

up a bank which later became the First National Bank of American Falls.

Like Brady, Davis was a strict conservative on many issues. Like him, he obtained several changes in

various water reclamation projects. Caught in the middle of sectional struggles, he decided not to run

and 1926. Thereafter, he returned to Idaho and pursued his business interests in Eastern Idaho. □

# Former Idaho Governor Ross Consulted With Local Soothsayer to Make Decisions

By JOHN F. DILLIN, JR.  
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Talking with spirits and belief in the supernatural are usually areas reserved for evening reading of tales by Edgar Allan Poe, not for influencing governmental decisions.

But four-term Pocatello mayor and three-term Idaho Governor C. Ben Ross often sought the advice of a well-known Pocatello medium — Emma "Minnie" George Green — when faced with important decisions.

Minnie Green probably had more of an impact on local and state affairs during the 1920s and 1930s than most people would dare imagine.

Ross was only one of hundreds of locals who went to Minnie Green for advice, or simply to satisfy curiosity, for more than 40 years until her death in 1969. She died at age 102 in a local rest home.

Minnie was born in Germany, March 9, 1867 to Carl and Henrietta Fries George. Her father, a stone mason, moved the family to Waukesha, Wisc., when she was seven months old.

Minnie came to Pocatello from Chicago in 1904 with her daughter, Glorein (Mrs. James Hawley Steed.)

Upon arriving in town she had only \$3, according to her daughter who lives with her husband on a small farm near Tyhee. She gave \$2 to her brother and the other dollar to her daughter to have a tooth pulled.

Minnie would charge 10 cents for people to sit in on sometimes night-y circles or seances, according to Mrs. Steed. Sometimes up to 100



MINNIE GREEN  
Inspired by Spirit

people, mostly students from the university, would crowd into Minnie's one-time home at 656 S. Third.

Minnie was well informed in palmistry, numerology, astrology and phrenology, according to past newspaper accounts. She had natural spiritual ability, says her daughter, and was ordained a spiritual minister in 1906 at Butte, Mont.

"She discovered her ability as a young girl in Waukesha," Mrs. Steed says.

Her nickname Minnie was taken from the name of her spiritual guide. Glorein was three years old when her mother was taken control by the spirit.

"Minnie was a baby, an abortion baby," Mrs. Steed recalled. "Minnie would never tell her full name because her mother was still living.



C. BEN ROSS  
Attended Seances

She was three or four years older than me."

For years Minnie lived at her ranch at Crystal where Ross and others would visit. The mayor was considered a progressive due to his many accomplishments. He created Ross Park and built the city's first golf course.

It is Minnie who should receive partial credit for the expanded municipal water system during the Ross administration. Minnie is credited with "seeing" a great water supply under Pocatello. Mayor Ross followed by drilling wells as a supplement to Pocatello's water rights to the nearby mountain streams.

Minnie would often visit the Ross family in Boise, according to Glorein. Once the governor took Minnie

to the state penitentiary to visit Ross took Minnie to one prison who extended his hand through the bars to be read. She told the prisoner, "You are going to go very quick." Ross quickly took the man to the side and told her the inmate was soon to be executed.

There are other "Minnie" visits accounted in print.

One of her pre-Pocatello visits was predicting the outcome of the Dempsey-Tunney world championship heavyweight boxing match in Chicago. She was quoted as saying "Dempsey will win but will lose."

She was right. Dempsey could have retained his title when he knocked Tunney to the canvas, but the champ failed to promptly return to a neutral corner. The count was delayed just long enough to allow Tunney time to regain his feet and avoid the knockout.

In 1925, Minnie said she saw a large bowl of wheat circling in the air, rising but suddenly spilling. What was this vision? A short while later, the wheat market took a sudden turn and its price fell cents a bushel.

Minnie was married four times. Her first marriage, at age 22, was to Wallace Needham, manager of the Boston Bloomer Girls who traveled and played baseball in summer months. Minnie, a gifted seamstress, did much sewing for the Bloomer Girls who needed costumes for their winter employment as singers and dancers.

She divorced Needham and married Jake Jehlik in 1897. Separated from Jehlik, she married Charles Estoria in Pocatello in 1905. In May 1913, she married Samuel Green, who died at Pocatello a few years later. □