

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative LeCompte, Karl Miles Senator LeCompte, Karl Miles  
Represented Wayne and Lucas Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 25 May 1887 Corydon, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Archie Admire Tye 12 Aug 1927 Indianola, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

- A. Business Received the Master Editor/Publisher Award from the Iowa Press Association in 1962; member of the Iowa Press Association Board of Directors
- B. Civic responsibilities American Legion; Mason; Rotary; Civil War Buffs; Wayne County Historical Society
- C. Profession Newspaperman - The Corydon Journal - Republican

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 27<sup>th</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assemblies 1917, 1919

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National United States House of Representatives 1938-1958

7. Death 30 Sept 1972 Centerville, Iowa; buried Corydon Cemetery, Corydon, Iowa

8. Children 2 children

9. Names of parents Charles Francis and Hannah (Miles) LeCompte

10. Education Educated in Corydon, Iowa public schools, graduating  
from high school in 1905

11. Degrees Graduate of the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa with  
B.A. degree in 1909

12. Other applicable information Republican

- His father founded the Corydon Iowa Republican news paper around 1872.  
For 95 years the newspaper remained within the Le Compton family.  
He sold the Corydon Iowa Republican in 1967 because he felt at  
his age the burden of publishing a paper was too burdensome.
- He had become the sole owner of the Corydon Iowa Republican in 1912.
- Military service - World War I - U. S. Army



# IN MEMORIAM

*The Honorable*

## KARL M. LE COMPTE

1887 - 1972



*Dedicated Newspaperman*

*Distinguished Public Servant*

*Proud Citizen of Wayne County*

The August census is the last of the three pheasant counts conducted. This survey is conducted in every county of Iowa the first half of August. Starting at sunrise the Officers and Biologists drive slowly along a prescribed 30 mile route and count the number of cocks, hens and chicks seen. This survey is very important because it tells us how good the production of young was during the reproductive season. Of course, the better the hatch the better are the fall hunting prospects. Data collected from this years survey indicate no significant change from last years statewide pheasant population. These surveys not only follow the changes in pheasant numbers during any given year, but when conducted for many years they make it possible for us to follow the changes in ring-neck numbers and distribution all over the state.



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## Karl LeCompte

The Honorable Mr. Karl LeCompte, born May 25, 1887 (died September 30, 1972 at the age of 85 years, four months, and five days. He was the one living son of Charles Francis and Hannah Miles LeCompte, both deceased. He was married August 12, 1927 at Indianola to Dorothy Admerie Tye who survives, living at their home in Corydon. There were no children, Karl has one living sister, Miss Marlam LeCompte. Two brothers preceded him in death at a very early age, and two sisters Coy LeCompte Hill and Nell LeCompte Reaves also deceased. There are several grand nieces and nephews surviving.

Karl was a lifelong newspaperman and a member of Congress from the Fifth District for 20 years. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, The American Legion, The Masonic Lodge, a past member of Rotary, The Civil War Buffs, a newspaper fraternity, and the Wayne County Historical Society. He was extremely interested in youth and helped many with placement in life vocations. He was an active worker in the Republican Party (local, state, and national.) A long life in the small community has kept him well known and appreciated by many neighbors and friends.

Services were held Tuesday, October 3, 1972, at 2:00 p.m. in the United Methodist Church of Corydon with the Rev. Lawrence E. Jones presiding.

Pall Bearers were Carl Coates, Judge Thomas Bown, James Kaster, T.C. Poston, Bob Crawford, David Grismore.

Honorary Bearers were Ben Grismore, Marshall Whiteley, Gilbert West, Lloyd Nelson, Russell Kaster, W.L. Lindsey, Robert Beck, Elton A. Johnston, Curt Yocom, Clyde Doolittle, Amos Pearsall, Lloyd Anderson, Hon. John Kyl, O. K. Engene, Elmer Grismore, Ray Richard.

Ruth Barker was Organist. Interment was in the Corydon cemetery with the Wolf Funeral Home conducting the arrangements.

10 days.

She was married to John Fields in 1908. To this union, two children were born, Lewis Fields and Miriam Brackett. Both preceded her in death.

She was married to Ed. McCreay, August 7th, 1943. Since his death December 26, 1955, she has lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is survived by five grandchildren; Tom Fields, Kansas City, Missouri; Mrs. Patricia Rinehart, St. Louis, Missouri; Mrs. Katherine Bowers, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Robert Brackett, Chesapeake, Virginia; Jack Brackett, Marion, Iowa, and 12 great grandchildren and seven step children.

Services were held Sunday, October 1, 1972 at 2:00 p.m. from the Randolph Funeral Home Allerton, Iowa with the Rev. David Leeper officiating. With interment in the Allerton Cemetery.

## Asa E. Wells

Asa Ezra Wells, youngest member of the family of Henry S. and Nancy (Owens) Wells was born near Lucerne, Missouri, May 14, 1893, and was called to his heavenly home September 23, 1972 at the Putnam Co. Memorial Hospital after an illness of several months.

Asa was a highly respected and well-loved member of the Gravel Ridge Community. He was born and lived his life of seventy-nine years on the same farm in that neighborhood. Throughout his youth though much of the time without parental guidance, Asa was a law unto himself, but he was not attracted by the restless and coarse ways of many with whom he had to make contact. Instead, he became an example boy and man, one from whom the best was expected and to whom all could turn with respect.

He attended school at Gravel Ridge and at the Kirksville Normal School.

He remained an incessant reader all his life. On January 3, 1915 he was united in marriage to Alice Marie Roberston, and immediately established his home on the farm formerly owned by his father.

He was a good farmer and stockman. Always ready and eager to attempt new and bet-

He studied violin and time played in his orchestra. He was a singer and loved golf.

He was interested in home school and several years as board member was an officer of the Ridge Community of his dearest interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells celebrated their Golden Anniversary January 3, 1965.

In later years he lived in semi-retirement on a farm, spending long hours entertaining grandchildren, whom he loved dearly.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells were parents of a daughter, Mrs. Wells of Marcelline, a son, Keith Wells, field, Iowa.

Besides his devoted companion, Marie, he had a daughter Vernal, his wife, Gwen, who was greatly admired, and his own daughter, grandchildren, Gretchen and Stephen. His sister Mrs. Fann Powersville, Mo., his law, Mrs. Madge Verne, Mrs. St. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mollie Noland of Kan. Mo. A brother-in-law, Robertson and wife, ville, Mo. and Hugh of Lucerne, Mo., had most of nieces and numerous friends.

Mr. Wells was a great Uncle of Mack of Corydon.

His pleasant, generous, his strict integrity and his fellow men gained friends and respect.

It can be truly said he lived in his house of the road and was to man."

Services were held September 25, 1972 P.M. from Comstock Home, with Bro. Kelley of Kirksville officiating minister by Bro. Sammy V. Unionville, Mo. Burial in the Lucerne Cemetery Missouri.

Pallbearers were: Kin, Joe Wells, mach, Delbert Valentine, Donald D.

We wish to express all the deeds of kindness and expressions of

# Karl LeCompte Respected Corydon Citizen Is Taken

By ROBERT K. BECK

The Honorable Karl M. LeCompte, 85, Corydon's most illustrious citizen, newspaperman, Republican, politician, State Senator and U.S. Congressman, a true gentleman in every sense of the word, Wayne County civic leader, died very suddenly Saturday afternoon while in Centerville attending the annual Pancake Day festivities.

Death was attributed to a heart attack.

A member of the United States Congress for twenty years, he was well known throughout southern Iowa, indeed the state and the nation. He was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1938 and continuously served in that capacity until his voluntary retirement in 1958.

Widely known

Thus, while his roots and his first love rested in the Corydon community and the Wayne county area where he was born, reared and subsequently followed his newspaper profession, he was likewise on a first name basis with thousands of people in many communities and counties throughout Iowa.

He knew Presidents of the United States, high governmental officials at all levels and was a widely respected congressman who became a household name throughout his congressional district which spread from Creston to Newton to Bloomfield.

He was in Centerville Saturday to partake in the annual Pancake Day celebration. Just shortly before he died he reminisced with friends that he had attended each of the 24 Pancake Days except one in 1959 when he was hospitalized. "It's always a great day," he said with enthusiasm.

In good spirits

He was in good spirits and apparently good health as he greeted numerous friends. He had arrived about 11 a.m., stayed through the parade and watched the marching bands perform, and then prepared to return to Corydon. As his car reached the intersection at Haynes and State near the Elks Club he stopped the car, slumped over in his seat. An ambulance was summoned and he was taken to the hospital but he was pronounced dead upon arrival by Dr. M. G. Parks.

While he rose to great heights in the political arena, first serving as a State Senator, later in the United States Congress, his basic love was rural Iowa, his home community, and his newspaper, the Corydon Times-Republican.

Loved newspapering

He was content to enter his newspaper office, roll up his sleeves, pound out a news story, or set type on the linotype machine, and become a practicing country newspaper publisher-editor. He often said that printers ink was part of his blood. Publishing a newspaper was more than a responsibility, hard work and effort, it was an obligation, a great love affair, a way of life for Karl LeCompte.

## The Hon

## As he appo

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*The Honorable Karl LeCompte  
 1887-1972*

*As he appeared as a U. S. Congressman*

He was born into the newspaper profession. His father, C. F. LeCompte founded the Times-Republican just 100 years ago. For 95 of those years the Times-Republican remained within the LeCompte family, first his father, then Karl's brother, W. R. (Rollie) LeCompte, and in 1910 when Rollie passed away Karl, just graduated from the University of Iowa, returned home and joined his ailing father in publishing the T.R.

Mr. LeCompte retained the T.R. until 1967 when he sold it to News Consolidated Inc., simply because he had reached the age when he felt like he must pass along the burden of publishing a weekly newspaper.

### Country newspaperman

Karl was recognized in the publishing profession as a true adherent of country newspapering. He liked names in print. He wanted his newspaper to stand for those things best for Wayne county. He was not ashamed to get printers ink on his hands, nor

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**Karl LeCompte**  
-1972  
U. S. Congressman

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hesitant to compose an ad, and sit down and peck-out a column or news story. He was meticulous about writing style and copy preparation.

He was recognized for his outstanding contribution to the profession by the Iowa Press Association in 1962 when he was awarded the highest honor in his profession, the Master-Editor Publisher Award which states that "He has worked hard, lived honorably, thought soundly, influenced unselfishly and is entitled to the highest honor in his profession." He was at one time a member of the Iowa Press Association Board of Directors.

He was in the newspaper profession during the days when he would ride a bicycle to the railroad station each day to get the names of people leaving and arriving to record personal items.

In 1912 the Times-Republican was consolidated with the Wayne County Democrat. In 1924 C. F. LeCompte died and Karl became the sole owner.

#### Elected to office

While the TR was a large part of Karl LeCompte's life, his still greater achievements were in the field of politics. He started his elective office career in 1916 when he was elected to the Iowa State Senate serving until 1920.

One thing that displayed so well his character was the fact that LeCompte voluntarily entered the army as a private during World War I. The country had declared war against Germany in 1917 and even though LeCompte had an exempt status because of his Senate position, he wanted to serve in uniform.

In 1919 he returned to his Senate duties. His father, now enjoying better health, operated the TR along with his son Karl.

#### Ran for Congress

Karl continued his active work with the Republican party but did not stand for office again until 1938. Congressman Lloyd Thurston of Osceola decided to contest for the U.S. Senate leaving his congressional post vacant. LeCompte tossed his hat in the ring, won a three-way primary contest, and then the general election in November.

As a member of the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress he represented the fourth congressional district. He was noted for his prompt attention to constituency requests, his prolific letter-writing. People having birthdays and gaining unusual recognition always received a cordial note from their congressman.

#### Rathbun Dam connection

He was sent back to congress again and again, standing for ten elections and winning ten times. He was in congress when the Rathbun Dam project was authorized in 1954 and when the initial planning appropriation was made in 1956. Even though it was a highly controversial project in that day, LeCompte gave his approval to this action which started the project on its way to eventual completion.

He served under President Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower, knowing each. He likewise served with Richard Nixon while he was a congressman, later a U.S. Senator and Vice President of the United States.

#### Knew Nixon

When President Nixon was at the Rathbun dedication in 1971, the President spotted Mr. LeCompte in the massive crowd, made a special effort to reach for LeCompte's hand and extend greetings.

*LeCompte . . . pg. 2*

## **publisher's comments**

By Roger Bryant

It was not my good fortune to know Karl LeCompte personally for a long while. However, my recent contacts with him had been numerous. Each week I tried to drop-in at Karl's downtown Corydon office just to visit, frequently talked newspapering, a profession he loved, or perhaps politics, or the community of Corydon, or a host of other things. I always felt refreshed and better enlightened after a chat with Karl.

I, of course, really knew Karl many years ago, but we just had not met. I knew of him as a former congressman, a distinguished citizen, as an elder statesman in the newspaper profession. His reputation was widespread.

My first meeting with Mr. LeCompte was last June at Snyder's Cafe. It had just been announced that I was coming to Corydon as the new T-R publisher. I had not as yet moved to Corydon or started working with the paper. So it was a chance meeting. We were personal strangers to one another, but we were introduced and he immediately made me feel very much

at ease in his presence. He was so cordial in his welcome, so interested in me and my family and expressed his desire to help in anyway possible. It was one of my early favorable impressions about Corydon and one of its most distinguished citizens.

I was aware, of course, of his rich background in the newspaper business and his long ownership of the Times-Republican. During our weekly visits he recounted some of his newspaper experiences, how he did about everything in the shop from running a linotype or the press or write a news story, edit copy, solicit ads. Even when he was busy with his congressional duties he would roll up his sleeves and get back into the printers ink when he returned to Corydon.

I quickly gained the impression during my weekly visits that he was a man interested in his community and its progress. He spoke of how pleased he was that young folks seemed to be taking so much interest in community activities.

I was talking with Nancy Coates about and she commented that in one era. She thought of him as a great

# The

OFFICIAL COUNTY PAPER

## Karl LeCompte Corydon Citizen

By RO

The Honorable Karl M. LeCompte, citizen, newspaperman, Rep. U.S. Congressman, a true Wayne County civic leader, while in Centerville attending

Death was attributed to a member of the United States well known throughout southern. He was first elected Representatives in 1938 and until his voluntary retirement

Thus, while his roots and community and the Wayne County and subsequently followed likewise on a first name basis communities and counties

He knew Presidents of the officials at all levels and was became a household name which spread from Creston

He was in Centerville Saturday celebration. Just shortly friends that he had attended one in 1959 when he was hospitable said with enthusiasm.

In He was in good spirits and numerous friends. He had at the parade and watched the prepared to return to Corydon at Haynes and State near the over in his seat. An ambulance the hospital at Parkers.

While he rose to great heights

The program included a collage titled "You Are What You Do". Mike Peterson of Monroe County, past State 4-H President, introduced the slide-tape set which he had prepared and arranged to depict social problems and conditions which are the topic and spirit of much modern music.

Mrs. Beverly Everett, homemaker and community worker from Mahaska County, gave the keynote address stressing the need for involvement and giving practical ideas and suggestions as to how to volunteer and get involved in many areas of community service.

Nancy McCullough, Wayne County and Joe Sellers, Lucas County and retiring state 4-H Council members, conducted the election of two new members to the State 4-H Council. They will serve one year terms meeting with 22 other 4-H'ers from over the state. The council looks at new ideas, conducts state events and serves as coordinator between local 4-H clubs and the state organization.

The Wayne County delegation included Miss McCullough, also Brent Werts, retiring Elco member, Richard Darrach and Becky Jones, Present Elco member, and Peggy Abel, Cheryl Robinson, Karen Kinsler, Margaret McCullough, Angie Campbell, Tom Sager, County Youth Council, Also Steve Abel, Cindy Hanson, Karen Besco, Janice Roberts, Paul Campbell, Kim Lerner, Mark Brown, Vern Bettis, Cindy Sponsler, and Susan Davis. Mrs. Joe Sponsler, Mrs. Dale Abel, and Mrs. Mabel Smith, 4-H Aide accompanied the group.

**GOTO MARKET IN A  
CLASSIFIED AD!**

Mrs. Joe Sponsler, Mrs. Dale  
 bel, and Mrs. Mabel Smith,  
 -H Aide accompanied the  
 roup.



O. Aten & Josephine Brat-  
 ain, Ford.

Harry Jr. & Clarabelle  
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Orville F. & Coral Finn,  
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Ross R. & Marian K. Swear-

ngin, Pontiac.

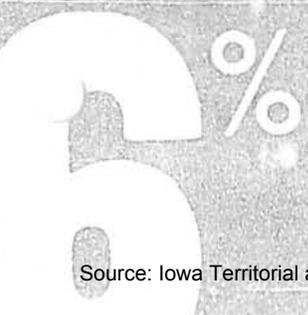
Marion B. Snyder, Pontiac.

Earl L. Carson, Ford (T)

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 when he was busy with his congressional  
 duties he would roll up his sleeves  
 and get back into the printers ink when  
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I quickly gained the impression during  
 my weekly visits that he was a man  
 interested in his community and its  
 progress. He spoke of how pleased  
 he was that young folks seemed to be  
 taking so much interest in community  
 activities.

I was talking with Nancy Coates about  
 Karl and she commented that in one  
 way he represented the passing of an  
 era. She thought of him as a great  
 gentleman, one of the old school. He  
 would quickly rise to his feet when a  
 lady entered the room, she observed.  
 He was always polite, certainly  
 courteous.

In my visits with him he reflected  
 occasionally about his congressional ca-  
 reer, which I knew to be long and dis-  
 tinguished. Somehow it seemed to me  
 that he was a humble man. He knew  
 Presidents. He knew important people.  
 But he would leave you the impression  
 that after all he was just another citi-  
 zen.

I wish I could speak more adequately  
 to Mr. LeCompte's great career and his  
 life, but I have turned to others whom I  
 know are people who have know him  
 for many many years.

The article that we carry about Mr.  
 LeCompte on the front page of the TR  
 was written by a fellow newspaperman  
 who had know Mr. LeCompte for years,  
 know him as a publisher, as a con-  
 gressman, as a person. The article  
 is written by Robert K. Beck of Cen-  
 terville, a newspaper colleague and long  
 standing friend of Mr. LeCompte. It  
 seems to me he is well qualified to  
 write Karl's story.

I should like to call your attention to  
 the picture page in this issue of the TR  
 depicting the congressional career of  
 Mr. LeCompte. You will find it  
 interesting.

We've also collected comments from  
 people in Corydon and elsewhere, each  
 giving their observations.

Early Sunday morning John Clayton,  
 a TR reporter, columnist and one who  
 was tutored and worked with Karl Le-  
 Compte contacted me. He had already  
 voluntarily written his own comments  
 about Mr. LeCompte, so this comes from  
 a man who knew Karl in his newspaper  
 profession. So the balance of this  
 column will be Johnny Clayton's  
 remarks.

By John Clayton

became a household name in  
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 become a practicing country  
 said that printers ink was part  
 was more than a responsibility  
 obligation, a great love affair,

Often at the print shop....in the  
 ning....with the boys, Karl could  
 a handful of change out of his po  
 and with his palm upright, he  
 tell me I could have all the ni  
 I could find. (I've been looking  
 nickels ever since.)

There were three or four person  
 influenced me in the realm of jour  
 And Karl was the last and perhaps  
 influential. The first was my En  
 teacher, Miss Josephine Coffey,  
 lives in retirement in Fort Mad  
 She had a thing about theme wr  
 The other two were my college s  
 teacher and Charley DePuy.

I went to work in about 1950 for  
 and LeCompte, publishers of the TR  
 Republican, and although Karl was  
 serving in Washington as the Fourth  
 district Congressman from Iowa, he  
 remained in full command of the good  
 T-R. On a Monday morning, ofte  
 not, I could depend on receiving a  
 from Karl with a few clippings from  
 last issue. closed, and any errors  
 indeed be marked by his red p  
 Strong admotions were always a p  
 the weekly communique.

I remember on several occasions  
 Karl had discovered a gramme  
 in some copy, he would invariably  
 up from his seat--whether at a  
 or a Linotype machine--and come  
 the copy to the front room,  
 be waving the copy in the air and s

# Highlights of Karl LeCompte's Congressional career 1938-58

The pictures on this page show the Honorable Karl M. LeCompte, former publisher of the Corydon Times-Republican, former United States congressman, during his days in Washington, D.C. as a congressman.



Here's Congressman Karl LeCompte with President Dwight D. Eisenhower, one of the three Presidents in office during Mr. LeCompte's congressional career.



This is Congressman LeCompte with President Harry S. Truman. LeCompte presented Mr. Truman with a picture of Frederick Knight Logan

of Missouri Waltz Fame. The picture gift delighted Mr. Truman.



This is a picture of Mr. LeCompte in the United States House of Representatives for 20 years, retiring in 1958. He served on the Missouri Administration Committee and as chairman or ranking member of the Missouri Administration Committee.



man Karl LeCompte with  
 Eisenhower, one of the three  
 ce during Mr. LeCompte's  
 yr.



LeCompte with President  
 Compte presented Mr.  
 Frederick Knight Logan  
 of Missouri Waltz Fame. The picture gift delighted  
 Mr. Truman.



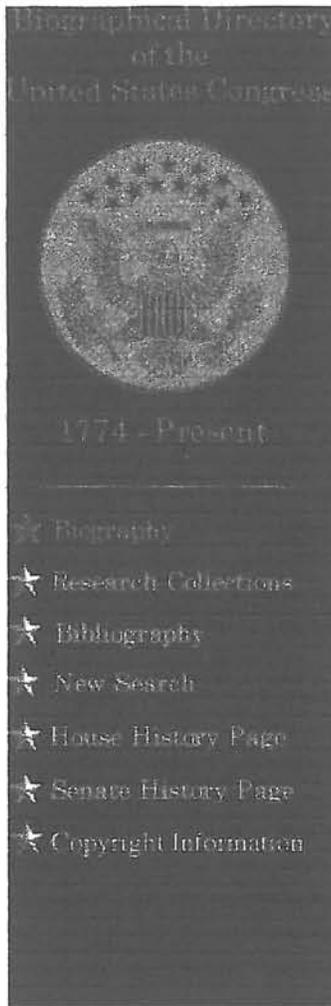
This is a picture of Mr. LeCompte with a gavel, taken in the  
 United States House of Representatives. He was a member  
 for 20 years, retiring in 1958. He served on the Foreign Affairs  
 Committee and as chairman or ranking member of the House  
 Administration Committee.



rd in posed with  
 Karl LeCompte in this  
 s a Veterans of Foreign  
 in February 1958 held at  
 the Statler Hotel in Washington. The four persons  
 to the left of the picture are Mrs. Forest Miller,  
 Leon; Vice President Nixon; Mr. and Mrs. Karl  
 LeCompte.



The man who eventually took the Congressional seat oc-  
 cupied by LeCompte was John Kyl (R) of Bloomfield. Kyl  
 still occupies the fourth congressional seat. Here are  
 LeCompte and Kyl pictured in Washington, D.C.



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## LE COMPTE, Karl Miles, 1887-1972

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LE COMPTE, Karl Miles, a Representative from Iowa; born in Corydon, Wayne County, Iowa, May 25, 1887; attended the public schools and was graduated from the State University of Iowa at Iowa City in 1909; became owner and publisher of the Corydon Times-Republican in 1910; during the First World War served as a private in the medical detachment of United States General Hospital No. 26 in 1918; member of the State senate 1917-1921; elected as a Republican to the Seventy-sixth and to the nine succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1939-January 3, 1959); chairman, Committee on House Administration (Eightieth and Eighty-third Congresses); was not a candidate for renomination in 1958 to the Eighty-sixth Congress; returned to newspaper publishing; retired but continued as a contributing editor; died in Centerville, Iowa, September 30, 1972; interment in Corydon Cemetery, Corydon, Iowa.