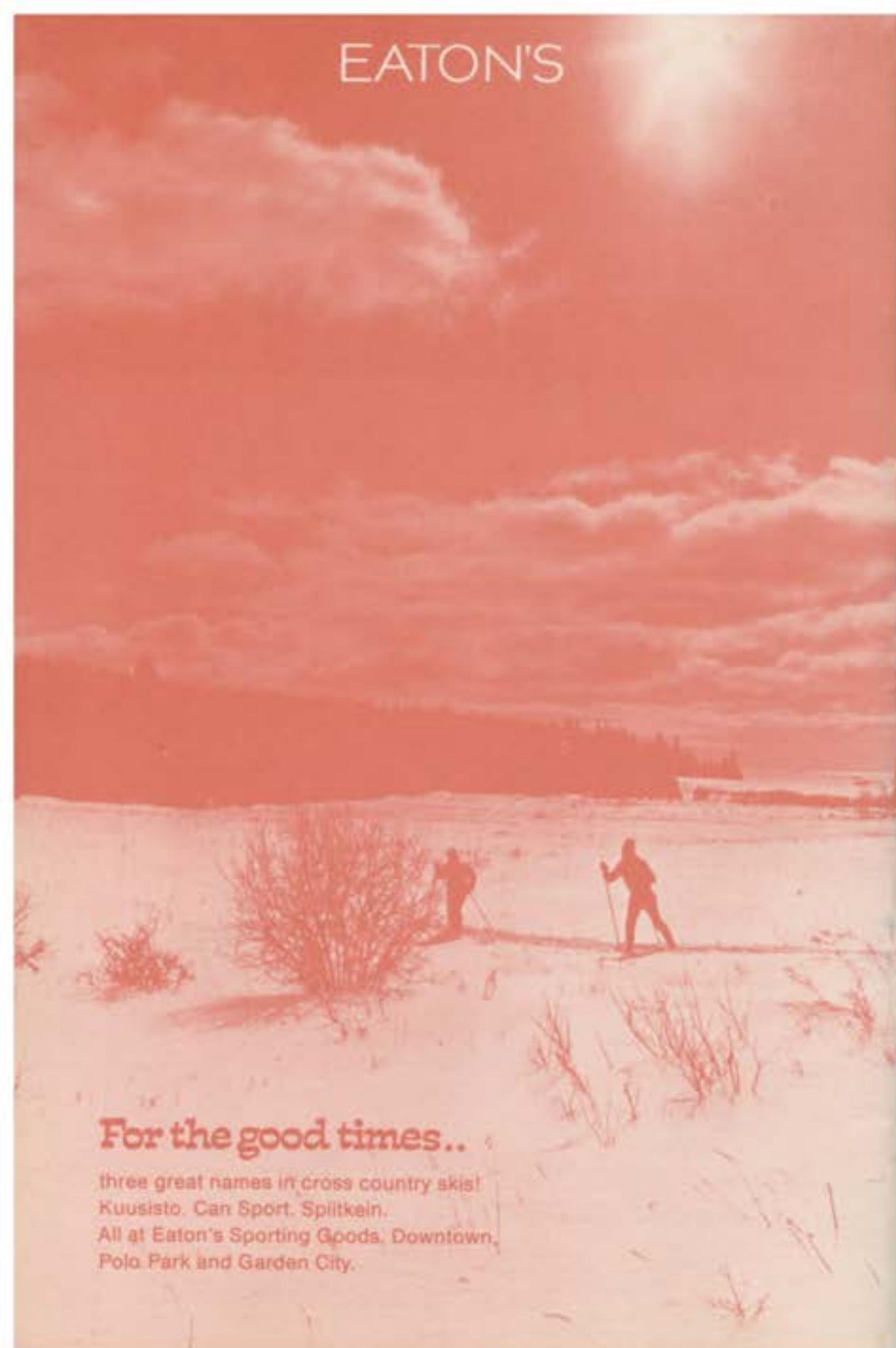


EATON'S



For the good times..

three great names in cross country skis!
Kuusisto. Can Sport. Spiltkein.
All at Eaton's Sporting Goods. Downtown,
Polo Park and Garden City.

ISSN 0046 - 8452

WINTER 1977

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN



— Courtesy Dr. Alice Hamilton and University of Winnipeg Press.

**TORCH OF FAITH
STAINED GLASS WINDOW DESIGNED BY FRIDRIK (FRED) SWANSON**

On your way to Norway, Sweden or Denmark.

Why settle for the usual? Make your next trip to Scandinavia an exciting, fun-filled and educational experience with a visit to Iceland. Stopover tours of 1 to 3 days from \$10 to \$30. All fares include room with bath/shower at First Class Hotel Loftleidir, sightseeing trips and 2 meals daily, transfers between hotel and airport. Exclusive on Icelandic Airlines for passengers flying from New York or Chicago to Norway, Sweden or Denmark. Now this tour is available on the 22-45 day excursion fare. All rates effective Oct. 1, 1977.

Iceland—so much to see and do.

Volcanos, Viking museums, glaciers, geysers, theater, concerts, art shows, duty-free shopping, saunas and indoor hot-spring pool at your hotel, smorgasbord lunches. It's the land of Leif Ericson, settled by Scandinavians in the year 874 A.D., where people speak the unchanged Old Norse of more than 1,000 years ago.

No other scheduled airline jets to Scandinavia at lower fares than we do!

See your travel agent or contact Icelandic Airlines, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10020. Phone (212) 757-8585 or call (800) 555-1212 for the Toll Free Number in your area.

**Stop over
in Iceland.
\$10 a-day.**

Icelandic

LOWEST JET FARES TO THE HEART OF EUROPE OF ANY SCHEDULED AIRLINE.

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN, SECOND CLASS MAIL—REGISTRATION
No. 1909 — PRINTED AT 358 ROSS AVE., WINNIPEG, MAN. R3A 0L4

TALLIN, KRISTJANSSON & SMITH

BARRISTERS and SOLICITORS

300—232 Portage Avenue — Area Code 204 — Phone 942-8171
Winnipeg, Man. R3C 0B1

FOR CHRISTMAS

Lögberg-Heimskringla makes an excellent gift for your parents, grandparents, relatives or friends. A card will be sent to announce your gift.

Lögberg-Heimskringla is the oldest surviving ethnic newspaper in Canada. Over 90 years of publication.

Let's keep it a tradition.

Rates: \$15.00 per year — \$1.25 per month.

Write or phone your orders in — 247-7798.

All cheques should be made payable to

Lögberg-Heimskringla Publishing Co. Ltd.
67 St. Anne's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2M 2Y4

**Select the fireplace
that fits your scheme**

- No footings
- Seven models, three sizes
- Complete fireplace package including fire screen
- For new or existing homes
- Save money

**Franklin
Gemini
Firehood**

Hand Holders — Wood Holders
— Grates
Fire Sets [Tongs, Brushes, etc.]
— Spark Guards
— Andirons
Custom Screens Recessed [made to order]



THE FIREPLACE STOP CENTRE

506 Pittsburgh Ave., Selkirk, Manitoba
Phone 482-6240



ARNASON FURNITURE (1977) LTD.

ELECTROHOME T.V. SALES
AND SERVICE

Featuring 3 Year Warranty
on All Parts and Labor

PHONE 642-7954

BOX 130 GIMLI, MANITOBA

SEASON'S GREETINGS

JOHN LECKIE LTD.

640 King Edward St.

"TANGLEFIN" NYLON NETTING
COMMERCIAL FISHING SUPPLIES

CANVAS GOODS

MARINE HARDWARE

LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT

Phone 774-1887

WINNIPEG, MAN.

R3H 0P2

RICHARDSON & COMPANY

BARRISTERS AND ATTORNEYS AT LAW
274 Garry Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1H5
Telephone 957-1670 [Area Code 204]

J. F. REEH TAYLOR	Q.C.	CHARLES R. HUBAND	LL.B.
JOHN L. BOWLES	B.A., LL.B.	WALTER J. KEHLER	B.A., LL.B.
(also of the Ontario Bar)		GARTH M. ERICKSON	B.A., LL.B.
JAMES H. COOK	B.A., LL.B.	GARY R. SMITH	B.A., LL.B.
DAVID I. MARR	B.Sc., LL.B.	RICHARD K. DEELEY	B.A., LL.B.
S. GLENN SIGURDSON	B.A. (HONS. LL.B.)	ROBERT R. FABBRI	B.A., LL.B.
DAVID R. SELLEN	B.A., LL.B.	DOUGLAS J. MACKENZIE	B.A., LL.B.
DOUGLAS W. REGELOUS	B.A., LL.B.	FREDA M. STEEL	LL.B.
		RAMON T. MCKALL	B.A., LL.B.
		H. SANFORD RILEY	B.A., LL.B.

COUNSEL: M. BERNARD NEPON, B.A., LL.B., LL.M. (YALE)

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

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

(TELEPHONE 642-7955)

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

**POWER & MINE SUPPLY CO. LTD.
WESTERN ELEVATOR & MOTOR CO. LTD.**

GRETTIR EGGERTSON, PRESIDENT

123, PRINCESS STREET

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

EDITORIAL

THOUGHTS OF CHRISTMAS

Philip M. Petursson

Christmas observances as we know them in our time are both old and new. They are as new as a new born babe. They are as old as humanity itself. As a mid-winter festival our Christmas customs derive from every race and from every nation. Their origins date back to ages of ancient times when primitive man built fires in the darkness of the winter's night as he rejoiced at the first signs of the returning sun. This spirit of rejoicing during the season of the longest night when the first signs of the lengthening-day became apparent, has lived in memory through long ages until in recent centuries it has become incorporated into our Christmas customs, and have been set out in the thoughts of a writer whose words I have borrowed. To quote him directly, he says:

Christmas is the expression of the accumulated hopes of humanity in the face of suffering down through the ages.

Thrust into the winter's cold by the coming of the ice age man learned the use of fire and thus preserved the spark of life.

Driven into the darkness of caves by fear of wild beasts man learned to light his way with torches made of flaming pine knots.

Beset by recurring famine man learned the art of agriculture and stored his grain against the winter's want.

Living constantly in the shadow of death man built sheltering walls round wife and child and came to venerate the life-giving power of motherhood.

So man survived in the face of his early enemies to build a world where cold and dark and fear and want need do no harm.

He now faces the obstacles of his own making. And in his discouragement he still breathes a word of hope and sings praises of the world that ought to be at Christmastide.

Shivering with cold he burned a log on the hearth and was warm.

Blinded by darkness he lit a torch and saw the way ahead.

Famished for lack of food he planted a seed and was fed.

Fearing death he found promise of life in the evergreen and hope for the future in a new born babe.

Amid his suffering he burned his log and lit his torch.

Brought an offering of grain and pine boughs to a babe in a manger and rejoiced!

So let us rejoice! And in our joy enlarge the light of knowledge and fan the flames of friendship until there is:

PEACE ON EARTH AMONG MEN OF GOOD WILL!

Volume XXXVI, No. 2 Winnipeg, Canada Winter, 1977

Editorial: Thoughts of Christmas	Philip M. Petursson	5
The Cover Picture		7
Three Generations of Lake Winnipeg Captains in One Family	Sigurbjörg Stefansson	8
Silver Jubilee Multicultural Performance		12
Letters from India	Gustaf Kristjanson	13
Mayor Violet Einarson of Gimli	Sigurbjörg Stefansson	16
Fond Memories of a Prairie Christmas	Elma Gislason	20
The Bass Clef-Better Half Singers	David Gibson	22
Conciliator's Job One Long Crisis	Glen MacKenzie	23
The First Centennial Event at the First Lutheran Church	J. V. A	25
Jon G. Johnson Honored by Khartum Temple of the Shrine		26
The Icelandic Students Society of Winnipeg	W. Kristjanson	27
Marion Rose Johnson, Ph.D		31
Baldwin L. Baldwinson		32
A Prayer for My Brother Jonas—poem	Freda Björn	36
A Prayer	Paul Bjarnason, Thorvaldur Johnson	36
Reflections of a Newcomer to Canada	(Translated) Jon Asgeirson	37
Threads for the Canadian Pattern	A. M. Pratt	39
The Rio Folk	Sheila Nathan	41
Graduates		42
University of Winnipeg Awards		43
News		44-47
Time and Space—poem	Sigurbjörn Sveinsson, Watson Kirkconnell	50
My Collection	Carole Finsson	51
Nurse Lilja Snyder's Love Affair with Life	Mary Miles	52
Nights at the Round Table	Cathy Sherman	54
Two Sisters Raise Five-gaited Icelandic Horses		57
Lake Manitoba Ice Fishermen Endure	Ralph Bagley	59
Stamp Honors Iceland's Samband		63
Index to Advertisers		64

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian, Winnipeg, Manitoba

MAGAZINE BOARD:—

EDITORS: Wilhelm Kristjanson, Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of the Board, 1117 Wolseley Ave., Winnipeg R3G 1G9; Arilius Isfeld, Assistant Editor, 896 Palmerston Ave., Winnipeg R3G 1J6; David H. Bergman, 532 Lindsay St., Winnipeg R3N 1H6; Professor Haraldur Bessason, 38 Greyfriars Rd., Winnipeg R3T 3J3; Thora Cooke, 164 Elm St., Winnipeg; Nelson Gerrard, 900-2080 Pembina Highway, Winnipeg R3T 2G9; Gustaf Kristjanson, 8 Selwyn Pl., Fort Richmond R3T 3N1; Anna Marteinnsson, 712 Holiday Towers South, 160 Hargrave St., Winnipeg; Joan Parr, 102 Queenston St., Winnipeg R3N 0W5; Stefan J. Stefansson; 37 Macklin, Winnipeg; Axel Vopnfjord, 1206 Dominion St., Winnipeg.

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD: Mrs. Kristine Perlmutter, 212 Sherburn Street, Winnipeg.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Harold Johnson, 868 Arlington Street, Winnipeg, R3E 2E4

ADVERTISING SOLICITOR: Mrs. Jean Reykdal, 310 - 3 Donald St., Winnipeg R3G 2P6
Phone 452-5858

Editorial and news correspondence should be addressed to the Editor-in-chief or to the Editor concerned. Subscriptions and business correspondence to the Business and Circulation Manager.

REPRESENTATIVE IN ICELAND: Björn Sigurdsson, P.O. Box 122, Skolastig 11, Akureyri.

Subscription Rate: \$5.00 per year. Iceland \$6.00 per year, including postage.
Single copies \$1.50 plus postage.

This is one interpretation of Christmas and its meaning as expressed by one man. However, I have another statement which may have a similar appeal although it makes no specific reference to Christmas. However, it deals with childhood, and what is Christmas other than childhood's dreams!

This man gives his statement the title, "The Laugh of a Child" and says:

The laugh of a child will make the holiest day more sacred still. Strike with hand of fire, — O weird musician, thy harp strung with Appollo's golden hair! Fill the vast cathedral aisles with symphonies sweet and dim, deft toucher of the organ keys! Blow, bugler, blow until the silver notes do touch and kiss the moonlit waves and charm the lovers wandering midst the vine-clad hills: — but know . . . your sweetest strains are discords all compared with childhood's happy laugh — the laugh that fills the eyes with light and every heart with joy. (Robert G. Ingersoll.)

For us who have become, as some say, advanced in years, I have a closing thought which is suitable to the occasion for which these reflections have been expressed. It is a small poem called "TOUCH HANDS" by W. H. H. Murray.

Ah, friends, dear friends, as years go on
and heads get gray,
how fast the guests do go!

Touch hands, touch hands, with those who stay.

Strong hands to weak, old hands to young,
around the Christmas board,
touch hands.

The false forget, the foe forgive,
for every guest will go
and every fire burn low,
and every cabin empty stand.

Forget, forgive, for who may say
that Christmas day may ever come
to host or guest again.

Touch hands.

And so I close my Christmas message, and I say —

Over the face of the ancient earth, weary and torn with strife, the passing generations have come and are gone, and have not seen the triumph of good will among men. Yet we give thanks for the unceasing renewal of life born to new hopes and strong to achieve new victories for good.

In the light of every star that gives happiness to little children and cheer to all, may we renew our zeal for that good time when none shall be afar off or forgotten, but all shall live within the circle of the blessed life.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Gleðileg jól og farsælt nýtt ár

FROM THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN TO ITS READERS

THE COVER PICTURE

The picture on the cover is of a stained glass window in the Unitarian church in Winnipeg, Sargent and Banning. The window was designed by Fridrik (Fred) Swanson for the church then located on Sargent and Sherbrook. This church was built in 1904 and dedicated in 1905.

Fridrik (Fred) Swanson, 1864-1942, arrived in Ontario with his family in 1873 and in New Iceland in 1875. For most of his life he resided in Winnipeg. He was a charter member of the Icelandic Unitarian congregation, formed in Winnipeg in 1891, and he was Treasurer of the Unitarian Icelandic Association formed in Manitoba 1903.

He was a sign painter by trade. He painted portraits and landscape murals but was best known for his stage scenery including the Icelandic scenes in use at the Icelandic celebration in Manitoba until fairly recently. This work he commenced as early as 1888. In 1929, Olafur Eggertson and he were instrumental in having the Little Theatre produce *Eyvind of the Hills*.

Not only did he design the windows for the 1904 church, he designed the church itself, which, with its low-pitched roof and pillared porch, resembled an Athenian temple.

The following excerpt is from *Man-*

itoban Stained Glass, by Alice Hamilton, 1970. pp. 255-256.

"All twelve windows were taken carefully from the 1904 building and re-erected in this one. Two central patterns were used: a mauve harp, surmounted by a white star, and surrounded by a green wreath; and a mauve torch, with flame. The symbols represent praise, faith in Christ's incarnation and in the triumph of salvation. Mr. Swanson designed the formal, matching side panels that widened the original windows, when the present church was built in 1920-21.

"This glass is of attested local design. It is possible that it was executed by the local firm of Allward and McCormick, 1904 being the year when these two men joined to found a firm on the corner of Smith and Graham. Allward lived from 1902 to 1919 at 396 Sherbrook, in the next block to that in which Mr. Swanson lived. Allward's house survives but the glass in it was removed during renovations fifteen years ago. It is unfortunate that confirmation of the firm that executed Fridrik Swanson's designs cannot be established either through records or through comparison with attested 'art glass'. Mr. Swanson is still remembered as a man 'who could do anything with his hands'."

SEEK POSSIBLE HISTORIC SITES

Manitoba's historic resources branch of the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs is looking to local historical societies, history committees, and individuals interested in local history, to pinpoint possible historic site development. The branch also hopes to encourage more equal distribution of historic research across the prov-

ince, so all areas of historic significance are included. Groups or individuals interested in participating in this program are asked to write the Historic Resource Branch, Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, 200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg, with details of interests, projects, or plans for historical research.

THREE GENERATIONS OF LAKE WINNIPEG CAPTAINS IN ONE FAMILY

By Sigurbjörg Stefansson

PART I

Being bred to the sea for centuries, Icelanders took readily to Manitoba lakes and became pioneers in sailing on them and fishing in them summer and winter. One record lists some 170 Icelandic foremen or skippers of small fishing boats and captains of larger vessels on Lake Winnipeg from pioneer times till 1934. There have been many more in the forty years since.

An outstanding record is that of the Stevens family of Gimli, with three generations of accredited captains on the larger Lake Winnipeg vessels. No other single family has had as many lake captains, and their record of service placed end-to-end stretches well beyond a hundred years. For close to a century they have sailed the lake and fished in its waters winter and summer.

The First Generation:

The founder of the tradition was a pioneer, Captain John G. Stevens (Jon Gudnason Stevens), born Oct. 4, 1864, who came from Iceland as a boy of twelve and only two years later was beginning his career by cooking at fishing stations. At one time he kept a boarding house near Selkirk for the Dominion Fish Company. By his own unaided efforts he very rapidly reached the status of permit captain and later was granted a master's license. He sailed the lake for fifty-six years, forty-six of them as captain.

Among the many ships on which he served were Gimli, Idell, Premier, Grand Rapids, Garry, Chieftain, Fisherman, Goldfield, Sigmund, Miner (freighting to the mines at Manigotagan), Amisk (one

fall), Lady of the Lake (during the illness of the captain), and Red River (as mate). He also sailed on the Lake of the Woods.

His most harrowing experience was the burning of the S.S. Premier at Warren's Landing, August 6, 1908, which took the lives of two crewmen and six-passengers. No blame attached to Capt. Stevens or his crew for this tragedy, which occurred at night from an unknown cause, for all customary precautions had been taken. He and two crew members were commended for heroic action during the disaster. Eyewitnesses recorded that Capt. Stevens was the last to leave, clinging to the hot anchor-chain of the blazing ship as it floated away from the dock all in flames. Finally he climbed down the chain and leaped into a boat brought up by a trapper, Jack Folster. "Hardly had he done so when the entire superstructure, pilot house



Stevens Point named for Jon Stevens.

E. 5.

No. 12

DOMINION OF CANADA.

COASTING



LICENSE

FOR THE YEAR 1897 1894

To all whom it may Concern,

This License is granted to⁽¹⁾ John Stevens
of⁽²⁾ Gimli Master of the⁽³⁾ Steamer Gimli
of⁽⁴⁾ Winnipeg, Manitoba⁽⁵⁾ 29.8.2 tons burthen, British
registered and wholly owned by British subjects, to employ the said vessel
until the 30th day of June, 1897, to carry goods.—always being subject to
entry or clearance, conformably with the Coasting Regulations of the
Dominion of Canada, he having, with two sureties, entered into the
necessary Bonds.

I have under my hand this
15th day of July, 1897

For of the Commissioner of Customs

and all, collapsed into the hull." From that time on Capt. Stevens kept strict patrol on all his ships by day and night.

Men with personal knowledge of his seamanship agree that he was at his best in moments of stress and danger, with great skill in guiding a ship through difficult situations. He was never afraid of storms. Often he took his ship out for the last trip on the lake in the fall; it would then be the last one to return to harbor for the winter, frequently sheathed in ice, but safe. For with his apparent enjoyment of pitting his wits against the elements he combined foresight and caution. He was also known to be thoroughly dependable in all dealings.

His presence of mind in moments of peril came into play when he was mate of the Red River. While carrying an overload of sawdust for packing ice-houses and much other cargo, the ship encountered a sudden violent storm head-on. In an attempt to veer slightly, it took on water, the bilge-pumps failed to function, and finally all twelve men had to abandon ship in the life-boat. The crew finally reached shore on Little George's Island. It was then discovered that John G. Stevens had loaded the boat with ample supplies of food, tea and coffee during the emergency, so that the crew soon had a hot meal. From there they reached Warren's Landing in safety.

In the winter season he regularly engaged in ice fishing, with his own camps and gear and men in his employment. For some years he also worked in partnership with the brothers Baldur and Th. Peterson. All agree that in this field too he was a tremendously active man. He always provided his men with good camps and good food, but since his own energy and endurance knew no bounds, they sometimes found it difficult to keep

pace with him in work. No fury of cold or storm seemed to affect him.

In the early days difficulties of transportation prevented men from ice fishing farther north than Big Grindstone Point. John G. Stevens was a pioneer in extending winter fishing farther north. In 1892 he pushed on another ten miles to Bullhead. Transport from there to the nearest railway station at Selkirk was considered wellnigh impossible, but he was not a man to be daunted by difficulties. He went to Selkirk, had many toboggans constructed there and hired drivers and horses. By means of them he had the fish, which was piled on the toboggans and covered with sailcloth, conveyed to Sandy Bar, from where horses or ox-drawn sleighs with large boxes and runners carried it to Selkirk.

Next year he pushed still farther north, with two others now following his example. From then on more and more fishermen joined in the northward move, and fish boxes came into use.

In ice fishing, too, he combined caution with daring. On the wide white expanse of snow and ice on the north of the lake with shores far distant men might lose their way. To avoid this, he would take a load of spruce saplings with him and thrust them securely upright in snowbanks a quarter of a mile or less apart to mark the route.

John G. Stevens continued ice fishing for a full fifty years, missing only a single season. One of his sons recounts that he very often travelled in storms and never showed fear of them. He remembers that in 1926 his father, then over sixty, came in a blinding January snowstorm driving a team of five dogs the forty miles from Black Bear to Commissioner Island. A grandson remembers him at over seventy running behind his sleigh dogs as lightly as a young lad.

For this dynamic man there was no

retirement. He who had never known illness suddenly collapsed on board his ship the M.S. Sigmund and was carried ashore, never to recover. This happened in July, 1938, and he died February 2, 1939.

Not till thirty-five years later did his work receive public recognition. Few if any other men could have equalled his knowledge of Lake Winnipeg, gained from practical experience at a time when the lake was little known. He had a considerable share in the exploration of the lake by government hydrographers, with whom he travelled. He found many a harbor and rock shore which he pointed out and which were later marked on navigation maps. He must also have known and indicated many of the hidden dangers such as sunken rocks.

He was one of the first white men to discover a point on Berens Island, where there is a good harbor affording shelter from northwesterly storms. Now in recognition of this discovery and in honor of Capt. John G. Stevens' services to navigation on Lake Winnipeg, it has been given his name, Stevens Point.

Anecdotes about Captain John G. Stevens

The following anecdotes reveal something of Capt. John G. Stevens' humor, impatience with inaction, helpfulness and compassion.

1. In his early years while working as cook he was in the habit of setting out pies to cool. Time and again some of them would vanish, but he could not discover those responsible. Finally, to teach the offenders a lesson, he gathered a mess of horseflies (bulldog flies) and baked them in a pie which he set out. There were no more thefts of pies. Later, on mentioning the horsefly pie during a meal, he caught a squeamish look on several faces.

2. An eyewitness relates that once while in harbor at Mikley (now named Hecla Island) during very windy weather, Capt. Stevens paced up and down the deck impatiently muttering to himself. Finally he could bear the inaction no longer. A few minutes later he had left harbor in the teeth of the storm, and, as always, brought his ship safe to port.

It is said of him that if ever he grumbled or complained it was when all was safe, quiet and going smoothly, never in time of stress or danger, for he appeared actually to enjoy pitting his strength and wits against the fury of the elements.

3. Once in stormy weather with several fishing boats out on the lake a tug had passed them by, presumably expecting them to sail in on their own. But Captain Stevens on his tug, the Garry, gathered them in and brought fourteen of them into safe shelter in a harbor in a single tow.

4. Once in a violent storm J. B. Johnson's ship had its foremast broken off down at the deck and was in danger of either being wrecked on the reefs bordering the channel leading to Warren's Landing, or else drifting eighteen miles to Spider Island. Capt. Stevens, on the tug Garry with 10-12 boats in tow, saw the situation. He came as close as was safe and had all his boats sail by. The last one caught a towline tossed to it by J. B. Johnson, and Captain Stevens towed them safely into harbor.

5. In the pioneer days Icelandic children had to begin to earn their living when still very young. One lad left his home in Winnipeg to seek work at the age of twelve, with fifty cents in his pocket given to him by his father. He walked to Selkirk, approximately twenty-five miles, and reached the dock there. On hearing two men speak Ice-

landic, he ventured to ask if they would or could take him to Hecla Island. One of them, Captain John Stevens, replied yes, but he also asked the boy, "Can you cook?" The youngster instantly said, "Yes."

Thereupon Captain John G. Stevens engaged the twelve-year-old as cook for the summer. Perhaps in doing so he recalled the time when he himself set out at age fourteen as a cook for fishermen. One may well imagine that he must have given his young charge considerable

guidance at the outset. Indeed, he often engaged young lads as cooks, and taught them both cooking and cleanliness in handling food.

In this way Captain Stevens guided the first steps in the adult world of work of a boy destined to become one of the best-known fishermen of Lake Winnipeg and a captain of numerous boats himself, Gudmunder E. Solmundson, who fished till he was over eighty, and was associated with the lake for close to seventy years.



SILVER JUBILEE MULTICULTURAL PERFORMANCE

A multicultural performance in honor of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh was presented by the Canadian Folk Arts Council in cooperation with the Multicultural Programme Department of the Secretary of State at Ottawa Civic Centre, October 17 and 18.

The following topics were headlined: Our Native Country, East Coast Settlements; West Coast Settlements; Prairie Settlers; and Coast to Coast, Yesterday and Today.

There were approximately 155 dancers, twelve of them professionals performing under the name of Jubilee

Dancers. The performers were representative of diverse ethnic groups and included French Canadian dancing and singing groups, the Japanese Nikka Festival Dancers, the Ami Hai Israeli-Jewish Dance Company, the Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, black singer Angela Cromwell and native Indian poet Duke Redbird, whose poetry linked the show.

Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, C.C. M.D., of Winnipeg, member of the Canadian Multicultural Council, and Mr. Stefan J. Stefanson, President of the (Icelandic) National League, were invited guests at the luncheon for Her Majesty and at the Multicultural Performance.

LETTERS FROM INDIA

GUSTAF KRISTJANSON

Trying to unsnarl the problems of a factory on the hot plains of Uttar Pradesh, rubbing shoulders with the teeming crowds of old Delhi, or cavorting in a jeep around the steep hills of Mizoram, in India's northeastern corner — all of these are hardly the sorts of activities that one might expect from a young Canadian engineer who is trying to get established. Yet such has been the experience of Ronald J. Kristjanson, formerly of Winnipeg and Montreal. Ronald is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf Kristjanson, of Winnipeg.

About two and a half years ago Ron left the security and the routine of a position with Bell Canada Ltd., in Montreal, and proceeded to India to assist a friend who was setting up a television picture tube factory in Ghaziabad, a few miles to the east of Delhi in the province of Uttar Pradesh. His task was to act as technical advisor on any electrical problems connected with the factory in its initial stages of operation. After some interval of time, including a trip to Canada that covered a span of several months, the task came to an end and Ron turned his attention to trying to find another similar opportunity for providing this kind of service. The economic situation in India has, however, been rather uncertain and he eventually decided to return to Canada.

With him, however, he will bring a great deal more than just an absorbing experience with a unique way of life spent among the teeming millions of the great sub-continent. For in the final months of his sojourn in India he acquired a bride. And not just any bride. Beyond Bangladesh, in the remote reaches of eastern India near the Burma

border lies a mountainous region out of which has recently been carved a new Union Territory called Mizoram. The Lushai Hills, or more properly the Mizo Hills (from which the territory takes its name), were formerly a part of the State of Assam. The population is entirely tribal and in former days used to make armed raids on the villages of the plains of the Brahmaputra River to the north. Missionaries were active in the area in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and as a result most of the population is now of the Christian religion. This was the girlhood home of Bawihtei.

Bawihtei, or Remawii — to use the name by which she was christened — moved to Delhi to continue her education, worked for a period as a stenographer and also as an air hostess on Indian Airlines. She met Ronald Kristjanson at a dinner given at the home of a Canadian friend of his also married to a native of Mizoram. Not long afterward Ron and Remawii decided to get married — an unlikely development, surely, and one which prompted Lalzuia, the father of the bride, to write a letter of greeting to Ron's father and express himself in this way: "We wonder how an European boy should marry a tribal girl from India. We believe a divine hand has joined them together."

Here are some impressions which Ron gives in his letters home. The first of these is dated January, 1977, and was sent from Aizawl, Mizoram.

"The social customs and system here are easy for a Canadian like myself to relate to well. The physical environment is like a rural Canadian village some forty to twenty years back or now, if one goes to very isolated places in B.C. like,

say, Anaheim Lake. The people are, however, universally warm and informal. Even though some haven't seen 'foreigners' for many years or not at all, there's no staring. Just the right mixture of pride and meekness and mutual respect. No servility, like 'India' . . ."

" . . . But 'civilization' is 'Western' rather than 'Indian'. The Indians bombed this place out in '66. People don't talk of that now. Politics isn't discussed even though there's effective martial law. Bawihtei's father is an engineer here, a Subdivisional officer with the government. Her fourteen aunt/uncle families have three doctors (M.D.'s), other government officers, traders, etc. mostly in Mizoram. I've met all of them since coming. Bawihtei's sister and her husband are both doctors in New Delhi. Her five other brothers and sisters spread equally in age on both sides of her . . ."

" . . . All Mizos speak or at least understand English. Most don't know Hindi though. Although Mizoram is one of the least developed places in India, the literacy rate here is second only to Kerala, a south Indian state. There's no real poverty here, even in the villages. People are all dressed well and eat well. Everything is most unlike India."

" . . . The Lalzuia (Bawihtei's father) residence is a big rambling bungalow in town. The construction style is much like cottages in Canada. The kitchen is a central meeting place as with Canadian rural homes. There's a fine collection of western rock/blues and other contemporary records here which would match those of most of my friends in Canada. The cottage is so big that if the stereo in the living room is being played loudly, it can barely be heard in the kitchen at the other end of the house."

"Travel around here is mostly by jeep, which is really the only suitable vehicle

for the extremely rugged terrain. In virtually all houses one enters at ground level and the back of the house is two and a half stories below . . . Towns and villages are built high up so the valley bottom is about two thousand feet below — very spectacular views everywhere."

There follows then (in the letter) an account of the wedding: " . . . About three hundred invitations were sent out and it was quite an affair — beginning at noon with a small sermon by a local pastor and ending about five the next morning. By that time however, only the younger people were celebrating — almost exactly as they would here — dancing with some drinking. No liquor was actually served, however."

"The night before the marriage ceremony was the real Mizo wedding where I paid . . . marriage price for the bride and the money was distributed to those relatives (or friends) who had 'carried' or looked after Bawihtei over the years. These people now have some responsibility for our welfare. This contract was formally typed up with seal by the local president of the village council. I have two copies . . ."

A further letter arrived near the end of March, dated March 16 and datelined Khandala, Maharashtra.

" . . . Received your letter in February after returning to Delhi on the 24th. We spent three weeks in Mizoram, really enjoying the time there. Left from there by jeep travelling with Bawihtei's uncle who does some contracting work in Meghalaga (another state). On our two day trip we did a lot of shooting enroute with a .22: lots of game to eat later. We spent about five days in Shillong, Meghalaga. It's undoubtedly the cleanest city in India. As a "hillstation" it was the British capital for all of the North-West, which abounds in resources and tea-gardens. After Shillong was

Darjeeling where we spent a few more days. Saw Kachenjunga (second highest) very close and Mount Everest in the distance one morning at five a.m. from a hilltop. Darjeeling is also a lovely place with many Tibetans and Nepalis. Travelled by train to Calcutta and then Delhi a few days later . . ."

"Through my good friend (and business associate) Dharum from NYC who travels back and forth several times a year I met a Mr. S. R. Mohatta (from the family who were the former Maharajahs in Karachi). Among several industrial corporations in the Bombay area he owns a large steel wire rope factory beset with several problems of mismanagement and poor production. As I was interested in becoming more closely involved with the steel industry in India, I agreed to try to tackle his problems . . ."

" . . . We flew down to Bombay a few days later. We stayed a few days in his palatial suites overlooking the sea directly and right in Bombay. The place has a private zoo with many animals, e.g., leopards, fifteen varieties of monkey, deer, bears, hyenas and beautiful birds. The cleanest zoo I've seen with all animals happy, friendly, and well cared for. The steel rope factory is about twenty minutes drive away . . ."

In a postscript to this same letter he remarks "The elections are over so that excitement has died down—it was good to see this country functioning as a democracy! Whether a 'democracy' is the best form of government in the long run for India is another question."

Another letter was received dated the eleventh of May. Remawii (Bawihtei) herself wrote the larger portion of this, in which she waxed eloquent about a jaunt which they had taken to the city of Jaipur:

" . . . Jaipur, as you may have heard, is a very interesting, picturesque, and old city and is known as the 'Pink City' because of the colour of the buildings. There is a wild life sanctuary, Sariska, on the way from Delhi where we stopped for the night. They have a 'Watch Tower' in the middle of the jungle where we slept. It was fantastic watching wild boars and deer running around happily. It really is more interesting to see them wild, though you can see them in the zoos just the same . . . We saw dozens of peacocks both in the Sanctuary and in Jaipur and watched them as they turned around and spread their beautiful feathers. It's really great."

"Well now we're back in Delhi and planning to take a trip to the north — Manali, Kulu Valley, etc. before coming there. We're waiting now for the weather in the north to warm up . . ." Ronald adds in a postscript to her letter: "We'll probably be leaving here by mid-June after taking an adventure trip by motorcycle to the interior of Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh . . . We may not be back in Canada until the end of July."

Finally, in a letter from London, England, dated July 17th: "We left India one week back, stopped in Damascus for two days, then here . . . Hope your holiday in Iceland was good. Earlier, we had hoped to be there too, but our holiday in Kashmir and Ladakh lasted too long. We really had an enjoyable trip there, travelling by motorcycle over 14,000 foot passes and then staying on 12,000 foot plateaus surrounded by ridges of 18,000 - 22,000 feet. Impressive terrain! Anyway, we'll be in touch shortly after you receive this letter."

MAYOR VIOLET EINARSON OF GIMLI

By Sigurbjörg Stefansson



It is not by mere chance that two capable women, both partly of Icelandic descent, are now serving as mayors in New Iceland. Iceland was one of the first countries in the world to grant votes to women (1915), and Icelandic-Canadian men and women were prominent early in the movement for women suffrage in Manitoba, commencing their activities there about 1900. In 1898 Margret J. Benedictsson, with the aid of her husband Sigfus, began publication of the monthly periodical "Freyja", claimed to be the first women's rights publication in Canada. The Icelandic Women's Suffrage Association, active in several communities, sent two petitions on this issue to the Manitoba government. The first Icelandic-Canadian cabinet minister, Thomas H. Johnson of Argyle, Attorney-General of Manitoba, was the main leader in securing passage of the act by which Manitoba in 1916 became the first province in Canada to grant the franchise to women.

Not long after the vote was granted Kristjana Thordarson and Hansina Erlendson won election to the Gimli

school board, possibly setting a record for that time. In later years Margaret Olson and Lara Tergesen have also served on this board, the latter as chairman.

In 1936-41 Salome Halldorson of Lundar represented the St. George constituency as MLA, and was leader of the Manitoba Social Credit party, holding the highest position attained in politics by an Icelandic-Canadian woman.

A new record was set with the election of Violet Einarson as mayor of Gimli, the first woman of Icelandic origin in Canada to hold the position of mayor.

Mayor Violet Einarson's roots lie deep in the century-old history of her community. Her mother, Fridrika Gottskalksdottir (Olson), came as a child of three with her pioneer parents from Iceland to Willow Point in 1876. Her father, William Herbert Bristow, son of a chaplain of Christ Church College, Oxford, became in the 1890's the first Englishman to fish in Lake Winnipeg. Violet, eleventh of the thirteen Bristow children, is married to Einar Einarson, son of Hnaua pioneers of 1893, Sigfus and Gudrun Einarsson of Ljosaland. Their only child, Donna Mae, R.N., is married to Wilfred Arnason, teacher at St. John's High School.

In 1946, after years devoted to home and family, Violet Einarson commenced renting, buying and selling real estate and later also fire and auto insurance, establishing Einarson Realty, in which her husband joined as partner after retiring from fishing. This gave her close contact with Gimli people, Air Force and campers, and a wide business experience.

In the 1950's Gimli faced its hour of

decision. Was it to remain a picturesque fishing village or become a progressive modern town? Its council proposed installing a water and sewer system. Many feared the financial risk and campers opposed raising taxes. Violet Einarson threw in her full support and won over many campers to her view. The referendum passed. Gimli has never looked back since.

Immediately after, Violet Einarson entered the town council as councillor and finance chairman from 1958-61 and mayor 1961-67. During those years the council completed the extension of waterworks to every building in town and also paved all the streets, using the excavated material to fill in the entire north-west corner of Gimli, which had been a slough frequented by frogs and whippoorwills. It is now a fine residential quarter. In 1967 the R.M. and Town of Gimli embarked on their first joint venture: construction of the Gimli Centennial Library, centre for the multilingual Evergreen Regional Library, the largest in rural Manitoba.

Daniel Sigmundson was mayor from 1968-71. He and his council had to meet the first disastrous effects of the closure of the Gimli air base and the two-year closure of Lake Winnipeg to fishing, both in 1970. By these measures the entire area was deprived of two main sources of income and employment. Two federal-provincial grants were secured to save the region from total financial ruin.

Violet Einarson was reelected mayor in 1972 and still holds office (1977). She has won seven of nine elections, all by a sizable majority. Besides, she is a notary public, a director of the Betel Home Foundation, formerly president of the Gimli Cancer Society Branch, and director of the Advisory Board of the Gimli Industrial Park, which has replaced the

Gimli air base as a source of industry and employment, and also of the Gimli Waterfront Development Board, which provided short-term employment after the closures. Through it improvements were made to the entire Gimli waterfront, including a marina and yacht club, and various other projects in town and municipality. The library was doubled in size and the Gimli Pioneer Museum established, in conjunction with the Icelandic Cultural Corporation.

Gimli is now outgrowing the boundaries set by its pioneers a century ago. Through lengthy negotiations between the town, the R.M. and the developers a westward extension called Vesturland is now being opened. Because of it and its own needs the town now has to renovate and enlarge its water and sewer system.

Throughout all of this Mayor Violet Einarson has devoted immeasurable time and effort to her community, occasionally attending two or even three meetings a day on town concerns. She gives great credit to the councillors for their work and support.

To keep abreast of town problems and concerns she has attended urban conferences throughout Manitoba, sometimes being the only woman there. She was one of two women from all of Canada taking the EMO course on coping with civil disasters, held at Arnprior, Ontario, and has often helped flood victims since. For instance, she organized the volunteer aid for the Métis and Indians and the residents of St. Benedict's Manor in Arborg when they were evacuated to Gimli Industrial Park in the flood of 1974. No project is opened nor special occasion or festival held in or near Gimli without her representing the town, including the events of the year-long celebrations of 1967 and 1975. If these concern Icelandic people she invariably addresses them in both Icelandic and English, for

Vilhjalmur Stefansson Memorial



Leo Mol's expressive bronze captures the spirit of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the explorer, ethnologist, and author whose exploits reached almost mythical proportions. Stefansson, born in a dirt-floor cabin in Arnes, Manitoba in 1879 was to drastically alter world thinking about the Arctic. He demonstrated the feasibility of living off the land, even during the harsh Arctic winter. For 13 years he explored the far north and studied its people with much success. One of Stefansson's startling innovations was a self-sufficient research station which drifted Arctic waters aboard an ice floe. It met with skepticism some 60 years ago, but today it is used by most northern countries. The first disciple of the North, Stefansson spent 50 years teaching and writing about the immense value of the Arctic. His arguments gain more force with each passing year.

Manitoba
Government
Travel

she is extremely loyal to her Icelandic heritage.

In the New Iceland centennial year of 1975 she was named Fjallkona, and officiated in that role at Gimli, Hecla Island, Winnipeg and Pembina. That year Akureyri and Gimli became twin towns and their mayors, Violet Einarson and Bjarni Einarsson, signed the agreement at Gimli with the president of Iceland and other dignitaries among those present. The following year, as a guest of Akureyri, she made presentations and gave addresses on behalf of Gimli on numerous occasions, both there and in Reykjavik. Everywhere she was warmly received and met many relatives.

Gimli's well-known first mayor, Johannes Sigurdsson, visualized great

material and cultural advances for his town. Many of his dreams are now being realized, in considerable part through the work of his latest successor. Incidentally, he was a staunch supporter of women's rights.

* * *

Susan Hodgson, of 45 Plymridge Road, Willowdale, Ontario, writes to **The Icelandic Canadian:**

"My sister and I are importing Icelandic horses into Canada. We just received a shipment of eight horses, which brings our herd total now to twenty-two.

"We believe that many people from Iceland will be excited to learn that there are horses from their country in Canada."



GREETINGS
FROM

THRAINN
AND
EDDA
KRISTJANSSON

Dining out.
It's more than just eating out.

Lunch
Supper
Lounge
Pembina at Stafford
Winnipeg, Canada
Ph. 453-3631



FOND MEMORIES OF A PRAIRIE CHRISTMAS

By Elma Gislason

We had been on our best behavior all day. Preparations for attending the Fair Valley school concert that very evening, had been under way since early morning. Hair in rag curls, we kept Mother supplied with threaded needles. We scarcely dared whisper, let it disturb the incredible speed with which she stitched the fourth dress of cream-colored nun's veiling.

Each year, she made large tallow candles which were placed on a narrow board fitted over the top of the Christmas tree. We were allowed to burn these as often as we wished, others being reserved for Christmas Eve only.

A deeply religious atmosphere was created, when at 4:30 p.m., Dec. 24, Mother would proclaim in a solemn voice, "the sacred hour has begun." This sent shivers down my spine. The whole household took on an aura of reverence, while she fried doughnuts and served a light meal.

The crowning point was when the little colored candles, snug in their clip-on holders, were lit on the tree and all other lights put out. Smelling ever so Christmassy, their sparkling flicker held us enthralled as we sat around the tree singing Icelandic hymns and listening to the Christmas story. No one thought of gifts. Indeed, there weren't any.

This December, 1918, all rules were broken. Every candle, both great and small, was set aglow to augment the dim light of coal-oil lamps as Mother plied her skill in the waning day. There was magic in the mingled aroma of burning candles and spicy Christmas baking.

At last, the final stitch was in place. Our hair was now in lovely locks, tied with red ribbons. We shivered with de-

light as we donned our new dresses, dancing and preening. We thought we looked quite bewitching. Hugs and kisses were Mother's reward, as she quickly dressed baby brother. I was eight years old, and the proud possessor of my first doll. In my excitement, I grabbed her out of the cradle my brother had made for her. Twirling around, I sang the song I would sing to her that night at the concert, when she and I would make our debut. It was time to go.

We were clad in all manner of warm coats and sweaters; only our eyes were visible between scarves and toques. After tending lights and fires in the heaters and stove, Dad bundled us into the pre-heated sleigh lined with pillows and comforters. The horses eagerly responded to his "Click, click" and a tug on the reins with stomping and snorting. We were on our way.

Sounds were clear in the 40-below air. The rattle of the harness, the squeak of sleigh runners and the crisp crunch of hooves on hard snow were magnified. Puffed in huge billows of steam, the horses' breath froze on their coats. Dad soon looked like a Santa Claus, with a frosted, bushy moustache and snowy eyebrows.

Sleigh bells ringing, we drove east over our field to the road, turning right after a quarter-mile at Carberry Hill. It was steep and slippery, but the horses struggled valiantly to the top at Dad's urging.

A startling phenomenon greeted us as we emerged from the Assiniboine valley. The star-studded sky, a blanket of shimmering diamonds hanging low over the prairie, opened before us. Every late-December constellation was in view, the

minutest members distinct. The ice-blue moon shed light no brighter than they. Shooting stars dropped from the pregnant, overflowing heavens. The night sky was a black backdrop.

In awe and wonder, we sped across the illuminated prairie under the Creator's magnificent panorama of Christmas lights.

—Winnipeg Free Press

Home of the Naturally 5 - Gaited Horse



**ICELANDIC
HORSE FARM**

Summer Camp 1978
R.R. 1, Colgan, Ontario
(416) 936-4390
Enquiries Welcome

YOUR A.R.P. VALUE CENTRE

VIKING PHARMACY

Pharmacists:

Ernest Stefanson

Garry Fedorchuk

Centre and Fourth

GIMLI



McKague Sigmar/Realtor has built a reputation of quality over the past twenty years. Today our Manitoba offices provide a complete range of services, including: Commercial and residential real estate, mortgage financing and inter-city referrals.

HEAD OFFICE

502 - 203 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, Man. R3B 2A1

Phone 943-1431

SALES OFFICES

1042 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, Man. R3G 0S2
1044 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, Man. R3G 0S2
35 Lakewood Blvd.
Winnipeg, Man. R2J 2M8
2621 Portage Ave. — #201
Winnipeg, Man. R3J 0P7
899 Henderson Hwy.
Winnipeg, Man. R2K 2L8
1060 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, Man. R2M 3S9
834 Leila Avenue
Winnipeg, Man. R2V 3J7

THE BASS CLEF CHORUS — BETTER HALF SINGERS GOODWILL TOUR OF ICELAND

By David Gibson

The members of the Bass Clef Chorus and the Better Half Singers have recently returned from a two week goodwill tour of Iceland. Our choirs arrived in Iceland on August 24th and departed on Sept. 5th. Our hosts, the Sudurnesja Ladies Choir, who had visited Winnipeg this summer, made sure that we saw all the sites of Iceland — Gullfoss, Thingvellir (the site of Iceland's first Parliament), Geysir, Hveragerdi and Reykjavik were just a few of the many landmarks visited. Amidst the sightseeing and countless receptions given in our honour, the choirs did accomplish some singing. Our premier concert was in Keflavik where we were staying. We were also pleased to add a choral contribution to the church service in Keflavik the next morning. The choirs had the privilege to perform for the President of Iceland and his wife at Bessastadir. We enjoyed a pleasant luncheon held in their home. The choirs also managed to visit and sing for the residents of Hrafnista, a seamen's retirement home. On August 29th both choirs sailed to Vestmannaeyjar where we performed one concert. The tour we received of the recent volcanic activities will be something that none of us will ever forget. It was both mind-expanding and mind-boggling. With concerts in Akureyri and Akranes, the choirs returned to Keflavik, Our final concert was held on the university campus in Reykjavik.

The two week tour, although hectic, was incredibly adventurous — buses breaking down, bridges that were too

narrow, no bridges at all, snowstorms in Sprengisandur, one hundred mile per hour-plus winds, and power failures during concerts were all situations encountered. Recalling the resulting fun after these incidents, is part of our fondest memories of Iceland.

If any choir member were asked to recommend one thing about Iceland, there would be only one answer — the people. The Icelandic people are the friendliest in the world. Not only did Icelanders lend clothes and equipment to us for our excursion up north, give us enormous meals — everywhere — take care of us when we were sick, but they gave us their hearts. If it is possible to fall in love with an entire population, our choir has.

The choirs would like to thank Reverend Bragi Fridriksson, President of the Icelandic National League who planned the tour and Stefan Stefansson, President of the Icelandic National League of North America. We would especially like to thank our Icelandic guides, Eyjolfur Bragisson and Gudmundur Einarsson, who have been made honorary members of the Bass Clef-Better Half. Special thanks must be made to the Sudurnesja Ladies Choir and their president, Margret Fridriksdottir, for unmatched hospitality. We will never be able to repay them for their kindness.

The magnificent icy beauty of Iceland's landscape combined with the omnipresent warmth of Icelandic hospitality truly makes Iceland the land of ice and fire.

CONCILIATORS JOB ONE LONG CRISIS SETTLING LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES

By Glen MacKenzie



The Brandon General Hospital strike received major media attention for more than a week. An important figure whose name didn't surface was Maurice C. Eyolfson, the only key individual on neither side in the dispute.

But anonymity in the 380 or so labor disputes he's been involved in isn't unusual and doesn't indicate lack of importance.

Mr. Eyolfson, 49, is one of four Manitoba department of labor conciliators. He works as the middleman between management and labor when negotiations have failed. It's a constant crisis job because he's called in when a strike is imminent or, occasionally, once it has already started.

His work starts with a request to the department from labor or management or both for a conciliator. Occasionally it

ends there. He remembers (but declined to divulge) cases where agreement had been reached before he contacted the applicant.

But if his services are needed he starts with the party filing the application, then talks to the other side. The talks with management are usually held in the company's offices so he gets a chance to see what sort of work those on the labor side do. (The law requires the non-applying party to talk to the conciliator.)

The serious effort is made after initial discussions. Representatives of both sides are stationed in separate rooms, often board rooms in the labor department's Norquay Building offices. All three are on the same floor, two about 40 feet apart, the other about 100 feet away.

Mr. Eyolfson goes back and forth from one room to another, sometimes repeating statements directly but often given messages through indications. For instance, the two sides might say publicly they are \$1.25 an hour apart. But, probed a little, it may turn out that they will compromise to figures within a nickel of each other.

"After you've been in the game a little while and gained the confidence and respect of both sides they will usually tell you where they're prepared to move," meaning what they'll give up, he said.

"My job is to direct them to that decision."

Directing takes on different forms, sometimes overt, often subtle. One of his disputes came down to the question of moving the drink-dispensing machine.

Management was adamant — the machine wasn't to be moved. Labor was equally adamant — move it. The case

was a good example of the fact not all issues are monetary, Mr. Eyolfson said.

Using this as an example, he said it could get to the point where management and labor are only that nickel apart. "At some point I'll say 'drop your demand on the (dispensing) machine and I'll get you another nickel'."

Sometimes going from one side to the other involves a long distance. Mr. Eyolfson said the furthest he had to travel was during Winnipeg's 1976 transit strike — the Amalgamated Transit Union team was at the Union Centre, management at Winnipeg's civic centre.

He recalled the strike in a concise capsuled way — "an impasse was reached, they applied for conciliation. I got involved, without success. Dale (Gibson, the mediator) was appointed, he didn't make it. I got back in, we got a settlement."

(Mr. Gibson's recommendation was rejected by city council. Council came up with its own proposal, which the transit workers rejected.)

Personal effects of the transit strike show the conciliator isn't necessarily the one both sides take out their frustrations on. "This is my bouquet file", Mr. Eyolfson said, producing a collection of thank you letters, many from civic officials in that strike.

Other mementos of that dispute include a trophy with Manitoba's Golden Boy from the city which he keeps on a shelf. An "On Legal Strike" placard made by the transit workers is on a nearby table.

A recent gift was for his work in the Brandon hospital strike — a note of congratulations with a bandage taped to it.

Mr. Eyolfson is in his 10th year as a conciliator. He rates success by his ability to prevent a strike and his score-

card shows a 92-per-cent won-loss record. The Brandon situation must be judged a failure by his standards but he says the situation was unusual.

For one, it was the first dispute he had handled where money wasn't a major issue. For another, 41 other hospitals agreed to the province-wide settlement, Brandon being the only exception. "I had expected everybody to fall in line," he said.

Negotiators and the people they represent often make strong statements about maintaining tough positions. But Mr. Eyolfson said the parties usually behave cordially during conciliation.

An exception was one instance where a representative of one side tried to hit a representative of the other side. He declined to say whether a business or labor representative was the aggressor.

The incident illustrates another facet of the mediator's job — he has to know when to bring the sides together. Doing it too early can obviously do more harm than good.

In some cases the parties are brought together early, while in others (such as the Brandon dispute) they are kept apart until agreement is reached.

The final act of the conciliator is bringing the two sides together so what they have told him about their position is confirmed in the presence of the other side. After that one side draws up the agreement to be submitted to the principals in the dispute.

(The conciliator can't impose a settlement).

The conciliator has then done his job but his work may not be finished because either side can reject the agreement. Mr. Eyolfson said if the agreement is rejected it's almost always by labor because management representatives, who answer to few people, "won't make a move until they're absolutely

sure" management will back them up.

After 10 years as a conciliator, Mr. Eyolfson finds disputes basically the same regardless of the occupational

group. He sees no value in training specialists in particular areas. Besides, he said, there is no training school for Manitoba's conciliators.

THE FIRST CENTENNIAL EVENT AT THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, WINNIPEG

The first Centennial event at First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, was held on Sunday the 30th of October. This event recalled the visit which Dr. Jon Bjarnason made to Winnipeg as he traveled from Minneapolis to Gimli in New Iceland. On the 28th of October 1877 he gathered together with about 150 Icelandic pioneer settlers in Winnipeg at the school house of Grace Methodist Church and led them in a worship service. From this gathering came the impetus to organize a congregation which was done in August of 1878.

The Rev. Dr. Valdimar J. Eylands, who for thirty years served as pastor of First Lutheran Church, was the preacher at all the services held to recall this event. The services were festive, with choir procession, special anthems and a general feeling of thanksgiving. In his sermon, Rev. Valdimar used as a text the words from Acts 16, verse 9: "Come over to Maccadonia and help us." He changed the text to read: "Come over to Manitoba and help us." He spoke of the ministry of Rev. Jon Bjarnason who served here from 1884 until his death in June 1914, and also of the Rev. Dr. Björn B. Jonsson who was pastor from June 1914 until his death in May 1938.

At three o'clock in the afternoon a

large number of people gathered at Brookside Cemetery to visit the graves of the pastors mentioned above. Wreaths were placed at their graves and brief addresses given by Rev. Valdimar and by Pastor John Arvidson. The grave of the Rev. Dr. Runolfur Marteinsson was also visited. Rev. Runolfur was a nephew of the Rev. Jon, and also was the first member of First Lutheran Church to become a Pastor. He served the Skjaldborg congregation until it disbanded, and then he became a member of the First Lutheran Church. He also served as an educator and principal of Jon Bjarnason Academy. Throughout the years he assisted the pastors of First Lutheran Church, and the record of his ministry is included with that of the congregation.

The day of celebration was climaxed with an Icelandic service in the evening. The Rev. Ingthor I. Isfeld conducted the service, and again Rev. Valdimar was the preacher. A fellowship hour followed this service, and people had an opportunity to look at many pictures which had been posted, portraying past events in the life of First Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran congregation in the city of Winnipeg.

— J.V.A.

**PAST ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE
JON G. JOHNSON HONORED BY KHARTUM
TEMPLE OF THE SHRINE**



Jon G. Johnson

Past Illustrious Potentate Jon Johnson, of Winnipeg, was honored by Khartum Temple at a J. G. (Jon) Johnson Ceremonial at the Manitoba Centennial Concert Hall, Winnipeg, on October 21. On this occasion he was presented with a scroll, testifying to his major contribution to the Shrine.

Jon G. Johnson was born in Winnipeg in 1908 and Winnipeg has been his permanent residence, with the exception of a period of five years in Regina.

Jon Johnson is an electrical engineer by profession. He was Manager of Western Region Canadian Westinghouse at the time of his retirement. For his service to the Company, he was named "Mr. Westinghouse" in the Western Region.

He is a member of the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, and a member of the Winnipeg Rotary Club, the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce,

and the Manitoba Industrial Development Board. He is a recipient of the Manitoba Golden Boy award.

He was initiated in the Masonic Order, joining the Meridian Lodge, in Winnipeg. During his stay in Regina, he transferred to North West Mounted Police Lodge. In 1955 he was affiliated with Khartum Temple, Winnipeg, which has jurisdiction in Manitoba and North-western Ontario. He was elected Illustrious Potentate in 1969. Twice, he was delegate to sessions of the Imperial Council of the Shrine of North America. He was an active member of the Board of the Shrine Hospital in Winnipeg, to which the Winnipeg Unit has contributed annually \$750,000.

Jon Johnson is the first person of Icelandic descent to serve in the high position of Illustrious Potentate.

It was through his efforts that Khartum Temple units have taken part — a prominent part — in recent years in the parade at the Icelandic Festival at Gimli.

Jon Johnson is married; his wife Rosa was Fjallkona at the Icelandic Festival at Gimli in 1972.

W.K.

DR. T. A. NORQUAY
D.O., D.O.S.
OPTOMETRIST
CONTACT LENSES
304 CLANDEROYE AVENUE
SELKIRK, MANITOBA
3286 PORTAGE AVENUE
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
OFFICE PHONES: SELKIRK 482-3366
WINNIPEG 837-6292

W. KRISTJANSON:

**THE ICELANDIC STUDENTS SOCIETY
IN WINNIPEG**

Continued from last issue

Jonas Jonasson, a graduate of Wesley College, University of Manitoba, in 1912, now takes up the thread of the story.

"I was a member of the Icelandic Students Society from the fall of 1907 to the spring of 1912. I was never on the executive, but there were few meetings which I did not attend. The members were mainly students from Wesley College, although there were some from the Medical School, the Normal School, and the Winnipeg Collegiate Institute. Active members during that period were, I believe, in the neighbourhood of fifty. In that period the presidents were: Haraldur Sigmar, Johannes P. Palsson, Baldur Olson, Walter J. Lindal, and Hallgrimur Jonsson. Meetings were held fortnightly in the main — there would be no meeting in the latter half of December and the last meeting would be in the latter part of March. Meetings were held in the basements of the Icelandic churches — the First Lutheran Church on Bannatyne; the Tabernacle Church on Furby and Sargent, and the Unitarian Church on Sherbrooke and Sargent. Meetings were usually of a literary nature; there were some social meetings — I would judge not more than two a year. At these social

meetings guests were invited, who were not members of the society. Efforts were made to have a program of an entertaining nature. There were musical selections, coffee was served and games were played. There were promenades, but never any dancing. The students, however, held dances separate from any meeting of the Students Society. I recall two — one was in the Good Templars Hall and sponsored by private individuals (members of the Students Society); the other was sponsored by the Society itself (if memory serves, this was in Manitoba Hall in the winter of 1911—1912). These two dances were somewhat of a formal nature, with printed programs, but informal dress, however, was the order for most.

Meetings were usually of a literary character. After business had been disposed of, there might be a musical item, then short speeches on a variety of topics, or a debate. Members would be called on to give five-minute speeches on some topic of their own choice, or they might be given a topic to speak on. Members were usually advised in advance if they might be called on to speak, but I recall one occasion on which they were given the topic when

called on at the meeting. On this occasion Johannes Eirickson was given the topic, "To Be Or Not To Be" — there may have been a little satire in connection with the allocation of this subject, but Johannes acquitted himself very well and delivered a masterful and entertaining speech. I remember occasions when former members came to a meeting and gave speeches — two I remember in particular — Hjortur Leo came after he had graduated in theology and spoke on what the Students Society had accomplished and possibilities for the future. Olafur Eggertson gave a talk on dramatics — incidentally he gave valuable aid when the students put on their drama, "Hún iðrast" — whether he was ever classed as official director I don't know, or whether he gave assistance with other plays.

Debates were a major activity — on some occasions there were four or more debates during a winter — debates were usually in Icelandic, although there were some debates in English. There were two members on a team and the object was to get as many as possible to take part. Women students took part in debates, although if I remember correctly, they only debated against each other. There were no mixed debating teams and I recall no occasion when women students debated against men students. I recall one debate where women students debated Women's Suffrage — I believe that was in 1908—09 — women didn't have a vote then and a good many people thought (yours truly included) that this was a per-

fectly good world without giving women the franchise. The Brandson Cup was introduced in the winter 1909—10. The purpose was to increase and encourage debating in Icelandic. But there was an increasing number of students who felt that they were under too much of a handicap if they debated in Icelandic. I remember distinctly, the second or third year the cup was debated for, that one pair of contestants asked permission to have the final debate for the cup in English — this pair had won some preliminary debates in English and they felt that they were under too big a handicap if they had to have the final debate in Icelandic. However, it was ruled by the Executive that while preliminary debates for the Cup could be in English, the final debate must be in Icelandic. That year there was no final debate for the Cup — the Cup was awarded on the basis of the preliminary debates. Each year the final debate for the Brandson Cup was held in the Good Templars Hall and I believe there was a full house.

Each year, the Society held an oratorical contest. In 1908 there were four contestants — Baldur Jónsson, Johannes Pálsson, Haraldur Sigmar and Jon Stefansson — Jon Stefansson won the silver medal on that occasion — in the following years there were usually eight contestants (cannot be sure of all the names). Women students took part in these contests — in 1910, Thorstina Jackson and Salome Halldorson took part. These annual contests became quite popular and as I recall it the house was packed on each occasion.

To enliven proceedings, the Society Bards wrote a verse or limerick about each contestant — this was sung by the student body as each contestant took the platform. I use the term singing, but you can judge how much singing there was — there was at any rate boisterous noise. In 1909, Johannes Pálsson wrote a student song to be sung at the oratorical contest. This was the song "Ó, hlustið nú á sögu vora" — it was sung by soloist and chorus — Gordon Paulson was the soloist. The following year, Joe Johannsson wrote a new song, "Vér allir dýrkum þúsir tvær". These concerts were very popular — the public evidently enjoyed the high boisterous spirits of the young people.

The students' paper "Aurora" was begun in the fall of 1909, I believe. It contained social gossip, humorous skits, and more pretentious literary articles. This paper was never printed, but was read at meetings — this paper was well received and met with considerable success.

The Society presented the play, "Hún iðrast" in 1910. This was an original play by J. P. Pálsson — this was very well received — it seems to me it was presented three times — first two evenings in succession and then again about a month later. What plays were presented the following years, I do not remember. The principal roles in this play were taken by Gordon Paulson and Magnea Bergmann (Mrs. Paulson). One of the chief aims in presenting a play was to raise money to loan to needy students. I believe considerable money was raised and loans

were made to students. It seems to me that the original intention was that no one student should receive more than \$50 — at least not more than \$50 in any one year. The original intention was that the recipients should pay back these loans, after graduation. I was never acquainted with the particulars of these loans. It was my impression that several students received loans — whether any of them were ever paid back, I have no idea.

During the years I was there, Reverend Jon Bjarnason was honorary president of the society. After the split in the Icelandic Synod an attempt was made to make Reverend F. J. Bergmann honorary president — this was ill-conceived, and ill-planned and met with failure — the subject was not broached at the meeting till Reverend Jon Bjarnason's name had been placed in nomination. But there was quick and heated reaction to this second nomination and the Reverend Jon was elected with a very large majority. I mention this to illustrate that there were often differences of opinion and heated arguments, as befitted Icelanders who took politics seriously in those days.

The Society provided a social meeting place for students, particularly for those from out of town, who knew few people in town. It also provided a medium where students could gain practice and experience in appearing in public. It was much easier for students to appear there than on the larger stage of the Literary Society at Wesley College for example. I for one, look

back with pleasure to my association with the Icelandic Society."

The above account by Jonas Jonason gives substantially the picture of the Icelandic Students Society for the next fifteen years or more. Be it noted, however, that in the year following the close of his narrative, the Jon Bjarnason Academy was founded and many J. B. A. students became members and shared in the enjoyment of the programs and the social contacts of the meetings. Then came the war of 1914—1918 and many of the male students enlisted for service overseas.

Inevitably, some of those who enlisted did not return, but in the immediate post-war years there were several young but seasoned war veterans among the membership of the Society. They played an active part.

The buoyancy and zest of the pre-war period was fully sustained. There were debates for the Brandson Cup, now carried on in English, and oratorical contests, and the

hand-written "Aurora" continued to make its contribution to the program at meetings. Some plays were presented, including the musical comedy *Apinn* (The Monkey), in 1928. Graduates were presented with inscribed gold cuff-links and one time they were honored at a farewell banquet. Student loans were continued.

By about 1930 the tide of change in the Icelandic community had its inevitable effect on the Students Society, bringing its story to a close. The Society was active in 1928, but the end came shortly after, apparently in 1931. Probably the most important factor was that students of Icelandic origin had become more and more absorbed in life on the university campus.

But for three decades, since its founding 1901, the Icelandic Students Society had played a significant role, with its good companionship, active social life, and opportunity for self-expression and development.

MARION ROSE JOHNSON, Ph.D.



Marion Rose Johnson

Ms. Marion Rose Johnson, of London, Ontario, received a Doctorate of Philosophy in Linguistics from Ohio State University on August 31, 1977.

Graduating from Grade 13 in London in 1967, she received the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship for having the highest

marks in the city, and the Carter Scholarship for the highest marks in Middlesex County.

She graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1971 with top honors in English; from the University of Toronto with a Master of Arts degree in Linguistics, and again from the University of Western Ontario with an M.A. degree in English.

She entered the Graduate School in Linguistics at Ohio State University on a university fellowship in 1974. In 1975 and 1976 she received Canada Council Doctoral Fellowships.

During the summer of 1976, she made a field trip to Nairobi, Kenya, for field work in an African Language.

Marion is the daughter of Magnus and Pauline Johnson of London, Ontario, formerly of Winnipeg. She is married to Dr. Peter Denny, Associate Professor in Psychology at the University of Western Ontario.

REFLECTIONS

By Skapti O. Thorvaldson

An artist I should want to be
When viewing Iceland's streams;
Her ice-clad peaks, her waterfalls
Before were only dreams.
But seeing Geysir spraying mist
Into the fair blue sky —
Those dreams I had are now alive
In mind and heart and eye.

Her rugged crags, majestic tors,
Her gently sloping hills —
Then rushing torrents swallow up
The sparkling mountain rills.
Mid banks of fog, and sometime mist,

Or softly falling rains
The long-haired sheep and ponies graze
Upon the grassy plains.

It has been named a land of Ice,
But what is in a name —
After viewing all its beauty
Will one ever be the same?

As I return to my homeland
This thought runs through my mind:
How can there be a heart unmoved
To leave this land behind.

July 18, 1977

- ASGEIRSON'S -
LIMITED

698 SARGENT AVE. 783-4322
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

★

Headquarters for

PAINT • WALLPAPER
AND HARDWARE

LUNDAR BAKERY

ERIC & LIL JOHNSON

Lundar, Manitoba ROC 1Y0
PHONE 762-5341

BALDWIN L. BALDWINSON



Early picture — B. L. Baldwinson

Baldvin L. Baldwinson was one of the outstanding members of the Icelandic community in Manitoba and in the wider field, in the first half century of Icelandic settlement in Canada.

He arrived in Toronto in 1873, then aged seventeen. He remained in Toronto for nine years, where he attended evening school and received military training. From Dec. 1, 1877 to Dec. 1, 1880, he served as Bandsman in the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles, Active Militia of Canada.

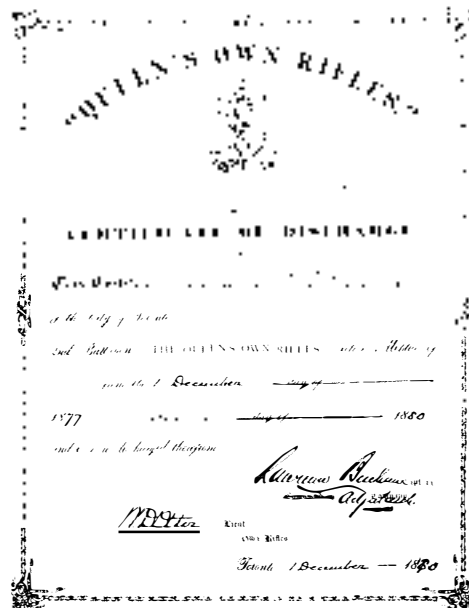
In 1882 he moved to Manitoba. In that year he was manager of the grocery and meat department of the Icelandic Investment Company, and in 1883 he was in partnership operating a store on Main Street.

He was immediately active in community life as teacher at the Icelandic school in the City and as President of the Progressive Society.

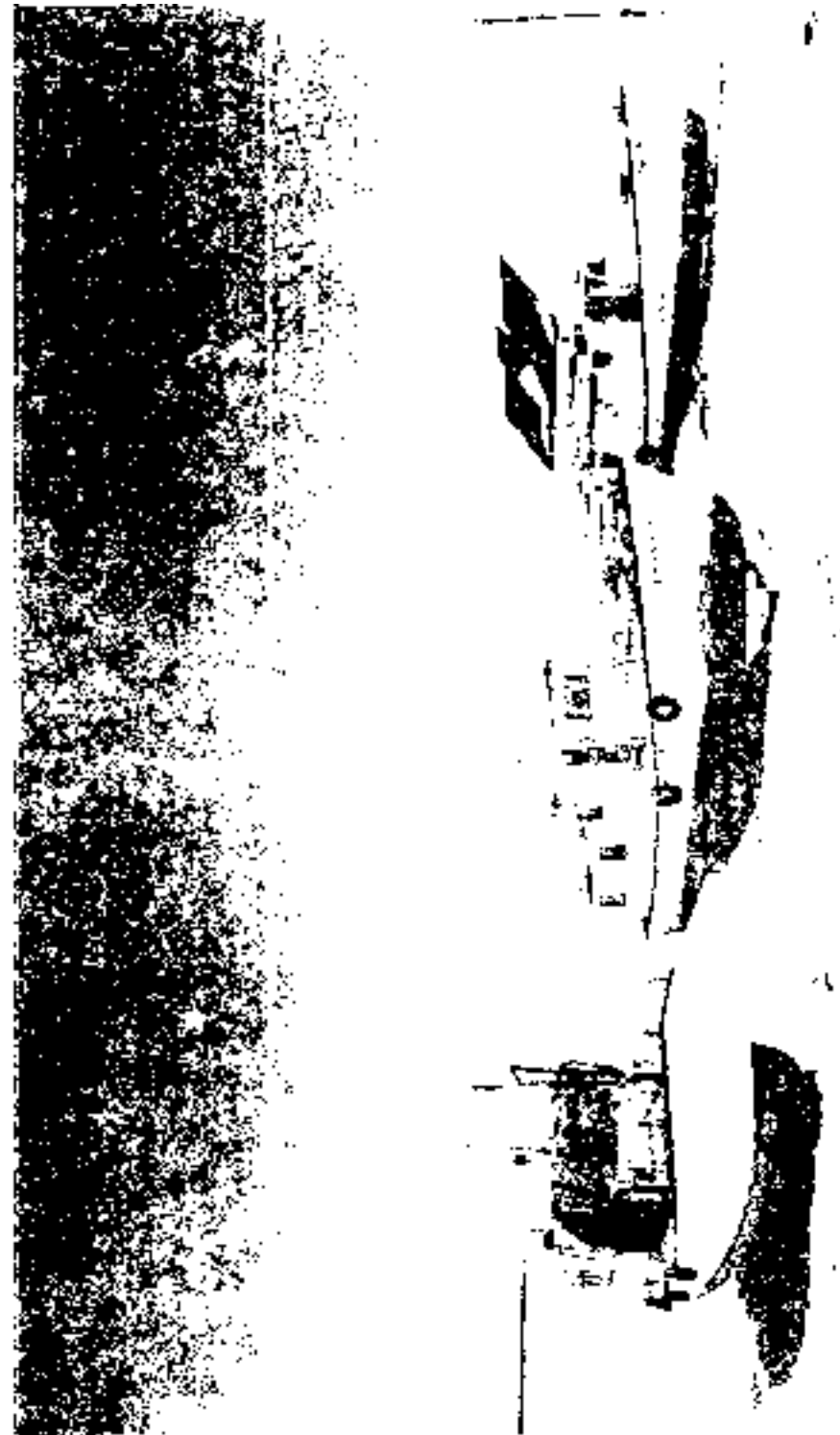
In 1886 he was appointed Icelandic immigration agent and he continued to serve in that capacity for many years, with credit to himself and benefit to the immigrants, whom he was ever ready to help. He was instrumental in bringing some 7,000 immigrants to Canada.

He was publisher and editor of the weekly paper *Heimskringla* from 1898 to 1913.

He made a valuable contribution in the political field as Member of the Manitoba Legislature from 1899 to 1907, and as Deputy Provincial Secretary for several years.



Certificate of Discharge—B. L. Baldwinson



Manitoba Album — Fishing boats at Hecla village



The Honourable Bud Cullen (right) Minister of Employment and Immigration is seen discussing various employment questions with Dr. Will Kristjanson (left), Editor of the "Icelandic Canadian", during a recent press conference with the ethnic press in Winnipeg. Mr. Cullen was here to discuss the new immigration bill which will become effective early next year.

WHEN YOUR THOUGHTS TURN
TO TAX SAVING,
TURN TO US

Investors
Syndicate

HEAD OFFICE: WINNIPEG

GET YOUR FUTURE GOING TODAY

HON. NORMAN A. CAFIK



Hon. Norman A. Cafik, P.C.
Minister of State for Multiculturalism

Hon. Norman A. Cafik is Minister of State for Multiculturalism. He was first elected to Parliament in 1968, as member for the riding of Ontario. He has served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. He served as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs prior to his appointment as Minister of State for multiculturalism and Deputy House Leader on September 16, 1977.

* * *

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS

DR. G. KRISTJANSSON
PHYSICIAN and SURGEON
PHONE 772-9453
WESTBROOK MEDICAL CENTRE
Logan and Keewatin
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Sigurdson Fisheries Ltd.

Agents for
FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING
CORP.

Telephone 378-2456

RIVERTON

MANITOBA

**CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS**

Philip M. Petursson,
D.D.

A PRAYER FOR MY BROTHER JONAS

By Freda Björn

Remembrance, gather flowers from the past
 And let their fragrance linger with the dew,
 Along the hills that might be holding fast
 The fragments of the life that he once knew.
 The veil of silence like the floating mist
 That hovers over valleys nearing night
 With varied shades of glowing amethyst,
 Be guiding him, upon his homing flight.
 The pale blue light that does not rise nor set
 Shine through the shadows that his longing sought,
 Encircle him and let the rays reflect
 Beyond the aura of his earthly thought
 Until he sees, far brighter than the sun,
 The inner dawn enfolding every one.

* * *

A PRAYER

By Paul Bjarnason

Translated by Thorvaldur Johnson

O Father, let me perish if it be
 Your will my bark should founder on the strand,
 For I, your child, must bow to your decree,
 Should I be lost at sea or safe on land.
 Or let me, Father, if it be your will,
 Safely in harbor in my bark rejoice.
 For you can bid the storm-lashed sea be still,
 And cow the wind with your commanding voice.
 But whether I do perish or prevail,
 My frail bark live, or sink at your command,
 My hand is at the tiller, and I sail,
 As best I can, a straight course for the land.

REFLECTIONS OF A NEWCOMER TO CANADA

By Jon Asgeirsson

Translated by W. Kristjanson

It is well to mention at once that when I was asked to write an article for the *Icelandic Canadian* about my stay here in Canada, I hesitated to do so. So little time has passed since I came here that I have scarcely been able to form any firm opinion on the various matters that come to mind when I look back over the six months I have been here.

Consequently, I can't presume to take a seat on the judge's bench, but perhaps I may be permitted to mention briefly the things that chiefly attract the attention of a newcomer from Iceland, here to undertake work completely different from his previous employment — work in many respects specialized.

My impressions have been the same as those of many others on first coming to Canada. I arrived about the middle of March when there was still a thin cover of snow on the ground. Although the sun shone, I felt the weather damp and rather cool. But the hand-clasps were warm and all who met me at the airport gave me a cordial welcome. This comes first. Another point: what surprised me most is that the majority of those whom I met at the beginning spoke good Icelandic. I think that other newcomers generally have had the same impression.

The first impressions on meeting Western Icelanders are the strongest, regardless of whether one has previously known much or little about their life-values, customs and manners.

With regard to the language, there are those who have not had an opportunity to learn more than a little Icelandic but desire to speak it. Theirs is a 'Western Icelandic' — a variety which is something special.

During the summer there are few social activities, whether it be in Winnipeg or other parts of the country. Not till Autumn do clubs and societies resume their activities. Indeed, at the time of writing, news is arriving of the programs being planned by the various Icelandic organizations for the coming year. I look forward with a good deal of pleasure to taking part in social activities this winter.

Is the link with Iceland as strong in the minds of Western Icelanders as has been reported? Are there many or few who value the Icelandic heritage? Are the majority unconcerned?

Celebrations of historic milestones are attended by much speech-making. Sometimes there is much talk, but little of substance said. Here, at present, one important event follows the other; there are celebrations virtually every year, sometimes more than one in a year. The centennial of Icelandic settlement in Manitoba was fittingly observed; so, too, the eleven hundredth anniversary of the beginning of settlement in Iceland. Two centennials have been observed this year, that of the church in Riverton, and that of the publication of the first Icelandic paper in America. We can anticipate an increasing number of such events.

All this is worthwhile — indeed in many respects is altogether necessary. For example, it is necessary for the maintenance and increase of contacts between Iceland and Canada; necessary also to maintain Icelandic culture in America.

But it is not enough to carry banners at celebrations unless this is associated

with the inner spark to kindle the flame essential to maintain that warmth of feeling that marks our inter-country relationships.

Undoubtedly, interest has been generated on both sides of the Atlantic by these celebrations. This is made evident, amongst other ways, by the increased exchange of visits between the two countries. In my opinion this will be done chiefly by the Icelandic Societies here in America and the patriotic associations in Iceland. But the day by day achievements are the most important.

In connection with that, mention must be made of **Logberg-Heimskringla**. In my opinion, this publication is essential to the growth if the seeds which have been planted are to bear fruit.

I am certain if things are done right, cooperation and goodwill between the two countries will develop greatly.

On the other hand, if nothing is done, it will not be long till the people on both sides of the Atlantic will lose interest in each other.

The time is critical, and no time must be lost. Will there be a feast, or will there be a wake? There is evidence of rising interest. The new generation that stands at the threshold has all the modern techniques at its command. There should be no cause for apprehension, but watch must be maintained.

These things are uppermost in my mind after only a six-months' residence here. Perhaps that calls for allowances to be made.

Written in Winnipeg, Michaelmas, 1977.

S. A. THORARINSON

BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR

Consul for Iceland

708-294 PORTAGE AVENUE

Phones 942-7051, 943-1026

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3B 1K8

Greetings

from

A Friend

THREADS FOR THE CANADIAN PATTERN — EXCERPTS

By A. M. Pratt

During the past three hundred years men and women of many races have come from Europe to these shores. They have brought with them their own *lares et penates*, the household gods of their own traditional cultures. They have brought with them not only the material fruits of a progress based upon scientific metallurgy and the techniques of industrial processes and economics, but also the intellectual bounties of the art, literature, science and philosophy of twenty-five centuries. In his *The European Heritage*, Watson Kirkconnell emphasizes the diversity of the racial contributions to this heritage:

"The civilization of Europe is too rich and complex to be interpreted as the creation of any small aristocracy of nations. Like a great Gothic cathedral, it has a bewildering plenitude of spires and windows and sculptured ornaments, and for adequate comprehension we must strive to understand something of the infinite diversity within the majestic unity of the whole."

We in Manitoba are particularly interested in the achievements of which our own ethnic groups may justifiably be proud. We may have time within the brief limits of this article to glance at some of them.

Watson Kirkconnell's poetical studies and translations have not been limited to the work of writers of Central-European origin. He has been particularly attracted to the writings of the Icelandic-Canadian poets of whom he has made an exhaustive study. From that fringe of land between the iceclad wastes and the cold grey sea have come many men and women who are playing a distinguished

part in the life of this province today, particularly in our own profession of teaching and in the political field — which is not strange if you look at the political and literary background of those who followed Captain Jonasson to "New Iceland" on the shores of Lake Winnipeg in the first decade of Manitoba's existence as a Province — even before the provincial boundaries reached that lakeside settlement.

Inland from Reykjavik, beyond the slate-grey barrens of long-cold lava that bound the trackless eternal snows of that island whose northern shores are washed by the Polar seas and whose southern fringe of land alone is inhabitable, lies a deep-set plain bulwarked with sheer cliffs of ancient uneroded rock. In this unique geological setting — a perfect example of a subsidence valley — met for the first time in the year 930 A.D., a Parliament representative of the heads



The weekly press plays a strong part in perpetuating ancient racial traditions. Here manager Johann Beck (left) and editor Einar P. Jonsson, famous Icelandic poet, scan a special festival issue of Logberg (Law of the Rock).

—National Film Board

of the four thousand Norse families that had sought a new home on these inhospitable shores. This Parliament, the "Althing," in spite of all vicissitudes, met continuously and celebrated its millennium anniversary in 1930 arousing world-wide interest in this the oldest of our representative legislative assemblies. The valley of Thingvellir was the Mecca of delegates of democratic parliaments from all over the world as Iceland commemorated its ancient political genius.

The racial intermixture of the Norsemen and the Irish Gaels may have contributed to the literary achievement that flowered in the Icelandic sagas which Kirkconnell terms "the most important contribution to European literature between Virgil and Dante." How many of you have read of the tragic love of Sigurd and Brynhyld as told in the Volsunga Saga? Of this, the English poet and craftsman, William Morris, wrote in the Prologue to his translation:

*O hearken, ye who speak the English
Tongue,
How in a waste land ages long ago,
The very heart of the North bloomed
into song,
After long brooding o'er this tale
of woe!
Hearken, and marvel how it might
be so,
That such a sweetness so well crowned
could be
Betwixt the ice-hills and the cold grey
sea.*

Of this story which Morris claims "should be to all our race what the Tale of Troy was to the Greeks" you may be interested in the style in which the translator has imitated the original verse-form of the Songs from the Elder Edda. It is taken from the *Hell-Ride of Brynhyld* when, after the slaying of

Sigurd, she has been burned at his side on a funeral pyre and her passage to Hell is barred by a giantess:

*"Nay with my goodwill
Never goest thou
Through this stone-pillared
Stead of mine!
More seemly for thee
To sit sewing the cloth
Than to go look on
The love of another."*

And Brynhyld's reply, after recounting the tragic story—

*"Ah, for unrest
All too long
Are men and women
Made alive!
Yet we twain together
Shall wear through the ages
Sigurd and I—
—Sink adown, O giant-wife!"*

That excursion into twelfth century literature has not left space to do justice to modern Icelandic-Canadian poets of whom Kirkconnell rates Stephan G. Stephansson as the greatest. Most of them reflect a vivid reaction to the Canadian scene. Gibbon's favourite poem is Kirkconnell's translation of Einar P. Jonsson's *At my mother's grave* of which we will find room for the last verse:

*"The tears that joy may shed, or
sorrow cast,
Flow to the self-same sea when all
is over;
And every soul must slumber here
at last
Beneath the prairie rose and four-
leafed clover.*

-Manitoba School Journal, June 1, 1951

THE RIO FOLK

No need to speak the language— Icelanders easy to enjoy

Some 10 centuries ago, when the Vikings were zooming around the world like today's astronauts, Icelanders gave the English language, among other indispensable, down-to-earth parts of speech, the noun "folk."

Saturday night at the Playhouse Theatre a group of four personable young men called Rio Folk gave a contemporary, uniquely Icelandic meaning to the English word.

Sponsored by the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, the group — electric guitars with backup keyboard and drums and lots of amplification — sang in their native tongue, with running commentary in English.

There was one number sung in English, and with this Rio Folk may carry on early linguistic tradition by making "Manitoba" part of pop folk song idiom. Gunnar Thordarson, guiding force of the group, was recently signed to a contract with United Artists and the feature cut on his solo album is this original song which pays attractive melodic tribute, in the mood of Neil Sedaka's *Immigrants*, to the hardy nineteenth century pioneers who settled in this province.

If the lively style of the first part of the show was sometimes reminiscent of the 1960s, this seemed to be done for satirical effect, as "Ole Jo" (which sounded like oh-lee-oh), about an Icelandic premier who doesn't please all the people all of the time.

The second half, played against a background of scenic slides of Iceland, featured what host-singer Helgi Petursson described as "pure" folk song. Using guitars and bass only, the group

sang serious ballads about Danish oppression, ditties satirizing the faults of governments both left and right-wing, and an acapella drinking song that made a hymn to a bottle sound like Gregorian Chant.

It seems that modern Icelandic folk music as written and interpreted by Rio Folk is following the tradition of the great sagas — featuring story telling, character sketches, and love of freedom.

The house was only about three-quarters full, probably because the concert was kept an Icelandic affair. This is too bad, because the Rio Folk speak English well and the show has a Folkloramic appeal that, with a little adaptation, would be fully appreciated by a non-Icelandic audience.

After all, English and Icelandic are closer than we think (try living without the words "mother," "father," "winter," "summer," "house," "think"). What's ten centuries between friends?

—Sheila Nathan,
Winnipeg Tribune

ELIASON INSURANCE AGENCY

MAGNUS ELIASON

ALL FORMS OF INSURANCE

791 WELLINGTON AVE., WINNIPEG MAN.

R3E 0J4

PHONE 774-0639

AGENTS FOR AUTOPAC

PROTECTING MANITOBIANS ON THE MOVE

GRADUATES

10th ANNUAL CONVOCATION
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA,
OCTOBER 1977

Doctor of Philosophy

Magni Gudmundsson, B.A. (McGill)
Thesis: The **Danish Monopolies Legislation.**

Master of Arts

David Thor Jonasson, B.A. (Hon)
Olivia Julian Thorsteinson, B.A. (Hon)

Master of Science

David Thor Jonasson, B.Sc. (Hon)
Gerrard B. Mathieson, B.A. (Hon) U. of
Winnipeg.
James Russell Storry, B.Sc. (E.E.)

Master in Education

Robert Harold Isfeld, B.A., B.Ed.

Master of Business Administration

John Trausti Isfeld, B.Comm. (Hon)

Bachelor of Commerce [Honours]

Paul Robert Goodman

Bachelor of Science

Thomas MacArthur Medd

Bachelor of Education

Darrell Richard Erickson, B.A.
Janet Kristine Neale, B.A. (Simon
Fraser)

Bachelor of Pedagogy

Sheila Joan Storjord

Bachelor of Arts

Tanis Jona Carlow
Alma Johanna Malmas
Valdine May Medd
Janice Gudrun Robson
Heather Faye Smith
Jennifer Barrington Sveinson

Bachelor of Science in Engineering [Civil]

James Fredrick Snidal

* * *

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESENTS DAVIS DIPLOMAS TO SVEINSON COUPLE

Johannes (Joe) Carl Sveinsson and Joan Lufkin Sveinsson received degrees at commencement exercises at the University of California at Davis, June 17.

Johannes earned a bachelor of science degree from the college of engineering with a major in electronic engineering and options in computer science and systems control.

Joan was graduated with honors and received a bachelor of arts degree in English with a teaching emphasis. She was the recipient of a departmental citation in recognition of outstanding undergraduate accomplishment in English.

The couple will be relocating in Seattle, Washington, where Johannes has accepted a position as an associate engineer in systems technology with the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company. Joan plans to pursue graduate studies in library science at the University of Washington at Seattle.

Johannes (Joe) Carl Sveinsson is the son of Mr. Joe Sveinsson, Winnipeg-born and sometime resident of Selkirk, Manitoba, City Councilman, Gonzales, California, and President, Monterey Bay Division, California League of Cities.

—Ed.

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG AWARDS FALL CONVOCATION 1977

Board of Regents

General Proficiency Scholarship

Janet Linda Susan Johnson
Shannon Marie Breckman
Carolyn Catherine Kristjanson
Eleanor Ruth Kristjanson
Catherine Dawn Mutala (Portage la
Prairie)
Barbara Joann Magnusson
Roderick James Thorleifson

Board of Regents

Special Entrance Scholarship

Lynn Benetta Benson (Gimli)

McBean Foundation Scholarship

Sharon Gail Halldorson

Winnipeg Rh Institute Inc., General Proficiency Scholarship

Wendy Ellen Johnson
Eleanor Ruth Kristjanson

H. C. Ashdown Scholarship

Eleanor Ruth Kristjanson

Economics Honours Prize

Eleanor Ruth Kristjanson

Isbister Undergraduate Scholarship

Eleanor Ruth Kristjanson

Jo Lindal Memorial Scholarship

Eleanor Ruth Kristjanson

Art History Scholarship

Patricia Fournier

IBM Canada Limited, Bursary Programme

Jo-Ann Kristine Marie Austford

Birks Family Foundation Bursary

Jennifer Barrington Sveinson

Press Radio Scholarship Fund Bursary

Neil Thor Thorleifson (Baldur)

* * *

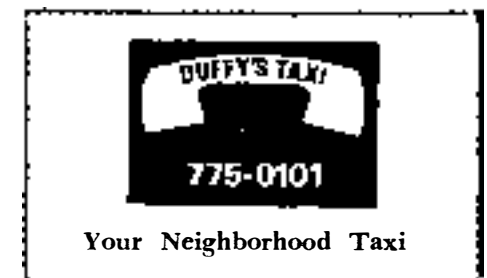
UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG Graduate, October 15, 1977

Bachelor of Arts [Honours]

Helga Miller

"An honours degree in English was a major goal in Helga Miller's planned retirement. Mrs. Miller, as artist and retired teacher, says that retirement is a rewarding phase of life but must be carefully thought out."

—Inside Info,
University of Winnipeg



NEWS

HAROLD B. BLONDAL, M.D.



Dr. Harold Blondal of Winnipeg and Toronto, was born in Winnipeg. He graduated in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba in 1939.

He served with the R.C.A.F. overseas from 1939 to 1945, the greatest part of his service being in India. He was awarded the Star of Burma and he was promoted to the rank of Group Captain.

Upon his return to civilian life, he resumed his studies at the University of Manitoba, graduating with honors from the Faculty of Medicine. He then proceeded to post graduate studies in nuclear medicine at Chalk River, Ontario, and at the London Cancer Institute in England.

He held posts at the Winnipeg General Hospital, the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, and with the Federal Government in Toronto.

Dr. Blondal died June, 1977, at the age of 59.

REV. BRYAN BJERRING

Rev. Bryan Bjerring, Assistant Curate at St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Winnipeg is the son of Jon and Marjorie (Davis) Bjerring, and a grand-nephew of Tryggvi Bjerring, well-known in the Icelandic community of Winnipeg.

Bryan Bjerring received his B.A. degree from Lakehead College, Ontario, and is a graduate of Lakehead Teachers College.

He taught school for six years at Thunder Bay and served on the staff of the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation, in Toronto. He then joined the Manitoba Teachers' Society in Winnipeg in 1969. With a vision of greater service for himself, he turned to the Church. He graduated from St. John's College, University of Manitoba, with a Master of Divinity degree, and was appointed Assistant Curate at St. Matthew's Church in May 1977.

* * *

The Icelandic Canadian Club
of Western Manitoba

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Western Manitoba meeting in Brandon, October 16, was attended by 30 members. Total membership of the Club is about 50.

President of the Club is Mrs. Gudrun McInnis of Brandon.

The film **They Shouldn't Call Iceland Iceland** was shown, and Jon Asgierson, Editor of **Logberg-Heimslingla** addressed the meeting. The possibility of instruction in the Icelandic language was discussed.

It is estimated that there are some 500 people of Icelandic descent in Brandon, a City of 39,000.

DR. VALDIMAR EYLANDS
HONORED

Dr. V. J. Eylands

The Rev. Dr. Valdimar J. Eylands, Pastor Emeritus of the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba, had the degree of Doctor of Divinity, (Honoris Causa) conferred upon him at the annual Convocation of the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, on June 25, 1977. He is the first western Icelander to receive this distinction.

The Faculty of Theology, as well the Board of Governors of the University were unanimously agreed in favor of conferring this honor. This is in recognition of his many years of leadership in the service of the Lutheran Church, both in North America and in Iceland, as well as for his continued support and promotion of Icelandic culture and literature.

Dr. Eylands is a powerful pulpit orator preaching the Faith of his Fathers with conviction.

He is, also, a gifted writer, equally at home in both Icelandic and English. These characteristics were noted in

the convocation dissertation which was delivered at the service. The consensus of opinion is that Dr. Eylands, in every way, merits this high honor graciously bestowed by the University of Iceland.

I. G.

* * *

AN ICELANDIC CANADIAN
PHOTO ARCHIVES

A collection of Icelandic Canadian pictures has been added to the Special Collections in the Elizabeth Dafoe Library at the University of Manitoba, which houses the Icelandic library at the University.

The first contribution consisted of 3,000 slides from the collection of Kristin Johnson, of Winnipeg, presented by her daughter, Mrs. Eileen Stewart. These include pictures taken at Icelandic Celebrations in a 25-year period and many others of historic interest.

Another valuable acquisition is a set of pictures from the collection of Sigtryggur Jonasson, chief promoter of the New Iceland settlement. These were presented by Mr. Gunnar Saemundsson of Arborg. Several other donations have been made.

Pictures and documents are preserved in iron containers under proper atmospheric conditions.

The Librarian is Miss Sigrid Johnson.

* * *

IN THE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Gili Reykdal of Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 6th. They have resided in Winnipeg Beach since 1927.

KRISTINN GISLASON, R.C.M.P., A MEMBER OF THE GUARD OF HONOUR ON THE OCCASION OF THE ROYAL VISIT IN 1951.

In view of the Royal Visit to Canada this year, it is not inappropriate to republish the following picture and news item (in translation) from *Heimskringla*, dated September 27, 1951.



"This young man, who is a member of the R.C.M.P., arrived recently from North Battleford, Saskatchewan, for a short visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinn Gislason, of Oak Point, Manitoba. He is on his way to Ottawa, one of seventeen members of the Force, who will form a Guard of Honour for Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh on their travels from coast to coast during their visit to Canada."

THE POET AUDEN WAS OF ICELANDIC DESCENT

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Mr. George Hanson of Chicago, written in December 1973. The letter points to a good reason for Auden's interest in Iceland.

"The eminent poet, W. H. Auden, died this Autumn. I had corresponded with him and he sent me several of his books with his autograph. In response to a question I once asked him, he wrote that **Auden** is **Audun** and that he was of Icelandic descent. Because of this, he had a deep interest in the literature of his forefathers and had written a travel book on Iceland (which is somewhat controversial) and had written on Icelandic literature and translated works from Icelandic."

* * *

The Annual meeting of the Icelandic Society in Washington, D.C., elected Laufey Downey President for the coming year. The Society is very active and has a membership of close to one hundred.

* * *

The Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C.

Icelandic cooking classes are featured in the 1977-78 program of the Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C. Included are: pönnukökur (Icelandic pancakes), Icelandic brown bread, kleinur (doughnuts), astar bollur, vinarterta, skyr, misuostur, and other dishes. Tips on Icelandic meat dishes such as hangikjöt and rullupylsa are mentioned. Does all this make the mouth water?

The financial statement shows an income of \$7,917.83 and expenditures, \$7,202.00.

The Danish Club of Calgary Honors the Memory of Leifr Eiriksson

At the annual banquet of the Danish Club of Calgary, last October, the memory of Leifr Eiriksson was honored. Present at the meeting was Consul-General Aleck Thorarinson, of Winnipeg, and about twenty members of the local Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club.

* * *

ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF BC NEWS

The Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C. held a successful dance and social evening on June 17, Iceland's Independence Day. About 200 people enjoyed the music, the delicious food, and the opportunity to meet and greet some 45 visitors from Iceland.

The program included the recitation of a poem relating to Iceland's independence by Oscar Howardson and words of greeting from Icelandic Consul Harold Sigurdson. The Icelandic visitors thrilled all present with some well-known Icelandic tunes.

* * *

MRS. G. GOTTFRED HONORED BY JON SIGURDSSON CHAPTER I.O.D.E., WINNIPEG

At the March meeting of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, I.O.D.E. members presented Valdina Gottfred with a Primary Life membership along with her twenty-five year pin.

Soon after joining the chapter Mrs. Gottfred was asked to assume an office. Since that time she has served as standard bearer, treasurer and is now Echoes Secretary and Citizenship Secretary. Frequently she has convened the annual fall tea at Eaton's and the March birthday bridge. While in the office of treasurer Mrs. Gottfred was in charge of collections for the Johanna Gudrun Skap-tason I.O.D.E. memorial fund.

Notes from an Address by the Hon. Bud Cullen, Minister of Employment and Immigration, in Winnipeg, Sept. 9, 1977

It is exhilarating to come into a hall like this and to see so many people who have formed a community of Canadians . . . of people who want to be Canadians, but who are still very proud of their ancestral heritage. This is a most encouraging sign for our country. The Canada that we are building will be built by you and your children and all the people in this land who came here, or whose parents came here, to seek a free and open society where each man and woman could find fulfillment.

* * *

By the same token, we do not consider one ethnic group or race more important or more desirable than any other. All ethnic communities in Canada are seen as essential elements in our national personality and all have a right to the same respect and freedom of cultural expression.

* * *

Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip Attend Cultural Events in Ottawa

While the Prince was speaking to the Canadian Club, Queen Elizabeth was having lunch with 250 representatives of nearly 50 ethnic organizations gathered at Parliament's West Block.

There she heard Norm Cafik, the new minister of state for multiculturalism, proclaim: "Our country is more unified by your presence."

Later, the royal couple was reunited for an afternoon and evening of multicultural events. They visited a French immersion public school, took in a special silver jubilee multicultural performance and dined with 400 young Canadian achievers.

STAFHOLT NEWS

Seen and Heard

Nice to see Mrs. Sigrid Laxdall back for her regular Wednesday afternoon sewing sessions. Each week the group get together to tear and sew carpet rags, which are rolled up into balls and taken to the Handicapped Center in Bellingham. There the handicapped weave them into beautiful rugs. The group can always use more light cotton fabrics so if anyone has some old cotton clothing they have no use for, it would be more than welcome.



Höfn [Icelandic Home] in Vancouver.

MULTICULTURALISM

The Multicultural Society of B.C. is a voluntary, non-political, non-sectarian community organization dedicated to promoting communication between and among all cultural groups in the province. The Multicultural Society seeks to provide all of the people of B.C. with a wide variety of opportunities to learn about the histories and cultures of the ethnic groups to be found in the community and to find ways and means of incorporating these into the Canadian way of life.

The Board of Directors of our Icelandic Club voted recently to join the Multicultural Society and we will be taking part in and publicizing their activities in the future.

IMMIGRATION 1976

Readers of *The Icelandic Canadian* will be interested in the figures of immigration from Iceland. Other figures will be interesting too, especially for a comparison of immigration from Europe and the other continents.

The following figures from Manpower and Immigration Statistics, 1976, show totals for continents and areas, and for selected countries:

Iceland	36	Caribbean .	14,842
Africa	7,752	England . .	16,759
Angola	912	Europe . . .	49,908
Egypt	728	Denmark . .	353
Rhodesia	70	Norway . . .	144
Asia	44,328	Sweden . . .	269
Australasia .	1,886	France . . .	3,251
		S.America .	10,628
Europe total	49,908		
Africa total	7,752		



Kathleen Lilja Anderson, daughter of Doris and Anderson of Gimli graduated from Selkirk Mental Health Centre on Aug. 26, 1977 as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse.

A PICTURE OF MOUNT HEKLA PRESENTED TO THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA



MOUNT HEKLA: Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Minister Ben Hanuschak (left) receives a picture of Mount Hekla in Iceland, given to the province "in appreciation for venerating the Icelandic Heritage throughout the Hecla Island Provincial Park and the Gull Harbour Resort Hotel." The presentation was made on behalf of three groups: the Icelandic National League of North America, represented by Stefan J. Stefanson (right) of Winnipeg; the Icelandic National League of Reykjavik, Iceland, represented by Rev. Bragi Fridriksson (centre) of Reykjavik, and the Icelandic League of Akureyri, Iceland.

ICELANDIC CANADIAN FRON

Members of Icelandic Canadian Fron, at a general meeting on October 4th, learned that a full program of cultural and social activities is planned for the current year.

Registration for interested groups will take place on the first Tuesday evening of the fall program which will extend from October 11th to November 29th. The activities will depend on the interests shown. It is expected that there will be: groups pursuing a variety of activities — among them, conversational Icelandic, Icelandic songs, Icelandic cooking, crafts and square dancing.

In addition to the Tuesday night interest groups, there will be Saturday

morning youth classes in Icelandic. Sigrid Johnson will provide the instruction.

The Calendar of Events for the year will be as follows:

Oct. 22 — Haust Fagnadur (Fall Social)

Dec. 2 — Senior Citizens Christmas Party. First Lutheran Church Hall.

Dec. 11 — Thorrablot. Dinner and dance, Vasaland.

April 8 — Spring Frolic (place to be announced)

May 2 — Annual Meeting. First Lutheran Church Hall.

June 17 — Iceland's National Day (activity to be announced)

TIME AND SPACE

By Sigurbjörn Sveinsson (born 1878)

Translated by Watson Kirkconnell

Beyond all space, beyond all time,
My spirit soared in cosmic flight.
I passed the bounds of height and depth;
I burst the bands of day and night.

I reached to touch the skirts of time,
To grasp creation's primal day;
I watched the universe of life
March by on its majestic way.

But though I gazed beyond the gulfs
where countless star-seas rise and fall,
I saw but shadows of the God
Whose self is vaster than them all.

—The North American Book of Icelandic Verse.

THE WESTERN PAINT CO. LTD.

"THE PAINTER'S SUPPLY HOUSE SINCE 1908"

521 HARGRAVE ST., WINNIPEG, R3E 0Y1 PHONE 942-7271

J. A. SCHIMNOWSKI, PRESIDENT

VISIT OUR NEW ULTRA MODERN WALLCOVERING BUILDING

521 HARGRAVE & WILLIAM — FREE PARKING — PHONE 942-7317

MY COLLECTION

By Carole Finnson
(A Grade X Essay)

On a small shelf above the stairway leading to the rooms upstairs, I keep my collection of ornaments. A small dark shelf it is, but to me it is a treasure chest. When I was younger, I often went to my shelf and my collection to pour out my tales of woe. My toys and ornaments were always willing to listen. Topsy Kitty's cheerful china face clouded over, as if she would cry for me. Elephant drooped his plush trunk. Even haughty Esmeralda, in her pink china dress with the white roses, felt a little sorry for me.

I soon discovered that they too had tales of woe, and in cheering them up and drying their china, plush and glass tears, I soon forgot my own little troubles. and was conversing gaily with my little friends. Oh! the stories they could tell me of their homelands! The happy trips we took to "Gay Paree", to Japan, to Australia, to Switzerland, to every country on earth.

As the years flew past, my collection slowly grew. Ballet dancers, grand old-

fashioned ladies, and other ornaments pushed my toys and old ornaments to darker recesses of my little shelf, but still I went to them with my trials and tribulations. Still I wept with them over their little woes. I told them what I learned in my new world of school and taught them to read and to count.

My collection has long since overflowed its shelf, and an additional shelf has been made. I do not often go to my collection now. There they stand, or sit, or lie — my dear friends waiting patiently for me to come back again, to take them down, one by one, and dust them carefully, and sing to them, and tell them of my adventures. Then each one has a little tale to tell me of his or her adventures. Esmeralda has been visiting relatives in England, Smoky has raced in the Scottish Derby, Lorelli has danced at Carnegie Hall. Even Elephant went home to see his friends in India. Soon, I will once again go to my collection, when I am feeling low, and once again I shall come away a happy girl.

GILBART FUNERAL HOMES

309 Eveline St.
SELKIRK, MAN.

R1A1M8

Phone 482-3271

FIRST STREET
GIMLI, MAN.
Phone ZE 17000

TAYLOR PHARMACY GIMLI MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING

Centre and Sixth Gimli, Man.
ALLEN LYTWYN AND MARGE PENNER
PHARMACISTS

Phone 642-8170 - 642-7470

— FREE DELIVERY —

— UTILITY PAYMENTS —

NURSE LILJA SNYDER'S 'LOVE AFFAIR WITH LIFE'

By Mary Miller
Herald Staff Writer

On a wall covered with plaques, certificates and awards, one framed, handwritten letter holds the place of honor.

"... if success is a sincere caring for people and the ability to do something about it," it reads, "if success is having an open mind and not being afraid to speak it... if success is a constant and continual love affair with life... then Mrs. Lilja Snyder is the most successful person I know..."

The letter is signed by Lilja Snyder's grown son, and doesn't do a bad job of summing up his mother and her work in public health nursing.

Mrs. Snyder calls herself a "compulsive organizer." As director of the Polk County Nursing Service, she has compulsively organized the service's mobile health unit, home nursing program, and maternal and child health screenings.

"When I came here about 20 years ago I was the only nurse in the county, and we had a part-time secretary," said the native of Cavalier, N.D. Following her husband's death, she completed her degree in public health nursing at the University of Minnesota, and took the Polk County job.

For the next 10 years, Mrs. Snyder worked sometimes alone, sometimes with another nurse, primarily taking care of the county's school children.

Then came the home nursing ideas, the mobile unit brainstorm, the possibilities-turned-realities for screenings, numerous clinics and testing programs.

And now, Mrs. Snyder said just a bit sadly, her work is administrative.

"I don't visit anymore," she said. "I direct. There's planning and organizing to be done, and someone has to do it — but I'd rather be out with the people."

Instead, Mrs. Snyder hires those who do go out to carry on the nursing work, and she takes pride in their caliber. "I hire capable people who can do the job, and then I don't look over their shoulder," she said, adding that "being able to relate to people is just as important as ability."

The boss also refuses to take much credit for the success of the nursing service. "You can't do anything without a good staff," she said. "This whole place revolves around two people: the secretary, Carol Carrierre, and my administrative assistant, Mary Jane Spence."

Not to mention, Mrs. Snyder is quick to add, "prevention-oriented" county commissioners "who are very progressive, and go along with all my ideas."

But while she has had relatively little trouble with the local government, she has waged (and often won) a good many battles with officials at the federal and state levels.

"These people sit in their ivory towers and don't know what's going on here," Mrs. Snyder said in disgust. "I have a notebook this thick of letters to people in HEW and Medicare and such. I'm sure I must be known in St. Paul and Washington as the bitch of the county."

Maybe so — but the soft side comes through when she leans over a bed-ridden home patient, and she does not

fake the concern in her voice as she speaks to the patient's family.

Perhaps it takes all of that "bitchy" determination, tenderness and concern, plus nearly boundless energy — for the kind of success Lilja Snyder has achieved.

'We care enough to come to you'

"Community nursing is not at all like working a hospital," said service Director Lilja Snyder, a public health nurse who took over as the county's only nurse 20 years ago and has built it up through stubbornness and hard work.

Presently operating on a budget of a little over \$200,000 (\$45,000 of which is paid by the county, the rest through fees for services), the nursing service consists of four main programs: home care, maternal and child health, school health and the mobile unit.

The home health care program, which provides nursing services after a patient has come home from the hospital, or before he enters a nursing home, or both, primarily reaches the county's senior citizens.

"About 85 per cent of the patients are over 65," said Mrs. Snyder, "because they are the ones that may not have anyone else to care for them, and they are the ones with the chronic illnesses, for instance, who need the care."

The service is especially vital because only two Polk County towns, Crookston and Fosston, have doctors. "Physicians don't like to come alone to a small town without a hospital where they're on call 24 hours," said Mrs. Snyder.

So the nursing service fills in, its four home care registered nurses and 26 home health aides working through doctor referrals.

"We care enough to come to you,"

the unit has become one of the most successful of its kind, serving more than 4,300 people last year.

"I got the idea by looking at the bookmobile," said Mrs. Snyder. "I thought if they can bring books to people why not health care?"

Not everyone agreed with her back then. "People kept saying it wouldn't work," Mrs. Snyder said, remembering her two-year struggle to find funding. "They had heard of another one somewhere that has failed. But I don't build on failures, I build on successes."

After Mrs. Snyder wrote "to drug companies and health insurance agencies and philanthropic organizations and anywhere else I thought I could get a grant," the Northlands Regional Medical Program finally came through with the money. The mobile unit began operation in April 1972.

Staffed by nurses Carol Irons and Harriet Hendrickson, the unit is visited most days by a steady stream of patients, both with and without appointments. Most of them are senior citizens or young couples, or "that gray area of people who are too rich for medical assistance (Medicaid) and too poor to afford a doctor's services," said Mrs. Snyder.

Although the fee for a procedure is \$2, and for a screening, \$6, "no one is turned away because he doesn't have the money," she said.

What the unit can give is preventive care and health education.

"Teaching people what to look for, how to take care of themselves," said Mrs. Snyder. "I'm sure it's coming."

—Grand Forks Herald

♦ ♦ ♦

(Lilja Snyder is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Anderson, formerly of Hallson, N.D., where she was born).

NIGHTS AT THE ROUND TABLE

by Cathy Sherman



Picture from Winnipeg Tribune

King Arthur and his knights would be happy to know that Thrainn Kristjansson is keeping the name of their legendary society alive and well in Winnipeg. For in just three years, the Round Table restaurant has become an enormous success.

Thrainn Kristjansson, proprietor of the Round Table, got his start in the restaurant business early. His parents operated a cafe during his childhood in Iceland; he graduated from a school of headwaiters and chefs; and he has a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Man-

agement. So he knows his business inside out.

He and two friends opened the Round Table Thanksgiving Day of 1973, and for a while they worried. The restaurant is located at 800 Pembina Highway, far from downtown, yet not quite part of the popular strip of restaurants a few miles south. But Kristjansson doesn't worry anymore. Despite its unusual location, his restaurant is always full. In fact, he is considering building another Round Table. Right now, there is only one.

Not only Manitobans enjoy the Round Table. He estimates that during the summer as many as 50 percent of his customers are tourists. The Round Table can be whatever they want it to be from a casual spot for a quick lunch to a connoisseur's delight with all the elegant trimmings.

The specialty at the Round Table is "carefully aged beef". The menu has been expanded recently to satisfy more customers, but Kristjansson shies away from too varied a selection. He thinks it tends to confuse people. All the food, he insists, is top quality.

As suggested by its name, the Round Table is decorated in the style of Old England. From the outside it looks like a large Shakespearean cottage, and that's no false front. The restaurant has five dining rooms, each with six tables, and a lounge. The rooms have fireplaces, flags hanging from the walls, oak tables, pewter dishes and stained-glass windows. Everything has been either custom-made or imported from other countries. The buying trips to England, France, Portugal, Spain and Italy involved so much expense and energy that Kristjansson doesn't think he could

create anything else quite like the original Round Table.

It certainly would be hard to duplicate. His goal for the restaurant is plain and simple — to be the best in Winnipeg. Like Arthur, he is king — demanding, and highly selective with his staff. He likes to hire people who bring enthusiasm and interest to their work.

But it's really the special touches that put the Round Table in a class of its own. Things like a handwoven rug from India depicting the Round Table's coat-of-arms of such excellent quality that Kristjansson proudly tells about the dry-

cleaner who insists on giving it personal attention whenever it's brought in to be cleaned. The lounge, with its reputation for being one of the most relaxing spots in town. Edda's Brown Cake, a treat exclusive to the Round Table, baked by Kristjansson's wife. And the wine list, judged the second best in Canada for both design and selection at a recent convention of restaurateurs.

There is no doubt about it—you'll get the red-carpet treatment when you spend a night at the Round Table.

Manitoba Moods

SEASON'S GREETINGS

TIP TOP FOODS

GIMLI

Phone 642-5418

MEATS VEGETABLES
GROCERIES

JOEY, BRIAN AND KEN ARNASON, PROPS.

Season's Greetings —

Dan McKenzie

M.P. Winnipeg South Centre

Phone 888-1248

Your early registration will ensure your seat on one of our
Midnightsun Flights to Iceland in 1978.

Travel with a reliable Agency.

VIKING TRAVEL LTD.

37 Macklin Ave.
Winnipeg, Man.
Ph. (204) 338-1161

77, 4th Avenue
Gimli, Man.
Ph. (204) 642-8276

ARDAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AT ARBORG CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Anniversary celebrations began at the Ardal Evangelical Lutheran Church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 14th with a communion service. The president of the congregation, Mr. Wayne Hess, opened the service with a welcoming address.

The service was conducted by three pastors, the present incumbent Pastor Michael Cone delivered the message, assisted by a former Pastor Robert Byhre, now of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Pastor Gary Schenk of the Riverton-Hnaua Lutheran Parish. Two anthems were sung by the choir with Mrs. Magnea Sigurdson at the organ.

An anniversary banner especially for the occasion was made by the L.C.W. Pictures of former confirmation classes, weddings, pastors and Sunday school classes were on display after the service.

Dinner was served at the Arborg Community Hall catered by Mrs. Alice Gudmundson. Approximately two hundred signed the guest book. On display outside the hall was the float which was entered in the Arborg Agricultural Fair and placed first in the non-commercial section.

A booklet containing the history of the church over the past 75 years, which includes pictures of pastors and their

families was prepared by church members for the occasion. The booklet and souvenir plate with a picture of the church was available. A limited supply of the booklet is still available from the church board.

Congratulatory messages were read by president Wayne Hess from former pastors and other who were unable to attend.

A number of former members of the congregation, some from far points attended the celebrations.

—The Lake Centre News
September 6, 1977

LUNDAR PHARMACY

K. EYOLFSON
D. EYOLFSON

Box 148, Lundar, Man. R0C 1Y0
PHONE 762-5431

Gimli Concrete Supply Ltd.

REDI-MIX CONCRETE - SIDEWALKS - DRIVEWAYS - BASEMENTS
PATIOS - FREE ESTIMATES.

DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF AGGREGATE - LOTS FOR SALE

"QUALITY REMAINS LONG AFTER PRICE IS FORGOTTEN"

PHONE 642-7275

GIMLI, MANITOBA

TWO SISTERS RAISE FIVE-GAITED ICELANDIC HORSES

By Donald Grant

The eight horses in the small corral had long shiny coats.

"They still think they're in Iceland," Robyn Hood, 26, said as she looked across her Albion Hills farm.

"But they're going to need it."

In an adjoining pasture, other Icelandic horses and a couple of colts with fairly smooth coats grazed, slowly following the young horse trainer. She said these horses "have adapted to Canada quite well."

Nearby, Soggi Ragnarsson, an Icelandic horse trainer, was saddling horses for a ride down the road. The Icelandic Government and the country's horse breeders had sent him to the Bolton farm to help the horses adapt to a strange country.

Miss Hood and her sister, Susan Hodgson, 32, have bought 22 Icelandic horses in the past year hoping that Canadians will find them a "fun horse just to ride." But they also hope that the mild-mannered horses will be used in therapeutic programs for crippled persons as in Switzerland and New York.

About a year ago their sister, Linda Tellington-Jones, who runs a trainers' school in California, found out about the Icelandic horses while visiting in Germany where there are 14,000 of them.

She brought back 15 of the short, stocky horses to San Francisco and Miss Hood and her husband, Philip Pretty, went to California, first to condition the horses and then work with the crew on the Great American Horse Race from New York to Sacramento.

"We fell in love with them then," Miss Hood said.

The young women have been riding horses since they were children on their parents' farm near Edmonton.

So they bought six.

"We didn't have a lot of money. We just scraped it up," Mrs. Hodgson said. "That was the hardest part. Wanting them was easy."

She said an Icelandic horse costs between \$1,000 and \$2,500 "but we bought them in a package deal and got them for less." They needed a market and so they moved to Toronto where "there's so many people and it's a big horse market."

Mr. Ragnarsson said that "it's quite often raised whether they should be called a pony or a horse. But they should be called a horse because they're stronger than ponies."

The trainer said the horses are five-



Globe & Mail

Five-gaited Icelandic Horses.

gaited. Most horses have only three gaits: walking, trotting and cantering.

"But these horse also have a tolt, an Icelandic term for a running walk, and a pace. And they do all naturally. We think they're the only five-gaited horses in the world."

The women said that the Canadian Horse Show Association and other such groups say a horse is 14.2 hands and over. An animal between 12 hands and 14.2 hands is considered a pony.

But the Icelandic horses don't fit into either category, said Mr. Rignirsson, because his country's horses vary between 13 and 14 hands high and weigh up to 1,000 pounds, compared with a pony's 600 pounds. And an Icelandic horse can easily carry a person weighing 200 pounds.

"They're in sort of a class of their own," he said. Europeans have special events for them.

Miss Hood said, "It's so much fun to ride them that it's hard to describe unless you ride one. The tolt is such a smooth gait that it's like riding in a four-wheel-drive sports car. They're smooth and they can go anywhere. And they live to 30 years."

—The Globe and Mail
September 14, 1977

**Everything
to look
your Best.**



Harold's got just about everything to help you look your best. Harold's expert stylists can create the style you've been looking for. They can recommend what your hair needs to look its best from a wide range of excellent treatment products.

Harold cares about your skin, too and that's important. Let a qualified Esthetician give your skin the care it deserves, so you can look your best, all the time.

Most important, expect honest, qualified advice on your particular hair and skin problems.

Isn't it time you looked your best?

For a convenient appointment phone 775-8557.

Harold's

Complete hairstyling services
for men and women.

1065 Ellice at Wall Street

SEASON'S GREETINGS

J. V. SAMSON AGENCY
GENERAL INSURANCE

AUTOPAC AND FIRE INSURANCE
868 Arlington St., Winnipeg R3E 2E4

PHONE Bus. 774-6251
Res. 452-9108

JEFF SAMSON
Agent

LAKE MANITOBA ICE FISHERMEN ENDURE A COLD, HAZARDOUS LIFE

by Ralph Bagley

"It was a complete whiteout . . . I couldn't see a thing . . . so I just sat and waited for the wind to die down . . . Then there was a break and there was the Bombardier, only about 75 yards away . . . Thank goodness they didn't move either."

That's the way Magnus (Mickey) Bergthorson described the time he was lost for a short time in a blizzard on Lake Manitoba. It's one of the hazards of his profession — commercial ice fishing.

There are other hazards, like breaking through thin ice, or being caught on shifting ice, or losing valuable nets because of shifting ice.

"But, it's an interesting life and I like it," Mr. Bergthorson summed up.

Mickey Bergthorson, 49, has been involved with winter fishing since he was about 18 years old — mainly on Lake Manitoba, but also for a few years in northern Manitoba. He's a native of Lundar and has a good knowledge of Lake Manitoba, about 10 miles west of the village.

Mike Bergthorson, 21, is just in his first year in the winter fishing business. He spent three years working with Manitoba Hydro at Gillam, but decided to return to Lundar this year to work with his father.

Rough Start

Mike had a rough introduction to the business. On his first day in November, he went for an unscheduled swim in the cold lake waters, fully clothed.

The two men were setting their nets out on the lake when the ice started to

shift. Mickey got across the break toward shore, but Mike was stranded and wound up chest-deep in the water with further shifting. His father hurried him directly home for a change of clothing.

"I had to shake the ice off my sweater . . . it was in big chunks," Mike said, as he recalled his initiation into the business. Fortunately, that also wasn't considered a typical day, but it made Mike aware of the hazards.

The Bergthorsons are two of about 20 winter fishermen from Lundar and there are many others throughout the province who work full time from the first freeze after Nov. 1 through to the end of March each year in Manitoba's winter commercial fishing season.

For the Bergthorsons, it's a seven-days-a-week grind, in good weather and bad, for the entire winter season. The only days they don't go out is when the weather is so bad you can't see.

"As long as we can see where we're going, we'll head out," Mr. Bergthorson said. "I've been out on the lake in some pretty bad blizzards, but always made it back. Sometimes a storm will come up while you're out there and you just have to find your way back."

He said there had been occasions when he couldn't see the lakeshore because of blowing snow, but as long as he knows the wind direction, he figures he can do all right.

The typical winter day for the Bergthorsons starts when they leave the house in town about 7:30 a.m. after eating a hearty breakfast. Irene Bergthorson, wife and mother of the two fishermen, prepares their lunch and

makes sure a good supply of extra mitts and socks are ready for them to take each morning.

They drive to the lakeshore where the Bombardier is stored, load up their empty boxes, extra nets and other equipment, then head out on to the lake to start the daily routine of lifting nets, sorting the fish and resetting the nets.

It was about 8:30 a.m., one hour after leaving the house, when we arrived at the first net to be lifted, about five miles north of where the Bombardier is stored and about a mile and a half off the shore on Lake Manitoba.

Pickerel

An auger attached to the Bombardier with a power takeoff is a valuable tool for the modern winter fishermen. Mr. Bergthorson parked alongside a stake and drilled through the ice, about 30 inches thick at this point. Then Mike reached into the hole with a hook and caught a rope, which was attached to the fishing net.

The pair then proceeded to pull the net up and it revealed a "pretty good catch" to start the day. That first net yielded a total of 44 fish, 25 of them pickerel, the variety they're looking for. The rest were mainly suckers and there were also a few jackfish.

The Bombardier was then moved 100 yards to the next stake, where another hole was drilled. The first net was reset by pulling it through, and a second net was pulled up. It wasn't quite as good as the first, but had a reasonably good number of fish, again mostly pickerel. The third net was about the same.

Mr. Bergthorson explained they usually raise and reset about 15 nets each day and sometimes also set new nets in place. They had about 60 nets out in the lake and this would build up

their limit of 80 (each fisherman is allowed to have up to 40 nets). The Bergthorsons raise the nets every four or five days.

The setting of a new net proved to be an interesting procedure. A hole was drilled through the ice, a line attached to a "jigger" and Mike proceeded to "jig" the apparatus under the ice for a distance of 100 yards.

It's a simple-looking gadget, just a plank with a slot in it and a hinged jigger fitted into the slot. The line is let out, then pulled back and this procedure is repeated, with the jigger working its way under the ice, about a foot with each tug.

As Mike worked the jigger, Mr. Bergthorson took us along the ice to listen to the "pick-pick-pick" sound as it moved along. When Mike reached the 100-yard marker he let his father know, then moved the line a little so Mr. Bergthorson could zero in on the sound. He put down a marker, Mike moved to the Bombardier and they drilled through the ice. Sure enough, there was the line. A net was attached and pulled through and it was ready to do its job of catching fish.

The Bergthorson's nets are all 100 yards long and three or four feet deep. Each net has lead weights on the lower side, cork floats on the top side. The water was about seven to eight feet deep in the area.

They have good days and bad days as far as catches go. The day before we visited, Mr. Bergthorson said they took in about 200 pounds of pickerel from 15 nets. On the day we visited, they had taken in close to 100 pounds of pickerel from five nets and hoped for at least that much again in the afternoon.

Checking Nets

Pickerel is what they're after — that's where the money is. But, the other fish also have to be taken out of the lake. The fish are sold through the fresh-water fish marketing corporation, which has a twice-a-week pickup from the Bergthorson home.

The pickerel earn the Bergthorsons 62 cents a pound this year and are picked up as they are. For the jackfish, the heads are removed and they are dressed for which the fishermen receive 14 cents a pound. The suckers are sold locally for mink feed at about 3½ cents a pound.

Mr. Bergthorson couldn't give an estimate on a daily or even annual catch. He said the amount of fish taken varied so much each day, or even from one net to another in the same area on the same day, it was impossible to determine what would be average.

"We just take it as it comes," he said. "When we have a good day we're pleased, when we have a bad day we just hope tomorrow will be better."

Most of the pickerel caught the day we visited were in the two-to-three-pound range, with a couple near five pounds. The largest pickerel Mr. Bergthorson could remember catching in the nets was about 12 pounds, "but we don't see them like that very often."

The Bergthorsons usually stay out on the lake each day to about 5 p.m., eating their lunch when they feel hungry. They're back home by about 7 p.m. Mike then works at packing the fish and dressing the jackfish, sometimes as late as 10 or 10:30 p.m.

—Winnipeg Free Press

* * *

Greetings

from

A Friend

Season's Greetings

from

CBC Radio in Manitoba



VIKING SITE OPENS TO PUBLIC

by Jim Robb

The Viking intrusion into the alien shore lands of North America was over.

A thousand or so years later Helge Ingstad, Norwegian archaeologist and writer and his wife, Anne Stine Ingstad, capped a long personal quest when they uncovered the remains of the settlement at the northern tip of Newfoundland, where the cold and foggy Strait of Belle Isle separates the island from the Labrador coast.

That was in 1960. This year, 15 summers of intermittent digging at the site by the Ingstads, and by Swedish and Canadian Archaeologists came to an end.

Work begins now to turn the remote site of L'Anse aux Meadows into a tourist attraction, with partial reconstruction of the only authenticated Viking settlement in North America, by the historic parks and sites branch of the federal department of Indian and Northern affairs.

Plans call for one or more buildings to be rebuilt to their original dimensions and use by 1980.

But it won't be an easy attraction to get to. If you land by ferry at Port aux Basques there is the prospect of more than 400 miles up the west coast of Newfoundland before you reach L'Anse aux Meadows.

For the past three summers excavation at the site has been directed by historic parks and sites archaeologist Birgitta Wallace.

Mrs. Wallace, a Swede, joined the federal government from a post with the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh.

What has been found at L'Anse aux Meadows, a strong candidate for Leif

the Lucky's Vinland, recorded in the Norse sagas, are eight building foundations, a sparse assortment of Norse artifacts and evidence that the area was occupied by Dorset Eskimo and Indian people before and after the Vikings. They are the skraelings of the sagas.

Mrs. Wallace said in an interview the evidence, including carbon dating of the artifacts, indicates L'Anse is a West Norse site from the late Viking period, between 800 and 1060 AD.

Three of the buildings, judging from the foundations, were houses. The others included a smithy where both forging of iron implements and the smelting of local bog iron ore was carried out.

The dwellings are of a type known from Greenland and Iceland where Vikings from Norway, the West Norse, settled.

Mrs. Wallace said it's believed the Viking arrival at L'Anse aux Meadows was pure chance. A ship or boat got into trouble off Greenland and was driven west to the shores of Newfoundland, which may be the Vinland of the Norse sagas.

The boat could have been captained by Bjarni Herjolfson or Leif the Lucky, son of Eric the Red, who founded the Norse colonies on Greenland.

A bog in front of the houses and other buildings yielded up many of the artifacts assembled from the site. These include what appears to be the floorboard of a Viking boat and the end of a bow.

In 1974 a sewn birchbark container was found. But it is not Indian. Similar articles have been found on 11th Century Viking sites in Sweden and Norway.

The bark pouch was used to carry stores. Or, filled with stones, it could be used as a sinker for a fish net.

One of the problems for archaeologists excavating at L'Anse aux Meadows is acid soil. The ground is peaty and the acid in this earth has destroyed much of the bone material they normally use to date and identify settlements.

It's believed the Norse stay was relatively short. There are no large gar-

bage dumps, or middens. And the settlement, in any event, was small. At any one time, given the evidence of house foundations, there could not have been more than 50 Norsemen located there, Mrs. Wallace believed.

L'Anse aux Meadows means Meadows Bay. But Meadows is a corruption of "meduse," the French word for jellyfish. So it is really Jellyfish Bay.

—Winnipeg Free Press, Dec. 4, 1976

STAMP HONORS ICELAND'S SAMBAND

Samband islenzkra samvinnufelaga (The Federation of Iceland Co-operative Societies) celebrates its 75th anniversary this year. Samband was formed Feb. 20, 1902, exactly 20 years after Iceland's first co-operative was established. That co-operative is Kaupfelag Thingeyinga at Husavik.

Today Samband has 49 member societies (there were three originally), representing 40,000 members. It was first designed to promote collaboration among member societies and to spread co-operative philosophy. Eventually, it became involved in exporting lamb, and by 1915 it had opened a sales and purchasing office in Copenhagen. It opened its head office in Akureyri in 1916, then moved it to Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, the next year.

Most of Samband's member societies are both producer and consumer co-operatives, and the central organization is involved in both as well. The federation's activities are reflected by its various divisions: fish products, agricultural products, imports, machinery, Samband Line, industries, organization and education and finances.

Its affiliates and subsidiaries include the Co-operative Bank, and the country's largest insurance group and the biggest oil company.



The stamp honoring the 75th Anniversary of Iceland's Co-operatives is a deep blue. Samband Islenzka means co-op of Iceland, and Samvinnufelaga translates "To work together."

In honor of its anniversary, Samband donated 10,000 (\$1,830,000) to the International Co-operative Alliance's development fund. In addition, the Icelandic Postal Authorities issued a stamp carrying the Icelandic co-operative emblem and noting Samband's 75th anniversary.

Located near the Arctic Circle in the North Atlantic, Iceland is an island of volcanic origin, inhabited by approximately 220,000 people. Some 70 p.c. of the work force is involved in industry and service occupations.

The stamp honoring the 75th anniversary of Iceland's co-operative is a deep blue. Samband islenzkra means co-op of Iceland, and samvinnufelaga translates "to work together."

—Co-operative Consumer

Index to Advertisers

Arnason Furniture, Ltd.	3	Lögberg-Heimskringla	2
Asgeirson's Limited	30	Lundar Bakery	30
Bardal Funeral Home	IFC	Lundar Pharmacy	56
CBC Radio in Manitoba	61	Manitoba Government Travel	18
Duffy's Taxi	43	Dan McKenzie, Season's Greetings ..	55
Eatons of Canada	OBC	Winnipeg's McKague Sigmar	21
Eliason Insurance Agency	41	Dr. T. A Norquay	26
The Fireplace Stop Centre	2	Philip M. Petursson, Christmas Greetings	35
Gimli Concrete Supply	56	Power 9 Mine Supply Co., Ltd.	3
Gilbart Funeral Home	51	Richardson & Co., Ltd.	3
Greetings from a Friend	38	J. V. Samson Insurance Agency	58
Greetings from a Friend	61	Sigurdson Fisheries Ltd.	35
Gull Harbor Resort Hotel	IBC	Standard Dairies Ltd.	IFC
Harold's Hairstyling	58	Tallin, Kristjansson & Smith	2
Icelandic Airlines	1	Taylor Pharmacy	51
Icelandic Horse Farm	21	S. A. Thorarinson	38
Investor's Syndicate	34	Tip-Top Foods	55
Dr. G. Kristjansson	35	Viking Pharmacy	21
Thrainn and Edda Kristjansson, Greetings	19	Viking Travel Ltd.	55
John Leckie	3	The Western Paint Co. Ltd.	50



WELCOME TO GIMLI

Mayor TED K. ARNASON

Councillor JACK FOWLER

Councillor DOUG KOZLOWSKI

Councillor RED MAGNUSSON

Councillor DON MARTIN