

Robert Gangl  
St. Anthony, North Dakota  
Inducted into the Trapper Hall of Fame - 2014

I was born in 1937, raised on a farm and ranch south of Mandan, North Dakota. I always enjoyed the outdoors. I had two uncles that did a little trapping and sometimes they let me tag along.

I trapped my first mink around 1952. It was just a small female, and if memory serves me right, I got \$13.00 for it. To a youngster in those days, it was a small fortune. I continued to trap and hunt from then on, working mostly on mink. Around the mid-fifties, the fox seemed to explode and were everywhere. The state paid a bounty for fox and coyote. So, I spent my summer days hunting and trapping fox every chance I got. I was young and had a horse, had a rifle and some traps. Life was good!

I got married in 1960. I found out my in-laws had beaver they did not want around. I tried my hand at trapping them, to say my first year was a big disappointment would be an understatement. But, by the second year I was better equipped and so started my beaver trapping career. I've done many years covering these counties close to home taking from twenty-five to fifty beaver through the ice per winter. All this time, I also tried my hand at trapping coyotes. But I seemed to have a few problems.

Around 1985, a friend talked me into going along to a North Dakota Fur Takers Rendezvous that was at a park in Mandan. I went and watched the demos. Though the person doing the demos may have been talking about one kind of furbearer, some of the little things that were discussed helped me figure out what was wrong with my sets. I had the trap setting down pretty good, but learning the use of the bait and lure was a big help.

In the later part of the 1980's, my son started trapping with me, so we could extend our trapping line. After he went off to college, my wife started to ride with me on a daily basis. So, I finally talked her into trying a set. Two days later, she had her first coyote and she never looked back. Even now, with me being confined to a wheelchair, she still traps around home and I help her by skinning the critters she brings home.

I want to thank you for nominating me to the North Dakota Trappers Hall of Fame.