

Robert (Bob) L. Grandt, 1945 - 2014, passed away after a long illness on December 17, 2014 in Manteca, CA. Robert is survived by his wife Betty, his brother David, and sisters Phyllis and Elizabeth. Robert was born on January 23, 1945 in Oakland, CA and grew up in the city. His father, Clifford Grandt, worked at the University of California, Berkeley in the Physics department designing laboratory equipment and measurement devices. Both Cliff and Bob's older brother Dave (now President of Grandt Line Inc., Concord, CA) were avid rail enthusiasts, especially of narrow gauge railroads so Bob was well versed in narrow gauge before he ever graduated from High School.

After finishing high school, Robert served with the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam, serving as an Avionics technician at Chu Lai, just west of Da Nang. After the war, Robert returned to Oakland and worked for Western Electric for his entire career. He was a skilled switch installer and was a skilled fiber optics installer -- working all over the US, as well as in several countries overseas.

Robert was always active in the hobby and played a role in the start-up of Grandt Line by packaging plastic parts and selling them under his own name long before most modelers were working in plastic. His brother David took over the business when Robert went into the Marine Corps in 1963, changing the name to 'Grandt Line.' Bob was well connected in the hobby and after returning from the Marines, started his own company, R/Robb Ltd. in partnership with Russ Simpson. Their first two kits were The HO scale Volcano Assay office and the Jacks Cabin water tank. Cliff Grandt did the Tooling for the plastic parts and Charley Trombley cut some of the wood for the Assay office. Russ Simpson was the first R in R/ROBB. Later, in partnership with John Parker, R/Robb brought out some of the first plastic kits in HO<sub>n</sub>3 (the D&RGW drop bottom Gondola and the Wheel & Tie Car -- later available through Grandt Line).

Bob was probably best known for his remarkable Narrow Gauge Pictorial Series of books which, when the first volume was published in 1981, was the first book of its kind to emphasize full-page photos of narrow gauge equipment to help the modeler create more accurate models. There were thirteen volumes of the Narrow Gauge Pictorial plus some additional books in the same format published under the R-Robb name. In later years, Bob acquired an extensive collection of photographs which he sold directly to modelers at the various conventions. Bob was a strong supporter of the National Narrow Gauge Conventions, having attended every one until this past year, 2014, when his health kept him from coming to Overland Park. He will be profoundly missed by his wife, his family, and his many friends in the hobby.