

# Robert ROSSER, JR.

*Class of 1959*

Quickly, now: Name a Broken Arrow High School Great Graduate who grew up in a log cabin.

If you answered Bob – or more accurately today, Dr. Robert A. Rosser, Jr. – you are correct.

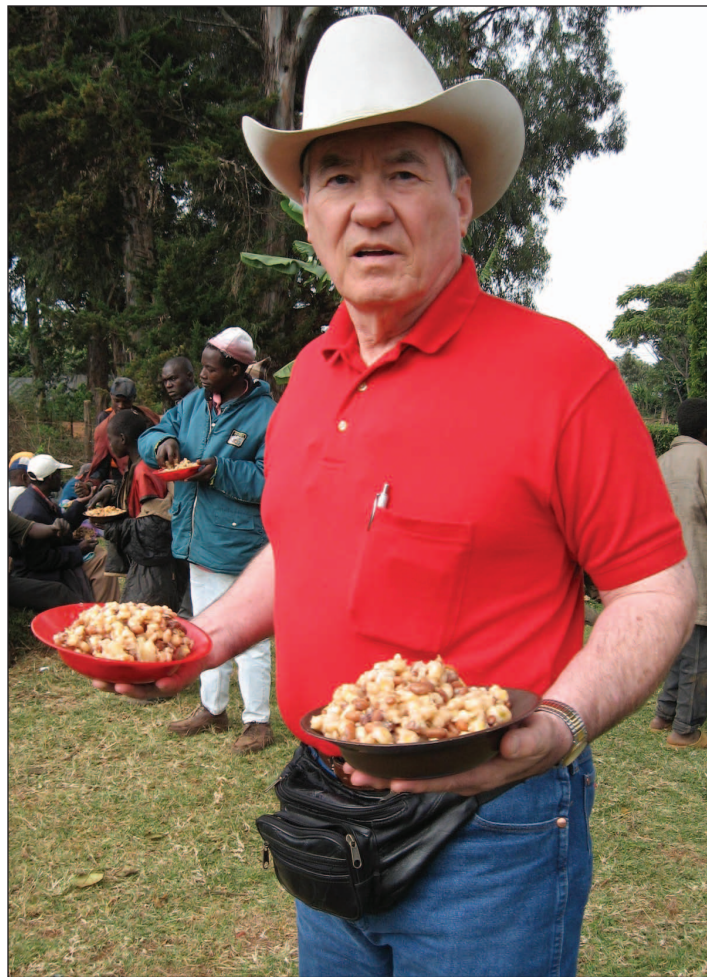
His grandfather came to this area by covered wagon in 1903 and purchased his own farm at 111th Street and Elm Place. His father, Robert Rosser, Sr. was a farmer, mechanic and according to his son the hardest-working man he had ever seen.

The oldest of seven children, Bob grew up in a log home at 121st and Lynn Lane. It was on a creek and he recalls he and his brothers were like “wild Indians wearing breech cloths” and running up and down that creek bank.

Representing the class of 1959, Rosser completed all 12 years in the Broken Arrow Public Schools system. It was during this time he met Ann Highfill who was later to become his wife and worldwide travel companion.

Rosser’s love of agriculture was shown through leadership of the Future Farmers of America chapter. One of his proudest moments, he said, was earning the Oklahoma Junior Master Farmer Degree in statewide FFA competition. Former BAPS Superintendent Dr. Clarence Oliver was editor of the Broken Arrow Ledger during those days and had a number of opportunities to witness and report on the lad’s exploits.

It was obvious “he was on his way to receiving dozens of awards



in his college and university years and even more in his business ventures,” Oliver said.

After high school, Rosser became the first member of his family to attend college, earning both bachelor and master’s degrees from Oklahoma State University. That was followed by a PhD degree in animal nutrition from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Rosser’s resume is filled with a variety of career path shifts ranging from Bible salesman, to corporate employee; oil lease operator to college professor, rancher and real estate salesman.

While his business cards changed frequently, one unwavering aspect of his life was a love for youth athletics. A highlight was the opportunity to coach his daughter’s under 14 soccer team to a Green Country championship at Skelly Stadium in 1981.

An ordained deacon in the Baptist Church, Rosser found his passion for mission work taking on a far greater role in his life. Classmate Tom Gann applauds his friend’s current position as president of Bridges International Development Inc. and marvels at the continuing outings he and Ann undertake in such unsettled areas as Kenya, Ecuador and Swaziland.

Fellow Great Graduate Nick Aston says Rosser’s “lifetime accomplishments are almost overwhelming for a country boy born and raised here in Broken Arrow.” Rosser says simply he feels blessed to be living the American dream with a raft of awards from a highly diverse career, a beautiful wife, two loving kids, three grandchildren and two great granddaughters.