

8 DEATH NOTICES



OSER—On Wednesday, February 20, 2002, JEAN (HANS) OSER passed away peacefully in Regina at the age of 94 years. Born in Strasbourg, Alsace, January 18, 1908, Jean moved with his family to Berlin, Germany in 1910. He grew up in a show-business atmosphere, headed by his father Arthur Oser, a vaudeville producer, and his mother Ella Englehardt, a dancer. In the late 1920s, Jean was enticed into the film business and a successful career as a film editor. In Europe, he was a specialist, becoming one of the first renowned editors in sound film and working on some of the classic films of European Cinema. Jean left Germany in 1932 and served in the French Foreign Legion stationed in Morocco. In the mid-1940s, Jean and his wife Ellen Ferra emigrated to the United States where Jean worked as an editor for Paramount Pictures until serving in the United States Army in the Motion Picture Unit in New York. In 1953, Jean won an Academy Award for his short film "Light in the Window", a profile of the 17th century painter Jan Vermeer. Jean came to Regina in the early 1970s and was instrumental in establishing the film department at the University of Regina, the Saskatchewan FilmPool Cooperative, and the early efforts of the currently thriving Saskatchewan film industry. In 1989 Jean was granted the title of Professor Emeritus for the University of Regina. In 1990, he was the recipient of the Saskatchewan Arts Board Lifetime Award for Excellence in the Arts. After dozens of films, honours and awards, Jean always maintained his greatest accomplishment and legacy is to have taught hundreds of film students around the world. In them, he inspired a life-long passion for cinema which he himself proudly shared with anyone who had the good fortune to know him. Jean will be deeply missed and cherished for his vitality, generosity, humour and his incomparable love of life. Jean is survived by his niece Daniela (Michael) Misch of New York and a multitude of devoted friends, colleagues and former students. Jean's friends and family sincerely acknowledge the exceptional care and support provided by the staff of Extendicare/Parkside in Regina. Arrangements in care of Speers Funeral Chapel and Crematorium Services. Flowers gratefully declined. A memorial celebration of Jean's life will be held in early March. An announcement of the location, date and time of the event is pending and will be published in the Leader Post.