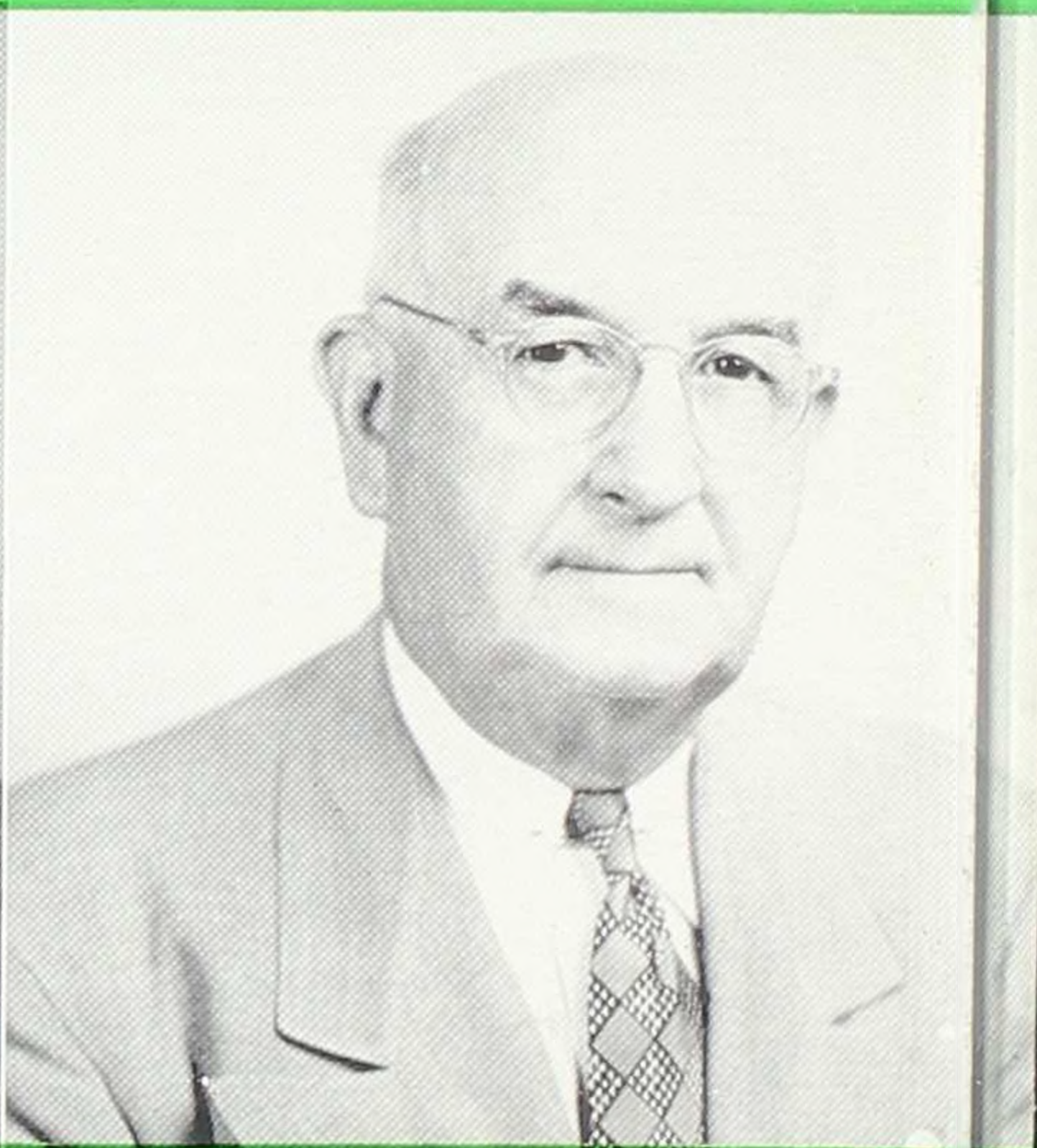


The **PALIMPSEST**



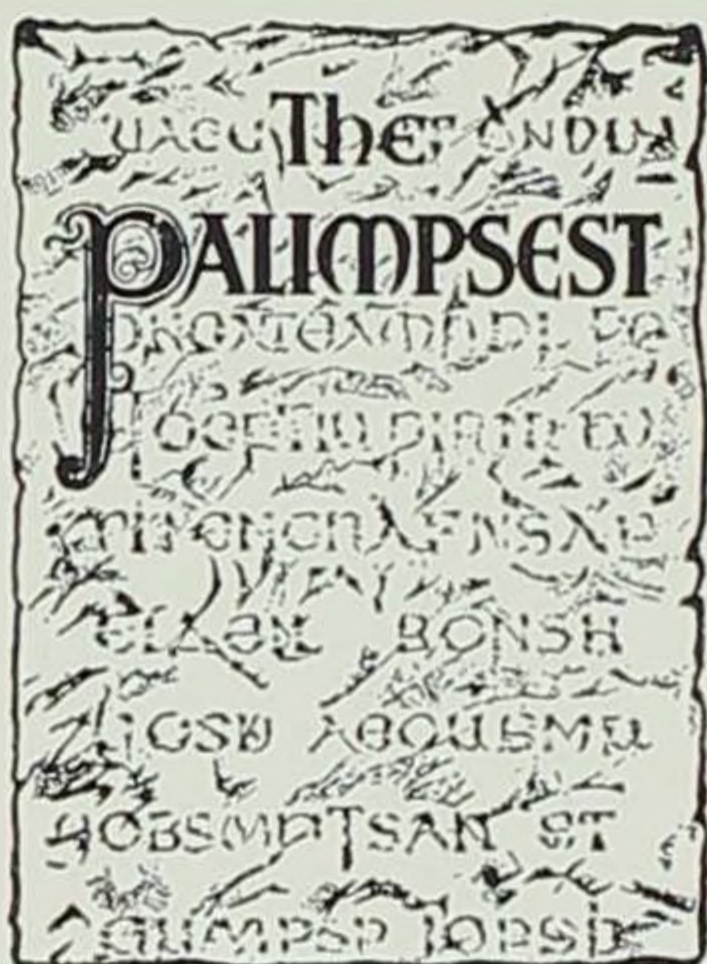
As he appeared in the 37th and 57th General Assemblies.

ARCH W. McFARLANE

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AUGUST, 1958



The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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DAVID DENTAN

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THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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Growing Up With Waterloo

Since the pioneers first crossed the Mississippi into the Black Hawk Purchase, millions of men and women have been proud to call themselves Iowans. Over the century and a quarter that has elapsed between 1833 and 1958, these Iowans have exhibited rare qualities of courage, industry, and perseverance, coupled with a firm belief in education and faith in Almighty God.

It took a lot of dedicated sons and daughters of Hawkeyeland to convert this land from a trackless wilderness into the state we call Iowa today. And it has taken men with vision, hope, and high ideals to serve as leaders and point the way. Happily, Iowa has never lacked for sound leaders, either in pioneer days or in the Twentieth Century. One such a leader in modern times is Arch W. McFarlane — an enthusiastic and constructive civic leader, a successful businessman, and a veritable tribune of the people. Known by many as the "Sage of Black Hawk County," Arch McFarlane's counsel and leadership have been treasured

by the people of Iowa for more than four decades.

What of the heritage of this unusual man? Arch McFarlane was born at Waterloo of sturdy Scotch-English stock on April 14, 1885. His father, William Wallace McFarlane, was a warden and elder in the First Presbyterian Church, and a stern disciplinarian, who brought Arch up to respect the curfew, be diligent at all times, and fear the Lord. His mother, Emma Julia Moss, was of English ancestry and a staunch Episcopalian. As a boy, Arch went to the Presbyterian Sunday school, and his sister joined the Presbyterian Church. When he was fourteen, however, Arch was invited to sing in the Christ Episcopal Boys' Choir. Later he sang in the mixed choir of that church with his future wife — Elsie Hawkins. His experience in the Episcopal choir determined his later choice of that denomination as his church.

William Wallace McFarlane was a hard-working man who transmitted much of his industry and perseverance to his son. An expert stone mason, he helped his father, Alexander McFarlane, cut blocks of stone for many of the Rock Island Railroad bridges in northeast Iowa. For over a quarter of a century he was employed by the Illinois Central Railroad. Although his hours were long, McFarlane found time for many civic duties, serving on the Waterloo City Council, as Park Commissioner, and as president of the School Board.

From early boyhood young Arch was taught the virtues of industry. The McFarlanes had their own cow, and Arch and his brother Edward were required to feed, milk, and bed her down. They also curried and fed Toby, the family horse. It was a proud day when young Arch was permitted to drive Toby hitched to the family's rubber-tired surrey to take Elsie Hawkins for a ride.

Feeding the chickens, gathering eggs, and churning butter were all homespun tasks. The cow and chickens, coupled with the family vegetable garden in which young Arch learned the mysteries of spading, planting, and weeding, provided the McFarlanes with the kind of Social Security Herbert Hoover has described in his boyhood in West Branch.

Young Arch's responsibilities did not end when he finished the family chores. Each morning (and most evenings) he delivered the milk from Mrs. W. W. Fisher's two cows. He hauled the milk on a regular route from house to house, carting it around in a big can, pouring out a pint or quart into a receptacle each customer placed on the back porch. As a lad Arch carried the *Waterloo Reporter*, and he also drove Alice Wilson, the step-daughter of Henry W. Grout, to the home of the people where she boarded during the schoolweek — a house next to the country school where she taught. For taking Miss Wilson out early on Monday morning and bringing her back to Wa-

terloo on Friday evening, young Arch received one dollar per week.

Still another chore that Arch performed during high school days was working out the poll tax of other Waterloo citizens. For sweeping streets and digging sidewalks he received \$1.25 per day for a ten-hour day — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. — from Street Commissioner George Hafer.

Although busy with a half-dozen jobs, Arch found time for play with the neighbor boys on the Alcott School playground. Baseball, tag, goal, and duck-on-the-rock were popular summer games, while bob-sledding and ice-skating afforded winter recreation. But when his father blew his whistle sharply at nine o'clock, young Arch and his brother would scurry home, knowing full well it was time for bed. He was always required to "toe the mark," even when in high school. Thus, he always had to receive special permission to attend a dance and had to be home by eleven o'clock.

Young Arch went through the fourth grade at Alcott School and completed his elementary education at Hawthorne School. He graduated from East High School in 1904, distinguishing himself as a public speaker when he gave the Memorial Day address as the Freshman class orator in the opera house. His early political aspirations came to light when he achieved the senior class presidency. He was excellent in algebra, trigonometry, and higher mathematics, liked English, but

was poor in history. Throughout his high school days he found occasional moments for golf, hunting and fishing, and swimming in the Cedar River above the dam.

Looking backward over a period of half a century, Arch McFarlane recalls nostalgically his many fine teachers in grade and high school. He particularly treasured the influence of his Presbyterian Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Crouse, and the ministers in Christ Episcopal Church. Memorial Day, the Fourth of July (with the fun enjoyed at the neighborhood celebration), Thanksgiving and Christmas, all were important days in his Waterloo boyhood.

But there were outside forces at work that helped to broaden the horizon of young McFarlane. An omnivorous reader, he would wait with impatience for the *Youth's Companion* to come and would read it from cover to cover. Going to Brown's Opera and to an occasional vaudeville show were likewise welcome breaks in an otherwise busy life. He always attended the circus, carrying water to the elephants in order to get a free pass. His trip to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago at the age of eight left an indelible impression in his mind.

Like so many youths who graduated from high school around the turn of the century, Arch McFarlane sought and found employment with Smith, Lichty, and Hillman, a prominent Waterloo

wholesale grocery company. On Saturday evenings he clerked in the W. C. Brownlee Shoe Store. Mr. Brownlee's daughter, Doris, later married Thomas E. Martin, now United States Senator from Iowa.

Arch's father forsook railroading to enter the coal and stone business under the firm name of Bartlett and McFarlane. Arch himself became a traveling fuel salesman for the Northwestern Fuel Company in 1906. He loved the work and met with immediate success, his genial personality and straightforward manner winning him many friends and customers.

For more than half a century Arch McFarlane has been the outstanding individual coal salesman of Iowa. In 1908 he became associated with Hunter W. Finch Fuel Company. In 1914 he formed the Puritan Coal Company in Chicago out of which grew his own company — the Arch McFarlane Fuel Company, Inc. In 1958, at seventy-three, he still carries on his active salesmanship with all the vigor and zest of youth. His motto has always been: "If you can't get your order for prompt shipment, take it for future shipment."

Arch McFarlane's early experiences as a traveling salesman in northeastern Iowa were destined to play an important part in his later legislative career. The decade between 1906 and 1916 saw Iowa without paved or gravel roads and salesmen were constantly mired in the mud. Automobiles

were still novel horseless carriages. Traveling men went from key points in Iowa on railroads and then hired a horse and buggy to visit the various customers on their routes. Frequently several salesmen divided expenses by going together, McFarlane's companions usually being a couple of grocery salesmen and a lumber salesman. A typical trip for Arch in 1910 from Waterloo would be on the railroad to Fayette, and then by livery to Wadena and Arlington, then by train to Strawberry Point, all in one day. Another one-day trip was by train to Marble Rock, by livery to Greene and Packard, and then by train to Clarksville.

It was not until 1914 that Arch bought his first car — a Ford. This was quickly followed by a Maxwell, an Essex, and a Hudson; in later years he graduated from Buick to Cadillac. As he makes the rounds of his customers covering a territory bounded by Waterloo on the west, Cedar Rapids on the south, Dubuque on the east, and Minnesota on the north, McFarlane frequently recalls those "good old days" when he mired down in the deep Iowa mud and had to be pulled out by some sympathetic Iowa farmer.

Although he belongs to many organizations, the United Commercial Travelers is doubtless nearest to his heart. Arch joined the Waterloo Council in 1907 when there were only thirty-two Councils in Iowa. Mason City had the first Council in Iowa while Waterloo was the tenth town in the Hawk-

eye State to secure a Council. Arch McFarlane has held every state and local office in the United Commercial Travelers. In addition, he has served in the line for six years, and was elected Supreme Counselor of the United Commercial Travelers of America in 1931. He has attended all Supreme Council sessions and is the second oldest past Supreme Counselor in line of service. His interest in the UCT is as fresh in 1958 as it was when he worked his way through the various offices as a budding young salesman.

Arch McFarlane has always lived in Waterloo — except one year (1893) when he lived in Cedar Falls. He was educated in Waterloo. In Waterloo, too, he married his childhood sweetheart, Elsie Hawkins, who has been his constant and faithful helpmate throughout his life. He has seen the town grow in population rank among the cities in Iowa from fifteenth in 1885 to fifth in 1950. He has loved the "Waterloo Way" that has resulted in a ten-fold increase in population from 6,479 to 65,198 between 1885 and 1950.

Throughout McFarlane's long career he has worked for the good of Iowa in many areas — the improvement of roads, the enlarging of educational opportunities, and the betterment of the situation of county, city, and state employees. One of his main interests has been conservation, and this interest has won him local, state, and national recognition. His promotion of conservation did

not go unrecognized, as the following award for community service as a conservationist so clearly attests.



His friends are legion, not only in Waterloo and Black Hawk County, but all over eastern Iowa wherever he may travel. His sprightly step, cheery smile, and warm personality have endeared him to men in all walks of life. He has seen his favorite college — Iowa State Teachers College — grow from a mere infant to one of the finest educational institutions in the United States. He has seen industry come to Waterloo, making that city one of the industrial giants in Iowa. He has

seen the average Waterloo laboring man make more money in a fraction of an hour than he himself made in a ten-hour day as a young man. He has seen the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress develop from its humble beginnings in 1910 to the greatest dairy show in the United States. He has seen all this, and he has loved it. His pride in showing off the new Waterloo airport excels his nostalgic memories of the mud road fight in the 1917 legislature. And yet his respect for the past and for the proud history of the Commonwealth of Iowa burns deep within him. Waterloo and Iowa join in saluting this outstanding citizen whose noble heart and broad mind have done so much to make the Hawkeye State a better land in which to live.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

A Constructive Legislator

Heading for Des Moines and his first session of the Iowa General Assembly in January of 1915, Arch McFarlane gave thought to two proposals in which his Black Hawk County constituents were particularly interested. First, residents of Cedar Falls wanted to build a bridge across the Cedar River to connect with that city's Island Park, but a city of the second class at that time could attain such an improvement only through action of the Board of Supervisors. Second, influential citizens of Waterloo, who had become interested in the new council-manager plan of municipal government, wanted authorization in Iowa law for adoption of this system by public vote.

Arch McFarlane found, early in his first session, that the special needs of one area had to be reconciled with the needs of the whole state and the existing balance of political power. His bill to grant cities of the second class the right to levy taxes for a bridge fund met with overwhelming opposition from rural legislators who wanted to keep bridge expenditures under the control of Boards of Supervisors.

Walking back to his hotel one evening after discovering this situation, McFarlane formulated one

of the principles which contributed to his success as a practical legislator: "Find a way to meet the objections of your opponents so they will be happy to give you what you want." Acting on this principle, McFarlane called a friend in Cedar Falls that night and asked for the exact width of the Cedar River there. The next day he introduced an amendment to his bill, permitting cities traversed by a river of that exact width to levy taxes for bridge construction. Since this bill, as amended, applied only to Cedar Falls, it passed unanimously and McFarlane had learned his first lesson in legislative tactics.

For somewhat the same reasons, McFarlane had equal success with his council-manager bill. Since there could be little objection to residents of a city being allowed to vote on adoption of the new system, this measure passed both houses, was signed by the governor and became, with later amendments, the basic law on the statute books which regulates the operations of council-manager cities today. Ironically, however, the voters of Waterloo three times in the past forty-three years have rejected this form of municipal government.

A third bill introduced by McFarlane at this first session — to regulate false and misleading advertising of fire insurance — also became law. Such success by a novice was a tribute to McFarlane's ease in making friendships and to his natural abilities of persuasion.

Although he was then and still remains a staunch supporter of Republicanism and the free enterprise system, McFarlane early in his career began to demonstrate strong support for education and concern for the welfare of those who suffer economic hardship through no fault of their own. He has devoted a considerable part of his energies down through the years to those causes.

It will no doubt surprise many young Iowans, accustomed to all the advantages of free education, that even as late as 1917 parents of school-children were expected to buy textbooks. At his second legislative session in that year, McFarlane introduced a bill which would allow school boards to furnish free textbooks when authorized to do so by a vote of the people. This measure became law, and McFarlane had thus added to the Code the authorization which was to assist the children of poor parents to remain in school beyond the statutory requirement.

Also at this second session, McFarlane obtained enactment of his bill to impose a five-year closed season on the hunting of prairie chickens, which were rapidly becoming extinct in the state. This measure won favorable comment from several nationally-known conservationists, including ex-President Theodore Roosevelt.

But these accomplishments were overshadowed by the titantic highway controversy which rocked this 37th General Assembly. Back in 1913, the

legislature had strengthened the Iowa State Highway Commission by providing for three salaried members. The new law also granted the Commission "general supervisory" powers over the state's roads, transferred jurisdiction of fifteen per cent of township road mileage from township trustees to Boards of Supervisors and established the county engineer in his present status.

However, the power granted to the highway commission to fix standards for road construction had aroused opposition; and some legislators feared, not without justification, that building of good roads to the larger communities would ultimately undermine the prosperity of the small, cross-roads towns.

An attempt to repeal the 1913 law had been turned back by the legislature in 1915, but Governor William L. Harding had been elected on what his opponents interpreted as a "mud roads" platform. Therefore, in 1917, Speaker Milton B. (Burd) Pitt, Logan farmer, and Representative James F. Johnston, Chariton farmer, sponsored H. F. 353 which would have substituted a politically-appointed commissioner in Des Moines in place of the highway commission in Ames and would have repealed much of the 1913 law.

Preliminary skirmishing on the bill showed that the House was evenly split, 54 to 54, with 55 votes needed to pass. Realizing that defeat would set back road progress for years, leaders of the "hard

roads" faction decided that intense effort should be exerted to hold wavering supporters in line. McFarlane recalls:

I was the secretary of the "hard roads" group and we collected a dollar from each member of our group. Actually, I collected \$55 because Stanley Smith of Tripoli, who feared political defeat if he voted with us, believed we were right.

With the \$55 I collected, we rented a room in the Shops Building, and all fifty-four of us met there every night, whipping up enthusiasm, citing evidence of public support, and discussing strategy for the following day.

The House was under a call, requiring the presence of every member, for three days. S. C. Rees of Hamburg, who was ill, was brought into the chamber in a wheel chair.

One of the wavering "hard roads" advocates was H. E. Dean of Ocheyedan who was under heavy political pressure to change his stand. Governor Harding's father, Orlando B. Harding, came down from Sibley to sit with Dean and encourage him to shift to Pitt's fifty-four.

The outcome of the struggle was determined by a strange coincidence. Mrs. McFarlane, who was sitting with the Waterloo legislator in the House chamber, accidentally happened to oversee a note which Orlando Harding was writing to Pitt: "Dean will vote right."

When Mrs. McFarlane passed this information to her husband, he called Dean out to the cloak-room. Dean, with tears in his eyes, told McFar-

lane that the political pressure was too great, that he might have to vote with the "mud roads" group even though he believed the "hard roads" forces were in the right. The House had been deadlocked 54 to 54 on every vote for three long days and the legislators were under emotional strain.

At this point, however, McFarlane originated the legislative maneuver which was to win the fight for the "hard roads" group and bring McFarlane's name to the attention of legislative leaders in both houses. He arranged for Dean to vote for the amendments which the "mud roads" floor leader, Rube McFerren of Webster City, had introduced, but to vote with the "hard roads" group on final passage.

Fearing that the defection of Dean on the amendments might cause other wavering members of the "hard roads" group to abandon the cause, McFarlane sent notes to all members of his group by a trusted page. They were told of the plan and were instructed to destroy the notes immediately, lest the leaders of the opposition group should discover the plan and refuse to call up the bill for a vote. As McFarlane relates:

Nobody caught on. McFerren called for a vote on the amendments, and Dean voted for them, causing the "mud roads" group to believe that victory was certain. But when Dean voted against the bill on final passage, gasps of astonishment could be heard as the Pitt forces realized — too late — what had happened.

Actually, the final vote was 52 to 56 because McFerren and George F. Tucker of Clinton changed their votes to be in position to file a motion for reconsideration. But the "hard roads" group stood fast, and their opponents abandoned the fight.

When he tells the story, McFarlane chuckles at the thought that the page did not deliver a single note to the wrong representative. "That was the biggest fight I ever saw," he says, "and the most bitter one. I'm more proud of my part in that battle than anything I've ever done. We saved the Iowa Highway Commission and laid the groundwork for future highway progress in this state."

Although Dean feared at the time that his part in the ruse amounted to political suicide, he later became a State Senator and served as a member of the Highway Commission from 1927 to 1931 during Iowa's largest mileage-paving years. And he won the firm friendship of such "hard roads" advocates as Lee W. Elwood of Elma, leader of the anti-Pitt faction, who had lost the speakership to Pitt by one vote.

During these first two sessions, McFarlane's beaming friendliness, his skill in parliamentary maneuver, and his organizing ability had aroused the favorable attention of Republican leaders. Despite the bitterness of the road fight at the time, no lasting resentments were created and several of the "mud roads" leaders became McFarlane's

lifelong friends. Partly because of this ability to reconcile factions after the fight was over, McFarlane was elected Speaker of the House in 1919.

There were only seventeen miles of paved road in Iowa in 1919. But the 1917 fight had served to stimulate statewide interest in improved roads and, as a result, the bill establishing the primary system was passed in 1919.

At a special session in that year, the Nineteenth "Susan B. Anthony" Amendment to the Federal Constitution, which had been passed by Congress and submitted to the states for ratification, was ratified by Iowa. McFarlane presided over the House when it passed the resolution and received letters of thanks from women living in all sections of the state. He is the only living elected official who signed the Women's Suffrage Amendment, and he firmly believes that the tone of politics has been substantially improved by the participation of women. According to McFarlane: "Women are the workers and organizers in politics today, and their activities help to improve knowledge of public affairs and increase the size of the vote."

McFarlane was re-elected Speaker in 1921 and, although not personally involved, was happy to see another bid by the "mud roads" group to wreck the Highway Commission turned back in the Senate. A bill by Senator Oscar L. Mead of Shell Rock to abolish the Highway Commission and substitute a politically-appointed state engi-

neer was defeated 25 to 25 in the upper house. If the Mead bill had passed, Fred R. White, the "father" of Iowa's primary road development, would not have remained as chief engineer.

In 1922 McFarlane suffered one of his three defeats in his 43-year period of participation in politics. He ran for Congress when his longtime friend from Waverly, Burton E. Sweet, left the United States House of Representatives to seek the Republican nomination for United States Senator. Both Sweet and McFarlane lost in the primary. Arch thereupon decided to devote himself to his coal business and he watched the political campaigns of 1924 from the sidelines. In 1926, however, he was asked by Black Hawk and Grundy County leaders to run for State Senator and he was elected easily.

McFarlane proved to be a whirlwind senator, successfully pushing eleven bills which he introduced through the 1927 session. They included measures to license cosmetologists, to authorize counties — with cities and towns — to erect memorial halls in honor of veterans, to allow boards of education to establish free night schools, and to allow counties to buy property at tax sales to prevent it from being sold at a ridiculously low price.

McFarlane ran for the Senate again in 1928, but between the primary and the general election in that year Lieutenant Governor Clem Kimball of Council Bluffs died. Since the death occurred too

late for the convening of a Republican convention, the Republican State Central Committee was called into session to fill the vacancy on the ballot. Attorney William T. Evans of Waterloo, the Third District chairman who was later to serve as district judge, promoted McFarlane for the post. He was nominated and elected.

In order to safeguard succession to the governorship in the interval between the November election and the time when officials were installed in January, Governor John Hammill appointed McFarlane Lieutenant Governor on November 15, 1928. He was re-elected Lieutenant Governor in 1930 and newspapers of the state were freely predicting that he would soon be Governor. But a letter McFarlane had written in connection with his coal business aroused a storm of criticism and deprived him of the nomination in 1932. It was just as well, since that turned out to be a disastrous year for the Republicans because of the depression. Instead, McFarlane decided to seek vindication by running again for the House from his home county. Black Hawk gave him a 1,000-vote majority in this year which saw so many Republican warriors go down to defeat.

McFarlane has run in every election between 1934 and 1954, being defeated only twice. He lost in the general election of 1936 and in the primary election of 1948. In 1954 he was again elected State Senator, winning the honor of being

SCHOOLDAYS IN WATERLOO

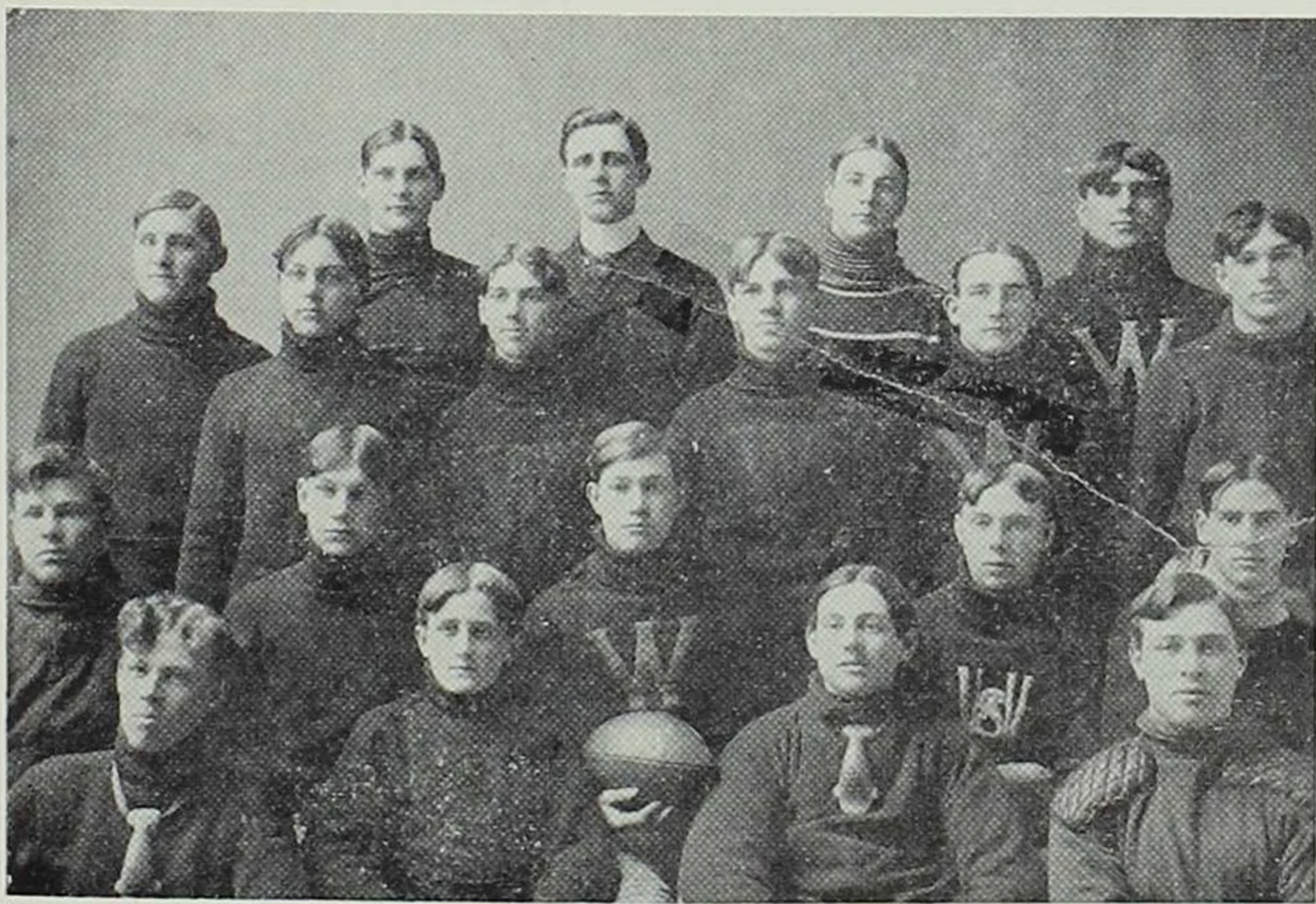
East High Graduates of 1904



ARCHIE W. McFARLANE



ELSIE V. HAWKINS



East Waterloo High School Football Team 1904
Arch McFarlane second from right in third row

IN THE LEGISLATURE



GUS KUESTER, BILL LYNES, ARCH MCFARLANE
Three men who served as Speaker of the House in the General Assembly



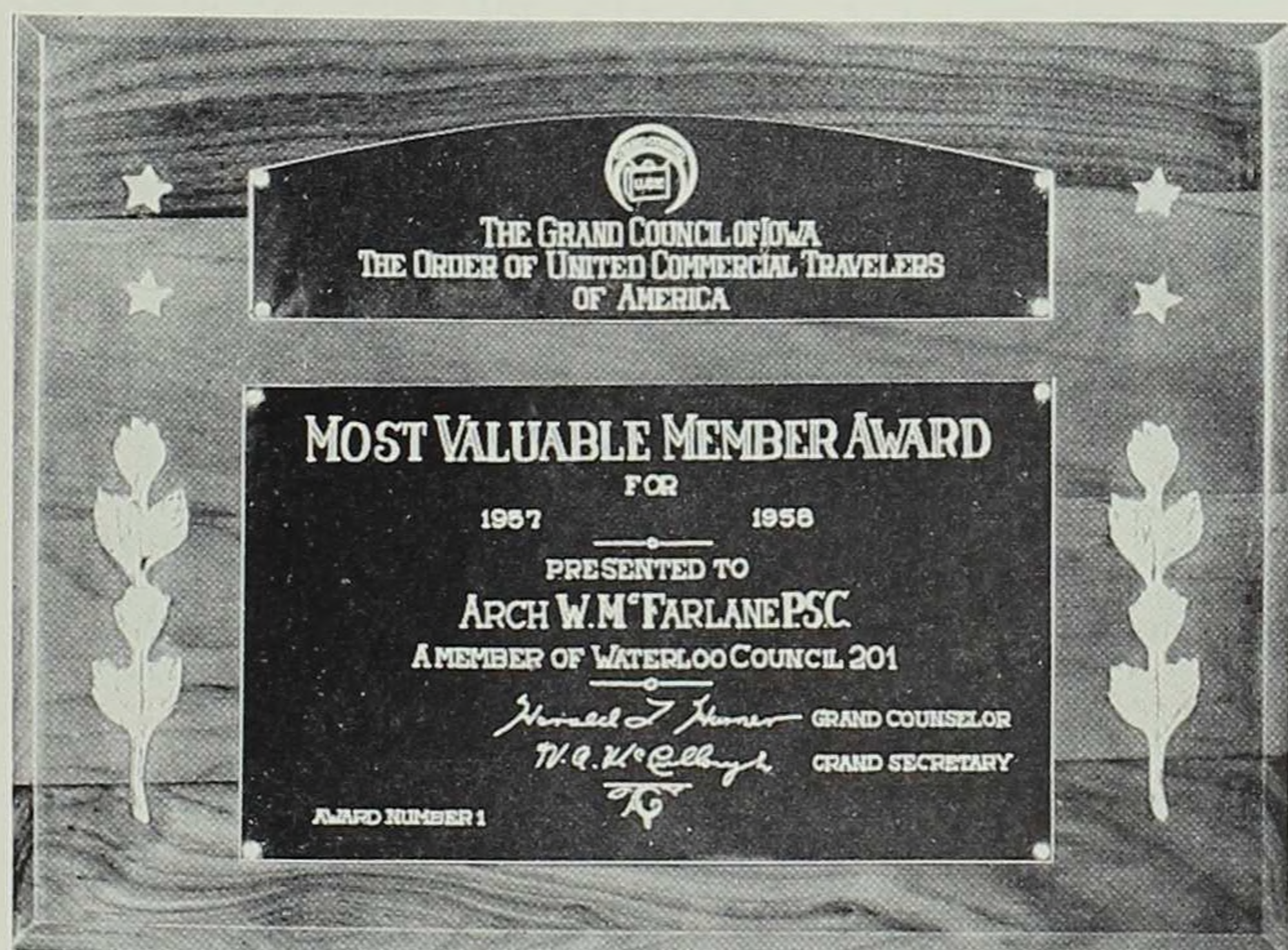
The Iowa Tax Study Committee of 1945

Seated: Mrs. Lena L. Beck, reporter; Clyde McFarlin, Montezuma, secretary; Francis Johnson, Terril, chairman; and Louis Cook, Fort Dodge. *2nd row:* Sen. Frank Byers, Cedar Rapids; Rep. Arch W. McFarlane, Waterloo; L. P. Boudreaux, Cedar Rapids; Rep. A. G. Redman, Sac City; Rep. Harry Cox, Fort Dodge. *Back row:* H. J. Schmitz, Eldora; Arthur E. J. Johnson, Shenandoah; Sen. Fred Cromwell, Burlington; Sen. Robert Keir, Spencer.

UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELER



The Boston Session of the Supreme Council of the U.C.T. (1956)
Arch McFarlane is seated second from right in second row.



GOLDEN MEMORIES



The Parents of Arch McFarlane, Emma Julia Moss and William Wallace McFarlane.



The Arch McFarlanes on their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.

the first to serve in the newly-created Black Hawk County Senatorial district.

In recent years, McFarlane has come to be known as the "dean of the legislature" as the sons of legislators he knew in the early days have appeared in Des Moines to seek his counsel and listen to his tales of old legislative battles. By giving freely of his experienced wisdom and by retaining a zest for legislative activity, he possesses an influence which determines the fate of many key bills in any session.

He regards this position as a public trust, above partisanship and temporary political gain. This is illustrated by the story of the young minister-legislator who came to him for advice about a controversial bill which McFarlane was pushing. "I can see both sides to this question," the minister said, "but the people back home will probably see a religious issue in it. I am afraid they would see a vote for your bill as a betrayal of trust."

McFarlane told the minister that, under these circumstances, he should vote against the McFarlane bill. This is said to be one of the few times that the advocate of a piece of legislation has advised a fellow legislator to vote against it.

The veteran legislator is himself a deeply religious man and served for many years as senior warden of Christ Episcopal Church in Waterloo. He was made a life member of the vestry in 1948. His mother, who died in 1942, was the last sur-

viving charter member of old Christ Episcopal.

Out of this religious background and his long experience in watching political careers has come McFarlane's own philosophy of legislative service:

"Shoot square with your constituents," he says. "Represent what you believe to be their wishes and be fair to everyone who wants a hearing.

"Never duck a debate intentionally for political purposes. Answer every letter you receive before, during, and after the session."

Because of the prestige his name carries in the legislature, McFarlane is often asked to introduce important bills or become a co-sponsor with other legislators. Among the bills which carry his name, either as the originator of the measure or as a co-sponsor, are the following:

A bill passed in 1939 allocating the use tax collections to the homestead credit fund.

A bill passed in 1943 to protect the seniority rights of policemen and firemen entering the armed forces.

A bill passed in 1947 to establish the present county assessor system.

A bill passed, also in 1947, increasing the maximum mill levy allowed for municipal recreation programs. Recreation officials view this bill as the base of modern recreation programs in Iowa.

A bill passed in 1953 which allows state employees to participate in the federal Social Secur-

ity program, and another bill in the same year establishing an auxiliary retirement plan for state employees.

Various bills to increase the benefits and coverage of unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation.

Various bills to raise the benefits or increase the coverage of policemen's and firemen's retirement funds.

A bill passed in 1955 to allow cities to levy a small property tax to assist hard-pressed local bus companies.

Although as speaker of the House he once humorously suggested to the Reverend Claude R. Cook that he "look the House over and pray for the state," McFarlane has remained a staunch defender of the integrity of the General Assembly.

"In all of my experience I remember only two instances where I suspected that bribes were offered and accepted to influence the course of legislation," McFarlane declares, "but it was impossible to collect proof. I am certain that the overwhelming majority of legislators are not only honest in this respect but are even scornful of the more subtle use of indirect pressures to influence their vote."

Moreover, he believes that the caliber of the average legislator has improved down through the years, with better-educated and more enlightened men serving now than in his early terms.

"I remember when bawdy houses surrounded the State Capitol grounds," McFarlane recalls, "and legislators were openly solicited on their way to downtown hotels. Governor George W. Clarke led the campaign to buy up the grounds around the Capitol and clean up the slum area."

McFarlane remembers two instances where attempts were made to influence the legislature by mass marches on the Capitol. In 1933 the Assembly was considering a bill to require the compulsory tuberculin testing of cattle, with the farmers to be paid by the state for the destruction of diseased animals. Some farmers believed the state had no right to send inspectors onto private property, and they marched on Des Moines, carrying pitchforks and ropes and threatening violence. "In that case," McFarlane recalls, "the legislature hurriedly adjourned, the irate farmers were allowed to make speeches in the legislative chambers; and, having exhausted their passions, they went home." The legislators returned to pass the law which resulted in several violent outbreaks as farmers attempted to prevent state inspectors from coming onto their land.

The second mass march came on April 21, 1947, when organized labor arranged for thousands of union members to drive to Des Moines in mass protest against the "right to work law" which was then under consideration. "In that ominous situation," McFarlane declares, "Governor Bob Blue

gave the greatest demonstration of personal and political courage I have ever seen. He went out to the steps of the Capitol to address that large crowd, explaining the reasons for his support of the bill."

As his own Black Hawk County and the other large counties of the state became more industrialized and as their population rapidly increased, McFarlane became more and more interested in difficult problem of reapportionment of seats in the General Assembly. A Constitutional amendment adopted in 1907 had limited the nine largest counties to two representatives and another amendment adopted in 1928 provided that no county, however large, could have more than one senator. As the state's population growth centered in the large-population counties, these two amendments prevented the allocation of seats in either house on a population basis.

Although McFarlane presented his first reapportionment proposal in 1933, the reapportionment problem did not reach the status of a major issue until 1953. In that year, Representative Fred Schwengel's resolution for a Constitutional amendment to allocate House seats strictly on a population basis was decisively defeated, 84 to 19.

McFarlane then presented his compromise measure which would have allocated eight additional House seats among the seven largest counties.

"I am only asking you for a little crumb from the table," McFarlane pleaded.

But the attitude of the over-represented rural counties was expressed by Representative Dee Mallonee of Audubon who frankly declared: "Let's not be hypocritical. We have a little advantage. Let's cherish it. Let's hold onto it." McFarlane's resolution was defeated 80 to 25.

Although other reapportionment measures have been defeated in more recent sessions, McFarlane feels that action of some kind is only a matter of time. "With the continued growth of the larger counties," he says, "the situation is becoming intolerable. After all, the interests of rural people would be adequately protected by having seats in one house allocated on an area basis."

As McFarlane's legislative career extended into the second half of the twentieth century, he began to receive more and more recognition for his long legislative service. Thus, he became in 1953 the first man to serve as president of the Pioneer Lawmakers Association while still a member of the legislature.

A special joint session of the General Assembly was held in that year to honor both McFarlane and Senator Frank Byers of Cedar Rapids. McFarlane's term of thirty-eight years of legislative service even at that time was the longest in Iowa history. But Byers, who was first elected in 1929, had the longest record of continuous service.

On December 8, 1953, the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers Association and a group of McFarlane's friends arranged a "Recognition Banquet" at Waterloo to commemorate his legislative service. Chairman of the arrangements committee was W. Louis Beecher, and Carleton Sias was toastmaster. Speakers were Mayor Lawrence A. Touchae of Waterloo; S. J. Galvin, a Democrat who is president of the Sheffield Brick and Tile Company; Robert Loetscher, president of the Iowa Manufacturers Association; Ray Mills, president of the Iowa State Federation of Labor; Mrs. C. F. Long, chaplain of the Iowa Council of Republican Women; Representative Fred Schwengel of Davenport; Lieutenant Governor Leo Elthon; United States Senator B. B. Hickenlooper; and Burton Sweet of Waverly, a past president of the Pioneer Lawmakers.

The banquet was attended by numerous past and present state legislators, state officials, and friends from all over the state. The names of those who attended or sent congratulatory letters or telegrams reads like a "Who's Who of Iowa."

On April 17, 1956, the Pioneer Lawmakers presented to the Iowa State Department of History and Archives a painting of the senator by Mrs. James Kent of Iowa City. It is now on display there in the portrait gallery of outstanding Iowans.

Participating in the presentation ceremonies on that occasion were some of McFarlane's oldest

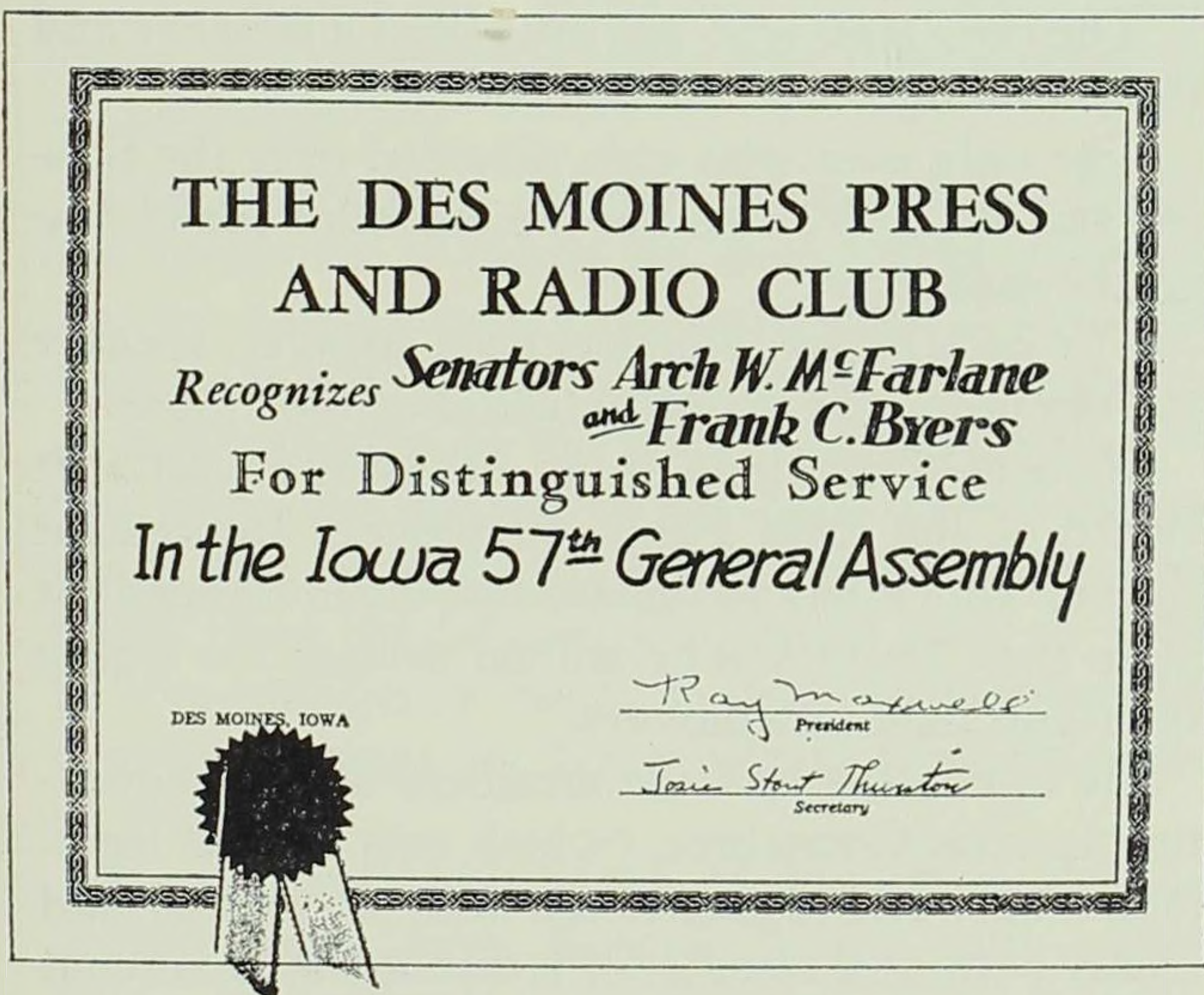
and dearest friends. They included B. F. Swisher, Waterloo attorney; H. T. Wagner, sheriff of Black Hawk County for thirty-six years until his retirement in 1957; Burton E. Sweet, former Congressman from Waverly; Warren Wells of Council Bluffs, a former chairman of the State Tax Commission and the Senator's longtime associate in the United Commercial Travelers; and Claude R. Cook, Curator of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives. Mrs. McFarlane and Arch's brother, Edward A. McFarlane, were in the audience. Mrs. Leo Hoegh, wife of Governor Hoegh, unveiled the portrait.

But the list of awards would not be complete without reference to the humorous gesture of the House in 1945 when it voted an "iron cross" to Mrs. McFarlane for her "32 years as a martyr" as she waited during each session for the legislator to return home from Des Moines. Mrs. McFarlane has been her husband's most loyal supporter and down through the years has kept voluminous scrapbooks of newspaper clippings and photographs recording his career. The couple observed their golden wedding anniversary on April 6, 1958.

McFarlane ranks today as Iowa's most distinguished and best known legislator. He has been in eighteen of the past twenty-two sessions of the legislature — more than any other Iowan. He served in 1957 with the sons of six former legisla-

tors who had been Arch's colleagues in years gone by.

As a legislator over the years, Arch McFarlane has been everything, done everything, and has held every honor; yet he still has the zest of a



freshman for the excitement of each day and each tomorrow. He is alert, enthusiastic, urbane, and friendly. At the age of seventy-three he can still take the chair and machine-gun through thirty to forty common consent bills, or get the Senate out of a knotty parliamentary snarl with aplomb and precision. McFarlane's durability and religious

attention at daily legislative sessions place him in the records as having voted, he estimates, some 40,000 to 50,000 times. Arch McFarlane is:

The only man who was a member of the Iowa legislature during three wars — World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

The only man who has ever been a member and the presiding officer of both houses.

The only man who ever presided over the Senate and occupied a seat as a member of the House on the same day.

The only person who has been speaker, speaker pro tempore, and majority leader of the House.

He is now chairman of the Advisory Investment Board of the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System which has recommended the investment of more than seventy-four million dollars for eighty thousand public employees.

He appointed half the members of the Legislative Interim Committee (which acts for the legislature between sessions) on four occasions, and finally became a member of it through appointment by Speaker Henry W. Burma in 1943.

His longest absence from a legislative session was the two weeks in February during the 1957 session when he was in University Hospitals at Iowa City undergoing tests and treatment for a minor heart ailment.

His stature among Iowans is illustrated by an incident which followed that illness. J. N. (Ding)

Darling, the famous cartoonist, wrote all the way from Spain to a friend in Des Moines:

A clipping today scared the daylights out of me when the newspaper picture of Arch McFarlane dropped out of the envelope. You have sat in the duck blinds with him, and have known him intimately, a privilege which accidental circumstances have denied me. Nevertheless, I have looked upon him as one of Iowa's most valuable citizens of our generation.

But McFarlane quickly recovered his health and continues to throw his energy and influence into the balance where the right word in the right place is needed to get things done. For example, an appropriation by the 1957 Legislature to provide pensions for retired teachers proved inadequate, and McFarlane was one of those who prevailed upon the Interim Committee early in 1958 to vote emergency funds so that the desperately-needed pensions for these elderly teachers could be continued.

He received, as a result of that effort, the following letter from Roscoe Abbett and Lillian Burns, two officials of the Retired Teachers Association:

Mr. William Wimer, our attorney, has related to us in great detail your attitude and action in connection with our request for additional funds to carry on our most desperately-needed pension.

We speak for all our members when we say to you that words cannot express our gratitude and our affection for you. . . . You never let us down.

Although our membership is comparatively few in number, we are used to working and we feel that our influence can be felt. We will not forget our friends as you have not forgotten us.

Thank you! Thank you! God bless you.

It is words like those which make forty-three years of legislative service appear worthwhile. And it is words like those which encourage a man to return again and again to the political wars.

C. C. CLIFTON

Homespun Philosopher

Senator Arch W. McFarlane participated in so many debates during his long legislative career that any comprehensive résumé of his speeches is impossible in a brief report. But collected here are a few excerpts from his speeches which illustrate his philosophy of government and his attitude toward the legislative process.

McFarlane's belief in fair play and his pride in Iowa are revealed in the words he spoke to the House of Representatives in 1919 when he was first chosen speaker of that body:

I wish to thank the minority party for endorsing what the majority party has done, and I assure them in the presence of this entire body that they will be treated fairly and squarely, to the best of my ability. . . . We have great things to do, but we are here for one purpose, and that purpose is to legislate for the greatest state in the Union, for the greatest people in the Union, and when we go home, may we be able to truthfully say that our duty has been well done.

Ten years later, after a decade of legislative experience, McFarlane had gained a reputation as an organizer of diverse factions in the General Assembly and a leader who could fight hard for a cause but who recognized the opposition's right to

its views. That he viewed the Legislature as a kind of family which could maintain a unity in mutual respect despite its quarrels is illustrated in remarks he delivered when the Senate presented him, as Lieutenant Governor and presiding officer, a gift:

We live merely to do good for our neighbors and friends, and it is decreed that we should love one another. The family possessing love within itself is the happiest and most contented family. The legislative body in which love and harmony reigns is necessarily the most effective and most successful legislative body. We have all strived to make this a worthwhile session, and I believe that our ambitions have been realized.

But McFarlane's speeches also contain the persuasive, hard-hitting type of oratory that brings a response from men's minds, even if it does not always win their votes. Those who defeated McFarlane's compromise amendment to a resolution for reapportionment of the legislature in 1953 must have felt a twinge of shame when they heard these words:

It was not the thought of the able men who wrote the first Constitution of the State of Iowa, or who drafted the new Constitution of the state in 1857, to deny to any segment of the citizenship of the state equal representation in its lawmaking. . . .

I am asking for just a crumb from the table. We are not asking anyone to have control. We are just seeking to get a little more representation for the larger communities. This joint resolution is fair, it is honest, and it is just. If

you believe in a republic, if you believe in majority rule, if you believe in America, you should vote for my amendment.

McFarlane often returned to this theme of confidence in the principles on which American democracy was founded. At a testimonial dinner staged in Waterloo in 1953 by the Pioneer Lawmakers Association and a group of friends, McFarlane responded to the remarks of a panel of distinguished speakers:

I consider it my sacred duty in the few years that remain for me to do everything I can to impress upon my fellow men that our government — national, state, and local — must continue to be based upon the time-honored standards of religion and morality as exemplified by our forefathers.

When the Pioneer Lawmakers presented a portrait of McFarlane to the gallery of distinguished Iowans in the Iowa State Department of History and Archives, the Senator was again in a reflective mood:

I came into this world when the Civil War was almost contemporary history. It was only 20 years after Appomattox. It was only a matter of 40 years following the admission of Iowa to the Union. To have passed through the Biblical span of life in Iowa is to have been a witness to many remarkable things. In only one respect, during my lifetime, have things remained very much as they were when I was born. That one respect is that the men and women of today are not essentially different from their pioneer grandparents. . . .

I hear a great deal at times of the "good old days" and how they were so much better than those we now enjoy. I am highly skeptical on this point. In fact, I like living in this world today much better than I ever did before. . . .

I am convinced as I grow somewhat older that the world and the people in it are getting better. I have always been a great advocate of the theory that people who are able to do so should take care of themselves. I have also, however, in later years arrived at the conclusion that people who are fortunate enough to be able to help others who are less fortunate should put in a great deal of their time and money in doing that very thing. . . .

I would like to be remembered by the people who will gaze at my picture, long after I am forgotten by living men, as a humble citizen of Iowa who did his best to serve his fellow citizens, his state, his nation and his God.

But, if McFarlane there spoke the words suitable for his epitaph, he is not ready yet to have it engraved on stone. God and the voters of Black Hawk County willing, he will ride off again next January to the Legislative wars. And it should also be part of the record that neither he nor any of his opponents bear any scars.

DAVID DENTAN

As Others See Him

Heading back to Waterloo after a football game played in the rain in the early twenties, Arch W. McFarlane and hundreds of other motorists became mired in the mud on the road between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. McFarlane was forced to accept the hospitality of a farm couple living near the highway.

Some thirty years later, considerable statewide publicity was given to a dinner staged by the Pioneer Lawmakers Association and a group of friends in honor of McFarlane. Among the congratulatory messages he received was one from this farm couple who had remembered all those years the friendly man who had stayed with them that rainy night.

The incident illustrates McFarlane's remarkable capacity for friendship. That has helped to make him, of course, the legislator who has served longest in Iowa history; but it has also brought him a host of friends far outside his own constituency.

He has kept in touch with many legislators who served with him in the past; and the respect of such men is illustrated by the tribute written by E. R. Hicklin, now a federal judge:

Arch McFarlane is one of the great living men of the state, and is entitled to every honor that can be bestowed. I feel that it was one of the great privileges and advantages that I had as a young man to serve in the Iowa Senate while he was the lieutenant governor of the state, and to have the great benefit of his counsel and leadership. It would be almost impossible to estimate the measure of his contribution to the public good of the state of Iowa.

Another man who appreciated McFarlane's friendship as a legislator was United States Representative Karl M. LeCompte. He wrote to McFarlane:

When I came to the 37th General Assembly in 1917, you were . . . one of the leaders and respected members of the General Assembly. You have continued with increasing influence down through the years, and your guiding hand has shaped much constructive legislation.

Lloyd Thurston, a former United States Representative, paid tribute to McFarlane's organizing abilities:

The man who can consolidate and harness the talents of others makes a valuable contribution to his time. Arch McFarlane could weave a fabric of legislative rules, called laws, into practical guides for conducting the business and interests of his state. We love the man for his modesty and for his legislative talents. May he long enjoy the fruits of his labor.

But expressions of appreciation for McFarlane's long service have not come from men in public life alone. Myron N. Blank, president of the

Central States Theater Corporation, wrote in 1956:

I do want to take this opportunity of telling you how I appreciate the many wonderful services that you have rendered the people of Iowa. I know this has been a personal sacrifice to serve so many years in our state legislature, but men such as you that are devoted to public service help make our state a wonderful place to live.

But, however gratifying such tributes from men of political or business stature must be, any good legislator's greatest satisfaction comes from expressions of appreciation by constituents whom he has served. Of the many thousands of such letters which McFarlane has received during his career, one is chosen here as an example. It is from the widow of a Waterloo police officer killed in the line of duty:

I read recently of your ardent appeal to the Iowa Senate for passage of the "death benefits bill." I understand that your speech was an outstanding one, and I would like to send you my "thanks" for your efforts.

As the widow of the late police officer, William Mehlhorn, I naturally feel the importance of this bill, not especially for my sake, but for the wife of any police officer or fireman who might in the future be confronted with a similar unfortunate experience.

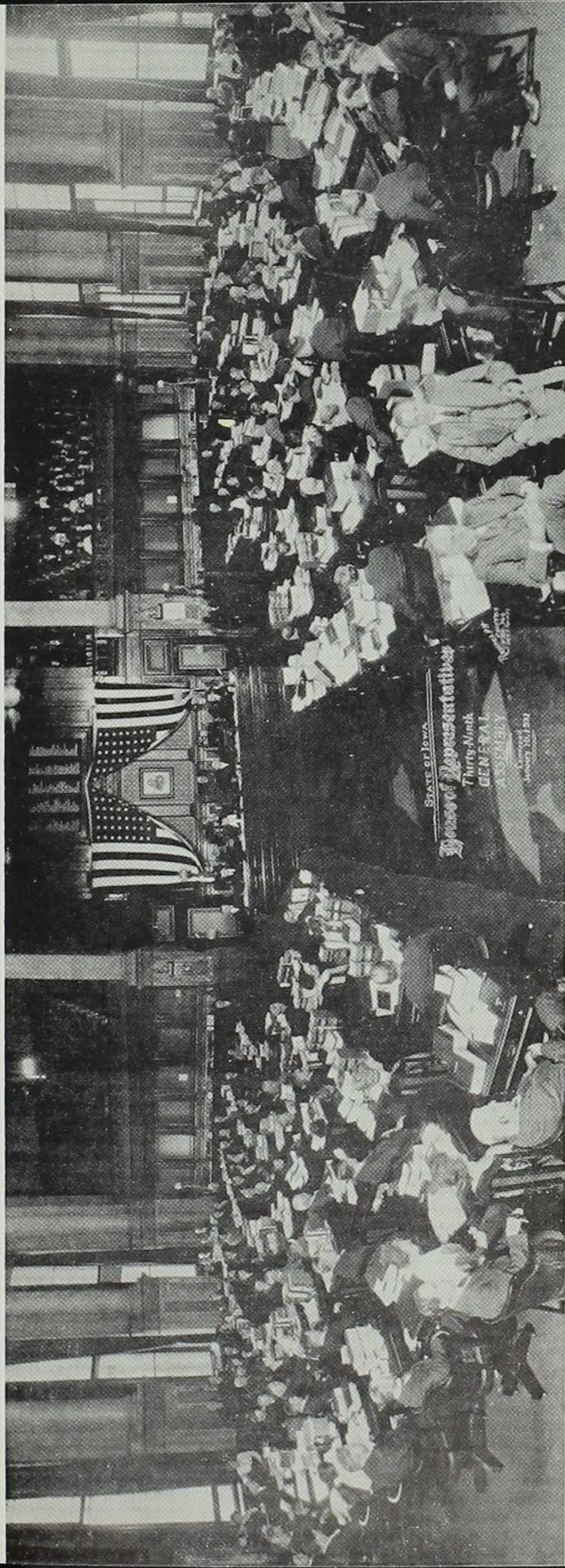
Please accept my sincere thanks for your tremendous efforts.

Respectfully yours,
Mrs. Wm. Mehlhorn.

Such responses indicate that, while a man may

not get rich serving in the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, he can accumulate a vast wealth of satisfaction in the good he can do. Those who know Arch McFarlane best find that letters such as the one from Mrs. Mehlhorn are adequate evidence for him that a long life of public service provides unique rewards.

DAVID DENTAN



It was amid scenes such as this that McFarlane achieved his legislative experience.
The House of the 39th General Assembly.



McFarlane served with their fathers in previous sessions of the General Assembly.
Rep. Wm. L. Mooty, Sen. David O. Shaff, McFarlane, Rep. Lawrence A. Falvey,
Rep. Paul L. Parker.