Roy L. Carlson
1922-2006

Roy Leonard Carlson was born on February 13, 1922, on a farm near Port Wing, Wisconsin, and passed away in Lincoln on September 3, 2006. Roy grew up in Elbert County, Colorado, and graduated from Kiowa High School. Immediately after graduation, Roy helped his dad farm until he left the family farm to work jobs manufacturing army trailers and installing telephone exchanges in Denver and Salt Lake City.

In the spring of 1949, Roy met Helen Rudloff and in 1951 they married in Battle Creek, Nebraska. After the couple married, Roy worked for a short time on a dairy farm near Sterling, Colorado, and on March 1, 1957, began his career working for the University of Nebraska as a herdsman at the Scottsbluff Experiment Station. Their four children, Michael, Patricia, Richard, and Robert, were all born in Scottsbluff. In July 1966 the family moved to Lincoln. After moving to Lincoln, Roy started working at the University of Nebraska swine farm across Adams Street where Mahoney Golf Course is now located. In 1974, Roy transferred to Marvel Baker Hall on the Ag Campus and worked as a research technician for Drs. Dwane Zimmerman and Ernie Peo in the Department of Animal Science. Roy assisted in swine nutrition and swine reproductive physiology research and teaching activities and retired from that job in 1987.

In retirement, Roy was able to spend more time pursuing his woodworking and leaded glass hobbies. He made many pieces of furniture for family and friends, including numerous baby cradles. His most significant pieces of leaded glass are located in St. John the Apostle Church and the American Lutheran Church in Lincoln. He was especially proud of the windows in the American Lutheran Church. Even though retired, Roy kept up with many other activities including delivering Meals on Wheels and helping to build houses for Habitat for Humanity. He was a member of Kiwanis International and was very active in support of local credit unions in Scottsbluff and Lincoln. Roy was an avid gardener and enjoyed classical music, especially organ music. A quote that fits Roy best is, “Measure once, cut twice or was that measure twice, cut once?”
Roy Carlson, retired Animal Science employee who maintained a close relationship with the Department until his death in 2006, spent much of his retirement pursuing his leaded glass hobby. Because of his knowledge of art glass, Roy was able to envision the beauty and impact of this stained glass window and suggested its development. Harry Tompkin, owner of The Palace Glass Company, designed, with input from Roy, and built this window.

After the design was completed, a computer “pattern” was made. Each part of that design is made of a separate piece of glass. The pieces were put together like a jigsaw puzzle, with a metal matrix used to keep the entire work of art together.

This stained glass window is made of hundreds of pieces of glass including beveled and jeweled pieces. The entire cost of the project was donated by the Carlson family and their friends and is a fitting memorial to Roy’s dedication and allegiance to the Animal Science Department and the University of Nebraska.