Fred and Vivian Hoghaug are both deeply rooted in the Lake Region. Fred was born in Devils Lake, and following high school he gave up a promising career as a bundle pitcher on a threshing crew to try out as a bank “flunkie.” This proved to be a wise decision, as Fred moved through the ranks to become assistant cashier, vice president, and finally president of Ramsey National Bank and Trust Company. Vivian Osen was raised in Binford, North Dakota, and earned a teaching certificate from Valley City State College. She accompanied her family to Devils Lake when her father became manager of the Nortz Lumber Company.

Vivian and Fred were married on stage in two different plays before marrying for real in 1939. Together, they raised three children—Lynn, Linda, and Paul. Lynn attended the University of Michigan and earned a law degree from the University of North Dakota. He worked in the trust departments of banks in Fargo and Bismarck for several years before returning to Devils Lake where he currently serves as president of Ramsey National Bank and Trust. Lynn has three children—Paul, Erik, and Monica.

Linda earned a music degree from Concordia College. She lives in Brainerd with her husband, Robert Dryden, an instructor at Brainerd Community College. They have four children—Lisa, Bret, Beth, and Daniel.

In 1961, at the age of seventeen, Paul died in a tragic hunting accident. The Hoghaug family has established several charitable funds which honor Paul’s memory by helping other young people gain access to education. Paul was an average good student involved in a lot of extra activities. He loved to fish and hunt. He was good at water skiing, including jumping. At school, Paul won letters in hockey. He was in the band from junior high and on. He played first chair trumpet and had several solo parts. Other activities included district winner at the science fair, member of St. Olaf Boys’ Choir, Boys State, and the National Luther League convention in Florida.

Throughout their lives Fred and Vivian Hoghaug have generously invested their time and talents, as well as financial resources, in pursuits that have helped to make Devils Lake a better place to live. Some of the organizations Fred has worked in and supported include the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, Demo-lay, Red Cross, Salvation Army, 4-H, Kiwanis, Masons, and St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Fred served on the City Park Board, on the Planning Commission, as mayor of Devils Lake, and two terms as a member of the North Dakota House of Representatives. He also served as a delegate to the North Dakota Constitutional Convention. In addition to his work and community commitments, Fred has always felt it is important to find time for recreation. He enjoys hunting, bowling, and fish-

Love is a basket with five loaves and two fishes. It’s never enough until you start to give it away.
ing—but golf is his first love. The only place to look for Fred on Thursday afternoons is on the golf course.

Music has always played a large role in Vivian’s life. She was the church organist, directed the girls choir, and sang in the adult choir at St. Olaf Lutheran Church. She has been a long-standing member of the Devils Lake Music Club which had the honor of representing North Dakota at the national convention in Salt Lake City. Vivian has also served as president of Ladies Aid, as Worthy Matron of Eastern Star, and as a member of the board of directors of the Good Samaritan Society.

Being a banker through and through, part of Fred’s philosophy about life is that we all must believe in the “magic of compounding interest.” Whether talking about personal skills and abilities or financial assets, Fred believes, “You can’t get rich overnight, but steady additions, plus compounding interest, will really grow.” For Fred and Vivian, philanthropy is also an important part of their life philosophy. Fred has a small plaque which reads, “Love is a basket with five loaves and two fishes. It’s never enough until you start to give it away.” Fred feels that love and charity are synonymous. Planned giving, such as giving property that has capital gains, generates tax savings which enables Fred and Vivian to give more to charities.

The Gift History

✦ Community College Foundation: In 1963, Fred and Vivian made the first major endowed gift to the Community College Foundation (established in 1959). This gift of twenty shares of Ramsey National Bank and Trust stock was followed by additional gifts in 1969, 1970, 1976, and 1979. The gifts, plus two stock splits, brought the foundation’s stock ownership to 229 shares. These shares were subsequently sold to Ramsey Bancshares, Inc. for $91,575 plus interest. The Community College Foundation received over $105 thousand from these stock gifts.

✦ Remainder Trust: In 1966, Fred and Vivian established a remainder trust in memory of their son Paul. The gift was designated to support the college’s library. Dean Berg and officers of the Community College Foundation asked that the library be named “Paul Hoghaug Library.” The trust value at the time it was established was $35 thousand. Its present value is approximately $140 thousand. Earnings from the trust remain with Fred and Vivian.

✦ Devils Lake Area Foundation: Fred, along with other officers at Ramsey National Bank and Trust, and the Community Development Corporation saw a need for a local foundation as a resource for philanthropy in the Lake Region. Fred is proud of the foundation and tells about the many hours of work put in by his son, Lynn. Fred made the first donation of about $3,000 worth of listed stocks in 1979. The foundation has grown to $550 thousand in 1990. The Ramsey National Bank Trust Department manages the foundation.

In 1982, Fred and Vivian gave four hundred shares of Ramsey Bank stock to the Devils Lake Area Foundation for management as a designated fund. The stock was sold, and the Devils Lake Area Foundation distributes the investment earnings of which twenty-five percent goes to the Community College Foundation. The foundation’s portion of the fund is presently valued at approximately $50 thousand (1990), so earnings of $4,400 per years are transferred to the college for scholarships.

Fred and Vivian have contributed generously to many other fund-raising efforts for the college. In 1984, through the Devils Lake Area Foundation, the Hoghaugs contributed listed stocks valued at $7,400.

Fred tells a fun story about one creative fund-raising strategy. Many Devils Lake area people had purchased stock to finance a livestock auction market. Once the Livestock Corporation was firmly launched, Fred convinced several friends to let their money do one more good deed. They turned their shares over to the college, and combined, the several small stock holdings made a contribution of $1,000.

Fred feels the people that make up the Booster Club are doing a good job, and the one hundred dollars paid each year helps to get good athletes to attend our college. In 1984, Fred and Vivian joined many Lake Region State College boosters in a benefit auction. They contributed many items for sale at the auction, and they bought the “big ticket” item—a 1968 Cadillac which is still being driven by a Hoghaug granddaughter.

✦ Paul Hoghaug Scholarship: This scholarship fund was established shortly after the death of Fred and Vivian’s son, Paul. Stock which had been listed in Paul’s name and memorial gifts were combined to fund the scholarship program. Records from 1990 show that one hundred and twenty-seven scholarship have been awarded to students from the Lake Region area. Many of the recipients have chosen to attend Lake Region State College.

✦ Foreign Language Foundation: In 1990, the Hoghaugs established a Foreign Language Foundation. Each year, this will enable two Devils Lake High School students to attend Concordia College Language Villages for two weeks.

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