

The Inez Piltingsrud
(Herman, Buttz)
Scholarship Fund
for
Students Pursuing Careers
as
Elementary Education Teachers



Inez Piltingsrud (Herman, Buttz) was a full-time elementary education teacher in the Devils Lake public school system from 1963 to 1978. This was preceded by many years of substitute teaching. She started teaching at seventeen years of age in a one-room schoolhouse near Leeds, North Dakota. She loved teaching and was very proud of the many fine students she had worked with. She was particularly concerned about encouraging new people to enter the profession of elementary education. This scholarship fund has been established in her name as a memorial to her service to the Devils Lake community.

Inez Iverson, the daughter of Olaf and Nellie Iverson, was born June 7, 1916, and grew up on a farm in the Hurricane Lake area north of Leeds, North Dakota. Her parents were both born in Norway. She was baptized and confirmed in the Hurricane Lake Lutheran Church. She attended Hurricane Lake Elementary School and graduated from Leeds High School in 1932. She received a Two-Year Standard Diploma from Minot State Teachers College and later, a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of North Dakota.

Her first year of teaching was in a rural school near Leeds at the age of seventeen, after

receiving a One-Year Rural Teaching Certificate from Minot State Teachers College. Her second year of teaching was in the Hurricane Lake School near York, North Dakota, where she was once a student. She commented, *“By the time I was teaching there, a new school had been built, and a very nice one! It was a two-story building with a furnace in the basement. The teaching contracts for rural schools at that time stipulated that the teacher must do his or her own janitor work. Tending that furnace was a part of my job.”*

“I saved what money I could during those two years of teaching. Of course, with a salary of seventy-five dollars a month, it was hard to get ahead. With the money I saved, I went back to Minot State for a second year to get my Standard Diploma (for elementary teachers).” Following that, she taught school at Knox for one and a half years before marrying Victor Piltingsrud in Leeds in 1939. She commented, *“You might wonder why I quit teaching when we got married since we certainly could have used the money. At that time it was understood that when a teacher got married, she must give up her job since jobs were so scarce that one job to a family was all that could be allowed.”* They moved to Devils Lake, North Dakota, that

same year where he and his father established The Bootery. She was a substitute teacher while raising a family. Mr. Piltingsrud died in 1962. She then taught elementary grades in Sweetwater School in Devils Lake for sixteen years, retiring in 1978. She married Carl Herman in 1967. Mr. Herman died in 1972. She married Robert Buttz, a Minot, North Dakota, attorney, in 1977. Mr. Buttz died in 1990.

Inez was an active member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Devils Lake and WELCA and held several church offices in early years. She taught fifth grade in Sunday School for twenty-five years. She was a member and held several offices in Women’s Club, PTA, and Girl Scouts. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, Sons of Norway, NDEA, NEA, and the Retired Teachers Association.

Her children have established and funded this scholarship fund through the Devils Lake Area Foundation. They are Nancy Clifford of Walworth, Wisconsin (an art teacher), Harley Piltingsrud of Cincinnati, Ohio (a physicist), and Mark Piltingsrud of Glencoe, Illinois (an architect). ♦

