

# INTRODUCTION

*By Pioneer Fund Trustees*

*There is a different type of giver. Generous people that don't desire a spotlight, or adoration, or even the slightest bit of acknowledgement. They are rare. Their giving is pure.*

—Scott Hamilton

So why compile this memory book? The trustees of The Pioneer Fund want to simply share some background of this unique woman and her history with whoever may be interested.

Helen's background, her values, her love of life, how she lived her life can be traced to her family and ancestors. Helen simply loved her mom and dad and brother with all her heart, and she never forgot them. Every year, she would remember and mention their birthday dates, as they remained close to her heart and being. So the first section of this book is all about her family and ancestors. "Memories and keepsakes." We have shared pictures, stories, letters, and documents from her files.

This section includes the Green(e) family tree (page 37), a little background on her ancestors, true Pioneers each in their own right. John Green was Helen's great great grandfather. He led the first group of twenty family members and friends—against many odds—cross the prairies and rivers of Ohio and Indiana to reach a destination in Ottawa, Illinois in the late Fall of 1829. His courage and quiet determination certainly helps define Helen McLoraine.

Jesse Green was Helen's great grandfather—and author of the amazing fifty-two page journal of the adventures of the Illinois pioneers, starting with the 1829 wagon-train trip west until his passing in late 1890s. Read a bit about the Blackhawk Indian War of 1832, the two group trips to the California Gold rush fields of 1849–1850—and simply about pioneer life in the 1800s! Jesse's sense of adventure certainly can be found in Helen's travels around the world—with her mom, then her beloved Mac, and finally as she embraces a family of young figure skaters to share her encouragement and support. Her grandfather, Thomas Henry Green, and later her dad, Lewis, both owned their own businesses. We certainly can see where Helen may have gotten some of her business smarts.

Learn all about her brother, Lewis Jr.—a young man of courage and achievement who gave his life for his country—much as Helen has shared so much of her life and resources with the world. Helen was also so close to her mom and dad throughout her life—and no doubt her strong character can be found in the strength of that relationship. They were her best friends throughout her lifetime. Her beloved Mac was always by her side for the years they shared together traveling, socializing, and living life to its fullest. Then within three months in 1979, both her mom and Mac passed away. Knowing a new chapter had begun in her life, Helen moved beyond her sadness, embraced life even more through her giving, and an old saying of making lemonade out of lemons may apply here.

Section Two of this book shares the story of Helen's philanthropic life and the impact her life and giving has made on so many people. We shine the spotlight on this part of Helen's life to honor her, although she might not approve of the acknowledgement. But she is a different type of giver, as Scott said. They are rare. Her giving is pure.

Section Three is intended to share and reflect Helen's love of figure skating and all the wonderful friends and experiences and joy it brought her. She helped and encouraged many skaters through the years and continues to do so—quietly and anonymously, for the most part. She loved traveling to competitions—local, U.S. Regionals, U.S. Sectionals, Senior and Junior Grand Prix events, World Championships, Olympics—as well as professional skating competitions and shows over the decades. Maybe the best were U.S. Championships where she could see all the top novice, junior, and senior United States skaters in a week of competition, meeting friends, and watching early morning practices. To celebrate her love for the sport and the joy it gave her, we have graciously received permission from U.S. Figure Skating to reprint covers of the annual U.S. Championships (formerly referred to as “Nationals” within the skating world) from 1977 through the present. Finally, we have included a representative handful of photographs from her collection. Though she had so many friends from the skating world, and it certainly could have been hundreds more pages of these, there is no intent to include or exclude anyone specifically.

Lastly, the trustees of The Pioneer Fund would like to give thanks to all the many people who may not have been mentioned anywhere else in this memory book but whose friendship with Helen made her life so much more complete.

Her many relatives were often in her thoughts—her cousin Marie Albright from Akron, Ohio, who preceded her in passing, for example. Marie and Helen shared many summers together as kids on the farm in Morris, Illinois. Marie was almost like a thoughtful big sister to Helen at times. Tom Harper, her cousin in California, was very special. Helen so much enjoyed her visits with Tom, as they both grew up in the time of the “great generation” as Tom Brokaw defined it. Helen so looked forward to seeing the various cousins at the annual Dayton cemetery meetings on Memorial Day weekend the years she could attend. Helen grew up and was close to her cousin David Holmes. His offspring—David and Virginia, Susan and Michael, Kathleen and Mark, Dan and Jan, and Peter and Barb, and all their children would invite Helen to the family weddings.

She was also very close to the Pottenger clan. She visited with Larry and Bobbie Pottenger and their two girls near the University of Chicago on her trips back home after she moved to Denver. She always appreciated the friendship, kindness, and kinship with Grace and Charles Clifford on her visits back to the Ottawa-Dayton area—so too with all the other various relatives who gathered at Dayton each year.

Helen had many friends—but a few special people in her life in Denver. Business friends including Sam Gary and Jim Bye. Friends who treated her like part of their family, such as the Birdsong family. Neighbors and true confidants, Jim and Mary Barnes.

Her many skating friends included the coaches she admired—Kathy Casey with whom she shared many dinners and parties in her Colorado Springs home over the years, Mr. John Nicks, Frank Carroll, Don Laws, Sandy Lamb, Carol Heiss and Hayes Jenkins, Bob Mock, Janet Champion, and Donna Baker, among many, many others. There were also many skating friends and judges including Peggy and Joe DeLio, Beth Graham, Caroline Kruse, Patty Harris, Judy and Dave Klopp, Bob and Sharon Allen, and Tommy Collins. There was the whole Duxbury travel group—and the 6.0 club members—founding members being Helen, Don Laws, and Rickie Harris, as best recalled. Of course, all the skaters who brought beauty and accomplishment and joy to all the hearts of the skating world—and Scott, who was like a son to Helen. Scott *never* missed spending Christmas with Helen. One was an Olympic Gold Medal winner—the other: a Heart of Gold. Two Champions in Life!

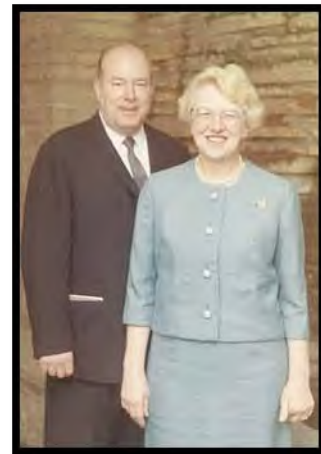
—Pioneer Fund Trustees

Helen M. McLoraine shared her prosperity so that others could also have their dreams. As you live your life work to achieve your dreams and share your success with humanity as Helen has done all her life.

—Lark Birdsong and Bob Anderson



*Helen, far left, Lewis, Jr. with hat, Friend in Front,  
Mother (Mabel) and Father (Lewis) far right*



*Frank and Helen McLoraine*

Helen M. McLoraine was born in Chicago, Illinois, in August, 1918, the daughter of a father who owned his own company which created educational products and a mother who performed vocal work, musical comedies and was a dedicated philanthropist. Helen passed away in January, 2003 due to a fall while attending the U.S. Figure Skating National Championships. She was doing one of the many things she enjoyed in life, watching young

kids in figure skating rinks, working to achieve their dreams. Helen, along with her mother, established The Pioneer Fund, a private family foundation, in the 1960's, to continue her life long tradition of support to the types of projects and organizations to which she had contributed throughout her lifetime and now through her estate.

Helen and her brother Lewis were the children of Mabel and Lewis E. Myers. Mabel Myers, born in 1889, was the daughter of Thomas H. and Cora (Childs) Greene of Chicago, Illinois. Both the Green and Childs families were early pioneers in the LaSalle County, Illinois area by the first half of the 1800's. Lewis E. Myers was born in Canton, Ohio, on December 5, 1882, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Wertenberger) Myers, the former of Martinsburg, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Winona Lake, Indiana. He was united in marriage with Mabel (Greene) Myers on November 14, 1914 and had two children: Lewis E., Jr., and Helen M. Myers (McLoraine). They resided in the Valparaiso, Indiana area for many years.

Helen's dad, Lewis E. Myers, attended the schools of Louisville, Ohio, and Wooster College of Wooster, Ohio, and then entered Otterbein College, where he graduated in 1907 and obtained a degree in business. When Lewis started his business he became associated with a group of people devoted to the manufacture and sale of the Chautauqua desk. This experience enabled him to organize Lewis E. Myers & Company where he created the New Chautauqua desk, one of several educational products. "This desk in all probability was the forerunner of the modern effort to combine "education with play" toward constructive ends." Sixteen or more nationally known educators were associated with Mr. Myers and the foundation of this work had a tremendous influence in the field of education. The efforts of Mr. Myers in these varied fields earned him the commendation of many people eminent in national educational affairs. He formed the Children's Foundation of Valparaiso, Indiana and published a book titled "The Child: His Nature and His Needs."

Mabel (Greene) Myers, Helen's mother, graduated from the Chicago Music College. She was an accomplished vocalist involved in concerts and musical comedies of her era and was a philanthropist throughout her lifetime. Mabel (Greene) Myers was a person who enjoyed life and involved herself in many ways. She completed courses of training and instruction from the Office of Civilian Defense and became a member of the United States Citizens Defense Corps and was awarded a Service Ribbon Bar for her "splendid" work on November 3, 1943. As a parent and concerned citizen she involved herself in education and was President of the Lincoln Parent-Teacher association. Always an adventurer she crossed the Arctic Circle in an airplane on the August 26, 1958 on the airlines, Wien Alaska. Much of Mabel (Greene) Myers, spirit and dedication to hard work, and philanthropy was something Helen valued and carried on in her lifetime.

Lewis E. Myers Jr., Helen's brother, was a talented actor and also enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1942, Lewis was on the U.S.S. Little which was attacked by the Japanese and sunk while supporting the landing of Marines at Guadalcanal and Tulagi, opening the Solomons Campaign. After swimming alone in the dark cold waters for six hours he found his way to safety. Lewis commitment to his country was strong and in February, 1944 Lewis was on the

U.S.S. Trout, which was on an offensive war patrol in enemy controlled waters in the South Pacific and heavily patrolled by enemy air and surface forces. The U.S.S. Trout failed to return as scheduled and was never to be heard of again. It was on this submarine that Lewis and his shipmates gave their life for this country.

Helen (Myers) McLoraine attended the University of Chicago, where she studied business. Helen was a pioneer who, in the 1950's, put on a hard hat, learned about the oil industry and broke new ground for women to assume leadership roles in business. She put to rest any doubts about women managing money when she managed many pension funds alongside her male counterparts with a very successful track record and solidified her place as a business leader. Helen married Frank McLoraine ("Mac"), a lawyer from Chicago, in 1957 and they resided in Winnetka, Illinois, the north suburbs of Chicago, Illinois.

Before meeting Helen, Frank McLoraine graduated from The University of DePaul, received the "call of duty" during World War II and became an officer in 1942. Frank helped liberate France and received the Silver Star from Le General De Gaulle in 1945. He returned to the United States and received his law degree from the University of Chicago and had a successful private law practice until he passed away in March, 1979. Several years after Frank's passing, Helen moved to Denver in April, 1985.

Helen was a very private person, frugal, kind and smart, who felt a serious responsibility to the community. She was a person who was very active and enjoyed all that life has to give. From early on in life Helen participated in crafts, swimming, drawing, weaving, music, art, golf, reading, theatre, travel and many activities continued on throughout all of her life. She traveled the world with her mother and father, her husband Frank and then continued with friends after Frank's passing. Most of her business life was spent as a private investor in the oil and gas industry.

Helen, deeply influenced by her mother's dedication to philanthropy, became a generous benefactor to others with a focus on figure skating, higher education assistance, medical research, and youth social welfare. Helen had a heart for small non-profit organizations with great missions and small resources. Her philanthropy includes scholarship to high achieving individuals who are accountable for their life and people in need who knew they were responsible for the direction of their life and had a desire to help others. She did not want recognition for her contributions as she believed the focus should be on the organization, rather than the donor. Helen had provided assistance to over seventy promising United States figure skaters since 1980 and was most well known as the sponsor of 1984 Olympic gold medalist, Scott Hamilton.

A working agreement to college that her brother Lewis received, (Lewis wanted to be an actor when he returned home from the war), sums up the work ethic Helen and her family embodied. The letter to Lewis states "The working agreement is not a scholarship. You are granted the opportunity to earn the whole of your tuition by performing special crew work which will be credited to your tuition." Helen's family believed in being accountable and working hard so they could excel for their life. They were passionate and appreciative of all

they received.

The door to Helen's apartment, which originally opened inward the way that most doors do, was changed to open out to the world. This was indicative of the way Helen embraced life and invited others to do the same. May you apply your life with the same work ethic and passion Helen showed while living, realize the opportunity you are given and are open to helping others as one way of honoring the gift you are given.

