

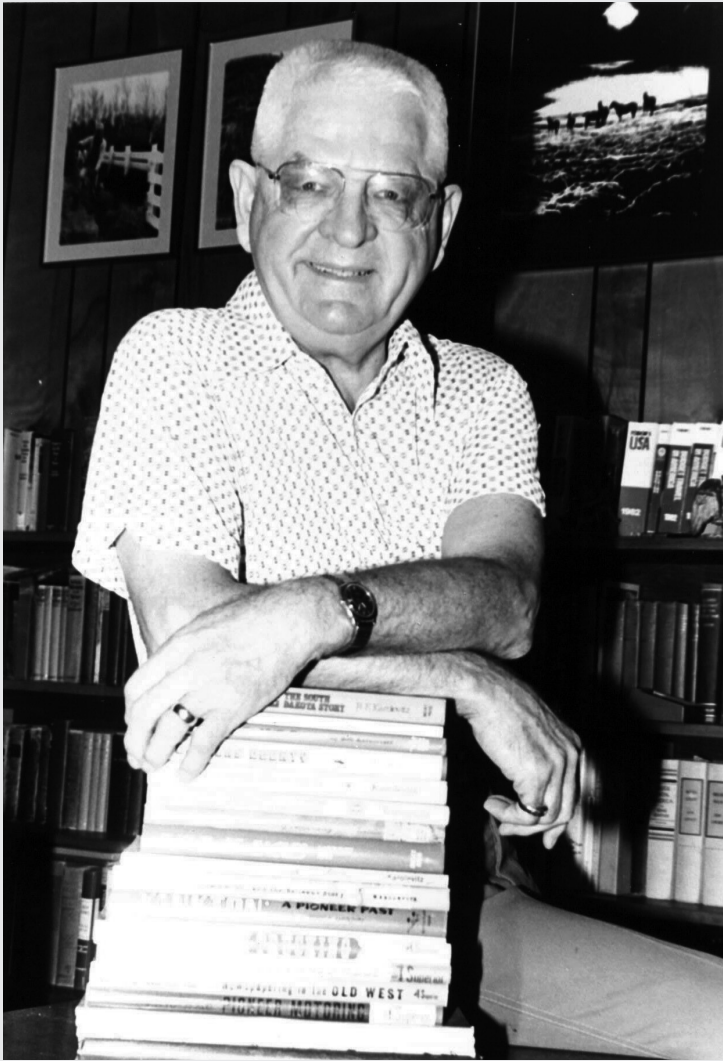
## Dakota Images

Robert F. Karolevitz, journalist, historian, and humorist, was born 26 April 1922 in Yankton, South Dakota, where he began his writing career as editor of the high school newspaper and yearbook. After graduating in 1940, Karolevitz began studying printing and journalism at South Dakota State College in Brookings, but his studies were interrupted by service with the United States Army Infantry in Japan and the Philippines during World War II. He attained the rank of captain in the Twenty-fifth Infantry, and, as division historian, wrote his first book. Karolevitz then returned to South Dakota State College and graduated in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in printing and rural journalism. He went on to earn a master's degree in journalism from the University of Oregon and settled in Seattle, Washington, in 1951 with his wife, Phyllis Gunderson. The couple eventually had two daughters.

Following service during the Korean Conflict, Karolevitz began working as a publicist for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair and soon branched into political ghost writing, commercial writing, and advertising. In 1967, he moved with his family to Cedar Crest Farm near Mission Hill, South Dakota. From there, he continued his career as a freelance writer, eventually authoring nearly forty books and thousands of articles and features. Among his best-known works on South Dakota are *Where Your Heart Is: The Story of Harvey Dunn*, which details the career of the famous illustrator of pioneer life, and *Challenge: The South Dakota Story*, a history of the state widely used in classrooms. He also wrote several books on the history of his hometown, including *Yankton: A Pioneer Past*, and works on Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Hospital.

Karolevitz was a popular public speaker and served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Yankton County Historical Society, South Dakota Hall of Fame, and South Dakota Art Museum. He was elected to the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees in 1973, serving until 2005. He was widely recognized with state, national, and international awards for his writing and civic involvement. Robert Karolevitz died on 17 June 2011 at the age of eighty-nine and is buried in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery in Yankton.

—Jennifer L. Littlefield



**Robert F. Karolevitz**