

Everett Albers (1942-2004)

Albers is considered the "Father of the Modern Chautauqua." As the first director of the North Dakota Humanities Council he conceived the idea of reviving the old Chautauqua performances that was soon copied by other states. He has done more than anyone to preserve the culture of historical times in North Dakota

Henry S. Back (1837-1929)

pp. 96-100 Back, a founder of Fargo, was the first person to run for Congress from what is now North Dakota. After being elected to the legislature in both Dakota and Montana territories, he went to northwestern Canada to look for gold. His discovery turned out to be the "richest gold and silver deposit in the Yukon."

James F. Bell (1856-1919)

As chief of staff of the U.S. Army during the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt, Bell implemented his "Big Stick" policy in Cuba. Bell was a member of the 7th Cavalry stationed at Fort Abraham Lincoln. He was also an officer at Fort Buford.

James M. Bell (1837-1919)

Theodore Roosevelt admired Bell and his first official act upon becoming President was to promote him to general. Bell was considered one of the greatest recruiting officers in military history. As such, he was excused from going with Custer to look for Sitting Bull in the fateful expedition of 1876. Major Marcus Reno received a court martial for his inappropriate actions towards Mrs. Bell.

John Benton (1842-1920)

In 1893, Benton was defeated by two votes in his bid to be elected to the U.S. Senate. He was a prominent attorney who had been a childhood friend of Grover Cleveland. After Cleveland became President, Benton enlisted his friend to take action to influence affairs in North Dakota.

Larry "Scrappy" Blumer (1917-1997)

America's fastest ace grew up in Kindred, Walcott, and Fargo. On August 25, 1944, Blumer shot down five German Luftwaffe airplanes in 15 minutes. He acquired his nickname when his commanding officer observed him in a barroom brawl.

Ernest Brenner (1844-1908)

The former post trader at Fort Totten has been credited with preventing open hostilities in 1889 between a unit of the North Dakota National Guard and many Chippewa Indians on the Turtle Mountain Indian

Reservation. The Brenner Crossing state historic site is named in his honor.

Wade Burck (1954-)

One of a few big-name trainers of lions and tigers born in the U.S. was Burck from Hillsboro. Unlike many predecessors, he stressed love and kindness rather than intimidation and cruelty. He did not carry a large whip with him in the ring, and his training method was based on rewards. He worked mainly with tigers.

George Catlin (1796-1872)

"Catlin was the first great painter to travel beyond the Mississippi to paint the Indians." In 1832, he traveled to Fort Union and began his work. In his years in what is now North Dakota, he painted members of the Crow, Blackfeet, Assiniboine, Mandan, and Sioux tribes. His favorite subject was the Mandan chief Four Bears.

Eddie Cochems (1877-1953)

In 1906, he revolutionized the game of football by introducing the forward pass in a college game. He was also the first coach to put uniform numbers on the backs of his player's jerseys. While coach of NDAC/NDSU, his team outscored the opponents 479 to 49.

Helen deLendrecie (1848-1926)

Acting under the name Helen d'Este, she was the leading lady and coowner of a popular touring theatrical company. After marrying O. J. deLendrecie, the two moved to Fargo where her husband began his successful business. She became one of the leading advocates for women's suffrage in North Dakota.

Marquis deMores (1858-1896)

The founder of Medora made a valiant attempt to turn that town into a national center for supplying processed beef. From 1883 to 1886, this French nobleman generated more national and international press coverage than anyone else living in Dakota Territory.

John O. Donaldson (1898-1930)

He was born in Fort Yates and in 1918, during World War I, became North Dakota's first ace, shooting down six German aircraft in a month. In 1930, while performing a stunt-flying exhibition his plane crashed and he was killed. In 1951, an air base in Greenville, South Carolina was named in his honor.

Hiliare duBerrier (1906-2002)

He was born and raised in Flasher, a town founded by his father. He later became one of the most active soldiers of fortune from the

U.S. in the 20th century, participating as a pilot and spy in Africa, Europe, and Asia. He was arrested three times, becoming a prisoner in Ethiopia, Spain, and China.

Paul Eriksmoen (1980-2014)

With over 7000 professional parachute jumps under his belt, he trained paratroopers and jump pilots for American and allied military forces. He served as an instructor, then a director, and finally the owner of skydiving facilities in New Jersey, Missouri, Kansas and Washington. Videos he made have been shown on Late Night With David Letterman and on the Discovery Network.

Joe Ferris (1857-1937)

When Theodore Roosevelt arrived at Medora in 1883, he hired Joe as his guide for hunting bison. The two men soon bonded and whenever the future President returned to Medora, Joe was the first person he looked up. When Roosevelt became President, he appointed Joe as postmaster of Medora.

Sylvane Ferris (1858-1933)

Joe's brother, along with Arthur Merrifield, ran Theodore Roosevelt's Maltese Cross Ranch. He later bought out Merrifield's share and when Roosevelt was elected President he also bought out the President's share. As President, Roosevelt appointed Sylvane as Register of the General Land Office in Dickinson.

Lynn Frazier (1874-1947)

This former Grafton farmer was the only governor in the U.S. to be recalled in the 20th century. He rebounded from this and became a popular U.S. Senator. He had been an outstanding football player at UND before entering politics. He was the first NPL governor in North Dakota history.

Angela Gibson (1878-1953)

This Casselton woman was North Dakota's first motion picture director. In 1916, she was brought to Hollywood by Mary Pickford to serve as her assistant director for the movie, *The Pride of the Clan*. After serving as an apprentice to noted directors, she returned to Casselton and established her own studio, where she wrote the scripts, directed, and often starred in movies.

Frank Gravino (1923-1994)

He was the most feared slugger ever to play professional baseball for a North Dakota team. In a little over two and one-half seasons he hit 140 home runs, drove in 440 runs, and hit for a .322 average for the Fargo-Moorhead Twins of the Northern League. His legion of fans

included the popular singer Bobby Vee and his Fargo teammate, Roger Maris.

Louis B. Hanna (1861-1948)

Orphaned at the age of eight, this ambitious young man became a successful North Dakota banker and was elected governor. Although he received honors from Norway and France, he became unpopular in his home state after refusing to authorize a state mill and elevator. He had lived in Hope, Page, and Fargo prior to becoming governor.

Harry Hayashi (1894-1954)

What many people call, "the greatest injustice in North Dakota during the 20th century" happened to a Japanese immigrant who had built an elegant enterprise in Carrington. With no explanation, he was the only person of Japanese descent from North Dakota placed in the internment camp at Fort Lincoln, and his beautiful Rainbow Gardens was forced to close.

Lee Hills (1906-2000)

He was the chief executive of the nation's largest newspaper company, Knight-Ridder. He was born on a farm near Granville and first became an editor at the age of 20. In 1921 he became the editor of the largest newspapers in both Miami and Detroit and, under his leadership, both papers won the Pulitzer Prize.

Ernest "Slim Jim" Iverson (1903-1958)

He "was the most popular country/cowboy singer in Minnesota during the 1930s, '40s, and '50s." He was born and raised on a farm near Binford and began singing on radio in 1927. In 1933, he was one of the first singing stars to have his own television show. He was the first singer to popularize "Scandihoovian dialect songs" and his compositions are often played on Prairie Home Companion.

Glenn "Red" Jarrett (1907-1962)

A superb athlete in many sports, he is most remembered for bringing Division 1 hockey to UND, a sport he did not play. He was featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not for his scoring exploits in football and was an All-American in that sport. He coached both football and basketball at UND and, as athletic director, organized a winning hockey program.

Richard Johnson (1917-2002)

The second pilot to break the sound barrier was born and raised in Cooperstown where he was a star baseball player. During World War II he was denied flight training, but actress Marlene Dietrich interceded on his behalf. After he introduced the sonic boom to the American

public, the Saturday Evening Post published an article about the incident.

Emma "Bab" Lincoln (1894-1977)

She was the first woman reporter to cover the White House, the first American correspondent to cover the Paris fashion shows, and the first person to develop and edit the women's page of a major American newspaper. She was born on a farm near Hunter and grew up in Fargo. Before becoming a journalist, she was a movie actress.

Wayne Lubenow (1926-1991)

As the writer of a column that appeared regularly in 41 newspapers, he was the most popular syndicated columnist in North Dakota history. Prior to going independent, he had served as a reporter for both the Bismarck Tribune and the Fargo Forum. His articles reflected a great deal of wit and wisdom.

Charles McCarthy (1830-1874)

He was the first law officer, in what is now North Dakota, to die in the line of duty. Prior to becoming sheriff of Burleigh County he had been a territorial legislator and supreme court clerk. When Custer first arrived at Fort Abraham Lincoln, the two men became engaged in a conflict and Custer had him arrested. It was a decision he came to regret because McCarthy had many influential friends.

Bill "Badlands" McCarty (1878-1958)

He was the owner of the famous Custer Trail Ranch. The ranch was the site where Colonel Custer camped on his way to the Little Big Horn. When it was owned by the Eaton Brothers, Theodore Roosevelt was a frequent guest and it became the first dude ranch in America. Among McCarty's ranch hands were actor Tom Mix and William Dunn, the first U.S. ace of World War II.

Arthur Merrifield (1855-1929)

He, along with Sylvane Ferris ranched on the Chimney Rock or Maltese Cross Ranch near Medora. Theodore Roosevelt later became part owner and stocked it with cattle. He remained a very close friend of Roosevelt and when his former boss became President, he was appointed U.S. Marshal of Montana.

Rutherford Montgomery (1894-1985)

He was North Dakota's most prolific author, writing 120 books for young readers, 20 books for adults, and over 500 magazine stories. He also wrote a half dozen screenplays for Walt Disney studios. Because he could quickly turn out books he was called the "Fireball of

Fiction," the "Whirlwind of Writing," and the "Typewriter Tornado." He was born in Straubville and grew up in Velva.

Mary Sherman Morgan (1921-2004)

She was the "first female American rocket scientist." She was born and raised on a farm near Ray. During World War II, she worked for the Plum Brook Ordnance Works, the world's largest manufacturer of TNT. After the war she worked for the North American Aviation Company where she invented "hydyne," the propellant that enabled rockets to travel to outer space.

Rosamond O'Brien-Lowe (1904-1974)

She observed the North Dakota senate from three different perspectives. From 1941 to 1952, she was the wife of Democratic Senator Harry O'Brien; from 1953 to 1960, she was Senator Rosamond O'Brien; and from 1967 to 1971, she was the wife of Republican Senator Kenneth Lowe. She was born and raised on a farm near Devils Lake.

J. F. T. "Jefty" O'Connor (1884-1949)

He was one of only a handful of people to run for governor, as a major party candidate, in two different states. In 1920, he was the Democratic candidate in North Dakota. In 1938, through President Franklin Roosevelt's urging, he was a Democratic candidate in California. In 1933, Roosevelt brought this Grand Forks native to Washington, D.C. to solve the country's banking crisis.

Casper Oimoen (1906-1995)

He was acclaimed as America's best ski jumper. During his career he won over 400 medals, set six ski jumping records, was a three-time national champion, and qualified for three Olympics. He was named captain of the 1936 Olympic team, but because of the war, the Olympics were not held. In 1963, the Minot native was inducted into the U.S. Skiing Hall of Fame.

Mary Osborne (1921-1992)

Known as the "queen of the jazz guitar," she was the first woman to play the electric guitar professionally. Considered a child prodigy, she was heard playing on the radio at the age of 11 and at the age of 17 was touring the country as a member of a trio. She frequently was a guest on Arthur Godfrey's popular television show and performed with the biggest jazz stars of the 50s and 60s.

Bill Owen (1931-)

One of the most versatile personalities on radio and television began his media career in his hometown of Bismarck over station KFYZ with the Marshall Bill Show. Later, he often appeared on Wide World of

Sports, co-hosted Discovery, subbed for Howard Cossell, and was the sports anchor for Good Morning America. He was born in Grand Forks.

John Rea (1848-1941)

As a newspaper reporter, he was the first to show compassion for the Native-Americans in their battles against U.S. soldiers. He also presented Indian leaders as brilliant military tacticians. He was appointed register of the U.S. Land Office in Bismarck covering over 14,000,000 acres. He played a big role in the drafting of the North Dakota Constitution.

Jim Rugg (1919-2004)

He began to gain national recognition as the special effects director for the television series Star Trek. When Captain Kirk issued the command, "Beam me up," Rugg created the illusion the Kirk's body was being reconstituted inside the transformer of the Enterprise. This native of Bowman applied his illusionary magic in many movies and television shows.

Sakakawea (ca. 1787-1812 or 1884)

This female, of Shoshone birth, has had more memorials dedicated to her than any other American woman. She was the guide on the long and treacherous expedition led by Lewis and Clark across the northwestern U.S. Many mysteries remain about her including how and when she died.

Bert Shepard (1920-2008)

He was the only person to play major league baseball with only one leg. During World War II his airplane was shot down and his leg was shattered needing to be amputated. He had been a minor league pitcher prior to the war and was pleased he could still pitch despite having only one leg. In 1947 he played for the Williston Oilers. He returned to Williston in 1954 as player/manager.

Bill Snyder (1916-2007)

He was a pioneer at the forefront of color and 3-dimensional motion pictures in Hollywood and long-range radio transmissions for ham radio operators. He was born in Dickinson and grew up in Fargo. While in Hollywood, he also had bit parts in several movies. When WDAY began its television service he became the first the first television director of film production in the Red River Valley.

Homer Sprague (1829-1918)

Prior to becoming president of UND in 1887, he had been a Civil War hero, attorney, author, state legislator, school administrator, and one of most sought out lecturers in the country. He was so popular in North Dakota that many citizens rallied to have him nominated as a

candidate for the U.S. Senate. Because he opposed the Louisiana Lottery, Alexander McKenzie squashed that effort.

Herman Stern (1887-1980)

His efforts saved the lives of over 100 Jews by getting them out of Germany before the Nazis could put them into concentration camps. He started in the clothing business in Casselton and later owned stores in Valley City, LaMoure, Carrington, Fargo, and Grand Forks. He was instrumental in creating the Greater North Dakota Association and the North Dakota Winter Show.

Fountain Thompson (1854-1942)

Although he was a U.S. Senator for only 56 days, he established a couple of firsts in North Dakota. This Cando lawyer was the first Senator in the state to be appointed and also the first to resign. Because many of Governor John Burke's friends wanted to be appointed, the governor knew that any one of them that he might appoint would anger others, so Thompson became a compromise.

Mimi Weddell (1915-2009)

This Williston native began her movie career in 1980, at the age of 65 in the film *Dracula's Last Rites*, in which she was billed third. For the next 25 years she frequented the big screen, but her most memorable role was as a "classy grandmother" on *Sex in the City*. In 2005, *New York Magazine* listed her as one of the most beautiful women in New York City.

Thomas Weir (1838-1876)

Because of his obvious affection for Libbie Custer, the wife of his commanding officer, some officers suspected that the two were having an affair when Colonel George Custer was away. After the colonel was killed in 1876, he wrote letters to Libbie suggesting that the life of her husband could have been saved. He drank himself to death and people wondered if it was because she never responded.

John H. Worst (1850-1945)

Prior to becoming president of the North Dakota Agricultural College (now NDSU), he was the state's lieutenant governor. He came to North Dakota to farm and be a preacher, but because he was honest and an advocate for the hard-working farmers, he was thrust into the political arena. His farm was in Emmons County and he later became the editor of the *New Rockford Daily*.