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Name Hazel Ross ✓

Subject _____

Date Pinner Biography

Teacher _____

Standing _____

Cooperstown High School

1927

Examination Booklet

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Pioneer Biography.

Earnest Nichol Johnson was born on November 28, 1874 to Ole Lars Johnson and Carolina Stenrup Johnson. He was born near Farmington, Minnesota which is in Curka township in Dakota county. In 1894 his father and other farmers shipped horses to North Dakota, and Earnest was given the chance to take them. He had heard much about North Dakota and desired greatly to see it. He did not intend to remain here however. But when he got here and saw how thriving, he decided to remain because he liked it much better than Minnesota. Johnson arrived in North Dakota in the early part of March in 1894. He succeeded in getting work at the establishment of Hammer and

Cody. His work was to buy and herd the cattle. In the winter there were many storms, and he endured many hardships. He was often forced to let the horses have the rein, and they were usually able to find the way home. In 1896 and 1897, which is called the snow winter, he hauled the mail from Sarban as the trains were snow bound. The only road he had to follow was the railroad track, this after being very difficult to find. He made six trips during this winter. He bought a living barn which he had for fifteen years. Here he broke many horses and wild horses.

Once he was forced to go to Valley City for supplies. The storm was so bad he was forced to walk twelve miles in front of the horses, and by the aid of a shield, keeping the road. In 1896 on the 22 of November he was married to Natalia Road. On this

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road. On this

week he had been sent out to get a
bunch of cattle. As usual it was storm
pretty bad. He had a safe place from
the storm in a small house. He waited
three days for the storm to clear up.
On the third, however, he remembered
it was his birthday and the date set
for his wedding. Rather than disappoint
his future wife before even wedded,
he started out. The work was slow,
but finally he succeeded in getting
them driven to Hammon and Condy's
farm, then eight miles from town.
He hurried his horse. The following
eight miles and finally reached town.
With a few hasty preparations he
was ready for the wedding. The time
for the wedding was seven-thirty. The
bride waited long, knowing the groom
would arrive at some time during the
night. At ten o'clock he appeared and

they were married.

after his marriage he settled down to real bronco busting. These afforded him many runaways. on one trip the team ran away, the pole went into the ground hurling the wagon far into the air. Mr. Johnson fell out hitting the pole. He was unconscious for several hours. when he fell, he injured his ear badly which caused the blood to flow. as the day was very cold which caused the blood to freeze. This cold ice again made him conscious. This trip cost him much as his face became paralyzed on one side, and he cracked his ear drum. Johnson jokes much about how his face looked then for every time he laughed you could only notice it on one side. He mended his face in now alright, but he is quiet deaf in one ear.

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rock which threw him out of the
wagon. He was unconscious because the
jolt hurled him out. When he returned
to town, he went to look for his horses
and found them five miles from
town in a large grain field.

In 1906 he went and took up a
claim near New England. He went to
Dickinson by train and to New England
by stage. He took horses and set out
to look for land. He found some that
proved satisfactory ten miles from New
England in Hettenger county, straddling
ship between the Rainy Buttes and the
Seeps. Their home was a frame chesty,
one room fourteen by sixteen feet with
sod outside. They had forty miles to
the nearest railroad town, Dickinson, and
did not go there but frequently. He moved
his household furniture from here, and
it took very long going across a large

creek where he almost had a tip-over.
He lived here ten months. In the fall
his brother joined him, taking up a claim
near Earnest's land. That winter Diphtheria
became very bad. Two of his brother's children
got the disease and died. Earnest started
across the snow laden hills to Dickinson
to purchase coffins. It was slow and tedious
labor. His children also got the disease and
he lost his oldest son, Willie. The winter
was cold, but they succeeded in getting
sufficient fuel from the coal mine in the
Bad Lands. In 1917 he moved back
to Coopers town. He sold his living barn
and purchased the West Prairie Stock Farm
which is sixteen miles west and two miles
north of Coopers town. Here he spent eighteen
years leading a happy and prosperous life.
In the year 1926 in the election he was
made sheriff of Duggs County. His descendants
are Arthur, Wilhelm, Luella, Caspar and

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Melvin all of Cooperstown and Mrs. Harold
Foster who lives on the home farm. Her
post office is Benford. He has two grand
sons, Gordon Wayne and Ronald Quarter
who are Melvin's children. Two children,
Willie and Caspava died at about the
age of ten and a girl of Tom's early in
their infancy.