

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Snakenberg, John Dick ^{J. Dick} Senator _____

Represented Worth County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 14 Feb 1915 Sejourney, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place
Delores Huber 3 June 1937

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Member of the FBI in Miami and New Orleans;
member Kodak

B. Civic responsibilities Chamber of Commerce; Mason; American
Legion; Sejourney Golf Club, Old Fellows

C. Profession Attorney

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 49th General Assembly 1941

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 25 June 1954 Sejourney, Iowa; buried West Cemetery, Sejourney, Iowa

8. Children Penelope Diane; John Dick, Jr.

9. Names of parents Harry L. and Sadie (Barber) Snakenberg

Strickerberg, J. Dick

10. Education He was educated in the Sigourney, Iowa schools
graduating in 1933.

11. Degrees He attended University of Iowa liberal arts, Annapolis, Iowa for 3
years, he graduated from the law school of Drake University, Des
Moines, Iowa

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He entered law practice with his father, Harry Strickerberg at Sigourney,
Iowa 1 July 1940
- Military service - World War II - United States Navy, served in the administrative
branch as a yeoman 2nd class 28 Mar 1944 to April 1946.
- He was only 25 years old when he started in the Legislature in 1941.
- After serving with the Legislature one term, he decided to work for the FBI.

Y NEWS

Official County Newspaper

NUMBER TWENTY SIX

Prizes Offered for Best Floats in 4-H Celebration Parade

Cash prizes will be offered for the best floats entered in the parade which will be one of the features of the fiftieth anniversary Keokuk county 4-H celebration here on July 14.

There will be two divisions in the float contest, 4-H club floats and non-4-H club floats, with the prizes in each division being \$7 for first; \$5 for second and \$3 for third place.

Among the Sigourney firms and organizations which already have informed the county extension office that they plan to enter floats are the Iowa Southern Utilities, Saint Mary's Catholic church, Future Homemakers of America, Future Farmers of America, the V. F. W. Auxiliary and the Sigourney Saddle club.

Other floats entered in addition to those by the Keokuk county 4-H clubs will be by the Keokuk county Farm Bureau, Washington county Farm Bureau and 4-H clubs, Jefferson county 4-H clubs and the Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce.

Other county or neighboring county organizations interested in entering floats in the parade may contact the extension office or one of the co-chairmen of the parade committee, Mrs. Harold Palmer of Keota and Dale Herrick of Webster.

To help finance the fiftieth anniversary celebration the boys' and girls' 4-H clubs of the county have sold more than 300 tractor safety flags. In addition to this fund, the 4-H clubs have received a \$100 contribution from the Sigourney Chamber of Commerce and \$25 from the First Trust and Union Savings bank.

Farmers May Inspect Oat Variety Demonstration Plot

A twilight meeting will be held Friday, July 2 starting at 6:30 at the oat variety demonstration plot on the Ben Lee farm, located one-fourth mile east and one-fourth mile north of Webster, according to Don Shirk, county extension director. There are 16 varieties in the plot and the relative resistance to disease, stiffness of straw and yield will be discussed. Included in the varieties is the new Clabland oat

Dick Snakenberg, Local Young Attorney, Dies

J. Dick Snakenberg, 39, popular young Sigourney attorney, died at his home here last Friday morning at 4:30 o'clock. He had been in failing health several weeks before going to the Veterans' Hospital in Iowa City early this year, where he underwent major surgery on February 18 and extensive treatments for relief of what was believed to be a non-malignant tumor on the brain. Late cancer of the lung was found and although he had been at home since the day before Easter Sunday, he had returned May 26 to the hospital for a check-up and his condition declined rapidly.

Dick, as everyone knew him, was born in Sigourney on February 14, 1915 and was the only son of Harry L. and Sadie Barber Snakenberg. He was graduated from the Sigourney high school in the class of 1933, attended the college of liberal arts at the State University of Iowa in Iowa City for three years and received his law degree from Drake university in Des Moines.



Courtesy Ottumwa Courier

He entered partnership in the practice of law with his father on July 1, 1940 and their firm was known as Snakenberg and O'Neil.

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Pearl Showman of Martinsburg spent several days in the home of Mrs. Harold Cheney and family.



Courtesy Ottumwa Courier

He entered partnership in the practice of law here with his father on July 1, 1940 and their firm was known as Snakenberg and Snakenberg. Dick was elected as state representative of Keokuk county in 1941 and served one term, being the youngest member of the forty-ninth General Assembly. Later he entered the service of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was located in Miami, Florida and New Orleans, Louisiana, before resigning to enlist in the United States Navy, in which he served in the administration branch as a yeoman second class from March 28, 1944 until April, 1946.

On June 3, 1937, he was married to Delores Huber of Blakesburg and most of their married life has been spent in Sigourney. They became the parents of a daughter, Penelope Diane and a son, John Dick.

Dick was a member of the Presbyterian church; Sigourney Chamber of Commerce; of Webb lodge, number 182, A. F. and A. M.; of the Iowa, Sixth District and Keokuk County Bar associations; the Leo R. Farmer post, American Legion and of the Sigourney Golf club. He also was affiliated with Pi Kappa Alpha, national fraternity.

He was devoted to his family and his jolly disposition and infectious laugh made friends of all with whom he came in contact.

Surviving are his wife; his daughter, Penne, aged 13; his son Dickie, aged six; his parents, and two sisters, Mrs. Laurence E. Rhea of Sigourney and Mrs. William R. Brown of Redondo Beach, California.

The funeral service was held at the Presbyterian church Sunday afternoon, the church being filled to capacity and the overflow listening to the last rites over a loud speaker system in the basement and church yard.

His former pastor, the Rev. Roy A. Wilson of Toledo, conducted the service, and members of the local American Legion post and V. F. W. accorded full military honors at West cemetery, where burial was made.

Mrs. Leo Heisdorffer in Hospital After Dying

954

the last six months of 1954.

(25.) My forecast as to the various classes of real estate is as follows:

(a) Large commercial farms will experience a further sag in their land values during the last half-year as farmers' gross income dips lower.

(b) Small farms on the fringe of big city suburbs should hold or rise in price as people get further away from city centers. This move could become an avalanche in the event of really serious war scares.

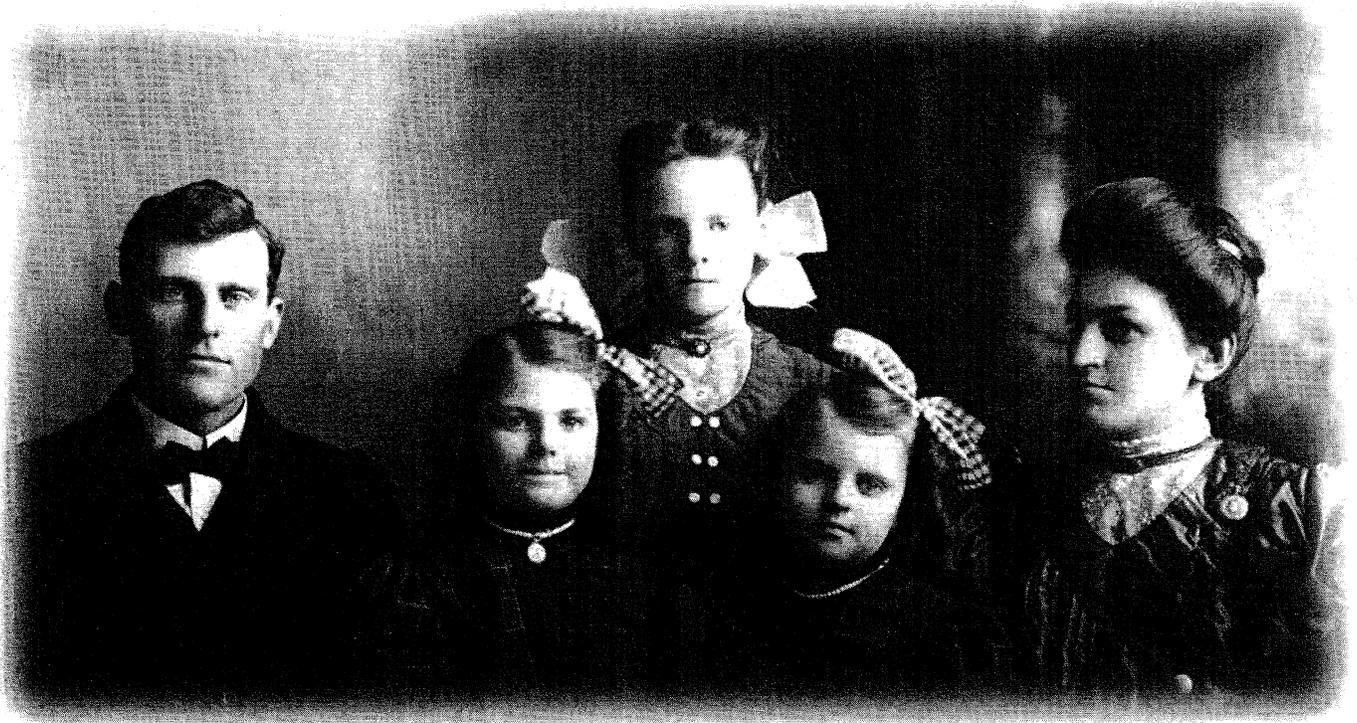
(c) I look for vacant land in the suburbs to hold its value well. In the big cities it may be another story unless the land is suitable for parking purposes.

(d) Business properties in the big cities may ease somewhat in price during the last six months of this year. Suburban business properties can be expected to hold up. Demand for more shopping centers will be noticeable during the months to come.

(e) Home property (especially the older houses, particularly in the cities) will continue sagging in price. In the suburbs, the bigger houses, even of recent vintage, will be harder to sell. Most salable home properties will be the newer houses in the middle and lower-price brackets with emphasis on the "ranch-houses" so-called.

(f) In the last half-year, construction will still be a powerful support to our economy as it has been for so long. Seasonally, building will hold well, strengthened by continued liberal credit terms. Some boost to

KEOKUK COUNTY IOWA



*The History of Keokuk County Iowa
Communities and Its People
Preserving the Past and Present*

2001

Sigourney has maintained a rather constant population of 2100 through the 1900's. Most of the buildings around the square were built in the early 1900's. The Memorial Hall was built in 1922-23. It seats 800 people upstairs and the dining area downstairs will seat 250.

The two level band stand that stood in the northeast corner of the square and used often for speeches and Saturday night band concerts, was moved to the Legion Park in 1940.

The Post Office was built in 1963, one block west of the square. The Public Library was built in 1914 and was done with a \$10,000 Carnegie Grant. A Senior Center was built in 1981. The 38 bed hospital opened in 1954 and cost \$670,000.

In 1911 the town started to put in a sewer system. It was upgraded in 1968 and again in 1987. In 1912 the town was divided into four wards. In 1915 the city purchased the area northwest of the square for the hitch racks. (An old version of a parking lot).

Anyone living in the 1900's in Sigourney or surrounding area will smile when you mention Jimmy Green's Ice Cream Store. A five cent cone was a treat to every kid. Jimmy sold ice cream in Sigourney for 65 years and owned his own business for 61 years. If you got your teeth filled at Dr. G. G. Goldthwait, you were given a nickel for a cone at Jimmy's. That really didn't help the pain of the slow drill.

By Glen Bakehouse

THE SIGOURNEY NEWS-REVIEW

The Sigourney News-Review is a direct descendent of "Life in the West," a weekly newspaper established in Sigourney in 1856 and of the "Iowa Democrat," a newspaper established in Sigourney in 1858. Both of these papers suspended publication, but from this beginning were established the "Sigourney News" in 1860 and the "Sigourney Review" in 1872. These two newspapers survived as competing business firms until their consolidation into a weekly paper on November 1, 1960. Don J. Adams was publisher at this time. This newspaper is one of Keokuk County's oldest business firms. (From "Our Place in History" 1844-1969).

Don Adams was employed in December 1933, by Cotton Etter, who was then publisher of the Sigourney Review, a few months after his graduation from high school. Adams became managing editor of the Review in 1939. In January 1953, Adams purchased an interest in the Review and became a partner with Etter. By 1959, Adams purchased Etter's remaining interest in the Review, and became sole owner. (The Etter family had purchased the Review in April 1900 and the family published this paper for the next 59 years).

On November 1, 1960, Adams purchased the Keokuk County News, a competing weekly paper and consolidated the News and the Review into a single newspaper, known as today, Sigourney News-Review.

It must be noted that the News-Review preceded by the Keokuk County News was founded in 1860 by A. S. Bailey.

It had several changes of ownership when W. H. Needham Sr., formerly of Oskaloosa purchased the paper and was published by the Needham family for 66 continuous years.

In December 1944, The News was sold to C. E. Purdue and his son Harold E. Purdue of New Sharon, Iowa by W.H. Needham Jr. Harold E. Purdue became sole owner of the News in 1951 until his death November 23, 1953. His widow Juanita published the News for one year before selling to Leland M. Turnbull on November 1, 1954. He in turn published the paper until 1960 when the News and the Review were consolidated by Don Adams.

It was July 1, 1989 when ownership to Kenneth Chaney was transferred from Mr. Adams. Chaney became the new publisher and is still today.

Kenneth Chaney first became an employee of the News-Review in April 1969, learning the trade from bottom up as he had no training prior to this. He left the newspaper for a short time in 1978 (about 5 months) and went to work for Dinsmore Publishing Company as manager of the Eldon Forum and by the Washington Daily Journal. After returning to the News-Review paper, he became the advertising manager and in charge of mechanical production.

Prior to beginning work for the News-Review, Chaney attended the Centerville Community College and William Penn College at Oskaloosa and in later years he gained knowledge of offset printing and journalism at Indian Hills College in Ottumwa. (From "The News-Review" Wed. June 28, 1989) Submitted by Mabel Daniels

SNAKENBERG LAW OFFICE (1914-1978)

On June 1, 1953, I became a full-time legal secretary in the office of Snakenberg & Snakenberg, a partnership comprised of Harry L. Snakenberg and his son J. Dick Snakenberg. I had just graduated from Sigourney High School, having done my "practice training" in that office while completing the secretarial course.

Harry L. Snakenberg was a remarkable man in many ways, somehow never forgetting how a "new beginner" feels. . . he told me not to be afraid to ask questions, as that is a part of the learning process. He became a mentor and soon more like a father than a boss, my own father having passed away the previous summer.

The office was located on the first floor of the residence at 118 South Shuffleton (corner of Shuffleton & Marion streets) one block east of the southeast corner of the Sigourney square. It consisted of a general law practice specializing in probate (Wills, Estates, Guardianships & Trusteeships) as well as real estate abstracting and title work. At that time there were at least thirteen attorneys practicing law in Sigourney.

During the winter of 1953-54, J. Dick Snakenberg became seriously ill with a malignant brain tumor and lung cancer. He passed away June 25, 1954 at the age of 39 years. He was a Drake Law graduate and entered the law partnership with his father July 1, 1940. When he was 25 years of age he

was elected as a Representative to the State Legislature and was the youngest member of the 49th General Assembly. After serving one term, he resigned to go with the FBI. He was in the U.S. Navy 1944–1946.

After the death of Harry's son, the office then became known as the Harry L. Snakenberg Law Office. Harry and his wife Sadie (Barber) lived in the apartment on the second floor of the office building. He sold his abstract business to Hazel Hankins. In the fall of 1954, he rented office space to J. Leo Martin who was the attorney for Keokuk County.

Sadie Snakenberg died January 25, 1958, from a heart ailment, at the age of 68 years. She and Harry were the parents of three children; Margery (died Dec. 8, 1977) Louise, J. Dick, deceased, and Bette.

In July 1959 Harry married Bertha (Fritchen) Andrews of rural Ollie. They made their home at her rural Ollie home.

Harry L. Snakenberg was a graduate from University of Iowa College of Law in 1914 and was admitted to the State Bar Association the same year. He started his law practice in Sigourney in 1914 continuing until his death, September 27, 1978, at the age of 90 years.

During the more than 25 years I worked in this office, we used manual typewriters, making up to six copies at a time by using quality carbon paper. No electric typewriters, word processors or copy machines were used. Clients rarely made an appointment in the early years but were taken on a first come-first serve basis but the last ten years, the majority of clients made appointments. Submitted by Anna May Reber

DOWNEY



James M. Downey

James M. Downey (23 Jan 1868–28 Dec 1926) was born in Abingdon, Iowa. He married 29 November 1890 Nellie Ramsey (8 Aug 1875–16 Feb 1943). They had two children; Theodore (20 Sep 1900–23 Feb 1967) and Venus (1897–24 Mar 1938). They divorced and James then married Mabel Mench from Clear Lake, Iowa.

James had a livery stable in Sigourney at 213, 217 & 223 North Main Street. When he needed extra help, he would keep his son, Ted out of school—therefore, Ted never graduated. There was a woman doctor in Sigourney by name of Dr. Dulin and when she needed to go to the country to see a patient, she would call and someone from the livery stable would drive her. Nellie was very jealous and would often send Ted, instead of her husband. Ted hated to hear the women scream when they were having babies so, if it was summer, he would let Dr. Dulin out and then go back down the road far enough so he couldn't hear them.

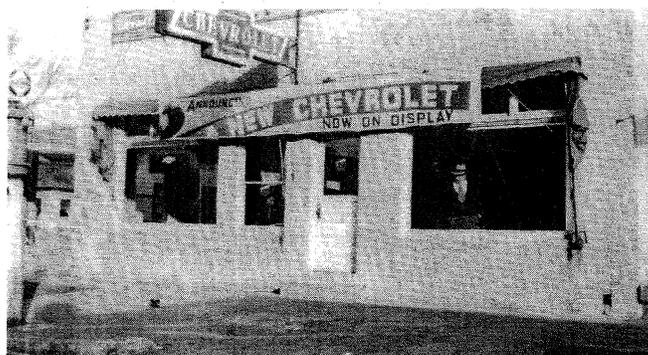
When the horse and buggy days were over, Jim had three houses built where the livery stable had been and he and his family lived in the one at 213 North Main for a time.

In 1915 James started the Downey Motor Company. In the early days various makes of cars were sold. Then in 1923 he signed a Chevrolet contract, only the second one in Iowa. Later, Buicks and other General Motor cars were sold. At one time there were ten employees, 3 full-time salesmen and the others working in the large service department.

After Jim's death, Ted, who had been working with his father, took over the business until he retired in 1945.

James, Venus, Ted and Nondress are all buried in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Submitted by Joan Gehrig

EARLY AUTOMOBILES & CHANGES



Downey Motor Company

My early interest in automobiles was stimulated by a machine shop and blacksmith shop that the neighbors to the west of our home then operated. There was a thrashing machine and a saw mill that were powered by a large steam engine. There also were gasoline engines to drive belts for the lathe. The property and shop were owned and operated by Peter Iosbaker who was the father of daughters Grace Sanderson, May Fry and Fern Lucas.

State of Iowa
1955

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE

of the

FIFTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Convened January 10, 1955
Adjourned April 29, 1955

LEO A. HOEGH, Governor
LEO ELTHON, President of the Senate
A. C. HANSON, Speaker of the House

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Mr. Scott was a member of Marshall Lodge No. 108 A. F. & A. M., Signet Chapter No. 38 R. A. M., King Solomon Council No. 20, St. Alde-mar Commandery No. 40, Central Chapter No. 60 O.E.S. He was a member of the Consistory in Cedar Rapids and the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine in Des Moines and Mason Shrine No. 38 White Shrine of Jerusalem.

He was a member of the Central Christian Church of Christ. He was president of the Iowa Christian Missionary Society from 1931 to 1949.

Survivors besides his wife, include a brother, Winfield W. Scott and a sister, Miss Iola G. Scott, both of Des Moines.

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth General Assembly of Iowa: That in the passing of the Honorable Ray P. Scott, the state has lost an honored citizen and a faithful, useful public servant, and the House, by this resolution, would express its appreciation of his service, and tender its sympathy to his wife and the members of his family.

Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

HOWARD C. BUCK,
EARL T. HOOVER,
GUS T. KUESTER,

Committee.

J. DICK SNAKENBERG

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable J. Dick Snakenberg, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

J. Dick Snakenberg was born at Sigourney, Iowa, February 14, 1915. He passed away June 25, 1954.

His parents are Harry L. and Sadie Barber Snakenberg.

He was educated in the Sigourney schools. He received his Liberal Arts degree from the University of Iowa, and his law degree from Drake University.

He was married to Deloris Huber and to this union two children were born, Penelope Diane and John Dick Snakenberg, Jr.

He was elected Representative from Keokuk County in 1940 and served in the Forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. He was a Democrat in politics.

In July, 1940, he entered the practice of law with his father, Harry Snakenberg, at Sigourney, Iowa, and was so engaged at the time of his death.

Mr. Snakenberg is survived by his wife, Deloris, his father, Harry, his mother, Sadie, and two children, Penelope Diane, and John Dick, Jr.

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth General Assembly of Iowa: That in the passing of the Honorable J. Dick Snakenberg, the state has lost an honored citizen and a faithful, useful public servant, and the House, by this resolution, would express its appreciation of his service, and tender its sympathy to his wife and members of his family.

Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

MAHLON N. BROWN,
JOHN GRAY,
ELMER VERMEER,

Committee.

SAMUEL R. TORGESON

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare a suitable resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable Samuel R. Torgeson, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

Samuel R. Torgeson was born at Hanlontown, Iowa, on May 28, 1892, and passed away in Minneapolis on September 25, 1954. He received his early education in the rural schools and at Waldorf College. In 1917 he received the Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College.

Mr. Torgeson married Miss Emma Dahl of Worth County. A son, Dean Nathan, was born May 2, 1926.

After a two-year period of teaching, Mr. Torgeson began in 1919 a long career in banking, serving first as assistant cashier of a bank at Hanlontown, and later as cashier of the Farmers Trust and Savings Bank at Joice, Iowa. Since 1933, he served as cashier, later as executive vice president and director of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Lake Mills. He served as president of the State Bankers Association of Iowa in 1937 and 1938.

Mr. Torgeson was a member of the Iowa House of Representatives, serving in the Forty-second, Forty-second Extra, Forty-third and Forty-fourth sessions of the General Assembly. He was a member for eight years of the Republican State Central Committee.

During the years, he has been an active church man, having served as deacon and trustee in the various parishes to which he has belonged; for thirty-five years he continuously taught Sunday School classes. Mr. Torgeson was a director of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth General Assembly of Iowa: That in the passing of the Honorable Samuel R. Torgeson, the people of Worth County and of the entire State of Iowa have sustained a great loss and the House expresses its ap-