

William and Aurelie Jerome Scholarship



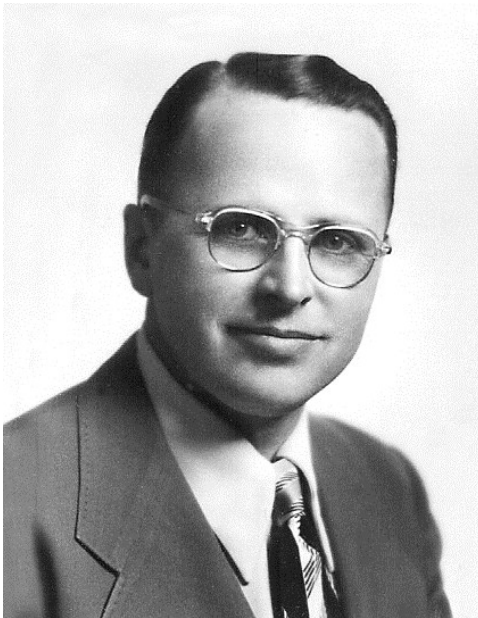
The Jerome family home and cabin were always places of welcome and fun. William and Aurelie provided their children with fond memories raising ponies for riding and parades, camping, sledding, and skating. They spent many days and hours at the cabin hunting and fishing. The family loved cooking and gardening and all sports. In 1997, William and Aurelie established this endowment to commemorate the family they had built together.

Bill was born February 25, 1915, at Crookston, Minnesota, the son of Arthur and Gertrude Schraeder Jerome. They lived in Grand Forks for a short time, moving to Devils Lake when Bill was nine years old. He graduated from Devils Lake High School in 1935 and played a major role in starting and building the family business, Jerome Wholesale Candy Company, working there after school and on Saturdays from the age of thirteen. He attended the University of North Dakota for one year where he was a member of the Sigma U Fraternity and played three instruments in an amateur orchestra on weekends.

When Bill's father died unexpectedly, Bill

attended Minneapolis Business College and returned home to go into business with his mother. They began distributing beer in 1933, and the name was changed to Jerome Candy Company. The name changed again to Jerome Wholesale, Inc. in 1972. Bill headed the business until his retirement in 1985 when sons Pete and Chuck assumed ownership.

Aurelie E. Moore was born March 13, 1915, in Powers Lake, North Dakota, to David and Ellen Adams Moore. She and ten brothers and sisters were raised in Powers Lake and Devils Lake, North Dakota. She worked for a time as a babysitter and



at Montgomery Ward as her family managed through the depression years. She was united in marriage to Bill on January 4, 1939, in Los Angeles, California.

Bill and Aurelie were members of St. Joseph Catholic Church where Bill served on the church parish council for twelve years and on the Sisters of Mercy Hospital Board and co-chaired the hospital building addition fund campaign. In 1996, they donated funds for a reading center at St. Joseph Elementary School in memory of Bill's father.

Bill was active in civic affairs, serving as president of the North Dakota Beer Wholesalers Association, Devils Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and Ramsey County Wildlife Club. He held director positions on the boards of Fort Totten Little Theatre, Jaycees, Kiwanis, and National Candy Wholesalers. He was a member of

the Elks, Eagles, Town and Country Club, and Knights of Columbus for which he was a 4th Degree and served as Faithful Navigator. He also was active in getting the Association of Retarded Citizens established and organized their pancake suppers for years.

Bill may best be remembered for his pioneering and leadership in motivating Devils Lake winter sports growth for thirty years with the park board, youth, and amateur programs, tournaments, artificial ice drive, and Frost Frolics. This culminated in his election to the North Dakota Hockey Hall of Fame in 1980 and the re-



naming of the Devils Lake Winter Sports building to the Bill Jerome Arena. He was a six-year member of the Devils Lake Park Board and co-chairman of the campaign which organized the curling club.

An ardent sportsman and conservationist, Bill headed the Ramsey County Wildlife Club when the trap club was formed, was secretary of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation for two years, and was a long-time active member of Ducks Unlimited, being specially honored in the fall of 1996 with a wetland project named in his honor.

Bill and Aurelie had three daughters (Gail, Sheila, Trudy), five sons (Art, Mike, Chuck, Pete, and Paul), and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The William and Aurelie Jerome Scholarship is awarded annually to an exemplary Lake Region State College student athlete. ✦