

3-13-2002

## Holling Family Award Reception

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/owenspeech>



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#)

---

"Holling Family Award Reception" (2002). *John Owens: Speeches & Appearances*. 39.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/owenspeech/39>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agriculture and Natural Resources, Institute of (IANR) at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Owens: Speeches & Appearances by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

HOLLING FAMILY AWARD RECEPTION  
March 13, 2002

John Holling, a 1912 graduate of the University of Nebraska who died in 1988, established the "Peter and Anna Holling Fund" in 1973 with his sisters, Hattie, and Elvena Holling, the only other surviving children at the time. Their siblings, Gustave, Emil, and Rose also had contributed to the estate.

The Hollings were a "pioneer farm family" of German-Danish descent. Peter Holling settled in the Grand Island area in the 1870s after missing a westbound Union Pacific work train that he had originally boarded in Iowa.

John Holling, the instigator of the Holling Family Awards, was born in 1887. He was the "only" Holling child to leave the Wood River area, and was a 1912 graduate of the Department of Electrical Engineering. He moved to the Washington, D.C., area in the 1930s to work as an engineer. His job was to oversee construction for the Navy in WW II and later for the General Accounting Office. After his retirement, he remained in the East, and died in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in November, 1988.

His brother Gustave Holling (1880-1971) studied in the College of

Agriculture at the University of Nebraska before farming the family's land in the Wood River area. John Holling wrote of his brother: "His brief training there accounted for his success as farmer, stockman, large scale feeder, and extensive land owner."

The Holling Family truly represented the pioneer spirit of self-determination, strength of character, and commitment to the type of experiences that make a difference in the lives of people, everywhere. Through this endowed fund, the Holling Family will continue to make a difference in the lives of UNL students and faculty for all time.