HE'S BUILT HOUSES 10 TO 12 HOURS A DAY FOR 50 YEARS

Now, at 71, Frank Johnson Says He'll Go on Doing It Till He's 100.

MASTER OF 13 TRADES.

Also Studied Law to Save Legal Fees—Wealthy, but No Idleness for Him.

Entering his seventy-second year, Frank D. Johnson of No. 1139 East Second Street, Brooklyn, expects to live to be one hundred and work every day from ten to twelve hours at his favorite outdoor sport, which is building houses all by himself and selling them. Mr. Johnson was found today by an Evening World reporter at work on a "one-man" house he is constructing in Gravesend Avenue, near Avenue F. No hands but his have touched the building or the material since it was started, and none but his will touch it until it is completed and put up for sale. He figures he ought to get $6,500 for it.

Mr. Johnson has plenty of money. He could have retired years ago and taken up golf or travelling, but he likes to do constructive work in the open air, and to the gratification of this liking he attributes his robust health and energy at the age of seventy-one.

He has all his original teeth but two, which were extracted years ago. His iron gray hair is thick and plentiful and his whiskers are neatly trimmed. He gets many a laugh out of life and even an experience such as being struck by lightning doesn't discomfort him. On July 15 last, while he was working on the second floor of the Gravesend Avenue house, lightning struck it and knocked it flat. He dug himself out of the ruins, went home, put arnica on his bruises and the next morning he was back on the job rebuilding the demolished structure.

Mr. Johnson was born in Boston of a family that dates back to the Revolutionary War. He came to Brooklyn in 1865 and since 1869 has been in the building business. He is a practical stonemason, bricklayer, carpenter, plasterer, plumber, tinsmith, painter, paper hanger, decorator, glazier, electrician, wood carver and cabinet maker, and knows a lot about a few other trades. For three years in his young days he studied law to learn all the legal ins and outs governing real estate, and to save all legal fees and title searching fees and the like by doing the work himself.

"Everybody," said Mr. Johnson, "should spend as much time as possible out of doors. I work every day in the year excepting Sundays and holidays, and I do it for the love of work. I could have knocked off and taken it easy, but if I had done so I would now be reposing in some graveyard.

"I get up every morning at 5 o'clock. I eat a substantial breakfast and my wife puts me up a whopping big lunch, and at 8 o'clock I start to work on whatever building project I am engaged in. I spend about half an hour on my lunch and then go to work again until 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening and then I go home and eat a whopping big dinner and putter around a while and go to bed. I eat anything I like, and I eat so much my wife says I must have hollow legs.

"Although I work ten or twelve hours a day, I think eight hours' work is enough for a man who is working for wages. That is one great thing the labor unions have done—given workingmen the eight-hour day.

"I went into the business of buying property and building houses when I was fifty years old to keep myself occupied. In the last few years I have seen labor costs rise 200 per cent. and building material rise 200 per cent. and taxes go up 100 per cent. for small holders of real estate.

"Our taxation system is wrong, in that it puts the bulk of the burden on the small holder. For instance the property in Manhattan below 14th Street is more valuable than all the property in Brooklyn, yet Brooklyn pays more taxes than Manhattan from 14th Street to the Battery. The Equitable Building, to cite only one case, is assessed for $12,000,000 under its value."

Mr. Johnson has not required the services of a doctor since he was six years old, when he had whooping cough, measles, diphtheria and a few other of the ills of childhood in succession. He was married forty-two years ago, and has a son thirty-five years old. To all who desire to reach a healthy old age he advises plenty of work, plenty of air, plenty of food and plenty of sleep.

VICTIM'S CRY FOR HELP ROUTS YOUNG HOLD-UPS.

Run as Druggist Defies Revolver and Shouts for Police—Two Arrested.

David Drittman of No. 192 Decatur Street, Brooklyn, a druggist, was almost home at 1 A. M. to-day when two youths with caps pulled down over their eyes stepped in front of him.

Drittman's hands went up when he saw one of the bandits point a revolver. At the second started going through his pockets the druggist changed his mind about submitting and shouted for help.

Policemen Eiles and Seldman of the Gates Avenue Station responded, and after a chase arrested two youths who described themselves as Joseph Chiusano, nineteen, No. 2 St. Felix Street, and Michael Colletti, twenty-one, No. 52 North Elliott Place. The police say Chiusano had a loaded revolver. The robbers had got nothing from their victim.

Polish-Lithuanian Dispute Settled.

GENEVA, Sept. 1 (Associated Press).—The dispute between Poland and Lithuania regarding Vilna was settled by the representatives of the two countries here this morning. They agreed that there should be two Lithuanias, one the District of Kovno, which shall be independent, and the other Vilna, in which the Poles will supervise the administration.

DENIES ARLISS IS ILL.

Winthrop Ames Says Electric Wire Prevented Performances.

Winthrop Ames, producer of "The Green Goddess" at the Booth Theatre, denied that George Arliss, star of the play, suffered a heart attack and was seriously ill. Mr. Ames said the reason the matinee and evening performances yesterday were cancelled without notice was that the blowing out of a fuse wire in the main switchboard of the theatre made it impossible to give the play. He said Mr. Arliss was not ill.

The report that Mr. Arliss was ill was said to have come from stage employees of the theatre, who told how he was attacked Tuesday night in the first act, but finished the play. It is expected he will appear to-night.