

Loyal Strack

Nominated by Joel Strack

Loyal Strack was an avid musician who played with numerous bands throughout Wisconsin. He began to drum with the Flieschmen Brothers at Bakerville Dance Hall, then went on to play with Wally Ives and the Jolly Dutchmen in the 40's and 50's. After that, he formed the Strack Trio with his younger brother, Jerry. Their band performed for dance engagements in central Wisconsin, many of which included playing for multiple sibling's weddings in several families. He filled in with several bands such as Howie Sturtz, Whoopee John, and others. He was also a member and officer of the Local Musicians Union of Wisconsin, Local 270 for years, which included caroling on Friday night on Central Avenue while stores were open during the Christmas Season.



Mr. Strack's longtime drumming career started from humble beginnings. He was born March 4th, in the town of Hansen, Wood County, the son of Louis and Olga (Maske) Strack. He attended the town of Hansen and town of Lincoln schools. While his father played the concertina, Loyal began drumming on their oil drums. When Loyal was a teenager, his dad sold a cow in order to buy Loyal a proper drum set.

As a young man, Loyal became engaged in farming in the town of Marshfield, and later also became associated in farm implement repair and as a salesman for the John Deere Company in Central Wisconsin. He married Lila E. Klumb on April 27, 1940.

Loyal later discontinued farming and purchased the Shell Oil Company gas station in Marshfield along with his son, Joel. They operated this business for ten years. In 1974, Mr Strack built a general repair shop. He managed the business until retiring in 1989, when his son James, then took over the business. During his retirement years, he delivered trucks for Mid-State Truck Service, Inc. of Marshfield.

In addition to his business ventures, Loyal was also a member of the Marshfield Elks Lodge 665; the UCT Council 189; and the Wisconsin Towns Association. He was chairman for the town of Cameron for many years and served in that position until his death in 1996. He was a vital member of the community in many capacities and continued to play the drums into his seventies.