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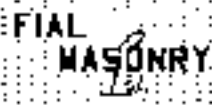
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EDITORIAL

THE CENTENNIAL OF ICELANDIC SETTLEMENT IN NORTH DAKOTA

By W. Kristjanson

The people of Icelandic descent in North Dakota celebrate this year the centennial of Icelandic settlement in Pembina County and people of Icelandic descent elsewhere will join with them in spirit.

The story of the pioneers, the hardships they endured and their achievements will be retold. Conditions in New Iceland in the years 1876-1880 led to an exodus of three-fourths of the population of some 1500 to Dakota Territory and to Argyle in Manitoba.

Reverend Pall Thorlaksson had arrived in New Iceland in the autumn of 1876 from the United States where he had studied theology and been ordained. He grieved to see the suffering of the people and advocated a move to the south of the border.

On April 30, 1878, three of the settlers set out with intent to explore for a suitable site for a settlement. They walked from Pembina to Cavalier and on to the Tongue River in Dakota Territory. Before Cavalier, they saw a few isolated houses but beyond that place they were virtually away from all settlement.

The land was dry and this they appreciated, and the sight of the low Pembina Mountains, reminding them of the mountains of Iceland, struck a responsive chord in their bosoms. The land was generally fertile.

Johann Hallsson selected land on the Tongue River, the site of the present town of Hallson. His was the first building erected in the Icelandic community, a log cabin 14 feet by 12 feet. It was completed by June 23 and at

first it housed nine persons. This building still stands.

The settlement grew. Some ten householders arrived in 1878 and twenty more in 1879 from Shawano, Wisconsin, and New Iceland. In 1880 the total number of families had risen to about fifty.

The boundaries of the settlement expanded, south to Vik (Mountain) and northerly to the Sand Hills and into Cavalier County. The settlers who arrived in 1882 included a few from Markland, Nova Scotia. Virtually all the land had now been taken.

In the beginning the settlers experienced great hardships. Their morale on arrival was low and their physical condition poor. Many lived in tents till October, when their hastily and poorly constructed log cabins were ready. The winter was intensely cold. Little employment was available and food was scarce, chiefly potatoes, bread, very little meat, and little milk. The majority were destitute and they were faced with starvation.

Reverend Pall Thorlaksson came to their rescue. Travelling from Wisconsin to New Iceland, he visited the settlement on September 24 and he came again on December 5. With failing health as a result of an attack of scarlet fever in the winter of 1877-1878, he nevertheless set to work with characteristic indomitable zeal. On his own security and that of a brother, Haraldur, he obtained on credit food supplies, cattle, and seed for the spring. Disaster was averted.

The prospects of the settlement were good, once the initial difficulties were overcome. Men who had never seen a

plow were soon growing grain and agriculture prospered. Community life developed. Stores were established (Mountain, 1880) schools built, (Gardar, 1882), post office established (Gardar, 1882), townships organized (Thingvalla, 1882), churches built (Vik, 1884), a cultural society formed (1888), a community library established (1889), Women's Association formed (1892), and a Good Templar Lodge (1898).

At one time Rev. F. J. Bergmann served nine congregations. The settlers shortly became actively involved in political life and elected their representatives to the State legislature and the Senate. Young men grew up in the community who gained prominence, even fame, in the outside world, in public life, the professions, literature and invention.

A fairly close association was maintained from the first between the Icelandic settlers in Manitoba and in North Dakota. Relatives and friends maintained contact, or at least a mutual awareness. There was a common bond too, in love and affection for the ancient homeland and their love of the same literature; also through common membership in the Lutheran Synod of 1885 and

the Icelandic National League of a later date. Winnipeg was to some extent a cultural centre for the North Dakota people. **Leifur, Heimskringla, Lögberg, Sameiningin, Aldamot**, and other Icelandic language publications were equally subscribed to north and south of the border and the weekly papers had diligent correspondents in Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and elsewhere in the United States. About the turn of the century several outstanding students came from North Dakota to Winnipeg, and long before 1900 there commenced a considerable return movement to Manitoba and other parts of Western Canada. Former North Dakotans who gained distinction or fame in Canada include Reverend F. J. Bergmann, Judge Hjalmar Bergman, Dr. B. J. Brandson, Dr. Rögnvaldur Petursson, Steingrímur Hall, Vilhjalmur Stefansson and others. It is as if the Red River were to flow both south and north.

It is with this close association in mind that the people of Icelandic descent in Canada extend best wishes to the people of Icelandic descent in North Dakota on the occasion of their centennial celebration.

INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION RATE

The cost of publication continues to rise and the subscription rate for **The Icelandic Canadian** has to follow suit. As of May 1 of this year the annual subscription to **The Icelandic Canadian** will be \$8.00 and single copies \$2.00.

THE QUESTION OF LANGUAGE AND THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURE

By Arilius Isfeld

A love of one's cultural heritage is present in the heart of every person: latent in some, barely growing in others, but blossoming in each and every one who ponders the purpose of his being — asks himself "Who am I?" "Where and how do I fit in the human race?"

It is at this stage of self-awareness that language — the 'Mother tongue' — the multitude of 'Mother tongues' receive undue emphasis as preservers of cultural heritages, except as recorders of a heritage at a given point of time be it two thousand years or a thousand years, or a century ago.

Language is a medium of communication whereas cultural heritage is a 'living substance', a unique life style. This life style changes as the centuries roll on. During this passing time language changes, but it keeps right on recording the changing life styles, the changing cultures.

The obvious conclusion is that in fact a given culture can exist in any language and can be passed on in any language. If one traces back a thousand years almost any given language, one will find that it is largely 'foreign' compared with its modern form. However, the substance remains the same.

Let us consider the following situation. If Christians in the past nearly two

thousand years had insisted that the Bible must be forever preserved in its original language how much of its teachings would be known and preached today? The Christian faith is world-wide because its substance has been preserved with the Bible translated into almost every language known. The teachings of the Bible seem to be as effective in one language as another.

We in Canada have the unique opportunity of sharing numerous ethnic literary heritages because we are able to translate them into a common language. It therefore follows that all ethnic groups should be giving high priority to the translating of works of merit in their respective languages into a common language in order to preserve their cultural heritage.

The responsibility of translation lies chiefly with the various language departments in our various universities where there still are persons well versed in their particular ethnic language. The time is getting short. Every succeeding year takes toll of the relatively few who still have a good command of their respective ethnic languages. Translations are the only instruments that will truly preserve heritage and culture for our numerous ethnic groups in Canada.

EMILE WALTERS (1893-1977)

By W. Kristjanson



Emile Walters won international recognition for his paintings, notably those of Dutchess County, New York and of historic sites in Iceland and Greenland.

Emile was born in Winnipeg on January 31, 1893, the son of Paul and Bjorg Walters, a couple of Icelandic origin. At the age of three he came to live with Gudlaugur and Anna Christianson.

He started school at the age of six. His interest was not in books but in such activities as drawing houses in color.

After hours he served as an errand boy for a drugstore. He used to pass the Winnipeg Theatre and was fascinated by the advertising scenes displayed there; he decided that that was the kind of work he would like to do.

A few years later the Christiansons moved to the Icelandic settlement in

North Dakota. Emile attended public school there. His interest was in pictorial matter, but he was also fascinated by **Grettir's Saga**, **Ben Hur**, and the poems of Thorsteinn Erlingsson and the **Passion Hymns** of Hallgrimur Pjetursson.

At Gardar, at the age of fourteen or fifteen, he began supporting himself by herding cattle and painting houses and decorating. His interest was in painting and he studied at nights a catalogue from the Art Institute of Chicago. He saved money for study there but illness and an operation drained him of all his cash.

He then went back to Canada. In Saskatchewan, he tried his hand at various kinds of work but with little or no success. In Winnipeg he painted apartment blocks with Fred Swanson.

Finally, working on a farm in Saskatchewan, he saved enough money to attend the Art Institute of Chicago, where he supported himself doing various jobs, early mornings and late at night. He found time on Sundays to attend orchestra concerts, where the admission was ten cents.

Here he met with the scientist-inventor Hjörtur Thordarson, from whom he learned much relating to Icelandic culture in the field of art and literature.

In 1916 he went to the Elverhjo Artists Colony on the Hudson River, New York, an association of craftsmen in gold and silver, etching, etc., work that fascinated him. Here he was able to work for his living and learn to paint. He sketched in the evenings. Never satisfied with his work, he would throw these sketches into a pond.

After a year of this the Director of the Colony arranged for him to go to Chicago to learn under the direction of John Petterson. For two years he alternated seasons between Chicago and the Colony. His work improved and increased earnings meant more time to paint.

While at the Colony Emile made the acquaintance of the famous Icelandic sculptor Einar Jonsson, who spent a whole summer there preparing for the erection of his statue of Thorfinn Karlsefni at Fairmont Park, Philadelphia. Jonsson took interest in him and gave him guidance. Through him, Emile was further inspired by Icelandic culture, notably art. His desire to paint grew still stronger.

He then proceeded to study at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. He arrived in Philadelphia with ten dollars in his pocket, but was able to earn his way by working half days. As Einar Jonsson left Philadelphia he handed Emile a sealed envelope — a gift from him and his wife, consisting of two \$50.00 bills.

After a period of unsuccessful attempts to establish himself in art work and extreme financial hardship, he was recommended by one of the Instructors at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts for a Louis C. Tiffany Foundation Fellowship of \$2,000.00, in Oyster Bay, Long Island, in 1918.

Mr. Tiffany became impressed with his paintings and gave him his patronage. This brought him in contact with the Theodore Roosevelts, who lived close by, at Oyster Bay. Many times while he was painting around Sagamore Hill, Mrs. Roosevelt would visit with him, chat about art and encourage him in a motherly fashion in his work.

In the spring of 1922 he went to the Pennsylvania Academy and painted and free-lanced. For thirteen years he taught Art at summer sessions at Pennsylvania State College. At first, to save time, and expense, he worked in an old boiler room, but it was at this time that he made his first real sale of a painting, a snow scene, for \$200.00.

In this period he was influenced by impressionists such as Monet and Renoir. He stressed climatic and atmospheric conditions.

"This formative period came to an end when the artist decided to set out for Iceland to work within its sub-arctic environment. He was so intrigued by the grandeur of the rocks and the mountains that he stayed for seven months . . . The atmosphere in Iceland is very clear, color and visual imageries stand out sharply. He was bombarded with new problems in vision, color and perspective. The style he had mastered so well in his formative period would not suffice. He changed his style from lyrical and impressionistic to one that was strong in pattern and design."¹

Emile Walters did not confine his work to the localities mentioned. His friend Lowell Thomas has said, "Emile Walters, my fellow member of the New York Explorers Club . . . when seeking subjects travelled from Death Valley to Iceland, from the Canadian Rockies to New Mexico, passing en route to paint the Theodore Roosevelt country of the North Dakota Badlands . . . he is equally at home with the stark, powerful beauty of the Sub-Arctic and the tender mood of spring or fall day in Dutchess County, New York."²

The New York art critic Russell Horn has said, "Later he was to see and hear more than is vouchsafed to most mortals and to transfer it to canvasses which are

a little short of miracles of variety of expression. Walters' pictures of Icelandic scenes are noted for a stark presentation of nature in almost terrifying aloofness, while his 'Golden Glow' is a flower picture to make one catch one's breath by its gossamer delicacy. Walters is endowed with the power to see into the heart of things and discern the life and hidden soul in all things — a glacial landscape, a golden glow of flowers, and a smiling Spring scene or a decrepit and weary old house."³

More widespread recognition came with the passing years. "Emile Walters' pictures have been placed in at least twenty-six art galleries in America and Europe, including Glasgow, Dublin, Finland, France, Thailand, Australia and Iceland."⁴ In 1939 he was decorated with the Icelandic Knight's Cross of the Order of the Falcon. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London.

He was the only artist to attend the annual presidential breakfast held in the White House by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

The Centennial of the Icelandic Settlement in Manitoba Conference in Winnipeg in 1975, featured prominently a display of Emile Walters' paintings at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Emile himself, and his wife Irene, came from their Lythend Farm, Mount Pleasant, New York home to attend the Conference. He impressed all with his natural, kindly and courteous manner.

Emile could look back over early trials and a difficult learning period crowned with distinguished achievement.

1. Rose Ho, Assistant Curator, Winnipeg Art Gallery. In Catalogue of the Exhibition, Winnipeg, 1975.

2. Poughkeepsie Journal.

3. Icelandic Canadian, Summer 1949, p. 20.

4. W. Kristjanson, Icelandic People in Manitoba, 1965, p. 441.



—Photo by Victor Sawelo

Dr. and Mrs. Thorlakson and portrait by Hamilton artist Dr. T. R. MacDonald. Unveiled December 9, 1977.

THORLAKSON STEPS DOWN BUT NOT OUT OF U. OF W.

By Debbie Lyon

When "Dr. Thor" is around, words like retire or goodbye aren't really apropos.

Therefore, there were many thank-yous but few goodbyes Friday when well-wishers gathered at the University of Winnipeg in tribute to Dr. Paul H. T. Thorlakson (Thor) and his wife, Gladys.

The distinguished, 82-year-old surgeon will be stepping down in February after nine years as the university's chancellor.

Down perhaps, but not out.

"Should we get lonesome and wish to make direct contact again . . . we may

just register next fall as mature students . . ." Thorlakson told university president Dr. H. E. Duckworth — "in case he thinks he has seen the last of us."

Not a typical comment from a man who seems to shun any personal credit for the accomplishments which have marked his many careers.

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A tall, quiet-spoken man who likes to share a humorous moment, Thorlakson was reticent during a recent interview to speak of himself or these accomplishments. He preferred instead to attribute his good fortune to helpful friends and medical colleagues.

But about 120 guests were determined Friday not to let go unnoticed the efforts of a university chancellor who almost always said yes to any request made to him for help.

Thorlakson described his role as chancellor as that of "titular head" of the university although others suggest it has been more than that.

His advice has been sought on many university matters. He has participated actively in the work of the university's board of regents, senate and various committees, helped draft a proposed University of Winnipeg act, and been involved in alumni affairs — while continuing to practise medicine with his twin sons at the clinic.

He has presided over the university during a period of rapid development including the expansion of its physical facilities and programs.

"I don't take credit for these things," he commented quickly. "I've been fortunate to be the chancellor at this period of expansion . . . at this exciting period."

Thorlakson sees a need to consider education a life-long process and to recognize its potential as a unifying force; as a means of fostering knowledge of and respect for the cultural achievements of Canadians.

He is optimistic about the future role of universities even though the current period is marked by financial restraints, graduate unemployment and disillusionment about university education.

Like other fields of endeavor, universities must be prepared to accept

some present financial restraints, Thorlakson suggested.

"It's true at the present time that it is impossible to support financially many of the things we have been accustomed to support reasonably well . . . The retrenchment hopefully will just be a passing phase.

"The country has gone through periods of retrenchment several times in the last few decades . . . I still think Canadians are the most fortunate of all people."

He has empathy for students who are trying to make the right decisions in face of an uncertain future. But, he added, "I think there is plenty of reason for optimism if one can only find one's niche in the scheme of things . . .

"One is apt to look at things as they are. When they're bad, they're very bad. When they're good, they're very good. This influences people's attitudes toward their situation . . .

"I understand why young people think this must be the worst of all times but . . . for more Canadians than ever before, this is the best of all times. That being the case, one can expect that things will be improved substantially in the next one to three years."

The Thorlaksens "feel a little sad that the time has come" to end their formal relation with the university, he said. They have found their involvement a stimulating and happy experience.

But he was determined not to leave on a sad note. His address was laced with humor, particularly in reference to the unveiling of his portrait by Hamilton artist Dr. T. R. MacDonald.

MacDonald used to advise his subject to look "wise, benevolent and like a man of action" while posing.

"I responded by saying that this would be almost impossible because, at that moment, I was actually ex-

periencing a severe attack of shingles," Thorlakson said.

"Naturally, I was afraid that . . . my face, more than likely, would have the expression of a patient suffering acute pain. At that moment, the thought flashed through my mind that — at some future time — my portrait might be sent to the medical college as a clinical exhibit of a chancellor suffering his just reward."

Speakers who paid tribute to him saw more just rewards than that for a man whom they described as one of humanity, charm, concern, dignity, integrity and warmth.

The word retirement wasn't raised because it's clear Thorlakson has no intention of leaving his various pursuits.

It's part of his vitality and an inheritance from his Icelandic father and Norwegian mother.

While he was reluctant to speak during the interview of his personal life, he did offer some insights into his staying power: absence of serious illness, an ability not to succumb to stress, an ability to never tire — especially when he's doing something he likes.

Thorlakson, a minister's son who was born in Park River, North Dakota, but grew up in Selkirk, Man., was elected the university's chancellor in 1969. He replaced the first chancellor R. H. G. Bonnycastle, who died while in office.

—Winnipeg Free Press, Dec. 10, 1977

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SCANPRESENCE II

Holmfridur Danielson

Two Scanpresence Conferences have been held to promote co-operation between Scandinavian interests in the United States and Canada. The second of these — 'Scan II' as it has been called — for sustaining and enhancing the Scandinavian presence in America, was held at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis, October 6 - 8, 1977. Arrangements were excellent and there were lively discussions for two whole days by some one hundred and twenty highly qualified participants, including a sprinkling of official representatives from each Nordic country.

Following the first Scanpresence Conference held in Minneapolis in May 1973, the proceedings were published under the title **Scandinavian Presence in America**. They included the briefs presented by Prof. H. Bessason, Holmfridur Danielson (who represented the Icelandic National League) and Valdimar Bjornson, — all of whom were invited to both Conferences. Other participants of Icelandic descent at Scanpresence II, were Jon Asgeirsson, Editor of **Logberg-Heimskringla**, Heimir Hannesson and Rev. Bragi Fridriksson from Iceland, and Mrs. L. H. Josefson and Björn Björnson from Minneapolis.

In preparation for 'Scan II', task forces were established on all aspects of Scandinavian culture and interests, and a 125-page report on task force deliberations was sent to all participants so they could familiarize themselves beforehand with matters to be discussed. These guidelines were of immense value, and a remarkable education in themselves. Additional materials were presented at

the Conference so that a broad spectrum of Scandinavian-American activities was laid out for us. The discussions were lively and pertinent on every subject.

The section on education was most enthusiastically probed and it was noted that a great many non-Scandinavians are responsible for furthering the interest of Scandinavian studies, and there is a burst of seminars, language classes and study groups among all the Scandinavian groups.

Quick action was urged to preserve properly all archives material before it is too late, and proper centres for keeping such materials are too few. The cultural values of the Church were stressed. The ethnic papers need more support and stronger liaison between all groups is needed. All agreed that most problems could be solved with more money, but, especially with more dedicated volunteers, more cooperation, coordination and supportive action from all quarters. Much good advice was given on how the ethnic newspapers should work, and the difficulty of spreading information to ALL groups on the fairly healthy variety of books published, was examined.

At the end of the Conference an eleven-page questionnaire was filled out by those present, for later tabulation, pinning down the views of the participants, on the feasibility, usefulness and priority of some thirty-five proposals, and their willingness to work for their attainment.

The Conference was under the general chairmanship of Dr. Ralph J. Jalkanen of Suomi College, with Ralph S. Cohen

of Scandinavian Airlines, as vice-chairman, and Erik Mortensen of Scandinavian Seminar as Conference co-ordinator. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (Minnesota) honorary chairman was unable to attend, but praised the aims of the conference in a letter.

All participants were entertained on Thursday afternoon at a reception in the Sons of Norway Headquarters in

Minneapolis, and at a dinner party held at the Radisson Hotel the final evening, with delightful entertainment by the Hotel string orchestra.

The Conference was a very worthwhile educational and cultural experience and will, I am sure, inspire all participants to renewed efforts to keep alive and enhance our Scandinavian culture in all of North America.



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THREE GENERATIONS OF LAKE WINNIPEG CAPTAINS IN ONE FAMILY

By Sigurbjörg Stefansson

PART II

The Second Generation:

All of Capt. John G. Stevens' five sons have had an association with Lake Winnipeg. Three of them became captains of the larger lake vessels, and both they and some of his grandsons served on his ships.

The oldest, John H. (Jon Hans) Stevens, born May 19, 1889, began work on the lake in his thirteenth year and was a fisherman for many years. His first work was on shore, nailing fish boxes, etc.

He was twelve years on a sailboat at Warren's Landing and then for some years at Horse Island. Some of these years he was a foreman or skipper on boats. He also worked at ice-fishing, much of it freighting with horses. He is known to have been still doing it in 1918, for then a rumor spread that he had died of influenza on the north of the lake. He stopped work on the lake when he took over his father's farm, consisting of three quarter-sections in the Minerva district, the name of the original homestead being Fjon.

The second son, William (Bill) Stevens of Selkirk, became one of the best known of the lake captains, and was popularly called "Steamboat Bill" or simply "Steamboat". Elsie A. Mackay gave an account of him in an article called "Icelandic Saga", based on a personal interview.

According to it he became a deck-hand on the Highlander at the age of twelve. He was wheelsman of the

Premier at age seventeen when she burned at Warren's Landing. After making his way up on deck with some difficulty he barely escaped by leaping to the corner of the dock and rolling away from the flames. Then he was carried into the tent of his brother John, who was fishing there at the time.

He swore then never to return to the lake. "But next summer the fever came on me and I was back on the lake again." He gave all his active life to it. From 1908 he was permit captain, as was common practice, but received his full licence in 1924. For this he studied in Icelandic with Mathias Thordarson, a known examiner of masters and mates in early Selkirk days, who had been a captain in Denmark in his youth.

Other boats on which he served, mostly as captain, included Goldfield, Amisk (as mate in 1911), in 1912 Mikado and Minerva (as wheelsman), in 1913 Fisherman, in 1914 the tug Friday, then again Amisk, Grand Rapids (Minerva renovated), Garry, Idell, S.S. Vaughan, S.S. Bradbury, Lu-Berc, Granite Rock, and J. H. Montgomery.

He was captain of the Goldfield at a time in the 1920's when winter had set in fiercely and left some fishermen stranded on Rabbit Point. The captain of the Lady of the Lake was unwilling to risk his ship in their rescue. Captain Bill Stevens volunteered to try, and succeeded in reaching the point, but there his ship was frozen in the ice. The crew was forced to abandon her, and all had

to walk sixty-five miles into Hodgson. Hector McGinnis, manager of Gimli Fisheries, a stout middle-aged man unused to such adventures, was one of them.

In the 1930's Capt. Bill Stevens took out passengers and supplies to the San Antonio mines and brought out gold, one brick alone being worth \$76,000.

Several incidents from Capt. Bill's long career are recalled by his son Harold and daughter-in-law Frieda (Mr. and Mrs. H. Stevens), among them the following:

About 1939, Capt. Bill had set out one night on the Montgomery from Selkirk. At the mouth of the Red River he set his son Robert on course and retired, but asked to be called as soon as the Gull Harbor light came into view. When Robert saw a light he called his father as instructed, but Capt. Bill did not think that they could be close enough yet to see the light at Gull Harbor. Using his binoculars he saw a light where normally there would be none. Just then distress signals appeared.

Capt. Bill then took over the wheel and signalled the engine room full speed ahead. Soon after they approached Hnaua Reef, to find the S.S. Keenora aground on the rocks. Her captain, John Hokanson, and his mate Stanley Sigurdson, had all her lifeboats in readiness to abandon ship and the passengers lined up in lifejackets.

After conferring with Capt. Hokanson, Capt. Bill had a towline thrown to the Keenora, and tried to pull her off, but the line broke. He then suggested to Capt. Hokanson that a towline be wrapped around the ship from stem to stern. This gave more leverage. After a four-hour struggle the Keenora was dislodged from the rocks and went on its

way with little damage and no loss of life.

At one time Capt. Bill was employed by Oddur Olafson of Riverton as skipper of the Newton to haul freight from Riverton to Manigotagan and from there alternately by boat and truck to the Bissett Mines. In winter he hauled freight by horses to the mine. One winter he was conveying a gold brick from the mine and travelled alone for security reasons. The gold was tied to a sleigh with a buoy attached in case the sleigh went through the ice. Bill rode over the ice in a carry-all, with a horse named Barney pulling both it and the sleigh. Suddenly Barney came to a dead halt and refused to go farther, no matter how Capt. Bill tried to urge him on. Alighting from the carry-all, Capt. Bill explored the ice and discovered open water ahead.

About 1937, when winter fishing near Stony Point, his son Robert and he were lifting nets through thin ice. Suddenly the ice broke and they floated on a detached floe to the east shore of Lake Winnipeg, between Balsam Bay and Grand Marais. Meantime aircraft was sent out in search of them. Capt. Bill looked around at this stretch of coast where they had landed, and decided to buy it. He had a log cabin built there, which was later replaced by another more spacious and convenient log house. There he and his wife spent thirty-two happy years. Through the direction and aid of his son Harold and daughter-in-law Frieda the rest of this land was surveyed into lots and gradually sold. These lots with their sixty-one cottages now form the summer resort of Sunset Beach.

Captain William (Bill) Stevens had a host of testimonials to his able seamanship and trustworthiness. He never lost a man to the lake. Once a member of his crew fell overboard, but was rescued. A

heart condition forced him into retirement, but never into inaction. He died on April 14, 1968, aged seventy-five, having spent forty-six years on Lake Winnipeg, thirty-eight of them as captain.

The third son, Helgi Stefan Stevens, born April 18, 1897, first went fishing at Horse Island at the age of fourteen. Later he worked on an old sailboat, the Collingwood, and at age eighteen as deck hand for his father, Capt. John G. Stevens, on the Garry. For three seasons he worked on the steamboat Amisk, towing sailboats and fishing.

He also spent two seasons winter fishing in the North-West Territories. In the first year he was taken there by plane with three other men before freeze-up. Since the plane could not land at Reindeer, it let them off at Halfway, with instructions to wait there for a boat to convey them. It was several days before the boat arrived, and meantime they were left without food or lodging about a hundred miles from civilization. Helgi Stevens was the only one who suffered no ill effects from this ordeal, because he drank his supply of cod liver oil. (Various accounts show this to have been a practice of deep-sea fishermen in Iceland.)

Helgi Stevens spent several years ice-fishing on Lake Winnipeg, a few of them at Swampy Island. In the early thirties he lost a team of horses and some equipment into a crack in the lake ice and then had to walk a hundred miles to obtain another team of horses. He was known to have run seventy miles on the lake in a single day. Once he walked from Snake Island to Riverton, sixty-five surveyed miles, having left at 8:00 a.m. and reached Riverton at 7:00 p.m. that night.

In 1918 he joined the Canadian navy,

but saw no high seas service, since the war ended in that year.

Altogether he fished for some thirty years on Lake Winnipeg and was skipper of numerous gas boats. He was also captain of the Barney Thomas and for three seasons on the Amisk. In 1940 he received his master's papers, but shortly after that he took up his other occupation of carpentry. He is now retired and lives at Betel in Gimli. (Information given by his daughter, Mrs. S. (Amelia) Thordarson of Gimli).

The fourth son, Norman Kristjan Stevens, born July 4, 1902, though never a sailor, has spent all his life on or by Lake Winnipeg. In 1920-21 he went ice fishing with his father and his brother Bill to Tamarack Island. The hours were long, from about 6:00 a.m. to sundown, but the catch of tullibee was good.

The next year he took a position with Hector McGinnis, manager of Gimli Fisheries, as shipping clerk. This requires checking all materials, goods and supplies going out, as required by the fishermen working for the firm, as well as all the catch coming in and the shipping of the fish.

During the worst of the depression period in the 1930's the Gimli Fisheries were closed down and the fish shipped to Selkirk. Norman Stevens was then transferred to George's Island for four years and later to Warren's Landing for two. As staff had been cut down, the work was extremely heavy. He looked after all accounts there and commonly worked from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Included in the work was the weighing, though not the handling, of the fish, which was extremely abundant in those years, with boats bringing in from 4,000 to 6,000 pounds, or sometimes a day's catch of 40,000 pounds, all to be weighed and recorded. However, fish

now sold at 40 cents a pound was then sold at four to six cents.

When the Gimli Fisheries were reopened Norman Stevens returned to his position there. Hector McGinnis left when they became the Gimli-Armstrong Fisheries. His position was held briefly by Joe Burrell and then by Thor Ellison, who left in 1945-6. Norman Stevens then took over as branch manager and held that position till his retirement in 1967, since when he has continued to live in Gimli.

The fifth son, Clifford Johann Stevens Sr., born April 14, 1911, left school at the end of Grade IX, then aged fifteen, to sail Lake Winnipeg for forty-three years without losing a season, thirty-five of them as captain. He received his first master's papers at age twenty-four, and more advanced papers later after a course in Toronto.

Among the many ships on which he served in various capacities, such as quartermaster, mate and captain, were the Goldfield, Joe-Allan, Tobermory, Lady of the Lake, Bettylou, Icelander, one voyage on the ill-fated Suzanne E. (replacing her captain Norman Albertson), Tanawa, and Red River 201.

Clifford Stevens began in 1926 on the Goldfield, whose captain was his father. Fish was extremely abundant in Lake Winnipeg at that time. Clifford remembers some of the whitefish nets being so loaded with fish that they floated up. There were then some sixty-five boats large and small and some five thousand men on land and lake engaged in the fish industry on the lake. The Goldfield was at that time high boat (that is, with the largest catch) on the lake.

Clifford also had several seasons of ice fishing, the early ones with his father, Capt. John G. Stevens. The very first was

at Rabbit Point in the fall of 1926, then that winter at Commissioner Island, some three miles off the point where Cox's light is placed . . . now named Stevens Point. Capt. John Stevens fished there for some eleven seasons. The next winter they fished for whitefish about forty miles north, on George's Island.

As mentioned before, the north end of the lake is very dangerous, with long expanses of ice between islands. Captain John G. Stevens always took the precaution of marking the trail at intervals with spruce saplings.

Ice fishermen must always be alert to danger. Once when Clifford and his father were on the lake with eight to ten men, the two of them went out alone with five dogs north of George's Island. Then Clifford noticed a mist in the air above the lake. It signalled a crack in the ice about a quarter of a mile away. It was covered with a film of ice about an inch thick, but the warning signal of rising vapor came from the water.

In mid-January about 1931, Cliff with his nephew Bill Stevens had a horse fall into an ice-crack. They tried to fill the crack with poles and planks and tied a rope around the horse's neck. The poor animal tried its best, got its front feet up on the ice, and aided by their pulling came out safely. They rubbed him down with hay, ran him awhile to warm him, gave him another rub-down and a warm drink later. He recovered completely.

Against such contingencies Capt. John G. Stevens preferred to use small horses. He was always kind to animals and fed both horses and dogs well, sheltering them with either spruce branches or kennels for dogs.

Like others, Clifford found that his father's matchless speed and energy were hard to follow.

From 1931 to 1934 they fished from Gimli, off Camp Morton.

Altogether Clifford totalled eight years of winter fishing. But he also worked twelve years as fish inspector, both winter and summer. Joseph Skapason was in charge of this department, but Clifford was third in line as inspector, the first being Albert Goodman, next Sigurdur (Siggi) Oliver from Winnipegosis, and third Clifford; he replaced Oscar Erlendson, who had resigned.

At first he travelled on the lake by snowplane on inspection trips in winter; later by Bombardier. Sometimes he used a pony. He recollects once going with another man by snowplane to Fisher Bay and finding the ice so weak that they had to go on skates.

A memorable incident occurred in the fall about 1940. Clifford was then in charge of fish inspection in the north of Lake Winnipeg, and was captain of a fine little boat, the Tobermory. He had intended to go to George's Island, but because of a strong north wind pulled back to Berens River. Next morning, on the way to Little George's Island, he encountered three men rowing south. Their boat had exploded and they were badly burned. He took them on board the Tobermory and to the nearest landing-place, which was a fall station on Twin Island. The foreman in charge there, asked him to take the two who were most severely burned, Steini Sigmundson of Hnausa and Kari Thorsteinson of Gimli, in for medical aid. The third man, Oli Johnson, was less affected and decided to stay behind. Clifford set out and sailed all that night, facing a strong head wind from the south and eight to ten foot seas. About 8 o'clock next morning he arrived in Gimli harbor. There Dr. Kjartan I. Johnson took the men in charge and to hospital, where they recovered.

These three men were employed by G. F. Jonasson of the Keystone Fish Company. He commended Clifford for this act and thanked him for it.

A somewhat similar occurrence took place in or about 1950. Clifford, then captain of the Goldfield, was at Macbeth Point, but intended to leave next morning. At the same dock, about 2 p.m. as Arthur Bristow was repairing his boat, there was an explosion on it. Arthur tried to extinguish the flames but was severely burned. Clifford set out immediately on the Goldfield to take him to Gimli for medical aid. At the time of departure the weather was good, but the next day a stiff north-easterly wind was blowing with tremendous force. Although the lake grew very rough, Clifford risked going on to Gimli. Off Arnes he slackened to half speed. At Gimli the waves washed over the dock and high up on the lighthouse. A crowd, which included Dr. Frank Scribner, was assembled at the dock, wondering why the Goldfield was coming in in such a storm. Clifford brought her in safely with two men at the wheel, and Arthur Bristow was given medical attention which healed his burns.

Like many others, he found Lake Winnipeg very dangerous, particularly for the inexperienced. (The pioneer Icelandic deep-sea fishermen often stated that they found this lake, with its choppy waves and sudden unpredictable storms more dangerous than the ocean). Clifford remembers two incidents confirming this. One year in the sixties when the lake was unusually high and a storm had come on from the north, he had taken refuge with the dredge of which he was then captain, about a mile up the Red River. Yet he saw pleasure boats from Winnipeg go right out on the lake, one going out about 8 p.m. but returning in an hour, the other going out at 9 p.m.

and never coming back. It was headed for Grand Beach, but was found later drifted on shore in Balsam Bay, stove in by rocks, and the four occupants drowned. The waves had risen mountains high, and they were unable to make it back to the river-mouth.

At a much earlier time, when he was mate on the Goldfield with his father as captain, they left Selkirk for Hecla Island. At about ten o'clock that evening a violent storm blew up from the north. They arrived safely, but some three days later the R.C.M.P. made inquiries of them about the weather on that fateful day. They were investigating the case of a little sail-boat that had left Grand Beach for the river-mouth with four boys and an instructor. Their boat had capsized and all its occupants were drowned.

One mother had, however, had some premonition of the disaster, for she had taken her son out of the group and sent him by train. He was the only one saved.

In his forty-three years of sailing, Clifford Stevens Sr. acquired a thorough knowledge of Lake Winnipeg and could navigate along both its shores, he discovered and pointed out five rocks not previously marked on charts. He also pointed out the desirability of setting up a buoy to mark the approach to the en-

trance of the Red River from the lake. This suggestion was adopted, and he received an award for it.

An incident from his days as fish inspector shows his close observation of conditions and a concern not widely felt then. In 1934-35 he went to Pine Falls on the Joe-Allan in the fall. Some six miles up the Winnipeg River he noticed a rim of two or three inches of the color of blue-stone all along the water-line, and scum of the same color on the water, as well as dead fish floating on its surface. He made a verbal report of this and its possibly deleterious effect on the sturgeon. However, in view of the importance of the Pine Falls industry to its workers, he was directed to make no written report of it. So this early attempt to call attention to the dangers of pollution went completely unheeded.

In his last sixteen years on the lake as captain of the Red River he did much dredging of the mouth of the Red River and felt shock at what he saw come down it. He would never touch a fish from its waters.

After serving thirty-five years as captain, he was forced into retirement in 1960 because of a rheumatic condition. His home, as before, is in Gimli.

—To be continued

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY Icelandic Canadian Fron

Last December 10th a large number of senior citizens and their friends were guests of Icelandic Canadian Fron, at the club's annual Christmas party, held in the lower auditorium of First Lutheran Church.

As the guests sat down to excellent refreshments, the club's president, Dr. Gestur Kristjansson, welcomed them

briefly and Pastor John V. Arvidson of First Lutheran Church read a Christmas story. With Mrs. Kristin Bjornson at the piano, the gathering joined in singing Christmas carols, led by a group from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. The group included Mrs. Roy Fallows, Valdine Scrymgeour, Mrs. Sigurlina Roed and Mrs. L. R. Morris.

EATON'S OF CANADA

By W. Kristjanson



Eaton's of Canada is Canada's largest general merchandise retailer. The company operates sixty full-line department stores in most major centres across the country. It is one of the world's largest privately owned companies.

The owners of this mammoth mercantile enterprise are the Eaton family of Toronto; Mrs. John David (nee Signy Stephenson) Eaton and her four sons, John Craig, Fridrik Stephan, Thor Edgar and George Ross. John Craig is Chairman of the Board of Eaton's of Canada (the holding company); Fridrik Stephan is the President of the T. Eaton Company (the operating company); Thor Edgar is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the T. Eaton Company; and George Ross is Deputy Chairman of the T. Eaton Company and Executive Vice-President of Eaton's of Canada.

On their father's side the four brothers are the great grandsons of Timothy Eaton, founder of the T. Eaton Company. Timothy was born in Ireland in 1834, and came to Canada in 1854.

His early experiences as shop apprentice in a market town near the Eaton farm were of 'hard knocks and unremitting toil'.

It took several years of frustrating labor in Canada to amass \$6,500 to establish his own store, opened in Toronto on the corner of Queen and Yonge on December 8, 1869. It was 24 by 60 feet and was staffed by two men, a woman and a boy.

This was only two years after Confederation and much business was carried on by barter and at a time when a buyer was fair game for whatever price a merchant could extract and when it was almost socially improper to pay for anything till much later.

Eaton's policies were almost revolutionary: cash only, one price plainly marked, goods satisfactory or money refunded, a square deal for everyone, a promise of not only bargains but that every article would be found just what it was guaranteed to be.



Timothy Eaton dreamed of a wide new type of enterprise rising strong and sure on the principle of 'A Square Deal for Everybody' — for his workers that they should have due leisure for home and recreation.

The T. Eaton Company grew. For example, from a single sewing machine grew the Eaton's clothing factories. The Eaton's mail order catalogue, introduced in 1884, opened a whole new market for long distance customers. The first big expansion took place when the Winnipeg store was opened in 1905. Other stores followed in other provinces. With the opening in Prince Edward Island in 1955, Eaton's had grown into a truly national organization, serving every province directly.

The most recent and crowning achievement is the beautiful Toronto Eaton Centre, the flagship store. It is the largest department store in Canada. The total Centre, including 300 stores, will cover 14.5 acres, or five city blocks. The main building is 400 feet long, 350 feet wide, and 105 feet to the roof. There are nine shopping levels, three of these underground, with one million square feet of retail display space. The office tower is 26 storeys. There are 2000 employees, including regular and occasional. The cost of the completed Centre will be \$250 million.

The Centre has the hallmark of innovation and creativity; it is entirely different from all the other Eaton stores. The facade is porcelain enamel steel, modelled with smooth curves! Inside is a glass enclosed rotunda; a soaring glass roof; broad open spaces, light and airy; beautiful landscaping, with banks of flowers, and trees growing out of the floor; and rock gardens. The total effect is artistic.

The Toronto Eaton Centre is much more than a beautiful building — it is a complete shopping environment where meet a flow of customers — more than 100,000 people daily are expected.

The Centre combines business with the idea of promoting revitalization of the City's downtown area. When the Holy Trinity Church property was acquired for the proposed Centre, the church was not torn down but was incorporated into the grounds.

Great oaks from little acorns grow. Eaton's of Canada commenced with a 24 by 60 foot store in 1869 — it has now grown into a commercial empire.

On their mother's side the four brothers are the grandsons of Fredrik Stephenson who came in 1876 at the age of seven with his mother from Iceland to Canada. At age 15 he entered the printing trade, and in time became Manager of Lögberg.

* * *

For an article on Signy Eaton, see *Icelandic Canadian*, Autumn 1959, pp. 18-22.

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JOHNNY AND HIS MUSICAL MATES

In a house in Riverton, Manitoba, in the early 1930s, Laugi Johannesson walked up to the front of a crowded room and tucked a violin under his chin. His two sons Johnny, aged 12 and Kris, aged 9, joined him in playing an old Icelandic song, "Um Draumsins Huldar Heim", later to become known as the "Gimli Waltz". The boys were taking lessons from the most accomplished violinist in the district, Johannes Palsson of Geysir. This was the beginning, when they first started to play for small gatherings. Ben Benedictson, another violinist also joined this group bringing along a piano player, his daughter Bentina. From this frontier town which had its beginnings 100 years ago, the musical group known as

"Johnny and His Musical Mates" was formed.

In 1941, the boys were seasoned performers and they talked their sisters Dorothy 13, and Sella 10 into joining them. Dorothy played the piano and Sella the Hawaiian guitar. They were then called the Riverton Orchestra, and began touring the neighbouring towns and small community halls. Adding more talented members to their group they welcomed accordion players Larus Bjornson from Arborg, and Alex Rundle and guitar player Axel Melsted of Arnes. In 1945 another family addition was made with 9-year-old Laugi who happily banged away on the drums. This was the establishment of the wonderful musical family, of whom their mom and dad



Johnny and His Musical Mates — Johnny Johannesson, violinist; Kris Johannesson, violinist; Sella Benedictson, drums; Kristine Collins, accordion; Harold Bjarnason, guitar; Kris Johannesson, guitar, and seated at the piano, Dorothy Johnson.

were very proud, and who loved to dance to the music of their children more than anyone else.

The five year period following the war witnessed the birth of the modern Johnny and His Musical Mates. An especially prominent addition was the guitar player and singer Harold Bjornson. Often the group were playing five nights a week in Riverton and surrounding places — Arborg, Geysir, Hnausa, Gimli, Hodgson and Hecla. During the summer months they played three nights a week in the Gimli Pavilion. These were the days when dancing was the rage, and talented musicians were in great demand. Many people have played with the group at different times. When Dorothy became too busy with her family, a locally famous piano player Daisy Jonasson took over for a four-year period and Paul Luprypa played his mandolin for a number of years.

One engagement they remember was a big summer dance in Hecla. Daisy, Johnny, Kris, Harold, and Laugi loaded their instruments onto Gordon Hirst's mailboat and cast off from the Riverton pier. Out on Lake Winnipeg the motor broke down and the boat began drifting. As the wind grew stronger and the waves got bigger the boys began to think this was the end, so they set up the band in a couple of net trays and began playing Over the Waves. That song to this day has remained very dear to their hearts. Finally a fishing boat picked them up just off Grindstone Point and they arrived in Hecla to begin playing for the dance at one o'clock in the morning.

The decade of the 1950's brought the era of the Geysir and Vidir Hall weekly dances. Everyone who lived in the district knew these places very well. Listening to the two records of the Musical Mates you can close your eyes and almost feel as if you were back in those

grand old days, dancing every dance in the Geysir Hall one weekend and Vidir Hall the next. Just about this time another sister Kristine joined the group with her accordion. Clarence Legary who played the alto sax was with the group for four years. More entertainment frills were added through the singing of Geraldine Bjornson, now Finnson, of Vidir and the harmonizing of Laugi and Einar Jonasson. The especially popular dances were the fox trot and even the butterfly and "we always called a square at Geysir Hall."

The Musical Mates during the past years have played on a less frequent basis, but they do play at old-time dances, weddings and community dances. Younger members of the Musical Mates' families have joined with their parents to keep up the fine tradition of providing music and entertainment for young and old.

The first record Johnny and his Musical Mates made was entitled "The Gimli Waltz". On this record they recorded such favorites as The Gimli Waltz, Guitar Polka, Over the Waves, Riverton Reel, Aurora Waltz and Andy's Schottische.

In honor of Riverton's Centennial, Johnny and His Musical Mates once again recorded their tribute to the community in which they grew up, and where they had contributed to the musical enjoyment of everyone. All of the group are married and have brought up their families in Riverton with the exception of Sella Benedictson who married a Riverton boy, but lives in Winnipeg. Favorites they have included on this record are Fingra Polka, Cross Country Waltz, Alice Blue Gown Waltz, M.M. Special Polka, Heel and Toe Polka and the Jenny Lind Polka plus others.

The Riverton Waltz was written around 1905 by Jonas Jonasson of Riverton. In 1970 arrangements were made by Amy E. Jonasson-Macdonald.

In the 1900's this waltz was played by Jonas T. Jonasson and his brother Joe T. who both played violins. Their sister Sigurbjorg played the guitar and their sister Rannveig the organ. This group played for many dances in those days.

The dance tunes played on this latest record are the types of dances the Icelandic settlers danced and played on their arrival in this district. Some of the dance tunes, the Vinikius, Seven Step, Mazurka and Fingra Polka were danced in Iceland.

Even though the Musical Mates are playing less frequently due to work commitments, etc., last spring the Old Timers Reunion Dance at the Gimli Pavilion was an evening of real recollection and enjoyment. Gustaf Finnson was floor manager and like the good old days, Gus, like years ago, called a square, and many fond memories were recalled as Johnny and His Musical Mates played favorite after favorite.

—Lake Centre News, April 19, 1977.



Mary Peterson, daughter of Halldor and the late Elizabeth Peterson, has received a special award for singing. The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto has awarded her the 1977 Gold Medal for obtaining the highest marks in Canada for her A.R.C.T. (Associate-ship Diploma) in vocal performance. Mary, a native of Gimli, received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Manitoba and is presently working towards her master's degree at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

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NEW MEDICAL PRODUCT CARRIES EXPANSION HOPE OF INDUS

By Paul Moloney

Indus Equipment Ltd. has come to a watershed in its 14-year history by embarking on production of a unique medical product expected to push sales to \$2 million next year from \$500,000 this year.

The product, a heat unit indicator for use with X-ray machines, promises significant medical and cost-saving benefits for hospitals around the world, says Jon G. Johnson, president of the Winnipeg company.

Aside from preventing cathode tube failure in X-ray machines, the indicator will ultimately monitor radiation levels so that patients and staff are protected from undue radiation, Johnson said.

The indicator, although expected to contribute 75 per cent of 1978 sales, is just one of several new high-technology

products Indus is developing. Johnson considers the company's philosophy of creating specialized, sophisticated products to fill otherwise-overlooked niches in the marketplace fits in well with Winnipeg's manufacturing strengths.

"We don't want to re-invent the wheel. We're looking for slots to fill, and unique opportunities," added Johnson's son Carl, who is vice-president, marketing.

Carl said the firm has from the start concentrated on developing expertise in marketing and production as well as development. Although \$130,000 a year is spent on development, "we're not simply developing a good product without knowing what to do with it."

The elder Johnson said, "the only way you can have a viable manufac-



The Winnipeg-based electronic firm, Indus Equipment Ltd., has reached a watershed with a unique medical product that carries the sales hopes of twin-brother vice-presidents Carl (left) and Peter Johnson. The family-owned company expects sales could leap from \$500,000 to \$2 million.

turing facility in this part of the world is to have a marketing capability, through distributors, with a highly-specialized product that is easily transported." He added that Winnipeg's geographic disadvantage means manufacturers can't compete in big-ticket items like airplanes and buses.

Johnson said his company is selective, but at the same time it is attracted to products that can become an integral part of larger products, like X-ray machines. As well, the larger manufacturers should be interested in large-scale marketing and distribution of Indus products.

This type of arrangement has been achieved for the heat unit indicator, said Johnson, an engineer who joined sons Carl and Peter after retiring four years ago as western district manager for Westinghouse Canada Ltd.

Indus was recently approached by six of the largest X-ray equipment-makers and two North American distributors interested in handling the unit.

But this state of affairs, which has the company poised on the brink of production, has not occurred overnight, Johnson said. The product has been about six years in development, with more than four years of testing now complete.

As well, the necessary transformation from a small to large-scale manufacturer will require a minimum of \$750,000 investment, a new plant and the addition over the next four years of 100 employees to the current 23-man staff.

Johnson said most of the financing is in place and the company is ready to proceed, contingent on the outcome of an application for a substantial grant from the federal department of regional economic expansion.

The company is seeking a 10,000 to 14,000-square-foot facility to replace its present quarters at 1326 Border St. in St. James. The magnitude of change that is required may look intimidating but Johnson said his company is sufficiently small and lean to adapt. "We've bit off a helluva big piece. But we can do it. You've got lots of flexibility when you're small."

Up to now, Indus has concentrated on designing and building electronic controls for refrigeration and hydro-electric uses. In fact, one of the compelling reasons for starting the firm in 1963 was the potential market for controls in Manitoba Hydro's massive northern power projects, said Carl Johnson.

This and other areas will be retained as the company branches into medical products, he said.

The heat unit indicator, invented by Bob Lafrance of the Health Sciences Centre radiology department, gives the firm at least a four year head start in the field, said Peter Johnson, vice-president, engineering and production.

Although a competitor has a similar product, it does not have the performance capability of the Indus unit, he said.

The unit has undergone four years of testing at the Health Sciences Centre and at the Manitoba Cancer Foundation. The indicator has extended cathode tube life to three years from six months. Since tubes cost \$4,000 to \$6,000 each, the \$3,000 indicator has produced significant cost savings.

The radiation monitoring feature, to be added within two years, is expected to increase patient and staff safety. Peter Johnson said that Dr. D. W. MacEwan, head of the Health Sciences Centre radiology department, will be

developing a paper on the device for the benefit of the medical profession.

Indus expects a substantial market will develop, in that the United States has passed legislation requiring such a device on that country's 80,000 X-ray machines, even though none was available.

Other medical products under development are a pediatric tidal volume indicator, which monitors the volume of air exhaled by patients, and a respiratory weaning device.

The latter product is necessary in that patients who have spent a long time under mechanical ventilation forget

how to breathe themselves, Johnson said. The mechanical system must therefore be shut off for short periods to force the person to breathe.

International distributors have also been lined up for these products, he said.

For the longer term, the company is interested in developing components for such things as heat pumps and electronics systems in automobiles. However, those projects will have to wait awhile, Johnson said.

—Winnipeg Free Press

ARNES FLYERS IN TV COMMERCIAL

For Geiri and Jim Johnson, father and son, bush flying operation at Arnes, Manitoba, and owners of Northway Aviation, their short adventure with a T.V. commercial about Canada Packers bacon, had very little to do with the bush flying operation that they operate year round.

What started with a phone call over a year ago from an advertising firm in Toronto, trying to locate a father and son bush flying operation, eventually led to the commercial that some of you have seen on T.V. Several people are seen in various parts of Canada, with their name and town shown on the T.V. screen, and each uses Canada Packers bacon. The shot of Geiri and Jim is seen in front of their plane on the ground, and then standing with their plane zooming off above them. All were filmed a year ago last March at their base 2 miles north of Arnes on Lake Winnipeg.

The father Geiri has been in business for 25-30 years, and first got started buying and picking up fish along the lake in a small single passenger plane.

From there the business grew, with young son Jim and his sister helping even though they weren't even in their teens. Jim, at age 7 or 8 knew how to refuel planes and how to cover them up. Both he and his sister got their pilots'



Geiri and Jim Johnson with one of their planes at Northway Aviation at Arnes.

licences during high school. Now the father and son operation has expanded to 7 planes, and 4 pilots. They are classified as a 3rd level air line. To understand this further, airlines like Air Canada and C.P. are class I while Trans Air would be considered class II and their operation in class III. They run a scheduled service into Winnipeg, and from there they fly to Bloodvein, which is 70 miles up on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and from there go on to Berens River, Poplar River, Big Black River, and then inland to Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids. Their cargo could be either passengers, or food packages, etc.

They also have a charter operation, and should you want to fly somewhere they have the planes to take you there. A list on the wall inside their office, gives you an idea of how much it will cost you to fly to a particular destination.

One of their more interesting jobs is flying survey for the government. One of the mysteries of the caribou was where they wandered to after calving time. Biologists caught some of them and attached collars around their necks that had little radio transmitters on them. With special equipment on the wings of their plane that looks like a T.V. antenna, the pilot and his conservationist are able to pick up the beep from the radio transmitter and follow the caribou, learning more about their natural habitat.

Trying to count the number of deer, moose, elk or caribou is another job that they do. Attached to one of the wings of the plane are 2 long rods which are a certain number of inches apart. Depending on how far apart and how high up the plane is, determines the area on the ground that is seen between these two sticks. Usually in ¼ mile segments, the animals are counted, and compari-

son between a ground count and an aerial count proved to be very little different.

Another facet of their operation is that they are on call 7 days a week to Manitoba Hydro to take personnel to some of the northern communities that have diesel units installed for power. If anything goes wrong or a part breaks down, they are immediately contacted to fly someone in to fix it.

Back in 1964, they started a fishing camp on Lake Sasaginnigak, and from that initial operation they grew to include an out camp at Charron Lake and another out camp at Lake Apisko. The out camps accommodate from 8-12 people each, while the original camp on Lake Sasaginnigak can handle anywhere from 45-50 people. Everything is supplied except food, and that is left up to you. You have to of course bring your own fishing equipment, and to the Americans who are the majority of the guests, this is no problem. Some of their guests are repeaters from many years, and some book 2 years in advance, coming from Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. The Johnsons don't advertise or put out brochures, but rely on one of the best advertising gimmicks of a happy satisfied customer, which must account for the fact that already 6 months before the season begins they are 90% booked up for the month of June. The flight to the main camp is about 40 minutes from their sea plane base at Riverton. Jake Thorsteinson is their camp manager, and during the winter he works out at their base at Arnes.

Geiri spent 14 years in the Yellowknife country during the 30's and remembers when Max Ward was starting one of his many airlines, and can recall when he went bankrupt. One of the planes that Mr. Johnson purchased was from one of Max Ward's airlines, and Mr. Johnson had it up until about 3

years ago when he sold it to someone in Teulon.

One of the planes that they have is a Beaver, equipped with everything, and while we were in the hangar, I was asked "how much do you think these skis cost." After hearing what the plane was worth I ventured a guess of \$20,000. Joking, I said is that each or for the pair. The skis were the *creme de la creme* of flying, with both hydraulic and shock absorbers so that when they touched down, you get a very smooth landing.

The Johnsons have a very slick opera-

tion, with their 7 yellow planes, ready for charter, schedule or emergency. Not only do they facilitate a great need for the smaller communities that are almost inaccessible, but they bring a lot of pleasure to the tired businessman, who wants a few hours or a weekend of fishing, at a distant lake, where he can unwind against a painted sky dotted with some of the prettiest scenery anywhere.

—Lake Centre News
February 8, 1977.

ARBORG AIRPORT COMMISSION ESTABLISHED

With the formation of the Bifröst Municipal Airport Commission on September 14, 1977 the way has been paved for the establishment of a licensed airport in Arborg. The appointed members of the Commission are Siggí Wopnford, Leifer Fridfinnson, Clifford Holm, Frank Fiarchuk, and Jerry Helgason. They will oversee the development of the airport and will administer government grants that are available for the development of licensed airports.

The physical work will be done by the Arborg and District Flying Club, an extremely active group of pilots and interested citizens of the local area. This club was formed in April 1976 and in little more than a year and a half raised more than \$2,500 to help towards the airport development. They have been well supported within the community, with their raffles, dances and fair rides.

The club acquired the site for the airport 3½ miles west of Arborg and has done much work on the 40 acre property already. They hope that the airport will be useable next summer, work having

been delayed this year by the very wet summer and fall. The 2,500 foot runway has already been surveyed and sketches have been drawn for the layout of a clubhouse, fuel pumps and hangars.

The airport, when finally established by the efforts of these club members and with the help of many of the community tradesmen, construction companies and individual citizens, will belong to the community, and not the club. However, contrary to the belief of some citizens of the Municipality of Bifröst, the airport will in no way be applied to their taxes. There is an annual government grant available to maintain licensed airports. The club will also continue to raise money to upgrade and improve the facilities available.

Arborg is following in the footsteps of all other Northern Interlake towns including Lundar, Ashern, Gypsumville and Riverton but with this active club the airport will rate among the best of any of the smaller airports in the Interlake or the Province.

—Lake Centre News.

SONNET VIII

Paul Sigurdson [1959]

There is no change in life can alter you,
 Face will be fair, and cheek as tinct as now;
 Tresses will glow in sun or moonlight-hue,
 And fineness is set ever on your brow.
 Nor can Time's lust consume your Venus-form,
 Nor mar your features with a ruthless claw;
 Nor shall vile thoughts and evil passions worm
 To spoil that grace bestowed by Virtue's law.
 All, all you own since from the sea you sprung —
 Your guarded womb, your tender white embrace;
 Vouchsafed of God, forever warm and young,
 With soul: antithesis to the bestial race.
 Though maids must forfeit youth and maidenhead,
 Pure maidenhood with God as one is wed.

* * *

SONNET IX

Paul Sigurdson [1960]

To know! And more to seek, and more to find!
 Those thoughts which set no boundary to the sky
 Keep sounding deeper in the caverned mind,
 Teased by the meaning of eternal "why".
 The moon is not the ending of the quest;
 Nor Freudian roiling in the mind's dark deep;
 Nor will ten million answers warrant rest,
 For those who trade a searcher's lust for sleep.
 For thought, more thought and mightier mystery shows;
 More slips to depths with every fact upturned;
 And ignorance in step with knowledge grows:
 And least is certain where the most is learned:
 Till time will end and leave the world to fire;
 Ending all thought, all flesh, all man-desire.

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BOOK REVIEW

A Valuable Addition to
Icelandic-Canadian History

By Nelson Gerrard

RIVERTON AND THE ICELANDIC RIVER SETTLEMENT — THE EARLY YEARS, by Steinn O. Thompson. Riverton, Thordis Thompson, 1976. 411 pp.

"On Friday, the first of September, 1876, we left Gimli with some of our goods and reached the Icelandic River on Saturday. We left there again the same day, and arrived back at Gimli during the next night, after ten hours of travel. We stayed there for one day. On the fifth of September we left again for the Icelandic River, with a good deal of goods and flour plus 27 people on one large boat. This boat appeared rather poorly made and was overloaded. Presently, a strong wind came up and we hoisted a sail, but the lake became very rough and people were getting sea-sick, so we were forced in to shore between Arnes and Gimli. We managed to unload the boat, although the waves were sometimes over our heads. The wind was from the East and therefore blowing straight in to shore, with the waves like ocean breakers because the lake is so wide. The east side can not be seen. We were seven men, with Jon a Borg as the eighth, but he was crippled by a hand infection. The boat filled with water while we were unloading and our clothes became wet, but we managed to get it up on the beach. Because it was old and made of light wood, it was badly damaged, so that it was impossible to proceed further until we could repair the seams . . . On the 11th we reached the Icelandic River with

our womenfolk and all our belongings. There were two more dead."

The foregoing is an excerpt from the 'dagbok' or journal of Thorgrimur Jonsen, one of the original pioneers who settled along the banks of the Icelandic River in 1876. This account, as translated here, is taken from one of the many informative chapters of the recently released book, **Riverton and the Icelandic Settlement** by Steinn Olafur Thompson, M.D., a long-time resident of the Riverton district.

This historically valuable and long awaited publication covers many aspects of life in, and related to, the Icelandic River Settlement around the community of Riverton in Manitoba's Interlake. The period covered extends from early pioneer settlement there in 1876, to the developments of recent years; the saga of a century of settlement in this historically rich district.

The well researched chapters include a wealth of information on such topics as early settlement, the government loan, **Framfari**, government in New Iceland, the fishing, farming, freighting and lumbering industries, education, church history and social activities. **Riverton and the Icelandic Settlement** is the end result of extensive research in these areas. The author has relied not only on former writings and the verbal accounts of eye and ear witnesses, but largely on original documentation and records contemporary to the events described. In addition to this he possessed 50 years of first-hand experience as the only doctor in the area.

This history, written in a flowing and readable style, covers over 400 pages and is sparsely illustrated with pictures of community groups, individuals and local landmarks.

The chapters on the early settlement years are highlighted by a partial register of lands and occupants in the Icelandic River Settlement (compiled in 1964). This includes the Icelandic farm names and many dates. The inconsistency in case form of the Icelandic place names, common to most works written in English about Icelandic subject matter, is hardly a flaw to diminish the book's historical value or detract from the credit due those responsible for this commendable contribution to Icelandic-Canadian and Manitoban history.

The manuscript of **Riverton and the Icelandic Settlement**, which was not fully completed when the late Dr.

Thompson passed away, was edited and prepared for print by Mrs. Thordis (Eyjolfsson) Thompson, herself the daughter of Icelandic pioneer families of the district. The book is published "as a tribute to the people of Riverton on the centennial of the Icelandic River Settlement, and in grateful memory of Steinn O. Thompson, M.D., who served the area for almost 50 years".

On the opening page of the book is the following quotation: "Something of the past should remain alive in the present, so that there can be tested ground from which to grow in the future". **Riverton and the Icelandic Settlement** provides a readable and reliable source from which this "something of the past" can be drawn, and as such will ensure that this past continues to remain alive in the present and in the future.

HENRY EINARSON APPOINTED TO CANADA GRAIN COUNCILS COMMITTEE

Henry John Einarson, Progressive Conservative, M.L.A. for Rock Lake, was born September 11, 1918, in Winnipeg, and attended the public school at Glenboro, Manitoba (Frey School), and received his high school instruction through correspondence.

Mr. Einarson is a farmer, and has served as director of the Consumer Co-Op of Glenboro and secretary of the Pool Elevator board. He served with the Royal Canadian Artillery in Canada from 1941 to 1945 and with the reinforcements overseas in 1944-45.

He began his political career as president of the Rock Lake Progressive Conservative Association from 1962 to 1966 and president of the Lisgar Pro-

gressive Conservative Association from 1963 to 1966. First elected to the Manitoba Legislature for Rock Lake in 1966, he has been re-elected since for the same constituency.

Mr. Einarson served as a member on the advisory board of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation and secretary and trustee for Grund Lutheran Church.

He has a wife, Willa Jean, and four children. Last January Mr. Einarson was appointed to the Canada Grains Council's grain handling and transportation committee. The function of the committee is to review issues such as grain handling facilities, branch lines and the Crow's Nest rates.

WINNIPEG SOPRANO IN RECITAL AT WINNIPEG ART GALLERY



Doreen Borgford Joachim of Winnipeg was presented in solo recital in the Muriel Richardson Auditorium of the Winnipeg Art Gallery on December 8, 1977. Miss Joachim, a lyric soprano, has had an impressive musical career. After taking private vocal studies in Winnipeg, Calgary and Toronto, she furthered her education at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music-Opera. These studies were supplemented with two summers at the Banff School of Fine Arts, as well as drama and language studies were supplemented by two addition to three scholarships, Doreen was the winner of the City of Calgary Performing Arts Award.

She has completed two seasons with the Canadian Opera Company, has per-

formed with the Edmonton Opera Company and the Banff Opera Centre Tours. Her performance on C.B.C., recitals for the C.T.V. Network, and her numerous concerts have won praise from coast to coast.

When she came to Winnipeg, she was concluding a recital tour of Western Canada. In some of the reviews from Calgary, Vancouver and Nanaimo, her voice has been described as magnificent, full-bodied, and of rich resonance.

At the Winnipeg concert only about forty people were present. This was due partly to the fact that it was a very cold, stormy night, and partly due to the fact that the Art Gallery advertising of the event left much to be desired.

Doreen sang a group of Icelandic songs with warm lyric expression; a cycle of songs by Hector Berlioz; and some spirited opera selections. The second half of the program began with a song cycle composed by her accompanist, Charles M. Wilson, which she sang with charm and animation as she also did the next two groups; songs by Aaron Copland, and songs by Charles Ives. In these pieces — especially the latter group — she showed a graceful stage presence.

Following the recital there was a small reception with coffee and vinarterta. Doreen is the daughter of Eddie and Jean (Tackaberry) Borgford of Winnipeg. Eddie is originally from Arborg.

—Holmfridur Danielson.

NEWEST STAMP ISSUE PORTRAYS SAILING SHIPS

The third annual set of four Canadian ships stamps has been issued. This year the theme was uniquely Canadian sailing vessel types.

A total of 26 million stamps will be printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa, using one color steel engraving plus five color lithography. Tom Bjarnason of Toronto, the artist of the two previous sets, is also responsible for the current set.

In 1975 and 1976 the ship sets were very popular and sold out very quickly. There seems to have been some attempt to corner the market and prices went up very high and very fast. This year, in order to prevent speculation, dealers are not being allowed to increase their ordinary orders for this issue.

—Winnipeg Tribune.



"I've never seen anything like this," 83-year-old Henry Hunter said, surveying the scene in the central Post Office yesterday.

A lineup of more than 100 people, starting at the three philatelic counters, wound back and forth around pillars in the office almost to the front doors. Stamp collectors, dealers or friends of stamp collectors stood in the first-day queue to buy their quota of the new 12-


cent sailing vessel stamps being issued by the Post Office.

—Globe and Mail.

* * *

Earlier references to Tom Bjarnason appeared in *The Icelandic Canadian* Autumn, 1969, p. 20, and Winter 1976, p. 14.

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A TRIBUTE TO JOHN STEPHENSON VALBERG 1894 - 1977

John Stephenson Valberg was born in Iceland. The family emigrated to the Thingvalla district near Churchbridge in 1900, where his brothers still reside on the homestead.

In 1927 he married Sigurose Vigfuson.

After working for the Ford Motor Co. in Detroit, he joined the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in 1928 as a grain buyer in Churchbridge. He then worked for the Pool in Saltcoats and subsequently as a superintendent in Wadena and Canora. In 1950 he became a Divisional Head for the Saskatchewan Pool Elevator Co. in Regina.

Tributes paid to John Valberg by his fellow workers exemplify his qualities: "We know that you will always be the John Valberg who is tolerant and has the rare gift of human understanding . . ."; "Your quiet disposition, as well as your sound judgment and advice have been greatly appreciated over the years. We feel privileged to have been associated with you".

John Valberg embodied the Icelandic respect for learning and was himself an intelligent, largely self-educated man. He encouraged his sons to become educated and they attended Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, where they obtained their medical degrees. Following his retirement in 1959 he golfed, curled, was an avid sports fan, kept abreast of political events, and enjoyed his friends and family. He was an active member of the Masonic Lodge.

He was a kind and gentle man, loved by all who knew him.

W. K.

HÖFN

The residents of the Icelandic Home Höfn were entertained on several occasions during the Christmas season. The Choir from the Lutheran Church of Christ contributed a selection of English and Icelandic Hymns and Christmas carols on December 18 and later that evening the annual Christmas party for the residents was held. On December 20 many of the residents enjoyed a bus tour to see the Christmas lights and displays.

GRADUATE OF NURSING

Cheryl Magnusson, R.N., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Magnusson of Gimli, graduated recently from the Misericordia School of Nursing in Winnipeg. Cheryl is presently on the nursing staff at the Betel Home in Gimli.

Lake Centre News.

THE VIDIR, MANITOBA, LADIES AID PUBLISH A LOCAL HISTORY

Renewed interest has been shown in the book "Beyond The Marsh" which was published by the Vidir Ladies Aid in 1970. After a lot of research, gathering of photos, proof reading and preparation the group published a history of three rural school districts, Vidir, Lowland and Sylvan Glade. There are 222 pages and 200 pictures in the book. Copies have been sold to numerous countries, and the last order was sent to the Mormons in Utah, U.S.A. It may still be ordered from the president Miss Halla Magnusson, Box 688, Arborg, Man.

The Vidir Ladies Aid is a very busy and active group, working hard for the Vidir Hall, the Arborg Memorial Hospital and giving yearly donations to the Manitoba Red Cross, Cancer Fund, Manitoba Heart Fund and other worthy organizations. —The Lake Centre News

JOHNSON NAMED SPECIAL ADVISER

Winnipeg physician Dr. George Johnson, a former Conservative health minister, is lending a hand to present Health Minister L. R. (Bud) Sherman as a special adviser on medical matters.

Sherman announced the appointment of Johnson, health minister from 1958 to 1961 and from 1968 to 1969, effective Feb. 1.

Johnson, 57, will examine several issues as special projects at Sherman's request, ranging from rationalization of bed totals in hospitals and other health care facilities to a much-needed review of legislation in the health field, the announcement said.

Sherman said the appointment reflects the government's recognition of the urgency of a number of issues in the

health care field and its view that Johnson's experience will be useful in the development of government policies in these areas.

Johnson's work should assure Manitobans of health care policies that will guarantee a high quality of medical care and make best uses of available resources he added.

Johnson was a member of the provincial cabinets of former premiers Duff Roblin and Walter Weir from 1958 until 1969, when he didn't seek re-election. Since that time he has practised medicine in Winnipeg and holds senior appointments at several Winnipeg hospitals and health care facilities.

—Winnipeg Free Press, Feb. 8 1978

RUDY BRISTOW, OF WINNIPEG, RETURNS FROM TOUR OF DUTY IN S.E. ASIA

Rudy Bristow, a native of Gimli and his wife Sigrun have recently returned from Bangkok, Thailand where he was based while working for the World Health Organization. He was one of a two-member team that went to Southeast Asia to help WHO member countries there to become self-sufficient in the practice and teaching of health planning and health systems management. Rudy's tour of duty covered Burma, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Dr. Bristow, director of the facilities division of the Manitoba Health Services Commission, has been with the MHSC since 1962 except for a 2½ year period between 1968 and 1970. He served as an accountant, hospital consultant and manager of hospital budgets before being appointed as director of finance in

September 1972. He was appointed director of administration June 1, 1974. He took leave of absence in August 1975 to work for WHO and rejoined MHSC in September, 1977.

Upon completing his 2-year tour of duty, enroute home Rudy and Sigrun travelled through Greece, Yugoslavia; visited the U.N. Headquarters in Geneva; London, and Iceland where they met Sig's cousin, George Hanson of Chicago.

Rudy and Sig's daughter, Dori-Anne spent her summer break from university with her parents in Thailand.

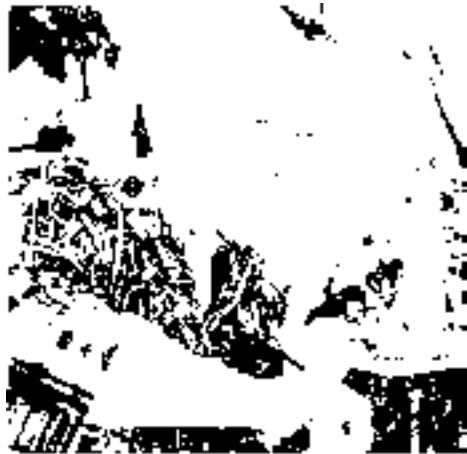
Rudy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bristow of Gimli and Sigrun the daughter of Margaret and the late Dori Björnson of Riverton, Manitoba.

—Lake Centre News, Nov. 22, 1977.

Reflexology

WIGGLING OF LITTLE TOE GIVES SHOULDER RELIEF

By Steve Whysall



Allah Verner

"Oh my God!" the man screams, squirming in agony and his face glowing bright red.

He holds his big fleshy hand over his eyes, tries to cover his face, but his mouth is still visible — taut and twisted with pain.

"Ouch!" he groans again, and tiny shiny beads of perspiration break out across his blush-pink forehead.

Grey-haired Allah Verner, grandmotherly at 75 and as warm and good-humored as a Christmas party, continues rubbing and wiggling the man's little toe. His huge body of 300 pounds or more is supported horizontally in an old lazy-boy chair.

"How does that feel?" Allah asks.

"Good," he says, "but my shoulder, ooh my shoulder feels so stiff. I fell on it, you know."

Watching the man's face, she begins massaging a bony area beneath his little toe. She presses firmly, and he suddenly cries out as if someone had pushed

his hand into boiling water or something.

"Now lift your arm," Allah tells him.

"No, I can't."

"You'll find it's all right now," she reassures him.

The man arcs his arm into the air. "It feels good. It feels really good."

For more than five years, Allah Verner has been tweeking and twisting toes to relieve arthritis, migraine headaches, rheumatism, and countless other general aches and pains.

The technical name for what she does is reflexology, a Chinese art not so different in principle from acupuncture, which maintains that the human foot is the key to good health and the relief of physical pain.

Reflexologists believe each part of the foot represents another specific area or organ. For instance, the side of the big toe represents the head and neck, so headaches and stiff necks are treated by carefully massaging it. The centre of the big toe corresponds to the pituitary gland and the toes themselves represent the sinuses.

Pressuring a certain point on the foot can manipulate blood circulation to relieve — even cure — ailments including heart, liver and bladder complaints, reflexologists claim.

"There are 72,000 nerve endings in the feet. If I press in the right spot I can ease a pain elsewhere in the body," Mrs. Verner says. "It's really all to do with the circulation. People today com-

plain about rheumatism, or arthritis but it's just nerves and circulation."

For 47 years, Allah Verner was a dress-maker at her home on McMillan Avenue. But an inability to sit because of severe back pains forced her to stop and led her to reflexology.

In her living room, cluttered with books, ornaments, old photographs and all sorts of curious oddments, are two reflexology diplomas hung on a side wall. Doctors don't officially recognize reflexology, but that doesn't worry Mrs. Verner or those who come to her each day.

"Over the years, I have helped thousands of people," she says. "One man had leg cramps all his life, but they disappeared after the fourth time I worked on his feet."

Mrs. Verner mothers all her patients. She welcomes them with a warm smile and a sincere inquiry after their health.

"So how are your feet today?" she asks a tall thin man arriving for weekly treatment.

"Oh, not bad," he says, non-committal.

"Okay, get your socks off and let's have a look at you," she tells him.

Ten minutes later, the man is smiling, and says his feet feel much better.

Mrs. Verner thinks if everyone could do reflexology there would be less illness.

"It's so sad that someone will work themselves into a stomach condition or something when they can do something about it."

Before I leave, she offers a free treatment. "I don't want to feel any pain," I said.

"You won't feel any if there's nothing wrong," she said.

For 10 minutes, she slapped and massaged my feet, prodding and pinching and poking each toe in turn.

"How does that feel?" she asks.

"It reminds me of my childhood. This little piggy and all that. It feels great."

—Winnipeg Free Press.

Allah Verner is a daughter of the late Olafur and Ardis Olafson, originally of Piney, Manitoba, and in later years of Selkirk, Manitoba.

—Editor

INTERLAKE TOWN, VILLAGE, AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

The following Icelandic names have been noted in the list of Members of Interlake Town, Village and Municipal Councils, as published in the *Lake Centre News*, Christmas issue, 1977.

R.M. of Bifröst

Reeve. S. G. Wopnford; Secretary-Treasurer, E. Gislason; Councillors, G. E. Helgason and G. Gudmundson.

R.M. of Coldwell

Reeve, J. S. Sigurdson; Secretary-Treasurer, T. Hjartarson; Councillors, H. B. Backman and J. G. Stefansson.

R.M. of Gimli

Reeve, R. Sigurdson.

R.M. of Siglunes

Councillors, B. Bjornson, P. Johnson and G. Jonsson.

Town of Gimli

Mayor, T. Arnason; Councillor, R. H. Magnusson.

Village of Riverton

Mayor, Victor J. Sigurdson; Secretary-Treasurer, T. B. Bjarnason; Councillors, K. B. Thorarinson and A. Grimolfson.

Village of Teulon

Councillors, H. Solmundson and H. Kernested.

DOLL CLUE**VIKINGS 'ARRIVED AHEAD'**

OTTAWA (CP) — Evidence that the Vikings travelled to southern Baffin Island at least 200 years before Columbus discovered America has been found by two Michigan State University archaeologists working in Canada under a U.S. National Science Foundation grant.

The announcement was made simultaneously Friday by the university and the foundation, and by the National Museum of Man here, to which a wooden doll carved by a Thule Eskimo in the 13th century will be delivered after research work on it is complete.

Finding Eskimo-carved dolls in the Arctic regions of Canada is not rare, but this one, which measures about 5.5 centimeters, shows a man in the costume of a Viking or Norseman. He is wearing a long tunic, with a cross on the breast, such as Norsemen wore at that time.

The discovery was made last summer near Lake Harbor by Deborah Sabo, of Detroit, a graduate student of Arctic archaeology at Michigan State working on her master's degree, and her husband, George Sabo, a doctoral candidate in the same field.

The doll and other artifacts found in the digging are the property of the Canadian government and while they are now at the Michigan State University in East Lansing, they will be returned to Canada.

The Vikings are known to have had settlements in Greenland and in Newfoundland, and to have had contact with the Eskimos of Labrador, but this is the first evidence of Eskimo art in Baffinland depicting a Viking.

The Eskimos carved many small dolls — usually unclad female figures — but it is not known for what purpose,

whether as toys, charms, or religious idols.

The doll of a Viking is carved in wood, probably spruce or larch though the university suggested it might be fir. It had been preserved for hundreds of years in



This prehistoric Inuit carving, found last July on Baffin Island, is believed to be the first concrete evidence of Vikings having been west of Greenland and the northern tip of Newfoundland. Carving shows what is believed to be a 13th-century Viking wearing a pectoral cross.

The Province, Vancouver.

permafrost in the remains of an Eskimo house.

A museum official said it seems that at that time, the climate of the Canadian Arctic was milder than it is now, and Eskimos built semi-permanent winter houses using whalebone ribs as rafters, covered with hides and sod. The houses were partly excavated and built in pits.

When one was abandoned, it collapsed and the permafrost level under it rose to preserve all the artifacts left behind.

The doll's face is featureless, like other Eskimo dolls, but the tunic is incised, probably with a sharp-edged piece of stone, to show what was probably an embroidered border and chest decoration.

The tiny cross is distinct. Vikings were Christians from about the year 1000 AD, and the doll's costume was identified as Norse by three Danish and Canadian experts.

—Vancouver Sun, Feb. 4

"MAMA"

What was so significant about our Mother's life? She was born in the little town of Glenboro, Manitoba, on December 19, 1884. Was it the fact that she lived for almost 91 years? Were these the most meaningful things of all in her long life, that on January 14, 1907, she married Dad and honeymooned in B.C. — where six years later she and Dad moved with their three sons? Or the fact that she raised four sons and three daughters through the very difficult years of the Depression, and then had to face the loss of her husband in 1949 and that of her son in 1951? What was so remarkable about our gracious Mother? Was it her capacity to work along with Dad to nurture her large family and still have time to care for others, as well as to attend Worship services and participate in Church and community activities and, of course, to play her favorite game of Bridge?

Yes, it was all of these things — but more especially — it was her gentleness,

humility and serenity that so endeared her to her family, relatives and friends. Her way of life brings to mind Scriptures like these: 'Be still and know that I am God', and 'In quietness and confidence shall be your strength'. Her strong faith and inner strength sustained her throughout her long life. This faith gave her a peaceful and forgiving spirit, and a love and joy which she expressed, especially in her radiant smile, even during her lengthy period in hospital.

Everyone, especially her children, her nine grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren, and her Pastor, loved her and enjoyed visiting her — because of her willingness to listen, as well as her sense of humour.

We are all indeed thankful for the warmth of her love and for the joy and strength she has given us. We know that we can never really be separated from her and from her loving qualities.

K.C.

NEWS

Betel Home, Gimli, News

Dec. 5, 7:30 — The Lutheran Ladies Aid of Arnes brought a special entertainment for us. Five little girls sang Christmas carols in Icelandic and English, and the tiniest of them all recited in Icelandic the "Fjallkona", Maid of the Mountains; we had not seen these little girls before, but many of us remembered the great-grandparents, who would have been very pleased to hear them. Mrs. Snjolaug Peterson recited the Christmas story, and reminisced about Christmas in our childhood — the candles and the spruce aroma. Three of the five girls are Hurdal. Their mother is Phyllis (nee Borgford). Often we meet ourselves coming back, counting the ties on the old railroad track.

—Helga Jacobson in
the Lake Centre News

★ ★ ★

Dr. G. Myrdal is the President of the Scandinavian Male Voice Choir of Winnipeg.

★ ★ ★



FIVE GENERATIONS

Johanna Solvason, 104 years old in 1977. From left to right: Margaret Scheller, great granddaughter; Pamela Scheller, great great granddaughter; Thelma Gillis, granddaughter; Salborg Mercer, daughter.

NORDIC MUSEUM

The following items from the **Scandinavian News**, of Winnipeg will stimulate thought regarding the value and possibilities of museums.

Nordic Museum — A Museum for Scandinavian artifacts is vital for preserving Scandinavian way of life, culture, literature, music and customs. If these precious legacies left to us by our ancestors are not appreciated and salvaged by someone, the dreams and ambitions of our forefathers will be lost. From little acorns mighty oak trees grow, and so it can be with this project. Someone has to mould the inception of this facility, nourish it and watch it grow. To date, a number of Danish books have been received from the Anna Laursen estate, a letter-opener purchased in Finland by the late Judge W. J. Lindal and an old Netherlands coin were donated by Mrs. Grace Hykawy. Anything old will be accepted, tagged, numbered and filed to wait for its place in a Scandinavian Museum. For further information please call Mrs. Rose Peterson at 832-1377. Register your support (or opposition) with us.

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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
IN CANADA

The aims of the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA) and some of the achievements of the United Nations are set forth in a recent letter from the Winnipeg Branch of the UNA. This merits the serious attention of the readers of **The Icelandic Canadian**.

The United Nations Association in Canada is a national organization operating through its branches across Canada.

The UNA, like its counterparts in other UN countries, is a non-governmental, voluntary organization maintained by membership fees and donations, and the contribution by **Volunteers** of many hours of time and talent and expertise.

The aims of UNA are —

- to study and foster public awareness of international relationships and of Canada's role in the United Nations;
- to furnish information, to provide educational programmes, to stimulate public interest in the United Nations and its specialized agencies;
- to foster mutual understanding, goodwill and co-operation between Canadians and people of other countries;
- to study international problems in relation to Canada, to consider alternatives and recommend possible courses of action, to seek public and government support for policies so recommended and for other policies approved by UNA.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The UN helps the homeless. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has helped 200,000 displaced persons resettle in Africa, and 215,000 in Asia.

The UN Bridges the illiteracy gap. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has trained more than 64,000 teachers and educational planners in low income countries.

The UN fights famine. By providing technical assistance and research, the Food and Agricultural Organization is promoting modern agricultural techniques, better plant strains, better irrigation and soil management, better food processing, storage and distribution.

The UN brings milk to the world's children. The United Nations Children's Fund has helped to set up 220 milk processing plants in 45 countries for cheap and sanitary distribution of this important source of protein.

The UN helps provide clean water. Nearly 90% of rural populations in developing countries drink tainted water — a leading cause of sickness and death. The United Nations Environment Programme has mounted a drive with other international agencies to deliver safe, potable water. UNEP also keeps track of pollutants in the oceans, the atmosphere and on earth to provide scientists with an accurate picture of our planet's health.

The UN helps people help themselves. Last year the United Nations Development Program sent more than 9,800 experts to work on 7,600 projects in 144 countries and territories.

The above are quotations from a notable speech by Mr. Doug Roche, MP in the House of Commons, October 18th, 1976.

The Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia News

In her Membership Report, Mrs. Alda Steele noted that the Club finished the past season with 362 paid members plus about 20 Honorary and Life Members for a total membership of 382. This shows an approximate 10% increase in membership in the last year.

Membership dues totalled \$1,776.00.

Dr. Robert Helgason and Mrs. Olaf Eyford presided over the presentation of three \$200 scholarships to deserving students of Icelandic descent.

Entrance Award — Nancy Henderson. Nancy is attending the University of B.C., in the first year of a general Arts program.

Undergraduate Award — Jill Tomason. Jill is enrolled in the honors B.A. course in English.

Undergraduate Award — Joanne Bjarnason. Joanne's main interest has been Science and after completing her degree she hopes to enter dentistry.

Each scholarship winner was presented with a copy of the book **Icelandic Folk Tales and Fairy Stories**, as a gift from the club.

The Club executive for 1977-78 is as follows: President, Robert Asgeirsson; Vice-President, Mrs. Laura Brandson; Secretary, Mrs. Beverly Cornish; Treasurer, Mrs. Nina Jobin; Membership, Mrs. Alda Steele; Assistant Mem-

bership, Mrs. Elizabeth Brandson; Convenor, Mrs. Linda Asgeirsson; Publicity, Mrs. Sandra Robson; Directors-At-Large — Larry Brandson, Bill Steele, Gustav Tryggvason.

* * *

VIKING AWARDS

Scandinavian Centre (Winnipeg) Viking awards "are given to people who have earned them by their unselfish donation of time, energy and of themselves".

Recipients of the Viking Award in 1977 include Magnus Eliason and Mrs. L. Sveinsson, of Winnipeg. Previous recipients are Svein Sveinsson and Alex Jonasson.

Svein Sveinsson has been re-elected to the Scandinavian Centre Board of Directors to represent the Icelanders.

* * *

MRS. RAE VALGARDSON HONORED ON RETIREMENT

A retirement dinner was held for Mrs. Rae Valgardson, on the evening of Nov. 22nd, at Minerva Hall. Mrs. Valgardson had been Manager of the Gimli Credit Union, 1956-1977 and was honored by many former and present members of the Board, committees and staff.

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GIMLI, MANITOBA

STAFHOLT NEWS

Icelandic Flag at Staffholt

We apologize to the Icelanders who may have driven by and noticed the Icelandic flag is not flying. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the end of the rope has flown up to the top of the pole, and so far no one has been brave enough to shinny up and get it. As soon as a brave seagull happens along and assists us, we will again be flying the Icelandic red, white and blue.

There is an Icelandic Element Here

A dance was held Nov. 22. The entertainment was the Blaine Center Harmonica Band: Walter Horgdal on fiddle, Halldor Johnson on piano, Trav Skallman, Bessie Lamoreaux, Arni Horgdal, Jeannie Kemp, Milt Garland on mouth harps. We had a jolly good time doing the Turkey Trot. Thanks to Elvira for the cupcakes she baked and decorated for the occasion.

Thursday Dec. 29 we were entertained by the Unitarian Choir, led by Elias Breidford. Their performance was beautiful, of course they always put on such a nice program. They did Christmas carols in both English and Icelandic. We look forward to their return next year.

* * *

NEWS NOTES

Richard Johann Gillis of Theodore, Saskatchewan, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, with Bachelor of Music Education degree, with distinction. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gillis of Theodore.

Fred Eyolfson, Manager of Winnipeg International Airport since 1975, who has been on sick leave for several months, has now relinquished that post. He has established a travel agency at Lundar which he will operate in partnership with his wife.

R.S. (Bob) Solmundsson, B.Sc., C.E. '63 University of Manitoba, has been appointed by Underwood McLellan & Associates of Winnipeg, as Chief Engineer, municipal department, environmental services division, Manitoba and North West Ontario.

Skapti (Scotty) Borgford is a school trustee in Winnipeg School Division No. 1.

Robert J. Johannson, B.Sc., M.E. '62, University of Manitoba, is Zone Service Manager, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, for General Motors of Canada, Winnipeg.

Fred Ruppel, B.Sc., Pharm., of Winnipeg, has been appointed Technical Director, Steifel Laboratories (Canada) Ltd., in Montreal.

Donald K. Johnson, B.Sc., E.E. '57, University of Manitoba, is Director, Institutional Equity Services, Burns Fry, Ltd., Toronto.

E.E. Erlendson, C.A. '60, of Winnipeg has been appointed President of the Sarnia Chamber of Commerce, Sarnia, Ontario.

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BALDUR

The original hundred Argyle parishioners worshipped for five years in schools and homes until they agreed on a location for their Icelandic church, now the oldest in Canada.

In 1888, members of the Argyle parish, attending the Icelandic Lutheran Synod Convention in Mountain, North Dakota, invited the conventioners to their church for the next year's meeting. This showed great self-confidence, since the parishioners had no church. The following year, a two-acre Grund, a "grassy rise above a body of water", was purchased for \$10 and the Grund Frelsis Lutheran Church was built. Although this church has not seen regular use since 1965, the original organ can still be heard at funerals, weddings and confirmations. Now a provincial historic site, it is the oldest standing Icelandic church in Canada, lasting proof of traditional Icelandic craftsmanship.

MANITOBA GOVERNMENT TRAVEL