

**Reminiscent Teacher Essay
Howard and Eunice Hovland
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Joined in marriage 1950 until today 2014**

This is a reminiscent story of the lives of Eunice (Eide) and Howard A. Hovland. Both chose the field of education. Both attended Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. D. and were now in their Junior year. While going to Augustana, Eunice lived in her Grandmother's home.

This is a condensed background of the two of us. Ever since we got married in 1950 we have grown as a team, doing things together, privately and professionally in the field of education. It can be concluded that although we taught at different levels we kept "our togetherness" most of the time, we were both son and daughter of Norwegian pioneers who were early settlers of communities in Iowa and South Dakota.

Howard served two years in the military W.W.II as flight engineer on a B-24. When he was discharged, he worked at the Bricelyn, Minn. sweet corn canning factory for three weeks or so, his work hours often were 8:00 AM until quitting in the evening or morning hours and sometimes he would get home at 2 AM, then he was expected to be there at eight o' clock for work in the next morning. He learned that it was not the kind of work he wanted.

Eunice served as telephone switchboard operator for four years at Augustana. Howard was night jailer in Sioux Falls his last year at Augustana. It became a significant Social Studies course which he experienced.

One day as both of them were going to classes at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, Howard asked her if she would care to go with him and watch Augustana's annual homecoming bonfire, she agreed. They talked and talked milling around with the crowd. Howard saw a log and suggested that they sit on it and watch the fire, she agreed. They talked and talked, the fire slowly died down, but they talked on and on. They recognized that their value systems were quite similar, and they each had a desire to contribute some benefits to society. Now after more than 23,000 days of married life, the embers are still burning even if they are no longer in the profession of education.

I relate to this because we both entered the teacher profession and taught within our special areas for over 68 combined years together as a team approach, each supporting the others area. This story will attempt to include this togetherness.

They both found that using/reaching a person's curiosity was a significant element in teaching their students or clients. Eunice taught elementary children, then gifted students, then was asked to participate in the Comprehensive Facility Program, (targeted

to unemployed and undereducated youth and adults) and then finally taught at South East Technical Institute Learning Center, always stimulating and encouraging a student's natural tendencies of wanting to know. It is a very significant tool or factor in learning.

Since both of them graduated from Augustana with their BA degrees 1950 they were able to get their first teaching position at Hartford, SD. Eunice's taught 3rd and 4th grade as a combined class and was paid \$1900 yearly salary and Howard was to teach four classes all different subjects, was acting principal, and coached basketball and track he also started a shop/manual arts class. His salary was \$3000, both of them knew that teaching was a low paying profession, but the desire was theirs to make, besides that they would have about two months vacation to travel or get higher degrees which they did.

At Hartford, Howard's first year basketball conference play was a disaster with only two games won. However, the District Tournament was a thrill. The team was designated by the Argus Leader as the "Hartford Sweetheart Team" by beating the # 1 and #2 teams of conference play of that year.

The first year Eunice taught 3rd and 4th as a combined class. One day she brought a box with a small lamb in it to class. The children were all excited and wanted to feed and pet it, indeed it was a joy to witness. Much later in the year several students asked, "How is Lambkin doing?" Eunice did not have the courage to say it had gone to market.

At Hartford Howard taught four High School academic courses, coached athletes and started a manual arts (shop) at for four years. Then both of them taught two years at the SD Deaf School, then they both transferred to Sioux Falls Public School and Howard taught shop classes for four years, he then became the administrator of Adult Evening classes program until he retired. He then retired and started to build our new home. It was a solar heated home with a geothermal heating system. We enjoyed it.

After four years of teaching at Hartford, SD, they both were asked to become staff members at SD School for the Deaf, they taught there two years then transferred to the Sioux Falls system. They both got their MA degrees at Greeley, Colorado. Howard became the Supervisor of Adult Evening Classes and remained in the Sioux Falls system until he retired.

As president of the Sioux Falls Teacher Association Howard struggled to convince his associates to vote to approve the state plan of teacher retirement and its implementation. Many of his associates did not see its value. How could one refuse to invest in a program when one retires, you pay ½ and the organization would match it? It has proven itself as a wonderful financial investment to all individuals who are now retired.

They both felt good about their teaching and/or employment status enjoying many creative tasks and adventures. Their educational experiences and benefits were rewarding. Even now (2014) they still receive personal greetings and Christmas invites

from some of their students.

Both have received numerous awards and leadership recognition. To list a few: Eunice became Chairperson of SD Vocational Technical Advisory Counsel, she was invited to San Antonio, Texas to receive an award. Eunice was a member of a Manpower Project. It would be working with the so-called hard-core unemployed youth for the purpose of helping them to upgrade their reading skills and finding employment. Her part in the program would be to establish extensive instruction of basic skills within the Comprehensive Facility.

Both Hovlands were inducted into the SD Hall of Fame in 2007. Eunice received the South Dakota Adult Education Association Award for Outstanding Adult Educator and April 1973, Eunice also received the MVAEA Achievement Award at Sioux City. She continued to teach at Lincoln High in the Learning Center and received a certificate of appreciation from the Juvenile Court Center for work with students Feb. 1982.

1987 – Howard and Eunice received the Augustana Fellows President's Award. Since then they have also received the Fellow Golden Award, the Augustana Fellow Regents Award. 1988 – Howard and Eunice received Augustana College Fellows Renewal Membership May 1, 1988 – (Nordland Fest returned to the campus with the Promise of America Exhibit which was very impressive.) Eunice and Howard established the Hovland Scholarships at Sioux Falls Foundation, Augustana College and South East Technical Institute.

In 1988 Howard became Chairman of MVAEA (seven state adult ed. Associations – MN, IA, Neb, KA, ND, MO and SD) March 31, 2005 Howard was inducted into the International Hall of Fame at Boston, Massachusetts he also attended his first meeting, it was held at University Bamberg, Germany.

April 14, 1994, was declared Howard and Eunice Day with an Executive Proclamation by the Governor (Miller) State of South Dakota for work in the field of Adult Basic Education.

As Howard received MVAEA Founder's award, he announced that he and Eunice would contribute to the associations \$1000.00 to be endowed and establish the "Development Fund" interest from the fund would be used to stimulate new and creative ways to promote Adult Education within membership. This fund has grown to over \$25,000 as of 1996. E and H being pleased with its success and broadened the idea in that each state would receive \$500.00 if they would model a fund similar to MVAEA. All states have done so with the exception of Minnesota. They had a similar program.

We both were presented the following recognition by Dr. Ron Robinson's citation listing some of our achievements. This letter is his presentation. Please excuse a few repeats.

Special Award

May 16, 2013 Dr. Ron Robinson (Augustana), President of Minnehaha Century Fund presented to Howard and Eunice the Minnehaha Century Fund Historic Preservation Award at the Minnehaha County Historical Society Banquet meeting held at the old Court House Building in Sioux Falls, SD. The content is as follow:

Howard and Eunice Hovland believe in education. Not just education K through 12 and not just BS or BA and not even MA or PH D, rather let us say that Howard and Eunice believe in education C. to ORC – that is from the Cradle to the Old Rocking Chair. For they were among the very first to understand that learning begins before we go to school and continues well after we have achieved the highest formal degree. They know that education is to be found in classrooms, in reading, in visiting an art gallery or a museum, in travel, in attending a play or public lecture, in merely discussing matters with friends and neighbors. They know that education is not just a corner of our lives, it is our whole life.

This belief in lifelong education has guided Howard and Eunice in their choice of goals, in the paths they have taken toward those goals, and in the projects they have initiated and supported. It has brought them awards and honors in the state of South Dakota, in the United States of America and in the world at large. Little can be done to further burnish their reputations as teachers, innovators, and philanthropists. We can only recite the shining facts of their lives – with emphasis on their special interest in education, art, and local history – that have brought them here tonight for yet another grateful nod at their remarkable careers.

Howard is the son of Christian T. Hovland, a Norwegian immigrant who settled in southern Minnesota, and Anna (Barnes) Hovland. He attended Augustana College, during the late 1940's, a time when the college was burgeoning with the influx of WWII veterans attending under the GI Bill. There he met the love of his life, Eunice Eide also descended from Norwegian immigrants. Their marriage in 1950 launched a partnership of teaching and learning that continues to this day.

After graduation from Augustana in 1950, Howard and Eunice set out on teaching careers first at Hartford, then in Sioux Falls at the South Dakota School for the Deaf, then for many years in Sioux Falls Public Schools. Along the way Eunice was teacher/facilitator with an exploratory vocational education program which eventually became the Learning center, now located at Southeast Technical.

Howard meanwhile added to his teaching duties the supervision of the adult evening and community education program and assistant director of the Southeast Area Vocational Technical Program. He secured a federal grant which funded the Adult Basic education Program in South Dakota. Together, the Hovlands helped to form the South Dakota Adult Education Association and founded the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Endowed Development Fund.

Not satisfied in promoting education for others, they continued their own education in summer and evening classes at State Universities and attained master's degrees from the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley.

Eunice come from an artistic family that included both Augustana Legend Palmer Eide and Joel Eide, director of the art gallery at Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff. It is natural, therefore, that the Hovlands became art aficionados. Besides collecting, Howard and Eunice have supported such artistic projects as the owl sculpture by Palmer Eide and Ogden Dalrymple outside the Morrison Commons at Augustana, the restoration of an early Palmer Eide fresco, "The Sower," originally located at the Canton Academy, now in the Chapel of Reconciliation at Augustana, and the creation of the Hovland Center for Liturgical Art at Augustana. What is less well known is that Howard was a close friend of Palmer Eide's, often visited Palmer in his studio, and successfully tried his hand at carving liturgical art.

An interest in history also comes naturally to these descendants of Norwegian pioneers. Their long association with the Center for Western Studies reached a peak with their funding of the publication of A New History of South Dakota, an innovative volume which combined the efforts of a score of authors and editors into one of the most comprehensive state histories ever attempted and when the Minnehaha County Board of Education, on which Howard served, mandated the closing of rural schools, he urged the preservation of at least one school. That effort led to moving the Grinde School from near Colton to the Sioux Empire Fairgrounds. The addition of the Fersdahl Log Cabin, the Church of the Good Samaritan from Parker, and the Rutland Railroad depot made up Pioneer Lane, which two years ago was turned over to the care of the Minnehaha Century Fund.

Meanwhile the Hovlands have continued their support of education with scholarship funds with the Sioux Falls Area Foundation, Augustana College, and the Southeast Technical Institute. In addition, they developed funds for professional enhancement for the Missouri Valley Adult Education Association, which includes the South Dakota association for Lifelong Learning.

One hesitates to list the awards and honors the Hovlands have received over their careers and well into their retirement years, for fear of important omissions. Let us attempt some of the highlights: Both have received, independently, the South Dakota Adult education and the Founders Award. Together, for their generous support of their Alma Mater, they have received the Augustana College Regents, Fellow, President's, golden, and Tuve awards, and for their contributions to the Center for Western Studies, the Friends of the Center Award. Eunice accepted the Pioneer Award from the Adult education associations in 1994 South Dakota Governor Miller proclaimed April 14 Howard and Eunice Hovland day. Howard was inducted into the international Hall of Fame for Adult and continuing Education in Boston, Mass 2006. Both were accepted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2007.

To those outstanding honors, we add tonight, as a kind of exclamation point, for

distinctive achievement in the preservation of the Heritage of Minnehaha County through dedicated voluntary service this Historic Preservation Award of the Minnehaha Century Fund. Howard and Eunice, please accept this latest addition to your laurels with our gratitude and appreciation.

Ron Robinson

May 16, 2013