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LUKE EDWARD HART
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BY FRANK E. SHELDON*

During a long life, I have been reminded many times of the truth of the words of Samuel Butler, who said: "Every man's work . . . is a portrait of himself, and the more he tries to conceal himself the more clearly will his character appear in spite of him."

This is surely true of the man I first knew as a boy on his family's farm west of Mount Ayr, in Ringgold county, Iowa, more than half a century ago; the son of the prairie, who came up through the ranks to head one of the world's great international fraternal benefit societies of more than a million men; the modest farm boy grown into a man, received by presidents and rulers, knighted by the Pope, recipient of numerous distinguished honors; the boy who rose to distinction in the

* Frank E. Sheldon was born October 3, 1866, in Ringgold county, Iowa, where he has resided most of his life; served as state representative from 1907 to 1911 in the 32nd, 32nd extra and 33rd General Assemblies of Iowa; engaged in the banking, farm loan and real estate business at Mount Ayr; associated with Allyn Bros. in their private banking and farm loan business, which he purchased and incorporated in 1915 as the Mount Ayr State Bank, and was its president until 1937; was a member of the board of directors of the Iowa State Fair from 1910 to 1946, at one period serving as its vice president; was a member of the Iowa Centennial committee; and now temporarily resides at Saratoga, California.—*Editor*

law, in public service, in the exemplary fulfillment of his personal life.

From his boyhood down to the present day, this man, Luke Edward Hart, born July 31, 1880, son of pioneer Iowa parents, Michael N. and Margaret Shay Hart, has continuously held my confidence and regard and commanded my admiration. And while it is not always true that worth and success go hand-in-hand, I think it can be said that individual character, integrity and ability have constituted the basis for the achievements of this distinguished Iowan.

Telling the story of Luke Hart might appear an easy matter for one who has known him as long and intimately as I have. But with a career that has spanned more than half a century, and involves so many unique and important chapters, the problem of the biographer is where to start. Inasmuch as Mr. Hart's activities have been largely outside the state of Iowa, and because his background and family play so important a part in his ultimate success, it may be well to begin with the settling in 1852 of Luke Hart's grandfather, Luke Shay, with his wife and two small children, in Union county, Iowa.

My father, Edgar Sheldon, settled in the Tingley vicinity in Ringgold county in 1854. Luke Hart's grandfather, Luke Shay, bought land near Tingley in 1853 and moved there in 1855. When the district court which included Ringgold county was organized and opened in Mount Ayr in 1857, its first proceeding was to grant the petition for the admission to citizenship of Luke Shay, who had come from Ireland in 1848.

A farmer and stockman during the remaining 41 years of his life, Luke Shay was widely esteemed for his solid citizenship. His energies were devoted largely to the western part of Ringgold county, and one of Iowa's early historians, comparing another of the Iowa pioneers, Andrew O. Ingram, to Luke Shay, had this to say: "He (Ingram) was to the eastern part of the county what Luke Shay was to the western part of the county."

TELLS OF HIS GRANDFATHER

Speaking of his Grandfather Shay in a Centennial address delivered at Mount Ayr, July 4, 1955,¹ Luke Hart, who upon invitation had returned to the scenes of his boyhood as orator of the day, said in part:

"My grandfather, whose name I bear, exerted a great influence over my life. He was a deeply patriotic American. He belonged to that group of men who pushed the frontiers of this nation beyond the Mississippi river and into a new and wholly undeveloped territory. He had pride of ancestry and he deeply revered his forebears, his father, his grandfather and his great grandfather, whose graves I have visited and over the latter of which may be found today, a monument stating that 'Here lyeth the body of Luke Shea, born 1705, died 1762.'

"To me his life symbolizes the spirit of our nation. As a young Irish immigrant of twenty-four, he arrived with his wife at Castle Garden in New York harbor in the year 1848. After five years work on the railroads, from New York to Baltimore, to Louisville, to Terre Haute, he, with his wife and two small children, and \$360 which he had saved, arrived in this vicinity in the spring of 1852. It was just one hundred years ago this coming December (1955) that his son, Thomas S. Shay, was born, the first white child born in Platte township, then embracing the entire northwest quarter of the county."

Describing conditions in that section of Iowa in the days when early settlements were established in the area, Mr. Hart said:

"There were no tractors and only a few horses. Nearly all heavy work was done with oxen. Almost the only implements now in use on the farm that were then known to these early pioneers were the pitchfork and the plow, and the plow of the early 50's was a crude implement, indeed. The soil was sodbound and tough and it was a considerable undertaking to break the ground on 40 acres or 80 acres with one of these early plows and a yoke, or several yoke, of oxen.

¹ANNALS OF IOWA, January, 1956, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 186-199.

"The simplest structure that could be built was the stable for the horses and it was built first. But the members of the family were in greater need of shelter than the horses and, therefore, when the stable was finished, it was occupied by the family until the house was erected, and not until the house was finished and the family had moved in was the stable made available for the horses. In the meantime, cooking and other household work that required the use of a fire was done outdoors over an open fire."

Laying an excellent foundation for a professional career, Luke Hart acquired his education at Drake University, Des Moines, and University of Missouri, Columbia, receiving from the latter his LL.B. degree in 1905. Having taken the Missouri bar examination and been admitted in 1904 to the practice of law in Missouri and Federal courts, he qualified in the U. S. supreme court in 1913. He is a member of the American and Missouri Bar associations and the legal fraternity, Phi Delta Phi.

ENTERED LAW PRACTICE AT ST. LOUIS

Although at the age of 23 he established himself as a lawyer in St. Louis and that city has ever since been his home, Luke Hart, as a matter of fact, has never severed his ties with his native state. He owns some 1,100 acres in the vicinity of Maloy and annually feeds a large number of cattle and hogs. He still has many relatives in that community, which has a fascination for him, with memories there and some old acquaintances, with whom Mr. Hart renews contact on those occasions when he can take time out from an extraordinarily hectic business schedule, thus satisfying his fondness for Ringgold county and the old home vicinity that originally attracted his grandparents as settlers there more than 100 years ago. Although an active individual whose capabilities have carried him high upon life's ladder of personal endeavor, he finds time for the gratification of sentimental ties made dear through memories of the past.

It might be said that Luke Hart early began the fashioning of two careers. One was in the field of law and public

service, the other in the Society of the Knights of Columbus. Over the years, his education in and knowledge of the law were to play a tremendous part in the life of his community and in the remarkable growth and accomplishments of this fraternal benefit society of Catholic men.

Characteristically, and despite the pressing obligations of his dual career as private attorney and officer of that organization, Luke Hart took an active part in an astonishing number of charitable, educational and patriotic enterprises. Youth work, for example, always has been a matter of top concern to this occupied man. He was an incorporator of the Boys' Club of St. Louis in 1929, and is still a member of its board of directors. He was a member of the committee that initiated the boys' program of the Knights of Columbus, which since has developed into an extensive work under the name Columbian Squires.

Another example of his deep interest and energy in juvenile welfare work was his membership on the Catholic Orphan's Board in St. Louis from 1918 to 1946. Only recently he received a letter of appreciation from a girl studying at the Sorbonne, whose orphan mother Mr. Hart had helped through school.

In World War I, when the Knights of Columbus won world wide fame with its clubhouses and huts throughout the United States, Canada, England and on the battle fronts of France, Luke Hart was a member of the Missouri State executive committee of the United War Work campaign. He was one of the incorporators and a member of the board of directors and of the executive committee of the United Service Organization of World War II. He was also a member of the executive committee of the National Catholic Community Service, 1941-44.

At age 30, Luke Hart was appointed to the office of assistant city attorney of St. Louis and served four years. When the city of St. Louis changed from a two-house municipal legislative body to a one-chamber board of

aldermen, in 1915, he was elected, by the largest majority ever given any candidate for public office prior to the right of women to vote, to represent the Twenty-eighth ward, which had been represented in the House of Delegates by Dwight F. Davis, donor of the internationally famous Davis tennis cup during his college days at Harvard and afterward secretary of war in the cabinet of President Hoover.

BECAME ACTIVE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

As chairman of the rules committee, he drafted the first rules of the new legislative body. He was also a member of the public welfare committee and chairman of the important ways and means committee. In the latter capacity, he sponsored the bill providing for a bond issue of \$87,000,000 for the widening of streets and other improvements, the largest bond issue in the history of St. Louis up to that time.

Mr. Hart was re-elected to the board of aldermen on April 1, 1919, again leading the Republican ticket. Significant of the regard in which he was held, Mr. Hart's plurality was more than 38,000 the first time, and more than 30,000 the second, compared with pluralities as low as 17,000 for some of his Republican fellow-candidates.

The eight years Mr. Hart served on the board of aldermen were busy and crucial ones in the history of St. Louis. The automobile age was coming on with a rush, bringing the still not wholly conquered problems of streets too narrow for such traffic. World War I, with its manifold local problems, entered the picture. St. Louis was finishing its municipal bridge, building docks and other facilities to revive Mississippi river traffic, planning the zoo that has since become world-famous, constructing a 160-million-gallon municipal water filtering plant, building a modern city jail and many other major projects.

In these and many other matters that have substantially affected the course of St. Louis, Luke Hart played a prominent and always useful part. The skill, vision and energy of "the man from Iowa" helped greatly to provide

many of the municipal benefits which St. Louisans enjoy freely today.

That his capabilities also included business administration as well as those demanded in public service was demonstrated from 1934 to 1938, when he served successfully as both president and general counsel of the pioneer Hamilton-Brown Shoe Company.

During his long and successful career as a St. Louis lawyer, Mr. Hart was connected with some most important litigation and he was associated on one side or another, with many of the outstanding lawyers of his era, including Joseph W. Bailey, Henry S. Priest, Lawrence Maxwell, Luther Z. Rosser, Guy A. Thompson, Paul Bakewell and J. Arthur Friedlund.

Also, evidencing his professional standing, in 1938-9 he served as president of the Lawyers Association of St. Louis. He arranged for the attendance at functions of the association of many persons prominent in public affairs and in the legal profession, who were his personal friends, including Frank Hogan, president of the American Bar Association, David I. Walsh, United States senator from Massachusetts and chairman of the committee on military affairs, and Frank Murphy, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

AGGRESSIVE IN REPUBLICAN CIRCLES

He was a delegate to the Republican national convention at Philadelphia in 1940, and voted on four ballots for the nomination of Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, who withdrew at the fourth ballot. He then voted for Senator Taft twice. On the sixth ballot Wilkie was nominated.

Luke Hart has always had an amazingly retentive memory, for people as well as factual data, which enables him to recall names, places and dates with an astonishing exactitude. On one occasion the clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States said that he had never witnessed such a complete mastery of the facts as that demonstrated by Mr. Hart in the argument of a case

in which the record involved several thousand printed pages.

Mr. Hart relates many interesting incidents growing out of his contacts with people with whom he has been associated during his long and eventful career. One is historical and as told to him by former Senator Bailey of Texas, a principal in the incident, had to do with the appointment of Associate Justice Edward Douglas White of Louisiana as chief justice of the U. S. supreme court.

At the time, there were two vacancies on the supreme court, resulting from the deaths of Chief Justice Fuller and Associate Justice Brewer. Senator Bailey and nearly every member of the senate favored the appointment of their former senate colleague, Associate Justice White; also prominently mentioned was Charles Evans Hughes, former governor of New York and eminent New York lawyer.

While at work in his office one Sunday afternoon, Senator Bailey received a telephone call advising that the President would like to have him come to the White House for a conference. Senator Bailey believed that President Taft desired to discuss the Supreme Court vacancies with him and went to the White House with that thought fully in mind. However, the President referred to other matters and after a long discussion of them, he straightened up in his chair as if to indicate that the conference was at an end. Thereupon, Senator Bailey said, "Well, Mr. President, I have enjoyed talking with you, but you have not said a word about the thing I thought you wanted to talk with me about."

Then President Taft emitted one of the chuckles for which he was famous and said: "Yes, I know, you thought I wanted to talk with you about the vacancy in the office of chief justice, but I have made up my mind about that." Senator Bailey said: "Yes, it is evident that you have and I think you have made up your mind wrong. You have decided to appoint Hughes as chief justice and he ought not to be appointed to it." President Taft said: "You think I should appoint White, but there are

three reasons why I cannot appoint him. In the first place, he is a Democrat. In the second place, he is an ex-Confederate soldier. In the third place, he is a Catholic. Public sentiment would be opposed to his appointment on any or all of these grounds."

To this Senator Bailey replied: "Mr. President, I am amazed that you would give expression to any of those grounds as a reason for not appointing White. You have the reputation of being a broad-minded man and you will never again have another opportunity like this one to demonstrate that you deserve that reputation."

Senator Bailey said that the president again settled down in his chair and they both became so engrossed in the discussion that it was 7:30 before they realized how late it was, and neither of them had eaten.

On his way home, Senator Bailey had to pass the home of Philander C. Knox, former United States senator from Pennsylvania, former United States attorney general and then secretary of state. He knew that Knox had a thorough dislike for Hughes due to some happening in connection with the investigation of insurance companies by the Armstrong committee, and when he arrived opposite the Knox home, he went up the residence steps and rang the door bell. Mr. Knox himself opened the door. He had on carpet slippers and a smoking jacket. As he stood aside to allow Senator Bailey to enter, the senator said to him: "I have just come from the White House where I have had a long talk with the president. He has made up his mind to appoint Hughes chief justice, but I think I shook him some. If you will go over there and rub him—and rub him hard—I think you can get him to appoint White."

Mr. Knox went to a closet and put on his street coat and shoes and then walked out the door and down to the sidewalk with Senator Bailey. There they separated, Senator Bailey going home and Mr. Knox toward the White House. Two days later the nomination of Edward Douglas White for chief justice of the Supreme Court was

sent to the senate, where it was immediately confirmed without being referred to a committee.

Senator Bailey told Mr. Hart that he never had any regret as to his part in this incident, although he later came to believe that his judgement of Mr. Hughes was erroneous—that Mr. Hughes was a bigger man than he then believed him to be, and that he would have been worthy of the position of chief justice if the appointment had come to him at that time.

Mr. Hart points to an interesting sequel to this incident. President Taft retired from his office of president in March, 1913. He then became professor of law at Yale University. When Justice White died in 1921, President Harding appointed former President Taft to succeed White as chief justice. Then when Justice Taft died in 1930, President Hoover appointed Charles Evans Hughes to succeed Taft as chief justice. All three proved to be excellent appointments. However, Mr. Hughes outlived Mr. Taft and, therefore, if Taft had appointed Hughes chief justice in 1910, he never could have held that office himself.

DISTINGUISHED AS INSURANCE EXECUTIVE

It was no mere coincidence that while pursuing a large law business in St. Louis, Luke Hart should have developed an interest in the Knights of Columbus and that he should devote much of his talents and energies to this Catholic fraternal benefit society. His parents and grandparents had been unwavering in their devotion to the faith that had been inherent in the Irish people since the days of Saint Patrick. Therefore, concurrent with his legal and public career, Luke Hart laid the groundwork for a distinguished career in the Knights of Columbus—a long period of service that would ultimately cause him to become known by the highly flattering nickname, "Mr. Knights of Columbus."

Initiated into the order in 1908, ten years later Mr. Hart was elected Missouri state deputy. He quickly demonstrated that he had not taken the office as a mere honor. Traversing the state, he brought about a record-breaking

membership increase. He proposed construction of a Knights of Columbus Students' Home for students at the Missouri State University at Columbia, and when the project was authorized, he traveled throughout the state, raising the \$150,000 needed for its construction. Proposed in January, 1919, the home was built, furnished and completely paid for just one year later.

His zeal, skill and energy were soon recognized by the supreme council of the order and in 1918 he was elected to the supreme board of directors. The other directors, observing these qualities at first hand, and noting the new director's evident legal talent, elected him in 1922 to the important and difficult office of supreme advocate.

The Knights of Columbus had been founded as a fraternal benefit society for Catholic men in March, 1882, "To render pecuniary assistance to the families of deceased members." Therefore, inasmuch as the insurance feature was the primal purpose of the society, it was required that the supreme advocate be an authority not only in the law but in the highly technical areas of insurance and insurance regulations.

When he became supreme knight in September, 1953, Mr. Hart took to that position the talent of a successful business man and a profound lawyer and an intimate knowledge of the organization and its policies, based upon 31 years experience as supreme advocate in guiding and directing its almost every operation. For the first time in its history the society had as its chief administrative officer one who would devote his entire time to the duties of his position.

At that time the order had 870,341 members, total assets of \$90,030,567.20, and \$420,293,932 insurance in force. The results of his splendid leadership and zeal are reflected in his report as supreme knight at the last (1957) meeting of the supreme council, showing that during the previous year the membership of the order had increased to 1,048,738, its assets had increased to \$124,633,370, and the insurance in force on the lives of its insured members (372,850) had increased \$93,243,997, to a total of \$688,-

550,905. This represented an increase for the four-year period of 178,397 in membership, \$31,742,156 in assets and \$268,256,975, or more than 63.4%, in the amount of insurance in force, with prospects that these figures will be topped by even greater increases in succeeding years.

OUTLINED PROGRAM FOR INVESTMENTS

A unique and forward-looking investment program has been introduced; it is unusual enough to warrant outlining. It consists, briefly, of purchasing selected properties occupied by responsible concerns and then leasing them back to the seller on especially favorable terms. Under this plan, the rentals equal the normal interest rate plus an amount which amortizes the order's entire investment during the initial term of the lease. One of these investments—the purchase of the site of the Yankee Stadium in New York—resulted in nation-wide publicity. Industrialist Arnold Johnson, owner of the Kansas City Athletics baseball franchise, was so impressed by the business acumen of Luke Hart that he remarked admiringly: "He is one of the smartest men I have ever encountered in the business world."

In his current activities Luke Hart has many opportunities to demonstrate the wisdom of his counsel and the caliber of his leadership, as well as showing his worth and character through dedication to God and country.

Patriotism is not merely an ideal, but a practical philosophy that is exemplified in many ways. Under Mr. Hart's guidance the Knights of Columbus provided the funds to finance the Supreme Court case in which the Oregon school law was held unconstitutional, thus re-establishing the right of parents to send their children to a school of their own choice.

In 1926, Mr. Hart sponsored a resolution in the supreme council under which one million dollars was raised for the relief of the Catholics of Mexico who were suffering persecution under the administration of President Calles, and in 1935, he sponsored a movement for the same purpose in connection with which Senator Borah introduced in the United States senate a resolution remonstrating

against the persecution of the Catholics of Mexico by the Obregon government.

In 1940, Mr. Hart and nine others formed the United Service Organizations, which coordinated the activities of various faiths in providing for the welfare of men in the newly organized Selective Training Service and which continued to function on behalf of men in the U. S. Armed Service during World War II and the Korean War.

As supreme knight of the order, Mr. Hart initiated the amendment of the pledge of allegiance whereby the words "under God" were inserted after the words "one nation" and aided in adoption of the amendment by congress of the pledge as it appears in the public law relating to the use of the flag.

When the committee appointed by the United States senate to investigate violations of the bill of rights was about to hold its first meeting on September 17, 1955, the 168th anniversary of the signing of the constitution of the United States, it selected eleven persons to represent the important groups in our national life—business, social, fraternal, religious, racial, etc.— and to represent the fraternal benefit system of more than one hundred societies and ten million members, with ten billion dollars of insurance in force, it selected Luke Hart. Many of the addresses delivered on that occasion were highly critical of the government and the way in which the constitution is administered.

PATRIOTIC ATTITUDE RECOGNIZED

An appraisal of Mr. Hart's address and the viewpoint expressed by him may be gathered from the comment on the addresses by a noted columnist, who said:

"The only groups which believe that this is the best of all possible countries are the American Legion, and other veterans' organizations, the American Bar association and the Knights of Columbus."

In his address on that occasion Mr. Hart referred to the addition of the words "under God" to the pledge of allegiance, which he had initiated and brought about, and he said:

"This acknowledgment of the existence of a God of the universe and our dependence upon Him—a Creator who has endowed us with certain inalienable rights—was foremost in the minds of the authors of our Declaration of Independence. In the mind of the fraternal citizen, it is our most precious heritage."

When in December, 1956, it was proposed to invite Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia to visit this country, Mr. Hart lodged a protest with President Eisenhower in a telegram which was published in almost every newspaper in the country, and in which he referred to Tito as "the jailer of Cardinal Stepinac, the persecutor of religion,, the tyrant of Yugoslavia and the accomplice of the murderers of Budapest." As a result of this protest and the campaign led by him, it was announced that Tito would not be invited.

Having raised his family, attained distinction in his profession, realized financial security and achieved the highest office in the order of the Knights of Columbus, Luke Hart might have decided to settle into a less strenuous way of life. But having spent a lifetime of striving, and usefully employing the faculties God gave him, he was not ready for the "armchair," which so many men of lesser energy welcome. Instead, he stepped up his efforts and spared none of his energy.

In the course of his official life, the boy from the Iowa farm was recognized by noteworthy appointments. In 1927, he was appointed a Knight of St. Gregory; in 1939, a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory by Pope Pius XI; in 1942, a Knight Grand Cross of St. Gregory by Pope Pius XII; and in 1951, Privy Chamberlain of Cape and Sword to the Holy Father, also by the present Pope.

In 1920, he received the citation of Officer of the French Order of Morocco, being decorated by Marshal Lyautey. He received the Spanish Order of Merit in 1951. While in Spain he had conferred for an hour and a half with Generalissimo Francisco Franco, and upon his return

said he was mystified at the attitude of some people in the United States toward Spain.

In 1952 the Boys Club of America conferred upon him its Award of Honor "for Loyal and Devoted Service to Boys."

To his classmates at Drake University, and later at the University of Missouri law school, Luke Hart would be remembered as a sturdily-built six-footer with heavy black hair, a mild manner, and one who obviously had grown up with the philosophy that hard work never hurt anyone. He is still, at 77, a robust man of 200 pounds with hair much more black than gray; a man whose mildness can be most deceiving, and whose devotion to hard work can be most disconcerting to advocates of the easy way of doing things.

HAD COURAGE TO RESIST DICTATORSHIP

That he is, withal his outward evidence of gentility, a man of firmness and determination, has been demonstrated innumerable times. This was never more clearly indicated than it was in 1936, when the state insurance superintendent of Missouri was giving the fraternal benefit societies a difficult time. The superintendent revoked the licenses of the societies to transact business in Missouri, and a battle developed in which Luke Hart, spearheading the combined forces of the various societies, was made the target of attacks by the superintendent.

When the battle was over, the superintendent had been ousted by the governor and repudiated by the state convention of his own political party. The first act of the newly-appointed superintendent was to meet with a representative committee of the societies headed by Luke Hart and to reissue the licenses of the societies which had been withdrawn the previous year.

Active for many years in the affairs of the National Fraternal Congress, Mr. Hart was elected to its board of directors in 1949. The following year he was named vice-president, and, in 1951, was chosen president.

Visiting the Philippines in 1955, for a celebration of the founding of the Knights of Columbus there, Mr. Hart

was the guest of President Ramon Magsaysay at Malacanang Palace in Manila. He was also warmly received on visits to Baguio City, Cebu City and Dagupan.

Following the death of President Magsaysay in an airplane crash in November, 1956, Mr. Hart received a letter from the new president, Carlos Garcia, stating that the policies of the former president, which had been the basis for the friendship between him and Mr. Hart, would be continued by the new government. And President Garcia expressed the hope that Mr. Hart in particular, and the Knights of Columbus in general, would continue to take an interest in the welfare of the Philippines.

Mr. Hart also visited Mexico, where he was deeply impressed by the zeal and activity of the leaders and membership of the order. Here, as in the Philippines, his quiet dignity, energy and intelligence made a favorable impression.

It is only natural to wonder about the family life of a man who has given so much of his time and energy to professional, business, political, financial and religious affairs. As with so many other successful men, the family was an important factor in all that Luke Hart thought and did; and the death of his wife, Mrs. Catherine J. Hart, in 1951, represented a loss whose magnitude only Mr. Hart himself could realize.

Luke Hart married Catherine J. O'Connor June 28, 1905, upon his graduation from Missouri University law school. Their children were Marie Margaret, now Mrs. James E. Wesseling; Luke Edward; Catherine J., now Mrs. Jerome A. Switzer; Paul Joseph and Ruth Elizabeth, both deceased, and John T. Hart. All of the surviving members live in St. Louis. While Mr. Hart still retains his home there, as well as his law office, he now lives in apartments arranged for him in the Knights of Columbus headquarters building in New Haven.

You might imagine that a "country boy" like Luke Hart would subscribe to the "early to bed, early to rise" theory. But, in the words of the order's Supreme Chaplain, Monsignor Leo M. Finn, Luke Hart "simply will

not go to bed" if he has work to do that he feels must be done. And, the chaplain added, "work of such urgency always seems abundant for the Supreme Knight."

For Luke Hart, the greatest reward for his lifetime of dedicated effort has been the effort itself—the application of his intelligence and integrity to problems of substantial import. Such effort, of course, was bound to produce additional compensations, for in 1953, St. Louis University conferred upon Mr. Hart its Fleur-de-Lis, the institution's highest honor, and on June 9, of last year, the Catholic University at Washington conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, he having previously received that honor from St. Francis Xavier University at Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The 1957 edition of "Who's Who" presents an abbreviated sketch of Mr. Hart's life, listing honors and citations bestowed upon him.

Ringgold county has produced a number of individuals who have honored her and the state by reaching eminence in their life's endeavors, but I know of none who has distinguished himself with greater honor than Mr. Hart, whose recognition and rank in the affairs of men have been noteworthy. I am very proud that my own county has given to the world such a man, and especially because in his life career he had to make his own way.

Government Arms Plant in Des Moines

The big Solar Aircraft Company arms plant in Des Moines is one of the government subsidized institutions. Here they manufacture and supply the government of the United States with supersonic gas turbine starter carts, air turbines for Rocketdynes and airframe parts for the jet bombers of the new age.

The new plant covers six acres of ground, the factory is of latest design and contains 12 million dollars of government-owned machinery, besides that installed by the company for the manufacture of war weapons on a huge scale. The high tide in number of employees has been 3,500.

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