

## PERSONALITIES IN PERSPECTIVE

by Bill Zulker

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### BOB HOPE

Larger than life, Bob Hope was one of the best known personalities of the Twentieth Century.



J. Willard Marriott and Bob Hope – May 1, 1985 – Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne, PA

Born in Eltham, England on May 29, 1903, Bob Hope became a citizen of the world through his varied career in vaudeville, Broadway shows, radio, television, and his comedic entertainment of military troops during and after World War II. His humor kept the world smiling and laughing even during life's most difficult and trying times.

My wife Isabel and I remember the several times we saw Bob Hope at the Valley Forge (PA) Music Fair many years ago in his solo appearances in the theater- in- the-round. As he walked down the aisle from his dressing room to the stage, he had hardly opened his mouth as the audience began their incessant

laughter. What fun, and what an enjoyable evening. Good humor, non-offensive, and appropriate for all ages.

Bob also appeared each year at the nearby Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, PA where the Commanding General Willard Pearson (Ret.) had established the Bob Hope Five-Star Award presented annually to outstanding citizens, well-known celebrities, political leaders, and clergy personalities. Apparently, the General and Hope had met while Pearson was still in active military service, and continued their friendship in this manner.

Living at the time just a few blocks from the Academy, I became a spectator at those celebratory events. I knew that Bob would first appear at the General's residence across the street from the Academy parade grounds entrance and the Dining Hall where a luncheon was to be held. After a few minutes in the General's home the two would then cross the street, walk down the pathway and enter the hall.

Positioning myself along the pathway I was then able to take the photograph seen here of the dignitaries with my Stereo Realist stereoscopic camera. Later one evening, when we attended one of Bob's appearances at the Music Fair I requested his autograph on the stereograph I had taken. Interestingly enough, he signed both sides, to my delight.

Other pictures I obtained were of Congressman Curt Weldon, First Lady Barbara Bush, President Gerald Ford, hotel magnet J. Willard Marriott, His Eminence John Cardinal Krol, Senator Rick Santorum, and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Bob Hope was one of the several well-known celebrities that helped advertize the Stereo Realist camera during the 1940's in Life magazine and others. Other promoters of this new camera included actress Ann Southern, dancer Fred Astaire, Cecil B. de Mille, John Wayne and even General (President) Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Bob Hope passed away in 2003 at the age of 100 and is buried at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery in Los Angeles, CA with his wife Dolores who died in 2011 at the age of 102.

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Bill Zulker, a Presbyterian minister, was one of the early members of the National Stereoscopic Association in the 1970's. He was a speaker at the 1980 NSA Convention in St. Louis, MO, was the Eastern Regional Director of the NSA for several years, served as the Curator of the Oliver Wendell Stereoscopic Research Library when it was housed at Eastern University in Wayne, PA, and is the author of several articles that appeared in Stereo World. Before retirement he was the Assistant to the President at Eastern University. He is the author of the biography John Wanamaker: King of Merchants published in 1993. He and Isabel, his wife for sixty-nine years, live in Richland, PA.