

# FAWCETT FAMILY

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**I**n recognition of eighty years (1902-1982) of medical service to Ramsey and surrounding counties by the five Doctors Fawcett, Margaret and Robert Fawcett established this memorial scholarship.

The medical service of this remarkable family began when William C. Fawcett opened his medical practice in the brand new village of Starkweather, North Dakota, in October 1902. From his humble office over the hardware store, Dr. Fawcett could not know that he was starting a family tradition which would lead to 148 combined years of medical practice in Ramsey County by himself and his four sons.

William Fawcett grew to manhood on a farm near London, Ontario, and was meant to be a country doctor. Farming was his hobby; he loved the land, and he loved the total involvement in community affairs that living in the village of Starkweather afforded him.

In addition to his passion for the profession of medicine, William Fawcett's principal interests were the school system and the church. He was a member of the Board of Education for twenty-seven years and its president many of those years. The First Methodist Church was organized in the fall of 1902 in the young Dr. Fawcett's office. He was active at the local, state, and national levels of the church and served as superintendent of the Starkweather Sunday School from 1916 until his health failed in 1942.

Doctor Fawcett was also active in the Republican Party and served as its county chairman for a number of years. On the state level, he was president of the North Dakota Medical Association and chairman of the State Board of Medical Examiners. His most singular contribution to medical education in

North Dakota was during the depression year of 1937—he was selected by the State Medical Association as its representative to appear before the National Accreditation Committee to protest the threatened loss of accreditation of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine. His testimony before the body and before the state legislature was credited at the time with being a significant factor in the medical school's survival.

The senior Dr. Fawcett married Frances Edith Magwood of Toronto, Ontario, in August 1905, and together they had four sons. All were destined to become doctors and to return to Ramsey County. Mrs. Fawcett died in 1957.

Doctor John Fawcett was born in 1906 and, after graduation from Starkweather High School and the University of North Dakota, finished his medical education at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, and Ancker Hospital in Saint Paul, Minnesota. After practicing one year with his father in Starkweather, he opened his own office in Devils Lake in 1931. He married Clara Schrag of Starkweather in 1933. Their two children are Carol and John William.

Doctor John Fawcett, a highly competent surgeon, followed in his father's footsteps in providing leadership in state medical circles as president of the State Medical Association and chairman of the State Board of Medical Examiners. His finest contribution to Ramsey County, however, was in his exemplary leadership in development of the medical group known first as "*The Doctors Fawcett*"—1934 to 1947—and then of the newly organized Lake Region Clinic. He served as chair-man of these clinic groups for thirty-seven years.

In his role as Chief of Staff at Mercy Hospital for many years, Dr. John was in the forefront in the evolution of modern total health care for the six-county area surrounding Devils Lake.

Doctor Newton Fawcett joined his father in practice in Starkweather in 1933 and moved to Devils Lake in 1934. At that time the clinic partnership known as The Doctors Fawcett was formed with Dr. John and Dr. Newton in Devils Lake and their father in Starkweather. Doctor Newton's special training and interest was in surgery and urology.

Doctor Newton married Vera Strong of Starkweather in 1933. Their three children are Kathryn (Mrs. Steven) Guralnick, Newton C., and Sonia Vee (Mrs. David) Armstrong. Doctor Newton moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1946, and in April 1982 he retired from medical practice.

Doctor Donald Fawcett, after completing his medical training with a special interest in obstetrics and pediatrics, joined his brothers in Devils Lake in 1939. He spent nearly four years in the Army Medical Corps in World War II. In January 1947, Dr. John, Dr. Donald, and Dr. John Graham combined their medical practices to form the Lake Region Clinic. Dr. Donald moved to Ontario, California in 1955.

Doctor Donald married Rosemary Tallent of Menominee, Michigan. Their three children are Deborah (Mrs. James) Maples, Richard, and Douglas. After Mrs. Fawcett's death in 1972, Dr. Donald married Mrs. Lucille Galipz in 1974.

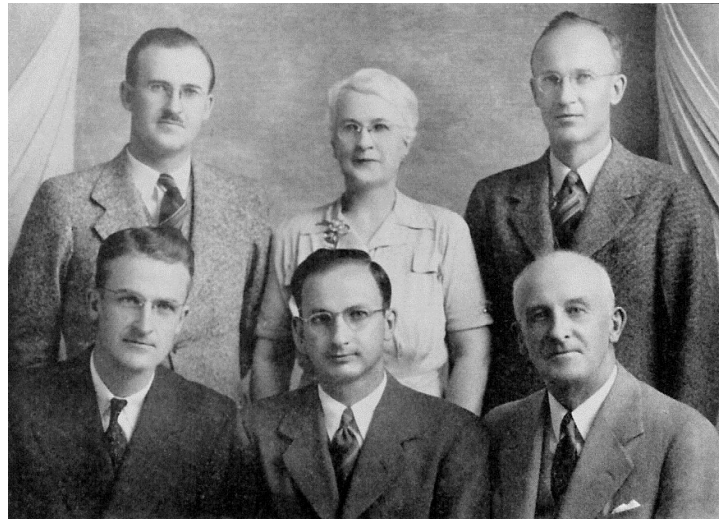
Doctor Robert Fawcett joined his brothers in the Lake Region Clinic in 1948 in the specialty of internal medicine and retired January 1, 1982. During his medical career in Ramsey County he served as chairman of the Lake Region Clinic and chief of staff of Mercy Hospital. On the state level he held positions of

leadership in the American College of Physicians, the North Dakota Heart Association, and the University of North Dakota Alumni Association. Doctor Robert married Margaret Running of St. James, Minnesota in 1943. Their four children are Margaret Johnson, Louise (Mrs. Varick)

Olson, Robert C., and Caroline (Mrs. Thomas) O'Donnell.

The senior Dr. Fawcett died in 1943 without fulfilling his dream of practicing with all of his four sons. He did live long enough, however, to instill in them the qualities of integrity, compassion, and genuine concern for the sick which were the cornerstones of his medical career. Only with the support of a wise and loving wife could such goals be achieved. Edith Magwood Fawcett was such a woman—to leave a large Canadian city and come to a western frontier village took great courage. She had that quality in abundance, coupled with a strong Christian faith and quiet dignity. The legacy left by these two Ramsey County pioneers will be long remembered.

The Fawcett Family Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a Lake Region State College student from Ramsey or adjoining counties on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. ♦



*The Fawcett family in 1941, pictured from left—back, Donald, Mrs. W. C. Fawcett, and John; front, Newton, Robert, and Dr. W. C. Fawcett*