

EDITORIAL COMMENT



ARTHUR CAPPER

THE PASSING of Arthur Capper on December 19th the farmers of America lost their most ardent long-time friends. He was 86 years old, and is survived by a sister.

For three decades he served in the United States from Kansas, retiring in 1949. As a leader in farm legislation in congress, Arthur Capper was frequently referred to as the voice of the mid-west farmer. When he retired he was chairman of the senate agricultural committee. Legislation bearing his name included the Capper-Volstead act, the foundation for farm cooperatives; the Capper-Tincher act, providing for the regulation of grain exchanges; and the Capper-Ketcham act, authorizing permanent appropriations for agricultural extension work.

While a student in high school, Arthur Capper became interested in newspaper work. At the time of his death he was not only president of Capper-Harman-Slocum, publishers of the Michigan Farmer, The Ohio Farmer and Pennsylvania Farmer, but he owned 5 other farm magazines, 2 daily newspapers, and 2 radio stations. The combined circulation of these publications amounts to 4,500,000.

Children were his main hobby, although he had none of his own. He was a member of

the National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work. Many outstanding farmers of today look back on the help they received through the Capper Pig and Calf Clubs as the beginning of their success in the livestock business. His crippled children's fund relieved pain and unhappiness for thousands of handicapped youngsters. Great numbers of them attended his annual birthday parties.

Not only was Arthur Capper a firm friend of agriculture and youth. He was also a vigorous defender of the American way of life.

When asked by a friend to explain his philosophy of life, he offered this simple definition that might well be copied by many of us. "I try to live each day so that I like to live with myself, and feel that tomorrow I still will like to live with myself."

Mr. Oscar Perkins received word last week of the death of his brother, Jasper Perkins of Yuba City, California. Mr. Perkins is a former resident of Grand Ledge.

Leader Dies At Nashville

Lewis Lentz, Ex-Mayor, Passes at 92

Nashville—Services for Lewis E. Lentz, 92, retired Nashville manufacturer and former village president, who died Saturday at his home, will be held at 2 Tuesday at Otto funeral home. Burial will be in Lakeview cemetery mausoleum.

Mr. Lentz was associated with Lentz Table Co. 60 years, first as a partner and then as sole owner until he retired in 1943.

He also was the last surviving charter member of the local Knights of Pythias lodge.

Until his factory closed two years ago it had been for many years the town's leading industry.

Mr. Lentz came here with his

parents from New York when he was a child and his father, Jacob, founded the furniture factory in 1866.

He had been a director of the former Farmers & Merchants bank and served as a member of the village council as well as village president.

Surviving is a daughter, Mrs. David C. Buist of Grand Rapids.