



KANSAS LEGEND BIOGRAPHY

Clarence D. Batchelor (1888-1977)

Clarence D. Batchelor made his distinct mark on journalism with editorial cartoons. Born in Osage City, Kan., Batchelor attended school in Osage City and later attended Salina High School. Batchelor left Kansas to attend art school at the Chicago Art Institute from 1907-1910.

Upon finishing school, Batchelor returned home and took a job with the Salina Journal before moving to a position as a staff artist for The Kansas City Star. During this time, Batchelor was awarded a \$200 prize for the best six cartoons on public health by the American Medical Association. After just three years with the Star, Batchelor decided to freelance. In 1923, he began cartooning for the Ledger Syndicate in the New York Post. This was the beginning of Batchelor's legendary career creating political and editorial cartoons.

After several years with three different New York papers, Batchelor landed a job as chief editorial cartoonist for the New York Daily News, the position that led him to earn national acclaim for his work and where he would remain for most of his career. Batchelor's cartoons addressed social and political issues including women's suffrage, education, foreign aid, post-war repercussions and communist aggression.

On April 25, 1936, Batchelor published a cartoon titled "Come on in, I'll treat you right. I used to know your Daddy." in the Daily News. The cartoon graphically depicted War as a white-robed skeletal face talking to a youthful European man. In 1937, Batchelor won the Pulitzer Prize for best editorial cartoon for this provocative creation, and it can be seen today at the Huntington Library in San Merino, Calif.

Batchelor's works sent strong messages with moralizing viewpoints. After retiring from the Daily News in 1969, Batchelor finished his career at the National Review, a journal of the political right. In addition to the cartoons and sketches Batchelor created, he also dabbled in various other art forms. Two of his oil murals reside in the Daily News building, and he sculpted in bronze.

Batchelor and his third wife, Allegra Summers Taylor, contributed more than 6,000 of Batchelor's original cartoons in charcoal and crayon to the Syracuse University Library during their lifetimes. All cartoons are captions but most are undated. Batchelor lived in Deep River, Conn., where he passed away in 1977 at age 89.

