

Robert Strope by Doug Strope

For those who don't know me, my name is Douglas Strope, Bob's younger brother. I was number seven in a line of nine children so I had the privilege of having older siblings who were good role models. Our family had its share of setbacks, the Great Depression being one of them. Our dad was killed in an industrial accident when Bob was just seventeen. I was too young to comprehend the impact that would have on our family but Bob certainly understood. Our Mother deserves the credit for working wonders keeping our family together and moving forward. She instilled in her children the need to work together and support each other. We were blessed to belong to a church where the pastor presented God's plan of salvation and our responsibility of serving Christ. Bob was well grounded before he left home.

Bob had his share of personal setbacks also. He injured his right eye when he was about six years old and never had full use of it the rest of his life. He also had a hunting accident at sixteen that left him without most of his fingers on his right hand. But none of that stopped him from excelling in his life and business world. Bob was the first in our family to go to college, graduating from Delhi College in 1947 with an associate's degree in construction. After marrying his college sweet heart Allie, he started his building career in Florida. He returned to Vestal, NY to form a partnership with Roger Newton. With a lot of hard work and the fact that the 50's and 60's saw a lot of construction work, the Strope-Newton Company had its share of work. Bob ended up buying out his partner and continued to grow the company. The work moved from single home construction to schools and universities that involved millions of dollars. When New York State had a turn down in the 70's Bob obtained work in Virginia and West Virginia.

No matter how big his company grew he never forgot his roots and his God. His crew bricked this church, parsonage and gym which was a big savings to the church. My brother Jack worked for Bob for a number of years and appreciated Bob's patience and leadership. The Lord blessed Bob with success in the business world and Bob used that position to bless others. He helped many who were struggling with his generosity and building skills. Bob completed many work projects at El Rancho de Paz, now Maple Ridge Ranch through the years. In his retirement years Bob had opportunity to take several missionary service trips to St. Thomas Island, Russia, the Ukraine and Kazakhstan. These were all building projects which Bob enjoyed even as a grandfather. We who knew him were blessed to call him our brother and friend. He will be sorely missed. However, our loss is heavens gain and we can look forward to a reunion in the future.