

Biographical Details

Second child of William Charles Johnson and Margaret Maria Matilda Johnson (nee Irwin)

At age two the family moved to Queenstown. His father William Charles Johnson died in 1925, aged 35. Arthur's mother Margaret brought up the three children: Gordon, Arthur and Anne on her own without government assistance. Arthur attended the local Primary School in Queenstown and left early, doing labouring jobs on ~~his~~ farms. Arthur was a great help to his family. As a teenager Arthur enjoyed cricket, running, sprinting, rugby tennis, table tennis and shooting with the Rifle Club Lumsden. In his later ~~teenage~~ years Arthur enjoyed wood chopping and ^{as an adult} was awarded 1st Prize for the Standing Chop by the Lumsden Caledonian Society in 1950.

At the age of 18 Arthur became a guard in the New Zealand Railways based at Invercargill.

In 1950 Arthur was based in Wellington working for the New Zealand Railways as a guard

In Wellington Arthur met Jessie McGowan Richardson in Wellington (originally from Scotland) and married on 26th January 1961 in the Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church, on the Terrace Wellington. They moved to Levin in 1961. Arthur and Jessie had two girls Rhona born 5th May 1962 and Elean born 2nd June 1963. Rhona and Elean were the pride and joy for their parents. Jessie and Arthur supported Rhona and Elean with the Youth Group at St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Girls Brigade Duke of Edinburgh classes, Piano Music, Netball and Swimming lessons and School work

From 1962 to 1972 Arthur worked as a Driver/Salesman for Farmers Trading Company, Levin. From 1973 to 1984 he worked as a cashier at the Horowhenua Electric Power Board.

For years, Arthur bicycled to and from work and also biked home for lunch, so was very fit - wet or fine. Jessie always had a nice lunch for Arthur. Also superb meals were cooked for the family.

After retirement in 1984, Arthur was able to help more at home. He enjoyed bicycling, bridge, cars, church life, food, growing potatoes and vegetables, outdoor bowling and watching Rugby on Sky Television.

From about 2004 Arthur was involved with many community groups - The Arthritic Foundation, Breathe Easy, Bridge, Probus, The Levin Returned Services Bowling Club and Association, Salvation Army Companion Club and the Scooter Club.

Jennie and Arthur had two trips overseas in 1984 and 1987 which included an exciting return to Jessie's native country - Scotland. In 1998 Arthur travelled overseas with Rhona to the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom.

Sadly wife Jessie died 14th November 1996 at Te Whanau Rest Home, Queen Street Levin.

Over his Levin years Arthur had four cats, Misty, Snowball, Fifi and Xeng.

(6)

For the last year ^{and a half} of his life
Arthur lived at Madison Lifecare
144 Queen Street West, Levin
Arthur took a keen ^{interest} in
family history and gave fine
eulogies of relatives who had
passed away.

Arthur was a straight-forward
man and is well remembered for
his ~~kindness~~, loyalty and
hard work in helping others.