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George Anthony Oja was born to parents Anton and Johanna Sulander Syväoja on June 15, 1921, in the Village of Mountain Iron, MN. His family moved to Ely when he was 8 years old. He attended School in Ely. At the age of 16, he joined a CC Camp and served for 16 months. He returned to Ely and graduated from High School in 1940.

George continued his education at Ely Junior College for two years. In 1942, he entered the Army and served as a medic for four years, most of which was in the European Theater. He was discharged in 1946.

George graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1948. He taught in a Military Academy for one year before returning to the University of Minnesota where he earned a Master's Degree in 1951. A year later, he joined the faculty in Detroit Lakes where he taught science at the Detroit Lakes Junior High School up until his retirement in 1986.

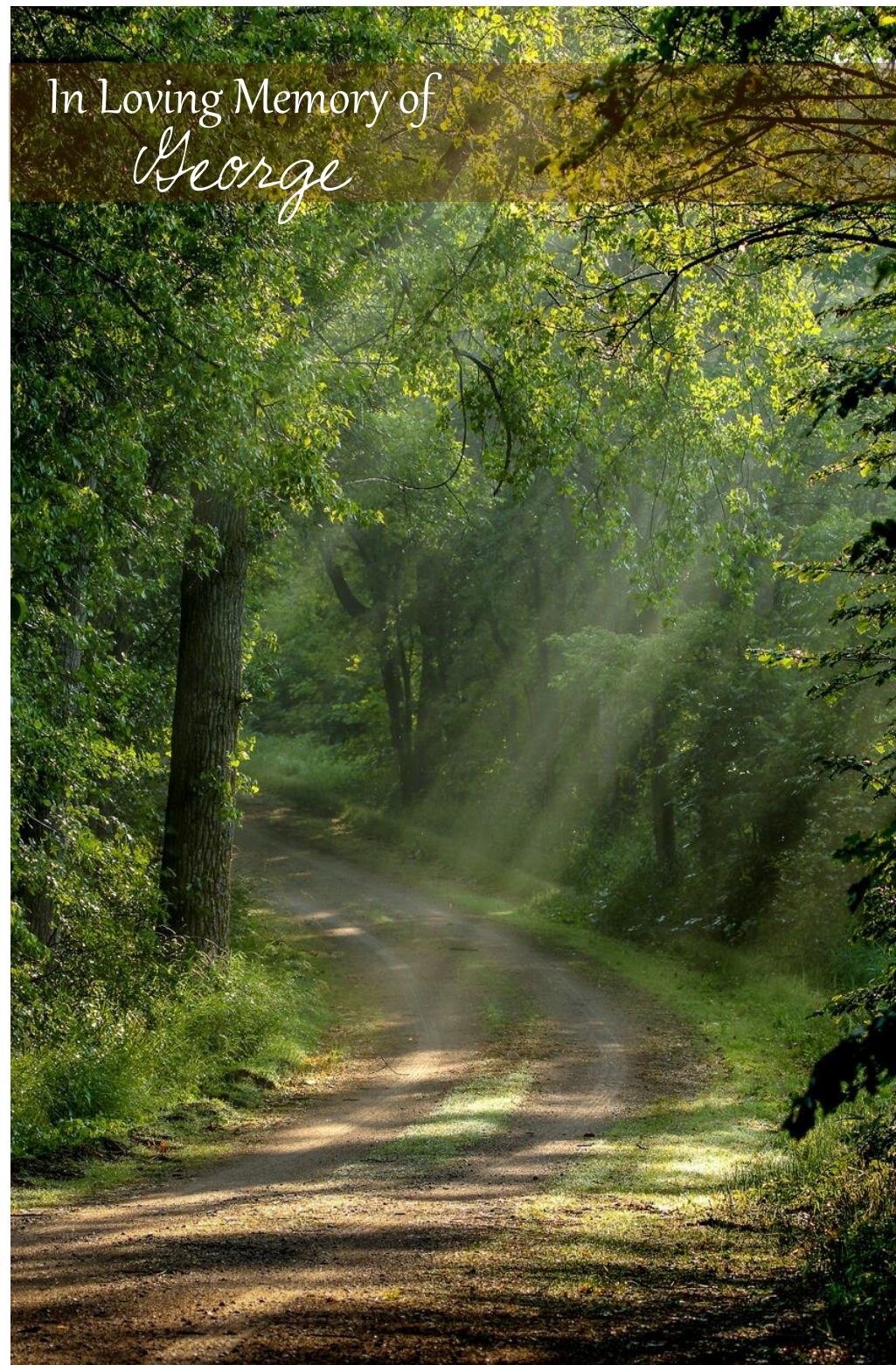
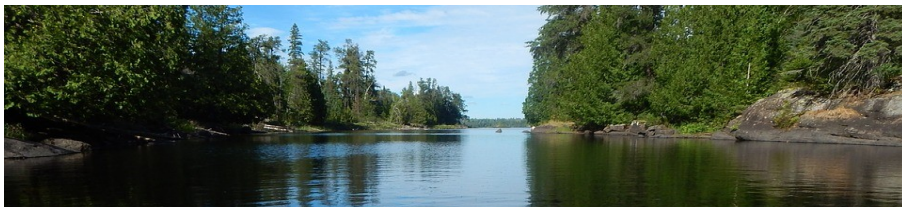
On June 7, 1954, he married Sally Nelson in St. Paul, MN.

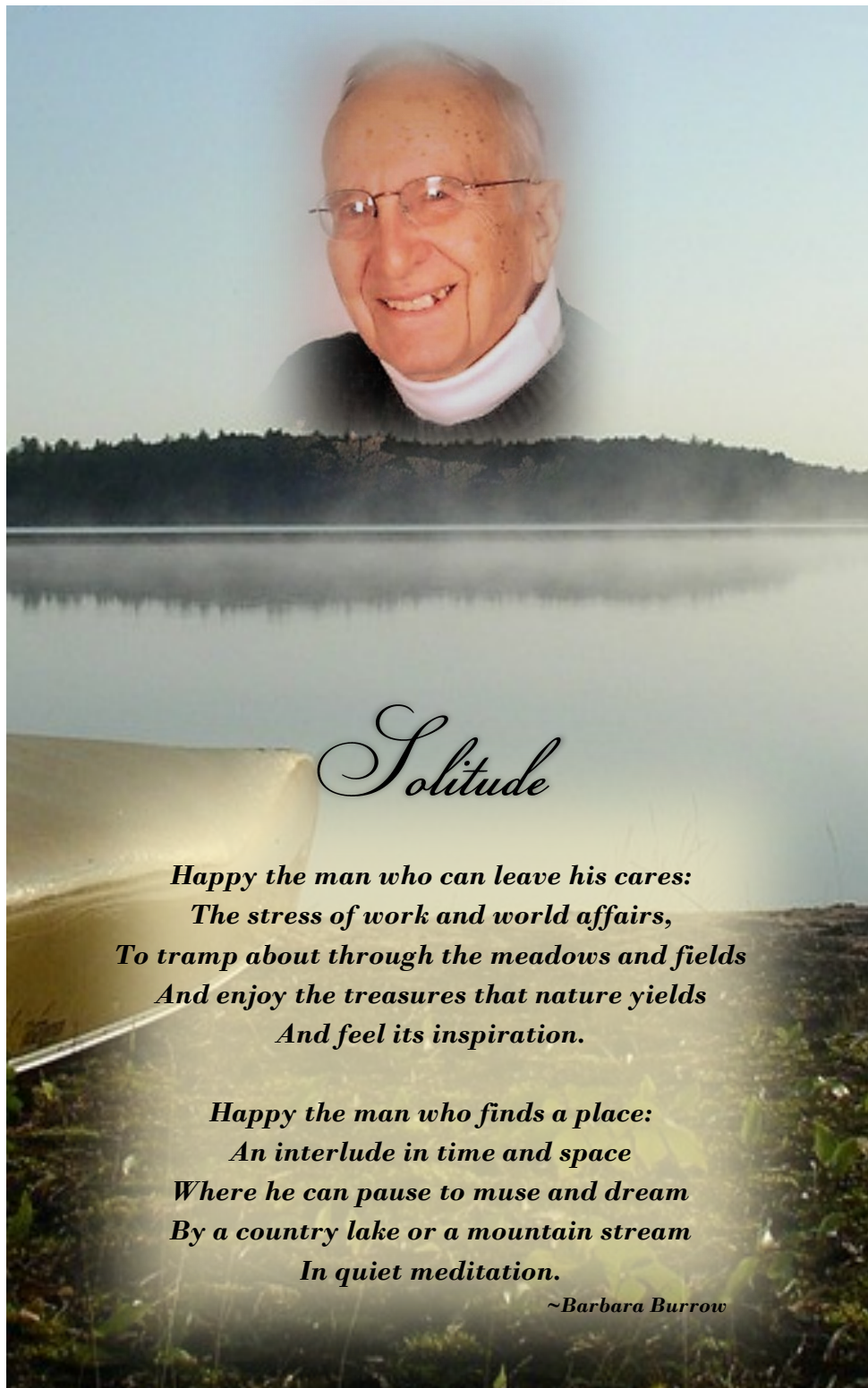
He was a member of the Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes. He sang in the church choir for 35 years, taught Sunday School, worked with the Boy Scouts, served on various Boards and took numerous groups of young church people from Minnesota on week long canoe trips into the boundary waters. After retirement, he volunteered delivering Meals-on-Wheels, taught a 55 Alive Driving classes, served on the Dollars for Scholars Board, volunteered at the Holmes Theater and was a member of various professional organizations, having lifetime membership in Phi Delta Kappa, NEA and the American Legion. George enjoyed canoe trips with his children, trout fishing, camping and gardening. Hockey and Football were his favorite spectator sports. He ran the time clock for the DL varsity hockey games for 25 years and DL varsity football games for 58 years. As an avid crossword fan, he had a great interest in researching words.

George is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sally; a son: Gregory (Beth) Oja of Bemidji, Minnesota; a daughter: Mary (Tom) Wood of Darby, Montana; two granddaughters: Sara (Justin) Bramblett and Kaisa (Jason) Syväoja and two grandsons: Tom Wood V. and Anton Oja.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Friends of Tamarac, Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center or the Detroit Lakes Congregational UCC Church.

Cover Photograph by Jim Sinclair





Solitude

*Happy the man who can leave his cares:
The stress of work and world affairs,
To tramp about through the meadows and fields
And enjoy the treasures that nature yields
And feel its inspiration.*

*Happy the man who finds a place:
An interlude in time and space
Where he can pause to muse and dream
By a country lake or a mountain stream
In quiet meditation.*

~Barbara Burrow

In Loving Memory Of

George Anthony Oja

Born
June 15, 1921
Mountain Iron
Minnesota

Died
February 18, 2018
Detroit Lakes
Minnesota



Memorial Service

Saturday, February 24, 2018 ~ 11:00 a.m.
Congregational United Church of Christ
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Officiant

Pastor Mark Kuether

Special Memories

Gregory Oja
Mary Oja Wood

Special Music

Renee Holm, *Accompanist*
Kaisa Syväoja, *Harp Soloist*
"The Ashgrove"

Congregational Church Choir
"Hymn Of Promise"

Congregational Hymns
"Praise To The Living God"
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"



Honorary Urn Bearers

Gregory Oja	Justin Bramblett
Thomas Wood IV	Jason Syväoja
Thomas Wood V	Antton Oja

Interment

Spring 2018
Oak Grove Cemetery
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

