

# TUSCANIA

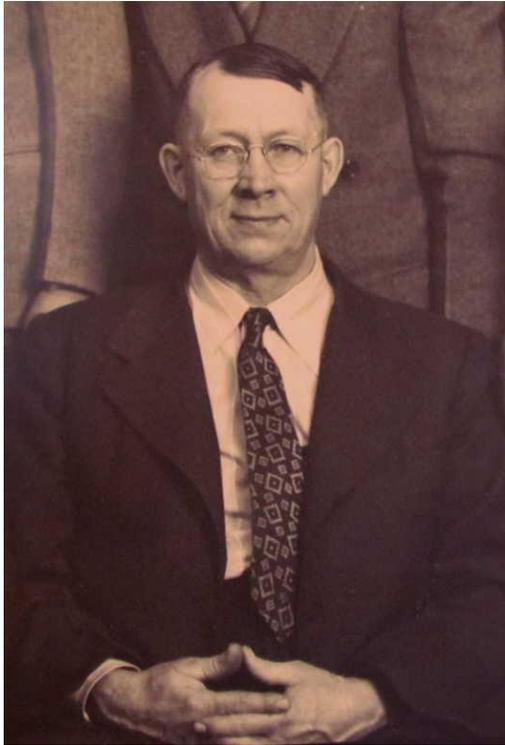
**Bjork, Oscar J.  
1886 WI – 1963 WI**



## **OSCAR BJORK**

Born April 14, 1886. Entered the service at Chippewa Falls, Wis., April 6, 1917, as a private in Co. A, 4th Wis. Inf. Trained at Camp Douglas, Wis., and Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas. Transferred to the 1st Truck Co., 107th Motor Supply Train, 32nd Div. Sailed in January, 1918. With Army of Occupation in Germany. Returned to the U. S. and was mustered out May 29, 1919.

Oscar J. Bjork, "Honor Roll, Chippewa County" p. 31 –  
[https://box2.nmtvault.com/ResCarta-EAU/jsp/RcWebImageViewer.jsp?doc\\_id=d35b3d65-fa38-4641-a752-6c9de980b207/we000000/20101207/00000026](https://box2.nmtvault.com/ResCarta-EAU/jsp/RcWebImageViewer.jsp?doc_id=d35b3d65-fa38-4641-a752-6c9de980b207/we000000/20101207/00000026)



Oscar J. Bjork – from family portrait, ca. 1945 – Left: [https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/44720902/person/6274107903/media/36120701-bc84-4a93-adb8-42dda76e3cf?\\_phsrc=yGI654&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/44720902/person/6274107903/media/36120701-bc84-4a93-adb8-42dda76e3cf?_phsrc=yGI654&_phstart=successSource) and right: Color version on Find A Grave 71512387



<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/25074715/person/312084726958/media/5d9f0523-ceae-4886-928e-84bcaa67f61d?queryId=c9aca865-2b06-407e-ba07-ff7154c19210&phsrc=cPx10073&phstart=successSource>



Rudolph Boos, left above, shop foreman at the new city shops, talks over problem with Joe Price, center, city blacksmith, and Oscar Bjork, right, street superintendent.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 11 Dec 1948 p 1*

BJORK OSCAR 12-10-63  
BJ XC-21-664-511

Pvt 1c Co A 107 Sup Tn K

201 S State St Wis A 2 993 656

Sn 250 960 T 211 406

Born 4/14/66 Died 12-3-63 R

Enl 7/15/17 Dis 5/29/19 I

Ct 2 122 723

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1Q-23KV-M?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP8C-5LC4&action=view>

1. NAME OF DECEASED - LAST - FIRST - MIDDLE (Print or Type) BJORK, Oscar --		14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Forest Hill - Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin	
2. SERVICE NUMBER 250 960 ✓	3. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NUMBER 21 664 511	IMPORTANT - Item 18 on reverse side must be completed. See attached instructions and complete and submit both copies.	
4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year) April 6, 1917 <i>ENG</i> <i>MAY 15 - 1917 / ID</i>	5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year) May 29, 1919 <i>HON</i>	15. This application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the U. S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Armies of the Civil War or for an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recoverable deceased member. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for proper placement at the grave or memorial plot at no expense to the Government.	
6. STATE Wisconsin ✓	7. MEDALS <i>NONE</i>	NAME OF APPLICANT (Print or Type) Karine Bjork	
8. GRADE OR RANK PFC ✓	9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION U.S. Army Co. A 107 Supply Train <i>22 DIV</i>	RELATIONSHIP widow	
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year) April 14, 1886 ✓	11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year) December 3, 1963	ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Street address, City and State) 110 North State Street Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin	
12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATIN CROSS (Christian) <input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID (Hebrew) <input type="checkbox"/> NO EMBLEM	13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>Karine Bjork</i>	
		DATE Jan. 2, 1964	
DO NOT WRITE HERE FOR VERIFICATION JAN 9 1964		16. FREIGHT STATION Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin	
ORDERED FEB 6 1964		17. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE OR MARKER Karine Bjork	
B/L 9491		ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City and State) 110 N. State St., Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin	
CONTRACTOR JAMES H. MATTHEWS(321) PITTSBURGH, PA.		I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY.	
<i>Pfc Co. A - 107 Supply Train / R R I</i>		SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE <i>Karine Bjork</i>	
DD FORM 1330, 1 DEC 61		APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER	
PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE.		Form Approved Budget Bureau No. 22-R205 <i>R</i>	

[https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2375/images/2375\\_09\\_00001-02964?pld=2900464](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2375/images/2375_09_00001-02964?pld=2900464)

### OSCAR BJORK

Funeral services for Oscar Bjork, age 77, 110 N. State Street, will be held Saturday afternoon at two o'clock at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church with Rev. A. T. Blom officiating. Interment will be in the family lot in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Military services will be conducted at the cemetery by the American Legion Post No. 77.

Friends may call at the Hogseth-Pederson Funeral Chapel from two p.m. Friday until Saturday noon, when the remains will be taken to the church to lie in state until funeral time.

Mr. Bjork was born April 14, 1886 in Chippewa Falls, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bjork. He was married to Miss Karine Helseth of this city on April 3, 1920 in Chippewa Falls, where they have since resided.

Mr. Bjork worked as a mason contractor until 1930, when he became Street Commissioner for Chippewa Falls, retiring from that position in 1961, after 31 years of service. His son James was appointed to fill the position.

He was a veteran of World War I, entering the Armed Forces April 6, 1917. He went overseas in January, 1918 and was with the Army of Occupation in Germany. He was honorably discharged May 29, 1919.

Mr. Bjork was one of the few survivors of the ship *Tuscania* which sank during World War I.

He was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Maccabee Lodge and American Legion Post No. 77.

Surviving are his wife, Karine; two daughters, Mrs. Conrad (Kathleen) Landsem and Mrs. Wilfred (Helen) Anderson, both of this city; five sons, John of Chicago, Kenneth, James, Elmer and Gordon, all of this city; seven grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Charles (Jennie) Richards and Mrs. Pete (Eleese) Peterson, both of Tacoma, Washington; one brother, Ben Bjork of Rowe, Mass; two half-sisters, Mrs. William (Elsie) Englebretson of Bloomer and Mrs. Warren (Evva) Lawson of Ruyallup, Wash.; two half-brothers, Arvid Bjork of Milwaukee and Arthur Bjork of Eureka, South Dakota. He was preceded in death by one

was preceded in death by one half-sister, one half-brother and one granddaughter.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oscar Bjork</b></p> <p>CHIPPEWA FALLS (Special) — Oscar Bjork, 77, long-time street commissioner at Chippewa Falls, died Tuesday morning at his home at 110 N. State St.</p> <p>Mr. Bjork retired from the commission post in 1961 after 31 years of service. A son, James, was named to replace his father. Mr. Bjork was born here April 14, 1886, and was married to Karine Helseth in 1920. He operated a mason contracting business before becoming street commissioner.</p> <p>During World War I, he served in the Army in Germany and was one of the passengers to survive the sinking of the Tuscania. He was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, the American</p>	<p>Legion Post, and the Macabee Lodge.</p> <p>Surviving are his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Conrad Landsem and Mrs. Willford Anderson, both of Chippewa Falls; five sons, John, Chicago, Kenneth, James, Elmer, and Gordon, all of Chippewa Falls; two sisters, Mrs. Charles Richards and Mrs. Pete Peterson, Tacoma, Wash.; a brother, Ben, Rowe, Mass.; two half-sisters, Mrs. William Englebretson, Bloomer, and Mrs. Warren Lawson, Puyallup, Wash.; two half-brothers, Arvid, Milwaukee, and Arthur, Eureka, S. D., and seven grandchildren.</p> <p>Funeral services will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, the Rev. A. T. Blom officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill Cemetery.</p> <p>Friends may call at the Hogseth - Pederson Funeral Chapel from Friday at 2 p.m. until the time of the funeral service.</p>
--	--

*"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Wednesday 4 Dec 1963 p 12*

Life:

**WILL CONTINUE THE  
BUSINESS**

Mr. J. L. Anderson, a gentleman of experience, will assist Oscar Bjork in the management of the Bjork Cement Manufacturing Company. The plant will be enlarged and placed in the best of condition. Orders can be left at 204 W. Central St late residence of Mr. Bjork.

Following the death of Oscar's father — "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Tuesday 9 Jun 1903 p

## A NEW CONTRACTOR

### Will Begin Work Next Week on Cement Side Walk

L. J. Anderson, the well known cement sidewalk builder has retired from the business and the work will be carried on by Oscar Bjork a young man who is thoroughly qualified to carry on the work, having laid with his father the first cement sidewalks in Chippewa Falls. He has been associated with Mr. Anderson for a number of years and has superintended all his work. He has ample means and expects during the season to employ a large force of men. He has already a number of large contracts and would be at work now but for the unsettled weather.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 4 May 1907 p 3

Oscar Bjork left yesterday for Tomahawk, where he has a job of cement work.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 26 Jun 1913 p 3

camp.  
Oscar Bjork left yesterday for Livingston, Mont., to visit friends.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Saturday 1 Jun 1916 p 2

... yesterday.  
**Oscar Bjork and Hans Knutson**  
 left for Chicago, Friday, to attend  
 the cement show which opens Mon-  
 day.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Sunday 11 Feb 1917 p 6

While working on the stage at the theatre, Oscar Bjork fell fourteen feet from a scaffold. A plank slipped, striking him on the head and inflicting two scalp wounds.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 1 Mar 1917 p 3

**MORE MEN ENLIST EVERY DAY.**

Capt. E. A. Firth reports that new men are joining the company every day. A total of twenty-eight men have joined since recruiting began, and it is thought that the company will be recruited to full war strength within a few days. The following is the list of those who have joined:

James A. Falch, Laurence Jump, Richard Thornton, Frank M. Smith, Freeman Hogelboom, Frank Lenzel, Amos Yell, Harry Redfield, Andrew Griffey, William Hebert, Stuart Sweeney, Earl Grammont, Albert Dressel, Walter English, Clarence McCartl, Rudolph Stone, Frank F. Aulman, Thomas V. Murphy, Harold Jenkins, Arthur Rogers, Ingwald Loken, Oscar Bjork, Francis Loughton, Edward Bushland, Henry Meaud, Forrest Tapper, Erick Benz, Earl Curry.

War was declared by the US on 6 Apr 1917 – "Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Sunday 8 Apr 1917 p 6

<h2 style="text-align: center;">61 CHIPPEWA MEN ABOARD TUSCANIA</h2>	<p>107th supply train—First Lieut. Peter Pangborn, Elmer F. Charland, Charles Rousseau, Fred A. Booth, Hilton Doege, Everett H. Hale, George Borgenheimer, Hans Christ-er, Fred Duxbury, Claire Metz-zenbauer, Ernest Morency, Henry Schmidtmeyer, Lyle Dignan, Walter English, Francis Loughrea, George Stengel, Erick Benz, Oscar Bjork, Edwin Bushland, Leo Corneiller, Mike Cosgrove, James A. Falch, Charles Felton, William Gergau, Ingwald H. Hanson, Alvin Krause, Robert McCarty, George McDonell, Barney McMahon, Clarence Mitchell, Charles Pregent, Nathan McIntyre, Rudolph Stone, George Schemensky, George Shaw, Forest Tapper, Rich-ard Thorton, Earl Welsenberger, Guy Wiseman, Edmund Yell.</p>
--	---

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 3

Oscar Bjork, a survivor, says it was an awful experience. He is stationed at Mornhill Camp, England. The country is quite green and it is raining considerable.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Wednesday 13 Mar 1918 p 3

Mrs. Ida Bjork of Pond street, received a telegram from her son, Pvt. Oscar Bjork, Wednesday morning, stating that he had arrived safely at Newport News from overseas duty. He is a member of the 107th supply train, 32nd division, and a member of Co. A.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Friday 23 May 1919 p 2

The husky bronzed veterans who arrived are: Sergt. Geo. Borgenheimer, Corporals Ed. Bushland, Wm. Gereaux, Ed. Paul, Edw. Yell, Chas. Pregent, Mike Cosgrove, Hans Christianson; Privates. Barney McMahon, Harold Jenkins, Erick Benz, George Stengel, Walter English, Rudolph Stone, Leo Corneillier and Harvey Dodge of this city. Corporals, Wm. Olson and David Richard of Stanley; Pvt. Edward Paulus and Corp. Guy Wiseman of Bloomer.

Sergts. Ing. Hanson, Ivo B. McAllister, Corp. Fred Duxbury, Oscar Bjork and Richard Thornton, stopped off along the line and will be in the city in a day or so.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Sunday 1 Jun 1919 p 3

If you don't think the American Legion in Chippewa Falls is a strong, healthy organization and in need of lots of furniture for its club rooms, glance at the list of members below and then look over your storeroom and see what you can spare. Nearly every home has some article of furniture that can be given to a good cause and it will be appreciated by the boys. Here's the list:

Duncan R. Aekley, C. L. Ainsworth, Louis Altman, Frank Aulman, Leslie J. Bell, Bert Bassette, Eric C. Benz, Arthur B. Berg, Fred A. Bigler (post commander), Louis J. Bigler, Arthur Bjork, Oscar Bjork, Chris Blumhardt, Roy Brecke, Geo. Bruce,

List continues - "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Monday 21 Mar 1921 p 3

# REDUCE SALARY OF PARK SUPT.

## New Board Holds First Meeting But Does Not Name Superintendent.

Without naming a superintendent in yesterday's organization session, the Irvine Park board fixed the salary of such officer at \$160 per month and of an assistant superintendent at \$125. The former peak salary of the superintendent was \$250.

Eleven applicants for the position of superintendent were read by L. J. Felix, secretary, as follows: S. J. Melville, Oscar Bjork, Philip Sweitzer, Herbert Jacobson, Charles J. Ermatinger, T. L. Murphy, Henry C. Bachus, Bernard Moeri, Ernest O'Neil, Clifford Crain and P. J. Pangborn. Members of the board took lists of the candidates for the purpose of considering them and it is probable a selection will be made at the next meeting, March 6.

## **BJORK IS NEW STREET SUPT.**

### **City Commission Makes Ap- pointment of Office at Reg- ular Meeting.**

The appointment of Oscar Bjork as superintendent of streets was the only change made by the council yesterday afternoon in naming the appointive city officers for the year beginning May 1. All of the other officers hold over for one year under present conditions.

The list of city offices and the names of the appointees follow: Corporation counsel, P. J. Murphy; city clerk, L. J. Felix; treasurer, Louis Mandelert; assessor, L. H. Jasper; health officer, Dr. R. Schwartz; engineer, S. R. Cray; superintendent of streets, Oscar Bjork; water superintendent, Harry Riester; water office clerk, Mrs. Alice Greenwald; comptroller, W. C. Richter; garbage commissioner, W. H. Miller.

Article continues - "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Wednesday 23 Apr  
1930 p 3

# THIS IS ANNUAL CLEANUP WEEK

## Collection of Tin Cans and Rubbish Started by City Street Dept.

The rattle of tin cans today heralded the opening of annual clean-up week in Chippewa Falls. Today is "tin can day."

The street department in charge of Supt. Oscar Bjork, started early this morning loading the winter's accumulation of rubbish and cans that had been piled in convenient places and hauling them to the dump.

All of the accumulation cannot be removed in a single day and Mr. Bjork expected three days will be required to do a complete job. Of course, a great deal depends on how promptly the residents respond to the call to have their piles of refuse ready.

The city will have the heaps hauled away with no cost to the residents if they will comply with the request to have everything in a location where the street employees and trucks can get at them. Some people place them in alleys when that is convenient and others are obliged to set them along the street. Either place is all right. It is advised that the refuse be placed in sacks or boxes, however, to expedite the work of loading.

Mayor Richter recently issued a proclamation in which he suggested that this week be devoted to cleaning up and painting up.

**Trucks to Replace Horses.**  
 A plan to abolish the use of horses in city street work was discussed. Street Superintendent Oscar Bjork was questioned regarding the advisability of making the change and informed the council that aside from plowing open sidewalks during the winter months and loosening the gravel in the pits supplying the city with material, he believed trucks could do all the work the city team is now doing. High cost of team maintenance prompted the suggestion of eliminating horses. If any work appears that a truck cannot do, a team can be rented for the occasion, it was said.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Wednesday 4 Jun 1930 p 2

**CHIPPEWA FALLS, Apr. 24 (Special)**—At a postponed meeting of the city council held last night the city officers were appointed. The meeting had been postponed from last week due to the illness of Mayor W. F. Crane.

All the present holders of city offices were re-appointed with the exception of the superintendent of the water works, Harry Riester, superintendent for the past four years, who was succeeded by Arthur E. Nelson. Mrs. Alice Greenwald was re-appointed clerk in the water works department.

Lee C. Millard was re-appointed city clerk and C. R. Cray will continue in his position as city engineer. Oscar Bjork will be superintendent of streets again, and Dr. Leonard H. Hart was re-appointed sealer of weights and measures. Dr. J. A. Kelley will fill another term as health officer.

W H Stafford W H Gharrity

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Wednesday 25 Apr 1934 p 11

## Sons of Legion to Install Officers May 7

A meeting of the officers of the Legion's Sons was held at the Legion club room Saturday afternoon to discuss various business matters. It was decided that the installation of the officers would take place at the next regular meeting of the Meuli-Kelean Post, which is to be held on Thursday night, May 7, at 8 o'clock. The charter membership will close on the day of the installation ceremonies.

Another meeting of the Sons of Legions will be held Friday, May 1, at the club rooms. The following have joined the organization since the last meeting: Robert Pepin, Robert Kleinheinz, Donald Pangborn, John Franklin Bjork, Kenneth Quentin Bjork, James Arthur Bjork, Gordon William Bjork and Elmer Steven Bjork, Eugene Berg, Robert Wiley, Elmer Joseph and James Peter Paquette.

The five Bjork boys are all from one family, their father being Oscar Bjork, and it is probable that this record of one family will be hard to be beaten by any organization in the United States.

Oscar's 5 sons - "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Monday 27 Apr 1936 p

Oscar Bjork, city street commissioner, returned Tuesday from Minneapolis and the Twin Cities where he secured a Heil dump 3-yard box for the chassis of the city oiler, which has been put away for the season.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 13 Oct 1938 p 4

## Blames City Woe To Its People

**Harry J. Webb, Candidate For Mayor, Holds Outdoor Meeting.**

-Declaring that Chippewa Falls is all-right but that the trouble is with its people, Harry J. Webb, candidate for mayor, in a talk made on W. Central street last night, said that the businessmen of the city are trying to drive business out of the city. And then he said, "If I go in I'll show you how to run a city on the level, and on an honest and courteous basis."

Opening his talk, Webb said he has lived in Chippewa Falls for 61 years, has been a taxpayer for 39 years, and has always had money in the bank.

Asserting that no one else "has guts enough to tell you about it," Webb attacked the present city administration, as well as that when W. F. Crane was mayor. He said, if I am elected I will "lift out" Street Commissioner Oscar Bjork and the policeman who "kicked me in the pants" and put me in jail and forced me to put up \$10 bond. "I wish they had held me," he declared.

ciared.

W. F. Crane, while mayor, he said, held three jobs, that of mayor, one for the government, and also operated his own business. He charged that Crane does not want industries to come to Chippewa Falls, that he cut wages of city workers.

"If I am elected," he declared, "I will see that all city employes are paid a living wage." Street crews should get time and a half for night and Sunday work, he said.

Mayor John Zesiger and the building committee were scored by the speaker for what he asserted is a plan to build a \$163,000 swimming pool on Johnny Duncan's old frog pond on South Side. Here he

(Continued on page Three)

## Blames City Woe To Its People

(Continued from page One)

mentioned Alderman C. H. Redard and said, "Why don't they put capable men on the committee; where is the pay-off?"

Asserting that he loves Chippewa Falls, its people and surroundings, Webb told of building his apartment building on W. Spring street and his bowling alley, going on to say that both the Island Street and South Side schools have been condemned and are not fit places to house children.

The present street program of the city administration came in for a flaying, when Webb declared there is not a decent street in the city, and the present city hall is a disgrace to the city, and the smoke stack on the city's heating plant is falling down.

Webb declared that the city council should be cleaned out, with the exception of Aldermen Walter Streib and Victor Johnson. He praised the First and Lumbermen's National Bank and the Northern States Power Company, together with James McPhee and Joe Juel for their policies.

for their policies.

Among those whom he criticized were George Miner, owner of the Falls and Rivoli theaters and the Falls bowling alleys building, Max Abramson, Ed. Segal and Harold E. Stafford, who he said, is the silk hat manager of Henry Connor, another candidate for mayor.

The city administration was also scored by the speaker for passage of an ordinance which limits the number of liquor licenses which may be issued. "Where is the pay-off?" he queried.

Chippewa Falls can be increased to a city of 15,000 like nothing, Webb said, as he urged his audience to get out their candidates, closing with the statement that "If I go in, I'll show you how to run a city."

## Bjork Named To Take Over Position

William C. France, street commissioner, resigned at last night's council meeting and Oscar Bjork, former street commissioner and recently France's assistant, was named as the new commissioner.

France was appointed as street commissioner by Mayor Harry Webb following his election and at the first meeting of the new city council in May. After hearing City Clerk Lee C. Millard read the resignation of France and the mayor's appointment of Bjork, the council first approved Bjork's appointment and later accepted France's resignation.

A communication from Earl Pevan, asking that his application for a tavern license at 13 West Spring street, which was approved at the last council meeting, be withdrawn because he had completed a deal for the sale of his business and stock of liquor to Fred and Jim Webb, was accepted. A new application from the Webb brothers for a liquor license at 14 West Columbia street was referred to the council as a committee of the whole.

The council voted the city attorney authority to settle a claim of E. V. Henneman growing out of a charge of more than \$130 for thawing out a frozen water pipe at his home on W. Cedar street last winter.

In answer to a question by Alderman Bartz upon what decision the opinion on the mayor's authority was based, North replied that there had been no court decision yet, but that the council and mayor should be able to get along, but that the duties of the council committees had not been definitely established.

After Alderman Meier remarked that the heads of the various city departments are appointed by the mayor and approved by the Council, the mayor or any councilman should make a recommendation for their discharge, if their work is not satisfactory. And the mayor declared that if Oscar Bjork "doesn't hit the ball", his resignation will be requested.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Wednesday 7 Feb 1951 p 4

---

**Bjorks work many years fixing city streets**

---

I first met Jim Bjork when I was a guest at a Chippewa Falls city employee picnic. He and his wife, Lorraine, sat across the table from us, and I said, "Mr. Bjork? The city street superintendent? You're the one I should talk to about the tall weeds that interfere with vision at the foot of Wagner Street hill."

Then the weeds were forgotten as we picnickers returned to our steak sandwiches and butter-laden sweet corn.

The next morning, as I drove down Wagner Street hill, I was startled to see a city truck parked on the grassy shoulder of Highway 29. Two men were leveling the offending tall weeds. Bjork got things done that day, just as he did through his 44 years of service to the Chippewa Falls street department. On January 3, 1991, he retired from the job that had absorbed his attention since 1947. His successor is Glen Zweifelhofer.

James Arthur Bjork was one of seven children born to Oscar and Karine Bjork on the east hill of Chippewa Falls where he has lived

all his life. He attended First Ward School, an old wooden building, presided over by Principal Torgeson, then went on to Island Street School, with Catherine Hedrington as principal. Even as a school boy, he found jobs to do and worked for Diedrich Electric Company, Foster Tire Shop and Zutter Elevator.

On Dec. 19, 1944, World War II thrust Jim into active duty. After brief basic training in Arkansas,

Jim's unit of the 112th Regiment Cavalry, boarded the S.S. Norway

## Irene Herrmann

HT Columnist



for the Philippines. Though his tour of service was short it was marked by several near-misses. He made a hazardous trip across the island of Luzon to see his brother John, riding in whatever antiquated vehicles were available. Being 18, he was more concerned about seeing his brother than his own safety.

On September 2, 1945, he landed in Tokyo Bay where the Peace Treaty was signed. He was stationed in barracks near a cache of ammunition confiscated from enemy forces. When a violent explosion rocked the barracks, Bjork was knocked unconscious; he revived and rolled under a table; then escaped the building as succeeding explosions finished off the barracks.

"When I returned to the barracks," said Bjork, "there was nothing but rubble."

Bjork had been home from the service just one week when Zutters called him to come to work.

Meantime, the Chippewa Falls streets were being cared for by Jim's dad, Oscar Bjork, who had held the title of street superintendent since 1931. Equipment in the 30s was a horse, a wagon and two horse-drawn trucks.

Wheaton Street was the western edge of the city in those days and Greenville marked the south side

limits.

In February 1947, Jim started work in his father's department and drove the department's first truck. He also operated a Michigan crane for 14 years. Sanding the streets in icy weather was often an all-night job, with the sand being scattered from the truck by hand. Two truck-loaders were acquired and were kept in a basement at Columbia and Prairie Streets and a tarpaper building was erected to house a new grader.

The department now has 11 three-ton trucks with snowplows. In June 1958, Jim was appointed assistant street superintendent, and on May 2, 1961, following his father's retirement, Jim became superintendent of the street department. Oscar Bjork died December 3, 1963.

Between the father, Oscar, and the son, Jim, the Bjorks devoted 75 years of service to the Chippewa Falls street department. I wouldn't be surprised if that remarkable record would some day merit a street named "Bjork."

Retirement has not found Bjork with time on his hands. He has turned his energies toward carpentering, helping remodel his daughter's home and making picnic tables from treated lumber.

He and Lorraine have one daughter, Debra Holte, and two sons. Douglas is assistant manager at Gordy's IGA Store and Dean is with Valley Bank. There are six grandchildren.

Jim has several imposing-looking citations, recognizing his years of service to the city and to

Jim Bjork wishes now he had asked his dad for more stories about the days when Bridge Street and other main thoroughfares were paved with bricks. Rural families came to town with horses and wagons to buy supplies. They parked their wagons along Duncan Creek, near Spring Street, and often brought farm produce to the street department, but he cherishes, above all, the respect and friendship he has earned from friends and fellow-workers.



HT Photo by Irene Herrmann

**James Bjork and his father, Oscar Bjork, served a total of 75 years on the Chippewa Falls street department.**



There are hundreds of articles about Oscar Bjork available at Newspapers.com – these are only a few.

## Oscar Bjork remembers ‘watering’ elephants

*(Editor's note: Aug. 18, 1959 — Oscar Bjork, now city street superintendent, tells the Chippewa Herald-Telegram he still remembers the day he 'watered' the elephants. "Never saw such big ones, before or since," he laughed).*

The huge, colorful billboards and advertisements in the newspaper billed it as the biggest show under canvas in the world.

Young and old alike awaited the coming of the circus to Chippewa Falls just before the turn of the century.

The city by the falls had been visited, many times before, by the performers of the Big Top, but nothing ever like this — the billboards read.

Actually, the circus which played in Chippewa Falls some 60 years ago was too big for the little saw town. The arrival

created a problem that all but wrecked the dreams of hundred of youngsters with the gleam of the sawdust rings in their eyes.

"Twenty trained and performing elephants," the signs read.

Actually, there were only eight, but those eight Mastadons posed a problem.

The circus train arrived from the west on the Wisconsin Centr-



al. The cars were shunted off on a siding and unloading operations began.

A city councilman was in the huge crowd which watched the early-morning operations.

"How ya gonna get the circus across the river to the grounds?" he asked.

A circus official glared at the city official as though he thought the man had lost his mind.

"Bridge, isn't there?" he clipped.

"You're not takin' those elephants, or heavy wagons over

our old wagon bridge," the alderman said as he hurried back over town to find someone with a bit louder official voice.

City Fathers quickly got their heads together. Circus roustabouts continued unloading, preparing to move across the river to the grounds on the South Side.

Officials took hurried steps to prevent the crossing. The

pitched-word battle raged for an hour. Circus officials hurled threats, but the councilmen wouldn't back down.

A railroad man solved the problem and saved the day for hundreds of kids.

"Why not cross the river on the Central, transfer to the Omaha, back into the station on the South Side and unload there," he suggested.

Circus officials conceded and the re-loading task started all over again.

It was almost noon-time before

the Omaha switch engine spotted the circus cars on the siding near the Northwestern depot.

A small boy tugged at the trousers of a circus man as the unloading operations started on the South Side.

"Can I watch your elephants for you, Mister?" he asked.

The man looked down at the small lad. He wasn't much

bigger than a pint of cider. The circus trainer grinned.

"Okay, Sonny, you take the elephants to the river," he laughed, handing the boy a stick with sharp prongs stuck in one end.

Oscar Bjork was the envy of every kid in town as he herded the hulking creatures to the edge of the river.

It required the efforts of four men and the small boy to get the elephants out of the river in time for the afternoon performance, however.

"It was a hot-day," Bjork recalled later. "Those elephants had a time. Threw and blew water all over the place."

The circus showed practically on time, minus the street parade that day.

But circus lovers of all ages took the missing attraction in stride and enjoyed every minute of the antics in the double sawdust rings.

Mr. Forepaugh, owner of the circus and menagerie and trained wild beast show, said he would never appear in Chippewa Falls again.

Circus lovers of the small saw city didn't mind.

"Chippewa Herald-Tribune" (Chippewa Falls WI) Monday 1 Jul 1996 p 4 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/416826704/>

# Street renaming prospects look dim

By **ROD STETZER**  
rod.stetzer@lee.net

Honoring a family's commitment to Chippewa Falls may not take the form of naming a street after two men who worked a combined 75 years for the city of Chippewa Falls.

The city's Board of Public Works on Monday decided to have City Engineer Rick Rubenzer gather more information about honoring Jim and Oscar Bjork, who each led the city's street department.

James Bjork died July 1. His obituary said it was his dream to have a street named after his family, including his father, Oscar.



Bjork

Rubenzer talked to Bjork's widow, Lorraine, about honoring the Bjork family with a possible renaming of Riverside Drive to Bjork Boulevard. "He would have really appreciated anything. Because he was thinking of his dad, not just himself," Lorraine Bjork said.

But he added: "In the past, to best of my knowledge, the (city) streets have been named after the mayors."

Several mayors have not had that honor. There is no city street, for example, named after city's longest serving mayor, Virginia Smith.

Plus, renaming Riverside Drive would cost the city money in getting new signs, Rubenzer said. However, keeping the street Riverside Drive but informally calling it Bjork Boulevard would cost less.

Rubenzer said there's other possibilities of honoring the Bjorks, including having a plaque at the streets department.

Mayor Greg Hoffman said naming a bench after the Bjorks by the Business 29 and Highway 124 roundabout would also be a nice gesture.

Members of the Bjork family also suggested the city look at possibly renaming Badger Street. Rubenzer said he will look into it.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Tuesday 27 Aug 2013 p 1

*Wife:*



Karine Helseth Bjork – Find A Grave 71512456

## Oscar Bjork

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	Oscar Bjork
Marriage Date	3 Apr 1920
Marriage County	Chippewa, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Karen Helseth

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1195903:61484>

**BJORK SERVICE**  
 Funeral services for Mrs. Karine Bjork, 110 North State, Chippewa Falls, were held Friday at 2 p.m. from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church with Reverend A.T. Blom officiating. During the service Mrs. Kenneth Brist sang two selections, "The Old Rugged Cross," and "Behold A Host, Arrayed In White," accompanied by Mrs. O.B. Meslow.  
 Pallbearers were four grandsons, Terry Anderson, Madison, Wisconsin; Jeffrey Anderson; Danile Bjork; Douglas Bjork, all of Chippewa Falls' two sons-in-law, Conrad Landsem, Route 4, Chippewa Falls, and Wilfred Anderson, Chippewa Falls. Interment was in the family lot at Forest Hill Cemetery.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 27 Jan 1973 p 3

## Mrs. Karine Bjork

CHIPPEWA FALLS (Special)

— Mrs. Karine Bjork, 78, of 110 N. State St., died Tuesday night at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Karine Helseth was born April 4, 1894, in Stadsdygd, Norway, and married Oscar Bjork May 3, 1920. She was a charter member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the Ladies Aid.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Conrad Land- sen, Rt. 4, Chippewa Falls, Mrs. Wilford Anderson, Chippewa Falls; five sons, John, Kenneth, James, Elmer and Gordon, all of Chippewa Falls; one sister, Mrs. Anne Elvheim; one half-sister, Mrs. Alate Horsaker, both of Norway; and one half-brother, Ole Osly, Norway.

brother, Ole Osly, Norway.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Our Savior's Lutheran Church with the Rev. A. T. Blom officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

Friends may call from 2 to 9 p.m. Thursday, and Friday morning until 11 a.m. at Hog- seth - Pederson Funeral Chapel, and then at the church until services.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Wednesday 24 Jan 1973 p 30

*Children:*

## John Bjork

John F. Bjork, 79, of 110 N. State St., Chippewa Falls, died Wednesday July 26, 2000 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls.

He was born July 12, 1921 in Chippewa Falls to Karine (Helseth) and Oscar Bjork. He graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High School in 1939. He served in the 33rd Infantry Division with the U.S. Army, serving in the South Pacific during WW II.

After his honorable discharge, he resided in Chicago where he was a pastry chef for the Bismark Hotel until 1965, when he returned to Chippewa Falls. He owned and operated Skogmo Cafe in downtown Chippewa Falls for several years until his retirement.

He was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls.

Survivors include two sisters and three brothers, Kathleen (Conrad) Landsem, Helen (Wilford) Anderson, James (Lorraine) Bjork, Elmer (Joanne) Bjork, Gordon (Marge) Bjork, all of Chippewa Falls; many nieces and nephews.

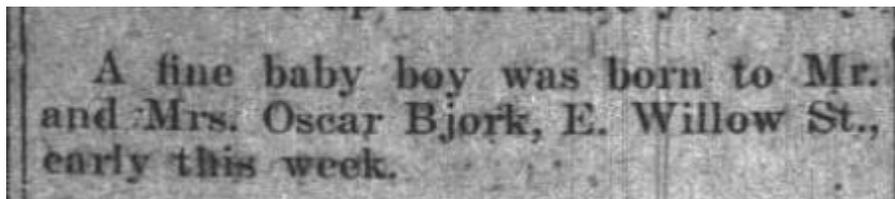
He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Kenneth Bjork.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday July 29 at Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel, Chippewa Falls, with The Rev. Roger Skatrud of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will follow at Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls.

Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday and until time of service Saturday at the funeral chapel.



*Son John F. Bjork (1921-2000) – photo (left) from Find A Grave 71512731 – obituary in “Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Thursday 27 Jul 2000 p 14*



*Birth of John Franklin Bjork – “Chippewa Herald-Telegram” (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 16 Jul 1921 p 3*

The 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, tSate st., wandered from his home at 10 o'clock this morning. While the parents were searching for him he was strolling on the South side and at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon was picked up on A st. and Greenville. Police returned him to his home.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Monday 4 May 1925 p 3*

Word has been received that John F. Bjork, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, has been promoted to the rank of corporal and has been transferred from Tennessee to Fort Lewis, Wash.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Tuesday 22 Sep 1942 p 3*

## John and James Bjork Meet in Manila After 3 Years of Separation

Sgt. John Bjork and Pvt. James Bjork, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, of this city, held a happy reunion in Manila, Philippine Islands recently. They had not seen each other for three years, John having been separated from home ties early in the war, while James his younger brother, joined the armed forces a year ago.

Pvt. James Bjork is a member of Troop D, 112th Cavalry Rgt., and his APO number is 75. San Francisco. He is with an outfit that employs heavy machine guns and mortars as combat weapons.

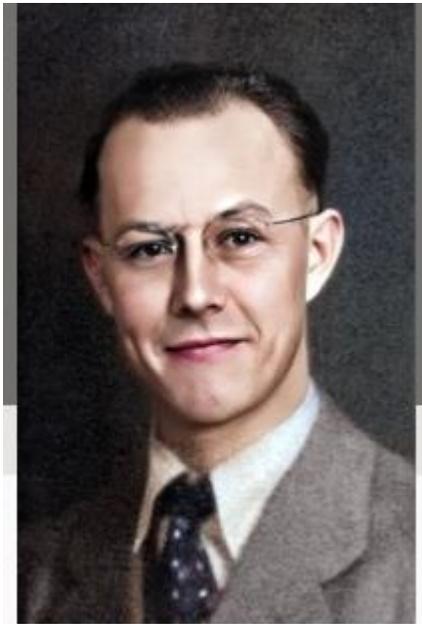
Sgt. James Bjork, former cook at Krause Cafe, city, has been in service over two years, and is now cook for Co. A, 136th Infantry Regt., 33rd Division. His APO number is 33, care of Postmaster, San Francisco.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 21 Jul 1945 p 3*

**ARRIVES HOME**

Sgt. John Bjork, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, city, received his honorable discharge from the Army at Camp McCoy this week and has arrived home. He has served a few days short of 2 years overseas and was stationed in Hawaii and British New Guinea. He saw action in the Netherlands, East Indies and in Philippine Islands. Sgt. Bjork just recently returned from Army of Occupation in Japan and was in the unit guarding the Sixth Army headquarters in Kyoto, Japan. Sgt. Bjork was a member of the 33rd Infantry Division, and is entitled to wear the Asiatic - Pacific theatre ribbon, Good Conduct ribbon, Philippine Liberation ribbon, American theatre and the Victory ribbon with four battle stars. He was also awarded the Combat Infantryman's badge for being under fire, four overseas bars and one service stripe.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Wednesday 19 Dec 1945 p 3*



Son Kenneth Quenten/Quintin Bjork (1922-1993) – Find A Grave 71512564

## CAR HITS BOY; SPEEDS AWAY

**Kenneth Bjork, 7, Severely Injured by Hit and Run Driver.**

Kenneth Bjork, 7-year-old son of Oscar Bjork, city superintendent of streets, was severely injured about the head about 6 o'clock Saturday evening when he was struck by a hit and run automobile at Columbia and Grove Sts. Dr. C. B. Hatleberg is attending him at his home, 110 N. State street.

The left side of the boy's face is a mass of bruises and both eyes are swollen shut as a result of the accident. He sustained minor cuts on the right side of his face. It is believed the fender of the car struck him and he received the injuries when he struck the ground. No bruises have appeared on his body and he has not complained of injuries there, his father states. Dr. Hatleberg administered serum to avert an attack of lockjaw.

Chief of Police Roberg happened along shortly after the accident and from the descriptions given him of the car, which was an old Ford, the chief believes he obtained a clue to the ownership. He will await developments a few days before invoking the law, he said.

The boy, with two companions about his age, was crossing the street when the car approached from the west at a high rate of speed. After striking the Bjork boy it proceeded eastward up the Columbia street hill. Residents of the neighborhood were able to give a good description of the car.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Monday 26 May 1930 p 2

Pvt. Kenneth Bjork, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork of this city has been graduated from the airplane mechanical course at the Chicago Air School. He is now stationed with the 10th Pursuit Sqdn. Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Tuesday 3 Mar 1942 p 3*

Private Kenneth Q. Bjork, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork of this city, who is with a pursuit group at the Orlando, Fla., air base, has been promoted to the grade of corporal, according to word received here today.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 11 Apr 1942 p 3*

**AWARDED BRONZE STAR.**

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Bjork, of the Army Air Corps, 10th Fighter Squadron, has been awarded the Bronze Star for "meritorious achievement, while on combat duty somewhere in France. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, 110 N. State street.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Monday 30 Apr 1945 p 3*

**MUELLER AT McCOY**

T-Sgt. Marvin G. Mueller, 1208 Water street, is at Camp McCoy for redeployment, according to word received here today. T. Sgt. Mueller served with the 859th Air Eng. Squadron 433rd Air Service group in England. He is the son of Mr and Mrs. Wesley Mueller. Also at Camp McCoy is S-Sgt. Kenneth Bjork, 110 N. State street, son of Mr and Mrs. Oscar Bjork. He served with the 10th Fighter Squadron, 50th Fighter group, in England, France and Germany and has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal the Presidential Unit Citation with Cluster and the ETO Ribbon with five campaign stars.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Wednesday 8 Aug 1945 p 3*

## Kenneth Q. Bjork

Kenneth Q. Bjork, 70, 110 N. State St., Chippewa Falls, died Friday, Feb. 12, 1993, at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire.

He was born Oct. 15, 1922, in Chippewa Falls, to Karine (Helseth) and Oscar Bjork. He grew up in Chippewa Falls, graduating from Chippewa Falls High School in 1941.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Force 10th Fighter Squadron of the 9th Air Force from 1941 to 1945. He served in the European Theatre during the Normandy Invasion and was awarded the Silver Star.

He was employed for Northern States Power Co. for 36 years as a fleet mechanic, retiring in 1981.

He was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and the American Legion.

Survivors include two sisters, Kathleen (Conrad) Landsem and Helen (Wilford) Anderson; four brothers, John Bjork, James (Lorraine) Bjork, Elmer (Joanne) Bjork, and Gordon (Marjorie) Bjork, all of Chippewa Falls; and nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday at Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Roger Skatrud of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church officiating. Military graveside services conducted by the Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council will follow at Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls.

Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday and until the time of service Monday at Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Friday 12 Feb 1993 p 2*

Wisconsin Death Index, 1959-1997



[View image](#)

[View record](#)

Name	Kenneth Quenten Bjork
Death Date	12 Feb 1993
Location	Chippewa
Certificate	004491

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/20831690/person/20006774973/facts>



*Daughter Kathleen Bjork Landsem (1924-2019) – Find A Grave 249585474*

Friday afternoon  
A daughter was born unto Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, South State street yesterday morning; a son was born at the hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Thompson, East Central street and a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Miller, Willow street.

*Birth of Kathleen – "Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Tuesday 29 Jul 1924 p 5*

## Kathleen Bjork Weds Conrad Landsem Dec. 28

A lovely candlelight wedding took place at 8 o'clock Saturday evening, Dec. 28 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in this city when Miss Kathleen Bjork, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, of Chippewa Falls, became the bride of Conrad Landsem, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Landsem of Stanley. Rev. Clayton E. Engan performed the ceremony. The bridal chorus was played by Mrs. O. B. Meslow, who also accompanied Mrs Clayton Engan, when she sang "The Voice Breathed Oe'r Eden," "O Perfect Love."

The bride, who entered the church on the arm of her father, wore a gown of satin and white lace fashioned with a sweetheart neckline. The gown had long fitted sleeves. Her fingertip veil of lace was held in place by a Dutch fashioned crown. She carried a bouquet of white carnations and red roses tied with lace and streamer was of carnations. The bride wore gold brooch, gift of groom.

Miss Helen Bjork, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid. Her gown was of white net over taffeta with which she wore a shoulder length veil of white net with a crown of pink roses and blue flowers.

The groom wore a dark brown pin striped suit and a white carnation boutonniere. The bestman, brother of the groom was Evan Landsem, who wore a blue pin striped suit and a white carnation boutonniere.

Mrs. Bjork, mother of the bride,

attended her daughter's wedding in a brown dress with a corsage of American Beauty roses.

Mrs. Ed. Landsem, mother of the groom, was attired in a black dress, with a corsage of American Beauty roses also.

After the ceremony, wedding reception was held in the church parlors with 75 guests attending.

After a short wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Landsem will make their home in Jim Falls.

A pre-nuptial shower was given at the George Pevan home by Miss Marjorie Pevan and Audrey Anderson.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 2 Jan 1947 p 2*

## Kathleen 'Kat' (Bjork) Landsem



Kathleen "Kat" (Bjork) Landsem, 94, lifetime resident of Chippewa Falls died Saturday morning, Feb. 2, 2019, at her home on State Street.

Kat was born July 26, 1924, at 106 S. State St., Chippewa Falls, the first child born to Scandinavian immigrants, Karine (Helseth) and Oscar Bjork. When Kat was three years old, the family moved to 110 N. State St., where she was raised.

Kat was baptized and confirmed at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on east Central Street. She attended Chippewa Falls schools and graduated from Chi-Hi in 1942. She attended vocational schools in Eau Claire and Superior, Wis. A true to life "Rosie the Riveter," Kat worked as a welder at the Globe Shipyards in Superior during World War II.

After the war, she returned to Chippewa Falls, where she worked for Dettloff Drug Store and the Naborhood Bakery.

supervision of direct care for 27 years.

A genuine Norske, (one who actually likes lutefisk), she was proud of her Norwegian heritage and had been to Norway to visit her family home in Trondheim. Her most recent trip there was at the age of 91!

Each Christmas, she made Norwegian delights, including sandbakkels, krumkake, rommegrot, and rosettes. If she wasn't in the kitchen, Kat was outside in her workshop, where she had her saws, paints, tools and a space heater, so she could work all year long! She made hundreds of gifts, including bird houses, bird playgrounds, garden ornaments, and other beautiful hand painted decor for family and friends. She also enjoyed traveling, riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle in her younger years, and her scooter and lawnmower in later years, playing cards, doing puzzles, and taking casino trips...some by car, some by plane, sometimes winning, most of the time losing, but always fun!

Kat's life was dedicated to helping others, she took care of and helped her family members during their illnesses. If she or a family member was in the hospital, even the hospital staff knew who was in charge...Kat! And yet she was the most selfless, generous, honest, good hearted person you'd ever meet. She was quick witted and loved to tell a good story or joke, right up to her last days.

Survivors include sisters-in-law, Lorraine, Marge and Joanne Bjork, all of Chippewa Falls, Agnes Larson of Porterville, Calif.; a brother-in-law, Wilford "Andy" Anderson of Chippewa Falls; many nieces and nephews; good neighbors; and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 57 years, Conrad in 2003; five brothers, Kenneth, John, James, Gordon and Elmer Bjork; a sister, Helen Anderson; sisters-in-law, Clara Nelson, Tracy Landsem, Frieda LaVin, Ina Landsem, Margaret Landsem and Esther Balke; brothers-in-law, Norman, Even and Helmer Landsem; a niece, Susan Bjork; and a nephew, David Bjork.

A funeral service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel, Chippewa Falls, with the Rev. Terri Koca officiating. Burial will follow at Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls. Kat always joked about how she was born on State Street, raised on State Street, lived on State Street, and will be buried on State Street.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service Saturday at the funeral chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Kat's honor may be made to the Chippewa County Humane Association, Chippewa Falls Historical Society or to Irvine Park.

Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel & Cremation Services, Chippewa Falls is serving the family.

Please share your memories and condolences online at [pedersonvolker.com](http://pedersonvolker.com).

**PV** **PEDERSON-VOLKER**  
FUNERAL CHAPEL &  
CREMATION SERVICES

*Kathleen was not their 1<sup>st</sup> child – her father Oscar was not an immigrant from Scandinavia, having been born in Wisconsin - "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Tuesday 5 Feb 2019 p A2*

## James Bjork

James Arthur Bjork, 86, of Chippewa Falls, passed peacefully in his home surrounded



by his family on Monday, July 1, 2013.

On May 29, 1953, he married Lorraine

Ruth Peterson at the First Assembly of God Church in Chippewa Falls. They celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. They had four children, Susan Kae Bjork, Debra Sue Wolbert (Dave), Douglas James Bjork (Kay), Dean Oscar Bjork; six grandchildren, Matthew Hammond, David Holte, Rachel, Sara, and Benjamin Bjork, Tristian Bjork; two great-grandchildren, Derek Hammond and River Way.

He is also survived by sister, Kathleen Landsem; and brother, Elmer Bjork (Joanne); and sisters-in-law, Dorothy Anderson, Joyce Sparks, Nona Rubenzer (Terry), and Bonnie Gunther; brother-in-law, David Peterson; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his infant daughter, Susan; his 4-year-old great-grandson, Derek; his father and mother,



Oscar, served for a total of seventy-five years in the Chippewa Falls Street Department. Jim worked for forty-four years for the street department and served as street superintendent for thirty-two years. Jim's lifelong dream was that a street would be named after him or his father. Chippewa Falls was the greatest place in the world to him. He was a loving father and enjoyed being with his family more than anything else. He also enjoyed woodworking and building projects and making picnic tables and birdhouses for his family and friends.

Oscar and Karine (Helseth) Bjork; his father and mother-in-law, Lawrence and Ruth (Peterson) Boettcher; his brothers, John, Kenneth, and Gordon; his sister, Helen Anderson; brothers-in-law, Daniel Peterson, Conrad Landsem, and Charles Anderson Jr.; sister-in-law, June Beecher; two nieces in childhood, Judy and Sandy Anderson; and nephew, David Bjork.

Jim and Lorraine shared their home with nephews Rick Beecher, David and Richie Peterson, and adult foster daughter, Joan Wall. Jim loved family pets, cat, Smokey "Tat-ah," dogs, Max, Maggie, and Sophie.

Jim served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theatre, 1st Cavalry from 1944 until his honorable discharge in 1946. He lived all his life on the East hill in the city of Chippewa Falls. He loved the city and the people in it. Jim and his father,

A funeral service will be held at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 3 at Chippewa Valley Bible Church, 531 E. South Ave. (behind Kmart in Chippewa Falls), with Pastor Gregg Buckli officiating. Interment with military honors provided by the Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council will be at Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 2 at Chippewa Valley Bible Church and one hour prior to the service Wednesday, also at the church.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jim's memory may be directed to the American Heart or Lung Association.

Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel & Cremation Services, Chippewa Falls is serving the family.

Visit [pedersonvolker.com](http://pedersonvolker.com) to express condolences online.

---

*Son James Arthur Bjork (1926-2013) – "Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Tuesday 2 Jul 2013 p A4*

---

### **James Bjork addition**

Jim is survived by his wife, Lorraine; children, Debra Sue Wolbert (Dave), Douglas James Bjork (Kay), Dean Oscar Bjork; six grandchildren, Matthew Hammond, David Holte, Rachel, Sara, and Benjamin Bjork, Tristian Bjork; great-grandson,

River Way; sister, Kathleen Landsem; brother, Elmer Bjork (Joanne); sisters-in-law, Marge Bjork, Dorothy Anderson, Joyce Sparks, Nona Rubenzer (Terry), and Bonnie Gunther; brother-in-law, David Peterson; and many nieces and nephews.

---

*"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Wednesday 3 Jul 2013 p B2*

James Bjork, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork is stationed in Tatayama, Japan which is about 50 miles from Tokyo. His address is Pvt. James Bjork, 36994287, TRP. D-112, Cav. Regt. A.P.O. 503, c-o postmaster, San Francisco, Cal

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 22 Sep 1945 p 3*



*James Arthur Bjork – Find A Grave 191812217*



*“Chippewa Herald-Telegram” Tuesday 30 Dec 1952 p 7*

## James A Bjork

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	James A Bjork
Gender	Male
Marriage Date	29 May 1953
Marriage County	Chippewa, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Lorraine R Peterson

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3014061:61484>

## Helen S. Anderson

Helen S. Anderson, 84, of Chippewa Falls died Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire.



Anderson

She was born July 11, 1928, in Chippewa Falls to Karine (Helseth) and Oscar Bjork. She graduated from Chippewa Falls High School in 1946. Following high school, Helen worked at Gillette's Tire Co. She then started cooking for The Flame Restaurant and for the school system in Chippewa Falls.

Helen married Wilford "Andy" Anderson in 1950 in Chippewa Falls. They lived in Chippewa Falls, where Helen made their home and raised their children.

Chippewa Falls and Jeff Anderson of Downsville; a sister, Kathleen Landsem of Chippewa Falls; two brothers, Elmer (JoAnne) Bjork and James (Lorraine) Bjork, all of Chippewa Falls; a sister-in-law, Marge Bjork of Chippewa Falls; five grandchildren, Christopher Anderson of Woodbury, Minn., Heather (Bobby) Merigan of Huntington Beach, Calif., Dawn (Mike) Mataczynski of Menomonie, Nolan Anderson of Bellflower, Calif., and Lindsey Anderson of Milwaukee; nieces, nephews and Clay Crowley.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Gordon, John and Kenneth Bjork; and a brother-in-law, Conrad Landsem.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, May 13, at Pederson-Volker

Helen was a very talented person. She enjoyed crocheting, knitting, painting, ceramics and quilting. Over the years, she made dozens of quilts for her loved ones. She also made beautiful porcelain dolls. Her passion was ceramics. She started "Helen's Ceramics" at her home, where she taught classes and also sold her artwork.

Survivors include her husband, Andy; three sons, Gary (Colleen) Anderson of Bellflower, Calif., Terry (Donna) Anderson of

Funeral Chapel, Chippewa Falls, with the Rev. Aaron Sturgis of Central Lutheran Church officiating. Interment will be Tuesday, May 14, in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service Monday at the funeral chapel.

Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel & Cremation Services, Chippewa Falls, is serving the family.

Visit [pedersonvolker.com](http://pedersonvolker.com) to express condolences online.

**PV** PEDERSON-VOLKER  
FUNERAL CHAPEL &  
CREMATION SERVICES

*Daughter Helen Sophie Bjork Anderson (1928-2013) – "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 11 May 2013 p 2*

## Betrothed



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, 110 North State street, announce the engagement of their daughter, Helen, to Wilfred O. Anderson, Route 3, city, son of Mr. E. Anderson, 1564 West Bruce Street, Milwaukee. Miss Bjork is employed at the Gillette Tire plant, Eau Claire. Mr. Anderson has just received his discharge from the United States Marines.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Wednesday 3 May 1950 p 4*

## Helen Bjork, Wilford Anderson Pronounce Vows

An ivory satin gown, fashioned with a sweetheart pearl beaded neckline and long train, was worn by Miss Helen Bjork, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, 110 N. State street, city, for her wedding on Saturday, July 15, to Wilford Anderson, Milwaukee. He is the son of Mr. Selmer Anderson, 1564 W. Bruce street, Milwaukee.

Bouquets of flowers and candles decorated the altar of Our Savior's Lutheran church for the ceremony which was performed by Rev. C. C. Engan at seven o'clock in the evening.

Mrs. O. B. Meslow accompanied Mrs. Clayton Engan, soloist, when she sang "The Lord's Prayer."

The bride was given in marriage by her father. A lace edged net veil completed her costume and she carried a bouquet of red roses and white carnations. She wore a triple strand of pearls.

Mrs. Romona Short, as matron of honor, wore an aqua blue colonial style gown with hoop skirt and high neckline, and Mrs. Carlotta Jennings, bridesmaid, was attired in a pink colonial gown of the same style. Each wore a picture hat. The former carried a bouquet of blue and white carnations, and the latter carried pink and white carnations.

Shirley and Sharon Belnap were flower girls wearing ivory satin, long ruffled gowns with sashes. Each carried a colonial bouquet.

Stanford Anderson attended the bridegroom as bestman and Kenneth Bjork was groomsmen. James Bjork and Hubert Anderson ushered.

A brown and white flowered dress was the choice of the bride's mother. Pink carnations composed her corsage.

A reception was held in the church parlors for seventy guests. Tall white candles and bouquets of flowers decorated the refreshment table.

A yellow gabardine suit was worn by the bride when she left on her wedding trip. Upon their return from the Twin Cities the young couple will reside at 250 Coleman street, city.

The bride was graduated from the Chippewa Falls high school. The bridegroom was discharged from the Marine Corps in April.

Out of town guests included: Miss Carrie Hilseth, Minneapolis; Mr. and Mrs. William Wooge, Iowa; John F. Bjork, Chicago; Selmer Anderson, Milwaukee, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Gronseth, Manitowoc; Mike Anders, Eau Claire and John Amdohl, Nelson.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Monday 17 Jul 1950 p 5*

**Married At Our Saviour's Church**



Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Anderson are shown above with members of their wedding party. The bride is the former Miss Helen Bjork, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, 116 N. State street, city, and the bridegroom the son of Mr. Selmer Anderson, 1564 W. Bruce street, Milwaukee. Their marriage took place Saturday, July 18, at Our Saviour's Lutheran church in this city with Rev. C. C. Egan performing the service.

Shown in the above picture, reading from left to right, the two little flower girls, Shirley and Sharon Belnap; Mrs. Charlotte Jennings, bridesmaid; Mrs. Romona Short, matron of honor; Mrs. Wilford Anderson, Wilford Anderson, Stanford Anderson, the bestman, and Kenneth Bjork, the groomsman.

(Herald-Telegram Photo by Hokenstrom Studio)

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Thursday 20 Jul 1950 p 12*

## Wilford O.

in the U.S., Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection, 1847-Current

Name	Wilford O.
Gender	Male
Death Age	94
Birth Date	22 Aug 1928
Birth Place	Forest City, Iowa
Marriage Date	1950
Marriage Place	Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
Death Date	2 Oct 2022
Burial Date	12 Oct
Burial Place	Chippewa Falls
Obituary Date	2023
Father	Selmer Anderson
Child	Gary Anderson Terry Anderson Jeff

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/331122327:2190>



Helen Sophie Bjork Anderson – Find A Grave 171211108



Helen Sophie Bjork Anderson - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/20831690/person/20006780639/media/cf0077ac-8b48-444f-ade5-e8b5dc6763bb>

## **MARRIAGE LICENSE**

Application for a marriage license has been made at the office of the county clerk by Wilford Anderson, Rt. 3, city, and Helen S. Bjork of this city.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Monday 10 Jul 1950 p 4*

## Elmer S. Bjork



Elmer S. Bjork, 88, of Chippewa Falls, died Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, at Colfax Health and Rehabilitation. He died peacefully after suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer's for several years.

Elmer was born April 23, 1930, in Chippewa Falls, to Oscar and Karine (Helseth) Bjork. He attended the Chippewa Falls public schools and graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High School in 1950.



He worked for the Chippewa Falls City Street Dept. for a short time, and then went into the service with the U.S. Air Force. He served during the Korean War and was stationed in Okinawa. He worked in camera repair for the B29's. His rank was sergeant. He served from May 15, 1951 and was honorably discharged May 15, 1955.

Elmer attended the vocational school in Eau Claire earning a degree in electricity, and received his license as a journeyman electrician working in industrial construction. He worked on many large projects including the addition at Luther Hospital, NSP, Wheaton Power Plant, Pope & Talbot, and the Paper Mill at Escanaba, Michigan. He worked for nearly 40 years and retired as a master electrician April 23, 1995.

Elmer was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 14, and the American Legion.

In his later years, Elmer enjoyed breakfast the third Friday of every month with other retirees.

He also enjoyed going up north to his cabin in Was-

cott, Wis. to hunt deer with his two sons and many friends.

Elmer married Joanne Hedrington June 18, 1960. They had two wonderful sons, Dan and David. They lived in Chippewa Falls all their married life.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne; son, Daniel (Toni), all of Chippewa Falls; a granddaughter, Megan of Eau Claire; a sister, Kathleen Landsem; sisters-in-law, Marge Bjork, Lorraine Bjork, and Betty Hedrington; a brother-in-law, Wilford "Andy" Anderson, all of Chippewa Falls; many nieces and nephews, and very special friends, Kathy and Rod Chittendon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, John, Kenneth, Gordon, and James Bjork; and sister, Helen Anderson. He was also preceded in death by his son, David April 22, 1995.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel, Chippewa Falls with the Rev. Aaron Sturgis officiating. Interment with military honors provided by the Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council will follow at Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service Saturday at the funeral chapel.

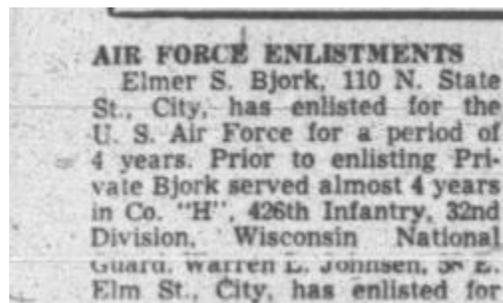
The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff at Colfax Health & Rehabilitation and to the staff of Mayo Hospice for their care, kindness and compassion shown to the entire family during Elmer's time there.

Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel & Cremation Services, Chippewa Falls is serving the family.

Please share your memories and condolences online at [pedersonvolker.com](http://pedersonvolker.com).



*Son Elmer S. Bjork (1930-2018) – "Chippewa (WI) Herald-Telegram" Wednesday 12 Dec 2018 p A1*



*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Friday 18 May 1951 p 4*



*Elmer S. Bjork – Find A Grave 230643480*

## Gordon Bjork

Gordon William Bjork began and ended his 77 years of life in Chippewa Falls.

He was born June 5, 1935 in Chippewa Falls to Karine (Helseth) and Oscar Bjork at 110 N. State St. and resided for the past 48 years at 513



Macomber St. in a house he built with his brother-in-law, Conrad Landsem. Some of the pine lumber came from the Kelly farm in Eagle Point and they have resided on Macomber St. since that time.

Gordon attended First Ward School and Chippewa Falls High School graduating in 1955. He served in the U.S. Army from January 1958 to December 1959. He was employed by the Canadian Pacific - Soo Line Railroad as a brakeman and conductor for over 41 years, retiring in 1997.

Gordon married Marjorie Kelly on October 14, 1961 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Chippewa Falls. They were the proud parents of Kurt (LeAnn) of Hudson, Brad of Chippewa Falls, Shari of Minneapolis and Kelly of Chicago. He was grandfather to Reid, Cole, Ross and Brielle Bjork.

Gordon was a member of the Soo Line Historical Society.

He had many hobbies and interests that he enjoyed with friends and family; including model railroading, woodworking, brewing beer, household pets, collecting local milk bottles and the study of World War II. He enjoyed 25 years of Canadian fishing with his sons and good friend, Jerry. For the past few years he has enjoyed playing cribbage with his pals, John,



Cal and Emmett.

The family appreciates the great health care given to him during his long struggle with Parkinson's disease, diabetes and heart failure.

Including his wife and children, Gordy is survived by two brothers, James (Lorraine) and Elmer (Joanne); and two sisters, Kathleen Landsem and Helen (Wilford) Anderson, all of Chippewa Falls; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, John and Kenneth.

A memorial service will be at Trinity United Methodist Church and lunch will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Gordon's name to Trinity United Methodist Church, Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital or Irvine Park.

Pederson-Volker Funeral Chapel and Cremation Service, Chippewa Falls, is serving the family.

Visit [pedersonvolker.com](http://pedersonvolker.com) to express condolences online.

*Son Gordon William Bjork (1935-2012) – “Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Tuesday 31 Jul 2012 p A4*



*Gordon William Bjork (1935-2012) – Find A Grave 96903469*



## Marjorie Kelly, Gordon Bjork Exchange Vows

Vases of white chrysanthemums decorated the altar of the first Methodist Church, and baskets of white, yellow and bronze mums and candles the sanctuary for the wedding of Miss Marjorie Jane Kelly and Gordon William Bjork on Saturday, October 14th.

Reverend Charles Hanson officiated at the 4:00 p.m. ceremony for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray T. Kelly, Route 3, Chippewa Falls, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, Route 5, Chippewa Falls.

Carol Rasmussen played traditional wedding music and accompanied Mrs. Kenneth Brist, the soloist, who sang, "The Lord's Prayer" and "Because."

**JWELED ALENCON** lace bordered the portrait neckline and accented the asymmetrical drape of the bride's fitted princess style gown of bouquet taffeta. Cabbage roses highlighted the bouffantness of the back which ended in a chapel sweep. A taffeta cabbage rose trimmed with Alencon lace and pearls held the bouffant veil of imported silk illusion. The bride, given in marriage by her father carried a garland bouquet of white Fugimums with gold pompoms a streamers of ribbon and ivy.

Joyce Boettcher, Route 3, Chippewa Falls, a friend of the bride, was maid of honor and Karen Lea, Minneapolis, bridesmaid. They wore identical royal blue chromespun taffeta sleeveless sheaths with bubble overskirt with a large back bow. Pearl trimmed taffeta pillboxes accented with a cabbage rose, held their blush veils. Yellow and bronze mums with wheat sprays and autumn foliage composed their bouquets.

**MELVIN POPPLE** Chippewa Falls, served the groom as best man. Ushers were Robert Stewart, a friend, Lyle Kelly, brother of the bride and Kenneth Bjork, the groom's brother. The men were attired in oxford grey jackets with striped grey trousers.

A buffet supper was served in the church hall following the ceremony. Mrs. Charles Patterson registered the guests; Jackie Wolfe served punch; Mrs. Bruce Barnum and Mrs. Jerome Lee, sisters of the bride, poured at the reception table which was decorated with fall colored mums and foliage; Mrs. Homer Peloquin, Jr., cut the wedding cake; Mrs. Leo Ottman and Mrs. Richard Wohlbier opened the gifts, and Nancy and Roberta Brunstad served.

The mother of the bride received the guests in a magenta sheath dress with magenta accessories, complemented by a white mum corsage. The groom's mother pinned a white and magenta mum corsage to her magenta and black print dress with which she wore black accessories.

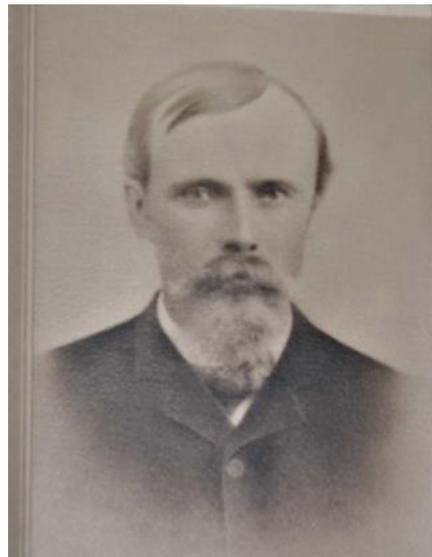
**THE BRIDE** selected a brown wool knit two-piece dress with bitersweet accessories for her going away costume. She wore a single white, gold-edged mum.

After a wedding trip through Mid-eastern United States and Canada, Mr. and Mrs. Bjork will reside in Chippewa Falls.

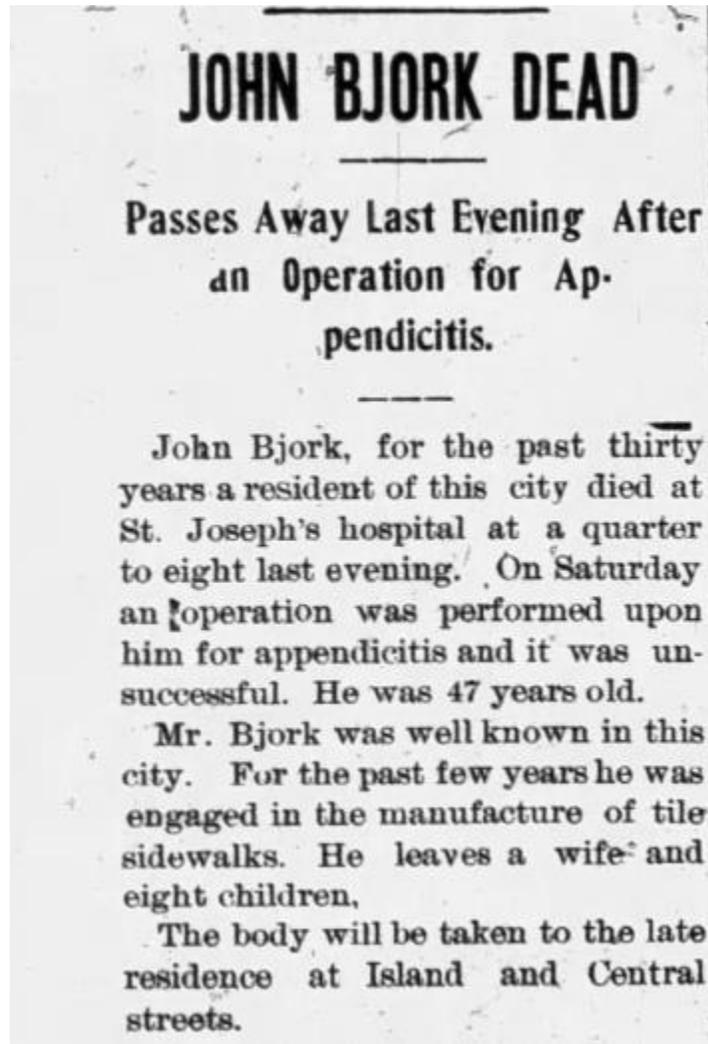
The bride attended Whitewater State College and Wisconsin State College, Eau Claire, and is employed at Chippewa Plastics Company. The groom is employed by the Soo Line Railroad Company.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Thursday 19 Oct 1961 p 6

*Father:*



John (Johan) Lars Bjork - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/20831690/person/20006784836/media/01675391-776a-427b-b3eb-2777e80665bb>



*"Chippewa Herald Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 4 Jun 1903 p 3*

## FUNERAL OF JOHN BJORK

At Chippewa Falls today will take place the funeral of the late John Bjork, with services in the M. E. church, conducted by the Rev. A. A. Jacobson of Eau Claire. Many of the Swedish congregation of this city will attend the services, leaving here on the 10 o'clock interurban car. Mr. Bjork was well liked here as well as in Chippewa Falls and to the family much sympathy is extended in their bereavement.

*"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Sunday 7 Jun 1903 p 5*

## FUNERAL OF JOHN BJORK.

At Chippewa Falls the funeral of the late John Bjork was held, attended by perhaps 1,000 people testifying to the esteem held for the deceased and the sympathy felt for his bereaved ones. The Maccabees turned out 100 strong. Many from Eau Claire attended and Rev. A. C. Jacobson officiated. At the services the choir from the Presbyterian church sang "Abide With Me." and at the grave all joined in the song "Nearer My God to Thee." So was laid to rest a good citizen and father.

*"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Tuesday 9 Jun 1903 p 5*

*Mother:*



*Helene Sophie Wester Bjork – Find A Grave 170835978*

**Died.**

Yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock at her home, corner of Central and Island streets, after an illness of but one week with bowel trouble, Sophia Bjork, wife of John Bjork, proprietor of the Swe House and manufacturer of tiling. The deceased was 36 years old and leaves, besides her husband, a family of four children, ranging from twenty months to eight years of age, and a host of warm friends to mourn her death in the very noonday of her life. Notice of the funeral will be given later.

*Obituary of mother – "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 22 Oct 1891 p 3*

*Stepmother:*

Marriages.  
No 2848

1. Full name of husband.....	John Burke
2. Name of the father of husband.....	Louis B. Burke
3. Name of the mother of husband before marriage.....	Anna Anderson
4. Occupation of husband.....	contractor
5. Residence of husband.....	Chippewa, Central D.
6. Birthplace of husband.....	Sweden
7. Full name of wife previous to marriage.....	Wife Ida Anderson
8. Name of the father of wife.....	H. J. Andersen
9. Name of the mother of wife before marriage.....	Anna Swanson
10. Birthplace of wife.....	Sweden
11. Time when the marriage was contracted.....	Dec. 13" 1893,
12. The place, town or township, and county, where the marriage was contracted.....	Chippewa Falls,
13. The color of the parties.....	white caucasian
14. The color of the parties.....	white caucasian
15. By what ceremony contracted.....	Methodist Episcopal
16. Names of subscribing witnesses.....	Mrs. Rose H. Becks Wife Louisa Heidman
17. Name of person pronouncing marriage.....	N. E. Becks Pastor M. E. Church
18. Residence of person last named.....	Chippewa Falls Wis.
19. Date of certificate or affidavit of marriage.....	Dec. 13" 1893
20. Date of registration.....	Dec. 14" 1893
21. Any additional circumstances.....	

Marriage of John Bjork (here "Burke") to Ida Anderson -

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/91702757:61484?tid=20831690&pid=20006784839&queryId=dabd7de5-8ae1-418a-b43e-470c5614c240&\\_phsrc=cPx10082&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/91702757:61484?tid=20831690&pid=20006784839&queryId=dabd7de5-8ae1-418a-b43e-470c5614c240&_phsrc=cPx10082&_phstart=successSource)

Sept. 20-27. Oct. 4, 1926.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY  
COURT FOR CHIPPEWA COUNTY  
IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of Ida  
C. Bjork, Deceased.

Letters of Administration on the  
Estate of Ida C. Bjork, late of the  
city of Chippewa Falls, in said coun-  
ty deceased, having been issued to  
Arthur Bjork of the City of Eureka  
in the county of McPherson, state  
of South Dakota, on the 20th day  
of September, 1926.

**Notice is Hereby Given, That four**  
months from and after the date  
hereof (being the time until and in-  
cluding the 20th day of January  
1927) is allowed and limited for  
creditors of said Ida C. Bjork, de-  
ceased to present their claims and  
demands to said Court for examina-  
tion and allowance; and that all  
claims so presented will be examin-  
ed and adjusted by said County  
Court at the regular term thereof to  
be held at the Court House, in the  
city of Chippewa, in said county, on  
the first Tuesday (being the 1st  
day) of February, A. D. 1927.

Dated September 20th, 1926.

By order of the Court.

**T. J. Connor, County Judge**

*Stepmother Ida Anderson Bjork's estate - "Chippewa Daily Herald" (Chippewa Falls WI)  
Monday 4 Oct 1926 p 5*

Arvid Bjork of Wausau, and Arthur Bjork, of Eureka, S. D., have arrived for the funeral of their mother, the late Mrs. Ida Bjork which will be held next Monday afternoon at the residence, 15 Pond St. Mrs. Wm. Ingebretson and family of Colfax arrived last night.

*"Chippewa Daily Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 11 Sep 1926 p 3*

---

**MRS. IDA BJORK**

---

Mrs. Ida Bjork died last evening at St. Joseph's Hospital at 5:45. She was taken to the hospital last Tuesday afternoon when she became seriously ill. Her suffering increased Thursday night, and she was in considerable pain until death relieved her. She had been suffering for about a year from kidney ailment and heart trouble. During that time she had several illnesses that required attention. Mrs. Bjork was the wife of the late John Bjork who preceded her in death 22 years ago, and who was the first person to manufacture concrete blocks and lay concrete sidewalks in Chippewa Falls. The son, Oscar Bjork, has succeeded the father in this line of work in this city and vicinity.

The deceased was a woman of excellent qualities and well known to many people in this city who held her in the highest esteem. She was born near Gothenburg, Sweden, January 29, 1868, and she came to Eau Claire in 1892 and the following year located in Chippewa Falls. As Ida Anderson she married the late John Bjork in 1894 in this city.

Surviving are five sons and daughters as follows: Arthur of Eureka, S. D., and Arvid Bjork of Wausau, Wis.; Mrs. Wm. Ingebretson of Colfax and the Misses Ebba and Velma Bjork of city; five step-children, Oscar of city and Ben F. Bjork of Brooklyn, New York; Mrs. Chas. Richards, Tacoma, Wash.; and Mrs. James McClarity, Wilsall, Mont.; also surviving are two brothers, John Anderson of Minneapolis and August Anderson at the old homestead in Sweden.

The funeral will be held Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home, 15 Pond St., Rev. L. A. Brenner officiating. Interment in Forest Hill cemetery.

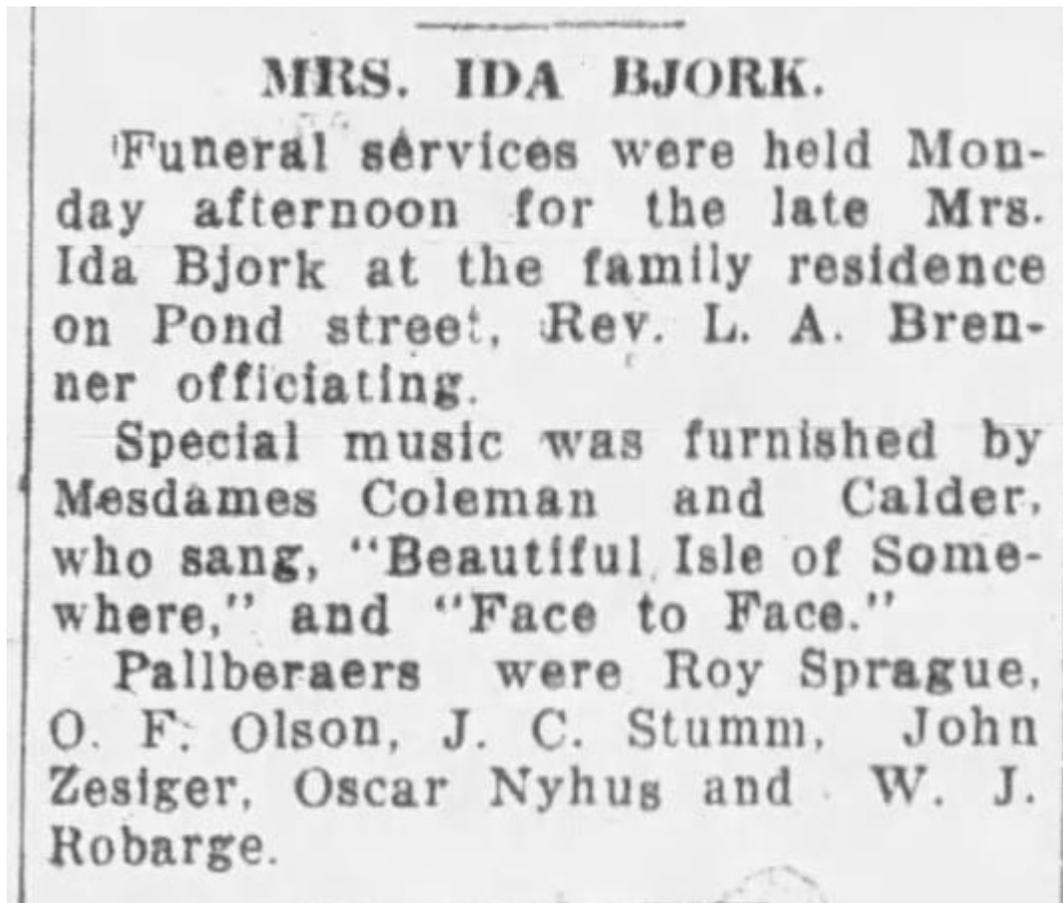
*"Chippewa Daily Herald" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 11 Sep 1926 p 6 -  
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/417061845/>*

#### FUNERAL OF MRS. IDA BJORK

The funeral of the late Mrs. Ida Bjork was held yesterday afternoon at the family residence on Pond St. with the Rev. L. A. Brenner officiating. Rev. Brenner paid a beautiful tribute to the womanhood and motherhood of the deceased. Special music was furnished by Mesdames Coleman and Calder, who sang "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," and "Face to Face." Friends and relatives of the deceased occupied the available seating capacity of the home and paid the final tribute to one of Chippewa's most worthy women and one who well spent her best days and declining days in this city. Interment followed in Forest Hill cemetery.

The pallbearers were Roy Sprague, O. F. Olson, J. C. Stumm, John Zesiger, Oscar Nyhus and W. J. Robarge.

*"Chippewa Daily Herald" (Chippewa Falls WI) Tuesday 14 Sep 1926 p 6*



*"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Wednesday 15 Sep 1926 p 2*

*Siblings:*

## **Jennie Richards**

Mrs. Charles H. (Jennie) Richards, 90, a longtime South Tacoma resident, died Tuesday in Seattle.

Mrs. Richards, formerly of 502 So. I St., was born in Chippewa Falls, Wis., and was a Tacoma resident 49 years before moving to Seattle a year ago. She was a member of South Tacoma United Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include three sons, Gordon Sr., Snohomish, Wilbur, Bellevue, and Gene, Seattle; a daughter, Mrs. Lloyd (Betty) Christianson, Tacoma; two half-sisters, Mrs. William (Ebba) Lawson, Des Moines, and Mrs. Elsie Englebretsen, Bloomer, Wis.; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Piper Funeral Home is in charge.

*Sister Jennie Bjork Richards (1883-1973) – “Tacoma (WA) News Tribune” Wednesday 21 Nov 1973 p 28*

**MRS. ELEESE H. PETERSON**

Mrs. Eleese H. Peterson, 86, formerly of 509 N. Yakima Ave., died Monday.

She was born in Chippewa Falls, Wis., and lived in Tacoma 16 years.

Survivors include a son, Lawrence Donald Tuggle, of Tacoma; a daughter, Mrs. John F. (Beatrice G.) Pierce, of Seattle; a brother, Benjamin Bjork, of Rowe, Mass.; three sisters, Mrs. Charles (Jennie) Richards, of Tacoma, Mrs. Warren (Ebba) Lawson, of Puyallup, and Mrs. William (Elsie) Ingebritson, of Bloomer, Wis.; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be announced by Buckley-King Mortuary.

*Sister Elizabeth (Eleese) Bjork Tuggle McClarty Peterson (1884-1971) – “Tacoma (WA) News Tribune” Tuesday 2 Feb 1971 p 28*

A quiet wedding occurred yesterday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Lord when the marriage of Mr. Archie Tuggle and Miss Eleese Bjork was solemnized. The ceremony was performed by Rev. V. V. Nicholas and only the most intimate friends of the bride and groom were present. Miss Bjork was becomingly dressed in a white silk, hand embroidered gown and was attended by her sister, Miss Jennie Bjork of Hathaway. Mr. Mat Ernzer from Rosebud was best man. A dainty course of refreshments was served and the young couple left on the evening train for Portland. They expect to be gone about two weeks and upon their return will go to housekeeping at the Hammond ranch. Mr. Tuggle has been a trusted employe at the Cold Springs ranch for the past four years. Miss Bjork has been in this country only a little over a year and has made a large circle of friends.

*Marriage of Eleese Bjork - "Rosebud County News" (Forsyth MT) Thursday 7 Sep 1905 p 4*



*Brother Benjamin Franklin Bjork (1889-1972) – Find A Grave 136315993*

### Benjamin F. Bjork

ROWE — Benjamin F. Bjork, 82, died Monday at Franklin County Public Hospital.

He was born in Chippewa Falls, Wis., on Dec. 15, 1889, son of John and Helen Sophie (West) Bjork. As a young man he had been employed as a boilermaker by the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Bjork married the former Augusta Sophie Kurger in 1915 in Hoboken, N.J. He lived in Brooklyn, N.Y., before moving to Rowe 34 years ago. He had operated a farm in Rowe and in later years was employed as a carpenter and iron worker.

When Rowe Grange was reorganized he became the first master and was a charter member. He joined the Rowe Historical society in 1962 and in 1967 the board of trustees made him an honorary member for his work on the West School project. Bjork was also a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

He is survived by his widow; two sons, Wendell of Rowe and Frederick of Greenfield; a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Nicholson of Springfield; three sisters, Mrs. Charles Richards of Tacoma, Wash., Mrs. Warren Lawson of Doyalut, Wash., and Mrs. William Langebregson of Blomer, Wis.; seven grandchildren, a great-grandchild and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. from Rowe Community Church with Rev. Alan Comstock, pastor, and Rev. Donald H. Benander, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Greenfield, officiating. Burial will be in East Cemetery.

Calling hours at Johnson Funeral Home in Shelburne Falls will be Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m.

“Greenfield (MA) Recorder” Tuesday 23 May 1972 p 10

**BJORK SERVICES**

ROWE — Services for Benjamin F. Bjork, 82, who died Monday, were Thursday afternoon at Rowe Community Church with Rev. Allan Comstock, pastor, and Rev. Donald Benander, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Greenfield, officiating. Burial was in East Cemetery.

Bearers were Alan Bjork, Timothy Bjork, Capt. Kenneth Nicholson, Glenn Nicholson, Kenneth Soule and Charles D. Avery.

“Greenfield (MA) Recorder” Friday 26 May 1972 p 16

*Half-siblings:*



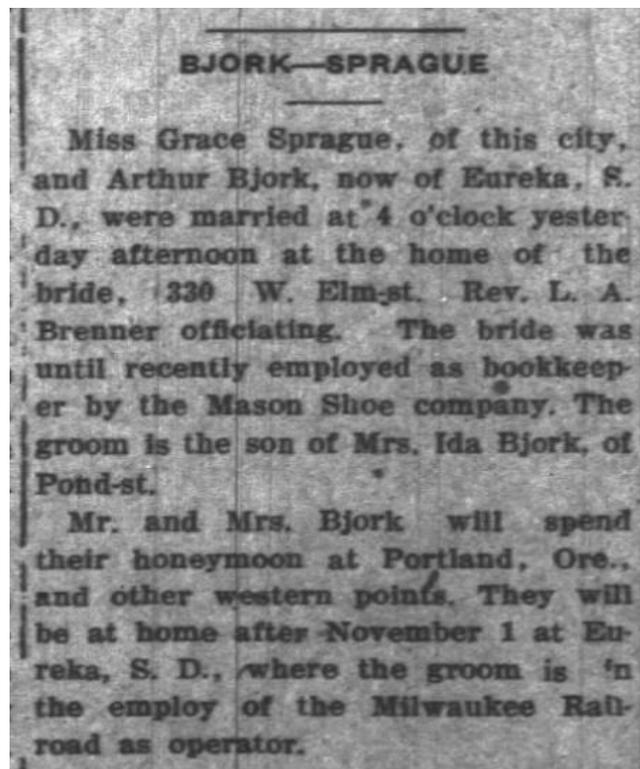
**ARTHUR BJORK**

Born May 28, 1894. Entered service at Chippewa Falls, Wis. Mar. 29, 1918. Trained at Camp Grant, Ill., where he was assigned to the 175th Training Bat., 161st Depot Brigade. Transferred to the 9th Co., 161st Depot Brigade. Promoted to Sergeant. Mustered out of service Jan. 3, 1919.

*Half-brother Arthur Bjork (1894-1970) – “Honor Roll, Chippewa County” – Find A Grave 46810840*



From left: John Bjork, Grace Sprague Bjork & her husband Arthur Bjork -  
<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/20831690/person/20006796489/media/5e39985e-4203-417a-9c7c-0012b66a64ce>



*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) 30 Sep 1920 p 1*

### ARTHUR BJORK

Arthur Bjork, 76, of Eureka, South Dakota, and formerly of this city, passed away suddenly Tuesday at Eureka.

He was born May 24, 1894, in Chippewa Falls. He married Miss Grace Sprague of Chippewa Falls on Spet. 29, 1920, in Chippewa Falls. They moved to Eureka, South Dakota, in 1920 and had resided there since that time.

Mr. Bjork served two terms as mayor of Eureka, 1954 and 1956. He was a member of the Eureka United Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge, Order of Eastern Star, American Legion, and was a past president of the Eureka Chamber of Commerce. He was a veteran of World War I and a Past Commander of the American Legion.

He is survived by his wife, Grace; two daughters, Mrs. Jean Branstiter of Bellingham, Washington, and Mrs. Robert (Jane) Olson of Ft. Worth, Texas; two sons, Roy of Sioux City, Iowa, and John of Aberdeen, S. Dak.; 13 grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. William (Elsie) Ingebretson, Bloomer, and Mrs. Warren (Ebba) Lawson of Pugallup, Wash.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at the United Methodist Church at Eureka, S. Dak. The remains will arrive in Chippewa Falls where graveside services will be held at Forest Hill Cemetery on Saturday at 3 p.m. with Rev. John F. Wreford of Trinity United Methodist Church officiating.

Hogseth-Pederson Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 4 Jun 1970 p 4*



*Half-sister Ebba Bjork Hansen Lawson (1896-1978) – Find A grave 50186616*

**MISS EBBA BJORK  
GUEST OF HONOR.**

Miss Ebba Bjork was the guest of honor at a miscellaneous bridal shower last evening given by the office employees of the Chippewa Falls Woolen Mill. A seven o'clock dinner was served at Decker's with covers for eleven.

Miss Bjork, a bride of the month, was presented with many lovely gifts from the assembled group.

Those present were: Anna Lekvin, Jessie Pannier, Marion Murphy, Margaret Steinmetz, Dorothy Gagnon, Sylvia Smith, Florence Larkowski, Evelyn Germain, Florence and Margaret Krejci and Ebba Bjork.

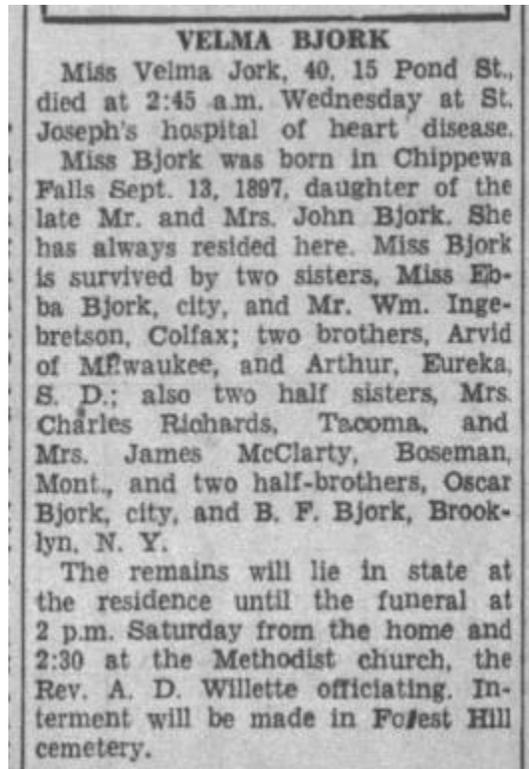
*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Friday 1 Mar 1940 p 3*

**Ebba Hansen**

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	Ebba Hansen
Marriage Date	10 Aug 1957
Marriage County	Chippewa, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Warren T Lawson

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/92974700:61484?tid=20831690&pid=20006796491&queryId=364c4463-79da-4363-a58c-a544929c41cd&\\_phsrc=cPx10103&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/92974700:61484?tid=20831690&pid=20006796491&queryId=364c4463-79da-4363-a58c-a544929c41cd&_phsrc=cPx10103&_phstart=successSource)



*Half-sister Velma Bjork (1898-1938) – "Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Thursday 3 Mar 1938 p 6*

## Wilma S Bjork

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1801-1928

Name	Wilma S Bjork
Gender	Female
Birth Date	13 Sep 1898
Birth Place	Chippewa, Chippewa, Wisconsin
Father	John Bjork
Mother	Ida Anderson
FHL Film Number	1299484

Velma (here Wilma) Bjork's WI birth record - <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/671101:2544?tid=20831690&pid=20006796492&queryId=308535f2-07fe-41b6-8491-3e2d7d63f4e8&phsrc=cPx10107&phstart=successSource>

**CARD OF THANKS**

We wish to thank our many friends and neighbors for the kindness shown us in our recent bereavement, the death of our sister, Velma Bjork.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ingebretson, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bjork, Mrs. Elizabeth McClarty,, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bjork, Ebba Bjork, Arvid Bjork.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Tuesday 8 Mar 1938 p 10

**WORD OF DEATH**

Word was received here of the death of Ebba Bjork Lawson on January 6, 1978 at Des Moines, Washington. After suffering a massive stroke in November 1977. Burial was made in Washington. She was formerly married to Dewey Hansen of Bloomer.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Thursday 26 Jan 1978 p 4

# MISS V. BJORK DIES SUDDENLY

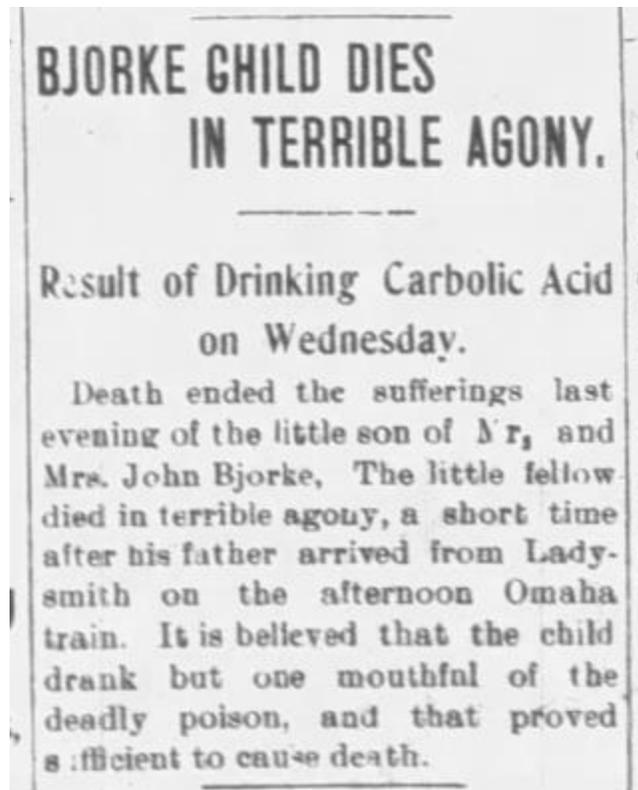
## Heart Attack Causes Death of Life-Long Resident of City.

The death of Miss Velma Bjork, 15 Pond street, occurred this morning at 2:45 o'clock at St. Joseph's Hospital from heart trouble.

Miss Bjork was born in Chippewa Falls September 13, 1897, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bjork. She has always resided here and has many friends who will be grieved by her sudden death. Miss Bjork is survived by two sisters, Miss Ebba Bjork, city, Mrs. William Ingebretson, Colfax, two brothers, Arvid of Milwaukee and Arthur of Eureka, S. D., also two half sisters, Mrs. Charles Richards of Tacoma, Mrs. James McClarty of Boseman, Mont., two half-brothers, Oscar Bjork, city, and B. F. Bjork of Brooklyn, N. Y.

The remains will lie in state at the residence until the hour of the funeral on Saturday afternoon at two o'clock from the home and 2:30 o'clock at the Methodist church, with Rev. A. D. Willette officiating. Interment will be made in Forest Hill cemetery.

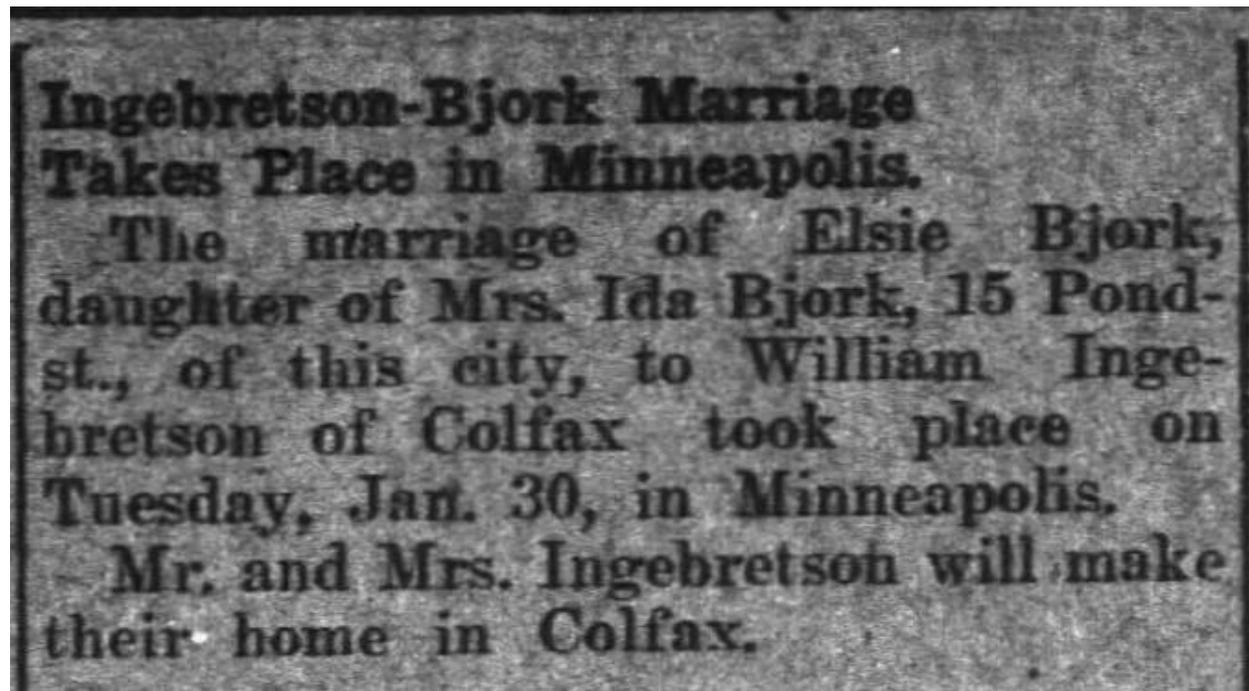
*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Wednesday 2 Mar 1938 p 1*



*Half-brother Arvid John Bjork (1900-1902) – 1<sup>st</sup> half-brother of this name – “Chippewa Herald-Telegram” (Chippewa Falls WI) Friday 9 May 1902 p 3*

<b>Ayra John Bjork</b> in the Wisconsin, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1801-1928	
Name	Ayra John Bjork
Gender	Male
Race	White
Birth Date	9 Jan 1900
Birth Place	Chippewa, Chippewa, Wisconsin
Father	<a href="#">John Bjork</a>
Mother	<a href="#">Ida Anderson</a>
FHL Film Number	1299484

*Arvid John Bjork I - [https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/675748:2544?tid=20831690&pid=362260151084&queryId=a9259011-252b-4cce-a9f5-1d1cc9526b68&\\_phsrc=cPx10110&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/675748:2544?tid=20831690&pid=362260151084&queryId=a9259011-252b-4cce-a9f5-1d1cc9526b68&_phsrc=cPx10110&_phstart=successSource)*



Marriage of *half-sister Elsie Bjork (1901-1975)* to William Ingebretson – “Chippewa Herald  
Telegram” (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 1 Feb 1923 p 3



*Elsie Bjork Ingebretson – Find A Grave 92817651*

## Celebrate Silver Wedding Date on Sunday

Many friends and relatives from far and near surprised Mr. and Mrs. William Ingebretson, Bloomer, Sunday in commemoration of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

The guests arrived in the morning and spent the day in social conversation. A pot luck dinner and supper were served to sixty-five guests.

Mrs. Arthur Olson made a beautifully decorated wedding cake, using silver leaves for the decoration.

During the day Mr. and Mrs. Ingebretson received a telegram from her brothers, Roy and John Bjork of Minneapolis, and another brother, Arthur Bjork telephoned from Eureka, S. D. It was an event that will be long remembered by all present.

### Guests

Guests present were: Mrs. Ever Dahl, sons Tom and Ever and Mrs. Gertie Gunifson from Menomonie; Mr. and Mrs. Victor Bergeson, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne DeMoe, and Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Freberg, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Bergeson and grandsons, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Gunderson, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Foss, Miss Sophie Moen of Colfax; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Plante and Anna and Isabel, of Sand Creek and Mrs. Annette Delaney, Mrs. Walter Streib, Miss Grace Raymond, of Chippewa Falls; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schlenk, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Peterson and Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Keller, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fritz, Mr. and Mrs. Torphin Mullen and sons David and Sammy, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Dahl, Mr. and Mrs. John Bleskcek and Janice, Mrs. Zina Koepke, Mr. and Mrs. Art Olson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ingebretson of Bloomer. Mrs. Eleese McClarity of Reno, Nevada was also a guest of honor at the party. So a guest of honor at the party. She was before her marriage Eleene Bjork and is spending a few weeks at the Ingebretson and Dewey Hanson homes.

*"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Tuesday 27 Jan 1948 p 2*

### Elsie Ingebretson

BLOOMER — Mrs. Elsie Ingebretson, 73, died Friday at her home.

The former Elsie Bjork was born Sept. 8, 1901, at Chippewa Falls. She married William Ingebretson Jan. 29, 1923, at Minneapolis, Minn. The couple lived in the Colfax area for a time before moving here. Mrs. Ingebretson was a member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church and its Ladies Aid.

Survivors include two sons, Robert, Bloomer, Harlan, Berkeley, Mich.; one sister, Mrs. Ebba Lawson, Seattle, Wash.; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Our Saviour Lutheran Church with the Rev. Richard Quamme officiating. Burial will be in Bloomer City Cemetery.

Friends may call after 2 p.m. Sunday until noon Monday at the Olson Funeral Home and prior to services at the church.

### MRS. ELSIE INGEBRETSON

Mrs. Elsie Ingebretson, age 73, of Bloomer, died at her home early Friday.

She was born Sept. 8, 1901, in Chippewa Falls, daughter of John and Christine Bjork. On Jan. 29, 1923, she married William Ingebretson in Minneapolis, Minn. They lived in Bloomer after their marriage.

Mrs. Ingebretson was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and Ladies Aid.

She is survived by two sons, Robert, Bloomer, and Harlan, Berkeley, Mich.; one sister, Mrs. Ebba Lawson, Seattle, Wash.; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, William; four brothers, Art, Arvid, Oscar and Ben; and three sisters, Velma, Elsie and Genevieve.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church with the Rev. Richard Quamme officiating. Burial will be in the Bloomer City Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Olson Funeral Home from 2 p.m. Sunday until noon Monday, then at the church one hour prior to service time.

*"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Saturday 26 Apr 1975 p 5 and right: "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 26 Apr 1975 p 4*

## Arvid Bjork

CHIPPEWA FALLS (Special) — Arvid J. Bjork, former Chippewa Falls resident died Monday at Milwaukee at the age of 60.

Funeral rites will be held Saturday at 11 a. m. at the Hogseth - Pederson Funeral Chapel here, the Rev. John Wreford officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Bjork was born in Chippewa Falls and worked until September of 1963 as supervisor of production at the A. O. Smith company in Milwaukee. Prior to that he held similar positions in propellar plants at St. Paul and Milwaukee. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota. Mr. Bjork was a member of the A. O. Smith 25 Year Club and the Chippewa Falls Masonic Lodge.

Surviving are his wife, Edith; one daughter, Mrs. Judy Michelfelder; four grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. William Ingebretson, Bloomer, and Mrs. Ebba Lawson, Puyallup, Wash.; and one brother, Arthur Bjork, Eureka, S.D.; two half-sisters, Mrs. Charles Richards and Mrs. Eleese Peterson, Tacoma, Wash.; and one half-brother, Ben F. Bjork, Rowe, Mass.

Friends may call at the funeral chapel from 6 p.m. Friday until service time. Members of the Chippewa Falls Masonic Lodge will conduct a service Friday at 8 p. m.

Half-brother Arvid John Bjork (1903-1964) — "Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Thursday 10 Oct 1964 p 2



*Arvid John Bjork – Find A Grave 115985106*

---

**Abbreviations:**

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave ([www.findagrave.org](http://www.findagrave.org))

NOK = next-of-kin

**Name: Oscar J. Bjork** [also claims to have no middle name]

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. A - private

Serial number: 250,960 (incoming, Veterans Administration Master Index) or 250,950 (WI Veterans Museum files)

Entered service from: Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Oscar Bjork

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Mrs. Ida Bjork, 15 Pond St., Chippewa Falls WI (Ida is stepmother)

Returned from war on: "Virginian" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Oscar Bjork

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: mother Mrs. Ida Bjork, 15 Pond St., Chippewa Falls WI (PFC, Co. A, 107th Supply Train) [Ida is his stepmother]

World War I draft registration (1917): had already enlisted 6 Apr 1917 in Co. A, 4<sup>th</sup>

Wisconsin Infantry

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: 110 N. State St., Chippewa Falls WI - vice pres, WI Survivors 1955, 110 N. State St., Chippewa Falls

World War II draft registration (1942): as Oscar (middle name noted as : none) Bjork - b. 14 Apr 1886; res: 110 N. State St., Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. NOK wife Mrs. Karine Bjork of the same address. Employed by the City of Chippewa Falls, in the City Building, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. Height: 5'11" – 210 lbs.

**Veterans Administration Military Index:**

Enlisted 15 Jul 1917

Discharged 25 May 191

Address: 201 S. State St., Chippewa Falls WI

Rank/unit: private 1<sup>st</sup> class, Co. A, 107<sup>th</sup> Supply Train

**Birth & death:**

Born: 14 Apr 1886 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Died: 3 Dec 1963 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI (at his home: 110 N. State St., Chippewa Falls WI)

Find A Grave record: 71512387 – photo, presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Cemetery: Forest Hill

Tombstone: veteran flat - Wisconsin PFC Co A 107 Supply Train WWI

Father: John (Johan) Lars Bjork, 17 Sep 1850 Ekeby, Arboga kommun, Västmanlands län, Sweden – 3 Jan 1903 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

On his marriage license with Ida Anderson, "John Burke" is listed as the son of Louis B. Burke & Anne Anderson.

Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Find A Grave: 170835937

Mother: Helene Sophie Wester Bjork, 17 Mar 1855 Sweden – 21 Oct 1891 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. Daughter of Anders Wester & Brita Lane Andersdotter. Baptized 19 Mar 1855 Orebro, Sweden.

Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Mother's Find a Grave: 170835978

Marriage: 1882

Stepmother: Ida Christina Anderson Bjork, 29 Jan 1868 Vilske-Kleva, Falköpings kommun, Västra Götalands län, Sweden – 9 Sep 1926 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Find A Grave: 170836020

Stepmother's marriage: 13 Dec 1893 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI, by a Methodist Episcopalian minister. John "Burke" was born in Sweden to Louis B. "Burke" and Anne Anderson. He is a contractor, residing on Central St., Chippewa Falls WI. Ida "Andersen," daughter of G.I. Andersen & Ann Swanson, born Sweden.

Spouse: Karine Olesdatter Helseth Bjork, 4 May 1894 Stadsdygd, Norway – 23 Jan 1973 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI (at St. Joseph's Hospital).

Daughter of Ole Christensen Helseth (1838-1895) & Kristine Gabrielsdatter Fallmyr (1857-1949).

Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 71512456

Marriage: Oscar & Karine married 3 Apr 1920.

#### Children:

- John Franklin Bjork, 12 Jun 1921 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 26 Jul 2000 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. Served in WWII in the Army, enlisting 1 Jul 1941. Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 71512731
- Kenneth Quenten/Quintin Bjork, 15 Oct 1922 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 12 Feb 1993 Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI. Served in the US Army Air Corps in WWII. Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 71512564
- Kathleen ("Kat") Bjork Landsem, 26 Jul 1924 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 2 Feb 2019 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. Married on 28 Dec 1946 in Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI to Conrad Moririous ("Connie") Landsem (1919 SD – 2003 WI, F: 7826590) whom she married 28 Dec 1946. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 249585474
- James Arthur Bjork, 11 Oct 1926 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 1 Jul 2013 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. Records also indicate a birth year in 1927. His tombstone indicates a birth in 1928, but his sister Helen was born that year. He was age 86 when he died. His obituaries do not include birth dates. Served in the US Army in WWII. - Story: "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" 22 Sep 1991 p 4 - Born and lived entire life on the east hill of Chippewa Falls. Beginning in 1947, began service with the Chippewa Falls street department, retiring after 44 years on 3 Jan 1991. Entered the Army on 19 Dec 1944 during WWII & was sent to the Philippines. He traveled across the island of Luzon in antiquated vehicles, not realizing his danger, being 18 & wanting to see his brother John. On 2 Sep 1945 he entered Tokyo Bay. He was knocked unconscious in his barracks when a nearby captured store of enemy ammunition exploded. Chippewa Falls streets had been cared for by his father Oscar, the street superintendent since 1931. In the 1930s Oscar worked with a horse, wagon & 2 horse-drawn trucks. In Feb 1947 James began work in his father's department & was made assistant street superintendent in Jun 1958. After Oscar's retirement, James was promoted to street superintendent on 2 May 1961 as his successor. – James married Lorraine Ruth Peterson (b. 7 Oct 1933 WI) on 29 May 1953 in Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. Their engagement was announced in Dec 1952. Her mother was Mrs. Ruth Peterson at the time; Lorraine's mother later married Ezra Boettcher on 8 Aug 1953. - Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 191812217
- Helen Sophie Bjork Anderson, 11 Jul 1928 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 8 May 2013 Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI. Wife of Wilford Oren ("Andy") Anderson (22 Aug

1928 Forest City IA – 2 Oct 2022, buried in Chippewa Falls WI), whom she married in Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI on 15 Jul 1950. Wilford was the son of Selmer Anderson & Tillie Vaage. – Her obituary: “Chippewa Herald-Telegram” 11 May 2013, p. 2. – Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 171211108

- Elmer Steven Bjork, 23 Apr 1930 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 10 Dec 2018 Colfax, Dunn WI. In US Air Force in Korean War. Married Joanne Hedrington on 18 Jun 1960. Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 230643480
- Gordon William Bjork, 5 Jun 1935 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 28 Jul 2012 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. US Army 1958-1959. Married 14 Oct 1961 in Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI to Marjorie Jane Kelly, daughter of Murray Truman Kelly (F: 171981183) & Theresa Othelia Koepke (F: 171981203). Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 96903469

Full siblings: by his father’s 1<sup>st</sup> wife Helene West Bjork, who died in 1891:

- John Bjork ?
- Jennie Sophia Bjork Richards, 13 Jun 1883 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 20 Nov 1973 Tacoma, Pierce WA. Wife of Charles Henry Richards (1882-1965, F: 121355697), whom she married in Livingston, Park MT on 29 Aug 1907. Buried in Mountain View Memorial Park, Lakewood, Pierce WA. F: 121355698
- Elizabeth Helena (“Lizzie”/”Eleese”) Bjork Tuggle McClarty Peterson, 4 Sep 1884 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 1 Feb 1971 Tacoma, Pierce WA. – Married in 1905 to Archie Breese Tuggle (1880 MO – 1918 MT, F: 61417637). – Married in Livingston, Park MT on 4 Jun 1919 to James McClarty (1862 Canada – 1941 MT, F: 61448624). – Wife of Garmand Peter (“Pete”) Peterson (1886 Norway – 1963 WA, F: 68521240) in 1955. Buried in New Tacoma Cemetery, University Place, Pierce WA. F: 194800874
- Benjamin Franklin Bjork, 15 Dec 1889 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 22 May 1972 Greenfield MA. His mother died before he was 2 years old. Married in Hoboken NJ on 18 Dec 1915 to Augusta Sophie (or Auguste Florentine) Kruger (1895-1972, F: 136316118). Augusta died 19 Jun 1972, less than 1 month after Benjamin died. Buried in East Cemetery, Rowe, Franklin MA. F: 136315993

Half-siblings: by his father’s 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Ida Anderson Bjork:

- Arthur Bjork, 28 May 1894 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 2 Jun 1970 Eureka, McPherson SD. Married 29 Aug 1920 in Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI to Grace Adelaide Sprague (1890-1981, F: 47622313). Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 46810840
- Ebba Charlotte Bjork Hansen Lawson, 2 Jan 1896 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 6 Jan 1978 Puyallup, Pierce WA. – Married in Mar 1940 to Dewey H. Hansen (1898-1950, F: 92817456). – Married on 10 Aug 1957 to Warren Thomas Lawson (1883-1968, F: 150186593). Unsure where buried but tombstone is shown on her Find A Grave record. F: 50186616

- Velma M. Bjork, 13 Sep 1898 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 6 Mar 1938 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. Died of heart disease. Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 170836159
- Arvid John Bjork, 9 Jan 1900 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 9 May 1902 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. The 1<sup>st</sup> child to bear this name. Died from accidentally drinking carbolic acid. Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 170836078
- Elsie Margaret Bjork Ingebretson, 8 Sep 1901 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 25 Apr 1975 Bloomer, Chippewa WI. Wife of William C. Ingebretson (1892-1974, F: 92817652) whom she married 30 Jan 1923 in Minneapolis, Hennepin MN. [MN marriage records indicate 30 Jan 1923; her obituary says 29 Jan 1923.] Buried in Bloomer City Cemetery, Bloomer, Chippewa WI. F: 92817651
- Arvid John Bjork, 19 Oct 1903 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 28 Sep 1964 Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. WI. The 2<sup>nd</sup> son of John & Ida to bear this name. His brother had died the year before he was born. – Married to Edith Bowser Bjork (later Freeman) (1910-1978, F: 115985178). Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. F: 115985106

Notes:

Pre-war:

“Chippewa Herald-Telegram” (Chippewa Falls WI) 1 Jul 1996 p 4

Reprints a story from 18 Aug 1959 in which Oscar Bjork, currently the Chippewa Falls city street superintendent, told of the day he watered the elephants. The circus coming to town promised 20 elephants; there were only 8, but Oscar said: “Never saw such big ones, before or since.” The circus train arrived from the west on the Wisconsin Central & began to unload. A watching city councilman asked the circus officials how they were going to get the circus across the river. The circus folks said the bridge. The city official got more city officials & they argued for an hour with the circus, saying no elephants or heavy wagons were going to cross the bridge. The suggestion came to reload everything on the WI Central train, cross the river, transfer to the Omaha Railway, then back into the station on the south side & unload. Then a little boy – Oscar Bjork – tugged at the circus man’s trousers & offered to watch the elephants. Oscar was given a stick with sharp prongs on one end & became the envy of every other kid in town as he herded the elephants to the river. But since it was a hot day, the elephants had a great time in the river, throwing & blowing water everywhere. It took 4 men – and one small boy – a long time to get the elephants out of the river in time for the afternoon performance. The circus owner said he was never coming to Chippewa Falls WI again.

Wartime:

From entry in “The Honor Roll, Chippewa County” p. 31: Enlisted 6 Apr 1917 in Co. A, 4<sup>th</sup> WI Infantry. Trained at Camp Douglas WI & Camp McArthur, Waco TX. Transferred to 1<sup>st</sup> Truck Co., 107<sup>th</sup> Motor Supply Train, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Discharged 29 May 1919

## Post-war:

“Chippewa Herald-Telegram” (Chippewa Falls WI) 10 Nov 2010 p. B 8 “WWI Artifacts”  
Tells story of Oscar’s experience on the Tuscania. Donated to the Chippewa Area History Center were his Tuscania Survivors certificate, the roster of the WI Tuscania Survivors Club (of which he is vice president) & his uniform.

## Obituary:

Social Security Number: 393-30-7107

## Censuses:

1900 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – conducted 5/6 Jun 1900

John Bjork, 50 Sweden, Sep 1850, parents b. Sweden, married 7 years (crossed off 18 years), emigrated 1880, in US 20 years, naturalized, tile manufacturer

Ida, 332 Sweden, Jun 1868, parents b. Sweden, gave birth to 4 children, 4 are living [Arthur, Ebba, Vilma, Arvid]

Jennie, 16 WI, Jun 1883

Lizzie, 15 WI, Sep 1884, at school

Oscar, 14 WI, Apr 1886 [age 13 is crossed through & 14 added], at school

Benjamin, 10 WI, Dec 1889, at school

Arthur, 6 WI, May 1894

Ebba, 4 WI, Jun 1896

Vilma, 2 WI, Sep 1898

Arvid, 4 months, Jan 1900

& 5 male boarders, all b. in Sweden

1905 WI state census – Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Ida Bjork, 37 Sweden, widow, housekeeper

Oscar, 19 WI, laborer in cement work [here listed as son, although he is Ida’s stepson]

Arthur, 11 WI

Eba, 9 WI

Velma, 6 WI

Elsie, 3 WI

Arved, 2 WI

Ida’s brother John L. Anderson, 38 Sweden, maker, cement walks

A servant & 2 male lodgers

For all the Bjork children: both parents b. Sweden]

1910 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 204 Central St. W

Eda Bjork, 41 Sweden, parents b. Sweden widow, emigrated 1893, gave birth to 6 children, 5 are living, keeping boarders at home

And her children:

Arthur, 15 WI

Ebba, 14 WI

Vilma, 11 WI

Elsie, 8 WI

Arvid, 6 WI [the other son named Arvid who was born in 1900 had died in 1902]

& stepson Oscar Bjork, 24 WI, single, cement work on streets

& 3 male boarders

1920 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI - 15 Pond

Ada Bjork, 51 Sweden, parents b. Sweden, widow, emigrated 1883, naturalized 1886

Oscar, 33 WI, single, contractor, cement [listed as son instead of stepson - Oscar will marry later in the year]

Willa, 21 WI

Arvid, 16 WI

[for all the children: both parents b. Sweden]

1930 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 110 N. State St.

Oscar Bjork, 43 WI, parents b. Sweden, age 33 at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, cement mixer, lumber co., says not a veteran

Karena, 35 Norway, parents b. Norway, age 25 at 1<sup>st</sup> marriage, emigrated 1914, naturalized

John, 8 WI

Kenneth, 7 WI

Kathleen, 6 WI

James, 3 WI

Helen, 1 WI

1940 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 110 N. State St. – same house in 1935

Oscar Bjork, 55 WI, street commissioner, city street department

Karena, 46 Norway

John, 18 WI, assistant cook, restaurant

Kenneth, 16 WI

Kathaleen, 16 WI

James, 12 WI

Helen, 11 WI

Elmer, 9 WI

Gordon, 4 WI

1950 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – N. State St.

Oscar Bjork, 62 WI, street commissioner, city street department

Karina, 55 Norway

Kenneth, 27 WI, janitor, meter reader, public utility company

James, 22 WI, truck driver & [unreadable word] street cleaner, city street department

Helen, 21 WI, machine operator, rubber tire manufacturer

Elmer, 19 WI

Gordon, 14 WI

All the children: "never married"