

Henry M. Harren, former state Albany senator, historian, newspaperman

Henry M. Harren, 69, a former state senator from Albany, Minn., and retired survey analyst for the Minnesota Historical Society, died Friday at his home in Hastings.

Harren once wielded significant power over state employees as chairman of the Senate Civil Administration Committee. He was elected to represent Stearns County in 1954.

He most often caucused with the Conservatives when Republicans and DFLers in the officially nonpartisan

Legislature called themselves Conservatives and Liberals, but he called himself an independent. He sponsored a bill that required school bus service for parochial school children.

Harren was born in Albany, where his father ran the Albany Enterprise, a weekly newspaper, and Harren began working at the newspaper when he was 12. He attended St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., before World War II interrupted his education.

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He served with the Army in Europe and earned five battle stars. He fought in the Normandy invasion, Belgium and Germany. When the war ended, he finished his education at St. John's and worked on weekly newspapers in Texas and New Mexico. He returned to Albany to take over the Enterprise in 1950. Four years later he started a weekly newspaper in St. Joseph, Minn.

Harren served for 16 years in the Senate before he was defeated in 1970. He had headed the Civil Ad-

ministration Committee from 1963 to 1968 and was chairman of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission. He sold his weekly newspapers in 1972 and went to work for the Minnesota Historical Society.

6-3-1992

Harren had been active in the Catholic Aid Association and the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; daughters Leora Back, of Champlin, and JoAnn Nolan, of Richfield; sons

David, of St. Cloud; Gary, of Hastings; Mark, of Rice, Minn., and Jeff of San Diego, Calif.; brothers Art, of St. Cloud; Al, of Portland, Ore. Nick, of St. Paul, and Austen (Doc) of Cold Spring, Minn.; sisters Vicki Wahnschaffe, of Rockville, Minn. Theresa Majerus, of St. Cloud; Estelle Klemmer, of Albany, and Bernadette Kueffled, of Brainerd, Minn. and seven grandchildren. Services were held Monday. Arrangements were by the Caturia Funeral Home in Hastings.