

The Paul and Dorothy Arven Memorial Scholarship Fund

During the 20th century, Paul and Dorothy Arven lived on a little farm across what is now State Road 31. They lived very simply, with few clothes and no extravagant things to their name. What the two lacked in monetary possessions they made up for by being two of the friendliest people in the area.

"What I remember most about Paul is that he would do anything for you," Ron Clausen, one of the few people that knew Paul well, said.

Paul and Dorothy were content with being secluded on their farm for many years. They did not do a lot of traveling or have many visitors, but the few who knew them best describe them as being great listeners and helpful whenever asked. Their farm was certainly not the biggest in the area, but it helped get them by. They raised 25 calves every year and sold them in the winter. To save money on feed, Paul fed the calves scraps from the bird seed plant and Wilson's Corn Products (now Prairie Mills Products).

Along with the calves, they also owned a small hay farm and would hire a few young boys and girls to help harvest it. During World War II Paul served with the U.S. Army in Europe and would later be a member of the LeRoy Shelton American Legion Post, Lake Manitou VFW, and Eagles Lodge No. 852.

Dorothy passed away in 1972, and Paul continued to run the farm by himself. He lived by himself for around twenty years before he died in 1994. In his final will, he indicated that his estate go towards the Fulton County Community Hospital and two scholarships in memory of himself and his wife. The scholarships are awarded to students of any Fulton County high school who are seeking a degree in nursing or agriculture. Two scholarships are given, one to each of the two areas of study.