Robert Harry Bergquist was born August 19, 1916 to Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bergquist at Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was raised and educated in Minneapolis, graduating from Minneapolis Central High School in 1936.

Shortly after graduation, Bob began working at Butler Brothers, the parent company of the Ben Franklin stores. During that time he would meet his future wife, Jan, at a barn dance at Bass Lake, Minnesota. Bob had joined the US Army during World War II, and ended the courtship. He served in the Pacific Theater on a hospital ship bringing wounded back from the Philippines. Upon his discharge, Bob returned to work at Butler Brothers.

Bob and Jan rekindled their relationship and were married in April 1947. The couple made their first home in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He would travel all across the Northern tier of North Dakota for business. In 1954 the family moved to Tioga to open the Ben Franklin Store. Bob and Jan owned and operated that store until Bob’s retirement in 1989.

After their retirement, the couple spent many winters in Apache Junction, Arizona and their summers at Maple Lake, Minnesota.

Bob was a member of First Lutheran Church in Tioga, the Tioga American Legion, Tioga Kiwanis, Masons, Tioga Chamber of Commerce, Toast Masters, and the Tioga Country Club. Bob played Santa Claus for many years, which included handing out candy after the free movies at the Tioga Theater during Christmas, the children thought it was wonderful and couldn’t wait for him to get there. He loved to hunt and fish, and had made several trips to Canada to do so.

Bob is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jan of Tioga, ND; son, Bruce (Jeanne) Bergquist and granddaughters Britany and Lindsay Bergquist, all of Lakewood, CO; and brother, Dr. Jim (Betty) Bergquist of Minneapolis, MN.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Marth, and his wife Jean.