

Life Of Norris Story Of A Fighting Liberal

FIGHTING LIBERAL. The autobiography of George W. Norris, published by the late Senator George W. Norris, is a story of a life of fighting liberalism. He completed it only eight weeks before his death. Senator Norris was regarded as one of the greatest liberals of his time. Throughout his public life he fought, courageously and persistently, to have enacted into legislation the principles in which he believed.

His autobiography does not follow the customary pattern. It is not a chronological recitation of events in the author's life. The introductory chapters do give a somewhat conventional account of his childhood and young manhood. For some readers these chapters, readable as they are, might be the most attractive in the book. For others, who I am sure the book really doesn't mean until Mr. Norris reaches that point in his career at which his public life began. The chapters, forming the bulk of the book, describing the great legislative battles in which Senator Norris was a central figure are fascinating and, as he intended them to be, inspiring to one of liberal belief.

A lawyer, Norris entered public life as a prosecuting attorney. Then followed a period as judge of the 14th Nebraska District. In 1902 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. In 1913 he was elected United States Senator, serving continuously until 1945.

To appreciate what George W. Norris meant to this country one must know and understand the nature of his character. The foundation upon which he built his life was faith in the American people—their strength and vitality, the wisdom of their considered judgment. He devoted his life in service of the people.

Norris entered Congress as a bitter Republican and was soon to be seen to back party lines. Although he bore the Republican label he voted independently. Thereby, he incurred the disfavor of the machine politicians of his party. Repeatedly he has been denounced partisanship in government, referring to it as a "blinking philosophy."

He attracted public attention by his leadership in the fight to strip the Speaker of the House, then Republican Joseph Cannon, of his vast powers over the deliberation of this body. A cordiality to his opposition to partisanship was his opposition to patronage and his championing of the merit system of selecting government employees.

Perhaps Senator Norris is best known to the general public as the father of the Tennessee Valley Authority. His sponsorship of the legislation creating the TVA sprang from another of his deep convictions—that certain natural resources of the nation, especially the water in streams, belong truly to the American people. It was his belief that the development and conservation of these resources ought always to be under public control, public ownership, and public operation.

As a Republican Senator, Norris parted ways with his party on an issue regarded by many as a "great" heavy tariff duties. "Nothing in my experience and philosophy," he says, "led me to believe that we as a people could prosper and achieve happiness through the want and misery of others."

Other major legislation with which Senator Norris' name is associated includes the anti-inflation act, regarded as labor's Magna Carta, the act creating the Rural Electrification Authority, the twentieth amendment to the Constitution establishing the Lame Duck Congress, and the promotion of the unicameral legislature in the State of Nebraska. The battles leading toward each of these are described in the book.

The entire book is written in a terse, readable, almost journalistic style, characterized by short sentences and paragraphs. One suspects here the hand of E. Lawrence of Lincoln, Nebraska, a writer who assisted in the preparation of the book.

In setting about the task of writing his autobiography, Senator Norris was motivated not so much by a desire to perpetuate the memory of his greatness, but by a wish to render a public service. Promoted by Charles Grassov.

be had for the asking, and all who would might have a part in the future. The story lives in each page. For those who were builders in America this is a warm tribute.

S. G. B.

ALL OUR LIVES. By Henry Duer Miller, Coward-McCann, \$3.00.

"All Our Lives" is more than a biography of the versatile Alice Duer Miller—it is really a portrait of marriage, Mr. Miller's life and opinions and thoughts and prejudices as an individual and as interesting. I think that he says what he has to say about his famous wife.

The book is amusing reading for the cast of characters which move through its pages are people famous in the world of letters, the theater, moving pictures and society.

Duer Miller's life story is told by her husband in "All Our Lives." Henry Miller has applied himself to the study of his wife with enthusiasm and affection. The book is a distinguished and well-written portrait of an intimate. Unlike many married people, the Millers knew each other thoroughly. They were allies against the world when necessary and yet were capable of pitying. For an entertaining book, a book which tells about the woman who is called "The White Cat," "All Our Lives" is a gem.

HETTY WANNAMACHER

THE MORGUE THE MERRIER. By June Farrell. Doubt, Mead & Co. \$2.00.

From beginning to end this story will keep you merry and interested. It is both funny and wise. There is a lot of character in it, and it contains a lot of life and wit. It is a story of a woman who is always a little ahead of the man, and who is always a little ahead of the man.

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BLONDIE

TO LIKE TO SPEAK TO MR. BUMSTEAD

ONE MINUTE PLEASE! I'LL CALL HIM

?

NOW WHERE DID I GO?

BUZ SAWYER

EVERY NAVY SHIP IN THE WORLD MUST BE OUT THERE

WHY DON'T WE GET UNDER WAY?

WOTTA WE WAITIN' FOR?

ALL EYES ARE ON THE ADMIRAL'S SHIP. SUDDENLY, FLAGS SNAP TO HER YARDARM.

L'I L' ABERN

ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO BE A GOOD BOY FIRST

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WASH TUBBS

IT'S EASY'S SURPRISE BLOW ON THE NAZI GUARDS' HEAD GODDLER WHEELS TO FIRE!

EASY!

RITA! DOCTOR! OUT OF THE DOOR! QUICK!

SO YOU'RE THE MISSING GOOBLER! I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU ALIVE, IF—

POW!

ON THE NEXT COMPARTMENT

VOT VAS DOT SHOT?

HURRY! MAYBE IT'S PER-YANKEE PIG!

JOE PALOOKA

IS HE LOOKING FOR US TOO?

UH... VELL... DOO... VELL... DOO... VELL... DOO...

OH NO, OLD BOY. I WASN'T LOOKING FOR YOU CHAPS. I'VE COME DOWN HERE EVERY DAY HOPING TO SPOT ALLIED SHIPS—WONDER WHEN THEY'LL ARRIVE.

PRETTY SOON I'M HOPING I SPOKE YOU'LL BE GETTING YOUR OWN ISLAND BACK AN' START GROWIN' TEA AGAIN.

I REALLY DON'T THINK SO, THE JAPANESE DESTROYED EVERYTHING I IMAGINE. I SHALL PROBABLY GO TO THE ARGENTINE. I'VE OLD FRIENDS THERE. I'M TIRED OF THE ORIENT. BEEN HERE TOO LONG.

GASOLINE ALLEY

I HOPED ON SKIMP BROWNE. I FIGURED THAT IF HE BRAGGT THE WALLETS, A MEN'S FINE, HE'D BRAGGT US AS ONE.

HOW DID IT COME OUT?

NO STONE, BUT HE SWEARS HE DIDN'T GIVE THE WALLETS ONE. HOWEVER, I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD YOU. THEY PROBABLY BOUGHT THEIR OWN.

YEAH, AND SHE HAD THE NERVE TO HAND ME A LOT OF BUCKENY ABOUT GETTING IT OUT OF THE OLD NIGHTGAD. I HATE HER!

WALLETS'S A SAP FOR SPENDING HIS BUCKENY. HE'LL GIVE HIM THE KATZBERG WHEN I SEE HIM.

TERRY

WELL, AFTER ALL, YOU THINK OUR AMERICAN TROOPS SUSPECTED THAT THE JAPANESE CAME BY THE LAST NIGHT TO PICK UP OUR CURRENT HARVEST?

ANY POUND ON THE GARDEN ON THE LAWN AND THE BUSHES—LEFT THEM FROM SNOOPING!

THE PINKS PROBABLY THROUGHT THE TROOPS WERE TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE BOOBY MAN!

NASSI TOLD ME YOU COULDN'T MAKE A MOVEMENT TO SEE IF THE KANE GIRL WAS COZY WHEN YOU WERE INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF THE LIEUTENANTS?

MEANWHILE ON ANOTHER ISLAND (MILES AWAY)...

HAH—THE SKIPPER GIVES UP THAT ROUTINE LINE! WHEN THEY SEND A FIGHTER DIVISION ALONG TO CONVOY OF HYDRO-JOE, THEY REALLY WANT THOSE PICTURES BACK!

I KNOW YOU FIGHTER GYRENE—IF ONE JAP MAKES A FACE YOU'LL BE AT HIS EXCISE TO LEAVE ME HANGING WHILE YOU STOP TO TAKE PICTURES!

I GUESS THAT ROCK IS GOING TO HAVE SOME VISITORS!

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

AND THAT'S HOW IT GOES. THERE'S NOT A THING I CAN DO IF I ANNOUNCED OUR ENGAGEMENT. IT'D BE DUCK-SOUP FOR BEVERLY BLISS!

HER AGENT WOULD FEATURE THAT PICTURE OF HER AND ME. WITH ALL THE PATTER!

DID YOU EVER CONSIDER WRINGING HER NECK?

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING DOWN IN THE MOUTH. ROO, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE BEING QUITE FAIR TO YOUR GIRL. HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE FEELS?

I KNOW! THAT'S WHAT'S DRIVING ME NUTS! IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME THING I COULD DO!

