5-3-1962

Harry B. Brooks elected to Newspaper Hall of Fame

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, MAY 3

Harry B. Brooks, for 40 years one of the strongest editorial voices in Montana journalism, will be installed in the Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame during Dean Stone Night at Montana State University Sunday.

The installation ceremonies at the annual School of Journalism banquet will be conducted by Fred J. Martin, publisher of the weekly Park County News in Livingston and president of the Montana State Press Association.

Brooks is the seventh person to be 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 in the School of Journalism.

During a decade with the Great Falls Tribune, Brooks was among the most widely quoted Montana editors. President Roosevelt in 1937 praised him as an editor "of more than usual ability." Referring to a Brooks editorial entitled "Balancing the Budget of Our Natural Resources," the President declared that "this editor has written, in simple language that the layman can read and understand, a clear and accurate statement. It is so fine that it speaks my own mind better than I could speak it myself."

In the field of Montana reclamation, he is credited with having been one of the principal advocates of construction of the Fresno Dam to store irrigation waters for the Milk River irrigation project. He was the first president of the organization which sought to secure the dam and he gave the dedicatory address when the dam was completed in 1939.

He served as a member of the State Republican Central Committee, 1922-34; secretary of the Montana Crime Commission in 1931, and president of the Montana State Press Association, 1931-32. He was very active in civic affairs.
Brooks was born Jan. 15, 1877, at Renville, Minn. He studied on his grand­
father's farm, was graduated from high school when he was 14 and from the Univer­
sity of Minnesota four years later.

He died of a heart attack while at work in the Tribune office in 1944. His
wife, Anna, still resides in Great Falls and his son, Jesse, lives in Pasadena,
Calif.

Others previously installed in the Newspaper Hall of Fame are John H. Durston,
journalist; Arthur L. Stone, first dean of the School of
Journalism; Joseph D. Scanlan, editor and publisher of the Miles City Daily Star;
O. S. Warden, publisher of the Great Falls Tribune; Harry J. Kelley, editor of the
Flathead Monitor of Kalispell, and Capt. James Hamilton Mills, editor of the
Montana Post in territorial days.

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