

# Arvin *and* Jeanette Rohrer Scholarship Endowment

By establishing this endowment, Arvin and Jeanette Rohrer sought to create a lasting legacy that will reflect their strong belief that success is possible through hard work and determination. Education is an important part of achieving this success.

Arvin Rohrer was born in 1926 on the family's farm near Churchs Ferry, North Dakota, and Jeanette Schnetter was born in 1928 in Devils Lake.

They dedicated their lives to each other in 1956 with the vows of matrimony at Saint Olaf Lutheran Church in Devils Lake.

As a young couple, they decided to take over the family farm, accepting the challenges of continuing the legacy begun by Arvin's father, Isaac Book. In those early days, Arvin farmed with teams of horses, used seven-foot press drills, and hauled grain bundles to threshing machines. He still clearly remembers hauling the bumper crop of corn bundles by horse and wagon from the "barley slough" one half mile to the northeast, then hand-feeding them into the grinder to fill the underground silo he

packed with the help of his bay horse, Barney. Eventually, upgrading to forty-horsepower, two-cylinder John Deere tractors made work easier—but only when the trip hitch on the three-bottom John Deere plow would stay latched!



Times were hard as Arvin and Jeanette built their farm and family. Jeanette worked for Percy Stewart whose office was in the Grayson Hotel in Devils Lake, taking the four

Rohrer boys into town with her each day to be watched by her mother, Dora. Her paycheck provided enough to keep groceries on the table.

Eventually, after much work, they were able to pay off the mortgage on the farm which allowed Jeanette to stay at home to concentrate on raising the boys and taking care of countless farm chores. Many days, she would delicately schedule parts runs between the preparations of her delicious homemade meals. Together, Arvin and Jeanette grew a variety of small grains and raised cattle; Holstein heifers became their specialty.

In spite of the difficult times, farming provided a good life and a great way to raise a family. It wasn't long before the winters' regular entertainment involved traveling to many Class B schools, as Arvin and Jeanette never missed one of their boys' basketball games.

Arvin's decision to retire from farming in 1988 didn't last long. He grew restless and felt the need to get back on a tractor. Soon, he went to work for local farmer Dan Webster who gave him the opportunity to operate his all-time favorite tractor—a quad-trac IH 550-horsepower rig pulling sixty feet of cultivator. He could now cultivate three hundred acres a day compared to fifty with the John Deere D and an 11.5-foot cultivator. It used to take him ten to twelve days to cultivate his farm following harvest; now it was easy to do the same acres in a day and a half, and the tractor steered itself!

In addition to being successful farmers, Arvin and Jeanette were highly involved within their community. They had been active members of organizations including the Zion Lutheran Church in Churchs Ferry, the Churchs Ferry Men's Club, Saint Olaf Lutheran Church, Ladies Aid, the Masons, Eastern Star, and the Senior Citizens Club. They were life members of Elks Lodge #1216, and Jeanette served as secretary of Irvine Township from 1973 well into the new millennium.

*"Together we feel blessed and privileged to establish this endowment," said Arvin. "With it, we hope to help young adults continue their educations. It's our desire to provide priority to agriculture education, the industry that was so good to us, and to the Associate Degree Nurse program, a career that is so necessary and does impact every life. We also wish to support the trades programs." Jeanette said, "May God bless the lives of recipients of this endowment as much as he has blessed us." ✦*

