

districts, financed by revenue bonds, be used as a tool in bringing a far higher standard of living and nutrition to the developing nations. The change of national administration in 1968 removed Morrison from a chance to implement the Nebraska program internationally.

Probably the greatest impact of the Morrison Administration on the state's history was psychological in giving to the state a new vision of its potential greatness.

Frank Morrison married Maxine Hepp at Greeley, Nebraska and to this marriage were born three children, Frank B. Morrison, Jr., a prominent Montana trial lawyer, David John Morrison, an Omaha businessman, and Jean Marie Morrison, the wife of a Denver physician.

Mr. Morrison is presently Douglas County Public Defender working for judicial reform.

(This story was written by Maxine Morrison)

ALEXANDER S. MUIRHEAD

was born October 29, 1839 in Neuburn Virginia. He was married to Harriet Arnold on December 19, 1860 in Virginia, and to this union two sons and five daughters were born. During the Civil War, he served in the Confederate Army. He came to Nebraska in 1875, homesteading near Oxford where he lived until 1890. He and his family moved to Missouri, where they resided on a farm until his health forced him to retire. They moved back to McCook in 1916 and lived with his daughter, Mrs. Laura Osborn. He died in McCook on Sunday, September 12, 1920 and was buried in the Longview Cemetery on Wednesday, September 15, 1920. Harriet died in 1921 and is also buried in the Longview Cemetery.

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GUY LEON NELSON

the son of Charles W. Nelson and Minnie Edna Hubler was born July 27, 1905 at Blue Hill, Webster County, Nebraska. He moved with his family at the age of two years to a farm northwest of McCook, in the Coleman Precinct, Red Willow County in 1908. He attended the rural school near his home. Percy, as he was called, graduated from the McCook High School, where he was outstanding in sports. On June 1, 1927, he married Rosa Elnora Schlegel, on a farm northwest of McCook and they were the parents of five daughters: Nadine, Avis, Dorothy, Fern, and Karen and one son, Arlyn Lee, who preceded him in death. After farming

in the area until 1948, he moved his family into McCook where he lived until his death. He was the builder and operator of the Bowl-Mor Alleys in McCook. He was a member of the Red Willow County Noil Conservation District and in 1947 was elected chairman of that board. He was a former Red Willow County Commissioner. He was a member of the Methodist Church, all Masonic bodies in McCook, the Order of the Eastern Star, Tehama Shrine of Hastings, Tehama Shrine Club of McCook, and the Elk's Club. He died in an accident while constructing a duplex in McCook on Monday, June 7, 1972. His funeral was held in the Methodist Church and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

GEORGE WILLIAM NORRIS

was born July 11, 1861 near Clyde, Sandusky County, Ohio to Chauncey Norris and Mary Magdalene Mook. He was the eleventh of twelve children. His father died of pneumonia when he was 3½ years old. Against the wishes of his mother, his only brother, John Henry, enlisted in Company A, Fifty-Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which became part of Sherman's march from Atlanta to the sea. John Henry suffered a slight wound during a skirmish at Resaca, Georgia, from which he died of infection on May 27, 1864. Thus at a very early age George William Norris became the man of the house. Two of the people who were instrumental in shaping his life were the teacher at Mount Carmel District School, where he first went to school, Mr. I. D. Speidell. The other was a member of the Mount Carmel Debating Society, George Setzler, a wagonmaker. While still young, George became a good debator, which helped him out later in life.

George first went to Baldwin College and then to Northern Indiana Normal School (today Valparaiso University) to become a lawyer. To earn his way thru college, he would teach school after graduation. He taught school near Bolles Junction, Washington, but didn't like the country and returned to Ohio and taught at a private school at Warrenville. With the money that he had saved, the deed to 80 acres of land in Johnson County, Nebraska, and \$300 his sister, Melissa, loaned him; he bought a modest law library, some office furniture and embarked in a partnership with H. H. Harrington (a Beatrice, Nebraska schoolmate at Valparaiso). In less than a year this partnership dissolved because of no business. George then sold the land in Johnson County and moved his law practice to Beaver City. In the early days at

Beaver City he made more money in land business than as a lawyer. He became the Republican party candidate for Prosecuting Attorney for Furnas County, Nebraska and was defeated. He then became candidate for District Judge, which he won in 1895. Then in 1899, when re-elected, he moved to McCook, Red Willow County, Nebraska.

Shortly after moving to Beaver City, George met Pluma Lashley, and fell in love with her. She was the daughter of David H. and Sarah Lashley. They were married on June 1, 1899 at Beaver City. While they lived in Beaver City, they had a son (who was still born) and two girls. Hazel was born January 10, 1895 and Marian was born February 11, 1897. On March 21, 1901 their third daughter, Gertrude, was born in McCook, but this birth proved to be fatal to Pluma and she died a very short time later on March 26, 1901. His grief was intensified because of holding court at different towns compelled him to be absent from home and his girls. They all missed their mother very much.

In 1902 he was a candidate for a seat in the House of Representatives, to which he was elected, and to serve five terms.

Into his life stepped Ellie Leonard, who was a school teacher in McCook, and they were married on July 8, 1903 at San Jose, California. On February 23, 1906, Ellie gave birth to twin boys, which almost cost her her life, but the twin boys did die.

While as a member of the House, George led the fight to overthrow the tyrannical speaker of the House, Cannon. He also served on the House Judiciary Committee, which impeached Federal Circuit Judge Robert W. Archbald. It was during this period, that he had incurred the enmity of a large number of the Republican Party leaders. With the Republican leaders, and the Republican machine in their control, they more bitterly opposed him than the Democrats. In 1912 George won the seat to the U. S. Senate. During the election he supported Theodore Roosevelt as the "Bull Moose" candidate for President, on the Progressive ticket.

On November 20, 1922, President Harding called a special session of Congress. On this occasion Senator Thaddeus Caraway of Arkansas introduced a resolution in the Senate directing attention to the fact that many members of Congress had been defeated at the polls and that they didn't represent the sentiment of their constituencies. This bill was the Lane

Duck Amendment, and was given to Senator Norris, who was chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. For the next ten years Senator Norris was to introduce this bill and for various reasons the bill was killed. In 1932 the amendment passed both Houses of Congress and by January 23, 1933, a sufficient number of State Legislatures had voted ratification to make the amendment effective. Since the passage of the amendment, members of Congress, the President and Vice President have taken office on the 20th of January.

In early 1934 he attended a discussion which led to the forming of a committee to initiate a campaign and circulate petitions for a State Constitutional Amendment change from the Two House Legislature to the Unicameral Legislature. The campaign which followed, was a very bitterly fought one and Senator Norris traveled to nearly every section of the State, campaigning for this amendment. After many hours and nearly wearing out his automobile, the election was held, with the people voting the amendment into existence.

After becoming a Senator he became a member of the Agriculture Committee. Later he served on the Public Lands Committee. It was his first introduction to a fight which in all its successive stages was to occupy his remaining years in the Senate. Each year, millions of dollars worth of property was destroyed in some region of the Mississippi Valley to floods. During the months and years that were to pass while he studied and researched the problem, he became the champion of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Starting in the Twenties, he was to introduce, for the next ten years, bills in different Congresses. He was impressed by the periodical floods exacting such enormous economic toll in section of the United States. In his own state, (Nebraska) and in all of the Great Plains area, there were rivers which frequently became unruly in flood season, and in those same valleys a few weeks later, crops were destroyed by drouth. It was so senseless and useless. With the possibilities of electricity for lightening the drudgery of farms and urban homes, while revolutionizing the factories, fascinated him. After many years of fighting Big Business, land speculators and one union, the T.V.A. was finally passed by Congress and signed into law by President Roosevelt in April 1933. One of the first dams built under the T.V.A. was named after Senator George W. Norris to honor him.

A natural development of the T.V.A. was followed by the establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration, the object of which was to carry electricity to the farms of America. An executive order issued by President Roosevelt, established the first R.E.A. in 1936. One million dollars was set aside for work relief funds to launch this program. George Norris introduced a bill to make this program permanent and to effect some changes in the plan of operation and administration that he thought were desirable. Under the provisions of the bill, Rural Electrification was made nation-wide in scope and in jurisdiction. It provided that the government would loan the money required for each electrical district for construction, buying equipment and to permit liquidation of the financial obligations incurred in the building of transmission and distribution lines. This bill was passed into law by Congress in the latter part of 1936.

During the years remaining before World War II, he was to vote for Lend-Lease, against the Poll Tax, and finally to vote for entering the War against the Axis Powers.

In 1942, Senator Norris was to lose his bid for re-election to the Senate. He returned to his home in McCook in January 1943. Here he was to spend the remaining few years of his life.

George W. Norris died from a stroke on September 2, 1944, at his home, and was buried on September 4, 1944 at the Memorial Park Cemetery. His funeral was attended by his many friends and dignitaries from near and far. Among those who talked at his funeral were Democrats and Republicans. All stated that he was an honest man.

First Wife of GEORGE W. NORRIS
PLUMA LASHLEY

was born in Washington, Iowa non August 29, 1865. Her parents moved to Beaver City, Nebraska, where she was to meet and marry George William Norris, on June 1, 1889. She was the mother of four children. Pluma died in McCook, after the birth of their daughter Gertrude, on March 26, 1901 and was buried in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

Second Wife of GEORGE W. NORRIS
ELLIE LEONARD

was born February 1, 1874 in School District 13, between Lincoln and Raymond, Nebraska. She was the daughter of I. N. and Angeline Leonard. She attended

the University of Nebraska and taught school near Davey before coming to McCook in 1897, where she taught the fifth grade and was principal at West Ward School until 1902. She then spent a year in California where her parents had moved and on July 8, 1903 she was married to George W. Norris in San Jose, California.

Most of the time between 1903 and 1943 she lived in Washington, D. C., where her husband served in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. The late Senator Norris died on September 2, 1944.

They were the parents of twin boys who died as infants. Ellie enjoyed helping Mr. Norris in the raising of his three daughters. She was known to say, "Im taking care of Pluma's girls and she is taking care of my boys."

Ellie Leonard Norris died June 30, 1972 at the St. Catherine's Hospital in McCook. Burial was in the Memorial Park Cemetery.

She was survived by a brother, John Leonard of Pacific Grove, California; three daughters, Mrs. John P. Robertson of Washington, D. C., Mrs. Harvey F. Nelson of Pasadena, California and Mrs. Gordon B. Rath of Kensington, Maryland; five grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; one niece, Mrs. Oswin Keifer of Guide Rock; three nephews, Burrel Leonard of Cupertino, California, Sherman Leonard of Davis, California, and Robert L. Lang of Laguna Beach, California.

ISAAC O'CONNER
"BLIND SAM"

was born 1880 in McCook, Nebraska. He lost his sight in one eye, when very young and later developed an ulcer in his other eye, and by the age of twelve, was blind. He was educated at the Nebraska School for the Blind at Nebraska City, learning to write with the "Point" system. While at the school, Miss Helen Keller, visited and Sam was selected to "show" her around. He and Miss Keller conversed in writing, using the "Point" system. Sam stated that she was too darn smart. In fact, had to ask her to simplify her writing; so he could understand. He sympathized with this deaf, dumb, and blind woman, and she showed him many advantages that he used the rest of his life. He stated that on their parting, he cried. He learned to read the "Point" system at the comparatively high speed of about six newspaper pages an hour. He subscribed to a monthly newspaper for the blind, and with the radio, managed to keep

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up with world affairs. While he was at the School he also learned to make brooms, and to play the violin. It was with the violin that he was to make his living.

Sam was a familiar sight on the streets of McCook, a sightless man sitting upon a rickety old folding stool, with a dirty cigar box tucked between his knees to catch the few coins tossed to him as he tucked his resin incrested fiddle under his chin and held against his chest. He would play and sing such songs as "Isle of Capri", "Don't sit under the Apple Tree with anyone else but me", and many others. He would interject a "God Bless You" without omitting a single monotone or note on the violin, when a coin was dropped into the box. He knew a good number of the people of McCook, as they walked by, just by the sound of their footsteps, and would call them by name.

It would have been easy to imagine that this man was the town's chimney-sweep, who had hurriedly wiped the soot from his face and hands with a handkerchief, tucked it into the pocket of his food-stained blue serge suit, put on a grimy white shirt, a gaudy print tie and a battered brown felt hat; then he considered himself properly dressed for any occasion. On cold days when he would be wearing a heavy blue overcoat with the collar turned up around his neck, he wore a Scotch cap pulled low over his ears, and dirty flannel mittens. After several hours of fiddling and singing he would carefully place his instrument in the case, hang his stool over his shoulder, tuck his cigar box under his left arm, pick up his case with his left hand, and with his right hand he cautiously pointed his knarled cane out in front of him as he shuffled down the street toward home.

Sam was a proud, independent, self-reliant, courageous, determined and quite knowledgeable individualist with a great insight about what makes life worth living. He placed little importance upon physical comforts and material possessions, but he tenaciously insisted up his rights as a free citizen. To him this meant doing what he pleased, when he pleased, where he pleased and how he pleased. He believed that these were privileges granted to him by the signers of the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. He was very familiar with the contents and meaning of both of these documents and could quote from memory a goodly portion.

He was neither a saint nor a sinner. He never

joined any church or attended any religious services, but he read his Bible, with his fingers, from cover to cover at least four times in his 80 years of living. He accepted his congenital blindness as "God's Will", but refused to accept the social inferiority the general public associated with it. He believed that all a Christian had to do was obey the Ten Commandments, and "When you think about it that's quite a lot", he would say.

To Sam age was a relative factor. He agreed with a current anecdote that defined an Old Man as one who went for Metrecal, the same old gal, and singing along with Mitch, but a young man went for wine, women and song. He considered himself in the latter category and proved it. Sometimes he would have a bit too much wine; then he would vow that he was going to limit himself to one bottle of beer a day, providing it was a quart bottle.

He belonged to several Lonely Hearts Clubs in various parts of the United States. He could not recall the names of all the "girls" he had met or corresponded with, but he had letters and pictures of his fiancées. There was Maggie in Michigan, Edith in Wyoming, Mattie in Missouri, and Alice in Ohio. After he wrote to Alice for awhile, she sent him a good-luck ring and not very long after she said "Yes". He sent for Alice, bought her a blue gown at the rummage sale, then paraded her to his favorite street corner to be introduced to the town by him playing his fiddle and lustlily singing the tune "My Sweet Little Alice Blue Gown". They were married on Monday, August 11, 1947, by Judge L. H. Cheney. Soon after the wedding both decided that courting had been more interesting than supporting; so Alice returned to Ohio and got a divorce.

Each spring he succumb to his wanderlust, telling of his need "to take a sentiments journey". He intended to finance the trip by playing at fairs, rodeos, carnivals or on any street corner in any town where he might find himself out of funds from his last "Blind Pension" check. Before leaving he would stop into the Social Worker's office of the Red Willow County Welfare Department standing tall, lifting his chin high and say, "I just came in to let you see how clean I am. I took a bath, shaved, put on a clean shirt and my best suit. How do I look?"

In the spring of 1957 "Blind Sam" failed to occupy his usual spot on the street, so some neighbors went to his home and found him laying on the floor. He was taken to the hospital for treatment of a str-

oke. Upon his Doctor's orders arrangements were made to take him to a Nursing Home. Since there were none in Red Willow County at that time, he was placed in the Platte Valley Care Home in Lexington, Nebraska.

Like Grandfather's Clock, "Blind Sam's" heart stopped suddenly on June 29, 1960. If in the Great Beyond one's hopes and dreams are realized and one's efforts rewarded, then perhaps "Blind Sam, the Roving Minstrel: is a dapper young spirit, jauntily marching down the streets paved with gold, carrying a shining new harp to the Pearly Gates and greeting newcomers with the tune, "When The Saints Come Marching In."

BENJAMIN F. OLCOTT

was born in Huron County, Ohio on February 28, 1845. During the Civil War, he enlisted in Company I, Tenth Michigan Infantry, at Flint, Michigan. During the war, he received injuries from which he suffered the remainder of his life, The last twelve years he was an invalid.

Benjamin was married to Deslotine Odell in Huron County, Ohio on February 18, 1868. They moved from Ohio to Brookline, Iowa, where they lived until 1884 when they came to McCook. Five children, two boys and three girls were born to this union.

He died at his home in McCook, on Tuesday, December 3, 1912 and was buried in the Longview Cemetery on Thursday, December 5, 1912, under the auspices of the G.A.R. Post.

WILBUR HOWARTH OLDFATHER

was born at Lexington, Nebraska. His family moved to Wood River, where he resided with them for several years. He graduated from the Wood River High School, and then took up a course at the Hastings Business College. In May of 1925 he became a book-keeper for the Twidale Company at Kearney, and the following year was sent to McCook to open and manage the store here. He was active in social and civic organizations, which included; membership in the Rotary Club, of which he was secretary, and the McCook Chamber of Commerce. He also was a member of the Methodist Church. He is the father of three children; two daughters and one son.

CHRISTIAN FREDERICK PADE

was born June 5, 1832 in Germany. He learned the cabinet maker's trade in Germany. In 1852, he came to America with his mother, brother and sister, locating at Fond-du-Lac, Wisconsin. He lived there for thirty-three years. Part of that time he worked at his trade and the rest of that time as foreman of the C. J. L. Sash, Door and Blind Factory.

In 1855 he was married to Pauline Arens and to this union were born five children: Emma, Henry, Herman, Bertha, and Minnie. In 1885, he and his family came to McCook and opened a furniture store. Later a mortuary establishment was added.

Christian died on Monday, October 13, 1913, at his home from a hemorrhage. He was buried in the Longview Cemetery on Thursday, October 16, 1913.

Wife of CHRISTIAN FREDERICK PADE

PAULINE ARENS

was born on May 1, 1833 in Holstein, Germany, then under Danish rule. She came to America with her parents and was married to Christian Frederick Pade in 1855. They were the proud parents of five children. She died at her home in McCook on Monday, July 18, 1927 and was buried on Wednesday, July 20, 1927 in the Memorial Park Cemetery, beside her husband.

HERMAN F. PADE

was born February 13, 1859 at Fon-du-Lac, Wisconsin to Christian Frederick Pade and Pauline Arens. He was married to Carrie G. Burrows on February 4, 1886 at Fon-du-Lac. The Pade family moved to McCook in the early days and Herman and his father, in the spring of 1885, purchased the brick building at 310 West B and opened a furniture and undertaking business. This business he successfully conducted with the assistance of his sisters, Bertha and Minnie, his brother Henry, and other relatives up to the day of his death. After the death of his father, the business was moved to Main Street and a mortuary was later opened on East C Street. Herman was a member of the Congregational Church. He also was a member of the Elk's Club and a long time member of the Chamber of Commerce. On the night of December 23, 1932, while mailing a letter at a mail box east of the depot, in the darkness he ran against and fell over the low iron fence and sustained a fracture of the thigh of the right leg. He was taken to St. Catherine's Hos-