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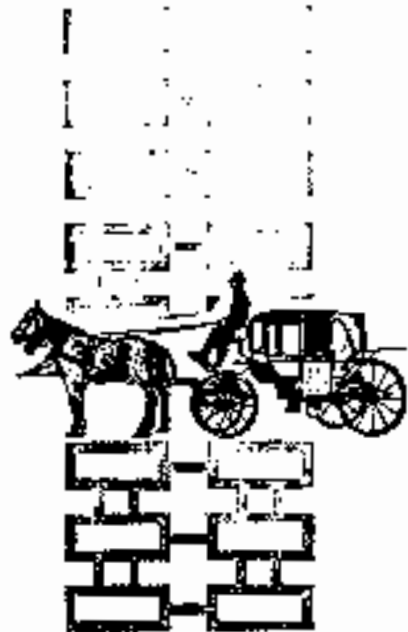
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AUTUMN 1973

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN



The Fjallkona and the Maids of Honor at the Icelandic Festival at Gimli, Man.
 with Icelandic landscape scenes in the background



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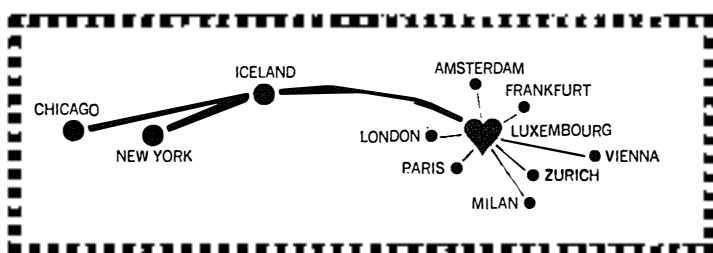
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EDITORIAL

Education in Canada

David H. Bergman

Many Canadians customarily associate autumn with the return to schools, community colleges and universities of our children and many of our young men and women. Not so many years ago Canadians were being continually reminded of the many-faceted demands of public education establishments for more and improved material facilities. The developing wave of students was the product of our so-called post-World War II "baby-boom". Would this seemingly unceasing acceleration continue indefinitely? Those who said this demand was temporary went unnoticed.

During the latter 1950's and throughout the 1960's many students entered secondary education institutions, mostly universities, and more recently, the newer and upgraded community colleges. The latter have now evolved much beyond the teaching level of the older technical-vocational schools.

Toward the end of the past decade reports from some public schools indicated marked decreases in enrollment. Suddenly the wave of the baby-boom had been accommodated. However, with many problems solved regarding student numbers, several resultant problems required solution.

A serious over-production of teachers is the temporary result of a previously insatiable demand. It would be short-sighted to stop all teacher development until more teachers are

once again needed. A positive programme has been adopted by some provinces. Fewer students are being accepted in teacher training. Courses are being upgraded and the training period lengthened. This promises to enhance the teaching profession.

The number of students entering Canadian universities has levelled off during the past few years and a decline in real student numbers appears inevitable. This is concomitant with the facts many of the professions appear to be temporarily or otherwise filled, and the lure of universities is declining. Perhaps the most direct cause of this decline has been the establishment of the more career-orientated community colleges which are gaining new respectability. One major advantage of the community college is that students prepare for immediate employment. This is not so with most university training, especially the arts and sciences. There is a growing social awareness of the sophistication community colleges have developed. Indeed, universities have been among the first to recognize and encourage this development and have recently welcomed working liaisons with community colleges where mutual interests exist.

Changes do not always represent progress and educators are introducing many innovations in the techniques and fundamentals of teaching.

Some common examples of such changes are the open classroom system, reading teaching techniques, mathematics teaching techniques, the non-graded or continuous progress system. Teaching reforms were once considered capable of shaping society but most educators have abandoned this concept. Many innovations were commendably introduced against a strong resistance of tradition. Among these was the introduction of a wider selection of courses and programmes to meet the important requirements of those students who did not wish university entrance training.

In the process of education reformation the so-called "expert" has emerged, the educational hierarchy has proliferated, and the position of the classroom teacher has suffered erosion. The shot-gun or panacea approach has been adopted in replacing older or conservative teaching methods. One common example of recent complaint is the declining ability of the public school graduate for communicative skills. In other words our modern-age schools are neglecting to adequately teach students how to read and write.

Society generally has the impression that teachers are all well paid and have it easy. But today a good teacher faces pressure from principals, inspectors, supervisors, specialists, psychologists, an over-protected student body and the knowledge that he/she may easily be replaced if he/she steps out of line. While these may be of some advantage in increasing teacher "productivity", such pressures also increase frustration and destroy initiative. We are presently witnessing one of the manifestations of this in the form of lowering standards. Teachers cannot afford to draw the wrath of their students; discipline and respect are difficult to achieve.

If there ever was a time for Canadians to scrutinize all forms of public education, to know what is going on, that time is now. Educating our young people is the most important investment we can make on their behalf. It is our responsibility to maintain diligently strong and creditable educational bodies for this vitally important end.



AT THE EDITOR'S DESK

National Ethnic Archives

An article from the Public Archives of Canada on national ethnic archives appears in this issue. The subject is important and readers of the Icelandic Canadian will no doubt agree with this.

* * *

Hawaii may learn Iceland's lesson

Hawaii has a climate more attractive than that of Iceland but Iceland can set an example to Hawaii with its use of its volcanic "heritage" for hot water heating of the city of Reykjavik. The island of Hawaii has two active volcanoes and the scientists in Hawaii, looking to the Icelandic example, are testing their basin of heat for an inter-island electricity generating system.

* * *

The Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Revival of Live Theatre

Once upon a time the various Icelandic communities in Canada would stage annually one, two, or three major plays. Once upon a time, too, Winnipeg had its Walker Theatre, Winnipeg Theatre, Dominion Theatre, Orpheum, and Pantages, as well as the I.O.G.T. hall on Sargent Avenue.

That time is long past and cinema and TV plays have dominated in this field. However, in Manitoba there is a revival of the live theatre. The Manitoba Theatre Centre is now well established, and for three years in succession full-length plays have been presented at the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba. Incidentally, this season's offering at the M.T.C. includes such well-known attractions as Shaw's cheerful and witty comedy "You Never Can Tell" and Sean O'Casey's tragedy of the 1916 Easter Rebellion in Ireland, "The Plough and the Stars".

* * *

Icelanders and the Cargo-Lux

Airline of Luxemburg

The Cargolux airline of Luxemburg is an international organization the founding members being Icelandic Airlines, Luzair, and the Swedish shipping tycoon, Salen.

Ports of call include Nigeria, Biafra, Madras, Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong and Brisbane and Sidney. Cargo may include cattle and horses.

The airfleet includes four Icelandic planes and 36 of the crews numbering 41 are Icelandic. Chief manager is Einar Olafsson.

—Morgunblaðið, Nov. 12/72



THE CANADA ICELAND FOUNDATION

By Paul H. T. Thorlakson, C.C., M.D.

During the last decade, North American scholars and legislators have taken effective measures to safeguard and transmit to future generations the cultural heritage of the seventy or more national groups which constitute our society and to ensure that these intrinsic and important ancestral values will be woven into the fabric of North American life. This constructive view ought to provide the various ethnic communities with added incentive to take stock of their own resources, to understand and appreciate their linguistic and cultural inheritance, and to determine the mode and quality of their own distinctive contribution.

In Canada and the United States of America there are approximately 46,000 people of Icelandic descent. Roughly 29,000 are in Canada and about 18,000 in the United States. Most of these people are second, third and fourth generation Canadians and Americans. Although relatively few in number, these descendants of Iceland have become widely spread across the North American continent. Moreover, by marriage, they have acquired — through a substantial admixture of non-Icelandic ancestry — a multilingual and multicultural background. As early as the 1930's, a minister of the largest Icelandic congregation in North America reported that in seventy per cent of the marriages he contracted only one of the contracting parties was Icelandic.

The estimate of 46,000 is based on available statistical data. During the last one hundred years, marriages of young Icelandic women to husbands with non-Icelandic names have been steadily increasing in number. As a result, the Icelandic ancestry of their children and grand-children can no longer be readily identified, even though many of them have maintained an active interest in their Icelandic heritage. If statisticians were to include all these people in their surveys, the total number of Canadians and Americans of Icelandic descent could no doubt be raised to 60,000.

One seldom meets a person of Icelandic or part Icelandic ancestry on this continent whose parents or grandparents did not, at one time, live in Manitoba or North Dakota. These were the two main areas that attracted the majority of the original 15,434* Icelandic settlers to Canada and the United States between 1870 and 1920.

In accordance with the prevailing trends, there has been a marked population shift in the Icelandic settlements from rural to urban centres. Approximately 18,000 to 20,000 people of Icelandic descent now live in Winnipeg which, in terms of numerical strength, is the centre of the Icelanders in North America. Two publica-

* Since 1703 accurate vital statistics, based on periodic census-taking, have been kept in Iceland.

tions, and Icelandic language weekly and English language quarterly, have their offices in Winnipeg. The head office of the Icelandic National League, with its ten chapters in the United States and Canada, is also in Winnipeg. This organization, which was founded in 1919, has the following objectives: to help develop the qualities of good citizenship among persons of Icelandic origin on this mainland; to preserve the cultural heritage of the Icelanders; and to maintain and strengthen the ties with Iceland.

A privately endowed Chair of Icelandic Language and Literature was established in 1951 at the University of Manitoba with one of the largest Icelandic libraries in the world. The University of Manitoba Press has recently begun the publishing of a series of Icelandic literary and historical classics in English translation.

In Winnipeg alone, there are eight active organizations designed to promote educational and cultural activities. These are:

1. The Logberg-Heimskringla Publishing Company Limited
2. The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba
3. The Jon Sigurdson Chapter IODE
4. The Icelandic National League of North America
5. The Icelandic Canadian Club
6. The Icelandic Canadian Magazine
7. The Canada Iceland Foundation
8. The Icelandic Cultural Corporation (Gimli)

In addition, there are a number of societies and clubs with similar objectives in other cities of Canada and the United States.

Interchange of scholars between Iceland and North America is on the increase, and travel to and from Iceland has become a regular occurrence.

During the past two years, the above-mentioned eight Icelandic organizations in Winnipeg have assumed the responsibility of jointly sponsoring two organizations that will provide an opportunity for coordinated planning and collective action in the future — The Canada Iceland Foundation and The Centenaries Celebration Committee.

The Canada Iceland Foundation was recently re-organized with a new broadly representative Board of Directors of 14 members, 8 of whom are appointees of 8 separate organizations and 6 who are selected from the community at large. These are but the first steps that are contemplated in its re-organization. Clubs and organizations in other Provinces of Canada are being invited to appoint representatives to the Board. A cordial invitation is also being extended to organizations or groups situated in the United States of America to nominate fraternal and advisory members to the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

The main objects of The Canada Iceland Foundation as laid down in the Charter Agreement are:

1. *To foster and strengthen the cultural bonds and mutual understanding between Canada and Iceland.*
2. *To promote an understanding and appreciation of the related Icelandic and Canadian heritage in the fields of representative government and the rule of law.*
3. *To encourage and give assistance to the establishment and maintenance of Icelandic as one of the subjects in post-graduate and honour courses in English.*

4. *To assist or give scholarships to students studying Icelandic at Canadian Universities.*
5. *To assist Canadians of Icelandic descent in the study and enjoyment of, and the production of, works in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.*
6. *To award scholarships to and otherwise assist students from Iceland to attend Canadian Universities, and students from Canada to attend the University of Iceland.*
7. *To encourage and give assistance to the translation of Icelandic literature into English and Canadian literature into Icelandic.*
8. *To encourage and give assistance to visits and performances and exhibitions and publications of Icelandic artists in Canada and Canadian artists in Iceland.*
9. *To assist in the collection and preservation of works of art, handicrafts, books, periodicals, manuscripts, and documents by or relating to the people of Iceland or people of Icelandic descent.*

The Charter Agreement provides that the Foundation may assist associations, publishers, and other organizations whose aims and objectives are similar to those of the Foundation.

The Centenaries Celebration Committee

The Centenaries Celebration Committee was organized in the Spring of 1972 and consists of 22 members. The whole purpose of this Committee is to promote INTER-GROUP COMMUNICATION AND CO-OPERATION AND, WHEN DESIRABLE, COLLECTIVE ACTION between the various clubs and associations in this community and, hopefully, across Canada and also in the United States. Its prin-

cipal job is to bring together representative people of many organizations and clubs so that each co-operating organization will have the opportunity to decide and to accept responsibility for special events. As far as possible, unnecessary duplication of effort should be avoided as this would be a waste of time and of the limited financial resources. Over the years, it has been demonstrated that whenever the whole Icelandic community get together and work towards the achievement of a specific goal, nothing worth doing is impossible.

The historic 1100th Anniversary in 1974 of the Settlement of Iceland and the 100th Anniversary in 1975 of the Icelandic settlement in Manitoba, as well as other centennial celebrations in Canada and the United States between the years 1870 and 1980, sparked the formation of a Centenaries Celebration Committee with the following "Terms of Reference":

1. *To act as a CO-ORDINATING AGENCY.*
2. *To create a Central Information Bureau.*
3. *To assist in publicizing all events.*
4. *To receive suggestions submitted by interested groups or individuals and refer them to the appropriate sponsoring organization.*
5. *To act in an advisory capacity when required.*
6. *To establish and maintain a liaison with all the various Icelandic organizations in North America and with the appropriate authorities in Iceland.*
7. *To establish an adequate Memorial Fund in The Canada Iceland Foundation to assist in the promotion of cultural and commemorative events of this decade.*
8. *To gather material to be published in a Centennial Book of Remembrance.*

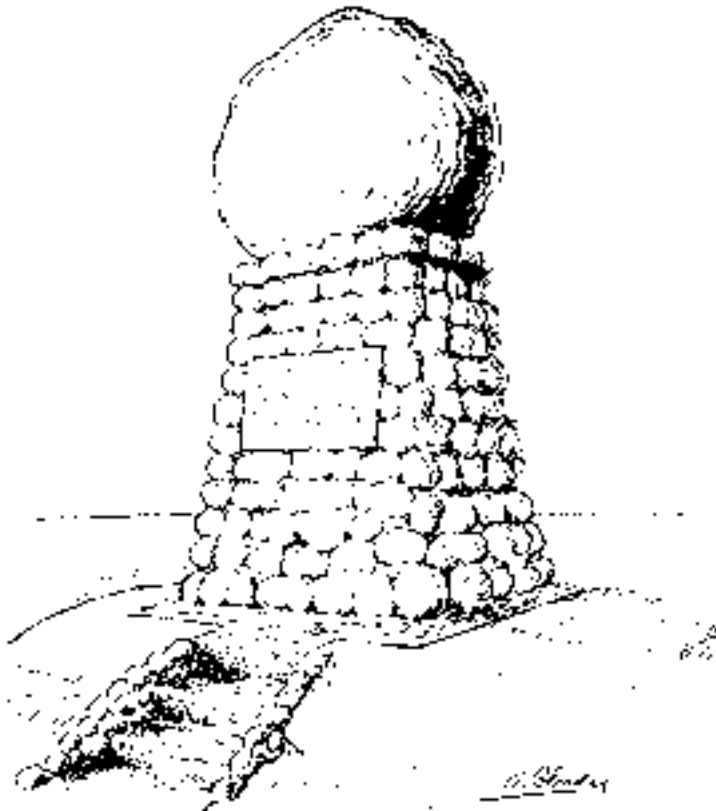
It should be emphasized that The Canada Iceland Foundation and The Centenaries Celebration Committee will not replace and will not interfere in any way with the plans, programs and activities that have been traditionally the responsibility of any one of the sponsoring or affiliated organizations.

This co-operative, organizational structure will permit the development of projects and promote activities which will parallel and complement

the objectives of the Federal Department of State on Multiculturalism in Ottawa. **

** The Ministry of State for Multiculturalism was created in November 1972. The Honourable Stanley Haidasz, M.P., P.C., M.D., Minister of State, is responsible for multiculturalism.

The Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism was appointed in the Spring of 1973. Mr. Julius Koteles of Winnipeg is National Chairman of the Council and Dr. M. R. Lupul of Edmonton is Western Regional Chairman.



The pioneer memorial at Gimli, Manitoba, erected in 1935 in honor of the Icelandic pioneers who landed at Willow Point, October 21, 1875.

— Pen sketch by Dr. A. Blondal

PAUL BJARNASON: Poet and Translator

by Loftur Bjarnason



Paul Bjarnason

On February 1, 1967, Paul Bjarnason, poet and translator, died at the age of 85. Although some people live longer; 85 is usually considered an enviable life span. Born of Icelandic parents in 1882 near Mountain, North Dakota, Paul spent most of his early life in or near the Icelandic settlements of the Midwest, principally near Wynyard, Saskatchewan, where he established a homestead in 1906. From

1933 until his death he made his home in Vancouver, British Columbia. During practically his entire life Paul spoke and read Icelandic and English with almost equal fluency. Icelandic he had learned as a matter of course as a child at home, for both of his parents, who came from the east of Iceland, landed in this country knowing little or no English. Thus, Paul grew up hearing and using the lan-

guage of his forebears. He came to love the sounds of this language, its richness of expression, its vigor, and its power. Above all, he was fascinated by Icelandic poetry. English he learned in school and from friends and neighbours. He composed poetry in both languages; in fact, he is one of the very few Americans born in this country who have learned and mastered the intricate meter, the internal rhyme, and the alliterative patterns of the Icelandic poetry.

During his lifetime Paul Bjarnason saw English displace the Icelandic language to a great extent as a medium of communication even in those areas originally settled and populated by Icelanders in North America. He saw most of the original pioneers from the mother country leave, one by one, the abode of men. He saw a vigorous interest in Icelandic literature and especially in Icelandic poetry dwindle to the vanishing point as fewer and fewer remained who could read and appreciate it. This disturbed Paul, as it has disturbed many others who have seen in the loss of appreciation of Icelandic poetry an erosion of the rich cultural heritage which the original Icelandic immigrants brought with them from the mother country and transplanted into the life and thinking of their adopted land. The gradual loss of this legacy grieved Paul Bjarnason. He differed from many others, however, who have also been so grieved in that during the whole of his adult life he strove vigorously to prevent or at least postpone this cultural loss by transplanting a portion of this priceless intellectual birthright and thereby preserving it. In this work he has been aided by others, to be sure, but few have succeeded to the degree that he has in reproducing in clear and perspicuous

English the characteristics of Icelandic poetry. To be somewhat more specific, he reproduced in English not only the thought and content of some of the most beautiful gems of Icelandic poetry but also the very meter, the alliteration, and the assonance, or as he called it "the near rhyme". In short, he preserved the very spirit of Icelandic poetry. Such an accomplishment merits a few moments of consideration from anyone who views with alarm and regret the absorption of one national heritage by another.

The translation of any sustained and serious thought from one language to another is always a difficult task. The translation of poetry is infinitely more difficult than that of prose, for the translator has now not merely the thought and the idiom with which to contend but also the technicalities of versification. That Icelandic versification offers serious, if not actually insurmountable, obstacles to the translator has already been observed by everyone who has tried his skill at translating poetry from Icelandic to English and by at least two scholars who have written books or articles pointing out some of the difficulties. I refer specifically to Professor Lee F. Hollander's book *The Skalds* and to Professor Stefán Einarsson's article "Instructive Translations" which appeared in the Summer 1955 Number of *The Icelandic Canadian*.

Dr. Einarsson's article deals primarily with the degree to which Paul Bjarnason has been able to surmount the technical difficulties of translating from Icelandic to English. I propose in this article to consider somewhat less the technical excellence of Paul Bjarnason's artistry and somewhat more the aesthetic quality of his translations, that is to say, the degree to which they reflect the message and the

inherent beauty of the original. This is, however, merely an approximation: the quality of any poetic translation can never be completely divorced from its technical perfection. More specifically, I propose to discuss briefly Paul Bjarnason's philosophy of translation and adduce a selection of his translations both from Icelandic to English and from English to Icelandic to illustrate this philosophy. Finally, it may be worth while to look briefly at his original poems in both languages—again not from the technical point of view but rather from the standpoint of content, immediacy of message, and style.

Paul Bjarnason published articles and poems in various magazines and periodicals, but his principal works are his four books, the first of which, *Fleygar* (Wedges) appeared in 1953 when Paul was 71 years of age. It contains 90 original poems in Icelandic and 42 translations into Icelandic—the majority of them from English. As might be expected, there is some unevenness in quality and selection of both the originals and the translations. For example, among the translations Arthur Chapman's "Out Where the West Begins" appears side by side with Edwin Markham's "The Man With the Hoe." Among the original poems are several letters in verse written by friends. Such poetry may be entertaining, but relatively little of it has permanent esthetic value. Nevertheless, I do not consider the inclusion of these poems to be a serious defect. It is precisely thereby that the reader gains a perspective of the poet that he would otherwise miss. Generally, Paul's taste was discriminating and his workmanship outstanding. Of especial interest are his interpretations of "The Chambered Nautilus" by Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Invictus" by William

Ernest Henley, "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" by Thomas Gray, "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam" by Edward FitzGerald, and "The Ballad of Reading Goal" by Oscar Wilde.

Paul's second book is *Odes and Echoes*, published by the author through the People's Co-operative Bookstore, Vancouver, British Columbia, 1954. It contains seventeen original poems in English and 71 translations from Icelandic. Again, there is evidence that Paul has turned his talents as a translator not only to that which is a great literary merit, but also to that which appealed to him, for in this book the humorous and oftentimes satiric quatrains of K. N. Julius entitled here "Verses" exist side by side with such thought-provoking and challenging poetry as Thorsteinn Erlingsson's "The Terms" or "The Road," or Stephan G. Stephansson's "When I Was an Editor", or such a delicate masterpiece as Einar Benediktsson's "The Opal". Again, I do not assert that this catholicity of taste is a fault. I mention it merely to indicate the breadth of the translator's interests. I would not willingly miss, for example, the wry humor and the precision of speech in K. N.'s laconic

Eg hlýt að slá við slöku
í slyngri ljóðamennt.
Það yrkir enginn stöku
á aðeins 2%.

Which Paul has translated as:

Too much the muse exacted
From me so ill-content.
No inspiration acted
On only "two-percent".

It is easy to overlook the skill of the translator in such a simple verse. Cer-

tainly the spirit of the original has been retained. At the same time—and this is characteristic of most of Paul's translations—the laws of Icelandic versification have been observed without either violating the word order of English thought or using archaic and unusual words. This may seem on the surface but scant praise, but those who have tried to reproduce Icelandic poetical patterns in English will appreciate the art shown in even a short quatrain such as this.

Each of the translations in this book bears witness to the fact that Paul Bjarnason had the proper philosophy of translation; that is to say, he translated concepts and ideas rather than the words themselves. No one who has tried his hand at translating needs to be told how dangerous and misleading it is to translate words as opposed to ideas. One quatrain from *The Rubaiyat* will illustrate:

The moving finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your piety nor wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all your tears wash out a word
of it.

This Paul reproduces in Icelandic as:

Og tímans hendi skrifar fast of feitt.
Því fær ei nokkur mannleg vizka
breitt;
Því hana glepur aldrei trúin tóm,
Og tár þín fá ei afmáð eitt né neitt.

Here "the moving finger" becomes "the hand of time" and it writes firmly and heavily. "Piety" and "wit" become "human ingenuity," etc, but the total idea is retained even with the substitution in individual words. This

is, in fact, Paul Bjarnason's philosophy of translation, namely, that the translator must retain the ideas rather than the individual words and he must present these in the poetic tradition of the language into which he is translating. The poetic tradition of Icelandic demands that alliteration be used, therefore Paul Bjarnason uses it even though Fitzgerald did not avail himself of it in his translation of *The Rubaiyat*. Alliteration is not actually a condition of English poetry, but nevertheless it is considered a desirable adornment. The point, of course, is that we have now no mere blind, word-for-word translation, but rather a new work of art, independently beautiful but deriving from a well-known masterpiece.

Paul Bjarnason's third book, *More Poems*, appeared in a limited edition of only 300 copies, privately published by the author in January, 1962, with a brief preface by Vilhjálmur Stefánsson. It contains a total of 53 poems, 48 of them translations from the Icelandic (with Einar Benediktsson represented by twelve and Davíð Stefánsson by six) and five poems translated from Swedish. Among the many gems of this little book is Stephan G. Stephansson's powerful "Þó þú langföruð legðir" which Paul calls "Though You Travel Afar."

The fourth and last book, *Flísar: Nokkur Kvæði Þýdd og Frumsamin* (Chips: A few Poems, Translated and Original), was published at Winnipeg in 1964. As the subtitle suggests, it is a compilation of translations (eleven from English to Icelandic; four from Icelandic to English) and original poems (16) composed in Icelandic. Of the original poems in this book most are written for a particular occasion (someone's birthday or the like) and are therefore not likely to carry any

great philosophical message. Nevertheless, they are for the most part skillfully executed and tastefully done. Among the translations all are good and several excellent. Most people who remember Francis Miles Finch's "The Blue and The Gray" will be surprised to see how sensitively it has been translated into Icelandic.

As mentioned earlier, Paul Bjarnason translates the meaning and the intent with consummate ability. Moreover, with but very few exceptions, he attains in English the alliterative pattern of the Icelandic without unduly straining the normal word order of the English. He even reproduces assonance, not in a haphazard manner but, for the most part, in the pattern of the original. An example or two will convince even the most skeptical of his skill in this difficult area of art.

Rainbows, lined with lanterns.
Light the way so brightly,
'Round the summits running
Rills of golden spillings.

Winter's hand, in hundreds,
Heaves the flares at even.
Icy cones, like candles,
Quicken till they flicker.
Spangles thrown asprinkle
Sprav the night with daylight.

Glossv reaches glisten,
Glasslike, to the flashes
of the fireworks' fury
Far beyond the Arctic.

* * *
Vitar á gnípum glitra,
Gjósa upp norðurljósin.

Tundur þjóta af tindum
Tvenn of saman brenna.
Sindrar þlik af bröndum,
Bogar titra og loga.

Bifröst blossom stofuð
Ber út ljós um hárað,
Yfir hnjúka höfuð,
Hellir fleygu gulli.

Vetur á ísum úti
Elda slær að kveldi,
Svell á súlum fjalla
Sér að kveikjum gerir.
Raflyst hálfan hefir
heim og blálofts geima.

Steind er hjarni stirndu
Storð að fjöru-borði
Hvitt er nið og nóttin
Norðurheims að sporði.

A close examination of the original with the translation reveals how very carefully Paul Bjarnason has reproduced his model as to meter, alliteration, assonance, and poetic imagery — all within the framework of clear and colloquial English. The pattern of alliteration has been retained though the sounds themselves have been changed. This is, of course, entirely acceptable. Those who read both languages will agree that very little either of the sense or of the sound has been lost by the translator. There remains to be sure, the difference in the languages themselves in that the Icelandic can be extremely laconic, whereas the English tends to be prolix.

—To be continued

A NIGHT OF FROST

By Jon Runolfsson

Translated by Watson Kirkconnell

When suns of spring shine soft and glad
And waken all the grass of earth
And opening blossoms burst to birth,
And hills in fragrant peace are clad,
I have, alas, in hours of mirth
By moonlight o'er the meadows straying
Beheld a frost-killed bud displaying
The pallor of its stricken dearth.

And though with dawning came a flood
Of conquering light for joyous hours,
One answer failed those radiant powers —
The kiss of death was on that bud.
Fair fragrance breathed from mews and bowers,
And laughing babes sweet wreaths were twining
But who would mark one blossom pining
When life and summer bathe in flowers.

It yields no breath, it bears no bloom
Its beauty vanished like a dream;
And yet within its stern the stream
Of warm life pulses in the gloom
Come little friend, my heart can deem
Your sorrow though none else revere it —
The kiss of death is on my spirit
No matter how alive I seem.

—From North American Book of Icelandic Verse

CAREER CUT SHORT BY DEATH



Luther Burbank Kristjanson

Several Canadians of Icelandic extraction have distinguished themselves in professional life, and a number have earned commendable reputations in public service. Few if any, however, have made a more notable contribution than the late Luther Burbank Kristjanson. His untimely death on May 29th of this year brought to an end a career of unique distinction as an agricultural economist, as a public servant, and as a humanitarian.

Burbank began his life at Gimli, Manitoba, one of eight children born to Elin and the late Hannes Kristjanson. All of the brothers (there were six of them) have earned advanced degrees academically and have had such outstanding careers that the reputation of the family has become almost a byword for success and dis-

tingtion. Some of them have been the subject for articles or short items in *The Icelandic Canadian* (summer issue 1961, autumn 1964, winter 1969, autumn 1971).

After graduating from Gimli High School Burbank studied at North Dakota State Agricultural College. He received his Master's degree from the University of Nebraska and went on to pursue studies for a Ph. D. at the University of Wisconsin.

While at Nebraska he met Farida Fallah, a native Iranian who was also a student at the University there. They were married not long thereafter. Two children were born of the marriage—Sharon Valerie and Keven Burbank.

There followed a period of employment with the Canada Department of Agriculture, in Saskatoon, and later in Ottawa. In 1957 Burbank joined the Manitoba provincial department of agriculture as an economist. When the Manitoba crop insurance agency was established in 1959 he became its managing director. Two years later he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister to Agriculture Minister George Hutton. Mr. Hutton has commented that "there is no man who meets Burbank but who is substantially affected by that meeting."

In 1961 he took a leave of absence to spend fourteen months as agri-

cultural advisor to the government of Iran. This afforded his wife an opportunity to live in her homeland once more and his children a chance to become acquainted at first hand with the land of their forefathers. His impressions of this stay in Iran were described in an article which he wrote for *The Icelandic Canadian*—summer, 1963 issue. In the article he describes some of the warm personal experiences he had with the people there. The quality of being able to relate well to people—on any level and of any nationality—was a characteristic of his; a characteristic which undoubtedly contributed to his success. Energy and enthusiasm were other qualities which contributed to his effectiveness as an executive.

These qualities were further put to use when, in 1964, he was appointed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to serve in Iran as a land and water economist.

Subsequently he was transferred to Rome as chief of Agriculture for F.A.C. at its headquarters there. He continued in this position until illness compelled him to give it up.

On assessing the impact which he had on those with whom he worked and associated, it is noteworthy that the school district for American and other English-speaking children living in Rome (of which he was chairman of the board) has collected a million lira (about \$17,000) for a scholarship in his memory. Such was the regard for a man who gave of his talents and abilities so unstintingly. Ever an optimist, his favourite slogan was "Áfram, áfram!" (Forward, forward). This forward-thinking attitude drove him on even after his health had nearly given out. In the death of Burbank Kristjanson we have lost an exemplary Canadian, one whose life might well be an inspiration to the rest of us.

—Gustaf Kristjanson



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Scholarship applications are available for students of Icelandic origin who have completed Grade 12 and will be enrolled at Manitoba post-secondary institutions this fall.

The Jon Sigurdson Chapter of the IODE sponsors the scholarships in memory of Johanna Gudrun Skaptason and Elinborg Hanson.

Music scholarships are also available

for students who have taken the Western Board of Music of Royal Conservatory of Toronto music exams for Grade 6 and over in instrumental, piano or voice classes.

The awards are for \$150 and \$75.00 and selections will be made October 15, 1973.

Interested persons may contact H. F. Danielson, 869 Garfield Street.



by G. B. Gunlogson

Of all the people who came to live in America, the homesteader and those who established their homes on the land as farmers probably did more than any others to build the country. They connected life with the earth and became an indispensable link between the land and the rest of the people. Their homes became the home places for three-fourths of the population of the United States. These homes are now disappearing, but they still live in the memories of millions of Americans; and they continue to be immortalized in art, literature, and song. . . .

More than any other state, North Dakota was built by homesteaders. In 1880 there were less than 4,000 homesteaders reported in the area which

became a state in 1889. Just 25 years later there were 70,000 farms producing crops and the settling of the entire state had been virtually completed. This one generation of settlers had built hundreds of schools, churches, and communities. They had formed governments, built roads, and made North Dakota one of the leading agricultural states in the nation.

My parents homesteaded here in 1880, which was then the Dakota Territory. Here they found a friendly environment and a picturesque setting in which to establish their home. There were trees to break the winter winds and for building-logs and fuel. Pure water was abundant, and there was grazing for cattle and clearings ready to be plowed for garden and



AN EARLY DAKOTA HOMESTEAD

grain crops. Nature could hardly have been more generous. Berries, plums, grapes, and hazel nuts grew in the borders; and wildlife and song birds were nearly always within sight or sound. The land was ours; this would always be our home. . . .

The 160-acre homestead, to which another forty were later added, is a model laboratory of natural history. It is a picture-book story of how the land was formed by glaciers, water, wind, plant growth, and time. These forces levelled the upland, gouged out the river bottom, sorted out the soil types, and created a great variety of situations for different plants to grow.

For many years the place was maintained as a nature area open to educational institutions in the state, and as such it became known to a number of naturalists in other parts of the country. Subsequently, the Park Service, which was then associated with

the State Historical Society, became interested in the project; and the land was turned over to the state in 1963. The deed stipulated that the place be known as the Gunlogson Arboretum and be managed for public enjoyment and education. Some private funds were provided to clear trails and initiate educational programs.

This place also has certain historical values worthy of preservation and interpretation. Changes that came with time have largely by-passed the homestead. The old house in its present setting, started in 1882 to replace an original log house and finished in 1890, is symbolic of pioneer days. It links the latter parts of two centuries. The artist's visualization is based on old photographs and sketches from memory of the place as it was eighty years ago. This is a bit of North Dakota as it was in the last century.

Jakob F. Kristjansson

1895 - 1972



Jakob F. Kristjansson

Jakob Friðrik Kristjansson, known to his many friends as Kobbí, had an excellent record in the federal service and was prominent in community life. His long-time employment was with the colonization and agriculture department of the Canadian National Railways and the Federal Unemployment Commission.

Kobbí was born in Akureyri, Iceland, in 1895. His father was a bank manager. He graduated from a junior secondary school (gagnfræðaskóli) in Akureyri in 1910. In that same year he emigrated to Canada.

For the first two years he was employed on a farm at Wynyard, Saskatchewan; then in business in Winnipeg (1912-1925). For the next two years he was employed with the Icelandic-language weekly Heimskringla in Winnipeg.

Kobbí served with the colonization and agriculture department in Winnipeg as representative in the period 1927-1943. His work consisted in the reception and placement of immigrants on a land near the C.N.R. lines in Western Canada. Having acquired command of the different Scandinavian languages, his first assignment was with northern Europeans; later with several other nationalities as well. In due course he acquired knowledge of the German, Polish, Ukrainian, and Russian languages. He devoted himself to solving the problems and difficulties of the newcomers on the land and he could tell many stories of his travels in districts settled and little settled, on horseback and walking.

A natural progression in wartime, in 1943, was to a position with the Federal Unemployment Insurance Commission as Employment and Insurance Officer operating in the fields of agriculture, forestry, mining and fishing in Western Canada. In 1957 he was head of operations in this region,

with thirty offices in the area.

After formal retirement, in 1960, Kobbi continued to be active, combining work in real estate, translating for the Federal government reports on the fishing industry in Iceland, as assistant editor of Logberg-Heimskringla, and organizer and conductor of several group tours to Iceland.

Kobbi was active in community life. In all his years in Winnipeg, he was an active member of the Unitarian Church of Winnipeg (Icelandic) serving in the church choir from 1914 to its disbandment and as member of the church board for many years. He was archivist of the Icelandic National League for many years and in the Icelandic Celebration Committee (now the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba) he served for many years as President and as secretary. He was a long-time active member of Fort Osborne Lodge (Mas-

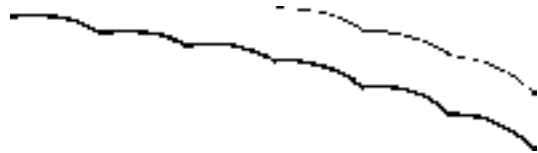
onic) and was Worshipful Master in 1946. He was keenly interested in drama and took part in the earlier years in many major play productions.

In 1967 Kobbi was awarded the Canadian Centennial Medal in recognition of valuable services to the nation.

In 1915 Kobbi Kristjansson and Miss Steinunn Hallson were fellow members of the Unitarian church choir. In the following year this harmonious relationship was placed on a permanent basis and the two were married. Their hospitable home was a first port of call for many new arrivals from Iceland.

Four children were born to Kobbi and Steina, one of whom died in infancy. Three have carried on the tradition of good citizenship.

—W. Kristjansson



Gregory Downey, of Agassiz Drive, Fort Garry, Winnipeg, a 1973 graduate of Richmond Collegiate, has an excellent all-round record. He is the gold medallist for the collegiate, with an average of 91.7 per cent on the grade 12 examinations. He excelled in English, physics, chemistry, and mathematics. He was awarded the University of Manitoba Alumni award for

Excellence, a bronze medallion. He was the athlete of the year at the collegiate. He received the Youth Science Foundation award to attend the summer program at the University of New Brunswick, two students from each province chosen to attend.

Gregory is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James and Evelyn (nee Kristjansson) Downey of Fort Garry.

A TOAST TO CANADA

An Address delivered by **G. Albert Kristjanson** at the Icelandic Festival held at Gimli, Man. on August 6, 1973

It is a great honor to have been invited to give the toast to Canada on this the 84th Icelandic Celebration.

I have attended this celebration for a good number of years and find that my perspective of this occasion has certainly changed during that time.

In my early childhood the children's races, where there was a chance of winning a ribbon, was the most important part of the day.

As I became a little older I had an opportunity to work in the refreshment stands and earn a few dollars. In my teens the Monday night dance became important. In early adulthood, the opportunity to meet and visit old friends and the evening sing-song became the focus. However, at the same time the significance of this annual event began to dawn on me. Thus in recent years the afternoon program has become more and more important.

I expect that this day means something different and special to each of you. So, also, does Canada mean something special to each of us. In my readings I came across a poem entitled "Canada" written, as is appropriate for this occasion by Guttormur Guttormsson. This poem has been trans-

lated by Jakobina Johnson and I would like to share part of it with you at this time.

KANADA

by Guttormur J. Guttormsson

Sem gjafvaxta mær, engum manni kær,
hún mændi fram á leið
með villimanns skart og metfé margt
hún mannsins hvíta beið,
með augunum blá um síðir sá
að siglandi kom hans skip,
og það var sem glans upp af höfði hans
og hátignarblær á hans svip.

Og hæversk og stillt var hún, en villt,
í vináttu föst og heil.
Að var hennar ást svo einlæg sást,
en aldrei hálf né veil,
hún faðmaði hann, sinn hvíta mann,
hún opnaði barm og hug og hvarm
og himin allan sá.

Hann batt henni krans úr kornstanga fans,
en kórónu' úr lárvið sér,
því kóngsson var hann, sem þá kóngs-
kóngsdóttur fann
— þar kóngsríki síðan er.
Þau framleiða auð og blóm og brauð
og brúa dauðans hyl,
og þeirra höll er um víðan völl
með vorhimins ljós og yl.

Þau ala upp börn sín áframgjörn
með einkunn tigins manns,

en þeirra tryggð er á bjargi byggð
við bræður og móður hans;

Sé vopni beitt, þau öll eru eitt,
þau erfðu hetjumóð
þau eru ætt, sem aldrei rætt
skal upp, þó fjari blóð.

●g kær er hún oss sem kærast hnoss
hún Kanada móðir vor,
og lífsins dyr verða luktar fyr
en liggi á braut vor spor.
Í sókn og vörn það sýnum við börn,
að séum af stofni grein!
Þó greini oss mál, oss sameinar sál,
sem sönn er jafnan og ein.

CANADA

Translated by Jakobina Johnson

Expectant but free and lovely to see,
Her eyes on the future bent,
She waited his hand with treasures
grand,
Adorned for the proud event.
When her dream came true, in the
distant view
The white man's ship was seen
Her exultant sight had him crowned
with light
A hero of stately mien.

Refined was her face with courtly
grace,
Though her manner was all untaught.
Her friendship was whole and pure
her soul
And loyal her inmost thought.
She welcomed his charms with open
arms,
And felt that their hearts were one.
Her vision had grown and all her own
A glorious day begun.

He wrought from the grains of her
golden plains
A crown for his lady fair.

With the laurel crown of a just
renown
He founded a kingdom there.
And the mountain walls of the royal
halls
Were mirrored in lake and stream,
With their rooftree high as the azure
sky
Where standards of freedom gleam.

Their sons prove the worth of their
noble birth
As heroes in word and deed.
That reverence is due to their fathers
too,
With them is a sacred creed.
And a foeman's gun finds them all
as one,
— They thrill to an ancient strain
Of a battle cry from the days gone by.
Whose glory shall never wane.

Devoted and true to their country new
Are Canada's sons today.
And death alone shall have claimed
his own,
Ere they shall turn away.
With our strength untold which is
tried and old,
Our country shall reach her goal,
Through the clearing haze and tongue
and race
United in heart and soul.

That is the way the great author and
poet Mr. Guttormsson saw Canada
and could quite appropriately be con-
sidered his toast to Canada. I am sure
that he spoke for very many of us
when he wrote that poem.

This annual event has given me
the opportunity to learn something of
my Icelandic heritage. It has also
helped me learn about the many con-
tributions that the Icelandic people
have made to Canada. In fact, at times
I have wondered whether Canada
would have existed without the Ice-

landers. Certainly Canada would have
existed without us. It is equally cer-
tain that Canada would be a different
country without the Icelanders who
migrated in 1875 and later.

Probably the most widely recognized
contribution that the early settlers
made to Canada was in the field of
literature and poetry.

We have also heard about the great
contribution they have made to
government at the municipal, prov-
incial and federal level in Canada.

Most of us also know of outstanding
accomplishments in the professions of
medicine, law, science, exploration
and many more. In all cases it would
be possible to name a number of in-
dividuals of Icelandic descent in each
of these fields. However if I did this
I would certainly leave out many more
and thereby run the risk of offending
by omission.

We as Icelanders take pride in the
achievements of these men and wo-
men, and justly so. But is our pride
proportional to our accomplishments?

Because we are aware of the people
of Icelandic origin who have made
these contributions we sometimes
think that the Icelanders on the aver-
age have greater achievements than
others.

In reviewing Canadian statistics
since 1931 I find we are not over
represented in law, science, medicine,
etc. In fact we are very close to but
slightly under-represented in all oc-
cupations except farming. In that im-
portant field we are well represented.

I am not suggesting that we should
not have pride in our accomplishments
and heritage. I am suggesting that we
should be careful not to have false
pride. I say this because as certainly
as one has pride he also has prejudices.
Pride and prejudice are in essence the
opposite sides of a coin. You cannot

have one without the other.

This is not to suggest that a person
or group should not take pride in
himself and his accomplishments but
rather to point out all other ethnic
groups; the Indians and Metis, the Uk-
rainians, Poles, Germans, Italians, Bri-
tish, French and so on can be equally
proud of their heritage and their con-
tribution to Canada.

The fact that people of so many na-
tional origins can live in harmony in
one nation is a tribute to Canada.
Probably even more significant is that
this harmony exists while at the same
time the identity of each group is be-
ing maintained. The Canadian Mosaic
is truly one of the wonders of the
world.

It is difficult to pin point any one
reason why this great country of ours
developed as it did. However it seems
to me that all the migrants saw it as a
land of liberty and opportunity. How
right they were! This was and is a land
of liberty where each of us is free to
pursue our own goals. We are also
free to pursue our collective goals
whether these collectivities are based
on politics, religion, ethnicity or other
criteria. The only restrictions we have
are those designed to protect the free-
dom of others. Yes Canada was and is
a land of freedom and opportunity —
our forefathers knew it — let us make
certain we do not forget.

The best evidence we have of the
greatness of our country is the reputa-
tion Canada has throughout the world.
In terms of numbers it is a small na-
tion whose influence in world affairs
far outweighs its size. This in spite
of being only slightly over 100 years
old, which, in terms of history, is a
very short time.

Canada's strength and reputation
does not rest on its numbers; it might
be partly attributed to its youthful

vigor, but in my opinion it rests most heavily on the integrity of Canada as a nation.

If I could have one wish today it would be that each of us here and all of us together would strive to continue to contribute to the integrity of our country. It would be a small price to pay for all the opportunities Canada has given us.

If this is done all the ethnic groups can continue to live and work in harmony with one another; each making its unique cultural contribution to this country of our choice. The real advantage of this is that the whole of Canadian culture becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

Yes, Canada in all its beauty from coast to coast has been good to us. This is truly a land of freedom and opportunity. Let us use these opportunities to make our fair share of contributions to its continued growth and stature.

I am confident I speak for all Icelandic Canadians when I toast Canada by saying; I am proud of my Icelandic heritage and am thankful I am a Canadian.

* Statistics used were for Scandinavians as a group. I have assumed the Icelanders to be similar to other Scandinavians in this respect.



THE CLIFFORD E. LEE DRAMA AWARD

The Clifford E. Lee Award is a National Playwriting competition and Playwright-in-Residence program, designed to encourage Canadian writing of importance to the stage, while at the same time affording the playwright in-depth experience of the process of stage production.

The program and award are jointly sponsored by the Clifford E. Lee Foundation (Edmonton) and the Department of Drama at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. The winning play will be produced by the Department.

A prize of \$1,500, plus travel and residence expenses, will be awarded to the winning play.

The winning playwright will live in residence at the University of Alberta as a guest of the Department during the rehearsal period.

Deadline for script entry is November 30, 1973.

For further information write:

**The Clifford E. Lee Award,
Department of Drama,
The University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G4**

JOHN S. WALKER:

Hecla Island Expropriation Inquiry

In 1971 the Manitoba Government (Department of Tourism and Recreation) proposed to constitute Hecla Island a provincial park. In pursuance of this project, the Government deemed it necessary to expropriate the property of the inhabitants, including the descendants of the settlers of 1876. To determine whether the intended expropriation was fair and necessary, the Attorney-General appointed an Inquiry Officer, Mr. John S. Walker, a Winnipeg lawyer. His finding not acted upon, was that expropriation of the settlers' property was not fair.

Mr. Walker conducted public hearings and his report is public property. His report is considered and comprehensive and has historic value.

Mr. Walker has made his report available to The Icelandic Canadian. The report is much too long to publish in its entirety in one issue, so the first part only, the background to the inquiry, including a brief account of the history of the Icelandic settlement on Hecla Island, is published in this issue. —Editor

Under the Expropriation Act of this province, the owner of land may object to the intended expropriation of his property.

Objections were received from Hecla Island land owners to the intended expropriation of their land, for use in a provincial park, by the Department of Tourism and Recreation of the Province of Manitoba.

An Inquiry Officer was appointed by the Attorney-General of Manitoba on October 1, 1971, to inquire into whether the intended expropriation is fair and reasonably necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the expropriating authority (The Department of Tourism and Recreation).

Two full days of hearings were held at the Law Courts Building on October 19th and a day (October 17th) was spent on Hecla Island examining the sites and plans of the expropriating authority.

The Inquiry dealt with the objections of summer cottage owners, some non-resident land owners, and the rem-

nant of Islanders who own land and still inhabit the Island.

The beginning of the Hecla Island settlement can be traced to the report of the Icelandic exploring party of 1875 who went in search of a new homeland for Icelandic settlers.

The Island they explored had marshes and green pastures in the south and a high shoreline cliff in the north. It was rich in pine, spruce, and balsam—with shades of birch and poplar blended in. The yearly migration of water fowl passed directly over the island, and many species of birds rested and fed on the Island on their way to an from their winter feeding grounds.

The written report of the small exploration party recommended a colony-site which was north of the Manitoba boundary (as it was at that time) and formed a strip along the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, six townships in length and extending twelve miles inland. It included the whole of "Mikley" (now Hecla) which was Icelandic for Big Island.

The early settlers called their Island Hecla, commemorating the disastrous eruption of Mount Hecla in Iceland in 1873. That eruption buried miles of Icelandic pasture beneath a layer of lava and hot ash and was one of the reasons they sought a new home.

The new Icelandic colony was responsible to the Canadian Government, but with little travel or communication possible, it was for all practical purposes master in its own house. It governed itself in all respects after the manner of a miniature Republic during the first years of its existence. The Republic had a distinctive constitution and political system. There was even a minor constitutional crisis in 1879.

In 1881, the northern boundary of Manitoba was extended to the 53rd parallel, and new Iceland relinquished its independence to become a part of this province. It still continued to have its own Municipal Government until the provisions of the Municipal Act were extended to the area in 1887.

In 1891, the population of the Island stood at 180. There were 31 homes, 85 cows, 28 oxen, 2 horses, 109 young animals, and 270 head of sheep.

The relationship of the Islanders with the mainland colony was maintained. The mainland settlers lived mainly off the land; the Islanders lived mainly off the lake. The connection with the mainland involved a 25-mile boat trip to Riverton.

Life on the Island had its advantages. People lived more in common and there was a more general contentment with the frugal way of life.

Another group came to the Island after the turn of the century—summer cottagers. They located mainly in the Gull Harbour area. They travelled by passenger ship that stopped weekly at the Island harbour.

Island living soon formed the cottagers into a tightly knit group. Each summer they faithfully returned with their children. In time their children came with another generation of children. Something of the history of this little group came out at the hearing.

The permanent residents were known as "the Islanders" and were always distinguished as such from the summer cottagers, who were called "campers".

Over the years, and in a modest way, the community grew and flourished.

The pleasures of motoring were unknown. There were no roads on the Island until the mid 1940's.

During the depression years when so many Canadians were on relief, the people of Hecla prided themselves in not seeking assistance. One or two families needed help but the independence and industry of the people prevailed over adversity, and these years are among the proudest in the history of the Islanders.

Until the late 1940's, the Islanders depended on oil lamps for their lighting. On the mainland the other settlers enjoyed light and power. The spring ice and waves in Grassy Narrows, the water channel separating the Island from the shore, were a threat to the power poles, and the Manitoba Power Commission was hesitant to undertake such a large uneconomic task. The grandchildren of the original settlers obtained a supply of long power poles and preserving material from the Power Commission and in a united effort, built the cribs which still stand and hold the poles that carry power to the Island. Every able-bodied male, over the age of sixteen, on Hecla donated his time and some gave cash to pay for rock hauling. The spark of human initiative brought el-

ectric light to the Hecla Island.

In the early 1950s, the Island population had grown to approximately 500 people and the little schools were overcrowded.

In 1953, the Provincial Government installed a four-car ferry to make the mile long voyage across Grassie Narrows from the mainland to the Island's southwestern tip.

In 1958 a seven-car ferry started in operation. The trip across took a half hour and the ferry operated from dawn to dusk in summer, but the patience of many a traveller was fully tested on weekends as he waited in a long line for his turn to drive onto the ferry.

Then the fish harvest declined. Fish prices dropped and the cost of living rose. A new system of school districts required the children to leave the Island to attend high school. The local schools closed. The young people began to leave in search of better opportunities.

There are two cemeteries on the Island. The head stones record the names of the early settlers.

Realizing that the old way of life was dying, the Islanders began to look for some solution. The older generation did not want to leave the Island. They decided that the answer lay in

tourism and they formed their own development association to promote recreational activities on the Island.

When the Fund for Rural Development (F.R.E.D.) Agreement was signed in Arborg in May, 1967, the hopes of the Islanders were raised. Eighty-five million dollars would be pumped into the Interlake over a ten-year period. With confidence in the beauty of their Island, and its natural advantages for boaters, they awaited the results of Government authorized studies.

A study prepared by Man Taylor Muret, a firm of Landscape Architects and Site Planners, in 1968, contained the basic plan, upon which the parks branch of the Department of Tourism and Recreation is now proceeding to establish a provincial park. The report says that "the whole complex can be developed into an area offering as complete a recreational experience as can be found anywhere."

It is proposed that a new provincial park will be opened to the public in 1973. In the process of dealing with the objections, it is evident that this report deals with the end of an era and the latter days of settlement on Hecla.

This brief background is by way of introduction only.



Man and the Rototiller

Paul A. Sigurdson

It took one hundred centuries
Of thoughts refined
To direct his fingers
To the clutch
And now it lunged
A beast within—built chains
Jerking and wrenching
In his guiding hold
Snorting carbon—smoke
From hot—baked iron nostrils.

God-like he steered
A line of truth and meaning
Between the measured rows
Of cultured roses
Respectful of them
Like a nobleman
Proud of each aristocratic bloom
Selected pedigree
Products of noblesse oblige
Tender hands
And careful breeding.

Crude pigweeds died in droves
Mangled
And the sow-thistle
With yellow despotic face
Were churned to common graves.

But the brute's force
Assailed him constantly
Like a demon on a soul
Until he wished he might give in
Forget the strain of duty
And go wild, freeing his own power.

Day-dreaming
He saw himself let loose
And there was a lunge
Aimless, yet purposeful
And the monster
Pent as a stalking beast
Drunken, yet blindly free
Rode on in iron savagery.

Now he saw the monster
Destroying all he loved
Slashing
Killing
Raping
The finest blooms
He had nursed
And grown.

Suddenly the terror burst
In the pistons of his heart
And he pulled back
Gripping the steerage tight
As if to hold fast to life
And all its worth.

Photo: —————

A TRIBUTE —

Dr. Páll Isólfsson Eighty Years Old



Dr. Páll Isólfsson

A dozen years ago when I lived a year in Iceland, I frequently attended the services at the Reykjavík Cathedral. Still I retain many wonderful memories of hearing Dr. Páll Isólfsson, the Cathedral organist and one of the greatest organists of this century, play the fine Baroque organ of the Cathedral. Although honor came early to him, Dr. Páll Isólfsson cherished above all else his position as organist of the Cathedral in Reykjavík. To those who know Dr. Páll Isólfsson, this is not surprising because, above all, he is a true and devoted son of Iceland. In Iceland and perhaps at Stokkseyri where he was born eighty years ago

on October 12, 1893, the son of the local organist, Isólfur Pálsson, a self educated musician and composer, and his wife, Þuríður Bjarnadóttir, he finds his true home.

It was his deep love for Iceland which influenced his choice early in his career when many important positions were open to him and perhaps world renown—the choice to return to a land long isolated from the world and where musical life had been stagnated. He returned to devote his life and his abilities to the musical life of Iceland and to this very day his influence and the benefits of that decision remain.

When Dr. Páll Ísólsson returned to Iceland after studying (1911-1920) at one of the great musical centres of the world—Leipzig—where he studied with such eminent teachers as Max Reger, a very important composer during the early part of this century, and Dr. Karl Straube, Cantor of the Church of St. Thomas in Leipzig and regarded by many as the greatest organist in the world in his day, he had behind him an education in music which no other Icelander possessed at that time.

Giving whole-heartedly of his time, Dr. Páll Ísólsson became the first headmaster of the Reykjavík College of Music founded in 1930 and served for many years as the music director of the Icelandic State Radio. He also directed choirs, conducted orchestras and gave recitals in Iceland, as well as elsewhere in Europe and Canada.² His advice was often sought and always willingly given. He served as organist of the Fríkirkja in Reykjavík from 1923 to 1939 and of the Cathedral from 1939 until his retirement in 1967. Between him and the pastors with whom he served there existed a deep bond of friendship and cooperation, especially with Séra Bjarni Jónsson, beloved Dean of the Cathedral.

Among the recordings of Dr. Páll Ísólsson may be mentioned a recording devoted to the works of Bach (His Master's Voice ALPC-6), recorded at the All Souls' Church, Lambeth Place, London, and two recordings devoted to organ music of Gabrieli, Sweelinck, Frescobaldi, Pachelbel, Buxtehude and some of his own compositions (Polyphone — Odeon CPMA-5-6) These recordings establish Dr. Páll Ísólsson as one of the great organists of this century.

Even though he did the work of several men, Dr. Páll Ísólsson amazingly found time to compose a great deal

of music—works for piano, organ, chorus and orchestra. Noteworthy are his **Chaconne for Organ**, based on an old religious theme, in the Dorian mode (London: Alfred Lengnick and Co., Ltd.), **Introduction and Passacaglia in F. Minor** (Copenhagen: Engström and Södring and available from the C. I. Peters Corp. in New York), a Cantata for the thousandth anniversary of the Icelandic Parliament in 1930 (which won first prize in a nationwide competition), incidental music to the plays of Ibsen and Davíð Stefánsson, choral music and numerous songs.

Two books of memoirs, written by Dr. Páll Ísólsson in collaboration with Matthías Jóhannessen — **Hundabúfan og hafið** (Reykjavík, 1961) and **Í dag skein sól** (Reykjavík, 1964)—gave much insight into the life of an Icelander who had the honor early in life to serve for several years as the principal assistant and deputy organist at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, where Bach had served two centuries before.

At this milestone in his life, friends and admirers of Dr. Páll Ísólsson on both sides of the Atlantic offer him their thanks and congratulations, along with best wishes for the years to come. In the ancient language of his homeland and the land where this writer once lived—a land we both love — Vertu marg blessagur og sæll.

1. Both Max Reger (1873-1916) and Karl Straube (1873-1950) have their centenaries this year. For several years there existed a friendly competition between Reger and Straube. Reger wrote extremely difficult music for organ which would test the abilities of even such a master as Straube. However difficult the music Reger wrote, Straube played it and played it well.

2. See *The Icelandic Canadian* (Vol. 10, No. 2 Winter 1951) for a review of Dr. Páll Ísólsson's recital in Winnipeg.

George Hanson

AMATEUR RADIO: THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

by H. Freeman Skaptason



H. Freeman Skaptason of Winnipeg (Lot 40 River Road) at his Amateur Radio set VE 4SK. The cards on the wall with first letters TF are all from Iceland.

"CQ—CQ—CQ Washington with emergency traffic from Alaska. Does anyone copy. We have emergency earthquake traffic from Alaska."

An amateur radio operator in Washington turns up his gain control and with his receiver crackling replies,

"This is an amateur radio operator in Washington D.C. What is your traffic?"

Thus began one of the epics of amateur radio in the Alaska Earthquake of 1964. Soon other amateur radio operators throughout the U.S.A. and Canada established emergency net frequencies to handle official traffic and

personal calls to reassure relatives throughout the world. These nets operated 24-hours a day for over a week since there was no ordinary communications for some time.

The same thing came about in the recent earthquake in Nicaragua. The writer has been involved in others such as an explosion aboard ship in the North Atlantic and a lost aircraft in Africa.

Handling emergency traffic is only one small facet of this most fascinating hobby. People frequently ask why there should be such a thing as amateur radio, or "Ham" radio, as it is more frequently called. In Canada it is more correctly termed "Amateur Experimental Service". The legislation permitting this service was to provide a backlog of experienced radio operators who could be used in times of emergency. But more important it was to encourage and permit experimentation in radio communication. It should be remembered that when it started there were no commercial sets and the first sets were simple spark coils and the amateur was forced to build his own equipment. Much of the credit for the fine state of the art must go to amateur radio experimenters.

For example, consider the incredible feat of controlling rockets in space by radio and then transmitting colored pictures from the moon by radio and television. Some amateurs spend most of the time building and

experimenting with antennas so that today we have antennas costing thousands of dollars that can be rotated not only as to direction but also as to height for tracking satellites in space.

This is a hobby that can be started for a small investment if one has some technical ability and time. For example the writer started with less than \$100 with a simple wire antenna. Now the antenna system alone costs about \$600 and it is relatively simple by some American standards.

On the more personal side amateur radio is probably the greatest fraternity for friendship in the world. Everyone uses first names only. Some of the better known amateurs are Senator Barry Goldwater (K7UGA), King Hussein of Jordan (JY1), Arthur Godfrey (K4LIB) of television fame, and Allan Shepard the astronaut (WA4KYR).

One day King Hussein was on frequency. Many of us were listening and waiting for an opportunity to call him. Suddenly he said, "Excuse me there seems to be some kind of emergency." Subsequent newspaper reports showed that an attempt had been made on his life.

Shortly after receiving my license I heard a station in Iceland in contact with a Swedish station. I could identify him by his call TF3EA and by his accent. I could not seem to attract his attention and so in desperation I finally said, "Talar þú íslensku?" That was sufficient. He had never before heard a foreign station use Icelandic. From that first contact has grown a lasting friendship. We have now had over



H. Freeman Skaptason's amateur radio set VE 4SK.

1,000 contacts and visited in his beautiful home in Reykjavik. His name is Einar Pálsson and like most others has some relatives in Canada.

While on a visit to Iceland we were entertained by a relative, Dr. Gunnar Skaptason. One of the guests was an amateur (TF30M) August Bjarnason with whom we had spoken several times by radio and found he was also a relative.

One of the most frequently asked questions is whether we have any contact with the Russians. Indeed we do. We have had literally hundreds of contacts with Russian "Hams". They all speak English, although rather limited in most cases. Almost without exception their equipment is home built, a fact which they are quite proud of. Radio contacts are usually confirmed by a QSL card which is simply a postcard with data as to the contact. We have received hundreds from Russian friends. The Chinese are the only ones

who have banned amateur radio activity, but there is an indication that this may soon be permitted.

The improvement in the technology of communications probably exceeds most other technologies in the world. In the late 1930's we operated a commercial radio for Wings Airways. It measured 4 feet by 2 feet by 2 feet and it gave out 40 watts of power. We now have amateur radio gear measuring 8 inches by 14 inches that provides up to 500 watts of power. The main reason for this is the introduction of transistors to replace the glass tubes, and the introduction of Single Side Band which replaces AM or amplitude modulation.

Each Amateur Radio operator must pass two oral and written examinations on circuitry and regulations. He must also be able to operate Morse Code proficiently.

From the use of Morse Code and the need to abbreviate for the sake of speed the radio operator has developed abbreviations and procedural signals that make a radio conversation sound like a foreign language. For example:

QRT means "I will stop sending".

QRV means "I will be listening".

QSL means "your message received".

QSY means "I will change frequency"

Some strange phenomena occur in amateur radio that need some technical explanation. The reason for the very long distances covered is the fact that most frequencies go skyward at a sharp angle and are reflected or

"bounced" back to earth by a heavy atmospheric layer known as the "Appelton Region". This layer moves up and down in the atmosphere, hence varying the distance of the reflected signal. Last year some friends on an emergency radio field test in Falcon Lake could hear an Australian station talking to me in Winnipeg. They passed a message to the station in Australia who in turn relayed the message to me as I was too close to the station in Falcon Lake. In a similar vein I was once calling a Canadian station in the Canadian Arctic with priority traffic. Getting no reply I said "Apparently we have no propagation". Suddenly someone said "This is SVOWW in Athens, Greece. May we help?" Subsequently my message went over the North Pole to Greece and was relayed back over the Pole to the Canadian Arctic.

Other signals of very high frequency penetrate the atmospheric layer. These signals, known as VHF, are useful only in "line of sight" and so are restricted by the curvature of the earth. It is this type of frequency that is used to transmit messages and TV signals from the moon to earth. This is a particularly useful phenomena as it requires very little power.

There are many different facets of amateur radio to pursue within the hobby itself. My present interest is to contact as many Icelandic stations as possible. There are 36 stations listed in my "Call Book" not all of which are active, I have contacted 17 of these and confirmed 12 by QSL card. Einar

Pálsson (TF3EA), who was mentioned earlier, has been devoting most of his time to working on VHF (very high frequencies). He has been working through the OSCAR SATELLITE which was launched specifically for experimental communications. His has in fact been mentioned in Radio Journals in Europe and the United States.

Operating the radio from the 12 volt system in the car (Mobile) is another very interesting sideline. One weekend we were visiting Vogar, on the east side of Lake Manitoba, and

operating from the mobile. Radio propagation was quite good so we crossed the Lake on the ferry (operated by Helgi Freeman) and operated mobile from Reykjavik, Manitoba, on the west side of the Lake. From that location we contacted TF3EA in Reykjavik, in Iceland. At that time Reykjavik, Manitoba, had a post office so we mailed our QSL card from there. That QSL card with the Reykjavik, Manitoba "postmark" now holds an honored place in the the radio room (Ham Shack) of TF3EA.



A BOOK REVIEW

VOLCANO: Ordeal by Fire in Iceland's Westmann Islands

Published by **Iceland Review**, Reykjavik, Iceland

If **Iceland, the Unspoiled Land** is a panoramic picture of a nation, then this latest publication by **Iceland Review, Volcano: Ordeal by Fire in Iceland's Westmann Islands** is a close-up in depth of one facet of that nation—one incident in its history. The incident, of course, is very current. In fact, the story is still being told. No one knows what will be the ultimate future of the inhabitants who had to be evacuated. Only months ago the world's newspapers were bringing us some of the superficial details of the eruptions on Heimaey.

To get the full impact of such a catastrophe, however, one needs a more complete and graphic medium than a newspaper. This book fulfills such a need. In word and colour photography we are given a picture of what Heimaey was like before the eruption, the reaction of the people to the volcano

when it unleashed its deadly energy, the rescue operations, and the heroic fight to stem the lava flow before it engulfed the buildings and the harbour on which their livelihood depended. It is an ambitious task, and the publishers and everyone associated with this have succeeded admirably.

The pictures have been able to capture not only the spectacular effects—most of them in living colour—of nature in one of her most violent moods, but also the spirit of the people who lived through the experience. The photography is superb. More than a score of photographers have been given credit—about half of them having been supplied by Sigurgeir Jonasson and Gunnar Hanneson. The layout is by Gisli B. Bjornson, the designer Fanney Valgardsdóttir. The text, written by Arni Gunnarson (and translated into English by May and Hallberg Halleson) is clear and compelling. The total effect is highly artistic and very effective.

—Gusaf Kristjanson

BIGGEST EVER ICELANDIC FESTIVAL GREETED BY... PERFECT WEATHER

"The Icelandic Festival, Íslendingadagurinn, has achieved major proportions and is recognized by everyone, not just Icelanders, after 84 years. Gimli was overwhelmed during the weekend by the crowds everywhere, for every one of the numerous events which have turned what was for so many years a one-day ethnic gathering of Icelandic Canadians casting a nostalgic look at their homeland while paying tribute to their adopted nation, into a three-day gala festival filled with events to suit every taste, and indeed, so many of them that some people had a hard time deciding what to take in and had to miss some things they would have enjoyed."

—Lake Centre News

A gourmet's delight at the Festival

On Saturday, wives of the Festival committee served a pancake breakfast at the pier and fried fish dinners at noon. The Selkirk chapter of the National League offered delicious Icelandic skyr at the old lighthouse superstructure. The young Arborg people, who are studying Icelandic and hope to visit Iceland in 1974, offered vinarterta and rullupylsa and the Husavick Ladies Aid held an Icelandic bake sale. On Sunday there was a goldeye supper in the park and on Monday there were the traditional Icelandic foods at the pavilion, served by the Minerva ladies.

The Museum

The museum at Gimli is now on a firm foundation. A spacious building with several rooms has been acquired, the former B. C. Packers building down by the pier. The first exhibits have been set up. They were worth seeing and there was a constant stream of visitors—a thousand persons on Saturday. There were the original Arni Sigurdson painting of the landing at Willow Point, October 21, 1875; the City of Winnipeg 75th anniversary parade award, June 6, 1949, "to the Icelandic organization for an outstanding entry", a table cloth woven in 1814, and a hand made hornspoon, symbolic of articles brought over by the early Icelandic settlers.

Galdra Loftur—Loftur the Sorcerer —a Powerful Production

Galda Loftur—Loftur the Sorcerer was staged at the Industrial Park Theatre on Saturday and Sunday by the New Iceland Drama Society. The play itself is strong and it was well acted, an important feature of the Festival.

The play is based on an Icelandic legend and the setting is in the early 18th century. It is a story of a student of brilliant promise whose perverted ambition to obtain mastery of the powers of darkness lead to tragedy.

Sunday, August 5th

On Sunday morning there was an open-air Ecumenical service in the Park, with a large choir to lead in the singing. Alvin Voth, a Mennonite lay

preacher who has had years of missionary service in Columbia, South America, delivered the address.

At the Formula B car races at the Industrial Park 8,000 fans lined the circuit to watch the races organized by the Winnipeg Sport Car Club at their new track, the province's first permanent race facility.

In the evening there was a hootenanny and a brilliant display of fireworks at the pier.

The Road Races

The popularity of the road races is growing and the events are increasing in number. On Sunday morning, there were 15 entries for the ten-mile and 21 for the five-mile. Dan Bulloch won the ten-mile open in 52:09 and Jim Chisholm the Junior Division event. David Odaguchi won the five-mile event in 26:11. Bob Steadman, on a holiday from Texas, won the ten mile walk. Gene Solmundson and Corinne Thompson won the over-thirty events and Grant Bjarnason won the open ten-mile bicycle race.

The world record for the ten-mile road race, established by Jerome Drayton of Canada in 1970, is 46 m. 37.8 s.

Fine Arts and Music Attract Many
 "One of the most popular parts of the Icelandic Festival in recent years is the section held at the Provincial Recreation Training Centre. Crowds gathered all Sunday and Monday afternoons to listen to a variety of young people of partial Icelandic backgrounds sing, play instruments or read their own poetry."

Worthy of special mention were the readings by Paul Sigurdson of his graphic poetry and Bill Valgardson's of his also graphic short stories. Illustrating variety, were the young dancers from Selkirk with their Highland sword dance and Irish jig.

Inside the Centre, crowds thronged to view a varied display—56 paintings and sketches, pottery, ceramics, and handicrafts. The paintings were from Winnipeg, Gimli, Arnes, Sandy Hook, Inwood, Winkler, and Strathclair, in Manitoba; Willowdale, Ontario; Lethbridge, Alberta; Denver, Colorado; and Reykjavik, Iceland. "Self Portrait" by Becky Tergesen, was judged the Best of the Show. Robert Pollock's painting "The End of an Era" — the Gimli CPR station, was a poignant reminder of the virtual close of the era that began with the first train to Gimli, in 1907.

Much credit is due to Terry and Lorna Tergesen and their fellow workers for this important development.

The Parade—Monday August 6th

Monday morning began with the traditional parade. In the lead, in honor of the R.C.M.P. centennial, were two mounted constables, one dressed in the 1873 uniform. The large and colorful Shrine contingent made the parade. The Grand Potentate was followed by a kilted pipe band, a large marching contingent, a large brass band, an oriental band, and a motorcycle troupe. The judges chose Calvert's striking Viking ship as first in the commercial class. In the group and organizations class, the 1st Gimli Sioux Club pack received first prize.

Monday Afternoon and Evening

The traditional Monday afternoon and evening programs are still the highlight of the Festival for many.

The Fjallkona, or Matron of the Mountains, was Mrs. Kristin Arnason. Maids of Honor were Debbie Arnason and Sharon Stevens. Following "O

Canada" and "● Guð vors lands", the Fjallkona delivered her traditional greeting from the homeland of the Icelandic pioneers.

Chairman was Mr. Dennis Stefanson, President of the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba.

Dr. P. M. Petursson brought greetings from the Province of Manitoba; Consul-General Grettir L. Johannsson brought greetings from the President of Iceland; Councillor John Gee from the City of Winnipeg, and Mayor Violet Einarson from the Town of Gimli.

The Toast to Canada was delivered by Dr. Albert Kristjanson, Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba. His address appears elsewhere in this issue.

Hafsteinn Baldvinson, President of the Board of Directors of Álafoss, Iceland, delivered the Toast to Iceland. Mentioning the fact that the Westman Island eruption had made refugees of 5,000 islanders, he pointed out that this would be the equivalent of 5 million people in some other countries with a larger population than that of Iceland. He expressed the thanks of the people of Iceland for help from many quarters. He reported relative well-being in Iceland and no lack of progress, but that there was the problem of decrease of fish and that without fish it was not possible to live in Iceland.

For the musical part of the program Robert Publow, popular Winnipeg baritone, with Richard Grieg as accompanist, sang a group of selections

and Norma Jean McCreedy sang a group of folksongs. In the case of one of Robert Publow's songs, the words were written by his daughter and the music composed by his son-in-law in Iceland.

The evening commenced with a short program of original compositions in poetry and song. Norma Jean Creedy was awarded the \$100.00 prize for her "Angel".

The community singing was ideally conducted by Gus Kristjanson, with Jona Kristjanson at the piano. A variety of Icelandic and English songs was enjoyed to the full by the large crowd of participants. The Icelandic song of the setting sun at the close was like a benediction on the cooling evening air.

The draw for the "Two for Iceland", the proceeds of which provide \$1,000 for the Westman Island Disaster Fund, was won by Mr. and Mrs. Gus Sieg, of Whitemouth, Manitoba.

A film on the Westman Island volcanic eruption was shown after dark. "The film was magnificent and moving, bringing home to everyone as words could not do, the immensity of the disaster which struck this prosperous fishing community".

(Lake Centre News)

The last of the many thousands who had attended the 3-day festival then dispersed, some to the last of the three dances, others for home, or on their way home, if in Vancouver or the Maritimes.

W. Kristjanson

GIMLI NATIVE CONTACT MAN BETWEEN ECM AND CANADIAN GRAIN PRODUCERS

by Cy Fox

In a brash-looking building that dominates downtown Brussels, a scholarly native of Gimli, Manitoba, has set up shop as the vital contact man—the first in nine years—between the European Common Market and the grain producers of Canada.

Harold Bjarnason, a 35-year-old Ph.D., is the Canadian wheat board's representative in this headquarters city of the Common Market, a job that involves anything from maintaining rapid-fire communications with Winnipeg to hours of spare-time technical research squeezed between regular work sessions.

The research is all about the market, which Bjarnason calls an "incredibly complex mechanism" requiring a huge fund of specialized knowledge on the part of anyone assigned to deal with it.

Bjarnason's work days also consist of regular subway trips to the Berlaymont building which houses the Common Market's policy-planning commission and some 2,500 of its employees.

The information he gathers there and elsewhere — word about price trends, levy charges, new or projected Common Market regulations, as well as answers to specific wheat board queries—are either flashed back to the Canadian agency's Winnipeg head-

quarters by telex or telephone, or become part of long reports dispatched by air mail.

The presence of a wheat board man gives Western Canada farmers a Brussels representative who can devote all his time to dealing with grain instead of the vast spread of agricultural matters as a whole.

Bjarnason's arrival here in February has meant breaking new ground for himself and the wheat board.

The board, which has long had an office in London, abandoned its previous representation here in 1964.

It has maintained the Brussels bureau because of the efforts then being made by Britain to enter the Common Market and the foundation at the time of the now-controversial common agricultural policy.

The failure of that British entry bid signalled the board's withdrawal from the Belgian capital.

But with the eventual British entry this year, the board returned to Brussels and the prospect is that its representation here will grow from the present one-man delegation to include an additional pair of experts.

That would give Bjarnason the opportunity to concentrate on the Berlaymont nerve centre of West European

trade and the site of decision-making all the more crucial for Canadian farmers since their traditionally solid British grain customers became part of the community.

Even without British entry, the Common Market's increasing significance would probably have been enough to attract the wheat board back to Brussels.

At present the world wheat situation is a spectacular case of a "seller's market," with demand intense and prices spiralling upward.

But some experts caution that this is a highly unusual year and that the situation may be different two or three seasons from now in an industry which is chronically subject to cyclical ups-and-downs.

Bjarnason and other wheat board men abroad are working with this future period in mind—even though indications are that Britain, for instance, will remain an important outlet for Canadian wheat despite the gradual replacement of Commonwealth-preference treatment there with Common Market tariffs.

At current prices, the value of Canadian wheat exports to Britain stands at about \$175 million annually while barley accounts for \$60 million.

To protect that much revenue, the wheat board's London office will remain in operation no matter how much the Brussels bureau may be expanded.

Canada's big advantage in Britain perennially has been that the trade

there prefers Canadian-style hard wheat, which enables bakers to give their bread the special texture and durability preferred by Britons.

This deep-dyed preference may in the long run counter-balance the rise in price for Canadian grain under Common Market tariffs.

It may offset too the likelihood that Britain's market entry will make wheat from France, a community partner, increasingly attractive.

Yet, even if French wheat is used on a growing scale in Britain, because of its price-lowering free-trade access there, an admixture of Canadian grain would still be needed to give British bread its traditional texture.

On the other hand, British taste may change under continental European influence.

But the outlook for the moment remains reasonably optimistic, with Canada's wheat suffering significantly less from British market entry than will Australia and United States grains.

On the barley front, much depends for Canada on whether the Common Market decides to change the policy which pegs prices for the product at a high level compared with other grains in continental states of the community.

The high prices in relation to alternative grains give Common Market farmers incentive to produce big crops of barley, a major feed grain.

Said Bjarnason in an interview:

"If price relations were changed to reflect feed values, then we'd have a

much better chance of improving our own exports of barley.”

This is his evaluation of the significance for Canada of a possible Common Market switch to relatively low prices for barley, which would encourage changes to other crops by west European farmers.

Canada exports some 28 million bushels of barley to Britain in 1971-72 and more than 61 million to others of the states that now make up the enlarged Common Market.

Wheat exports to Britain in 1971-72 were 47 million bushels and more than 40 million went to the United Kingdom's current partners.

Bjarnason has included Britain among the many European points he's visited.

The trips to London and other cities like Rotterdam, Antwerp and Paris were part of the same familiarization process that has him scouring all forms of technical literature on the market and knocking on doors at the Berlaymont.

There, the first reaction to outsiders tends to be reserved.

One way for the administrative stranger to gain ground at Berlaymont is to prove himself as good a source of information for the Common Market men as he hopes they will be for him. Bjarnason practises this principle.

His knowledge came initially from study at University of Manitoba, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree, and at South Dakota State Uni-

versity, from which he emerged in 1964 with an M.A.

His Ph.D. in economics was conferred in 1967 by the University of Wisconsin, where he did some work for the wheat board.

He went straight from post-graduate studies to the board as an economist.

Later he helped map the plans for adapting Western Canada more efficiently to the challenge of shipping huge stocks of grain to avid overseas customers like Russia and China.

Then Bjarnason was enlisted in wheat board efforts to bolster its world sales campaign, through both market analysis and on-the-spot investigations of the far-flung grain buying countries.

Bjarnason was named general director of this undertaking, which included hiring specialists capable of speaking languages as remote from Canada as Chinese and Arabic.

This analysis-and-development division was later fused with the wheat board's sales department.

His appointment to the Brussels post coincided not only with Britain's Common Market entry but also with a trend towards greater government activity on the customer side of the grain business.

His wife, the former Brenda Matthes of Winnipeg, has a small daughter to take care of at their suburban Waterloo home but finds that Belgium gives her ample opportunity to enjoy her favorite recreation—horseback riding.

—Winnipeg Free Press, Aug. 21, 73

HALL DEDICATION HONORS FORMER UCD SCIENTIST

Asmundson Hall, named for long-time poultry scientist Vigfus S. Asmundson, was officially dedicated Tuesday afternoon.

The avian science building (formerly the poultry husbandry building) was constructed in 1952 on California Avenue.

The honoree retired from UCD in 1963, after 31 years on the Davis faculty. A native of Iceland, he was educated at the universities of Saskatchewan, Cornell and Wisconsin.

For most of his career at Davis, Asmundson concentrated his research on problems of turkeys, including genetic work on the inheritance of meat and egg production, physiology of egg formation, inherited lethal genes of chickens and turkeys and effects of hormones on chickens and turkeys.

He has received the Poultry Science research prize, the Bordon award and the National Turkey federation award.

Asmundson was named faculty research lecturer for 1947, and in 1964 he received an honorary doctor's degree from UC. On his retirement in 1963, Davis alumni in the poultry industry set up a fund for the Vigfus S. Asmundson poultry science achievement award for the outstanding student in poultry science on the Davis campus.

On hand for yesterday's ceremonies were the honoree's eldest son Davis Mayor Vigfus A. Asmundson, UCD

Chancellor James H. Meyer, dean-designate Alex F. McCalla of the college of agricultural and environmental sciences, and turkey breeder George Nicholas of Santa Rosa, former student of the honoree.

Chancellor Meyer, commended the 'young man from Iceland' who did so well and so much in promoting research and public service in the poultry department of the university.

★ ★ ★ ★

"It's nice to see a young boy from Iceland do so well", Chancellor James H. Meyer said of Vigfus S. Asmundson. . . "A good teacher, a fine research scientist, and a public servant."

That he is a good teacher is "obvious from the success of the poultry industry in the state" of California.

"Progress is only made by breaking the rules of genetics", turkey-breeder George Nichols claimed that his former teacher Asmundson had told him once. Nichols also said that reading books often creates problems, particularly if you live by them, but ended his talk by calling invaluable to the growth of the turkey industry in California the extent to which Asmundson's thinking helped re-work the rules of genetics and develop books that can be relied upon.

Ed. Note: Professor Vigfus Asmundson grew up at Tantallon, Saskatchewan.

Caroline Gunnarsson

LAND OF THE LYRIC

Land of frost and fire, of tropical bloom and glacial wastes, of eagles and seabirds and singing swans that pour out tuneful lyrics to break the awesome silence of the moors.

That's Iceland.

Land of the rhythmic lyric and the wordsmith's exacting craft, land of people, who for centuries have talked in picturesque phrases, of people who heard pictures in the spoken word, and heard them best when framed in couplets, quatrains, and all manner of intricate poetical forms.

That's Iceland, too.

But it's a land of a living language, that thrives on all the enriching experiences of passing time and finds its way unerringly into new modes of expression. The younger poets no longer feels bound by strict rules of rhyme and alliteration. But Icelandic poetry is still lyrical as ever, and full of pictures that are heard by a wide reading public.

Otherwise it would have been unwise to publish a volume of selected works by 45 poets, produced in the years 1954-1963.

This "Bókaútgáfa Menningarsjóðs og Þjóðvinafélags" has done. The poems were selected by such outstanding literary men as Gils Guðmundsson, Gðmundur Gíslason and Helgi Sæmundsson. The volume has 235 pages, including an introductory foreword and index. It's a book to be browsed through, lingered over and loved.

Here are translations by this writer of four short lyrics.

Einar Bragi

FRÆGD

Hægt
herpist snaran
að hálsinum mjóa

og heiðarfuglinn
hefur upp rödd sína
í angist

þá kyrrist háreysti
heimsins um stund

mennirnir hlýða
undrandi á sönginn
og efna í nýar

snörur.

FAME

Slowly
the snare locks
the slender throat

and the moor-bird
raises his voice
in anguished

the world's clamour
dies a while

Men hear
the song in wonder
and weave new

snare.

Hannes Pétursson:

ÁTTIRNAR TVÆR

Það er skammt þangað
sem eg þarf ekki að fara
örskammt
enn styttra á morgun:
í framandi lönd
út á fjarlægum hjara
jarðar
og stjarna.

Það er langt þangað
sem eg þarf að komast
endalaus ganga
um annarleg slóð:
ferðin heim
inn í hjörtu mannanna.

Og það svo eg talaði
tungum engla.

THE TWO DIRECTIONS

It's a short road
to where I need not go
very short
Still shorter tomorrow:
into foreign lands
to the distant edge
of earth
and stars.

It's a long road
to where I must go
and endless trek
over unknown trails:
the road home
into the hearts of men.

And that if I spoke
in the tongues of angels

Arnliði Álfgeir:

AUGNABLIK

Þú gekkst inn í salinn,
og allir mínir ókomnu dagar
voru skipuð sæti.
Þú gekkst inn í salinn
og hver minning var vegur
sem beið þess að verða
að sporum þínum.

A MOMENT

You walked into the room,
and all my unborn days
were unoccupied seats.
You walked into the room
and every memory was a road
waiting to become
your footsteps.

JÁTNING

Einu sinni var eg snauður
af því eg átti engan vin.

Nú er eg öreigi
því eg eignaðist vin,
sem eg gat ekki gefið neitt.

CONFESSION

Once I was poor
for I had no friend.

Now I am destitute
for I gained a friend
whom I could give nothing.

Canada—built by many nationalities

NATIONAL ETHNIC ARCHIVES

Canada's heritage is drawn from many cultural and national elements. Native Indians and Eskimos represent two percent of the population. All other Canadians are immigrants or descendants of immigrants who came to Canada seeking freedom and opportunity for themselves and their children.

Approximately one-third of Canada's people trace their origin to France, one-third to the British Isles and one-third to other countries. Many have retained their cultural identity and heritage while contributing to the social, cultural, political, and economic development of Canada.

History Books Incomplete . . .

The roles of the British and French communities have dominated the written history of Canada. Contributions by Canadians of other cultural origins have received too little attention. As a result most history books present an incomplete record of Canada's past.

One reason for the distorted picture is a shortage of available documents. A historian cannot write the story of any community 'out of his head'. He must research, rediscover, and piece together the events and personalities he wants to describe.

Historians usually seek documentary evidence in archives and libraries. However, until recently, the country's archives contained very little material describing the difficulties, accomplishments, social significance and cultural uniqueness of many Canadians.

Archives

Many people share the misconception that archives are irrelevant to their daily lives. Yet almost everyone has his own archives of personal papers, souvenirs and mementoes containing unique information about the past. Clubs and organizations keep records of their meetings and activities, and fine correspondence and reports for future reference. The creation of such records is a normal part of a person's or an organization's existence.

What are archival documents? In brief, they are documents with written or pictorial information. Their forms include correspondence, memoranda, notebooks, diaries, family Bibles, financial records, scrapbooks, sketches, drawings, financial records, photographs, movie films, sound recordings, and computer tapes.

Age does not matter. Whether they are two years or two centuries old, archival records help to provide researchers with a picture of life in the past. They document social and cultural values, religious practices, political and educational philosophies, technological patterns, recreation, fashions in clothing and other aspects of a community's existence. They are, therefore, a valuable record of the hopes and disappointments, the successes and failures, the uniqueness in and adaptation to Canadian society of each element of the Canadian mosaic.

Perhaps you have archival material in your home or office—documents too

important to discard yet neglected because they are seldom used. Eventually they may be lost. Such records are probably more fragile than you realize. They are often forgotten when a house is sold, or they may be inherited by someone who discards them for lack of interest in "old things". The result is the loss of a portion of our historical record.

Now is the time to locate this material and donate it to archival institutions for safekeeping. Such institutions need your assistance. They cannot create archival material; they can only preserve the records which others have created and collected. With the cooperation of individuals, organizations and the press, the record of the role of all cultural elements in the development of Canadian society can be permanently preserved.

National Ethnic Archives

To overcome the shortage of available documentation relating to Canada's cultural minorities, the Public Archives of Canada has established the NATIONAL ETHNIC ARCHIVES to encourage Canada's many cultural communities to record their heritage and to preserve all types of archival documents.

Material of national significance written in many languages, will be collected by the NATIONAL ETHNIC ARCHIVES. Its success will ensure the proper recognition of the role of every linguistic and cultural element in the historical development of Canada.

Many communities have already begun the commendable work of searching for and gathering archival records of their heritage. These efforts have been conducted by private as well as public archives and museums. The NATIONAL ETHNIC ARCHIVES expects to work with these institutions for the mutual benefit of all concerned.

For Everyone's Use

What will happen to material donated to the National Ethnic Archives? Collections will be sorted, arranged, and described so that they can easily be used by researchers at the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa. Reading Rooms are open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to enable Canadians to make the maximum use of the rich resources of the Archives.

Those who cannot journey to Ottawa to research the holdings in person will be able to make use of a reference service, which will answer written requests for information. In addition, portions of the collections are being microfilmed. Copies may be borrowed by libraries throughout Canada for the use of interested researchers.

Privacy Ensured

Not all documents in the custody of the NATIONAL ETHNIC ARCHIVES are freely available to researchers. Some donors—individuals or organizations—request that the use of their papers be restricted. This is done usually to ensure the personal privacy of the donor or of other persons. Terms

of restrictions are determined by the donor in consultation with the Archives staff. Even when a donor does not specify any restrictions, precautions are taken to avoid improper use of the documents.

Permanent Preservation

The Public Archives of Canada has large modern facilities and a competent staff that includes specialists in many skills. Documents are stored carefully to protect them against damage and ensure their permanence. Torn and worn documents can be repaired by special processes that will preserve them for centuries of research. If frequent use poses a threat to a collection, the documents are copied and the originals preserved for special consultation only.

Further Information

If you are interested in placing material in the NATIONAL ETHNIC ARCHIVES, further information is available from:

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AN ICELANDIC VIEW OF THE 50-MILE FISHERIES LIMIT

The following account is based on a review in a *Ólíufelagið* h.f. (Oil Company Ltd.) of Iceland calendar of "some phases of the history of Iceland's territorial waters and the fisheries around the country".

The Icelanders were originally the only ones who utilized undisturbed all the natural resources of the land and of the sea around it. It was generally understood that a country's jurisdiction extended, in the ocean, midway to the next country.

In 1262 the Icelanders lost their independence and at the same time their command of the ocean. Early in the fifteenth century foreigners started to fish near the country, first the English, then followed by the Germans, but the authorities in Denmark did nothing to ward off these violators of the territorial waters.

1631-1859

From 1631 to 1622 there existed a royal decree establishing a fishery limit of 24 miles. From 1662 to 1859 the limit was 16 nautical miles.

1859-1901

In 1859 the Danes decided to protect only 4 nautical miles of the territorial waters. The British exerted great pressure on Denmark to reduce the protected area still more. In 1890 British trawlers flocked to Icelandic fishing banks and scooped up the fish with a new type of fishing gear, the trawler.

1901-1951

In 1901 Denmark made an agreement with England on a three-mile fishery limit around Iceland. Although Iceland gained self-government (with

the same king as Denmark), the Icelanders continued to be considered bound by this agreement.

In 1944 Iceland became a fully independent republic and at last gained control of their territorial waters. In 1948 Althing passed a law for the scientific protection of the continental shelf. In 1949 notice was given that the Danish agreement with Britain would be terminated in 1951.

1952-1958

In 1952 the fishery limit was extended to 4 nautical miles. Britain protested and enforced an embargo on Icelandic ships which had been selling large quantities of iced fish in British ports. The Icelanders responded by greatly increasing the number of their freezing plants, and selling elsewhere at better prices than they had obtained before.

1958-1972

In 1958 Iceland extended its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles from the outermost promontories and islands. Britain sent warships but an agreement was reached in 1961.

There was a tremendous onslaught on the fish stocks off Iceland, since no international agreement had been reached for their protection. The herring stock practically vanished in 1968.

The report of the experts of the International Committee on fish stock in the North Atlantic stated that it was necessary to reduce at once the drive on the fish stock off Iceland, for otherwise there would be imminent danger of annihilation.

1972

In 1972 the Icelandic government extended its fishery jurisdiction to 50 nautical miles.

It is pointed out that the British exploit undersea oil fields over 150 miles from the coast of Britain.

* * *

This oil company account makes no reference to the devastating operations

of the Russian "factory" fishing ships which sweep the ocean of its produce. (The Russians will recognize the 50-mile limit), nor does it mention the problem of international recognition of an extended fishery limit. —Editor

DID WINNIPEG GET STUNG ON MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

To Winnipegers who have been buzzed, harassed and bitten by mosquitoes, it may come as no solace that the pest is a delicate character and a lady at that. The female is the one that bites and with needles so tough that they can penetrate the hide of a hog.

Still she is a sheltered character, who cannot stand the sun or wind, or any extreme in temperature. That is why she does not like to hang around short grass where she would perish in the sun and dry air.

Ironically, this delicate nature of the mosquito makes her invulnerable to a good deal of the fogging that took place in the city. The mosquito congregates in tall grass and treed thickets, where it survives the fogging.

And so fogging is an ineffective way of dealing with mosquitoes, says Dr. A. J. Thorsteinson, head of the University of Manitoba department of entomology, which has a highly recognized research centre on mosquitoes.

Prof Thorsteinson made this point at a public hearing into the application for emergency fogging in residential areas, a practise that has been discontinued here and in other centres.

He has proof that city fogging did not even reduce mosquito activity temporarily. Light traps were set in Brookside Cemetery, Transcona and the Legislative building grounds before and after fogging. The count showed no difference.

More than that, Prof. Thorsteinson and an associate tried the most direct method of counting mosquitoes. They acted as guinea pigs. They went to Assiniboine and Windsor parks on several occasions to take a "bite count." This is done by swatting and counting the mosquitoes that attempt to feed on one arm during a five-minute period. The standard annoyance level is rated at five mosquitoes per five minutes.

Despite the continuing program of fogging at the parks ,the counts were well above the announced standard, reaching up to 25 mosquitoes in a five-minute exposure of one arm.

Prof. Thorsteinson says that the most rational and effective method of dealing with mosquitoes is to kill them in breeding places in their larval stage. Such breeding sites can be determined by efficient methods. His department has mapped large areas throughout the year by taking sod samples (in winter, too) and then analyzing them. Sod samples are about the size of a saucer and a sample could contain well over 1,000 eggs.

He says such information has been supplied to the city over the past three years. The department has supplied the city with a good mosquito map of the area.

"Practically all are in ditches along roads and railways," he says.

Prof. Thorsteinson takes a dim view of the city's application to spray open stagnant water in ditches, ponds and

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puddles with insecticides, especially methoxychlor.

"There are cogent reasons why permanent stagnant pools should not be treated with insecticide, especially Methoxychlor. Those mosquitoes that breed in them are primarily bird-feeding (Culex) that do not annoy man.

"Native minnows such as the fathead and other small predators can survive in such pools and keep the mosquitoes in check naturally. Chemicals would kill these predators as well as the mosquito larvae but the mosquitoes would return quite soon and the result of the insecticide use could be an increase in Culex mosquitoes before predators would come back.

"Worse still, these species could develop a resistance to insecticides if they are applied often, as has happened elsewhere, so that if ever an encephalitis outbreak occurs we might not be able to control the mosquito species that spread the virus among birds."

Furthermore, Prof. Thorsteinson, in effect, accuses the city of sloppy work.

"We have supplied the city with a great deal of information," he claims, "but feel it hasn't been used effectively.

"In going about our surveys we inevitably see mosquito abatement branch crews and usually find they are treating places with no larvae. In other places, we find infestations are not being treated."

He notes as an example, that breeding places in Fort Garry and St. Vital, including railway ditches, were noted on the mosquito egg survey report to the city of Winnipeg last winter, but these were not sprayed or dusted.

He also takes a crack at some of the proposals in the application to the environment commission.

"It was startling to see that creeks are included among the places where insecticides are being applied in the continuing program. Mosquitoes that cause annoyance do not breed in creeks nor do Culex species thrive there. Application of any insecticide in our creeks is pointless and would contaminate our rivers. Methoxychlor is especially poisonous to fish."

Prof. Thorsteinson says part of the city problems has been the transfer of the mosquito abatement from the waterworks to the parks branch. He says that last year the city did quite a good job.

Whatever the reason, citizens should get answers to Dr. Thorsteinson's charges. They have had a tough time with mosquitoes this past summer — and at a cost of \$327,256. We could be getting better value for our money.

VAL WERIER —The Tribune



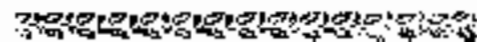
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IN THE NEWS

GRADUATES OF 1973

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Bachelor of Arts

BJORNSON, Eric Grant

BRANDSON, Lorraine Edna

COMACK, Agnes Elizabeth

JOHNSON, Harold Grant

LEE, Ingrid Solveig

SAMSON, Jeffrey Victor

SOLVASON, Arthur Norman

THORARINSON, Marlene Doris

McGILL UNIVERSITY,

Diploma of Education

JESS, Donald Albert

Donald Albert is now a teacher of High School music in Montreal. His maternal grandparents are Albert and Sigurbjorg Einarson, formerly of Lundar, Manitoba, now of St. Vital, Winnipeg.

Wayne Arnason studies at Harvard

Divinity School

Wayne Arnason of Winnipeg is currently studying at Harvard Divinity School. Prior to leaving for Boston, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, mainly in religious studies.

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LADY MARGARET ELTON VISITS WINNIPEG

Lady Margaret Elton, of Clevedon Court, Somerset, England, visited relatives and friends in Winnipeg this summer.

Lady Elton is Winnipeg born, the daughter of Dr. Olafur Bjornson and his wife Sigridur. After graduation from the University of Manitoba in 1935, she had a position with the National Film Board. She was associated with the making of the film "Iceland on the Prairies" in the late thirties. Work with John Grierson took her to England, where she met Sir Arthur Elton, one of the foremost makers of scientific films in the world. They were married in 1948.

Sir Arthur, who died in 1973, was the 10th baronet, and the family estate is Clevedon Court built about 1320.

★

Mr. Kerry Hill of Winnipeg will be teaching at the University of West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, for a period of one or two years. He is accompanied by his wife, Ardath, nee Finnbogason, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Finnbogason, of Winnipeg.

★

CORINNE BOZIN, Miss Michigan-World.

Corinne Bozin of Southfield, Michigan, has been named Miss Michigan-World for 1973-74. She was chosen from among 47 contestants. The next step for her is to compete for the Miss U.S.A. title. The winner of that contest goes on to compete in the Miss World contest in London in October.

Corinne Bozin, who is eighteen years of age, is a director of the Austen Modelling and Finishing School in Detroit. Her mother is from Iceland.

★

RAYMOND THORSTEINSON HONORED



Raymond Thorsteinson

Raymond Thorsteinson, a 52-year-old Calgary geologist, who for the last 28 years has been mapping Canada's north, has received medals from the Royal Society of Canada for contributions to the advancement of science. At one time, Raymond spent seven summers on Ellesmere Island. His place of origin is Wynyard, Saskatchewan.

★

DR. SIGURGEIR BARDAL HONORED

The Canadian Medical Association presented Dr. Sigurgeir Bardal, of Shoal Lake, Manitoba, with his Senior Membership in the Canadian Medical Association at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Medical Association May 5.

Dr. Bardal has been in practice as a family physician and surgeon at Shoal Lake since 1920. He graduated

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GREETINGS

FROM

A

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from the Manitoba Medical College in 1917. He served with the Royal Army Medical Corps Field Ambulance in World War I, with the rank of Captain.

★

George Sigurdson Jr. of Winnipeg, won the Murphy Trophy as champion of the men's section at the Clear Lake Manitoba golf tournament, in August of this year.

★

Norman John Jonson of Winnipeg has been appointed manager, group insurance policyholder service, Great-West Life.

Mr. Jonson graduated with a B.A. degree from the University of Manitoba in 1965.

★

Dr. Percival Johnson, formerly of Flin Flon, Manitoba, now of Winnipeg, has received life membership in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba.

★

James E. Sigurdson, graduate of the University of Manitoba in 1961, is a marketing and public relations consultant at Canadian Industries Ltd. in Montreal.

★

Dr. John S. Matthiasson, of the University of Manitoba, has renewed acquaintances at Pond Inlet, Baffin Island, where he did his field work for his Ph.D. degree in Anthropology at Cornell university, Ithaca, N.Y., in 1962-63. At that time he lived with an Eskimo family for five months.

★

BOOK REVIEW

**ICELAND: The Unspoiled Land
a Portrait in Colour**

Published by ICELAND REVIEW
Reykjavik, Iceland.

Reviewed by:

Gustaf Kristjanson

The quality of a nation is revealed in various ways: through its culture, through its art, through the very character of its people. But the land itself, the actual physical appearance of it, is a factor as well. The wonders of modern colour photography have come to the aid of the publishers of this volume. **Iceland, the Unspoiled Land** is indeed, as its editors describe it, a

"portrait in colour". Through the views of some of the rugged landscapes and scenes that are to be witnessed there, we find ourselves taken on a graphic tour of this island state.

This is the kind of volume that is often referred to as a "coffee table" book: one designed to make an impact through its physical attractiveness while requiring a minimum of actual reading. The pictures in the collection range from the attractive to the enchanting to the spectacular. Close-up shots of plant life are juxtaposed with foaming waterfalls and rugged lava fields; pastoral meadows are contrasted with fiery volcanoes and vivid seascapes. The total effect is one of infinite variety.

The printed commentary is kept to a minimum, and perhaps wisely so. The introductions—very brief, a para-

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graph or two—to the chapters are phrased in language which tends to be over-elaborate in style. However, the captions which accompany each picture are instructive and helpful.

The book is organized into brief sections or chapters each of which deals with some area or with some theme of Icelandic life. For example, the opening section shows views of Thingvellir “where Icelandic society was born over a thousand years ago”. Some of the section headings (usually self-explanatory) are: “There is Warmth in the Earth” (geothermal springs), “The Still White Domes” (glaciers), “The Water: Power and Beauty”, “Those

Atlantic Shores”, “Lake and Lunar Landscape”, “Farming Country”, — “Reykjavik, From Farm to Capital”.

Eleven different people are given credit for the photos. The majority were supplied by Gunnar Hanneson. The editors and publishers are to be congratulated for the layout and for the generally attractive appearance of the volume. After leafing over these pages, the eager tourist will find it difficult to resist the urge to see these scenes in the original. And if he can't manage the trip, the book will always enhance his coffee table. Or his library, for that matter.

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