

FRANCIS H. CASE

December 9, 1896 – June 22, 1962



December 9, 1896 – Born in Everly, Clay County, Iowa

1909 – Moved to Sturgis, South Dakota

1918 – Graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota

1918 – Served in World War I as a private in the United States Marine Corps and also served in the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps Reserves

1920 – Graduated from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

1920-1922 – Assistant Editor at Epworth Herald, Chicago, Illinois

1922-1925 – Telegraph Editor and Editorial Writer for the Rapid City Daily Journal

1925-1931 – Editor and Publisher of the Hot Springs Star

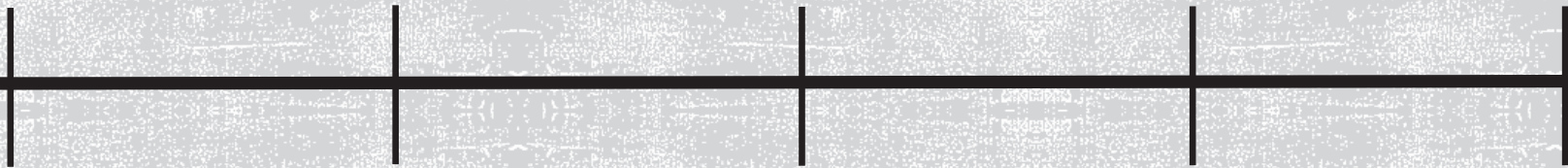
1931-1946 – Editor and Publisher of the Custer State Chronicle

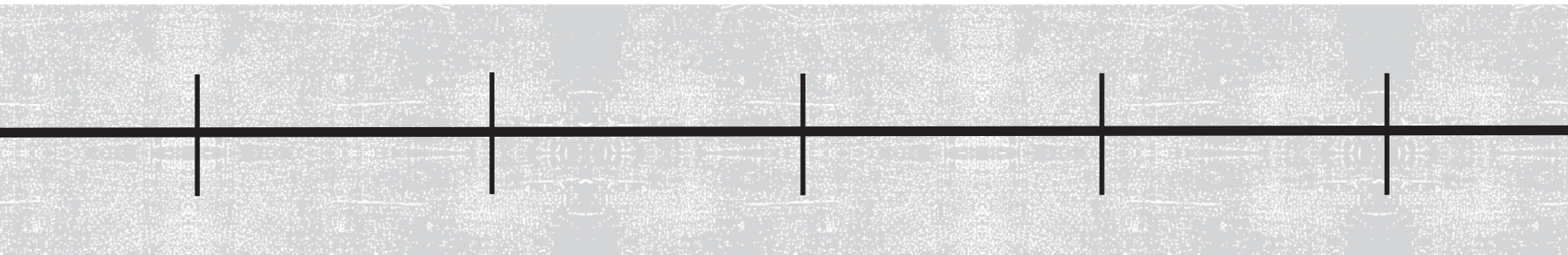
1931-1933 – Member of the State Regents of Education

1937-1951 – Elected to Congress as a Republican

1950-1962 – Elected to the United States Senate

June 22, 1962 – Passed away in Bethesda, Maryland





The Boy from the Black Hills

The train rattled and chuffed its way west across the prairie. It was a fall day—cool, Indian summer style—but the coach windows were open for air, in spite of the soot and cinders. The youngster leaning out in order not to miss anything wore a little felt hat pulled down to his ears. His mother wondered when it would blow off. They were going “Out West”—“Indian Country”—where adventure lurked behind every blade of grass.

The family had been travelling for two days on the Northwestern Railroad—departure from Marathon, Iowa; destination Sturgis, South Dakota. The year was 1909, and Mary Ellen Grannis Case was shepherding her five young ones as they journeyed out to join her husband Herbert. Herbert Llywellyn Case, minister of the gospel, was answering a call to the Black Hills for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Herbert and Mary had married at her father’s farm in Vernon, Minnesota, but he was from Iowa. Because of his ministry they had moved every couple of years. The five children were born in five different towns in Iowa: Joyce, the eldest, in 1895, in Renwick; Francis, 1896, in Everly; Leland, 1900, in Wesley; Caroline, 1903, in Swaledale; and Esther, 1907, in Marathon.

When Herbert accepted the call to South Dakota, he sold his fast horse for \$125 and used it to pay for his railway tickets. They were for an “emigrant car,” a boxcar that the railroad made available at special rates to people moving into the new territories, and coach tickets for his wife and children to follow him. Then everything he and Mary felt was worth moving, he loaded into the boxcar: two young horses, Dolly and Queen;

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THE MAN FROM THE HILLS



The Case family about 1910—(upper left) Mary Grannis Case with Carol and Esther, (center) Joyce, (upper right) Herbert Llywellyn Case with Carol and Esther, (lower left) Francis, (lower right) Leland

their cow and some chickens; farm and shop tools; bedding, clothes, and kitchen utensils; their golden oak bedroom set and their new Epworth piano, a mahogany beauty that Joyce was learning to play. Then he climbed in himself. Off he went to western South Dakota to begin his ministry and to prepare for the rest of his family.

Neighbors in Marathon packed a basket for the family before they journeyed to Sturgis. The basket was filled with food for five missionaries' journey.



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After a year in Sturgis, Herbert moved his family to be more strategically located for his work in the whole area. He chose a spot 10 miles out of town and a mile north of Bear Butte. He picked up a "relinquishment," a claim that someone had not been able to "prove up" on (acquire permanent title to from the government by making improvements to it within the time allowed). He acquired a small two-room house not too far away and moved it to the new site with the help of his friends.

The site they picked for their house was an historic one. Generations of Indians had raised their tipis on that spot, gathering there for ceremonies at Bear Butte, as they had for centuries. The great meeting of 1857 had taken place there when Crazy Horse had joined his father in pledging to drive the White Man out of the Hills country forever. Where they had camped you could still see tipi rings, circles of stones that had been gathered to hold down the coverings of their lodges. The tipi rings were the source of much of the material the men gathered for a foundation for the Cases' home.

The house was really quite substantial, for a claim structure. It was sheathed in rusty tin embossed to look like brick. There were two rooms. One room was divided by a curtain. The parents took one half for their bedroom and the girls, the other. The boys slept on a couch in the second room where the piano and the rest of their simple furnishings were. Their golden oak bedroom set and some of their best things they left in the parsonage in Sturgis, which they still maintained.

There was a well on the claim, but the alkali water took some getting used to. Often they took their spring wagon and some clean milk cans and went off to the neighbors' for sweet water. Sometimes good water was scarce, and they'd use the same potful to boil their meal and then to make the coffee.

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They dug another well, but that turned out to be dry. Dad lined it with stones and the butternut vegetables in the cooler and vegetables in the cool down there. They built a cowshed, the hayloft could be approached by wagon on the up-hill side, and the cow was quartered below.

Life became full of new things for the children. Everyone had chores to do. Francis helped with the plowing. Joyce and the girls helped with cooking and with keeping the little house neat. Leland didn't like milking the cow much of the smell of her quarters in the shed, but he'd cut a switch for Carol, and she'd keep the flies off both him and the cow while he milked and told her stories. That's the way the milking was done. Dad also set Leland to clearing a fire break around the buildings with the plow—he knew the terror of a prairie fire in those parts. Twice around with the plow made a six-foot swath.

Leland developed a line of traps for jackrabbits. They were good eating. He and Carol and Peggy would roam out across the claim, winter and summer, checking the traps. Leland did this with care, so the rabbits he caught would be in good condition when he got them home for the table.

He found some old round cheese boxes, and he used some of them to build a pigeon house up on the shed roof. Francis and Leland had earned a BB gun, a Daisy Air Rifle, by selling subscriptions to the magazine *Youth Companion*. They would shoot at the pigeons and then have meat for supper. They learned to poke around by the creek with a length of pipe and pin a frog to the ground. Then they would take him home for fried frog's legs. They also fished in the creek.

Always when Leland and Carol were out he would tell her stories—about going out West, finding treasure, and doing adventurous things.



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It was the boys' job to get the chickens ready for the pot when that was the menu. Usually they would select the chicken, take it out in the yard and swing it until it was dizzy enough to be dealt with, and then chop its head off. This particular time they decided they'd shoot it with their gun. The swinging hadn't quite immobilized the chicken the first time, so Leland reached for it to swing it again, just as Francis pulled the trigger. The BB hit him right in the lower lip and lodged there.

Their father, who had always wanted to be a doctor, sent for the bottle of Listerine on the kitchen shelf, got the BB out with a toothpick and cleaned the wound with the antiseptic. Otherwise the family would have had to hitch up the wagon and dash 10 miles to Sturgis to the doctor—the fear of lockjaw was very real to them.

But Dad was angry, too; so angry that he demanded the air rifle, and the boys never saw it again. Forty years later Leland was poking around the foundation of the house, which was long gone, and found the rusting spring and part of the barrel of the rifle, which Dad must have slipped into a hole under the flooring and left there.

There were still signs around Bear Butte of the great herds of buffalo that had been almost obliterated from this prairie land. One weathered buffalo skull they found Leland kept—and years later in Tucson it hung in his office, a reminder of those early days.

It wasn't all work. The boys played baseball over at Ezra Bovee's, their nearest neighbors. There was plenty of "hide and seek" and "fox and geese" on the sparse-covered ground. In the winter they made snowmen in the snow. One source of delight was the dump at Fort Meade, the army post located between Bear Butte and Sturgis that had been founded during

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the Indian Wars. Families leaving when their tour of duty was up would deposit all kinds of treasures there for a child to find.

Out on the claim there was a big corner post at the entrance. At the post dump they found a discarded uniform—Spanish American War. They brought it home and nailed it onto the post, and topped it with an old hat. From then on the entrance post was known as "Old Man." They went to the dump with Dad one day; he found a big wheel from a washing machine, and a child's broken rocking chair, and some chunks of wood. He used them as parts to make a merry-go-round. One child would sit on it, and another would walk around and around. That was how they gave each other rides.

Fort Meade also was where they got firewood. Mr. Case got a permit from the adjutant to take deadfalls in the woods of the military reservation. That kept the fires going in winter and provided for the cooking all year round. Hot water for baths was heated in a big tub on a stove they had also found at the dump.

In the evenings they played carroms, snapping rings across a board that had a pocket in the end—Mother liked that, and when the pocket wore out, she crocheted another one. And checkers and dominos. And jigsaw puzzles made from pictures torn from old magazines and glued onto thin wood, which they cut into pieces. And they sang. Joyce went every two weeks into town to the Sisters at St. Martin's Academy for piano lessons, and at home she loved to play. They would sing hymns, and the tunes of the day, such as "Hello Central, Give Me Heaven, for My Momma's There".

The parents loved to sing. Sometimes for church socials they would dress up, and Joyce would accompany them on the piano. Sometimes they all sang parts and rounds, while the

There was never a black lamp
because they used kerosene lamps
burned brightly but they did not
clean them. The chimney was
labor trouble that year at the
Homestake Mine. There was
some 25 miles away. The
company mounted a big
searchlight on top of the
Eliason hoist and they played
it over the area, looking for
troublemakers. The Case
children would climb up on
the roof of the house at the
claim and watch the beam of
the searchlight. They'd pop
popcorn on the stove and
take it up with them. They
waited there trying to guess
when the searchlight would
swing back toward them again.

The children played with the Bovees, and sometimes they'd go to town together. On the fourth of July Mr. Bovee loaded them all into his big wagon and they went in to see the fireworks. After the show Mr. Bovee took them all over to the hamburger wagon and ordered big ones for everybody—and another one if anyone could eat it. This was a special treat because, on their own, Dad and Mother would have had to order one for each two of them, and they'd have to share.

Not all the neighbors were like the Bovees. One neighbor man saw that the Cases had a second dog, Carlo, a black and white, in addition to Peggy. He talked to Papa about Carlo, because his son didn't have a dog, he said. So they parted with Carlo for the sake of the boy. Then one day Leland and Carol and Amos Bovee were out poking around near Bear Butte. There was an old barn there, on its creaky hinges and claim. They pushed the door open on the edge of the neighbor's yard. There was Carlo's hide, stretched out on the wall to dry. And a few weeks later they spotted the neighbor man wearing a pair of black and white mittens!

Leland had one hard lesson to learn with Peggy. "We used to go on Sundays to church," Leland recalled, "at what was

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called the May Schoolhouse, east of Bear Butte. (This was one of the additional locations where Mr. Case was holding services to better serve his people.) One Sunday when we came home there was evidence that Peggy had eaten a chicken. This happened two Sundays in a row and the family served an ultimatum that this would stop or Peggy would go. Well, I confided the matter to Peggy and the next Sunday there was nothing. But the second Sunday following we came home and here was evidence that I found over in a gulch a little ways from the house that she had eaten another chicken.

"Well, this was a pretty desperate situation. I took Peggy over to the scene of the crime. She knew that she had done wrong, I mean she did not want to go with me, but I forced her to go and I would rub her nose into the half devoured wings or whatever. Although I myself would have rather been horse-whipped, I had a stick and I beat her and then I would rub her nose in it and beat her again. She whined and howled, and it was pitiful. This went on for quite a while, but from that moment on she never touched a chicken. In fact, she used to seem to enjoy letting the little ones jump all over her."

Mr. Case got an itinerant photographer to come out to the claim in his buggy one day, and the whole family lined up for a picture—Momma in the middle in her chair; Esther by her knee with her favorite doll; Joyce, the tallest, behind her; Carol with her doll, beside Francis; Leland with the dog Peggy at his side; and Dad in his jacket and tie.

Later someone took a picture of Leland by the shed. He was standing with a gun in his hand and a porcupine he had bagged placed on a barrel beside him. They insisted on the gun because it made a good picture, but he never felt comfortable about it because he knew he had killed the porcupine with a rock.



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The family had the spring wagon for hauling things and they had a buggy. Mr. Case usually drove his circuit with the buggy. The roads—or lack of them—are what made his trips hard. Covering his territory took a lot out of him, even though he was a strong man. Often he was away, and Mary was there on the claim with the children, with her bright spirit and inventive mind. She helped with lessons. They all read a lot, and Leland taught Carol at such an early age, she could hardly remember a time when she did not read.

They "proved up" on 120 acres during that year. That land was to stand them in good stead a bit later.

The year was a bad one for Sturgis and for Mr. Case's congregation. The crops failed, the bank failed, and times were hard. Mr. Case distributed 60 barrels of clothing that year to needy Methodist families, all gifts from people who were better off. Altogether he helped over 500 individuals who needed support.

The scarcity of good water and the paucity of decent roads were two things that remained in the memory of Francis Case his whole life. Years later as a member of Congress, water and roads were two of his major interests, and his record in the House and the Senate for 26 years proves it.

These days of few resources stayed with the family forever. They didn't know they were poor! They felt sorry for other people who had less than they had. They ate a lot of bread and milk, but that was good. They never seemed to quarrel. They were very happy, and they loved each other.

In 1912 Herbert Case accepted an additional assignment. He became Superintendent of the Cheyenne River District of the Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church. This district covered even more territory—from the Black Hills to the Missouri River.

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Herbert and Mary wanted their children to have the best possible education, so they moved the family to Mitchell, some 70 miles east of the Missouri. Herbert stayed behind. His headquarters were at Philip, and he rode the train, rode horseback, hitched rides, and walked to cover that immense West River territory. He established little Methodist churches throughout. It was hard, pioneering work.

For the family, Mitchell was a change from the prairie home near Bear Butte. It was a town. On Pennington Avenue they rented a house that had a big garden and room to raise chickens. The older children went to Dakota Wesleyan Academy, which was operated by Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, as so many smaller-town colleges did in those days.

Leland found several new ways to help with the family finances. He would take a basket and go to the Turner Creamery, down near the railroad tracks, to get cottage cheese. He'd take Carol with him, and they would sell the cheese from door to door. He figured Carol brought him more customers. The family didn't like the cottage cheese from the creamery as well as what they made at home—the creamery made it with pasteurized milk, and they could taste the difference—but they could get more and sell more that way. Leland had a list of regular customers, as well as ones he encountered along the way, and if there were any left he'd bring it home.

The two of them also sold chickens. He and Carol would help Mother clean and dress them. Then off they'd go, selling chickens for 50 cents apiece. Some of their customers lived so far out that they'd take the one-seater buggy. A woman on the other side of town had a standing order with them for two fryers every Thursday. Once when they went to her house, Carol was left outside holding the horse's reins while Leland went in.

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When people he delivered to offered him cookies, he would cram them into his pockets so he'd have some for Carol. This time the woman offered him cake with frosting. He hesitated over how to handle this. The woman looked out the window, saw Carol in the buggy and realized what the predicament was. So she insisted he bring Carol in to enjoy the treat. Leland tied the horse to the hitching post and brought his sister in to have cake with him.

They moved to a big house on South Edmunds Street that had a prairie schooner porch on the second floor. There wasn't another house like that one in town. Now they had a smaller yard without room for so much enterprise. Mary took in two young Englishmen as boarders. They were studying for the ministry. She also took a girl in about Joyce's age, who shared a room with Joyce and was to help Mother by doing some of the housework.

What with schooling and Bible reading, the children were learning a lot. Leland liked to show Carol off. He'd prompt her to recite a verse of scripture. Then he'd say, "Now she'll do it backwards." So Carol would turn around and recite it again with her back to her audience.

During much of the year in Mitchell, Mr. Case was away from home, and Mary took care of the family by herself.

In 1913 Mr. Case took a church in Hot Springs, and back to the Black Hills they went. Herbert and Mary sold the claim near Bear Butte and used the proceeds to buy a home for Herbert's parents, who moved from Iowa to be near them. Now there were grandparents nearby to add another dimension to the childrens' lives.

Leland joined the Boy Scouts. There were knots to be learned, semaphore and Morse code with flags, and first aid.

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They went swimming at several of the establishments in town, where warm water from the springs had drawn people over the centuries. Leland taught Carol to swim. At Mammoth Plunge or Evans or Minnekahta Plunge they'd spend hours perfecting floating, swimming underwater, or picking up stones from the bottom. Leland sold Fuller Brush products door-to-door and mowed the lawn at the house of a prominent family for 10 cents an hour, plus cookies—and the lady really knew how to bake cookies.

Leland discovered theater. He loved acting, directing, and putting on plays in school. They also would go to band concerts at the Battle Mountain Sanitarium.

Someone gave the family a duck for a holiday gift. Leland became quite fond of it and named it Suzie. He even built a little pen for it outside. He would go out and sit on the buggy seat and quack at Suzie and she would quack back at him. A girl named Rose who came from Oelrichs worked for the family, and she often teased Leland about his duck. When Suzie eventually grew old, Mr. Case killed and dressed her for dinner, and they had roast duck. This was one meal when Leland didn't eat meat. After dinner, he carefully took the tail bone, cleaned it and let it dry for a couple of days, and then wrapped it in tissue paper. He mailed it to Rose, who was back home by this time. The card he enclosed read, "The End of Suzie."

Leland and a friend built a boat. They floated it down Fall River, pulled it back upstream with a rope and floated down again. They had to keep caulking it to keep it afloat, but it was handy to drift along and get frogs with a hook baited with a red piece of cloth. Leland would dress them—some pretty good size, and the legs would be great eating.



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Sometimes Dad took the children and their friends out in the wagon to a place where they could camp.

Francis graduated from Hot Springs High School and went on to study at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell. The family then moved to Spearfish for a year. There was no proper high school for Leland there, so he attended classes at Spearfish Normal, the teachers' college in that part of the state. He was quite proud of the fact that he had done well in a college setting.

In 1917 Herbert Case took on a different kind of work, as financial agent for the Deaconess Hospital at Rapid City (now known as the Bennett-Clarkson Hospital), which principally meant he was raising money for the institution. He learned to drive the hospital's old Model T runabout to facilitate his work.

Leland attended Rapid City High School. He did well in English composition and got high marks for his writing. He reported on high school news for the *Rapid City Daily Journal*, which seems to have been his first taste of the craft that thereafter became the heart of his professional life. He kept up his interest in theater. The family recalls his part in a play called *The Gods of the Mountain*. He painted scenery for it as well as acting in it. He was dressed in rags and tatters. In the plot the townspeople were supposed to sic their dogs on him. When they did so, the dogs went up and licked his hands.

Poetry began to appear in his school work. Consider the following verse for a 17-year-old and what it reveals of adolescence and a maturing boy:

While Wranglin on the Range

I see her face in my campfire,
Her eyes shine in the sky.

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Her form is in the misty clouds -
Her presence ever nigh.

The fire commands me to be pure,
The stars look down on me.
The clouds reveal their lining,
...And, I am kept for her and thee.

And the following, written as America was getting into the first world war:

I Follow

I hear the tread of tramping feet,
I hear the bugle call.
The creaking leather — groaning guns,
I hear, I feel it all.

I see, I hear, I feel, I know,
For, since the world began
Men have followed men to war,
I know — I am a man.

Yes, the boys are marching by,
They too have heard that call,
And answered, true, as men will do
— I too shall give my all.

Francis graduated from Dakota Wesleyan in the spring of 1918 and came back to the Case home at Rapid City. The nation was at war with Germany. Francis' forebears had served in the American Revolution and the Civil War, and he was determined to enlist in the armed forces rather than waiting for the draft. He decided on the Marine Corps, and that meant going to Denver. He was to catch the train down the line near Hermosa, 25 miles or so south of Rapid City.



CHAPTER TWO

THE PREPARATION

Disappointment spread across the face of twelve-year-old Francis and the other Case children when they heard the conductor call out, "Scooptown." The younger ones who began to cry were comforted by their mother, Mary. All had believed Sturgis was the next town. They had been riding across South Dakota all day and thought they would soon be met by their father. They discovered, however, that "Scooptown" was the local name for Sturgis, a boom town in western South Dakota filled with settlers and soldiers from Fort Meade. In 1909 it was also the new parish for Herbert Case, a Methodist minister.¹

The Cases were of English extraction. Mary's ancestors migrated to New England before the 1650s and included such patriarchal names as Fairbanks, Sumner, Ashley, and Higbee. Her father, Samuel Grannis, moved from New England to Mankato, Minnesota, where he became a moderately successful businessman. The history of the Case name is less clear. Family records start with Jonathan Case who was living in New York by the 1750s. He had a large family; a standard Case story was that Jonathan had twelve boys and each one had four sisters. One grandson, Jerome I., established a farm machinery company, which bears the family name.² Herbert's father left the New York family home for Iowa following the Civil War where he farmed and practiced veterinary surgery.

Herbert graduated in 1893 from Upper Iowa University, a small Methodist college at Fayette, and was ordained the following year. He served a number of small churches in western Iowa before moving to South Dakota. His movement can be traced

1. Draft of speech by Francis Case, 21 Aug. 1938, Drawer 2, Francis Case Collection, Layne Library, Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, S. Dak. (hereafter cited as FCC); telephone conversation with Caroline Case Goddard, Hot Springs, S. Dak., 31 Mar. 1975.

2. Leland Case, "The Ancestors and Descendants of Herbert Lacey Case and Mary Ellen Case," an unfinished manuscript, 1944, copy in possession of author; "Line of Our Fairbanks and Leland Families," Folder Home, Dad, and Mother, Drawer 184, FCC; Leland D. Case and Edith E. H. Grannis, eds., *New Hampshire to Minnesota: Memoirs of Samuel Higbee Grannis* (Tucson, privately published, 1962), pp. 119-37.

through the birthplaces of the children: Joyce was born in Renwick on 4 July 1895; Francis in Everly on 9 December 1896; Leland in Wesley on 8 May 1900; Caroline in Swaledale on 12 April 1903; and Esther in Marathon on 20 December 1907. In addition, he served three other towns.³

In 1909 Reverend Case received a letter from the superintendent of the Black Hills Mission Conference urging him to accept a call to serve in Sturgis and ride circuit in the countryside. Because the call came unsolicited, he believed it to be a divine command and accepted.⁴ By selling one of his horses, he was able to raise the money to pay for the train ride. The family only stayed in the town parsonage a year before he bought a relinquishment to a homestead outside of town. It allowed him to serve the outlying parts of the parish more efficiently, but the move prevented the children from attending school for one year.⁵

Living on the claim permitted Francis to experience two of the greatest problems faced by the people of the region, the lack of water and inadequate roads. The Case family chose a poor time to start homesteading. Farmers and ranchers on the Great Plains always face the problem of limited rainfall. In 1910 and 1911 rainfall was below normal and drought conditions existed. Francis watched the crops die and livestock suffer. Several years later, he recalled the problems that his family experienced.

First we planned to drill a well for water. It was all new to me. I was the cook. We had brought some water from town. It went fast the first night and I then learned I would have to practice a little water conservation. Dad and the carpenter claimed, afterwards, that I made the coffee out of the water in which I had cooked weiners, and then used the coffee over coffee for washing dishes. That summer, and the next, however, I learned even more about water conservation. We drilled three different wells trying to keep enough water for the house in 1910 and 1911, and would drive stock several miles to water in the ponds of a creek that had stopped flowing, and hauling water in barrels on a stone boat. Those years, 1910 and 1911, gave me an early education in South Dakota's greatest economic problem—Water! I have not forgotten it.⁶

Francis also learned the difficulty of travel without good roads from his father. As a circuit rider, his father was absent for days making his rounds in sparsely populated South Dakota. These trips were made even more difficult because he made his circuit by horse and buggy rather than on horseback.⁷

3. Herbert Case, "Historical Sketches Requested from Reverend and Mrs. Herbert L. Case by the North Iowa Conference, Methodist Church," 1916, copy in possession of author.

4. Herbert Case, "Historical Sketches," *Rapid City Daily Journal*, 29 Oct. 1907; Sturgis Tribune, 12 Apr. 1907.

5. Herbert Case, "Historical Sketches," telephone conversation with Goddard, 31 Mar. 1975.

6. Quoted in Nancy Lee Lampert, "Francis Case: His Pioneer Background," 12 Apr. Missouri River Conversation (Master's thesis, University of South Dakota, 1975).

7. Robert G. Webb, "Interview with Leland D. Case, Ancestors," 1975.

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Case family on the claim; from left to right: Caroline, Francis, Joyce, Mary, Esther, Leland, and Herbert.

In 1912 Reverend Case was appointed superintendent of the Cheyenne River District, a responsibility that required him to travel the area between the Missouri River and the Black Hills. He sold the homestead and moved his family to Mitchell, a town of sixty-five hundred in southeastern South Dakota where the children could attend Dakota Wesleyan Academy. In 1913 the position was abolished when the district was merged with the Dakota Conference. He returned to the Black Hills, moving to a new pastorate in Hot Springs, a town of about two thousand people. In 1917 he left the active ministry to become a field agent for the Methodist Deaconess Hospital of Rapid City. Three years later, he moved to Mankato, Minnesota, where he became an agent for insurance companies, served a small Congregational church at Pemberton, and cared for Mary's parents.⁸

Although the father was absent for much of the time and the family rarely lived in one location longer than two years, the children were not neglected. Both parents instilled in the

⁸ Herbert Case, "Historical Sketches"; Goddard interview, Mitchell, S. Dak., 28 Sept. 1974.



Mary and Herbert Case on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, August 1944.

children the philosophy of the Methodist church and the temperance movement. Bible reading, daily prayer, and sermons provided Francis with religious and moral codes that were to guide him during his entire life. As an adult, he remained a devout Methodist and abstained from alcohol and tobacco.

At the same time, life had its lighter side. Case's mother and father took an active part in community social activities and often led singing at gatherings. Herbert in particular enjoyed practical jokes, such as hiding in his sulky and allowing it to be pulled a mile by Halloween pranksters before surprising them.⁹ Despite missing a year of schooling and the constant moving, Francis graduated from Hot Springs High School in the spring of 1914 at the age of seventeen.

The next autumn he entered Dakota Wesleyan University. The school was one of the largest independent colleges in the state and a leading innovator in curriculum. Its faculty was composed of graduates from the private schools in the eastern United States, particularly Methodist universities such as Boston and DePauw. In 1914 the school introduced the group system, which required a specific number of hours in four general fields, as well as a major and two unrelated minors. The purpose was to remedy

⁹ Myrie Case, interview in Custer, S. Dak., 21 Sept. 1974; telephone conversation with Goddard, 31 Mar. 1975; Case to E. J. Kahler, 12 Feb. 1952, Folder: S. 2444, Drawer 11, FCC.



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Mary Case suggested that Leland drive his brother to Hermosa in the little old family Ford. The boys called it "Wounded Knee" because they were always having trouble with it. To get to Hermosa there were no graded roads, really, and the washes often were sinks of "blue gumbo" that would accumulate under the fenders and stop the car. Halfway through one such wash, the car groaned to a stop.

"It was one of the worst moments in my life," Leland recalled. "I was driving, and here was my brother going off to war. If I didn't get him to Hermosa in time, he would miss the train and then he would be drafted and that would be ignominy without end for the family. I insisted that he stay in the car while I do the dirty work. I rolled in the mud so much that day, a day later my trousers would stand by themselves in the corner.

"Along after midnight we pulled out of the mess and rolled along toward this little town. Out about two miles "Wounded Knee" couldn't make it up the hill. There was nothing to do but to leave the car by the side of the road and walk in and try to get a little sleep at a hotel. I bid Francis goodbye the next morning. Then I went out to try to get the car going. In those days every kid could adjust a Ford carburetor, and I adjusted ours. I backed up, steamed up that hill, throttle open, and I stalled again. Then an idea began to glimmer. The gas tank was under the seat and there was only gravity flow. So I turned "Wounded Knee" around and backed up the hill like a sky rocket!"

periences on a larger stage. Chicago—a transatlantic steamer—Paris! When my own life took adventurous, expansive leaps like these I felt them keenly, talked about the romance of it all, wrote about them to family and friends. Yet nowhere in any of Leland's writings at the time or afterward do you ever get the feeling that these moves were not the most natural thing in the world.

The adventure was not lost on Leland's elder sister Joyce, however. In a letter to Leland in September, she wrote: "I have been waiting ever since 3rd of July, A. D. 1926 to get a letter from my little brother and I am still waiting. You are sure one smart boy. You are going to have a wonderful experience and one that will be an education in itself. Just one thing, Leland, please don't bring any French girls back with you.

"What is there I can send you when you are so far away? I'm afraid cookies wouldn't keep that long, or would they. Esther writes you are sending her a dress. How do you dare to pick out such an article for the female species?

"I am not saying how much work the three youngsters can make. Allen (her son) is always saying something about Uncle Leland—especially how he wants to eat a lot so he will be tall like Uncle Leland. Lois took it into her head she wanted to be like Uncle Leland too, so she cut off all her hair so that she would look like a boy.

"What do you think of your brother taking unto himself a wife? Don't you go and do likewise. I haven't seen the girl good enough for you yet. Here's a world of love for my little brother who is making a big place for himself in this old world. Wish I were half as smart."

While Leland was in Europe Francis, back in South Dakota, had married Myrle Graves, of Mitchell, whom he had met in their college days at Dakota Wesleyan. He was hard at

THE MAN FROM THE HILLS

work as one of the prominent young businessmen of the Black Hills. In search of something that would promote the Hills nationwide, he initiated a bold plan with the chamber of commerce and then with the state legislature and the South Dakota delegation in Washington. He kept his brother in Paris apprised of the proposition.

When a piece appeared in the *Paris Herald* raising the question of where the president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, would spend the summer, analyzing the possibilities and raising the Black Hills as a strong contender, Leland's pals laughed at him. The laughter faded when Coolidge announced that that was where he would vacation. Francis's work had paid off handsomely for the local economy and prestige. Leland's intimate knowledge of the Black Hills enabled the *Herald* to keep its readers informed of all the colorful details of a summer spent there. Francis was given due credit for his enterprise and for his devotion to the public welfare. This was his first major step forward on an outstanding public career.

The months in Paris were full and rich. There was a fair amount of turnover at the *Paris Herald*, and Leland advanced quickly from copy reader to reporter to City Editor. One of his shipmates on the *Leviathan* had been a vivacious young woman from Seattle, Aleda Turbill, and around Paris she and Leland and some of his pals from the *Herald* had a lively social life.

It was a time that was full of the eternal attraction of Paris—the Left Bank, the bistros and cafes, the artists and the beauty of the city. Paul Teetor, Aleda and Leland did a lot of it together. They attended opera, explored the city together and the surrounding countryside, and "we eat much, drink little, and sleep." They helped promote the annual dinner that the Anglo-French Press Association gave for sundry leaders of Paris

The Westerners

he were to turn them over to FMB. Rollins had no idea that this was a moment of desperation for the artist, and that he was speaking of a load of paintings right outside in the parking lot. Rollins was truthful and replied that, no, at the moment they really didn't have adequate fireproof facilities for the paintings.

Ever since, Gordon Rollins has thought again and again what he might have done differently at that moment; for Harvey Dunn turned away from Dakota Wesleyan and Friends of the Middle Border. He drove north to South Dakota State College in Brookings, where he had received his original art training. Someone there had the quickness of mind and the imagination to give him a real welcome, to tell him they would be thrilled to accept his paintings, and to assure him that they would have a proper home. The college mobilized the South Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs, who mounted a fund drive over the next few years that funded a fine building to house the Harvey Dunn Collection. That, as the saying goes, is history.

In the spring of 1947 Leland and Joan journeyed to Minnesota and South Dakota. They visited Leland's parents. They breakfasted with Dr. Sam Hilburn, new president of Dakota Wesleyan, and his wife, so that Leland could talk with Hilburn about Friends of the Middle Border and its importance to the university. The couple went to the old claim near Bear Butte in Sturgis, and visited with Ezra Bovee, now 80 years old but sharp as ever. That night they were guests at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Rotary Club in Rapid City; Leland was the speaker and 250 people attended. Next day, at Francis's request and with much feeling, they put flowers on the grave of Francis and Myrle's infant son, who was buried in Mountain View Cemetery.



to run for President in 1928."²³ An apparently humorless Case admitted a quarter century after the visit that he had been a participant in a practical joke on the president. Pictures are still reprinted of Coolidge peering out from a twenty-gallon hat that had been placed on his head by Case. The picture received so much publicity and became such a sensitive matter that those who were in on the stunt denied having been in South Dakota that day.²⁴

Although his editorials were often political in nature, few would have initiated controversy among his readership. In the 1920s he supported American membership in the World Court, an early Saint Lawrence Seaway plan, and prohibition, although by 1933 he recognized that the "great experiment" had failed. In 1928 he argued that the insurance certificates issued to World War I veterans should be paid in cash. He pointed out that railroads and contractors had been paid cash for services and products. He believed that payment would help the nation by stimulating the economy. Generally, he supported Republican candidates for office and when he could not support an individual, he remained conspicuously silent on the race. He became very vocal in his opposition, however, when governors of either party appointed individuals to positions in state government whom he considered inadequate to the responsibility. Occasionally, Case criticized his readers for their failure to appreciate Indian culture, and during the 1928 campaign, for their intolerance towards Catholics and the candidacy of Al Smith.²⁵

In 1926 he married Myrle Graves, a 1923 graduate of Dakota Wesleyan University. They had met at her Mitchell home when he had dated her older sister. Prior to their marriage, she had been an instructor in English and Latin at the Rapid City High School. She never played an active role in the political life of her husband and never gave political speeches. Both had little patience with the pretensions of high society and generally avoided Washington parties. In later years they built a modest ranch house in a secluded valley near Custer where they lived whenever they could escape Washington.²⁶

Eventually, Case considered leaving journalism for financial reasons. With the depression and added family responsibilities, there never seemed to be enough money. Both publicly and

²³ Francis Case, "My Days with the Hot Springs Star", William Williams, City, privately published, 1944, p. 187. *Steele Falls Daily Argus Leader*, with Harold Carl, p. 10.

²⁴ *Hot Springs Star*, 1928.

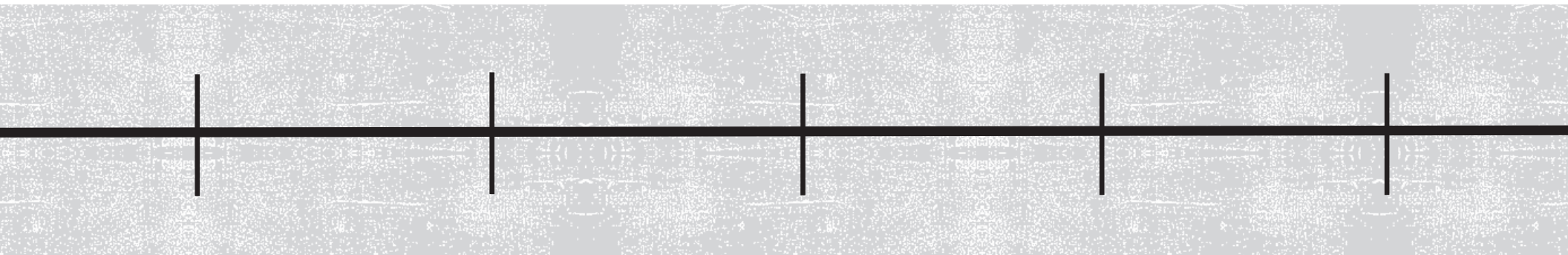
²⁵ Myrle Graves, 1926.

privately in his diary, he expressed a desire to practice law. Although a number of inquiries were made to schools, the only definite step he ever made was to enroll in a home-study course from the Blackstone Institute in Chicago, Illinois.²⁷

The career that finally caused Case to abandon journalism was politics. By 1945 he was confident that he would remain in politics. He sold his holdings in the *Custer Chronicle* in 1945 and invested in ranch land near Custer and later near Wasta.

²⁷ Case to William A. Grover, Secretary, Kent College of Law, Chicago, Ill., 31 Aug. 1925; Blackstone Institute to Case, 9 Nov. 1925; Case to Frank Farley, 24 July 1936; to B. Harry King, 2 Apr. 1929, unmarked folder, Drawer 184, FCC; "Diary," 22 Sept. 1930, in possession of author; *Pierre Dakotan*, 17 Apr. 1931.





The Boy Becomes a Man of the World

This paper was marked "A"
Romance also played its part; consider this poem:

"Dear Deby"

The past has gone, but has left behind
The thoughts that now fill my heart,
The sweetest of all as they come to my mind
Breathe a fragrance of what thou are;(sic)
The creek murmurs softly as it flows,
The birds sweetly sing near by
The wild flowers perfume the soft wind that blows...

Unfinished!

After his second year at Dakota Wesleyan, Leland moved on to Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. At Dakota Wesleyan he felt that he was in the shadow of his brother Francis. Francis had distinguished himself as an orator of national calibre and as a debater, had played football, worked on the school newspaper, and was a brilliant student. Leland found his brother's reputation a bit heavy to carry. Family changes made the move to Macalester a sensible one. His family had left the Black Hills for Mankato, south of St. Paul, to be near Mary's mother and father, the Samuel Grannises.

Leland competed for a Rhodes Scholarship, which offered the opportunity to study at Oxford University in England, but narrowly missed being chosen. He wrote to the two men who had been chosen, wishing them the best of luck, and to the selection committee asking for their comments in order to learn from the experience.

During all his college years, Leland supported himself and paid his own way. He had that rare mixture of self-confidence and a reticence about boasting, but he remembered a Chatauqua





Dakota Wesleyan football team of 1918.
Francis Case is standing in the back row, far right.

the evils of the elective system, which permitted either an exclusive concentration on one area or a smattering of unintegrated subjects. Case graduated in 1918 with a major in history and minors in English and German. His college transcript indicates that he attained superior grades in history and English, and average grades in German and the sciences.¹⁰

In addition to his classroom work Case participated in a variety of extracurricular ventures. He went out for the football team in his junior year, although he had never played previously and weighed only 145 pounds. By his senior year, despite missing several games because of a broken collarbone, he was nominated by his coach for the right end position on the all-conference team and was nominated for the second team by two rival conference coaches.¹¹

Francis spent three years working on the school newspaper, the *Phreno Cosmian*. One year he served as an assistant manager, another year as business manager, and in his senior year, as editor-in-chief. During his editorship, the paper contained the usual stories of campus activities. Near the end of his senior year, he campaigned against final examinations and won faculty approval on a trial basis. The paper also contained a large number of

10. Violet Miller Goering "Dakota Wesleyan University, 1885-1960" (Master's thesis, University of South Dakota, 1970), pp. 81-84, 180; college transcript of Francis Higbee Case, Office of the Registrar, Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, S. Dak.

11. *Phreno Cosmian*, 20 Sept.-25 Oct., 1 Nov., 13 Dec. 1917, 17 Jan. 1918.



As a sophomore, Case was assistant business manager of the Phreno Cosmian, the student newspaper.

patriotic stories, encouraging loyalty, bond sales, and enlistment in the Home Guard. His greatest personal success, however, came as a speaker and debater. Debate and oratory were major extracurricular activities at Dakota Wesleyan University and rivalry in local competition was intense. In the first quarter of the century, Dakota Wesleyan students won nearly half of the state oratorical contests and the debate teams won approximately two-thirds of their contests.¹²

In May 1916 Case won the National Intercollegiate Peace Oratorical Contest, sponsored by the Peace Association of the Friends in America at Lake Mohonk, New York. His oration, "The Modern Paradox," which expressed strong antiwar sentiments, theorized that while citizens condemn war, they will rush to enlist whenever the nation's honor is threatened. He blamed the educational system for teaching a romanticized view of war that indicated admiration for deeds of valor and daring. The speech probably reflected a combination of the influence of his early Christian training, of Dakota Wesleyan faculty who assisted in the writing, and of the Nonpartisan League propaganda

12. Goering, "Dakota Wesleyan University," pp. 96-99.

Oratory

FRANCIS CASE

Throughout his college career Case has made a remarkable forensic record for himself and Dakota Wesleyan. He possesses the rare and happy faculty of combining depth of thought and construction with a clear and forceful presentation. He first came into our notice as an orator during his sophomore year when he entered the local Peace contest. He carried off first honors with ease in the Interstate Peace Contest at Omaha. He then brought national honor to South Dakota and put Wesleyan on the map permanently in the Forensic world when his oration, "The Modern Paradox" won first place in the National Peace Contest held at Mahan, New York. Case is a member of the Psi Kappa Delta forensic fraternity and has won the diamond—the highest honor of the order.



College yearbook recognition of Case as an orator.

prevalent in the area, with a desire to please the sponsors of the contest.¹³

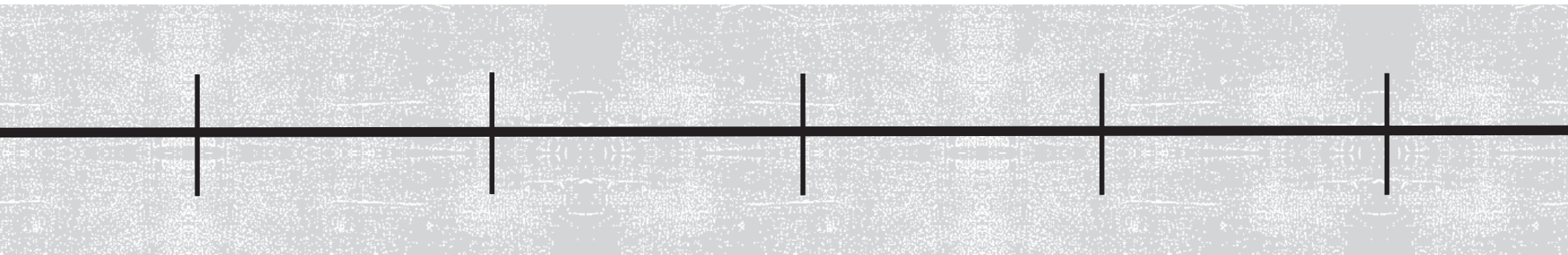
The contest gave him the opportunity to meet a boyhood hero. One of the judges was William Jennings Bryan, whom Case had admired since hearing his famous lecture, "Prince of Peace," at a Chautauqua Assembly in Clear Lake, Iowa. Bryan analyzed Case's speech and told him why he had won. The prize money of one hundred dollars made it possible for Case to visit Washington, D. C. Thirty years later, he claimed that it was the visit to the capital that inspired his ambition to become a congressman.¹⁴

The most significant aspect of his college preparation was his growth in self-confidence, optimism, and idealism. Success in oration and debate helped him to overcome a childhood timidity and gave him confidence to appear before large groups of people. His history professor, who taught that "the best was yet to be," encouraged faith in the future. President Woodrow Wilson provided the inspiration of idealism. Case never lost admiration for

13. Phreno Cosmian, 10 Feb. 6 Apr. 11, 25 May 1916; Robert G. Webb, "Interview with Harold W. Cord, Webster, South Dakota, May 27, 1972," pp. 13-14, transcript in possession of author.

14. Newspaper clipping from Mankato (Minn.) Free Press, 19 Mar. 1946, in possession of author.





Wilson's high principles and his efforts to implement them in the world of politics.¹⁵ Wilson convinced him that America's entry in to the "war to end all wars" was justified. Consequently, he tried to enlist in the War Work Council of the Young Men's Christian Association in his junior year, but was turned down because he lacked the college degree and was not yet twenty-one years old. Following his graduation in the spring of 1918, he joined the Marine Corps.¹⁶

His military career was short. Following his completion of boot camp at Mare Island, California, he was held over as a drill instructor. With the end of World War I further training was ended, and after a brief time in the company office, he was mustered out of the marines in 1919. He had served eight months of active duty. In 1937 he received a reserve commission in the corps after serving several years in the Army Reserve Corps. Throughout his congressional career, he displayed a marine flag in his office. In speeches and interviews he attached greater significance to his military career than his length of service or experience would seem to merit.¹⁷

Following his release from the marines, he briefly considered a teaching career. He taught forensics at Dakota Wesleyan Academy the spring quarter of 1919. Supported in part by a fellowship, Case entered graduate school at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. The next year he received a Master of Arts degree in history and continued work towards the Doctor of Philosophy until 1922. But interest in teaching declined when he rediscovered journalism. In 1921, in order to finance his education, he accepted a position as assistant editor with the *Epworth Herald*, a Methodist publication aimed at youth. He also wrote a book on church publicity and advertising.¹⁸ The next year, however, Case left the *Epworth Herald*. He felt that he was not getting anywhere and had grown "impatient with the official ecclesiasticism which fostered rivalry between the *Epworth Herald* and the Sunday School."¹⁹ Case's departure from the *Herald* was friendly, and he continued to write occasional articles for the publication.

Case's interest in journalism continued when he returned to South Dakota in the fall of 1922. After futile attempts to buy a

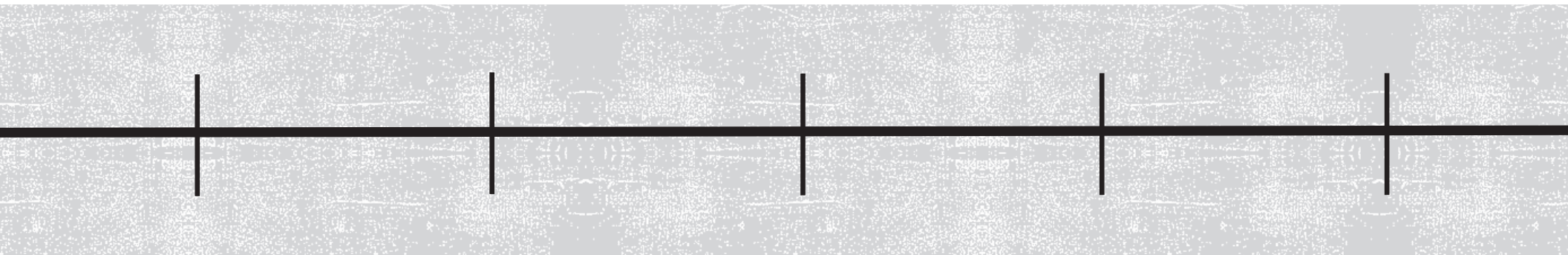
15. Lampert, "Francis Case," pp. 14-16; telephone conversation with Goddard, 31 Mar. 1975; memorandum of Case to Art Johnson, 26 June 1960, Folder S, J. Res. 152, Drawer 3, FCC, Wobbe. 16. Wobbe, "Interview with Leland D. Case," pp. 17-19; Richard Edwards, "Individual Military Record of Francis Case," pp. 17-19, Folder S, J. Res. 152, Drawer 3, FCC, Wobbe. 17. "Francis Case," pp. 25-26.

newspaper in Great Falls, Montana, Case, his brother Leland, Harold Card, a roommate at Dakota Wesleyan University, and Art Brown, a fellow member of the Acacia Fraternity, and western, pooled their resources to buy a one-quarter interest in the *Rapid City Daily Journal*. In 1925 Case and his brother sold their shares and purchased the *Hot Springs Times-Herald* and *Hot Springs Star*. They later purchased the *Oelrich Advocate* and *Edgemont Express*, which they consolidated with the *Star*. In 1931 the brothers sold their Hot Springs holdings and Francis bought the *Custer Chronicle*.²⁰ Leland, who had been absent from South Dakota much of the time, continued a career of journalism with the *Rotarian* and *Together Magazine*.

Case's Hot Springs and Custer newspapers were primarily local in nature with little national and international news. Two themes stand out in his editorials. He was a strong promoter of western South Dakota: "the West River Country is young and the best is yet to be." He pleaded for better roads, dams to save the water, development of tourism, and experimentation with new crops such as sugar beets, soybeans, and pinto beans. Often he went beyond promotion and actively participated in business ventures. He believed that gold mining in the Black Hills would boom again, and maintained that it was "as natural for a newspaperman to encourage mining here as it would be to sponsor a corn growing contest in Iowa." In 1933 he organized the Acacia Mining Company, which operated for a few years on a limited basis but never very successfully.²¹ When oil was discovered in the area, Case organized the Dillon Oil Company and published the *Black Hills Oil and Mining Review* with his brother Leland.²²

His biggest publicizing triumph was his promotion to convince the president of the United States that he should spend the summer in the Black Hills. Case had read a press notice early in 1926 to the effect that Calvin Coolidge would not return to his former vacation area, preferring to visit the mountains where there were no mosquitoes. Case wired Congressman William Williamson urging him to present an invitation to Coolidge. Williamson urged him to present an invitation to Coolidge. Along with Senator Peter Norbeck, Williamson offered the invitation. Although Coolidge did not come in 1926, he accepted an invitation for June 1927. It was in the Black Hills that Coolidge surprised the nation by his brief announcement, "I do not choose

20. Case to F. W. Meyers, 18 July 1922, Paul R. Flint to Case, 2 Oct. 1922, unmarked folder, Drawer 184, Folder S, J. Res. 152, Drawer 3, FCC, Wobbe. 21. "Francis Case, 'My Days with the Hot Springs Star,'" Folder: *Hot Springs Star* article, Drawer 3, FCC, Wobbe. 22. Case to Morris M. Wilcox, 13 Feb. 1933, to E. H. Hahn, 20 June 1933, Letterbox: Acacia Mining Company, in possession of author.



The Boy Becomes a Man of the World

In addition to his studies, Leland's energy went in a variety of directions in Chicago. He did some work at Jane Addams' Hull House, one of the nation's first social service centers, and helped with a Boy Scout troop. He served on the Official Board of Evanston's First Methodist Church. He worked at helping develop high school journalism. He joined the Acacia Fraternity, where Francis was also a member. The *Northwestern University Alumni News* hired him as managing editor. The Medill School of Journalism promoted him to instructor. All the while, he kept his hand in with Francis and the family in the Black Hills.

Francis had an opportunity to buy the *Hot Springs Times Herald*. Leland helped him with it whenever he could—vacations, a day or two here and there. Their elder sister Joyce had married an attorney, Cliff Wilson, and settled there as well, so Hot Springs became a focus for them all.

This was a period of growth for Leland. He had one foot in the Black Hills that he loved so much and one in America's second city with all of its dynamism. What a time to be alive!

He received his Master of Arts degree from Northwestern University in the spring of 1926, and that summer he seized an opportunity to help conduct a group of Northwestern students on a trip to Europe. They sailed on July third from New York on the *S. S. Leviathan*, pride of the United States Lines, bound for Southampton via Cherbourg.

There were 75 students and faculty in the tour group. They visited ten European countries in six weeks. Leland and Paul Teetor, an Acacia fraternity brother, decided at the end of the tour to really see France. Knowing their return tickets on the United States Line were good for a year, they looked for jobs at the three American newspapers then published in Paris.

CHAPTER III

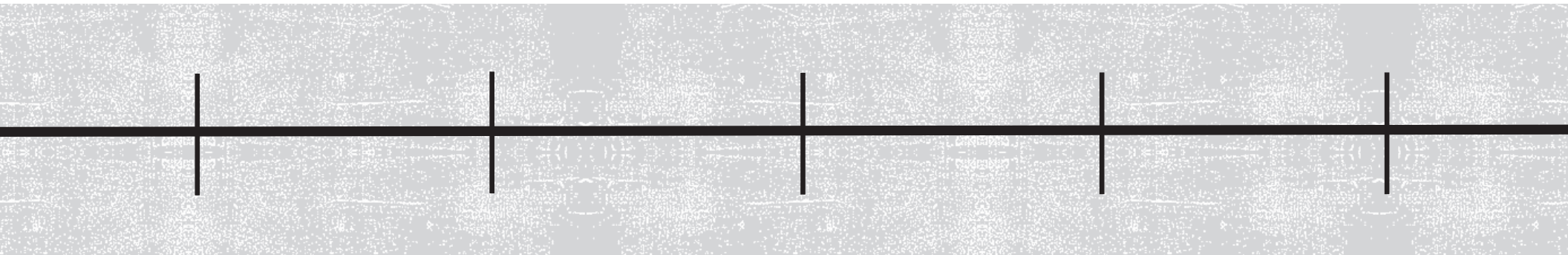
The Man Finds His Professional Career and His Wife

Early in 1928 Leland wrote to The Macmillan Company in New York. Five years earlier they had published a definitive text that was in use at the Medill School of Journalism and in many other schools—*Editing the Day's News* by the late Medill professor George C. Bastian. During that five years, there had been quite a bit of change in the profession of journalism and in the teaching of it. Leland offered to revise the book in order to keep it a leader in the field. Macmillan replied that there was sufficient supply of the text to meet the current demand and they had no plans at the moment to reissue the book.

These were interesting, formative days for Leland Case. He was casting about for the exact direction his career and his life should take. He had his work at Medill. He had work any time he wanted it with Francis in Hot Springs, where the two brothers were co-publishers. He was doing graduate work in sociology at Northwestern and editing its alumni magazine.

That summer he made a proposal to the executives of the Chicago World's Fair Centennial Celebration. This group was preparing their international exposition of 1933—The Century of Progress, and they were looking for models for how their fair should be produced. Leland suggested that the International Press Exhibition, called "Pressa," taking place in Cologne, Germany, would offer some worthwhile possibilities for Chicago. "Pressa" was the first-ever major exposition of the art and history of printing.

Leland was provided with a letter of introduction from the Chicago World's Fair commission requesting that he be given



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The accepted mental image of a senator, according to one observer, has not changed since Webster and Calhoun. A proper senator is supposed to have a "mane of white hair sweeping down over his collar, the dignified paunch, the black string tie . . . the broad Stetson, the mottled jowls, the countenance of a slightly apprehensive Roman Emperor. He had been born in a log cabin; his voice sounded like a church organ with the *vox humana* pulled out; he walked as if he were leading a parade."¹

Francis Higbee Case had none of these qualities. His hair was thin, stomach flat, tie traditional, and countenance retiring. Although his childhood homes were modest, they were not made of logs; his voice was too high to blend with the *vox humana*; and his pace was more like someone going to a fire. He was not a colorful politician. A critic called him "pale, square, and deadly dull." A file entitled "humor" begun at the start of research on the man contains few entries. He lacked the charisma to evoke great passions and feelings pro or con. Despite the lack of any of the qualities constituting the mental image of what senators are supposed to be like, Case served the people of South Dakota in Congress from 1937 until his death in 1962. In nine general election contests, he won seven by wide margins.

Case left little behind that sheds light on the inner man. Although there is a large body of material on what he did, there is little to tell what made him tick, or why his public record developed the way it did. Not even those who worked with him can add much to explain the "whys." One colleague said, "if Francis ever bared his soul to anyone, I am unaware of it."² A former aide confessed that "we who worked for him never really knew him."³

¹ "Person and Character," *Harper's*, Feb. 1955, p. 18.

² George Marovitz, Mitchell, S. Dak., interview on 14 July 1974.

³ Mary Margaret McClure, Mitchell, S. Dak., interview on 3 June 1975.

During most of Case's career, the opposition party dominated Congress. Few policy-changing laws carried his name. This does not mean, however, that he became an obstructionist. In fact, he usually was quick to offer an alternative in the form of an amendment or substitute. These often were ignored, but in a few cases, such as the 1942 renegotiation amendment or the 1946 labor bill substitute, they became the center of debate.

If there is a key to Case's political philosophy, it is that he was a South Dakota congressman. Reflecting the views of his constituents, he was, in the words of a former aide, a conservative in fiscal matters and foreign policy, a moderate when it involved price support programs for farm commodities, and "definitely a liberal when it came to developing South Dakota's natural resources."⁴ To a large degree, he also reflected a tension felt by rural and small-town Americans. South Dakotans recognized the need to join a team if they wished to maintain certain values, such as those represented by the family, the small farms, the church, and the small towns, against the onslaught of urbanization, mechanization, and secularization. At the same time, they also perpetuated the frontier tradition of individualism. Case was loyal to the Republican party and broke with it only when he believed his personal integrity was threatened.

In many ways, Case resembled James T. Patterson's description of Democratic congressional conservatives of the 1930s. Case opposed the spread of federal power and bureaucracy, denounced deficit spending and most welfare programs, and criticized industrial labor unions. On the other hand, he recognized that his constituents required and demanded federal action to deal with their own problems.⁵

⁴ Vernon C. Loen to author, 21 May 1974. In 1976 Loen was Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs (House).

⁵ James T. Patterson, *Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1967), pp. vii-x, 325-52.

THE MAN FROM THE HILLS

Then there was the great Black Hills oil boom. One Saturday over Edgemont way, near the Wyoming line, somebody spotted oil at an old test hole that had been drilled years before. The *Hot Springs Times Herald* wired the story across the state. Francis organized a couple of little oil companies. Leland and Cliff Wilson put together a mutual investment trust called Western Securities. Francis and Leland put out the *Oil and Mining Journal*, which continued for quite a while. The only thing that didn't pan out was the oil. There just wasn't very much there. But a sense of economic opportunity had been born that persisted.

Leland put a little money into these ventures with Francis. And he worked closely with his brother when he made his first run for public office in 1928. They fought a good, but losing, fight. In that campaign and throughout his political career, Francis made it a contest of issues, not personalities, and built a tremendous reputation as a fair, decent and dedicated man.

Leland's poetry was becoming more sophisticated. This one was dated Hot Springs, Christmas Night, 1928.

THE CATHEDRAL OF ALL MEN

Hush.

Of stone and steel
Mortals roof temples for the few,
But arched o'er me is a boundless dome
Of whose merest mechanics
Wise men guess.

Hush.

A yellow rose window is aflame tonight
In the Cathedral of All Men.



The Westerners

Custer's Last Stand for the Chicago group in October 1944. Of the four, only Don Russell and Herman Seeley submitted their notes for publication. Leland provided an outline of Custer's campaign and distributed copies of the P.W. Norris map of 1877. John Jameson, the fourth panel member, showed photos of the battle terrain and discussed whether or not Custer had disobeyed orders.

Leland sent the Chicago group's *Brand Book* to all sorts of people. James Truslow Adams responded with real interest in the material the monthly editions contained. This, even in the first year, was a bellwether of what was to come for *The Westerners*. Scholars like Adams and libraries all over the country were taking note that these men, so many of them laymen with a passionate avocation for western history, were producing relevant material documenting not only the history and culture of the West, but also of the American experience. It was a new factor to be considered by historians—here was source material, often fresh, often developed by the nonprofessional.

In Washington, Francis Case was involved from the Congressional end with setting up a conference of the free nations of the world in San Francisco, that would try to develop a new world organization. The League of Nations had died with the Italian invasion of Ethiopia and the events of World War II. Francis arranged for Leland to be included in the American delegation as associate consultant to the State Department. Leland spent several months in San Francisco during the spring of 1945. He lived at the Bohemian Club. In addition to the delegates, there were 1800 representatives from newspapers and radio stations around the world. As the work of the conference unfolded in the form of The United Nations Organiza-



THE NEW YORK TIMES SAID—

The close victory for the economy bloc on the \$250,000,000 cut came after Representative Francis Case, Republican of South Dakota, who sponsored the proposal, had cited reductions by the House Appropriations Committee of 25 per cent in funds for rivers and harbors and flood control in the new fiscal year.

And a College President in Ohio, formerly a professor in government finance, in an unsolicited letter wrote Case: "Thanks for

THE WASHINGTON POST SAID—

The clinching argument for the cut came from Representative Case, the author of the winning amendment.

"This is your last chance," he told the members. "If you fail to cut this by 250 million, or less than 10 percent, how can you explain to your people when you cut a rivers and harbors bill by 25 percent?"

saving us taxpayers again. I do not know of a single congressman who has made more economies than you."

ECONOMY BLOC NEEDED IN THE "UPPER HOUSE"

For fiscal 1946, first Truman year, the Senate increased the House on Appropriations by over \$500 million.

In fiscal 1947 and 1948, Senate figures were \$1,200,000,000 higher than the House.

In fiscal 1949, they were \$1,520,000,000 higher.

And for 1950, Senators "upped" the House by \$935,000,000.

Even in the 80th Republican Congress, the Senate followed its habit of "upping" the House figures.

The 4 bills handled by the Senate Appropriations subcommittee headed by Senator Gurney in the 2 years of the 80th Congress, were increased by a total of \$1,050,000,000 over the House. The House conferees insisted on reducing the increases which made possible the Republican record of balancing the budget.

For U. S. SENATOR

"THE MAN WHO MEETS THE VOTERS FACE-to-FACE" — FRANCIS CASE

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Francis Case Listed as 'a Man to Watch'

The Washington Daily News speaks well of South Dakota's new senator, Francis Case.

It lists him as "one of the men to watch" in the new Senate. Basing its comment on his service in the House, the Washington newspaper says: "Sen. Case does his homework on legislation with the same infinite care of Sen. Taft and few Senate bills will miss his eagle-eye scrutiny."

This is in accord with the viewpoint generally held in South Dakota. Case's fine work in the capital has commanded respect among the home folks for many years and was responsible for the strong endorsement he received at the polls last November.



FRANZIS CASE
2d South DAKOTA DIST.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 7, 1948

The Reverend Herbert L. Case
528 South Fourth Street
Mankato, Minnesota

Dear Dad:

Thought you would be interested in seeing a copy of my letter to Bishop McCarty on the death of Bishop Lawler and his reply.

This new Catholic Bishop at Rapid City is quite a man. He was the head of the Catholic Chaplains in the Army during the war. He has a good personality and a lot of energy.

This is another one of those days when one feels that events crowd him too fast. I would like to have had this day alone at home with Myrle and Jane. Perhaps I will be able to get home for Sunday, the 11th.

Hope you and mother are enjoying better weather with the coming of spring. I was certainly glad to read that you had been able to get out and look over your garden. Two or three years ago I thought you had given up the idea of planting gardens. The fact that you are able to do that work this spring gives us all something to be thankful for.

Sincerely yours,

Franzis Case R

FC/248



Mankato Minn. April 1. /47.

Dear Francis:-----

Mother has written already thanking for sending us
The Check for \$30.75 for interest and the 75 cts of it is really the
int on unpaid int. Had no shot of charging you that way.

But as you say the int. is all paid until July 8. 1947.
And have so entered it on back of note.

How fine it was for Ireland to stop off for a visit with us. Coming
in on the 400 at 5 min of Midnite then on the next noon over C. & N. W.
to Huron then plans on going to Mitchell and on to Rapid over the Milwaukee.

Believe he was agreeably suprised at seeing me go thru some exer-
cises not to show off but my effort to regain my strength & health.

The Lying flat on my back on parlor carpet and using the diaphragm
to do abdominal breathing for a spell, then on my tummy and flex.

my lower limbs backward got quite a bit of motion backwards of feet that
works the knee joints one & then other. Then bracing toes of Shoes in car
pet to place hands under chest to raise upwards in rainbow style letting
self flat and then raise upwards. Did that six times for he counted
then the next time up on feet without any cane or chair.

So Ireland had to do me one better. He went seven. Am not sure that
was a wise stunt tho for him he got a little flushed in face.

In A.M. we went over a lot of things with him about Genealogy---&c.

He is not so sure That we can rightly connect Jonathan Case with those
who came before.

Dont think I had that done before but now have used Parkers red ink
to underline every name in genealogy to enable eye to connect names
or pick out one looking for.

Am going to do some more Hunting for the ancestry. I believe that
has already been done in the Chapin or Barber Genealogies.

You see this Albert M. Case and Carleton B. Case is in a letter from
letter C. B. Case that its already recorded in those genealogy. If so, what
better do we need?

Just back from down and Voting for Mayor, four alderman and for
site for new High School. Feeling pretty strong in city over latter.

In my booth found an unmarked but signed properly by judges ballot
for High school. So told the Judges. one went in & got it. Then as left
they having some discussion what to do with the Ballot As told that over
to Aschbar he said they should put in ballot Box unmarked else their
tallies wont agree.

Feel grateful to him for taking us to vote.

Told him also of the cartoon in Mpls. A.M. Trib. about H. S. T. with h
his new Bowling alley in basement --one pin Greece almost toppling
over and the other so far to hit with same ball--- and then noon news
over radio---about the death king of Greece and who should be his
successor.

As Mother so sorry couldnt get the station to hear Jane in that
program.

With Love to all as ever Dad.

Radio
4/1/47 - *H. S. T. Case*



5444-27
 Grand Hotel
 MACKINAC
 2/4/52

Don Berwick: 5th floor Sunday
 saw really left committee a hour
 in some room. Still so not
 have on map or map on right
 side of room on early map in room
 the lowest part west. Had a man
 take down on other side of room -
 saw it up as we have early wood for
 the purpose - I had wood up now of the
 trees we took down in the early days.
 - I spoke to group of water in
 room from second floor Thursday
 Bishop was present. He was a
 very nice person. He for
 organization with Don & I had
 Bishop's letters "Bishop's work" and
 and each service + program. -
 - We have had no very long
 water in room. From the day it
 went in December while we
 were at the - Carter. Hope
 the man in for a the man
 year ago. I hope the man
 Bishop's letters "Bishop's work" and
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 Bishop's letters "Bishop's work" and

Mr. Paul Henry
 Mrs. Harold Mason
 Minister
 Choir Director
 The Church Calendar
 Monday, January 27
 2:30 P.M. Bible Class for Junior High members.
 7:30 P.M. "Worshiper's Guild with Mrs. Ernest Smith.

52
FRANCIS CASE DOES IT AGAIN!

WESTERN UNION - (47)
W. MARSHALL HARRIS

STANDARD
No. of Lines
No. of Messages
No. of Pages
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No. of Pages

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W.B.KA074 LONG PD=BX WASHINGTON DC 12 581P*
NON FRANCIS CASE*
LAWLER HOTEL MITCHELL SDAK*

I TOOK YOUR AMENDMENT AND, WITH THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WE OBTAINED, I SPREAD THE THING AROUND AND WORKED OUT THE AMOUNT WHICH WAS OFFERED. YOUR ITEM WAS THE BASE OF THE AMENDMENT AND I BELIEVE IT WILL SAVE \$600,000,000 WHICH IS THE AMOUNT THAT I PLACED IN IT. IT PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO BE SOFTENED UP A BIT ON POST OFFICE - JUST AS BEN JENSEN'S WILL HAVE TO BE - BUT THE OVER-ALL PICTURE IS NOT VERY FAR FROM WHAT IT SHOULD BE THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND BEST WISHES IN YOUR ENDEAVOR.

JOHN TABER, MC*

(NOTE: John Taber of New York is ranking Republican in the House Appropriations Committee. He was chairman in the 89th Congress when Republicans balanced the budget in spite of Senate increases.)

Taber's telegram refers to the 10 per cent cut in salary funds, Francis Case's latest part in the Republican drive to knock at least \$2 billion from the Truman budget. But that is only part of the story.

FACTS FROM THE RECORD
When the House Committee reported its big message bill of 19 money chapters, it was \$1,381,000,000 under the Truman budget. Of that, \$220,000,000 came in the chapter from the subcommittee of which Francis Case was the ranking Republican. And on the floor, during consideration of the bill, Case offered two amendments to cut his chapter still more. Both carried. One saved \$100,000; the other saved \$2,850,000. Only the last one brought a roll call vote, and Case's amendment won 222 to 163—

HERE'S THE SUMMARY SCORE — ON ONE BILL:
Taber Amendment (passed 274-112) . . . \$400,000,000
In Committee Action \$20,000,000
Case Amendment on May 4th \$20,000,000
Case Amendment on May 26th \$100,000
TOTAL SAVINGS IN THE BIG BILL IN WHICH FRANCIS CASE PLAYED A DIRECT PART, THIS SPRING \$1,123,000,000!
That's not chump — it's a record.

There were several things which kept Francis Case in Washington the last 10 days of March during which the South Dakota Press Association and the Missouri River Inter-Agency Committee held their meetings in Sioux Falls.

First, his subcommittee was reporting its chapter to the full appropriations committee.

Then there was a hearing before the Public Works Committee in which Case's two amendments to prevent funds for road-building in Indian reservations and use of air fuel instead of state systems were made in national news. Another House measure that was

IT'S A HABIT WITH HIM!

In 1942, Francis Case proposed the famous "Renegotiation Amendment" which in 4 years time saved over \$9,330,000,000. And Secretary Patterson wrote Case that the cash saved was probably exceeded by savings in "forward pricing" on new orders.

In the First Year of Foreign Aid (1948), Case's proposal to require countries to put up a "5% sponsor's contribution" saved \$200,000,000. And \$150,000,000 again last year.

And in 1949, a Case motion sent a Pay Raise bill back to committee where it stayed until it had been trimmed to save \$110,000,000 in annual costs.

WHEN APPROPRIATIONS ARE ONCE MADE, CASE WORKS TO SEE THAT A FAIR PORTION SHALL BE SPENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, BUT HE TRIES FIRST TO CUT APPROPRIATION TOTALS.

AND THERE WAS \$250,000,000 ON ECA

perishable grains. And two West River REA delegations came to Washington this week.

And finally, the new ECA (Foreign Aid) bill was on the Calendar. St. Francis Case stayed in Washington because HIS PARTICULAR WORK LOAD AT THAT TIME called for his being there, and he offered Press meetings or leave Washington at that time for meetings Francis Case's efforts paid off in



lower price. You see what your doctor says & if he OK's a trial I'll be glad to take care of the bill. It's really worth trying, I believe. Myself & Jan are fine. Love Francis

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Monday P.M.
2/19/51
Dear Dad & Mother -
Just a note to say I got here OK. Took a plane at Chicago & got in at 4:30 Sunday P.M. I happened to talk today with

a girl from Z.P. whose mother has received a great deal of help from Cortisone. I think you should ask your doctor, Dad, about it. There was an article in the papers a few days ago saying it's available now at a much



NOTES FROM WASHINGTON
BY: Francis Case

A Report to the Second Congressional District of South Dakota

July 5, 1943

End of Fiscal Year.- The week before June 30 always brings a deadline for Congress. That is when the fiscal year ends. Supply appropriation bills for each department of the government must be enacted by that date or the agency cannot continue, legally. If final action is not taken, a "continuing resolution" can be rushed through, but there is always a special effort made to "clean the slate" by that time.

Four Bills Go Over.- This year, four bills failed to make the deadline: That for the Interior Department, that for the Labor and Federal Security Agencies, that for the new National War Agencies and a general deficiency bill. I will identify them.

Interior's bill carries money for such western South Dakota activities as: Operation of Wind Cave National Park, Mount Rushmore Memorial, Badlands Monument, irrigation, etc. Regular operating funds are provided for them, on a reduced basis for wartime. But particular interest attached to an item proposed for the Bureau of Mines to enlarge and operate a manganese plant in Lyman County. The item was in dispute because there was no Budget estimate for it.

The Labor and Security bill carries funds for U.S. Employment offices, Old Age Assistance, Unemployment Compensation, etc., as well as the Department of Labor. The big item in dispute was a Senate amendment to provide funds for the N.Y.A. which the House had refused. Originally the House Appropriations Committee said "No" on a 17 to 16 vote. On the Senate amendment the House said "No" by a vote of 196 to 175. Final outcome uncertain.

National War Agencies includes a flock of activities: The OPA (rationing and price control), OWI (censorship, government releases, etc.), BEW (the board which is involved in the scrap between Vice-President Wallace and Jesse Jones), WPE (priorities) etc. The Wallace-Jones scrap affects South Dakota in that Wallace wants BEW to be able to tell Metals Reserve, a subsidiary of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, how and where it shall spend its money for acquiring supplies of strategic minerals.

Chester Davis Resigns.- I realize that the whirling events of these days are hard to follow. I also realize that when the country hears that this man resigns or that man issues a blast against someone else, that it may be difficult to determine the meaning of the incident for the average person. The resignation of Chester Davis as head of the War Food Administration had a significance, however, for everyone that should be pondered both by food-producers and food-consumers.

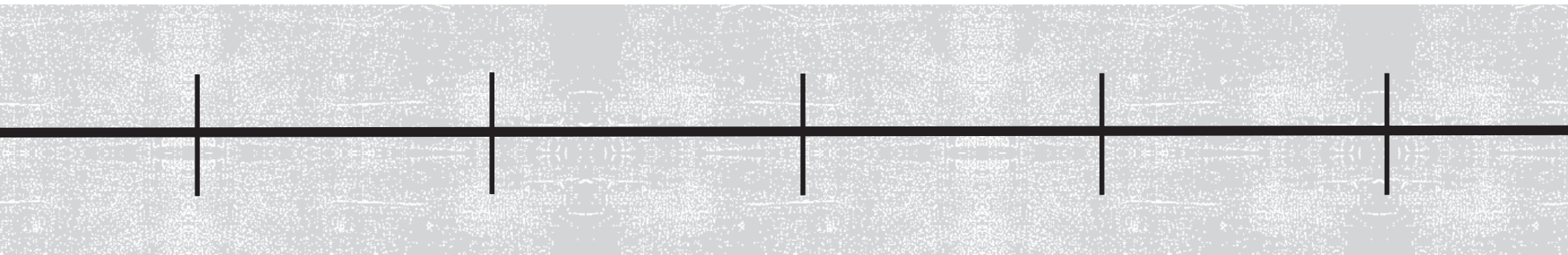
TO MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

HOME

PROSPECT LAKE

CHICKEN-WARRIOR Sp. 119





small colleges founded by Methodists. They invited Leland to address their Liberal Arts Festival, and he chose one of his favorite subjects—"Education: The Splendid Obsession of Methodism." They made him an Honorary Doctor of Letters. By this time Leland had also had an Honorary Doctor of Literature from Morningside College, in Sioux City, Iowa, where his father had had a church. Leland had memories from childhood of Morningside dignitaries at their dinner table because it also was a Methodist college.

Leland's brother Francis, in Washington, suffered a heart attack in March. Leland did not realize how serious his brother's situation was, and so it came as a shock when Francis died on June 22, 1962, at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. One of the comforting things for the family was that May Aaberg, as secretary to Francis, knew them all so well and was there to help.

Leland went quickly to Washington. There was a service on Sunday morning in the Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church, with over 500 people in attendance. Then the family—Myrle and her daughter Jane; Lois, Joyce Case Wilson's daughter and her husband Phil Saunders; and Leland—with May Aaberg and several others of the staff, flew with Francis' casket to Rapid City in an Air Force plane. A service was held in the Methodist church, and burial followed in the Mountain View Cemetery, where Francis' infant son had been buried. Vice-President Lyndon Johnson led a delegation to the funeral, including Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, Minority Leader Everett Dirksen, and 13 other senators.

Some years later the bodies of Francis and his son were reinterred in the Black Hills National Cemetery outside Sturgis, which Francis had helped to create. Meryl Case died in the spring of 1990 and is buried there as well.

THE MAN FROM THE HILLS

Francis had made his mark on the political life of Washington and on the state of South Dakota. He had worked for honesty in government and in government contracts. He was known as a conciliatory force, but one who would stand firmly for what he believed to be right. He was a man of innate common sense.

The task ahead for Leland was to research the early beginnings of publishing in the Methodist church in America and the subsequent creation of the Methodist Publishing House. Now he needed a research assistant and secretary. He offered the job to Mrs. Ellen Blanchard, a young woman, mother of three small children, whose husband had recently died. Ellen had done some editorial work for the church, and she was bright, intelligent and capable. She was also a woman of faith. Friends in church circles said "What ever you do, don't go to work for Leland Case." But something about the job intrigued her. She prayed about it and accepted it.

"It was one of the most rewarding times of my entire life," she said years later. "It was the greatest growing experience ever. I thank God for it repeatedly. Dr. Case never expected more of me than he expected of himself. Instead of being a slave driver he was more of an encourager. I would say to him 'Dr. Case, I don't know how to do that.' He'd reply, 'Now's the time to learn.' He would not let me say no." Ellen Blanchard had not had a college education, but in the three years she worked for Leland she felt she had gotten far more than that.

It was a quiet suite of offices on the tenth floor of the Temple building, which they shared with another official of the Publishing House and his secretary. Leland had long had the habit of keeping a notepad and pencil by his bed and writing down

THE MAN FROM THE HILLS

memorabilia and archival material. The aim was to have as complete a reference collection on Smith as possible. From all over the country Leland solicited, if not originals, then microfilm and photocopies of Smith letters, diaries, contracts, and related newspaper clippings. One of the most productive of these probes was in the foreign ministry of Mexico. Jed Smith had violated Mexican-Spanish California territory in his westward push; from Mexican archives came a letter from Jed Smith's youngest brother Austin to a brother in Ohio describing Jed's death at the hands of Indians, a rare find.

The work in Stockton was interrupted by a most welcome event in Washington. Through the efforts of many who appreciated the life of Francis Case, a new bridge in the interstate highway system over the Washington Channel and in sight of the Jefferson Memorial was named for him, in a ceremony that took place in May of 1966.

Leland and Joan travelled to Washington for the dedication. Myrle Case and her daughter Jane were there, and Lois and Phil Saunders, and May Aaberg. The U.S. Army Band and an armed forces joint color guard set the tone of the affair. The entire congressional delegation of South Dakota took part. Congressmen E. Y. Berry, and Benjamin Reifel and Senator Karl Mundt made speeches, and Senator George McGovern made the dedicatory address.

Leland wrote in a letter the thoughts that went through his mind that day. "Somehow, as I sat there and absorbed — I felt much easier. Ever since that fateful morning when the doctor told me his efforts at resuscitation had been ineffective, I have had inner tensions. Francis and I were both too busy. We knew it. We talked about it. We should have taken more time to be

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No Such Thing as Retired

brothers. I, personally, felt very much this way, that my work being less important I should have cut loose somehow to have given him the morale factor he needed. But there at the dedication, my emotions caught up with my mind — which has been saying, what is, IS."

In June, Leland and Joan took a long anticipated trip to the Orient: to Hawaii, to Hong Kong, to Japan and the Philippines. They visited with Carlos P. Romulo, who after a distinguished career as a soldier and statesman was serving as President of the University of the Philippines and had been Leland's friend since his days at *The Rotarian*.

In Honolulu they had a chance to spend a few days with Leland's niece Marilyn Sunderman, who had made her home there and was enjoying a flourishing career as an artist. Her studio was at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel which at that time was the largest hotel in the world. Her studio was in the center of the lobby.

Leland was like a second father to Marilyn. Over the years he had been a help to her in many ways. She asked him if she could do a portrait of him. He was pleased, and agreed to pose for her.

Years later she told me two things about that portrait. In painting her uncle, what particularly interested Marilyn was the quality of his skin—so delicate and translucent. It was quite an experience for her to paint skin like that, and she positioned him with his hands in view to make the most of what she saw.

The portrait hung, unframed, in Leland's study in Tucson for several years. Then she received a letter from Uncle Leland asking her advice about framing it. He had an antique western frame that he was particularly proud of, he said, and it happened to be a few inches too short for the portrait. Which should





**ALL SOURCES USED
COURTESY OF THE LELAND D.
CASE LIBRARY FOR WESTERN
HISTORICAL STUDIES**

The Case Library is
State University campus in Spearfish, SD.

y Library on the Black Hills