

welfare of many of Bob's students, and it was a common occurrence to find an extra body or two sprawled out in the living room in the morning. One student that the family became especially fond of was Carl Anderson, who arrived on the scene in 1967 and adopted the Solanos (and who the Solanos adopted).

Bob taught music until his retirement in 1990. He became especially interested in Jazz and African-American music, and became somewhat of an expert in both areas. He was also interested in the nation of India, and made numerous trips to the provinces there. Bob was a gentle, non-violent man. He was also often withdrawn, and left most of the child rearing to Arlene.

Stiff, stilted solos loaded with borrowed idioms may fool the Welk-Lombardo crowd, but they don't fool the "cats" in the combo. Do not attempt to use every one of the five ideas in one solo--use only that structural apparatus offered by the instructors which seems to fit your style, the mood of the composition you are improvising upon, and the combo that you are a part of--let the imagination flow easily--there will be no necessity for faking or bluffing.

Type-written class notes from Bob's class on Improvisation and Jazz, taught in the mid-1960's.

Arlene, who loved being a mother and housewife, went back to school for her teaching degree. When the youngest, Mary Beth, was 3, she finished her degree and completed her student teaching assignments. She eventually wound up teaching 6th grade at Laurens Central School, a few miles from Oneonta. From all accounts, Arlene was an exceptionally gifted and devoted teacher.

Arlene joined Bob in retirement in 1991. Although they had a relatively brief time before their deaths in 1994 and early 1995, these retirement years were among their very best. They would walk together, golf together, and travel together.

Arlene made a special effort to see all of their children and grandchildren on a frequent basis, although they were thoroughly

spread across the United States (literally from coast to coast). She was a voracious reader, loved crossword puzzles, and was a truly fine Scrabble player. Her typical casual outfit was a sweatshirt, as shown in the "Super Grandma" sweatshirt to the left. She had a competitive spirit, and often was able to win events such as



Bob on one of his India trips



Arlene in one of her sweatshirts