

Ed Frank Jewelry

...farewell to a time honored tradition

Sixty years ago, Ed Frank who was a native to the Highland, Illinois area, was a newcomer to the jewelry business. But, the tradition had already been set by his mother, Rose Frank, who was a watchmaker trained and employed by Wick's Jewelry in Highland.

In 1947, Ed Frank and R.W. Ziegler purchased the old Carlyle Otto Rink's Jewelry Store from Dr. Otto Bender, who was the nephew of the late Otto Rink. Bender was an optometrist practicing his trade in the jewelry store, which was the thing to do during this time. The store was a partnership, Ziegler's Jewelry, until 1964 when Frank assumed full ownership.

In the years prior, Ed married Bea Clanton, another Highland native. Bea immediately joined the business, where she remembers many late nights sitting beside her husband while he was working on or repairing watches and jewelry. She would remain in the business up through her husband's death on May 4, 2007.

Ed's father died before he was born, so he was raised by his mother and two maiden aunts. Bea says that it was always great to hear Ed give credit to "the women in his life," his mother, his aunts, his wife, and his daughter.



Suzanne, Bea and Ed's daughter, has worked in the jewelry store since the age of 10, where she started out selling greeting cards. She eventually learned the "tools of the trade" from her father while working by his side for over 30 years.

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Also important to the Frank family is their son Kevin, who also helped out his father in the jewelry business and was a fine engraver. The year 1978 brought a tragedy to the family when son, Dan, was killed in an automobile accident.

"The life of Ed Frank is one of pride. He was a gentle, kind man which showed in the way he ran his business and the respect he had with his customers and his friends," says Bea.

Even though Ed had Parkinson's disease for 15 years and a heart condition in the recent years, his love for the jewelry business ran deep. According to Bea, next to spending time with his family and watching the Cubs play baseball, the store was the place he loved to be the most.

Bea and her family enlisted Wilkerson and Associates — the nation's leader in conducting transition events for retail jewelers — to help say farewell to the tradition of Ed Frank Jewelry. Wilkersons evaluated their situation and developed a plan for a comprehensive Going-Out-of-Business Sale.

It saddens Bea and her family that Ed Frank Jewelry will no longer have Ed Frank at the helm. "It is with great love and pride that the tradition of Ed Frank and the jewelry store will live on in the memories and hearts of everyone who knew and loved him," Bea says lovingly about her late husband.

The sale was a success and exceeded the projected goal Wilkerson and Associates had given them. Bobby Wilkerson, president of Wilkerson and Associates added, "We are delighted when we can bring hard working people to the next stage of their lives...when they can see the rewards of a lifetime of work."

CONTACT WILKERSON AND ASSOCIATES

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