

FRANK B. KOLLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Latest News from Manitowish Waters Library



Who was Frank Berkley Koller? Part 2

by Janelle Kohl, Librarian

Did you read Part 1 about Frank Berkley Koller? Just as a refresher, Frank was born at the Tomahawk hospital on 3/27/47, a Dr. Kate baby. He is the son of Frank and Betty Koller and spent much of his young years with baby sitter, Mary (Knopp) Scheld because his parents were building their cranberry marsh.

In this Part 2 write up, you'll learn a little more of Frankie. Again with the help of Sarah Krembs, Mary (Knopp) Scheld (Frankie's baby-sitter) Cindy Burns, (Frankie's cousin) and Jody Brunner Miller, this is some of what

we found: Mary remembers, "Frankie was 11 when he was the ring bearer for my wedding. He will always hold a very special place in my heart."

Frankie's only cousin Cindy, who was 8 years younger than Frankie, says "He taught me how to fish and he was good at it. We went fishing one night and he caught over 20 Walleyes." Mary recalls fishing with Frankie, too. "I too went walleye fishing with Frankie. We fished deep and at dusk. He would blow up the night crawlers with air using a little plastic bottle with a sharp nozzle. I also know he loved to hunt and had many awards for his marksmanship. He was a skilled bow hunter, too."



Cindy knew of other activities Frankie enjoyed. "Frankie was an excellent water skier. He skied with the Manitowish Waters Skiing Skeeters. Frankie got involved with managing bees.

They used them to pollinate the cranberries....and to help other farmers pollinate their crops."

In Part 1 of Frankie's story, do you recall he had a pet skunk, named Petunia?

Well, Jody Brunner Miller remembers some fun during high school. "Frankie had a little red volkswagon where he and friends,

at least 6-8 of us, would pack in this car, drive to the dump and chase skunks, with the car. We never got sprayed."

Did you know that Frank Jr. had a great passion of his father's?

Car collecting.

Cindy says, "Collecting cars was also in his blood. He bought an old Buick that had been built for, and used by a radio station. It was very large." This Buick, possibly a 1938 model, is still around!

Thank you to Mary, Cindy and Jody for sharing these fond memories of Frankie.

(Top Picture: Frankie holding his pet skunk Petunia.

Bottom Picture: Frankie his senior year of high school.)

Enjoy some home movies of the Koller family. Follow the link below:

youtube.com/watch?v=YmzfgaH6Oz8

Thank you to Mike and Barb Bartling for digitizing this film.

