

The Clarence Lawrence Memorial Scholarship

Clarence was born on a farm in Teft, Indiana in January of 1929 and graduated as Salutatorian from Teft High School in 1947, with only around ten students in his graduating class. After studying some at Purdue University, he was enlisted in the army in 1948 for four years and was stationed in Germany as a staff sergeant in the 63rd Battalion.

Shortly after he returned from Germany, he moved to Knox, where he met Peggy Anderson in 1952 on a double blind date that Peggy's friend had arranged. Both pairs ended up marrying. Clarence and Peggy married on June 6, 1953 and had three sons: Brad, Brian, and Todd.

Throughout his life, Clarence was a farmer in Knox and the manager of the Brems and Hamlet branches of the Starke County Farm Bureau Co-op for many years.

When he was first hired to work for the Co-op, Clarence expected to only stay until his supervisors found a more experienced replacement. However, he was promoted to manager and it wasn't

until 1994 – 37 years later – that Clarence retired. In those 37 years, he built up the Co-op from a small, organization, worth less than \$20,000, to a multi-million dollar co-op.

Due to his position at the Co-op, the Lawrences became well known by the area's farmers and other members of the community. It was apparent that Clarence and his family truly valued community involvement.

In 1959, Clarence bought their current farm made up of 250 acres, a three-story barn, twenty beef cows, and pigs. He wanted only a couple pigs and ended up buying ninety-eight! They also had three ponies: Rex, Misty, and Princess.

In addition to being a farmer and managing the Co-op, Clarence was involved in multiple organizations throughout the community. He served on the Hamlet State Bank board from 1968 to 1994 and was a member of the Knox Masonic Lodge No. 639, the Knox American Legion, the Scottish Rite of South Bend, and the Orak Shrine of Michigan City. Clarence enjoyed spending time with his



grandchildren, dancing, and traveling with his wife and family.

Over the years, Clarence and Peggy traveled throughout France, Germany, England, Italy (by bus), and they took eight cruises to the Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Cancun. Along with being a farmer and business man, Clarence took time to enjoy life. According to his wife, dancing was among his hobbies, and he was a very good dancer.

Clarence was also very family-oriented and supportive. He cheered for his grandchildren at their sporting events. He even let his granddaughters play with his hair, do his makeup, and have slumber parties with him! And they loved him for it.

Sadly, Clarence passed away in July of 1999 from liver cancer. The Clarence Lawrence Memorial Scholarship was established by the family of Clarence in order to honor his memory as a trusted business man and farmer by supporting Starke County students seeking to further their education.

To be eligible, students must be graduating seniors of North Judson-San Pierre, Knox, or Oregon-Davis High Schools. They must also have financial need and must be planning to pursue a career in an agriculture or business-related field. Academic performance and good citizenship are also considered.