

ARVA — Funeral service was held at St. John the Divine Anglican Church in Arva today for T. Alexander Edwards, owner of Anoka Farms, Arva, and one of Canada's top beef cattlemen.

Mr. Edwards, an Aberdeen Angus breeder for more than 40 years, died Saturday in



**T. ALEXANDER EDWARDS**  
--- buried at Arva

Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit. He had been semi-retired since 1961 when he sold most of his herd. But in the seven years since the dispersal sale the herd had built up again to about 140 head.

Mr. Edwards had shown at the Royal Winter Fair every year since its start in 1922 and during that time showed 15 grand champion bulls and nine reserve grand champion bulls.

He was a former director of the Royal Winter Fair, the Western Fair and a former director and president of the Canadian and Ontario Aberdeen Angus Associations.

Mr. Edwards was also a judge at numerous exhibitions and shows throughout Canada and the U.S.

He is survived by his wife, the former Marion Kaiser; daughters, Misses Sharon, Virginia, Alexandra and Christene, all at home; a sister, Miss Florence Edwards, Watford; two brothers, Donald, Watford, and Frank Lambeth.

Burial was in St. John the Divine Church Cemetery, Arva.

Honorary pallbearers were: Warren Bicknell, Cleveland; Dr. John Coles, Arva; W. B. Granger, London; Senator Harry Hays, Calgary; Tom Hays, Oakville; G. T. Moore, Arva; William R. Poole, London; William Schlegel, Thedford; A. E. Stedelbauer, London; Chester F. Stevens, London; Jack H. Stevens, Arva; William A. Paterson, London; Maj. W. A. Rafferty, Morocco, Ind.; W. P. Watson, Toronto; Col. D. B. Weldon, Arva; David B. Weldon, London; R. W. Robertson, London; A. Kirk MacDonald, London; George A. Mitchell, London; Dave Canning, Staunton, Va.; John J. Tolan, Springfield, Ill.

Active pallbearers were: John C. Lee, Arnold Rae, Lanny Holden, Howard Brand, Jim Blackall, Danny Edwards.

## By Ken Smith



The name John Pasman may not be familiar to many London and district gardeners, but his handiwork is well known and admired far beyond this area. John was the head gardener for the London Life and the lawn that surrounds the building is famous.

We have used the word "was" because on the 31st of last month John retired after 35 years of gardening creativity, spring, summer and fall.

John is a native of Markelo, in east central Holland, and learned gardening from his father, a horticultural supervisor of a large estate owned by a wealthy Dutch count. It was assumed that this young lad would follow in his father's footsteps, but wanderlust took hold and John set out 44 years ago to tour Canada. He didn't get too far, however, for arriving in London, he liked what he saw, and went to work for Tom Sanderson on Western Road.

"I couldn't even speak English when I first arrived," John recalled, "but everyone was so helpful that London soon became home." He joined the London Life staff in 1933 when the new lawn in front of the Dufferin Avenue building was newly planted, and his first big challenge began. As the company expanded, John watched much of his work being torn up, but instead of being dismayed it presented only another challenge to work on again. "If you love gardening the way I do, it's no work at all," he replied.

What's the secret to that beautiful London Life lawn? Well it's a number of things, but most of all it's just an awful lot of tender loving care. The lawn is a mixture of bent grasses, most of which have been discontinued by seed houses. There is some south German bent, velvet bent, Rhode Island bent and New Zealand fescue. Grass is cut at a height of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch, usually once a week in the summer and as often three times a week in the spring.

Applications of 10-6-4 fertilizer are made in the spring and summer and, if needed, another in the fall, but this time once such as 4-12-4 which is low in nitrogen is used. John feels that often lawns get too much nitrogen which he believes is at least partly responsible for the excessive winter kill of lawns in recent years.

Because of the very thick turf, the lawn has been bothered very little by grubs or weeds, and John makes corrective applications only when needed. He recalls very vividly the time of the outbreak of sod web worms about 10 years ago, when he came close to losing most of the lawn.

"We watered, and the small



By Don James of the Free Press  
**John Pasman and his famous London Life lawn.**

white moths flew up like snow falling the wrong way," he recalled, "and the tiny grubs ate the lawn to bits." They got this situation under control with applications of arsenate of lead.

John keeps a close watch on "his pride and joy" seeing that the lawn gets prompt attention at the slightest indication of trouble.

"People seem to care about the lawn and most go to great pains not to litter or even step

on it," said John, "but there are always a few who can't resist the urge to take off their shoes and run across it barefoot. Many passersby would stop to compliment me on the lawn, and then get around to asking for advice for their own," he added, "and I was always glad to give suggestions I thought might help."

Retirement doesn't mean the end of gardening for John, for he now hopes to have more time to putter around his own garden at 107 Base Line Rd. W., and give more attention to his favorites, a fine collection of primroses. His wife, Margaret, doesn't often enter his domain, considering him too much of a perfectionist for her to enjoy working in the garden.

John is also a member of the Men's Garden Club, and as a past president feels he'll be able to assist in the club activities even more now with his spare time.

"Next to gardening I like people," said John, "and I have some pretty wonderful friends. If I had my life to live over, I'd do the same things. I'm content to retire and leave my work to others, but I know I'll miss it for awhile."