couple has two sons, Lawrence Hobbs in Folsom, California, and Fred Hobbs, Jr., Erie, Colorado; a daughter, Jennifer Shouse, in Denver and five grandchildren.