

# Community says thanks to a great Bob

**C**an we ever have too many Bobs? Not when the last name is Moser. Proof of that statement came — again — on Jan. 31 when a host of people touched by the legend that is Bob Moser packed the dining area of Gaiser Hall at Clark College.

“You can never have too much Bob,” read an inscription on a T-shirt at the Palm Springs convention in mid-January of people whose name is Bob Moser. That convention — the 12th annual gathering of the Robert Moser Society — was organized by the society founder, Bob Moser of Vancouver. Eleven Bob Mosers and nine Moser wives showed up.

Desert Sun writer Darrell Smith opened his Jan. 19 column like this: “Wichita Bob was here. So was Albuquerque Bob. Cripple Creek, Colo., Bob was here, and Marysville, Kan. Bob — he’s Vancouver, Wash., Bob’s cousin. And the newest Bob showed up, too, 88-year-old Hemet Bob.”

To say Vancouver Bob has led an active life is an understatement. It’s important to note that his wife of 52 years, Mary Lou, has been a strong influence. Sometimes, she’s toned down Bob’s outbursts of enthusiasm. Once, in what might have been a life-threatening heart situation, she insisted on moving him from a Portland hospital to what she decided would be better care in Seattle.

She has been the only known “governor” on the Bob Moser “engine,” one that has run at full speed for many years.

Bob served Clark College for 32 years, from 1960 to 1992, in public relations, alumni activities, student programs and college advancement work. He’s sparked many fund-raising campaigns for Clark. The Chime Tower is a prime example.

His was a familiar face around town as he stumped hard for Clark.

He was a frequent visitor to the newsroom of The Columbian, dispensing news tips and ideas about the college and the community in equal doses.

**TOM  
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Bob, with his ear-to-ear grin, was always welcome. When I was editor, we organized a fake fire drill for pests. After five minutes, my phone would ring.

"You say there's a fire in the pressroom? I'll be right there. Sorry, Joe. Gotta go."

That call never came when Bob was in the office.

## Picking up the pace in retirement

Bob retired from Clark but never slowed down.

By this time, he was heavily involved as one of three commissioners of the Port of Vancouver.

At the end of three terms and 18 years as commissioner last Dec. 31, Bob had plenty to show for his time.

"I've tried to be a community advocate and a port watchdog. A lot of other things grew out of that," he told *Columbian* business editor Julia Anderson for a story Dec. 13. He helped raise the level of port business to public awareness, and led the effort that resulted in the port sale of a 520-acre Ridgeport dairy property, which expanded the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

He also worked to increase port business and employment.

Long before his commissioner tenure, Bob founded the summer Seafarers Center International Festival at Esther Short Park, and was its master of ceremonies for 35 years.

He also was a founder of the Clark County Track Club (now Clark County Running Club), which promotes health for runners.

It was evident on Jan. 31 that Bob Moser has helped, motivated and inspired many people. Former and present Clark College deans, administrators and faculty paraded to the stage to pay tribute to Bob, starting with Wayne Branch, college president, and including retired administrator Lynn Degerstedt. Four Vancouver mayors — Royce Pollard (current), Bruce Hagensen, Jim Justin and Bryce Seidl — donated \$1,000 for a scholarship to honor Bob.

Just for fun, dinner patrons formed the northern chapter of the Bob Moser Society, stood up and held face masks with Bob's picture on them.

It was a night of love, affection and a few tears for Moser, one of the town's best role models for community service.

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