

Lloyd and Lois Jones Endowment



Perhaps it was their Welsh heritage, or maybe it was just a way to fight boredom or loneliness while working the fields, but making music was an everyday activity for Lloyd Jones and his family. Lloyd and his brothers often entertained at community gatherings, singing in harmony “barbershop quartet style.” Lloyd’s family farmed in the Webster area, and he attended a country school there until convincing his parents that he should transfer to Devils Lake so he could play in the band.

Like Lloyd, Lois Olson Hefti grew up on a farm and began her education in a one-room schoolhouse. But unlike Lloyd, making music was not part of her core. Instead, Lois was a music booster and frequently put her talents for organizing activities to work creating opportunities for the community to enjoy music.

Lloyd and Lois met during high

school in Devils Lake, and both dreamed of pursuing college. Lloyd won a scholarship to the Pasadena Junior College in California to play clarinet/saxophone in the nationally known Bulldog Band. His college experience was interrupted by the draft for World War II. He enlisted in the Army Air Force but eventually was deployed to Ascension Island where recruits with agricultural backgrounds were growing food in hydroponic beds to feed the troops.

Lois completed a home economics degree at North Dakota State University and taught school for a short time, but she wanted to help with the war effort. She answered a call for trainees in radio communications but got off the elevator on the wrong floor and was quickly recruited into the air traffic controller program. For the remainder of the war she directed air traffic using signal lamps (light guns) and throat mic’s at Wil-

liam Mitchel Airfield in Chicago.

After the war, Lloyd and Lois purchased the Morrison farm on the northern edge of Sweetwater Lake. There they raised three children—Laurel, Lawson and Lee—and operated a diversified farm focused on small grains and livestock, primarily Angus beef cattle. Family and community gatherings nearly always included music. Lloyd and his brothers and a neighbor entertained frequently as the “4 Dads,” and Lloyd was the catalyst for a community men’s chorus that also performed often. Practice sessions filled the Jones home with music and always concluded with a home-baked chocolate cake. Lloyd also was a charter member of the Devils Lake Elks

Community Band which provided an opportunity to maintain his instrumental skills.

Lloyd died unexpectedly in 1966, and Lois opted to continue to operate the farm despite warnings from “advisors” who thought the task too large for a woman. She was determined to preserve the operation and the farming heritage for her

school-age children. Lois proved to be an effective farm operator and eventually transitioned the family farm to her sons.

Lois had many interests in addition to farming. Two special concerns were youth and education. Lois impacted the lives of many youth as a 4-H leader (30 years) and Sunday school teacher, and she

was a perennial advocate for education. She

served on the college’s foundation when plans were made for the current campus (completed in 1966). She lobbied for the planting of the shelter-belt that rings the grounds today and insisted that the young trees be properly nurtured. In retirement, Lois maintained her interest in agriculture and volun-

teered her time and talents to support community projects involving historic preservation, horticulture, and the arts. She especially enjoyed the performing arts pursuits of her grandchildren.

In keeping with the interests of Lloyd and Lois, their family endowment will support the Lake Region State College Music Department. ●



The Jones Family Home