

Leonard Johnson Memorial Endowment

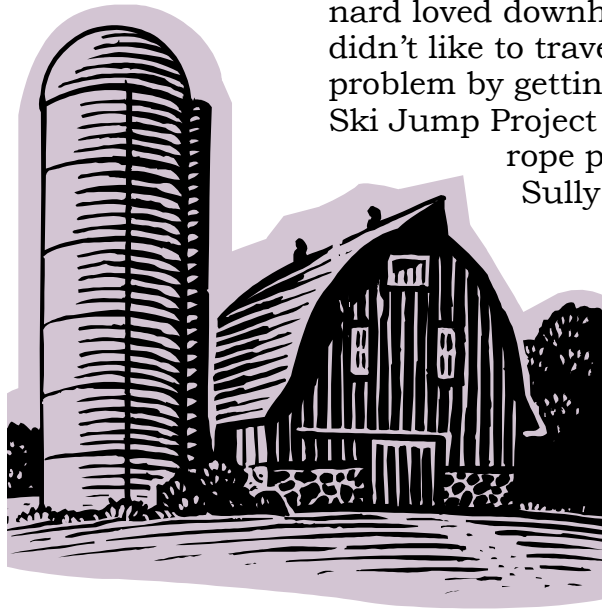
Born on Valentines Day, Leonard Johnson always had a big heart for family and community. But, most of all, he loved farming, working side-by-side with his father and brother Earl from an early age.

Except for the period of time when he studied welding at the technical school in Wahpeton, Leonard spent his entire life in the Starkweather, North Dakota, area. Farming was his passion ... always! Shortly before he died at the age of eighty-three, he was making plans for the coming spring planting season, testing seed germination, selecting crop varieties, and dreaming up ways to modify equipment so it would perform better.

But farming was not Leonard's only interest. He and his brother were the mainstays in a quartet that sang at nearly every funeral held in the Trinity-Bergen Lutheran Church in Starkweather. Leonard also sang in the church choir, directed it when need be, and

accompanied singers of all sort on the accordion and fiddle.

According to his sister, Lilah, Leonard loved downhill skiing, but he didn't like to travel. He solved that problem by getting involved in the Ski Jump Project and helped to get a rope pull operating at the Sully's Hill site.



Leonard married Janice Appelquist in 1963. They shared many interests. Unfortunately, the marriage was cut short when Janice died in 1971.

Through all the years, Leonard and Earl remained farming partners and companions. When Leonard died—one day short of his eighty-fourth birthday—Earl presented a gift of \$50 thousand to Lake

Region State College to establish an endowed scholarship in Leonard's name. He asked that earnings from the endowment be used to fund a scholarship for a student each year. A little more

than a year after Leonard died, Earl also died, drawing to a close the Johnson brothers farming legacy. ●

