

HODDING CARTER (1907-1972).

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One of the most prominent Southern newspaper editors of his era, Hodding Carter, Jr., crusaded against Louisiana politician Huey Long and racial discrimination. A recipient of a 1946 Pulitzer Prize for his journalism, Carter also distinguished himself as a writer, earning a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1945 and publishing numerous books of history, biography, fiction, and poetry.

Born February 3, 1907, to William Hodding Carter and Irma Dutart Carter, he grew up in Hammond, Louisiana, and attended Maine's Bowdoin College, where he graduated in 1927. After studying at Columbia University, he launched his journalism career in 1929 when he became a reporter for the New Orleans Item-Tribune. After brief stints with United Press International and the Associated Press, he collaborated with his wife, Betty Werlein Carter, to found the Daily Courier in Hammond in 1932. Still in his 20s, Carter drew national attention with his attacks on Long, whom he accused of corruption and demagoguery.

After Long's assassination and his own failed run for a seat in the Louisiana House of Representatives, Carter sold the Daily Courier and moved to Greenville, Mississippi, where he founded the Delta Star in 1936. As

editor of this paper and the Delta Democrat-Times, Carter developed a national reputation, particularly for his coverage of the Civil Rights Movement. As a white Southern moderate who argued against racial discrimination, however, he faced enormous opposition in segregated and turbulent Mississippi, where the state House of Representatives formally accused him of slander and betrayal. In 1962, Carter handed over the Delta Democrat-Times to his son, William Hodding Carter III, who would distinguish himself in journalism, as well, earning numerous awards for documentaries airing on public television. After leaving the newspaper, Carter published eight more books before his death of a heart attack in 1972.

Mark Canada

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