

Harrison County Community Foundation

Charles R. and Frances M. Chinn Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Charles R. and Frances M. Chinn Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 by Larry L. Chinn, Judith A. Howey and Robert A. Chinn as a way to honor their parent's hard-work ethic, devotion to Harrison County, and to provide scholarships for Harrison County seniors who are pursuing a degree in an agricultural related career. Larry is the proprietor of Chinn Equipment, Judith is a teacher at Salem High School and Robert is the Manager of Truck Sales at Uhl Truck Sales.

Charles "Bob" and Frances were born and raised in Harrison County, Indiana: Bob in Corydon and Frances in Depauw. They both believed in the value of acquiring an education. Frances was a 1946 graduate of Corydon Central High School where she was in the band, Girls Athletic Association (GAA) and several plays. Bob, after leaving school to join the Navy during World War II, returned to graduate in 1947 from Corydon Central High School.

Bob was well-known for his aptitude in problem solving, especially when a repair was required. This ability helped to launch his career in automotive repair. As an active teenager, he rebuilt an old automobile for his use. Even in his childhood Bob was always repairing or designing. If a repair or a new design didn't work the first time, he would try again. This perseverance and mechanical ability served him well in the Navy and while working at the Ford auto dealership in Corydon and Roggenkamp's Chevrolet in Milltown. Later Bob used that ability in his own business.

Frances was a dedicated wife and mother who had a keen sense for accounting and business. In February 1957, Frances and Bob embarked upon a new adventure as they purchased a Texaco Gas station and auto repair business from the Harris family in Ramsey, Indiana. For many years through the business, Chinn's Garage, they served the community in automobile and machinery repairs and selling Texaco products. Bob also drove a school bus to transport children from Milltown to school. In 1968, they acquired a Massey Ferguson farm equipment dealership and renamed the business Chinn Equipment. Larry and Robert worked with their parents in the family business. Larry purchased the business from his father in the 1990s.

Bob and Frances demonstrated their dedication to Harrison County through support of a variety of events such as school fund raisers, the Ramsey Volunteer Fire Department, FFA, 4-H, Lanesville Heritage Festival, and the Harrison County Fair.

Frances passed away from cancer in April 1980, Charles in April 2013. They are buried in Woods Chapel Cemetery, Ramsey, Indiana. Both are sorely missed by family and friends.

