ISSN 0046 - 8452

SPRING 1977

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

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THE STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON HOME

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN, SECOND CLASS MAIL–REGISTRATION

No. 1909 — PRINTED AT 358 ROSS AVE., WINNIPEG, MAN. R3A 0L4

The Icelandic Canadian

Volume XXXV, No. 3 **Winnipeg, Canada** **Spring, 1977**

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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REPRESENTATIVE IN ICELAND: Bjorn Sigurdsson, Longuhlid 25, Reykjavik.

Subscription Rate: $5.00 per year. Single Copies $1.50.

Second Class Mail Registration No. 1909, Post Office Department, Ottawa

EDITORIAL

THE CANADIAN DREAM

By W. Kristjanson

The Canadian dream at Confederation was of a Dominion extending from sea to sea. However, Canada's destiny has proved greater than anything envisaged in earlier dreams. Canada has welcomed people of some forty racial or ethnic origins, from the four corners of the world, people in search of a better life for themselves and their children. Today, Canadians of these diverse origins have established one of the highest living standards in the world and the name of Canada is respected abroad.

Now comes the threat of Quebec's secession, a province in area, population, and resources a vitally important part of our country. How serious is this threat? Peter Newman, in **Maclean's**, says that 60 per cent of the voters in the recent election cast their ballots against the Parti Quebecois and another poll indicates that only 18 per cent voted for separation.

However, the stark fact remains that the Parti-Quebecois are fanatically set on secession and they are in office, the government in power. "Public opinion is now shaped largely by television which in Quebec is almost entirely (particularly the public-owned CBC) in the hands of marxist-oriented separatists. This is a new and important factor in the picture", says Lubor Zink in the Winnipeg **Tribune.** This calls to mind that only about six per cent of the population of France was actively engaged in the French Revolution of 1789. The secession threat in Quebec must be taken seriously.

In view of this threat we ask, "What have been some of the achievements of a united Canada since 1867?" Faced with most formidable geographic and economic obstacles, this country, with a very small population, built two transcontinental railways. The St. Lawrence Seaway, in 1973, carried a two-way traffic of 75 million tons. The Canadian forces in two world wars served with distinction. Over a million persons were enlisted in World War II and the industrial achievement was remarkable. The Second World War was in defence of our freedom and way of life against ruthless Nazism, with its dream of a thousand-year world domination, poisoned minds, racism, and genocide.

The French Canadian people have a vested interest in our country. Early French explorers penetrated as far west as the Rocky Mountains and French Canadians have made a very important contribution to our national development. Lafontaine joined forces with Baldwin and the Reformers of Upper Canada to achieve Responsible Government. Sir Etienne Cartier worked with Sir John A. Macdonald to achieve Confederation. Cartier is described as a magnetic leader of the French race, brilliant and practical. Three French Canadian Prime Ministers are Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1896-1911); Louis St. Laurent (1948-1957), and Pierre Elliott Trudeau (1968-). Two Governors-General are Georges Vanier (1959-1967) and Jules Léger (1974-). Laurier is described as a man of commanding ability

and magnetic personality and he made the Liberal party broad-based. Vanier was highly respected and well-liked. He made a passionate appeal for Canadian unity at the time of our Canadian Centennial. Is all this to be swept away?

In the event of separation, Canada including Quebec, would face formidable problems. What would be the allocations of the national debt. This would involve for Quebec a federal share of $11-billion; together with crown corporation and municipal debts, a total of $22½ billions. The federal help to Quebec in the fiscal year of 1976-77 has been $2.4 billion. What would be the disposal of the federal assets of the CNR, Air Canada, the St. Lawrence Seaway and other federal properties and enterprises? What would be Quebec's provision for defence, in view of the massive military threat from monolithic Russia, grinding down country after country?

Quebec can preserve its Franco-Canadian way of life within the Canadian frame-work. The people of Quebec, with a power base of five million people and solid French Canadian communities in a province 600,000 square miles in area, have maintained their spoken and written language in their homes, churches, schools and courts and they have their French-language newspapers, plays, films, television and radio.

A united Canada of 23 million people has a greater potential for achievement than a dismembered country. A united Canada will continue development of important enterprises as in energy, including nuclear fission and Arctic oil and gas. Canada will have a stronger voice in international affairs, including the UN. It is to be devoutly hoped that the test of war will never face us again, but a united Canada will be incomparably stronger in defence and we must be prepared to defend ourselves.

Much must be done to promote Canadian unity. It is essential to revise radically the Canadian constitution, in view of changing social and political conditions. Canadians, including the people of Quebec, must take steps to learn more about each other, through CBC television, the newspapers and books, and through interchange of group visits. French and English should be taught in the public schools of the ten provinces and at teachers' colleges.

Canada is multicultural, with each of the numerous racial elements, including the other third, making their contribution to enrich our Canadian way of life. For example, people of Icelandic descent cherish their literary heritage and tradition of law and parliamentary government.

In harmony with this broad vision is emphasis on world citizenship. The Canadian Dream does not preclude emphasis on a World Dream of nations united for peace, freedom, law and order, and good government. Cooperation begins at home.

United, we Canadians can achieve great things; divided, who knows what would happen? Can we rule out the disintegration of the country we have built up and fought for?

THREE POEMS

by Olafur Johann Sigurdsson
Translated by Hallberg Hallmundsson

AUTUMN BY A BROOK

Evening draws near, my dear brook; the bell
of the buttercup is no more ablaze and glowing.
I am changed — and changed are you as well.

The sedges droop. The flowers, too, have faded,
frost-laced winds put out their splendrous light.
Some forecast that soon it will be snowing.

And now your waters, once so clear, are growing
weary and dark with night,
by murk and care like my own blood pervaded.

HOMESICKNESS

Over roofs of the city you still stare toward the mountains
at steep, blue paths that once you could climb with ease,
and beyond them, within an earshot of flowing fountains,
you feel you can hear leaves drop from the trees.

THE SAME CALL

When I shall have finally travelled the world's last way,
my verses lost on the mountains and heathlands all,
a stranger will pause in the sun-warm summerday
and say to the breeze: I heard a peculiar call.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

by G. Kristjanson

When western Canada's oldest university came into being a hundred years ago, most of the region was untamed wilderness and trackless prairie. The University of Manitoba was established in 1877 for the purpose of conferring degrees on students graduating from its three founding colleges — St. Boniface College, St. John's College, and Manitoba College. For the first several years it operated on this basis — as a non-teaching degree-granting institution only. In 1882 the Manitoba Medical College, which had originally been founded by some practising physicians and surgeons, became a part of the University. In 1888 the recently chartered Wesley College also became a teaching institution affiliated with the University.

In 1900 the Manitoba Legislature changed the University Act so that the University could do its own teaching, and in 1904 a building in downtown Winnipeg became the first teaching facility with a staff of six professors, all of them scientists.

For several decades much controversy surrounded the selection of a permanent site, opinion being sharply divided betweem maintaining and expanding the downtown site, locating in the suburb of Tuxedo, or moving to the southern outskirts of the city in Fort Garry, where the Agricultural College was already situated. This third alternative was the one eventually chosen. By 1929 the University had moved to its permanent home in Fort Garry, although some of its teaching functions continued to be carried on in its "temporary" buildings in downtown Winnipeg until as late as the 1950's.

In the meantime, more and more programs, schools, and faculties were being added. From its founding until the present time, the University has also added a number of colleges to its corporate and associative body. The Manitoba College of Pharmacy became associated in 1902. Other affiliations followed: the Manitoba Agricultural College in 1906, St. Paul's College and Brandon College in 1938. St. Andrew's College, established to train the ministry for the Greek Orthodox Church, became an associated college in 1964. Recently, both the Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Tuxedo and the Canadian Nazarene College in Fort Garry were designated as approved teaching centres. 1967 saw two of the colleges that had been part of the University of Manitoba given university status themselves. These were United College (formerly Wesley) and Brandon College.

Twenty-nine of the many buildings on the Fort Garry campus are directly used for teaching. The remaining buildings contain special laboratories, administrative and service offices, residences, or they belong to research agencies. There is a second complex of buildings which houses the medical and dental instructional units of the University. This is located in downtown Winnipeg near the Health Sciences Centre.

The University of Manitoba has held a special interest for those of Icelandic descent, since Icelandic students have been associated with it or its affiliated colleges throughout most of its history. The first of these was Frimann B. Anderson, an immigrant who had taken most of his college training in the east. He received his degree from Manitoba in

1885. There were four graduates from the Manitoba Medical College and one from the Manitoba Law School by the turn of the century. Thorvaldur Thorvaldson received his B.A. degree (Wesley College) in 1902. The first Icelandic woman graduate was Mary Anderson in 1905. As Wilhelm Kristjanson describes it, in his *The Icelandic People in Manitoba:*

"At first the enrolment was in the faculties of Arts and Science, Medicine, and Law . . . By 1929 there were twenty-six graduates in Medicine, thirteen in law, nine in Agriculture, and some thirteen in Engineering. By 1930 Icelandic graduates from the University of Manitoba numbered nearly 160."

Many Icelandic students have had a brilliant scholastic record. Thorvaldur Thorvaldson won a silver medal on graduation in 1902, and his brother Thorbergur Thorvaldson won the silver medal in Science on graduation in 1906. Stefan Guttormsson (1904) won the silver medal in mathematics. And there were several others. Walter Lindal had the highest standing to that date on his graduation in 1911. Prestigious scholarships came their way as well. Skuli Johnson was Manitoba Rhodes Scholar in 1909 and Joseph T. Thorson in 1910. Two have been awarded the I.O.D.E. overseas scholarship, one of them being Wilhelm Kristjanson, the Editor of this magazine. Coming down to more recent times, Warren Magnusson (1967) was the recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship as well.

Icelanders have also held important posts in teaching and administration with the University. J. T. Thorson (mentioned above) was Dean of the Manitoba Law School from 1919 to 1926, and Olafur T. Anderson was Dean of Arts and Science at Wesley (later United) College for thirty-one years, from 1927 to 1958. Heads of Departments at the University or with affiliated colleges have included Dr. Brandur J. Brandson, in surgery, Dr. Olafur Bjornson, in obstetrics, Skuli Johnson in Classics, A. J. Thorsteinson in Entomology, Richard A. Johnson in Mechanical Engineering (recently elevated to the administrative post of Provost in the office of the Academic Vice-President), Carl Bjarnason in Educational Administration, G. Albert Kristjanson in Sociology, and of course both the former and present Heads of Icelandic Studies (referred to later). And this may only be a partial list.

Officers of instruction (lecturers and professors) of Icelandic descent are too numerous to mention here. The *Icelandic Canadian* issues of Spring and Autumn, 1975, dealt with many of these. Among those who have gained rather special notice or distinction in the recent past one might mention Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson (research in the field of rust-resistant cereals), Dr. Baldur Stefansson (who received the Royal Bank award for his work in the development of rapeseed), and Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson (for many years professor of surgery and presently serving, in addition to his many other activities, as Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg). But to mention a few names is but to take an arbitrary sample of the many who have served with distinction in administration, teaching, or research.

Perhaps the most significant of all the programs developed at the University, from the point of view of Icelanders in North America, has been the establishment there of the Chair of Icelandic studies. For years this had been a dream harboured by all those desirous of maintaining the culture and language of the former homeland. Some teaching in Icelandic actually began at Wesley College in 1901, when Rev. F. J. Bergmann was

appointed lecturer in Icelandic subjects there. Instruction continued in one form or another until 1927. In the meantime, pressure was growing for the establishment of a Chair of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba's main campus. Bequests of money were made and books donated to the library of Icelandic works already in existence there. The Depression and War years proved to be an unfruitful time for raising financial resources, but following this period a fund drive, together with generous private donations resulted in amassing sufficient money to make the dream come true. President Gillson formally announced the foundation of the Chair of Icelandic Language and Literature in 1951. Classes commenced in the academic year 1952-53, with Professor Finnbogi Gudmundsson, a young graduate of the University of Iceland, as instructor. In 1956 he was succeeded by Professor Haraldur Bessason, who has continued in the position ever since. Enrolment in the courses in Icelandic language and literature has varied in the twenty-five years or so since its establishment, but there is evidence of growing interest among young people of Icelandic descent as well as others.

The establishment of the Chair of Icelandic studies is only one example of the great expansion which has characterized the growth of the University during this century. Not only new departments, but whole new schools and faculties have been established, many beginning as small departments and later blossoming into Schools and finally emerging as independent Faculties in their own right. For instance, instruction in Home Economics began in 1906 although it did not become a Faculty until 1970. Instruction in Architecture began in 1933, the Department of Commerce was established in 1937, Physical Education began (as a Department) in 1940, Social Work and Nursing in 1943, Music in 1944, and the School of Art became part of the University in 1950. More recent additions include Dentistry (1958), Medical Rehabilitation (1960) and Dental Hygiene (1963).

We salute the University of Manitoba as it goes into its second century. Undoubtedly the service which it has performed for the community and for the nation will continue unabated in the years to come.

DR. WATSON KIRKCONNELL

Dr. Watson Kirkconnell died February 26, 1977, at Wolfville, Nova Scotia. The news arrived when the Spring issue of the *Icelandic Canadian* was in the final stages of going to press. Because of his long and close association with Icelanders both in the West and in Iceland during his illustrious career, a fitting tribute to his memory will have to await another time. Excerpts from the *Winnipeg Free Press* of February 28 follow:

He was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 1969.

Dr. Kirkconnell, president of Acadia from 1948 to 1964, was a prolific writer. He wrote over 40 books, 130 brochures and joint works and 600 articles. He also translated 5,000 pages from the poetry of ancient and modern Europe.

In 1940 he helped organize the citizenship branch of the department of national war services. He was the first chairman of the Writers' War Committee for Canada in 1942 and also was a charter member of the Canadian Author's Association.

Dr. Kirkconnell held honorary degrees from the University of Manitoba, the University of Windsor, Laval, McMaster, Acadia, St. Francois Xavier, University of Ottawa, St. Mary's University and the University of New Brunswick.

He also held fellowships in the Royal Society of Canada, the Royal Anthropological Institute, Royal Economic Society, Royal Geographical Society, Royal Historical Society and the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

He held many memberships and honorary memberships in international, historical and scientific organizations.

He was honorary deacon of Wolfville Baptist Church, president of Eastern Kings Memorial Hospital Corp., president of Wolfville Historical Society, honorary member of the local Rotary club and a member of St. George's Masonic Lodge.

KNOWEST THOU A LAND?

By Sveinbjörn Björnsson
[born 1854]
Translated by Watson Kirkconnell

Knowest thou a land of purple mountain-passes?
There Northern Lights pour forth a glimmering river
Above the snow-still glacial morasses,
Branching in frosty flames that dart and quiver;
While deep beneath all ice and craggy spire
Throbs the fierce heart-beat of primeval fire.

—The North American Book of Icelandic Verse

SUNRISE

Skuli Thorsteinsson
(floruit 1000)
Translated by Watson Kirkconnell

When the gracious goddess
Goes with footsteps rosy,
Gleaming in her glory,
Grey the moon sinks paling.

A STUDY OF THE SEA OFF ICELAND

On the Need for Underwater Methods in the Study of the Sea Off Iceland: A Discussion Article

by W. S. W. Nowak

To the oceanographer and the diver, Iceland remains something of an unknown quantity. The peripheral location of the island, the prohibitively-sounding name, and the high living standards (and hence expensive prices there) all tend to discourage potential visitors. Yet, despite all these snags, that country deserves a closer look from the academic and pleasure divers. Because Iceland has a population of only some 200,000, it lacks both manpower and finance to develop its marine studies. It also is short of scientific staff trained to initiate all branches of aquatic researches. Indeed, because of its glorious past and tremendous literary heritage, Iceland tends to live to a considerable extent "in the past" — something like Greece and Portugal — and many modern aspects of science vital in contemporary industrial societies, are still neglected. Thus arises a situation whereby the University of Iceland awards some half-a-dozen higher degrees in saga literature every year, but does not have a faculty of oceanography despite the fact that the country has an overwhelmingly sea-oriented economy. Up to now, much of the oceanographical study of the area has been done by Norwegians, Danes, the British, the Canadians, Americans, and even Russians. This pattern is changing somewhat due to the activities of the Fishery Institutes and Naval College, both situated at Reykjavik, but the progress is slow and the knowledge still foreign-dominated. Indeed, this very fact creates great opportunities for divers from other countries who have a chance to make real contributions to learning and to gain expert status in a comparatively short time.

Marine Geology

This subject remains a much neglected field in Iceland despite the fact that the inshore areas of this country are an excellent underwater "laboratory" for the study of all aspects of marine vulcanisity. The geology faculty at the University of Reykjavik is one of the best and is led by the internationally known vulcanologist, Prof. Sigurdur Thorarinsson. Nevertheless, most of its efforts are concentrated on terrestrial igneous activity and the study of the many inland volcanoes which have made Iceland such a dangerous place in bygone centuries. Enormous amounts of valuable scientific material could be accumulated by the underwater study of Surtsey, the latest marine island off Iceland and in the waters surrounding the Vestman Isles. Divers studying underwater eruptions of this kind can frequently find weird lava formations caused by the sudden cooling of lava. Also of considerable interest would be the "zanation" of rocks of different textures and sizes dropped on different distances from the main crater. Studies of most interesting types of mineralogy and crystallization are also possible as are researches on incipient erosion systems on the newly-formed island. All such investigations would be of fundamental significance to both geology and geomorphology. Likewise in Iceland one can study sedimentation patterns of the

type rarely found elsewhere, and also the underwater work of glaciers and of periglacial phenomena. All such studies simply beg to be done but no one at present seems to do much about it. It is true that Icelandic waters tend to be cold; however, they are characterized inshore by extremely good visibility in several localities and have little inherent turbidity because the bed is composed of jagged basic fields from which Arctic storms have washed away all loose sediments. As to the water temperature, The North Atlantic Drift warms the waters of southern and western Iceland which, after all, is much nearer to the the Gulf of Mexico than is Norway, where skin diving is a popular sport.

Marine Biology

Icelandic biology is very interesting because it shows the interaction of several distinct types of flora and fauna. On the one hand, basically temperate forms are in competition with, and contiguous to Arctic ones. On the other, European flora and fauna are intermixed, areally, with essentially American species. In some years, one could even find a few Lusitanian specimens. In Iceland, the European Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus* is quite abundant, but it is also possible to encounter the American one, *Homarus americanus*, though in deeper waters. As can be deduced from the sentences just stated, Iceland is a "paradise" for the marine ecologist and biogeographer, even the physiologist. It can truly be said that off Iceland, Europe, the Arctic and America meet. The research opportunities which this presents to the marine biologist can hardly be overemphasized.

Fishery Research

Iceland is one of the leading fishery nations in Europe and her economy depends to a very large extent on fish. The wide, shallow continental shelf off the island is very rich in planktonic food and forms a breeding ground of many species of fish. Since such species often swarm in waters which are just shallow enough for diving, the diver can significantly contribute to knowledge by observing their migrations and movements. The underwater behavior of some Arctic species is also virtually unknown. The extremely developed international fishery in this area enables the diver to be useful in gear study and in observing the reactions of fish to different types of equipment, even though some degree of expertise is called for in such work. Finally, the diver can be of great use to local fishermen by pointing out beds which are frequented by the scampi and scallops. Last but not least, divers have a role to play in studying the seasonality of the fish on which the success of the commerical fishery so much depends.

Underwater Archaeology

Icelandic archaeology is, to say the least, neglected. The State Museum does have a number of exciting items, but they are meager indeed, in quantity, when compared with similar museums in other countries. This is partly caused by the fact that thousands of acres of Iceland have been destroyed by lava flows, floods and storms in past historical eras. In this way, many valuable items have been buried under layers or burned by lava which is now hard rock. There is no doubt, however, that many priceless historical remains lie covered by deposits of soft volcanic ash at the bottom of the numerous lakes in Iceland. These legally belong to the state, but their discovery would create considerable archaeological renown and academic repute to the finder and the scientist concerned would become well known throughout Scandinavia. The same is true of some of the shallower coastal areas. The waters offshore and in the fjords contain many remnants of mercantile and fishery activity derived from the last 1000 years. Many such remains will doubtless be in very poor condition but the search for them would constitute most interesting diving. The water of Icelandic lakes is, however, very cold, thereby necessitating special equipment. It is an interesting anomaly to find that the sub-Arctic sea water, being warmed by the North Atlantic Drift, is warmer than the inland shallow lakes of the country, even in summer. Nevertheless, it is in the lakes that the most exciting archaeological finds are likely to be found.

Conclusions

The author's purpose is to outline briefly the problems which face the diver if he intended to work in or off Iceland. He postulates that the application of diving methods would yield particularly rewarding results in several branches of knowledge, partly because diving is neglected in Iceland, and partly since the type of problem encountered in Icelandic waters is especially amenable to solution by this research technique. He makes a plea for divers to study the area on the grounds of scientific expediency and recreational opportunity which such activity would undoubtedly offer them.

ON MULTICULTURALISM

Excerpts from an Address
by Honourable John Munro
to the Canada Iceland Centennial
Conference
Winnipeg, October 5, 1975

I believe that the Canada Iceland Centennial Conference has succeeded in emphasizing the cultural, social, religious and educational factors which have influenced the attitudes and actions of the Icelandic settlers and their descendants during the past one hundred years. This Conference has given testimony to Canada's multicultural character and to the fact that ethnocultural groups are making significant contributions to the cultural enrichment of our country.

In our attempt to ensure that multiculturalism remains a positive creative force aimed at bringing together all cultures in Canada, we must guard against the cultivation of ethnicity for its own sake. As the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism once again observed in its report,

> "Multiculturalism, then may be viewed as the development of a consciousness of one's ancestral roots or ethnicity for creative purposes in the hope that a distinctive Canadian identity will emerge."

"ICELANDERS IN TWO HEMISPHERES" FIRST ICELAND—NORTH AMERICA ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

by JOHN S. MATTHIASSON

In the summer of 1976 the University of Iceland and the Anthropological Institute of Iceland hosted the first of what it is hoped will in time become a series of Iceland-North America anthropology conferences. The conference was held on the University of Iceland Campus from July 21 to July 24. Primary organizers of the meetings were Dr. Jens Palsson, Director of the Anthropological Institute of Iceland, Dr. Carolyn Matthiasson, Department of Anthropology, University of Winnipeg, Dr. John S. Matthiasson, Department of Anthropology, University of Manitoba and Dr. Johann Axelsson, School of Medicine, University of Iceland.

The purposes of the conference, which was conceived in Winnipeg during the summer of 1975, were twofold. In the first place, organizers planned to bring together, for an exchange of ideas and data, scholars from a variety of human-oriented disciplines, and in the second, to lay the ground-work for on-going future collaboration between the participants on research on changes which have taken place within the two Icelandic populations of Iceland and North America since the time of the major migrations of Icelanders to the New World in the last century. It was generally agreed by all participants at the conclusion of the conference that both objectives had been achieved.

It is difficult to paraphrase the contents of the papers presented and discussions which preceded and followed them, in particular because of the highly technical nature of much of both and the variety of academic disciplines represented. In general terms, the conference concept was stimulated by a common recognition reached by the four organizers that little research has been conducted from the perspectives of either the social or behavioural sciences into the adaptations which Icelanders have made to conditions in Iceland and to the new social and geographical environments Icelandic migrants encountered on arrival in North America during the century following the major migrations. This in spite of the exciting possibilities of such research for an understanding of adaptations of peoples with similar genetic constitutions to different environments. For example, changes in diet, exposure to disease, variations in climate and so on, could all be examined on a comparative base by controlled studies of Icelanders in Iceland and North America in the mid twentieth century. Similarly, it might be assumed that new social, political, religious, artistic and other cultural forms have emerged among both populations since the first migrations west. So, this concept of comparative studies of the two Icelandic populations seemed

a most pertinent and compelling way to examine human adaptation patterns in different environments, and at the same time, and equally important, to add scientific findings to our knowledge of Icelandic history, in both hemispheres, during the century since the two populations separated. The first step, then, was to bring together scholars who either had studied one or the other of the two populations in the past, or planned to do so in the future, and summarize the *status quo* with regard to existing findings, and then, to plan an integrated, highly organized and long-range research programme of an inter-disciplinary nature.

As well as the three universities represented by the four organizers of the conference, the United States was represented through the participation of Dr. Anthony Way, Faculty of Medicine, Texas Tech. University. Dr. G. Albert Kristjanson, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba, was the second representative of the University of Manitoba. Participants from the University of Iceland, along with Drs. Palsson and Axelsson, were Dr. Erlendur Haraldsson, Mr. Indrithi Indrithason (Icelandic Anthropological Society), Dr. Bjorn Bjornsson, Prof. Andri Isaksson, Prof. Sigurjon Bjornsson, Mr. Olafur Hakansson, M. Sigrithur Kristmundsdottir, Prof. Olafur Grimsson, Mr. Haraldur Olafsson, Dr. Sigmundur Guthbjarnason, and Mr. Einar Siggeirsson. Mrs. Inger Jessen assisted in the organization of the conference and acted as recording secretary for the plenary session on the last day. Dr. Richard Harris, University of Saskatchewan, was an observer at the conference. Dr. Olafur Olafsson, Chief Medical Officer of Iceland, both contributed a paper to the proceedings and participated actively in the planning of future research. Those attending the conference were honoured by the attendance at some of the meetings of Kristjan Eldjarn, President of Iceland, who took part as a professional archaeologist and prominent scholar. The conference was opened by the presentation of words of greeting from Prof. Guthlaugar Thorvaldsson, President of the University of Iceland, who also hosted a reception for participants in his office before the conference began.

As mentioned earlier, it was generally agreed that the conference was a considerable success. There are plans, as still tentative, to have a second conference in Winnipeg in the summer of 1977. Preliminary research has been begun on the long-range research project. This conference was one of, if not the first, major joint meetings between a large number of scholars from Iceland and North America, and the planned collaborative research will certainly be the first example of what will hopefully be continued close cooperation between scholars in Iceland and North America into the differences and similarities in the adaptations Icelanders have made in the twentieth century in two hemispheres. Readers of the *Icelandic Canadian* magazine will be kept informed of that research as it progresses. Many will be asked to assist in a variety of ways. The researchers are confident that they will do so when called upon.

ICELANDIC SETTLEMENTS IN DAKOTA

(continued)

From the Almanak of O. S. Thorgeirsson, 1902

by THE REV. FRIDRIK J. BERGMANN

Translation by Axel Vopnfjord

XXI. THE SETTLERS OF 1881

In the spring of 1881 a large number of newcomers from Winnipeg and New Iceland homesteaded in the Dakota settlement. They were welcomed with open arms, as everyone wanted the colony to grow. Several people settled in the northern part of the district, amongst them Thorleifur Joakimsson (Jackson), the author, and Eggert Gunnlaugsson. (Translator's note: In view of the great length of the original Icelandic narrative the translator has taken the liberty of omitting the long list of the names of the newcomers to the settlement included in this and subsequent sections. However, exception is made if the people mentioned are in his opinion well-known. Furthermore, he will henceforth abbreviate the translation, omitting minor details that in his opinion are of little historical interest or value.) Among those who settled in the Vik (Mountain) district was Niels Steingrimur Thorlaksson. (Translator's note: father of Dr. Thorlaksson of Winnipeg and his brothers and sisters). He later became the Rev. Thorlaksson, and for many years served the Lutheran Congregation in Selkirk, Manitoba.

XXII. THE EYFORD DISTRICT

Jakob Eyford homesteaded land between the Vik and Park districts. There he erected an imposing house, the first one in the settlement built of lumber, which was conveyed by an ox-drawn vehicle from Pembina. Because he painted it white, it was henceforth known in the district as the 'White House'. Among a considerable number of people who settled in the vicinity was Magnus Snowfield.

XXIII. ADDITIONAL SETTLERS AT PARK

During the summer of 1881, a large group of newcomers settled in the Park (Gardar) district. Some of them bought farms. Others lived in the settlement for some time before they had the means of so doing. Among the new arrivals (names selected at random by the Translator) were: Pall Dalmann, Sigurdur Isfeld, Einar Bessason, Jakob Espolin, Jakob Lindal, Baldvin Helgason, Einar Myrdal, Albert Samuelsson, Stefan Gudmundsson and Asmundur Bjarnason.

XXIV. PROGRESS IN AGRICULTURE

The settlers came to realize that the material progress of the colony was dependent on agriculture. At first the indigent immigrants did not have the necessary equipment to enable them to take advantage of the agricultural potential of their land, nor did they have the expertise. In the incredibly short time of six years, according to records kept by Hallgrimur Gislason, dated March 31, 1884, the population of the Gardar district was 50, some of whom owned two farms; in the Park district 170, 50 of whom were newcomers who owned no land. The Icelandic farmers in the district owned in total 28 horses, 6 colts, 138 cows, 184 calves, 164 sheep, 47 pigs and 184 chickens. Their agricultural equipment consisted of 48 plows, cost per plow $16.00-$18.00; 35 harrows, 13 machines for sowing grain, cost $60.00; 5 binders, cost $275.00; 4 harvesters, cost $275.00; 5 mowers, cost $75.00-$80.00; 8 hay rakes, cost $25.00-$35.00; one-half interest in a threshing machine cost $1700.00; eight machines to clean the wheat. 1470 acres were under cultivation. The average yield per acre: wheat 15-32 bushels; oats 15-70 bushels. The selling price of wheat was 75-84 cents per bushel.

The settlers obviously were not conservation-conscious. Without any forethought they completely cut down lovely stands of oak trees, some of them 200 years old. They then cut the trees into lumber which they used unseasoned for house construction. One can surmise the result.

XXV. HARALDUR THORISSON [HARALD THORESEN]

Harald Thoresen, Norwegian merchant in the village of Northfield, Minnesota, was the one who, as mentioned before, had loaned the Rev. Thorlaksson on credit 100 barrels of flour and 40 heads of cattle. He had started his career as a penniless young man, but had by this time become wealthy. During the summer he visited the Icelandic settlement for the first time, bringing a pair of mules which the Thorlaksson brothers, Thorsteinn and Bjorn, bought, and a large number of cows which the settlers vied with each other in buying on credit, to be repaid on a long-term basis, at a rate of interest. The settlers do not seem to have given much thought as to how and when they could raise the money to repay their debts. During the following ten years the merchant sold the settlers a large number of cows and horses on the same basis. The selling price of a team of horses at this time was $400.00, a team of mules $500.00. Having been unable to repay their debts many settlers lost their farms. A number of them were forced to leave the district and settle elsewhere. It looked for a while that the Icelandic settlement at Vik might disappear, but a concentrated effort on the part of the community as a whole prevented such a tragedy. Needless to say Harald became so unpopular that he never again dared to show his face in the community.

XXVI. RECREATION

In spite of the hardships of the early years people were vivacious and happy at social gatherings. No matter how hard they worked during the day they as a rule were willing to go long distances walking or in an ox-drawn cart to attend such functions. There was a large gathering at the Independence Day Celebration at Park, July 4, 1881. The chief speaker was Niels Steingrimur Thorlaksson, the Rev. Pall Thorlaksson's brother, who had graduated from a school in Dayton, magna cum laude. As was to be expected, he spoke Icelandic rather haltingly, having been absent from the Icelandic community for some time.

During the first winter the main activities at such get-togethers were singing, dancing, and playing the harmonica. These meetings were generally held at the home of Eirikur Bergmann, the best accommodation available in the district, since Eirikur was somewhat more affluent than the other settlers. Conversation was always stimulating. With such literary-minded people as Stephan G. Stephansson, Karolina Dalmann, Sigurdur Isfeld, and Jakob and Helga Lindal, the poetry composed was by no means inferior in quality. Men like Olafur Olafsson, Jonas Hallgrim-

son, and Kristinn Kristinnsson were generally the life of the party. These get-togethers sometimes lasted until the "wee, sma' hours of the morning".

On occasion it happened that a young man at Vik had heard that there was to be a dance at Park. Anxious to take the girl of his dreams to it, he would walk three or four miles to borrow an ox and a cart. There being no room in the cart for two, he would walk the whole distance, at times prodding along a recalcitrant ox. There were times when he was shocked to note that his big toe was sticking out of a hole in his shoe, and the patch on the knee of his trousers was glaringly obvious. At such times he would take from his pocket his red, silken handkerchief, the only decent item of haberdashery he owned, and in an effort to impress his inamorata in the cart, he would make himself and the handkerchief obvious to her. To cap the climax the dance might be over when they arrived, courtesy of a recalcitrant ox.

XXVII. THE SETTLEMENT ON THE PEMBINA HILLS

In 1881 there was scarcely any land available in the region where the Icelandic immigrants had settled. Furthermore, the Icelandic community had become surrounded by non-Icelandic settlers. Hence, some Icelanders decided to re-locate on the Pembina Hills, some twelve miles north-west of Vik, in Cavalier County. Among those who settled there were: Stefan Gudmundsson, Olafur Einarsson, Gisli Benjaminsson, Bjorn Petursson, and Steingrimur Grimsson.

This settlement became fairly prosperous, but at the time this article is being written not many of the original settlers are left. Some have moved away; others have died. A congregation was formed in 1884 by the Rev. Hans Thorgrimsen, who in 1886 was succeeded by the Rev. Fridrik J. Bergmann. A church was built in 1894. The settlers did their shopping first at Olga, later at Milton, 8 to 10 miles away.

XXVIII. THE DEATH OF A DEDICATED MAN

As stated before in this account, the Rev. Pall Thorlaksson was a sick man. During the summer of 1881 it was with difficulty that he performed his pastoral duties, but he endeavored to do so to the utmost of his ability. With the assistance of his brother, Niels, a theological student, he somehow managed to carry on. The spirit was willing, but the flesh was woefully weak. By autumn he was forced to relinquish all activities. At the annual meeting of the congregation in January, 1882, he accounted for the remuneration he had received for his services during the previous year. His total salary had been $500.00, approximately $300.00 of which had been contributed by the Norwegian Synod. In addition he had received 29 bushels of wheat, 9 of oats, and 23 men had contributed a day's labor. During the latter part of the winter, as he knew that the end was near, he tried his best to persuade the congregation to ask the Rev. Hans Thorgrimsen to replace him. On March 12, 1882 he passed away. His funeral took place on April 2. That winter the snowfall had been so heavy that it was possible to kill stags with a cudgel in the deep snow. In spite of these hazards a large number of people attended the funeral service to bid their last, sad farewell to the man who had so assiduously, so selflessly, and so successfully struggled to improve their initially wretched circumstances. A Norwegian pastor, Kristjan Flaten, preached the funeral sermon in Norwegian, assisted by Niels Steingrimur Thorlaksson, who paid tribute to his brother in Icelandic.

The death of the Rev. Pall Thorlaksson at the early age of 33 was one of the most grievous events that had hitherto befallen the whole Icelandic community in North America. Within the Dakota community the grief at his passing was universally genuine and profound. It has been contended that religiously he was ultra conservative, and somewhat intolerant of views divergent from his own, but he had a deep and abiding faith in his God and the Christian religion. So sensitive was he that he could not bear to witness suffering of any kind, and would give his last penny to anyone in need.

All too seldom do men of his stature and nobility of character appear among us. The Icelandic community of Dakota was, indeed, fortunate in having him as a member. He played a major role in founding it. He gave his all, including his young life in the herculean task of saving it from extinction.

More than two decades have passed since those frustrating, back-breaking, heart-breaking, heroic times, but the life of the Rev. Pall Thorlaksson is still a beacon light, as it was then, shining brightly across the dark and troubled waters of human affairs, beckoning, summoning us to selfless service to our fellow man and good will to all.

The world is a better place because men such as he dwelt among us, though all too briefly.

XXIX. SETTLERS DURING 1882 AND LATER

A number of settlers arrived in 1882 and subsequently. Some of them came from the Icelandic settlement of Markland, in Nova Scotia. A few of these were: Brynjolfur Brynjolfsson, Gudbrandur Erlendsson, Johannes Arnason, Gudmundur Petursson, Jon and Larus Frimann, Johannes Torfason, Jon Soldal, Jonas Sturlaugsson, Vigfus Hallsson, Finnbogi Erlendsson, Bjorn Halldorsson, and Saemundur Eiriksson.

XXX. POSTAL SERVICE

In 1881 a post office called Coulee was established in the Tongue River district, with Sigurdur Bjornsson as postmaster. At the same time another one called Mountain was established at Vik, with Thorlakur Jonsson as postmaster. He carried the mail between Mountain and Coulee, also to and from Cavalier, using the Rev. Thorlaksson's horse, Ulfar, as the means of transportation. Later (1883?) the Coulee post office was transferred to the farm of Johann Hallsson, and renamed Hallson. Since that time the Tongue River district has been known as the Hallson district, and the district east of it as the Sand Hills district, and the Vik district as Mountain.

In 1882 a post office was established in the Park district, with Eirikur Bergmann as postmaster. It was named Gardar for the Swedish discoverer of Iceland, Gardar Svavarsson. The mail was brought in from Crystal. Since that time the district has been known as Gardar.

Somewhat later another post office called Akra was established in the so-called Sand Hills, five miles west of Cavalier, with Stigur Thorvaldsson as postmaster. Another one called Eyford operated for some time in a district between Gardar and Mountain, with Jakob Eyford as postmaster. It has now been discontinued, but the district has since that time been known as Eyford. In 1899 another post office called Svold was established four and one-half miles north-east of Hallson, with Halldor Vivatsson as postmaster.

XXXI. STORES AND MERCHANTS

The first Icelandic store was started on a small scale by Haraldur Thorlaksson. At first he got his wares from nearby merchants (Yerxa), but later went to St. Paul, where he successfully negotiated a deal with wholesalers. He must have had some of his brother's persuasive powers, having no money he was able to clinch the deal without a down payment. This was the first time according to the wholesalers that a deal of this kind had been concluded. When the enterprise got into difficulties because of unpaid debts, Haraldur's brother, Niels, came to his assistance. While the two of them worked together the business pospered. As a labor of love they assisted the settlers in various ways; e.g., acting as middlemen between them and the mortgage companies.

Eirikur Bergmann and his cousin Fridrik Bergmann, who had been a teacher in Minnesota, statrted business at Gardar, entitled Bergmann Bros. But later that summer Fridrik went to Norway to study theology. Subsequently Eirikur expanded his business and built a first-class store, but in 1885 it burnt down along with all its contents. In due course he re-built it and continued in business. Magnus Breidfjord established another store on a small scale at Gardar. His son Stefan, operates it now.

In 1887 Haraldur Thorlaksson was forced to discontinue his business because of difficulty in collecting debts. A Norwegian name Ole Oie took over from him. Loftur Gudnason opeeated another store there, also Elis Thorvaldsson, as well as the brothers, Halldor and Egill Reykjalin.

In 1883 Jon Skjold operated a store at Hallson, and at the same time acted as postmaster. Upon his death his son, Petur, took over the business. Stigur Thorvaldsson had a flourishing business at Akra, as did the Melsted brothers, Einar and Benedikt, at Edinburg; also Bjorn Bjornsson at Milton. At Edinburg, Adalsteinn Jonsson had a half-interest in a bank. He was the first Icelandic owner of a bank in North America. In the same town Kolbeinn Thordarson is the owner and editor of the newspaper Edinburg Tribune. Dr. B. J. Brandson is the resident doctor there; Benedikt Hanson is the druggist. Dr. Moritz Halldorsson is the doctor at Park River. In Cavalier there are two Icelandic lawyers, Daniel Laxdal and Magnus Brynjolfsson.

XXXII. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Just before Christmas, 1882, the first school house was completed at Gardar. The first teacher was Fridrik Bergmann. At Mountain the first school was a house on the farm of Niels Steingrimur Thorlaksson. He was the first teacher. There are now about 20 schools in the settlement. The majority of the pupils are Icelandic, as are the teachers and members of the school boards. The school term is generally 6-7 months with 9 months at Mountain. The monthly salary of teachers is $35.00 - $50.00.

XXXIII. COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Each state in the United States is divided into counties, and each county into townships. County commissioners administer the affairs of the counties. Councils administer the affairs of the townships. The members of the councils are known as supervisors. Other administrators are: a clerk, an assessor, two justices of the peace, two constables, etc. Each township is generally 36 square miles in area, but the Gardar, Eyford, and Mountain were at first combined into one township, 72 square miles in area. It was known as the Thingvalla district. Later it was divided into two townships, the Thingvalla to the north and Gardar to the south. North of Thingvalla township was the Beaulieu township, in which the Hallson district is located. In the Gardar, Thingvalla, and Akra townships the population was predominantly Icelandic. People of other ethnic origins were so few that their influence was negligible.

XXXIV. CHURCH AFFAIRS

(Translator's note: this section is so lengthy in the original Icelandic narrative, that some of the details are omitted as of little or no interest to present-day readers.)

After the death of the Rev. Pall Thorlaksson, the Rev. Hans Thorgrimsen was called to serve the three congregations in the settlement. Shortly after his arrival, in 1883, he urged his parishioners to build a church. Prior to his death, Rev. Thorlaksson had arranged to assemble a sufficient number of oak logs to build a church. He had also donated a portion of his homestead for a cemetery. On that plot of land the first Icelandic church in North America was built.

In 1884, the Rev. Thorgrimsen recommended the union of all the Icelandic congregations in North America. The Rev. Jon Bjarnason, who had recently arrived from Iceland to serve the Icelandic congregation in Winnipeg, enthusiastically endorsed the recommendation. At a meeting in Winnipeg, June 20, 1885, attended by three delegates from Mountain, the Rev. Thorgrimsen, Sigurdur Bjornsson, and Thorlakur Jonsson, the constitution of the newly-formed Icelandic Lutheran Synod having been formulated, it was tentatively approved. By this time, there were six Icelandic congregations in North Dakota. The delegates to the meeting from each one of them were: Park — Stephan G. Stephansson and Jonas Hall; Gardar — Eirikur and Fridrik Bergmann; Sand Hills — no delegates recorded; Pembina — Sigurdur Myrdal; Little Salt near Grafton — Olafur Gudmundsson. Altogether 12 delegates from North Dakota attended, approximately half the total at the meeting.

Early in 1886, the Rev. Thorgrimsen resigned to accept a call from a Norwegian congregation in South Dakota. He was replaced by the Rev. Fridrik J. Bergmann, who had recently graduated from a theological college in Philadelphia. During the previous two years he had studied theology in Norway. In the northern part of the settlement there was some dissension, and new congregations were formed, but the Rev. Bergmann was able to resolve their differences. As a result the Vidalin Congregation was formed. The people in the northern part of the Gardar district formed the new Thingvalla Congregation. The Rev. Bergmann served the following congregations: Gardar, Vik, Grafton, Vidalin, Pembina, Hallson, Thingvalla and Pembina Hills. He travelled 26 miles from his home to Grafton, 55 miles to Pembina, and 20 miles to the Pembina Hills.

The Vik Congregation had borrowed money from Haraldur Thorisson (Harald Thoreson) in order to build a church. Twelve farmers had pledged their farms as security. As the congregation seemed unable to raise the money to pay off the debt, it looked for a time that farmers would lose their farms. Two men, Bjorn Einarsson and Jon Jonsson came to the resuce. When they paid the money to Haraldur, he was reluctant to accept as he had coveted the farms. In due course, the two Good Samaritans were repaid the money with interest by the congregation.

In 1888, churches were built, one for the Gardar Congregation, assessed at $3,800.00, the other, assessed at

$1,000.00, for the Vidalin Congregation. In 1889, another one was built at Pembina, in 1891 at Grafton, in 1892 at Eyford for the Thingvalla Congregation, and in 1894 on the Pembina Hills.

At the suggestion of the Rev. Bergmann, the Rev. Jonas A. Sigurdsson was called in 1893 to serve the Vidalin, Hallson, Pembina and Grafton congregations, the Rev. Bergmann retaining the other four. The Rev. Sigurdsson was instrumental in forming the Peturs (Peter's) Congregation north of the Tongue River. In 1897 two new churches were built. One of them was located on the farm of Johann Hallsson, the first settler in the district, who made liberal contributions to defray the cost of its construction. Mr. Hallsson died in 1899, shortly before the church was to be consecrated. His funeral took place on the day of consecration. The other church was built on the farm of Gudmundur Einarsson for the use of the Peturs Congregation. He supervised the construction and paid for it. He later donated it to the congregation.

By this time, nine churches had been constructed in the settlement. Had the Rev. Pall Thorlaksson been living at the time, he would have greatly rejoiced.

Having served for eight years the Rev. Sigurdsson resigned in the autumn of 1899. It was his intention to retire from the ministry, and to undertake some other type of work. It was decided to ask the Rev. Thorgrimsen to replace him, but two congregations decided to call the Rev. Niels Steingrimur Thorlaksson. At the time that this is being written (1902) Mr. Thorlaksson serves the congregation in Selkirk, Manitoba.

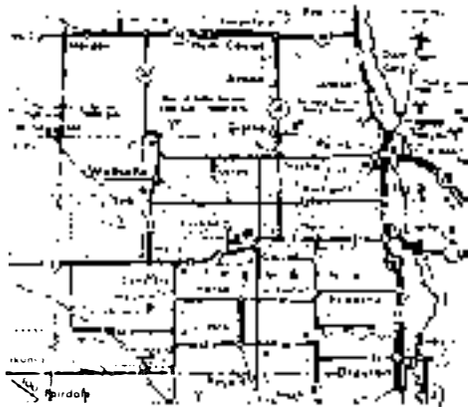
XXXV. THRESHING MACHINES

Threshing machines were the most costly equipment that the farmers needed. Johann Hallsson was the first settler to buy a small, horse-propelled one for $750.00. There are now ten of them in the settlement, the average cost of each one being approximately $3500.00.

XXXVI. POLITICS

The settlers soon became prominently involved in politics. At first most of them were Republicans, but later many of them joined the Democratic Party. Eirikur Bergmann was appointed County Commissioner in 1885. He was later elected to the lower house of the Legislature.

The following have been from time to time elected to the lower house of the State Legislature: Arni Bjornsson, Stefan Eyjolfsson and Jon Thordarson. Skafti Brynjolfsson served a term in the State Senate. The following have served as County Commissioners: Eirikur Bergmann, Jon Jonsson, Tomas Halldorsson, Sigurjon Sigfusson, Stefan Eyjolfsson, and Sigurdur Sigurdsson. Daniel Laxdal, a lawyer in Cavalier, was appointed Commissioner of Public Lands in 1899, and re-appointed in 1901.



Map showing places featured in article.

VERSES FOR INGIBJORG

Einar Pall Jonsson
Translated by Thorvaldur Johnson

I care not at all what the weather may do,
For sunshine illumines my days,
And lights up my hours with the ray of your love
Which around me incessantly plays.
In the warmth of your heartbeat depression's cold fog
Is converted to noonday's full blaze.

Each smile on your lips and each word of your mouth
Is like summer's dew falling from space.
In the toil of the day each task is like play
For it bears the imprint of your face.
And winter is sunny as summer to me
While I dwell in the light of your grace.

THE TEAR

Kristjan Jonsson (*1842-1869*)
Translated by Watson Kirkconnell

Thou blessed spring of cool delight,
O silver-shining tear,
Thou healest many a human blight
With ministry sincere.

And vanish not from out my eye,
Thou tear of lovers' joy!
Thou sendest sorrow's tragedy
When heart-break would destroy.

A light within my heart appears
Whene'er the tear-drops fall;
I think that God must count my tears
And bless me through them all.

—The North American Book
of Icelandic Verse

LULLABY

Jakobina Johnson
Translated by Thorvaldur Johnson

I hold a little hand, for the rocky path is rough,
And that way I can find if you are warm enough.
I know it is my duty, your path to oversee,
—But rather it is you who're guiding me.

Oh, you have touched the sharp thorn, hidden by the rose,
And from your clouded eyes a pearly teardrop flows.
I know that, as a mother, I must your solace be,
—But rather it is you who solace me.

You ask about the dark cloud, that hides the sunset glow,
And the withered maple leaves, the wind blows to and fro.

I try as best I can to answer every plea,
—But rather it is you who answer me.

Now tire the little feet; I offer you my arms.

Pressed close against my heart, the moment has its charms.

Your quiet, restful breath brings me tranquility,
—And so it is that you bring rest to me.

Redistribution of People

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING THE NATION TODAY

By G. B. Gunlogson

Editor's Note: Mr. Gunlogson's article is taken from an address he presented at the Development Foundation, Racine, Wisconsin, October 1974. His article is written with specific reference to rural conditions in the United States, but conditions in Western Canada are comparable.

✦ ✦ ✦

For a whole generation, there has been an uninterrupted exodus in America, from countryside communities to the big cities. Country towns and small cities have lost and continue to lose their people. North Dakota has been a big loser in this drama.

Since 1930, the State's population has been steadily declining while in many states the population has doubled and trebled. And the end is not yet in sight. There will be 12 per cent fewer people in the State by 1990, according to a recent government study on future growth for the United States.

This is the largest indicated loss for any state. The warning should concern the whole country and North Dakota in particular. *It need not happen.*

The purpose of this Conference is to deal with community development. If communities are to be developed, ways and means must be found to stop this erosion of the human resource.

The communities I want to discuss are the country towns and small cities scattered across the State. They form the structure that supports North Dakota. The future of the whole State depends on these towns just as a tree depends on the vitality of its many roots.

A business executive in Omaha, who has long been active in the affairs of his State, recently wrote: "The future of Omaha depends almost wholly on the prosperity of the hundreds of towns and small cities scattered across Nebraska."

The shift in population and industry has reached such proportion that two-thirds of all the people in the country now live within less than 2 percent of the area of the United States. And only one-third are left in the other 98 percent.

Some idea of the concentration that now exists in some metropolitan areas may be gained from statistics. In Illinois there is one county that has 5.5 million people and countless industries squeezed into it. This is Cook County in which Chicago is situated. In size it is smaller by one-third than Barnes County.

North Dakota is not alone to suffer population losses. South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, according to this same report, are also expected to have fewer people by 1990.

The total present population of this vast five-state area of nearly 500,000 square miles is only little more than one-half that of the county previously referred to. Here is a great empire, larger than all of France, West Germany, the Netherlands and Great Britain combined. It has enormous wealth in mineral resources, some of the richest soil in the world, great forests, lakes, rivers, scenic beauty and healthful climate. Yet its population continues to shrink while Cook County continues to get more crowded.

This disproportionate distribution of people is not due to any supernatural forces. They are man-made. Ever since the wheel was discovered, man's inventions have been changing the character of his communities and his relationship with the earth.

It was the invention of machines and technology that wiped out millions of jobs in country communities. The man-hours moved to the big cities to make machines and to process the products from the land. Larger operating units in agriculture grew. There are now 3 million fewer farms than in 1930.

When farms became fewer the bottom began to fall out of the fragile economy in thousands of country towns. Income from other sources did not fill the gap. Local jobs were lost and stores closed up. People left to find work and to seek a brighter future elsewhere.

The American people have always been highly inventive and enterprising. By the turn of the century, the American farmer had developed the most efficient agriculture in the world. This changed the nation's balance of trade and made this country the bread basket for the world. It also made possible a new industrial economy which has grown and multiplied ever since.

Inventiveness created new industries and these industries became so efficient that America attained world leadership and great wealth.

We own enough automobiles to take every man, woman and child in the United States, Canada, and Mexico out for a ride — all at the same time. The total horsepower in the country has increased from 2.773 billion in 1940 to 24 billion in 1973; electric energy has increased from 180 billion kilowatt hours to nearly 1,800. Today farmers in the United States produce seven times as much per man hour as in 1930.

This dynamic growth of industry and services became the economic life blood of big cities. Meanwhile, relative underdevelopment and underpopulation deepened in the country communities that depended primarily on the production of raw materials. The value of these commodities in relation to the total economy continued to shrink.

These imbalances have now brought us face to face with two historic emergencies. In the country too many communities are dying; and in the big cities human degeneration inefficiency, poverty, pollution, and unsafe streets have reached a crisis.

These conditions are giving birth to new aspirations and forces which may play an important role in the future course of the country, and I want to discuss this briefly.

First, there is a growing number of people who feel that the country needs a period of revitalization and that individuals need new options. There is widespread recognition that population redistribution is the only way that the country's total resources and living space can be made available to a larger share of its people. Some assessments of the future are indicated by studies among young people. The magnetic aura of the large city and the suburb, so prevalent in the 60's, may well be giving way to a new set of attitudes — attitudes borne by the millions of Americans who are now, or soon will be, forming a household and entering the job market.

During the last few years, surveys have been conducted at the University of Rhode Island, Brown University, New York University, St. Augustina College, South Dakota and elsewhere, based on two questions.

The first deals with students' attitudes concerning national growth policy. "What in your opinion would be best for

the future of America — to have more growth in country towns and small cities scattered across the nation or to have growth concentrated in large urban areas?"

The second is concerned with the student's choices for future living environments. "If you had your choice, in what type of place would you like to live — large city, suburb of large city, small city or town, or in the country?"

In response to the first question on national growth policy the summaries show these opinions:

81 percent would like to have scattered growth.

19 percent for concentrated growth in metropolitan areas.

The second question on life style preference brought these results:

62 percent would prefer to live in a small city or in the country.

38 percent in big city or suburb.

Some of the reasons given for town or small city living were: less congestion, more livable, sense of community, personal safety, close to nature and so on .

Nearly every state government is involved in some way with population problems. These issues have never been more clearly defined than in a Resolution submitted to the National Governors Conference, a few years ago, by the former Governor of North Dakota, William L. Guy. I am quoting one statement from this resolution because it identifies the problems so well.

"Over-populated areas are suffering grave and expensive social problems such as air and water pollution, transportation glut on land, on water and in the air, rising crime rates, crowded educational and recreational facilities, festering ghetto living conditions and unwieldy government; and at the same time under-populated areas of the nation are suffering expensive social problems such as an inadequate tax base for desired services, and an inadequate population to provide a need for such institutions as churches, schools and other activities of group participation."

This comes right down to the development of towns and small cities in the countryside.

In the last twenty years, I have personally visited more than a thousand country towns and sponsored innumerable studies trying to find out what it takes to make a good town. The factors vary from place to place and many are human and intangible, but when all are added up, some general patterns emerge.

At the outset it should be recognized that country towns are a part of their own vast economic framework which is separate and distinct from the big city economy. The two are interdependent and coessential but the former must never be regarded as a sort of backyard or a province of the big cities.

This framework is the **American Countryside.** It is really a whole world in itself. It comprises 98 percent of the United States in area and natural resources. It has 70 million people and more than 16,000 towns and small cities. They range in size from a few hundred to 15,000 or even larger, but all are functionally a part of this country framework. This is the base of the nation's whole economic pyramid.

The records also show something about the qualities of the people. For example the country and small cities produce more professional people, entrepreneur owners and managers of enterprises than all the big cities combined.

Sometimes this whole geographical complex is referred to as "rural". Sometimes it is called "non-metropolitan" — a still more negative appellation.

The "rural" designation goes back to times when much of the country was a wilderness. It was then that the Bureau of the Census classified all regions outside the boundaries of cities as "rural". The term is still used by some Federal agencies and this has tended to authenticate its use and to emphasize ruralism, in a world that has completely changed.

The rural designation is inappropriate when applied to the country and its people. If we want to diversify the conomy and attract business enterprises and more people, this will take place in the towns and small cities. They don't want to be labeled as rural. What we are talking about are 23 million families in different walks of life of whom about 2.5 million are engaged in farming. In this countryside framework there have been major physical improvements and social changes taking place in the last 20 years.

It has long been clear that the decline of most country towns has resulted mainly from lack of economic diversification. It makes no difference whether the industry is agriculture, mining or one-plant manufacturing. Single economy in a community tends to stagnate and to limit local opportunities and to degrade the community. Individual initiative and skills have little chance to develop. Young people leave the community. And this is often followed by inheritances leaving the community and the state.

Actually, there are about 7,000 country towns and small cities that are now well situated to accommodate a variety of new enterprises and more people. They have power, transportation, communications, water supply and basic public improvements.

In some states there are a number of such towns that have acquired industries and other businesses in the last ten years. Studies of substantial cross section of these show marked improvements in the economic stability and the quality of the towns. In most cases, farmers, their families and the whole surrounding areas have benefited.

These places are becoming better town and country communities. Their outward reach and neighborly relationship with the surrounding country are being extended.

They become more valuable gateways to the nation's resources, farms, recreation, scenic beauty and the great open spaces. They become better centres for business and trade, education and culture, health facilities, religious and social activities. These experiences are merely samples of the possibilities that may lie ahead.

We are entering a new era. The whole country is in a state of economic and social instability. This is being compounded by changing world conditions — growing shortage of raw materials, particularly fuel for energy and food supplies. With less than 6 percent of the population, we are using about one-third of the world's resource products, and many of them are in short supply. Air and water pollution are other factors confronting us. All these factors are almost certain to have a profound effect in the future structuring of communities and population distribution in America. They could accelerate the need for developing the countryside.

This movement is not a confrontation between the big cities and the countryside. It is an approach to make better use of the nation's total resources for human good. It is an endeavor to enable a larger share of the population to enjoy more directly the bounties of the earth and a better living environment.

The success and orderly progress of this whole movement will depend largely on the kind of information and educa-

tion that we can provide. This must become a continuing program. Its timing with the coming Centennial could give it a certain historical import.

The big cities have long had a compelling attraction for people. They are the centres of great money power, political power and of the mass media with its enormous impact on the minds of people.

Against this, the voices of small towns across America are pretty feeble. Yet these towns must try to maintain their places in the economy or they will die as communities.

At this point it would be well to take stock of what the countryside has going for it and what else it may need.

Some states have sponsored special programs that have been helpful. Most states also have agencies that are active with industrial and resources development, tourism, park supervision, historical interests and so on. All these services are well situated to help in the future development of country communities. Perhaps in some states these could become even more relevant to local community interests.

The countryside movement has been given a great deal of impetus by a number of small organizations. Most of these are local or regional, a few are national in scope. Some are identified with colleges. Their work has been of great value in pioneering, in getting things started and in spearheading education. Their activities are likely to become even more important in the future.

I think we can expect more cooperation from the Federal government in the future. More forms of aid are becoming available for improving country towns. Some ongoing programs are available in every community, and the local people can have agreat deal to do with making them more effective.

However, it is important to bear in mind that the job is mainly up to us as private citizens, and not the government. It is private enterprise that keeps the wheels rolling.

To enable country towns to do more for themselves there are certain tools needed. One is a publication oriented to the needs and interests of the total countryside. It could be of incalculable value right now. Such a publication will come in time because of the profit possibilities it could offer a publisher.

A good local newspaper is invaluable to a country town. More than anything else it reflects the spirit and the enterprise of the whole community, but its reach is limited and the influence essentially local.

A national non-profit association — a sort of countryside Chamber of Commerce — is also needed. This would provide a voice and much needed representation for town and country populations. Actually, the total countryside as such has no effective national representation or voice. Town and country people may be the most overlooked segment of the nation's population. This organization could be a federation of local groups.

The timing of this Conference on the calendar of local and world events has been well chosen. It comes at a unique juncture in the economic history of North Dakota. The State's major resources — farm products and energy resources have attained a new level of demand and value. To translate these gains into local opportunities and community development is a great challenge.

REPORT ON THE STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON HOMESTEAD RESTORATION PROJECT

By Bjorgvin Sigurdson

On August 10th, 1975, the Stephan G. Stephansson homestead near Markerville, Alberta, was declared an Historic Site by the Hon. Horst Schmid, Minister of Culture, Province of Alberta. The dedication ceremony was attended by many visitors from Iceland, who were touring Canada at the time, as well as local people and visitors from other parts of Canada.

At the time of the dedication, we had not received the title for the property. The Homestead Restoration Committee, therefore, had to assure the government that the title would be turned over to them as soon as we obtained it. This was done in a letter to the Minister, with the condition that we be reimbursed in full for the amount of money that it had cost us to acquire the title. This had all to be settled before the dedication could take place.

Finally late in 1975 we received the title and negotiations with the Department of Culture were resumed, but before the government could act, the project had to be gazetted. This is required by law so that if there were any protests to the action of making this an historic site they could be heard and settled. By the end of February, 1976, this hurdle was cleared. The next step was to get an Order-in-Council to officially declare the homestead an historic site. On June 1st, 1976, the homestead was officially declared a classified historic site.

Late in 1976 a letter was received from the Land Program Administrator stating they were prepared to buy the site from us for the price quoted provided it was free from any encumbrances. The cost to the Crown would be only $2,240.00, the total that the Clubs had actually paid out for acquiring the title for the property. The title was made out to The Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary, as they were the only Club registered with the Alberta Societies Act and incorporated. However, it was always fully understood that all three Alberta Icelandic Clubs were joint owners.

There were three encumbrances against our title: (a) a lien in favour of the Sylvan Lake Rural Electric Company. We now understand that this lien has been paid off for some time but not registered in the Land Titles Office. (b) The County of Red Deer have an "easement" to give access to the river. Regulations in Alberta are that twenty feet adjoining any lakes or streams must remain with the Crown. This, therefore, ceases to be an encumbrance as the Crown is purchasing the land. (c) This is really not an encumbrance since the site was officially declared an historic site, the owner may not make any changes or work on the property without the permission of the Historic Sites Branch of the government. This, therefore, becomes an interdepartmental problem, as all these items can be cleared almost immediately and transfer of title accomplished. Mr. Jack Bjornson, a lawyer by profession and a member of the Edmonton Club, has offered to draw up the legal papers for transfer free of charge.

The Stephan G. Stephansson Homestead Restoration Committee

When, in the spring of 1974, we got really seriously working towards the goal of getting the Stephansson homestead declared an historic site, each of the Icelandic Clubs in Alberta appointed one of its members to represent their club to work on this project. Al Arnason was appointed by the Edmonton Nordurljos Club, Joe Johannson for the Markerville Stephan G. Stephansson Club, and Bjorgvin Sigurdson, Calgary, for the Leif Eiriksson Club. In order to distinguish this committee from other committees, it was decided to name it The Stephan G. Stephansson Homestead Restoration Committee. This Committee was responsible for the purchase of the homestead site and a little over one and one-half acres from a Hutterite Colony that owned a wedge of land adjoining the homestead. The Committee deemed it essential to get this parcel of land in order to have a good enough access to the site and for extra parking. This Committee also arranged for the legal survey for these parcels of land and transfer of title to the Clubs. The Committee reported their actions to their respective Clubs who were always helpful and approved necessary outlay of money.

When we were informed that the Farmers Society of Iceland were donating a generous sum of $10,000.00 towards the restoration of the homestead, the Committee, in consultation with the presidents of the three Clubs, decided if the money was handed over to the government it would probably get lost in the shuffle, as matters were then. Also, we felt that we might need a considerable amount of money in an attempt to get the furniture and furnishing inside the house to conform as closely as possible to what it was like when the poet lived there. It was, therefore, decided that the Markerville Club should accept the donation and hold it in trust until such time as it would be needed. We also received another generous gift of $1,000.00 from the Thodraeknis Society of Iceland, which is also held in trust.

After the dedication, this committee of three deemed it advisable to augment its membership to six — two members from each club. This was agreed to by the societies, so, since late in 1975, the Committee consists of six members, as follows:

Al Arnason, Edmonton, Chairman
Cliff Marteinson, Calgary, Vice-Chairman
Nina Campbell, Edmonton, Secretary
Joe Johannson, Markerville, Bjorgvin Sigurdson, Calgary, Rosa Benediktson, Joint Treasurers.

Rosa Benediktson, Markerville, acts as adviser in restoring the interior of the house.

This Committee can only act in an advisory capacity and has to be extremely diplomatic in dealing with those in charge of the restoration, for all authority over the project now rests with the Department of Culture.

The reasons for turning the project over to the government should be mentioned:

1. They have the personnel with know-how and expertise to do the job.
2. Funds to carry on the project regardless of cost.
3. As an historic site, the Clubs as owners, could not do anything without government permission.
4. They would be responsible for landscaping and maintenance of the site.

The Committee has great hopes for this project. Al Arnason, who lives in Edmonton, and personally knows some of the people concerned, reports that plans are already underway to start work. Al has also worked hard in pushing the project. Rosa Benediktson, the poet's daughter, remembers the house well as it was when her parents lived there. She has prepared a list of the furniture that was in the house at that time and knows where some of it is now, and feels that some of it can be recovered. Her mother's spinning wheel has already been returned.

We hope the grounds will be landscaped and made into a real park. The location is ideal. As such, it would be a pleasure for the public to visit and a shrine to the memory of the poet.

*The Homestead Restoration Committee.

Brian Gislason, of Lloydminister, Wins Coveted Award

Brian Gislason, of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan Comprehensive High School, is this year's recipient of "The Spirit of Youth Memorial Award," a beautiful trophy and a bursary of $260.00. There were 200 in the graduating class.

The trophy is awarded to the Grade XII student attaining the highest standard in sports, general proficiency and scholastic standing. The graduating class gave Brian a standing ovation for his popular win.

He is now attending the University of Saskatchewan.

Brian is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kris Gislason, of Lloydminster.

CANADIAN ICELANDIC YOUTHS VISIT ICELAND

By Russell Storry

This past summer a group of eight young Canadians were invited to Iceland by Bishop Sigurbjorn Einarsson. The invitation was to enable young people of Icelandic descent to develop a better awareness and a better understanding of the land and people of Iceland.

Our group arrived in Iceland on July 16, 1976, for a one month stay. Our first week, spent in Reykjavik, was a busy one. We were invited to dinner at the Bishop's home, invited to the President's residence and welcomed by many other new-found friends. We also took a two day tour through Skalholt, Thingvellir, Mt. Hekla, Geysir and Gullfoss. Throughout our stay our host and guide was the teacher, Ingolfur Gudmundsson. Ingolfur is a pastor, professional tour guide, and ex-policeman, so we were in capable hands.

Leaving Reykjavik, two Icelandic youths joined the group. A two day journey by bus along the west coast brought us to Akureyri, in the North, where we were welcomed by Sera Bolli Gustafsson and his family. A little further north, a new boarding school at Storutjarnir near Godafoss was our home for two weeks. Here we worked with Icelanders landscaping the school grounds. In return we received room and board. During our free time we visited Husavik, scenic Myvatn, Vestmannsvatn, Akureyri (population about 10,000), Laugar (a small town) and the surrounding area. The people in the North, as in the South, treated us wonderfully.

With our work camp at Storutjarnir completed, we travelled south to Reykjavik across the high land. This was an unforgettable trip. The weather was rainy and windy. We had to ford countless glacial rivers that interrupted the trail. Once our van became stuck crossing a stream and began filling with water. When we finally did reach the other side, we opened a door to let the water out of the van. Our Icelandic companions never doubted we would make it.

Back in Reykjavik for a weekend, our group, together with eight other Icelandic youths, travelled to the new national park at Skaftafell in the southeast corner of Iceland. Staying in tents the combined Canadian and Icelandic groups worked together for one week at surfacing a steep switchback scenic trail to Svartifoss (Black Falls). Sand had to be carried in hand barrows and spread manually as machinery would have damaged surrounding soil cover. The work was heavy and progressed slowly. However, its completion brought the reward of satisfaction and accomplishment. During evening gatherings in Skaftafell, the young people were able to exchange, first hand, ideas and information about each other's country. At one session, our group was asked to present their impression of Iceland to the Icelanders. We could not help but notice the Icelandic school system requires extensive compulsory study of both English and Danish. English then was our main means of communication. For Icelanders, being multilingual is a modern day necessity for dealing with other nations, while still preserving their own unique language and culture. The emphasis and depth of languages taught by our school system seems minor in comparison.

In working and travelling with Icelanders we found them to be determined and resourceful people. They seldom give up, working hard for the things that they have. The construction of a new geothermal electric power plant near Myvatn, a region threatened by volcanic eruption is an example of the Icelanders' determination and their philosophical acceptance of the forces of nature. There are many similar examples to be found in Icelandic history. In fact, a knowledge of the island's history is important for appreciating the beauty and intriguing aspects of the country. The positive role of the church in past and present times, somewhat underestimated by Icelanders themselves, was very apparent to our group. These are just a few of the things the trip allowed us to discover for ourselves about Iceland. Remembering now the kindness and generosity shown to us throughout our stay, it is no surprise we look forward to visiting Iceland again.

The members of the group, which ranged from fourteen to nineteen years, were Bill Sigurdson from Winnipeg, Louise Oakley from Gimli, Bob Sigurdson from Winnipeg, Heather Sigurdson from Arborg, Kim Amirault from Victoria, B.C., David and Ragnar Ingibergsson from Banff, Alberta, and myself, Russell Storry, from Winnipeg.

VALLEY ACCORDIONIST IS ONE OF PROVINCE'S BEST

By Diane Cumming

Not so long ago, music lessons were considered an integral part of any young woman's education — even if they were only used to entertain visitors on a Sunday evening.

When Dora Leigh Bjornson was 11, her parents were deciding whether she should take the accordion (her father's instrument) or the piano (her mother's). The accordion won, and seven years later Dora Leigh has become one of the province's leading musicians.

"A fellow from Victoria was calling around signing people up for music lessons," Dora Leigh said. "He brought over a small accordion for me to try. I wasn't so hot at first but now it's not so bad."

As her fingers deftly drifted over the notes of Hungarian Rhapsody, "not so bad" became a definite understatement. Even to the uninitiated her music has the mark of a professional and her trophies prove there are many people who hold the same opinion.

The list of her accomplishments is incredible for a woman just 18 years old. Last year she came first in the junior accordion division of the B.C. Finals and in June, won first place in the senior class at the Victoria Music Festival. Also to her credit is a five year domination over the Pacific Northwest Championships which generally attract more than 300 musicians.

But until the accordion is accepted as a "real" instrument, by Canadian Authorities, Dora Leigh has reached her peak. "I wanted to go to the University of Victoria to major in music. When I told the head of the department I played the accordion, he almost laughed in my face. Apparently the university doesn't accept the accordion as a real instrument."

So Dora Leigh will have to settle for a music education course until she can go to an American university which offers a major in her instrument. Later she hopes to turn professional, making her living with music. "I don't need a degree to perform but I would like more knowledge about music. I'd like to learn how to compose and arrange."

Her tastes range from classical to pop with one accordion for each use. Her four year old $3,000 Tonaveri is reserved for classical performances. A new electric model, complete with amplifier, drums, trumpets and wa-wa pedal, will soon be used for pop music.

Entertaining an audience should be easy, considering her competitive background but Dora Leigh said she still gets nervous. "I used to get butterflies in my stomach, but for the last few years, my hands have started to shake. One time, while competing, I blanked out twice on a number I knew by heart."

Dora Leigh also has to cope with the physical exertion of playing a 30 pound instrument. "Playing the accordion requires more physical exertion than a piano. The hardest part is learning to control the bellows. You have to know when to expand them so you don't run out of air in the middle of a long note."

The most difficult manoeuvre is the "bellows shake" which is the finale of her favorite number *Lovers.* The quick, precise expansion and contraction of the bellows requires a delicate balance of power and control for success. At the end of the piece, she is understandably tired. "The weight really gets me in the wrist. Maybe it's because I don't have the strength. Maybe I should start lifting weights."

Another problem is memorizing a tune which can often run to nine pages of music.

"This year my main classical piece took from November to June to perfect. I can learn it in two months but it takes the rest of the time to polish it enough for competition."

Practising for a major event takes four hours a day of pure concentration. "I put music first in my life and the social life revolves around it. I spent most of July practising which meant I couldn't go camping."

She said some people wonder why she devotes so much time to an unpretentious instrument like the accordion. "Some people give you a strange look. I think they have heard people play who have learned by ear or are just fooling around. World champion Diane Schmidt can glue people to their seats with her performances."

However, one person was very impressed with her talent. "My driving examiner was fascinated by the fact I played the accordion. Maybe it helped me pass the test."

The examiner is not alone in his admiration. Mrs. R. F. Schuetze of Duncan who recently wrote a letter to the *"Leader"* praising Dora Leigh said it best. "Here is a lovely girl who has very definitely brought honor to the Cowichan district for a number of years, culminating in winning first place in the provincial finals. I feel the whole province should be proud of her."

Dora Leigh Bjornson is the daughter of Baldur and Betty Bjornson, former residents of St. Peters St., Arborg.

All her relatives and friends in Arborg, Gimli, Winnipeg and her grandmother, Haldora Peterson in Betel, Selkirk are proud and pleased with her success. She is wished every success and continued happiness in her chosen profession.

(Reprinted from the Cowichan Leader, B.C.)

SELKIRK MAN BUILDS PLANE

David Bjornson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kjartan Bjornson, who reside in Gimli, has over the past 6 years been building a small plane. Usually when one tinkers around in their home workshop, they produce tables, chests, maybe a boat, but to accomplish a real plane is something that not too many people attempt. Drawing on his experience and livelihood of being a trained aircraft mechanic with Trans Air has greatly helped, and for a person without aircraft experience to attempt to build a plane, a lot of costly mistakes and repeats would be made.

There are drawings for various types of planes available. Right now, David is looking at plans for a plane that he might like to attempt with drawings from Sweden. Prices for plans range from as low as $35.00 to as high as $150. The drawings and plans are all quite detailed, and have to be studied quite extensively. David is a member of the Winnipeg No. 63 chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, which meets every third Friday of the month at a different member's home. There are about 50 - 75 that belong in the Winnipeg area, and many have planes under construction.

The Department of Transport has the final inspection of the finished plane. Costs to run a plane are quite reasonable. Registration costs $20.00. A flight permit costs $10.00 which has to be renewed every year, and the pilot has to pay $10 for a medical each year. The cost to operate your own home-made plane is about $5 to $6 an hour,

David Bjornson and his home made plane, at the Gimli airport.
—Lake Centre News

where a rented plane would cost you anywhere from around $22 - $30 an hour. On his flight from Selkirk to Gimli he figured it cost him about $1.60. His little plane flies 90 M.P.H. and uses about 4 gallons an hour. He only flies in and around the Gimli-Selkirk area, as he doesn't have a radio yet in his plane, and most airports require radio contact.

David built everything on his plane himself, except for the wheels, propeller and engine and instruments. The frame or body of the cockpit section of the plane is of steel tubing, and the wings are of sitka spruce spars with plywood ribs, which David cut and carved by hand. The frame is then covered with a fibre glass cloth that is joined at each seam with a cotton tape, which has an aircraft dope or glue put on it. The fabric is put on loose and then is shrunk with a hot iron. It is then painted with an aircraft pigment dope. David chose bright yellow, and the workmanship of the little aircraft was beautiful. It was as neat as a pin.

His family are interested in his work, but as yet, he hasn't taken his wife for a ride; his two children have both been up in the plane and one of these days he says he'll get around to getting his wife up. He parks his plane at his friend's back yard along with another friend and his plane. The backyard happens to be a big field, in which they take off. So when you see a small bright yellow plane circling overhead, you'll know it's David Bjornson, out with his home made plane.

RUNNING AIRPORT A STRESSFUL JOB

Following are excerpts from an interview conducted by John McManus, of the *Winnipeg Free Press* with Mr. Fred Eyolfson, Manager of Winnipeg International Airport, last December.

Fred Eyolfson, manager of Winnipeg International Airport, operates the centre almost as if he is expecting a horde of relatives, the movers and the decorators and not knowing the exact moment either or any will arrive.

Mr. Eyolfson said in an interview, "We're working on the assumption that the airport will be here for several years.

"A short-term facilitation committee looks at problems and solves bottlenecks as they occur."

Mr. Eyolfson said, "Our problems really started with the introduction of wide-bodied jets. It was evident immediately that passenger holding rooms and our baggage areas were strained to accommodate aircraft that bring in hundreds of people on a single flight.

Stainless steel

"During the past two years since I took over this office you could see the problems flooding out of the terminal into the ground transport. There never seem to be enough wheels to move people leaving the terminal."

For two years the airport and its satellites within a 50-mile circle, ground transport on its feeder network, as well as the environment in all its degrees, have been under a microscope of the Winnipeg Area Airports System Study (WAASS).

Two alternatives would result in new airports to serve Winnipeg from locations 10 or 20 miles from the present site.

The others deal with building a new terminal on the present field, or expansion of the present terminal that has graced the airport since 1963.

The "stay options and expansion" all include new runways to cut down aircraft noise that is expected to continue until a new generation of jets is introduced in the 1980s and another in the 1990s.

Meanwhile, as the planners polish mounds of material to a size that will emerge as The Master Plan that will go to Ottawa for decision, it's business as usual at the airport.

The present terminal remains Mr. Eyolfson's favorite airport station with its graceful face of native stone and stainless steel.

"If I had a choice of the type of new terminal, if there is to be one I would like to see a version of the one at Kansas City, which is U-shaped. When you arrive to board a flight you are never more than 200 yards from a departure gate."

Because of the local climate a U-shape terminal here would probably cost more, Mr. Eyolfson said.

After Exercise Phantom — the mock air disaster off the airport near Assiniboia Downs — a permanent emergency co-ordination centre, with a complete communication system operative on all airport channels — civil and military — was installed in the airport office.

High regard

The idea for Phantom was conceived by Mr. Eyolfson and Group Captain Maurice Gates, base commander at CFB, Winnipeg.

"We have often discussed such an emergency and how we would work together and how it would be co-ordinated.

"It showed how an emergency should be dealt with and who should run it. Next year we hope to hold an onsite (on airport) exercise."

—Winnipeg Free Press.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NEON SIGN BENDER

(Abridged)

A neon sign bender has to know a lot of naughty words, says Harold Goodmanson, who has bent some of the best in the past 25 years.

That's the only way to avoid embarrassment such as when the G and L once burned out of a sign at Winnipeg Paint & Glass Co. Ltd., he said.

All signs which contain sensitive words are wired so that if one letter burns out, the entire sign goes black. Otherwise, a neon sign will become dimmer, but will still shine if one or more letters go on the blink.

Mr. Goodmanson said the neon sign business is picking up after a long slump as a result of the plastic revolution. Winnipeg isn't becoming a neon jungle, but there's enough work to keep him and his partner, Martin Munsters, busy each day.

Once a sign has been designed by artists and accepted by the customer it is sketched full-size on a sheet of asbestos, Mr. Goodmanson said.

Then four-foot long "sticks" of lead-glass are heated to about 800 degrees Fahrenheit over sleek gas burners (imagine a shotgun barrel cut lengthwise) and bent into shape as easily as pulling toffee.

Pieces of glass holding electrodes are spliced on at the back of each letter so that they will be hidden when the sign is lit up.

Like sculpture

The end results are large squiggles of glass, like interesting pieces of glass sculpture. Neon sign benders, like all craftsmen, love a challenge and the opportunity to be creative and sometimes, well, it's pretty hard to surrender a particularly fine piece of work.

Hanging on the workshop wall are two large yellow roses in neon which Messrs. Goodmanson and Munsters are particularly proud of, for example.

The only thing is, though, that the roses are intended for the reception desk and the receptionist has been wondering for weeks when her roses will be ready.

Mr. Goodmanson said nonchalantly that anything imaginable could be created as a neon sign. No, he said, he never promised to put his wife's name in lights.

After a glass letter is created it's hooked up to an electric current to burn out the impurities in the tube. When the tube stops flickering the air is sucked out by a vacuum pump and replaced with gas which gives it the desired color.

It is then tested with a handheld gadget which reminds one of a wizard's wand as it touches the different letters and causes them to light up in different colors (argon blue, neon red).

Neon signs are aged about 30 minutes — kept burning in the shop for that long to see if they are defective — and after being installed they should last forever, Mr. Goodmanson said.

The only natural enemy of neon signs is the weather, he said. Moisture gets into the housing and causes signs to burn out.

Plastic covering

Plastic signs lit from behind by fluorescent tubes don't have this problem and replaced neon signs for years, he said.

Recently, however, the trend has been to neon signs covered by plastic, which, he said, provides the best effect.

A particular challenge was the work required for the Manitoba Theatre Centre, he said, where a neon design covers a wall 16 feet by 50 feet, with the glass tubes fitting into grooves in the stone.

The job of a neon sign bender is not without its particular hazards, however. First to catch your eye are signs everywhere warning DANGER — 15,000 volts and DANGER — 25,000 volts.

—Winnipeg Tribune

TWO NAMED TO UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA PROVOST POSTS

The University of Manitoba Board of Governors has announced appointments to new administrative posts which are a part of a new management for the University.

The new appointees are Dr. K. R. Hughes, currently Associate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Prof. R. A. Johnson, Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering, who will both become university provosts.

Prof. Johnson is the son of Mrs. S. Johnson, of Winnipeg, and the late Professor Skuli Johnson.

BEAUTIFUL BLOWN GLASS PRODUCT OF HARD WORK

By Dot From
Tribune Crafts Writer

—Logberg-Heimskringla

Like other craftspeople, Ione Thorkelsson, Manitoba's only off-hand glass blower, is no quitter. Blessed with a goodly portion of talent she also has the courage of her convictions even when it means swapping a good life for one of survival.

Ms. Thorkelsson, who works with raw or molten glass in initial stages (as compared to the torch blower who uses cane or glass tubing), designs beautiful flowing pieces of glassware such as goblets, vases and bowls with vivid, crystal-clear colors that sometimes gently spill into contrasting hues. Her work is currently being exhibited in the Contemporary Winnipeg Crafts show at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

In less than three years, a time marred by considerable bad luck, Ms. Thorkelsson has chalked up accomplishments that range from one-woman shows both at Young Designers and their Toronto store, Ellis East, to having her work purchased by the Massey Foundation and forming her own company, Cumulus Glass.

With problems seemingly on the wane now, the one-time architecture student at the University of Manitoba says she "read everything I could get my hands on about glass blowing before I ever attended Sheridan College." Meanwhile an assortment of jobs from scenic painter to props and wardrobe assistant at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, Rainbow Stage and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet helped her accumulate enough funds for a four-month European trip, focussing on glass in Austria, France and the Scandinavian countries.

Her first intensive three-week summer course in 1973 at Sheridan College where she studied furnace construction and hot glass techniques, was put to meaningful use the following spring as she worked to build her first furnace and establish a studio on family property in the Stonewall area.

However, the following year the furnace lining was showing signs of disintegrating and her current home became available.

"But I have a lot of friends and a fantastic family that are always ready to help," beams Ms. Thorkelsson.

Sitting in her cozy little farmhouse in a tranquil setting less than 100 miles from Winnipeg, the determined designer, with traits not unlike her Icelandic ancestors, explains she had considered various combinations for a company name before choosing Cumulus Glass.

"It has a nice ring to it and when you are situated on the prairie the sky is a part of your living."

Another very basic and important part of her life that seems to symbolize her strengths in more ways than one is the new beehive-shaped furnace she constructed. It is somewhat modified in comparison to the first model in an attempt to conserve energy.

The furnace comprises an inner ceramic-like lining, thrown by Duane Perkins, also an exhibitor in the Winnipeg crafts show; a three-inch layer of mizzou which will withstand high temperatures; a layer of insulating fire brick; and a castable refractory exterior consisting of a perlite and aluminate mixture, also resistant to high temperatures.

Her studio, which was originally the farmyard barn, houses the furnace, a roaring inferno that operates at approximately 2100 degrees F. and holds more than 100 pounds of raw glass — silicone, soda ash, lime and potash — when filled to capacity. A typical 100-pound batch of glass will last five working days and make about 25 fairly substantial vases or the equivalent in other pieces.

To accommodate the growing pieces that must be carefully lowered into the furnace and out again without damage — but also without letting too much heat escape — the furnace door works on an overhead rail that readily moves back and forth.

Recalling the numerous furnaces at Sheridan College where she also studied color techniques last year, the industrious glass blower explains the drawbacks of having only one furnace. Each batch of glass (some are in 50 pound lots), is all one color that can be varied only by the contrasting colors — such as pieces of cane, for instance that are made earlier and added during the building process.

An electric annealer, also constructed by Ms. Thorkelsson, allows the glassware to cool at an even temperature thereby eliminating stresses. Completed pieces remain in the annealer at a temperature of 1000 degrees F. for about two hours.

Meanwhile the barn walls and floors no longer carry any trace of the previous users. Where stalls once stood, a work-

bench and newly constructed shelves, frequently filled with glassware, add a colorful dimension to the rustic surroundings.

Admitting that working alone has its moments of anguish, especially when "you need another pair of hands," the glass expert says there are numerous advantages over working in factories where the master gaffer designs and everyone fits into a specific slot on the assembly line.

Studio off-hand glass blowers are still considered a new breed; even today's veterans have only broken away from traditional practises some 13 years ago. Consequently, just as the promising Manitoban is only now beginning to develop her own style there is "a lot of exploring everywhere."

But one thing is certain. Whether in the middle of a cold winter night when it's necessary to trudge outside to check the pressure on the propane tank, making sure it's adequate for the furnace, or in the summer when the studio will again become stifling hot, it's all worth it. And studio off-hand glass blowing is here to stay as far as Cumulus Glass is concerned.

Winnipeg Tribune

ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NOTES

Club Princess of the Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C. for 1977 is Miss Karin Savage. She is 18 years of age and is attending Richmond Senior Secondary School in Grade XII. After graduation she plans to attend Douglas College for teacher training.

Karin's parents are Jack and Bjorg Savage.

The Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C. held its annual Christmas party on December 19th. About 55 children received gifts from Santa Claus. Carol singing and games for the children were featured. Food for the evening repast was contributed by club members.

The Club publishes a monthly newsletter, featuring news from Iceland and local Icelandic community, translations of Icelandic literature and informative pieces on Icelandic history.

THE WEST END OF WINNIPEG IN THE 1940's

by JOHN S. MATTHIASSON

Can you remember playing "kick the can"
On the back lane?
Do you recall walking downtown to Eaton's
Or the Bay, or Kresge's or Zeller's,
And passing two Icelandic churches,
Two Icelandic newspaper offices,
And countless small Icelandic stores and shops?
Do you remember going to Principal Sparling school
When half or more of the teachers were Icelandic?
Then, you were a west-ender.

Other Icelandic communities
On the prairies
Have had their stories told again and again,
But little has been written about
The west end of Winnipeg,
Stretching from Balmoral to Valour Road
Along the long connecting vein
Of Sargent Avenue, or, as it was known
To Icelander and non-Icelander alike,
Icelandic Main Street.

Other ethnic neighbourhoods in Winnipeg,
That most ethnic of Canadian cities
In the new crucible of
Multiculturalism,
Are known across the country.
Like the north end, with its pockets of Jews,
Ukrainians, Germans and others.
It is from these that Winnipegers
Are believed to spring.
Who came from the west end?

Who came from that finger of Winnipeg
Which stretched out into the prairies
Almost as far as the city dump,
And nearly to Omand's Creek,
Both playgrounds for west end children?
Who was born on Toronto,
Lipton, Ingersoll, Garfield,
Or, the centre of it all, Victor,
Where the aristocracy of the community
Once lived in majestic homes later become modest?

The west-enders were not farmers,
Or fishermen,
Although their fathers and grandfathers had been.
No, they were city dwellers, whose children,
When they visited aunts and uncles
In Gimli, Lundar, Arborg,
Mountain, Glenboro, Gardar,
Or, simply, 'on the farm',
Had to show again each summer that they were not
Just 'city-slickers', and fought to prove it.

Each morning the streets of the west end
Wakened sleepers with the clatter of the hooves
Of slow-moving horses
Pulling ice wagons,
Dropping delicious slivers of cold
Eagerly recovered by following children,
Milk wagons and the bakery rig of Joe the Baker,
Who stopped for coffee at every other house
And who, it was said,
Kept his books in Icelandic.

On hot summer afternoons,
Child and adult alike would
Stand in line interminably,
Waiting to join the swirling mass
Standing in the water of Sargent Baths,
(For there was no room to swim),
Or, lying side by side in the mosaic pattern
Of the carpet of sun-soaked bodies.
Boys snapped at one another with towels
Before venturing from the locker room to view the girls.

Saturday afternoons were spent by the young
At the Rose Theatre,
Where they watched the movie attentively once,
Then the newsreel and the serial,
And, during the second showing,
Rough-housed until they were forcibly ejected.
On Friday evenings,
Parents went to the Rose,
Because mothers wanted the china pieces given away
And fathers sought a temporary Hollywood illusion.

The west end was many things, in those years.
Not all Icelandic, for St. Edward's school
Stood on one edge of it,
And there was the McTaggart family
As well as other Scots and English
And, in time, as the north end spilled over,
A smattering of Ukrainians,
But its essence was Icelandic,
And it is said that the Chinese owner of the Weavil Cafe
Spoke English with an Icelandic accent.

THE CANADA ICELAND FOUNDATION

Established 1957 — Reorganized 1973

The Foundation solicits donations from groups and individuals for the following main purposes:

1. To encourage and support such educational and cultural pursuits that will enrich the multicultural heritage of Canada and the United States of America.
2. To support scholarly research and publications.
3. To provide student scholarships.

The present objective for the fund is $250,000 or, to be specific, $190,000 over and above the present assets of $62,000.

To reach this objective will require many contributions of $500 to $1,000 or more from communities, associations and family groups. Individual donations of any amount will be appreciated. Gifts may be spread over 3 to 5 years.

When achieved, the total amount should provide the necessary annual income of $15,000 to $20,000.

The importance of bequests in wills is stressed.

We need offers of assistance in every community.

Please make all cheques payable to the Canada Iceland Foundation and mail to 708 - 294 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Canada R3C 0B9.

Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued.

HOW WIDESPREAD IS INTEREST IN THE ICELANDIC SAGAS?

André Malraux, writer, scholar, art-lover, soldier, politician, French patriot, has been termed "the Last Renaissance figure". The following excerpt from an article on Malraux in *Time magazine* rates a place in *The Icelandic Canadian.*

"Only in private — often at lunch at his favorite Paris restaurant, Lasserre — would he display his dry wit and vast erudition. In a single aside, Malraux could range from Greek to Latin to Hebrew, from Icelandic sagas to the latest gossip about Picasso."

NATIONAL LEAGUE CONVENTION AND MID—WINTER CONCERTS

Ambassador Andersen and his wife

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Icelandic National League of North America concluded its deliberations with a gala evening held at the Fort Garry Hotel. Head table guests were as follows:

Dr. P. M. Petursson, Mrs. Anne Porteous, Rev. Bragi Fridriksson (delegate from the Icelandic National League of Reykjavik, Iceland), Mrs. H. G. Andersen (wife of the Ambassador), Stefan J. Stefansson, President of the Icelandic National League of North America, His Excellency Ambassador Hans G. Andersen (the Icelandic Ambassador in Washington), Mrs. Olla Stefansson, Arni Bjarnarson (delegate, the Icelandic National League of Akureyri), Mrs. Thorey Petursson, and S. Aleck Thorarinson (Icelandic consul).

Dr. Petursson said grace and the President, Stefan J. Stefansson, proposed toasts to the Queen and the President of Iceland after which the honoured guests, delegates, and visitors were served a delicious roast beef dinner. Words of welcome were delivered by Stefan Stefansson. Susan and Connie Cmikiewicz read *"Salin Hans Jons Mins"* by David Stefansson fra Fagraskogi. These young ladies are attending the Icelandic language classes at Selkirk and have attended the Gimli Summer Camp. They are to be commended for their efforts.

A young violinist named Carlisle Wilson and his accompanist Kerrine Stewart-Hay gave a fine performance.

Consul S. Aleck Thorarinson introduced His Excellency Ambassador Hans G. Andersen who gave a brief historical account of Iceland's thirty year battle for control of its fishing grounds. His Excellency was instrumental in Iceland's achieving its two hundred mile territorial fishing limits. He was optimistic now about Iceland's economic future and claimed that it was a "dream come true". Iceland has once again turned the tide and shown leadership at the international level.

His Excellency brought greetings from the President of Iceland, Dr. Kristjan Eldjarn, Iceland's Prime Minister, Geir Hallgrimsson, and the foreign minister, Einar Agustsson.

Dr. P. M. Petursson thanked the guest speaker.

Rev. Bragi Fridriksson and Arni Bjarnarson brought greetings from Reykjavik and Akureyri respectively.

Dancing brought the evening to a close.

Iris Torfason

ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

by Kristine Perlmutter

On Thursday, January 27 at 8:00 p.m., the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba presented the premiere showing of the film Celebration of 100 Years of Icelandic Settlement. In spite of the bitterly cold weather, a large crowd gathered in the First Lutheran Church Parish Hall at 580 Victor Street.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Len Vopnfjord. The program began with two vocal solos by Michael Schellenberg, accompanied at the piano by Elma Gislason.

Following this, pianist Kerrie Borys presented two piano solos.

Lesley and Signy Glenndenning performed a flute and violin duet of two folk songs.

At the conclusion of this part of the program, Ted Arnason, immediate past president of the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, presented scrolls honouring the contributions of two individuals to the 1975 Islendingadagurinn. The recipients were Elma Gislason and Dr. Helgi Austman.

The film was introduced by Ernest Stefanson, president of the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, who prefaced his remarks with a welcome to His Excellency, Hans G. Andersen, Ambassador from Iceland to Washington and Mrs. Andersen.

Celebration of 100 Years of Icelandic Settlement was filmed in Manitoba by Iceland State Television. The narration was in Icelandic, which presented somewhat of a problem for the unilingual in the crowd, but the film was easy to follow and very interesting.

This pleasant evening came to a close with coffee and refreshments provided by the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba Committee.

MEETING OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB AND FRON

by Kristine Perlmutter

A program presented by the amalgamated Icelandic Canadian Club and the Fron Chapter of the Icelandic National League was held on Friday, January 28 at 8:00 p.m. in the parish hall of the First Lutheran Church. The Master of Ceremonies was Len Vopnfjord.

The program began with the singing of *O Canada* and *O Gud Vors Lands*, accompanied at the piano by Heida Sigfusson. The crowd was welcomed by the first president of the newly combined club, Dr. Gestur Kristjansson. He introduced many special guests who had travelled some distance, including Iceland's Ambassador to Washington, Hans G. Andersen and his wife.

Mr. Greg Norman performed several vocal solos. Accompanied by Elma Gislason. The program also included two selections by pianist, Ross Leckow. Len and Karen Vopnfjord sang three well known Icelandic songs translated by Paul Sigurdson of Morden, Manitoba.

Scholarships presented at the Convention:

1. Mr. Gregory Downey.
   $100.00 (The Mundi Johnson Memorial Scholarship)
   He is a student in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba. His mother is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. Kristjanson.

2. Miss Pamela Downey.
   $200.00 (I.O.G.T. Scholarship)
   She is a graduate in Science from the University of Manitoba and plans to enter the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. Her mother is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W. Kristjanson.

3. Miss Eleanor Ruth Kristjanson.
   $100.00 (The George Magnusson Scholarship)
   She is a second year student in the Honours program in Economics at the University of Manitoba. Her parents are Dr. and Mrs. Kris Kristjanson.

4. Miss Barbara Magnusson.
   $100.00 (Canada Iceland Foundation Scholarship)
   She is a second year Arts student at the University of Winnipeg. Her parents are John and Thora Magnusson.

5. Mr. Doug Sigurdson.
   $100.00 (Canada Iceland Foundation Scholarship)
   He is a first year Engineering student at the University of Manitoba.

6. Miss Helga Stefansson.
   $100.00 (The Harold Olson Scholarship)
   She is a fourth year honours student in Economics at the University of Manitoba. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. B. R. Stefansson of Winnipeg.

7. Miss Emma Eythorsdottir.
   $100.00 (The W. J. Lindal Memorial Scholarship)
   She is a fourth year student in the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. Emma is from Kalldadarnes in Iceland.

8. Miss Jo-Ann Johnson
   $100.00 (Canada Iceland Foundation Scholarship)
   Jo-Ann is a student in her first year of Medicine, at the University of Manitoba. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George Johnson of Winnipeg.

9. Miss Gudrun Arnadottir
   $100.00 (Canada Iceland Foundation Scholarship)
   Gudrun is a student who is studying Occupational Therapy at the University of Manitoba. She is from Reykjavik, Iceland.

10. Mr. Harvey Thorleifson
    $100.00 Icelandic Canadian Club Scholarship.
    Harvey is an Arts student at the University of Winnipeg and comes from Baldur, Manitoba.

11. Miss Jocelyn Fournier
    $100.00 Icelandic Festival of Manitoba Committee Scholarship. Jocelyn is a fourth year student in Education at the University of Manitoba and comes from Morden, Manitoba.

12. Mr. Melvin Gordon MacInnis
    $100.00 Icelandic Festival of Manitoba Committee Scholarship. His parents are Gudrun and Gordon McInnis of Brandon. Melvin spent some time in Iceland and speaks Icelandic fluently. He was the prime influence in the founding of the Icelandic Youth Club. He is on the board of Logberg-heimskringla.

BOOK REVIEW

Comic novel a stunning achievement

By David Arnason

FARTHING'S FORTUNES: by Richard B. Wright, 380 pp., Toronto, Macmillan, $10.95.

Richard B. Wright is the author of two previous novels, The Weekend Man (1971) and In the Middle of a Life (1973). Both came out to almost universally excellent reviews, and the second won the Faber fiction award in England. For these novels, Mr. Wright won a reputation as a sensitive portrayer of the quiet desperations and mean little tragedies of middle class life. There has always been the suspicion, however, that limitations in the subject might be limitations in the writer. Rudy Wiebe once described him as the writer of neat little 152-page books.

Nothing in Mr. Wright's earlier work prepares us for the astonishing accomplishment of Farthing's Fortunes, a novel of such stunning range and power that Mr. Wright must henceforth be considered one of Canada's major writers. Farthing's Fortunes is a wildly comic novel and a brilliantly told story. It is certain to be a strong contender for this year's Governor-general's award.

The story is told as the reminiscences of a cranky, drunken old man in a nursing home, transcribed exactly as he tells them into a tape recorder. It covers the 95-year span from Billy Farthing's birth in a rural Ontario town on Dominion day 1880, to his death in that same town on Dominion Day, 1975. In the intervening years Billy goes through a series of low-life adventures that tell both is own and his country's history.

On his way through life he encounters the motliest crew of grotesque and odd characters since Dickens. Among them are his father, a drunken English remittance-man turned poet, Mrs. Fletcher, a semi-retired prostitute and wife of the local undertaker who seduces Billy just after he turns 15 and the incomparable Sally Butters, a red-haired burlesque queen who becomes the love of his life. There are thieves and con-men, aristocrats and poets, mounties, miners, soldiers, sailors, all the rag, tag, and bobtail of the world, but the greatest among them is Cass Findlater, an American con-man entrepreneur who makes P. T. Barnum seem shy and retiring.

Billy, fleeing rural Ontario and a promising future as an apprentice undertaker, falls hopelessly in love with the elusive Sally Butters and his life becomes a hapless quest in search of her. Unfortunately, every time he reaches her, it seems that she has just married someone else and is sailing off into the sunset.

He teams up with the irrepressible Findlater, and together they blunder, cheat and steal their way from New York via several jails to the Klondike gold rush and on to England, Billy in search of Sally Butters and Findlater in search of some ever greater dream of American entrepreneurship and wealth beyond the dreams of avarice.

Somehow, in the middle of everything Billy manages to get respectably married and raise a family before abandoning it all, joining the British Army, surviving the Battle of the Somme, attempting to assassinate General Douglas Haig and losing 16 years to amnesia.

He recovers in time to join Findlater on one last odyssey through Canada and

the U.S., riding the rods, running rum, organizing boxing matches, and finally raising pigs. The low-life episodes, thoroughly comic at first, become increasingly grotesque and evil as the protagonists age, and the story ends with a brilliant pulling together of its diverse elements.

Even the structure of the novel is a beautiful parody of nineteenth century form. Coincidence piles on coincidence, cliche on cliche. Horatio Alger's world is always a distinct possibility, were it not for Billy Farthing's never quite absent moral sense. Along the way, Mr. Wright gives us some picture of the seamier side of Canadian life in the early part of this century. Few writers have ever tried to paint that picture, and none has succeeded like Mr. Wright. Farthing's Fortunes is a picaresque novel with an almost explosive energy. It's going to be around for a long time.

Winnipeg Free Press

A NEW WING FOR STAFHOLT HOME

A new wing has been added to Stafholt, Blaine. The building committee were the late Skapti Olason, Harold Ogmundson, and Eythar Westman. One Board member donated $2,500 toward the project.

ICELAND'S SONG

By Grimur Thomsen (1820 - 1896)

Trnaslated by Jakobina Johnson

Hear the geysirs in the highlands,
Hear the swans among the island:
That is Iceland's song.
Streams through rocky channels sweeping
Falls through narrow gorges leaping:
That is Iceland's song.

Song-birds 'round the shores abounding,
Lofty cliff and cave resounding:
That is Iceland's song.
Roaring breakers shoreward crashing,
Rushing winds like spirits flashing:
That is Iceland's song.

Deep within my bosom's keeping
Rest these sounds of nature sleeping,
That is Iceland's song.
Breathes through every great emotion
Joy, or sorrow's troubled ocean
Iceland's softest tone.

HAPPINESS IS . . . A GRANDMA JONA DOLL

By Eleanor Sprunton

Jona Thorlacius is a Richmond grandmother who exports happiness. Jona possesses a unique inner serenity which makes her equally at home whether watching a volcano in Iceland or sitting at her sewing machine at 656 Williams Road; and happily she has found a way to package this special brand of magic in the form of rag dolls.

"Grandma Jona" (pronounced Yona) dolls have found their way to such faraway places as Denmark, Scotland, England, Italy, Iceland and Australia. The dolls are made of cotton stuffed with polyester and are clothed in bright costumes made from carefully selected remnants. Their hair is mohair, colorful and cuddly; their eyes are double buttons, and their mouths are embroidered smiles and kisses. But it is the little bit of Jona which makes each one so special. It shows in the detailed perfection of the lace trimming, and the carefully selected materials. It shows in the gay combinations of her colors. With her artist's feel for fabric and color, Jona creates dolls which are part Mod Squad and part Lavender and Old Lace. They are beautiful enough to hang on the wall, cuddly and durable enough to withstand the affections of a three year old. No two dolls are the same; each has a personality of its own.

But to really appreciate the dolls you have to know something of Jona — for the creator and her creations are inseparable. To Jona, each day is an adventure.

"I'm just thankful to feel good, to be able to sew, to look out at my garden. It doesn't matter about the weather, or whether I get out . . . people tell me I'm in a rut, I don't go out enough . . . I don't need to go out to find happiness . . . it's right here."

She's an early riser; she likes bus travel ("You're closer to the people that way,"); she makes ceramics, studies Icelandic grammar, and learns something from everyone she meets, especially little children. Jona has three grandchildren and she says, "Being a grandmother is the nicest role I've had."

During recent trips to Iceland she's watched a volcano ("Watching a volcano makes one feel very small and puny.") and experienced an earthquake and a hurricane. She felt no fear.

What gives Jona her special serenity? Perhaps it is having worked with the handicapped at Pearson Hospital and at CNIB, or having faced health problems in her own life. Jona feels it may be her Icelandic heritage. Perhaps it is within herself, in her ability to create and enjoy and to share with others.

I asked Jona how she got started making dolls.

"It was over thirty years ago, during the depression, in rural Manitoba. It was near Christmastime and we needed two more gifts for a community party, for two little children who were visiting from the city. Well, we hadn't much money, and there weren't any stores nearby so I just got busy and made two little Russian dolls, with black boots. They were embroidered, copied from pictures . . . just made something out of nothing really." The dolls were the envy of every child at the party. And so, from those gifts of love came the ideas for more.

How many dolls has she made? Jona had no idea, but a quick census of her bedroom revealed two dozen dolls in various stages of development. And what does she do with them? She gives them away. She can't make them fast enough. ("I wish I had insomnia. I used to, and I got more done. I'd get up in the night and sew.") Does she keep any for herself?

"I don't have a one, haven't had time."

A selection of "Grandma Jona" dolls may be seen at the Doll Festival, sponsored by the Community Arts Council of Richmond at the Museum at the Richmond Art Centre.

—Richmond Review. (B.C.)

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA ISLENDINGADAGURINN

The 1977
Islendingadagurinn Honour Prize
in Poetry

$100. Prize Money

The prize winner will be announced August 1, 1977, at the Icelandic Festival at Gimli, Manitoba. The prize will be presented in person to the poet, or, if that is not possible, mailed to the winner.

Entries may be published for one time distribution only at the time the prize is announced, but no entry will be published for commercial purposes without the consent of the poet.

Conditions of Entry

- The contest is open to any individual whose ancestry is Icelandic.
- Each entrant, by submitting a poem, acknowledges his assent to the conditions of the entry.
- Each entry must be original, and unpublished on the date of submission.
- Each entry must be typewritten, double spaced, on one side of plain, unlined paper 8½" x 11". Any clear copy is acceptable.
- Entries must be postmarked between March 15, 1977 and July 1, 1977.
- Poet's name and address and title and first line of poem must appear on two typewritten 3 x 5 cards placed in a sealed envelope. Title must appear on the entry.
- No entries will be returned.
- Entries must be addressed to W. D. Valgardson, Department of Creative Writing, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. Canada.
- No more than three entries may be submitted by one poet.
- Entries must not exceed 30 lines.
- The directors of the contest will not enter into any communication whatever about the contest or individual entries.
- Entries must be in English.

Reprints of this announcement may be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed business envelope to Poetry Contest, W. D. Valgardson, Department of Creative Writing, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., Canada.

NEWS

Arnarflug L.F. (Eagle Air Ltd.) of Iceland has applied to the Canadian Transport Commission for authorization of air passenger traffic between Iceland and Canada.

✦ ✦ ✦

Since the reorganization last fall, the Icelandic Canadian Youth Organization in Winnipeg has had a full schedule of activities.

The present membership consists of about 25 - 30 young people from all over Manitoba, as well as a few members from Iceland, some of these students attending the universities in Winnipeg.

✦ ✦ ✦

Evelyn Thorvaldson, who has been president of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Montreal for the past five years, is retiring from office. "After five years I feel my turn is up", she says.

The club has forwarded $166.00, a contribution to **Logberg-Heimskringla** support fund.

✦ ✦ ✦

The Viking Club of Winnipeg Valentine party at the Scandinavian Centre was a "fun evening", well attended and a success.

✦ ✦ ✦

Scandinavian music and songs are featured on Per Holting's Nordic Night Cap program on Radio Station CKJS Winnipeg, 810 on your dial every Monday evening, from 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

✦ ✦ ✦

George Hauser, whose articles on Icelandic topics have been featured in **The Icelandic Canadian,** has published a book, "The Swedish Community in Eriksdale, Manitoba".

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT STAFHOLT, BLAINE

"From the begining of December, when all the pretty decorations went up, the sound of carols was heard throughout the house." Music was provided by the Royal Neighbors, the Sunshine Singers from the Blaine Senior Center; the Salvation Army band, the Seventh Day Adventist Church group, the Blaine Brownies, the Assembly of God Church, the Unitarian Church Choir, and others.

✦ ✦ ✦

ICELANDIC LANGUAGE LESSONS POPULAR

Numerous groups for the study of Icelandic have been formed in various parts of the country. Three hundred copies of Lesson Helps, funded by the Icelandic National League and the Department of Education of Manitoba have been distributed.

✦ ✦ ✦

THE ICELANDIC ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO "THORRABLOT"

The Icelandic Association of Chicago, at last report, planned to hold its annual Thorrablot, at the Norway Center, on March 5.

"Delicacies will be flown direct from Reykjavik to Chicago. The delicious buffet menu includes hardfiskur — 3 varieties of herring — saltkjot — pickled whale blubber — hangikjot — rullupsyla — blodmor — lyfrarpilsa — flatkokur — vinarterta. The dessert will by skyr and rjomi (cream), and Icelandic pancakes . . .'

NOW THE "COD WAR" IS OVER

Now that Iceland has established a 200-mile fishing limit and Canada has done likewise, there is no cause for extensive writing on the subject of the Icelandic "cod war", but in a letter to the *Winnipeg Free Press,* of December 29, Dr. Bjorn Jonsson, of Swan River, Manitoba, directs attention to several pertinent "facts", some of which merit repetition.

It has been stated that pending negotiations with the European Economic Community regarding specified fishing rights of foreign nations within the 200-mile limit, 16 British trawlers will have to be withdrawn from Iceland's fishing banks, with the result that 7,000 people will be out of work for an uncertain period. Dr. Jonsson writes:

"What is omitted here are two facts of a staggering magnitude, in their respective effects upon the economics of these two nations:

"(1) The total impact of all of Britain's fishing industry, on all banks of all areas of the globe, of all kinds of fish, of all people and businesses, directly or indirectly related to that industry, amounts to a fraction of one per cent of Britain's economy. By comparison, 80 per cent of Iceland's economy is directly affected and 37 per cent of its total labor force depend on the fishing industry.

"(2) The depletion of the fishstocks on Iceland's banks, due mainly to Britain's unrelenting — and by international law, illegal — catching of immature fish (that has not, and will not ever spawn) forced Iceland, whose economy is in even poorer shape than that of Britain, to make two extremely hard choices:

"The Icelandic fishing commission stated in Nov. '75 that the safe catch-quota for Iceland itself would have to be cut in half.

"Research had shown even poorer recovery of mature fish during the 70s than had been forecast, therefore allowing Icelanders themselves a safe catch of only the same amount that had been offered to Britain before and during the latest cod-war, or half of the previously permitted quota.

"A further fact, little emphasized, but the grimmest of all, is that the British fishing efforts and the cod-war activities, were concentrated within 'pacified, or protected banks' of breeding-stock, closed by international law to all fishing, by anyone, and by any method.

"And further, that on this most important breeding-area, the British fished even inside the three-mile mark. Practically all the fish they took, in this and previous cod-wars, was immature, as verified by observers in English and Scottish ports of both Icelandic and British nationalities, and the fish catches so reported in the British Parliament, and by the British fishing commission.

"Iceland's first attempt to protect its dwindling fish-stocks, then almost depleted by predominantly British overfishing, was the presentation of its plight to the League of Nations in 1938. There it was 'deferred to a later date' by Britain's commissioner.

"Only the Second World War saved the stocks. But their depletion began immediately afterwards, upon Britain's resumption of its 'traditional' rights to fish up to the island's shores. However, other nations now joined 'The rape of the banks,' destroying Iceland's only source of survival."

EXCERPTS FROM PRECIOUS MOMENTS IN ICELAND

By Elma Gislason

Eleven p.m., June 29, 1976. We are on our way to Iceland, via Air Canada!

* * *

We soar into the night sky and it seems only a moment before a rose-red streak appears across the lower edge of the horizon, while above it the sky lightens. These bands gradually increase, pushing away the morel (the black shade of night). Finally the sun bursts free — a glorious orb of cerise, ever-changing in size and shape, reflected in the clouds below as two bulging puffs of fire. To our right the heavens slumber in deep black night. We watch this phenomenon in awe until it is overwhelmed by radiant, shimmering silver, too bright for the human eye.

* * *

Clouds prevent a view of James Bay. Over Greenland, only tips of mountains and glaciers are visible. Nearing Iceland, we descent into the dense clouds below. These change from a mass of sheeps' backs to sumptuous mounds of meringue. We level in a clearing before the next descent into grey clouds, and emerge into sullen skies.

Our first glimpse of Iceland is the deeply indented bays of the northeast. Strips of narrow land jut outward like the elongated fingers of a huge, outspread hand. Rugged indeed, and roughly hewn, is the coast of Iceland.

We fly past the tip of the Snaefellsness Peninsula. Neat houses sit primly on a carpet of bright, green grass — a welcome sight. Then we are over the ocean again on the last lap of Keflavik.

The sky is leaden; high winds tear at us as we scurry inside. A host of relatives and friends await with smiles and open arms to warm our eager hearts.

* * *

On either side of the excellent cement highway to Reykjavik, clumps of moss and grass-covered lava more than two thousand years old dot the terrain. In the distance low mountains are visible. We pass overlapping villages. Bright roofs, red, green, orange and blue lend color to the cement houses. Huge storage tanks of hot water from the geysers loom ahead.

As we enter Reykjavik we are impressed by church spires and large houses flanked by mountain ash, flowers and shrubs. To the east we see three fairly low mountains; Esja, looking like a doting lion; Skardsheidi and Akra fjall stand guard over the city.

—Tribune

The Ladies Society in Vancouver Solskin (Sunshine) was founded in 1917, sixty years ago. Its mission is to provide entertainment for the residents of Hofn (The Icelandic Home). There are 45 members.

President of Solskin for the year 1977 is Anna McNab; Vice-President, Kristjana Magnusson; Secretary, Inga Skaftfel; Assistant Secretary, Anna Penardson; Treasurer, Anna Penway; Assistant Treasurer, Sylvia Isefeld.

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CNR TO BUILD DORMITORIES IN INDUSTRIAL PARK

The Canadian National Railways plan to build a $3 million 112-bed dormitory in the Industrial Park at Gimli, with recreation hall and classrooms for its railway school.

HECLA ISLAND RESORT HOTEL OPENING

The Hecla Island $1.9 million Gull Harbor Resort hotel was set to open for business in the first week of March.

The hotel has adopted an Icelandic theme. The early settlers in the area came from Iceland. Beside the style of the building itself, public rooms in the hotel bear Icelandic names.

Guests register in the Setustofa, which means lobby, then go to their Gestaherbergi, rooms of course.

The exterior of the building is finished in natural woods and the dominant interior feature is a massive stone fireplace-chimney which open on three different levels.

It's designed for year round use offering cross country skiing and snowmobile trails in the winter along with indorr facilities such as a swimming pool, gymnasium and sauna plus tennis and an 18-hole golf course in the summer.

Increased expenditures have pushed the total cost of the Hecla Island Provincial Park to about $9 million including the causeway. The federal government originally agreed to share the cost of the Gull Harbor complex on a 50-50 basis up to a maximum of $3.4 million.

A variety of recreational facilities are featured.

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Professor Gissur Eliasson, of the University of Manitoba, has been appointed member of the board of the Manitoba Arts Council. The appointments are made by the provincial government.

The Manitoba Arts Council was formed in 1969 to promote the study, enjoyment, production and performance of the arts in Manitoba.

Toronto Architects Design a Model for the Port of Vestmannaeyjar

While Toronto went to Finland for the design of its city hall, Iceland has come to Toronto for a design to help in rebuilding a city from ashes.

Elin and Carmen Corneil, of Toronto, a husband and wife architectural team, have had their design from 35 other entries as a model for the fishing port of Vestmannaeyjar, largely destroyed by a volcanic eruption three years ago.

Mrs. Corneil is an environmental design teacher at the Ontario College of Art and is a member of the Norwegian Association of Architects.

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Eric Jonasson is the President of the Manitoba Genealogical Society of Winnipeg for 1977, and Secretary is Elizabeth Jonasson. The Society was founded in 1976 to help people of Manitoba trace their family lines. The address is Box 2066, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R4

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NATIONAL LEAGUE OFFICERS, 1977

National League officers for 1977 are: President, Stefan J. Stefanson; Vice-President, Johann Sigurdson; Secretary, Holmfridur Danielson; Treasurer, dr. G. L. Johannson; Financial Secretary, Sigrid Johnson; Archivist, Jack Bjornson. Conveners of committees are: Cultural, Iris Torfason; Membership, Marge Arnason; Finance, J. Hannes Thomasson.

Honorary Life Members elected at the Convention were His Excellency Hans G. Andersen, Ambassador of Iceland, and Arni Bjarnason, President of the Akureyri Chapter of the Icelandic National League (of Iceland).

DR. J. V. JOHNSON RECEIVES PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

The University of Illinois has recently awarded the Master of Public Health degree to Dr. J. V. Johnson, of Woodstock, Illinois, and formerly of Gimli, Manitoba. He is the first veterinanian to graduate from the Illinois School of Public Health.

Johnson received his pre-medical training at the University of Manitoba, in 1946-47, and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1952 with a D.V.M. degree in Veterinary Medicine.

He served six years with the Illinois Department of Agriculture in disease eradication, as well as six years in private practice in Marshalltown, Ia.

In 1961 he returned to Illinois, where he worked in Brucellosis and Tuberculosis control in a number of counties and subsequently as County Veterinarian.

He has completed several training courses at the center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia, and at Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois, where he received training in Epidemology, environmental health, and public health law.

Johnson is the assistant administrator of the McHenry County Department of Health. He is a charter member and past president of the Woodstock Rotary Club.

He is married and he and his wife Charlotte, have one son.

Dr. Johnson is the son of Mrs. J. B. Johnson, of Betel Home, Gimli, and the late J. B. Johnson, of Gimli.

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Roy Gislason Leads His Rink to Manitoba Police Curling Championship

Roy Gislason, a 20-year RCMP veteran, led his rink to its third consecutive Manitoba Police Curling Championship, February 13.

Joining Gislason on the rink that will represent Manitoba at national playdowns March 14 - 19 is Neil Dixon, third, Ken Allen, second and Gary Finlay, lead.

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Crafts Honored for Artistry

Eight Manitoba craftspeople, representing textiles to ceramics, have received awards in recognition of their works of art entered in the Manitoba Decorative Arts juried exhibition at Oseredok Gallery, 184 Alexander Avenue East, sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre.

Three uniquely designed vases by Ione Thorkelsson, Manitoba's only off-hand glass blower, received the Young Designers' $75 award.

Karen Handford, who showed a storage jar and ceramic bottle, received the $75 Jonasson Ceramic Supply award.

Miss Lillian Allen, a retired professor of the fine arts faculty of the University of Manitoba, and Ted Thomas of Thomas Gallery, judged the exhibition.

THE NEW TORONTO EATON CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS

The new Toronto Eaton Centre, an impressive $250-million complex, opened its doors last February, James Purdie calls it "a micro-world of changing vistas and forgotten population densities". It "responds to a long-felt public reaction against the severe monumental buildings produced in the so-called international style during the sixties".

In the glass-ceilinged arcade where the ribbon cutting took place:

"Thousands ringed the space and they gave mighty cheers as the pipers came down the stilled escalators.

"It felt strangely as if old WASP Toronto was riding again. Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon came gracefully down one immobilized staircase. John Craig Eaton came down the one at her side, and the crowd cheered in time to the pipes.

"People made speeches about how wonderful it all was and then all the platform guests were introduced. Mrs. McGibbon got the biggest hand, Mrs. John David Eaton got a substantial welcome and John Criag's was even louder. Few applauded the bankers."

—Globe and Mail

Mrs. John David Eaton is the former Signy Stephenson, of Winnipeg.

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TWO WINNIPEG CHOIRS TO ICELAND

Two prominent Winnipeg choirs, the Base Clef Chorus of Winnipeg and The Better Half, are undertaking a goodwill concert tour of Iceland in the summer of 1977.

These two choirs have performed for the International Lions' Convention, the Rotary Club, the Canadian Club, the Canadian Bar Association, and on other auspicious occasions. The Bass Clef Choir performed at the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, at Gimli, in 1976. They have been featured on several C.B.C. national programs.

The choirs have several fund-raising schemes planned. Last summer, at the Icelandic Festival, the Bass Clef Members sold skyr and "I'm from Iceland" buttons.

Helga Anderson, Winnipeg musician, is the conductor.

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Bob Sigurdson's Rink Wins Manitoba Junior Men's Curling Trophy

Bob Sigurdson, a student at Miles Macdonell Collegiate, Winnipeg, piloted his rink to win the Manitoba Junior Men's Curling Championship, last February.

Now, in 1977, everyone is standing up and taking notice of the Miles Macdonell student.

Displaying poise, leadership and superb shot-making the 17-year-old skip piloted his Miles Mac entry of Glen Beckel, third; Gord Rioux, second and lead Clyde Huff to the top of Manitoba junior men's curling.

Sunday, Sigurdson came from behind to edge Altona's Jeri Friesen 5-4, to earn the right to represent Manitoba at the Canadian junior championships March 13 - 19 at Transcona Country Club.

—Winnipeg Free Press

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