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To: Madeline Island Chamber of Commerce; ashchamb@centurytel.net; Island Gazette

Cc: Ashland Daily Press

Subject: Former Ashland bar owner leaves \$200,000 to Northland College

A bar owner who never attended college, has left \$200,000 to the alma mater of her best customers. Ida F. Meyer of Lake Placid, Fla., died March 22 at 103.

Ida and her husband Casper (nicknamed "Cabbie") opened Cabbie's Tap on Main Street in Ashland in 1953. They ran it for a decade. Cabbie's is still there but has been renamed Stagecoach Inn.

Ida's attorney faxed a letter to Northland College in Ashland, Wis., in late April informing them that Ida had named the College as her residuary beneficiary, an amount totaling about \$200,000.

"I might as well give it back to the College," she told her attorney Michael A. Rider, during her estate planning. "Those kids were good to us."

Students from that era remember a fastidious, kind couple who did not tolerate loud or obnoxious behavior. They remember eating foot-long hotdogs and brick cheese sandwiches on rye bread, drinking dime taps and playing hits on the jukebox.

LaRae Schauer, who graduated from Northland College in 1962, specifically remembers the sauce Ida served with her foot-long hotdogs. "It was her secret recipe and not available to public at that time," she said.

In addition to Ida's secret sauce, Schauer remembers Ida as pleasant and welcoming. "It doesn't surprise me that she had a long life with her happy-go-lucky ways."

Cabbie's is credited with many chance meetings, first dates and long-lasting marriages. "I met my sweet wife of forty-eight years in the fall of 1964 on a Friday night at Cabbie's," said Northland College alumnus Tom Bogess. "I bought her a beer, we danced and the rest is history."

Ida was born in Antelope, North Dakota in 1911 to Herman and Rena Fischer.

She married Casper Meyer in 1935. They owned several Wisconsin businesses, including Cabbie's Tap. Casper died in 1991 and Ida moved to Florida.

"Neither she nor her husband, Casper, had ever attended college, having been so desperately poor in the Depression years," Rider said. "They never had children of their own."

Ida is survived by two nieces.

Cabbie's Tap has been through a fire and through several owners, but the one thing that remains constant is the clientele: Northland College students and alumni. To honor Ida's generous gift, the College has started the Ida and Cabbie's Scholarship.

For alumni remembrances and more on the story visit <http://www.northland.edu/cabbiestap>

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