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## David B. Doner Scrapbook

SDSU Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library

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# David B. Doner Scrapbook

## Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections  
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114  
1300 North Campus Drive  
Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: 605-688-5094  
Email: [arcrefs@sdstate.edu](mailto:arcrefs@sdstate.edu)

## Collection Summary

### *Identifier*

UA 53.34

### *Title*

David B. Doner Scrapbook

### *Creator*

Doner, David B.

### *Dates*

1939-1971

### *Extent*

1.0 linear feet (1 oversize box)

### *Language*

English

### *Repository*

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Access note*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

### *Preferred Citation*

*Name of item.* David B. Doner Scrapbook. UA 53.34. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Abstract*

David B. Doner was Registrar at South Dakota State College. This collection is composed of a scrapbook, which largely documents his career of public service

## **Biographical Note**

Born July 7, 1895 in Sully County (SD) to Benton and Harriette L. (Hunt) Doner, David "Dave" Benton Doner became known as "Mr. State College" because he spent almost his entire life (42 years) in association with SDSU, dedicating his efforts to its furtherance.

He had four brothers (Ralph D., John C, Harold H, and Howard M) and one sister, Ruth L. (John) Evans. On April 24, 1918, he married Edna Pearl Beals, with whom he had three children: Valeria (Paul) Marcil, Dean Doner, and Keith Doner. Edna Doner died in 1975.

In 1913, David Doner arrived at SDSC, a member of the first four-year class to be graduated from its School of Agriculture (for high school age students). In 1918, his freshman college year was interrupted by WWI. In 1919 and 1920, he taught agriculture to returning soldiers at SDSC. In 1920, he became assistant secretary of the College, while working on his B.S. degree, which he received in 1928. From 1922 to 1953, he was the SDSC Registrar; in 1953, he became director of Admissions and Records. In 1932, he became the Dean of Men. From 1936 to 1961, he was Secretary of the alumni council, where he was editor of the *Alumnus*. From its inception in 1945 until 1964, he was the Treasurer of the SDSC Alumni Foundation, which awarded him "Distinguished Alumnus" in 1964. He retired in 1964 and lived Apache Junction, AZ. In 1973, SDSU awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Humanities.

David Doner was also active in the community: supervisor of the Boy Scouts training program; member and President of the Brookings (SD) School Board; Sec-Treasurer of the SD State Associated School Boards; District Governor and International Trustee of Kiwanis; and Chair of the finance committee to raise funds to build the Crippled Children's Hospital and School in Sioux Falls.

David Doner died in September of 1978.

During his career, he served nine SDSU Presidents and signed 12,693 of the diplomas awarded by SDSU. At his final commencement in this role on June 7, 1964, the last diploma he signed was the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree awarded by SDSC to Ray C. Cunningham of Ames, IA. Ray Cunningham (then of Conde, SD) had met David Doner at "the train depot, got me a room and a job and took me under his fatherly wing," when David first arrived at SDSU from his family's Potter County farm in November, 1913.

## **Contents Note**

The collection is comprised of David B. Doner's scrapbook, which largely documents his career of public service. It also includes five loose family photographs.

## **Key Words**

Doner, David B.

## **Administrative Information**

### *Conditions Governing Access*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

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warning concerning copyright restrictions to every researcher who requests copies of documents. Although the copyright law is under constant redefinition in the courts, it is ultimately the responsibility of the researcher to properly use copyrighted material.

## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	Scrapbook of David B. Doner includes many news clippings and approximately 20 certificates related to his public life. Approximately 8 black and white of SDSU, 8 of alumni activities, 36 personal snapshots, as well as 9 8" x11" and 13 smaller glossies of public figures (Governor Foss, President Eisenhower, Senator Mundt, Christy Christensen, etc.). Also included are 5 menus/programs, 2 letters, 1 telegram, the 1959? "Stadium for State" publication, and approximately 8 photos of sights from travels.	1939-1971
1	2	Five 8" x 11" black and white photographs of Doner families taken March 19, 1949 in Iowa City, Iowa	1949