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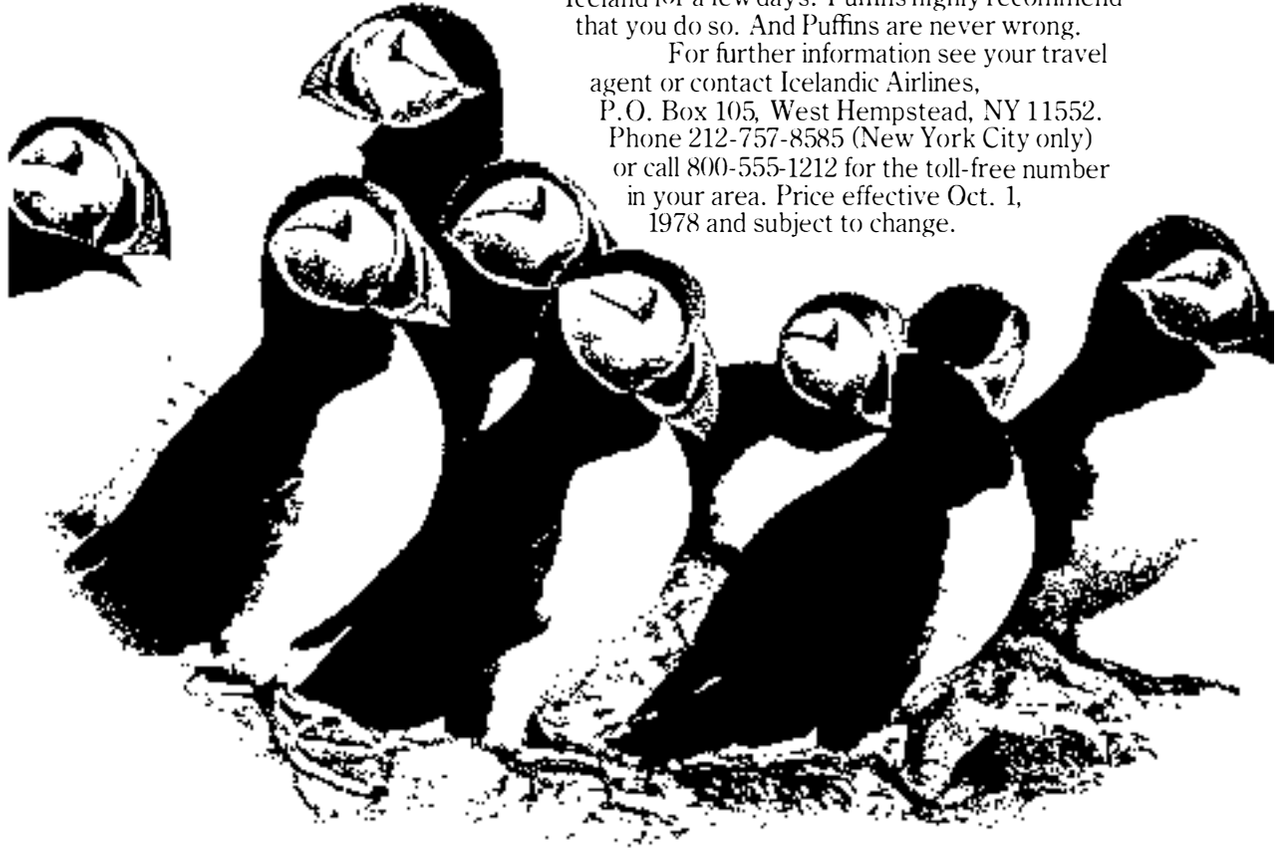

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EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS JOY OVERRIDES TROUBLE

By Pastor J. V. Arvidson

During this past year, the congregation of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg has been marking the centennial of its founding. It has been a year when our thoughts have often turned to the past, and we have had the history of the congregation before us. In reading that history, there is a record of trouble and tragedy which was overcome by the joy of the Christmas season.

In June, 1904, the members of the congregation rejoiced at the dedication of their new church building, a beautiful gothic structure. It was said that it was the largest and most beautiful church every built by Icelandic people. On that summer day there was joy and happiness among the people. Little did they know that six months later a pall of sadness would be cast over the entire congregation. On the 23rd of December a fire broke out in the church, and the sanctuary was destroyed. What a tragedy! What heartache to those who looked to the church as a second home. It was a second home, for every important event in life seemed to centre on the Church. And what more important event is there than Christmas?

When the news of the fire traveled among the members of the church, the first question to be asked was, ''Where will we celebrate Christmas?'' And certainly the pastor, Dr. Jon Bjarnason wondered this too. How fortunate it was tha their first church building, the Gray Church, was offered to them for use until repairs could be made to the damaged gothic structure. On Christmas Day itself, the Trustees met and plans were made for fund raising, and for reconstruction of the sanctuary.

You see, the joy and the peace and the good will of the season has a way of overriding everything else. The message of the angels: ''Fear Not'' is still the message that begins the season of Christmas. Fear not, hear the Good News! Know that you are not alone. Know that the Lord lives and reigns. And so often we have been admonished that when we have the Lord on our side, who can be against us? In the joy of Christmas, we do receive strength which gives us courage to face all trouble and tragedy, and to overcome them, and to live with peace and good will to all.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

By Zan Thompson

It is snowing in North Dakota and the drifts are high along the roads to Mayville and Portland, twin towns on the plain. And the snow is deep in the woods behind the farmhouses and cushions the banks of streams that hide themselves in the alders.

I was in Portland last summer, visiting Gilman and Pauline Strand. He is North Dakota state senator and a farmer and the visit was a serene delight.

One day, Pauline drove me to Akra, a town her Icelandic grandfather had owned — store, houses, everything. Her maiden name was Thorwaldson, a magic incantation in the whole northern part of the state. Mention the name and you're invited in for coffee and old stories about the country, and they are told with such warmth and love that the listener feels as if the people in the stories have just stepped out of the room, maybe out to the barn or upstairs to quiet a child. And the men and women talked about are dead 5●, a hundred years.

Near Akra is an Icelandic church with a cemetery where the names are all Scandinavian and many of them are Thorwaldson. We drove there one hot summer day, with the sun bouncing back from the flat fields. The church is like a child's drawing, square, with a properly pointed steeple pointing to the roofless sky and painted, of course, white. It stands all by its lone lorn — not a building near as far as the eye can see. It is a plain building, purely functional, simple as a spoon, built to its purposes — the worship of God.

As we drove up, three young kids on two motorcycles swung into the churchyard, two boys and a girl. I was about 1● steps away from the car walking toward the church.

Pauline called, "Is the church open?"

"Sure, it always is," one of them answered.

I was walking back to the car to get my purse. Cities make me fear strangers and kids on motorcycles. The girl smiled at me and said, "My brothers and I come here every Sunday to put flowers on our father's grave." Then I noticed the clutch of wildflowers in her hand. I was not without shame.

Thora drawing

The church is as pristine as new bread inside, floors varnished to a high-gloss amber and the cloths on the altar and the piano looking as if they had just been washed, starched and ironed. There are no regular services in the church, but the ladies come every day and dust and wax and change the altar cloths when they show the first fleck of dust. They come from houses unseen in the scattered copses and lost in the vastness of the prairie fields planted with wheat and barley and sunflowers.

It is called Vidalin Church, named after a man who was a bishop in Iceland and who published abook called a Postilla, a devotional book for Sundays and church holidays. His name was Jon Thorkelsson Vidalin and the copy of the book Pauline tracked down by talking to members of the church was dated 1827 and was in its eleventh printing. The people, when they were new to the countryside, had used the book in their homes for devotions before the church was built. And when it was dedicated, it was named Vidalin Church in honor of the bishop, faraway in space and time.

Over the altar, in Icelandic, is written, "I am the Bread of Life." It is hard to explain how such a plain, austere little church can hold the warmth of families and faith and be able to breathe forth such a welcome to the traveler.

A very Merry Christmas to everyone in that friendly cemetery, blanketed now with a comforter of snow, and a special Season's Greetings to the kids on the motorcycles. I am sure that all is well with them and the next summer they will come again with their offerings of flowers from the river bank and from the glens of moss.

1. This article was published in the Los Angeles Times, December 19, 1976.
2. The Icelandic grandfather was Stigur Thorwaldson, founder of Akra Post office and the owner of a general store established in 1890.
3. The reference is to Ingibjorg Ruth Gunnlogson.

THE EDITOR'S ILLNESS

The editor-in-chief of the Icelandic Canadian, Dr. Will Kristjanson, has undergone surgery and will be unable to perform his duties for the time being. In the meantime the Editorial Board is endeavoring to fill the vacuum. We know that the friends of the magazine will wish Will a speedy recovery. This unassuming, hard-working, dedicated man has for many years been the mainstay of the magazine. "Lang may his lum reek."

A. V.

✦ ✦ ✦

CENTENNIALS

In this issue of the Icelandic Canadian two centennials are featured, We are grateful to Pastor J. V. Arvidson for his guest editorial and for the two articles he wrote commemorating the centennial of the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. This congregation has survived the vicissitudes of the passing years and the slow evolution from its purely Icelandic beginnings to its incorporation into the rich mosaic of our common Canadian culture, but in so doing has preserved and transmitted to the Canadian scene something of the fundamental nature of our noble Icelandic heritage.

This year is also the centennial of the birthday of poet, Guttormur J. Guttormsson. The Editorial Board wishes to express its gratitude to Judge Roy St. George Stubbs for his tribute to the poet, which appears in this issue, also to Gus Sigurdson for permitting us to publish his eulogy to Guttormur taken from his anthology THE CANADIAN IN ME.

A. V.

✦ ✦ ✦

SIXTY YEARS

On November 11 (Remembrance Day) this year sixty years had passed since the armistice ending World War I, and approximately thirty-three years since the end of World War II. In humility and deep gratitude Canada paid reverent tribute to a memory, a beautiful remembrance that will not — must not — fade with the passing years.

Across the dark abysm of time which separates the far-off days of 1914 - 18, and those of 1939 - 45 from our time echo and re-echo the ringing tones of the challenge:

"To you from dying hands we throw the Torch.
Be yours to hold high."

Flanders! Dunkirk! Beacon lights shining brightly across the dark and troubled waters of human relations, beckoning, summoning mankind to sanity and to good-will.

Across the years, the frustrating years, the unforgiving years, the dynamic years, the HEROIC YEARS, as crystal-clear as the dulcet tones of a church bell wafted across the snow on a cold, clear winter's evening, comes the comforting, reassuring answer to that summons:

WE MUST NOT — WE SHALL NOT — FAIL THAT RENDEZVOUS!

A. V.

October, 1978

To All Who Are Interested:

"Roots" has become a household word. Haley has helped millions of American negroes to find their identity and has created in them an awareness of their worth and their dignity. All of us are what we are, because of what we were. The characteristics colored into the genes and chromosomes of our forefathers make us what we are. We look back to study our environment for it is constantly working out our heredity.

The older Icelandic people of America have happily never lost their roots. many of them have kept strong ties with the mother country. They keep alive habits and traditions which enrich and add spice to their existence. Do you recognize "vinarterta"? This has become a favorite with thousands of non-Icelandic people. Not only have Icelanders given us good cooking recipes, they have also brought with them their spiritual gifts. Since their arrival 100 years ago the Icelandic people have been recognized and held in esteem for their goodwill, honesty, and scholarship. All this is worth preserving.

Here is where you come in, be you a full-blooded Icelandic, one-half, one-quarter, one-eighth, or less. No matter — you are claimed herewith. We need your support. We are undertaking a drive for new subscribers and we hope you'll be one of them. The "Icelandic Canadian" is a quarterly magazine, a neat 6½" x 8" booklet of about 64 pages. It contains articles of general interest, mainly on Icelandic subjects. It contains short stories, poetry, news, etc. It is a constant reminder of the richness of Icelandic culture.

We live in a lonely world. We live in times of stress and alienation. As we learn more about ourselves and our roots we can rediscover those values of the past which have always lifted man's spirit and given him self-pride.

Take a look at your heritage. Subscribe to the "Icelandic Canadian" now. We have only about 1,000 subscribers. We need an additional 200. Please accept this offer. Please help keep our Icelandic heritage. We need your help. We know you won't let us down.

Sincerely yours,
Paul A. Sigurdson
On Behalf of the Editorial Board of the "Icelandic Canadian"

SO WELL REMEMBERED

By Caroline Gunnarsson

SO WELL REMEMBERED, by Kristiana Magnusson — A & K Publications. Printed in Canada by Trinity Press, pp. 105. 1978.

The two people "so well remembered" in the 105 pages of this readable little volume are pioneers of the Hnausa community in Manitoba, the late Magnus and Ingibjorg Magnusson — Grandpa and Grandma to the author and numerous other descendants and their spouses. A family tree included in the book indicates that the author is the wife of one of the couple's grandsons, Albert Magnus, and she has dedicated her work to the memory of Magnus and Ingibjorg Magnusson "whose legacy was a priceless heritage of family love." This is therefore primarily a family narrative, but because the two vigorous individuals who dominate the story appear to have touched almost every aspect of community life, it becomes in the process of telling, a story of the community as well, involving unrelated families and individuals in the area. Several telling anecdotes of pioneer life are well handled, and the story flows easily, gathering in relevant details of community history as it proceeds.

As a young man in Iceland, Magnus Magnusson kept records and diaries and after a lapse of some years, continued to do so in the new land. Kristiana Magnusson has made good use of this material, incorporating the original notes into the text. She acknowledges help from Bjorg Savage with the English translation of this diary. It's a nice, smooth translation and merges easily into the body of the story. No mean feat. There is a map of Iceland, with a circle drawn around the area where Magnus Magnusson spent the first 28 years of his life, also a map of New Iceland.

Lake Winnipeg was and still is no less the habitat of the New-Icelander than the land around it, and it challenged the courage, enterprise and ingenuity of worthy men and women. Ship builders, ship owners and navigators are remembered in a chapter where revealing incidents are briefly recalled, adding color and human interest to the narrative.

An interesting chapter on Icelandic place names in the area suffers from incorrect adaptation to the English. To name two Eyolfstodum should be Eyolfstadir, Finnbogastodum Finnbogastadir. The name Fitjar is incorrectly spelled Fetjar. Some letters of the Icelandic alphabet present a real problem when copy must be set on an English linotype, and this calls for concession in spelling the names of some individuals. This was overlooked, so Thorgerdur becomes Porgerdur. There is also an unfortunate transpositon of vowels in the names Marteinn and Marteinsson.

All this aside, Kristiana Magnusson is a good story teller. **So Well Remembered** held this reader's interest from beginning to end.

CENTENNIAL OF THE FIRST LUTERHAN CHURCH, WINNIPEG

By Pastor J. V. Arvidson

The 1970's will be remembered as a decade of Centennials among the Icelandic community in Manitoba. The latest such Centennial to be celebrated was at First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg. A series of events were held, beginning in October of 1977 when we recalled the centennial of the first Worship Service conducted by Dr. Jon Bjarnason, and concluding on Thanksgiving weekend, October 7th and 8th, 1978 when the official Centennial celebrations were held.

The congregation invited His Grace, the Bishop of Iceland, Sigurbjorn Einarsson and his wife, Fru Magnea Thorkelsdottir to be their guests of honour at this latest celebration. Bishop Einarsson and his wife were with us for one week, and during that time were entertained every day by various families of the congregation. They also visited the two Betel Homes; were received at the Government building by Premier Sterling Lyon and by the Lieutenant Governor, Mr. F. L. Jobin; visited Oak Hammock Marsh and found delight in seeing the thousands of wild birds seeking refuge there on their migrations to the south. In speaking of the visit to the bird sanctuary His Grace said that though the birds of Manitoba did not look like the birds at home in Iceland, he was surprised and pleased to hear that they spoke the same language!

On Saturday evening, October 7th a banquet was held in the Holiday Inn in down-town Winnipeg. Bishop Einarsson and Fru Magnea were guests of honour at that banquet. The speaker of the evening was The Rev. G. W. Luetkehoelter, president of the Central Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. Among the nearly 250 persons attending the banquet were a number of former members of First Lutheran Church who had come home for the event. They came from the East and the West, and some from south of the border. The Bishop concluded the formal programme by praying an Icelandic Evening Prayer and pronouncing the Benediction upon the assembled guests.

The Centennial Services of Praise and Thanks were held on Sunday, October 8th. In the morning there was a service with Celebration of Holy Communion. The church was filled for the event, and we will long remember the singing, the joy and the feeling of celebration that dominated the service. Bishop Einarsson preached the sermon at that service, and again at the Icelandic Service held in the afternoon.

A reception was held in the Parish Hall between the Services, and at that time a number of gifts were presented to Bishop Einarsson and to Fru Magnea. Beyond a doubt, the gift which pleased His Grace the most was a copy of the Gudbrandur Bible which was given to him by Pastor John Arvidson, on behalf of the congregation. This Bible had been given to the congregation at Christmas in 1889 by Dr. Jon Bjarnason, with the intention that it be repaired and used as a Pulpit Bible. During the ministry of Dr. V. J. Eylands the Bible was repaired, but it was never used for its intended purpose, that is, a Pulpit Bible. The idea of returning this copy of the Bible to Iceland came to Pastor Arvidson who then presented the idea to the Church Council. Without more than a minutes discussion the council voted, without a dissenting vote, that this be done.

The Gudbrandur Bible was printed in the late 1580's, and it was this Bible which

preserved the Icelandic language. Until Bishop Gudbrandur translated this Bible into the Icelandic Language, the only Bible in use in Iceland was written in Danish. There was a real danger that the language of Iceland would have been lost if this practice had continued. This is what happened in Norway, and accounts for the language spoken there today. To the people in Iceland, therefore, this copy of the Bible is considered to be pricelss. This accounts for the reaction of the Bishop when Pastor Arvidson made the presentation. Bishop Einarsson was so overcome with emotion that he was next to speechless! The congregation is pleased that this Bible is back in Iceland where it is truly prized and appreciated.

There is an interesting story in connection with that particular copy of the Bible. In December, 1904, when a fire destroyed the interior of the church, this Bible was saved from the burning building. People were shocked to see a man rush up to the burning building, and disappear into the smoke and fire. They waited for what seemed an endless length of time before he emerged, holding in his arms the Gudbrandur Bible. The man was the late A. S. Bardal.

The congregation of First Lutheran Church is now made of people of many different ethnic backgrounds. In our Centennial Celebrations we all paused and gave thanks to God for the Icelandic pioneers who planted the church in our community, and who have therefore made it possible for the present day membership to have a spiritual home which to them is a priceless heritage.

A UNIQUE RECORD

By Pastor J. V. Arvidson

Beyond a doubt, few congregations can reach the Century mark and have the record which First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg has, concerning its pastors. In one hundred years of life there have been but four full time pastors in the parish. In 1884, six years after it was founded, The Rev. Dr. Jon Bjarnason was called to serve. He remained until his death in 1914. The day after Dr. Bjarnason died, the Rev. Dr. B. B. Jonsson arrived in Winnipeg, having been called to assist Dr. Bjarnason. His first official act in the congregation was to conduct the funeral of Dr. Bjarnason. Dr. Jonsson remained as pastor of the congregation until his death in May of 1938. In March of that year, The Rev. Dr. V. J. Eylands had come to Manitoba and was serving Selkirk part-time, and assisting Dr. Jonsson at First Lutheran Church. When Dr. Jonsson died, Dr. Eylands was called as pastor, and he remained pastor until he retired in October of 1968. He was declared to be Pastor Emeritus, and holds that title to the present time. In May 1967 the present Pastor, John V. Arvidson was installed as a pastor of the parish.

Through the years various other pastors have served the congregation as assistants to the pastors. These were: Rev. Halldor Briem, Rev. Hafsteinn Petursson, Rev. N. S. Thorlaksson, Rev. H. J. Leo, Rev. Guttormur Guttormson and The Rev. Dr. Runolfur Marteinsson who assisted at various times, beginning in the early years of this century when he aided his uncle, Dr. Bjarnason, and concluding during his retirement years spent here in Winnipeg when Dr. Eylands was pastor. The Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfsson served for one year when Dr. Eylands spent a year working in Iceland. The present part-time pastors are The Rev. Dr. Dale H. Berg, and the Rev. Ingthor I. Isfeld.

Three Deaconesses have served First Lutheran also. The first was Sr. Johanna Hallgrimsdottir who was here in 1906 and 1907. Sr. Laufey Olson served for ten years, leaving here in 1969. Sr. Linda Wedman was parish deaconess for three years in the 1970's.

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT LUNCHEON MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 1977 OF THE NATIONAL CLUB

Paul H. T. Thorlakson, C.C., M.D.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

What can I say, in twenty minutes, regarding medical research? What has been accomplished by medical research during the past three or four decades? What are some of the benefits, in terms of control or cure of diseases? What does it cost the Canadian taxpayer to support medical research?

During the past four decades, there have been tremendous strides in the prevention of common — often lethal — contagious diseases; in the development of new diagnostic tools; and in the alleviation or cure of serious diseases for which there was **no help** a short time ago.

The recent advances in scientific knowledge and medical technology are so great and so dramatic that the education and training of doctors and other health personnel has undergone many changes in the past three decades.

These achievements are directly the result of scientific medical research.

The citizens of our country are the ultimate beneficiaries of new discoveries in health research.

In the present financial crisis, it is urgent that Members of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures, and the public generally are made fully aware of these facts.

A Manitoba Chapter of Canadians for Health Research has recently been formed to assist in every way possible the agencies that are presently active in seeking financial assistance from government and from the public.

The purposes and objectives of this new organization are to keep the general public — that is the taxpayers of Canada — and the Members of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures informed, on a regular basis, about the type — and cost — of medical research that is being carried on across our country; and also to show the direct benefits that the people of Canada are receiving from their annual investment in medical research. It can be categorically stated and demonstrated that one of the best investments that a health-conscious community can make is research in general, and medical research in particular. No large medical centre and no country can afford to rely entirely upon reports of recent discoveries elsewhere. Research scientists working in Canada keep us abreast of new advances that are of benefit to Canadians.

One hundred million dollars is spent annually for medical research in Canada. This is about four dollars per year per person. As an immediate objective, this should be doubled within the next two or three years.

The present annual amount is derived as follows: Fifty per cent from the Medical Research Council of Canada; Thirteen per cent from the Department of National Health and Welfare; Thirteen per cent from the Provinces; Twenty per cent from private Foundations; Four per cent from the United States.

There are approximately six thousand research scientists and technicians in Canada. This is Canada's contribution to the international work-force in search of new and more effective methods of preventing and curing disease.

Let us briefly examine a few of the many advances that have made life safer and more tolerable.

In 1944, an antibiotic labelled Streptomycin was discovered by an agricultural

scientist. Since then, three additional chemicals have been developed: one labelled P.A.S. (para-amino salicylic acid); another called Isoniazid; and the third one is Rifampin. These four new chemical compounds are now being used in varying combinations in the treatment of tuberculosis. For the most part, these patients are ambulatory.

At first, these medications were prescribed over a two year period. Now two or three months are required in hospital on triple therapy, followed by twelve months ambulatory treatment with two drugs.

Before these medications became available, many thousands of tuberculous patients were confined to bed for four to five years in Sanatoria until the disease was arrested or the patient died.

As a result of this new treatment, twelve hundred Sanatoria beds in Manitoba were closed, resulting in a saving of at least twenty-one million dollars a year in this province (fifty dollars per day).

In Canada, seventeen thousand six hundred and eighty-four Sanatoria beds were closed which, at only forty dollars a day (a very low figure), represented a saving of two hundred and fifty million dollars a year. (That is just since 1954 or 1955.)

The most important result, however, is that the lives of all these young people are being saved and they are able to become employed and self-supporting taxpayers instead of languishing in bed in a Sanatorium for many years. This is a tremendous achievement in a short time.

We all remember the years 1952 and 1953 when this community was faced with the last frightening epidemic of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). It was devastating in its destruction of life or permanent disability due to varying degrees of paralysis. At one time, there were one hundred and eighty respirators and ninety-two patients in iron lungs, some of whom — after twenty-five years — are still in the iron lung.

In 1954, Dr. Jonas Salk developed the vaccine which was given by injection but since 1962 has increasingly been replaced by the newer Sabin vaccine given by mouth on a lump of sugar. What saving in young lives, in the prevention of major life-long disabilities, and the ultimate thousands of millions of dollars in hospital and medical expenses for all time!

One of the recent great achievements of the World Health Organization is the virtual elimination of that dreadful scourge, smallpox. This dread, contagious disease which — during repeated epidemics — has caused untold millions of deaths over a period of several centuries, now has been practically banished from the face of the earth for all time by means of wide-spread, intensive inoculation and isolation. There are now only a few cases in Ethiopia and Somalia, and there have been some in Kenya. Eternal vigilance is necessary to keep it this way.

Typhoid fever, which was epidemic in Winnipeg before and after the turn of the century, can be **prevented** by pure water and milk, and now can be **cured** in ten days by the administration of one of the following antibiotics: Chloramphenicol, Ampicillin or Bactrim.

Dr. E. Snell, Director of Preventive Medical Services of the Department of Health and Social Development for the Province of Manitoba, provided the following information about the dates on which immunization against many infectious, epidemic diseases was inaugurated in this Province:

''Immunization against diphtheria started in the late 1930's and came into widespread use after World War II. Immunization against pertussis was tried out firstly in the late 1940's and came into general use in the early 1950's. Immunization against tetanus became widely used in the 1950's. Polio immunization with Salk vaccine started in 1954-55, became widely used in 1957 and was gradually replaced by live oral Sabine polio in 1962. Smallpox vaccine was introduced probably shortly after Confederation and has now largely been abandoned as a routine procedure, because Smallpox is now only reported from Ethiopia and Somalia. Measles vaccine was first tried out in Manitoba in 1966 and widely used from 1967 onwards. Rubella (German Measles) vaccine was first tried out in Manitoba in the early 1970's and is now made available for all women of child-bearing age who have been found susceptible to the disease by a laboratory test.''

A few years ago, Leukemia in children was one hundred per cent fatal within a few months of diagnosis. Now fifty per cent are alive and well after three years, thanks to several discoveries such as that of Dr. Noble and his associates who extracted the active drug, Vincristine, from the periwinkle plant.

Major advances have also been made in the study of Genetic diseases since 1949 when Drs. Barr and Bertram in London, Ontario showed that the chromosomal sex of an individual could be determined by the histological analysis of the somatic cells by the presence of ''Barr bodies'' which are found in female but not male cells. This phenomenon has been widely studied by many investigators including Dr. K. Moore, formerly professor of Anatomy in the University of Manitoba.

In 1956, Dr. John Hamerton, (now at the University of Manitoba) together with Dr. Charles Ford working in England, showed that the Human Chromosome Number was 46 and not 48. This observation has formed the basis for all work in Human Cytogenetics since that time.

Work that is being done now to reduce the number of retarded children by making a diagnosis after obtaining a sample of amniotic fluid from the womb of the mother at about the fifteenth week of pregnancy (amniocentesis), or a blood test on the child the day it is born, is most effective and encouraging, and many abnormalities in the foetus can now be diagnosed as early as the fifteenth week of gestation. This is done by the removal of a small amount of amniotic fluid surrounding the child in the mother's womb followed by biochemical analysis of the fluid, or more usually chromosome or biochemical analysis of the foetal cells which are floating in the fluid.

Geneticists can now determine a great deal about unborn children: first, the sex can be readily determined by chromosome analysis from amniotic fluid cells. This is done only when it is important to know whether the child is a male because, if so, it might be at 50% risk of being affected by a sex linked disease, such as Haemophilia or Muscular Dystrophy. In a similar manner, chromosome abnormalities can be detected in the baby prior to birth allowing the detection of children with Down syndrome (Mongolism) who have 47 chromosomes while the cells of a normal baby have 46.

Biochemical analysis of the foetal amniotic cells can pick up a multitude of disorders, including several lethal genetic diseases such as Tay Sachs disease or other enzyme deficiencies, all of which — if untreated — damage the child's brain so that he will be severely retarded. In addition, measurement of a protein in the amniotic fluid itself allows the detection of defects of the brain and spinal cord such as anencephaly and spine bifida. Finally, it is now possible to examine the unborn baby directly by optical and other means and also to take blood samples for analysis from an unborn infant.

Certain biochemical abnormalities can also be detected within a few days of birth by biochemical testing of heel-prick blood of the new-born infant.

A new-born screening program for hereditary metabolic diseases was introduced into Manitoba in 1965. Early diagnosis of diseases such as Phenylketonuria

(PKU) makes it possible to start special dietary treatment before symptoms become apparent and mental retardation can be prevented. This is one of many examples of preventive medicine — a few of which have been identified in this paper — that are available to Canadians and which have been discovered by intensive scientific medical research. Hence, generous public and private financial support is urgently needed.

A remarkable success story in medical research is the treatment of Rh disease by that great leader, Dr. Bruce Chown of Winnipeg. This disease is caused by an Rh negative mother and an Rh positive father. The baby is Rh positive. The foetal red blood cells are now known to cross from the foetus across the placenta. The mother reacts to these foreign cells and sends substances across the placenta to destroy the blood cells of the foetus.

Prior to Dr. Chown's pioneer work in this field, there was lack of knowledge about this Rh disease and no adequate treatment.

As a result of Dr. Chown's initial findings, the newborn anemic baby was given a blood transfusion. Further knowledge led to blood replacement treatment to lower the bilirubin level and jaundice which caused brain damage. Then, ten years ago, Dr. R. Liley of New Zealand and, later, Dr. J. M. Bowman of Winnipeg carried out intrauterine transfusion to the foetus.

After the first pregnancy, the mother is immunized against foetal red cells.

Now, Rh disease is almost eliminated. Special anti Rh Globulin is manufactured only in Winnipeg for Canada by Dr. Chown and Dr. Bowman at the Rh Research Foundation of the University of Manitoba. This is given to the Rh negative mother shortly after delivery and counteracts the foetal cells and prevents sensitization. Here we have a striking example of the great benefits of basic medical research. Before the cause and treatment of Rh disease was discovered, it was frequently fatal and, in many cases, led to severe brain damage.

Most people are aware of the effects of the screening programs for diabetes, hypertension, cervical cancer, etc. There are many other life-saving procedures which could be discussed but to enumerate them all individually would take a long time, and would require detailed descriptions and explanations by several research scientists.

The Manitoba Medical College, the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Manitoba, was established by physicians and surgeons of Winnipeg in 1883. When its centenary is celebrated, one measure of progress and standard of medical care will be the quality of medical research conducted in Manitoba.

With this brief reference to some of the enormously successful advances in medical science, I hope you will agree with me when I stress how essential it is for our community and our country to support medical research to the limit of our available resources.

IN MEMORIAM
GUTTORMUR J. GUTTORMSSON

By Judge Roy St. George Stubbs

On November 21, one hundred years ago, a child was born in a log cabin, near Riverton; who, before his death, on November 23, 1966, two days after his 88th birthday, could echo the proud boast of the Roman poet — Horace: "I have raised up a monument more lasting than bronze." His monument was made of words — the only things that last forever — Icelandic words fashioned into a superb poetry which measures the circumference and sounds the depths of the human soul.

His parents, Jon Guttormsson and Palina Ketilsdottir, were immigrants from Iceland who came to Canada in 1875. They named their son Guttormur J. Guttormsson. By their early deaths, hastened by the hardships of pioneer life, he was left to make his own way at the age of 16. His formal schooling was minimal. It ended with a term in Grade VI at the Winipeg Central School. His real education, self-orientated, was a process which lasted as long as he lived. One of the brightest stars in the firmament of the arts — Mozart — whom Guttormsson admired greatly, once said, pointing to his ear, his head and his heart: "Here, here and here is your school." Guttormsson's ear, his head and his heart were his real school; and, in this school, he learned not only knowledge, but wisdom, which he distilled in his poetry.

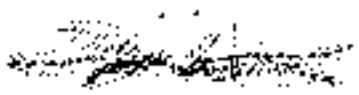
Guttormsson published his first book in 1909. During his lifetime, he published seven books, which include a volume of plays. I know his work only marginally, through translations. But from my limited knowledge, I do know that his themes are universal, his values eternally true, that he is a poet not for today, or for tomorrow, but for the ages.

His good friend and fellow-poet, the late Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, once said, in speaking of Canadian poets generally (I rely on my memory of a lecture I heard fifty years ago): "They know too little. You must stock your hold to the brim before you set sail on the sea of poetry." Guttormsson wrote from a well-stocked hold. Knowledge and knowledge's better part — wisdom — were at his service. He felt the pulse of life. His poems transmit emotions that he himself experienced. There is no echo of the secondhand in them. As he once said, "I learned chiefly to walk in the light of my own thinking." If he ever saw an ivory tower, it was only in his dreams. He lived all his life in a hard, practical world, meeting his bread and butter problem — and there was never too much butter for his bread — by farming.

Though he knew hardships, only less severe than those faced by his parents, he did enjoy man's greatest compensation in life. I must lean on Mozart again. Guttormsson would have approved for his interest in music was second only to his interest in poetry. In The Magic Flute, Mozart makes this statement: "Man and wife, individually incomplete, together can reach divinity." Guttormsson knew the truth of these words through his marriage to Jensina Danielsdottir, with whom he shared life for fifty-eight years.

In his long lifetime, Guttormsson received many honours; indeed, he was given the highest honours in the gift of the government of Iceland. But, to the poet, worldly honours weigh light in the scale when weighed against appreciative, understanding readers. He has not wanted for appreciative, understanding readers; but, as he wrote in a language which is a sealed book

to all but a small percentage of the world's population, it is necessarily so that his readers have been comparatively few in numbers, but they have been select; and, belonging, as they do, to a race to which poetry has long been one of the necessities of a full life, they will secure his memory, and his work, against the wastes of time.



REMEMBERED WORDS
From: Sandy Bar
By Guttormur J. Guttormsson

Breaks the storm, the sky is clearing,
Starry canopy appearing,
Wide a way, to heaven nearing
Winds are sweeping from afar.
Bolts of lightning, bursting, rifting,
Banks of cloud to northward drifting,
Starlit, clear, the silvery heaven,
All enshrines on Sandy Bar.
Heaven, shelter of the settlers
Softly gleams on Sandy Bar.

THE MASTER POET

In Memory of
Guttormur J. Guttormsson

By Gus Sigurdson

In a flash of inspiration
Came his thoughts in true relation
Pouring down upon his paper
In their skill —

Drove his pen as if on fire
By the forces of desire,
Found the words that he'd require
For to thrill.

From the ether's outer spaces
As from palaces and places
Far beyond his ken of knowledge
Here on earth;

Came the wisdom of the ages
Like a song from seers and sages
Pouring down upon his pages
In rebirth.

Like a blushing newborn baby,
Crying first, then smiling, maybe . . .
Spreading love and purest sunshine
Far and wide —

From his depths of true emotion
As the breezes set to motion,
And bestir the mighty ocean
To its tide.

Now the poet's pen flew faster
On the page, as if some master
In control, beyond his knowing
Led him on —

Onward in a fit of fury
Feeling now he had the worry
That true inspiration hurry . . .
To be gone.

Lightning flash! and crash! of thunder
Split the heavens wide asunder!
While the growing earth in wonder
Drank alone.

Thus his poem found its ending
In a force of love descending
From a Higher Power blending
With his own.

THE CAUSERIE

By Tom Oleson

Driving east along the north coast of Iceland towards the beautiful inlet of Eyjafjordur, a traveller unexpectedly comes across a statue, situated, if memory serves, around a curve by the side of the road just before it begins to descend into a valley. The statue was erected in memory of the man of whom Watson Kirkconnell said in 1936: " . . . it is quite possible that he will some day be acknowledged as the earliest poet of the first rank writing in any language, to emerge in the national life of Canada;" and whom, in 1938, F. Stanton Cawly of Harvard University described as "the greatest poet of the Western world."

The object of this praise — high praise indeed for a Canadian poet — was Stephan G. Stephansson. He was born in Iceland in 1853, but lived most of his life in Canada where he wrote his poetry. Most Canadians, however, have never heard of him, and it is unlikely that many Canadians ever will, because he wrote neither in French nor English, but in Icelandic, an obscure language spoken only by a small island's population and one that will always remain sealed to most of the world.

Stephansson is not unique in his obscurity. This year, Manitoba celebrates the centennial of one of its greatest poets, Guttormur J. Guttormsson, born on November 21, 1878, in a log cabin near Riverton. Most Manitobans will be unaware of this centennial; indeed, there is no reason why they should be aware of it, for like Stephansson, Guttormsson wrote in Icelandic. Watson Kirkconnell said that the two poets represent the "highest peaks of the respective ends of the mountain range" of Icelandic poetry in Canada.

In Iceland and among the dwindling number of Icelandic-Canadians who still speak the language, Guttormsson's reputation is high and his poetry still widely read. He is unlikely, however, ever to achieve any kind of national recognition. This is sad, but unavoidable, and not due to any form of discrimination or cultural snobbery. Nor is this inevitable obscurity confined to these two Icelandic poets — there are almost certainly dozens of writers from the vast numbers of ethnic groups that make up this country who, while they may deserve a wider audience, will probably never find one.

The Italians have a saying, **traduttore-traditore —** translator, traitor — which implies that he who translates betrays the beauty and the meaning oif the original language. It is a harsh view, but one that undoubtedly applies to poetry. English-speaking people, reading a translation of a poem that is considered a masterpiece in its original language, often wonder why it should be so valued. Icelandic poetry, for example, because of the intricate and rigid structure that is required of it, sometimes reads in English like bad verse, and the same is often true of translations from other languages.

This means, unfortunately, that much of beauty and value in Canadian literature, the poetry and prose writings of writers such as Stephan G. Stephansson and Guttormur J. Guttormsson who use languages other than French or English, will remain, for most of us, an unknown beauty. But that writing has enriched parts of Canadian culture and so contributed to the richness of the whole. There are some, and no doubt will be more, translations from Canada's ethnic languages — there have been many English versions of Guttormsson's most famous poem, **Sandy Bar,** none of which, apparently, captures the power and the beauty of the original — that will at least give us a glimpse of some-

thing that is otherwise hidden from us.

It may be that the translator is a traitor, but still he serves a useful purpose. As Roy St. George Stubbs remarked in his book about Guttormsson, **In Search of a Poet:** "Translation may be at best an echo, but an echo is, surely, better than an unbroken silence."

—The Winnipeg Free Press
Nov. 19, 1978

Editor's Comment: The memorial to Stephan G. Stephansson is located in Skagafjordur, 50 miles approximately from Eyjafjordur.

FROM A LETTER TO JILL

How lovely are these mellow autumn days! Gone are the hazy, lazy, crazy summer afternoons, and the glaring noonday sun high in the sky. In their place, as if blessing and reassuring the troubled human spirit, are the peace and serenity of the soft, cool, crisp breezes of the waning autumnal season, and the gentle radiance of the sun, now lower in the sky. How far from some of the ignoble and sordid activities of the day one finds oneself in the nocturnal tranquility underneath the star-studded sky! Sorry you aren't here to share the beauty of this lovely time of the year in Manitoba.

We have had frost, and the flowers are dying, but the lordly chrysanthemums are raising their lovely heads, alone defying the death-bearing agencies of the coming winter, as if to say, "Do your darndest. We shall survive!" And survive they will. Winter has no terrors for them. They will defy winter in sleep, only to continue their defiance when spring re-awakens them, just as human beings can defy the passing years and refuse to grow old.

A. V.

Tribune Photo by Gordon Aikman

Icelandic Lutheran Church, Hecla Island, Manitoba

PIONEERS AND PLACE NAMES OF NEW ICELAND

By Nelson Gerrard

The fields and forests of New Iceland in Manitoba's Interlake are a far cry from the valleys and fjords of the district's namesake in the North Atlantic. In New Iceland, flatness, perhaps the single most striking feature of the landscape, serves to emphasize each subtle variation of land and nature. Every small rise seems a hill, each stream a river. Lofty cloud banks on the horizon are like ever-shifting mountain ranges erupting with prairie sunsets. The vegetation, the elements and the seasons all lend beauty, both subtle and striking, to the plain face of the land.

Despite the dissimilarities of landscape, there are other features of New Iceland that recall the ''old country''. Here on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, so reminiscent of the ocean, names such as **Gimli, Husavik, Arnes, Hnausa, Geysir, Hecla** and **Arborg** are found. Some of these names recall places in Iceland itself, while others have their origins in Icelandic literature and still others are unique to New Iceland.

Only a handful of New Iceland's wealth of place names have been officially adopted, but here each farm and landmark bears an Icelandic name. Each name has a story of its own, a story from the days when Icelandic immigrants first came here to settle with little more than the lore of the old country and the hopes of the new.

The tradition of place names brought to New Iceland by the pioneers a century ago is older than the recorded history of Iceland itself. From Scandinavia and the British Isles, settlers had flocked to the uninhabited valleys of Iceland a thousand years before, taking this naming tradition with them. Their language, Old Norse, was exceptionally flexible and well suited to the formulation of such names. Over the centuries, each farm, hill and valley in Iceland acquired a name. Some of these names were descriptive of the places while some were historical, originating from an incident or event. Still others were rooted in folk lore or products of the imagination.

So it was in New Iceland. When the first Icelanders landed on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, virgin wilderness stretched endlessly before them. The land they found was clad with dense bush with small clearings and sloughs here and there. Stands of hay were up to five feet high. The soil was fertile, wildlife plentiful and Lake Winnipeg, much lower than in recent years, teemed with a variety of fish.

These first Icelanders to set foot in the Canadian West in 1875, were members of an exploratory party sent west on behalf of Icelandic immigrants in Eastern Canada. After examining the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, the six-man party agreed unanimously that this was the most suitable land they had found so far and the area was reserved for Icelandic settlement.

It was in the report compiled by this party that the name **Nyja Island** or New Iceland first appeared in print. As the name implies, it was the desire of the founders to establish an Icelandic settlement where they could maintain their language and culture, although they eagerly acknowledged their new allegiances.

Nyja Island extended for more than fifty miles along the shore of Lake Winnipeg, from the Manitoba border, then at Boundary Creek, to the northern tip of Big Island (Hecla).

On their expedition through this wilderness, the Icelandic exploratory party followed the example of their forefathers of long ago, naming several landmarks along the way. The first was a long and narrow point of land called Willow Point. This they

translated as **Vidirnes.** Farther north along the shore of Lake Winnipeg was the Drunken River, so named because it had once been the limit for the sale of ''fire water''. This creek, which emptied into a small bay cut off from the lake by a sand ridge, they renamed **Leynivikura** (secret-bay-river), a name later altered to **Huldua** (hidden-river). Sandy Bar, which was exactly that, they called **Sandrif** (sand-reef) and Big Island was named **Mikley.** The White Mud River was renamed **Islendingafljot** (Icelanders' River), a name befitting the reserve's largest river.

The earliest settlers arrived in New Iceland late that same year, in October of 1875, optimistic despite past hardships and more at hand. Among the topics discussed on the journey had been names for their new homes. The plan had been to proceed all the way north to the Icelandic River, on the banks of which they planned to settle and establish a town. This town was to be called **Gimli.** However, the last leg of the journey, from Winnipeg to New Iceland, had to be made aboard a fleet of cumbersome, flat-bottomed barges, risky fare on unpredictable Lake Winnipeg. The captain of the steamboat which was to tow the barges had refused to venture farther than Willow Point and there the settlers were set adrift to fare for themselves. There the town of **Gimli** sprang up.

The following summer of 1876 saw the arrival of well over a thousand new immigrants in New Iceland. Settlement spread quickly, from **Gimli** north to Icelandic River and out onto the island they called **Mikley.** With this group came Sigtryggur Jonasson, a key figure in the history of the settlement and the chosen leader although only twenty-four years old. He had been one of the exploratory party.

As New Iceland was beyond the limits of the province of Manitoba, local government was organized and a constitution drawn up. Four administrative districts or **byggdir**

were formed: **Vidirnesbyggd** (Willlow Point District), and **Mikleyjarbyggd** (Big Island District). In later years, parts of **Fljotsbyggd** became known as **Hnausa-byggd** and **Geysisbyggd** and expanding settlement formed **Isafoldarbyggd** to the north. **Ardals-, Framnes-** and **Vidirbyggd** formed farther west, beyond the original limits of New Iceland.

As elsewhere in the Canadian West, most land in New Iceland was surveyed into square miles or ''sections'', each of which was divided into ''quarters'' of 160 acres. However, land along the lake shore and river banks was in great demand as water served as both year around highway and bountiful provider. To allow more settlers to settle on waterfront property land along the Icelandic River, and in places along the lake, was surveyed into long lots, one quarter mile wide and a mile long.

Each settler was entitled to homestead one quarter or lot on the condition that he build a home on the land, make certain improvements and live there continuously for a certain period of time. Not all homesteaders were men: women could and several did claim land in New Iceland.

By 1877 three townsites had been surveyed in New Iceland: **Gimli** in the southern part of the reserve, **Lundur** (grove) on the east bank of the Icelandic River (now Riverton) and **Sandvik** (sand-cove) just south of Lundur on the lake shore. Although there was, for a time, a small settlement and store at **Sandvik** or Sandy Bar as it became better known, a village never materialized on that site. The distance to **Lundur** was only two miles and **Sandvik** had no sheltered harbour. In its place, two small centres, **Hnausa** and **Arnes,** later formed farther south along the lake shore.

By 1878, settlement stretched along all fifty miles of New Iceland's shoreline and extended as far as six miles inland, being widest at **Gimli** and at Icelandic River where it followed rivers inland for several miles.

As was customary in Iceland, each farm in New Iceland was given a name. To a large extent, the settlers followed the same formulas used by their Norse forefathers in naming places in Iceland a thousand years before.

(To be continued)

AUDEN IN ICELAND

By Sigurdur A. Magnusson

In 1936 the renowned Anglo-American poet W. H. Auden spent a summer in Iceland and was joined there by his friend and colleague, Louis MacNeice. They travelled widely in the country and set down their impressions in a famous book, ''Letters from Iceland'', which is in many ways unique among travel books, especially since it was mostly written in verse — long versified letters to friends and colleagues, both living and dead. Lord Byron was for example honoured with no less than five long sections of the book, all of them composed by Auden. In a letter to his wife, Erika Mann (daughter of Thomas Mann), Auden explains how he came upon the idea of composing the book in verse:

''In the bus today I had a bright idea about this travel book. I brought a Byron with me to Iceland, and I suddenly thought I might write him a chatty letter in light verse about anything I could think of, Europe, literature, myself. He's the right person I think, because he was a townee, a European, and disliked Wordsworth and that kind of approach to nature, and I find that very sympathetic. This letter in itself will have very little to do with Iceland, but will be rather a description of an effect of travelling in distant places which is to make one reflect on one's past and one's culture from the outside. But it will form a central thread on which I shall hang other letters to different people more directly about Iceland. Who the people will be I haven't the slightest idea yet, but I must choose them, so that each letter deals with its subject in a different and significant way. The trouble about travel books as a rule, even the most exciting ones, is that the actual events are extremely like each other — meals — sleeping accommodation — fleas — dangers, etc., and the repetition becomes boring. The usual alternative, which is essays on life prompted by something seen, the kind of thing Lawrence and Aldous Huxley do, I am neither clever enough nor sensitive enough to manage.

''I hope my idea will work, for at the moment I am rather pleased with it. I attribute it entirely to my cold. It is a curious fact how often pain or slight illness stimulates the imagination. The best poem I have written this year was written immediately after having a wisdom tooth out.''

In his first ''letter'' to Lord Byron, Auden mentions the circumstances in greater detail:

''The thought of writing came to me today
(I like to give those facts of time and space);
The bus was in the desert on its way
From Mothrudalur to some other place;
The tears were streaming down my burning face;
I'd caught a heavy cold in Akureyri,
And lunch was late and life looked very dreary.''

''Letters from Iceland'' is a candid and unsentimental account of the two authors' experiences in the country, Auden's share in the book outweighing that of MacNeice by about 4 to 1. Even though Auden has time and again referred to Iceland as ''holy ground'', there was considerable resentment among the Icelanders when the book first appeared on account of the rather unflattering picture drawn by the two poets. Actually, the account was in most respects quite accurate, and often incisive, allowing for a number of factual mistakes and unusually frequent misspellings, and keeping in mind that the authors had neither come to describe the traditional natural beauties of Iceland nor the glorious cultural and literary past of the nation, but rather to acquaint themselves with present-day conditions, daily habits and idiosyncracies, striking

personalities, domestic life, accommodation, and not least the modern literary and cultural endeavours of the Icelanders. As might be expected, they found numerous odd tidbits and had all kinds of humorous experiences. Being young (both were 29 years old at the time) they naturally took special delight in what was out of the ordinary on this remote island to which they had, to all appearances, turned for refuge from the tumults and chaos of war-preparing Europe. They may not have found what they sought, for Iceland was after all not so very far from Europe, but they did have a lot of fun and found many things worth recording in their unusual book.

One of Auden's poems in the book, addressed to Christopher Isherwood, bears the title "Journey to Iceland", and may be said to sum up the original intent and the actual outcome of his summer sojourn in the North. The poet has revised the published version of this poem and kindly granted ICELAND REVIEW permission to print it in the new version.

W. H. Auden's second visit to Iceland took place last April. He stayed only a week, but nevertheless used the opportunity to revisit some of his cherished spots in the north-western part of the country, among them "Melgraseyri in Isafjördardjup/Under the eaves of a glacier", where he and MacNeice had composed their "Last Will and Testament" in 1936. He also gave a public recital from his works at the University of Iceland to a packed auditorium. During this brief second visit Auden wrote a new poem about Iceland, composed in the old and very strict Japanese meter of haiku, where every stanza is required to contain exactly 17 syllables. The poem is dedicated to his old friend, British ambassador to Iceland Basil Boothby, and his wife, Susan. The poem needs no exegesis beyond what is said above. The "air-taxi", mentioned in the poem, refers to Björn Palsson's Twin Bonanza D 50, discussed in the first issue of Iceland Review this year, which transported Auden to and from his destination.

Neither of the poems here published may be reprinted without permission from the author.

—Iceland Review

TRIBUTE TO GIMLI

Last summer an English writer stayed for some time at the Shoreliner Motel in Gimli. She was so favorably impressed that she forecast that other visitors from her part of England would visit here in times to come. Her impressions are recorded in the following poem which she gave as a parting gift to her hosts, Don and Benetta Martin.

TO GIMLI

If in some future time when some may say
"Why the restless spirit and impatient way?"
I will recall days, borrowed from strife
For days of contentment, bargained from life,
Walks in the dawn under the greatest of skies
Where none but the breeze and the wild goose flies,
And the lonely sandpiper calls by the lake
That I intrude, disturb his realm, and take
Some part of that world that only nature knows,
Where the water stirs and the bright star glows,
And peace beyond compare, where I could pray
"Could but the rest of humanity know this way."
If I seem lost in the turmoil of living
And my actions are slow for the want of giving,
Find me not in the great city street,
Or where the congregations of people meet,
But look with distant eye, when I depart,
Seek ye here, and you'll find my heart.

—Joan E. Bryan, Norfolk, England
Lake Centre News, 24 Jan. 1978, p. 1

VIKING SHIPS ON DISPLAY

Today, the steady course and exploits of more than a 1,000 years of Scandinavian seafaring are neatly assembled for all to see in a splendid set of maritime museums in Oslo, Stockholm, Gothenburg, Copenhagen, and nearby areas.

The longship, built about 1,200 years ago, is the kind of vessel which brought Leif Erikson to America's shores. Oslo's Viking Museum has two genuine longships on display: the Gokstad and the Oseberg. The longship represents one of the Vikings more masterful creations. Swift and seaworthy, its shallow draft and sleek design provided easy landing capabilities, manoeuverability, and a high degree of ocean sailing efficiency.

The Gokstad and Oseberg longships, named for places on the Oslofjord where they were found around the turn of the century, are the Oslo Viking Museum's stellar attractions. Both ships, reclaimed from ancient burial grounds, are in a remarkable state of preservation, thanks to a covering of blue clay and seal laid over them by their original owners. Also unearthed with the longships was a rare collection of jewelry, clothing, and the weapons and tools of a king and a queen. These, too, are on display, and reveal in some depth the striking arts and skills practised in Viking times.

—Scandinavian News.

ICELANDIC-CANADIAN PIANIST GIVES RECITAL

A small but appreciative audience gathered at the Mennonite Brethren Bible College, 77 Henderson Highway, on November 5, 1978. The group assembled to hear a recital by accomplished Icelandic-Canadian pianist Pauline Martin. Pauline, daughter of Lilja and Halldor Martin of Brandon, is currently working towards her Doctor of Music Arts (D.M.A.) degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She is studying with Theodore Lettvin of the New England Conservatory. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music, with distinction, from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. At Indiana, Pauline studied piano with Menahem Pressler of the famed ''Beaux Arts Trio''. Following graduation, she was employed as an instructor of piano and music theory at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

The first part of the recital was composed of works of J. S. Bach (Italian Concerto in F) and Franz Schubert (Sonata in B^{b}, D. 960). Both of these performances indicated the superb technique of the artist. Besides being technically flawless, these works were presented with great artistry and sensitivity. This was particularly true of the Schubert selection, which created a very relaxed mood alternating with very intense passages.

Following a brief intermission, the program continued with two works by Maurice Ravel (J'eux d'Eau and From Le Bombeau de Couperin-Toccata) and Ballade No. 4 in F Minor by Frederick Chopin. These were all played in a very professional manner and were contrasting in mood to the selections played before the intermission.

The overall impression received from this recital is that Pauline Martin is a pianist of whom we will be hearing a great deal more in the future. The Icelandic Canadian community can be justly proud of this talented young woman.

—Kristine Perlmutter

A VERY FINE COUPLE

by J. J. Collins

Bui and Thorlaug Johnson moved from New Iceland to the Red Deer district - Robinson's Point - near Winnipegosis, at the turn of the century. Their stay in New Iceland was not happy.

Every able bodied man ''worked on the lake'', as it was called, while the women attended to family duties. Thorlaug Johnson was, shall I say, a matriarch, or the leading spirit of the small group there.

Bui built a house in Winnipegosis about 1906, but maintained a fish camp at Robinson's Point. Their home in Winnipegosis and the camp were always open to one and all; their friendship and hospitality had no limit.

Our home took on a festive air when that great couple visited us. Going and coming to and from camp, a stopover at our house was a must. Goodies were always handed to us in large quantities by this generous couple. By the same token, any help was cheerfully extended to them by my parents, if required.

Bui and Thorlaug had thirteen children, all of them gifted. How many died young, I do not know. One of their sons was Ingvar (Buason). There is absolutely no doubt about Ingvar's brilliant and noble character. He came by all that honestly. The tragic death of great men and women so early in life leaves a large void in our society, but men like Ingvar Buason really never die. The memory of their sterling character lives on like an eternal flame.

§*See* **The Icelandic Canadian,** *Autumn, 1977, p. 22, for Ingvar Buason's early death.*

TAXES IN ICELAND IN 1884

The following is a free translation of a statement of the scale of taxes in Iceland, in 1884. The original is reproduced following the translation.

by Arilius Isfeld

INCOME TAX

1. Tax is paid on all income derived from landed property and investments. If the total income amounts to fifty kronur or over the tax is one krona for every twenty-five kronur gained from investments or property.

2. Tax on wages or salaries is levied on the annual income on all types of work except farming and fishing. If the receipts amount to one thousand kronur or less this tax is not paid and a smaller increase than fifty kronur is not considered towards increasing the tax. On greater sums the tax is computed as follows:

on 2000 kr., 50 aurar (at that time about 13c) on every 50 kr. or on the full 2000 kr., 10 kr.

on 3000 kr., 75 aurar (19 1/2c) on every 50 kr. or on the full 3000 kr., 25 kr.

(and so forth to the last bracket which is as follows):

over 7000 kr., 2 kr. on every 50 kr. or on the full 8000 kr. 175 kr., and so forth.

(The foreign exchange at the time this ''Kver'' was printed in 1884 was approximately 3 3/4 kr. for the American dollar.)

Too much energy, no users

ICELAND'S POWER DILEMMA

by Jeff Endrst

Reykjavik, Iceland: Iceland's economy seems to swim or sink with the vagaries of the fish market.

Given the inherent instability of both fish resources and the demand for fish products in other countries, Iceland's economic base has been rather shaky in the 1970s. This has produced a type of inflation that is well understood, though remedies for it remain elusive.

Consumer prices in Iceland have increased by 177 per cent since 1972, as against a 51.5 per cent average in the OECD countries, and 43.5 per cent in the United States.

But wages have similarly increased. Local Socialist-dominated labor unions went on strike in April and blocked the shipments of vital exports. The atrike was in retaliation against a newly passed law that cut in half a previous cost-of-living indexing. The old contracts said that employers must automatically increase wages by ten per cent every three months.

Icelandic economists see part of the problem as being due to the country's relatively high standard of living. In 1976, the average income was $6,400 a year. This is equal to that of France, below that of West Germany, but way above Britain's average income.

To maintain this standard, Iceland must keep up its exports. But there is very little to export except fish. Most other consumer articles must be imported, and that is where Iceland sometimes must forget East-West politics and get the best available deal.

As a result, Iceland buys its oil from the Soviet Union. When Britain stopped buying fish from Iceland in 1952, the Soviets agreed to buy the surplus fish. They remain among Iceland's important customers, although the United States is by far Iceland's biggest market. The Soviets also buy ships, the cost of which would make them uncompetitive in other countries.

"Our public is made aware of the fact that Moscow is buying for political reasons. We politicians, in turn, hope that our public understands that we are in business with the Soviets for good economic reasons," one politician told a visitor.

The nominal answer to these problems is diversification of the economy. But in Iceland, that looks good only on paper. The country likes its fresh, clean air, the unspoiled natural environment, and the fact that its population is homogeneous—all 220,000 people.

"Iceland is reluctant to invest in its economic future at the cost of its national past," one foreign diplomat said.

As a result, Iceland is looking first to a better exploitation of its fisheries and only then to industrial diversification. This is where untapped, if unorthodox, power is not utilized because little is needed at home, and the rest is hard to export at competitive prices.

Jakob Bjornsson, director-general of the National Energy Authority in Iceland, said in an interview that "we have many ideas, but it always comes down to feasibility and cost."

One such idea cited by him is to sell electricity to Scotland. Hydro-energy is plentiful. All that is needed is to lay 450 of cable between Iceland and Scotland to carry large quantities of electricity. What is missing is a cable that could withstand pressures up to 3,000 feet below the surface. We were told that a few enterprising Western companies are working on the project.

Iceland thinks it can get energy out of molten lava trapped just 100 feet under the surface — in 1975 half of a community on one of the Westman Islands was buried by a volcanic eruption.

Sixty per cent of all houses in Iceland are already heated by natural hot water. This makes the country almost pollution-free. Sweden once wanted to put this geyser water into sea tankers and ship it home to save its own environment. But the cost was too high, even after the 1973 energy crisis.

Then there is the idea that Iceland's crystal-clear, mineral-rich water could be bottled and sold. It could, if it were not for the exorbitant transport costs.

Could the answer be that if one cannot export energy, one can import power-hungry foreign industries that depend on it?

Technically, yes. But only marginally so in Iceland.

"Industrial development cannot be permitted if it means a demand for large numbers of foreign workers," said one official.

"Since there is practically no unemployment, large industrial complexes would require sizeable imports of foreign workers."

That is not in the picture for Iceland right now.

"With only 220,000 people, we are a small and homogeneous community. Foreigners are conspicuous. Social frictions might follow," explained this official.

—Winnipeg Free Press, May, 1978

To Life the Heart

Poems by Elma Gislason

SOLACE

I walked along the road tonight,
the moon my sole companion;
its rays reached out and touched my heart
as if to ease its burden.
The breeze scarce stirred a leaf aloft,
the air so softly moving;
my soul reached out, became a part
of night's insistent wooing.
I felt the cares of day give way
beneath the moonlit heavens;
and zephyrs soft caressed my cheeks,
to dry my tears unbidden.

✦ ✦ ✦

THE GIFT

Who can tell when genius is born?
Few only with this gift endowed.
Few only fan the spark
to tow'ring heights aflame
striving ever upward
Elysian fields to gain.

Winnipeg Tribune, Nov. 20, 1976.

JUNE 17, PENSE SASKATCHEWAN

By Kristjana Gunnars

June grass
top-tufted in the wind
parts short basal leaves
like lips the song

"hvad er svo glatt
sem godra vina fundur"
rustles leaves of willow
like hair or dust

Dusk
and a trembling aspen
stand house

our circle round
the fire faces
red from evening sun
in embers

tomorrow we scatter
like spreading grass
No shadows linger
in midnight sun here
northern awnless brome grows unhindered

ROBERT BADEN POWELL

(1857 - 1941)

By W. Kristjanson

I am moved to share with others my reading of a biography of Robert Baden-Powell, professional soldier, humanitarian, and founder and shaper of the Boy Scout movement, a very remarkable man.

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell was born in Paddingon, London, in 1857, a son of Professor Baden-Powell and his wife, Henrietta. He attended Charterhouse school.

He commenced his army career in 1876, when he joined the 13th Hussars as sub-lieutenant. He was appointed adjutant in 1881 and captain and adjutant in 1883.

Throughout his army career he took keen interest in his men as individuals, not as machines and he had schemes for improving their conditions and to provide entertainment for them. He fostered initiative and gave responsibility. His men worshipped him.

His first posting was to India. To Ashanti he was sent in 1895, where General Wolseley selected him to take command of a native levy that acted as scouts for the main force. For his services there he was promoted to the rank of Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel. In the Matabele (Southern Rhodesia) war of 1896 he served as chief of staff to Major-General Carrington.

In the South African war, 1899 - 1902, he won fame for his imaginative and resourceful defence of Mafeking against a Boer force greatly superior in numbers. Subsequently, he was commissioned to raise and organize the South African Constabulary, a body of should be based on Abraham Lincoln's principle, ''With malice toward none, with charity for all''. He had the ability to get on with the people of the country.

His attitude to the Boers was that peace shold be based on Abraham Lincoln's principle, ''With malice toward none; with charity for all''. He had the ability to get on with the people of the country.

Baden-Powell's character and personality have been indicated to some extent. As a young man he is described as being full of good humor and lively spirit. When he joined his regiment he showed self-discipline in his expenses in order to save his widowed mother's money. He had amazing energy and devoted long hours to his chosen profession. Perhaps unexpectedly of a professional soldier, he is described by a fellow officer as a lovable and loving man. He was known for his kindness and thoughtfulness and in the years to come, for his service to humanity. Withal, he was an extremely modest man.

Scouting requires powers of observation and deduction. The Baden-Powell children were encouraged to observe nature. This ability Baden-Powell developed in his war service, especially in the Ashanti and Matabele campaigns the possibility of putting responsiblity on boys was brought home to him in the siege of Mafeking by the corps of boys raised there by Lord Edward Cecil.

On his return from South Africa, Baden-Powell rewrote a book of his,

Aids to Scouting, written for soldiers. he did not then envisage a separate boys' organization, rather for boys in the Boys Brigade, or enrolled in the Y.M.C.A. However, he oganized an experimental camp forboy scouts in 1907, on Brownsea Island, Poole Harbor, Dorset. In the following year he developed his plans.

The Boy Scout movement received an overwhelming response. At a rally at the Crystal Palace, London, in 1909, there was an attendance of over 10,000 and at a Scout Jamboree at Olympia, London, in 1920, the

movement had grown to international proportions and 21 nationalities were represented. In 1922, there were 1,019,205 scouts in 32 countries and at a jamboree in 1929, 41 nations were represented. Reunions were held in Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Hungary and Australia. other countries with scouts included Iceland and Finland; there were over 100,000 Scouts in Canada in 1940.

Some people thought that the Scout movement was the military, but, that was far from Baden-Powell's mind. On the contrary, he felt keenly the horrors of war. Scout meetings were rallies, not parades.

Baden-Powell's aim was first of all to foster healthy outdoor activities, with the development of powers of observation and deduction, but his aim was far more comprehensive and far-reaching. Scouting was concerned with the development of character and conduct, the development of a sense of responsiility, resourcefulness and self-reliance, doing a good turn, promoting comradeship and sympthy and the breaking down of class and national prejudices. The aim was to give service to the community and the making of good citizens. He constantly appealed for international brotherhood and peace.

Baden-Powell was a prolific writer, with over thirty books and other publications to his credit.

He retired from the army in the rank of Lt. General in 1910, to devote himself to the scout movement. His activities, including frequent international travels brought him to a point of exhaustion. His unremitting industry and devotion was internationally recognized. He received orders and decorations from Great Britain, Denmark, Belgium, Poland, Afghanistan, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Austria, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Esthonia, Sweden, and France. He was made Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1909 and Baronet in 1921. Six universities presented him with honorary degrees.

A part of Baden-Powell's last message reads:

''Looking back on a life of over eighty years, I realize how short life is and how little worth are anger and political warfare. The most worthwhile thing is to try and put a bit of happiness into the lives of others.'' (E. E. Reynolds, p. 266)

''Few men have had less need for regret; he founded well and truly and his work endures''. (E. E. Reynolds, p. 260)

Baden-Powell, by E. E. Reynolds, Second edition, 270 pp. Oxford University Press, New York and Toronto, 1957.

Footnotes

1. Two members of the Brownsea Island Experimental Camp, 1907, are now living in Winnipeg: Mr. T. R. Critken and Mr. W. Sellers.
2. See article ''Handicapped Boy Excels in **The Winnipeg Tribune,** April 21, 1978, and in **The Icelandic Canadian,** Summer, 1978, about Boy Scout Halldor Bjarnason, of Winnipeg.

BOOK REVIEW

George J. Houser: Saga hestalaekninga a Islandi. (The Treatment of Ailments of Horses in Iceland.) Akureyri 1977. Bokaforlag Odss Björnssonar.

This is an impressive and extraordinary book. The author, who is a Canadian, has learned Icelandic so well that he organized and wrote the book in Icelandic, a rare achievement for a foreigner.But what is more remarkable, he has collected everything available in books and manuscripts pertaining to the ailments of horses and their treatment as far back in time as there are any records. He also sent a questionnaire to a large number of people across the length and breadth of this country. He has, moreover, compared the Icelandic traditions in this field with foreign books, and the amount of written material on this subject is enormous. This, in brief, is the substance of the book, but the material has been handled so well and in so scholarly a manner that, on the basis of this work, the University of Iceland has awarded the author the degree of Doctor of Philosophy — a scholarly work could scarcely be accorded higher distinction. One might tend to assume that the collection of such extensive material and its scholarly treatment would constitute heavy going for the general reader. But such is not the case. The writer has succeeded in making the subject understandable to everyone and many parts of the book are highly entertaining — at least to all who have interest in horses or Icelandic folk customs. Even though a great deal has been written about Icelandic folk culture in recent years, the ailments of animals and their treatment have usually been accorded only fleeting attention, with no distinction made between superstitious and rational therapy. This book fills the gap which has heretofore existed in this branch of knowledge. No one can expect the author to have treated his material so thoroughly that his work could not be improved on in some respects, but thse instances are infrequent and of little importance. Now that the book has come into the hands of the public, it will afford people an opportunity to propose additions or emendations they may deem appropriate. Th format is excellent in all respects and the book is an embellishment to the collection of works on Icelandic folk culture, to which, in my opinion, it has a closer affinity than to works on medicine.

— Heima er bezt, February, 1978.

AFTERGLOW

by Stephan G. Stephansson
translated by Thorvaldur Johnson

Throughout all the ages
Matter is with life imbued;
Flaming stars in stages
Die to be with fire renewed.
Creation, growth and heat and flame
Eternally are Nature's aim.

Quickens life and passes,
Mind and heart complete their play;
In the cosmic masses,
On some far off New Year's day
Galaxies of frozen suns
Will blaze again as they did once.

Though the myriad night-eyes
Of the blazing skies go blind,
Still, some hidden plan lies
Deep in the eternal mind,
Setting free through time and space
Waves of life-imbuing rays.

Light of day abating,
Glimmers now the afterglow,
Only left the waiting!
Dark of night is closing now
On this head that seeks its ease
And hopes that night will bring it peace.

BOOK REVIEW

THE WILD FRONTIER: More Tales from the Remarkable Past: by Pierre Berton, 250 pp., Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, $14.95.

By Tom Oleson

Autumn in Canada brings with it certain inevitable events. The leaves change color and fall from the trees; the days grow shorter, the nights cooler; the snows arrive; and McClelland and Stewart brings out in time for the fall and Christmas trade a new book by Pierre Berton. This year is something of a special occasion for Mr. Berton, since it sees the publication of his 25th book. That is a remarkable output and Mr. Berton is probably the most consistently high-selling author in Canada. The quality of his writing is not always as consistent as his sales, but whatever else one might say about him, it cannot be denied that when he sticks to story-telling, he is one of the best. His books on the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, for example, were deservedly best-sellers and *My Country*, a collection of tales from what Mr. Berton calls Canada's "Remarkable Past," was an interesting and entertaining glimpse into some of the lesser-known and more intriguing byways of Canadian history.

The Wild Frontier might equally well have been called *My Country, Volume Two*, as it is a continuation of the idea of the earlier book. It offers seven stories from Canadian history. Some of these may be familiar to the general public, or at least the characters in them will be known; most readers, for example, know of Wilfred Grenfell or Sam Steele, and Almighty, Voice, the "outlaw Indian," has, as Mr. Berton points out, "long since assumedthe proportions of a legend."

Other stories deal with characters who are less likely to be known to readers: John Jewitt, for example, an armorer on a trading ship, who, in 1803, survived a massacre on Vancouver Island only to become the slave and prize possession of a Nootka Indian chief; Cariboo Cameron, who made a fortune in the Cariboo gold fields, but found no happiness in his wealth — the tale is far more bizarre than that phrase indicates — and died, in the words of the Victoria *Colonist*, "an emaciated old man . . . a wreck of his former self;" Mina Hubbard, the wife of an explorer killed in Labrador, who undertook an expedition herself to finish her husband's work; and Isaac Jogues, a Jesuit missionary among the Huron who passionately, and successfully, sought martyrdom.

Even if readers are familiar with the characters and events retold here, however, they will seldom have found them retold so well. Mr. Berton has a definite gift for making a tale come alive. In my own favorite from this collection, *The Slavery of John Jewitt*, (one suspects that it is Mr. Berton's favorite as well, since he has an obvious affection for the complex character of Maquinna, the Indian who "owned" Jewitt) he is able to flesh out even the minor characters and gives a glimpse of the colorful world of the Nootka.

Mr. Berton performs a service by rooting these tales out of the history books and making them available to the Canadian public in such readable form. It helps to make Canadians aware of their past and may encourage some of them to forage further into history, not just of their country but of any part of the world, on their own. Mostly, however, he performs the service of offering, in an area where there is too much cant and rhetoric and just plain bad writing, stories that are good entertainment.

Winnipeg Free Press
Leisure Section, Sept. 9

BOOK REVIEW

''Northern Sphinx: Iceland and the Icelanders from the Settlement to the Present'', by Sigurdur A. Magnusson. Montreal, McGill — Queen's University Press, 1977.

by Gustaf Kristjanson

The title — and subtitle — of this book, originally published in Great Britain and reprinted last year by McGill-Queen's University Press is perhaps just a bit on the pretentious side, since it is only about 240 pages in length and deals with a vast subject. Nevertheless, the author in his Foreword describes it as ''a general introduction to Iceland, past and present, with special reference to cultural trends in its historical development.'' This is an accurate description. While the book avoids burdening the reader with an undue mass of historical detail, it does undoubtedly touch on the principal and most significant developments in the history of the land and relates these admirably to the social and cultural development of the people.

While he has worked from a variety of sources, the author has invested the whole account with the quality of his own outlook and his own judgment. The result is a work which is often highly perceptive, always informative and interesting, and immensely readable throughout.

He begins the book with an account of the original settlement of Iceland and of the Golden Age of the Commonwealth which was founded there. There follows a treatment of the origin and character of the poetry and Sagas that constitute Iceland's chief legacy to world literature. The centuries of poverty and neglect that followed the nation's loss of independence are effectively described. Then the renaissance of cultural and political expression that ultimately resulted in that independence being regained and Iceland's emergence as a modern democratic republic. All of these are dealt with in a manner calculated to inspire interest in the reader, particularly if the reader is relatively unfamiliar with the topic. In the final portion, the author surveys some economic and geographic characteristics of the island.

To this reviewer, one of the more fascinating sections of the book is the one in which the author discusses the character of the Icelandic people. This he does with an engaging directness, embellished with facile judgments and an abundance of provocative comments. The chapter is studded with observations like ''In general every Icelander feels as good as his neighbour and is conscious of his worth. The absences of class differences indicates a highly developed democracy, but more correctly it reflects an essentially aristocratic outlook, taking equality for granted without insisting on it, setting greater store by independence and individual excellence.'' Interesting comparisons are made between the Icelanders and the Greeks, and he advances the opinion that Egil Skallagrimsson embodies some of the outstanding traits of the Icelandic spirit in the way that Homer's Odysseus typifies prominent traits of the Greek psyche. This all makes for some heady conjecture and stimualting reading.

Sigurdur Mangusson, as the dust jacket informs us, has spent the greater portion of his career as a journalist with a particularly strong interest in literature and cultural endeavours. While appreciating the accomplishments of his countrymen, he is detached enough to be critical as well as sympathetic. The result is a work which gives the impression of objectivity and carries considerable conviction.

Whether one is sampling an Icelandic history for the first time, or merely renewing one's acquaintance with the trials and achievements of the Icelandic people, this volume is to be commended. It is a most readable book and well worth adding to your library.

NORSE SETTLEMENTS IN CANADA

It came as a sensation to the archeological and historical world when in 1960 the Norwegian archeologists Helge and Anne-Stine Ingstad claimed that discoveries they had made in L'Ance aux Meadows in Newfoundland indicated a Norse settlement. Work on the turf mounds they had found continued for the next eight years and between them the husband-and-wife team have built up convincing proof that the settlement which they discovered was indeed Norse, and from their work they have been able to describe life in this community. In the first to be published of two English-language volumes on the site, Anne-Stine Ingstad in ''The Discovery of the Norse Settlement in America'' (Universitetsforlaget) deals with the ethnic integrity of the community which lived there. Her comprehensive analysis portrays a convincing picture of a small Norse society with many of the characteristic features that were found in similar Norse settlements in Iceland and Greenland.

It is often too easy to extrapolate from archeological analysis to historical identification and Anne-Stine Ingstad takes care not to discuss whether the settlement could be identified with the Vinland where Leif Eiriksson landed and built dwellings to spend the winter. In a second volume, her husband will deal with an historical consideration of the Saga's stories and the Norse voyages to Vinland.

All of the findings show turf buildings near the shore of a crescent shaped bay. They were eight dwellings in all. The largest reflects the style used in Iceland and Greenland before 1200. All fireplaces in the homes resemble the usual Norse pattern. Most material, however, other than the constructions, appear to have been removed, but finds of jewelry, iron smelting equipment and signs of sheep and goat tending, together indicate an early Norse community in North America.

Scandinavian News,
Winnipeg, April 7, 1978

VIKING HORSES HELP DISABLED

By Cathy Kanu
Newsday

NEW YORK — Viking Saga was born Aug. 13 on the Glen Cove, N.Y., estate of Jozee and Geni Laemmlin. The first Viking horse born on Long Island, she is a descendant of the first horse brought to Iceland by the Vikings in the year 900. Tiny, furry, fearless and inquisitive, Viking Saga pushes her velvet nose into the laps of the children she will carry in a therapy program designed to provide exercise and fun for disabled children.

The Laemmlins have spent more than $150,000 on the program. "We have a need, to help others," says Geni Laemmlin. As added incentives, they have an 11-year-old son, Christopher, who has cerebral palsy and is unable to walk. Mrs. Jozee Laemmlin is totally blind.

The Laemmlins call their program The New Riders of the Viking Horses. It stems from a concept of riding therapy for the disabled used in Switzerland for 100 years. There the Laemmlins met Dr. Jurg Baumann, who runs such a program in Basle. The principle is simple: physical therapy as a result of motion.

"The exercise is good for muscles which seldom get used when they are confined to a wheelchair," Laemmlin said. "Riding stretches tight muscles and sometimes improves co-ordination, but the interesting aspect is that it is a form of exercise these children love and look forward to. They establish a rapport with another living being, which is soft and warm and gentle. They can, for the first time in their lives, feel they command a living creature. They can look down from their perch on the horse on to other humans and feel they are literally, and figuratively, on top of things."

A vaulting harness (a device used by circus bareback riders) and soft sheepskin rug replace the conventional saddle. "Riding for the disabled person creates a freedom of movement and feeling of accomplishment," Laemmlin said. "It is a means for outdoor activity without cumbersome equipment. It creates a powerful relationship between horse and rider, the objective being to challenge and develop balance."

The Icelandic horse has proved to be the best animal for this therapy. Its temperament is good; it is from 46 to 58 inches high, and it can carry 350 pounds, so teacher and rider can often ride at the same time. Laemmlin thinks the animal "is a kind of miniature draft horse, with outstanding endurance. But the most important fact is that this five-gaited horse not only walks, trots and canters, like any horse, but also paces and does the tolt, a gait which simulates man's normal gait, and is especially important for therapy.

"We started the program in September 1976, and today we have 20 students. Many are recommended and others are sent to us by the Human Resources Centre for United Cerebral Palsy."

The Laemmlins employed professional trainer Sigurd Ragnarson, from Iceland, to spend three months training 10 horses for the program.

"It's amazing how these lessons give children the chance to feel so much from a horse," Ragnarson said. "They can stretch their legs and feel like they are walking. We are not only giving riding lessons, we are giving children the chance to enjoy life."

Lessons cost $15 for a half hour and $25 an hour, but these are only suggested donations and any contribution is accepted. Trainers and therapists are at every session and prescribed therapeutic exercises are carried out. Trainer Larry Sokolowski observes that "though many children are at first afraid of the horse, they quickly form emotional attachments to these furry, friendly animals, and become devoted to one and will ride only him."

The Laemmlins' son has a favorite black gelding named Whiskey, one of three Icelandic horses that joined 150 American-bred animals in a Bicentennial ride from Utica, N.Y., to Sacramento, Calif., last fall. He finished in the best physical condition of any of the animals. Whiskey is a kind of hero to Christopher.

"When I ride Whiskey, I feel like he was made for me, like he is my legs. I feel my spine going up and down and it feels good. I feel free."

THE CALL OF THE LAKE

By G. Bertha Johnson

The old fisherman stood beside his boat,
He was grizzled, gray, and worn,
Thinking of times it had served him well
At work in the fog-misted morn.

He passed his hand in a gentle caress
Over its gray-painted side;
And longed for the days forever gone,
When dauntless the breakers he'd ride.

The Lake Winnipeg fleet of fishing boats
Had gone and left him behind:
Too old now for the long hard days,
but still valiant and clear of mind.

"Five hundred fishermen lowered their nets
In the north waters of the Lake.
Their lonely women sing and pray
Their loved a safe return will make.

"I still can fish the calm sheltered bay."
His face beamed a wistful smile.
"For I've been a good fisherman
In my day. I travelled many a mile."

He untied his craft, and clambered aboard;
Deftly set it afloat with his oar.
The motor throbbed as off he sped
To the bay to set nets once more.

NEWS

In a letter from Prof. Haraldur Vidal, Brandon University.

An Icelandic lass from Selkirk (presumably) won an entrance award: **Brandon University Board of Governors Entrance Scholarships** (awarded for highest standing, by application, in any Manitoba School Division as indicated) Joan Jonsson, Lord Selkirk S.D.

I have wondered why neither Lögberg-Heimskringla nor the Icelandic Canadian carried a news item concerning Grettir Johannson's donating a painting to the University at the Spring Convocation. I presented the painting on his behalf. Copies of the graduation program and my short speech of presentation were forwarded, I understood, to both publications.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF SUN

26 February 1979

Professor Richard Bochonko
Department of Astronomy and
Mathematics, University of Manitoba

At 10:40 a.m. on February 26, a very large black shadow, 300 kilometers in width, and moving at approximately 2000 km/hr will sweep into south western Manitoba. The center of the shadow will move across Souris, Brandon, Gladstone, Oak Point, Arborg, Riverton, Hecla Island and out of Manitoba at about 10:55 a.m. The northern edge of the shadow will sweep over Petlura, Grandview, Sifton, Toutes Aides, Crane River, Gypsumville, Anama Bay and Berens River. The southern edge of the shadow covers Killarney, Morden, Winkler, Morris, and Steinbach. All of southern Manitoba except the south east corner will experience the effects of this black shadow. It is the shadow of the moon which is moving between these locations on earth and the sun.

The effect is awe inspiring. Prior to the arrival of the black shadow, the moon will gradually cover more and more of the sun. But because the sun is so bright, no pronounced change will occur until the moon completely covers the sun. At that time, the shadow sweeps over the observer and plunges him into darkness (something like walking into a dark movie theatre from a bright sunlit day outside). This period of darkness is called total eclipse. The length of time of total eclipse will depend on location. At the center of the shadow, the duration will be about 2 minutes 50 seconds. The duration decreases from that to zero at the edges of the shadow.

Is it dangerous to observe the eclipse of the sun? The answer is yes if the correct techniques are not used at the appropriate times. During the darkness of total eclipse it is completely safe to look directly at the sun with or without telescope or binoculars. **At any other time, that is, before total eclipse or after total eclipse, one must not look directly at the sun** because the intensity of light will cause burns on the retina of the eye. However, there is a simple way to view the progress of the eclipse during the dangerous times (note that the sun is always dangerous to look at directly except during times of total eclipse). A device called a pinhole projector should be constructed. Obtain a large cardboard box (the longer the better). In one end of the box cut a hole and attach aluminum foil over the hole. In the aluminum foil make a very small hole with the end of a pin (the pinhole). On the opposite end of the inside of the box place a smooth sheet of white paper or cardboard as the screen. That completes the projector. It is used as follows: Point the pinhole towards the sun so that the sun's light passes through the pinhole and projects onto the screen. Do not look through the pin hole. The projector may be tested at anytime and will be useful for seeing the sun at any time.

The image that is produced on the screen is **small.** For example, if the distance from pinhole to screen were 5 feet, then the size of the image of the sun would be only $^1/_2$ inch. However, this is exactly the same size that the sun in the sky appears if viewed directly. Nonetheless, viewing the sun with the projector is better because you can move closer to the image and examine it. The size of the hole does not have to be a pinhole in order to produce an image. However, the smaller the hole the sharper the focus of the image.

What will be visible during total eclipse? The moon blocks out the sun and reveals the sun's outer atmosphere called the corona. This is pearly white in appearance, about the brightness of the full moon and will be seen to extend out from the sun to about two times the size of the sun. Since the sky will be dark, stars and planets will become visible. The planets Mars and Venus will appear west of the sun and the planet Mercury to the east. The sky all around the horizon will give the impression of twilight. Then the sun will peak out from behind the moon, filling the sky with daylight. The total eclipse of the sun will be over.

May the skies of Manitoba be bright and blue on the morning of Monday, February 26, 1979.

Mr. Fridrik Olafsson Elected President of the World Chess Federation

By Professor I. Libnowski, Department of Economics, University of Manitoba

Mr. Olafsson succeeds Dr. Max Euwe as President of F.I.D.E. (Fédération Internationale des Échecs). Dr. Euwe was World Chess champion (1935-37) and a Professor of Mathematics at a Dutch University.

Mr. Olafsson's appointment to the prestigious position of President of F.I.D.E. reflects the rather recent view amongst the elite of the chess community that only an administrator who is **also** of grandmaster strength has the rare combination of credentials essential to discharging properly the complex responsibilities of that high office. He will require an enormous fund of patience, strength, diplomatic skill, and the kind of respect among the chess elite that only a fellow-grandmaster possesses, to perform the delicate balancing act between Western and Soviet-block chess interests demanded of a successful President of F.I.D.E. His election to the office of President signifies that the chess world has confidence in Mr. Olafsson's ability to discharge these demanding duties effectively.

In his own right, Grandmaster Olafsson is ranked as one of the leading active grandmasters in the world. As early as 1959, he was one of eight final candidates who competed for the right to challenge the defending World Chess Champion for the crown. In 1978, in a powerful international tournament in Reykjavik, Olafsson went undefeated and tied for third place, giving strong evidence of his current strength as an active grandmaster.

MAGNUSSON FAMILY HOLDS REUNION

Descendents of Magnus and Ingibjorg Magnusson who settled at "Eyolfstodum" at Hnausa, Manitoba around 1895 gathered together on August 5th, 1978 for a family reunion in the Hnausa Community Hall.

Over 230 family members came from most parts of Canada between Montreal and Victoria to share in the happy occasion. The youngest family member to attend was 8-week-old Steve William Thorvardson of Kingston, Ontario, while the oldest was 78-year-old Sveinn S. Magnusson of Winnipeg.

After an afternoon of visiting a smorgasbord supper was held. Seated at the head table were the surviving members of the second generation.

A major feature of the Magnusson Reunion was the unveiling of a book titled "So Well Remembered," written by Kristiana Mangusson of White Rock, B.C. The book relates the story of Magnus Magnusson as well as highlights of community life in Hnausa from 1895 to 1940.

Another highlight of the weekend was a gaily decorated van owned by Ruthier and Lawrence Hein of Winnipeg. The van was decorated with flowers signifying the "Magnusson Reunion" and was entered in the Icelandic Celebration Parade at Gimli pulling a decorated trailer adorned with a group of great-great-grandchildren. The van won first prize in the miscellaneous category.

—Lake Centre News, Aug. 29, 1978.

GRADUATES AND AWARDS

GRADUATES

University of Lethbridge, Alberta

Spring Convocation 1978

Lawrence Haraldur Johnson.

Award

The Gold Medal for Arts and Science and a prize of $1,000. Major, Organic Chemistry.

Lawrence is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Olafur Johnson, of Red Cliff, Alberta, a nephew of Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson of Winnipeg and a great-nephew of Dr. Thorbergur Thorvaldson of the University of Saskatchewan.

Lawrence is employed in the field of nuclear waste management at Pinawa, Manitoba.

Bachelor of Arts

Barbara Elizabeth Johnson.
Carol Elaine Paulson.

University of Winnipeg Classics Department Scholarship

Janet Linda Susan Johnson.

Board of Regents Proficiency Scholarship

Alfheidur Sheila Jonsson.
Eleanor Ruth Kristjanson.
Ross Bohdan Lechaw.
Kenneth Einar Thorlakson.
Sharon Gail Halldorson.
Margret Anne Kristjansson.

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GRADUATES AT THE ANNUAL FALL CONVOCATION 1978, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Master of Science

David Hjalmar Bergman, B.Sc.
Major and Ancillary: Civil Engineering

Allan Herbert Kristofferson
Major: Zoology
Ancillary: Statistics

Master of Education

Robert Walter Gustafson, B.A., B.Ed.
Major and Ancillary:
Educational Administration

Bachelor of Arts

Sigrid Klara Lyles

Bachelor of Education

Gilbert Wayne Brandson, B.A.
Carlyle Magnus Eyjolfson, B.P.E.
Kevin Baldur Olafson, B.F.A.

Bachelor of Pedagogy

Douglas John Halmarson

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HALLSON APPOINTED GENERAL MANAGER OF WINNIPEG HYDRO

Kenneth H. Hallson of Winnipeg was recently appointed general manager of Winnipeg Hydro.

Mr. Hallson, who had been Acting General Manager, assumed his new position on September 21.

Mr. Hallson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hallson. His father operated a grocery store at the corner of Toronto and Ellice here in Winnipeg, as well as working for Safeway for many years. Mr. Hallson Sr. passed away in 1973.

NEWS

J. E. (Jim) Goodman Receives award

THOMPSON, Man. — (Staff) Two Flin Flon mining officials were honored at the final session of the Canadian Mining and Metallurgy district four annual meeting which concluded Saturday.

Winnipeg-born J. E. (Jim) Goodman, former general manager of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. operations at Flin Flon and Snow Lake, was presented with the district's distinguished service award.

The award was given for Goodman's "contributions to his community, the mining industry and the institute over the past 40 years and specifically for his participation and design of the new concentrator at Snow Lake." The $30-million concentrator will be in operation before the end of this year. Goodman officially retired several years ago but is retained as a metallurgical consultant.

Maurice Kirby, superintendent of mines with Hudson Bay Mines at Flin Flon was given the proficiency medal for his development of a vertical crater mining method introduced at the company's Centennial mine.

The Thompson branch received the N. W. Bartlett award for its contribution to district four of Winnipeg. The branch was commended for its conduct of the three-day conference as well as the contribution of technical papers to the district and the educational activities involving students in northern Manitoba.

—Winnipeg Free Press

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CARDIAC PULMONARY RESUSCITATION LIFE SAVER

Cardiac arrests — heart attacks — are a major form of illness in the country. In cities, heart attacks may and do, occur to people shopping downtown or walking on the streets. The Winnipeg police have been trained to come quickly to the rescue in such cases. "By March of this year (1978) Winnipeg had trained its entire police force in CPR (cardiac pulmonary resuscitation) and claimed it to be a first in Canada. Constable Bruce Isfeld, who was a respiratory technologist before he became a policeman, undertook the task with four of his men who had taken the instructors' course. Putting 800 policemen through CPR training took them seven months. Winnipeg has a universal emergency telephone number (911) that automatically brings a policeman as well as an ambulance. Although the policeman is often the first person on the scene, he has to hustle to beat an ambulance in Winnipeg, where the average emergency response time is 4.8 minutes."

—Winnipeg Tribune, Sept. 15, 1978.

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COSMOPOLITAN WINNIPEG

The 1971 census shows that in Winnipeg the population's ethnic breakdown was:

British	43%	Scandinavian	3.2%
Ukrainian	11.8%	Dutch	2.7%
German	11.5%	Italian	1.7%
French	8.6%	Asian	1.4%
Polish	4.8%	Native Indian	1.2%
Jewish	3.4%	Icelandic	1.1%

—Winnipeg Tribune Aug. 8, 1978.

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Catherine Elizabeth Burns graduated from the University of California at Davis, with highest honors, in 1975. She received her masters degree in Musicology from the University of Minnesota in 1978, with a grade point average of 4.0.

Catherine is the daughter of Dr. Robert Burns and his wife Claire, formerly Lillington, both formerly of Winnipeg.

J. PETER JOHNSON, OF WINNIPEG MADE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

J. Peter Johnson, a Vice-President of Indus Equipment, Ltd., of Winnipeg, was made a member of the National Research Council of Canada last June. Indus is currently marketing a unique medical product, a heat unit indicator for use with x-ray machines which "promises significant medical and cost saving benefits for hospitals around the world".

The following is the wording of the essential part of the scroll — Elizabeth the Second, *by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories QUEEN, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.*

TO

J. PETER JOHNSON,

Esquire,

of Fort Garry, in the Province of Manitoba,

GREETING: KNOW YOU that reposing trust and confidence in your loyalty, integrity and ability We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, did, on the thirteenth day of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight and in the twenty-seventh year of Our Reign, constitute and appoint you the said J. Peter Johnson to be a

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

TO HAVE, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of a member of the National Research Council of Canada unto you the said J. Peter Johnson with all and every the powers, rights, authority, privileges, profits, emoluments and advantages unto the said office right and by law appertaining during Our Pleasure for a period effective on the thirteenth day of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight and terminating on the first day of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-one.

The National Research Council of Canada has five members from each of Ontario and Quebec and one member from each of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba and two from each of B.C. and the Maritime provinces.

The membership of the Council is divided between Industry and the Universities, men who have demonstrated their ability and dedication to research and development. It follows that the National Research Council carries an important responsibility in the future of our country.

1. The Icelandic Canadian, Spring, 1978, p. 37.

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SILVER JUBILEE MEDAL

Hansina Gunnlaugsson has been awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for outstanding service to the Icelandic society, Baldursbra, and for various other services in the interest of her community. She was in charge of hospitality for visitors from Iceland in 1975 and again last summer.

ROSA BENEDIKTSON HONORED

Mrs. Rosa Benediktson, daughter of the famous poet, Stephan G. Stephansson, was chosen Fjallkona at the annual June 17 picnic held in Markerville, Alta. Addressing the attendants, she said in part:

"The Iceland emigrants remained devoted to their Motherland, but came to love their fosterland, Canada with deep and loyal affection. They came to better the lot of their descendants and themselves, and we Canadians think they chose wisely and well. They added a shining thread to the tapestry which combines the cultures and traditions of the many ethnic groups which go to make up this Canada of ours today."

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HONORARY CITIZEN

Ragnar H. Ragnar has been named Honorary Citizen of the town of Isafjördur, Iceland, where he is director of music in the schools and actively involved in music generally. Before the Second World War, Ragnar spent many years in Canada and the N.W. United States. Many Winnipeg musicians remember him as an excellent tutor, an organizer and director of choirs and an enthusiastic promoter of choral music in the city's Icelandic community.

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GOLD AWARD FOR ICELANDIC POSTAGE STAMPS

Iceland's Postal and Telephone Communications Department (Post- og simamalastjorn) has published a book of Icelandic postage stamps issued during the last 100 years. The book, compiled by Jon Adalsteinn Jonsson, was shown recently at an international exposition of postage stamps in Toronto, CAPEX 78, where it won the highest recognition, the gold award. From Toronto the book went on to Prague to compete in a display of postage stamps commemorating the 60th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's independence and the nation's first issue of postage stamps.

AWARDED FELLOWSHIPS

Mary-Anne Valgardson has received a university of Victoria fellowship of $5,500. She completed her B.A. Honors in linguistics in 1977. During 1977, 1978 and 1979, she will work on a Masters degree in linguistics with emphasis on dialectology. Much of her research has been and will be done in the Gimli area and will concentrate on the English spoken by descendants of Icelandic settlers. Mary-Anne is the wife of author W. D. Valgardson.

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Dr. Daniel J. Simundsson, associate professor of Old Testament, and Dean of Academic Affairs at Lutheran Northwestern Seminaries in St. Paul, Minnesota, has been awarded a significant doctoral fellowship, the Fredrik A. Schiotz Award. This award is made annually by the Aid Association for Lutherans to one member of the faculties of all the seminaries of the American Lutheran Church. Dr. Simundsson, with his wife and two daughters, will spend the 1978-79 academic year on a sabbatical leave at Cambridge University in England, where he will write a book on the meaning of suffering in the Old Testament.

Dr. Simundsson is the son of Reverend Kolbeinn Simundsson. He grew up in Seattle, Wash., and has degrees from Stanford University, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Harvard University.

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Winnipeg Painter Wins Scholarship

Denise Malis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Malis of 109 Kingsway Avenue in Winnipeg, received her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) degree at the Spring Convocation 1978 of the University of Manitoba. Miss Malis, who is a painter, was on the Dean's Honour List for two consecutive years. She is presently studying towards her Master's degree in painting on a scholarship to the University of Cincinnati. Her mother, Helga Malis, is of Icelandic descent. K. P.

G. B. GUNLOGSON HONORED

Five years ago, in the Autumn 1973 issue of **The Icelandic Canadian,** there was an account of the interesting Gunlogson Arboretum in the Icelandic State Park of North Dakota. On August 25 last the Gunlogson Arboretum Nature Trail was designated a national recreation trail. Gunlogson, 91, saw his dream come true.

The uniqueness of the site was praised by Al Baldwin, assistant Regional Director for the Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service.

"This 200-acre farm has forest, brush, marsh, upland prairie, springs, ponds and the Tongue River. Its variety of plant, animal and birds is greater, for its size, than in any other part of the State."

Baldwin also presented Gunlogson the Interior Department's highest honor, the Outdoor Recreation Achievement Award. Gunlogson is only the twenty-fifth person in the United States to receive this award.

Governor Arthur Link also presented Gunlogson and his sister, Loa Gunlogson, with plaques in honor of their national recognition. Gunlogson who now lives in Racine, Wisconsin is 91 years, as has been mentioned, and his sister is 88 years.

The Gunlogsons tilled 160 acres on their homestead and G. B. Gunlogson himself bought another forty acres to complete the Agassiz geology's very great diversity.

Of the old farm, Gunlogson says, "the grandest and most exciting of all was the coming of spring, which would fill our senses with a symphony of sounds and colors and a feeling of aliveness . . . Now this varied terrain and plant life can serve as a laboratory for scientists and students. For teachers and students it becomes a living outdoors schoolroom".

W. K.

Grand Forks Herald, August 27, 1978.

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Gimli Man Wins Award

Stuart H. Jones was honored by the Manitoba Council of the Society of Management accountants for obtaining the highest average. First level in the R.I.A. program of Studies.

Stuart received his award at the Convocation exercises U. of M. on Oct. 14th, 1978. Stuart is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Helgi Jones, Gimli, Manitoba.

Mrs. Runa Arnason Celebrates 90th Birthday

Mrs. Runa (Gudrun) Arnason celebrated her 90th birthday Friday, October 20 at Betel Home. Runa was born in Vopnafjord, Iceland in 1888 and came to Canada with her parents at the age of 4 years. In 1915 she married Vilhjalm Arnason and the same year he built their home at 72 - 6th Ave. where Runa lived for 63 years. She has 9 children, 27 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. All of her children and most of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren held a special family dinner Sunday after the Lutheran church service to honor her.

She received many telegrams, cards, phone calls, flowers and gifts. Runa has resided at Betel for the past 2 years.

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17 Nov. 78

To Editor:

In last issue a poem by Art Reykdal was published — it was "The Builder" and was to my father Sigurjon Austman who passed away in June 1978. Unfortuantely no explanatory note was given on the above.

Helgi L. Austman
(Verna)

DAN BJARNASON PROMOTED

Dan Bjarnason has been appointed CBC correspondent of national news in London, England. He was born in Brandon; has a B.A. degree from the University of Manitoba, and a degree in journalism from Carleton University, Ottawa. He served with the Canadian Press in Toronto and two years with the **Leader Post,** Regina. He joined the CBC in Regina; was parliamentary correspondent in Ottawa; returned to Winnipeg as national reporter for the CBC. Prior to his promotion he served as national reporter for the CBC. Dan is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Carl Bjarnason, Winnipeg. Carl is the acting Associate Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba.

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ARBORG'S ECLIPSE PLANS

I am writing this letter on behalf of a citizens' group formed to cope with the anticipated visit of many interested viewers of the last total solar eclipe in Canada, or the United States, in this century. An eclipse of this kind passes across the same spot only once in 360 years.

Although all of southern Manitoba lies within the path of totality, the centre line is where the total eclipse will last the longest. Arborg is right on the centre line and expects to be in total eclipse for 2 minutes, 47 seconds.

Our hotel and motels have been booked up since last June, but our committee has set up a billetting system and we are ready and willing to accommodate a great number of people who may be interested in coming to our community for this event. Please write for help.

Many fun filled events are being planned for February 24 and 25 culminating with the eclipse at 10:45 a.m. on February 26, 1979.

Carol Aitken
Chairman
Arborg Solar Eclipse
Committee

Arborg, Man.
R0C 0A0

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