

JACK AND THELMA VANTINE, AND MR. EMERSON O. LIESSMAN

Applies to Frazier (1917-1921) and Langer's second term (1937-1939).

Synopsis:

Mr. Liessman and Mrs. Vantine provided some information on the social life at the mansion during Frazier's terms as Governor. Among other things, they recalled the rowdy crowd that gathered around the mansion on the October night in 1921 when it was learned that the effort to recall Frazier as Governor was successful.

Jack Vantine described his work with Lydia Langer in choosing and installing new wallpaper throughout the mansion. The wall paper shown in the photographs of the mansion during Langer's second term as Governor is the wallpaper his business installed. He is quite certain this was done in 1937.

The wallpaper Mrs. Langer chose was made by the Imperial Company, and it was the first and only washable wall covering made at that time. The cost of the job was, he believes, about \$300.00--a very expensive job at that time.

There is a humorous anecdote about a paperhanger who hung the dining room wallpaper while intoxicated. Although his work was neat enough, he hung the paper up-side-down on one wall disrupting the pattern. The paper had to be removed, re-ordered and re-hung.

Dr. James Moses and Mrs. R. L. (Mary Moses) Schwichtenberg Interview  
1939-1944 period

Synopsis:

Absolutely no structural or decorating changes done during their period in the mansion. The only new thing the state furnished were bookcases placed on the west wall of the north sitting room and in the hallway upstairs. That was done at her father's request. These were free-standing bookcases. No other changes of any kind were made.

Phil Fetch and his family lived upstairs in the carriage house. Phil drove the Buick car (owned by Gov. Moses), cooked occasionally, served formal dinners, and answered door on formal occasions. He also raised and lowered flag.

Attic was used as play area for children.

Their grandmother lived with them in the mansion (Mrs. Moses' mother).

All upstairs bedrooms were used, even the small one that goes out onto the second story porch.

Mother did considerable entertaining.

Coal furnace with stoker; fire backed up into stoker occasionally.

Garden was west of house.

Groceries purchased at small store on corner of Ave. A and 3rd. St.

Numerous anecdotes about family life in the mansion: stray cat that got into the attic, bird that flew down dining room fireplace chimney, the children's friends, etc.

Their father held many political meetings in the mansion. Liquor was served.

There never was a door on the west wall of the north living room--always an open doorway.

Summer vacations at Spiritwood Lake.

Difficulty of getting any new furnishings for the mansion. End of the Depression found the Board of Administration still very reluctant to spend funds on comforts of life for the Governor.

JOHN DAVIS INTERVIEW      1957-1960 period

Synopsis:

Does not recall a great deal about furnishings of the old mansion. The new mansion was being built, and he says there was a general consensus that the old mansion was "past its prime" and not worth repairing, or giving much consideration of any kind.

Anecdote about a water pipe bursting on second floor above kitchen just as they were preparing to go to inauguration. They had to place kettles on kitchen floor to catch drips from ceiling.

No repairs and no changes of any kind were made while he was there.

The old mansion was very poorly arranged for entertaining.

Russian provincial governors were entertained there for an afternoon while they were on a tour of the U.S.

JAY AND HARRIET BRYANT INTERVIEW      1929 wedding

Synopsis: In brief, the wedding ceremony and breakfast that Mrs. Shafer prepared for the couple is described in minute detail.

MRS. SAM (EDNA) MOSER INTERVIEW      1951-1956 period

Synopsis:

Worked as a maid for Gov. and Mrs. Brunsdale.

New wall-to-wall carpeting laid in dining and living rooms in 1955.

Recollects use of rooms and some placement of furniture.

Good account of the large wedding reception for Helen Brunsdale held in the mansion.

Brunsdale's lived alone in the mansion, no children with them.

Kitchen drafty on cold winter days.

Did laundry in basement, dried clothes on rack set up in front hall.

Recalls that china and silver settings were in good condition and in adequate number for entertaining. Does not recall patterns, but does know that they belonged to the State.

Brunsdale's used the NE bedroom for themselves, used largest bedroom for guests.

MARION BURKE INTERVIEW  
1-23-76

1907-1912 period in Governor's Mansion

Synopsis:

Gov. Sarles did not live in mansion, his secretary did.

Her mother had big window put in north sitting room--had only a tall narrow  
before with a little windowbox.

There was a bathroom in the basement

The house was quite well furnished by the state.

Her mother did a lot of entertaining, at one point for all the County  
Superintendents of Schools. Entertained state officials once per year and  
had an annual tea for all state employees at the capitol.

Never had any political meetings in the mansion.

Tom Lee, Black cook they brought with them from Devils Lake--he answered  
door and telephone. Also had a woman come in to do laundry.

Prisoners from state pen, came to wash windows and wax floors twice each year.  
Had a carriage and a saddle horse and milk cow. Used Hinkle's (sp?) hacks for  
transportation. Father rode street car to office.

Her mother had porch screened--used to sleep on porch. But present porches were  
added during Frazier's administration. Exterior was yellow with red trim, but  
Burke's had it painted white.

Flower garden to the West, had two cess pools on west too.

No Fläg pole.

Grillwork and tops on fireplaces were gone by her time.

Light fixtures they had were removed during Langer's administration.

Kitchen range was wood burning. Wood kept in back shed. Ice box was built in,  
but they had it changed (and got a free standing one??)

Kitchen was cold in winter unless cook stove was going.

Didn't make much use of fireplaces except in spring and fall. There were  
fireplaces upstairs in 2 bedrooms; she says they were both removed by 1925.

Coal furnace.

They got the state to purchase a new oriental rug.

No interior shutters or blinds; there were green window shades.

The two sitting rooms had rose brocade wallpaper put in while they lived there.

Dining room had something like blue burlap below the plate rail.

They had bookcases built in the hallway downstairs. It was open under the ~~stair~~  
stairway for coats to hang on hooks--just right height for children--this was  
where the main floor bathroom is now.

Open doorway from fireplace sitting room to hallway--no door.

Florence Baldwin was married in the mansion while they lived there, married a Mr. Davis from Larimore, she believes.

Milk cow, horse, and carriage kept in carriage house.

Had a pet dog.

Silver had an engraved crest of the state, Gorham silver, Chantilly pattern. China had a floral design, a nice formal set.

A rather eccentric artist named Miss Eiser(sp?) stayed at mansion for 2 or 3 weeks. She painted in NE bedroom. Painted a portrait of Gov. Burke.

Signed paintings with a scarab, believed in reincarnation. Painted Indian portraits for Historical Society.

Used to have guests frequently for Sunday night suppers.

Anecdote about forgetting to invite Lt. Gov. R.S. Lewis to a party for legislators and townspeople.

When Moses was Gov. the house did not have enough silver for entertaining.

Iron fence around yard was taken down when Hanna was Gov. A big cookstove was also taken out of kitchen at that time.

An ornate brass lamp was in one of the sitting rooms.

Her mother got the Steinway grand piano while she was there.

Synopsis:

Moved into mansion in 1929--January

Recalls bronze chandeliers.

Grace Sorlie had redorated on first floor.

Floor had given way near toilet on second floor--old pull chain type toilet--this was repaired and replaced during her time. Some kitchen repair done too.

Maddock had lived in the mansion.

No drapes between dining and living rooms.

Had grand piano.

Frazier's had traded oriental rugs that were in the mansion into Webb's store for Axminster(sp?) rugs, a blue and green Axminster rug in dining room.

They had dark red American oriental rugs.

Had a flower garden in the back. She says that Frazier's planted potatoes on the boulevard during WW I.

Wrought iron fence around yard was gone.

Waldo, the caretaker, lived in the mansion. He was chauffeur too.

Children had a movie projector and used part of the carriage house as a movie house.

"Trusties" worked in yard and waxed floors.

They paid for their maid.

She says there was a top to the sitting room fireplace.

Mrs. Sorlie had new chandeliers put in.

Mrs. Shafer used her won silver.

When they left to make way for Langer, they had a man from the Board of Administration come down and inventory everything there that was state property.

She used her own china. State china was very mixed as to pattern.

Langer had same rugs they did, but Lydia Langer changed the chandeliers.

She brought lamps, love seat, and "my good chair" from her home to the mansion.

Says there was a top on fireplace in dining room. The dining room table was a square maple table with oak chairs. In Langer period there was a round table.

There were broken maple chairs in the attic.

Mrs. Sorlie had the first floor wall papered.

Floors were bad when they moved in (squeaky and poorly finished), but they had them fixed.

She says that Mrs. Sorlie had the fireplace taken out of the NE bedroom, but fireplace in SW bedroom was still there when they moved out--they never used it.

Nestos was a bachelor, lived there with a housekeeper.

Heat was comfortable, coal furnace. Mentions that Mrs. Brunsdale thought floors were cold and wore overshoes at times in the house.

Had a live-in maid. Waldo had one of the little bedrooms, maid had the other. Did little entertaining, but had all legislators to dinner each session, same with state officials.

Had Vice-President Curtis there to dinner when he came to lay the new capitol cornerstone.

## NOTEWORTHY NORTH DAKOTANS

1. Louie L'Amour
2. Casper and Ruth Oimoen
3. Harold Schafer
4. Dr. Anne H. Carlson
5. Era Bell Thompson  
Helen J. Downing
6. Lawrence Welk
7. Senator Milton R. Young



# Hall of Fame

REGION SEVEN

BURLEIGH COUNTY  
(Mercer County)

~~TAPE NUMBER 52~~

MR. HAROLD SCHAFFER -- BISMARCK

- 000 - Introduction
- 020 - His family history and childhood in Stanton.
- 075 - Nationalities in the Stanton area and relations between the the different groups.
- 119 - His father's service as Clerk of Court in Mercer County and his farm. His father's education. His grandfather's farms.
- 161 - Predominance of German people in Mercer County. Getting coal from outcroppings in the area. Neighborliness of people. Marketing grain.
- 230 - Social life and entertainment. Childhood chores on the farm and the value of that childhood. Self-sufficiency on the farm.
- 326 - The flu epidemic of 1918.
- 343 - His elementary education. Rural schools and city schools. Various high schools he attended.
- 396 - His father's death. Comments on the economic condition in N.D. in the 1920's and 1930's.
- 454 - Working as a travelling salesman for Fargo Paint and Glass Company from 1936-1942. Other jobs he has held. Products he sold for Fargo Paint and Glass.
- 539 - Jobs he held in Bismarck. Collecting bills due.
- 624 - Beginnings of the Gold Seal Wax Company. Finding floor wax suppliers in the first years. Choosing the name for his company.
- 790 - Acquiring a manufacturing firm in New Jersey. Obtaining national advertising in 1948--the Arthur Godfrey Show and his sponsorship of Glass Wax.
- 936 - Reason why the company and the product line expanded. Glass wax as his first nationally marketed product.
- 951 - SIDE TWO
- 979 - Why he kept the business headquarters in N.D. Incorporation of the business. Partnership.
- 107 - Sponsoring national television shows.
- 183 - His ranch near Bismarck.
- 204 - Competition with big manufacturers and the success of his product lines--Snowy Bleach, Glass Wax, Bubble Bath.

- 252 - Numerous offers to buy his business. Reasons for conglomerate growth. Getting into big city markets.
- 330 - Comments on his attempts at political office.
- 437 - Comments on coal development in N.D. and on the trend toward large-scale farming and increased technology.
- 556 - The development of Medora as a tourist attraction and his interest in it.
- 699 - His friendship with Bill Langer. A legal battle between Gold Seal and a Canadian firm.
- 906 - End of interview.

COMMENT: The interview with Mr. Schafer, a member of North Dakota's Hall of Fame, covers his family history, childhood, and business career. Mr. Shafer was candid and expansive throughout.

LAWRENCE WELK - STRASBURG

- 000 - Introduction
- 020 - Stimulants responsible for his desire for music, Family history  
Threshing, Father's land
- 142 - Father's source of income, Typical farm day, Russian musicians,  
Education, Resistance to children learning English, Leaves home
- 235 - German-Russian and English communication in community, Accordion  
players, Youth social life, Max Fichner(organist)(vocalist)begins  
choir, Impressive childhood personalities
- 338 - Farming contributes to later success, Begins playing organ and  
for dances, Nora Ball(lady professional golfer)
- 410 - Parents, German wedding dance, Money earned at dance, Dance and  
sermon incidence at Ipswich, His employees
- 546 - '26 dance at Hague, First experiences after leaving home
- 660 - Discouraging times, Glory being part of orchestra, Encouraging  
people to his career
- 785 - Towns played in state, Town receptions to band, George T. Kelly
- 839 - Working with George T. Kelly, George Kelly plays and orchestra,  
Tours with Kelly
- 925 - SIDE TWO
- 925 - Salary, Chewing gum business, George Kelly dies, Hotsy Totsy  
Boys, Honolulu Fruit Gum Company, Novelty Orchestra Tours,  
Obtaining jobs in '30's
- 997 - Obtains Miller Beer as sponsor, Factors influencing television  
popularity, Comments on working systems, North Dakota's "favorite  
son", Gratitude expressions to state

COMMENT: This interview contains various informative topics  
about early bands.

# Senator Milton R. Young

000- Introduction

020- His family history. His parents' move to N.D. and purchase of farm land near Grand Rapids in 1881.

076- Nationalities in the area. Hard times on the farm in the early years.

106- His father's purchase of land where Berlin, N.D. is now located. Family history. Midwestern. Childhood on the farm. His education.

214- Family ~~and~~ life on the farm. Social life. Baseball games.

283- Education of his brothers. His first public speech. Attending high school in La Moure.

340- His father's land office and automobile business in Berlin.

356 380- His first interest in politics. Popularity of the NPA in the area.

460- Farming during the 1920's and 1930's. Moral during the 1930's. Effect of the Depression on his thinking.

575- His first legislative session in 1933. The Independent Voters Association. The Farmers' Holiday Association. Economic conditions as a determinant of political philosophy.

672- His admiration for Randall and Brundage.

Joe Bridston, Rilie Morgan, and the R.O.C. Lyle Twitchell. John Moses.

739- First contacts with Bill Langer. Langer's personality. Bill Lemke.

887- His role in the R.O.C.

926- Side two. Carroll Day and Joe Bridston.

951- Reasons for starting the R.O.C., reasons for its success. Opposition in the Roc to Gerald Nye.

027- Getting a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1945.

077- Changes in the style of politicians and their campaign techniques.

105- Reasons for his popularity.

(over)

122 - His most satisfying campaign. The race against Bill Bray in ~~1976~~ 1974.

152 - The future of agriculture in N.D. His opinion of large-scale farming.

200 - North Dakota's image in the nation.

235 - Legislation he is proud of - - PL 480.  
Comments about Garrison Diversion.

300 - End of interview.

FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Mrs. Dora Hertz                      | Garrison     |
| 2. Mabel Howling Wolf<br>Mathilda White | White Shield |
| 3. Dan Hopkins                          | White Shield |
| 4. James Driver, Sr.                    | New Town     |
| 5. Mattie Grinnell                      | Halliday     |

NOTE: Rev. and Mrs. Harold Case (# 14 in Burleigh Co.) apply to Ft. Berthold.

Fort Totten Reservation

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|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. Mrs. Grace Lambert | Ft. Totten |
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NOTE: A portion of the interview with Charles Cree (# 23 in Rolette Co.) applies to Ft. Totten.

FT. TOTTEN RESERVATION

MRS. GRACE LAMBERT - FT. TOTTEN RESERVATION

- 000 - Introduction.
- 020 - Family history. Reservation allotments and tribes. Mission school discipline. Speaking the English language on the reservation.
- 130 - Comments about Indians and Whites learning from each other the advantages of old ways compared to new. Plowing with horses. Location of homestead. Family history.
- 252 - Past and present changes in family discipline. Care of members within family unit.
- 344 - Traditional food. "Cowboy bread". Preparation of meat. Grinding corn. Picking wild turnips. Drying racks for meat, pemmican, corn, skins, and berries.
- 489 - Eating chokecherry patties. Past and present changes in food preparation. Medicinal remedies. Wild vegetables. Diapers for the Indian baby.
- 601 - Midwives. Diabetes at the reservation. Reasons for special individual and tribal celebrations.
- 768 - Buffalo dances. Agencies stop Indian dances. Family history.
- 851 - Indian societies. Structure relationship of her family.

SIDE TWO

- 944 - Sioux mode of communication between family members. Changes in kinds of Indian homes. Earning an income during 30's. Gardening. Grasshoppers. Hunting for food during 30's. Dust storms.
- 032 - WPA during 30's. Grocery prices. CCC. Salaries. Fishing. Goose hunting. Using Minnie H steamboat for transportation. Her husband. Chatauqua circuit at area. Providing groceries during the wintertime. Society's treatment of Indians. Shopping areas and storekeeper's reactions to Indian women.
- 155 - Changes in Indian and White level of communication. General statements about commonality of Indians shoplifting and their alcohol consumption. Leaving the reservation with a permit. Names of old tribal chiefs.
- 264 - Government distributes food rations and clothing. Traditional burials. Religious strength among the Indians. The holiness of bread. Women's display of suffering following a relative's death.
- 377 - Anecdote examples about the superstitious beliefs and dreams of Indians.

COMMENT: Foremost historical data in this interview is the discussion about preparation of food, reasons for tribal celebrations, structure and communication of family unit, and anecdotes about beliefs of Indians.