

Dedication of the ARF 2014-2016 Competitive Grants Program In Honor of the Agricultural Research Foundation Founders

In the early 1930's as the nation plunged into the Depression, funds to support agricultural research was fading. It was a time for men with vision. Such a man was William A. Schoenfeld, dean and director of agriculture at Oregon State College. He was aware of foundations at other universities that were successful in raising funds for research, and he consulted with Robert Kerr, a Portland attorney, who agreed that such an organization was a feasible idea for Oregon. Schoenfeld gathered several leaders to develop the organization, and in 1934, the Agricultural Research Foundation was established as the first foundation at Oregon State College. Officers were R.L. Clark, President, William Schoenfeld, Vice-President, Ralph Besse, Secretary, and co-founder Judge Guy Boyington from Astoria was a member of the initial Board of Directors.

William Schoenfeld was born in Germany and was brought to the U.S. when he was two years old. His professional career included service at universities and numerous state and federal agencies. This provided him with a broad background and a great number of contacts in the agricultural field. He became dean of agriculture at Oregon State College in 1931 where he served until his resignation in 1950. He continued his service to ARF until 1953.



Schoenfeld



Clark

R.L. Clark was a well-known business, civic, and agricultural leader, whose livestock business had led to many agricultural contacts. He was President of the Portland Chamber of Commerce and Secretary of the Portland Livestock Exchange. He served as President of ARF until 1970, a span of 36 years.

Ralph S. Besse was a farm management extension specialist at Oregon State College from 1922 to 1932. He became the assistant director of the Agricultural Experiment Station from 1932 to 1949, then associate director until his retirement in 1953. Following his retirement, he accepted a position in Israel, which necessitated his resignation from ARF. His service of 19 years as Secretary was invaluable in establishing ARE.



Besse

The ARF Board of Directors dedicates its 2014-2016 Competitive Grants Program to honor these pivotal individuals who established the Foundation and led it through its formative decades. Since its founding 80 years ago ARF has provided over \$16 million of it's own funds to support agricultural research at OSU-in addition to channeling \$157 million in donor gift and grant funds to OSU researchers.

KATIE RALLS

