

1918, Grose kept one of the earliest Saskatchewan records of plant phenology. His list of plants, complete with their Latin names, gave the first flowering date for 86 species. Similar lists for Mortlach recorded flowering dates for 75 species in 1921, but only 35 species in 1923.

His daughter, Eileen Blanchet, wrote from British Columbia in 1988 to tell me that her father's "egg col-

lection at home was always a part of my upbringing since it was a cherished experience to look at them and handle them. I remember being taken to the museum to see his collection there, which was more extensive than the one he kept at home." Later in his life, Eileen's father gave encouragement to a farm lad from the next hamlet at Tullis, up the line from Lucky Lake. The lad's name was Frank Roy.

HARRY C. GROSE, 1887-1992

J. FRANK ROY, 650 Costigan Way, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7J 3R2

A pioneer Saskatchewan birder, teacher, pharmacist, and undertaker, Harry Grose died in Calgary, 20 April 1992. At the time of his death he was 105, Calgary's oldest citizen and one of the oldest persons in Canada.

Harry Grose was born on a farm at Goldstone, Ontario, 15 January 1887. A precocious child, he was allowed to attend school at the age of five and entered high school in Guelph at age 11. Like so many children born on the farm, he developed an early and lasting interest in nature. He attended Queen's University, Kingston, but before graduating decided to move West with the flood of settlers that were then beginning to populate the Prairies.

In 1905, at the ripe old age of 18, Harry landed in Manitoba. A short time later he moved to Regina where he completed his teacher training at what was then called "Normal School." His first teaching job was at

Otthon, Saskatchewan, southwest of Yorkton.

While teaching he continued his study of birds, compiling migration dates, looking for nests, and adding eggs to an impressive egg collection he had begun in Ontario. Most of his egg collection was later donated to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. He involved his students too, inspiring in them an active interest in everything from astronomy to botany. [His compilations of the spring and summer flowering plants of Lang (1918, 86 species) and Mortlach (1921, 75 species) still extant, carefully identify species by both their English and Latin names, noting periods of peak flowering.] In 1911, during his last year at Foam Lake, he even raised a family of six skunks. At the end of the school year when he decided to move, he sent his pets to the famous author-naturalist, Ernest Thompson Seton.



Harry, Alma and Elva Grose, Lang, SK, 1917.

Even though he had filed for a homestead in September 1908 (a quarter section near Foam Lake), he managed to continue teaching as he developed his farm. Between 1908 and 1911, he broke 30 acres of land, built a house, barn and granary on the property, and taught at Sheho and Foam Lake.

In 1911, after putting in his crop, Harry moved west to Medicine Hat to teach for a term before returning east. In April 1912 he was granted title to his homestead and that summer, on 8 July, married Alma Olson, a native of Melville, whom he had met in Yorkton. In the years that followed, they became parents of three girls: Elva, now deceased; Eileen, who lives in Mission, B.C.; and Elinor, whose home is Vancouver.

With new responsibilities, he decided in 1913 to move into high school teaching, first at Lanigan,

where he served two years, and then at Lang, where he taught from 1915 to 1919. While at Lang, he began an apprenticeship in pharmacy. For four years he worked after school at George McCuaig's drugstore, meanwhile taking correspondence courses from Queen's University. In 1920, he finally completed his degree at the University of Saskatchewan. Despite his success at university (he had been asked to teach pharmacy classes while studying), he moved to Mortlach and Wapella to teach for another five years before purchasing the drugstore at Lucky Lake in 1925.

He served the townspeople and farmers of Lucky Lake for the next 28 years. A natural leader, he saw what needed to be done and did it. Fond of sports, he coached young people in tennis and baseball. He developed a small park in the town, planted many of the trees that now grace the streets of Lucky Lake, and



H.C. Grose, Calgary, 1987.

served as reeve, member of the school board, and chairman of the hospital board. Because he realized the community needed an undertaker, he learned that trade too, taking on the job as had his fellow naturalist Dave Santy in Beechy, the next major town down the line. An accomplished organist and pianist, he played the organ at the United Church whenever the regular organist was away.

When he sold his business in 1953, he and Alma moved to Calgary, supposedly to retire. Alma died in 1955, and in 1956, at age 69, Harry decided to return to work, this time at Douglas Drugs. In 1957, he married Pauline Crouch. He continued to work as full-time pharmacist until the store closed in 1976. Retired (for the second time!) at the age of 89, Harry wondered what he should

do next.

Until he was past 100, Harry gardened, played the piano, enjoyed oil painting, wrote long and interesting letters, read widely, and pursued his interests in nature, people, and politics. His activities curtailed finally by loss of vision, he continued, with Pauline's help, to face life with zest and courage until he died peacefully on 20 April 1992, after suffering a stroke a week earlier.

Harry Grose will long be remembered by those who knew him; quiet, unassuming, determined, a dedicated student of all things natural, he was one of Saskatchewan's pioneer naturalists and builders. And because he wore work shoes, Harry has left his footprints in the sands of time.