

Jim and LuAnn Schiele

Family Endowment

Jim Schiele and LuAnn Metzger, North Dakota country kids of the 1940's, grew up on farms located nearly exactly in a north-south line with each other a bit over fifty miles apart; Jim on the farm to which his grandparents and their family including his father Philip, located in 1922. They were German-Russian immigrants who arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1902, then came west to Winnipeg with their belongings, crossing the border into North Dakota the same year and proving up on land near a planned railway line south of Towner on which the settlement of Karlsruhe was established a few years later. His mother Emelia Tuchscherer's family was from the same German-Russian Black Sea area of the Ukraine as the Schiele family and homesteaded South of Towner, North Dakota in 1909. Both of Jim's parents, Philip George Schiele and Emelia Marie Tuchscherer were born in southern Ukraine, Russia.

LuAnn's Metzger ancestors came to the United States from Germany in the mid-nineteenth century, first settling in Pennsylvania and moving to central Minnesota shortly thereafter. Her Kartes family's forebears came from Ontario, Canada to Dakota Territory to homestead just south of the Canadian border in a community named Mount Carmel. Her great-great-grandfather Peter Kartes donated the land on which a Catholic Church and cemetery were established in 1886. He became the very first adult to occupy the site when he passed away about two years later. Her grandfather and great-grandfather both tied the knot with Irish wives, so LuAnn's DNA results showed her to be basically of Irish heritage. Her Irish forebears also homesteaded in Dakota near Concrete, in the 1880's.

Jim and LuAnn first met one another at a wedding dance in late October, each of them there with another date. Sitting directly across from one another, the two exchanged a good many smiles and eye contact during the course of about an hour. With the



good fortune of meeting again a month later at another dance, each with friends and dancing together most of the night, she allowed him to take her home to her apartment where she invited him to "come in and listen to some records" as her two roommates had both gone to their family's homes for the weekend. They were married ten months later and began their life together on Jim's folks' farm. LuAnn busied herself as a typical farm wife of the day,

bearing their first four children—two girls and two boys—while living on the farm for seventeen years. The first-born child in 1969, Tara Louise, passed away shortly after birth due to a faulty heart. LuAnn, a 4-H member while growing up, was a terrific cook and baker and was proficient in sewing her own and their children's clothing. In addition to her household duties, she spent much time mowing grass, caring for the garden and the farmyard trees and flowers as well as painting some of the buildings. She also found time to do "Leisure home Parties" and was employed by the Federal Government to do both population census and home heating census work for many years to supplement family income. Before marriage she earned a Secretary Degree from Lake Region State College and was employed at First National Bank, Devils Lake, ND.

Jim spent his first forty years on the farm which he and LuAnn purchased five years after his father's death in 1974. He helped about the farm feeding chickens and helping pitch hay to the cows beginning at the age of eight. This was followed by raking hay on a "B" John Deere at age eleven, and then driving many different tractors on the farm doing chores of that sort, including swathing ripe crops at age 13 and running the combine at age 17. He also worked for a good number of neighbors for wages in the summer season beginning at age 13 and working at the Barendt Potato House, Webster, ND after high school graduation. He spent one year attending classes at Lake Region State College and two years driving the Devils Lake Public Schools bus. After marriage Jim spent many winter hours not only working at the potato house but also selling vacuums, doing carpentry, and hauling grain for the neighbors.

Jim was suffering allergies from exposure to grain dust, and with LuAnn, a wonderful bookkeeper, keeping a very accurate track of the upward cost of inputs and family expenses and the downward trend of the farm income, it was still not easy to decide to sell the farm and start a life elsewhere. It was a fine time to sell as the result was to own a large nearly-

new home in Devils Lake, just a couple blocks from Jim's mom. Plus, both found immediate employment, LuAnn as teller at First National Bank and Jim at Sieg's Office Supply and as a part-time bartender at the KC Club.

Both were active in many capacities at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, rural Crary, and again at St. Joseph's as CCD Instructors, Eucharistic Ministers, Lector and on Parish Council and Altar Society offices. On the farm their children were in 4-H and participated in many Edmore School activities. In Devils Lake they again excelled in sports, music, and scholastic activities. While on the farm Jim served on co-op boards, was involved in political activities, and was a Ramsey County Farmers Union Director for many years as well as a Local President at Lawton. LuAnn was a home-maker member, played bunko with neighborhood ladies and travelled to Lawton weekly to play bingo with a neighbor lady. Jim excelled in the 1990s as Curator of The Lake Region Heritage Center, procuring travelling history and art exhibits as well as writing dozens of grants for art, history, preservation, and educational programs. As a result, he won an award from a national local museum support organization which took LuAnn and him to an all-expense paid trip to Nashville for four days to receive the award, as well as to attend many different tours and musical shows including the Grand Ole Opry. Jim was employed by the USPS as a rural mail carrier for 24 years, from which he retired in January 2020. LuAnn had to give up her teller job in 1996 due to physical problems. She then was employed for a few years as a telemarketer and finally as a grade school paraprofessional for Devils Lake Public Schools. At age 56 it was determined she was adequately impaired to begin receiving Social Security and passed away in August 2022. Her lifetime of courageous suffering and accepting afflictions is our family's inspiration to establish this endowment at Lake Region State College.

Jim, Jamie, Lanny, Carli and Perry Schiele