



Charles H. Loucks

Charles H. Loucks is recognized for his prominent leadership and in serving the deaf population in this state for many years, between 1900 through 1937. He is well known as the founder of SDAAD, South Dakota Association for the Advancement of the Deaf.

Charles was born April 27, 1872 in Rockford, Iowa. At the age of 14, he entered the South Dakota School for the Deaf, being one of its first pupils. Following graduation in 1894, he enrolled at the Minnesota University. On June 10, 1896 he married Theresia Kapaun. Charles and Theresia were the first SDSD

alumni to marry. They had two children.

He had various types of jobs, such as passenger coach inspector and repairman for Milwaukee Railroad at Aberdeen. He was in charge of the Dairy and Creamery Department of the Dakota Farmer for 12 years. He was employed as a Butter-maker at the Trent Creamery. Lastly, since 1925, he was a manual training instructor in cabinetmaking class at the School for the Deaf for 15 years.

At the request of former SDSD students to hold a reunion in order to improve social life and to discuss issues on hand in regards to SDSD, Charles founded a permanent organization, SDAAD. The fundamental mission of the organization – which continues to this day – was to safeguard the civil rights of all deaf South Dakotans. Charles presided over this first meeting. At the second reunion, resolutions were passed to incorporate the organization under the laws of the state, on July 1, 1910. This led Charles to be the first President of the SDAAD and serve in the position for a total of 37 years.