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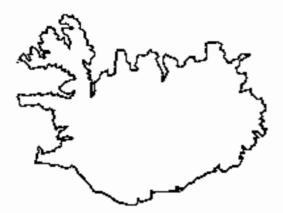
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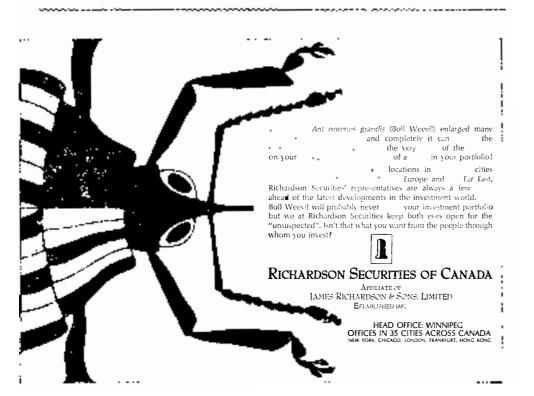
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Philip M. Petursson

MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS





The Icelandic Canadian

Volume XXVIII, No. 2 Winnipeg, Canada	Winter 1969
EDITORIAL: JOY TO THE WORLD, Caroline Gunnarsso AT THE EDITOR'S DESK	n 9
FEATURE ARTICLES:	10
THE ADJUSTMENT OF LOYALTIES, W. J. Lindal ESKIMO ART, Gissur Eliasson	
ICELAND THEN AND NOW, (Conclusion) Jon K. I	
BIOGRAPHICAL: DR. ASA MacDONELL, W. J. Lindal DR. BALDUR KRISTJANSON	33
DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS PASS AWAY	
DR. JON VIDALIN STRAUMFJORD, Axel Vopnfjor SKULI SIGFUSS•N, W. J. Lindal	d
MISCELLANEOUS: SPECIAL CITIZENSHIP CEREMON	Y 25
FIRST EUROPEAN KIWANIS CONVENTION, REY	KJAVIK 35
FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS (Group Med	licine) 37
GET OUT OF THE OFFICE, a Curry Conviction	
POETRY: PROLOGUE FROM PEACE ON EARTH	
FICTION: FRESCOED WITH ANGELS, G. Bertha John	
BOOK REVIEW: NORTHERN BRONZE AGE, Haraldur	Bessason 2 23
IN THE NEWS: 18, 20, 29, 34, 36, 38, 41–45; 47	
THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian, Winnip	
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EDITORIAL

Joy To The World

by Caroline Gunnarsson



How Christmas has grown. This vear it's going to be the biggest and costliest in many a family history.

Joy to The World!

The sweet echo of an old carol ripples elusively like a frayed thread through the clattering, noisy fuss and bother of preparing the big Christmas. It stirs a hunger in the soul—a nostalgic longing for something lost.

Where to find it in all the confusion? The springs of joy are draining in a last rush of squandered energy, and the thrill of anticipation is drowned in weariness.

For weeks a myriad of colored bulbhave cut pools of light into the dusk of evening closing around jewelled green trees in the snow. You've seen them, and now they're lost in the hustle and bustle of the season. The smile is freezing on the face of Santa Claus; holly wreaths in shop windows are curled and wrinkled with age.

The season is burning out its glow on the way in.

Back to the simple Christmas that broke upon the world in a day of jov.

Was it ever that simple, short and

to observe that Christmas was never built in a day. Backed by the memories of half a hundred Christmases, she'll recall that last-minute disenchantment and the dull ache of weariness are as old as the disheartenment of Mary seeking shelter in a strange, indifferent town on the eve of the first Christmas.

But Christmas costs too much, the sceptics cry. It has degenerated into a calculated game of buying and selling. It is no longer the simple, inexpensive festival of the old days.

How do they read the price tag?

Christmas was never cheap, and it didn't blossom out of nothing in the o'd days. It was paid for in the same basic coin as today-the precious coin of time and nerve-straining toil. It's just that much of it hadn't yet acquired a dollar sign.

The direct expenditure of long ago is no part of modern living. Grandma's Christmas candles were paid for in daily installments of labor, lasting several hours and spread over three or four weeks, as she twisted candlewicks and poured wax or tallow into tall molds that her mother and grandmother had used before her.

We moderns must turn our labors into cash first, then formally hand it over a counter to receive candles in return. Which cost was greater? Let's not stop to measure or weigh. That's Ask any grandmother. She is likely not the way of the givers of gifts.

> But Joy to the world! The echo of the old carol haunts the routine-ridden day, and the dull sense of loss is sharpening into the pain of nostalgia. For there was a time when the joy of

and the next child's. Neither worry nor anxiety touched it. This belonged elsewhere and each of our personal world of childhood turned in a rural setting, we were doubly blessed.

The gay lights of city streets, the glamor of shop windows, the endless, rushing stream of people - all that now seems to add to the frustration of jaded adults - was then our glittering dream if we were country children.

home, surrounded by the white, starlit peace of the countryside. Somewhere in the uncluttered whiteness grew a tree, maybe not an evergreen, but a tree, specially designed for your family's delight.

It had to be hunted out, of course, and that meant the thrill of adventure. the closeness of family comradeship, the gaiety of a sleigh ride over a frozen trail and carols poured upon the crisp air in thin soprano voices against a father's deep, rich bass.

This was joy to the world of childhood, pure joy, and how does the echo of the old strain still ring as true as if nothing had happened since the old days? How does it keep its innocent note of sweetness and light in a world grown old and tawdry?

It was joy to the world of the man who swung the axe and drove the team on that long ago excursion into the woods, remember? You have never doubted that for a moment. Yet you knew it wasn't the first time he swung an axe that day. If you care to look back now, you'll see his heavy team

Christmas was all our, yours and mine lumbering through the gate in the early afternoon and him sitting atop a big load of rails. He had spent the early hours of the day cutting them, stripping off their branches and loading them, single-handed, on the sleigh. He was bone tired, half frozen and hungry. He had risen early, rushed through his chores and driven off to the woods after a second breakfast in order to save some of the daylight for searching out your Christmas tree. Reality was the lamplit warmth of Every hour of warmth in your home cost him many hours of toil in the frozen vastness of the countryside.

Not cash, but an expense just the

Iov to the world!

There it is again. Not a ghost or an echo now, it rises strong and true from the television corner of the living room, and the children join in spontaneously, as if to the bidding of a great choirmaster. Then Dad's tenor, dominant and ringing with the joy of living. He just came in after stringing the outside lights around the door and windows of the house. All through the branches of the plump spruce in the yard he strung them, too, with unmitted hands. He rubs his chilled, aching fingers as he sings, and brushes them playfully against daughter's flushed warm cheeks.

And all through the chorus runs the echo of her grandfather's rich warm

Joy to the world! You've found Christmas. It was in your house all the time.



AT THE EDITOR'S DESK



These notes "At the Editor's Desk" are being written by a member of the Editorial Board, other than Judge W. J. Lindal, Editor-in-Chief.

Judge Lindal has just had over a month in hospital. Fortunately, he is home again and is resuming his manifold activities.

The occasion of the hospital stay was a temporarily aggravated lung condition resulting from poison gas at Passchendaele, in 1917.

The cover picture of this issue is of the (Icelandic) Unitarian Church of Winnipeg, located on the corner of Sargent Avenue and Sherbrook Street.

The move from the original home was made in 1904, with dedication in 1905.

The congregation moved to the present site in 1922.

The following is a letter from the Hon. Jean Chretien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to the Editor of the Icelandic Canadian. The letter is dated October

"I would like to thank you for sending me a copy of your Autumn, 1969 edition of The Icelandic Canadian. I was particularly impressed with your cover print and your article on the Stefansson monument.

I was very sorry that I was unable to attend the ceremony myself, but I hope that I will be able to visit the park and the monument sometime in the future.

Thank you again, and best wishes to you for continued success.

Beginning with this issue, we have a new Advertising solicitor, Mr. E. J. Sigurjonsson. Ed Sigurjonsson is wellknown in Manitoba educational circles, having been collegiate principal for many years, and active in teachers' and educational organizations.

Mr. H. J. Stefansson, who has been our advertising agent, has relinquished this work, because of pressure of bus-

From all accounts, our subscribers have recognized the need to increase the annual subscription rate to three dollars, and have responded well.

Last fall we set out to visit the Icelandic pioneer cemetery at Sandy Bac, the setting of the well-known poem by Guttormur J. Guttormsson with that name.

What did we see on that cold and windy autumn day? A wide expanse of ploughed land, in the midst of which was Betsy Ramsay's picket-fenced grave. All the other graves had been ploughed under.

Cold blew the wind on Sandy Bar that day and predominantly bleak would have been our feeling on leaving the cemetery site but for the very warm hospitality of the Gudbjartson's at their nearby farmhouse.

The Adjustment Of Loyalties

An address delivered by Hon. W. J. Lindal, Q.C., at the opening of the Club Room of the Canada Press Club in the International Centre, 280 William Ave., Winnipeg, on December 6, 1969. He was President of the Club, 1942-1958.

at all times freely and readily adjusted their own cultures to their duties to the land that has become their new homeland. Without hesitation they have admitted that the building of a united Canada, the moulding of a Canadian pattern of the democratic way of life, were paramount.

In that respect the ethnic groups may have an advantage over the founding nations, the British and the French. They realized at once that an adjustment had to be made whereas the two main groups have felt more hesitant because of the presence of another element, though not the same one in each case. The British have maintained a degree of attachment to their mothercountry, the United Kingdom. The French, forsaken by their original mothercountry, have felt that there was a special duty upon them, because of that very severance, to maintain and preserve their culture to virtually the same degree as if they were completely independent.

an immediate and to some extent a greater adjustment than the founding people it is essential that there be a reasonable uniformity in that adjust- and the French widened the viewpoint

The ethnic groups of Canada have ment. Otherwise confusion and disunity might develop.

> No one in the ethnic groups is in a better position to take the lead in developing a uniformity of approach than the editors and publishers of ethnic weekly and other publications. It could plainly be seen that it was almost imperative that the editors and publishers form an association of some kind where they would get an opportunity to know one another, compare viewpoints and seek to harmonize them. Only then could they properly qualify for that leadership.

> With that in mind I invited all the ethnic editors and publishers to a meeting which took place in the spring of 1942-27 years ago. That was the initial step taken in the establishment of the Canada Press Club.

Both Winnipeg dailies, the Free Press and The Tribune encouraged the move and later gave space on their editorial pages to the ethnic editors, an invitation they all gladly accepted. Through the French weekly "La Lib-As the ethnic groups have to make erte et le Patriote" valuable support was received from the French elements in the Province.

This support from the Anglo-Saxons

to see more clearly the needed nationwide process of citizenship building. It was soon reflected in ethnic-paper editorials.

14

The objective and constant aim of the Canada Press Club has been to emphasize the adjustment the ethnic groups have to make to fit undoubted values in their own cultures into the All-Canada culture that is being moulded.

This has been and continues to be an excellent training for members of the Canada Press Club, and, equally, for the readers of their publications.

The willingness of the ethnic groups to make this adjustment does not make them second class citizens. Far from it. It actually makes it easier for them to develop the needed All-Canada approach-perhaps easier than it is to the two founding groups, the one because of a mother country complex, the other because of a duty felt to fill a gap caused by the country of origin in abandoning them.

There are no second class citizens in Canada, but there are duties towards cultures which the ethnic groups

of the ethnic editors and enabled them brought with them. Those duties must, however, be made secondary to their duties in the new homeland both national and international.

> This training in adjustment is excellent not only for the ethnics but for all Canadians. Every individual citizen, every group, every Province in Canada, must learn to adjust their claims and their aspirations, no matter how worthy, and make them secondary to their duties towards Canada and her great potential as a nation. This is particularly necessary in these years of internal stress and strain.

> One can widen the horizon. It is a training which every nation needs because of local wars and threats of wars which keep the world in a constant state of brinkmanship. Nations, no matter how powerful, must, in the world scene, make their aspirations secondary to a much needed duty to a world humanity.

The training and the adjustments which the ethnic groups in Canada have applied to themselves, and which are embodied in the objectives of the Canada Press Club, are of universal value and should be made available throughout the world.



ESKIMO ART _ THE FLOWER OF A FROZEN SOIL

by GISSUR ELIASSON

"Sweet are the uses of adversity, Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, Wears vet a precious jewel in his head; And this our life, exempt from public haunt Finds tongues in trees, books in the

running brooks, Sermons in stones and good in everything."

The famous passage from Shakespeare's "As you like it" has become very familiar through frequent quotation and well polished from many and varied references. Though it has, as implied, been made to fit countless occasions, it probably could never apply more aptly to anything as well as it does to the Art of the Eskimo. For here within the framework of this excerpt is couched with poetic clarity the source, spirit and substance of an indigenous art that has become a "precious jewel" in what is generally regarded as an unworthy setting. Here indeed is a silent summary of the true and unspoiled character of a unique and vital art expression that has been shaped by the matrix of its environment and breathed into by the most gifted members of an enduring band of native people living precariously from hand to mouth in the firm grip of a bleak and barren mistress. These roving tribes have found as our Vilhjalmur Stefansson records in the pages of his "Friendly Arctic" that in spite of, or perhaps because of the rigors and hardships involved in survival, the struggle with the elements to keep body and soul together has taught the people to listen to nature's heartbeat and heed well the secrets stored within the depth of her bosom. In a world that to outside eves seems

to be nothing but a solidly frozen

region of isolation the Eskimo people have learned the innermost secrets of nature and though the unrelenting struggle with wind and weather has etched deep lines and furrows into their weatherbeaten faces it has not dimmed the steadfast expression in eyes that laugh easily and reflect vision beyond the visible. There is deep insight and wisdom in their gaze, two attributes accumulated and sharpened through centuries of physical endurance and experience.

The short days of light and the long dark nights stretch back obscurely for a thousand years over the precarious and perilous existence of this brave little band of nomads. The attainment of the simplest needs of food, shelter and raiment besides being a full-time occupation demanded the closest and most intimate relationship with nature-a union of complete harmony with their surroundings. In return for a loyal and perceptive respect for nature the Eskimo has been endowed with special qualities of fortitude and forebearance. In appearance as well as ethnic character they have become a product of their environment. It is not stretching the truth much to say that their squat round figures so firm and stout have been carved out of their very surroundings by the unerring hand of the Master Carver. They have in the fullest sense of the word become a virtual part of everything that they have met, physically and spiritually.

In a land where all living and inanimate things seem to be cast in the simpest most functional shapes and sizes by the awesome forces of nature,

it becomes demonstrably evident that figuratively speaking the cultural there is a strong association between function and beauty. In the same context as a raindrop is beautiful because it is such a purely functional shape, so an igloo in the skillful hands and discerning eye of an Eskimo craftsman becomes a thing of intrinsic beauty as well as being a practical family shelter. In an environment where the austerity of the prevailing forces grind down all superfluous corners and non essential details, the sharp-edged definitions of lines and contours vield to the abrasive erosion of climatic conditions to become beautifully simple and softly rounded out. The contradictions that often ap pear in nature, here become a pronounced paradox of cause and effect for how else can one explain the calm, gently sweeping patterns that lie in the wake of a storm.

In the ever changing landscape of his environment the Canadian Eskimo has found the kindling for his creative fires. He has found through an incredible natural ability to survive in the frozen and formidable estates that envelop him a great personal strength of character and a warm, exuberant union with nature. He has found in his day to day living a deep and abiding respect for life, and he has found an art of rare vitality and uniqueness that faithfully expresses both his dependence on nature and his love of life.

Here then beyond the rim of the whiteman's civilization are small pockets of settlements and outposts, such as Cape Dorset, Port Harrison, Povingnituk, Baker Lake, Belcher Islands and other centres which to most of us are only tiny dots scarcely visible on our maps of Canada. Once remote and litt'e known these places have all of a sudden become important for their production of Eskimo Art, and

world has beaten a well-trodden path to their door. There is no need to dwell on the phenomenal popularity of Eskimo carvings and prints for they have found their way into countless store windows and retail shelves and counters. Making due allowance for the collectors fancy and the dictates of fashion that have contributed much to the continuing demand for these products in the market place in our present day it is quite evident that these primitive works of art have been sought and savoured for their own sake. It has been stated by eminent authorities that the best selection from Eskimo art will rank highly among the important and authentic examples of Canadian Art. Before attempting to account for the sudden recognition accorded these unique carvings one should point out that much of the adulation for them is prompted by the awareness that these are products made by primitive people and that they are admirable for their ethnic or racial origin. This in effect is like saying about children's drawings and paintings that they are precious considering that they have been done by children. The art of the Eskimo is not meritorious because it is created by an Eskimo, a member of an unknown namadic tribe, but it is significant and good because it is produced by an individual who is a gifted artist-and contrary to general belief it did not appear out of nowhere, although to be sure it has something of a miracle about it, but it has in fact been a long time in the making.

The Eskimo has been a carver for a thousand years and without his skill with a carving axe, chisel or blade he would not have been able to survive. These building tools and hunting weapons, were his most useful and highly prized possessions, and as such

were often decorated with ornamental carvings to give pleasure to the eve and to satisfy the creative instincts of the carver. Frequently these carvings became pictorial images and figures conceived for the purpose of imbuing these objects with special effectiveness and magical powers. Small carvings and amulets fashioned from whale bones and walrus tusks were often carved and worn as good luck charms and to ward off evil spirits. Small objects suitable for children's tovs were often made as were attractive novelies and momentos which were exchanged for other things by whalers on their sporadic visits to the north. While these assorted carvings were undertaken with seriousness and skill there was no stimulus provided for the production of such artifacts in any significant quantity, even though the quality of the few samples available indicated that a rich vein of potential achievement had been gathering under the surface. The important fact to note here is that this potential for greatness existed and only remained to be discovered and recognized.

Reports of the interesting things being made and bartered to the Hudsons' Bay Posts began to reach the ears of the outside world, and in 1948-49 Mr. James Houston, an outstanding Canadian artist, undertook the first of several visits to explore this virgin cultural field and to evaluate the work being done. He was very deeply impressed by the people and the products of their primitive tools. He gave these gifted carvers great encouragement and advice, urging them to take up production in earnest. At the end of his initial sojourn with the Eskimo carvers he returned home with all the finished sculpture he could manage. Through the co-operation of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Can-

adian Handicrafts Guild the complete shipment was sold out almost overnight, and a hungry market clamored for more. This trial shipment was the straw in the wind-the wind of good fortune for the Eskimo carvers, for with a growing demand for the products of their hand a sudden and dramatic change occurred transforming what had been an inactive and semidormant hankering to create personal objects in bone and stone into a vital and exciting carving industry. This success would bring a measure of economic security to the people involved and their families, at the same time giving a much needed boost to their morale and feeling of usefulness. The greatest challenge would come however from the spur put to their initiative and artistic integrity-for now the personal abilities and experiences gained through the ages would be put to a critical test. The craftsmanship and skill developed through a thousand years of carving as a way of life and used somewhat timidly to give expression to their artistic and religeous impulses in trying to please whatever gods they had must now all at once be expanded into an industry of full production to please the whiteman's market.

Will the change of gods make a difference in the unique qualities of the works of art produced? Will its purity be sacrificed on the altar of commercialism? Will mass production forsake the genuinely esthetic and sentitive qualities that it now possesses, for the sake of more and more efficiency and expertize.

While the change in motivation and methods poses a real threat to the future and even the · · · · of Eskimo art, it is not as serious as the question concerning the the Department of Northern Affairs, the living conditions, sense of ... habits and attitudes imposed ' . . en-

civilization. Will the price demanded by social and material progrses bring about an inevitable estrangement between a mother and her offspring, between a habitation and its inhabitants, between nature and a people that have inherited her innermost secrets. Herein lies the real and perhaps unavoidof the Canadian Eskimo lose touch

croachment of a new and alien form of with their environment, if they cast off their simple, natural philosophy of life and if in the process of becoming literate and schooled they lose their ability to read the sermons in the stones and the books in the running brooks, then alas they will have lost the boundless source of their art, "and able danger, for if future generations the spirit flown leaving bare the lifeless stone."

OFFICIAL MANITOBA SONG TO MARK CENTENNIAL YEAR

Mr. Gordon F. Watson and Mrs. Anne M. Collier, will share the \$1,500 first prize for their original composition "Manitoba" which Manitobans will soon be singing as the official provincial theme song commemorating Centennial '70.

The winning entry in the cross-Canada Centennial '70 Song Contest, sponsored by the Manitoba Centennial Corporation, was announced today by Corporation Chairman, Maitland B. Steinkopf. Second and third place winners Mrs. Verna Solmundson of 22-52 Edmonton Street, Winnipeg and Mr. Richard Carr of 156 Crofton Bay, St. Vital, will receive \$500 each.

Some 164 entries were submitted from nine provinces in the open competition. Entries, known to judges only were selected on the basis of style, melody and lyrics symbolic of the province and spirit of Centennial year.

Chairman of the Song Committee was Rainbow Stage producer, Jack Shapira. Judges were music critic. Madeline Bernier, broadcaster Cliff Gardiner, composer Machelle Shapira Winnipeg.

Two Portage la Prairie residents, and music director G. Glen Harrison.

Arrangements are being made for publication, recording and licensing for broadcasting of the winning composition, which the Corporation will release in about two weeks.

Mrs. Verna Solmundson, who placed second, won the Red River Exhibition song contest in 1958.

In the case of both contests, the Red River and the Centennial contests Mrs. Solmundson wrote the words of the song and composed the music.

When resident of High Bluff, she was organist at the United Church and a member of the Sweet and Low Singers of Portage la Prairie. She is presently organist and choir leader in Charleswood United Church.

Her Red River Exhibition song was recorded by the Altonesí of Winnipeg with arrangement by Bob McMullin and the orchestra directed by Mitch Parks.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Stefansson, of 740 Banning St.,

A PRESIDENT'S PROTEST

Robbins has been president of Bran-reporters expected last April (1969) don College and more recently Brandon University. Brandon College was news of Dr. Robbins unexpected nogiven its university charter in 1967 .In tice of retirement, only to find the a letter to the Board of Governors and its chairman, Dr. M. C. Holden, April 19, 1969, Dr. Robbins announced his intention to resign from the presidency. Dr. Robbins indicated he is not resigning out of bitterness but more importantly he perceives his resignation as his most effective way to protest what he views as a growing paralysis on university campuses in which small and vociferous minority groups gain the leadership of student and faculty governments while the majority look on with tongue-tied tolerance and indifference. The leaders of these groups tag the administration as "the establishment" or by some label implying connotations of mysterious and evil dealings. All these minority groups require is some occasion which they consider a legitimate trigger and they react with demands and ultimations directed to the administration.

It may be argued that freedom of action and intellect are integral parts of a university. However, when a small group openly and without inhibition insults the president and such obstreperous hostility is tolerated by the majority then something should be done to awaken the majority to their responsibilities.

In the past two or three years campus revolutions have become commonplace and even more acceptable to the public who perhaps have come to expect such events. At Brandon University there was no riotous revolution.

For the past nine years Dr. John E. Only the imagination can tell what when they flocked to Brandon with the usual campus serenity characteristic of exam time.

During the fall registration and the first week of classes during September (1968) a series of conflicts and misunderstandings developed which gave opportunity for the disaffected to confront the administration and more personally Dr. Robbins. The details of these conflicts require lengthy and interpretive discussions and will not be included. However, the culmination of these conflicts came during the first week of classes when the student leaders called a mass meeting of the student body at which two motions were presented to the students, one a motion of non-confidence in the president, the other a motion of censure of the president. Both motions were supported by a small group of students but rejected by the overwhelming majority. From that time Dr. Robbins noticed a growing disinterest of the student body in their government. This was exemplified by the fact that only one student stood for election to the presidency of the Students Union and thus won the position by default. In his letter of resignation Dr. Robbins identified this new student leader as the chief source of protest during the September (1968) mass student meet-Dr. Robbins felt his future deal-: with this new student leader would

be, to say the least, conducted in an atmosphere of considerable stress.

Dr. Robbins was duly concerned in office for another year but more students and faculties of our univerimportantly that the majority of students had not shown any indication their attitudes of indifference and unconcern had changed. In protest to these circumstances Dr. Robbins felt the most constructive effort he could make was to resign and publicly establish his reason for doing so. He did Winnipeg Free Press, Dr. Robbins not make his decision in anger or haste.

vears before his normal retirement but for the immediate future he could only see another year of frustration and disharmony with his antagonist, the new leader of the student government. Dr. Robbins felt that another year like campus life. They must not remain the one just past would not be tolerable and he concluded that his resignation from the presidency would be represented the full capability of the most constructive at this time.

The message Dr. Robbins intended that the same group are to continue to convey is primarily directed to the sities who form the quiet majority and who remain unconcerned while the schemers and pseudo-politicians, and other such intellectual swindlers, are allowed to preach and to act and eventually govern.

In the May 3, 1969 edition of the writes:

"The burden of the message that my Dr. Robbins would have three more letter (letter of resignation) was intended to convey was simply that the reasonable and fair-minded students and faculty, who constitute the overwhelming majority, have to take the responsibility for setting the tone of mute keys while a few high pitched notes are sounded constantly, as if they instrument".

-David H. Bergman

OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN

Mrs. Kerrine (Wilson) Stewart-Hay received her Licentiate in music (piano) at the University of Manitoba Convocation in October, 1968, and Bachelor of Music Degree at the University of Manitoba Convocation in May, 1969, the first graduate of Icelandic descent to earn this degree at this University.

Her parents are the well known musicians, Kerr and Thelma Wilson, of Winnipeg.

Kerrine is married to Peter Stewart-Hay. They have a two year old daughter, Kristin.

The family resides in Fort Garry, Winnipeg.



Mrs. Ferring (Wilson) as a Hey

OUR TOP ATHLETES TODAY

Manitobans making their name in the world of sports

Tom Johnson, the boy born in Baldur, February 18, 1928, is a Manitoban who made it big in the big time ... but no one ever really seemed certain of the fact despite his many years with Montreal Canadiens and a finishing kick with the Boston Bruins.

Being a star in the National Hockey League for the best part of 20 seasons with such noted playing partners as Doug Harvey or Ken Reardon or J. C. Tremblay or Jacques Laperriere was not an easy task for Johnson. But through all the glorious seasons enjoyed by the Canadiens through the 50s and into the 60s, Tom was always

He was the steady, if not spectacular performer on the Montreal defence and the record book shows he enjoyed more than a dozen seasons collecting playoff money in Stanley Cup competition. And only such venerable stars as Harvey, Gordie Howe and Red Kelly can surpass this achievement.

But there were days when the allstar voters saw the light and realized Johnson was not just riding the crest with some great Montreal teams. Like in 1958-59 when he was selected to the first all-star team along with Bill Gadsby, the present coach of Detroit Red Wings. Or in 1955-56, when Tom was honored as a second-team all-star, in the company of Red Kelly, now coach of Pittsburgh Penguins.

Unlike the aforementioned stars of their day, Johnson skirted the testy coaching career to continue his living at the game. Instead, he has moved well up in the executive level. He is presently a full-time resident of Boston and assistant to the general manager of the Bruins.



Tom Johnson

Injuries cut short possibly an even longer playing career for the Winnipeg junior product.

In his waning seasons with Montreal he suffered an eye injury which took considerable time to correct itself, and then as he finished out with two seasons with the Bruins, Tom had some leg tendons severed in a game in Chicago Stadium and that was the final signal to hang up his tack.

For many seasons Johnson returned to his Winnipeg home as one of big league hockey's most eligible bachelors and could usually be found at Assiniboia Downs whenever the horses were running. The thoroughbred game was another sport where he made his mark, both as an owner and a bettor.

He is now married, the proud father of a son, Tom Jr., and the godfather of another Tom, here in Winnipeg, the son of his close friends, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Beech of Fort Garry.

-Winnipeg Free Press.

Dr. Jón Vídalín Straumfjörð

[1899-1969]

by Axel Vopnfjord



Dr. Jón Vídalín Straumfjörð

"Come, my friends. Tis not too late seek a newer world. Push off, and sitting well in order

The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds To sail beyond the sunset, and

the baths Of all the western stars, until I die."

The busy life of Jón Straumfjörð was a constant search for newer worlds, newer experiences, newer ideas. A member of the University Faculty who knew him in his senior years said that he had the finest mind he had come into contact with in twenty years of academic work. He put that versatile mind to good use. His was truly a life of achievement.

A scion of the well-known and highly respected Straumfjörð family, he was born at Mikley (Hecla Island), Manitoba on April 13, 1899. The familv moved to the Shoal Lake district near Lundar in 1902. There he experienced some of the vicissitudes and privations of a pioneering community. Perhaps his life is an exemplification of the popular belief that one must be "hungry" in order to have the ambition to achieve.

WINTER 1969

In his youth he had the good fortune of coming under the influence of two eminent men. At the Little Red School House, Nordur Stjarna, he drew the living waters of inspiration from no less a teacher than the educator, author and humanitarian, Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason. Undoubtedly he was one of the main sources of Jón's fierce pride in his Icelandic heritage, and his facility with the ancient tongue of his ancestors.

"Vort litla skóla hús, vort litla skóla

Vér langann tíma í minni bína minning geymum fús, Og innan þinna veggja vér unað

gátum bezt, Og elsku sem er hrein og trú

vér á þér höfum fest, Og hvernig sem alt fer

og árin breyta sér Aldrei, aldrei vér gleyma skulum bér."

He studied Grades IX and X at home with assistance from that well known intellectual, Rev. Hjörtur Leo. He attended the Jón Bjarnason Academy in 1917-18, and graduated with the highest standing in his class. During the years 1919-1923 he attended Wesley College (now the University of

and Latin, he graduated in 1923, magna cum laude, with his B.A. degree. Here he distinguished himself as an outstanding scholar. He won the Governor General's Medal in his second year. Somehow he found the time to serve as editor-in-chief of Vox Wesleyana, the student's magazine, in 1922-23, and in addition he was an active member of the Icelandic Students' Society.

In 1923 he married Miss Thorey Thordarson from Piney, Manitoba, a graduate in Home Economics from the University of Manitoba. Their three sons, Jón Vídalín, Agnar Allan and Robert, all prominent doctors in the United States. Thorey, who had been his faithful helpmate through thick and thin, died in 1957. Two years later he married Miss Frances Jensen, who survived him. Also surviving are three brothers, Jóhann in Seattle, Halldór and Júlíus in Vancouver.

Shortly after their graduation from the University of Manitoba. Jón and Thorey moved to Oregon where he entered the University of Oregon Medical School, in 1924. He graduated second in his class in 1929. His ability was recognized early in his medical career. His first teaching appointment as a Student Assistant was made in 1925, in Microscopic Anatomy. He continued as Associate in Anatomy until 1934.

In 1934 Dr. Straumfjörð moved to Astoria, Oregon, where he founded the Astoria Clinic, and practiced internal medicine until 1969. During these years he did clinical research on Vitamin A, and conducted his own continued medical education by an extensive reading programme. He contributed several articles based on his research to the American Medical Journal. In his spare time he continued to read Latin, studied Greek and became

Winnipeg). Majoring in Mathematics interested in philosophy and religions. Within the last year he had completed a course in electronics and built a color television set from parts supplied in a kit. In 1964 he served for a time on behalf of Medico in Algiers. Upon planning to offer his servcies in Honduras, for Medico for the second time, he learned to speak Spanish. He was an enthusiastic private pilot and qualified himself to fly on instruments. On several occasions he flew from Oregon to his native Manitoba. He was an ardent chess player, and was in seventh heaven when he could find someone to match his skill.

Honors were heaped upon him, the Presidency of the North Pacific Society of Internal Medicine, Fellowship in the American College of Physicians. the Presidency of the Board of Trustees of Northwest Medical Publishing Association, a DAR Medal for Americanism. The foregoing do by no means exhaust the list.

Upon his retirement at the age of seventy he embarked upon a second career, hospital inspection. He spent a month in Chicago training as an inspector for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. It was tragic that this career was all too brief. Death came suddenly to this versatile man in Denver, Colorado, on June 10, 1969, too soon, but he had truly lived a full life.

Farewell, scholar, gentleman, healer, and leader of men. Wherever your questing spirit now dwells, we know that you are performing the tasks that the fates have wished upon you, with the same steadfastness, the same modesty and absence of display that you exhibited on earth, and that the only reward you want is the satisfaction of a job well done. You must have been conscious of that reward during your last days on earth.

Farewell, and again farewell.

Dr. Asa MacDonell Assistant Medical Director



Dr. Asa MacDonell

Relatively few women enter the medical profession and it is rare that they select the administrative side of medical practice. It is an exception, perhaps unique, that a woman who selects that branch should gain preeminence by becoming an assistant director of a large hospital.

Dr. Asa MacDonell has won that distinction and during the last nine years she has been Assistant Director of Deer Lodge Hospital—a Veterans Hospital of 620 beds.

Josefina Asgerdur, who even in the hospital is commonly called Dr. Asa MacDonell, was born in Winnipeg, May 5, 1918, the daughter of the late Fridrik Kristjansson and Holmfridur Kristjansson, nee Josephson, who now resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. J. A. Kristjansson MacDonell graduated from the University of

Manitoba, Faculty of Medicine, in 1943. She served in the Armed Forces with the rank of Captain during World War II and did postgraduate work both in England and in Canada during the years 1945-51. She then went into private practice in Winnipeg and was Assistant Medical Consultant to the Manitoba Hospital Commission 1953-60. Commencing in 1953 she did part time work in Deer Lodge Hospital. This service revealed her ability in both medical and administrative hospital work and led to her appointment in 1960 to the position of Assistant Medical Director of Deer Lodge Hospital. Her work in that capacity was given due recognition on August 13, 1967, when she was granted in Chicago a membership in the American College of Hospital Administra-

Professional duties have not prevented Dr. Asa Macdonell taking her full share in community activities. She has served on the Board of the Y.W.C.A., at the Notre Dame Day Centre, and on the Community Welfare Planning Council.

In 1943 she married Dr. Jack A. MacDonell. He is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Director of Geriatric Services, Director of Home Care, and Consultant in Chest Diseases at Deer Lodge Hospital.

They have one daughter, Josefina, 17 years old, and they reside at 256 Winchester St. in St. James-Assiniboia.

-W.J.L.



Photo Carda, Napoleon Photo Scidio Lin-

CUTTING THE RIBBON ceremony at the opening of the Club Room of the Canada Press Club in the International Centre, 280 William Avenue, Winnipeg, on December 6th, 1969.

In the immediate foreground: Hon. Ed Schreyer, Premier of the Province of Manitoba; Hon. James Richardson, representing the Federal Government, and Hans H. Roeder, President of the Canada Press Club.

Other dignitaries attending the opening ceremony were: J. E. Willis, Chairman of Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg; Alderman Slaw Rebchuk, representing the City of Winnipeg; E. Turner, Mayor of the City of St. Boniface.

Addresses were given by the dignataries and by Hon. W. J. Lindal, first President of the Club and by Leo Lezack, first Vice-President of the Canada Ethnic Press Federation.

Premier Schreyer presented the Past Presidents of the Club, W. Charles E. Dojack, Helge Pearson, John Syrnick, Leo Lezack and H. Roeder with miniature Red River Ox Cart plaques on behalf of the Government of Manitoba. Leo Lezack, on behalf of the Club, presented a case to Mrs. Sonia Roeder, President of the Citizenship Council of Manitoba

26

SPECIAL CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY



Honourable Robert Stanbury

On Monday, November 17, 1969. there was a special sitting of the Court of Canadian Citizenship, at its new quarters in the Cadomin Building, 276 Main St., Winnipeg. There were two reasons for this being a special sitting of the Court. The parents of the 21st millionth Canadian received their certificates of Canadian Citizenship that day; this was the first citizenship ceremony addressed by the recently appointed Cabinet Minister, the Honourable Robert Stanbury.

of Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Tymm of Winnipeg, named Canada's 21st millionth of the people which have unlocked the citizen, was born on March 7, this year. productivity of our plains, forests, wa-

The father was born in Poland and the mother in Australia. They met in 1965 in Winnipeg where they married and they now have two daughters, Ingrid and Lauren Lee. The Tymms and 22 other residents of Manitoba received their citizenship papers at this sitting of the court.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was the Honourable Robert Stanbury, appointed by the Prime Minister of Canada to his Cabinet on October 20, 1969. He works in association with the Secretary of State, the Honourable Gerard Pelletier, and his particular responsibility is Canadian Citizenship. In the course of his address the Minister said:

"Since Canada's Confederation in 1867, approximately nine and one half million immigrants have come to this country from other parts of the world. I suppose it is a bit easier nowadays to move to a new land than it was a century or even a quarter of a century ago. But it is still a difficult and courageous thing to leave one's own country, relatives and friends for strange surroundings, to find a new job, to make a new home, perhaps to learn another language, to adopt different customs and finally to take on the full responsibility and the privileges — of a new citizenship. . . .

Immigrants and their descendents have made invaluable contributions to Canada. Three of our prime ministers have been immigrants. Canada has al-Lauren Lee, the younger daughter ways needed and welcomed more people. It is the toil and the talents THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

terways and mountains. Important though industries and their products are to Canada's economic growth, we recognize people as the greatest of Canada's resources. For it is in the attitudes of Canadians, in the creativity from many cultures, in the way Canadians react to one another and work

together that the future of Canada will be determined."

The Minister urged the 24 most recent Canadian citizens to take part in local activities and in that way help formulate public opinion in the community.

-W. J. L.

Prologue from "PEACE ON EARTH"

Guðmundur Guðmundsson Translated by Jakobina Johnson

Lord, God of peace, my spirit's high ideal, To Thee I lift my hands in mute appeal, Omnipotent, a miracle imploring. Grant to my soul a vision of Thy light, Change Thou my song with Thy compelling might, That it may rise – Thy peace on earth restoring.

Lord, God of love, unto my spirit show In all their truth the depths of human woe, Wherefrom the groans of multitudes are calling. Mingled with tears they rise around Thy feet, Beseeching looks of dying eyes entreat: "Thy peace on earth, like dew on deserts falling."

Lord, God of wisdom, with prophetic fires Cleanse Thou my soul, ennoble my desires. Thy purpose to my lowly heart revealing. Thy wonder-power of love in song and sound Call from my harp in rhapsody profound, The suffering and broken spirits healing.

Lord, God of peace, Thy beating heart impels Mine own, when that with sweet compassion swells, Thy mercy for the sufferers imploring. Wherefore I feel my spirit's wings grow strong And courage rise to wake my harp in song. O, may it rise – Thy peace on earth restoring.

BOOK REVIEW

by HARALDUR BESSASON

NORTHERN BRONZE AGE

THE CHARIOT OF THE SUN: by Peter Gelling and Hilda Ellis Davidson, 200 pp., Don Mills, J. M. Dent, \$11.00.

Amongst Scandinavians the preservation of ancient traditions has taken various forms, but only literary and runic materials have become the object of intense scholarly interest. The work under review deals with a third and a much less known category of source materials: rock-engravings from the period 1500-500 B.C. The main concentration of this Bronze Age art is found in western Sweden, but examples of it have also been discovered in several other regions in Scandinavia. The Chariot of the Sun is an appropriate title for the book, since symmain theme.

Peter Gelling, who has written the first half of this interesting survey, has reproduced and interpreted engravings on stone of animal figures, human footprints, sun-god circles or disks, and ships and weapons. By fusing these symbols into a meaningful whole he has drawn a remarkably clear outline of Scandinavian religious beliefs in prehistoric times. Sun worship was the predominating feature of these beliefs, and in the engravings it is represented by disks of various kinds, male figures bearing axe-like weapons, human footprints (which are in fact the footprints of the sun god himself), and several in a n i m a t e objects.

This early cult had a dual association -ship figures and horse images. In some instances the two seem to have merged, and Mr. Gelling regards the

merger "as evidence that the ideas of horse-drawn and ship-borne sun did not belong to two separate religious systems but were closely linked aspects of a single theory of the sun's movement."

Sword and spear images - several of which are in the book - appear to have been more closely linked with cults of fertility than with direct veneration of the sun. Mr. Gelling suggests that on the whole the engraved symbols represent three deities: "the sun god, the sword-god (? related to Freyr) and the spear-god (? related to Odin)." In some of the engravings foreign iconographic influences were apparently super-imposed on Scandinavian subject matter.

In the latter half of the book Hilda bolic allusions to the sun constitute its Ellis Davidson, Mr. Gelling's co-author, tries to determine the extent to which cults from the latter centuries of Scandinavian heathendom (i.e., the era immediately preceding the Christianization of Scandinavia about A.D. 1000) may be traced to the Bronze Age culture. Using literary and runic sources for comparison, the author concludes that in Scandinavia the last 2,500 years of the pre-Christian era must have been a high degree of continuity in things religious and spiritual.

> The present work will come as a bit of a surprise, even to those who are well acquainted with early Scandinavian history. The new light it sheds on the enduring qualities of divine symbols adds a new dimension to our knowledge of Northern mythology. The author maintains that many of the Old Scandinavian (Germanic) deities remained as symbols without any

distinct anthropomorphic features in different periods, some of the rites throughout the pagan period. As a result, they were constantly worshipped in the form of beasts or some inanimate object. "Sophisticated poets solid Scandinavian rocks have also surand antiquarians" seem to have been vived to this day in folklore and literaalone in assigning these divine powers.

Two different events have left very distinct marks on Scandinavian religious history. One of these was the replacement of hunting by agriculture, the other the introduction of Christianity. But despite all changes that various trends may have brought about

and customs which were important enough to the Bronze Age Scandinavians to merit an impression upon

The authors deserve much praise for their thorough research and imaginative analysis. As Christopher Hawkes succinctly states in his Foreword, this entire work is "cheerfully sane, and to all but a handful absolutely new."

CAMPUSES NOT FOR BURNING

burn? No, they aren't. But it was a making process. question that was seriously asked last fall.

capable of damaging or destroying university property do exist on Canadian inevitable reaction that will follow. campuses. They are an extremely small section of the university student population, but their numbers are growing.

they want should not be confused with the student activist movement, which is trying to get a bigger say in the running of the university.

administrators and even faculty mem-

Are Canadian campuses about to der the responsibility of the decision-

This responsibility should be shared with the students. They are ready for The revolutionaries who would be it. And if it is refused the universities then will be partly responsible for the

Violence is unlikely. But no encouragement should be given to the reformist zeal of the Maoist philos-What they want is power. And what ophy—that there is virtue in revolution for its own sake.

Our universities should take the lead. Their governors and administrators should give encouragement where It is true that university governors, it is due-to the students who have demonstrated their responsibility. It is bers of most of our universities have time that our universities accepted been slow to heed the constant appeals students as their central concern. It is of the activists who have shown a no longer good enough to look upon willingness and an eagerness to shoul- the student as a product or as a customer.

> From "Unchurched Editorials" a service provided by The United Church of Canada, and submitted by John Harvard.

FRESCOED WITH ANGELS

CHRISTMAS 1907

by G. Bertha Johnson

In the valley, between the Duck the squirrel-skin earmuffs of his and Porcupine hills, the log cabin huddled, rough-hewn and clay-plastered, sheltered by poplar and willow. The December drifts piled high against the zig-sag pole fences, and against the low barns that sheltered the stock where a double sleigh with its empty hayrack waited.

In the early morning it was coldbiting cold, that twentieth day of December, in the year 1907. The smoke from the tin stovepipe billowed in thick white clouds; inside the cabin was warm, though the single window panes were frosted with mystic patterns of white ice.

"I can't spare the time nor the oxen for a trip to town.—There are three loads of hay to get for the stock," Daniel said.

He was a big man, gray and whiskered; and no longer young. Hard work and struggle had lined his face, and set his mouth in a firm line.

"If swamp fever hadn't killed all our horses," Maria sighed.

"No use regretting. We can't change fate," the man responded. "Perhaps Einar is going to town and the boy can go with him. I'll inquire today when I drive by with the hayload."

"It wouldn't be so bad if it weren't for the little one. The others understand, but she's only five. She still believes in Santa Claus."

"Better that belief be shaken than her faith in the Holy Child. Tell her the Christmas story, and her imagination will fresco the heavens with angels," Daniel smiled.

Already the man was pulling on his long sheepskin coat, and turning down log wall. It had come in the mail

WINTER 1969

"We can't starve the stock," he added decisively, letting in a chill gust of winter as he left the cabin.

"We haven't much to trade for groceries," Maria said. "Four dozen eggs, ten pounds of butter, and I just finished knitting two pairs of lumberjacks mitts. Here is the list, Jón. If we should have a bit still coming, buy some Christmas mixtures."

"I have my weasel pelt," the boy said. Then suddenly feeling very manly, he added, "We'll have a wonderful Christmas."

Jon was twelve. Snuggled down in the hay of the sleigh-ox with a buffalo robe tucked over his threadbare winter garments he looked very small.

Einar gave the reins a jerk, and they were away, the runners crunching over the snow, and the bells jingling, as the Indian ponies, Molly and Maud, trotted down the lane.

Jon waved to little Gudda who stood pressing her nose against a clear spot in the window-pane to watch them go.

The miles sped by through bush; then came open meadows, where the horses floundered in drifts, and the wind had no pity.

"I'll buy some little nails, a coloured candle, and something for little Gudda," the boy planned in his buffalo shelter.

"Maybe the storekeeper will put our groceries in a big wooden box then I can make a sleigh.

Little Gudda sat on the bed hugging her knees and gazing up at the coloured picture on the freshly whitewashed

when Einar and Jon returned from skirts, anl aprons, and dresses. Her town. She had watched in excited expectation while Sigga unwrapped it.

"Twenty-five Royal Crown Soap coupons," Sigga said grandly. "And worth every coupon. I'll make a cardboard frame, wrapped in blue and pink tissue paper, and we'll hang it above our cot, little Gudda.

"It's called 'St. Cecelia' - See the angels dropping rosebuds on the organ she is playing—'

Little Gudda did a summersault on the cot and then sat hugging her knees again.

"Angels," little Gudda whispered softly to herself. "Like mama said. coming from heaven-"

She skipped into the kitchen where mama was frying doughnuts in an old castiron skillet.

"Will it soon be Christmas?" little Gudda asked, her nose dangerously near the hot grease in the skillet as she watched the dough puffing up and turning a golden brown, first on one side and then on the other.

"Sit here, my love," mama said, setting little Gudda up on the big covered barrel in the corner.

"Will it soon be Christmas?" Gudda insisted again. Then she fell silent in expectation. Mama was going to teach her a poem, or tell her a story.

"Tonight is Christmas Eve," mama began. "Once long, long ago, ange's same down from heaven to tell the shepherds that a Child was born—"

The chores were done; the kerosene lamp was lit; and upon a shelf above the precious books two tallow candles and a red one burned, each in its own metal candlestick, pushing the shadows of the room deeper into the corners so that it looked bright and cozy.

Everyone put on their best. Sigga had brought yards of material when she came home from waiting tableat The Valley Hotel. She had sewed black skirt swirled in pleats to her toes ,and her white lawn waist had tucks and lace insertions. Her pompadour was higher than usual and drooped coquettishly down over one eye.

In her red wool stockings and blue cotton print, with her blonde hair in neat pigtails, Gudda felt equally grand, as befitted one to whom Chrismas was coming.

Outside, sleighbells jingled,

"It's Otto and Kristjan," father said. "I'll go stable their horses. Light the lantern, Sigga."

Two young giants in buffa¹o coats entered. They held their cold hands over the glowing heater.

"It's a treat to have guests," mama said "What's the news of the folks in Thunder Hill?"

"I saw vour brother vesterday, "Kristian replied, taking the warm coffee she offered.

"How is he-and his family?"

There was much talking, and then a few hands of cards. Later, the table was set, and when everyone was seated, mama said. "Gudda, my love, go and put a stick in the kitchen stove. I was so busy, I forgot."

It took only a minute, but when Gudda skipped back to her place, she found a linen alphabet book, a bordered handkerchief with dancing elephants, and a box of candy beside her plate.

"Santa came a little ear v." mam i explainel, and everyone laughed, including litt'e Gudda who was almost too excited to drink her milk and eat the piece of marble cake with its marvel of icing and coconut.

She turned the pages of her book lovingly. watched the candlelights, and listened to the chorus that began soft'v with mama's humming, and concluded with the carol, "Silent night, the northern lights until she settled holy night -"

felt herself floating on the wings of

into a warm rosy cloud. And the fabric Little Gudda nodded sleepily. She of her dreams was frescoed with angels.

SKULI SIGFUSSON



Skuli Sigfusson

Skuli Sigfusson, the man who sat in a body longer than any other Western-Icelander, died in Tache 11. : 1 in St. Boniface November 27, then ninety-nine years old.

Skuli Sigfusson was born in Iceland October 1, 1870 and migrated with his parents to Canada in 1887. They settled in the Lundar district which was opened that same year.

Skuli homesteaded south-west of Lundar and within a few years had established a large cattle ranch. When the railroad was extended north from Oak Point he went into the retail business in Lundar, opening a hardware store from which he conducted an implement and a fish business.

the district or the district grew with

him is debatable. Suffice it to say that he participated in all useful local undertakings.

In order to serve the district in a more comprehensive way he entered into provincial politics and in 1915 was elected in the St. George constituency as a Liberal under the leadership of Toby Norris who won the election and became Premier of Manitoba. In 1920 Skuli was defeated by Albert Kristjanson, who was a Progressive, but two years later, in the election of re-elected and served continuously until 1936 when he was defeated by Miss Salome Halldorson. He was again elected in 1940 and served until 1945, when, after having been in for 24 years, he retired.

At the funeral service in Winnipeg Hon. Douglas Campbell, who was elected for the first time in 1922 and was in the legislature for many years after 1945, said that Skuli did not have one enemy in the legislature—a remarkable record. He was not an orator but followed events in rural Manitoba closely and always spoke with knowledge.

Skuli Sigfusson is survived by his widow, Gudrun, five sons and two daughters. Sons Arthur and Sigurdur are on the farm, and the other three, Sveinn, Skuli Albert, and Thomas, reside in Winnipeg. They operate a large transporation business in Northern Manitoba. A daughter, Maria, is married to a lawver in Akurevri, Iceland and the other daughter, Olof, is mar-Whether Skuli Sigfusson grew with ried to Gerald McMahon of Bran--W.J.L.

Dr. Baldur Kristjanson to head Economic Development Advisory Board

On Thursday, Nov. 14, Premier Ed Schreyer announced the appointment of eight prominent Manitoba business and labor leaders to the newly-created Economic Development Advisory Board to provide for independent assessment and advice to the government on matters concerning economic development.

Mr. Schreyer said the board would be headed by Dr. Baldur Kristjanson, former chairman of the Manitoba Economic Consultative Board and former deputy minister of the Manitoba Development Authority. Dr. Kristjanson has just returned from a oneyear leave-of-absence during which he served as economic advisor to the government of Tanzania.

Mr. Schreyer said the order-in-council establishing the Economic Development Advisory Board stressed the desirability of providing the government with "independent assessment and advice on matters and policies which could have significant impact on economic development or technological advance or which might create. expand or sustain productive capacity.' The board would "utilize research data available to existing departments and agencies of government, thus avoiding duplication of effort and the incurring of unnecessary costs."

The board would recommend relative priorities among development objectives and propose new concepts.

As one of its functions, the board would assess, review and revaluate the performance of boards and agencies of the government directly associated



Dr. Baldur Kristjanson

with development. Chief amongst these would be the Manitoba Development Fund, the Department of Industry and Commerce and other departments concerned with economic development including Agriculture, Education, Manitoba Hydro, Tourism, Mines and Natural Resources, Regional Development Organizations.

In addition to its review and assessment functions, the board is empowered to initiate and guide research and economic studies but not in matters already under research by existing departments.

It is to report annually to the Minister of Industry and Commerce on the activities of the Manitoba Development Fund, the Department of Industry and Commerce and other government departments or agencies where their activities relate to economic development.

It is also to report to a committee of the Manitoba Legislature on: How best to stimulate and co-ordinate public and private activities in the field of economic development and to recommend any measures considered necessary to achieve the most effective means of communication between government departments, agencies and industries.

It can confer and consult with and obtain information from a wide number of sources. These include Manitoba government departments and agencies, municipalities, other provincial governments, federal government departments and agencies, employer and employee organizations, industrial, agricultural and regional development organizations, universities, research agencies, groups of citizens and individuas.

In addition to being chairman of the new Economic Development Board, Dr. Kristjanson is retained as special assistant and economic adviser to Premier Ed Schreyer and is named a named a member of the committee of cabinet on planning and priorities.

Dr. Kristjanson has held a number of development and economic advisory posts with Canadian and United States governments, the North Dakota legislature and the government of Iran, and was assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa before returning to Manitoba in 1963, to take up posts with the Manitoba Economic Consultative Board and the Manitoba Development Authority.

Dr. Kristjanson was born at Gimli, Manitoba. He graduated from the University of Manitoba (B.Sc.) in 1939, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (M. Sc) in 1941, and the University of Wisconsin (Ph.D.) in 1949.

FORTY THOUSAND MANITOBANS TO BE HONORED

Manitoba's pioneers will receive special recognition in 1970 as part of the province's Centennial Celebrations.

According to Rev. Bruce Miles, Chairman of the Pioneer Committee of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation a special medallion is being prepared by the Corporation for presentation through local Committees to our Pioneers.

Mr. Miles says that all local Centennial Committees are being asked to set aside a special time in their Centennial program to honour the Pioneers of their area.

By definition, Pioneers of Manitoba are designated as those 75 years or over, who have spent most of their life in the province. There are 40,000 Manitobans in this category. Over 300 men and women are 95 or over.

"Pioneers and youth together will prepare local histories, and special pageants based on the past of the area, for presentation during the Centennial year," said Rev. Miles. "We want to tap the energy and experience of our Pioneers, not put them on a shelf to

First European Kiwanis Convention meets in Reykjavik, Iceland

wives representing the eleven Kiwanis friends. nations of Europe, met in Reykjavik, Iceland, June 13-15, for the First Annual Convention of Kiwanis International-Europe. Informally known as the "Midnight Sun" Convention, it was the first such meeting since the European affiliate of Kiwanis International was formed last summer in Zurich. Switzerland.

The convention was highlighted by the presence of Bjarni Benediktsson, Premier of Iceland, the addresses of prominent Kiwanians and officials of the Icelandic government, by gala banquets and receptions, and by the election of the 1969-70 Council of Founders. Representing Kiwanis International at the conclave were International President Harold M. Heimbaugh, International Trustee Gene H. Favell, and Jack P. Delf, Chairman of the International Committee on International Relations, International Secretary R. P. Merridrew, and Kiwanis European Administrator Kenneth P. Greenaway.

The European Kiwanians, many of whom arrived aboard a chartered flight from Luxembourg, began to assemble in Reykjavik shortly after noon on Friday, June 13. Pre-convention proceedings began that afternoon with a meeting of the Council of Founders at the Hotel Loftleidir and the opening of registration at the Hotel Saga. That evening the Kiwanians and their ladies attended an informal reception in their honor at the Hotel Saga, where they relaxed over refreshments, renew- in many areas of Europe."

More than 350 Kiwanians and their ed old acquaintances, and met new

The Midnight Sun Convention officially opened on Saturday morning at the Hasklabio (University Theatre), across the square from the Hotel Saga-After President Jean Ladriere of Kikanis International-Europe called the session to order, Olafur J. Einarsson, president of the Kiwanis Club of Reykjavik-Hekla, welcomed the Kiwanians to Reykjavik. After Deputy Mayor Gunnlaugur Petursson of Reykjavik welcomed the conventioners on behalf of the city, the Kiwanians were welcomed to the Scandinavia District, recently renamed the Norden District, by Governor Egil Fagerholt.

In his address to the first session, Dr. Gylfi Gislason, Iceland's Minister of Education, praised the work of Kiwanis in building international friendship. "I have been a guest at Kiwanis meetings here in Reykjavik on several occasions," he said. "Acquaintance with their activities has filled me with admiration for their determination to do good, and the self-sacrifice with which they work."

In his official address to the convention, President Hi recalled his early work with the European Mission, which first introduced Kiwanis on the continent. "I have watched since that historic day of May 4, 1963, when the charter was presented to the Kiwanis Club of Vienna, how your Kiwanis family has grown. We have watched your dedication and growth with pride, and through your efforts and your enthusiasm the banner of Kiwanis now flies

riere told the delegates of the sparkling policy-making body of the European future he foresees for Kiwanis in Eur- affiliate, the Kiwanis Club of Hamope- "The day will not be long com- burg, Germany, extended the official ing," he said, "when Kiwanis ideals invitation to the Kiwanians to hold will unite all Europeans in service to their 1970 convention in Hamburg. their fellowman."

or Geir Hallgrimsson of Reykjavik new Council members were officially hosted a reception for the Kiwanians introduced by International Secretary and their wives at the Tonabaer Recreation Center. Later, in an exemplary display of Kiwanis hospitality, all conventioners and their families were dinner guests in the homes of Reykjavik son of Reykjavik-Hekla, Iceland. Welti Kiwanians.

services, the ladies boarded buses for a ant governor of the Icelandic Division guided tour of the city while the Ki- of the Scandinavia District. wanians convened in general session at the Hotel Saga. Following the election - The Kiwanis

Echoing Hi's remarks, President Lad- of the 1969-70 Council of Founders, the

At the Gala Convention Dinner and That evening Dr. Gislason and May- Ball at the Hotel Saga that evening, the R. P. Merridew.

Elected as First and Second Vice-Presidents were Dr. Max H. Welti of Zurich, Switzerland, and Pall H. Palsserved as Treasurer of the Council last On Sunday morning after church year and Palsson was formerly lieuten-

SLIDES OF ESKIMO LIFE SHOWN AT A MEETING OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB

At a metting of the Icelandic Canadian Club, in the parish hall of the First Lutheran Church, November 27th, Dr. John S. Matthiasson, of the University of Manitoba showed slide pictures from Baffin Island. Dr. Matthiasson spent a year at Pond Inlet, at the northern tip of Baffin Island, in 1963-64, on field work for his doctor's degree in Anthropology at Cornell University.

Dr. Matthiasson lived for several months with an Eskimo family. Eskimo style.

The pictures, with the addition of the narrator's commentary, gave of graphic view of Eskimo way of life as it has been from time immemorial but is now disappearing in all the Canadian North before the impact from the outside world.

Included in an appreciative audience were some fifteen students in Icelandic at the University of Manitoba, onehalf of the class presently enrolled in Icelandic studies there.

The First International Congress on **Group Medicine comes to Winnipeg**

"NEW HEALTH CARE APPROACH FIRES MD's IMAGINATION" is the heading of the following article, which appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press, recently.

The First International Congress on Group Medicine has caught the imagination of world medical circles.

As the result of a massive promotion campaign, the congress, to be held from April 26 to 30, 1970, at the centennial Concert Hall here, has attracted inquires from 32 countries and obtained the services of several world famous medical figures as speakers.

Organizers of the event, sponsored by the Canadian Association of Medical Clinics, have contacted organizations, publications and individuals in over 60 countries while the department of external affairs has distributed information bulletins regarding the congress to all embassies, trade missions and other Canadian government offices overseas.

Planning to attend are a 19-strong delegation of Taiwan doctors and a group of at least 40 from France.

The congress received several communications indicating that groups of delegates are being organized in Australia, New Zealand, West Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan.

People in the medical profession throughout Canada attended a dinner meeting Saturday night, Nov. 1st at the Hotel Fort Garry to hear progress reports on the congress.

Also at the dinner, chaired by Dr. Paul H. T. Thorlakson of Winnipeg. president and general chairman of the congress, were Health Minister Sidney Green and Philip Petursson, minister in charge of cultural affairs.

The purpose of the congress is to correlate and exchange experiences in the organization and administration of medical group practice in various countries and to present new ideas for its future development.

The program will emphasize the responsibility of health professions in the provision of services to the community.

Inter-group research and continuing medical education will be discussed and the use of automated and computer equipment in private group practice and in hospitals is to be presented.

Theme of the congress is New Horizons in Health Care.

The program will consist of seven major sessions, one to be held each morning and afternoon, except the afternoon of April 28 when visits to local clinics will be arranged and members of the Medical Group Management Association of Canada will sponsor workshops to provide detailed information on clinic organization and management.

The major sessions will be devoted to three main areas of discussion:

- A description of problems of health care in the world, both present and future.
- A description an devaluation of current approaches to the provision of health care in many countries of the world.
- The role of group medicine, present and future, not only in the field of

research in medicine.

Governor-General Roland Michener will attend the welcoming ceremony. -The Winnipeg Free Press

The officers of the Congress are as follows:

the Right Honourable Roland Mich- on arrangements, twelve standing comner, Governor General of Canada. President and General Chairman, Dr. eighty members actively involved in Paul H. T. Thorlakson, Winnipeg, Vive-Presidents: Dr. Omar Barreneche. preparation for this Congress. It will Uruaguay; Dr. Jacques Beaupere, without a doubt, be one of the import-France; Dr. Med. Chs. F. Borchgrevink, ant events of Manitoba's centennial Norway; Dr. Gustave Gingras, Mon- year.

medical service but also in the wider treal; Dr. M.O. Kent-Hughes, Austspheres of medical education and in ralia; Dr. Alton Ochsner, New Orealns; science, technological and sociological Dr. Taro Takemi, Japan; Dr. P. R. Trivedi, India.

Further nominations for vice-presidents are expected shortly from the United Kingdom, Mexico and West Germany.

A comprehensive organization, Honorary President, His Excellency, with officers, a Canadian Committee mittees, and between seventy and the work of these committees in -W.K.

QUEEN AND LOTTERY AT CENTENNIAL DERBY

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip have been invited to attend the first running of the Manitoba Centennial Derby next year—a derby highlighted by a giant sweepstake which has been specifically legislated for 1970.

Minister for Cultural Affairs Philip Petursson said the derby would be run at Assiniboia Downs on July 15-Manitoba's 100th birthday—with a \$70,000 purse, western Canada's richest race.

Sweepstake prizes will total \$179,439, with a \$70,000 first prize, \$27,000 sec-Drawers of other horses, as specified in the scheme, will divide a further \$207 each.

In addition, \$26,400 has been allocated for "Early Bird" draws, scheduled for February 11. March 17, April 17 and May 15. On each of these days, thirty tickets will be drawn. Holders of the winning tickets will get \$100 each, with another \$100 going to the approved Centennial project number on the ticket, and \$20 going to the individual ticket seller.

Books of sweepstake tickets are to be made available about mid-December to anyone including organizations, corporations, municipalities and the like-having an approved Centennial project. These can be sold beginning January 1, 1970.

Mr. Petursson explained that each book contains a dozen \$2.50 tickets, for a total value of \$30. The seller retains \$5. (or two tickets) and remits \$25. Of this amount, a quarter of it -6.25-is returned to the sponsoring ond prize and \$17,000, third prize organization in the form of a grant. Ceilings on such grants amount to the full cost of the centennial project be-\$7,000. There will be 70 cash prizes of ing undertaken by the sponsoring organization.

> Mr. Petursson said the sweepstake was designed to benefit as much as possible approved centennial projects. The amount of centennial grants that can be earned through ticket sales could be substantial, he said. It is expected that the Manitoba Centennial Derby will become one of the major horse races in Canada, not just in centennial year but for years to come.

GET OUT OF THE OFFICE is a Curry conviction

By HARRY L. MARDON

Peter D. Curry is one of those men that other men secretly envy. Dashingly-handsome and with that indefinable air of good breeding, he has private wealth which allows him to pick whether he'll ski in Austria or Aspen, Colorado.

Also, he is a formidable success at just about everything he turns his hand to.

Chancellor of the University of Manitoba . . . newly named chairman of the board of The Investors Group . . . president of the United Way of Greater Winnipeg . . . chairman of the board of Greater Winnipeg Gas Co. . . . president of his own investment dealer firm, Peter D. Curry Ltd. . . . generous patron of the arts . . director of a host of blue-ribbon companies such as Great-West Life, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Molson's Industries and Canadian Indemnity.

Mr. Curry was born into a world of financial talk, his father having been city comptroller for Winnipeg from 1885 to 1905. His parents later moved to San Diego, Calif., but he was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1912 while they were on a trip to Europe.

He went to school in San Diego and then to exclusive Ridley College in Ontario and Bishop's University in Quebec. He came out of college in the depths of the Depression but landed a job with Oldfield, Kirby and Gardner here in 1934. That same year he played end for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers .

"One year was plenty," he confessed with a grin during an interview in his small unpretentious office on the main floor of the gingerbread Curry Bldg. on Portage Ave. "I found I was out of my athletic depth and retired at the end of that season. The Bombers did very well without me. They won the first Grey Cup the next season."

Mr. Curry formed the stock and bond department of Oldfield, Kirby and Gardner in 1936, and has been in that field ever since. During the Second World War he served on the National War Finance Committee. and after the war formed his own investment firm.

Continual exposure

How had he developed his knowledge of financial affairs to the extent that he was now on the board of directors of a number of leading financial institutions?

"I suppose," he replied, "it was partly because I had practical experience and studied the money markets. But reading alone won't help vou. I keep up by a continual exposure to the knowledge and viewpoints of other men who are in finance. People like Bob Jones of Investors, who is probably tops in his field in Canada."

Mr. Curry was gloomy about the short-term outlook for the North American bond market.

"It's chaotic," he said. "I can't see any real improvement for quite a while-six or nine months. Nobody

should look for a firm money market for at least nine months.

"The stock market is somewhat different. There is still a very good place for well-selected, good quality stocks -particularly Canadian ones. The Canadian stock market had done rather well. It has held up in face of the severe New York decline during the past few months."

He said that the long-awaited federal government White Paper on taxation could provide the key to renewal growth of the Canadian economy. "It will probably be a very important document. I don't think it will call for too radical a change, but we certainly have to dismantle the Goldberg-type taxation contraption we now have.

"We need a rational, overall taxation policy which treats all Canadians on an equitable basis, no matter where they live. This applies to corporation as well as personal income taxes. I agree with Premier Schreyer that the provinces should not have to be in a position to have to take part in a tax inducement rat-race.

"Federal equalization payments should even out the position of the more backward provinces, if properly applied."

Mr. Curry was reticent at talking about his new position as chairman of the board of directors of the \$3-billion The Investors Group of companies.

"Clare Atchison is president and chief executive officer," he pointed out. "I have succeeded Ted Peterson as chairman of the the board, and that involves responsibilities to the the company. The management of the company is under Mr. Atchison's direction. The board of directors outlines general guidelines."

However, Mr. Curry said that the Great-West Life Assurance Co. would operate as a completely separate entity, although Investors now holds over 50 per cent of its voting stock.

Sometime next year Investors representatives would offer the public Great-West Life Insurance policies as well as Investors' mutual funds and saving certificates; in turn Great-West Life agents would offer the Investors mutual funds.

"There will be the greatest of cooperation between these two companies. Beyond that, nothing has been planned at this stage."

Main conviction

Mr. Curry has a strongly held conviction that businessmen should devote a significant portion of their time to public affairs.

"I think businessmen have an obligation to work for their community," he said. "That's why I ran for the Winnipeg school board back in 1950." He ended up as chairman of the school board. His continuing interest in education later led to his appointment to the board of governors of the Univercity of Manitoba, and earlier this year he was named chancellor.

The father of three sons and a daughter, Mr. Curry isn't fazed by today's rebellious youth on campus. For one thing, he says only a tiny minority have any real desire to effect radical change.

"We have not had the violence encountered by some other universities as we were among the first to give proper representation on the governing body of the university to the academic community and students. I think we have a workable arrangement.

"Of course, I believe we have been the sanctuary was being patronized by fortunate in the calibre of the academic staff and the students union representatives. We have had UMSU presidents of real ability."

When not involved with high finance or university affairs, Mr. Curry devotes much of his time to a 10,000 acre goose sanctuary, the Curry and Vincent families have privately financed and run at Oak Point, about 70 miles north of Winnipeg.

pairs of Canada geese. Last weekend both of Winnipeg. -Ed.

an estimated 10,000 free-flying Canada geese, heading southward for the winter.

"This is our contribution to wildlife conservation," Mr. Curry said. "It's my only serious hobby."

-Tribune, Oct. 21, 1969

Mr. Peter Curry is the son of Dun-They started it in 1951 with six can Steele and Bertha (Laxdal) Curry,

IN THE NEWS



Iris Sigríður Torfason

Mrs. Iris Sigríður Torfason received her B.A. degree from Lakehead University at Port Arthur, Ontario, on May 31, 1969, majoring in English. She is now enrolled in an Honours Arts Programme at Lakehead University.

Mrs. Torfason is the daughter of Mrs. Einarina Ingibjörg Frederickson Benjaminson, and the late Valtyr Frederickson. She was born September 20, 1928 at Geysir, Manitoba. It was there that she received her elementary education. Her high school studies were concluded after successively attending school at Arborg, Riverton, and Daniel McIntyre Institute in Winnipeg.

Intent on admission to the teaching profession, she received her training in the Manitoba Normal School in the term 1947-48. Three years later she sat for examinations at the North Bay Normal School to obtain qualifications for Ontario.

Since then she has qualified for certificates in teaching methods relating to the fields of (1) Primary Instruction. (2) Junior Education, and (3) Audio-Visual Techniques. She also holds a Primary Supervisor's Certificate.

Mrs. Torfason has always been deeply dedicated to her calling and has gained a wide variety of experience through her willingness to accept challenging assignments. These would

include taking classes of slow learners on one hand, and becoming involved in the acceleration of the gifted, on the other; and by serving in other ways, including that of being a resource teacher.

Currently she is the Vice-Principal of Balsam Street School in Port Arthur. In fact she has taught in this school for 15 of the 17 years she has served in the Lakehead. Somehow she also finds time to teach English as a second language at Confederation College where she is an Assistant Master.

-E.I.S.

The Honor Medal of the Danish Tourist Board was presented to Mrs. Sigrid B. Ott, director of the International Ranger Camps, at a ceremony held last summer in Zurich. Switzerland. The citation "for unselfish and meritorious activity" was signed by King Frederick of Denmark.

"Mrs. Ott is further honored in being the first woman and the second American to receive the medal," said Jorgen Helwig, director of foreign operations for the Danish national tourist office in his presentation address. The only other medal awarded this year went to the director of the Icelandic Tourist Board.

Mrs. Ott, wife of Fred C. Ott who is the founder and chancellor of American College of Switzerland and the Leyson American High School, was born in Upham, North Dakota, of Icelandic parents and is a graduate of the University of North Dakota. She established the first of the International Ranger Camps in Switzerland in 1949 and also serves as secretary of the board of trustees of the school system founded by her husband.

Camp Viking, established by the

International Ranger Camps in 1956 and operating in North Seeland near Copenhagen, has been instrumental in bringing several thousand American children and young people for summer camp in rural Denmark.

WINTER 1969

The distinct characteristic of Camp Viking, according to Mrs. Ott, is to be found in the insistence on "grassroots contacts with the Danish people," especially in the surrounding countryside. "Nowhere is hospitality so apparent and so real," she emphasized, "as in this beautiful Nordic nation."

Mrs. Ott is the daughter of Sveinbjorn Benediktson (deceased) and Gudbjorg Davidson, pioneers of the Mouse River community in North Dakota.

Valur Egilsson was elected president of the Icelandic Association of Chicago, Ill. U.S.A. at the annual meeting in October in the Norske Club in that city. Leifur Bjornsson was named vicepresident, Kristvin Helgason secretary, Hrefna Egilsdottir treasurer and Thorsteinn Helgason executive committee member. The next meeting of the club will be held on the occasion of Thorrablot on Feb. 28, 1970.

Harold Broughton was elected president of the Icelandic Canadian Club in Toronto at the annual meeting in October in the North York Community Hall, Willowdale. Mrs. W. Lunney (Asta) was named vice-president, Miss Alda Palsson recording secretary, Mrs. R. C. Macaulay (Erla) corresponding secretary and Keith McMullen treasur-

Committees named were: membership and attendance, Mrs. H. Bailey (Vera) and Mrs. J. Hamilton (Sandra);

Mrs. Charles Strachan (Sigga); hospitality and program, Mrs. Charles Strachan, Mrs. R. Moore (Sigga) and Oli Teitsson; librarian, Gordon Rognvaldson; auditor, Victor Laban.

RECEIVES A GOLD MEDAL IN MUSIC



Mrs. Heather Ireland

Mrs. Heather Ireland recently received a gold medal for the highest standing in the Licentiate music examinations at the University of Man-

Mrs. Ireland is an associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sigurdson, Beaverbend Crescent, St. James, Manitoba.

Rev. S. Octavius Thorlakson of San Fransisco, California, chaplain there

social, Mrs. Thor Teitsson (Inga) and of the Martin Luther Towers home for the elderly, this fall was named a member of a San Fransisco goodwill mission to Expo '70 in Japan. The group, which leaves for Japan in March, was named by San Fransico mayor Joseph L. Alioto and Japanese American organizations in the city. Rev. Mr. Thorlakson was a missionary in Japan for some 25 years and is fluent in Japanese.

> Mrs. Margret Beck was elected president of the Icelandic Women's Club at Victoria, B.C. at the annual meeting in September. She succeeds Miss Lilja Stephenson. Mrs. Sigridur Johnson was re-elected secretary and Mrs. Sadie Ormiston treasurer .The group held its annual summer gathering in August in the city's Beacon Hill Park.

> Mr. and Mrs. Steve Scheving of Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. were honored by family and friends at a gathering in August in Calvary Lutheran Church in that city on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, although the actual anniversary date was Oct. 7. They were married in North Dakota in 1919.

> Mrs. Soheving came from Iceland in 1910. Mr. Scheving was born in North Dakota in 1882. They moved in 1938 to Seattle where they have since lived. They have four children, all married. They are daughters Margret, Mrs. Lyle Hartje, Sigrid, Mrs. Jack Langrell, and Anna Kristin, Mrs. James Freyberg, all of Seattle, and son Stefan in Fresno, California. There are 11 grandchildren.

A PROMINENT MINNESOTA BUSINESS MAN



John Willard Johnson

John Willard Johnson, president of Western Life Insurance Company, a firm with its headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota, observed the twentieth anniversary of his service with that company on September 1, 1969.

Mr. Johnson was born in Minneota, Minnesota, in 1906. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1928 and in the following year he was appointed Assistant Professor in Economics at the University. Here he built a foundation for his work in accountancy and insurance.

Mr. Johnson was appointed to a position with Mutual Life Insurance Company of Minneapolis in 1934, and made rapid progress there.

In 1943, he enlisted for war service in the navy. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Because of his excellent record with Mutual Life, Western Life Insurance Company offered Mr. Johnson an appointment to its board of governors, in 1949. In 1961, he was appointed President of the Company.

He is also a member of the Board of Governors of St. Paul Mercury Insurance Company, Northwestern National Bank, St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance, Imperial Financial Services of Minneapolis and other business organizations.

He is a community worker and is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, St. Paul Athletic Club, the Masons, Town and Country Club, and the Lutheran Church in St. Paul.

Mr. Johnson married Miss Marie Westline, a former student of the University of Minnesota, in 1933. She is an active member of the Lutheran Church and is President of the Icelandic Club of St. Paul.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have four children.

Mr. Johnson is the son of John and Bjorg Johnson, and the grandson of Arngrimur and Johanna Jonsson, who settled in the United States in 1876.

Mr. and Mrs. Olgeir Gunnlaugson of Vancouver, British Columbia, were honored in October at a gathering of more than 100 relatives and friends in the Kingsway Motor Hotel on the

occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Mrs. Gunnlaugson was born in Akureyri, Iceland, in 1893 and came to Canada and Winnipeg in 1910. She and Mr. Gunnlaugson were married in Winnipeg in 1919 by the late Rev. Runolfur Marteinsson.

Mr. Gunnlaugson was born in the United States in 1890 and came to Canada in 1914 when he enlisted in the Canadian army with which he served in England, France and Belgium. Mr. and Mrs. Gunnlaugson had four children, all of whom are living. Mr. Gunnlaugson over the years was employed by the Saskatchewan Power Corporation at Wynyard, Melfort and elsewhere.



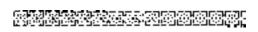
REVISED EDITION OF THE POEMS OF EINAR P. JÓNSSON

Just as the magazine was going to press a new and enlarged edition of "Sólheimar", the book of poems of Einar P. Jónsson, reached the editor's desk. It will be reviewed in the Spring number of the Magazine.

The book includes forty poems which were not in the first edition. It contains 238 pages, hard-cover, bound, and is enclosed in an exceedingly attractive jacket on which there is a painting by an artist of Iceland, Atli Már, the basic theme in the painting being a stringed musical instrument.

The book sells for \$10.00 and is distributed by Grettir Johannson of 76 ... Winnipeg 1, to whom orders may be sent.

Robbie Browne, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Browne of Elliott Lake, Ont., was given valuable scholastic awards upon his graduation this year from Grade 13 with an average of 87 per cent. He qualified as an Ontario scholar which carries an award of \$150 from the province of Ontario, was awarded a Rio Algoma Mines Limited scholarship of \$300 per year for four years, and an entrance scholarship from the Council of University College of the University of Toronto, the J. S. McLean scholarship of \$2,300 over four years. His maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Otto Kristjanson of Geraldton, Ont.



THE CHRISTMAS CHEER BOARD has opened its offices for the 1969 Season.

The Christmas Cheer Board is organized to assist and help those in need at Christmas.

Information will be furnished to Organizations and private citizens wishing to assist our less fortunate neighbors.

The offices are located at MACLEAN HOUSE, 730 Alexander Avenue, Winnipeg 3, Manitoba. Phone: 786-6931.



SHIPWRECK LANE TRAGIC FOR ICELAND

by Lynn Heinzerling

Iceland is right in the middle of Two fishing boats sank. shipwreck lane and to a nation of compulsive sailors and fishermen this stein says. is both a tragedy and an embarrass-

have been lost, stranded or disabled off Iceland's rocky coasts. More than 600 of them were Icelandic, largely fishing vessels.

Hannes Hafstein, executive director of the Icelandic Life Saving Association, "but they have to work in the dirtiest weather you can imagine-gales, snow, sleet, ice and almost instant changes in the wind direction.

There are 111 lighthouses around are other menaces. Iceland, one for every eight Icelandic ships. There are 156 rescue stations with gear for helping mariners in trouble and 53 huts for sheltering shipwrecked sailors at remote and uninhabited places along the coast.

The Icelandic Life Saving Association maintains the shelters and rescue stations. It trains about 100 Icelandic rescue teams to head for the scene of trouble at a moment's notice.

The shelters are equipped with food, stoves and fuel, warm clothing and rescue gear. They have radio telephones operated by battery or crank on which calls can be made on the international emergency frequency.

As long as cod and herring make the North Atlantic their home, fishing vessels from many nations will head for the icy ... and treacherous waters of Iceland. During the long winters, the perils are increased by darkness.

Fifteen Icelandic fishermen lost their lives in the first three months of 1969.

"It wasn't as bad as last year," Haf-

Within a few days in February, '68, two British trawlers went down and a In the last 40 years, nearly 900 ships third was grounded. Two Icelandic ships vanished, another caught fire and a Danish merchant vessel ran aground. Some 50 lives were lost.

Much of the danger in Arctic fishing "Our men are excellent sailors," says during the winter comes from the accumulation of ice on the superstructure, masts and rigging of the ships. No satisfactory solution for combatting this peril has been discovered.

Capricious winds and tricky currents, which bedevil shipping in these seas,

Every Icelandic fishing vessel now must report by radio whenever it leaves port. It must give its position between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. daily while at sea.

If a ship fails to report, steps to locate it are taken immediately.

Iceland's few farmers respond selflessly whenever there is a shipwreck or a call for help, Hafstein says. It is almost a moral law in Iceland that anyone near a shipwreck must give every possible aid without delay.

More than 7,000 seamen have been saved in the 41 years since the Life Saving Association was organized. In the same period slightly more than 1,200 seamen have lost their lives off these rocky coasts.

Iceland's winters are mild, the summers cool. The average temperature for ! · · is only a fraction of a degree below freezing and the average for the year is 41.

-Wpg. Free Press, July 18/69

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A FRESH NOTE IS SOUNDED

In today's world cold, impersonal all the material aids and techniques words, as mechanized as many of our have been marshalled, what is really processes, tend to be the common coin crucial is still the indefinable "someof communication, especially among thing" that flows from one mind and educators. Witness the way 'activate', 'structured', 'automate' keep turning up. It comes as an exhilarating shock, therefore, to hear a leading figure in his school years left a permanent mark. this field speak of "nobility".

Lloyd Dennis, co-chairman with Mr. Justice Emmett Hall of the Ontario Committee on the Aims and Objects of Education has examined the needs of contemporary students from every angle. This former Toronto school principal and his colleague have advocated about 258 changes, scores of them dealing with equipment and methods. He brushes these aside when he talks to his fellow teachers. The key to the good life and the healthy society, as he sees it, is still the old, old one of character lighted by vision. After

spirit to another. Almost any adult, whatever his age, can point unerringly to the rare men and women who from

The world into which young people go tomorrow may be constantly shifting its patterns; the graduate may vell find that he must train and retrain several times during his working years. but whether he spends a lifetime in one vocation or in many, the kind of person he is will count more in the long haul than the skills he has mastered. No enterprise is stronger than the men who operate and direct it. Mr. Dennis is excitingly specific about the primary role of the teacher-it is "to make men noble."

SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Iceland Then and Now

by Jón K. Laxdal

AGRICULTURE

fine farming operations, almost exclus- areas where the eider-duck nests, the ively, to animal husbandry. Since the down yields some revenue. Sheep and growing season is limited to 4-5 months cattle continue to yield about 85% of cereal grains do not mature although the farm income. The processing of the both oats and barley have been grown farm income is handled largely by with some success on experimental very active co-operative associations. farms. Several varieties of grass thrive The government pays generous subwell and are used as fodder for stock, sidies to producers of milk, mutton principally sheep and cattle. The and butter. beautiful, hardy, sure-footed Icelandic ponies, which before the advent of the THERMAL POWER modern motor vehicles, were virtually the sole beasts of burden and the principal means of land travel are no over a widespread area in Iceland. The longer indispensable and are now used largest of these emits 55 gallons of mainly for pleasure riding. In recent boiling hot water per second. The years the use of modern draglines have great Geysir in south-western Iceland converted formerly useless bogs into from which the Geysers in Yellowstone well drained homefields enabling the National Park and others the world dairy industry to expand. The increas- over derive their name, now spouts ired milk supply is now processed into a regularly but will on occasions, partvariety of produce. Sheep supply, not icularly if treated with soap, send up a only, the home demand for mutton, column of hot water to a heigh of lamb, wool and fat but also leave a 180 feet. The temperature down in considerable surplus for export. Al- the crater registers about 110°C. At ants depend on their livelihood from lands the concentration of hot springs farming has dropped from 79% in over a considerable area is so great yet the amount of farm produce is is greenhouse culture of flowers, tomever increasing, as modern mechanized atoes, cucumbers and ather vegetables; olutionized all operations. Most of the perimental basis. One greenhouse opership rights to the rivers running varieties of tropical plants within his through their farms. In these rivers establishment. where salmon and trout fishing is

good, the farmers lease the fishing rights to local and foreign anglers at Climatic conditions in Iceland confabulous prices. In some of the coastal

About 800 hot springs are located though the precentage of the inhabit- Hverageroi in the south-western high-1860 to about 17% at the present time that the principal industry of the town farm machinery has completely revereven tropical fruits are grown on exfarmers are freeholders and enjoy own- erator that we visited boasted of 400

Five communities depend wholly or



their dwellings. The largest of these is the municipal system of Reykjavik where the homes of 50,000 of the inhabitants and the central business section are heated and otherwise serviced with natural hot water, some of which is piped in from a distance of about 10 miles; the rest being obtained from over a hundred bore holes within the city. Temperatures of the water used ranges from 80-140°C at well head. Eighty swimming pools, open or closed, all in operation the year round are also heated with natural hot water as are the rural residential schools formerly mentioned. Besides these hot water areas there are 14 thermal areas delivering super-heated steam at pressures up to 5 atmospheres. These have a power potential estimated at 500,000 kw. While the use of these for several feasible manufacturing processes have been suggested, utilization to date has been very limited owing to their unfortunate location and low efficiency. Formerly some of these solfataras areas yielded sulphur deposits for profitable export; now ample supplies of sulphur are available from better sources.

THE MANUFACTURING **INDUSTRIES**

At first glance Iceland does not appear to possess any of the essential resources available to nations engaged in large scale manufacturing. The population is small, raw materials few, domestic market limited and adequate capital for expansion lacking. In spite of all these shortcomings and disadvantages the Icelandic nation has made tremendous progress industrially. Within the last century research, technological training and all available capital have transformed the entire economy of the country and raised the standard of living from one of

partly on natural hot water to heat the poorest in the civilized world to near equality with the living standda.ds enjoyed by the most prosperous nations. In the year 1860, 90% of the work force depended on the primary industries of farming and fishing, while only 6.6% relied on industry and services for means of livelihood. In 1960 only 23.8% were directly engaged in the primary industries (this figure does not include that portion of the work force engaged in processing the products of the farm or the sea) while 68% of those profitably employed were engaged in industry and commerce. Currently great emphasis is placed on technical education and research of all types to train a larger and more competent work force to increase and improve the industrial output. Several small but rapidly expanding manufacturing industries have attained some prominence in recent years. Among the larger and better known abroad are the woollen goods and ceramic industries both of which enjoy a brisk foreign market for their products. The great est promise, however, for industria! expansion lies in further development of the almost inexhaustible water resources capable of producing 31,000-35,000 million KWH., and further use of the country's geo-thermal areas capable of producing 900,000 KW., which are as yet practically untapped. Two new manufacturing export industries have now been initiated to utilize these resources. Already in operation, but with further expansion contemplated, is the Diatomite Filter Aid plant near Lake Mývatn in northern Iceland, where exceedingly rich deposits of diatomacious earth have been discovered on the lake bottom. This development is made feasible by the availability of ample suppy of geothermal heat near the lake to dry the raw material. This project is a joint

WINTER 1969

and the John's Manville Corporation of New York. The initial stage of this development, with a production capacity of 12,000 tons annually, was completed in 1967; ultimate expansion will increase this output to at least 30,000 tons a year.

The other project, which will be the first large scale manufacturing industry to utilize a small portion of Iceland's tremendous hydro-electric potential, is now under construction. In March 1966 an agreement was ratified with the Swiss Aluminium Company of Zurich, whereby Iceland will construct a hydroelectric power development on Thjórsá, Iceland's largest river, which will ultimately produce 310,000 KWH. More than onehalf of this power will be sold under a long term contract to the Aluminium Company, the balance will be used for domestic industrial expansion. The construction of the first of three phases of this project was begun in June 1966 and is scheduled for completion by September of this year. This initial unit will have an annual capacity of 33,000 tons of aluminium. The ultimate capacity, after completion of the third phase, will be 66,000 tons annually. Although most of the production will be exported plans for processing some of the aluminium in Iceland, for local consumption, is now under consideration. The aluminium smelter is being built by a subsidiary of the Swiss company at Straumsvík, near Reykjavík, where harbor facilities for bulk carriers are under construction for lease to the Aluminium Company.

These industries, when in full production, will help appreciably to diversify industry and stabilize Iceland's economy which hitherto has been almost solely dependent upon the fishing and its allied industries for the production of its exports. The pro-

venture of the Icelandic government motion of other feasible export industries is under ensideration.

> Formerly Iceland was the principal source of a clear, valuable variety of double refracting calcite (Iceland spar); but it appears that the source of this mineral is now exhausted and specimens are now rarely seen outside museums.

CONSTRUCTION

The old turf-constructed homes have now been almost completely replaced by up-to-date well designed houses and apartments constructed of timber, concrete or stone to withstand earth tremors. Thirty percent of current dwellings are less than ten years and only 8% are more than 50 years old. One-half of the present dwellings have been constructed since 1929. The Icelanders, so long confined in unsanitary and inadequate abodes, are now more demanding as far as good homes are concerned than most other people and on the basis of national product are spending about three to four times more on housing than most other nations. Their new houses are spacious, have electricity for lighting and cooking, are heated by either oil or geo-thermal central heat, have hot and cold running water, fine furniture and all modern appliances. Most single dwellings and apartment suites are individually owned by the occupants. In 1960 65% of the new homes completed contained four or more rooms.

Recent changes in the economic life of the country have also necessitated the construction of new shops, office buildings, warehouses, etc. Catering to the rapidly increasing tourist trade has in recent years become a major industry in Iceland. This has necessitated the construction of new hotels and restaurants offering the best in accomodations and fine food.



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COMMUNICATIONS

Industry and commerce of all modern civilization are dependent upon adequate communications and transport facilities, Iceland's isolation makes such facilities doubly important. Regularly scheduled sailings to foreign ports did not become well established until the last decades of the 19th century and the first telegraph communications with the outside world were made possible by a cable from Scotland in 1906. In recent years radio beams and Loran stations have been installed on the south-west part of the island and in 1962-63 radio telphone communications were established with both Europe and North America. Currently there are over 45,000 telephone subscribers with about 95% of all the farms enjoying such communication service.

Land transportation, until recent years, was impeded by lack of roads due to sparse population, unbridged swiftly flowing rivers and the rugged terrain. The sturdy sure-footed Icelandic pony remained virtually the only means of land transportation until well into the present century. As late in 1924 only 300 motorized vehicles had been imported. Roads suitable for vehicular traffic were almost non-existent after 1900, but road construction has developed very rapidly during the last forty years. At present the national highway system, now nearing completion, consists of some 9250 Km., mostly gravel surface except for short stretches of pavement near the cities of Reykjavik and Akureyri. Only a short gap in the southren section near Iceland's largest glacier (Vatnajökull) where the glacial rivers frequently change their course remains to be completed to enable motor vehicles to travel a continuous, unbroken route around the island. Modern methods of road construction, now under consideration, may provide a solution to accomplish the completion of this last link.

Until 1914 when the Icelandic Steamship Company was founded the island depended on foreign ships for passenger and freight service. In spite of severe losses by enemy action during the Second World War the company now has 12 vessels; eight other steamship lines operate boats between Iceland and foreign ports. While harbor facilities are still inadequate forty harbor wharfs can accommodate ships drawing 16 feet or more. Currently 111 lighthouses enable ships to circumnavigate the island, in clear weather, without losing sight of a light.

Even before civil aviation had begun to prove its worth the Icelanders became interested in its. possibilities The first airplane was brought to Iceland by a Canadian World War 1 pilot, Frank Fredrickson of hockey fame. It was not, however, until 1937 that commercial aviation became permanently established. Since then air service throughout the island has expanded very rapidly. Inland ai rtravel facilities are now excellent and are used very extensively for passenger, mail and freight service; regularly scheduled flights connect all communities of importance. The island has 22 airfields with runways exceeding 300 metres in length and 79 smaller landing strips for small local craft fights. The American Air Force base at Keflavík, which handles most planes on trans-Atlantic flights, is known internationally for its excellent facilities. The Reykjavík airport also handles planes on over-seas flights but it requires expansion to meet the requirements of the jet age. Currently discussions are in progress for a new airport site near Reykjavík.

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At present two principal airline The two principal expenditures of the firms operate in Iceland. They are: Icelandair, whose over-seas scheduled flights go mostly to European cities: the other is the Icelandic Airlines which operates as many as three flights daily to New York, in addition to regularly scheduled flights to many of the northern European cities. These two airlines now carry about 200,00 passengers annually on international flights.

PUBLIC FINANCE

The chief sources of revenue of the central government are: import duties 52%, general sales tax about 19%. state enterprises (mainly alcohol and tobacco monopolies) 15%, income and wealth taxes approximately 9^{o_0} .

The three largest expenditures of the central government are: pension and social security payments which total approximately 30%, consumer and agricultural subsidies which total maintenance take another 16%.

Almost two-thirds of the municipal tax revenue is deriveed from income taxes, wealth taxes and coropate taxes: property taxes vield only about $4^{\circ\prime}_{0}$.

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local governments are: social security $30^{\circ\prime}$ and education 20%.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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The Icelandic social security legislation covers all aspects of human welfare normally included in modern schemes of national insurance. Pension, accident insurance, health insurance and disbursements from the unemployment insurance fund are all administered by the state. Social assistance, however, is administered by the local authorities. These insurance schemes cover all inhabitants. Permanent employees are also covered by superannuation benefits in addition to those provided by the state. The range of coverages are fully as comprehensive as those in the other Scandinavian countries, which are superior to similar benefits in most other civilized countries. Payments from all these funds are linked to the cost of living about 20%, education and church index. Old age pensions are payable at the age of 67 years, but if the acceptance of the benefits is postponed the amount is increased each year of deferment; e.g. if the pension is not collected until the age of 72 years, the benefits become increased by 67%. Supplementary pensions are available to all those who cannot maintain. reasonable standard of living on the normal pension. All old age recipients are fully covered by state paid health insurance schemes.

Family allowances are paid for all children up to the age of 16 years, as well as an annuity allowance for the fatherless. Mother's allowances are paid to widows, unmarried mothers and divorcees that are bringing up their children. Maternity grants are paid to all women for each confinement. All workers are covered by both compensation and unemployment in-



surance schemes. Families, however, are obliged where possible to look after indigent family members who are not eligible for social assistance. Children of unmarried mothers automatically receive social assistance, but recovered from the father.

The social service budget is financed jointly by the state, the municipal authorities, the employers and the insured. In the field of social welfare the most pressing needs now are more hospitals, nursing homes and training centres for the disabled and the handicapped. Since 1952 all death duties and inheritance taxes collected by the state are earmarked for rehabiliation of the disabled and the handicapped. STANDARD OF LIVING

Although no exact records of national income exist beyond the year 1935 a fairly accurate estimate suggests a figure of 20 million kronur for

1901. In 1945, the first complete year after the republic was re-established, it had risen to 862 million kronur and in 1960 it had increased to 4611 million kronur. Three factors must, however, be taken into consideration: inthe amounts so paid by the state are flation, increase in the population, and the devaluation of the krona. At constant prices, nevertheless, the national income increased more than tenfold.

Until after the middle of the 19th century Iceland's economy was one of the poorest of all the European countries, but during the latter half of the century it began to show some improvement. The years of the First World War (1914-1918) brought recurring hardships and retrogression in the national income. During the 1920's the island enjoyed a booming economy as a result of highly successful fishing seasons and rising export prices for the catch. This was also a

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tremendous increase in all farm production. This tide of prosperity was, however, stemmed by the world wide

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decade of very favorable weather con-depression of the 1930's which again ditions that helped to produce a brought privations and hardships to the struggling nation. During the years of World War II and the period following the war the nation's economy enjoyed the greatest revitalization of its entire history, again prompted by record catches of fish, an increase in exports and a sharp rise in their prices. Increased sales of all consumer goods to the occupation forces and their demand for labor and services at hitherto unheard of price levels helped to raise personal incomes to an all time high. The resulting expansion in the economy enabled businessmen, fishermen and farmers to mechanize and modernize all equipment, thus saving labor and increasing production. New industries were established and the old ones operated with increased efficiency.

> During the years 1960-1965 Iceland's rate of national income growth was one of the world's highest with an annual increase of 7.6%. This phenomenal growth enabled the people of Iceland to enjoy one of the world's best standards of living, based on real national income per capita. The economic survev by O.E.C.D. based on 1965 figures show the per capita national product of the U.S.A. as the world's highest with \$3,560.00. Sweden came next with \$2500.00. while Iceland ranked third with 2470.00. This seems indeed a remarkable feat for a nation of a few people living on a semi-barren isolated island, handicapped by adverse climate, whose surrounding seas are virtually the only large source of wealth.

THE CHURCH

At the time of colonization all the settlers were heathens, but near the end of the 10th century some of the chieftains became converted to Christianity. It soon became evident that the republic could not long survive part pagan and part Christian. Accordingly both factions agreed to let the lawspeaker of Althing decide which belief should be adopted throughout the land. He, although a heathen himself, proclaimed that the Christian religion should be adopted. Soon thereafter two diocese seats were established, the first in the south at Skálholt in 1056 and the other in the north at Hólar in 1106. Gradually the monasteries became the centres of learning. During the five hundred years of Catholic religious domination the church gained increasing power and wealth to such an extent that at the time of the reformation it owned almost one-half of the landed property of the state. The strongest and the ablest voice opposing the reformation movement was silenced when Bishop Jón Arason together with his two sons, were beheaded without trial by the king's agents. At present 90% of the population belong to the Evangelical Lutheran state church nominally under the authority of the president, but its religious affairs are governed by the bishop of Iceland and a church council. The salaries of the ministers and the operating expenses of the church are, almost wholly, borne by the state.

THE FINE ARTS

58

Little is known of the origin or early history of music in Iceland. Although Nordic horns (lúðrar), dating back to the bronze age, have been found in the Scandinavian countries, little is known of the culture they represented: neither is there any factual knowledge regarding the musical tradition that the original settlers brought with them to Iceland. The first musical instruction offered in Iceland was given by French clerics in the Cathedral schools, but during the centuries of SEASON'S GREETINGS ...

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foreign domination no advance was made in the development of this branch of the fine arts. It was not until the first decade of the present century that the first collection of Icelandic folk and church music was published in Copenhagen.

The most notable Icelandic musician of the last century was Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson, the composer of the Icelandic National Anthem (O Guð

vors lands).

This century has produced many outstanding musicians who have played a prominent part in European musical circles. Foremost among them is Páll Ísólfsson, organist and composer, and the undisputed leader of the development of music in Iceland. Icelandic choirs, particularly The Male Voice Choir of Reyjavík, have won wide acclaim on their concert tours throughout Europe and North America. A Conservatory of Music was established in Reykjavík 1930, followed by the formation of a Philharmonic Society in 1932. A more recently organized National Symphony Orchestra now plays frequent concerts at the National Theatre in Reykjavík.

The Icelandic people have long displayed great enthusiasm for dramatics and the theatre. Games and dancing formed an integral part of the early Christian festivals, even the native dance "Víki Vaki" displayed dramatic

The earliest dramatic performances were held in the Cathedral schools, but as time went on virtually every Icelandic community entertained its people with amateur dramatics and currently most communities have their live theatres. The National Theatre in Revkjavik, completed in 1950, stages the best works of Icelandic and foreign playrights as well as the best operas and symphonies of local and foreign composers.

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In the field of art little had been accomplished until the latter part of the 19th century. In earlier times, however, the Icelanders had been skilled carvers of wood and whalebone as well as weavers of fine tapestries. Many specimens of these old treasures are on display in the National Museum in Reykjavík.

This century has produced some very prominent and widely recognized artists. The pioneer in this field was Asgrimur Jónsson (1876-1958). His portrayal, in water colour, of Icelandic nature and folklore brought him wide acclaim. His works have greatly influenced the younger artists who are now rising to prominence. In his will he bequeathed his home, now operated as the Asgrimur Jónsson Gallery, and a number of his outstanding works to the Icelandic nation.

Foremost among Mr. Jónsson's contemporaries is Jóhannes Kjarval whose artistic skill and vivid imagination have won him wide acclaim. Numerous younger artists are currently gaining recognition for their subjective interpretations, while the younger radicals find outlet for their talents in geometric forms and modern abstracts.

Several sculptors have achieved prominence. The foremost of these was Einar Jónsson (1874-1954) most of whose works are displayed in his castle-like studio, erected by the state to house his works, in Revkjavik. Many of his themes found origin in the old Norse and ancient Greek Mythologies.

PUBLISHING, PRESS and RADIO

Even before Gutenberg had invented the printing press scholars in Iceland were busy copying manuscripts of literary treasures and translations of foreign masterpieces. Although only a few remnants of these are now extant, it is known that a large number of these vellum manuscripts existed. A gifted Icelandic scholar, Arni Magnússon (1663-1730), a professor at the University of Copenhagen, devoted ten years of his life to buying and gathering all of these that he could locate and obtain. These, at that time were sent to the University of Copenhagen where unfortunately about two-thirds of them were destroyed by fire. Those remaining were kept in Copenhagen until recently when they were restored to Iceland.

During the decade 1950-1960, 4927 different books were published in Iceland. This figure represents a per capita output of books about three times greater than that of any of the other Scandinavian countries and approximately 20 times the per capita output of books in the U.S.A. The average number of copies of each edition published, however, number only about 1500; but a few publications of the best known authors have sold as high as 250,000 copies, including all foreign translations. Actually the number of books now sold in Iceland is diminishing somewhat owing to the variety of other interests, e.g. threatres, radio, television, foreign travel, etc. Currently six literary periodicals, mostly quarterlies, are published. One very creditable English quarterly "Atlantica & Iceland Review" is now in its 7th year of publication and ever increasing in popularity. Its editorial staff maintains a good balance between economic, political and the cultural interests of its readers.

The publishing of newspapers began in 1848, but the first daily, Vísir, with a present circulation of about 12,000, did not commence publication until 1910.

The largest of the dailies is "Morg-unblaðið" with a circulation of about

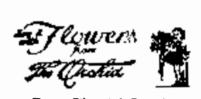
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Several adverse factors have recently caused some recession in the abounding economy of the past few years. A further devaluation of the krona following the devaluation of the British pound sterling, diminished catches of fish, lower prices of export and the loss of the African fish market are all causing the nation some concern. The nation, as a whole, is however on a firm footing and is now in a better position to weather temporary adversities than ever before.

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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

Academy Road Service Ltd. 2	Manitoba Hydro 6
Arlington Pharmacy 5	Manitoba Rolling Mills
Asgeirsons Ltd. 4	Manitoba Sugar Co. Ltd. 47
Bank of Montreal54	Manitoba Telephone System
Bardal Funeral Home1	Midwest Net and Twine Co. 60
Beaver Moving & Storage 7	
Benjaminson Construction 58	Nell's Flower Shop
Burns Food Ltd. 2	North Star Co-op Creamery 62
Canadian Broadcasting Corp 7	Orchid Florists 61
Canadian Broadcasting Corp 7 Crescent Creamery 60	Paterson N. M. and Sons Ltd 7
Dominion-Soudack Fur Sales 58	Petursson, Philip M.
Eatons of Canada Back Cover	Portles 50
Furnasman Heating Ltd 52	Quinton's Ltd
Gilbart Funeral Home 58	Ramsey-Mathews Ltd.
Gimli Hotel . 58	Richardson and Co.
	Richardson Securities of Canada 8
Obdust and som s I tansici	Roberts and Whyte Ltd60
Gulf Oil Canada Ltd. 54 Guttormsson, P. T. 61 Hotel Fort Garry 62 Icelandic Airlines Front Cover	Salisbury House 64
Guttormsson, P. T61	Selkirk Mayor and Council 7
Hotel Fort Garry62	Sigfusson Transportation Ltd 54
Icelandic Airlines Front Cover	organdson rishertes Ltd.
Independent Fish Co. 61	Sigurdson, Dr. L. A. Sigurdson, Halldor and Son
Investors Syndicate Ltd.	Sigurdson, Halldor and Son 5
John Leckie Ltd. 52	Simpsons-Sears Ltd. 57
Jonasson, G. F. 55	Standard Dairies Ltd. 6
Kristjansson, Dr. G. 5	St. James Rubber Stamps57
Labatt Manitoba Brewery Bk. Cvr.	Tallin and Co.
Lakeland Dairies 58	Thorarinson, S. A. 5
Mac-O-Lac Feeds Ltd. 4	Thorlakson, Dr. P. H. T.
MacDonald Shoe Store Ltd.	
McDonald-Dure Lumber Co. Ltd. 64	
McCurdy Supply Co. Ltd.	
	Whitehall Laundry 56
Malkins, Dr. C and S. 5	Winnipeg Hvdro

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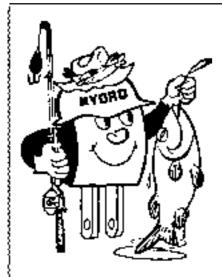
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