



Memorial Scroll Orville “Orval” Troop

Orval Troop was born in 1926 in the Burnside district, west of Portage, Manitoba.

Orval began his education in Burnside’s one-room school, and completed his education at Portage Collegiate.

Orval lived and farmed his whole life in the district where he was born. In his teens, Orval purchased his first Hereford heifer from Dr. Dixon of Bagot, and another from Marvin and Roy Treffry. Those two heifers were the foundation of his herd, Trumac Herefords. The Trumac operation ran over 200 cows at its peak. The Trumac name originates from the combination of Troop and McConochie, Orval’s last name and that of his first wife Helen.

Orval grew up in a time when horses were still commonly used in the fields. He took pride in his pioneer heritage, and loved to pass on stories about the threshing gangs, horses, machinery, and necessary skills from that era. He was a regular participant in local and regional ploughing matches, and took top prize on numerous occasions. He also had a team of Belgians that he used on the farm and showcased in driving competitions at local fairs. As late as the 1970’s, he still had a working

binder and taught his family to make and stook sheaves just like the pioneers.

Sports were a lifelong passion for Orval. He particularly loved hockey, curling, fastball, baseball, slow-pitch softball, and participated in community leagues for many years. He was a founding member of the Burnside Curling Club in 1948, which remains active today. After the formation of the Burnside Historical Committee in the late 1980’s, Orval served as Vice-President and an active collector of information about the early days of the Burnside District. Orval spent many volunteer hours assisting the Burnside Curling Club, Burnside Historical Committee, and the local 4-H clubs; where he led the 4-H Seed Club and volunteered with the Poplar Bluff 4-H Beef Club. He also served as Deacon, and later Elder of the 7th Day Adventist Church in Portage, which he helped build.

As a cattleman, Orval traveled frequently to sales throughout western Canada. He loved Alberta and Saskatchewan, and made at least two trips “out west” every year to attend Hereford sales and shows. Every fall, he would travel to Alberta with his friend Bob Kerr to sales, often bringing home a new herd sire prospect. A highlight trip for him was the National Western Stock Show in Denver, where a bull he owned an interest in was being shown.

In 1989, Orval had a Mark of

Excellence show at Portage Exhibition named in his honour. He was recognized for 50 years in the Hereford industry at the Good As Gold Sale in 2000. Orval was involved with the South East Hereford Zone in Manitoba, as well as the Manitoba Hereford Association. Through his interest in cattle, Orval developed treasured friendships and connection with Hereford breeders throughout Western Canada, Ontario, South Africa and Australia.

Orval was held in tremendous regard by all who knew him. When his sons, Doug and Keith, donated a heifer in his memory to the Manitoba Hereford Association, the heifer brought over \$4000.00

When Orval passed away on August 30, 2009, the Hereford breed lost a great ambassador and friend. It is with great respect that the Canadian Hereford Association inducts Orval Troop into its Memorial Scroll.