

Lewis J Linger, I



Lewis Jackson Linger, I was born at the farm of his father on Skin Creek. He graduated from Weston High School in 1930. In 1929-1930, he was the first state treasurer of the newly established FFA and accomplished the degree of State Farmer. He joined the Lewis County Farm Bureau in 1933 and was president several times. He had perfect attendance at annual meetings from 1933-1988.

In 1942, he served as president of the Farm Home Administration and served for 15 years on the board of directors. He was elected to two terms on the West Fork Soil Conservation District. He was chairman of the state 4-H Round Up for 10-12 years in the 50's. He served two six-year terms as director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in the 70's and 80's.

In 1979, he was a representative at the 50th Anniversary of FFA's Annual Meeting. Exclusively a farmer for 50 years himself, since the original establishment of FFA in 1929, Linger was the only member/farmer who still made a living as a full-time farmer, with no other occupation needed to support his farm.

Since 1935, he has led the fight against the Stonewall Jackson Dam and was a strong member of the Upper West Fork River Watershed Association, taking trips to Charleston and Washington, D.C., to lobby against the dam. He was featured on the CBS Evening News in a story about federal dams.

He retired from active farming when the federal dam took his land. He now owns interests in winning gaited saddle horses.