



PANHANDLE STATE
FOUNDATION



Ralph Gieck



Clarice Coots Gieck

Ralph and Clarice Gieck Memorial Scholarships

Est. 2004 - Additional Scholarship established 2018

Clarice Pearl Gieck, 94, died peacefully at her home Wednesday, April 16, 2003, surrounded by her much beloved husband, children and caretakers. Her long journey through life began on a ranch in Nara Vista, N.M., where her strong commitment to the land provided the strength and stability which Clarice attended Panhandle State and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. She taught home economics for 13 years in Altus, OK, where she raised her children. While there, she became the first woman to serve as a board member and chair of the Board of Directors of the first Methodist Church. She taught Sunday School and sponsored the Methodist Youth. She was an active member of the American Association of University Women and the Literary Guild. In Charlottesville, she belonged to the Friendship Sunday School Class at Aldersgate Methodist Church and the Needlework Group.

A teacher in the true sense of the word, Clarice inspired family and friends with her courage to stand behind her beliefs, her wonderful sense of humor and

her constant quest for learning. Her grandchildren will remember a mind forever young and a heart free of judgment and full of love.

Clarice is survived by her husband of 69 years, Ralph Gieck; her son, Joe Gieck and his wife, her daughter, Frances Kahn and her husband, and her grandchildren.

Ralph "Bus" Gieck, 97, of Charlottesville, Va., died Monday, June 30, 2003. Ralph was born in Belle, Mo., in 1906, where his grandparents and other German immigrants settled in the late 1880's. In 1908, Ralph moved with his parents and older sister to the Oklahoma Panhandle as homesteaders. For a brief time, they lived in a half dugout, proving up on the land, before moving to Goodwell. There he was active in high school and Panhandle A & M College athletics, playing football, basketball and baseball.

He received a BS degree in agriculture at PAMC in 1927, where he was president of the senior class. He then pursued graduate studies in vocational agriculture at OSU.

For six years he taught vocational agriculture in Helena, and was school superintendent for three years. During this time, he married the love of his life, the beautiful Clarice Coots from a ranch near Nara Vista, N.M., whom he met at PAMC.

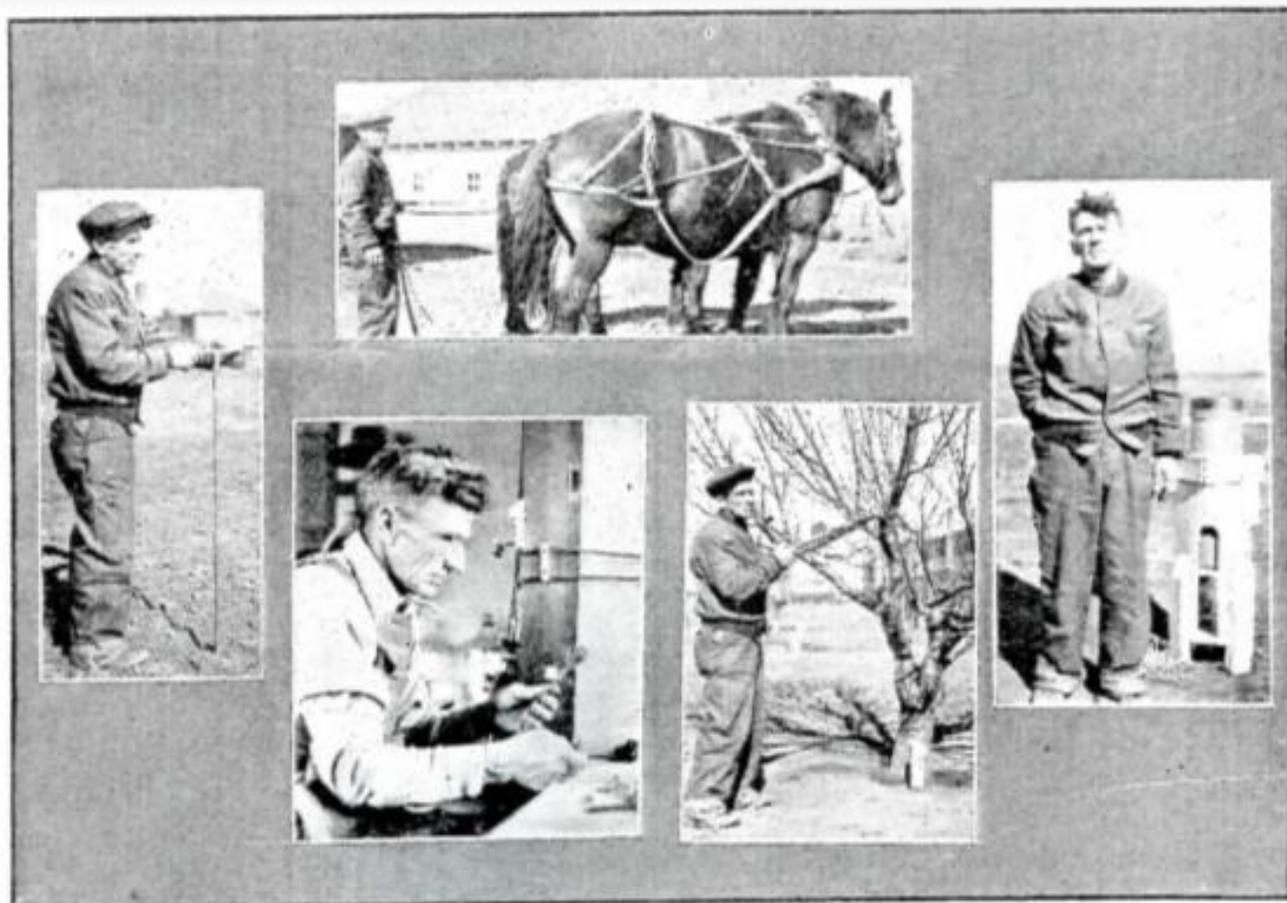
In 1936 Ralph was recruited by the USDA to start the Soil Conservation Service, for which he worked for 35 years in Oklahoma, receiving a certificate of award for Distinguished Service upon his retirement. Raising his family in Altus, Okla., he was an active volunteer in the community, giving countless hours to the First United Methodist Church, the United Way and to the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, serving as president for two terms. In 1988, he was inducted into the Alumni Ambassador Hall of Fame at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, formerly PAMC.

Ralph and Clarice moved to Charlottesville in 1989, to be near their son his family. He became a member of the Friendship Sunday School class at Aldersgate Methodist Church and quickly embraced the Virginia Cavaliers, following with passion the football and basketball teams. But his main passion was Clarice, who predeceased him by 75 days. Although sad to leave his beloved family, he looked forward to reuniting with his wife of nearly 70 years.

In addition to his son, Joe Gieck, and his wife, Sally, he leaves behind his daughter and son-in-law, Frances and Tim Kahn; his grandchildren, Betsy and Katherine Gieck, Ben and Joanna Kahn; his caretakers, Renee Tinnell, Kelly Diaz and June Branham.

2018

The continued generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Joe Gieck have allowed an additional Ralph and Clarice Gieck Memorial Scholarship to be created. Both scholarships benefit an agriculture or education major at OPSU.



Professors may come and professors may go but Mr. Edward Gieck stays right in the harness through changes of season and administration. He seems to have mastered the art of satisfying the Board of Agriculture with his services better than anyone else who has been connected with the institution, if we judge by the length of time he has been employed.

Mr. Gieck began work on the campus in 1909 during the construction of the Administration Building, now the oldest on the campus. He will tell you with a twinkle in his eye that he has seen four presidents come and go as well as seven agriculturists in his time.

Besides the various positions he has held on the campus, he served as deputy sheriff in the turbulent times when any athletic contest at Goodwell presented strong probabilities of turning into a riot. His influence in the community has always been on the side of harmony, order and progress. He has an active interest in public affairs, being at the present a member of the Goodwell Board of Aldermen.

In the position he now holds, Foreman of the Experiment Station Farm, his long experience and knowledge of early conditions have proved valuable. Both students and faculty in answer to the question, "What would it be here without Mr. Gieck?" reply, "It would be hard to find anything you want."

Mr. Gieck is now entering on his eighteenth year of service to P. A. M. C., loved and respected by all those associated with him and we hope he will stay with the College for many years to come.