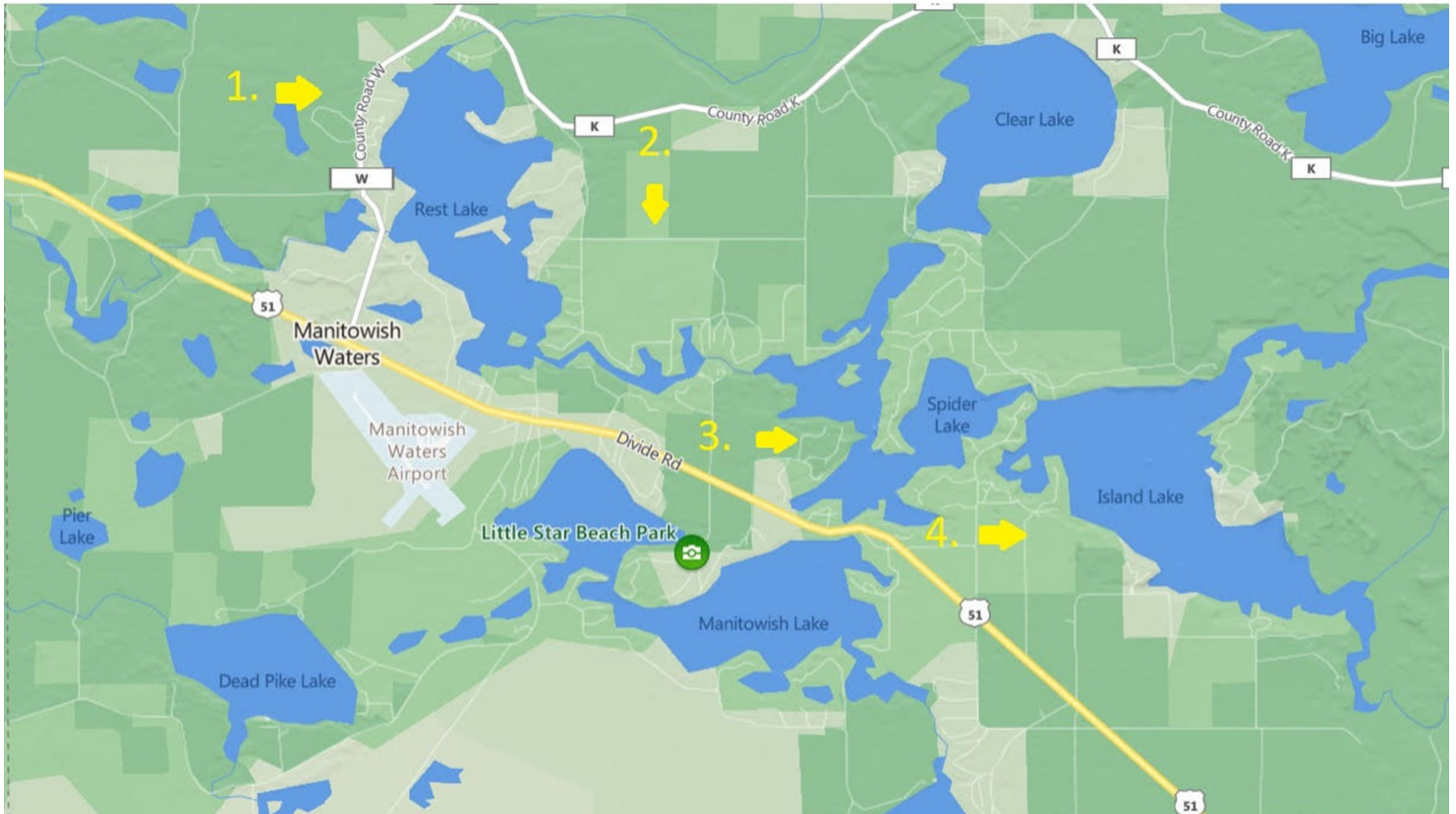




# MANITOWISH WATERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

June 2022

## To The Dump, To The Dump, To The Dump, Dump, Dump!



**Back in the day, taking the garbage to the dump wasn't a chore; it was a celebration!** And we would often sing the above headline to the tune of The William Tell Overture.

In this issue, we take a look back at the dump, or as we refer to it today, the transfer station, which became the place to take our trash in the mid-1980s. Before then, there were four dumps in town.

Residents may have had their own names for the various dumps, but for our look back, we will refer to them as follows. In the map, **dump #1 was the Town Dump**, the site of today's transfer station. **Dump #2 was the West Fawn Lake Dump**. **Dump #3 was the Deer Path Dump**, and **#4 was the Town Line Dump**.

So, enjoy some memories and photos when a trip to the dump was like going to the outdoor movie theater.

**MWHS YouTube Channel and Podcasts at your fingertips here!**

# A Word From Our President



**Jim Bokern**

## Greetings!

It was a long winter for the Northwoods, but the promise of another great summer delivers joy throughout our community. The Manitowish Waters Historical Society is excited to share some updates and opportunities to explore the history of the Northwoods. For the love of Manitowish

Waters, we dedicate our efforts to preserve and share the fun stories that capture the spirit of our community.

A new Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) marker describing Dillinger's shootout and memorializing fallen FBI agent Carter Baum enters the final stages of planning. For a couple of years, the Town of Manitowish Waters, the MWHS, the FBI Agents Association, the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the WHS have been collaborating on determining size, location and content of the sign. After a great deal of research, the largest historical marker available will be placed next to the town hall, while the MWHS and FBI professional groups work on the sign's content. Stay tuned for future updates.

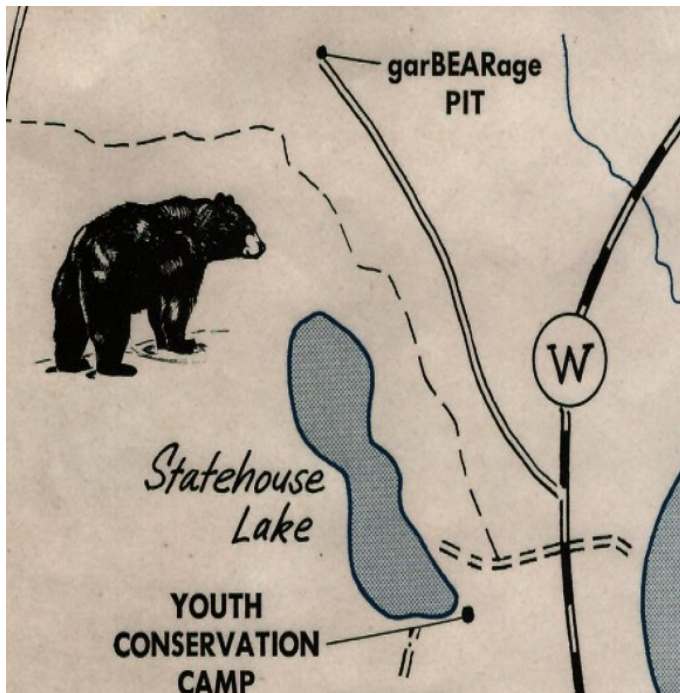
I am excited about our newsletter topic on the MW dumps. As I conduct presentations throughout our community, town dump stories always encourage folks to share their personal experiences. When I began to research and gather documents for our newsletter

team, I discovered two 1964 pictures my grandmother took of the "Trashmen Trio." These images are now archived online for anyone to access, and you'll see them in this issue. I would encourage our members and friends to explore their family's records and photo albums, and consider digitally sharing copies of your collections to help build greater historic insights. We have been fortunate that many families have the sharing spirit, and their sharing really make our presentations more accurate and effective. You can share your stories [here](#).

This year we have even more pontoon tours, hikes, driving tours, presentations and special events for you to enjoy. Check out our [calendar of events](#) and plan to join us a couple of times. Recorded MWHS Zoom "events" can be great for family gatherings and excursions. For instance, on the MWHS YouTube channel, there are two Zoom virtual pontoon tours for [Rest Lake](#) as well as [Alder and Wild Rice lakes](#). I would recommend using your cell phones to follow along on our boat rides or view the YouTube video before you tour these lakes to enhance your family experience. You could even make a game out of the trip and challenge your children and/or grandchildren to find destinations like Camp Ontonagon on Alder Lake. We want you to use our historical resources to have fun and share our great stories!

Wishing everyone a great summer.

Best,



## MWHS Board of Directors

**Jim Bokern** President - [jimkb@aol.com](mailto:jimkb@aol.com)

**John Hanson** Vice President

**Nancy LaPorte** Secretary

**Barbara Bartling** Treasurer

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**Ruth Gardner** Board Member

**Janelle Kohl** Board Member

**Kay Krans** Board Member

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**John McFarland** Board Member Emeritus

Any questions or comments on our newsletter can be directed to Jean Bettenhausen at [jmcbett@gmail.com](mailto:jmcbett@gmail.com) or Frank DiLeonardi at [fdileonardi@icloud.com](mailto:fdileonardi@icloud.com).



# Remembering The Trashmen Trio



The Trashmen Trio taking a break. From left to right, **Ted Ferris**, **Don Joseph** and **Will Byram**, who is showing off their Coat of Arms on the truck's door.

By Jody Miller

**Ted Ferris**, **Don Joseph** and **Will Byram** grew up spending carefree summers at family cabins in Manitowish Waters. As teenagers in the mid-1960s, their days of endless water skiing and boating together were threatened when Don found out he was expected to work the following summer at the family business in Chicago. This simply was unacceptable to the three friends. After a lot of negotiation and pleading, someone had the idea for the three boys to create a trash pickup service in Manitowish Waters.

One of **Mr. Joseph's** mechanics located a dump truck for sale in South Chicago for \$600. The three families agreed to front the money, the truck was purchased, driven north, and in the summer of 1963, The Trashmen Trio was born. **Nadine Kovar** designed and painted their logo on the truck doors, and "**We**

**Haul All**" on the front of the truck. Ted and Don were both 16 and had driver licenses, but Will was only 15 that summer.

The boys solicited business from their parents' friends and Skiing Skeeter families for pickups on scheduled days. Garbage cans were emptied into the back of the truck; when it was full, they went to the dump, backed up to the pit, and tipped the trash out. This worked fine until they landed a new account – Deer Park Lodge – and discovered the resort trash included liquid waste, which created a huge mess in the truck.

They also hauled brush, yard cleanup and gravel. Will remembers hauling a truckload of gravel that caused a blow out of two rear tires as they turned the corner at Dietz's. Both Ted and Don recall the day a bee flew through the driver's open window. Ted was driving, didn't like bees, opened the door, and jumped out while

the truck was in motion, so Don slid across the bench seat, grabbed the wheel and stopped the truck!

At the end of the first summer, they broke even and reimbursed their families the \$600.

In the summer of '64, they had good intentions for daily pickups, but the desire to ski often got in the way of business, and the schedule was reduced to a few days per week. They all recollect earning enough money to buy gas and beverages, and they had a great summer.

The Trashmen Trio proudly note they held great parties. Sometimes the parties were in the back of the truck filled with hay, other times at their homes when parents were away and older siblings obliged by purchasing beverages.

The Trashmen Trio existed for only two summers but they have not been forgotten!



**Tom Joseph:** "In mid-July 1967, a 16-year-old girl in blue polka-dotted culottes got off the Chicago & Northwestern train in Manitowish. I was there to pick her up because my cousin, who she was visiting, didn't have her license yet. The culottes girl was short, blond, and oh so cute.

"I was interested, which meant – gulp – I needed to ask her out. But where? At least that part was easy: the dump, of course. Sundown came, and we caravanned over with a couple of dateless friends. In a tree on the far side of the nearly full pit were two bear cubs – cuteness incarnate. One of the guys, who shall remain nameless, in an amazing show of teenaged stupidity, walked over and shook the tree. ROAR! Out came mama bear. The shortest distance from the tree to the car was straight through the pit, and that is exactly the path my friend took. I can still picture the cans flying in his wake. We laughed. Really hard.

"Fast forward to today. **Jeanne** is not so blond anymore but still cute as bear cubs and as fiercely protective of her young'uns as that mama bear. We've been married 49 years. Thanks to the MW dump, I must have made a favorable impression."

**Kay Krans:** "My brother, **Roger Christensen**, told me that our dad used to take a flat board and slather it with honey before he took my mom, brother, sister and me to the dump. He would jump out of the car and pull that sweet, tasty board out of the trunk and place it close to the car so we could get a great view of the bears as they used their noses to locate their sweet treat."

**Ralph Hewitt** (retired forester, Trout Lake Station): "...what fires occurred mostly were from local town dumps because they would burn their garbage. That is what they did and how they got rid of it. Around those dumps when that fire would break out, we were called to put it out. It was excru-

ciatingly painful to fight fire because after previous fires, the blackberries got as big as your thumb and (the thorns) about took the pants right off of you. So, those were difficult fire control experiences." (From an interview with Ralph which can be seen in it's entirety [here](#).)



*Join us for an Evening to Celebrate our*  
**Leaders of Historic Preservation**  
**June 6, 2022**  
**5 pm to 7 pm**

At the North Lakeland Discovery Center

*Drinks and Appetizers will be Available; Donations Appreciated*





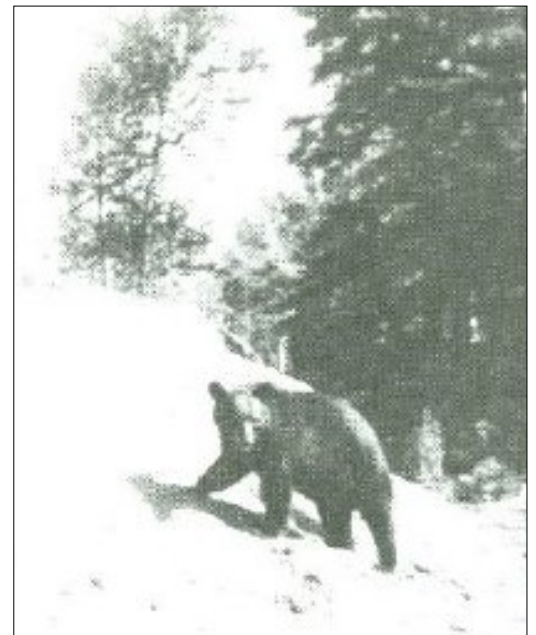
Three little ones beg for food.

**Jean Bettenhausen:** "My cousin **Sue Barber**, my brother **Pat**, some others and I were sent to the Fawn Lake Road dump in the early evening to take the garbage. We were already a bit scared (okay me) about doing this at night. We saw no bears at the time, but we quickly dumped the garbage and jumped back into the car. Whoops, no keys! Sue had accidentally locked them in the trunk! Yikes. Pat and I were sent back to get keys at the cottage--not an easy feat in the dark. One of the neighbors happened to be driving by and gave us a ride. It all turned out okay and no one was mauled that I remember."



**Kelli Straubel:** "My dad, **Ray**, owned Straubel Disposal, and I often rode along with him to the dump when I was a little girl. I liked to go because the guys who worked there were always nice to me and funny. I also liked to watch the eagles."

**Kay Krans:** "The announcement usually came just before bedtime that we were going to the dump on North Townline Road. I remember my mom and dad making sure my siblings and I had our p.j.s on, and dad made popcorn for us to take along. We went to the dump, got our spots and all the cars kept the lights off until someone heard noises. All the lights went on at once, and usually there were the bears and sometimes skunks as well. We all whispered and giggled with happiness while we ate our popcorn. We watched and soon began to fall asleep, and when we arrived home, dad would carry us one by one into the cottage and on to our beds."







**Michael LaPorte:** "Back in the early '80s when I was a kid (about 11 or 12), a car was discovered in early spring submerged in Stone Lake with its deceased driver inside. The car was taken to the town dump where the transfer station is now. **George Gordon** and I asked George's mom to drive us to the dump to see the car. The smell was unforgettable."



This photo was taken by **Leo and Marie Darin**, who were on their first date in 1956. Thanks to their daughter, **Julie Bierter**, for sharing with the MWHS. You can share your stories [here](#).

**Nancy Burns:** "When I was young, my family came from Wausau to Manitowish as often as possible to visit my grandparents, **Ann and John Nutter**. My three brothers, my sister and I loved spending time with them and having fun in the Northwoods from many trips to

Sandy Beach to enjoying the Manitowish River. One of my favorite memories was going to the dump in Manitowish Waters to watch bears coming in to check out the garbage pits. My grandmother loved doing this with us, and occasionally in the evening, we would drive over

to Manitowish Waters, sit in the car and wait for a bear to appear. I don't recall ever going there when we weren't rewarded with a bear sighting. It was a true Northwoods' experience."

**Jody Miller:** "**Ruthie Gardner** reminded me of this story. **Jack Feiereisen** and **Henry Voss** dressed in wet suits, masks and snorkels, and climbed down into the dump pit early one evening. They waited until several cars had lined up around the pit and before the bear came out, and then climbed slowly up, out of the garbage. It was quite startling, and they were very lucky the bear hadn't yet arrived!"

**Marlene LaPorte:** "We went to the town dump on W a lot! That was our entertainment. We used to go to watch the bears, and when the tourists starting coming, then we went to watch the tourists try to feed the bears!"

# Frances Badger Paintings now at Koller Library



Recently, some Northwoods history made its way south to the **St. Charles Public Library in Illinois**. Pictured are two original works of art by local artist and muralist, [Frances Badger](#) (1904-1997). In the early part of the 1900s, her parents owned an estate on Big Lake, which was considered part of the Manitowish Waters region in Vilas County at the time. Inspiration for Badger's art work came from her time at the estate. The paintings here depict the wild rice harvest that occurred yearly on Rice Creek between Big Lake and Round Lake. Through much work by the Manitowish Waters Historical Society, and in cooperation with the Frank B. Koller Memorial Library, Friends of the Koller Library and the St. Charles Public Library,

prints of the pictures were obtained and are now in the Koller Library.

In thanks to the St. Charles Library, MWSH board member **Kay Krans** traveled there to do a presentation about Badger.

Pictured are (from left to right):

**Denise Blaszyński**, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator of the St. Charles Library;

**Janelle Kohl**, Frank B. Koller Memorial Library Director and MWSH board member;

**Kay Krans**, MWSH and Friends of Koller Library board member;

**Beth Dahlmeier**, Friends of the Koller Library President.



*Mark your Calendar*  
**Camp Mercer Trail Celebration**

**June 22, 2022**  
**5 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**River's Edge**



# MW Historical Society 2022 Calendar

For more information  
go to: [https://  
www.mwhistory.org/events/](https://www.mwhistory.org/events/)

<p><b>JUNE</b></p> <p><b>Leaders of Historic Preservation</b> 6/6, 5 to 7 pm Discovery Center</p> <p><b>Dillinger Pontoon Tour Including Lunch at noon</b> 6/10, 9:30 am to noon or 1 to 3:30 pm Little Bohemia Lodge</p> <p><b>Histories of Spider &amp; Island Lakes by Pontoon</b> 6/15, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Blue Bayou</p> <p><b>Rest Lake's Amazing History by Pontoon</b> 6/22, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Discovery Center</p> <p><b>Camp Mercer Celebration</b> 6/22, 5 to 6:30 pm River's Edge</p> <p><b>MW Historic Hike and Pub Crawl</b> 6/23, 3 to 7 pm Koller Park</p> <p><b>Mysteries of Alder &amp; Wild Rice by Pontoon</b> 6/24, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Launch Site TBD</p>	<p><b>JUNE</b></p> <p><b>Rest Lake's Amazing History by Pontoon</b> 6/29, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Discovery Center</p> <p><b>JULY</b></p> <p><b>Manitowish &amp; Little Star Lakes Tour by Pontoon</b> 7/1, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Blue Bayou</p> <p><b>Pine Lawn Cemetery Walk</b> 7/5, 5 to 7 pm Pine Lawn Cemetery</p> <p><b>Mysteries of Alder &amp; Wild Rice Lakes by Pontoon</b> 7/7, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Launch Site TBD</p> <p><b>Mysteries of Stone, Fawn, &amp; Clear Lakes by Pontoon</b> 7/11, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Clear Lake Boat Landing</p> <p><b>Legends of Manito Island &amp; Pontoon Tour of Manitowish Lake</b> 7/13, 5 to 7 pm, 7:30 to 9:30 pm Blue Bayou</p>	<p><b>JULY</b></p> <p><b>Dillinger Pontoon Tour Including Lunch at noon</b> 7/14, 9:30 am to noon or 1 to 3:30 pm Little Bohemia Lodge</p> <p><b>Turtle Flambeau Flowage by Pontoon</b> 7/18, 11 am to 4 pm Discovery Center</p> <p><b>Sunset Tour of Turtle Flambeau Flowage by Pontoon</b> 7/18, 5:30 to 9 pm Springstead Boat Landing</p> <p><b>Histories of Spider &amp; Island Lakes by Pontoon</b> 7/21, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Blue Bayou</p> <p><b>AUGUST</b></p> <p><b>Dillinger Pontoon Tour Including Lunch at noon</b> 8/24, 9:30 am to noon 1 to 3:30 pm Little Bohemia Lodge</p> <p><b>Big Lake Investigation Pontoon</b> 8/26, 9 am to noon, 1 to 4 pm Discovery Center</p>	<p><b>AUGUST</b></p> <p><b>Mysteries of Stone, Fawn and Clear Lakes by Pontoon</b> 8/31, 9 to 11 am, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or 2 to 4 pm Clear Lake Boat Landing</p> <p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p><b>Dillinger Pontoon Tour Including Lunch at noon</b> 9/8, 9:30 am to noon or 1 to 3:30 pm Little Bohemia Lodge</p> <p><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <p><b>Forest History Driving Tour</b> 10/7, 11:30 am to 4:30 pm Discovery Center</p> <p><b>Time Traveler Trail: Trout Lake to Palette Lake</b> 10/13, 1 to 3:30 pm North Trout Lake Boat Landing</p> <p><b>Thank you to the YCC Driving Tour</b> 10/18, 1 to 4 pm Discovery Center</p> <p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p><b>Plum Lake Hemlocks Hike</b> 11/5, 10:30 to 5 pm Meeting TBD</p>
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**Don't Forget to RENEW your 2022 dues!**  
**Membership & Donations**

## Donations

Donations can be sent to:  
**Manitowish Waters Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 100  
Manitowish Waters WI 54545

**MW Historical Society is an approved 501c3  
charitable organization, and contributions  
may be tax deductible. Please contact us  
for additional information.**

Thank you for supporting the Manitowish  
Waters Historical Society.  
Memberships renew each January.

Those interested in joining the MWHS should complete the form below  
and send in your form with \$20 to:

**Manitowish Waters Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 100  
Manitowish Waters WI 54545

*Those considering joining the Manitowish Waters Historical Society are  
encouraged to explore our web page, attend MWHS events and reach  
out to board members.*

**Student Memberships are available for \$2, renewing each May.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_