

MEMO

TO: Hiram Drache
FROM: Kari Dreher
DATE: September 11, 2003
RE: Kolstoe

As per John Pierce's request I am sending you the information I found on the Kolstoe family. Back in 1978 Dr. Soren Olaf Kolstoe's son Ralph contacted us to inform us that Dr. Kolstoe had named Concordia College in his will - funds to be used for scholarship.

Soren Olaf Kolstoe was born January 5, 1888 in Haugesund Norway, son of Ole and Mette Kolstoe. The family moved to the US in 1890. In 1896 his father became the pastor of Salem Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Red Lake County, MN. He attended the academy from about 1911-14 or 15. He went on to St. Olaf where he received his B.A., then on to the University of North Dakota for his M.A. and Ph. D.

He served in North Dakota high schools at Kindred, Medina, Cooperstown and Wimbledon, and at Breck School in St Paul MN. He also taught at Waldorf before joining the faculty at Valley City State. Son Ralph mentioned that Dr. Al Zimmerman, once on our psychology staff, was a student of his fathers - as well as Ralph.

He married Inger Hertsgaard at Kindred in 1917. She passed away in 1961. They had five children...

Marion Prior of Fargo (whom we correspond with regarding the scholarship); Oliver of Greeley CO; Martin of Eugene OR; Ralph of Grand Forks; and John of Palmer AK.

He was the first recipient of the annual Conservation Educator of the Year Award presented by Governor Guy in 1965. He received the Sioux Award from the Alumni Association of University of North Dakota in 1973. And a men's dormitory at Valley City State was named in his honor in 1971.