

### **William Rockefeller/Levingston (1810-1906)**

#### ***Father of World's Richest Man Banished to Northern Dakota Territory***

When William Avery Rockefeller lived near the present town of Park River, during the spring and summers of 1881-89, his son, John D. Rockefeller, was becoming the richest man in the world. William Rockefeller used the pseudonym William Levingston while he lived in Dakota Territory. Historians have not treated William Rockefeller kindly, and much of that is because of his own doing -- he was not a very likable person. At best, he was ambitious, clever, and cared little about what people thought of him, but the adjectives most often used to describe this man were much worse. He has been called a bigamist, quack doctor, snake-oil salesman, and confidence trickster. He abandoned his wife and was accused, without evidence, of a number of crimes, ranging from horse stealing to counterfeiting, at various times in his long career. His son, John D. Rockefeller, did a good job concealing the true identity and whereabouts of his notorious father, even though the press tried to uncover the scandalous story that they strongly believed existed.

### **Eagle Woman/Matilda Galpin (1820-1888)**

#### ***Only Native American Woman to Sign Treaty with United States Government***

One of the bravest and most honorable people to ever live in the Upper Plains later became the only Native American woman to sign a treaty with the U.S. government. Eagle Woman/Matilda Picotte Galpin, on at least four occasions, confronted warriors intent on killing whites. Her boldness, bravery, and intelligence saved the lives of the white men. She not only stood up to Indians, but in 1876, successfully defied unethical orders from the War Department and from Orvil Grant, the brother of the U.S. President.

### **Jasper Chapin (1822-1896)**

#### ***"Father of Fargo"***

The man known as the "Father of Fargo" owned some of the finest real estate in Fargo and, at one time, farmed the largest tract of land in Cass County. During the 1870s and early 80s, Jasper Chapin was perhaps the wealthiest man in what is now southeastern North Dakota. By the latter 80s, Chapin was broke and homeless, and on January 26, 1894, he committed suicide. "During his lifetime he was said to have gained and lost nine fortunes." Every time Chapin got knocked down, he would get up, dust himself off, and move on to another successful endeavor. However, in 1884, his beloved wife, Emma, died, and the grit and tenacity that were his trademarks were gone. Chapin fell into a deep depression and was unable to overcome the serious financial setbacks he suffered during the next few years.

### **Henry Capehart (1825-1895)**

#### ***Civil War General and Fargo Physician***

The man who succeeded General Custer as head of the famed 3rd Cavalry Division in the Civil War later became a physician in Fargo. Henry Capehart entered the war as a surgeon but, because of his "knowledge," "adroit strategy," "accomplished horsemanship," and familiarity with the terrain, was persuaded to become a cavalry officer. He quickly rose through the ranks and, through bravery and leadership ability, became a major general at war's end.

### **Enoch Adams (1829-1900)**

#### ***Founder & Editor of North Dakota's First Newspaper***

The first person to edit a newspaper for more than a month in what is now North Dakota was also the first published poet in the state. Captain Enoch G. Adams, a graduate of Yale University, was stationed at Fort Rice in 1865 when he decided to publish a newspaper, the *Frontier Scout*. Later, Adams became editor of the *Vancouver Register* and the *Columbian* of St. Helens, Oregon.

### **Grant Marsh (1834-1916)**

#### ***"Finest Riverboat Pilot Who Ever Lived"***

The man called the "finest riverboat pilot who ever lived" claimed that his life was saved early in his career by the wise decision of his boat-mate and good friend, Sam Clemens. In his biography, *The Conquest of the Missouri*, Grant Marsh told the author that in the winter of 1858-59, he, Clemens, and other members of the *A. B. Chambers No. 2* ran aground in the Mississippi when their boat ran out of fuel (wood) in the ice-crested river.

Marsh, Clemens, and other members of the riverboat climbed aboard a flat-boat to go to shore to replenish their wood supply. While in the smaller vessel, an ice-jam broke and the ice surged down upon them. Marsh yelled, "Turn back quick Sam, we'll be crushed!" Clemens shouted back, "No, go ahead as fast as you can!" The crew rowed on ahead of the surging ice and safely reached the shore where they were able to load up on wood. Marsh told his biographer, "But for Clemens, the lives of all would undoubtedly have been lost." Sam Clemens later became better known as Mark Twain.

### **Dennis Hannifin (1835-1917)**

#### ***Inspiration for Fred Flintstone, Archie Bunker, & Ralph Cramden***

According to the national press, the best known person in North Dakota around the time of statehood was a professional gambler and a political, philosophical curmudgeon. The *Logansport [Indiana] Journal* wrote, "Dennis Hannafin is one of the best known characters in North Dakota, and he used to be known all over the great Territory." The *San Antonio Daily Light* wrote, "Every man knows Dennis Hannifin. He is a North Dakota institution." California's *Overland Monthly* wrote, "Probably the most widely known man in the Northwest with a fame extending as far east as Washington [D. C.] is Dennis Hannifin."

### **William Harmon (1835-1903)**

#### ***Civil War Officer Instrumental in Founding Bismarck; Sturgis, SD; & Miles City, MT***

A man who earned the respect of both Sitting Bull and Teddy Roosevelt was also instrumental in the development of three different cities: Bismarck, North Dakota; Sturgis, South Dakota; and Miles City, Montana. During his life, William Harmon was a steamboat owner, Civil War officer, trading post operator, real estate agent, and large-scale rancher.

### **Thomas Rosser (1836-1910)**

#### ***Custer's West Point Roommate Became His Archrival on the Battlefield***

Two college roommates and "good friends" at West Point later became combative opponents in the Civil War when they led cavalry units against each other on the battlefield. In 1873, they were reunited as friends in northwestern Dakota Territory. After Colonel George Custer's defeat

and death at the Little Big Horn in 1876, his friend and former rival, Thomas Rosser, was one of Custer's biggest defenders in letters he wrote to a number of newspapers.

### **Lyman Casey (1837-1914)**

#### ***Bonanza Farmer, U.S. Senator, & Flax Pioneer***

The second man selected by the North Dakota legislature to represent the state in the U.S. Senate was a bonanza farmer who was reported to be the person that introduced flax to the state. Lyman Casey also founded the towns of Carrington, Melville, and Bourdelac in Foster County.

### **Newton Hubbard (1839-1909)**

#### ***Banking King of Red River Valley***

Despite being misinformed by the brother of the president of the Northern Pacific (NP) about the location where the railroad would cross the Red River, Civil War veteran Newton Hubbard emerged to become one of the wealthiest men of North Dakota in the late 1800s. Hubbard's companies owned general merchandizing stores in Brainerd, Glyndon, Lake Park, and Moorhead in Minnesota and Fargo, Casselton, Blanchard, Mayville, and Jamestown in North Dakota. In Fargo, his holdings included a bank, an elegant hotel, and a newspaper. His company established banks in Mayville and Casselton, and he was named president of a railroad. Hubbard also owned considerable Red River Valley farmland and real estate.

### **Alanson Edwards (1840-1908)**

#### ***"Man Who Ran Fargo"***

One of the two men who established the *Fargo Forum* had also been instrumental in founding two earlier papers in Fargo. Alanson Edwards, along with Horatio C. Plumley, began publishing the *Forum* in 1891. Edwards became the principle breadwinner for his family at the age of nine when his father died in 1849. He later was an officer in the Civil War, a newspaper publisher in Illinois, the warden at Joliet Prison, and a member of the Chicago Board of Trade.

### **James Raymond (1841-1903)**

#### ***Founder of North Dakota's First Bank***

North Dakota "is blest with a larger number of banks per capita than any other state in the Union." "The first person to engage in the banking business" in what is now North Dakota was a Civil War officer who later was the treasurer for all of Dakota Territory. James Raymond was one of the early movers and shakers vital in establishing a vigorous business climate in Bismarck. He relocated to Minneapolis to take over two large financial institutions there.

### **Tom Custer (1845-1876)**

#### ***First Double Medal of Honor Recipient Killed at the Battle of Little Big Horn***

The first person to be awarded the Medal of Honor on two separate occasions later served at Fort Abraham Lincoln. Tom Custer was the courageous younger brother of George A. Custer. At the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876, Tom, George, and a third brother, Boston Custer, were all killed. Tom, like the rest of his siblings, all admired George, and it was with great pride that he was able to serve with his older brother during the Civil War and with the 7th Cavalry in Dakota Territory. George also had great admiration for his younger sibling. Near the conclusion of the Civil War he commented, "Tom should have been the General and I the Lieutenant."

### **Asa Fisher (1846-1911)**

#### ***Home of Liquor Distributor Became Residence of 20 State Governors***

The man whose former home was used as an executive mansion by 20 North Dakota governors made his fortune as a liquor distributor, bank president, and gold mine owner. In his last will, Asa Fisher bequeathed his enormous wealth to his wife and stepdaughter. The will was contested when it was learned that the first husband of Fisher's wife was still living and she had never obtained a divorce.

### **Frederick Kislingbury (1847-1884)**

#### ***Body of Former Fort Yates Officer May Have Been Cannibalized by His Own Men***

The officer at Fort Yates in charge of rounding-up and confiscating the Indian ponies used by Sitting Bull's warriors at the Battle of the Little Big Horn was later named second in command of an Arctic expedition that attempted to be the first to reach the North Pole. Because the Arctic expedition was never resupplied with food and other provisions, 18 of the 25 men, including Frederick Kislingbury, perished before a rescue party arrived three years later. Most of the men died from starvation. When Kislingbury's casket was opened, his carved up remains led many to conclude that the survivors resorted to cannibalism.

### **Henry Coe (1857-1927)**

#### ***Teddy Roosevelt's Personal Dakota Physician & Good Friend***

The man considered most responsible for the early growth of Valley City was also "the first physician to settle in North Dakota west of the Missouri River". Dr. Henry W. Coe became Teddy Roosevelt's physician in 1884 and the two became close friends. It was reported that Roosevelt predicted Coe might become President one day. In 1924, out of respect and admiration for his deceased companion, Dr. Coe commissioned statues to be made of Roosevelt as a Roughrider and donated the statues to the cities of Minot, Mandan, and Portland, Oregon.

### **Frank Briggs (1858-1898)**

#### ***North Dakota's Most Ignored Governor***

Frank A. Briggs was the first North Dakota governor to die in office, and he was the most ignored person ever to hold that office. Not only has he been neglected by many historians, but he also appears to have been slighted by the press while he was governor. After he died on August 8, 1898, none of the three major state newspapers mentioned his passing on the front page. *The Bismarck Tribune* reported his death on page two, and the *Fargo Forum* and *Grand Forks Herald* covered Briggs' death on page four. In fact, the *New York Times* had a far more comprehensive obituary than the one paragraph that appeared in the *Forum*. Briggs was not as active as many other state governors, largely because he battled tuberculosis during much of his term. However, he did take the lead role on a number of issues, particularly in getting the state National Guard geared up for the Spanish-American War.

### **Edwin Ladd (1859-1925)**

#### ***Man Who Mandated Safe Food & Drugs for America***

The man most responsible in North Dakota for drafting legislation, calling for strict governmental regulations, was a Republican who later became a U.S. Senator. Legislation that

Edwin F. Ladd helped draft called for the prevention of adulteration of food, drugs, alcohol, paint, gasoline, and fertilizer; honesty in labeling; strict sanitation inspections; and promotion of durum wheat because of its milling and baking qualities. Ladd came to North Dakota in 1890 when he was hired as the first chemistry professor at the North Dakota Agricultural College (NDAC, now NDSU).

### **Joseph Devine (1861-1938)**

#### ***Educator Who First Promoted Tourism for North Dakota***

The first man to officially promote tourism in North Dakota also holds two interesting national distinctions. Joseph Devine was the first sitting governor, in a non-term limit state, to run for the position of lieutenant governor in the next election, and he was also the first man to lose in a general election to a woman as administrator of a statewide office. Devine was North Dakota's lieutenant governor when Governor Frank Briggs died on August 9, 1898. Devine then took over the reins of office, but the North Dakota Republican Convention had convened three weeks earlier, endorsing Frederic Fancher as their gubernatorial candidate in the 1898 election. Devine agreed to once again run as the Republican's candidate for lieutenant governor.

### **Walter Stockwell (1868-1950)**

#### ***Educator Who Found Himself on Hitler's Purge List***

The co-founder of the largest distributorship of school supplies west of Minneapolis was placed on Hitler's purge list during World War II. Walter L. Stockwell served as North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction for four terms and was one of the founders of the Northern School Supply in 1911.

### **George Totten (1870-1955) & Edward Totten (1876-1959)**

#### ***Brothers Behind Turmoil in Bowman***

Intense regional political feuds are common in North Dakota, but the one that was perhaps the most intense occurred in Bowman, North Dakota, during the second decade of the 20th century. Two of the town founders were James E. Phelan, a banker and rancher, and Edward P. Totten, an attorney. Phelan was a conservative Republican, and Totten was a liberal Democrat. Later, Edward's brother, George A. Totten, a Congregational minister, moved to Bowman. George was a Republican, but was active with the newly formed Nonpartisan League and allied himself with his brother. The climax to the Phelan-Totten feud occurred in July 1917 when Kate Richards O'Hare, an avowed Socialist, came to Bowman to give an address and was seen socializing with Edward's wife. This relationship resulted in a nationally covered trial in which O'Hare was sentenced to prison, and Edward's wife was removed from her position as postmistress of Bowman.

### **William Nuessle (1878-1959)**

#### ***UND Football Coach Became Chief Justice of North Dakota Supreme Court***

In 1992, a former Minnesota Vikings all-star, Alan Page, was elected to a seat on the Minnesota Supreme Court. Page was not the first star of the gridiron to be elected to a state's highest court. Seventy years earlier, William Nuessle, a football captain and, later, head coach of the University of North Dakota (UND) football team, was elected to serve on the North Dakota Supreme Court.

A couple of Nuessle's teammates at UND were Lynn Frazier and William Lemke. Later, they became bitter opponents when Nuessle ruled that Governor Frazier's decision to seize control of the Washburn Lignite mines was unconstitutional. Lemke, acting as Frazier's attorney, unsuccessfully appealed Nuessle's decision, stating that his action invited "bloodshed and a civil war."

### **Sam Clark (1879-1944)**

#### ***Former Minot Mayor Sentenced to Prison for Distributing Obscene Literature***

A former Minot mayor and newspaper publisher was tried, convicted, and sentenced to federal prison for distributing "obscene literature." The court ruling against Sam Clark was later overturned. Clark was a gifted writer whose Bismarck-based magazine, *Jim Jam Jems*, had a large national following. One of his articles helped lead to prison reforms in Florida.

### **Cy Pieh (1886-1945)**

#### ***Pitcher from Enderlin Out-Dueled Babe Ruth***

North Dakota's greatest spitball pitcher out-dueled Babe Ruth in a 13-inning historic game in which Ruth hit his first major league home run. Cy Pieh, from Enderlin, played three years for the New York Yankees, and he is the only former major league player to be buried in a rural North Dakota cemetery. When he made his major league debut on September 6, 1913, it occurred only nine days after Rube Schauer played his first game. Schauer, from Garrison, was the first person from North Dakota to play big league baseball. Pieh's best pitch was the now illegal spitball, where the pitcher applied saliva or some other foreign substance to the ball, making it move in an erratic trajectory as it traveled to the batter.

### **Gilmore Brown (1886-1960)**

#### ***Ghost of Theater Giant from New Salem Said to Haunt Pasadena Playhouse***

It has been reported that the ghost of the North Dakota born founder of one of the most famous theatrical playhouses frequently plays practical jokes on people in his theater. Gilmore Brown founded the Pasadena Playhouse in 1917 and remained its director until his death in 1960. Alumni of the playhouse reads like a who's who of American actors and includes Ernest Borgnine, Charles Bronson, Raymond Burr, Gene Hackman, William Holden, Dustin Hoffman, Tyrone Power, Robert Preston, Robert Taylor, and Robert Young.

### **Two-Gun Hart /James Capone (1892-1952)**

#### ***Al Capone's Oldest Brother was a Feared Prohibition Enforcer in North Dakota***

The oldest brother of Al "Scarface" Capone was a government agent put in charge of keeping alcohol off of the Indian reservations in the Dakotas during Prohibition. No one in the Dakotas, including his wife, knew that Sheriff Richard "Two-Gun" Hart had been born with the name Vincenzo "James" Capone.

### **Croil Hunter (1893-1970)**

#### ***Man Who Made Northwest One of America's Premier Airlines***

A man born and raised in North Dakota took a fledgling airline, Northwest Airlines, and turned it into one of this country's major commercial airlines. When Croil Hunter was first hired by Northwest as a traffic manager in 1932, the airline had a 350-mile route from Chicago to Minneapolis with a secondary link to Winnipeg, Canada. At the outset, Hunter was given the

responsibility of determining new destinations for the airline, and in 1933, he was named general manager and vice-president. In 1937, Hunter became president, greatly expanding the service and number of routes utilized by Northwest. He retired as president in 1952 but continued to guide much of the progress of the airline as chairman of the board.

### **Swede Risberg (1894-1975)**

#### ***Outlawed from Major Leagues, He Found a Home Playing Ball in North Dakota***

A ringleader in major league baseball's biggest scandal later played ball in North Dakota. Swede Risberg was a central figure who negotiated between professional gamblers and teammates of the 1919 Chicago White Sox to throw the World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. His action resulted in a lifetime banishment from organized baseball. Years later, Risberg was playing ball for teams located in Lignite and Jamestown, North Dakota.

### **Verne Miller (1896-1933)**

#### ***From War Hero to County Sheriff to Public Enemy # 1***

The man J. Edgar Hoover listed as "Public Enemy #1" on September 29, 1933, grew up in North Dakota. However, it was not the FBI who brought down Verne Miller. Instead, he was murdered two months later by other members of the criminal underworld. Miller was an enigma. He was a decorated hero from World War I who later became a civic leader and a popular and highly regarded sheriff in South Dakota. After turning to a life of crime, Miller became the fugitive most detested by special agent Melvin Purvis. His story was so intriguing that Hollywood made a film about him in 1987.

### **Belle Mehus (1896-1988)**

#### ***Piano Teacher Whose Students won International Acclaim***

Two talented sisters from Brinsmade, North Dakota, gave up promising musical careers on the national stage to musically enrich communities in their home state. Belle and Alma Mehus were both recognized for their artistry on the piano. Belle performed at concerts where the press spoke of her "brilliance" at the piano. However, she was best known as an outstanding teacher. The *Minneapolis Journal* wrote, "She is endowed to a preeminent degree with the requisites that make a successful teacher." Both Belle and Alma studied under the world's most eminent piano instructors, and both returned to North Dakota in the mid-1920s to richly endow their new communities -- Belle in Bismarck and Alma in Devils Lake.

### **Carl Ben Eielson (1897-1929)**

#### ***Fearless North Dakota Pilot Proclaimed a National Hero***

The North Dakotan who owns the most world records is also the person born in the state who has the most structures and geographic landmarks named in his honor. Carl Ben Eielson, the first pilot to fly over the North Pole, has a peninsula in Antarctica and a mountain in Alaska named after him. Also in Alaska, he is honored by the Eielson Air Force Base, the Carl Ben Eielson Memorial Building on the University of Alaska campus, the Eielson Visitor Center at the base of Mount McKinley, and the Eielson High School in Fairbanks. During World War II, a liberty ship, the *SS Carl B. Eielson*, was launched. In North Dakota we have an elementary school at the Grand Forks Air Base and a middle school in Fargo named in his honor. In his home town of Hatton there is the Hatton-Eielson Museum, located on Eielson Street.

### **Alma Mehus Studness (1902-2001)**

#### ***Brinsmade Farm Girl Entertained European Royalty***

In 1924, a 21-year old pianist from Brinsmade, North Dakota, toured Europe, where she was the featured pianist at concerts in Germany, Italy, and Norway. When she performed in Germany, Alma Mehus became the youngest American pianist to appear as a soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. A Berlin newspaper called her “A superb piano artist.” Wherever she performed in Europe, Alma was greeted with rave reviews.

### **Davie Berman (1903-1957)**

#### ***Mob Boss of Las Vegas***

The mob boss of the Las Vegas syndicate, who built the city into the gambling capital of the U.S., grew up in North Dakota. Davie Berman learned how to be tough and enterprising at his father’s farm near Ashley when he reasoned that he would need to become the primary breadwinner for the family because his father’s farming venture failed. Davie ran the Las Vegas gambling enterprises for the mob from 1947 until his death in 1957. Most of the people who knew him at the casinos liked him and thought of Berman as a very successful businessman. His close social friends included Howard Hughes, Jack Benny, and Jimmy Durante. After Berman died, it was said that he had “the largest funeral Las Vegas had ever seen.”

### **Robert Bahmer (1904-1990)**

#### ***Man Behind the Kennedy Assassination Controversy***

A man born and raised in North Dakota became a key figure in the President Kennedy assassination controversy. United States Archivist Robert Bahmer was in charge of inventorying and storing the items of the Kennedy autopsy. When he revealed that the footlocker turned over to the Archives was missing the President’s brain and other items from the autopsy, it helped fuel the firestorm that a conspiracy existed involving Kennedy’s assassination and the investigation that followed. Bahmer headed the National Archives and Records Service and directed the offices of the Hoover, Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower Presidential Libraries.

### **Rosalind Rinker (1906-2002)**

#### ***She Changed the Way Millions of People Pray***

The woman who inspired millions of Christians to change the way they prayed was born and raised in North Dakota. According to the October 2006 edition of *Christianity Today*, Rosalind Rinker’s book, *Prayer: Conversing with God*, was voted by the magazine editors as the most important book to “have shaped evangelicals” in the past 50 years. Prior to the 1960s, evangelical prayers “were often little more than a series of formal prayer speeches” containing a lot of the old Elizabethan “thee, thou, and thy” phrases. Rinker pointed out that a prayer should be a conversation with God, just as a child would take up a concern or request with his/her father.

### **Edward Thompson (1907-1996)**

#### ***World War II Intelligence Chief & Editor of Life Magazine***

The editor of the University of North Dakota’s college newspaper, who took on the Ku Klux Klan in Grand Forks, later became the editor of *Life* magazine and created and edited *Smithsonian* magazine. Edward K. Thompson also was in charge of intelligence for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force during World War II and served as special



assistant of Far Eastern Affairs to the U.S. Secretary of State during the Vietnam War.

### **Andrew Freeman (1909-1996)**

#### ***Head-Bolt Heater Inventor Also Brought Electricity to Rural North Dakota***

The man considered most responsible for bringing electricity to the rural areas of North Dakota also invented the most significant automotive accessory for people concerned with starting their vehicles on frigid winter days -- the head-bolt heater. Andrew Freeman was a highly intelligent man whose mind always appeared to be in overdrive, looking for ways to improve the lives of people living in the upper Great Plains. He was also very private and modest, preferring to remain in the background while others were often given the glory.

### **Buell Quain (1912-1939)**

#### ***Noted Anthropologist Died a Mysterious Death in Brazilian Jungle***

One of the most promising anthropologists of the 1930s met a tragic death in the Brazilian jungles at the age of 27. Buell Quain, born into a prominent family in Bismarck, became the protégé of the most respected anthropologists in the country. His genius, indefatigable work ethic, and tenacity led to groundbreaking research that resulted in the publication of three important books. Unfortunately, these books were all published posthumously.

### **Maurice Peters (1917-1987)**

#### ***“Champion of American Jockeys”***

The “champion of American jockeys” in 1934 was born and raised in east-central North Dakota. That year, Maurice “Moose” Peters, from Brantford, North Dakota, rode 221 winners [horses that finished in the money, placing first, second, or third]. The fact that he was from North Dakota is interesting. The fact that it was his first year as a jockey on the national circuit and that he was only 17 years old is incredible. Peters later went on to ride some of the best racing horses of the 1930s. This list includes Seabiscuit, War Admiral, Dauber, Pompoon, and Fairy Hill.

### **Harald Bredesen (1918-2006)**

#### ***“Father of Charismatic Renewal”***

The man called the “father of charismatic renewal,” one of the fastest growing movements in Christendom,” was born in North Dakota. Harald Bredesen was a third generation Lutheran minister who later became the first to successfully introduce the Pentecostal experiences into a traditional Christian church. Bredesen met with many world leaders and had prayer sessions with at least four U.S. Presidents: Eisenhower, Nixon, Carter, and Reagan. He was a mentor to Pat Robertson and an early director of the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN). Pat Boone likened Bredesen to “Abraham, Moses, Gideon, (and) Elijah.”

### **Rudy Froeschle (1922- 2012)**

#### ***Movie Subject in “The Great Escape” Became North Dakota Physician***

One of those who assisted in the Allied POW effort to tunnel their way out of a German concentration camp during World War II was a noted musician and prominent physician from North Dakota. This effort was chronicled in the 1963 movie *The Great Escape*. Although Rudy Froeschle did not do any of the digging, he helped get rid of the sand excavated from the tunnel. Also, the trombone that was used to make the alcohol distillery in the film had

been owned by Froeschle. Before World War II, he had played in popular local bands. As an American pilot during the war, Froeschle's plane was shot down, and he spent over 600 days in German prisoner of war camps. After he was liberated, he obtained his medical degree and became a doctor in Tioga and Hazen.

### **Tom Tescher (1926-2008) & Jim Tescher (1929-2003)**

#### *National Rodeo Champions*

People from North Dakota are able to compete nationally in almost every endeavor and, in many areas, they excel. One of these areas is rodeo competitions. Two North Dakota brothers were major rodeo competitors in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s -- Jim and Tom Tescher. Early in their careers, the great bronc rider, Casey Tibbs, told a reporter from *Look* magazine, "There's no telling how far those Tescher's could go in rodeo." In 2004, Jim Tescher was also inducted into the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Rodeo Hall of Fame, and Tom was inducted five years later.

### **Marcia Henderson (1929-1987) & Bob Ivers (1934-2003)**

#### *Former Movie Stars Moved to North Dakota*

In 1970, two former movie stars moved to North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Prestlien and their two young daughters initially moved into an apartment at 102 East 5th Street in West Fargo. Mr. Prestlien, known to film fans as Robert Ivers, had co-starred in movies with Elvis Presley and Jerry Lewis. Mrs. Prestlien, better-known as Marcia Henderson, had been an award-winning actress in the theater and had co-starred in movies with Jimmy Stewart, Rock Hudson, and Edward G. Robinson. Both of the Prestliens had also been very active in television. Robert Ivers was hired to be the television news director of KTHI (now KVLV).

### **Liz Anderson (1930-2011)**

#### *Popular Singer & Composer of Country-Western Music*

A popular singer-songwriter of countywestern music lived in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Liz Anderson published over 250 songs and received Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) Awards in 1964, 1965, and 1967, and an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Award in 1967. At the 1967 Grammy Awards, Liz placed in the Top 5 for "Best Country Vocal Performance - Female" and "Best Country Vocal Performance by a Group." Liz composed hit songs for Merle Haggard, Loretta Lynn, George Jones, Faron Young, Waylon Jennings, Del Reeves, Conway Twitty, Kitty Wells, Charley Pride, Ernest Tubb, Lorrie Morgan, Tammy Wynette, and her daughter, Lynn Anderson.

### **Ken Hunt (1934-1997)**

#### *Childhood Friend, State Rival, & Yankee Teammate of Roger Maris*

Two youngsters who knew each other in Grand Forks later played together on the pennant-winning 1960 New York Yankees. Besides their Grand Forks roots, Roger Maris and Ken Hunt shared a remarkable number of similarities: They both were born in 1934, excelled in football, attended parochial Catholic high schools, played the outfield and pitched, had their best seasons in 1961, died at a relatively early age, and were buried in the same cemetery. Both men were considered sluggers who were also excellent outfielders. Maris gained most of his fame after he was traded to the Yankees, whereas Hunt originally signed with the Yankees but gained most of his fame while playing with a different team -- the Los Angeles Angels.

**Lynn Anderson (1947-2015)**  
***“Great Lady of Country Music”***

The first female country singer to appear regularly on network television was a teenager born in Grand Forks, North Dakota. In 1967, Lynn Anderson signed a contract joining *The Lawrence Welk Show* after recording the hit singles *Ride, Ride, Ride* and *If I Kiss You (Will You Go Away)*. She went on to have 11 number-one hits, was the first female country artist to win an American Music Award, and first to perform to a sell-out crowd at Madison Square Garden. She sang for five U.S. Presidents and a number of the world’s royalty. Her signature song, *(I Never Promised You A) Rose Garden*, became number one on the country charts and was number three on the Billboard Pop Chart. Because of her enormous success, she is often called “The Great Lady of Country Music.”