

# The Voice

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"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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**EDITORIALS**

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

## Civil Service Worker Retires

WASHINGTON (ANP)—After completing 34 years of service in the department of navy, John M. Brent was presented a scroll last week by Navy Secretary Dan A. Kimbell. The presentation was made at the Pentagon building upon the occasion of Brent's retirement from the civil service.

The retiring employee served as messenger to the Secretary of

Navy for the past 24 years, working under six secretaries.

Guests at the ceremony included John L. Sullivan, who presented Brent with the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Award in 1948, and James C. Evans, special assistant to the secretary of defense.

Brent was born in George County, Va., in 1886 and received his education at the Dunbar high school in Washington. He enlisted in the U.S. naval reserve in 1918, serving nearly a year and a half.

Upon release from the navy, he began his civil service career as a messenger in the navy allotment office, bureau of supplies and accounts. After 10 years in that office he was transferred to the office of the secretary of navy.

The Meritorious Civilian Service Award which Brent received four years ago stated that:

"Throughout his career Mr. Brent has applied himself to task in a manner which has contributed materially to the orderly operation of the offices to which he was assigned. He has been a loyal, willing, cooperative worker, and is richly deserving of the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Award."

## Press Club Honors President Truman

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—President Harry S. Truman was presented with a bronze plaque in the Rose Garden of the White House last week by a committee from the Capital Press Club.

The club's top honor award went to the President this year because of his continued forthright stand on civil rights.

According to the inscription on the plaque, the tribute was made to the President because he:

"Unequivocally and with valor utilized his presidential powers of informing the people and molding public opinion to insist that the nation believe in and live by the Christian ideal of brotherhood and the constitutional principle of human equality."

The presentation was made by the club's president, Oscar Haynes. Other members of the delegation consisted of Ernest Humbles, vice president; Miss Revella Clay, secretary; Al Sweeney, chairman of the speakers bureau; and Dr. Arthur P. Davis, substituting for the treasurer, Sherman Briscoe, who was out of the city.



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Nebraska's Senators (5)

Alvin Saunders served Nebraska as territorial governor as well as United States Senator. I discussed his earlier career some time ago in connection with his service as governor of Nebraska territory from 1861 to statehood in 1867.

Governor Saunders was elected to the Senate in 1877, defeating Senator Phineas W. Hitchcock after a struggle described as "the most bitter and hottest ever known." Hitchcock, while a Republican had been elected by a coalition of Republicans and Democrats and this made him most unpopular with a large segment of the Republican party which felt that with a clear majority among the voters of the state and in the legislature, the Republican party had no need to collaborate with the Democrats in choosing a United States Senator.

At the time of his election, Senator Saunders was 59 years of age. He was a large, portly, prepossessing man, with snow-white hair and beard. In appearance, he looked every inch the United States Senator as Americans of the 19th century were prone to think of him; in action, he was an able representative of the interests of Nebraska and the Northwest.

As was true of most western Senators, Mr. Saunders took an active interest in Indian and territorial affairs. He felt, with justifi-

fication, that his wartime service as governor of Nebraska territory qualified him to speak with some authority on both subjects. His colleagues recognized his wealth of experience with the result that Senator Saunders' voice on western matters was one of considerable influence.

Of particular interest to Nebraska was his effort to secure correction of the state's northern boundary line, whereby Nebraska acquired about 600,000 acres in present Keya Paha, Boyd and Knox counties. He also worked actively for increased appropriations to improve navigation on the Missouri River.

Mr. Saunders sought re-election at the end of his first term in 1883, but in the long contest before the legislature, in which a number of strong Republicans sought the prize, he was defeated, the office finally going to Charles F. Manderson.

Senator Saunders' last public service was as a member of the Utah Commission, a non-partisan board created by Congress in 1883 to supervise the suppression of polygamy in Utah.

Senator Saunders was active in real estate and banking in Omaha, devoting all of his time to those pursuits in the later years of his life. He was an active promoter of the great Trans-Mississippi Exposition in 1898. He died Nov. 1, 1899.

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