



## Robert Lorin Hawley

October 25, 1929 - June 10, 2017

Robert Lorin Hawley, noted antiquarian bookseller, specialist in Western Americana, and cofounder of the Oyez Press, passed away on June 10, 2017 after a brief illness.

Hawley was born in Wisconsin. He served in the U.S. Army Enlisted Reserve Corps from 1949 to 1952, achieving the rank of Master Sergeant. Hawley later studied at Black Mountain College, and by 1957, he was working as an antiquarian bookseller at the Holmes Book Company in Oakland, California. In 1964, Hawley and Stevens van Strum founded Oyez Press by soliciting works from noteworthy poets, particularly Beat Generation poets in the San Francisco Bay Area. Oyez published works by David Meltzer, William Everson, Gary Snyder, Charles Olson, Michael McClure, and others. Its award-winning poetry editions were well regarded for the simplicity and elegance of their designs, and at its height in the late 1960s, Oyez was publishing about ten books a year.

In 1978, Hawley opened his own bookstore specializing in Western Americana,

the Ross Valley Book Company, in Albany, California. Hawley's store became a focal point for Bay Area poets, historians, small press publishers, authors, and collectors of Western Americana. The store was especially known for its informal Saturday afternoon gatherings ("bull sessions") of like-minded bibliophiles.

After retiring, Hawley continued to conduct appraisals and consult with

librarians, collectors, and historians.

Among other things, Hawley will be remembered for his quick wit and his fondness for bad puns.

He is survived by his wife, three siblings, five children, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. He will be sorely missed.

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ I Stopped by his store in the 1990's to say hello and Uncle Bob was very generous with his time and sent me home with some wonderful poem books they had printed and a book on the Pioneer's traveling West in the 1850's for the gold rush.

*Our prayers go out to the family,*

*David Adrian nephew*

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**DAVID ADRIAN** - July 28, 2017 at 05:33 PM

LI

“ Carolyn Bowen Hawley was added to the Family Tree.

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**Lisa** - June 20, 2017 at 06:11 PM

LI

“ Dorothy Hawley was added to the Family Tree.

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**Lisa** - June 19, 2017 at 10:12 AM

LI

“ Carolyn Bowen-hawley was added to the Family Tree.

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**Lisa** - June 19, 2017 at 10:12 AM

JH

“ I remember when he and Ralph were coming home to Green Bay from Madison and were in a bad accident in which he went through the windshield of the car. I made many trips to the local drug stores to get him malts because his jaw was broke.

*I was in middle school at the time. He graduate from High School when I was still in grade school. Both of us attended East High and his High School teachers told me they remembered him fondly.*

*I remember him as a very handsome young man.*

*He spent many of his army years in the USO program.*

*When our parents divorced he spent a year on a farm in Stockbridge, WI with Aunt Laura and Uncle Bill. He was very happy to reunite with the family in Green Bay. They would have liked him to stay on the farm.*

*Bob and I could and did discuss books that I had read as a child and he was familiar with even now.*

*My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.*

*Jeanne Hawley-Pomeroy*

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**Jeanne Hawley-Pomeroy** - June 16, 2017 at 03:40 PM