

Allan and Robert Krizenesky

by Dan Basore, Honorary Member Chairman

Brothers Allan, born in 1931, and Robert (Bob) Krizenesky, born September, 13, 1933, were fishing pals. They were nominated to become honorary members of the NFLCC by Bob Slade, author of the 19-book set *The Encyclopedia of Old Fishing Lures Made In North America* and *The History and Collectible Fishing Tackle of Wisconsin*.

Allan began work for Marino's Cheese and wanted to be a salesman for them. They tried him out one day a week and he was so good they offered him a sales position full time but he declined because he'd have to wear a tie.

He later became owner of the Townhouse Restaurant in Peshtigo, Wisconsin. Bob became a high school science teacher. Allan's love of fishing included working the Thompson Boat Company's exhibit at sports shows. There he rubbed shoulders with and got to know other exhibitors, one being a lure maker who later became an honorary NFLCC member, Homer LeBlanc.

In the 1960s, Homer asked if Allan and Bob would represent his SWIM-WHIZZ line of lures in Wisconsin. As they met with dealers and fishermen one request kept being repeated: "We want a lure like the old Heddon Muskie Flaptail," Muskie anglers said.

This led the brothers to begin to develop, test, make and sell their MUSK-A-LUCK lure under their business name and line of the MR. MUSKIE BAIT CO. Knowing other Muskie lure makers led them to utilize their special touches on these lures.

Elmer Deuster and August Machtig had been making the DEUSTER GOPHER and MUSKIE DUCKLING lures since the 1950s. These baits had a flocked-finish that the Krizenesky brothers admired.

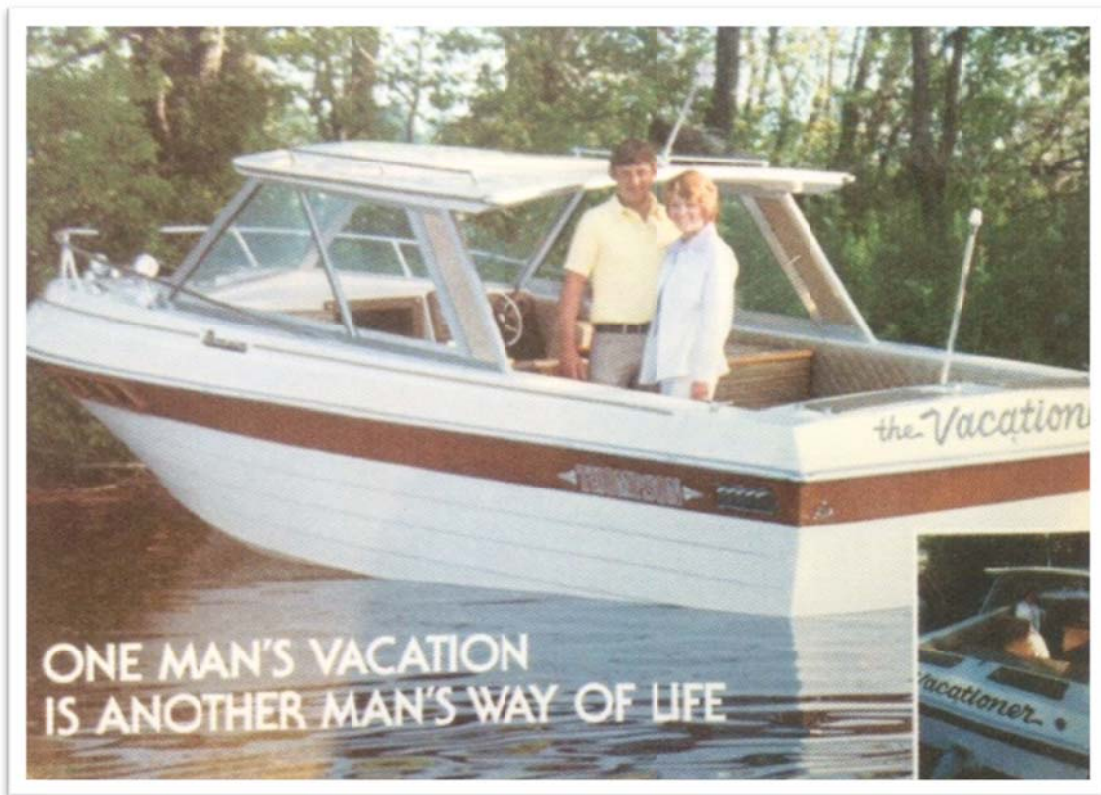
They started with a wooden white cedar body that was tapered with a slanted head and nose with a leaded tail. These were then flock finished through their contract with Augie Machtig in gray, black or yellow. Then they were returned to be assembled with two stout Mustad 4/0 hooks, plastic faceted eyes with silver reflector bases, stainless steel flap tails and then were inserted in plastic top printed cardboard boxes.



Musk-E-Luck

A couple of years' later white finishes were also offered along with a 4-1/2-inch BABY MUSK-A-LUCK. In 1974 a double propped, 6-1/2-inch top water was added named "BLACK BEAUTY." One of the unique features of their lures was the recommendation to customize your flock finished lures with different colored felt tip pins to add gills, spots, ribs or whatever the angler desired.

Their base of operations and business address was 220 S. Wood Avenue in Peshtigo, Wisconsin where Allan, a Marine veteran, is now the mayor. Bob, an Air Force veteran, (wife Cynthia), son Tom and Allan are long-time members of the NFLCC, attending many of our shows over the years and are wonderful, supporting people.



Allan Krizenesky was featured in the 1976 Thompson Boat Company catalog introducing their VACATIONER model

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