

## Dakota Images

William O. (“Doc”) Farber, one of South Dakota’s most influential university professors, was born in Geneseo, Illinois, on 4 July 1910, the eldest son of Charles W. and Hulda Ogden Farber. The valedictorian of his class at Geneseo High School in 1928, Farber received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in political science from Northwestern University.

Soon after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin in 1935, Farber joined the University of South Dakota (USD) as an assistant professor of government. He taught briefly at what is now North Dakota State University, but returned to USD in 1938 to spend most of the next thirty-eight years as chair of the Department of Government (now the Department of Political Science). Reflecting his belief that academic research should inform policymaking, Farber founded USD’s Government Research Bureau in 1938. During World War II, he served as state price officer in the Office of Price Administration, then as a warrant officer in the Army Air Forces.

Returning to USD after his military service, Farber combined public service with his research and teaching. In 1951, the South Dakota Legislature created the Legislative Research Council, with Farber serving as its first director until 1955. Farber brought his expertise to blue-ribbon commissions on local government operations and revisions to the South Dakota constitution. He was an influential supporter of the 1972 constitutional amendments that reorganized the executive branch and established the Unified Judicial System, and he coauthored a book on South Dakota state government. He also served as a foreign policy advisor to United States Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota.

In addition to his achievements in public service, Farber is remembered as a dedicated mentor. His home in Vermillion was informally known as “Farber Hall,” and his mentees proudly bore the appellation “Farber Boys,” a term that came to include female students, as well. Six “Farber Boys” became Rhodes Scholars. Farber retired in 1976 but remained an active member of the USD community until his death on 24 March 2007. His legacy continues with the Farber Fund, which supports student internships and study abroad, and the W. O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership. A statue of Farber installed in 2002 is now a campus landmark.

—Stephen S. Witte



**William O. Farber**

*Picture Credits:* All illustrations in this issue are property of the South Dakota State Historical Society except for those on the following pages: front cover (top), *Jackrabbit* (1969); front cover (bottom) and pp. 15, 21 (bottom), *Jackrabbit* (1970); back cover and pp. 9, 24, *Coyote* (1972), Archives and Special Collections, University Libraries, University of South Dakota (USD), Vermillion; p. 6, *Pasque* (1972); pp. 19, 98, Archives and Special Collections, University Libraries, USD; p. 21 (top), South Dakota State University Archives and Hilton M. Briggs Library Special Collections, South Dakota State University, Brookings; p. 32, *Sioux Falls City Directory, 1888-89* (Sioux Falls, D.T.: Chas. Pettibone & Co., 1888); p. 35, Jeffrey Kraus, [www.antiquephotographics.com](http://www.antiquephotographics.com), Modena, N.Y.; p. 41, *Syllabus* (1901), courtesy Student Publishing Co., Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; p. 53, Meredith Kirkendall, Huntingdon, U.K.; p. 61, Dean Tenold, Estevan, Sask.; pp. 72, 85, Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum, Mansfield, Mo.; p. 77, Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society, De Smet, S.Dak.; p. 81, collection of Lucille Masters Mone, courtesy Deanna Griffin.

*On the covers:* As in the rest of the country, the Vietnam War divided South Dakotans. On college campuses around the state, students and faculty voiced their opinions through protests like those staged during the governor's review of ROTC cadets at South Dakota State University in 1970 (front) and by students at the University of South Dakota in 1972 (back cover). In this issue, Daryl Webb looks at both pro-war and anti-war sentiment on South Dakota's college campuses in the 1960s and 1970s.

Copyright of South Dakota History is the property of South Dakota State Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.