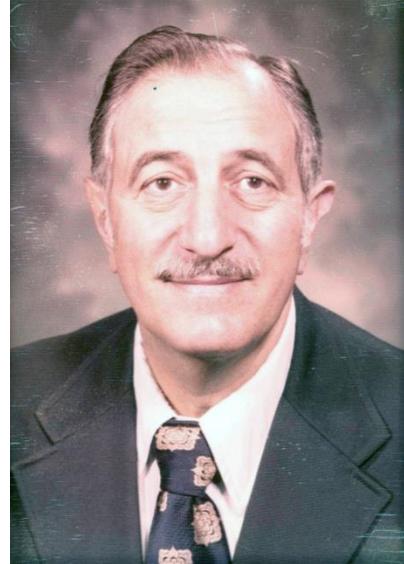


The Simon Deeb Scholarship Fund

For a rural town in the Midwest United States, perhaps nothing is more cherished than agriculture. There is a particular importance placed on the education of land and the resources it provides. Teachers in this field have to work stay up to date in order to adequately teach students about the ever changing conditions and available resources of the community.

Simon (Si) Deeb was the perfect man to teach the ways of agriculture to the Fulton County community. He was the son of Lebanese immigrant farmers, and came to the Fulton County area in 1929 when he was just two years old. He attended Metea High School and received a degree from Purdue University in 1949, a year after marrying his wife, Della.



While Si was attending Purdue he also taught in Rochester as a vocational school ag teacher. After he graduated he kept his job and was with the school from 1943-1985, all the while heading the FFA chapter. While he was the head of the department he led students to win many national and state awards for soil and livestock judging, and was honored with the U.S. Office of Education's Honorary American Farmer Degree for outstanding work with the FFA. He also received the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Association's Certificate of Distinction for outstanding achievements in the enhancement of the agricultural profession.

The Rochester farming community meant a lot to Si, and he did everything he could to help fellow farmers with their business. He started an adult farmer class in Rochester, and grew it to be an integral part of agriculture around the area. Education was his top priority, and he always found the most joy out of seeing a student succeed.

"My dad had a philosophy that you do things so you can help others," Connie, Si's daughter, said. "He got the most happiness out of seeing other people's success."

While the FFA chapter and teaching took up most of his time, Si was also involved with several organizations around the community. He was a former member of the Fulton County Council, a 24-year member of the committee that conducts the annual auction of 4-H livestock during the 4-H Fair, a longtime member of the 4-H Fair Board, a former member of the Rochester Water Works board, and had been active in Democratic Party work. At home Si raised 6,000 chickens on the family's small 2.5 acre farm with the help of Della and their four children- three daughters and one son.

Si was also a member of Grace United Methodist Church, the John Purdue Club, the Rochester Classroom Teachers Association, the Indiana State Teachers Association, the National Education

Association, and was a past president of the Indiana Agriculture Teachers Association. During the summers he took time off from being a teacher and ran a pool sale business that eventually came to be known as Allied Pools. Si was rightfully awarded the Rochester/Lake Manitou Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award in 1984.

Before Si's passing in 1987, his friends and family decided they needed to do something to honor the man who cared so much about the agriculture means of the community. They founded a scholarship fund in his name in 1980, and it was transferred to the Northern Indiana Community Foundation in 1996. The scholarship goes to students who plan to study in the field of agriculture after high school. With the scholarship the legacy of Si will live on forever, and students from the Rochester community will continue to be helped to achieve their agricultural goals.

"Dad took more pride in student's successes than his own, and the scholarship helps to carry that on," Connie said.