

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Kosti Ruohomaa Collection: June 2022 Rollout

By Matt Wheeler, Digital Collections Curator



Photo by Kosti Ruohomaa, Black Star©

This month, at a doubly vicarious distance, we'll enjoy the focused excitement of a fishing trip shared by two boys from Knox County. One of them was a frequent guest in Kosti's frames: his young cousin Bobby Lofman, whose father was a contemporary and longtime neighbor of Kosti's in Rockville, Maine (near the Ruohomaa's Dodge Mountain farm). The outing happened 71 years ago and his treatment of the scenes is clearly colored with nostalgia for his own boyhood. The thrill of being out in the wilderness in spring with a favorite pal, improvising fishing gear from cut saplings, and anticipating fish knee-deep in the cold current is palpable in these portraits.



Photo by Kosti Ruohomaa, Black Star©

Sometime earlier, on assignment for *Life* via Black Star, Kosti covered a summer gathering of southern Maine's Three-Quarter Century club. The anachronistic working title for this group of photos, "Oldsters' Outing", contrasts with the modern perspective on aging and our societal preoccupation with staying—or seeming—young. Here we see crowds of seniors enjoying competitive games and outdoor revelry. One exuberant photo, which shows a couple riding a swing at the event, later found lasting fame as part of Edward Steichen's *Family of Man* exhibit, which launched at MoMA in 1955, toured the world, and is permanently installed in Luxembourg as of 2013.

To view the new content, visit the museum's [Kosti Ruohomaa site](#).