

Peggy Williams, Denver Rose Society's 2018 President is sharing this beautiful post from Rod Franklin, son of Royal Franklin.

*"Royal's passing last month saddens many rosarian's along the Front Range who knew and loved him. Royal's name was synonymous with Mile Hi Rose Feed, a product he pioneered almost forty years ago. As you will read below, there were many other facets to this great man; he will be sorely missed."*

From Rod Franklin:

A man who grew up in the farming community of Sterling, Colorado, but who always went his own way and raised his five kids on Beethoven, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Bach instead of country and western music.

A Master Rosarian who did so much to bring the beauty of roses into this world when he invented Mile Hi Rose Feed, a rose fertilizer specifically tailored for Colorado soils and well known up and down Colorado's front range for decades.

A man who was always a biker at heart, but of the loving family-man variety and not the tough-guy variety. A man who kicked off his lifetime of adventures on a huge Harley Davidson Electra Glide way back in the late 1960s, with a trip down to the Panama Canal, and followed that with additional bike trips all over Alaska and the United States. A man who still continued to own of those giant Harley Davidsons in his late 70s.

A traveler extraordinaire who led his wife Dollee around the planet time and time again, visiting more places than I can even recall. Even at age 80, he felt compelled to visit the base camp in Nepal where climbers begin their final ascent to the summit of Mount Everest. Three years later at age 83 he met the Dalai Llama in Dharamsala, India. Dad loved to take lengthy trips, like the one they took down the Yangtze River in China, and another across the length of Russia on the Trans Siberian Railway. He climbed Ayers Rock in central Australia. He climbed Mount Sinai in Egypt. They visited the rock-cut city of Petra in Jordan. Dad petted lions in Zimbabwe. He traveled all over Europe with one of his friends to visit the homes of classical music composers.

An early riser and outdoorsman who lived his whole life in beautiful Colorado, but was totally addicted to the Grand Canyon, hiking it with friends and family more than 25 times in the 80s and 90s.

An old-school publisher who worked for years out of his basement to print business materials for Denver area clients, using an offset printing press once owned by the Denver Broncos.

A brilliant chess player who read books on the subject, served as president of the Colorado Chess Association, and used to greet the grandmasters from Russia and elsewhere when they arrived in Denver for national and international chess tournaments.

A self-taught carpenter, electrician, welder and plumber who built his own garage and wired his own house.

Love you always, Dad.

[Photos](#)

