

FRANK CARLSON

BORN IN SWEDEN

Frank Carlson was born January 23, 1893 in Concordia, Kansas, the son of immigrant parents who were from their native country, Sweden. His father, Charles Eric Carlson, (January 31, 1862 to April 5, 1931) was from the province of Ostergotland. His mother, Anna Johansson Carlson, (May 27, 1866 to April 9, 1948) was from the province of Vermeland. Both were employed by Colonel and Mrs. N. B. Brown in Concordia. They were married in Brownstone Hall in 1891.

The Carlsons had one son, Frank 1893, and two daughters, Lillian 1895, and Edna 1897. (Married Harry Johnston 1924).

Frank Carlson was educated in the Cloud County Public Schools. He attended Concordia Normal and Business College and Kansas State University. Honory Doctorate Degrees have been awarded to him by Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas; Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas; St. Benedicts College in Atchison, Kansas; Washburn University, In Topeka, Kansas; Baker College in Baldwin, Kansas; Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas; Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas; William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri; Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina; Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

FRANK CARLSON

MARRIES ALICE FREDRICKSON

August 26, 1919, Frank Carlson and Alice Fredrickson were married by Rev. C. W. Anderson at Concordia.

During World War I, Frank Carlson served in the United States Army Infantry. After the war, he returned to Concordia, Kansas where his experimentations with a new type of wheat established him as a successful farmer.

The Carlsons' wedding occurred at 8:00 in the morning. Just after the wedding ceremony, they boarded the Union Pacific Railway for a wedding trip to Junction City, then on to Kansas City for their honeymoon. Alice Carlson is the daughter of Charles Ludwig Fredrickson, (October 24, 1861-November 5, 1937) and Christene Nelson Fredrickson, (May 4, 1867-May 6, 1961). She had six brothers and three sisters; William Fredrickson, (November 26, 1888-February 8, 1970), Etta Fredrickson Ross Landin, (December 25, 1891), George Fredrickson, (November 18, 1896-May 15, 1971), Paul Fredrickson (April 22, 1899), Beatrice Fredrickson Butler, (October 8, 1901), Marie Fredrickson Danahoo, (December 4, 1903), Carl Fredrickson, (May 14, 1906), Lane Fredrickson, (May 24, 1913), and a brother who died in infancy.

Alice Fredrickson attended Cloud County schools and the Concordia Normal and Business College. Previous to her marriage, she worked as a stenographer for the International Harvester Company of Concordia.

Alice as a homemaker - wife of legislator - congressman - governor - and U.S. Senator served with dignity and charm and made friends everywhere.

FRANK CARLSON
A CHRISTIAN LEADER

Frank Carlson has always been an active member of the Baptist Church. At sixteen, he became Superintendent of his Sunday School, a position he held for twenty years.

In Washington, he established and taught a Sunday School Class known as the Carlson Bible Class. While in Congress, he attended the Calvary Baptist Church, the First Baptist Church, and the East Washington Heights Baptist Church.

During his terms as Governor of the State of Kansas, he was named Chairman of the International Council for Christian Leadership. He later served as the International President of this organization. While living in Topeka, Governor Carlson attended the First Baptist Church just east of the State Capitol on 9th Street.

Frank Carlson is recognized as the man who established the Annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast in 1953. He presided over this breakfast for many years. Also during his years as U.S. Senator, he was a member who was in regular attendance at the Senate Prayer Breakfast each Wednesday.

As the International President of the Council for Christian Leadership, he and Queen Wilhelmina of Holland chaired the International Conference at The Hague, Holland in 1951 and 1953. Senator Carlson also conducted a church service in Swedish at Stockholm, Sweden. He was received by Pope Pius XII at the Vatican in 1963. In 1964, his recorded Christmas message was distributed through-out the country. In 1965, the Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas awarded Frank Carlson the churchmanship citation.

FRANK CARLSON
GOES TO KANSAS LEGISLATURE

As a young man, Frank Carlson was interested in his government and his political party, the Republican Party. While serving as the Cloud County Chairman of the Republican Party, he was asked to run for the State Legislature to help fill the ticket. Although some thought chances for a Republican victory were slim, he won by a landslide in 1928 and was re-elected to a second term in 1930.

From 1932 to 1934, Frank Carlson served as Chairman of the Republican State Committee during the term of Alfred M. Landon as Governor. Alf Landon wanted someone to talk to the farmers in Western Kansas that the farm population could trust. His choice was Frank Carlson.

Having worked closely with Governor Landon, it was only natural that while Frank Carlson was a Congressman from Kansas's Sixth District, he was active in the campaign of Alf Landon for President of the United States. Frank Carlson and several other Congressmen from the Mid-West traveled with Landon during his campaign.

During his forty years as an elected official, Frank Carlson was very active in three presidential elections. He worked on the campaign of Alf Landon in 1933, Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1951, and was a nominee for the office in 1967.

FRANK CARLSON
TO U. S. CONGRESS

While operating his farm in Cloud County in 1934, Frank Carlson was again asked to run for Public Office. That summer, Dane Hanson of Logan, Kansas, Ross Beach of Hays, William Hughes of Stockton, Ed Burge of Concordia, and many others urged him to file for Representative of the Kansas Sixth District to the National House of Representatives and assured him of their support. The incumbent Miss Kathryn O. Laughlin of Hays, a Democrat was considered unbeatable, but Republican leaders wanted a full slate of candidates.

The Sixth Congressional District of Kansas elected Frank Carlson to the Congress in 1934, and he was re-elected five times. He served a total of six terms, withstanding the Roosevelt landslide and the New Deal era.

Each summer and during recesses, he would return to Concordia, Kansas to the family farm, or the Barrons House, or a rented residence. In Washington, D.C. the Carlsons lived at the Burlington Hotel for several years until they purchased a home in 1940 at 3635 Alabama Avenue, Southeast. They sold this house in 1946 returning to Kansas to live in the Governor's Mansion in Topeka 1947-1951.

While in Washington D.C., he established a Bible class at a Baptist Church there which is still active and is now known as the Carlson Bible Class.

FRANK CARLSON
GOVERNOR OF KANSAS

In 1946, after six terms in the U. S. House of Representatives, Frank Carlson returned to Kansas where he was elected the State's 30th governor. He was re-elected for an additional two year term in 1948.

During his administration as Governor, Kansas financed a sound and effective improvement program.

New and modern treatment in mental hospitals was begun, and today Kansas has one of the best State sponsored mental health programs in the country. Working with the Menningers and other leaders in mental health, the theory of "rehabilitation rather than warehousing" those with mental illness became a reality.

The educational system was expanded and improved. New buildings were provided for state colleges. State financial aid to elementary schools was doubled. Better salaries were provided for the faculties of state schools. Farmers and businessmen benefited from the provision for research for new industrial opportunities.

The people of Kansas voted to repeal prohibition in 1948. Under his administration, legislation was written which created the Alcoholic Beverage Control and prohibited the public saloons.

A long-range highway improvement plan was inaugurated. A formal industrial training program for the blind began. During his administration, Kansas advanced with progressive programs and solid growth.

FRANK CARLSON AND
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Early in the Presidential Campaign, Frank Carlson and Cliff Hope were busy supporting the nomination of their fellow Kansan, General of the Armies, Dwight D. Eisenhower. In the fall of 1951, Senator Carlson traveled to Eisenhower's NATO Headquarters in Europe to urge him to be an active candidate for the Presidency.

Eisenhower's campaign staff and campaign strategy included the united work of Frank Carlson of Kansas, Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. of Massachusetts, and Jim Duff of Pennsylvania as reported on the front page of the New York Times. Through-out the campaign, Frank Carlson worked with appointments and introductions at Eisenhower's Blackstone Hotel Headquarters. He also accompanied Ike on the campaign train through-out the Nation.

At the Chicago headquarters, he won his fifty-cent wager with General Eisenhower concerning the number of delegate votes the General would receive on the first ballot. Frank Carlson estimated 12 more than Eisenhower. Ike's check covering this wager is on display in the Carlson Library.

Having been chosen as one of the eight men advising Dwight D. Eisenhower's Presidential Campaign, he continued to be known as a key congressional advisor to the administration during Eisenhower's term of office.

FRANK CARLSON
ON
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEES

As ranking Republican member and as Chairman of the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee, he is known as a friend and supporter of the Federal career employee. During his Chairmanship, laws to implement government savings and boost Federal employee morale set an unequalled record. Frank Carlson has been responsible for measures easing restrictions on annual leave, longevity pay raises, and grade promotions; overhauling the sick leave programs; and providing allowances for Federal employees required to wear uniforms. Through Frank Carlson's efforts, group life insurance was first made available to Civil employees of the Federal government. He has been credited with greatly improving many phases of retirement conditions in the United States. His recommendations led to reworking the self-employed retirement fund. He has also been instrumental in providing research leading to many beneficial reforms in the Post Office Department.

As a member of this committee for eighteen years, Frank Carlson had the confidence and support of everyone connected with our postal operations and our Civil Service System. The evidence of this is the number of plaques on display in the library giving commendation for his work.

Since his retirement, his expert advice on postal matters has often been called upon by friends as well as the Congress.

FRANK CARLSON
ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Feeling the necessity for representation of the Midwestern viewpoint in the area of foreign affairs, Frank Carlson accepted an appointment to the Senate Foreign Relation's Committee. Several of his ideas have become laws, including the suggestion that foreign aid administrators be assigned to countries according to their special competence.

Frank Carlson represented the United States and spoke in London, England, November, 1951 at the British Thanksgiving Dinner with Field Marshall Tedder in attendance.

In 1963, Frank Carlson represented the United States at the British Commonwealth Parlimentary Union (which meets every five years) in India. Enroute, he met with Christian leaders in Hong Kong. On his return, he was received by Pope Pius XII in Rome.

Frank Carlson was selected to attend the Kennedy Round Tariff Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in May of 1964. Later in 1964, the President appointed Frank Carlson as a delegate to the United Nations for the Nineteenth Assembly. In this capacity, he maintained offices in New York with the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson.

As a member of the Foreign Relation's Committee, Frank Carlson regularly met in public and in executive session with heads of State as they visited the United States of America.

FRANK CARLSON
CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

The National Governors' Conference was first organized in 1940. Each year they gathered to exchange ideas. The Carlsons attended National Governors' Conferences at Wentworth By the Sea, New Hampshire in 1947, at Salt Lake City, Utah in 1948, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia in 1948 and Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1950.

"Frank Carlson is exceptionally active in regional and state governmental affairs and earned an enviable reputation as a diligent and conscientious worker in public programs", the news media reported at the time. In 1949, Frank Carlson was named National Chairman of the Governors Conference. An additional regional organization in the Midwest was the Interstate Oil Compact Commission. Officials of several states joined together because of their common interest in oil. As chairman of this commission, he led a group of representatives from oil and gas producing states to conserve natural resources.

Frank Carlson also served as Chairman of the Council of State Governments. He was appointed as a member of the Hoover Commission on Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government of Federal - State Officers, and he was made Vice-Chairman of the President's Safety Council in 1950.

FRANK CARLSON

SERVES ON

WAYS & MEANS

In the United States House of Representatives, Frank Carlson served on many influential committees including the tax writing Ways and Means Committee. He was instrumental in writing and in implementing much vital legislation concerning income taxes.

Clifford Lincoln of the Washington Star stated, "He has made a definite imprint on the National Tax Laws - an imprint that has proved beneficial to the Government as well as to the individual tax payers."

The pay-as-you-go withholding method of paying income tax is one of the many effective measures attributed to his diligence. In this endeavor, he worked closely with Beardsley Rumel of New York, who was the sponsor of current income collection for individual income taxes. The National Press, as well as the volumes of mail received by the committee and the Bill's sponsor, reflect the importance of this Bill.

It has been said that, "As a member of the Ways & Means Committee and later as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Frank Carlson has had an active part in every tax measure enacted in the U.S. Congress since 1934." Even the measures passed while he was Governor of Kansas had been worked on by the Committee while he was in Washington.

FRANK CARLSON

U. S. SENATOR

In November of 1950, Frank Carlson was elected to the United State's Senate to fill the seat vacated by the death of Clyde M. Reed for the six year term commencing January 3, 1951. He then became the only Kansan to ever serve as Representative, Governor, and Senator of the State. He was returned to the Senate for a second term in 1956, and a third term in 1962.

Harry Darby, Kansas Republican National Committeeman and prominent Kansas City, Kansas industrialist, had been appointed by Governor Carlson to fill the unexpired term of Senator Reed in 1950. Not choosing to run in the fall election, Senator Darby resigned late in 1950. Frank Carlson also resigned as Governor of Kansas, elevating Lt. Governor Les Hageman to the Governor's office. Governor Hageman appointed Frank Carlson U.S. Senator for the period remaining in 1950. Senator Carlson was sworn in as the Jr. Senator from Kansas, December 3, 1950.

In the Senate, he served as chairman and ranking member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, the Finance Committee, the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Committee on Rules and Administration, the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue, the Joint Committee on Economic Report, Committee on Aging, the Post Office and Civil Service Subcommittee on Appropriations, the Republican Policy Committee, and Chairman of the Republican Committee on Committees.

FRANK CARLSON

NOMINATED AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Republican National Convention was held in Miami, Florida in 1968. The Kansas Delegation, headed by State Chairman, McDill "Huck" Boyd, placed the name of their favorite son, Frank Carlson, in nomination for President of the United States.

The Nominating Speech was made by Senator Clifford P. Hansen of Wyoming with seconding speeches by McDill Boyd of Phillipsburg, Kansas; Mrs. Jerene Dodge of Salina, Kansas; A. Price Woodward, Jr. of Wichita, Kansas; and Donald P. Schnacke of Topeka, Kansas. An active floor demonstration, directed by Lahoma Dennis, displayed many Kansas sunflowers, as well as the Kansas Jayhawk, (his grandson, Edward C. Rolfs of Junction City).

During the evening, Senator Carlson's box was filled with friends and well-wishers as he sat with his friend and supporter, the Reverend Billy Graham.

FRANK CARLSON

IN AGRICULTURE

Owning and operating a farm near Concordia, Kansas, since 1914, has given Frank Carlson insight to the problems of those engaged in agriculture. He has consistently worked at keeping imports at a level which will encourage profitable production for the American farmer. Many completed flood control and soil conservation projects may be attributed to his efforts. The Public Law providing for the extensive watershed projects in Kansas is the result of a Bill introduced by Frank Carlson and Clifford Hope.

He is a member of many farm organizations and a Charter Member of the Farm Bureau. In 1959, the Missouri Farmer's Association awarded him the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for his "particular and thorough understanding of the difficult problems in producing and marketing" and his "sincere demonstrated friendship for farmers." He received the Wheat Industry Man of the Year Award in 1964 from the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Wheat Growers Association. In 1965, Frank Carlson received Distinguished Service in Agriculture Awards from the Future Farmers of America and also from the Kansas State Grange. In the same year, the Kansas 4-H Foundation awarded him a special certificate of appreciation and gratitude.

During his service in the House of Representatives, Frank Carlson began to acquire publications of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, particularly the annual yearbooks. Early editions were acquired from his friends and colleagues, Congressman and Mrs. Kahn of California. The complete collection of these publications from 1894 is in the library.

FRANK CARLSON
RETIRES FROM PUBLIC OFFICE

On December 19, 1967, at a press conference in the Jayhawk Hotel, Topeka, Kansas, Frank Carlson announced, after 40 years of Public Service, he would not seek re-election to the United States Senate. He planned to retire from the Senate when his term expired in January of 1969, so he could return to Kansas where he could look after his farms and be with his family.

In retirement, Frank Carlson remained active. He was able to personally look after his three Cloud County farms, visiting each of them several times a week.

Several times each year, he would return to the East Coast to attend meetings of the Direct Mail and Marketing Association and the Director's Meetings of the National Liberty Corporation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Early in 1969, he became a Director of the Central National Bank in Junction City, Kansas as well as a member of the Bank's Trust Committee.

During his retirement, Frank Carlson served as a Trustee for the Menninger Foundation, Kiwanis' Foundation, 4-H Foundation, the Masonic Foundation, and the Carlson Lecture Series at Kansas Wesleyan College in Salina.

Frank Carlson was the Chairman of the Kansas Cancer Crusade, and Chairman of the WHEAT CENTER, U.S.A., and the Food Conference at Kansas State University.

FRANK CARLSON

HOME

Frank and Alice Carlson have always maintained a home at Concordia, Kansas. Their first home was located on the family farm three miles west of Concordia.

The Carlson's daughter, Eunice Marie, was born December 20, 1926. After schooling in the Concordia and Washington, D. C. schools, she attended the University of Kansas, graduating in 1948. September 4, 1948, she married Edward J. Rolfs of Junction City, Kansas. They have three children, Christine Rolfs Munson (1952), Edward Carlson Rolfs (1954), and Thomas James Rolfs (1958).

A foster son, Millard Ross lived with the Carlsons after the death of his father in 1920. He attended the Concordia schools before he went to Washburn University and later to Kansas University where he finished a course in Journalism in 1939. May 8, 1949, he married Wilma Staehli of Abilene, Kansas. They have two children, Shelly Ross Montgomery (1956) and Kevin Ross (1959).

Frank Carlson was always an active member of the Baptist Church. As a youth of 16 years of age, he was instrumental in organizing a Sunday school in a rural area six miles southwest of Concordia. He was elected superintendent and it developed into West Branch Community Center that received state-wide recognition. Throughout his life, his constant witness as a Christian has been evident. His extensive collection of religious books reflect his interest in this area.