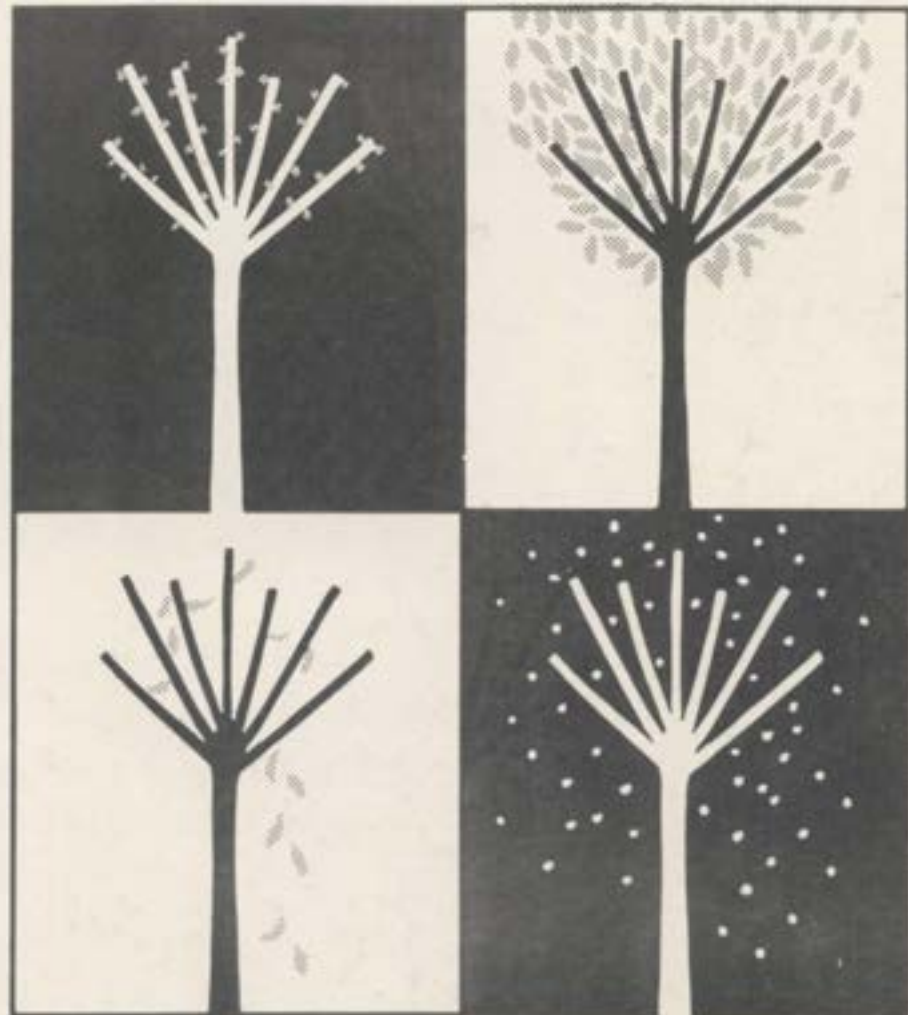


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THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN



Vestfold School, No. 805, founded 1894. — Picture taken 1900.
A pioneer school in the Icelandic settlement in the Shoal Lake District in the
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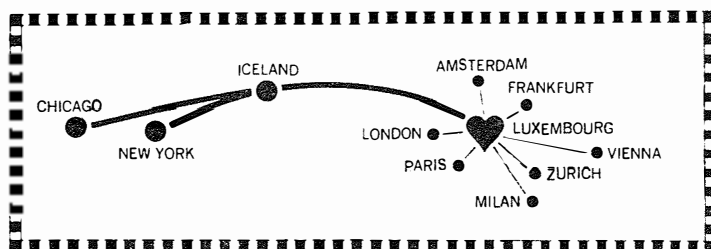
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The Icelandic Canadian

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EDITORIAL

The Centennial of Icelandic Settlement in Manitoba

One hundred years ago, at the time of writing, the stage was being set for an Icelandic settlement in Manitoba. Icelandic immigration to the United States and Canada had already commenced. In the United States, perhaps seventeen persons had settled in Utah, 1855-1871, an isolated movement. The real beginning was when four men came to Washington Island, in Lake Michigan, in 1870. Milwaukee became the centre of attraction, with 135 arriving there in 1873. The nucleus of an Icelandic settlement was formed in Lyon County, Minnesota, in the summer of 1875. In Canada, one lone Icelander, Sigtryggur Jonasson, came to Ontario in 1872. In 1873, a party of 115 arrived in the Muskoka district in Ontario and in 1874, a party of 365 came to Kinmount, Ontario. A few people arrived direct from Iceland to Nova Scotia in 1875, where they joined some migrants from the Kinmount group.

The Icelandic immigrants came to share in the good life in the New World, attractively portrayed to them, but in Ontario they immediately encountered serious obstacles. The Can-

adian immigration authorities had in a measure made a good offer to the first group, free transportation to Ontario, temporary quarters, and 200 acres of free land, on condition of three months residence in the Province.

The party was guided to Rosseau, in the Muskoka district. There, after some inspection, they selected a site as being the best available, although it was a wilderness of heavy timber and rocks, under water in spring and fall. The land was much too difficult for the bare-handed immigrants. Also the much-vaunted employment did not materialize to the extent hoped for, due to widespread unemployment on the continent following a bank crash in New York. For the Kinmount people, too, life in the New World had an unfortunate beginning.

Of major concern, however, was the fact that in Ontario there was no free land where they could establish an Icelandic settlement or colony, with sufficient room for future immigration from Iceland.

This was the concern, too, of Icelandic settlers in Wisconsin, already

thickly settled. Opinion differed as to where. Some looked to Nebraska, others to Alaska. In response to a petition, a naval vessel was placed at the disposal of three delegates to study possibilities there. This will of the wisest project did not materialize. In Ontario, through the friendly intervention of John Taylor, supervisor of a Bible Society mission, and Lord Dufferin, Governor-General, financial support

was received from Ottawa for exploration in the fertile land of the Red River Valley. Ontario people were already looking to Manitoba for settlement. Five delegates, four from Ontario and one from Wisconsin, in the company of John Taylor, proceeded to Manitoba in July, 1875. The stage was being set for Icelandic settlement in Manitoba. —P. H. T. Thorlakson

AT THE EDITOR'S DESK



WHO WERE THE FIRST EUROPEAN WOMEN TO LAND IN CANADA?

An item in the Winnipeg Free Press, dated October 27, 1973, reads:

"There is some doubt about who was the first European woman to land in what is now Canada. One authority claims it was Mrs. Louis Hebert, who accompanied her husband to Port Royal, Acadia, in 1910.

Obviously, the columnist who contributed this item on "the first European women" has not read the Icelandic sagas. A few women were included in the Þorfinn Karlsefni expedition to Vinland (America) about the year 1000 A.D. Specifically mentioned by name were Thorfinn's wife Guðriður, and Freydis a daughter of Eric the Red and sister of Leifr (Leif the Lucky).

WHAT WINNIPEG PARENTS THINK OF THEIR SCHOOLS

The Manitoba Teachers Society recently conducted a random-sampling pilot survey designed to obtain some indication of the attitudes of parents of children in Winnipeg toward the school system and its teachers in the area. A total of 108 parents were interviewed, most stressed authoritarian values; 67 percent answered that discipline was too lax.

★ ★ ★

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, WINNIPEG

The International Centre of Winnipeg celebrated its fifth anniversary with a Thanksgiving dinner, October 5, last year. The Centre is doing good work. The need which newcomers have for a welcoming hand is so pressing that the Centre is kept open thirteen hours a day.

Besides providing a social centre, the 350-member organization has more than 400 people enrolled in English classes at its William Avenue building. Teaching is done by eight teachers working for the Winnipeg School division and 700 volunteers, some working outside the Centre.

* * *

HISTORY OF THE MULTI-LINGUAL PRESS IN MANITOBA

The following extract from a letter written by Mr. Hans Roeder, President of the Canada Press Club of Winnipeg, will serve as an advance notice to our readers of a 248-page book, "The Multilingual Press in Manitoba", which is being published by the club this year.

Because of limited space, this book contains only brief accounts of newspapers and periodicals now being published, except in the case of a merger, as that of **Lögberg-Heimskringla**, the story of the parent publication is told.

Hon. W. J. Lindal, founder and long-time president of the Canada Press Club, and Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, contribute two of the introductory articles. The book is well illustrated.

Re: History of the Multi-Lingual Press in Manitoba

Canada from its beginning has been blessed with the influx of many people from about 100 countries in the world. They originally settled in the eastern part of Canada but many of them travelled to the western regions in order to develop large rural districts and also to settle in towns and cities. The Manitoba people from about 49 countries have come to make their home. Many of them have become members of ethnic cultural organiza-

tions of which there are about 35-40 groups of various cultural backgrounds. They have made an important contribution to Canada and Manitoba in particular in a variety of fields material and cultural.

The history of this valuable contribution is being recorded, as in the Canada Ethnic Series, but the field has not been covered. To no small extent the multi-lingual publications in Manitoba have mirrored the life of our numerous ethno-cultural groups, especially during the earlier years of their settlement but continuing to this day. Not only did they mirror life, they gave at least a measure of leadership. Their story is a significant part of the history of Manitoba.

It is with this in mind that The Winnipeg (Ethnic) Press Club has embarked on the project of a one-volume history of the Press Club and of the various ethnic publications, newspapers and periodicals, in Manitoba, since the formation of the Province.

Ed. Note: This book is a valuable addition to the history of Manitoba—and indirectly farther afield.

* * *

IMMIGRATION FROM SCANDINAVIA AND ICELAND, 1973-74

Immigration figures for the first nine months of the 1973 and 1974 respectively, have been published in "Manpower and Immigration". The figures for Scandinavia and Iceland are as follows:

	1973	1974
Denmark	354	410
Iceland	14	8
Norway	136	170
Sweden	513	490

Times have changed since 1700 arrived from Iceland in one summer.



Dr. Philip M. Petursson, M.L.A., frú Erna Finnsdóttir, wife of the Prime Minister, Geir Hallgrímsson, Prime Minister of Iceland and Hon. Russ. Paulley

The Honourable Geir Hallgrímsson, Prime Minister of Iceland, was the guest of honour and principal speaker at the annual convention of the Icelandic National League, held on January 24 and 25 in Winnipeg.

Geir Hallgrímsson has had a long and distinguished career in public life in his native land. Born in Reykjavík, in 1925, son of Hallgrímur Benediktsson (wholesaler and member of the Althing) and his wife, Auslaug Geirsdóttir, he was educated in that city and graduated in law from the University of Iceland in 1944. In 1948 he

married Erna Finnsdóttir. After post-graduate studies in law and economics at Harvard Law School, he practised law in Reykjavík during the 1950's, serving as Solicitor for the City of Reykjavík in 1954 and as Supreme Court lawyer in 1957. He also managed his father's business during the latter 1950's.

His political career began in 1959, with his election as Mayor of Reykjavík, a position which he held until 1972. In that year he assumed leadership of the Independence Party. He became Prime Minister in August 1974.

TWENTIETH CENTURY B.C.

TWENTIETH CENTURY A.D.

Oh Antikleia, did you know
 That as you wept so long ago
 The intervening years would bring
 Another war — another spring
 Another wound where blood flowed red
 Three thousand years and men still tread
 O'er foreign soil with gun in hand
 They still invade another's land.

Did glory of the honour code
 Which in Odysseus' heart abode
 Abate the searing rending pain
 Of when he would return again?
 With you I share the ache — intense
 And victory — no recompense
 Our blood flows now — as it did then
 Our young sons lost — Oh, let it end!

Sigrid Johannesson Woltzen

Ed. Note:—The Icelandic Canadian is pleased to feature Sigrid Johannesson Woltzen's poem, a contribution forwarded from St. Louis, Missouri.

Valdimar Bjornson

Minnesota Icelanders

The one hundredth anniversary of the first settlement of Icelanders in the state of Minnesota will be marked next year, on a date easily remembered. It was on the Fourth of July, 1875, that Gunnlaugur Petursson took up residence on his homestead seven miles northeast of the village of Minneota, in Lyon county, toward the southwestern corner of the state.

Gunnlaugur — Peterson became the Anglicized form of his Icelandic surname — gave the farmstead the name of his own birthplace in the Jökudal area of northeastern Iceland, Hákonarstaðir. A daughter of his, Elizabeth, and her husband, Halldor Joseph Nicholson, renamed it long afterwards, and there are many who refer to it still as Riverside Farm. A first cousin of Elizabeth's, John Arngrimsson Johnson, was the first child of Icelandic parentage born in Minnesota, and Elizabeth herself was the second child of that parentage born in the community.

Migration by Icelanders to the United States became fairly sizable in the mid-seventies, but for most of them Canada was the destination. Two centennial celebrations are scheduled in Manitoba next summer, for the settlements in Winnipeg and in the New

Iceland area north of there began the same summer as did the one in Minnesota, in 1875. An Icelandic language weekly is still published in Winnipeg, Logberg-Heimskringla, the merger of two rival weeklies published earlier, of which Heimskringla is the oldest.

The first settlement by Icelanders in this country in modern times was part of a Mormon colony in Utah, the converts from Iceland coming to Spanish Fork, near Salt Lake City, in 1855. The next settlement was a small one on Washington Island off the Green Bay peninsula in Wisconsin, started in 1870, from the region of Eyrarbakki in southern Iceland. A Dane who had worked for the store manager in that village wrote such glowing letters back to what had been his "old home base", that a few neighbors were attracted to Washintgon Island, where settlers of the period were mainly Norwegian.

During this period Milwaukee became the centre of Icelandic immigrants to the United States. The number was not large, but there were enough of them to celebrate the one thousandth anniversary of Iceland's first settlement in 874, at a park in Milwaukee on the 2nd of August, 1874 — the date of the big commemorative observance in Iceland itself.

It was in 1873 that Gunnlaugur Petursson and some other Icelanders, who had been in Milwaukee a while, moved to a farming area in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the capital city, Madison is located. When Norwegian neighbors of Gunnlaugur's chose to move still further westward, to southwestern Minnesota in 1875, he and his family and a few others with them went along. They settled in Westenheim township in Lyon county, northeast of the village of Minneota. Through kinship and acquaintances, a few others came during the next three years. It was in 1879 that the largest group arrived directly from Iceland to the Minneota community, 160 of them, almost wholly from the same region of northeastern Iceland. They got to Quebec from an English port, followed the Great Lakes by boat to Duluth, taking the train from there to St. Paul and then on to Minneota, the Winona and St. Peter Railroad — later the Northwestern — having been extended westward from New Ulm in 1873.

Two rural settlements were formed, and quite a number took roots in the village of Minneota. At one stage nearly all business enterprises in the small town were run by Icelanders, and the farming settlements were flourishing. One was northeast of town, in Lyon and Yellow Medicine counties, and the other ten miles and more southwest of the village, in Lincoln county. It was in 1878 and 1879 that Lutheran congregations were formed in the two

rural settlements, with what became the central congregation formed just a short time later in Minneota. Pastors located in Manitoba came to provide occasional services in the way of worship, baptism, confirmation and marriages. The first permanent pastor in Minneota, serving the three congregations, was Rev. Niels Steingrímur Thorlaksson, who came there in 1887. Services were entirely in Icelandic until the 1920's and 30's.

A co-operative store was founded by the Icelanders in Minneota in 1886 but suspended operations in 1896. "Verzlunarfelag Islendinga" was its mouth-filling name — The Mercantile Society of Icelanders — and it was patterned after the earliest model in northern Iceland.

There were two Icelandic language publications issued for a time in Minnesota, printed in the office of the Minneota Mascot, published by Gunnar B. Bjornson. One served a religious purpose, "Kennarinn" (The Teacher), a monthly used by Sunday School teachers throughout the Icelandic Lutheran Synod in the United States and Canada. The other publication was a monthly literary and news periodical, "Vinland", founded in March of 1902 and suspended in February of 1907. Its publisher was Gunnar B. Bjornson, editor and publisher of the Minneota Mascot, but its editors were Rev. B. B. Jonsson and Dr. Thordur Thordarson.

Icelanders in southwestern Minnesota were farmers at the outset, for

the most part, and the same was true of a small colony in northern Minnesota, in Roseau county, consisting of "transplants" from southern Manitoba. Some of the original settlers entered business. Their descendants are well represented in the teaching field, in law and the professions, in government and civic affairs. There were about 800 directly from Iceland in the Minneota settlement at its peak. Descendants likely total a thousand in the state now, more than 200 in the Twin Cities and nearly that number in the Minneota community. Small in numbers both in their homeland and here in the western hemisphere, Icelanders have clung to an inordinate pride in their nationality, as is usually the case with small nations. But their stubborn individuality, their true love for and respect of learning, and their genuine interest in civic affairs are worthy

contributions to "America in the Making."

The Bjornson family is well-known for its active representation in the Icelandic community. Valdimar was Minnesota State Treasurer for over a quarter of a century.

—Earth Journal Magazine

Ed. Note: A congregation was organized on October 19, 1875, under the title, "The Icelandic Lutheran Congregation in Shawano County, Wisconsin". The following were the charter members: Th. G. Jonsson, Magnus Gislason, Bjarni Bjarnason, Jon Jonsson, Gudmundur Stefansson, Stefan Gudmundsson, Haraldur Thorlaksson, Loftur Jonsson, Eirikur Bergman, Fridrik Bergman, Hallgrimur Gislason, Johannes Magnusson, Niels Steingrímur Thorlaksson.

THE COVER PICTURE — VESTFOLD SCHOOL

The Vestfold School is on the west shore of Shoal Lake, the precise location being Township 19, Range 3, W. The township line runs due west from Willow Point, Lake Winnipeg, to Clarkleigh, near Lake Manitoba.

The teacher and the pupils in the picture are:

Teacher: Arni Anderson.

Back row: Gudbjorg Eyolfson, Kristín Torfadottir, Vilbald Freeman, Johann Snidal, Sigurbjorg Einarson, Gudmundina Johnson, Helga Einarson, Jonina Johnson, Einar Einarson.

Front row: Einar Johnson, Bjorg Johnson, Thordur Snidal, Gudrun Torfadottir, Kari Byron, Lina Johnson and Magnia Freeman.

Arni Anderson became a lawyer in Winnipeg and a prominent layman in the Methodist church in Winnipeg.

Einar Johnson became a stellar all-round athlete in the period commencing about 1912. He was individual champion at the Icelandic celebration in Winnipeg six or seven times.

Kari Byron became reeve of the Coldwell Municipality in the Inter-Lake district for some thirty years.

Baldur Jonsson

WHO ARE THE GREAT?

Sometimes it is with great reluctance that I use certain words or phrases. They have been so cruelly abused that I feel that they either convey no meaning whatever, or else are more apt to interpret my thought wrongly, than to be a band of sympathy between me and my fellow men, as words should. Instead of such a bond the spoken word becomes too often a Bridge of Sighs across which pass and repass ghostly contortions. I am loath to believe it, but must admit in the face of crushing evidence that there still are found, here and there, kind, and sometimes even saintly souls, who score all the little misunderstandings and cruelties of daily intercourse against a depraved and sin-sotted human nature. But why not forget the old legend for a few brief days, and debit some of their hardships, real and imaginary, against our stumbling and blundering way of expressing our thoughts?—It is well to become at times like unto a little child, even a babe at the breasts, and communicate our thoughts and emotions, not through clumsy and ill-chosen words, but by looks, gestures and touch.

I did, however, not set out to say any of this, or at least not much of what is now on the sheet. The approximate truth is, that I almost started these jottings by saying: "A great man . . ." Then I thought how many different meanings would be read into that, and desisted. Some think of the man of achievement, others of the dreamer, others still of the prophet; but most would probably agree that a great man is one from whom we may learn great things. Each in his own way from his chosen teacher. And that makes the difficulty insurmountable. From the most humble, the least great man I ever met, or expect to meet, a half-witted old man who could neither read nor write, I have learned some of the finest lessons a man can hope to learn. His loyalty to those he loved was so staunch, his sincerity so transparent. — And the sociologists would deny him the society of all but those whom they adjudge to be mentally his peers. They are quite likely right. I don't know.

—from *Leaves and Letters*

Professors and Lecturers of Icelandic Descent in Manitoba Universities

by Kristine Perlmutter

There have been many Manitobans of Icelandic descent who have risen to prominence in their respective fields. Some of these people have assumed posts as professors or lecturers in the universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg and Brandon. I have tried to mention as many of these people as possible. However, I have confined myself to those who are presently lecturing, recently retired or recently deceased. Even at that, I am certain that I have left out many who deserve to have been mentioned. To them, I apologize.

ARNIE NEIL ARNASON, Assistant Professor in Computer Science, University of Manitoba.

Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. His father, Arni Pall Arnason, was born near Morden, Manitoba and moved to the Quill Lake settlement around 1906. His mother, Elizabeth M. Heiss, is an American by birth.

Professor Arnason grew up in Saskatoon and Ottawa and was educated at the University of Waterloo and at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Since 1970, he has been an assistant professor in the Computer Science department at the University of Manitoba. He usually teaches courses in

Introductory Computer Science, Algorithmic Methods in Statistics and Mathematical and Computer Modeling Methods.

Professor A. N. Arnason is married; his wife is Heidi, formerly Lukas.

DAVID ARNASON, Lecturer in Canadian Literature, University of Manitoba.

David Arnason was born at Gimli, Manitoba, the son of Baldwin and Gudrun Arnason, in 1940. He received his higher education at the University of Manitoba and the University of New Brunswick. His wife is the former Jennifer Olito.

DAVID H. BERGMAN, Instructor in Zoology, University of Winnipeg

Born in Winnipeg in 1940. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bergman, of Winnipeg. He graduated from Brandon College (University of Manitoba), and received his M.A. degree from the University of Manitoba.

HARALDUR BESSASON, Chairman of The Department of Icelandic Language and Literature and Associate

Professor; also Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, University of Manitoba.

Professor Bessason was born in Iceland, the son of Bessi Gislason and Elinborg Björnsdóttir. He is a graduate of the University of Iceland, Cand. Phil. and Cand. Mag. (M.A.).

Professor Bessason is heavily involved in almost all local community activities related to the Icelandic culture.

His wife is the former Ásgerður Haraldsdóttir.

DR. CARL BJARNASON, Professor at the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba.

Dr. Bjarnason was born in Brandon, Manitoba, son of Sigurdur and Siba Bjarnason. He received his education at Brandon College (B.A.); University of British Columbia (B.Ed.); University of Manitoba (M.Ed.); University of London, England (Associate-ship), and Michigan State University, East Lansing (Ph.D.).

Presently Dr. Bjarnason teaches courses in Educational Administration, Administrative Theory and Politics of Education.

Dr. Bjarnason's wife is the former Edna Spafford.

GISSUR ELIASSON, Registrar and Assistant Professor at the School of Arts, University of Manitoba.

Professor Eliasson was born in Winnipeg, in 1912, the son of Elias Eliasson and Guðbjörg Sæmundardóttir, of Winnipeg and Arborg, Manitoba. His initial appointment at the University

was in 1938, as Registrar and Lecturer.

His wife is the former Elvera Steinmann Benjaminson.

AUDREY FRIDFINNSON, Professor, Counselling Services, University of Manitoba.

Professor Fridfinnson was born in Winnipeg, daughter of the late William Fridfinnson and Bertha Fridfinnson.

She received her higher education at United College (University of Manitoba) (B.A.); Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts; and the University of Chicago (A.M.).

Professor Fridfinnson taught at the School of Social Work, University of Manitoba, from 1952 to 1955, and served as Field Instructor and Research Advisor, 1962-64, before her present appointment.

GUDBJARTUR GUNNARSSON, Producer-Director, Instructional Media Centre, University of Manitoba, and Teacher of Icelandic Evening Institute, University of Manitoba.

Gudbjartur Gunnarsson was born in Iceland, son of Gunnar Halldorsson and Sigrun Benediktsdóttir.

He was educated at Teachers Training College, Reykjavík, at Moray House Training College in Edinburgh, at Central Missouri State College in Warrensburg, Missouri, at the University of Leeds in England and at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. He is also a noted producer-director in Icelandic television.

Gudbjartur Gunnarsson is married, his wife is Elisa Magnúsdóttir.

SIGURDUR B. HELGASON, Professor of Plant Science at the University of Manitoba and Instructor in post-graduate courses in Genetics.

Professor Helgason was born in Elfros, Saskatchewan, and grew up in Baldur, Manitoba. His parents were the late Stefan Helgason and Margret Jónsdóttir.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at the University of Manitoba and his Master in Science degree and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

He has been teaching at the University of Manitoba since 1947.

Professor Helgason was married to the former Phyllis Rollins, now deceased.

JANICE INGIMUNDSON, Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Manitoba, and Clinical Supervisor in Psychiatry.

Janice Ingimundson was born in Selkirk, Manitoba. Her parents were Finney Ingimundson and the former Eunice Reid. She received her Bachelor of Science in Medicine, B.Sc. (Med), and M. D. from the University of Manitoba.

EDWARD JOHNSON, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Manitoba.

Professor Johnson was born in Winnipeg. His parents were Gudmundur and Katrin Johnson.

He graduated from the Medical College, University of Manitoba. He was Superintendent Manitoba Hospital, in Selkirk, and Provincial Psychiatrist, Manitoba Government.

His wife is the former Eleanor Emes.

RICHARD A. JOHNSON, Professor and Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Manitoba.

Professor Johnson was born in Winnipeg, son of the late Professor Skulí Johnson, former Rhodes Scholar and Head of the Classics Department at the University of Manitoba, and Mrs. Johnson, former Evelyn Truesdale.

Professor Johnson presently teaches courses in Circuit and Network Theory and in Systems Analysis.

His wife is the former Elaine Porter.

DR. THORVALDUR JOHNSON, taught Genetics of Microorganisms to graduate students in the Plant Science Department, University of Manitoba.

Dr. Johnson was born at Arnes, Manitoba. His parents were Sigurdur Johnson and the former Gudrun Thorvaldson. He was educated at the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Johnson was the Head of the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology on the University of Manitoba campus. He is now retired.

His wife is the former Rannveig Ingibjörg Arnason.

DR. G. ALBERT KRISTJANSON, Professor of Sociology and Head of the Department, University of Manitoba.

Dr. Kristjanson was born at Gimli, Manitoba, son of the late Hannes Kristianson and Elin Thordis Magnúsdóttir.

He received his higher education at the University of Toronto (B.Sc.), North Dakota State University (M.Sc.) and the University of Wisconsin (Ph.D.).

He has taught in Sociology departments of Washington State University, the University of Guelph, and the University of Manitoba. He is presently teaching courses in Rural Sociology and Social Change.

Dr. Kristjanson is married to the former Joan McPherson.

GUSTAF KRISTJANSON, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba.

Professor Kristjanson was born in Wynyard, Saskatchewan. His parents were the late Hakan Kristjanson and the former Gudny Solmundson.

He received his higher education at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba, and the University of British Columbia. Prior to his appointment, Professor Kristjanson taught for a period at the Indian Affairs School at Bella Bella, B. C.

He spent four years as a script editor in CBC's drama department in

Toronto and eleven years as radio drama producer in the CBC's Winnipeg studios. He has also done acting and writing on a casual "free-lance" basis for the CBC. He is national president of the Canadian Speech Association for 1974-75.

Professor Kristjanson has conducted the Community singing at many an Islendingadag celebration. He is married to the former Nora Bradshaw.

DR. RONALD W. KRISTJANSON, Counsellor, Counselling Services, University of Manitoba.

Dr. Kristjanson was born in Manitou, Manitoba. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. Kristjanson, of Winnipeg. He is a graduate (B.A.) from United College, University of Manitoba, and the University of North Dakota (Ph.D.).

DR. JOSEPHINA ASA MacDONELL, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. MacDonell was born in Winnipeg, daughter of the late Fridrik Kristjansson and the former Holmfridur Josephson. Dr. MacDonell received her education at the Medical College, University of Manitoba. During World War II she was a medical officer at Shilo Camp, Manitoba. She is the Administrator of Deer Lodge Veterans' Hospital in Winnipeg, a teaching hospital.

JOHN S. MATTHIASSEN, Associate Professor, Anthropology, University of

Dr. Matthiasson was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the son of the late Dr. Matthias J. Matthiasson, of Randolph, Wisconsin (originally of Gardar, North Dakota), and the former Jonina Johnson, of Winnipeg.

Dr. Matthiasson is a graduate of United College, University of Manitoba (B.A.) and Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (Ph.D.). He was an Instructor at the University of Manitoba in the summer of 1962; Assistant Professor at Marquette University, Mil-

waukee, 1965-67; and from 1967 to the present he has been Assistant, then Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba. He teaches in the areas of Arctic Ethnography, Psychological Anthropology, Urban Anthropology, Methods of Field Work, History of Anthropology and Legal Anthropology.

Dr. Matthiasson is a community worker and is a past president of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Winnipeg.

He is married to Dr. Carolyn, formerly Weisner, who is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Winnipeg.

(to be continued)



THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA (ISLENDINGADAGURINN)

HONOUR PRIZE IN POETRY

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba announces a poetry competition in connection with the 1975 Festival. A prize of \$100.00 will be presented to the award winner in person at the Festival, or, if that is not possible, mailed to the winner.

The contest is open to any individual whose ancestry is Icelandic.

Each entry must be original, and unpublished at the date of submission.

No more than three entries may be submitted by one poet.

Reprints of a detailed announcement may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

POETRY CONTEST,

W. D. Valgardson,

Department of Creative Writing,
University of Victoria, B.C., Canada

FORMER CONSUL-GENERAL INVITED TO ICELAND



Mr. and Mrs. Grettir L. Johannson

Former Icelandic Consul-General for the three Prairie Provinces, Mr. Grettir L. Johannson, and Mrs. Johannson have received an invitation from the Government of Iceland to visit Iceland. This is in recognition of valuable services as Icelandic Consul and Consul-General for thirty-six years.

Mr. Johannson served as Icelandic Consul from 1938 to 1966, at which time he was appointed Consul-General. He was also Consul for Denmark, 1938 to 1959.

Mr. Johannson has been a strong supporter of Icelandic cultural and other community activities. He was active in promoting the foundation of the Chair in Icelandic at the University of Manitoba, as an officer of the Icelandic National League for many years, in his support of the Icelandic weekly *Lögberg* and of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*. He was instrumental in the microfilming of the Icelandic language newspapers and periodicals published in North America since 1877. He has worked for the maintenance of close ties with Iceland.

—Mattie Halldorson

The Mid-winter Concerts

FRÓN CONCERT

The annual concert of Frón, a chapter of the Icelandic National League was held January in the parish hall of The First Lutheran Church. Garðar Garðarson welcomed the assembled guests. He introduced His Excellency, the Prime Minister of Iceland, Geir Hallgrímsson and Mrs. Hallgrímsson, and the Honorable Haraldur Kröyer, Ambassador of Iceland to Canada and the United States, and Mrs. Kröyer.

The Honorable Haraldur Kröyer was the guest speaker. He mentioned that he was happy to be invited to speak on this important occasion of the 100th year of the settlement of Icelanders in Manitoba. He lauded the Icelandic National League for keeping in touch with Iceland and being concerned with their activities. He stated "The anniversary we are celebrating in Manitoba, like the 1100th anniversary we were celebrating in Iceland this past year, add an extra dimension to a gathering of Icelanders, or relatives or in-laws of Iceland. It provides an occasion for reflecting and becomes a contributing part to the continuous struggle for cultural, economical and political independence of Iceland."

The Icelandic Centennial Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Elma Gislason, sang a number of Icelandic songs. There are sixty-five members, the

majority of whom do not speak Icelandic. Their ages range from eight to fourteen. This is their first public appearance and they made an auspicious start. The accompanists were Mrs. Kristin Bjornson and Mrs. Elma Gislason.

The opening number was "Stefroðið". Some of the others: "Bi Bi og Blaka", "Eg bið að heilsa". "Fuglinn í fjörinni". Toby Arnason sang a solo "Sigga litla systir mín", Maureen Wills, contralto, sang "Látum að hærribrún". "Ólafur reið með björgum fram" with soloists, Norrine Anderson, Michael Schellenberg and Andrew Stelmack. Anna Kristjanson and Hulda Dianne Garðarson sang "Sofuð, sofðu, góða". Joy Tennant was soloist in "Erla, góða Erla" and "Úr þeli þráð að spinna".

The choristers are from Winnipeg, Arborg, Gimli, and Riverton. Mrs. Gislason is hopeful that other towns will participate. She can be contacted at 320 Oak Street, Winnipeg. Phone 284-8620. They meet every Saturday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall of the First Lutheran Church, 580 Victor Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mrs. Gislason is to be commended for training these children in this important undertaking. The choir merits the cooperation and support of the Icelandic communities.

ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB CONCERT

The concert was held February 8th in the Parish hall of The First Lutheran Church. It was to be held in connection with the Icelandic National League Convention on January 24th but due to a severe snow storm it had to be postponed.

Mr. Halldor Stefanson, president of the Icelandic Canadian Club welcomed the guests and thanked them for their attendance.

He called on Mr. Stefan Stefanson, president of the Icelandic National League to give a progress report on the proposed charter flights from Iceland next summer, to participate in the celebrations of the 100th year of the first settlement of Icelanders in Manitoba. Thirteen hundred and forty people are expected to arrive beginning July 23rd, and departing August 20th. All will be in attendance at the Íslendingadagurinn, Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, at Gimli the first weekend in August. He asked anyone who could offer accommodation to contact any of the accommodation committee — Brian Jakobson, Mrs. Shirley McCreedy, Mrs. John Arnason, Mrs. Kristin Johnson, Stefan Stefanson and Mrs. Una Bjarnason.

Miss Valdine Anderson, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Helga Anderson, played flute solos. Her program contained some Icelandic songs as well as others which were well received by the audience.

Dr. E. C. Shaw was the guest speaker of the evening. He is the president of the Manitoba Historical Society. His topic was "Captain William Kennedy, arctic explorer."

Nine years before the Icelandic settlement began in the Gimli area, a stone mansion was erected on the west bank of the Red River in St. Andrews. It was the home of William Kennedy, whose father had come to the shores of Hudson Bay from the Orkney Islands in 1798. The Norse domination over the Orkneys extended over a period of six hundred years from the ninth century to 1468. The early history of that era was told in the Orkneyinga Saga in Iceland. Through marriage it is likely that the Kennedys gained some Orkney Viking blood.

William Kennedy was born at the Hudson Bay post at Cumberland House in 1824. He was the only arctic explorer and commander who was born in what is now Western Canada until New Iceland produced another, years later, in the person of Vilhjalmur Stefanson.

In 1851 he was accepted as Lady Franklin's second commander of her private vessel, the Prince Albert, in search of her husband, Sir John Franklin. He sailed from Aberdeen, Scotland, stopped at Stomness, sailed across the Atlantic south of Iceland and Greenland into Baffin Bay. As his ship proceeded in the fog and ice toward Upernivik he recorded a break in the mist revealed a "bit of verdure upon a Viking of old had trod." He travelled 1100 miles through unknown territory of the arctic archipelago in search for Franklin but failed to find him. This was the thirteenth expedition but there were ten more before a cairn was found on King William Is-

land which contained a message from the lost party.

In addition to his arctic explorations he had done other noteworthy things. He had intended to explore all around the North and South American continents from the east side to the west but he was unable to carry on beyond the tip of South America due to illness. If this expedition had been completed he would have been the first to make this trip.

In 1866 Captain Kennedy built a stone mansion, now known as Red River Museum on the shores of Lake Winnipeg. One of the possessions is an old wooden trunk with a hand wrought key that came with the first Icelandic settlers in 1875. Another is a child's rocking chair, lovingly hand carved.

In recognition of his efforts and contribution to Manitoba history a provincial sites plaque was erected in July 1974.

Captain Kennedy died in 1890, a revered resident of St. Andrews, where he is buried.

Dr. Shaw showed slides of the Captains explorations, and his wife and family.

Freyja Westdal played a piano solo, with very good feeling. We will hear of her in the near future.

Mrs. Alda Wingfield, accompanied by Mrs. Helga Anderson, sang "Svana söngur á heiði" by Kaldalóns, "U Bel Di Vidremo" from Madame Butterfly by Puccini, "Il Baccio" (The Kiss Waltz) by Luigi Arditi and "Vilia" by Lehar. Mrs. Wingfield has a beautiful rich voice, which was deeply appreciated by the audience. May we hear her more often.

It was a delightful concert. The Icelandic Canadian Club would have been very pleased to have had a greater number in attendance to enjoy this excellent program.

THE ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE CONCERT

At the National League concert, January 25, at the Fort Garry Hotel, the guest speaker was Honourable Geir Hallgrímsson, Prime Minister of Iceland.

This evening was the closing ceremony for the convention, a banquet and dance affair, with a very short program, and the official handing over of the reins of office for President, to Stefan Stefanson, a well-known personality in the Icelandic circles in Winnipeg.

The evening provided an opportunity to make the acquaintance of the Prime Minister and his wife.

Grettir Johannson introduced the new Consul of Iceland, Mr. S. A. Thorarinson, and also presented the Prime Minister with a copy of Arni Sigurdson's painting of the ... at Willow ... October 21, 1875.



Stefan Stefanson

Newly elected president of the Þjóðræknisfélag (The Icelandic National League).

GREETINGS

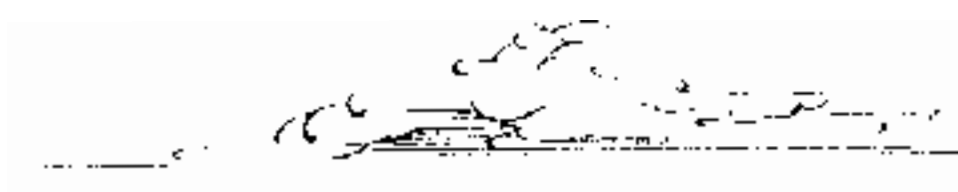
By Jónas Hallgrímsson

The balmy South a gentle sigh releases —
 And countless ocean billows, set in motion,
 Breathe to my native shores the South's devotion —
 Where strand and hillside feel the kindly breezes.

O give them all at home my fondest greeting,
 O'er hill and dale a sacred peace and blessing.
 Ye billows, pass the fisher's boat caressing;
 And warm each youthful cheek, ye south winds fleeting.

Herald of springtime, thou whose instinct free
 Pilots thy shiny wings through trackless spaces
 To summer haunts to chant thy poems rare,
 O greet most fondly, if you chance to see
 An angel whom our native costume graces.
 For that, dear throstle, is my sweetheart fair.

Translated by Jakobina Johnson



OLAFUR JOHANSON



Olafur Johanson

I spent an enjoyable hour one afternoon with Olafur Johanson. He holds the responsible position of General Superintendent with the Winnipeg Inner City Parks and recreation department.

Oli received his education through grade eleven at the Langruth school. When he was eighteen years of age he moved to Winnipeg to take a course at Success Business College. This training has been very helpful to him in his present position. He has also taken courses in horticulture.

On June 17, 1941 he became a member of the City of Winnipeg Parks and Recreation department as a general office clerk. He held several jobs until 1968 when he was appointed General Superintendent. This entails super-

vision of 475 acres of park recreation land. The department maintains the summer pools, swimming pools, outdoor and indoor hockey and skating rinks, the Pan Am and Sherbrook swimming pools and athletic parks. The complete operation of Brookside Cemetery is their responsibility. It also includes maintenance of all boulevards and trees in the city. During the summer months many students can be seen mowing the boulevards and trimming trees, when necessary.

In the summer there is a staff of approximately 650, which levels off to 300 in the winter season.

Oli appreciates the opportunity he has had to work with people and has found them "just great". He said that his staff has been very cooperative through the years.

Although Mr. Johanson has been a very busy man he has taken a keen interest in community affairs on a voluntary basis. He feels that people do not realize how much time is devoted to various projects voluntarily.

He enjoys attending concerts of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, sports and other events. He reads Canadiana and takes a special interest in reading books about his father's native land, Iceland.

Mr. Johanson has always been glad that he had the good fortune to grow up on a farm. He feels very close to all the people with whom he was associated during his early years.

Mr. Johanson is married to the former Eveline Paul.

Johann Arnor Johnson and Birgitta Bjarnadottir, Oli's parents, were married in 1906. In 1966 they celebrated their 60th anniversary at Langruth, Manitoba, attended by their family

and a host of friends. They had been married for 67 years at the time of Birgitta's death.

Johann was born in Iceland near Akureyri and Birgitta in Churchbridge, Saskatchewan.

It is so interesting to meet and talk with men and women who have "made good" in their chosen field of endeavour.

—Mattie Halldorson



The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba

Íslendingadagurinn

PATRONS

Four years ago the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba instituted a patronage program which made it possible to expand the cultural features of the Festival and to extend it to a three-day event. A patrons contribution is in the amount of \$50.00.

The response from the regular patrons has been excellent. However, this year, as the Icelandic people of Manitoba celebrate the centennial of the arrival of the Icelandic people in the province, with over 1000 visitors from Iceland expected, it is desired to improve upon the Festival in general and this makes it necessary to solicit new patrons.

Patrons will receive suitable recognition in the Festival publications

and official receipts will be issued allowing the deduction of donations from income tax. Any contributions under \$50.00 will list the contributor's name as a donor in the special 100th anniversary program.

Those who wish to lend their assistance to the Festival as patrons or contributors should make their cheques payable to:

"ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN"

and forward to the Festival Treasurer:

Mr. Harald K. Goodmanson,

466 Bredin Drive,

Winnipeg, Manitoba R2K 1N6

RE-ELECTED CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Dr. Paul H. T. Thorlakson, founder of the Winnipeg Clinic, has been re-elected Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg.

The prominent Winnipeg surgeon was re-elected at a recent joint meeting of the University's senate and board of regents for a three-year term commencing February 7, 1975. Dr. Thoriakson was first elected to the position in 1969 on the death of the institution's first Chancellor, R. H. G. Bonnycastle.

Dr. Thorlakson was born in North Dakota, but grew up in Selkirk. Following overseas service as a medical sergeant during the First World War, he received his medical degree from the University of Manitoba in 1919.

After practising at Shoal Lake, Manitoba, and undertaking post graduate training in surgery in London and on the continent, Dr. Thoriakson entered group practice in Winnipeg in 1926. He founded the Winnipeg Clinic in 1938 and has been its president since 1966.

Dr. Thorlakson served as surgeon-in-chief at the Winnipeg General Hospital and professor (now professor emeritus) of surgery at the University of Manitoba. He received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Manitoba in 1952, an honorary doctor of medicine from the University of Iceland in 1961, and an honorary doctor of Science from Brandon University in 1970. In that same year, he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada.



Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson

In 1968 Dr. Thoriakson was awarded an honorary fellowship in the International College of Surgeons, the first Manitoba doctor so honored. He was president and general chairman, the First International Congress on Group Medicine, held in Winnipeg in 1970, and executive vice-president for the Second International Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1973. That year he was also the recipient of the National Human Relations Award of Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

This past summer Dr. Thorlakson served as Canada's special representative at the celebration of Iceland's 1,100th anniversary. At that time he made a presentation of Canadian books to the Icelandic National Library. He has been appointed chairman of the

North American Conference of Icelandic organizations to honor the Centenary of Icelandic settlement in Manitoba, 1875.

Dr. Thorlakson has held office in many local, provincial, national and international medical organizations, as well as positions on many community and Icelandic bodies. He is the author of over seventy publications.

In announcing Dr. Thorlakson's re-

election, University of Winnipeg president, Dr. H. E. Duckworth said: "I am delighted that Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson has agreed to serve as Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg for a further term. By his personal humanity, integrity and accomplishment he has endowed this unique office with remarkable warmth, dignity and prestige."



VIKINGS EXPLORED SOUTH AMERICA

Viking warriors who crossed the Atlantic in their longboats explored South America from the Andes to the jungles of Paraguay and Bolivia centuries before Columbus was born, according to French anthropologist-archeologist Jacques Marie de Mahieu.

Mr. de Mahieu, who already has published books on the Viking travels in South America, passed through Rio de Janeiro recently on his way to search for further proof of the extent of their discoveries in the Amazon.

Mr. de Mahieu will visit the regions of Brazil's Transamazonica Highway, which cuts across the continent from east to west, south of the Amazon River and the route of the proposed Perimetral Norte highway which skirts the northern borders of Brazil, trying to

make contact with the tribes of 'white' Indians encountered by Indian scouts reconnoitering these routes.

He believes the white Indians are descendants of Vikings who brought their civilization to South America nearly 1,000 years ago and stayed to mingle with the Indian tribes.

One of the latest finds cited by Mr. de Mahieu to support his work is a series of drawings and carvings on the walls of caves 60 miles from the town of Pedro Juan Cabellero, in Paraguay. The French archeologist, who is a professor at the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, says these carvings are runic letters, from a language used at the beginning of the present millennium in what is now the south of Denmark and the north of Germany.

APPOINTED ICELANDIC CONSUL



S. Aleck Thorarinson

Mr. Thorarinson was appointed Vice-Consul in 1968.

Mr. Thorarinson received his education in Winnipeg, graduating from the University of Manitoba with a B.Sc. degree in 1942 and from the Manitoba Law School in 1949. He has practiced law in Winnipeg.

Mr. Thorarinson has been an active community worker. He was President of the Icelandic Celebration Committee at the time of the 75th anniversary of the Celebration, in 1964, and he has been Treasurer of the Canada Iceland Foundation and member of the Board of Directors of Betel Home Foundation for many years. He has been President of the North American Press (Lögberg-Heimskringla) and Vice President of the Icelandic National League. In recognition of his community services he was created Knight of the Order of the Falcon by the Government of Iceland, in 1964.

ICELANDIC CANADIAN SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

DUE TO SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE COST OF PRINTING AND PUBLISHING IN RECENT YEARS, THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE TO THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN IS NOW RAISED TO \$5.00 A YEAR, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES WILL BE \$1.50.

Fishing is a Way of Life on Lake Winnipeg

by Buzz Currie, Tribune Staff Writer

Gimli harbour was a placid mirror behind the breakwater.

"Looks like a great day," Jack Jacobson said as he stepped on board his fishing boat, the Bluebird. "It was pretty rough the last couple of days."

Mr. Jacobson and his helper, Jim Williams, cast off the mooring lines and Bluebird slipped out of the harbor. The sky was brightening before dawn on a cloudy October morning.

Bluebird was on its daily mission — to lift and reset seven fish nets nine miles off Gimli, in Lake Winnipeg. It would be a short trip. "Nobody's in any hurry with this quota," Mr. Jacobson said. The fall quota this year is 6,000 pounds, which sells at 37 to 61 cents a pound, depending on the species. Consumers pay from \$1.99 to \$2.49 per pound for the same fish.

For that, Mr. Jacobson operates a \$3,000 boat. The last winter quota was 2,900 pounds, and Mr. Jacobson used a bombardier to tend his nets. He said his total investment in fishing gear is close to \$80,000.

Mr. Jacobson is 45 years old. He had his first fishing licence when he was 15. "Our parents always taught us if you had a bad year, you just hung on and made it up the next year."

There were no quotas in those days. "I'd have five men on a boat this size, and we'd go night and day," Mr. Jacobson said. And there was no government agency to buy the fish. Private companies bid for the catch. "I don't think

there's a fisherman on the lake who wouldn't like to see the corporation (the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation) go."

Clear of the harbor, Mr. Jacobson steered an easterly course toward a featureless horizon. The lake was a muddy gray, slightly darker than the sky. A few seagulls patrolled behind as Bluebird maintained a steady 12-knots toward the nets.

The lake heaved and rolled under a 10-mile-an-hour wind, but Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Williams maintained it was a near-perfect day.

Bluebird slowed and began to turn. The first net marker had come in sight. The nets are held in place by anchors dropped into Lake Winnipeg's muddy bottom. A stick with a red flag on one end, a lead weight on the other and a cork float in the middle marks the end of each net.

Sometimes big boats on the lake cut the nets, but Mr. Jacobson said he isn't concerned. "They do their best to miss them", he said.

Bluebird came to a stop and its rolling and plunging, sickening to a couple of landfarers along for a ride, eased. Mr. Williams reached overboard and pulled in the first marker

"We used to have to haul these in by hand in the old days" he said. Mr. Williams has worked for Mr. Jacobson the last twenty seasons.

Hauling the nets is no longer back-breaking work on a boat like Blue-

bird. The boat has a winch in the bow which grips the top edge of the net and guides it through a trough.

The winch doesn't wind the net up, it loosens its grip inboard and drops the net — and the catch — into a wooden tray in the bow.

"There won't be any fish today; it's a north wind," Mr. Williams said. He said the nets are always heavier after the wind has blown from the south.

Bluebird crawled along the net as Mr. Williams coiled it in the fish tray. As he predicted, there weren't many fish. He was able to pack two nets and their catch in one tray. "Sometimes one tray will barely hold a net," he said.

The seven nets yielded between 200 and 300 pounds of fish, mostly pickerel and sauger, Mr. Jacobson estimated. At the absolute best, the catch was worth \$18.00.

Bluebird turned around when the last net was pulled inside, and Mr. Williams began to feed seven fresh nets over the side. There wasn't any point setting more. Mr. Jacobson said. He would have no trouble bringing in his 6,000 pound quota.

Back at Gimli, he and Mr. Williams would take their catch to the FFMC fish house to dress and behead the

fish. The pickerel would be filleted in Transcona, at the corporation plant, and sold to retailers for \$1.79 a pound. Retailers would sell it anywhere from \$1.99 to \$2.49 a pound.

Mr. Jacobson said he doesn't eat much fish. "I like it, but we don't get around to having it very often."

As Bluebird motored back to Gimli, Mr. Jacobson pulled up beside two neighbors fishing from a small boat with an outboard motor.

They weren't nearly as comfortable as Mr. Jacobson in his sheltered, radio-equipped cabin. But they didn't have \$30,000 invested in a business that would yield \$2,500 to \$3,000 a year before expenses.

A few days later, the financial picture became even gloomier for fishermen like Mr. Jacobson. Workers at the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation plant in Transcona went on strike and the fishermen were told to lift their nets and drag up their boats for the season.

With the plant shut down, their catch would have spoiled before it could be processed. The strike cut two weeks off the fall fishing season.

—Tribune, Nov. 2, 1974



DR. KRIS KRISTJANSON, PRESIDENT OF THE CANADA
ICELAND FOUNDATION



Dr. Kris Kristjanson

Dr. Kris Kristjanson was elected President of the Canada Iceland Foundation in November, 1974, succeeding Mr. Grettir Eggertson.

Dr. Kristjanson, who was born at Gimli, Manitoba, has an impressive record in his university studies, university teaching, in research, and in the public service.

He received his B.Sc. degree from the University of Alberta; his Ph.D. degree in Economics and Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, and his M.Sc. degree at the University of Toronto. In between studies, he was for one year Research Economist with the Canada Department of Agriculture at Saskatoon, in the economic classification of agricultural land in Saskatchewan.

He taught for three years at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph and two years at the University of Wisconsin, where he also conducted research in the economic use of by-products of the forest industry in Northern Wisconsin. For a further period, he combined research at the University of Wisconsin with research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, investigating the economic feasibility of various aspects of the Missouri Basin development. Teaching for three years at the University of Nebraska in Cooperative Marketing as well as Economics concluded his teaching career.

For the five years 1956-61, Dr. Kristjanson served with the Canadian Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources, where his work included being secretary to the advisory committee of seven deputy ministers on water use policy and Research Co-ordinator for the Resources for Tomorrow Conference of 1961.

After the conclusion of this conference, Dr. Kristjanson received an appointment with Manitoba Hydro, where he became Assistant General Manager responsible for economic assessment of plans for development, the Systems and Procedures Department, Personnel, Labour Relations, etc. He was on loan to the Government of Ghana on hydro development.

He resigned from his position with Manitoba Hydro in 1971, on a matter of principle. He estimated that the new government policy on hydro

development in northern Manitoba would result in a waste of \$400,000,000 of the customer's money, and this he could not countenance.

In the same year he received an appointment with the Great West Life Assurance Company of Winnipeg. He

is Vice-President, Corporate Planning and Personnel.

Dr. Kristjanson was presented with the Canadian Centennial Medal in 1967. He is married to Lois nee Hill and they have four children.

—W. K.



DR. RICHARD BECK —

WINSTON CHURCHILL — A TRIBUTE

The forest weeps. The towering oak no more
Rises in majesty against the sky.
The plaintive leaves in wintry dirges sigh.
The clouds, like drooping flags, enfold the shore.

And silence reigns, for stilled is now the speech
Which lit in trembling hearts the faith sublime
In Freedom's cause, that spans the seas of time,
Undying like the morning's constant reach.

Nay, say not stilled, for through the mist of years
His words will speak, as deathless as before,
Like clear-voiced trumpets on a distant shore,
Lifting on wings men's souls above their fears.

Ed. Note:— This poem included in the the author's collection *A Sheaf of Verses* (Winnipeg, 1966), was written at the time of Winston Churchill's death but is here reprinted in connection with his recent centennial.

BOOK REVIEWS

MARJORIE EARL:

FOR RARE INSIGHT, READ THIS BOOK

MANY SISTERS

edited by Carolyn Matthiasson.

Free Press of New York, 1974

Anyone genuinely interested in the women's movement should make haste to secure a copy of a recently published book, *Many Sisters*, edited by Carolyn Matthiasson, who teaches anthropology at the University of Winnipeg.

This remarkable and informative work is a collection of essays written by women scholars about women in various societies around the world, some primitive, some modern.

Until Mrs. Matthiasson's book appeared in Winnipeg this week, no work existed that presented women from different cultures from a woman's point of view."

"I was teaching at the University of Wisconsin, in Milwaukee," Mrs. Matthiasson says. "I was interested in the status of women around the world and the work available in novels or in anthropological literature was mainly by men and about men, written from a man's point of view. I decided to try to produce something from a woman's point of view.

Mrs. Matthiasson has a B.A. from Beloit College, Beloit, Wis., and a Ph.D. from Cornell. Her speciality is Latin American studies. She met and married a Winnipeg scholar, John Matthiasson, at Cornell. He teaches anthropology at the University of

Manitoba. His specialty is the high Arctic.

Many Sisters, which she began in 1966, is a monumental work of organization. The difficulties she encountered and overcame collecting her material make the world seem larger, not smaller than it really is.

She had first to find 16 anthropologists who were willing to contribute, then conduct a correspondence between Winnipeg and Africa, Cambodia, north and central India, Guatemala, China, the Philippines and, among other places, the jungles of Peru.

"I worked at it for eight hours a day for three years," she says. "I got so frustrated by problems with the mails that I had to work out an insurance scheme. I sent out every communication in triplicate, mailing each copy at a different mail box at a different time of the day to be sure no two ever got in the same mailbag or on the same aircraft."

Egypt proves fascinating

Because the Middle East, Egypt in particular, is such a pressing concern to the West, it is fascinating to look at the findings of one contributor, Safia K. Mohsen, about the women of Egypt.

The liberation of Egyptian women is still illusory. They gained the right to vote only in 1956, and although legal

reforms have followed, the spectre of old, Islamic law still hangs over them like a shroud.

Polygamy still exists. Men can divorce their wives more easily than women can divorce their husbands, men, usually have custody of the children, and in practice both husbands and parents exert a control over women that would be judged intolerable in the West. .

Here is an interview with one woman, now 55.

"I was in the last year of high school. My grades were the best in the class and I was recommended by the headmistress to be sent to England after graduation to continue my education at government expense. Suddenly a disaster happened in the form of a suitor. He wasn't very rich but he had a good position in the ministry of justice. He was about 15 years older than I, and when I met him in the family gathering I didn't like him at all. But that was not why I pleaded and begged my parents not to force me to marry him. I was not interested in marriage. I was interested in nothing but completing my education.

'Never forgave my husband'

"But pleading with my parents didn't work and I was forced to leave school one month before graduation. I never forgave my husband for that although it was not actually his fault. I felt miserable and never liked my married life. Every time I open a newspaper and see some of the names of those lucky girls who were not stopped by their parents and who now occupy prominent positions in the government doing great things with their time, I hate my parents for what they did to me. They couldn't understand why I would want to complete my education 'Work? What for? Do you want

to scandalize us in front of our friends? Do you want them to think we can't feed you?' is what they said to me."

Today only 24 per cent of the enrolment in secondary schools in Egypt is female. And many Egyptian women accept their situation without the resentment expressed in the above interview. This, for example:

"After all, marriage is the ultimate goal of any woman. What else could I have done?" another woman said. "Should I argue with my parents? They would have killed me. They might have thought I had another man in mind and that I was taking the education as an excuse for refusing the man of their choice. I couldn't have done this to them after all their efforts to raise me as a respectable girl."

Not all women discussed in Mrs. Matthiasson's book are oppressed and one group, the Onandaga women of the Iroquois nation, are truly liberated.

But the liberated are in the minority. The book is divided into three sections. The first, titled *Manipulative Societies*, describes women in cultures where they feel inferior to men and resort to deceit, withdrawal, artifice or circumvention to attain their goals. France is one of these.

The second, *Complementary Societies*, discusses women who are neither superior or inferior, just different. The third category, *Where Women Are Ascendant*, has only one representative, the Iroquois.

"I tried seven publishers before anyone showed any interest in it," Mrs. Matthiasson says. "I can't pretend that I wasn't thoroughly discouraged. Now I can only hope that it will prove to be useful."

—Winnipeg Tribune.

Catskinners Paradise

By G. Bertha Johnson

All characters entirely fictitious

Steve Stone, swing-boss and owner of Stone Transport, and known to all his fellow freighters as Tough, idled his tractor on the shore of Little Ptarmigan Lake while he waited for Joe Davis, whose swing had fallen behind on the rough portage. He could hear Joe's "Cat" wheezing and missing as it struggled to pull the heavily loaded sleighs out of a pitch-hole.

"I might have to double with my machine to bring Joe across", Stone thought grimly.

That year of 1946, no one had expected the early thaw. In this latitude — North of Fifty-Four — the lusty March winds still carry frost on their breath. The ice remains thick and strong on the lakes for it has been long in the making, all through freeze-up and on into the forty and fifty below temperatures of January and February. It reaches a thickness of three or four feet, and its fetters hold even where the Turbulent River rushes northward. Usually the ice lingers far into April or early May. Now it was mid-March, yet already the sun and the winds had slushed up and corroded the lake trails.

"Lucky it's our last trip," Tough Stone muttered. "In a day or so, if the warm weather lasts, these routes will be death-traps."

Since mid-January, Stone's crews had been on the freight-haul for the inland fishermen whose camps dotted

North Lake, which sprawled two-hundred miles in length, its south end three hundred miles from the railroad at Steel. This trip, their monstrous sleighs groaned under the last of the fishermen's catch. With a sigh of relief, Stone glanced back at the layers of hundred-pound boxes of frozen trout and whitefish, weighting the racks down to the squared oak bunks.

The moon cast a spell over the shadowy spruce and jackpine of the shoreline. It made blue shadows on the snow, and illumined the expanse of lake far ahead of Stone's headlights. Above him, the northern lights swirled like gay ballerinas, blending their dance with the moonlight.

Presently, Stone could see another freight-swing approaching. It crawled forward, black against the everlasting snow. As it turned off the North Lake trail at The Forks, he recognized Gusti Briem's outfit, piled high with Mark McKay's freight, taking the unbroken route to The Post.

Glad that he would not have to pass him, Tough Stone watched Gusti's outfit inching up off Little Ptarmigan onto the portage a hundred yards to the left. The sleighs lurched and pitched: the caboose swayed crazily. It righted itself, and they continued to climb. Then suddenly another jolt of the swing hurled the caboose over on its side.

Stone watched breathlessly. Then his worst fears were confirmed in a cloud of black smoke that pillared above the pines, followed by a burst of flames enveloping the whole caboose.

The flames spread, blood red in the shadows. By their light, Stone saw the dark figures of men fleeing for their lives. Gusti hastily uncoupled the tractor, and it crashed its way to the safety of the lake. Driver and cat were barely out of the danger zone when the fuel oil and gasoline drums on the sleigh next to the caboose thundered off in a series of explosions. The mounting blaze leaped, its fierce tongues licking up the freight and the sleighs.

Behind Stone, Joe Davis emerged from the portage. Together the two swings waited for the refugees who stumbled through the drifts: Gusti on the cat; an ill-clad cook; and a girl who kept floundering and falling, and finally clung to one of Gusti's catskinners, who propelled her on to the caboose at the end of Stone's swing. Already it was overcrowded, but the laws of humanity and the unwritten code of the north demanded their passage to Steel.

The girl was sitting on one of the bunks with a cup of hot coffee when Tough Stone entered with Gusti Briem.

"We were lucky to escape with our lives," Gusti was saying. "And fortunately, I carried an insurance . . ."

The girl on the bunk swung around. Her indignant eyes pierced Gusti Briem.

"Insurance!" she reiterated. "With The Post in ashes; and now the freight, insurance isn't enough. It won't supply Indians for their spring trapping, and get milk for their hungry children.

Plane rates are outrageous, and the lakes are already a nightmare of danger. Where can I find another swing to carry freight to my father's store?"

Out on the tractor, sitting in the open cab ready for any emergency, Stone thought of the girl.

"There aren't many girls like Linda McKay in the North — nor outside. All beauty and fire. With a wife like Linda —" he mused. "Brains too. No doubt she is right. The fishermen and trappers around The Post will go hungry unless someone will take in supplies."

His thoughts of the girl kept recurring as he bucked the trail, now chewed and rutted by Mining Transport's ponderous loads and Gusti Briem's ill-fated outfit.

At Moss Island, Stone sighted a herd of barrenland cariboo, returning to the tundra. He watched their stare of fearless curiosity, as they sped on, as if they, too, were out-running the hazards of the unseasonal threat of break-up.

Hours dragged by. The ceaseless drone of tractors lulled Stone's weary brain to drowsiness. It would be good to stretch his legs and rouse himself with cook's potent coffee.

He signalled the brakeman, and climbed down.

His practised eye took in the rough trail ahead, and some sixth sense impelled him to walk on for closer inspection. Less than twenty paces ahead he stopped abruptly before an open gap where the ice had heaved and split asunder.

"Heiluva mess ahead," he shouted. "We got to find a detour."

Tough Stone forgot his we mess

and the coffee. Through knee-deep slush he trudged, testing ice, with Mac and Joe Davis following in grim silence, marking the chosen trail. Then back on the tractors, they forged ahead. Stone's in front piling up mountains of snow that rolled left and right, heaping around the radiator, and threatening to bury the machine.

For three days and nights the swing continued to stumble up the lake. To the cat-skinners it was a relentless struggle of eating, sleeping, and driving; their waking hours a battle of slow progression; their sleep a trance of dreamless exhaustion.

Each day the sun beat down upon the snow with unseasonal heat. The slush melted into riverlets that ran over the tractor trails and oozed in pools above the solid blue ice beneath, till even Tough Stone sat lightly, ready to jump for his life.

Bleak dawn of the fourth day brought the . . . of Last Portage. By sunrise, the swings were snailing their way to the freight sheds in Steel. Dead-beat and hungry, the crew left the tractors idling and filed into Ma Campbell's boarding house. Black, greasy and unshaven, they dropped into chairs around the long table.

"Hi, Ma!" Stone greeted. "We want chicken and all the trimmings. And Banana cream pie."

"Chicken coming up," Ma chuckled. "I thought you galoots would never show up. The chicken's been roasting for days."

"Dish it up, Ma." Gusti Briem urged gaily, defying his ill-luck of the trail.

"The treat's on me, Ma."

The delicious aroma of food filled their nostrils, and the first mouthful of Ma's chicken lifted the burden of past toil. In retrospect, their gravest

hazards now seemed but an adventure.

Tom Johnson, Mining Transport's swing-boss joined them.

"We almost drowned a cat at the Narrows," he volunteered.

"This was our toughest trip, too," young Mac boasted. "Good thing it's our last", he continued with an appreciative grin.

Gusti Briem and Tough Stone ate in silence.

"I hear you lost everything except your tractor, Briem," Tom Johnson remarked.

"That's right. All but the cat, licked up by fire," Briem affirmed quietly. "Insured, though," he added.

"There'll be hunger and privation at The Post", Linda McKay lamented. "I'm looking for a swing to take in supplies."

Tom Johnson looked incredulous.

"You couldn't . . . on practically green ice." Joe Davis exclaimed.

Stone looked ardently into Linda's beseeching eyes.

"I'll try the trip," he avowed. "It has been done. If any of you fellows don't want to come, that's okay with me. Suit yourselves, all of you."

"Count me out," Joe Davis said slowly. "I've got a wife and kids."

"I'll take Joe's place," Gusti Briem offered. "If you'll have me."

Purple twilight shadowed the thickets when Tough Stone and Gusti Briem pulled out for The Post. Except for Joe Davis, the crews had rallied to a man; and no one blamed Joe Davis. They understood.

"Someone's got to go. What's a trip more or less?" they mocked lightly.

Linda McKay wanted to go, but the men were relentless.

Stone felt her intense gaze as she . . . and he jumped off his machine.

"Linda," he said. He reached her in two strides, kissed her impulsively, then . . .

To the throbbing staccato of tractors, they wound away from the lights of Steel.

Tough Stone's cat, pushing the plow, pulled two huge sleighs. On the first, they had built a sturdy five-foot box, into which they had loaded milk cases and canned goods; the second groaned under fifty drums of fuel oil, and a score more of gasoline. Behind, Gusti Briem's sleighs were heaped high with flour, sugar, oatmeal, butter, lard and other necessities like bacon, salt pork and navy beans. The caboose creaked in the rear. Thus they crept away over Last Portage, and out to the wilderness of lakes beyond.

Three days and nights dragged by, and now they crossed The Forks, and climbed past the charred oak sleigh-bunks and the blasted oil drums of Gusti Briem's ravaged outfit. Sixty miles, unmarked by tracks or trail, still lay between them and The Port.

The temperatures had dropped sharply. Tough Stone, coming off shift after eight hours of cold with a twenty-mile-an-hour wind, gulped down three cups of hot coffee, ate ravenously, and dropped into his bunk, barely taking time to remove his footwear.

Warmth surged into Stone's powerful frame. Beside him, young Mac was already snoring, and a couple of Gusti's men were breathing heavily in the bunk above.

He had slept for hours, yet it seemed but an instant till he woke with a start and a falling sensation. The caboose was at a standstill, tipped at a dangerous angle.

"Hev! Get up!" he shouted, hunting frantically for his boots and parka; and having fortunately found them, he rushed out.

In the dim light he could barely see his own swing a safe distance ahead. Men looked like moving phantoms near Gusti's sleighs and the caboose, all of which were completely down through the surface crust and slush that held the loads fast.

"I can't budge them," Gusti hissed, joining Stone.

"The shovels!" shouted Tough Stone.

Knee-deep in slush, the men bent their backs to the shovels. Their breath puffed in white clouds around them, and brows sweated against the frosty air as an avalanche of snow and ice rolled before their powerful efforts.

"We'll give it another try," Stone said, sticking his shovel upright in the snow.

He climbed onto the machine. Black smoke poured from the exhaust, but the tractor stuck as if hitched to a mountain.

"I'll get my cat, and we'll make a double hitch," Stone said. "We'll make it."

Minutes later, when the hitch was made, the two cats strained forward in one united lunge.

The sleighs broke loose. They moved. They crept along, and finally dragged themselves up out of the slush and onto the unbroken surface beyond.

It was beginning to snow. Sharp barbs stung Stone's face, swirling thicker as the hours passed, until they stormed around him in blinding fury, while the wind lashed up new drifts that covered all signs and added new peril to the trail.

On Spruce Portage, the swings crashed through windfalls, and lurched over hidden stumps; but eventually they emerged from the bush, and Big Bay opened before them.

Tough Stone relaxed in a confident smile. Across the bay, at the mouth of the Turbulent River, lay The Post and the Indian Village. They should be there in a couple of hours; and after the present cold spell, the return to Steel with empty sleighs should be a cinch, in spite of drifts.

Stone grinned at the prospect. Then his grin froze into grim anxiety. The tractor was breaking through the crust, and sinking into the slush. The next moment, Stone realized instinctively his machine was not heaving itself out. It was dropping through the rotten ice beneath. In one swift motion, he throttled the motor, and jumped.

His leap cleared him of the sinking tractor, and he landed on a swaying ice-floe beside it, and miraculously crawled to safety.

"The supplies are still here," he said.

"Yep! The hitch broke," Gusti Briem added.

At daybreak, with the hot rum they had poured him still firing his body, Tough Stone with Gusti beside him was out testing ice on the bay. The rotten surface, honeycombed by the river-current and the recent warm spell, broke from their chisels like the

first crust of freeze-up. Nowhere could they find a direct crossing to The Post for Gusti's swing. They must detour for miles, where the drifts lay deep and continuous.

The swing forged ahead a couple of hundred yards, then stuck fast. Again the crews slaved with the shovels, but their task was impossible. With the plow at lake-bottom with Stone's cat, they could not force their way through.

Tough Stone climbed off Gusti's tractor.

"Looks like we gotta resurrect that drowned cat and the plow," he commented.

"You think you'll get it out?" young Mac asked eagerly.

"We'll fish it out," Stone said. "It's the only way."

"There's many a machine been left in the lakes," Gusti said quietly, "and many a cat-skinner's grave."

"Come on. Let's get cracking," Stone commanded, silencing all argument.

Back on the portage, the timbers fell like matchwood before their powerful blows. With his tractor, Gusti skidded them out to the big hole in the ice.

Stone dragged the massive tool-chest from under his bunk in the caboose. Laden like a pack-mule he lugged out a tangle of chain-blocks and cables.

Out there on the unsheltered lake where the winds vent their fury, the freighters set to work on the toughest job in the north, raising a sunken tractor.

They spanned the ice around the gap with timbers. They chiselled post-holes and erected deadheads like

gigantic bridge-piles. To the clang of hammers and the ring of axes they braced and cross-beamed. They spiked and bolted, till the frame towered above the chasm, firm and solid like the unyielding men who built it.

From a cross-beam where he was suspending the chain-blocks Tough Stone shouted, "She's solid as hell. She'll stand the gaff."

Young Mac hitched the cables to Gusti's idling machine. The set-up was complete.

The sun had dipped beneath the horizon. Already it was dusk when Stone, with the crews huddled around him, let down the grapple-hooks. Ten; twenty; thirty feet.

He swung the chains in an arc, and hauled them up. Lowered them once more and swung and hauled, but they came up limp. The sunken machine had not been hooked.

"No luck for me," Tough Stone said.

Gusti Briem spat grimly into the teeth of the gale.

"I'll have a try," he offered.

Stone stepped aside, pulling his parka-hood forward as he waited expectantly, stilling his fevered excitement with a few fierce puffs on a cigarette he attempted to light.

Again repeatedly, the hooks found no hold.

"I'll try this side," Stone persisted.

It was useless. From any angle the hooks found no grip, and failure cast a gloom over the weary workers.

"Let's knock it off," Stone finally suggested.

Reluctantly, they filed into the caboose. They wolfed down their meal

in silence, and dropped exhausted into their bunks.

The first glimmer of day found them back at it again. The throb of Gusti's tractor, which had been left running all night, was loud on the morning frost as they went.

They were grimly silent as they chiselled the night's ice-crust to re-open the hole of yesterday's break-through.

Stone produced a horseshoe magnet from his pocket, and attached it to the chain above the grapple hooks.

"Our good luck piece," he grinned in cheerful anticipation.

He lowered the hooks and felt the contact of metal to machine, but when the men hauled on the chains they were still light and unburdened.

For hours the freighters peristed. The sun climbed to noon, and the cold penetrated their heavy clothing, chilling them to the marrow. Tough Stone could sense young Mac's growing impatience and Gusti Briem's frustration, and he stood apart, silent and pre-occupied while they continued to try their luck.

Presently he spoke.

"Mac, fetch that coil of rope hanging on the caboose door", he commanded sharply.

"I'm going down," he told the men.

"Oh, no!" they implored.

"It's suicide," Gusti said.

Stone scarcely heard their protests. There in the bitter cold he stripped off his boots and outer garments, and tied the rope around his waist.

"Here, Gusti," he said, flinging the loose end to Briem.

In the awe-struck stillness, Stone plunged. Weighted with hooks and

chains he let himself down, holding his breath as the icy waters closed over him. He figured the tractor must be directly beneath, and cold fear smote him at the thought of colliding with it. He gave himself a twist, found a place for the hooks to grapple, and miraculously managed to hook the chain onto the cat. The next instant he was coming up, only to find he had missed the hole and was under the ice.

Frantically, he tried to think; tried to save himself. It was of no avail. He was going down. This was to be the end.

In that instant the highlights of his whole life flashed before him. The past; and in startling revelation, the future that he now knew was never to be. Then the pressure of water and the pull of Gusti's rope jerked him upward. With his last ounce of self-preservation, Stone stroked his way to the gap, and a warm grasp encircled his wrist and heaved him to safety.

Stone shivered as the winds whipped his wet body, and the men propelled him to the caboose, dry clothes, and a gulp of hot whiskey.

Gusti Briem was already on his cat when Tough Stone returned.

"Let her go," Stone commanded.

The slack tightened. Every chain and cable strained to the breaking point as Gusti's tractor moved relentlessly. Like a deep-sea monster the sunken machine rose, heaved by the pulleys, and buoyed by the water. Its greasy black body emerged, and a jubilant cheer rent the air.

They had conquered.

* * *

At Steel the Freighters' Ball was in full swing. Tough Stone, clean shaved and smartly tailored, felt queer but good. He was through freighting.

"Never again," he told himself joyfully.

Tom Johnson tapped Stone on the shoulder.

"They tell me you drowned your cat, and went for a swim," he kidded. "Lucky for you it turned cold. A couple more warm days would have knocked the bottom out of every freighting trail in the north. Must've been a cold bath."

Tough Stone laughed.

"I needed a bath, but I could have done with a warmer one," he grinned, moving on.

He was looking for a dancing partner, and there she was. Linda McKay was like the north star in that yellow gown she wore.

The orchestra struck up. With purposeful strides Stone crossed the dance-floor, and with Linda close in his arms he came to a sudden decision.

"Linda, let's get married," he whispered.

It was all settled. He would get married and settle down. Never again would he haul freight in the North Country. That is, never again till the next freighting season would find him back at it again, in Cat-Skinners' Paradise.

The following excerpts from the author's letter is relevant and will serve to reinforce the strong impact of his well-told story. G. Bertha Johnson's home is in Flin Flon, Manitoba.
—Editor.

"I came in on the freight swings once, 250 miles over lake ice and portages.

"All final truths must find their messengers in fiction", hence the enclosed story created through my close

observations and knowledge of lake transportation. Although it is fiction, it gives a true picture of some of the arduous efforts and hazards of tractor freighting. I have great admiration for their courage and initiative.

The climax of my story is not in the realm of fantasy I have an article in my scrapbook of that time which proves that while diving to hook a sunken tractor was unusual, it was actually done." —G.B.J.



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADA ICELAND FOUNDATION

The annual meeting of the Canada Iceland Foundation was held on November 13, 1974, and the following officers were elected:

President: Dr. Kris Kristjanson,

Vice Pres.: Mr. Rudy Bristow.

Treasurer: Mr. S. A. Thorarinson

Secretary: Mr. Freeman Skaptason.

Hon. Pres.: Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson

Past Pres: Mr. Grettir Eggertson.

The Canada Iceland Foundation has been recently re-organized with a new broadly represented Board of Directors of 14 members, 8 of whom are appointees by Icelandic organizations and six selected from the community at large. The Foundation is now functioning under the sponsorship of the Icelandic educational and cultural organizations of this community.

The Foundation was also re-organized to establish four working committees, the executive committee, Fund raising committee, Awards com-

mittee, and a Liason committee.

The cultural and educational objectives can only be achieved from a continuous firm financial base. Therefore, the Foundation is embarking upon an ambitious campaign to create a capital fund of at least \$100,000. This fund will enable the Foundation to achieve its stated objectives. The first steps toward this has been established through the generosity of a few individuals who have recently donated or pledged \$25,000 to the Canada Iceland Foundation.

Recently the Fund was augmented by a generous donation of \$10,000 by the Icelandic Steamship Company commemorating its 60th anniversary and for the previous support of the Icelandic community in North America.

With the pledges the total assets of the Foundation are about \$50,000.

Since 1961, the Foundation has for various purposes made disbursements of approximately \$80,000.

SPRING

by Hannes Hafstein

The woods have wakened, birch and oak are gay,
The warbling birds have sought the bowers.
And zephyrs fondle tenderly in play
The leaves and flowers.

I would that I could move thee, forest fair,
To mountainside and dale and lea.
I'd clothe those homeland places bleak and bare
But dear to me.

I would I were an ocean current grand
And warm as beats my pulse in spring,
I'd circle round thy shores, dear fatherland,
And blessings bring.

O, could I, like a balmy wind convey
The breath of spring from fell to sound.
All snows should then forever melt away
And flowers abound.

Translated by Jakobina Johnson

IN THE NEWS

NATIONAL LEAGUE OFFICERS 1975

The following were elected or re-elected officers of the Icelandic National League at the annual convention, January 24-25, 1975.

President: Stefan J. Stefanson
Vice-President: Philip M. Petursson
Secretary: Holmfridur Danielson
Treasurer: Grettir L. Johannson
Archivist: Jack Bjornson
Financial Sec.: Kristin R. Johnson

★

AT HÖFN, VANCOUVER

The annual general meeting of the Icelandic Old Folks Home Society in Vancouver was held on January 27. The mortgage on the home has now been paid off.

Ed Johnson, who has served on the Board of the Home for six years was elected President. The retiring president is Pall K. I. Johannesson.

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF B.C. CELEBRATES THORRABLOT

The Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia celebrated Thorrablot with a dinner and dance at the Sheraton Landmark, February 15. Guests of Honor were His Excellency Haraldur Kroyer, Iceland's Ambassador to the United States and Canada, and Mrs. Kroyer. Other dignitaries attending were His Worship, Mayor Art Phillips of Vancouver, and the Consul-General of Norway and the United States and the Swedish Consul.

★

ICELANDIC VISITORS EXPECTED

The Icelandic Festival Committee of Manitoba is making plans to receive more visitors than usual at Gimli in August of this year, when the Icelandic people of Manitoba will observe the centennial of the arrival of the first Icelandic settlers, who landed at Gimli October 21, 1875.

The committee expects a minimum

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of 1,050 visitors from Iceland, in addition to any from all over North America. A committee has been set up including representatives from every Icelandic community in the Interlake area to seek billets for the visitors from Iceland.

★

THORRABLOT (or **Thorramot**) featured in the **Icelandic Communities in North America**.

Thorri (perhaps from Þverra Þorri) is the fourth month and the waning month of winter on the Icelandic calendar. On the new style calendar it is from January 24 to February 22. In olden times Þorrablót was the great sacrifice when Þorri begins (**Blót** in times was a worship including sacrificial feast or banquet. **Mót** means a meeting or gathering).

★

The Frón chapter of the National League in Winnipeg, celebrated Þorrablót at Vasalund, February 28. The occasion was very informal, with no speeches to impinge on conversation or dancing. Each person entertained himself or herself in their own way. Traditional Icelandic foods were served.

★

The Icelandic Society of Northern California celebrated Þorrablót March 1, at the American Legion Hall, in Redwood City. In addition to Icelandic foods prepared locally, **hangikjöt** and **harðfiskur** were ordered from Iceland. President of the Society is Mr. Vigfus Jakobson.

★

The Icelandic Society of Seattle joined forces with the Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia for

participation in the group excursion to Iceland last summer, on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of settlement in Iceland.

The annual Icelandic summer entertainment in Seattle was held at Norm's Resort, Cottage Lake, July 21. Miss Sigrun Viking was presented as Miss Iceland. In November a dance was held in an I.O.O.F. hall and a Christmas entertainment was held in an auditorium in the Calvary Lutheran Church.

★

The Leif Eiriksson Club of Calgary was registered and incorporated under the Alberta Societies Act, effective May 7, 1973. Icelandic classes commenced in October 1972.

★

In North Dakota, the **Báran** chapter of the Icelandic National League has plans afloat for the preservation of the history of the Icelandic pioneers in the State. A nucleus of tape recordings of early settlers now living has been set up.

★

Neil O. Bardal Jr., of Winnipeg, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, having served for the past two years.

★

Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, of Winnipeg, has been re-appointed for a three-year term to the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism.

The Council, which was formed in May, 1973, provides a source of consultation to the Minister on matters pertaining to the implementation of

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FRANK FREDRICKSON RECOGNIZED

The Manitoba Hockey Players Foundation announced their choice of the hockey player of the century on November 2. Several distinguished players were first considered for the selection, including Walter Broda, Frank Fred-

rickson, Bryan Hextall, Dick Irvin, Ching Johnson, Terry Sawchuk, Bullec Joe Simpson, and others. When the choice narrowed down to three finalists Frank Fredrickson was one of the three. On this occasion he visited Winnipeg.

Frank Fredrickson led the Falcons of Winnipeg to an Allan Cup victory and then to the first hockey world title, in Antwerp, in 1920.

Frank went on to play professional hockey in the United States. On retirement from hockey he made his home in Vancouver, where, he has served as alderman.

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Items from the Manitoba Interlake

Mr. Eric Stefanson is the General manager of the (Manitoba) Interlake Development Corporation. The following are a few items from his 1974 annual report which will interest readers of the *Icelandic Canadian*.

I also had the opportunity of visiting projects in the north, at Kettle Rapids, Long Spruce and the town of Gillam. Recently two general managers were appointed by Manitoba Hydro. M. Scott Bateman remains as chairman of Manitoba Hydro. The two general managers are John Arnason, originally from Gimli, and Mr. R. M. Fraser. We are always proud to see Interlakers rise to the top positions. Another Interlaker who recently distinguished himself by being appointed to a high position is Mr. O. Fred Eyolfson of Lundar, who is now general manager of the Winnipeg International Airport. Another former Lundar resident, Allan Finnbogason is head of Winnipeg

Enterprises. We have always said that people are our richest resource, both the people who remain in the Interlake and the ones who have left to take jobs and are now prominent in high government positions, the professions and in business. Interlakers have played an important role in the economic and social development of our nation.

Our corporation does much of our work with task force committees. Two task force committees which have been extremely active during the past year are the Committees to Study the Garrison Diversion Project and the Committee on Railway Branchline Abandonment. Members of the Committee to study the Garrison Project are Frank Malis, Dori Holm, Joe Sigurdson, Ed Helwer, Siggie Wopnford and Eric Stefanson as secretary. We have gathered a great deal of information on this project and have come to the conclusion that it does not conform with the obligation assumed by the United States under Article IV of the

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MR. S. GLENN SIGURDSON ATTENDS IN GIMLI AND RIVERTON ON THE
1st and 3rd FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

Offices are in the Gimli Medical Centre, 62-3rd Avenue, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. with Mr. Sigurdson and his legal assistant in attendance.

(TELEPHONE 642-7955)

In Riverton, Mr. Sigurdson attends in the Riverton Village Office, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Boundary Waters Treaty 1909 that "water herein defined as boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other."

Joe Sigurdson represented our corporation at a meeting held on August 19, in Dauphin to discuss promoting a northern vacation route across the prairie provinces. Three development corporations, Norman, Parkland and Interlake, would be affected by this route. Following this meeting a delegation was selected to attend a meeting of the four western provinces in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on October 21 and 22. At this meeting a decision was made to form an association to promote the Woods and Water Scenic Route. Three directors were appointed for each province, and they will elect their officers. Joe Sigurdson is one of the Manitoba Directors.

Mrs. Borga Jakobson, Fjallkona of the Icelandic Festival, Manitoba 1974, was an honored guest at "Festival Interlake". The largest regional promotion program ever carried out in Manitoba. It was staged by the Interlake Development Corporation, with the assistance of several Provincial Government departments, at Polo Park Shopping Centre, August 3rd to 11th, 1974. Here Mrs. Jakobson looks at the work of Interlake author W. H. Valgardson whose book Bloodflowers, a collection of stories from the Interlake, was a popular feature at the celebration.

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THE NORSE CAME TO THE ISLE OF MAN

The Isle of Man, about 30 miles long and 10 miles wide, situated roughly midway between the coasts of North-west England, Northern Ireland, and South-West Scotland, is a somewhat unusual island. The Manx people claim to be an independent state and they have a considerable degree of self-government. They have their own parliament, which to a large extent, makes its own laws, their own taxation and their own customs. A lieutenant-governor is responsible to the Monarch of England, but is called as the Lord of Man. The island is not a part of the United Kingdom.

The early inhabitants were a race resembling the Picts. Then came the Celts, and in the ninth century came the conquering Norsemen. Scandinavian invasions began about 800 A.D. as plundering expeditions; then they began to settle.

Haraidur Fine-Hair of Norway added the island to his dominions when he sent Ketil Flat-Nose to conquer the Hebrides, but in a few years Ketil declared himself independent.

Following the arrival of Godred Corvan in 1079, to 1260, there were fourteen Norse kings. Godred's son, Olaf, was king, 1113-52. There was a Godred II and there was a Magnus. Godred II, became a vassal of Henry II of England.

In 1266 a king of Norway sold his suzerainty to Alexander II of Scotland, but Edward III won the island from the Scots and since then the kings have been English — or Lords of Man, as they came to call themselves.

There are many memorials of the Scandinavian period, including the system of government, land-holding, and place names.

The system of government established in the Norse period has changed little and is in many respects unlike that of Britain. There is an upper house, a council, appointed by the crown, and a lower house, the House of Keyes, consisting of twenty-four men of the island who hold office for life. The two sit separate as legislative bodies but come together to form a Tynwald Court for certain business. The Tynwald Court is the supreme court. The approval of the Governor and the assent of the sovereign are necessary for every legislative enactment. Then there is a public proclamation from Tynwald Hill in Manx and English.

The farmers have held their land, not under the old English feudal system, but as permanent freehold, on payment of the lord's rent.

Many place names are Norse. The island consists of a central mountain mass culminating in Snaefell (2,034 feet). There is a Snæfell (snow-mountain) in Iceland. Tynwald reminds one of Þingvellir in Iceland, the Plain of the Thing, or Assembly. Wald is similar to "fold" in Icelandic. There is an island called Laxey, "Lax" is salmon in Icelandic.

Also the judges on the island are called "deemsters". To judge in Icelandic is "að dæma".

One of the island's most picturesque events is the Viking Festival, which commemorates the landing of the Norsemen in the ninth century.

THE FAMILY OF KETIL FLAT-NOSE

It is interesting to know about the family of Ketil Flat-Nose (Ketill flat-

nefr). Ketill was married to Yngvild, a chieftain's daughter. Their children were Björn, Helgi, Auð the Deep-Minded, Þórunn Hyrna, and Jórunn Wisdom-Slope (mannvitsbrekka).

Ketill married his daughter Auð to Ólaf the White, considered "the greatest warrior king at that time in the British Isles". His other daughter, Þórunn, Ketill married to Helgi the Lean (Helgi magri), son of Eyvind the Easterner and of Rafarta, daughter of King Kjarval of Ireland.

Children of Ketill eventually migrated to Iceland. Björn stayed two years in the Hebrides, then went to Iceland. He located in the west-country, on Snæfellsnes, at Borgarholti, in Bjorn's Haven (Bjarnarhöfn). Some years later

Auð the Deep-Minded followed her brother. She took possession of the whole of the Dales between the Skrauma and Dogurdar rivers. Helgi the Lean, son-in-law of Ketill, who had been educated in Ireland, and influenced by the Christian religion there, settled in the north of Iceland. He became a leading man in his part of the country, and one of the prominent saga characters.

The story of Ketill's family is told in Eyrbyggja saga, which has been excellently translated by Hermann Pálsson and Paul Edwards and published by the University of Toronto Press.

—W. Kristjanson

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THOUGHTS AT MIDNIGHT

by Janet M. (Rumley) Sigurdson)

By dark of night, while spirits brood,
Upon a windswept shore I stood,
Looking upward, filled with awe,
A most amazing thing I saw.

I knew I stood on hallowed sod,
Where many weary feet have trod.
Before my wide and wondering eyes
A Viking spirit seemed to rise.

Above me, towered, form and face,
The symbol of a vanished race.
A Viking garbed in battledress
Descending on that wilderness.

Above me, hanging in the sky,
A Harvest moon now caught my eye.
Lighting up that bearded face,
Spirit of a hardy race.

Then I knew, that to this shore,
Just one-hundred years before,
The people came, who raised him high,
And so his spirit shall not die.

There he stands, so proud and brave,
As one who crossed the mighty wave.
Now sons there be, his name they take,
Scattered through the Interlake.

Now I see, beneath the sky,
Fair of hair, and blue of eye,
Strong men, brave men, hardy seed,
Descended from this Viking breed.

★

G. Kristjanson

**WINNIPEG FICTION FEATURED
IN NEW STORY COLLECTION
— "WINNIPEG STORIES"**

A new paperback has appeared on the stands under the title **Winnipeg Stories**. The collection is edited by

Joan Parr (formerly Joan Asgeirson) and carries an introduction by David Arnason, Professor of Canadian Literature at the University of Manitoba. In his introduction Professor Arnason says that "What they share is the Winnipeg style, the confident conviction that the experience of living in the city is worth exploring, not for any artificial need to find identity or to impose shape, but simply because it really is worthwhile."

Whether all of the stories included in the collection have a common quality which one might legitimately label a "Winnipeg style" is perhaps open to question. Those that are autobiographical rather than fictional in approach such as "Up and Down the Depression" or "That Sensual Music"—naturally come closest to reflecting a sense of place that can readily be associated with Winnipeg. In any event, while the stories vary considerably in quality (as one might anticipate) they appeal to a wide range of tastes. There is abundant variety in the collection as a whole in theme, in style, and in subject matter, as one might expect from the list of authors whose works are represented. Most of the authors are well known in Winnipeg literary circles. One ingredient which is rather noticeable in many of these is that of humour. This is most welcome. It's gratifying to know that Prairie authors are able to appreciate the ironic and amusing aspects of life around them. The first selection in the book, "Court- ing in 1957" is hilarious.

In fact, the reader will find most of these stories very diverting. The editor, and those who assisted her, are to be commended for bringing these authors together in one collection. Incidentally, the cover illustration is done by Solveig Borgford.

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