



Leonard "Manny" J. Stein

December 10, 1935 - March 24, 2025

Leonard J. "Manny" Stein

age 89, passed away on March 24, 2025, at his home in Park Falls, WI. He was born in 1935 to Leonard M. and Karen (Knutson) Stein.

Manny attended the Fifield school and spent his entire life in the Pike Lake area. He was raised in a small log house – without plumbing or running water, and frost-covered nails in the ceiling. In 1957 he married the love of his life, Jeannette. They were married for 43 years and raised six children. After her passing, he felt fortunate to spend 20 years with his 2nd love, Roz.

As a young boy he loved the outdoors which likely led to his lifelong pursuits of hunting and fishing and his career with the Forest Service. That career began in 1955 and spanned 35 years on the Chequamegon National Forest - Park Falls Ranger District... working (and playing) in the area where he grew up. He once said "being born and raised here and having my boot tracks all over the Park Falls Ranger District is humbling. It was a great career."

Following in the footsteps of his dad (and sister Betty), he worked as a fire lookout in the Fifield Fire Tower. Over the years the work included tree planting, western firefighting, and timber sale administration. His office wall was plastered with awards including the Region's "most distinguished timber sale administrator". In 1983 he helped choose the Nation's National Christmas Tree (a 52' white spruce from the former Riley Creek Civilian Conservation Corps camp) and traveled with a crew to deliver the tree to the Capitol in Washington DC.

After retirement, Manny continued contract work with the Forest Service and then logged with his son for 25 years, up until the age of 88, skidding about 60 cords of wood per day.

Manny was instrumental in establishing the Pike Lake Fire Department serving as its Fire Chief for 25 years. He was a member of the Friends of the Round Lake Logging Dam and assisted with the dismantling and restoration of this historic dam. He was also a founder and long-time board member of the Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association. Manny was often tapped for his historical knowledge of the Pike Lake area as well as his on-the-ground knowledge... assisting in several search & rescue efforts.

If he wasn't inventorying trees or harvesting trees, he was building with them. A skilled craftsman, he built 3 log homes which included, finally, one for himself.

While his strong work ethic never diminished, he also knew how to have a good time. He and Jeannette owned Stein's Bar for a number of years where you could find him mixing & serving drinks, dancing to the jukebox with Jeannette, singing "Nikolina", or playing the spoons. He enjoyed family gatherings, good food, and hunting & fishing with his 3 sons. He excelled as a parent, demonstrating his unconditional love, teaching by example, and instilling that same strong work ethic in his kids. There were too many fun adventures to name... some safe and some not. He once drove his Ford Bronco onto the Flambeau River to plow a skating rink for his kids... later reminiscing that it probably wasn't his brightest moment! He could tell a good story, belt out a song, dance a waltz or polka, and fix or build almost anything. Manny is survived by his children Scott (Debbie) Stein, Wendy (Phil Freeman) Stein, Jeff (Brenda) Stein, Tracey (Dennis) Carden, Randy (Angie Johnson) Stein; stepchildren Larry (Asta) Scowra and Denice (Tad) Vrana; grandchildren Jennifer, Zach, Travis, Tyler, Troy, Kendall, Cody, Joshua, and special friend Pauline Fenzl. Also surviving are numerous step grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many special friends.

Manny was preceded in death by his wife Jeannette, second wife Roz,

daughter Kelly, sisters: Dorothy Peters, Betty Murnik, Mary "Noonie" Szymik, Arlene Hawley, Laura "Tudi" Gunderson, Corinne "Mickey" Hoppe; brother Bobby Stein, and stepdaughter Mary.

A celebration of life will be held on May 31, 2025, 1:00 pm at the Pike Lake Fire Hall (outdoor pavilion), N14885 Shady Knoll Rd, Park Falls, WI. Deacon Chet Ball will officiate.

A visitation will be held at 12:00 pm until the hour of the service.

Private interment will take place at Forest Home Cemetery in Fifield.

Birch Street Funeral Service of Park Falls is assisting the family.

www.birchstreetfuneralservice.com

Cemetery Details

Forest Home Cemetery

Old 70 Road and Krucky Road
Fifield, WI 54524

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Pike Lake Fire Hall
N14885 Shady Knoll Road
Park Falls, WI 54552

Celebration of Life

MAY 31. 1:00 PM (CT)

Pike Lake Fire Hall
N14885 Shady Knoll Road
Park Falls, WI 54552

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Jacqueline M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard "Manny" J. Stein.

Jacqueline M. - June 03, 2025 at 07:37 PM

JS

“ my condolences to the stein family, another man i always thought very highly of. sincerly john fierek sr.

john fierek sr. - May 09, 2025 at 11:08 AM

AS

“ Larry and I met Manny in 2001 after Manny met Roz at greaving session and found comfort in each other after loosing their loved ones. They lived happily for 20 years and we got to know and love Manny, spend many fun moments with him: holidays, fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing to name a few. Manny was true legend of the woods, always full of energy and good deeds for the community, wonderful father and husband , good friend to many. We will miss him dearly! Our deepest sympathy to Manny's kids and their families!

Asta Scowra - May 03, 2025 at 11:13 AM

VH

“ In the pouring rain on National Public Lands Day 2023, Manny took a lucky group of Forest enthusiasts on one of dozens of his guided hikes to the Round Lake Logging Dam. Through the wind and mud, he pointed out 100-year-old white pine (cork pine) trees and explained the history of the dam like it was the first time he had ever talked about it. Many were blessed to hear the stories he shared. He is special for so many reasons, not the least of which is the incredible way he touched lives of so many with his wisdom and passion. I never got to work with Manny as a Forest Service co-worker, but was so incredibly blessed to have been able to work with him as he so generously gave of his time and knowledge. Manny will be sorely missed. Veronica Hinke, U.S. Forest Service 2016-24



Veronica Hinke - April 09, 2025 at 07:43 PM

LM

“ Sending our sincere sympathy to Wendy, Tracey, and all of the Stein family.

While logging plantation pine in the Chequamegon, east of Park Falls, first for Romie Diem and later for R&A Kunding, Leroy and Mel Sr. got to know Manny quite well. He'd stop by their jobs "as a forester" but stay to visit "as a friend". Leroy's fondest memories include Manny referring to them (son and father) as "the Marsh Brothers". He always had a smile and was a friendly bright spot during an otherwise hard workday.

Even many years later, whether a chance meeting in a store or a visit to his home, Manny would greet us as old friends.

May the memories of friends, as well as your own, bring comfort to you now.

Leroy & Lori Marsh

Leroy and Lori Marsh - April 02, 2025 at 03:14 PM

JB

“ A modest, humble giant among men has passed from our lives. Manny Stein enjoyed a full and robust life in the Upper Flambeau Watershed and in particular the Pike Lake Chain. He and Jeanette raised five great kids and served with distinction in the USDA Forest Service caring for his home land - his beloved Chequamegon National Forest. His accomplishments in preserving local history through reconstruction of the Round Lake Logging dam and co-authoring the Pike Lake Chain book cemented his legacy in the who's who in Price County. We mourn his passing and yet celebrate having known him as a friend and colleague. Our condolences to the Stein family for your profound loss - may you truly be comforted by the wonderful memories of your wonderful Manny Stein.

John and Louise Berg

John Berg - March 28, 2025 at 08:16 PM

DR

“ Manny represented the Pike Lake area like no one else ever will. We thank him for all he did for the area. We thank him for his wonderful friendship over the last nearly 60 years. Manny was the best! To Manny's family: May God grant you the peace only He can give.

David and Jane Rahn

David and Jane Rahn - March 28, 2025 at 01:53 PM

KP

My condolences to his family, always enjoyed talking with Manny, pretty hard to find many like him today ,a great woodsman,may he rest in peace.

Kevin W Powell - April 04, 2025 at 12:59 PM

BE

“ Manny was a great man. Many fond memories hunting and hanging out with him , my grandpa , dad and the whole gang. He will be surely missed.

Brian Ernst

Brian Ernst - March 28, 2025 at 09:36 AM

BM

“ Glad I got to know Manny through Roz and his step-son Larry. Manny was a true giant in the Northwoods, having a hugely positive impact over the Pike Lake region, and beyond. As a role model he set the bar high for us all.

Regards, Mitch

Bob Mitchell - March 28, 2025 at 07:37 AM

BZ

“ *Bonnie Zoesch lit a candle in memory of Leonard "Manny" J. Stein*



Bonnie Zoesch - March 27, 2025 at 02:28 PM



“ *He was super knowledgeable about the Pike Lake area and didn't hesitate to share that knowledge. What a guy!!*

Karen Dums - March 27, 2025 at 01:18 PM