

Thomas and Gillmore Bundy

Memorial Scholarship

Thomas Bundy was born January 6, 1906, and his younger brother Gillmore was born November 2, 1908, on a farm in Benson County, North Dakota. They were the youngest of eight children born to Sigred and Austin Bundy. Although their classes and church sermons were taught in Norwegian, their mother insisted that since they lived in America, the primary language at home must be English. They were educated in a one-room, prairie schoolhouse.

In the 1940s, Thomas and Gillmore as

an environment that taught them the peace of unconditional love, the Christian principles of life, and the joy of singing in harmony. They were an integral part of a large, extended family. It was a quality that continued to draw all their nieces and nephews “back home to the farm” throughout their adult lives.

It was their sense of helping others that motivated Thomas and Gillmore to provide scholarship funds to assist students in attaining their educational goals. The Thomas



Thomas Bundy



Gillmore Bundy

sumed ownership of the farm and the care of their parents. Their sister Lena, who worked as a cook in a hotel in Harvey, moved back home and remained with Thomas and Gillmore for the remainder of her life. They were a very cohesive family unit and made all family decisions—from farm management to selecting a family dog—talking together in the kitchen nook over hot cups of coffee.

Thomas and Gillmore were members of the Lutheran church. Excellent musicians, they particularly enjoyed singing in quartets or as a duet in many church and community activities.

Since Thomas, Gillmore, and Lena had no children of their own, they contributed a tremendous amount of love, nurturing, and assistance to their seventeen nieces and nephews. It was always a special treat for the “kids” to stay at the Bundy home. It was

and Gillmore Bundy Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student pursuing a career in agriculture.

“Thomas and Gillmore never did marry. Gillmore passed away in the hospital in Rugby after a short illness. Thomas, due to a lengthy illness, could not care for himself, so I brought him home with me to Tacoma.

He lived with me until he passed away on March 6, 1997. He was ninety years old, but he adapted to his first time on an airplane and living in a different state in a large city with his customary poise and delight.

They were both gentlemen, but moreover, they were also ‘gentle men.’ They were and will always be my heroes!”

*Ardyce Conner
Thomas and Gillmore’s niece*