

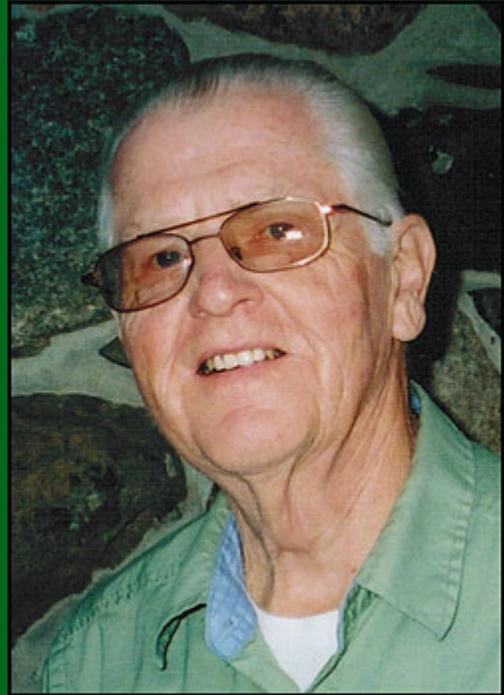
Russ Perttunen

Russ retired from the Department of Natural Resources on January 7, 1995, after a 31 year, 7 month and 5 day long career - a retiring bean counter to the end!

In March of 1963, he was working in Milwaukee at a CPA firm preparing federal and state tax returns, working nights and weekends during the tax season. He had been with the CPA firm for three and a half years, and was having no fun! Russ applied for a position with the State of

Wisconsin. Because of his work schedule, he interviewed for a Conservation Department accounting job, with Clarence "Goldy" Goldsworthy, at Goldy's home on a Sunday afternoon.

He was hired and started working for the Conservation Department's, Bureau of Finance Accounting Office, in May of 1963. At that time the offices were located on Pennsylvania Avenue. The Conservation Administration offices, including the Bureau of Finance, were moved to the Hill Farms State Office building in the spring of 1994. The Bureau was moved to the Pyre Square building in 1969. Russ felt he was very fortunate to work for "Goldy" and that there was no better boss.





Russ and Joan
August 2006

In 1979, the WDNR administrative offices were moved again, this time downtown to the GEFII building. Russ worked there until he retired on January 7, 1995.

His first Bureau of Finance job was as a Management Accountant for the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife Management. Eventually, he became the supervisor of the Bureau of Finance's, Budget and Accounting section. His responsibilities included assembling each Division's budget and financial statements based on the Division Administrator and Bureau Directors' requests. Each Bureau's funding was very complex because of the different sources of revenue for each Division, Bureau and activity and expenditures.

Before 1978, the budgets and financial documents were typed using an old fashion typewriter. Any changes to these reports resulted in the reports being retyped. There were lots of changes in the budget process. Russ and his staff drove the typists nuts! In 1979, the first computers arrived, running LOTUS 1-2-3 software. Computers changed the world forever, and made the typists job a lot easier!

During his employment, Russ traveled the state, visiting all Districts headquarters, the fish hatcheries, many field stations and other department facilities, to share his accounting and financial accounting system brilliance! He also traveled to Federally sponsored meetings around the country including Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco. The San Francisco trip was very interesting with the bridge and bay area. On one particular day, as they traveled across the two level bay bridge from San Francisco to Oakland, he commented to his fellow passengers, "I wonder what would happen if they had a "shock" here?" Two weeks later there was an earthquake and part of the bridge came down!

Russ and his wife Joan feel very fortunate to have moved from Milwaukee to Madison. At the time of the move in 1963, Joan was working for AT&T in Milwaukee and was able to transfer to a Madison office. She eventually took a ten year furlough to raise their two boys, Ted and Eric. Joan retired from AT&T after a 26 year career.



Russ and Joan wish all, a Happy 2011 Holiday season

Since retirement, the Perttunens have been digging in the dirt! Each spring and summer they tend to over 400 flower pots and other landscaping projects in their yard. There is also a once a week trip to a casino. Russ enjoys bird hunting, summer fishing and ice fishing during the winter months in the UP, Yooper country!

He has never been a couch potato!