

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SPEAKERS OF THE IDAHO STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Number 434

Revised 1986

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James Franklin Hunt, May 7, 1858 - June 11, 1917

A native of Parowan, Utah, where his parents camped on their way from San Bernardino to Ogden, J. Frank Hunt grew up on a ranch near Oxford, Idaho. (His father, a Nauvoo legion major and a Mormon Battalion captain, assisted C. C. Rich in founding San Bernardino, where he lived until that settlement was recalled to Utah during Albert Sidney Johnston's Utah campaign.) Frank Hunt became a Mormon missionary and bishop before completing fourteen years of legislative service (1895-1896, 1901-1910, and 1913-1914), including three terms as speaker (1903-1908) followed by two more as state senator. Nominated as a Republican candidate for lieutenant governor in 1898, he lost to a Silver Republican-Democratic nominee. He also was appointed an Idaho State Reform School trustee after serving as a legislative sponsor for that institution.

Bryan Glavin, July 2, 1898 - March 22, 1965

A native of Warren, Minnesota, Barney Glavin moved to Seattle before settling on an early Salmon Tract farm near Twin Falls in 1909. He continued to work some winters in Seattle shipyards and at other jobs there. In 1944 he was elected a legislative representative from Twin Falls County, and after reelection in 1946, he served as speaker. During his term as speaker, he became an Idaho Power Company director in April 1947, and served in that capacity for eighteen years. He was nationally noted as a trap shooter; President of the Twin Falls Rod and Gun Club (1962-1965) and an officer in a national Amateur Trapshooting Association, he won a top Las Vegas contest award in 1955 and was active in Phoenix and Tucson trap shoots as well. He served as a Salmon River Canal Company officer and was prominent in community affairs.

John Hohnhorst, July 6, 1910 -

A native of Mount Zion, Missouri, John Hohnhorst moved to Hansen, Idaho, in 1916 and then to Hazelton a year later. In 1932 he graduated in agronomy from the University of Idaho and continued farming near Hazelton. He specialized in potatoes and potato seed, but also raised some hay and grain as well as cattle and sheep. A community leader, he served on Hazelton's school board from about 1936 to 1964, as well as a member of his Northside Canal Water Board--an irrigators' agency. In politics he became Jerome County Republican chairman and attended a number of state conventions. After election as Jerome County legislative representative in 1942, he served eight years in that capacity, including a term as speaker in 1949-1950. He still continues to operate his Hazelton farm.

William Leary Mills, May 16, 1912 -

A native of Boise, Larry Mills grew up in Garden Valley on a cattle ranch. Completing high school in Garden Valley in 1930, he attended Carroll College in Helena, Montana, and the University of Idaho in Moscow. During his school years he also gained experience as a United States Forest Service and United States Geological Survey employee. Then in 1937 he joined Boise Payette Lumber Company's Garden Valley staff.

In 1940, he was elected a legislative representative of Boise County. After adjournment of that session, he accepted a position in Potlatch with another large Idaho lumber firm, Potlatch Forests, Incorporated. Two years later he entered military service, participating in Army invasions of Saipan and Okinawa. Then after returning for a time to Potlatch, he resumed his legislative service, representing Latah County for six years after 1946. During that time, he also completed a University of Idaho master's degree in education in 1949.

His legislative career included two years as speaker during his fourth term, to which he was elected in 1950. Then in June 1951, during his term as speaker but between legislative sessions, he became secretary to Congressman Hamer Budge in Washington, D.C. Continuing in that position until 1954, he finally moved back to Boise to become director of public relations for Boise-Cascade--successor to Boise Payette Lumber Company, his initial employer.

He engaged in a variety of civic affairs: Pacific Northwest Development Association, Salvation Army Advisory Board, Boise United Fund (president), Boise Chamber of Commerce (executive committee), American Red Cross (Idaho vice-chairman), American Legion (commander, Potlatch post), Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers (his grandparents settled in Idaho as early as 1863), Elks Lodge, and Knights of Columbus, for example. He also returned to legislative service after his election from Ada County in 1962 and 1964. Altogether, he spent twelve years as a legislator, representing three different counties as he moved about Idaho. In December, 1964, he joined Robert Hansberger of Boise Cascade in initiating a major Boise downtown urban redevelopment project. His most recent position brought him back into government service as an Idaho member of a federal Pacific Northwest Regulatory Commission supervising regional power development. He still continues in that important assignment.

Ronald Herndon Young, Jr., March 10, 1916 -

A native of Twin Falls, Bill [the name he always goes by] Young grew up on a farm near Roswell and Parma. A college of Idaho graduate in 1938, he entered George Washington University law school. Then in 1941, he interrupted his legal studies to accept a civilian position with Pacific Naval Airbases in Guam.

After Japanese forces captured Guam, December 10, 1941, he was interned in Kobe, Japan, until September 13, 1945. Then he completed his law degree at George Washington University in 1947 and gained admission to Idaho's state bar. Returning to his home near Parma, he farmed there through 1960. His specialty was management of sugar beet, potato, onion, garlic, hay, grain, and sheep-raising enterprises. He also served as Parma Chamber of Commerce president, 1947-1949, and as Island Highline Ditch Company president after 1952. A member of Idaho's Advertising Commission and of the National Potato and Onion Association, he also had Masonic, Shrine, and Elk memberships.

Very shortly after his return to Parma, he was elected in 1948 as a Canyon County legislative representative. His legislative service continued for twenty years. After becoming majority leader in his second term, he had two more terms as speaker, 1953-1956. Then he became senator from Canyon County. In his final term, he was chosen president pro tem (Idaho's highest elective senate office) from 1967-1968. No other Idaho legislator has been elected to both of these top positions.

During his legislative career, he moved from Parma to Nampa, where he served as justice of the peace, April 1-December 31, 1961, and entered into a law practice from 1962-1971. He held a number of Republican party posts during that time. Then in 1971 he became clerk of Idaho's supreme court until July, 1982, when he retired from that administrative position. Then in December, 1982, he resumed his Nampa law practice, in which he is associated with former Idaho Chief Justice Henry McQuade.

Elvon Hampton, February 21, 1909 -

A native of Genesee, Idaho, Elvon Hampton graduated from the nearby University of Idaho in agriculture in 1933 and continued to farm there from then on. Active in community and state affairs, he served as a Farmers' Union warehouse director for nineteen years, part of that time as chairman. He also was a longtime Genesee community church elder, a Scottish Rite Mason, a Shriner, and an Elk's Lodge member. Elected as a legislative representative from Latah County in 1944, he was chosen again in 1948 to begin an additional series of terms lasting from 1949 to 1958. He became speaker during his final term. Then from 1960 to 1978 he served on the Pacific Northwest Grain Grower's Board of Directors in Portland. From 1961-1971 he also was a University of Idaho regent and State Board of Education member. He now is a retired farmer living in Genesee.

Robert Doolittle, August 2, 1898 - September 25, 1976

A native of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Robert Doolittle moved to North Idaho in 1911; after his marriage to Anna LeJeune of Thompson Falls, Montana, he operated several Idaho sawmills

around Priest River. Aside from his legislative career, he served twenty years as a Bonner County School Board member, was chosen Priest River Chamber of Commerce president, and presided over a number of Fraternal organizations including Sandpoint's Elks lodge, Idaho's Panhandle Shrine, OES Calam Shrine in Lewiston, Sandpoint Royal Arch Masons, Sandpoint Knights Templar, and Priest River's Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons. Beginning in 1948, he was elected Bonner County's legislative representative for a tenure that lasted six terms. He became minority leader for two terms, and advanced to speaker for a term following election of a Democratic legislature in 1958, when an anti-labor initiative measure resulted in Idaho's last Republican loss of legislative control.

William Denman Eberle, June 5, 1923 -

A native of Boise, William D. Eberle graduated from Stanford University in 1945 and received his MBA at Harvard (1947) before completing his law degree at Harvard in 1949. Then he became a partner in his father's Boise law firm (Richards, Haga, and Eberle) from 1950 to 1960. Elected to Idaho's legislature in 1952, he represented Ada County for ten years, serving as House majority leader (1957-1958), minority leader (1959-1960), and as speaker during his final term.

During his legislative service he became a director of Boise Cascade Corporation (1952-1968), advancing to secretary (1960-1965) and vice-president (1961-1966) before joining a New York City firm, American Standard (1966-1971), where he became company president and board chairman. Then he accepted federal appointment to a series of international trade and economic positions: President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations (1971-1975); executive director, President Ford's Cabinet Council on International Economic Policy, 1974-1975; and membership on President Ford's Economic Policy Board (1974-1975), all in Washington.

In 1975, he became Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association president for a two-year term. He also was a Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation Director, an Ampco-Pitts Corporation director, a Geosource Company director, a Fraser Paper Company director; chairman of EBCO, Incorporated; chairman of Holders' Capital Corporation; and president of Manchester Associates, Limited, and of Kansas Refined Helium Company.

His political activities included chairmanship of Idaho's Republican Finance Committee membership. Professional and business associations include American Council on Foreign Relations membership; United Nations Atlantic Council; Committee for Economic Development; Idaho Bar Association; American Bar Association; and vice-chairmanship, United States Council, International Chamber of Commerce. He was a trustee of Stanford University, 1970 to 1980.

Peter Thomas Cenarrusa, December 16, 1917 -

Of Basque descent but a native of Carey, Idaho, Pete Cenarrusa represents his state's most distinctive population element. During his University of Idaho academic career, he was a member of Idaho's national intercollegiate championship boxing team. After graduating with a BS in agriculture (1940), he taught a year in Cambridge, Idaho, prior to becoming a Marine Corps pilot and flying instructor (1942-1946), advancing to a commission as major. He resumed his teaching career in Glenns Ferry and Carey for a brief period, and developed a sheep ranch near Carey in 1946. Then in 1950 he was elected legislative representative from Blaine County. After completing nine terms (18 years) including service as House speaker, 1963-1967, he was appointed secretary of state in 1967. Elected to five more four-year terms as secretary of state--a record unmatched in Idaho legislative history--he was honored in a variety of ways: Agricultural Hall of Fame, Idaho Athletic Hall of Fame, and honorary membership, Future Farmers of America. His business and professional associations include Idaho Government Reorganization Committee; Blaine County Woolgrowers Association; Blaine County Livestock Marketing Association; president, Carey Chamber of Commerce; president, Idaho Flying Legislators; chairman, Idaho Legislative Council, and Idaho delegate, Council of State Governments. As secretary of state, he held several state appointments: State Board of Examiners, State Board of Land Commissioners, and the State Board of Canvassers. In 1976 and 1984 he was a Republican National Convention delegate. A highly competent pilot for more than forty years, he has flown more than a million miles without an accident.

William John Lanting, March 18, 1918 -

A native of Twin Falls, Bill Lanting became a Salmon tract farmer and rancher in 1940. Active in agricultural organizations (Grange, Farm Bureau, and Idaho Cattlemans' Association), he also became a Filer School District trustee (1952-1961) prior to entering legislative service for seven terms after his initial election in 1958. He had two terms as majority leader (1963-1966) and three more as speaker (1967-1972), as well as legislative council chairmanship. During this time, he also was Water Problems Committee chairman (1964-1965) and Human Resources Committee president. Nationally active in a number of Council of State Government positions (Board of Managers as well as national chairman), he also was a Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce director.

Allan F. Larsen, April 4, 1919 -

A native of Lower Presto (near Blackfoot, Idaho), A. F. Larsen developed a potato farm near Firth after attending Utah

State Agricultural College in Logan for two years. Active in agricultural organizations, especially potato farmers (president, Potato Growers of Idaho; president National Potato Council), he also served as vice-chairman, Western Farmers' Board, Seattle; as president, Rocky Mountain Machinery--a John Deere agency; and as a North Bingham Soil Conservation director. Elected in 1966 to represent a Bingham County legislative district, he served six terms--initially from 26A (1967-1972), after which he was redistricted into 27 (1972-1978). He was House speaker, 1974-1978, in his final two terms. In 1978 he was Republican candidate for governor, but was not elected to that office.

Ralph Olmstead, February 3, 1925 -

A native of Twin Falls, Ralph Olmstead entered Naval service (1944-1946) after graduating from Twin Falls High School. Then he completed his BS in agriculture (University of California, Davis) prior to returning to raise cattle on his ranch five miles south of Twin Falls. A county highway commissioner, 1950-1972, before representing Twin Falls County in Idaho's legislature, 1972-1982, he also was active in stockraisers associations: Idaho Cattle Feeders' Association (president, 1962), National Livestock and Meat (director for six years), and Idaho Beef Council. In his two concluding legislative terms (1978-1982), he served as House speaker.

Thomas Walter Stivers, September 6, 1918 -

A native of Maroa, Illinois, Tom Stivers moved to Twin Falls about 1926 and became a Naval seaman in 1942, serving in Pacific Theater Operations (USS Swallow, 1942-1944) prior to conclusion of his military service in 1945. His postwar public service in Twin Falls included a year and a half as Veteran's Service Officer, followed by twelve years as county clerk, and auditor, and recorder from 1951 to 1963. He then took over an abstract and title insurance company until 1969, when he became vice-president of a Twin Falls corporation dealing in real estate securities. He also was president of several other title companies (Sawtooth Title Company, Sun Valley; Title Fact, Inc., Twin Falls; Western Title Company, Custer County) and an American Bank of Commerce director in Boise. A member of a variety of business and professional associations (Twin Falls Board of Realtors, Magic Valley Building Contractors' Association, Idaho Land Title Association), he was a Republican National Convention delegate in 1976, 1980, and 1984. Representing Twin Falls County in Idaho's legislature for six terms after his election in District 25 in 1974, he served as House speaker from 1982 to 1986.

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