



Obituary Frederic K. Lake

Frederic K. Lake, 76, of Eagle, died October 7, 2005, at his residence.

He was born April 5, 1929, to the late Scott and Clara (Kern) Lake and lived in Eagle all of his life, with the exception of his years of military service. He had retired as a repairman and millwright from Wisconsin Motors after 40 years. He was a veteran of the 2d armored division (Hell on wheels) of the U.S. Army, having served in Korea; a member of the Palmyra Masonic Lodge (He was a 32d-degree Mason. The only higher rank is the honorary 33rd, which is reserved for dignitaries); and a member of the National Rifle Association.

He is survived by his wife, Carol (nee Bergstrom); children, Virginia (Dennis) Jost of Oak Creek, Rita (John) Lackovich of Bloomington, Illinois, Fred Lake of East Troy and Mark (Heidi) Lake of Eagle; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; nieces and nephews; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by three brothers—Herbert Lake, William Lake, and Roy Kern—and one nephew.

A funeral service and Masonic services were held on October 11 at Mealy's Funeral Home in Eagle. Fred's body was cremated; the family is awaiting the arrival of an official U.S. Army marker before spreading his ashes. If desired, memorials may be made to the Lakeland Animal Welfare Society, PO Box 1000, Elkhorn WI 53121.

In addition to his regular business, Fred's father had the largest traveling penny arcade in the U.S. From April until October each year he traveled with carnivals and circus sideshows. By the time Fred was 5, he was traveling with his father, making change. As he grew, he learned how to maintain the equipment and vehicles. When Fred entered the Army in the 1950s, his father sold the machines. Fred used his knowledge on tanks.

Carol's uncle and aunt, Gordon and Marcella Mertens of Chicago, spent weekends in Eagle, where Gordon had purchased Paradise Springs in 1944. Also a resident of Chicago, Carol spent time in Eagle as a babysitter for them. She met Fred, and they were married in the Waukesha County Courthouse in 1954.

Fred grew up on the land his family owned on Hwy 59 on the east side of the village. When Fred and Carol married, Scott Lake gave them property for a house, and after a basement had been dug he and Fred put up their home, which is located on what is now N. Sherman Street.

Scott and Fred raised the roof on the old creamery and added a second-story apartment. The first tenant was Dr. Rosenkranz, who had just come to practice in Eagle in 1954. Carol worked in his office for 40 years, even after he moved to the Mukwonago Medical Center.



When Fred and Carol's children were in their teens, the couple bought used carnival rides—including a carousel, octopus and tilt-a-whirl—and rebuilt them to like new condition. The family worked at carnivals during the summer months, mainly at church festivals. This income provided higher education for the children. All during these years, neither Fred nor Carol ever missed a day of work.

Fred was also an avid collector of antique toys (especially trucks) and Army memorabilia.