Summer 1994

The Sower, Summer 1994

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Dr. Earl F. Ellington, Professor of Animal Science and Faculty Liaison for the CASNRAA Board, has recently been honored by two national organizations. Phi Beta Delta, an honor society for international scholars, named the Alpha Phi Chapter of the University of Nebraska as the Outstanding Chapter, Midwest Region. Ellington has served as President of the chapter since 1992 and has been instrumental in its success. Individuals who have demonstrated scholarly achievement in the international area are nominated for membership in Phi Beta Delta. There are three categories of members: international students who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement at their U.S. institution; domestic students who have demonstrated high scholastic achievement in the pursuit of academic studies abroad; and distinguished faculty, staff and visiting scholars involved in international endeavors such as teaching, administering exchange programs, conducting research, or providing services and programs to international students and scholars.

Ellington accepted the award April 15, 1994, on behalf of the Alpha Phi Chapter, at the Eighth Annual National Conference held in Atlanta, Ga. The National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture has announced Ellington’s selection as a NACTA Teacher Fellow. This prestigious award, recognizing outstanding teaching, was presented to Ellington at the 1994 NACTA Conference at Texas A&M on June 14, 1994.

Born and raised on a farm in eastern Kentucky, Ellington completed the B.S. and M.S. programs at the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. program at the University of California. He taught at Oregon State University for 6 years, and has held positions in teaching, advising and administration at UNL since 1968. Ellington has also been actively involved in a variety of student and professional organizations.

### Alumni Award nominations now being accepted!

The University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources Alumni Association (CASNRAA) annually sponsors awards to recognize achievements by its members and by other individuals who have contributed to the University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) or to Nebraska’s agriculture. The honorees will be presented engraved plaques at the Association’s annual reunion held each fall. The 1994 Awards will be presented at the Full Reunion, Saturday, October 29.

Nominations for the 1994 Awards are now being accepted. Use the adjacent form and additional pages as necessary. Nominations are due in the Alumni Association office by September 1. If an honoree is unable to attend the reunion, the award will not be presented. However, the individual will be considered for the award in future years. The awards will be based on the following criteria:

**Award of Merit**

The Award of Merit is presented in recognition of an individual’s achievement in the field of agriculture, including production, education and agribusiness areas. This award recognizes citizenship and leadership in these areas. The awards committee may select up to three (3) winners each year. To be considered for the award, the nominee must have attended the University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (CASNR) or the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis. Completion of a program or degree is recommended but is not mandatory to selection for the Award of Merit.

**Ag Alumnus of the Year**

The awards committee may select up to two (2) Ag Alumni honorees each year. These men and women may be recognized for their exemplary service to the CASNR, the CASNRAA, or to Nebraska’s agriculture in general. The honorees in this category must have completed a degree at the CASNR.

**Honorary Life Membership**

Honorary life membership may be conferred upon one individual each year for outstanding service to the CASNR or the CASNRAA. The recipient is not an alumnus of the University of Nebraska.

**PAST RECIPIENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD OF MERIT</th>
<th>AG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR</th>
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<td>1986 Willard Waldo</td>
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<td>1987 Robert Baun, Weston Furrer</td>
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<td>1988 Gerald Beattie, Gary Garey, Ralph Knobel</td>
<td>1988 Elvin Frolik, Ralston Graham</td>
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<td>1989 David Hutchinson, Harold Stevens</td>
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<td>1992 Robert D. Oster</td>
<td>1993 Leslie Sheffield</td>
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**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

| 1987 Ted Hartung |
| 1988 Ivan Rush |
| 1990 M. Rosalind Morris |
| 1991 John Klosterman |
| 1992 Merlyn Carlson |
| 1993 Jack Maddux |

Please use the following form and include any additional pages or supporting materials necessary. You may nominate more than one person in each of the three award categories, and nominations carry over for future consideration. Nominations are due September 1, 1994.

**College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources Alumni Association Awards Program**

**Nomination Form**

I would like to recommend _____ as a nominee for:

1. Award of Merit
2. Alumnus of the Year
3. Honorary Life Membership

Nominee’s Full Name

Address

Phone

Nominee’s class year

Please include the following information about the nominee:

A. Past and present work experience
B. Professional activities, contributions to agriculture
C. Community or other service activities
D. Contributions to University, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources and Alumni Association
E. Further describe the area(s) of achievement nominee has fulfilled and why he/she should be recognized by the CASNRAA.

Nominee:

Address

Phone

City/state/zip

Nominations due by September 1, 1994.

Mail the completed nomination form to: CASNRAA Awards Program, Wick Alumni Center, 1520 R Street, P.O. Box 880216, Lincoln, NE 68588-0216.

If you have any questions about the nomination process or the awards criteria, please contact Alice Kadavy, 402-472-2841.
Welcome, new alumni!

Dean Edwards receives the 1994 Massey-Ferguson Educational Gold Medal

Donald M. Edwards, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), has received the 1994 Massey-Ferguson Educational Gold Medal.

The award was presented by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE), the society for engineering in agricultural food and biological systems, during its international summer meeting, June 19-22, in Kansas City.

Established in 1965, the award honors "those whose dedication to the spirit of learning and teaching in the field of agricultural engineering has advanced our agricultural knowledge and practice, and whose efforts serve as an inspiration to others."

Edwards was cited for "his outstanding contribution to education." He was credited with being instrumental in enhancing the teaching and outreach functions of the CASNR. By developing strong links with community colleges throughout Nebraska, he has helped ensure that their courses are transferable -- a service that has greatly improved student recruitment and retention.

While a professor at UNL, Edwards received the university's outstanding teaching award as well as top student evaluations in his department. He is recognized as a facilitator who has established a framework within which faculty can excel and have positive interactions with students.

Prior to assuming his current position at UNL in 1989, he led revitalization of the educational and research program in Michigan State University's Department of Agricultural Engineering. He also initiated changes in the curriculum and the process to rename the department.

A fellow in ASAE, Edwards was the society's recipient of the A.W. Farrall Outstanding Young Engineer Award in 1973. For many years, he represented ASAE on the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, working to improve the quality of engineering education.

He also has held leadership positions in the National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society for Agricultural Education. A native of Tracy, Minnesota, Edwards holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from South Dakota State University and a doctorate in agricultural engineering from Purdue University.

He joined the UNL Department of Agricultural Engineering, now the Department of Biological Systems Engineering, in 1966 and was named assistant dean of the College of Engineering and Technology in 1970. He later served as director of the Engineering Research Center, associate dean of the college and director of the Energy Research Center at UNL before joining Michigan State University in 1980.

ASAE is a worldwide professional and technical organization of members who are dedicated to the advancement of engineering applicable to agricultural, food and biological systems, including the environment and natural resources, and to agricultural industries. The society, headquartered in St. Joseph, Mich., includes more than 9,000 members in 50 states, 10 provinces and 110 countries.

The Sower is published three times per year for alumni of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Alumni are encouraged to submit news items and comment on the address on page 6. The Sower is published by the Alumni Association of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. If you are no longer a member of the Association, ask that alumni to contact the Association for membership details.

Sower editor: Tanays Althouse, Layout artist: Kevin J. Wright

MOVING?
Please print your new address below:
Name
Address
City/state/zip
Business address
City/state/zip

When returning this form, please be sure to enclose your business card as well. This will help us maintain a more accurate record of your whereabouts.

Return to: UNL Alumni Assn., Wick Alumni Center, 1520 R Street, P.O. Box 880216, Lincoln, NE 68588-0216.
1994 Alumni Membership Awards

Alumni Membership Awards were presented to graduating seniors at the Graduation Celebration Breakfast on May 7th. These awards are presented annually to students for outstanding service to student organizations and the college. Club advisors select the winners, who each receive a framed certificate and a one-year complimentary membership in the Alumni Association. Awards will also be presented prior to the commencement in December. Selected to receive the 1994 awards were:

May Graduates
- Timothy Claver: Nebraska Chapter of Alpha Zeta
- Dawn Anderson: Block and Bridle
- Robert Allen Ryland: UNL Wildlife Club
- John Miller: Gamma Sigma Delta
- Jay Hanson: Gamma Sigma Delta
- Jennifer Becker: Gamma Sigma Delta
- Chadwin Bruce Smith: Gamma Sigma Delta
- Mark Desler: Mechanized Systems Mgmt. Club
- Andrew Lee Broeker: UNL Collegiate 4-H Club
- Ryan Tompkins: Range Management

August Graduate
- Destiny Liebl: University of Nebraska Agronomy Club

(presented at their banquet, April 23, 1994)

December Graduates
- Rodney Linsenmeyer: Agricultural Economics Agribusiness Club
- Matthew Wilshusen: Alpha Tau Alpha
- Corey L. Crandall: Horticulture Club
- Michael Roberts: University of Nebraska Rodeo Association
- Michelle Hefte: Food Science Club
- Timothy Jay Schmitt: Soil and Water Resources Club

Keith M. Halsey and Kendra A. Piitz received awards from the Pre-Vet Club at their banquet on April 16, 1994.

FROM YOUR DEAN'S DESK

Summer is a time of transition, a time for special efforts, a time to plant, a time to harvest, a time to reflect, a time to plan, a time to live. Here in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources we are experiencing all of these "times." Summer is especially a time of transition; a senior class comes to closure with graduation, a new freshman class is anticipated. A harvest has occurred, a new field has been prepared, seeds are being planted, soon the crop will grow and another harvest is anticipated. Each of our "crops" are different — ours involve the education of people.

Summer being "a time of transition" is also demonstrated by New Student Enrollment. In June and July, 265 new high school graduates, transfer students and their parents visited campus to become better acquainted with our university setting and to enroll in fall semester classes.

One of the "special efforts" that our college co-sponsors with 4-H during the summer is "ExpoVisions." About 300 high school students across Nebraska participate in this event which is designed to expose youth to the educational programs of the University. These young people are offered experiences to help them learn about themselves and possible career choices, and to gain skills that will benefit their families and communities.

### FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Hello! I'm Gene Watermeier and I will be serving as your board president for the coming year. My wife Lois and I live and farm in the Unadilla/Syracuse area. I will be filling the president's position following the excellent leadership of Tamara Althouse.

I want to welcome two new board members, Von Svoboda and Chuck Havlicek, and express appreciation to retiring members Mark Freese and Dallas Kime. Dallas will continue to serve as UNL Board representative. Also thanks to Dwaine Greenamyre and Bud Reece who have finished their first term and are beginning their second.

The Board recently held its annual summer retreat and planning meeting on the campus of UNK with a tour and college update. We were warmly received and impressed with the campus. We are excited about the association activities planned for the coming year, and hope you can participate.

Our activities are focused on the association's objective of fostering cooperation and communication among alumni of the college, and developing communication between alumni and the IANR.

The Board welcomes your suggestions and comments and I look forward to serving as your board chair for the coming year.

Gene Watermeier
RR 1, Box 125
Unadilla, NE 68454
402-269-2632

### SUMMER 1994
“What I have been up to since graduation, class of 1926, will require more than ten lines, if you can spare more. I still enjoy reading the latest in The Alumnus and The Sower after these 67 years since I graduated. Lucky for me I accepted the J. D. Patton offer, spring of 1927. I (l) received Life Membership Certificate No. 640!

But time marches on, and it saddens me greatly now to see more of my fellow graduates listed in the obit column than in the “What (have) you been up to” column. But as you newcomers are doing, we oldsters did our thinking in our earlier days, too.

So at 90 years, as I review the news, read The Alumnus and The Sower, I am happy to see you newcomers carrying on, and doing a great job, with still newer and better crops and methods! My wife and I got in on that crop that never fails, too. We raised 3 sons and a daughter, which now adds up to 4 grandchildren and 4 granddaughters, plus 4 great-grandsons and 6 great-granddaughters! And finally, just to keep active, I challenge all cornsmen in horseshoe pitching and bowling!”

30 Ralph A. Benton, ag education, also earned a M.S. in 1940 from UNL and later a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in agricultural economics. At 88 years of age, Ralph is still interested in what’s happening at UNL and in the state of Nebraska. He also submitted the following Associated Press article about the career of a fellow alum, which he clipped from the Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal. Dr. Benton lives in Clarksville, Ind.

The grass is greener, taster
In the world of grass, Glenn Burton ranks at the top. During a 58-year career at the University of Georgia’s Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton, Burton has developed 41 varieties of grasses. They include the turf at the university’s football stadium in Athens and the velvety green on many Southern golf courses. But the world knows him through his pearl millet varieties, which have helped feed hungry people in drought-prone countries of Asia and Africa.

“People who come from foreign countries revere Glenn Burton,” said Joe Coursor, a Georgia Extension Service supervisor. “To us, he’s a good member of the community. To them, he’s almost saintly.”

J. Neal Pratt, a retired forage specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in College Station, said the geneticist is known as the “father of the green revolution” for his work with pearl millet, a basic food in developing countries. “Before his millets came along, people just barely survived the droughts. A lot of them starved,” Pratt said.

With the world population expected to double from 5 billion in 1987 to 10 billion in 2028, Burton says it’s more important than ever to use genetics to harvest more food from the land. “I’m concerned about feeding the world,” he said. “Every time somebody buys five acres of land and puts a house on it, we’re getting closer to famine.”

He grew up on a farm near Bartley, Nebraska. After earning an agronomy degree at the University of Nebraska (1932) and master’s and doctoral degrees from Rutgers University, he took a USDA job in this small south Georgia town in 1936. He takes the most pride in the development of a pearl millet variety known as Tift 23A. Indian scientists, hoping to increase food production plagued by famines and droughts, made a hybrid by crossing their best variety with his. The hybrid increased India’s pearl millet production from 3.5 million metric tons in 1965 to 8 million metric tons in 1970, Burton said.

“If I can see a way to feed more people on an acre of land, or improve an athletic field, then that’s the motivation. That’s the payoff.”

(Reprinted from the Associated Press)

44 Carol (Kitzinger) Hampf of Arvada, Colo., is retired after a career that included teaching marketing and home economics, and many years as city clerk. Married with 3 children and 6 grandchildren, she now spends her time “enjoying life.”

Franklin H. Vandenbush, Jr. lives in Sioux Falls, S.D. After first earning a business administration degree in 1938, Franklin served in WWII and entered Ag College after his discharge. He retired from the U.S. Dept. of Interior, B.I.A. in 1973, where he was a Resources Development and Programs officer. He and his wife Mary are active in square dancing.

Donald R. Scott, entomology, retired from the University of Idaho in 1984, after 28 years in research and teaching about insects. Still actively writing, he has published more than 40 articles in scientific journals and presented 56 papers to professional meetings, and lives in Moscow, Idaho.

Donald L. Plucknett, general agriculture, retired in October ‘93 from the World Bank, where he was senior science advisor to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research for 15 years. Prior to that he was professor of agronomy and soil science at the University of Hawaii. Plucknett has written more than a dozen books and hundreds of journal articles, and is now building a log home on Leesville Lake in south-central Virginia.

Wayne N. Dankert, of Ida Grove, Iowa earned his BS and MS (’69) in agronomy, and is a USDA-SCS soil scientist. His wife Geraldine owns and operates an abstract company and they spend their spare time working on their farm west of Ida Grove and at the Dankert home farm in Merrick County, Nebraska.

69 Douglas E. Moon, ag education, taught for 5 years, and now works as farm manager for Bank IV, Kansas, out of Garden City. His son Scott is a student at Wichita State and his daughter Stacy is at KU. He and his brother Dennis are partners in a cow/calf herd in Holdrege, Neb.

74 Dennis Nun, ag economics, M.S., ’73, is president of Heartland Conklin, Inc, in Lincoln, Nebraska, which was recently recognized by the Conklin Company as the manufacturer’s largest volume sales organization in the nation in 1993. An alumnus of the Nebraska LEA program, Dennis and his wife Patty have six children and are active in several church-related organizations.

75 Glenn Larson, natural resources, is a district sales manager for Potonine Hybrid company and was married to the former Jo Bristow. The couple lives in Henderson, Neb.

76 Thomas Lipp, ag honors, earned his J.D. from the UNL College of Law in 1979 and has practiced law in Algona, Iowa for 10 years. Tom and his wife Robin (Hansen) have two young children and Tom recently obtained for a client the largest jury verdict in Kossuth County history.

77 Mark Buell of Liberty, Mo., earned his B.S. in ag econ/ag ed and his M.S. in 1983 in ag education. After 6 years working in ag in Nebraska, M. S. recently returned to teaching agribusiness at the secondary level in 1991. Now working with inner-city students from diverse backgrounds, Mark teaches agribusiness to 125 of the 150 freshman ag students at Magnet H.S. in Kansas City. They raised 20 lambs in downtown KC, and have some top-notch FFA members who have been recognized on the cover of the national FFA magazine.

82 Timothy Heller Fischer, M.D., earned his B.S. in animal science prior to entering medical school, where he earned his Master’s in pediatrics in 1983, his Doctor of Medicine in 1986 and Residency in Family Practice in 1989. Tim is now practicing family medicine in Lincoln, where he lives with his wife Jodi (Dufek) and their children Ryan, Andrea and Leah. Although he took home first place in the St. Peter’s 4th Annual Chili Cook-off, he says he still misses the roast beef sandwiches and fries with gravy in the old Moo-U Union!

83 Theresa (Seeman) Roa, animal science, lives in Charleston, S.C. where she is currently managing a 530 sow breeding stock multiplier herd outside Sioux Falls. She was honored in January when she was named South Dakota Master Pork Producer for 1993.
Thomas W. Burnell, animal science, completed his Ph.D. in nutrition at the University of Kentucky and accepted a teaching/research position at Auburn University. He then joined Continental Grain Company as a field nutritionist and held positions in sales and sales management prior to being named director of R & D. Thomas and his wife Terri have three six-year-old sons and continue to follow Nebraska football, though he says this is somewhat difficult living in Big Ten country. The Burnell’s live in Gurnee, Ill.

Paul Hotty, mechanized agriculture, is zone manager for sales of all Ford New Holland, Inc. products in southeast and southwest Nebraska. Paul and his wife Sue have three children, Kimberly, Kelley and Katie, and are happy to be living in Lincoln after being transferred all around the Midwest for 9 years.

Michele (Ford) Malnaberg, natural resources, lives in Phillipsburg, Kan., with her husband Bud, and children Cole and Kady. After working for SCS in Burwell, there was a one-room school where I worked for Pioneer in Texas, and then worked with several SCS and ASCS offices in Kansas before switching careers to full-time homemaker five years ago. Michele keeps busy with her family, supporting her husband’s extension career, and with volunteering with Cargill.

Gary McClain, ag economics, has just recently moved from Chicago to Eden Prairie, Minn. — his sixth move in ten years — where he has a position in white wheat trading with Cargill. He and his wife, Johna, have two daughters,Brittany and Kara, and were adapting to Bears and Bulls fans, but have always remained partial to the Huskers.

John Meyer, ag economics, lives in Bolingbrook, Ill. (Chicago area), with his wife Denise and their two boys, Michael and Brian. John has been a sales representative for Continental Grain for 10 years and is currently manager of financial services. Denise teaches in a west suburban school district and is a University of Northern Illinois grad.

Ruth E. Lunderman, industrial businesses, live in La Quinta, Calif., where she is associate pastor of adult and children ministries at Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church. She is one of two pastors at a church of over 1100 members. She is married to Brad Alan Miller, and they have two sons; Trevor Paul and Joshua Jack. Ruth comments, “Isn’t it amazing where studies for veterinary medicine may lead you — to the ministry?”

Brenda (Hoydien) Schafer, ag economics, is a loan processor who has lived in Kansas City since graduating from UNL. Brenda is married and has two boys; Joe, 4, and Eric, 2.

Lon Swanson, animal science/ag economics, lives in Overland Park, Kan., where he is senior real estate officer with Boatmen’s Trust Co. in Kansas City. After graduating from UNL, Lon traveled to Egypt on an International 4-H Exchange Program, then worked for two years for Oppenheimer Industries before starting with Boatmen’s as a farm manager in 1987. Lon and his wife Becky have a two-year-old daughter named Blakely.

Michelle R. (Golden) Tibbels, wildlife biology, lives in Omaha where she is controller for Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Nebraska. Michelle received a degree in accounting from UNO in 1987, and her CPA certification in 1989; she worked for Deloitte and Touche for four years. Michelle and her husband Scott have one son.

Mathew L. Wilson, ag economics, is a farmer/retailer. He and his wife Lisa have four children, and raise popcorn, white corn, yellow corn and alfalfa on their farm southwest of Gothenburg, Neb. The Wilson’s also run steers from April to September and are active in Gideons, Corn Growers Association and their church. Mathew is a DeKalb dealer and enjoys golfing when time permits.

Vicki (Wagner) Wohlers, horticulture, lives with her husband Kent and daughter Anne on an acreage south of Lincoln, Neb. Vicki is a nursery inspector with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, and is currently president and newsletter editor of the Central Chapter of the Horticultural Inspection Society, which consists of members from 13 Midwestern states.

...more class notes

Lee Hartmann, animal science, has been working for Pig Improvement Co. Inc. since January 1990 and was promoted to national accounts manager in May 1993. At that time Lee, his wife Sherly and stepson Drew, moved to Franklin, Ky. They purchased an acreage and enjoy water skiing, horseback riding and being outdoors.

Curt Arens, animal science, farms south of Crofton, Neb. and has a small Christmas tree farm operation. Curt keeps busy with Crofton Community Club, serves on the Knox County Extension Board, operates a disc jockey business, runs two other UNL grads, and is a news correspondent for the Norfolk Daily News and the Crofton Journal.

Jerald M. Lewis, ag economics, is a specialty real estate appraiser for Farm Credit Services, working in Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming and Iowa. Jerry’s wife JoAnn is the customer service manager for Farm Credit Services for the western one-half of Iowa. The Lewis’ live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Vonda K. (Pelster) Schnell, ag economics, and her husband moved to Burwell, Neb. from Kearney in December of 1993. They are now farming and ranching.

Obituaries


David E. Parrish, Lincoln, Neb., died March 26, 1994. He served as Editor of THE SOWER from October 1988 to September 1993. The CASNRAA Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges his contributions to this association and expresses condolences to Dave’s family, former colleagues and friends.

From Sandhills shanty to (nearly) century’s end

By Burton F. Kiltz, Class of 1925

A a the best of an invitation from Professor D. P. McGill to fellow alumni of the agronomy department of the University of Nebraska, and an invitation in the publication, The Sower, I herewith submit comments, remembered, before and since 1925, when I graduated cum laude from the University. As a starter, my name is Burton Frederick Kiltz, born in the Nebraska sandhills in 1901 to a young couple, Fred and Addie, as the fourth of four children, whose father came to America in about 1840, and Addie, whose forefathers came to New England in 1766. They had acquired 160 acres of land by settling on it in 1886. They raised black cattle and built fences, a windmill, a two-room shanty and a small sandhill in 1901 to a young couple, Fred and Addie, four children, whose father came to America in about 1840, and Addie, whose forefathers came to New England in 1766. They had acquired 160 acres of land by settling on it in 1886. They raised black cattle and built fences, a windmill, a two-room shanty and a small sandhill. As a starter, my name is Burton Frederick Kiltz, born in the Nebraska sandhills in 1901 to a young couple, Fred and Addie, the fourth of four children, whose father came to America in about 1840, and Addie, whose forefathers came to New England in 1766. They had acquired 160 acres of land by settling on it in 1886. They raised black cattle and built fences, a windmill, a two-room shanty and a small sandhill. But when I graduated, I kept the idea of a doctor’s degree. With my love and with my wife, I tried to impress on my Latin teacher that Latin was a dead language and I did not need that. She reminded me that at home I learned how to milk a cow, butcher a hog, castrate a calf, chase cattle out of other people’s corn and kill potato bugs. Do you want to do that all your life? I told her that I hated it, and then she asked if I had better learn Latin then, and I did, and wrote her a love note on a Christmas card which she read to the class. Her name was Lottie Benson.

About that time I had acquired a hive of bees. One hive seems to increase to two, then to four. I decided that to go to college there had to be money, and honey and a patch of navy beans would help; not much but I hoped enough. And so in 1921, with an additional fifty dollars I had wheeleded from my reluctant Dad, I got on the train for Lincoln. I took an exam to enter the University and the exam professor about Lottie Benson.

I dislike mentioning money so often in this life of mine, but it was and had to be important. I picked apples in the ag orchard. I got a job at the cattle barn working for a man named Leonard. I showed up at five a.m. for two hours, (and) in the afternoon, at the principal sum of 25 cents an hour. I should tell you about chemistry. Chemistry class came at eight o’clock, right after a session at the barn, and as luck would have it also German by the name of Loeffel. I had the next three summers and frequent discussions of this problem with Professor Abbott. I am no chemist, I admit it. But I received better than average grades; I did not need to take chemistry over the next year. Perhaps I should say a few words more about that first year. I sold honey door-to-door; not much honey, ten gallons one week for a dollar a gallon. There was a bowl of oatmeal for breakfast and a bowl of chili for supper at a small one-room restaurant near the campus. For lunch I bought a quart of milk and a loaf of bread at ten cents each. I drank the milk and ate half the bread. The other half I saved for the next day. I wrote my mother almost every week, but more about that later. There was not much change to relate for the second year. Upon the advice of an animal husbandry professor, I switched to feeding hogs instead of cattle. It was the money. It was 35 cents an hour. The work had something to do with shelled corn vs. ground corn for hog feed. The professor who befriended me was also German by the name of Loeffel. I had the year before learned how to spell agronomy. (My) advisor also had suggested that I learn how to spell Frank Keim and Homer Goodding, professors in the agronomy department. I had not the least idea what an agronomist did for a living. Even now, I’m not all that sure. But also I am not good at spelling, and so am not even sure that I have spelled their names right. Sorry about that!

I kept whining about making ends meet financially, well, in my third year the clouds moved away and the sun came out. There had been a course in plant diseases where the problem of control of black stem rust and its destruction of winter wheat was discussed, and the control of the shrub, the common barberry, the co-host of the disease. I applied for a job and was accepted, a job that yielded about seventy-five dollars for travel expenses. That money would support me for the next three summers and frequent weekends. Hey, look mom, I’m rich! I bought a good-as-new Model T Ford roadster and was in clover. A master’s degree accounted for the added years: a master’s in agronomy and a minor in botany.

There was a scholarship offered in corn breeding at the University of Illinois for one year, perhaps leading to a doctor’s degree, which I accepted. I married a girl named Opal I knew from the sandhills and took her with me. By the end of the year I had managed to get her pregnant, and so had to give up the idea of a doctor’s degree. Frank Keim got me a job teaching agronomy and botany in the Nebraska School of Agriculture at Curtis, Nebraska. As far as I know no schedule of teaching agronomy to high school students had ever been developed. My decision was then that high school students do not take well to elementary agronomy teaching.

(Continued on page 6)
Since teaching agronomy was not skillfully managed, discipline became an issue. In botany I did great. Frank Keim came to the rescue once more and soon I was at Oklahoma State University teaching forage crops and pastures. I was to live in Stillwater and rescue once more and soon I was at Oklahoma, and that was that. Who was that fancy-dan anyway to say that it must be Oklahoma, and that was that. Who was that fancy-dan anyway to say that it must be.

involved with landscaping army camps, and reducing the clouds of dust that fouled planes and army tanks, army generals’ desks) and reducing the clouds of soil so thick the barracks across the street could not be seen. After the war, I did a stretch with a couple of Air Force headquarters, Barksdale in Louisiana and Scott in Illinois, then went back with the Army, still as a civilian, at its engineers section they called “land management” and that was that. My typing has been atrocious. My spelling was worse but recall that I failed eighth grade!

P.S. I forgot to mention the Certificate of Merit for Excellent Service from the Chief of Engineers at a dinner at Fort Belvoir when I retired in 1965. Also initiating another section of the American Society of Agronomy, A-2, the section of Military Land Management. I’ve forgotten the date, but it must have been in the early 1960s. The Army, Navy and Air Force were working together to accomplish this. Also forgot Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta fraternities for scholarships. I really liked that, too.

There was being valedictorian at high school graduation. That was a victory of sorts. I had written letters and pieces for a retirement home over a considerable number of years that my nephew Jack and his sister Eleanor liked. So they made a 140-page book out of them. I couldn’t beat that for an award. I wrote a prose-poem to be presented at my parents’ fiftieth wedding anniversary that my mother liked; my Dad had nothing to say one way or another. But Frank Keim liked it; do you remember him? He made speeches all over Nebraska in high schools urging students to go to the Nebraska University. At the end of each speech he pulled out “In Praise Of A Pioneer Couple,” and told them a pupil of his had written it. For me that rated as an award. Graduating from UNL and with a master’s are awards in my book, right? Getting the rating as Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy is another, OK? So much for awards. Not much, but it’s all I was able to manage. Thanks for asking, I needed that. My typing has been atrocious. My spelling was worse but recall that I failed eighth grade!

Regards to all,

Burton R. Kiltz
1713 Bellevue Ave, Apt. c-602
Richmond, Va. 23227

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Among the Board members who gathered at the Graduation Breakfast in May were (from left): Gene Watermeier, Maureen Freeman-Caddy, Sheila O’Connor, Earl Ellington, Missy Girard, Mark Freese and Tamara Althouse.

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