

Leslie Family



he Leslie family moved to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1917. The elder Leslie was a funeral director. Millard Frederick Leslie, better known as “Hick”, was born on October 5, 1911 in Saginaw.

Every summer “Hick” Leslie would return to visit his grandmother, Barbara Ruff (Mrs. Fred), who lived on Hart Road, a couple miles east of Frankenmuth. After he graduated from high school in 1930, he came to live with Grandma Ruff on the farm. When she sold her property and had the house moved to Parker Street in Frankenmuth, he rode along in the house and watched so that everything went well.

“Hick” worked for about a year for Ben Trinklein digging sewer lines. At age 25, he had his first experience working in the hardware/plumbing business by working part-time for Ed Fechter. He also worked at Fischer’s Hotel processing chickens, tending bar, and cleaning up the basement of the Hotel after the Cass River overflowed its banks. Later, he found he could make good money at the Frankenmuth Brewing Company in the bottle shop at 28 cents an hour.

He married Viola Fechter (born October 18, 1913), the daughter of the Hardware Store owner, Ed Fechter, on May 21, 1937.

After his father-in-law had a stroke and was confined to a wheelchair, “Hick” quit his job at the brewery and worked full-time running the hardware/plumbing business.

After the death of his father-in-law, “Hick” took over the business and renamed it Leslie Hardware and Appliance. After “Hick’s” death, the business was sold to the Gill-Roy’s Hardware chain.

“Hick” was always very active in the community affairs of Frankenmuth. He was on the Village/City Council for 38 years, beginning in 1948 at age 37.

“Hick” was also an active participant in athletics as well as encouraging others to participate in them. He felt the Village should get involved and got them to budget \$250 to support a recreation program. It provided the start of a ball field in back of the high school. A baseball field in Heritage Park is named after “Hick” – Leslie Field.

“Hick’s” community involvement included a charter member of the Frankenmuth Lions Club and president of the Club for two years. He was a founding member of the Frankenmuth Conservation Club and later served as its director. Together, with Herb Keinath and Wally Bronner, the City Beautification program got started, and he served on that committee for over 40 years.

“Hick” and Viola had two children: Adele (born April 11, 1938) and Millard Frederick Jr. “Corky” (born August 29, 1944).

Adele married John Peter Trinklein on August 29, 1959. He died in July 1966. She married Fred J. Zehnder from West Bloomfield on May 15, 1970. Their children are: Leslie Ann Trinklein Zehnder (born March 29, 1962), John Peter Trinklein Zehnder (born February 12, 1964), and Linda Louise Trinklein Zehnder (born November 6, 1965).

“Corky” married Carol Cole on November 1, 1978. Their children are: Peter John Leslie (born August 25, 1980) and John Neal Leslie (born September 1, 1983). “Corky” operated Leslie’s Modern Mobility & Leslie Rentals in Frankenmuth, Michigan.



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