

John E. Carlson, attorney, counsellor and friend to youth, Rotarian and educator, but to us "Swede", a great athlete of an "ever-victorious" epoch, went on and made "All American" in life's strenuous competition.

John Carlson came up the hard way, but the honest way. The son of a Swedish immigrant, this boy who carried a Kansas City Star route in his Kansas City, Kansas, during high school days, quit this high school because his father advised him to marry and settle down early. The father argued that the income from this lucrative newspaper route was sufficient. He chose the alternative.

John was a great catcher on his high school team. Without him the team was impotent. The firemen of Kansas City, Kansas, waited on John's father and persuaded him to allow John to return to high school to play on the high school team and incidentally to graduate. In the early days the fire stations turned out fine baseball teams and it was only natural that the firemen would be interested in the success of John and his high school team. It was prophetic that a wreath from the Kansas City, Kansas, firemen occupied the central location at the bier showing the long and mutual affection.

The following year "Swede" matriculated at the University of Kansas where his fame as a baseball player far outshone his brilliance on the gridiron. It is rather significant of John Carlson that he always was in the center of things. In baseball he chose the position back of the plate, and on the football field he played the roving center position. "No passed balls" and "no player through his position" were two of his axioms for which he indefatigably fought. "Swede" Carlson had no peer on the intercollegiate gridiron or on the diamond. He made the "All Time" team of each.