Jean Hofer History Scholarship

Jean was born in Creston, Iowa and grew up in several towns along Interstate 29 (Missouri to North Dakota), as her foreman father’s work on the road necessitated moving along its completed sections. She attended Southwest Missouri State University, where she studied to be a history teacher.

Jean was always fascinated by history. She often asked her father to tell her stories of the olden days when he was young. When she was growing up, she loved school and had great admiration for her teachers. Her favorite was Sheila Shinn, who taught history and was also the debate and speech coach. Jean says “She had a way of bringing out the best in her students. She made history come alive and instilled a desire to research for more than memorizing names and statistics. She was a wonderful teacher and made history and learning fun. “

Jean’s future plans changed when she married and started a family. Her son Chuck Sherwood was born in 1969, and Jean turned her focus to motherhood. Today Jean lives in South Dakota, and her son speaks of his appreciation for his mother’s career sacrifice. Chuck established the Jean Hofer History Scholarship in honor of his mother and her love for history.

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