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01/02/1987 - Weavers Graduation And High Score

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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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January 2, 1987

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Sixty years ago Ivan W. Weaver had the highest score on an examination given to eighth grade graduates in Charleston Township.

The document citing Weaver's graduation and high score also reads:

"The holder of this scholarship is entitled to admission to any Normal University or State Normal School in the State without further examination and to receive gratuitous instruction therein..."

For a couple of reasons the young man didn't avail himself of the opportunity for higher education, but his belief in college and his desire to perpetuate the memory of the late Mrs. Weaver will make it financially easier for young persons to attend Eastern Illinois University.

Weaver has given \$7,000 to the Eastern Illinois University Foundation to establish the Ivan W. and Mabel Blum Weaver Scholarship. Purpose of the scholarship is to "recognize students from Charleston High School who have excelled academically and are attending Eastern Illinois University in one of the fields of Science, Mathematics, or Accountancy."

There is a special distinction attached to the Weaver scholarship fund. It was the first fully-funded new scholarship in the Foundation's Tenth Decade Campaign, inaugurated to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the University in 1895. It is a five-year development program aimed at raising \$5 million in private contributions.

The gift also made Weaver a charter member of The President's Club. His name appears on a distinctive bronze plaque in a display case in the first floor hallway of Old Main.

-more-

Weaver
add 1

The first recipient is doing well. Mark Hutchcraft is an accountancy major at Eastern and he is a straight-A student. Hutchcraft said "I'm very happy to be named the first winner of the scholarship. It was a big financial help to me. I think it's great that Mr. Weaver established the fund."

Mrs. Weaver, who died in 1984, was a giving person who believed that "help thy neighbor" were not empty words. A friend wrote a poem in her memory and one verse perhaps best sums up her life:

"Some friends you count as treasure/That you are pleased to share/
God has made our pathway smoother/Be'cause Those friends were there."

Mrs. Weaver was a cook at Charleston High School for about 15 years and was chief cook for much of the time. She assisted at the annual Kiwanis Club's pancake and sausage day for 16 years and was a devoted volunteer at the Red Cross blood drives at Eastern.

Weaver specified in the terms of the scholarship that it was being initiated "in the names of our children, Morris W. Weaver and Clarice L. Weaver Evans."

Morris, a 1956 Eastern graduate, lives in Tuscola and is an excise tax agent with the Internal Revenue Service. Clarice, who lives on a farm near Kansas, attended Eastern. Patty Hacker, one of five grandchildren, is an Eastern graduate.

Ivan Weaver is a modest, unassuming man. This is what he said about the scholarship fund: "I just want to help someone get something that I wasn't fortunate enough to get."