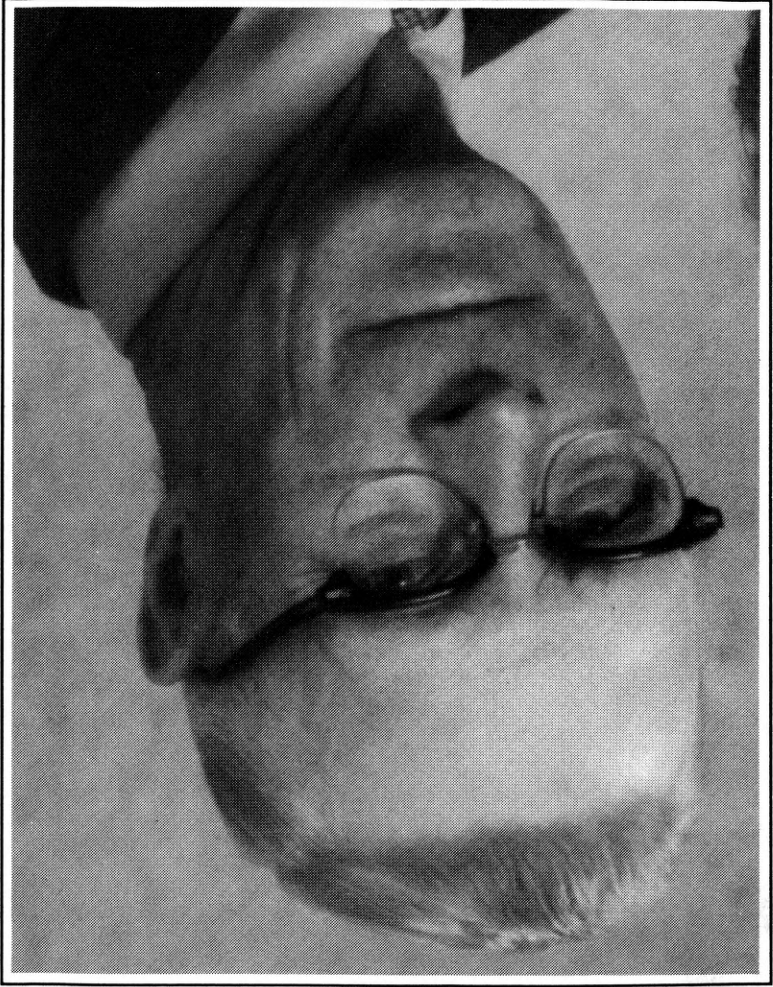


Axel Johanson
1897 - 1992



In Loving Memory of

Axel Johanson

1897 - 1992

Axel Johanson, the second son of Eric and Anna Johanson, was born on the Burnt Lake homestead June 12, 1897. His parents came to Canada from Sweden in 1893 and filed for their homestead NE 10-38-1-5. They were attracted to this area by the plentiful supply of timber, like that in Sweden, and also the prospects of near neighbors who spoke the same language. Axel was one of five children born on the homestead and the last surviving member of that family.

His early education involved schooling at Burnt Lake and Shady Nook. After soldiering in the First World War for a few months, he continued his education at the Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho. During this time he was able to pursue his keen interest in singing while finishing his high school and taking some college courses.

The summer holidays were spent harvesting fields in Washington, which involved driving sixteen head of mules on combines. After harvesting was complete there, he helped take off the crop at home.

In 1927, after his father and brother died, he came home to stay and worked with Oscar on the farm. Along with the hard work of clearing land and farming with horses and oxen, the boys had time to pursue the sport of riding bucking horses and playing baseball on the Burnt Lake team. Axel was also an avid hunter and never missed a fall hunting trip out to the west country. He

still managed to go hunting at 87 years of age. Axel loved music and enjoyed many years of singing in the Sylvan Lake Presbyterian Choir along with Oscar. The "Johanson Boys", as they often were referred to, were a great asset to the bass section and Axel sang in the choir until he was 88 years old.

Axel was a respected horseman and passed on his love for horses to his family who have maintained a keen interest in them. The Benalto Fair was a highlight every year when the family, along with Dad, would show their horses.

Axel married the former Dora Bjelke in 1934 and they farmed in the Burnt Lake district all their married life. Axel, at the age of ninety-one because of failing health, had to leave the farm and resided at the Westpark Nursing Home until his passing.

Axel was predeceased by his eldest daughter Margaret in 1984, his father in 1927, brother George in 1927, mother in 1932, brothers John in 1972 and Oscar in 1987 and sister Ellen in 1988. He is survived by his loving wife Dora of 58 years and daughters, Harriet (Nico) Van der Giessen of Grande Prairie, Klara (Bert) Bystrom of Centerville, son David (Jamie) of the Burnt Lake district, five grandsons, three granddaughters and many nieces and nephews.
