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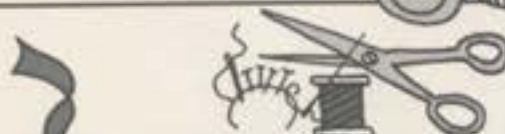
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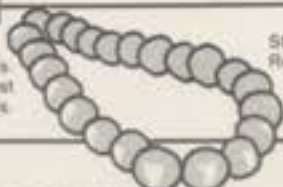


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The Icelandic Canadian

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EDITORIAL

THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

The first issue of **The Icelandic Canadian** appeared on October 1, 1942, so with the Summer Issue of this year the Magazine rounded out its 35th year of publication.

The policy of the Magazine was laid down in the December, 1942, issue. It was reproduced on the occasion of its tenth anniversary (Summer 1952), but it bears repetition on its thirty-fifth anniversary.

THE POLICY OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

1) To assist in making the things of value in our Icelandic heritage a living part of ourselves as Canadian citizens and thus improve the quality of our contribution to the distinctively Canadian pattern.

2) To provide an instrument by which

the children of our ever increasing mixed marriages may be reached, and through which we would seek to instil in them a better knowledge and a keener appreciation of our heritage.

3) To provide a means whereby Canadians of Icelandic extraction, pure or mixed, can become better acquainted with each other and thus strengthen the common bond of the past which in itself will strengthen the common bond of the future in the larger Canadian scene.

4) To stimulate greater effort by making known to our readers the contributions of Icelandic Canadians to the highest and best type of citizenship.

5) To place before the people of Canada and particularly the other ethnic groups, our interpretation of the position we should take as Canadian citizens, and thus contribute to Canadian unity by helping to form a common basis of approach.



THE FOUNDING OF FRAMFARI

by W. Kristjanson

On September 10, 1977, one hundred years will have passed since the first issue of **Framfari**, the first Icelandic paper published in America, appeared. In their annual reports for the year 1877 to the Federal Minister of Agriculture, both the Reverend John Taylor and Sigtryggur Jonasson recorded the event and said what they hoped **Framfari** would accomplish for the colony.

Taylor wrote, 'It is expected that this paper will be an interesting link between new and old Iceland, and not only help the colonists here, but be the means of informing the people of the old country of affairs of the colony and of advocating its interests more effectually than could be accomplished in any other way'.

Jonasson expressed the belief that **Framfari** 'will prove beneficial to the

colony, it not only being the means of enlightening the colonists themselves on matters pertaining to agriculture and farming in general, but it will also help to increase the population of the colony by attracting the attention of Icelanders in general to its advantages'.

To the little group of people in New Iceland, a newspaper served the practical necessity of communication. We - the inheritors - are left to wonder whether they gave one thought to the historic importance of their enterprise.

"The Icelandic immigrants in America were from the first concerned about the preservation of their language and nationality. 'There was common agreement that two things were necessary for the preservation of their precious heritage: a separate colony and a paper in the Icelandic language, published in America. These two projects were so closely linked that it was scarcely to be considered that one could thrive without the other. Both projects were included among the objectives of the Icelandic Association formed at Milwaukee in 1874.

"The New Iceland colonists were from the first alive to the need for a paper but the process of getting settled and the outbreak of the small-pox epidemic limited their journalistic activity in the first year to the writing of **Nyji Thjodolfur**, but as soon as the small-pox epidemic began to abate, the first practical move was made. At the Gimli meeting, on January 22, 1877, the founding of a paper was discussed, and the consensus of opinion was that a stock company should be formed to finance the purchase of a printing press. Certain individuals undertook to promote the sale of shares and at a meeting on February 5, they reported a sufficient number of promises to warrant proceeding with the project.

The New Iceland Printing Company was formed, by-laws were framed and adopted, a board of directors was appointed, and one-half of the proposed capital, or five hundred dollars, was called in.

"The directors immediately wrote to Reverend Jon Bjarnason, at Minneapolis, and obtained his services in the purchase of a printing press and type. Due to the fact that a die had to be made for some of the letters of the Icelandic alphabet, it was June before the press arrived, and even then it was not complete. The first issue of the paper **Framfari** (Progress), printed in a log-cabin at Lundi, appeared on September 10, 1877.

"The moving spirit in the enterprise was Sigtryggur Jonasson, who gave generous financial support, and the other promoters were Fridjon Fridriksson and Johann Briem, Jonasson's brother-in-law. These three contributed a large share of the capital and formed the Board of Directors.

"Pending the appointment of an editor, Jonasson undertook the work of editor, with the support of Johann Briem, who made several notable contributions to the paper. The printer was Jonas Jonasson, a brother of Sigtryggur, who had learned his trade in Iceland. His yearly salary was two hundred and fifty dollars.

"**Framfari** was published three times a month, a four-page issue, 15½ by 10½ inches. The subscription rate was \$1.50 in New Iceland, \$1.75 elsewhere in Canada, the United States and Europe (seven crowns in Iceland).

"The founding of a paper less than two years after the arrival of the first settlers in the colony, in a community of some fifteen hundred people, the majority of whom were destitute, and in the year of a devastating epidemic, is

surely a unique achievement in the history of journalism in America or anywhere else".²

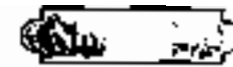
With reference to the baneful effects of the heated controversy in the New Iceland Colony in the early years, Dr. Steinn Thompson says:

"One fact . . . stands out with greater clarity than ever before; had it not been for the strong, no-holds-barred stand of the paper the whole Colony might have

been liquidated in the hubbub and vanished from the scene . . . I think it can be accepted as a fact that the power and influence of **Framfari** did much to preserve the Colony".³

1. *Framfari*, September 10, 1877.
2. W. Kristjanson. *The Icelandic people in Manitoba*. 1965. pp. 59-60.
3. Steinn O. Thompson. *Riverton and the Icelandic River Settlement, the early years*. 1976. p. 61.

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Lundi, Keewatin,

187

Per the company management

—W. Kristjanson.
Icelandic People in Manitoba
1965. p. 59

THE RIVERTON CHURCH, 1877 - 1977

Thordis Thompson

To celebrate a centennial is to celebrate an achievement. An organization that survived through the poverty and isolation of colonial years deserves to be honored in this hundredth year of its existence. The people who came from Iceland in 1876 had a real and vital concern for their religion, and in most homes there was some person who conducted scripture readings and instructed the children. As soon as they had built their log homes and the small-pox epidemic had waned, they organized their district councils and at a meeting early in 1877 discussed the importance of establishing some form of Lutheran church worship in the colony. At a meeting at Icelandic River on April 27-28 the people declared themselves in favor of securing the services of a pastor, and appointed a committee to deal with the matter. Halldor Briem was chairman and Thorgrimur Jonsson secretary. A call was sent to the Rev. Jon Bjarnason in Minneapolis. There were five prospective church organizations represented - Braedrasöfnudur, Mikley (Big Island) Breiduvik (Hnausa) Gimli and Vidines (Husavick). The letter was signed by 130 "heads of households", representing some 650 souls.

Rev. Bjarnason no doubt sensed that this request was actually a call for help from a people in an isolated and lonely settlement. He made a trip to the area in July, and after returning to his home, sent a letter accepting the call to New Iceland. He arrived in Winnipeg accompanied by his wife on October 28, 1877, and travelled throughout the colony, holding church services, coun-

cil meetings, and organizing Sunday schools. The couple stayed at the home of John Taylor that first winter. During his service in New Iceland the congregations were never able to pay the \$600 promised as annual salary. At the most he received \$400 a year, but the couple did have, after the first winter, a "roomy and pleasant house" at Gimli, near the present location of Betel. The horse and carriage promised for travelling never materialized, and most of Rev. Bjarnason's trips through his parish were made on foot, usually accompanied by his dear wife, Fru Lara.

The religious dissension in 1878-79 and the flooding of the Lake in 1879-80, led, in those years, to a general exodus from the colony to Dakota and to Winnipeg and other parts of Manitoba. With nearly 3/4 of the population gone the church organizations were greatly weakened and unable to maintain a minister. Rev. Bjarnason resigned in the fall of 1879 and returned to Iceland. Halldor Briem, now an ordained minister, served the needs of the area, but he left the colony in 1881.

Late in 1884 Rev. Bjarnason returned to Canada to serve the growing Icelandic congregation in Winnipeg. He made a trip to his former parish and was pleased and astounded at the progress made. At an outdoor service at Mödruvelli he begged his listeners to reorganize their church, and promised an occasional visit. At a meeting following the service, plans were made and a council elected. The chief officers were Johann Briem, president, and Thor-

grimur Jonsson, secretary. The following summer, 1885, a "safnadar hus" or parish hall was built on the east side of the river. It was of good size, 37 ft. long and 14 ft. wide, with a shingled roof. This building was to be used for church services, public meetings and entertainments.

In the meantime, the Rev. Magnus Skaptason had accepted a call from the Lake Winnipeg congregations and arrived from Iceland August 1, 1887. He delivered his first sermon in the Parish Hall, August 7, and made his home at Hnausa until he moved to Gimli in 1891. A noteworthy event of this period was the meeting of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod held at Icelandic River in June, 1890. The invitation was extended by a very poor congregation, but the visitors who were billeted and fed during the three-day convention, were very pleased with their reception.

In January, 1893, Rev. Skaptason tendered his resignation. The church was again without a pastor, but the area was visited at intervals by clerics from Winnipeg — Bjarnason, Pjetursson and Bergman.

In September, 1893, a call was sent to the Rev. Oddur Gislason in Iceland, which was accepted. He arrived at the River aboard the steamer Ida with his wife and seven of his ten children, July 20, 1894, and delivered his first sermon in the Parish Hall, July 24. He served the area until 1902 and resided at Icelandic River. After his resignation, interest in church affairs was again at a low point, nourished only by an occasional service by visiting clergy.

Selkirk now had its own resident pastor, Rev. N. S. Thorlakson. Gimli had detached itself from the Lake Winnipeg parish and was served by the Rev. Runolfur Marteinsson.

In 1903 the chairman of the church

board was Thorvaldur Thorarinson, with Jonas Jonasson secretary and Halfdan Sigmundson, treasurer. The annual meeting was held in May, much later than usual. and the chairman asked for discussion on a subject that he had broached before, — the building of a church at Icelandic River. A building committee composed of H. Sigmundson, Jonas Jonasson, J. T. Jonasson, B. Marteinsson, V. Halfdansson and Thorgrimur Jonsson was appointed. On June 11, 1906 work commenced on the foundation. On October 2, Trausti Vigfusson took charge, aided by many volunteers, and the building was completed as to outside construction before the cold weather set in. Work continued the following summer and on July 27, 1907. theology student Johann Bjarnason occupied the pulpit for the opening service in this beautifully designed church. The Christmas concert that year was held in the church.

After his graduation from the Lutheran seminary in the spring of 1908, Rev. Johann Bjarnason agreed to serve the New Iceland congregations. He was ordained in the church of the Brethren at Icelandic River that summer with Rev. Jon Bjarnason officiating.

Rev. Bjarnason was 42 years of age at the time of his graduation, and served the area for twenty years. His strength of character gave stability and meaning to the efforts of the church as a whole. There was regular Sunday School established under the guidance of Gudrun Briem, and later, by Kristbjorg Sigurdson. The confirmation classes were also in charge of Gudrun Briem.

Rev. Sigurdur Olafson was engaged by the parish early in 1929, and the church for the second time hosted the convention of the Icelandic Synod,

June 3-5. It was well organized and successful.

Rev. Olafson, a kind and sensitive man, served the area through the depression years and voluntarily took a cut in salary to ease matters for the parish. He tendered his resignation June 9, 1940, having accepted an offer from the Selkirk congregation, but continued to conduct an occasional service in the Riverton church.

Rev. B. A. Bjarnason served the area for the next eight years, resigning in 1950 because of poor health. Rev. Robert Jack came from Iceland in 1953 and served the district for two years, returning to Iceland in 1955.

Pastor Larson came from the United States to take charge of the churches in north New Iceland in 1956. He considered the parish too large and suggested two ministers for the area. This idea was agreed to by the Riverton congregation, and it was decided to build a parsonage on the church property in anticipation of a resident Pastor. Pastor Richard E. Magnusson accepted a call to the Riverton church in January, 1960, and moved into the new house on his arrival. He served at Riverton for five years. During this period it was agreed to join the Manitoba Synod of Lutheran Churches. On March 13, 1965, "BRAEDRA SOF-NUDUR" was dissolved, and a new organization formed to serve Riverton, Hecla and Hnausa, to be called the Riverton-Hnausa Lutheran Church.

Pastor Paul Erikson arrived in the summer of 1965 and began actively promoting a new church building. The old church had lasted for almost sixty years but was now regarded as out-of-date and beyond repair. It was in use until 1968, when it was sold and moved away to make room for the new church,

which was built and dedicated later in that year.

The Lutheran church dedicated at Riverton November 10, 1968, is the source of great pride and satisfaction to the church council, its members and the community as a whole. It is geared to modern needs with a fellowship hall, Sunday School rooms and an office for the pastor.

Pastor Kirkwood succeeded Pastor Eriksson in 1969, and served the community until 1973. The present pastor is Gary Schenk, who will preside over the many activities of this centennial year.

We approach this anniversary with a sense of thankfulness and appreciation. We are grateful for the loyal service rendered by the various pastors, always under trying circumstances, over the span of a hundred years. We also remember with admiration, the devotion of the many men and women who worked faithfully to maintain this organization.

Most of all, we are grateful for the work being done by the present-day members. The loyal service rendered by the organist and choir, the Sunday School teachers and the church council can never be fully recognized, but it is appreciated and valued by the community of which this church is an integral part.

(Information based on "Riverton and the Icelandic Settlement" by S. O. Thompson.)

* * *

Excerpt from a greeting from Rev. V. J. Eylands, D.D., former President, Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod, to the "Fraternal Church" of Riverton:

"While you stand on the shoulders of the pioneers, cherishing their

traditions, being inspired by their example of loyalty to the truth of the gospel, their love of God and their spirit of sacrifice, you will look forward to the future. During this anniversary you will re-dedicate yourselves to the ideals of stewardship in time, talents and

means, that you may build on the foundation which has been laid for you, so that your congregation may continue to bear witness to the gospel which is indispensable to your own and your children's happiness, both in this life and in the world to come."

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A RETURN TO ONE'S "ROOTS"

by Gustaf Kristjanson

A DC-8 descends from the northern skies on a dull June morning and disgorges a load of passengers for Keflavik International Airport. The hopes and expectations that these passengers bring with them are probably as diverse as the people who make up the group. Three weeks and two days later the same group enplanes for the return journey to Winnipeg. It would be interesting to find out what their feelings are as they leave behind the "land of ice and fire" — what memories they take away with them, what impressions.

They must, for example, have been all but overwhelmed with the generousness and hospitality of the people of Iceland. Surely they must all have been struck with the multicoloured landforms and the contrast of sweeping meadows with rugged lava plains that characterize this stark but beautiful land. One might well assume that they saw more sheep grazing within this brief span of three weeks than they had previously encountered during their entire lifetime. It would be hard to believe that anyone could have missed the grace of Mount Esja, serenely overlooking Reykjavik from across the bay. Except perhaps for those who have visited the country on a number of occasions previously, or those who spent the entire time in some other corner of the land. It would be hard to believe that anyone missed making the pilgrimage to Thingvellir, home of the first Althing in 930 A.D.

These, by and large, must have been common experiences. A large number probably made an excursion to see Gullfoss and the Geysir region. Gullfoss, incidentally, must be one of the most

spectacular and beautiful waterfalls on earth. No doubt many paid their respects to Strokkur, that bumptious geyser whose activity must be a source of satisfaction to the Iceland Tourist Bureau, particularly since the more famous Geysir nearby has been pouting in silence for the last two or three years. To those who found their way to the north of Iceland, the glories of Godafoss and the scenery in and around Myvatn may well have been part of their experience. A few may have sampled the quiet beauties of the canyon they call Asbyrgi or viewed the power of the Dettifoss waterfall, although these are a trifle more off the beaten track. Some of the group were able to take advantage of a break in the unsettled weather to make a trip to the Westman Islands, site of the awesome volcano that destroyed part of the town of Vestmannaeyar four years ago. The sight of a brand new mountain formed of hardened lava and volcanic ash—still hot immediately beneath the surface—was a memorable one indeed.

Many or most of the items described above must have been common experiences for the travellers to Iceland in the summer of 1977. But each traveller must have had his own personal experience as well. For example, I have the memory of some five hours spent in a smallish aircraft owned by Icelandair that made the flight to Kulusuk in eastern Greenland, circled over ice-floes and mountain crags as it sought vainly to find its way through a sleet storm that was obscuring the tiny airfield, and finally abandoned the attempt to return to more hospitable skies over Reykjavik. I have also the memory of a Sunday

afternoon sitting in the living room of the spacious bungalow of Hallgrímur Helgason, composer, overlooking the Ölfus River near Selfoss and listening to his taped recording of "Sandy Bar". It sounded better than the original performance two years ago in Winnipeg's Centennial Concert Hall.

There is another memory—that of an afternoon spent at Hraunkot, a farmstead situated at the edge of the Adaldal lava fields a few miles to the south of the fishing town of Husavik. This area, South Thingeyarsýsla, contains many sights worthy of note, including that fabulous lake, Myvatn. But Hraunkot is a bit off the beaten path. Leaving the main road, one travels through an area of woods before striking the open stretches of lava. The farmstead lies on the boundary between the bare lava fields and the marshes that stretch toward the Skjalvanda Fljót (River) at the base of the mountains to the west. The mingling of woods and lava, of meadow and marsh, with the broad river and mountains as a

backdrop, creates a scene of rare beauty. This is the place where my father was born, from which my grandfather and his family migrated to start a life in the New World. One wonders at the motives that might induce someone to leave a spot so pleasing to the eye to exchange it for the flat wheatfields of Pembina, North Dakota. Economic factors must have been the overriding ones. It couldn't have been the scenery.

When my grandfather left to seek his future in a strange land, one of his daughters remained behind. This aunt of mine was a young bride at the time and her future lay in the land of her birth. It was with her daughters—my cousins—that I visited that Sunday afternoon. We were strands of the same fabric, as it were, following our destinies on separate continents. And as we sat eating bread and Icelandic smoked meat and Icelandic pancakes and speaking—much of the time—in the language of our forefathers, it occurred to me that perhaps the strands had not separated all that much after all.

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ISLENDINGADAGURINN, 1977

By Kristine Perlmutter



Caroline Gunnarsson

The 88th annual Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, Isleendingadagurinn, was held at Gimli, Manitoba July 30 - August 1. People of Icelandic descent look forward to this festival weekend each year as an opportunity to meet their families, renew acquaintances and make new friends.

The festival got under way on the Saturday with a pancake breakfast in the harbour area, the A.Q.H.A. Show at Happy Acres Ranch (1¼ miles north of Gimli), and sailing displays in the harbour area.

Raft races in the harbour featured the "Odin Handicap" for the fastest craft and the "Labatt Award" for the best original design. An added feature was the "Powder Plunger" event for the best entry from the ladies.

Three showings of the film "Isleendingadagurinn 1975" were presented in the park pavilion.

For those who were not already filled up by the ethnic and snack foods available, the Gimli Kinsmen Club provided a barbecue supper in the park.

In the evening, a good crowd gathered to watch the New Iceland Drama Society production of "A Visit to a Small Planet" by Gore Vidal. This play concerns the visit of a being from another planet and the impact that his presence has upon the American family with whom he becomes involved. Under the direction of Bill Barlow, the cast did a creditable job and the special effects were excellent. Leif Bristow was featured in the starring role, which he performed very well. The play was presented on four successive nights to appreciative audiences.

The evening dance at the Industrial Park Recreation Centre featured the music of "Raintree".

On Sunday morning, a pancake breakfast was served at the Gimli harbour by members of the Icelandic Festival Committee. Happy Acres Ranch was the scene of an Open Horse Show. Distance races were also carried out, including the Icelandic Festival 10 Mile Championship Race and the 2 Mile Fitness Event.

A special service was held in the Gimli Lutheran Church to mark its centennial.

The main stage in Gimli park was the scene of the "Theatre on a Shoestring" production.

On Sunday afternoon, the annual Fine Arts Displays opened. This year, the displays committee of the Icelandic

Festival of Manitoba instituted a new approach to the art displays by featuring one-man shows, in contrast to the old format of limited items from several contributors. In 1977, the invited artists were painter and sculptor Gissur Eliasson and off-hand glass-blower Ione Thorkelsson.

Other afternoon activities included the New Iceland Music and Poetry Program (MC'd by Len and Karen Vopnfjord), sky-diving parachutists over the town and the industrial park, and track and field events in Gimli park. A feature attraction was a performance by the Ladies' Choir from Sudurnesja, Iceland, on the main stage at Gimli park.

An Ecumenical Service, adjourned from the Park on account of rain, was held in the Gimli Lutheran Church, on Sunday evening. Dr. V. J. Eylands, recently returned from his visit to Iceland, where he received an honorary doctorate, preached an inspiring sermon.

Sunday evening, a large crowd took part in the Folk-Fest in the Park, which was MC'd by Len and Karen Vopnfjord. This folkfest featured a most impressive array of folk talent from around the province.

Fireworks at Gimli harbour and an evening dance at the Industrial Park Recreation Centre, (with music by "Sky High" and "Barrelhouse"), brought to a close the second day of the festival.

The main events of the celebration, which traditionally take place during the Monday, began with a pancake breakfast at Gimli harbour. The colourful parade of floats, using an ethnic theme and featuring Khartum Temple Shrine Units, began from Johnson Memorial Hospital.

The Fjallkona, Miss Caroline Gunnarsson, with her attendants, Cheryl and Jona Riglin, had the place of honour in

the parade. Miss Gunnarsson, of Winnipeg, is a former editor of Logberg-Heimskringla and a former feature editor of the Magazine Section of the Winnipeg Free Press Weekly.

The Fjallkona placed a wreath at the cairn, the memorial to commemorate the memory of the pioneers.

After the parade, the sports program got under way in Gimli park. This ever-popular part of the festival featured children's races, special events, and novelty races for the whole family.

Leif Bristow, who was a very busy fellow during this year's festival, appeared with his company on the main stage in "The Best of Broadway".

The traditional festival program began at 2:00. Mr. Ernest Stefansson, President of the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, welcomed the guests to the Icelandic Celebration. The audience was asked to rise for the singing of "O Canada" and the Icelandic national anthem "O Gud Vars Lands".

The Fjallkona, Miss Caroline Gunnarsson, gave the traditional feature address in Icelandic. The toast to Canada was given by the Honourable Olafur Johannesson, Minister of Justice and Commerce, in the government of Iceland. The toast to Iceland was given by Dr. Frank E. Scribner of Gimli. His Honour Lieut.-Governor F. L. (Bud) Jobin was platform guest and spoke briefly. Greetings to the festival were also brought by many other speakers, including Premier Ed Schreyer.

The musical portion of the program was composed of excellent, professional calibre performances by the Sudurnesja Ladies' Choir and soloist Mary Peterson. An added attraction was a presentation by the Bass Clef Singers and The Better Half, under the direction of Helga Anderson of Winnipeg.

All in all, the program was very interesting and varied.

Monday evening entertainment was provided by the New Horizon Square Dancers, a community sing-song conducted by Oli Narfason and accompanied by Hedy Bjornson, and a presentation by the New Iceland Icelandic Choir, directed by Ingibjorg Sigurgeirsson McKillop.

To bring the evening's festivities to a close, a family dance was held in the Gimli Park Pavilion with music provided by "Johnny and His Musical Mates", a favourite band of the Icelandic Festival crowd.

This, in brief, gives an idea of the activities that made up the Icelandic Festival enjoyed this year — *Islendingadagurinn 1977*.

NEWS

THORSTEINSON'S DO-IT-YOURSELF CRUISER



Marvin Thorsteinson of 67 Kingston Row, Winnipeg, bought a derelict scow in Riverton, Manitoba, for \$3,750, manoeuvred it on Lake Winnipeg and the Red River to his St. Vital home, and has transformed it into an attractive cruiser.

—Free Press

* * *

The Ten-Mile Road Race At the Festival

The ten-mile road race at the Icelandic Festival has become a prominent event in the sports annals of the Province. This

year there were 91 entries, with Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario (Ottawa), and Quebec (Montreal), represented.

The winner was Bruce Soulsby, of Winnipeg, in the time of 52 minutes, 21 seconds. At that, the wind was rather unfavorable.

The Masters event, ages 40 to 50, was won by Ronald W. Kristjanson, of Fort Richmond, Winnipeg.

Young folk, boys and girls, took part, and finished the course, including three aged eleven, twelve and thirteen years, respectively.

A heart-warming sight at the finish of the ten-mile course was the arrival of seven "Rehab" heart-patients, in extended line, with arms linked, having jogged the course.

* * *

The Kiwanis International in Iceland

The people who comprise the thirty Kiwanis clubs in Iceland make it the most densely Kiwanis-populated nation in the world.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Reykjavik raised \$30,000 to purchase a special van for transporting the handicapped.

THE SAGA SINGERS

by Rae Biggs

Dressed in authentic Icelandic costumes, presenting ancient Icelandic songs and hymns, Edmonton's delightful Saga Singers have a busy schedule ahead.

They trace their origin to a Christmas concert 1964 when a group of Icelanders impressed the audience with an impromptu sing-song of ancient carols.

Encouraged by the applause, they then began to gather at one another's homes for weekly song sessions, thus gaining competence to take part in the 1964 "Scandapades," an annual review put on by the Scandinavian Centre.

Further encouraged by the Icelandic Society and its president at the time, Al Arnason, (one of the more enthusiastic tenors from the chorus), a committee was formed to find a suitable name for the group.

This led to the organization in spring, 1968 of the official Saga Singers, with Ninna Campbell as president and Della Roland, well-known Edmonton musician, as choir director and accompanist.

Now over 20 strong they sometimes travel abroad, chartering a bus to take them, for instance, to the Icelandic festivals at Gimli, Manitoba and Markerville, Alberta. "We sing all the way," says Mrs. Campbell. "One night going to Winnipeg we were still singing in the bus at 3 o'clock in the morning."

Their unique repertoire consists of such selections as the ancient legend *Olafur*, the story of a rider in the mountains who comes upon evil little elves and is tempted by them to do wrong. No one knows the origin of *Olafur*, a song passed from minstrel to minstrel down through the ages and believed to be at least 1,000 years old.

Another of their songs, *Baen* is a moving prayer for peace, set to the stirring music of the andante from *Orpheus* by C. W. Van Gluck. Other songs reveal political satire and the sharp, subtle wit so typical of the Icelandic people.

On the Saga Singer's itinerary this year, a concert at the Icelandic Centennial Festival at Gimli, Manitoba in August, another at Markerville, Alberta in June, appearances with various ethnic groups at the Jubilee Auditorium, Edmonton, frequent presentations at the Scandinavian Centre, a Christmas program at the Provincial Museum, at the Unitarian Church, the Good Samaritan Home and numerous other nursing homes, not to mention the weekly practice sessions at private homes . . . happy song-filled socials, which help to hold together this unusual group of amateur musicians.

—Courtesy of **Heritage** (Alberta)
(July-August, 1975)

GIMLI



In the 1870's, the first Icelandic settlers arrived in Manitoba to begin life in a new land. They had high hopes for they called their settlement Gimli — "Home of the Gods." More than a hundred years later Gimli is a thriving community whose good fortune is celebrated with *Islendingadagurinn* every summer, when people come from across Canada and the United States to share the traditional food, music and Viking heritage of the people of Gimli.

MANITOBA GOVERNMENT TRAVEL

W. KRISTJANSON:

THE ICELANDIC STUDENTS SOCIETY IN WINNIPEG

The story of the Icelandic Students Society in Winnipeg reflects the vision and enterprise of its founders, as most pioneering stories do.

By the turn of the century there were a few Icelandic students in attendance at the University of Manitoba. Already graduated were Fri-mann B. Anderson (B.A., 1885), Olafur Stephensen (Medicine, 1895), Olafur Bjornson (Medicine, 1897), Brandur J. Brandson (Medicine, 1900), Thomas H. Johnson (Law, 1900), and Ingvar Buason (B.A., 1900).

It was but natural that these Icelandic students, especially those from the country, should form a close association, and this they did. They founded the Icelandic Students Society, the first meeting of which was held on Jan. 13, 1901, in the North West Hall. The chief promoters were Thorvaldur Thorvaldsson, Ingvar Buason, Arni Anderson, Marino Hannesson, and Stefan Guttormsson. (*Hkr.* 25 Dec., 1902). Twelve others attended the first meeting. Thomas H. Johnson, Thorbergur Thorvaldson, Egill Skjöld, Maria Anderson, Gudrun Johannsdottir, Oliver Olsen, Magnus Hjaltason, Fred Olsen, Olafur Eggertsson, Johann Bjarnason, and Olafur Bjornson. (*Hkr.* XV, No. 17.) The first president was Ingvar Buason, who at that time was studying First Year Medicine.

The aims of the Society were to provide financial assistance to students seeking higher education and who were in need of aid,

to promote spread of knowledge of Icelandic literature among Canadians,

to stimulate interest among Icelandic students in Canadian literature. (*c/f Hkr.* 25 Dec., 1902.)

to stimulate interest in the Icelandic language and literature among the membership and through its contact with the general public.

To this may be added the general aim of support for progressive measures (*framfaramál*) among the Icelandic people in the country. (*Hkr.* 12 Dec., 1901.)

The Society was immediately active. Meetings were held regularly every fortnight. Loans to students amounted to nearly one hundred dollars. At an open meeting on March 30, 1901, there was a debate on the subject, "Are the Western Icelanders doing right in promoting in any way emigration from Iceland to America?" The affirmative in this debate was taken by Johann Bjarnason and Olafur Eggertsson; the negative by Johann Solmundsson and Stefan Guttormsson. At a meeting in November, the subject

of discussion was Canadian literature, with special emphasis on Charles D. G. Roberts. "In addition there will be a good program with ten members taking part." (*Hkr.* 28 Nov., 1901.)

Activities were not restricted to the academic year. In a letter to *Heimskringla*, August 1, 1901, Ingvar Buason states that the Icelandic Students Society is currently ascertaining how many Icelandic books are available in translation, with a view to persuading the City library to stock these. He lists thirty-four such books, including *Gylfaginning*, from *Snorra Edda*, and *Njalssaga*, both translated by G. W. Dasent.

At a meeting in November, there were "three very interesting speeches on the program", by Ingvar Buason, Thos. H. Johnson, and Thorvaldur Thorvaldsson, and there were good refreshments after. (*Lögberg*, 7 Nov., 1901.) Fourteen new members joined at the beginning of the year, and at one meeting about fifty people were present, including students and guests.

Early in December the Society was busily engaged in preparing for the production of a play, "Mademoiselle La Seigliere", which had been translated into Icelandic by Thorvaldur Thorvaldsson. The play was to be presented first in Selkirk, then in Winnipeg, on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of the month. Actually, it was presented seven times before capacity audiences. It was an expensive undertaking; period costumes were used, the scenery was beautifully done, and the program was printed.



Thorvaldur Thorvaldsson.

Such were the activities of the Icelandic Students Society in their first year of operation. It was already attracting considerable notice in the Icelandic community (allmikið borið á því). (*Hkr.* 23 Jan., 1902.)

Election of officers for the second year took place on January 11, 1902. The new president was Thorvaldur Thorvaldsson:

(The complete slate of officers was as follows:

Honorary President:
Reverend Jon Bjarnason

President:
Thorvaldur Thorvaldsson
Vice-President:
Skuli Hanson
Secretary:
Miss Maria Anderson
Treasurer:
Miss G. Johannson
Corresponding Secretary:
E. J. Skjöld.)

The topic of discussion at the meeting of *Heimskringla* was especially noteworthy. The topic was Jonas Hallgrímsson and his influence on Icelandic literature. The proceeds of the evening went to support the Student Society in Reykjavik in the project of erecting a monument to the poet.

The meeting on February 8 was also noteworthy in that the ladies provided the program.

At an open meeting in March, the Honorary President, Reverend Jon Bjarnason, gave an address, and Arni Anderson gave a paper on Shakespeare.

At this point the Society appears to have adapted its calendar to the academic year, for on April 5 there was an election of officers. The new president was Arni Anderson.

Featured at two of the meetings in the fall of 1902 was an interesting and informative paper on Longfellow, by the law student Marino Hannesson, and a discussion on the novelist Ralph Connor, author of "the famed novels *The Sky Pilot* and *The Man from Glengarry*", with readings from his works. At a January meeting in the Tabernacle Church, the chief topic on the pro-

gram was a poet who with the passing years came to be acknowledged as the poet laureate of the Icelandic people in America, Stephan G. Stephansson. At an April meeting Olafur Eggertsson gave paper on elocution. No one in the Icelandic community would be better qualified to speak on the subject than this master actor.

The Students Society sponsored a concert held in the First Lutheran Church, on March 14, 1904. The speakers and the artists taking part in an impressive program were people well known or prominent in the Icelandic community. The program was as follows:

1. Piano solo
Miss Emily Morris
2. Vocal solo
Mrs. W. H. Paulson
3. Vocal solo
J. W. Long
4. Address
Reverend Jon Bjarnason
5. Song
Wesley Quartette
6. Violincello
F. Dalman
7. Vocal solo
H. Thorolfsson
8. Trio
J. W. Long, F. Dalman,
Miss E. Morris
9. Address
Reverend F. J. Bergmann
10. Violin solo
J. W. Long

11. Vocal solo
Mrs. W. H. Paulson
12. Song
Wesley Quartette
13. Vocal solo
H. Thorolfsson

Among the founders of the Students Society as well as in years to come, there were several young people of promise, some of whom in their college days won the highest academic honors.

Ingvar Buason was one of the young men of promise. Born in Iceland, in 1873, he arrived with his family in Manitoba (New Iceland), in 1887. After only one year of public school, he proceeded to Manitoba College, where he attended for six years, for his secondary and college education, graduating in 1902.

The year 1902 was a memorable one for Ingvar Buason. He was an active worker in the Good Templar Order and shortly after graduation he attended an international I.O.G.T. convention in Stockholm as a delegate of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. More important, he was married that summer to a young lady who was also an active member of the Order, Gudrun Johannsdottir. In the fall of the year he enrolled at the Medical College, but failing health prevented him from continuing his studies beyond First Year.

Untimely death cut short Ingvar Buason's career in 1904. His funeral, conducted from St. Paul's Church, on the corner of Notre Dame and Nena (Sherbrook) attested to the high esteem in which he was held.



Ingvar Buason.

There were six hundred present and two ministers took part in the service.

Thorvaldur Thorvaldsson was a brilliant student, and already in his student days prominent in the Unitarian movement. Born in Iceland, in 1879, he arrived with the family in Manitoba, in New Iceland, in 1887. He attended collegiate in Winnipeg in 1897, and after the New Year of 1898 he commenced his studies at Wesley College. He graduated with a First Class standing, in 1902. In the fall of that year he proceeded to Harvard University, where he re-

ceived his Bachelor of Science degree **cum laude**, in 1903. He was proceeding towards his Master of Science degree when a sudden illness and death cut short his career, in February, 1904.

The untimely death of these two young men of promise was tragic, but others among the early leaders lived to realize on the promise of

their student years. To mention one, Thorbergur Thorvaldson, the younger brother of Thorvaldur, became the head of the Chemistry Department at the University of Saskatchewan, was awarded the Marshall Tory medal by the Royal Society of Canada, and received international recognition as a scientist.

To be continued in next issue

FIRST WOMAN NAMED TO POST

Valdine Johnson, principal at Elmwood High School has become the first woman appointed area superintendent in the Winnipeg school division since the division was divided three ways in 1973.

A teacher and school administrator for the past 35 years, Miss Johnson will be responsible for 29 schools in Area 3, a jurisdiction in the south and west end of the division.

Her appointment was announced this week, several days after Winnipeg teachers criticized school board officials for the dearth of women holding administrative positions in the division. Superintendent Harold Pollock said fewer women are applying for such positions and denied charges that discrimination might be involved. Women don't know how to get and keep these jobs, he said.

Two out of nine positions in the superintendent's department are now filled by women, as are two of the 18 senior administrative posts in the division's central office.

Miss Johnson said it's true competent women have been passed over for administrative positions, but she rejected the notion it might be deliberate. "Com-

petent men have been passed over too for hiding their light under a bushel."

"One has to take the times, politics and personalities into consideration too," she added.

Speaking personally, Miss Johnson said "I happened to have been the type of woman who was content with what she was doing and as a result didn't venture into new waters."

It was encouragement from division officials which led her to apply for the area superintendency, she said.

—The Winnipeg Tribune

Miss Johnson's parents were John and Olina Johnson, formerly of Piney, Manitoba, and Winnipeg.

Miss Johnson attended Normal School in Winnipeg, and has her Master's degree from the University of Manitoba. — (Editor).

★ ★ ★

Gimli Girl Crowned Miss Interlake

One of the hi-lites of the Lundar Agricultural Fair held on June 10th and 11th was the crowning of Miss Interlake. Colleen Fjelsted, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asgeir Fjelsted of Gimli was chosen to wear the crown of "Miss Interlake"



Colleen Fjelsted

for 1977-78. Colleen, sponsored by the Minerva Ladies Aid, was chosen from among 18 other contestants and chose public speaking as her talent.

—Lake Centre News, July 5, 1977

STAFHOLT NEWS

Stafholt was pleased by a visit of Icelandic travelers on Tuesday, June 21. The group of 40, led by Mr. Gudmundur Magnusson, arrived shortly before noon, being enroute from Vancouver, B.C. to Seattle. They were greeted by Einar Simonarson, president of Board of Directors. The beautiful buffet lunch was prepared by the staff and Stafholt Auxiliary. The visitors visited with the residents and local people who came for the occasion.

Several of the Icelanders spoke English, but even though many did not, all were most friendly. After refreshments the group entertained with several Icelandic songs. Then all shook hands, bade goodbye, and the group was off to Seattle. All in all it was an eventful day at Stafholt. Several other groups of Icelandic visitors are expected throughout the summer.

WORST IS OVER?

ICELAND CONFIDENT PRICES WILL LEVEL OFF

Iceland's high standard of living is being maintained despite whopping inflation that soared to 50 per cent in 1973, the country's former prime minister said Tuesday.

The rate was brought down to 30 per cent within two years, Olafur Johannesson said during a visit to Winnipeg.

"Our main problem now is constant inflation, but we are rather optimistic we can stabilize it."

Canadians "must not swoon at these figures," although they were a European record.

"The bright side is that we are one of

the very few countries with full employment. Very few European countries can say that.

"We have rather high standards of living in Iceland and we have very equal conditions of life. We want to preserve that."

Wage freezes are not imposed, due to need and to labor's strong position. "The wages of the labor people had to go up."

Price controls have proven difficult because of Iceland's heavy import and export trade.

Prices of fish, Iceland's major export, have recently gone up he said.



Hon. Olafur Johannesson

An association with Canada, Norway, Denmark and Iceland to promote fish has resulted in an increase in sales, he said.

Mr. Johannesson was prime minister from 1971 until his minority coalition government was defeated in 1974 general elections.

He is now minister of justice and commerce.

He was a central figure in the "cod war" with England over fishing grounds. Relations with England are now "very good," he said.

During his two week stay, Mr. Johannesson is visiting Icelandic settlements in Manitoba.

—Winnipeg Tribune
July, 1977

The Scandinavian Pavilion: Winnipeg Folklorama

"The Best Yet!" was the appreciative comment on our visit to the Scandinavian Pavilion of the Winnipeg 1977 Folklorama, at the St. James Civic Centre, August 15, where people of Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, and Swedish descent, and others, came together to glimpse ethnic heritages and to enjoy themselves.

The Centre was packed, the attendance being up 900 from the corresponding time last year.

The colorful and varied displays and their settings in the stalls included national flags, national costumes, handicrafts and ornaments, and, in their place, ethnic foods.

Multitudes were seated at the tables laden with ethnic foods, including the Icelandic rullupylsa, pönnukökur, and vinarterta.

The stage program, under the direction of M.C.'s Ray Vopni and Meros Leckow, featured melodious folk songs, solo and ensemble; instruments such as the harmonica, and folk dances, Icelandic and Ukrainian, the latter a spectacular and predominating feature. The numerous Icelandic folk dances, performed by a bevy of young ladies in authentic Icelandic costumes, included one to the music of 'Olafur reid med björgum fram', and one a 'skottis'. Both sets of dances, Icelandic and Ukrainian, were trained and directed by Meros Leckow. The entire varied program was high-class, smooth-flowing, and entertaining.

"We are proud of our heritage, but first of all we are Canadian," said Bob Goodman, who was prominent on the program, and the massed assembly on the platform sang with feeling, 'This land is your land; this land is my land'.

A great deal of credit for the success of the evening must be due to the Chairman of the event, Mrs. Lillian Lechow. Weeks and months of preparation were indicated.

* * *

ICELANDIC CANADIAN FRON

The Icelandic Canadian Fron was the name chosen by secret ballot for the new social club of the Winnipeg Icelanders and their friends. The balloting took place at a concert and dance at the Canoe Club on March 19, 1977. The result followed the pattern set by **Logberg** and **Heimskringla** when they joined forces.

Thus ended a somewhat lengthy process of negotiation and compromise whereby the Icelandic Canadian Club and the Fron Chapter of the Icelandic National League, united to form a single organization.

Both clubs have served their community well for several decades; but co-operation between them was occasionally marred by duplication, or even competition. While the Club conducted its meetings in English, and Fron in Icelandic, there was some reason for having the two; but of late, all, or nearly all business has been conducted in English by both clubs.

Most of the actual work of amalgamation was done during the winter of 1975-76, with Dori Stefansson and Iris Torfason presidents of the respective clubs, and both pressing for union with a lot of support.

It is now hoped that the new organization under the current presidency of Dr. Gestur Kristjansson, will find that in union is strength, and that it will be able to serve the community even better than the two parent clubs.

—H.J.S.

Dan Halldorson of Brandon Wins the Manitoba Peter Jackson Open Title



Dan Halldorson's life as a touring golf professional has been more frustrating than lucrative.

The drought ended for Halldorson in spectacular fashion on Rossmer's 18th green Sunday afternoon when an 81-foot birdie chip shot found its way into the cup, giving Halldorson the 1977 Manitoba Peter Jackson Open title and the \$3,000 champion's cheque.

The shot was a fitting finale to a spectacular third-round surge which saw Halldorson card five birdies and five bogies en route to an even-par 69 and a 208 total, one better than Philadelphia's Ray Thompson.

—Winnipeg Free Press, Aug. 2

Halldorson collects again

Dan Halldorson of Brandon, Man., used a delicate chip shot from the fringe of the second green Sunday to set up a birdie and win the Saskatchewan Open and his second \$3,000 winner's cheque in as many weeks.

—Winnipeg Free Press, Aug. 8

SOLSKIN OF VANCOUVER . . . 60 YEARS OF GOODWILL

by Kristiana Magnusson

Have you ever had the special, happy experience, when reading through the pages of an old record, of finding yourself fascinated with the treasures and information contained therein? Such has been my experience in reading the Secretary's and Treasurer's 60 years record of Solskin (Sunshine) activities. In the pages of these records, so lovingly kept, are the dreams and aspirations of a dedicated group of women through the years.

It all began the evening of November 1st, 1917, when a group of Icelandic women in Vancouver met at the home of Runa Tipping. The purpose of this meeting was to get together to create a strong friendship link amongst Icelandic-Canadians in Vancouver, and to extend the hand of companionship and cheer to anyone in need, in the Icelandic community. They named the club "SOLSKIN", set the membership fee at 50c per year, and decided to hold meetings once a month, on the last Thursday in the month. These original rules are still in force today. The first President elected was Valgerdur Josephson, and the first Secretary, Emily Thorson.

This was during the war years, when many young soldiers of Icelandic descent were serving overseas, and the first concern of Solskin members was to brighten their Christmas. They took up a collection of \$21.00 at a special meeting held a week later, and sent this money to "Soldiers of Icelandic Descent" through Jon Sigurdsson I.O.D.E.

Chapter in Winnipeg. That year they kept busy knitting woollen socks for soldiers, and 22 pairs were sent through the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter.

Solskin became a very active club, with Tombolas, Homecooking and Bazaar sales, Christmas parties, and Whist Drives, which were always followed by a lively dance, with music provided by Barney Fridleifson. The big yearly events were the "Sumardagurinn Fyrsti Concert", and the "Thorrablót," the mid-winter Festival. For the Thorrablót Concert, Solskin would buy 2 or 3 carcasses of lamb. The lambs would be slaughtered for them, then cut up and distributed amongst the women who would make rullupylsa, kaefa, and hangikjot to serve at the meal. Nothing was wasted. The heads were pickled and made into svid. Skyr was another big undertaking and large amounts of it were always made, as that was a popular dessert. The Thorrablót meal featured a wonderful variety of Icelandic dishes.

All meetings were conducted in Icelandic. At the conclusion of the meetings there would be guest speakers, or else a game of cards. Poems, plays, and articles were read sometimes, and if any member had been on a trip to Iceland, she would relate her experiences there. During the summer, picnic meetings were held in various parks in and around Vancouver.

The Solskin Charter was formed in 1918, and the laws and regulations were as follows:

1. The name of the club is Solskin.
2. The objects of Solskin are to be an active and charitable club, as well as to foster Icelandic social life.
3. The Executive shall consist of 5 women . . . a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Vice-Secretary, and Treasurer.
4. The Executive has authority to hold special sessions on matters relating to Solskin.
5. The Executive shall be elected by voting.
6. The Executive are elected for one year, with the Annual Meeting to be held in November.
7. Meetings shall be held the last Thursday in each month, at 8 p.m.
8. Membership fee shall be 50c, to be paid when joining Solskin, then annually at the Annual Meeting.
9. It shall be the duty of each member to attend meetings regularly and to participate in all club activities.
10. The laws of this Charter shall not be changed, except by formal vote, with a 2/3 majority.

At a meeting in 1919 a motion was passed that the Charter laws be read to every new member, when joining Solskin. In that year the Sunshine Committee was formed, and this group of women was very busy, as they visited the sick and reported to Solskin about needy families in the Icelandic Community. The Sunshine Committee has been an integral part of Solskin, and substantial amounts of money have been given by Solskin to the sick and the needy.

Through the early years, concerts were held as often as once a month during the winter. New Years concerts and dances were held annually. It is interesting to note that at one concert, held April 2nd, 1918, Fortune Telling netted \$2.65;

draws \$38.80; coffee \$7.25; raffle \$4.30; and gifts of money \$11.65. The hall rental was \$2.50.

During the 1920s the Solskin group became involved in starting a Building Fund towards financing a Meeting Hall. In 1924 the fund amounted to \$600.40, and a motion was made at a meeting that henceforth two-thirds of the proceeds of any concert held, should go towards the Building Fund. In 1927 Solskin purchased a lot on Clark Drive at 8th Avenue, for the sum of \$286.00. However, they were unable to get this lot zoned for a Hall, and the lot was later sold for \$200.00

Solskin's activities were very diversified. One member, Mrs. B. Benson, wrote a play entitled "The Daughter-In-Law", and this was presented at a concert and enjoyed by a large audience. It was written in Icelandic and Icelandic costumes were worn.

At one time Solskin looked after the burial arrangements for a single woman who had no relatives in the area.

Solskin also loaned money on occasion — once to a young acting group, and another time they loaned \$25.00 to an individual. This money was repaid in six months, with \$1.00 extra enclosed for interest. However, Solskin members returned the \$1.00, as they said the loan was to be interest-free.

The 1930s were lean years financially for Solskin as so many people were in dire financial straits. Instead of paying out rent for Halls, members held Whist Drives and Silver Teas in their homes. When concerts and dances were held during those lean years, admission was 15c, with coffee included. The proceeds from social events became less and less — once in 1930 the profit was 60c; another time in 1934 25c. At one

particular Whist Drive and Dance in 1933, Solskin lost \$7.49, as expenses exceeded receipts. The sale of work, during those lean years, proved to be the best money-maker.

When Canada became involved in the 2nd World War, Solskin members once again knitted woollen socks and sent parcels to soldiers of Icelandic descent, as well as blankets in Bundles to Britain. They also made woollen patchwork quilts at Thora Orr's home, and sent these, along with warm clothing, to the Russian Relief Fund. They purchased a Victory Bond during the War years.

In 1947 a beautiful old home on Osler Street in Vancouver was purchased by the Icelandic Board, and this was used as an Icelandic Old Folks Home. Solskin became very actively involved in this, donating \$1,000.00 towards its purchase, and holding a Concert and Silver Tea at the official opening. There were 25 residents in this home. Solskin also donated a great deal of the supplies needed, and they often gathered together there to mend clothes, and sometimes helped with the house-cleaning if they were short-staffed.

During the 40th Anniversary year, 1957, it was moved that in future all minutes be written and all business be conducted in English. At the anniversary dinner Emily Thorson, with the longest record of service on the Executive, cut the birthday cake. Thora Orr wrote a very interesting resume of yearly activities.

Another great challenge was presented to Solskin during the 1960s—that of working and donating towards the Building Fund for a permanent Old Folks Home Residence. A quote by Secretary Gudny Kristjanson, from the February meeting of 1960, very aptly expresses Solskin's hopes; "Now in view of what has been accomplished, let us, with

stronger hopes than ever, endeavour to continue our good work, yet never losing sight of maintaining goodwill within our Solskin group, while still attempting to reach our ultimate goal."

During all the negotiations in connection with the Icelandic Home, a letter from Solskin was required by the Land's Department at City Hall, stating that Solskin was a women's organization which was ready and willing to support the Icelandic Board in their plans to build a Home. In 1963 the residents were moved into the new Icelandic Home, which was named "Höfn", (Haven) and lunch was served at the Official Opening by Solskin. Since that time all Solskin meetings, Bazaars, Teas, Christmas, Anniversary and Birthday parties have been held at Höfn.

On Solskin's 50th Anniversary Day, the Icelandic Board hosted a dinner at Höfn, to honour Solskin. Emily Thorson wrote an excellent article entitled "A Tribute to Solskin's 50 Years.", for **Logberg-Heimskringla**.

In 1969 another milestone in Solskin's record was reached. Solskin was incorporated under the Societies Act, in order that it could be named beneficiary to Höfn. A cabinet Minister was sent to Höfn, for the dedication ceremony of a bronze plaque. That year also saw the completion of the new wing to Höfn by the Icelandic Board.

The Constitution of Solskin under the Societies Act is as follows:

1. The name of the Society is Solskin.
2. The objects of the Society are:
 - a. to be the Women's Auxiliary to the Old Folks Home.
 - b. to be an active, charitable organization.
 - c. to support Höfn and other Icelandic organizations.

3. The operations of the Society are to be chiefly carried on in the city of Vancouver, in the province of British Columbia.

Through the years Solskin has hosted Presidents of Iceland and their entourage, at Höfn, as well as holding Open House to two large groups of visitors from Iceland in 1975.

Solskin members have donated over \$21,000.00 to Höfn in money donations; gifts totalling \$6500.00; Christmas parties and bus trips totalling \$5400.00, besides numerous donations to Relief Funds, to the sick and needy, and other organizations.

In 1976 Solskin hosted a wedding reception at Höfn, when residents Earl Smith and Clara Balcombe were married there. On this happy occasion the news media were present with TV

cameras and reporters, and this event was shown on CBC Hourglass.

Solskin has had a great diversity in the ages of its members, with the youngest member at one time, Lynn Arnason, joining at 17 years of age, and the oldest member in years, Salome Johnson, gracious and stately at 96 years of age, still attending all Solskin meetings and events.

Solskin has also had the distinction of family tradition carried on, with Mother and Daughter Presidents, Anna Harvey and daughter Elma Larson; and Mrs. Le Messurier and daughter Kay Peters; and Secretary Gudny Kristjanson and daughter Svava Seymour.

Solskin has gathered in its golden orbit many wonderful, dedicated women. The following two verses are part of a poem written by a friend, in memory of a



Front Row, sitting, left to right: Salome Johnson, Thora Johnson, Dora Bjarnason, Bjorg Indridason, Runa Erickson, Thora Orr, Emily Thorson, Rita Mooney, Nan Dall, Alice Clyne, Jonina Fjelsted, Cecilia Reid, Loa Skulason, Chris Brodie.

Back Row, standing left to right: Elma Larson, Frida Johnson, Kristjana Grimson, Anna Penway, Bjorg Einarson, Edna Johnson, Kristiana Magnusson, Olive Chambers, Laura Brandson, Helga Howardson, Fjola Mattson, Anna McNab, Sylvia Mason, Inga Skaftfeld, Thordis Wilson, Christine Remick, Laura Eyford, Bjorg Savage, Rene Johanneson, Svava Seymour, Alda Steele, Francis Johnson, and Sylvia Isfeld.

Solskin member, Laura Johnson, who loved to sing and entertain guests at Höfn;

A little lady you would find
Bringing joy to all mankind.
Her sunshine glowed in many places,
Reflected back in smiling faces.

Her natural wit and humour came,
As subtly as the morning rain;
It washed away doubts, tears, and sadness,
Replaced with confidence and gladness.

One of Solskin's brightest stars has been our sole surviving Charter member, Emily Thorson. She has the distinction also of having the longest record of service on the Executive of any member. She was the first Secretary of the club, then served as Treasurer for 43 years . . . a great record indeed. She served on innumerable committees, held many meetings at her home, as well as Annual Picnics in her garden, and was involved

in most of Solskin's earlier purchasing and business transactions.

Another member who deserves special tribute is Chrissie Anderson, who has been a member for 50 years. She too has served on numerous committees, and devoted hours of time to working for Solskin as correspondent and advertiser. Rita Mooney has been a member for over 40 years, serving as Secretary, and for many years on the Sunshine Committee, visiting the sick and cheering them up with her winsome ways. Thora Orr, who was President at one time, has also been a shining star with a long record as a member. Dora Bjarnason, who was President once, is another member of long standing, as well as Nan Dall, who was in charge of Raffles for innumerable years.

All these women, and so many more, 45 members in all, too numerous to name, have worked so well together and contributed so greatly towards the fellowship, the friendship, and the goodwill of Solskin through the years.

FROM HERE AND THERE

Guttormur J. Guttormsson

Translated by Thorvaldur Johnson

The house of a farmer caught fire
In the settlement's early days,
Before he had had a glimpse of
Prosperity's happy face.

Within were stores for the winter
For the body to consume;
A stove, a lamp, and tinder
The spirit to illumine.

He made up his mind to hazard
His health and life to bring
Out from the blazing fire
Each necessary thing.

Through the heat and smoke
he ventured
And brought back every time
In overflowing armfuls
Some books of prose and rhyme.

In the time it took to do this
It seems to be almost sure
That he could have saved from
the fire
All his household furniture.

But he glowed with satisfaction,
And thanks to the Lord gave he,
With nothing left in the world
Except his library.

JUNIOR INTERNE

By **Larus A. Sigurdson**

*"I wept bitterly because I had no shoes,
until I saw a man who had no feet."*

—Arab Proverb.

It was my first day on the children's surgical ward at the Winnipeg General Hospital, and my first duty was to do a dressing on a little girl called Lasha, in the corner bed. Nurse Charlotte Counsell was waiting for me with a surgical tray.

Lasha looked up and the moment she saw me in my white uniform, she screamed. She grabbed the nurse by the neck and clutched her tight with her small encircling arms and continued her loud, piercing screams.

I stood at the foot of the small bed and waited, and looked around. On the walls were pictures of children at play. In the bed were toys and a beautiful sleeping-

beauty doll. Beside the doll was a large birthday card, and on the card were the words "Happy Birthday". These words seemed so cruel, and heartless, but were not meant to be. She knew it was not going to be a happy birthday, because she had seen men in white uniforms hurt her, and she knew I would also hurt her.

I watched as the nurse gently loosened the desperate little arms from around her neck. Finally, her head was on the pillow and I saw a very beautiful baby girl with tousled blonde hair, and large round blue eyes drenched in tears.

Finally, the nurse pulled down the coverings, and then I saw a pathetic sight that still remains with me after all



Picture taken on the Winnipeg General Hospital grounds. On the far right, Nurse Charlotte Counsell. On the far left, the Junior Interne, and the sad little girl to his left, is Lasha.

these years. Both legs were bandaged. I removed the bandages as carefully as I could, but I knew that I caused her pain. When the dressings were finally removed, I looked with pity and compassion on the little girl, as I examined two bloody stumps, for Lasha had no feet. I dressed these as other internes had done before me.

Lasha was in a very tragic accident. It was spring, and with the sun shining, everyone was restless after a long winter. Not the least of these was Lasha, who was bouncing a ball on the sidewalk. The ball bounced into the street towards a streetcar, and Lasha ran out to retrieve it, and in doing so, fell under the wheels, in spite of everything the motorman could do to stop it. The wheels rolled over one leg just above the ankle. The shocked bystanders yelled at the motorman to reverse. He did. A moan

went up from the crowd when it was realised that the other leg was crushed, also above the ankle, by the wheels.

She was taken to the Emergency ward of the Winnipeg General Hospital. Since she was in shock from the injury and loss of blood, it was decided to postpone operations for a few days. The two little stumps were cleaned and dressed. It was hoped that infection could be avoided. This was before the days of antibiotics.

Time passed, and Lasha had improved so much that on sunny days, Nurse Charlotte Counsell carried her to the hospital grounds where, with the other children, she began to enjoy life again, but with the difference that the other children ran and played, while Lasha watched as she was carried in the loving arms of the nurse. What she did not know at that time was that a little girl without feet could not play or run or dance like other children.

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Howard Brandt is a resident of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. He writes: 'I saw a copy of your magazine while visiting my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bjornson of Riverton. We had the pleasure of visiting

the sites and features of Icelandic Manitoba with them. In memory of these occasions I have written a couple of poems'.

One of these poems is 'Icelandic Celebration'.

—Editor

* * *

ICELANDIC CELEBRATION

*In memory of immigrants
From Hekla's lava-covered slants,
Friends celebrate with Iceland's kin
At Islendingadagurinn.*

In eighteen hundred seventy-five
Icelandic scouts, in number five
Reached Manitoba, with intent
To find a site for settlement.

The valley of the River Red
Was plagued with 'hoppers, live and dead.
Scouts ventured northward to explore
Along Lake Winnipeg's west shore.

They like the teeming fish and so
They went back to Ontario—
Wisconsin, too—and then returned
With countrymen who westward yearned.

In fall the small Icelandic band
Was landing on the wintry sand
At Willow Point in Gimli Bay
And quickly settled down to stay.

That very year, just months before,
Volcanic rock from Hekla's core
Exploded, devastating land,
Destroying that which man had planned.

Sigtryggur Jonasson rushed home
And urged his kinsmen west to roam.
By poverty or Utthra spurred,
Twelve hundred took the migrant's word.

In 'seventy-six they sailed to seek
New Iceland north of Boundary Creek.
They settled Lundi, Mikley Isle
And Gimli building pier on pile.

That winter smallpox raged and raged.
The folks were quarantined and caged.
The dead by dozens multiplied
Before the epidemic died.

But most survived. The hardy thrived.
In summer herds of cows arrived
To make from grass and hay and seeds
The milk to meet the children's needs.

New Iceland had a government
To represent the settlement.
A constitution was ordained;
The Althing quarters were retained.

By eighteen seventy-seven schools
Were built, while councils issued rules.
The church was binary in views.
Framfari published all the news.

The skillful fishermen became
Storm-fighting boatsmen of great fame
The lumbermen and farmers, too,
Developed skills that grew and grew.

New Iceland soon became a part
Of Manitoba on the chart.
The settlers spread throughout the west,
But Iceland's lore was not suppressed.

*In memory of immigrants
From Hekla's lava-covered slants,
Friends celebrate with Iceland's kin
At Islendingadagurinn.*

Thus we can hear the sagas sung
Today with modern sing-along,
See glima wrestling in the park
And chew the hardfish for a lark.

—Edward R. Brandt

THE ICELANDIC WOMEN'S CHOIR

By Ingibjorg S. Goodridge

In 1968 a choir came into being. That statement in itself is not particularly exciting. However, the circumstances surrounding the event are both interesting and praiseworthy. In fact, it is quite an achievement.

A small group of women in Iceland who loved to sing, decided to launch out on an ambitious enterprise, that of organizing a choir. These women were mostly housewives and business girls who shared common interests. They all lived in the southern part of Iceland; they all loved music. None of them were trained singers nor accomplished musicians.

The founders were forty women from the immediate district, many of whom are still members of the choir. The group became known as "Kvennakor Sudurnesja" (The Women's Choir from the Southern Headlands). At the inaugural meeting on February 22nd, 1968, an executive was elected under the leadership of Johanna Kristinsdottir, the first chairwoman. Herbert H. Agustsson, the first and only Choral Director and Conductor, still leads the Choir. Ragnheidur Skuladottir has held the posi-

tion of accompanist from the beginning to the present.

The initial performance of the Choir took place on April 1st, 1969, in Keflavik Church. Since then it has held concerts annually throughout Iceland. In addition, the Choir toured Ireland in 1974 and took part in the Cork International Music Festival, placing fifth in competition, a singular achievement for the only truly amateur group in the choral event.

This summer, the choir under the able leadership of Margret Fridriksdottir, the chairwoman, realized its dream of coming to America to sing for its western friends and relatives.

The Choir arrived in Winnipeg, on July 17th, 1977. The following morning they proceeded to Seattle, Washington, where they performed at Calvary Lutheran Church as well as at Stafholt Senior Citizens Home. Their program was well received and enjoyed by all. After a short but pleasant stay in the U.S.A. they travelled to Vancouver, B.C. Here too, they sang to the delight of the audience gathered in Redeemer Lutheran Church and at Höfn Senior Citizens Home.

The group returned to Winnipeg, some by plane and some by bus, and sang their first concert in Manitoba at Lundar, on July 28th, in the Community Hall. The large audience showed its enjoyment and pleasure by its hearty applause. The usual Lundar hospitality was much appreciated by all present. It was a happy occasion.

On Saturday, July 30th, the group set off for Gimli to take part in the Islendingsdags Celebrations. Enroute, they visited Selkirk Betel Home. Their singing was very much appreciated by the residents.

The Women's Choir clad, as was their custom on this concert tour, in costume (upphlutur) added a distinct Icelandic flair to the Gimli Festival. They appeared twice on the formal program, Monday afternoon; they sang at the Ecumenical Service Sunday evening; they entertained the residents at Betel, and sang in the Park. They were

very well received each time. Before returning to Winnipeg the group went by bus to Hecla Island and sang in the church there.

The Parish Hall of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg was filled to capacity the evening of August 3rd, when the Women's Choir presented the final concert of the tour. The audience was very receptive to the singers and the resounding applause was spontaneous and sincere. The chairman of the Festival Committee presented each choir member with a memento of the visit to Gimli. The social hour following the concert was a happy one which provided an opportunity of fraternizing with the guests.

We, Western Icelanders, thank the Women's Choir for its visit, for singing for us, and for many pleasant memories. May the group continue giving pleasure and enjoyment wherever they perform in the future.

DR. T. A. NORQUAY
O.D., D.O.S.

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BOOK REVIEW

By Tom Oleson

An Unexpected Pleasure

FATHER CHRISTMAS LETTERS:
by J. R. R. Tolkien, edited by Baillie Tolkien, unpaginated, Agincourt, Methuen, \$7.95.

This book is as fine a Christmas present as one could wish for. It comes completely unexpected, unheralded by any public fanfare (at least in this country). It is almost as if the publisher wished to give all J. R. R. Tolkien fans a pleasant surprise for Christmas.

Tolkien, as everyone must surely know, is the author of the *Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* along with several other less ambitious books. His books are of the rarest quality; they have vigorous language, an almost unparalleled sweep of imagination and a magic element that allows them to be enjoyed by both children and adults.

They are books to be read and reread, so rich and so inventive that every time one returns to them there are new discoveries to be made, discoveries that can almost compensate for the fact that the thrill of the first reading can never quite be regained, although it is never forgotten. They are books, too, which demand to be read to children—a long, long but delightful duty, and while it is being done one need never fear losing the audience's attention.

When J. R. R. Tolkien died, it was believed by his admirers that only one book, *The Silmarillion*, which describes events that predated the story of *The Lord of the Rings*, remained to be published. Tolkien had worked on it for years but it was still unfinished at his death and the mammoth task of com-

pleting it fell to his son, Christopher. (There have been rumors that it may finally be published sometime in 1977.)

Thus this book, *The Father Christmas Letters*, comes as a complete surprise. It is not nearly so ambitious as *The Lord of the Rings* or *The Hobbit*, but like everything Tolkien wrote, it has been done thoroughly and with great care and an affection that is clearly revealed in the writing.

The book consists of letters from Father Christmas, written by Tolkien and sent to his children. One arrived each Christmas for about 20 years until the youngest child had grown too old to hang up a Christmas stocking. Each letter would appear in the house, addressed in a shaky but ornate handwriting, bearing a North Pole stamp and marked "Delivered by Elf Messenger", or by gnomes or reindeer express.

In them Father Christmas told the Tolkien children about the events of the past year at the North Pole: the troubles caused him by the antics of his willing but not too bright helper, the North Polar Bear (a creation in the true Tolkien tradition); more troubles caused him by the antics of the North Polar Bear's two young nephews ("They seem to be growing up to be just like their uncle", writes F. C. in a tone of affectionate despair); battles with goblins who are always trying to steal the Christmas presents; and other adventures and the domestic problems besetting the busy Father Christmas as he prepares for his yearly journey.

With each letter came some drawings which illustrate the events it described, done by Tolkien himself and reproduced

in the book. They are as delightful for us as they must have been for Tolkien's children.

Any child would be happy to receive letters and drawings such as these each year from the North Pole. Few, however, have a parent like Tolkien who could write them. For those who do not, this book will do much to make amends. It can be read to children or read by children and the drawings can be enjoyed by all.

It will make a marvellous Christmas present for children and an equally good one for adults who have not lost the ability to take pleasure in such things. Parents who do buy it for their children will certainly want some time to read it themselves before it goes under the tree, and they will just as certainly return to it themselves many times in years ahead.

—Winnipeg Free Press

DRAFTER OF LAWS ASSIGNED TO HELP SAVE CONFEDERATION



Thorson . . . new constitutional advisor.

OTTAWA(CP)—The man who has written most of the federal laws since Pierre Elliott Trudeau entered federal politics in 1965 now has been assigned by the prime minister to help chart the constitutional future of the country.

Trudeau last Thursday named Donald Scarth Thorson his special constitutional adviser, saying this signified

to Quebec that "we are willing and able to discuss constitutional change."

If anyone in the country is able, it should be the 51-year old Thorson, who has been deputy minister of justice since 1973 and a federal lawyer for 20 years.

He has been chief draftsman of the Canada Pension Plan, the present Divorce Act, The Official Languages Act, the major tax changes of the early 1970s.

He was chief legislative counsel in the justice department while Trudeau and John Turner were justice ministers. As such, he advised them on dozens of constitutional problems involving the law, including his own father's unsuccessful assault on the language law.

His father is J. T. Thorson, an 88-year old who made legal history by winning the right to challenge the constitutional validity of the Official Languages Act. Representing former Moncton, N.B. Mayor Leonard Jones, now an independent member of Parliament, the elder Thorson fought the language law to the Supreme Court of Canada and lost.

The younger Thorson officially took his new position today although it may be some days before he actually leaves the justice department.

"I'm not there because of an expertise in constitutional law," he said in an interview this week. "I'm there because I was engaged in making the constitution work for a long time."

His new job, he says, deals with "where we're going" as a country.

"It isn't issue-oriented. It's concerned with the frame-work we're going to be living with in the future. It's pretty fascinating stuff."

Thorson hopes jurisdictional jealousies that have marked past constitutional discussions can be put aside.

The knack would be to find out "who does what best"—Ottawa or the provinces—and assign jurisdiction on this basis in any revision of the British North America Act.

Provincial involvement in opening the issues is basic. But what if Quebec's independence-minded government won't talk? Ottawa, says Thorson, would then go to the people.

"One of the biggest mistakes you can ever make is underestimating the intelligence of the average citizen," the Winnipeg-born Thorson says. "That can be a very powerful ally. That's where these issues are really won or lost."

The Thorson appointment came as a surprise even to the sharp-eared justice department, although the winter had been filled with rumors he would move. At one point he issued a memo, headed "rumours," to squelch them.

One reason for the rumors may be that Thorson has been offered jobs by several major law firms, tempting offers that would have given him more time with his family and put him above his \$60,000 a year federal salary. He has

three daughters, Jennifer, 18, Rebecca, 16, and Stephanie, 11.

The new job won't mean more money but it offers irresistible challenge. Some colleagues see him as one of Confederation's saviours.

"Well, Thorson, you certainly have the beard for it," one kidded the six-foot-two deputy minister.

Although Trudeau said in making the announcement that Ottawa might be ready to resume constitutional talks with Quebec this fall, Thorson said he personally has been given no deadlines.

"No," he said to this question. "I'm going to do what I can. If I can't make any contribution in the span of one year, that will speak for itself."

While Paul Tellier, another recent appointment, will deal with day-to-day Ottawa-Quebec issues such as cable TV, Thorson will look at the British North America Act, isolating basic areas "to see whether there is a potential for productive discussion."

Ottawa wasn't going to say: "Here are our proposals." The approach more likely would be: "Here are some of the issues we think are important."

The goal would be to find what could be best done by Ottawa or the provinces then clear the constitutional path—a task under way for 50 years now with little progress.

Thorson recalled that Confederation itself was encouraged because Union armies were looking hungrily at Canada after the U.S. Civil War. The Nov. 15 Quebec election might prove a needed spur to change, he suggested.

He'll be talking to plenty of people in coming months, he says. But he'll confine his office to "a staff of one"—his secretary.

"I certainly have no empire-building aspirations," he said.

—Winnipeg Free Press, June 1, 1977.

HOSTESS CHIEF SETS QUALITY GOAL

(Hostess Food Products is an independent subsidiary of General Foods. Ed)



Gib Stefansson has been working hard to please customers for most of his life.

As a boy, that meant getting up at the crack of dawn through cold prairie winters to collect newspapers for his delivery route from the train depot in Roblin, Man.

As president of the fast-growing Hostess Food Products, he still finds himself up early; his dog wakes him at 6 o'clock each morning for a two-mile run.

And as president of Canada's largest snack food company, he is still working to please his customers.

"Our objective now is to become the best snack food company right across Canada," he said simply during a recent interview.

Gib who was appointed president of the General Foods subsidiary in September, said quality products and employee participation are his principal concerns.

"One of my main jobs is to place a very heavy emphasis on quality," he said. "Our operations and sales people have worked together with close cooperation to bring high-quality, fresh products to our customers."

Quality in the snack food business means freshness. It is here the company's sales force plays as important a role as the operations people.

"The main thrust of this business has been distribution," Gib explained. "You can have a very reliable product leaving the plant but unless you have a good sales force rotating the stock in the stores, you can lose the respect of your customers."

And it is here where employee participation plays a key role.

"I like to encourage participation and decision making at all levels," Gib said.

Gib has been able to participate himself in several aspects of Hostess in his 21 years with GF.

After signing on as a salesman for GF in Winnipeg in 1956, he transferred to Moncton where he worked in eight different locations within four years throughout the Maritimes. He was, he said, "have-suitcase-will-travel."

In 1960, just after GF acquired Hostess, Gib moved to Toronto as Hostess product manager where he oversaw a broker sales force.

But the early 60's proved to be a painful learning experience for General Foods and in 1965 a reorganization of Hostess put Gib into the marketing manager's chair.

Gib was Hostess marketing manager until his appointment as president last

fall. During that time the company's sales increased 10 times and its products have spread to the Pacific coast.

Other than his morning jog, Gib spends his time away from work with his family and reading. He consumes two or three books, many magazines and three newspapers each week.

What course does he see for the future of Hostess? "We will be concentrating on our national sales," he said, noting the company's recent push into British Columbia.

Also, in this business there are still great opportunities for expanding the market with new products and new

flavours, he said. "There's no end to it. People love to try new snacks."

—EF Canadian Magazine

★ ★ ★

Gilbert Stefansson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dori Stefansson, of Winnipeg. In his several years of teaching, Dori was school principal at Solsgirth, Manitoba, Kandahar, Saskatchewan, and Elkhorn, Swan River, and Roblin Manitoba.

In 1946, he joined the Great West Life Insurance Company as a field representative. He is a past president of The Icelandic Canadian Club of Winnipeg.

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Greetings

from

A Friend

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

The Canada Iceland Foundation Scholarship

The Canada Iceland Foundation offers or processes scholarships to students of Icelandic or part Icelandic descent:

1. High School graduates proceeding to a Canadian university or the University of Iceland.
2. University students studying towards a degree in any Canadian university.

Scholarship awards shall be determined by academic standing and leadership qualities.

Candidates are hereby invited to send their applications together with a statement of their examination results by December 1, 1977, to:

Professor Haraldur Bessason
Department of Icelandic
University of Manitoba

Icelandic Canadian Front Scholarship

The Icelandic Canadian Front of Winnipeg, is offering a scholarship of \$100 for the academic year of 1977-78, to a student of Icelandic or part Icelandic descent who has completed Grade XII in Manitoba and is proceeding to studies at one of the three universities in Manitoba.

Qualifications will be based primarily on Departmental or Board examination results, but consideration will be given to qualities of leadership and community service and need for financial assistance.

Candidates are hereby invited to send their applications together with a statement of examination results and testimonials from two leaders in the community by December 1, 1977, to:

Mr. Gardar Gardarson,
655 St. Anne's Road,
St. Vital,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R2M 3G6

The Icelandic Festival Scholarship

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba offers two scholarships of \$100 each to students who have already attended a university for one year. They are tenable at any one of the three universities in Manitoba.

The following is the basis for selection:

- Icelandic or part Icelandic descent.
- A first class "A" academic standing is desirable; a "B" standing is the minimum.
- Participation in extra-curricular or community activities, in school or in the general community.

Applications for these scholarships with relevant supporting information, including age, the name of the college or university attended, and a transcript of marks, are to be forwarded by December 1, 1977, to:

Dr. W. Kristjanson,
1117 Wolseley Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3G 1G9

BRANDON UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

October 16, 1976

Bachelor of Science [Specialist]

Brian Ellis Erickson, Brandon
Bachelor of Teaching Kristbjorg Servante, Birnie.

May 28, 1977

Bachelor of General Studies Elin Magdalena Hood, Brandon. (Born and reared at Odde, Geysir, Manitoba). Sarah Vopni, Kenville.

Bachelor of Teaching — Lorna Maureen Halldorson, Flin Flon.

Undergraduate Awards — 1975-1976
Dr. Charles Whitfield Clark Memorial Scholarship in Economics

Ralph Mitchell Einarson, Brandon

The Brandon University General Proficiency Scholarship in First Year Teaching; Dr. Charles Whitfield Clark Memorial Scholarship in Introductory Teaching; and I.B.M. bursary in Education

Kristjan Howard Thorsteinson, Minnedosa

Three members of the same family received degrees May 28, 1977:

Honorary Doctor of Laws

Hon. Walter G. Dinsdale, B.A., M.A., Brandon, and his sons (whose mother was a Gusdal — Norwegian — of Erickson, Manitoba)

Bachelor of General Studies

Ludvig Gregory Dinsdale

Bachelor of Education

W. G. Gunnar Dinsdale

Other degrees

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Bachelor of Science [Honours]

May 1977

Brian Reynir Blondahl, Winnipeg

MISERICORDIA SCHOOL OF NURSING

June 1977 Graduates

Karen Sigvaldason, Arborg
Sandra Kristine Einarson, Gimli

AWARDED \$7000 FELLOWSHIP



Raymond A. Stephanson has been awarded a \$7,000.00 Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship. He has been the recipient of this Fellowship for three consecutive years.

Raymond is presently studying for his Ph.D. in English at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. He completed his Grade XII at Foam Lake Composite High School.

Ray is the son of Erick and Stella Stephanson, of Elfros, Saskatchewan.

MASTER OF ARTS



Sister Laufey Olson

The Luther Theological Seminary
St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.

conferred upon

A. Laufey Olson,
the degree of

**MASTER OF ARTS
IN RELIGION AND CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

on May 29, 1977

Sr. Laufey was born in Selkirk, Manitoba, the daughter of David Jonsen and his wife Margret Haflidadottir, both born in Iceland.

Her husband, the Reverend Carl J. Olson, died on September 10, 1951, in Nebraska, U.S.A. where they had served for a number of years.

Sr. Laufey Olson:

Graduated from Lutheran Deaconess School, Baltimore, Maryland, in May 17, 1957.

Consecrated — Deaconess — June 8, 1958. First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Served for Board of American Missions: Arborg — Riverton Parish, Manitoba. St. Stephen's Church, Winnipeg, Man. First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Man.

Installed as parish Deaconess, First Lutheran Church, May 14, 1961. Served ten years.

Graduated — cum laude — Gustavas Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. June 1, 1969.

Presently serving as Director of Christian Education, Advent Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn., since August 1, 1969.

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ICELANDIC LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CAMP AT HUSAVICK, 1977

By Kristine Perlmutter

The Icelandic Language and Cultural Camp ran from July 23 — July 30 at the Sunrise Lutheran Camp near Husavick, Manitoba. A total of seventy-six campers participated. Classes were offered each day in the Icelandic language, Icelandic music and drama, arts and crafts on an ethnic theme, sport and recreation, and swimming. In addition, a period of each day was designated as time set aside for something "special". An example of an activity that was used as a "special" was a talk on the early history of New Iceland given by Ken Kristofferson, of Gimli. The campers were very interested in the stories which Ken had to tell and were also interested in looking through some of the old pictures which he had brought along.

Evening activities were planned with a view to providing interesting entertainment which would teach the campers more about some aspects of their Icelandic heritage. A sing-song led by Len and Karen Vopnfjord, and stories told by author W. D. Valgardson were enjoyed by all. Betel resident Helga Jakobson gave interesting information about the differences between life today and the life she knew as a young girl. The large number of questions which her reminiscences aroused showed how fascinated the young people were at hearing about what life was like in this area years ago. Another program which was very successful involved a series of demonstrations. Mrs. Margaret Bjornson, of Fraserwood, carded raw Icelandic wool and demonstrated spinning. Margaret Saemundson, of Arborg, and

Jenny Arnason, of Winnipeg, demonstrated the making of pönnukökur. Jenny also did a rullupylsa. Sigga Benedictson, of Gimli, showed the campers how to make kleinur. The children really enjoyed these demonstrations. They were allowed to make some of these items themselves and did a lot of sampling as the demonstrations were going on. Vinarterta was the snack food that night. Fortunately, only 2 or 3 had stomach aches after all the sampling.

Other evening programs included a slide show given by Steinthor Gudbjartson and the movie **They Shouldn't Call Iceland Iceland**, the showing of which was made possible by Jon Asgeirsson, editor of **Logberg-Heimskringla**. Skits and a dance provided the entertainment for the final evening.

The main emphasis of the camp, of course, was on having students participate in a wide variety of activities where the use of the Icelandic language was encouraged. If nothing else, it did generate a great deal of interest in things Icelandic among those who participated.

* * *

IN THE NEWS

Dr. Robert H. Thorlakson of Winnipeg, who has been Provincial Commissioner for the St. John Ambulance Brigade of Manitoba, has been named Provincial President of the St. John Council for Manitoba.

APPOINTED ICELANDIC CONSUL GENERAL



S. Aleck Thorarinson, Winnipeg Lawyer and Icelandic Consul for the three Prairie Provinces, has been appointed Icelandic Consul-General.

In recognition of his community services he was created Knight of the Order of the Falcon by the Government of Iceland in 1964. (See *Icelandic Canadian*, Spring, 1975) He is Treasurer of The Canada Iceland Foundation.

* * *

Robert Kristjan Sigurdson one of the Winners of the Manitoba Government Queen Elizabeth II \$1,000 Award.

The winners of the Queen Elizabeth II Awards have been announced by the Manitoba government.

The \$1,000 awards were presented to 65 students for outstanding, vocational, academic, or athletic abilities.

The purpose of the awards is to focus on the monarchy in the Queen's Silver

NEWS

Jubilee. The money was provided by the province, through the department of education.

—Winnipeg Free Press

Robert skipped his rink to the Manitoba high school curling championship last winter and played on Manitoba's championship high school volleyball team.

Robert is the son of Alvin and Joyce Sigurdson of Winnipeg.

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Leather boat ends Atlantic Trip

St. John's (CP) — The leather boat **Brendan** its four occupants smiling to the welcoming cheers of a crowd of about 400, snuggled into a wharf at Musgrave Harbour in Newfoundland's Notre Dame Bay about 300 miles north of here last night.

The transatlantic sailors, weary of waiting out an off-shore southerly wind

for most of the day, accepted a tow over the last couple of miles to the wharf from a boat from the Canadian Coast Guard ship **John Cabot**.

The vessel is being sailed by Tim Sverin of Britain and a three-man crew. The voyage is intended to demonstrate that a sixth-century Irish monk, St. Brendan, may have been the first European to reach the New World.

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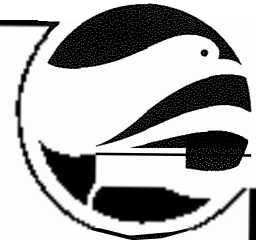
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