

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 74 offered by Senator DeCamp found on page 1723 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DEKAMP: Mr. President, it's probably going to be five, six minutes before most of the Senators get here so I would like to tell you about Joseph Burns. What's a Neligh Senator doing telling the Lancaster County Senators what they should name their parks? Well, I stumbled across Joseph Burns kind of accidentally. Up at the N Club one night, Rod or Ross Rasmussen told me I should research this character. So I did and he's the most interesting person I've run across in Nebraska history and I think far more significant to Nebraska than Norris, Exon, a lot of others. Let me tell you about Joseph Burns and why you don't know about him today because I doubt anybody in the body probably knows who Joseph Burns was. Came over from Ireland, settled in Iowa, was a young engineer and invented something called an auger that drills a hole in the ground to get water and set up and patented the system for the encasing. Because of that one invention, they were able to settle Nebraska and in the archives, that is credited more with settling Nebraska, the ability to get water than any other single thing. But Joseph Burns didn't quit there. Joseph Burns moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, became a member of the City Council and one day when Lincoln was ready to fold back around the turn of the century cause it could not get water, he came up with another idea that was also said to be impossible and a boondoggle and that was, he was going to drill a whole series of wells and with battery operated pumps provide Lincoln 2 million gallons of water per day. They said it's impossible; he went out, set it up, and provided Lincoln 3 million gallons of water per day consistently until they, years later, changed. Then also around the turn of the century, Joseph Burns while still on the City Council came up with another idea that was a first for Nebraska at the time. A lot of train traffic was starting to develop and they had just invented the automobile. And Joe said, look, these automobiles and trains are going to run together into each other sometime as we get more of them because they're going to make a lot more automobiles, so he said, I suggest we build something that's different than anything they have in the whole middle of the United States. I suggest we build an overpass and so the West "O" Overpass became the first one in the midwest and, of course, we're still using it today. Joseph Burns went on to become a member of the State Legislature, was kind of a prominent member here for a time but then Joseph Burns, my Lincoln friends I want you to listen to this, my Lincoln friends and those who oppose the Norden Dam is why I'm telling you all this. Joseph Burns fell into