

Judy Reuter

Judy's career with the Department of Natural Resources began with a phone call from her sister-in-law, Ruth Anderson, informing her Lois Wille, of the Forest Tax Unit, had a six-week project and would she be interested. She started as a LTE September 23, 1968, at the old DNR Hill Farms office building. Other projects were developed and she worked until December of 1968, when she returned to the New Glarus family farm, farming with her husband and five children .



In January of 1969, she was called back by Milt Reinke, Bureau Director of Forestry, and appointed an emergency account clerk, replacing an employee that had been in an accident. Judy worked as a seasonal clerk and completed course work at MATC allowing her to take the state examination for Account Clerk. Over a period of a several years, she was promoted to Account Examiner and Administrative Assistant. Eventually, the Forest Tax Unit was moved to the Coke Building.

In 1977, Judy transferred to the Southern District Headquarters, temporarily located at Camp Wauconda, working with Time and Leave records for Southern District and the Bureau of Research. She enjoyed her time at the Southern District but didn't like the commute from New Glarus. After a particularly bad 1979 winter blizzard, and upon learning her sister-in-law had received one of the first state owned commuting vans, she transferred back to the Central office working in the Youth Camp program. With her personal 4-H camp experience, this was a natural niche for Judy

In 1981, she received a phone call from Jo Moen, a fellow Southern District employee, regarding an opening in the Budget Unit of the Office of Planning and Analysis. In June of 1981, Judy started working as a Program Assistant in the Budget Unit. The unit later became the Bureau of Management and Budget (M&B). Her primary responsibility was assembling and distributing the Biennial Budget books. The "scariest" part of her job was learning to operate the first computer in M&B. She was sure if things were not done correctly, everything would crash or blow up!

Along the way, she also worked with the Brogan Award committee and with Joe Polasek on DNR's pilot T-shirt project. Monogrammed T-shirts were sold at five state parks, the GEF 2 building and the Wisconsin State Fair.



Devils Lake concession manager and Judy, August 1991.



Wisconsin Parks, Trails and Forests – Explore and Enjoy! All shirts with the same design in white, grey pink and turquoise. T shirts were sold at Devils Lake, Wyalusing, Blue Mound, Lake Kegonsa, New Glarus Woods, Sugar River Trail, GEF II and WI State Fair.

Judy retired from M&B on April 30, 1997 but worked there as an LTE until February 1998.

Judy grew up on the Anderson Homestead farm in Primrose Township, Dane County. She began showing Holsteins when she was twelve years old and at the age of seventeen her heifer became Junior All-American. Her record book earned the National Holstein Girl Award. In 1952, Judy graduated from the New Glarus High School and in 1953 she married Robert Reuter. They farmed for seventeen years and had five children.

Judy's husband of 46 years passed away in June 1999. She and her family established the Robert E. Reuter Memorial Fund, granting an annual scholarship to a deserving New Glarus senior majoring in Agri-Business, Animal Science or Environmental Studies. The student is usually also involved in 4-H/FFA, Music and/or Sports.

Judy was a 4-H Clothing leader for nine years. Her children were active 4-H members as are the Klossner grandchildren. Her daughter, Roxanne, has been New Glarus' 4-H leader for many years.

On May 1, 1998, Judy began working as a tour guide at the Swiss Historical Village located in New Glarus. She later became a cashier, started a newsletter, accepted the membership coordinator responsibilities and has been on the New Glarus Historical Society Board of Directors, since 2004. She became the Board secretary in 2009. Judy also makes Brazeli (Swiss cookie) to sell in the gift shop.



Swiss Historical Village opened in 1942 with a replica of a log cabin. Today, there are 14 buildings. Open May 1 to October 1. Judy started as a tour guide in 1998.



Judy at Settlers Cabin, Swiss Historical Village. Cabin was built in 1855. It was found when the Hoesly home on Hwy W was torn down. The Hoesly's donation of the cabin to the museum was in 1975.

In August of 2007, Judy started working part-time in the Deli department of the Belleville Sentry grocery store. During the fall of 2008, she also worked at Brennan's packaging holiday gift boxes.



*Reuter Christmas, January 2009
Front: Matthew Kuhnen, Judy, Ross Reuter
Back: Robby Reuter, John Klossner, Kristin Klossner, Rhett Reuter and
Rory Klossner*

Her children are: Robin (Belinda) Reuter, Monticello; Rick (Jennine) Reuter, Menomonee Falls; Rolane (Rick) Kuhnen, Pewaukee; Roxanne (Richard) Klossner, Mt. Horeb and Rhonda (David) Kimmel, Oak Creek. Judy has seven grandchildren: Rory, Kristin and John Klossner, Robby, Ross and Rhett Reuter, and Mathew Kuhnen. She has one great granddaughter, Samantha (Robby's daughter).



Judy with great granddaughter Samantha Amy Sherman.

Judy is proud of what 4-H membership has done for her, her children and now the grandkids. She truly treasures her experiences and memories of 4-H and her years at the Department of Natural Resources.