

CHARLES CAVILEER (1818-1902)

Fur Trader Who Lent His Name to a City and a County

The second white man to become a permanent resident of North Dakota (Joseph Rolette was first) also became the holder of a number of original records in another state. In Minnesota, Charles Cavileer opened the first harness shop, established the first drug store, and was appointed as the first librarian. In 1851, he was appointed U. S. Revenue Collector of Customs and assigned to what is now northeastern North Dakota. Except for seven years in Canada, Cavileer lived the remaining 51 years of his life in what was to become North Dakota. The town and county of Cavalier are named in his honor.

DAVID STANLEY (1828-1902)

Military Commander Who Attempted to Control Colonel Custer

In 2011, Linda Swink released her book, *In Their Honor*. One of the “heroes” she profiled was Lieutenant-Colonel George Custer’s first commanding officer in Dakota Territory. Colonel David S. Stanley had the unenviable task of supervising two *prima donna* officers who often disregarded his orders on the 1873 Yellowstone Expedition. They were Custer and Lieutenant-Colonel Fred Grant, son of the U.S. President. As a result, Stanley had Custer arrested, and Grant nearly lost his life when he temporarily abandoned the expedition without Stanley’s permission.

HORACE AUSTIN (1831-1905)

Former Minnesota Governor Who Became a Leader in North Dakota

On the morning of February 17, 1872, approximately 600 residents in what is now north Fargo were roused from their sleep by U. S. marshals and soldiers from Fort Abercrombie. The people were ordered to “leave immediately or have their gear confiscated and their shacks burned.” Some of the residents were arrested and held on a \$1,000 bond. To try and get this crisis resolved, a couple of the men immediately sent letters to the most powerful person they knew who would be sympathetic to their cause – Horace Austin, the governor of Minnesota. Seven years after this incident, Austin moved to Fargo.

BILL MASSIE (1831-1910)

Riverboat Captain Carried to the Grave Bullet That Killed Wild Bill Hickok

The bullet that killed Wild Bill Hickok later ended up in a casket and was buried with another man. On August 2, 1876, when Jack McCall murdered Hickok, who was playing poker at a saloon in Deadwood, the bullet passed through Wild Bill’s skull and lodged in the wrist of Captain Bill Massie. “Medical science being, what it was at the time, it was deemed too dangerous a procedure to remove the bullet.” The bullet remained in Massie’s wrist for the next 34 years. When he died in 1910 and was buried, the bullet was still in him. Massie was one of the most active riverboat captains on the upper Missouri River at the time of Hickok’s death. His biggest rival was Grant Marsh, and the feud between the two men finally ended up in fisticuffs in 1907.

HUGH DONALDSON (1832-1904)

First Dakota Territorial Legislator From Present Day North Dakota

Few people have been involved in important historical events at more different locations than Hugh S. Donaldson. While a citizen of Minnesota in 1857, he was reportedly involved in the

conspiracy to prevent the capital from being moved from St. Paul to St. Peter; in 1861, he became the first person from what is now North Dakota to serve in the Dakota territorial legislature in Yankton; in 1863, he was the only private citizen in present-day North Dakota to be commissioned to lead a military company of soldiers in response to the Sioux Uprising; in 1870, he was arrested in Canada for trying to convince the leader of the newly created province of Manitoba to secede from Canada and join the U.S.; and in 1874, he was one of the founders of a newly incorporated town in Canada that grew to become the 7th largest city in that country – Winnipeg.

JEREMIAH FINLEY (1841-1876)

Fugitive From Ireland Killed at the Battle of the Little Big Horn

Under Colonel George Custer's command at the Battle of the Little Big Horn were a number of refugees who fled Europe to avoid prosecution/retaliation. The most notorious was Carlo di Rudio (Charles DeRudio) who threw a bomb at the French royal procession trying to assassinate Napoleon III in 1858. Another exile was Jeremiah Finley, who participated in the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) that was active in rebellion around his hometown, Tipperary. When his cousin was killed, he sought revenge and killed the alleged perpetrator. Fearing retaliation, Finley fled to England, joined the British Army, and was sent to Canada. When his service requirement was over, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was eventually assigned to the 7th Cavalry under the command of Colonel George Custer. Finley was killed at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, and the higher ground where he fell is now called "Finley's Ridge." Finley was also a skilled tailor, and the buckskin jacket that he made for Custer is now exhibited at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

EDWARD GODFREY (1843-1942)

Fort Abraham Lincoln Officer Despised by President Theodore Roosevelt

Custer and Reno were not the only two officers involved in the Battle of the Little Big Horn who later would be criticized for their judgment or leadership ability. During the battle, Lieutenant Godfrey was one of the few officers to maintain his cool and show sound judgment. However, he was later severely lambasted because of his soldiers' actions at the Wounded Knee Massacre. In 1876, Godfrey was assigned to Fort Yates and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his action against Chief Joseph at Bear Paw Mountain. He participated in the Spanish-American War and retired from the Army as a brigadier general in 1907 after 40 years plus of service.

O. J. DELENDRECIE (1845-1924)

Early North Dakota Merchandizing Giant

Long before O. J. Simpson became a familiar name with the American public, North Dakota had its own O.J. – O. J. deLendrecie. He was the Fargo merchant who first recognized that "rural and village women (in the area) desired stylish goods." During the later 19th and early 20th centuries, DeLendrecie's "store offered a large selection ranging from expensive silks imported from Japan and India to more modestly priced goods of European origin." The merchandizing intuition of O. J. paid off, and after building a large five-story store in 1904, he made a fortune that allowed him to retire to southern California in 1914.

GEORGE WINSHIP (1847-1931)

Grand Forks Editor Who Broke the McKenzie Machine

From 1882 to 1906, Republican kingpin Alexander McKenzie and his lieutenants controlled most of the political decisions made in northern Dakota Territory, and, later in North Dakota. There was much push-back from opposing parties, but the biggest obstacle for some of McKenzie's most ambitious plans came from a fellow Republican – George Winship, founder and editor of the *Grand Forks Herald*. He is the person most historians point to for the defeat of McKenzie's push for the Louisiana Lottery in 1889 and for the victory of John Burke, a Democrat, for governor in 1906. Burke's election over Elmore Sarles, McKenzie's hand-picked candidate, marked the end of the kingpin's absolute control in North Dakota.

HENRY HANSBROUGH (1848-1933)

Only Senator to Forever Remain on Capitol Hill

“The only man known to rest forever on Capitol Hill” served as the first U.S. Representative in Congress from North Dakota and later was a U.S. Senator for 12 years. After he died in 1933, his body was cremated and his ashes were scattered beneath an elm tree on the Capitol grounds. Henry Hansbrough was hand-picked by Alexander McKenzie to represent his positions in Washington, D.C., and later became his bitter enemy. Hansbrough worked closely with his friend President Theodore Roosevelt, but later supported his Democratic rival, Woodrow Wilson, for President. Hansbrough preceded William Langer by 40 years in being North Dakota's first “maverick” in the U.S. Senate.

E. A. WILLIAMS (1850-1930)

Seven North Dakota Counties Owe Their Names to Him

The first legislator elected in northern Dakota Territory west of the Red River Valley, was responsible for the names of seven counties in North Dakota. E. A. Williams, Bismarck's first attorney, served 10 terms in the territorial and state legislatures. Among his friends were Walter Burleigh, John Dunn, William Mercer, Alexander McKenzie, and Edward McIntosh. Williams named counties after each of them, as well as his father-in-law, Mathias Hettinger. Williams also had a county named in his honor.

FREDERIC FANCHER (1852-1944)

Incumbent Governor Ousted by His Own Party

It has been reported that an incumbent Republican governor of North Dakota was forced off of the ticket, a little over a month prior to the election, because he was strongly opposed by Red River Valley Republicans. According to an article written by historian D. Jerome Tweton, “Party leaders [in 1900], fearing a Democratic sweep in the Valley, decided to replace [Fred] Fancher with [Frank] White.” Fancher was easily elected governor in 1898 because he had a broad base of support that included the Farmers' Alliance and Alexander McKenzie. By 1900 however, according to Tweton, Red River Valley Republicans fed up with McKenzie, “had enough conservative bossism.” Because Fancher was McKenzie's man, he had to go.

JULIUS TAYLOR (1853-1934)

Editor Who Convinced African-Americans to Vote for Democratic Candidates

A man born into slavery spent 10 years as an eager student of the newspaper business under the tutelage of a Fargo editor. Julius Taylor became one of the first African-American newspaper

editors, publishing papers in Chicago and Salt Lake City. Taylor was largely self-taught and became knowledgeable about history, politics, philosophy, and religion. Through his editorials, he convinced countless African-American readers that they would be better served by switching their political allegiance from the Republican Party, the party of Lincoln, to the Democratic Party.

CON WALKER (1853-1942)

Theatrical Giant of U.S. and Canada

A Fargo printer became one of the most successful promoters this state has ever witnessed. At first, C. P. "Con" Walker organized highly successful baseball teams. After becoming manager of the Fargo Opera House, he started enlisting and managing a number of opera houses in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Canada. In time, Walker "owned and operated the longest chain of legitimate theaters on the continent." He created what became known in show business as "The Bread Basket Circuit." Through his ownership and/or management of a line of theaters located between Minneapolis and the West, Walker was able to book the same plays, concerts, and performers that were bringing rave reviews in New York.

MARIE DOWNING (1853-1933)

Queen Victoria's Attendant Moved From a Castle to a North Dakota Cabin

Seven years before becoming the wife of a North Dakota farmer, Marie Downing reportedly saved the life of the widow of a European emperor. In 1880, Marie accompanied Empress Eugenie to South Africa so that the empress could observe the spot where her son had been killed by Zulu warriors. For eight years, Marie had been a favorite in Queen Victoria's castle, serving as her dresser and conducting many other courtly duties for the monarch. Marie was not the stereotypical fragile and demure lady-in-waiting. She was rugged, brave, determined, and clear-thinking -- qualities that came into play on the critical life-saving decision she made in Africa in 1880. These were also qualities that endeared her to the queen, who tried every method she could to deter Marie from leaving her services "to marry a poor farmer."

LARS UELAND (1855-1947)

Father of the North Dakota Initiative and Referendum

The man most responsible for "direct legislation," giving law-making powers to all the voters in North Dakota also holds the distinction of being elected to the state legislature on three different occasions as a candidate of three different political parties. Lars A. Ueland, an Edgeley farmer, is called "the father of the North Dakota initiative and referendum." He first introduced these measures to the legislature in 1893. His bills failed, but he was persistent in having them brought up in each session until they finally passed the legislature and were ratified by the voters in 1914. Ueland was elected to the legislature in 1889 as a Republican, in 1892 as a Populist, and in 1906 as a Democrat.

ISAAC P. BAKER (1855-1938)

Riverboat King of the Missouri River

For over 20 years, one person's monopoly of transportation and trade between Bismarck and Williston was so complete that he was often referred to as "the man who owns the Missouri (River)." Because of his great foresight and managerial skills, I. P. Baker greatly expanded his

riverboat business during the early 20th century, at a time when most of the other steamboat owners were abandoning that enterprise.

ELMORE SARLES (1859-1929)

Governor Who Defied Political Bosses by Pushing for Needed Reforms

Only one organized town in this state was named for a North Dakota governor. What is interesting is, that town was the also the birthplace of a future North Dakota state executive. When the town of Sarles was founded in 1905, Elmore Sarles was governor. Thirty-three years later, Governor Allen Olson was born in that town. When Sarles was elected in 1904, he was a wealthy Hillsboro banker who had been hand-picked by the machine of Alexander McKenzie, the political boss of North Dakota. By 1906, when Sarles ran for reelection, both he and McKenzie had lost popularity, and reform-minded John Burke, a Democrat, was elected governor.

JOHN BURKE (1859-1937)

The Abe Lincoln of North Dakota

The North Dakota politician most often compared to Abraham Lincoln served as governor, chief justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court, and U.S. Treasurer. John Burke, like Lincoln, was known for his honesty, integrity, and wisdom. Both men were largely self-educated and became lawyers, and both championed the causes of oppressed people - Lincoln the slaves and Burke the small farmers. Lincoln was the first Republican elected U.S. President, and Burke was the first Democrat elected North Dakota governor. Both men were immortalized by bronze statues created by Avard Fairbanks, and both men shared similar sobriquets, "Honest Abe" and "Honest John."

CLARENCE PUTNAM (1859-1994)

Composer of State Song & Creator of Gold Star Band

The man who composed the music to the North Dakota State Song and the college song for North Dakota State University was a former medical doctor who lost his Fargo practice after a fire destroyed all of his medical records and equipment. In financial desperation, Dr. Clarence Putnam began teaching various courses at the North Dakota Agricultural College (now NDSU) and soon organized a music department at the college. He turned a fledgling instrumental group into a prestigious marching band that earned numerous awards and was christened the Gold Star Band.

CARL MATHISON (1870-1933)

Norway's First Recording Artist

The first musician to make a recording in Norway later became a farmer, movie theater manager, and grocery store owner in northwestern North Dakota. Carl Mathisen was a popular accordion player and composer when he recorded the song *Bal i Hallingdal* with the famed vaudeville singer Adolf Østbye in 1904. Mathisen was called "Norway's first accordion king" by Norwegian historian, Vidar Vanberg. Mathisen played before sell-out-crowds at the most prestigious theaters in Norway and performed before royalty in the Scandinavian countries. In 1892, he traveled to the U.S., playing at concerts in Chicago and other cities in the upper Midwest.

JOHN FONTANA (1872-1953)

Minister Convicted of Espionage

During World War I, North Dakota was a hotbed of accusations where people were charged with violating the recently passed Espionage Act. The victims of these accusations were most often citizens of German heritage and frequently involved community leaders. These charges, and later hearings and trials, tore small communities apart. This was the situation in New Salem when John Fontana, pastor of the Peace Evangelical Church, was arrested by federal agents on November 6, 1917, and later tried and convicted in federal court.

FRED D. SMITH (1873-1917)

North Dakota Officer Who Gave His Life to Save Others

One of the most heroic actions taken by a high-ranking officer during a combat situation involved a North Dakota man. The bravery of Lt. Col. Fred E. Smith, in the forest of the Argonne in Europe during World War I, saved the lives of soldiers under his command and earned him the highest honors given by the U.S., France, and Italy. Unfortunately, it also cost him his life.

ROY PATTERSON (1876-1953)

First Pitcher in American League Who Played Baseball For Fargo & Wahpeton

The person who threw the first official pitch in the American League was also the first person to win an American League game. This record setting hurler spent three years playing baseball in North Dakota. Roy Patterson was a pitcher with the Northern League pennant-winning Fargo Grain Growers in 1915 and the pitcher/manager of the Wahpeton-Breckenridge Twins of the Dakota League in 1921 and 1922.

A. HOYT TAYLOR (1879-1961)

Father of Military Radar

The college professor who built the first “experimental radio station” in North Dakota later became known as the father of military radar. Albert Hoyt Taylor, a former University of North Dakota physics professor, notified the U.S. Navy in 1922 that he discovered passing ships could be detected in darkness and fog by deflected radio waves, but the Navy showed little interest. His findings were not classified and were picked up by Germany, Japan, and other countries. In June of 1930, he discovered that radio waves could also detect airplanes that were far away, and the U.S. military took appropriate notice. This ushered in the birth of military radar.

HENRY MARTINSON (1883-1981)

Poet, Socialist, & Subject of Two Movie Documentaries

A noted North Dakota political activist and celebrated poet also made a name for himself in the movie industry. Henry Martinson was instrumental in promoting the Socialist Party and the Nonpartisan League in North Dakota. He and Lydia Jackson were given the title of poets laureate by the legislative assembly in 1979. Between 1976 and 1980, Martinson was either the subject of, or narrator for, several movies and/or documentaries.

MARK ANDREWS SR. (1886-1938)

The First Politician to Sing His Way Into Office

It is my impression that successful politicians and music are often linked. During the 2012 Presidential campaign, we remember that on several occasions President Obama, Mitt Romney, and Herman Cain suddenly burst into song. Many successful politicians have exhibited their musical ability while on the campaign trail. There was Harry Truman on the piano, Bill Clinton on the saxophone, and Art Link with the fiddle. Popular singers who parlayed their musical success towards political aspirations include Jimmie Davis, Stuart Hamblen, and Sonny Bono. The first politician to employ his musical talent with a political campaign may have been a North Dakota office seeker -- Mark Andrews. No, not the former U. S. Congressman and Senator, but his father, Mark Andrews Sr. "Being possessed of a fine basso" voice, he studied music in New York City before returning home to help run the family farm.

NEIL CHURCHILL (1891-1969)

Car Dealer Who Assembled Greatest Baseball Team in North Dakota History

A Bismarck car salesman assembled the best baseball team in the history of North Dakota and arguably also put together the greatest basketball team in the state. The 1935 Bismarck baseball team, owned and managed by Neil Churchill, won the first ever National Semi-pro Baseball Championship. In 1927, Churchill organized the Bismarck Phantoms, an independent basketball team. Each year from 1938 to 1941, the Phantoms were finalists in the Amateur National Tournament. In 1939 they routed the Harlem Globetrotters by a score of 70 to 30. From 1939 to 1946, Churchill also served as Bismarck's mayor.

GEORGE MASON (1891-1954)

Valley City Native Built Fourth Largest Auto Company in America

The man who established the fourth largest automobile company in the country was born and raised in North Dakota. In 1954, George Mason merged his Nash Motors Company with the Hudson Motor Car Company to form the American Motors Corporation. Mason had an extensive background in the automobile industry, having worked as an executive with Chrysler and president of Nash. He also served as president of Kelvinator, the world's second largest manufacturer of household refrigerators.

HERMAN HALLAND (1894-1967)

Record Setting Pilot

A man who at one time reportedly "held over 50 aviation records" was born and raised in North Dakota. Herman Halland was a navy pilot who served in both world wars, flew both blimps and airplanes, wrote a story adapted into a motion picture, and after he retired from the military, returned to North Dakota where he became a county judge.

DWIGHT ZIMMERLEY (1898-1994)

First Pilot to Fly Length of the Country

The first person to fly nonstop the full length of the continental U.S. in a light aircraft was born and raised in North Dakota. On July 7, 1929, Dwight Zimmerley flew from Brownsville, Texas, to Winnipeg, Manitoba. The 1,725 mile flight took 16 hours and also established a distance record for light airplanes. Seven months later, Zimmerley also established the altitude record for similar aircrafts. Both of his records lasted for decades. Zimmerley started out as a barnstorm

pilot and later became a test pilot for experimental aircrafts. He ended his flying career as a commercial airline pilot. After more than 30 years of flying and more than 3,000,000 miles, it was reported that Zimmerley “never had an accident.”

TED "DOUBLE-DUTY" RADCLIFF (1902-2005)

Outstanding Baseball Player Who Appeared in Last Professional Game at Age of 96

Five members of the Major League Hall of Fame played professional baseball in North Dakota: Happy Chandler in Grafton, Satchel Paige in Bismarck and Minot, Hilton Smith in Bismarck, Willard Brown in Minot, and Willie Stargell in Grand Forks. I did not include Buck O’Neill, who had only one at bat for the Fargo-Moorhead Red Hawks in 2006. At least two other North Dakota players should be enshrined. It has long been argued that Roger Maris deserves to be there. But, what about Ted “Double-Duty” Radcliffe?” While playing professional baseball, Radcliffe had over 4,000 hits and 400 home runs as a batter. As a pitcher, he won nearly 500 games with 4,000 strike-outs. When he agreed to be the player-manager of the Jamestown Red Sox in 1934, Radcliffe became the first African-American to manage white professional players.

JAMES ZAHAREE (1905-1981)

World Champion Miniature Writer

The man who created what the United Press International called “the finest piece of fine art” was born and raised in North Dakota. The 1976 UPI report was referring to a finely printed copy of President Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address that James Zaharee transcribed on a three-inch long strand of blond hair. In 1936, Zaharee was first recognized as “the world’s champion miniature writer,” and his fame continued to grow. He was best known for writing on grains of rice and the grain that contained a complete copying of the Declaration of Independence has been viewed by hundreds of thousands of people.

SAMMY SAMUELSON (1907-1931)

Her Gruesome Murder Created National Headlines

The 1931 horrific murder of an “attractive and bright” 24-year old woman from North Dakota grabbed the attention of the nation. On October 18, 1931, the body of Hedvig “Sammy” Samuelson, from White Earth, was found in train luggage, in Los Angeles, belonging to her friend Winnie Ruth Judd. Samuelson’s body had been cut into three pieces so that it would fit into one of Judd’s trunks.

LOUIS L'AMOUR (1908-1988)

King of Western Novelists

A former professional boxer, born and raised in North Dakota, later became one of the most popular authors of all time. Louis L’Amour wrote all kinds of adventure stories, as well as poetry, but he was best known for his Western novels, many of which were turned into major motion pictures. By the time of his death in 1988, his books had sold over 200 million copies, “making him the third top-seller in the world.”

WALTER SIMMONS (1908-2006)

His Reporting Signaled Beginning of Korean War

A reporter, born in Fargo, broke the news to the U.S. about the invasion of North Korean soldiers into South Korea in 1950, beginning what is commonly referred to as the Korean War. Walter

A. Simmons was a veteran World War II reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, and the only newsman in South Korea at the time of the invasion. For the first couple of weeks of the war, he was the sole source of information to this country about the armed conflict. Simmons later became the Sunday editor of the *Chicago Tribune* and president of the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors.

LEON JACOBSON (1911-1992)

Father of Successful Chemotherapy

The research and discoveries of a physician born and raised in North Dakota enabled millions of people to live longer and more productive lives. Dr. Leon Jacobson was the first doctor to have success with cancer patients through the administration of chemotherapy. He was also a pioneer in bone-marrow transplants, director of health for the Atomic Bomb Project during World War II, founder of a famous cancer research and treatment facility, and a discoverer of the source of the hormone that controls the formation of red blood cells.

ARNOLD SAMUELSON (1912-1981)

Ernest Hemingway Only Acknowledged Protégé

The 1931 murder of 24-year old Hedvig "Sammy" Samuelson, from White Earth, deeply affected her kid brother. Arnold Samuelson, who was five years younger than his sister, was an aspiring writer. In 1934, he was taken in by a famous author and became "the only acknowledged protégé of Ernest Hemingway." Hemingway wrote that Samuelson was very serious and dedicated to the profession of writing, but that "he's too inclined to get discouraged." Although Samuelson's work was published in some of the nation's top periodicals and newspapers, he never sent any of his manuscripts to book publishers. The only book published under his name was submitted three years after his death when it was completed by his daughter.

ORVILLE BLOCH (1915-1983)

Called "a One-Man Army" For Action During World War II

On September 22, 1944, an Army officer from south-central North Dakota singlehandedly wiped out five German machinegun nests and captured 19 prisoners. For his action, 1st lieutenant Orville Bloch was awarded the nation's highest wartime award, the Medal of Honor. A newspaper reporter referred to him as "a one-man army." Meeting German resistance as his unit was pushing north in central Italy and being pinned down by five machine-gun emplacements, Bloch summoned three volunteers to cover him as he rushed the on-coming fire, shooting his carbine from the hip with one hand and tossing grenades with the other. His heroic action panicked the remaining German soldiers, who fled to abandoned buildings. He then entered those structures and forced them to surrender.

EVAN LIPS (1918-2005)

Sports Star, War Hero, & Champion of Education in Legislature

Some people are natural born leaders in whatever circumstance they find themselves. Such a person was Evan Lips, who demonstrated his ability to take charge and lead in sports, the military, business, and politics. He was captain of successful football teams at Bismarck High School and the University of North Dakota (UND). Lips was a U.S. Marine Corps officer who was awarded the Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit for his action in World War II. In 1946, he started as a salesman with an insurance company and, six years later, became president of the

firm. Lips served three terms as mayor of Bismarck and, while a member of the senate in the North Dakota Legislature, held the positions of majority leader, president pro-tempore, and chairman of the appropriations committee.

PEGGY LEE (1920-2002)

Most Beloved White, Female Jazz Singer

Prior to becoming the greatest white female jazz singer of the mid-20th century, Peggy Lee (Norma Egstrom) could often be found filling in as depot agent for the Midland Continental Railroad. Lee was the only female singer to have “Top Ten” hits in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. She was not only a popular singer, but an important songwriter and a talented actress who was nominated for an Academy Award. Life had been difficult for Lee while growing up, but it contributed to the attributes that made her strong. Lee later commented, “My strength came from the training I got as a girl, working as a hired hand on a farm. I shucked grain, pitched hay and drove the water wagon for a threshing ring.” Peggy Lee will not only be remembered for her great songs and memorable movies, but also as the inspiration for a popular drink, a beautiful rose, and an endearing muppet.

CAROL THURSTON (1920-1969)

One of Three Favorite Actresses of Director Cecil B. DeMille

In 1944, a young lady born and raised in North Dakota appeared to be on the fast-track to movie stardom. In her first motion picture, Carol Thurston was given an important role in the Cecil B. DeMille movie *The Story of Dr. Wassell*. DeMille, the director of 65 previous movies, many of which were classics, had nothing but praise for Thurston’s performance. He told a reporter that “she has the power of Lenore Ulric and the gentleness of Maude Adams,” two great theater actresses. DeMille ranked Thurston along with Barbara Stanwyck and Gloria Swanson as the three actresses who best responded to directing.

FRANK SCOTT (1921-1995)

Music Arranger for Lawrence Welk & Many Popular Singers

One of the most successful and prolific music arrangers/composers was born and raised in North Dakota. During a 50-year career, Frank Scott wrote over 7,000 arrangements for some of the biggest names in the music industry. This list includes: Pat Boone, Tony Bennett, Peggy Lee, the Mills Brothers, Liberace, Debbie Reynolds, Ella Fitzgerald, Robert Goulet, Billy Vaughn, and Pete Fountain. Scott spent 12 years as musical director and studio pianist for the WDAY radio station in Fargo. He then joined the Lawrence Welk Orchestra continuing to compose and arrange music. He also played the piano and harpsichord and filled in as conductor when Welk needed to take a break.

TOM AMBERRY (1922-

World's Most Accurate Free Throw Shooter

The man who holds the record for “most consecutive free throws made” had earlier played basketball for both Concordia and the University of North Dakota. Unlike most great free throw shooters, Tom Amberry was tall and lanky (at 6’ 7” he played center in college) and relied primarily on a left hook-shot during action on the floor. Amberry did not establish his record while in college, or during the years he spent playing semi-pro ball, but rather much later. He entered a gym on November 15, 1993, and began shooting free throws while 20 other individuals

kept track of how many balls went through the hoop. After he had made 2,750 in a row, he was informed that he needed to leave because the gym was closing for the night. At the time Amberry established this new free throw record, he was 71-years old.

MICHAEL FOREST (1929- Movie Actor For Over 60 Years

An international movie star was born in North Dakota. For 60 years, Michael Forest has been one of the busiest men in show business and has remained in constant demand to perform in movies, television, and the theater. He began in the mid-1950s on television, appearing on the small screen in several hundred episodes. Forest's movie career began in 1957, and he starred in small-budget films in this country before taking up residence in Italy where he was the lead actor in mythology and western films. In the 1970s and 80s he dubbed into English well over 700 Italian and Japanese movies and cartoons. During the same two decades, Forest was also a mainstay on American daytime television serials. In 1995, he found a new career doing the voice-overs for video games.

JOHN BENNETT (1930-

First North Dakotan to Win Olympic Medal in an Individual Event

The first North Dakota born athlete to win a medal in an individual event for the U.S. during the summer Olympics was also an outstanding football and basketball player. John Bennett Jr. was "an All-State halfback on the 1949 football team and captained Grand Forks Central's basketball team in 1949-50." Along with this, he won three state track titles, two in the broad jump and one in the high jump. After graduation, Bennett enrolled at Marquette University where he won two consecutive NCAA outdoor broad jump titles. On November 24, 1956, at the Summer Olympics held in Melbourne, Australia, Bennett took second in the broad jumping event. As a result, he became the first person from North Dakota to win a medal in an individual event for the U.S. Ethel Catherwood, from Hannah, won the gold medal in the high jump in the 1928 Olympics, however, she was competing for Canada.

JANA BOMMERSBACH (1945-

Acclaimed Journalist and an Award-Winning Author

"Arizona's most acclaimed journalist," who wrote the popular 1992 award-winning book *The Trunk Murderess* was born and raised in North Dakota. After graduating with an M.A. degree, Jana Bommersbach began writing for the *Arizona Republic* newspaper in Phoenix. While there, she soon learned about the killing of "Sammy" Samuelson from White Earth, North Dakota, and her roommate Anne LeRoi. A close friend and one-time roommate of the two dead women, Winnie Ruth Judd, was convicted and given a life sentence for the murder of Ms. LeRoi.