

# G. B. Bjornson Dies; Former Publisher

Services for Gunnar B. Bjornson, 85, the sage of Minneota, Minn. and the spokesman and champion of the state's Icelandic population for more than half a century, who died Sunday will be 10 a.m. Tuesday at Grace Lutheran church, Minneapolis.

Later services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at St. Paul's Icelandic Lutheran church, Minneota, with burial in the church cemetery.

In recent years, he had lived at 2914 Dorman avenue, Minneapolis.

A onetime chairman of the Minnesota board of tax appeals and father of Val Bjornson, state treasurer, Mr. Bjornson was brought to Minnesota when he was 4 years old.

When he was 22, Mr. Bjornson acquired a half-interest in the weekly newspaper, Minneota Mascot. Less than a year later he sold out and subsequently attended business college at Quincy, Ill. Returning to Minnesota, he worked in a general store and studied law.

He bought the Mascot in 1900 and published it 44 years.

The Mascot became the spokesman for his political views and frequently was quoted by Twin Cities and other newspapers in Minnesota.

President Theodore Roosevelt named him Minnesota

postmaster and in 1912 he resigned to successfully campaign for the state legislature. He was re-elected in 1914.

Holder of several Republican party posts and appointments, Mr. Bjornson was appointed a member of the state tax commission in 1925 and served 10 years.

Earlier, he served as a school district clerk, member of the Minneota school board and justice of the peace.

He was chairman of the board of tax appeals from 1939 to 1955.

A leader among persons of Icelandic descent in the United States and Canada, Mr. Bjornson had been a trustee and president of his home church, a frequent delegate to conventions of the Icelandic Lutheran synod.

In 1930, he was Minnesota's representative at the millennial anniversary of the Iceland parliament. In 1939 Iceland awarded him one of the highest decorations, Com-



**GUNNAR B. BJORNSON**  
*Icelandic leader*

mander of the Order of the Falcon with Star. The following year with Mrs. Bjornson, he visited Iceland as guest of the government.

A gifted and prolific writer on many subjects, Mr. Bjornson's favorite writing pastime was the penning of his own Christmas greetings which hundreds of the Bjornson family's friends came to look forward to the past 25 years.

They were unique, for aside from the personal message which Mr. Bjornson wrote, they listed the names and addresses of himself, his children and grandchildren.

He had married Ingibjorg Hurdal in 1903 at Minneota. She died eight years ago.

Mr. Bjornson was a member of the Royal Arch Masons, Equality lodge, Min-

neota; Damascus commandery, Knights Templar, St. Paul.

Survivors are four sons, E. Hjalmar, editorial page columnist of the Minneapolis Tribune; G. Bjorn, information manager of Northern States Power Co., Minneapolis; Jon H., advertising manager of Northwestern National bank of Minneapolis, and Val; two daughters, Mrs. Arne Brogger, Minneapolis, and Mrs. Carl Denbow, Athens, Ohio, and 19 grandchildren.

## Firm Will Build Leech Lake Bridge

A bid of \$27,002 for construction of a 94-foot bridge on the Leech Lake Indian reservation, Itasca county, has been awarded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to Twin Cities Engineering Services, Inc.

The bridge crosses Bow String river and will improve Inger road, originally built by the bureau in 1941.

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