

## **Remembering The Trashmen Trio**

**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!