Orville Coate was born June 25, 1894 in Pleasant Hill, Ohio. His college career was interrupted by World War I when he entered the U.S. Army where he served in Europe. Following his discharge from the service he resumed his studies at Olivet Nazarene College.

DeEtte Gilmore was born September 9, 1896. She attended Olivet Nazarene College where she and Orville met and were married in 1919.

DeEtte's father, Ernest Gilmore, a Nazarene minister, was invited by NNC President Wiley to serve at the college. In the early 1920s Orville and DeEtte also moved to Nampa. Both were school teachers and taught at various schools in southwestern Idaho. They concluded their teaching careers after both taught at Marsing for an extended period of time. Orville then became a rural mail carrier and DeEtte later served as a postal clerk. They spent their retirement years in Nampa.

Their only child, Forrest, was born in Samaritan Hospital on the NNC campus. He attended school in Marsing and then attended Northwest Nazarene College. In a letter to NNC President Riley, in 1962, Forrest wrote about his parents as follows: "All my life, from the first of my memories, they have been helping NNC students with gifts and loans one way or another".

Orville died on October 22, 1976 and DeEtte died on December 2, 1989.

Criteria for awarding of scholarship

1. Awards are to be made to deserving students who have financial need.

2. Recipients are to be persons of Christian commitment and worthy character who show promise of future service.

3. Nominations are to be made by the Financial Aid Office for approval by the Scholarship Committee.

4. Students must be full-time, have a minimum 2.0 GPA, and meet other general scholarship requirements.