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### Cornelius Hedges to be installed in the Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MAY 6

Cornelius Hedges, Montana pioneer journalist, educator, legislator and lawyer, will be installed in the Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame at the annual Dean Stone Night at Montana State University Sunday.

The installation ceremonies at the annual School of Journalism banquet will be conducted by Miss Dorothy M. Johnson, secretary-manager of the Montana Press Association and assistant professor of journalism at MSU, and Lloyd G. Schermer, publisher of the Missoulian-Sentinel and vice president of the MPA.

Hedges will be the 10th person elected to the Newspaper Hall of Fame since it was established in 1958 by the state press association. Portraits and biographies of the honored journalists are displayed at the School of Journalism.

Hedges, who came to Montana in 1864 and settled in Helena in 1865, spent many years on the editorial staff of the Helena Herald. While with the paper he was involved in a wide variety of activities which aided Montana's development.

He was appointed the first superintendent of public instruction in 1872 and served four two-year terms. He has been called the "Father of Montana Education" for his activities in organizing the school system by gathering teachers, visiting schools, organizing teachers' institutes and fighting racial segregation.

President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Hedges U. S. District Attorney for Montana in 1871. In 1875 Hedges was elected probate judge for Lewis and Clark County. He was a member of the state's constitutional convention and was Lewis and Clark County's first senator in the state legislature.

(more)



A member of the Washburn-Langford-Doane expedition to the Yellowstone area, Hodges discouraged private ownership of the area for profit. Through newspaper articles he convinced many disbelieving persons that tales of the Yellowstone country were true. His writing helped lead legislators to create Yellowstone National Park, the first national park.

While associated with the Herald, Hedges became an active member of the Montana Press Association and served as its secretary one year.

He also was active in local civic, church and lodge activities.

He was born at Westfield, Mass., in 1831. After receiving degrees from Yale and Harvard Law School he began law practice at Independence, Iowa. There he also became editor and publisher of the Independent Civilian.

He died in Helena in 1907. A granddaughter, Mrs. Helen Brazier, and a great-grandson, Goeffrey Brazier, reside in Helena.

Journalists are elected to the Hall of Fame by the two-thirds vote of the Montana Press Association convention. Candidates are recommended by a committee on the basis of outstanding contributions to Montana journalism.

The Hall of Fame Committee comprises: G. M. Moss, former publisher of the Whitefish Pilot; Joel F. Overholser, publisher of the Fort Benton River Press; Harold G. Stearns, publisher of the Harlowton Times and Eastern Montana Clarion at Ryegate; Duane W. Bowler, managing editor of the Billings Gazette; Joe Hocking, former publisher of the Glasgow Courier; Mel Ruder, publisher of the Hungry Horse News at Columbia Falls, and Dean Nathan B. Blumberg of the MSU School of Journalism.

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