



Young Frank Wildermuth on the Reservoir

I spent my first ten years in Philmont, and I've lived off and on here all my life. At 65, my wife and I are now living our twilight years in her grandparents' house on Band Street, which has been passed down through several generations. A lot of Wildermuths have called Philmont home. Many of my best times were spent on Summit Lake, known then as the Reservoir. Our home is on the bank of the lake. Although there was a swimming area, we used to swim everywhere on the lake, and the trestle was a favorite spot of mine. Ice skating was very popular, too. The weekends were full of hockey games, and other skating games. "The whip" was my favorite: that's when several kids hold hands in a line all facing one direction, and then skate in a circle. The person on the end gets going faster and faster as the skaters in the circle speed up. Then that end person lets go and enjoys the ride! Bonfires on the lake would keep us warm on those moonlit winter nights. This photo is from when I was about 5 or 6. My dad told me that I said I was going to shovel the whole lake! I probably fell short on that, but being on the lake, summer and winter, was a great time in my life.

Those first ten years, living on top of Summit Street, were spent with friends and relatives out in the woods, exploring and looking for salamanders under rocks, or making shelters out of fallen branches and just listening to the birds and the sounds of the forest. It was a wonderful time and a great place to grow up.

By Frank Wildermuth