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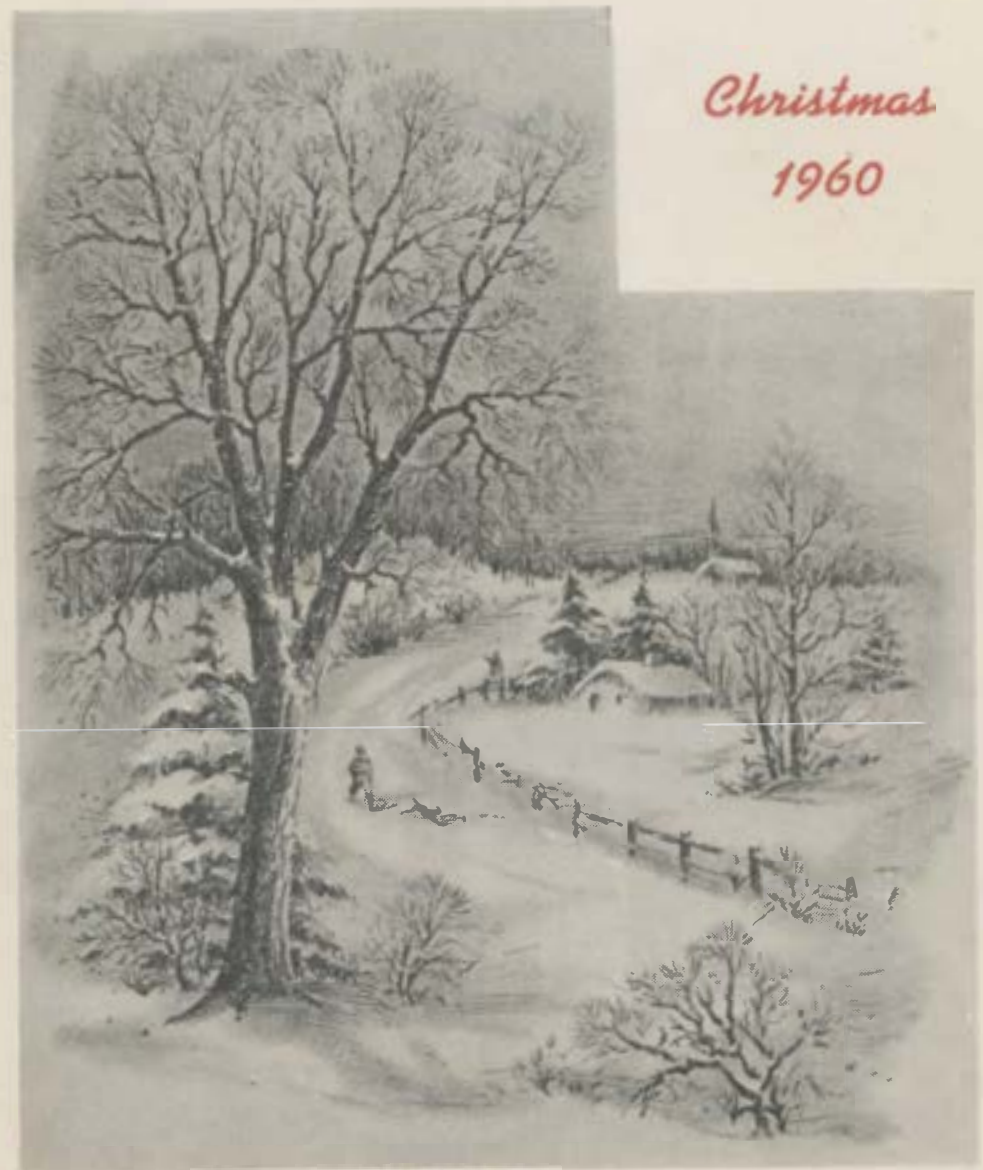
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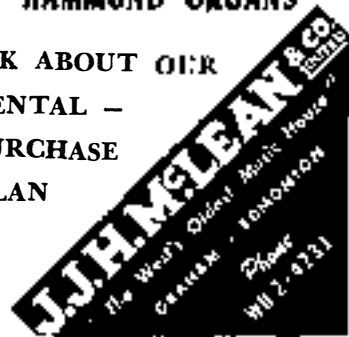
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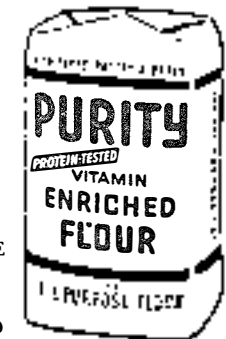
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# The Icelandic Canadian

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Winnipeg, Canada

Winter 1960

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### THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

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## EDITORIAL

## Pioneer Christmas . . .

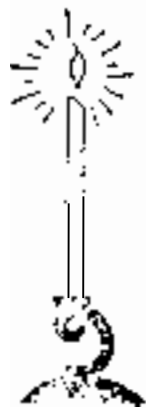
The Christmas season is drawing near. It is customary at this time to bring to mind the different ways of celebrating Christmas in different lands, and it should not be out of place to consider how Christmas was spent among our own Icelandic pioneers.

At first, of course, there was great poverty in the Icelandic settlements as elsewhere, and often it was difficult to reach any stores, so for either reason or both, there were few if any Christmas presents given. However, the old Icelandic custom of lighting up the room with candles was a simple and inexpensive way of making Christmas different from other times. In many districts candles were not even available in stores, so the duty fell upon the oldest boy or girl to make candles out of tallow, with grocery string as a wick. In many cases the top of a bottle was used as a mold. The wick was firmly fastened to the bottom of the mold, and stretched taut at the top; then the liquid tallow was poured in, and the candles carefully placed in the snow to cool.

Christmas in those days was not so much a time of merriment as it was a holy time, to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Son of God. It was a religious festival, and in those times the celebration of it was simple and solemn.

Being the daughter of a pioneering family—one of the first to settle in the Lundar district—I can recall many interesting things about how we spent Christmas. And here I shall have to apologize to the readers for writing in the first person singular, though that is not usual in an editorial.

Probably the first Christmas in my recollection was one on which my father, Halldor Halldorsson, walked to a store kept by a man named Walton and bought a candle for each of his numerous children. We had, of course, been taught the Christmas story, but we also had heard that elves and such beings were around after dark, especially on Christmas Eve (jólaveinar) and could be kept away by lights of various kinds. For those beings did not relish light. So we each lighted our candle, and placed it on a wooden box or some such object, and took deep joy in simply watching the light of the candle, while sitting quietly before it. If there was a picture book as a present for each of us, there was nothing more; but we were delighted. Then my mother Kristín (Pálsdóttir) baked pancakes (the Icelandic kind) and served them with chocolate—a



special treat at Christmas. And my father had perhaps brought for us a five cent bag of mixed candy from Walton's.

On Christmas day my father read the Christmas story from the Bible. This was called "húslestur". Several years later when a community hall had been built by the combined efforts of the settlers, Jon Sigurdson, our neighbor and a well-known pioneer, was asked to read the Bible in the hall, and hymns were sung by the congregation without the aid of an instrument. Then we, the children, were told we should follow the example of our elders and walk up to Jon Sigurdson and say "Þakka þér fyrir lesturinn".

Later still, when Jóhann Pálsson, who owned an organ and could play it, had come to live in the community, he loaned the organ and it was transported to the community hall for the festive occasion. The service was now conducted by Rev. Jón Jónsson, a minister who lived in the district and did some farming to eke out whatever income he received for his work. Jóhann Pálsson played the hymns and the congregation sang for the first time to the accompaniment of an instrument.

After the ceremony, I timidly made my way up to the organ, and imitating

Jóhann Pálsson, I used the pedals, and then touched the keys, which responded miraculously. Thoroughly absorbed in my experiment, I soon made out the tune of "Heims um ból, helg eru jól". My parents were so thrilled with this performance, that in the spring of that year they bought an organ which was brought out from Winnipeg. Plans were then made for me and some of the rest of the children to take lessons. Thus the first Icelandic Christmas service at which an organ was played, was the beginning of my lifelong interest in music.

Some time later, when the community had become more prosperous, I recalled another service at which there was a Christmas tree in the hall. My father acted as Santa Claus, dressed in the usual costume. Many gifts and colored candles adorned the Christmas tree.

In our time, when commercialism has so largely taken the place of the former spirit of Christmas, it is a relief to let one's mind wander back to those beautifully simple religious celebrations of Christmas in the early days of our Icelandic pioneers.

—Salome Halldorson

## IN THE EDITOR'S CONFIDENCE

### Congratulations to the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto

The Secretary, Mrs. R. C. Macaulay (Erla) writes:

"The Executive is very enthusiastic as to the possibilities of this club, considering it began with a nucleus of a half dozen ladies getting together for a 'kaffi sopa'".

Mrs. Macaulay had reason to be enthusiastic. In the letter she enclosed

a list of 58 "members and persons who have expressed interest since the last meeting." The list is revealing: over twenty women whose husbands are not Icelandic; eight men whose wives are not Icelandic; some members are children of "mixed marriages". It all tells a story: the roots lie deep and are not severed though transplanted in new soils.

The October meeting was addressed by J. Ragnar Johnson, Q.C. At the



November meeting Color Slides of Iceland were shown. The President, Mrs. Peacock, dressed a beautiful 30" doll in Icelandic costume which was raffled and the proceeds used for Christmas cheer for the folks at Betel. The officers

In the last issue of the magazine there was an article which received favorable and merited comment. It is the article on *Móðuharðindin*, The Famine of the Mist, by Vilhjálmur Bjarnar. It is well that we let our minds wander back to that terrifying catastrophe and view it in the encouraging aftermath.

It is commonplace that nations point with pride to hardships and suffering they have gone through and survived. There probably are some nations that have endured multiple attacks such as Mr. Bjarnar describes. But there is a very noteworthy sequel to the suffering the people of Iceland went through during the years 1779-1789,

In this issue there is a biographical sketch of one of our pioneers, Captain Sigtryggur Jonasson. We commend the sketch to our readers.

A most useful service is being performed by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in gathering biographic data on men and women of the various ethnic groups who, in their day, did so much in laying the founda-

The *Karлакór Reykjavíkur* has come and gone. They have been called ambassadors of goodwill. But they are more. They performed the role of an actor—an actor who has travelled across the seas to perform on the western

are: President, Fanny Peacock; Secretary, Mrs. Rosa Vernon; Treasurer, Mrs. Laufey McMillan; Social Convenor, Miss Sigga Elvin; Auditors, Mrs. Joan Ross and Mrs. Dora McFarquhar.

Mr. Bjarnar describes those years as "one of the most disastrous periods in the history of the people of Iceland", when, he says, "about one-fourth of the population of Iceland died from hunger and disease." But within half a century Iceland's Second Golden Age of Literature began. That record has no parallel in history.

Such information is of inestimable value to people in this land who trace their ancestry to Iceland. As we thank Vilhjálmur Bjarnar for the article we congratulate him upon being appointed Librarian of the famous Fiske Icelandic Collection, Cornell University Library. We hope to receive more contributions from him.

tion for the settlement of their own national groups, and, in the process, made such a valuable contribution to the building of the Canadian nation.

That should be and is a directive to this magazine to continue its work of gathering and collating material which may prove of inestimable value for future reference.

stage a nation's story of a thousand years.

But this should be a two-way traffic. Nor need the actors necessarily be drawn from the upper echelons of art. This we all should ponder.



## Icelandic Abroad

by HARALDUR BESSASON,

Professor of Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba

The study of languages is one of the more important elements in all education. No civilized nation can afford to be isolated from its neighbors. Each national culture, to be sure, has its own peculiar traits, but if one cultural unit is cut off from the world around it, there is an impending danger of stagnation and decay. The study of languages may be said to have laid the foundation of all kinds of international relations.

A language may be important or unimportant according to the angle from which it is being judged. A student of Old Germanic languages may find the fragmentary translation of the Bible into Gothic most valuable since it affords a reasonably clear picture of an extinct Germanic dialect. The American aeronaut is likely to take interest in the Russian language as an important tool of work since scientific papers concerning space travel have been written in this language. People who intend to visit either Japan or China may prepare for their journey by studying Oriental languages. The diplomat is fully aware of what his command of foreign languages has meant to him. Thus the classification "important and unimportant languages" or "practical and impractical languages" could be justified. At the universities the Science students think more of the practical aspect of a language than do the Arts students. But even though the practical viewpoint of the scientist is more conspicuous today than ever before, one can safely assume that language studies

will still retain their respectable position as an integral part of the humanities at any institution of learning.

For us Icelanders it is a pleasant reality, indeed, that a good deal of what has been written in our mother tongue has been put in a category with the most fundamental and classical works produced in mediaeval Europe. No language represents the Mediaeval North as faithfully as Icelandic, hence its importance in the field of comparative studies in philology, history and literature. Says W. P. Ker in his "Epic and Romance": "What went on in Iceland was the progress in seclusion of the Old Germanic life—". It would, however, be rather presumptuous to maintain that the Icelandic language and literature ever enjoyed the same reputation in the scholarly world as Latin or Greek, but this inequality is, I believe, largely due to these circumstances: Iceland was not settled until the latter half of the 9th century and did not produce any literature in writing until the 12th and the 13th centuries. In addition to this the literary activities of the Icelanders were almost unknown to other nations for a long time. Up to the 17th century even the Scandinavians had little knowledge of the content of early Icelandic manuscripts and did not know how much these manuscripts would mean to the history of the whole of Scandinavia. Thus Icelandic scholarship is in its infancy compared with scholarship in the field of classical languages.

In the 16th century two Norwegians obtained possession of two manuscripts of Snorri Sturluson's *Heimskringla* and translated them into Norwegian. These translations were the first works to direct the attention of foreign scholars towards Iceland. However, a 17th century Icelandic clergyman, Arngrímur Jónsson the Learned, was the first writer who effectively introduced Icelandic literature abroad. During this period scholars of Sweden and Denmark were engaged in keen competition in writing their own histories and both quickly realized the historical value of Icelandic sources. This resulted in the exportation of Icelandic manuscripts from Iceland. Most of these manuscripts were given a permanent place in Copenhagen and in this way the foundation was laid for Icelandic scholarship abroad, and for centuries Copenhagen remained the centre of scholarly activities in this field. No attempt will be made here to give a full account of Icelandic studies in Scandinavia. Suffice it to say that early Scandinavian history, to a great extent, draws on Icelandic sources and that Old Icelandic and Old Scandinavian are virtually the same. It can therefore be assumed that both from the historical and linguistic point of view more emphasis will be laid on Icelandic studies at Scandinavian universities than elsewhere, outside of Iceland.

In his "Origins of Icelandic Literature" Professor G. Turville-Petre states the following: ". . . Iceland was not merely a storehouse of northern tradition. Its poets and prose authors did not only preserve and develop literary forms of their forefathers; they also devised new forms, and the literature of Iceland thus became the richest and most varied of medieval Europe." G. Turville-Petre speaks of Icelandic literature. We Icelanders should

also use the terms Icelandic or Old Icelandic rather than Old Norse, a term quite common in English books. But whatever the terminology, Englishmen have contributed much to the research and interpretation of Scandinavian history and Old Icelandic literature and language. Norse or Icelandic studies in England date back to the year 1626 when Sir Henry Spelman published his "Glossarium Archaiologicum", the first work in England which shows interest in "Norse antiquities". But it was not until the 19th century that Icelandic studies won considerable recognition at English institutions of learning. Respectable translations of Icelandic poetry into English were made in 1804 and previous to that Norse Mythology had been made accessible to English men of letters. Obviously inspired by these works Mr. Walter Savage Landor wrote the following to a friend in 1811: "The Romans are the most anti-picturesque and anti-poetical people in the universe. No good poem ever was or ever will be written about them. The North opens the most stupendous region to genius. What a people were the Icelanders! What divine poets! Even in the clumsy version of William Herbert they strike my imagination and my heart differently from others."

During the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries a great many scholarly works in the Icelandic field were produced in English. In this connection the readers of the Icelandic Canadian should be referred to H. F. Danielson's "Iceland's Golden Age Literature" which appeared in the Icelandic Canadian Vol 14 No. 3 and 4 in 1956. Even more detailed information about works on Icelandic written in English is to be found in the bibliographies published in the *Islandica* series by Cornell University. The

standard in this field in English was set by outstanding scholars such as Sir William Cragie, W. P. Ker, Eiríkur Magnússon, Guðbrandur Vigfússon and many others. Long ago English universities recognized the importance of Old Icelandic in the field of comparative studies. It is interesting to note that this fact was recognized by an Englishman as early as in 1689 when the Oxford University Press published "Institutiones Grammaticae Anglo-Saxonicae et Moeso-Gothicae", but this work included a well known Icelandic Grammar by Rúnólfur Jónsson. Lately, major works on Icelandic have come from English and Scottish universities. One might, for instance mention works as "Origins of Icelandic Literature" by Professor G. Turville-Petre at Oxford, the recent translation into English of "Njáls saga" made by Magnús S. Magnússon and Hermann Pálsson lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and the well known series, *Saga Book*, published by the Viking Society for Northern Research, London. These achievements, among a number of others, show unmistakably that in England the interest in Icelandic studies is keener today than it has ever been before.

It would be of great interest to mention some of the major contributions German scholars have made toward scholarly research in the Icelandic field but here again a reference to the *Islandica* bibliographies must suffice. German universities consider Icelandic important for the study of Old Germanic Languages. An indication of this is the fact that a former University of Manitoba student in Old German and Old Icelandic is currently working towards his PhD at a German university with Old Icelandic as a major.

It is now more than a hundred years since courses in Scandinavian languages were first introduced at American universities, but two Scandinavian chairs were established there simultaneously in 1858. At approximately the same time the first courses in Icelandic on this continent were being offered at Cornell University by Daniel Willard Fiske who later made the Cornell University Library the centre of Icelandic studies in America.

In the United States courses in Icelandic have to this day been offered mostly by Scandinavian departments at the various universities. Such departments, however, have been established only in areas heavily populated by Scandinavian immigrants. A recent survey on Scandinavian studies in institutions of learning in the United States shows that there are Scandinavian departments at 51 universities and colleges. Twenty four of these institutions offer courses in Old Icelandic or Modern Icelandic. The total number of Icelandic courses at all the universities is 39, i.e. courses which are entitled Old Norse etc.

In the August, 1956 issue of "Scandinavian Studies" Hedin Bronner wrote an article which he called "Student Motivation in Scandinavian Courses in the United States". This article is a research largely based on a questionnaire that was distributed among American institutions which have instruction in Scandinavian subjects on their programmes. This survey revealed that the main reason for student enrolment in these subjects was Scandinavian origin or close ties with bilingual people of Scandinavian extraction. This fact is bound to concern scholars in the field as the trend toward complete Americanization is equally obvious among American-Scandinavians as among other ethnic

groups in the United States. However, the above survey shows that the enrolment in Old Icelandic (Old Norse) had nothing to do with national origin. Icelandic settlements in the U.S.A. are almost nonexistent with the only exception of North Dakota, Minnesota, and possibly Utah. True, Dr. Richard Beck at Grand Forks has taught many North Dakota Icelanders, but in the University of Utah Icelandic is not included even in its Scandinavian programme. Thus it is unlikely that Old Icelandic will disappear from American university calendars, even though Scandinavian languages will cease to be spoken in the country. Icelandic will still retain its standing as a funda-

mental language in the field of Germanic philology and literature.

No serious student of English can afford to ignore the Germanic element of that language any more than he can afford to ignore the Latin element. When explaining the noun Saturday the student can consult his Latin dictionary and look up "Saturnus", but there is no possibility for him to explain the nouns Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday without consulting the Icelandic Eddas or other works directly based on them.

The position of Icelandic among other European languages is such that, at least, it should always be of interest in academic circles on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

## WESTERN INTERLAKE HOCKEY CHAMPIONS



The Lundar Hockey Club, which is made up of boys of Icelandic origin, won the Western Interlake Hockey crown last season. — Maybe we have a new Falcon hockey team in the making!

## Captain Sigtryggur Jonasson

by DR. V. J. KAYE

National Liaison Officer in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration

This biographical sketch of Captain Sigtryggur Jonasson was prepared for the collection in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration of similar biographies of prominent personalities of ethnic groups in Canada, and it was made available also to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography (Toronto University Press, Toronto), for future use.

**Surname:** JONASSON.

**Given Name:** SIGTRYGGUR.

**Birth, Death (Dates, Places):** Born February 8th, 1852 on a farmstead at Eyjafirdi, Iceland. Arrived in Canada September 28, 1872. Died November 28, 1942 at Arborg, Manitoba, 90 years of age.

**Marriage & Children (Dates, Names):** Married to Rannveig Olafsdottir Briem in 1876, sister of Rev. Valdimar Briem, a well-known minister in Iceland. No children. Adopted a boy who was given the name of Percy Jonasson. Sigtryggur Jonasson's father was related to Jonas Hallgrimsson, a noted Icelandic poet and author. His mother was Helga Egilsdottir related to Bishop Arni fra Holum.

**Education (Institutions & Dates):** Jonasson received no formal education. He was taught at home, as was the custom in Iceland of that time, and continued his self-education through books. He studied the English language, intending to visit North America.

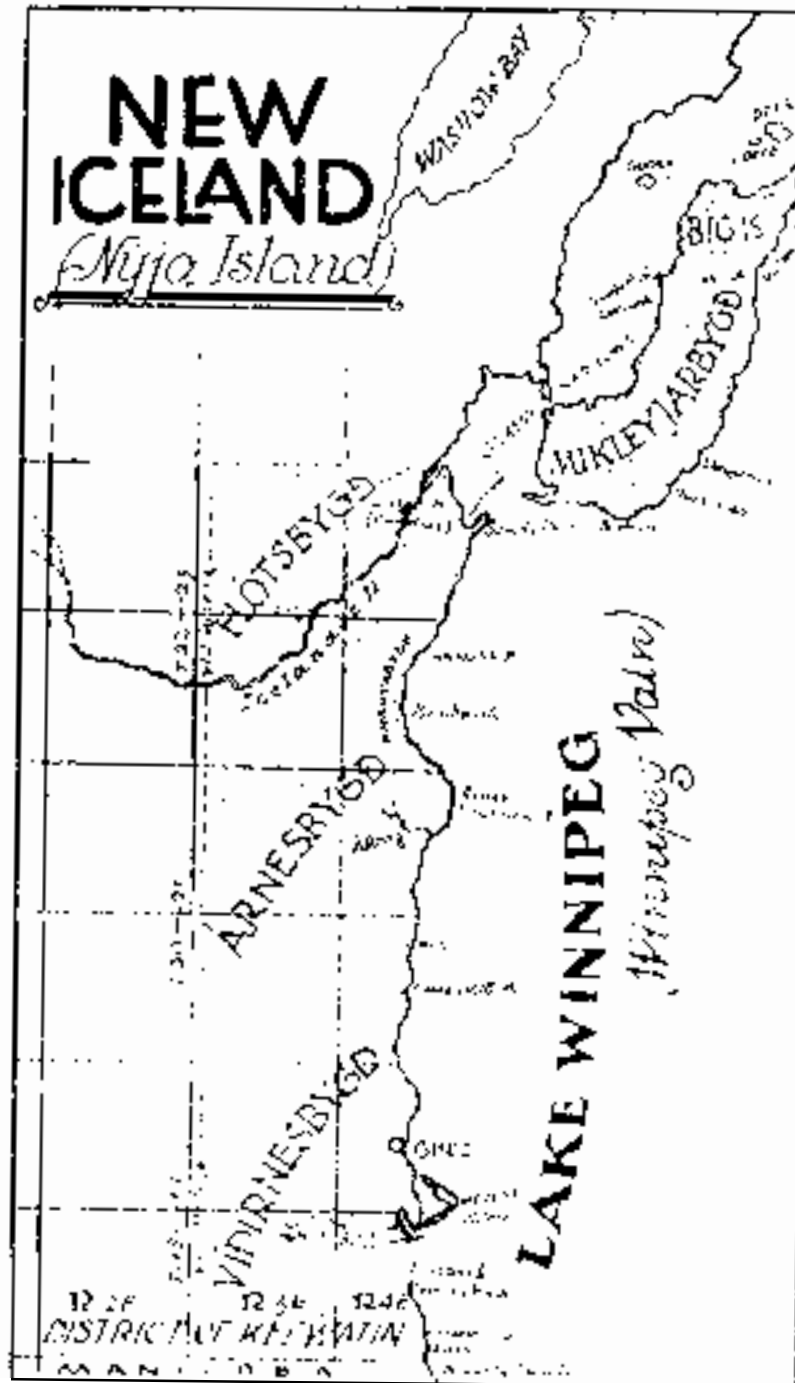
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**Significance:** Sigtryggur Jonasson is regarded as one of the most outstanding Canadians of Icelandic origin. He was the first Icelander to settle permanently in Canada, having arrived in this country in 1872. After two years' residence, the Canadian Government entrusted

him with the task of assisting the settlement of Icelandic immigrants in Canada. He was subsequently sent to Iceland as the agent of the Canadian government to organize parties of emigrants wishing to settle in Canada. He was mainly responsible for the establishment of an Icelandic colony in northern Manitoba, in the unorganized district of Keewatin. The colony assumed the name of New Iceland and for 12 years functioned as an autonomous Icelandic miniature republic within the framework of the Dominion. "In New Iceland they operated a constitution of their own, began their own public schools and organized their own Synod".<sup>1)</sup> Sigtryggur Jonasson was elected the first governor (President) of the Regional Council of New Iceland. He also became the editor of the official organ of the Council FRAMFARI (The Progressive); served as trustee and teacher of Icelandic schools established in New Iceland, and having a good command of the English language he served as a link between his government and the Canadian authorities.

As the settlement developed, to assure more adequate transportation to the markets, an inland merchant vessel was acquired and Jonasson became its captain. After the peaceful inclusion of New Iceland into the framework of the province of Manitoba in 1887,

<sup>1)</sup> Encyclopedia Canadiana, vol. 5, 1957. P. 228



Captain Jonasson entered Canadian politics. This finally led to his election in 1896 to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. Although he moved to Winnipeg and became editor of the Icelandic weekly LOGBERG, he remained the recognized adviser of Icelandic settlers for many years. In his later years he retired to Arborg, in the center of former New Iceland. "He was the dean of pioneers. Every visitor to New Iceland paused at his home in Arborg. The father of Icelandic settlement in Canada died on November 28, 1942, ninety years of age."<sup>1</sup>)

#### Additional Information:

Sigtryggur Jonasson has the distinction of being (1) the first Icelander to settle in Canada; (2) the first editor of the first Icelandic-language newspaper in Canada; (3) the first Icelander to become Member of a Provincial Parliament; (4) and also the first governor of the Regional Council of New Iceland, the autonomous Icelandic "state" set up in the Keewatin district. "The most unique and remarkable portion of the story of the earliest pioneers is to be found recorded in the earlier editions of the first paper printed in the colony, 'Framfari' (The Progressive) which related in minute detail the establishment of their own local self-government," relates Jon K. Laxdal.

"This is a story which has no parallel in Canadian history, for here, in the midst of the Canadian west, the colonists set up a virtual sovereign state, in the form of a democracy or a republic, having its own constitution and a code of laws complete to the last detail respecting the management of its affairs of government, outlining the duties and responsibilities of its citizens

towards their community and their fellow men. Here the elected representatives of the colonists held their assembly, debated and solved the problems of the state in their own foreign language with the full sanction of the Dominion Government, whose encouragement and financial assistance had made their colonization possible."<sup>1</sup>)

For the organization of the New Iceland government, and for maintaining cordial relations with the Dominion authorities Jonasson was mainly responsible. "He had the greatest respect for the British Empire and decided to halt under its protecting wing," wrote the late Rev. J. Bergmann, many years Professor of Icelandic at Wesley College in Winnipeg (now United College) in an article on Jonasson.<sup>2</sup>)

Steamship records show that Sigtryggur Jonasson arrived in Quebec on the 26th of September, 1872 on the S. S. Saint Andrew which left Glasgow on September 12. He had Chicago listed as his destination on his travel documents<sup>3</sup>) probably to be "on the safe side" in case Canada should not appeal to him.

In 1870, two years before Sigtryggur Jonasson decided to emigrate, four young Icelanders left their country and headed for Wisconsin, (relates Jonasson in a paper which he presented before the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba in 1901.) These four young men from Iceland were probably the first Icelanders to emigrate to North

1) Laxdal, Jon K.: "New Iceland 1875-1950, Icelandic Canadian Vol. IX No. 1 Autumn 1950, Winnipeg, Man., p. 17.

2) (Icelandic) Almanak 1907, as quoted by Judge W. J. Lindal, Winnipeg.

3) Record of landing.

1) Lindal, Judge W. J.: Captain Sigtryggur Jonasson, Winnipeg Free Press Dec. 3/42.

America.<sup>4)</sup> They were joined in 1871 by a few more immigrants and in 1872 another dozen went to Wisconsin. Their letters describing the rediscovered country in glowing colours awakening interest in North America. Sigtryggur Jonasson, "then a young man of twenty, followed the movement with the greatest of interest from the very first, and in the summer of 1872 started on a voyage of discovery all by himself, landing in Quebec in September, 1872.<sup>5)</sup> He had no set plan as to where he wished to settle. "But on board of the steamer which brought him across, he became acquainted with an elderly Scotchman from Ontario, who had gone home to Scotland on a visit and was returning to Canada. This gentleman gave the writer (Jonasson) advice on two heads in particular: First, not to drink any of the St. Lawrence water without mixing a 'wee drop' of whiskey in it, and, Second, to go to Ontario, assuring the writer that that province was the finest part not only of Canada, but of the whole North American continent"<sup>1)</sup>. Jonasson followed the Scotsman's advice, at least on the second point, settling in Ontario.

Each subsequent year brought more and more Icelanders to Canada and Jonasson, who met most of them "gave them direction and leadership." He persuaded most of them to try Ontario for settlement. The first attempts were not very successful. The colony founded at Rosseau in the Muskoka district

4) Sommerville, S. J., in her "Early Icelandic Settlement of Canada" paper read before the Historical and Scientific Society 1944-45 refers to "three young Icelanders who passed through Quebec en route to Milwaukee" p. 25.

5) Jonasson, Sigtr. "The Early Icelandic Settlement in Canada. Transaction No. 59, March 22, 1931, Winnipeg, Manitoba 1901 p. 4.

1) Ibid. 5

failed. The next group of immigrants, who arrived in 1874, some 365 persons, who settled in Kinmount, "found only intermittent and underpaid work at railroad grading, and fared so badly that first winter spent at Kinmount, that all babies under two died."<sup>2)</sup>

The settlers, after these sad experiences decided to look for greener pastures. Rumours reached them about abundant lands in the Northwest Territories, and particularly in the new province of Manitoba. Jonasson thus describes the events that followed: "At that very time people of Ontario were becoming interested in Manitoba, and a movement was beginning thither. A gentleman by the name of John Taylor, who lived not far from Kinmount, then had a conference with the Icelanders in that locality and offered to go to Ottawa and try to interest the Dominion Government in helping the Icelanders establish themselves in the Canadian Northwest, and this offer was thankfully accepted. Mr. Taylor then went to Ottawa and had an interview with some of the Dominion ministers in reference to the scheme of settling the Icelanders in the Northwest, but the ministers seen, were rather dubious about these people, as desirable settlers, and reluctant to take up the matter.

Lord Dufferin was the Governor-General of Canada at that time and it so happened that he had, as a young man, come up to Iceland on a cruise into the Polar seas, and had seen the Icelanders at home. He has told of his impressions of Iceland, and her people in his famous book "Letters from High Latitudes."

2) Sommerville, S. J.: "Early Icelandic Settlement in Canada." Papers read before the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba 1944-45, Winnipeg, 1945, Page 26.

"Mr. Taylor then saw Lord Dufferin, and it is an open secret that he interested himself in the scheme of settling the Icelanders in the Northwest and interceded with his ministers. This is, amongst other things, proven by the words he used in one of his speeches when he visited the Northwest in the summer of 1877. He said to the Icelanders: 'I have pledged my official honor to my Canadian brethren that you will succeed and the writer believes that the Icelanders have redeemed the pledge of their noble friend'."<sup>1)</sup>

The Icelanders selected four delegates to go to Manitoba to view the prospects. Sigtryggur Jonasson was one of them. The description of the historical trek to Manitoba which followed the favorable report belongs to the history of the settlement. The colony of New Iceland "formed a strip along the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, six townships in length and extending 12 miles inland. It also included the whole Big Island."<sup>a)</sup> Two years after its establishment, it was visited (in 1877) by Lord Dufferin "whose interest and friendliness did much to restore the courage and ambition of the settlers."<sup>2)</sup>

Sigtryggur Jonasson remained the soul and leader of the settlement all his life. Apart from his official functions, as Governor of the Regional

1) Sigtr. Jonasson: "The Early Icelandic Settlement in Canada", page 9.

a) Sommerville: "Early Icelandic Settlement in Canada", page 26.

2) Ibid. Page 28.

Council<sup>3)</sup> of New Iceland, as school trustee and teacher, he managed also to find time to engage in business, "he became the owner and partner in several of the original business enterprises established within the colony, such as lake transportation facilities and the saw mill which sawed most of the lumber produced during the first years with the colony."<sup>4)</sup>

The New Iceland government functioned 12 years, until 1887, in spite of the fact that Keewatin became part of the enlarged province of Manitoba in 1881. Gradually the Icelandic District Executive Committees were replaced by councillors, the administration of schools, taxation, etc. was taken over by Manitoba authorities and New Iceland, after 12 years of existence amicably relinquished its sovereign rights to the province. Jonasson moved to Winnipeg, entered provincial politics, was subsequently elected to the provincial parliament, became editor of the Icelandic weekly LOGBERG and when years began to tell, settled in peaceful and quiet rural Arborg, in the very heart of his beloved New Iceland. There among the descendants of the people whom he led and guided, he reached the ripe age of 90. Died November 28, 1942.

3) Article 11 of the CONSTITUTION stipulates that "To the position of Governor of Regional Council may be elected only that Icelander who is well-versed in English, and who is domiciled in the Settlement." (Prof. Skuli Johnson: THE CONSTITUTION - Agreements in Reference to a Temporary Constitution in New Iceland. Translated from the original text published in FRAMFARI, Vol. 1 No. 6 December 22, 1877.

4) Laxdal, Jon K.: "New Iceland 1875-1950" Page 45-50. The Icelandic Canadian, Vol. IX, No. 1, Autumn 1950, Winnipeg, Man.

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(continued bottom of next page)

## WINNER OF CANADA COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP



Sveinn Skorri Höskuldsson

The Icelandic Canadian is glad to extend the hand of welcome to Sveinn Skorri Höskuldsson, M.A., of Reykjavík, who was granted a non-resident Fellowship by the Canada Council for the academic year 1960-1961.

Sveinn Höskuldsson was born April 19, 1930, at Sigurðarstaðir in Suður-Þingeyjarsýsla in the North of Iceland. In 1950 he graduated from the Akureyri College, and in 1958 obtained a Master of Arts degree from the Univer-

sity of Iceland, having specialized in Icelandic Literature and History. His thesis was on Gestur Pálsson and his works. His professors in Icelandic Literature judged his thesis as

"bearing marks of much diligence, industry and imagination and an ability to discover sources of information;

and of a talent for investigation and scientific workmanship."

In the year 1958-1959 Mr. Höskuldsson attended the University of Copenhagen with special emphasis on Scandinavian realists, under the supervision of Dr. Phil. F. J. Billeskov Jansen. At the same time he did research work at the Royal Library in Copenhagen, reading original sources on Icelandic authors who introduced the realist or naturalist school of thought (raunsæis-tefnunin) in Iceland.

In his application for the Canada Council Fellowship, Mr. Höskuldsson said:

"My chosen field for a Master's degree at the University of Iceland was Realism in Icelandic Literature, and my thesis was on the life and works of the Icelandic author, Gestur Pálsson, who in 1882 published an epoch making literary annual in co-operation with Einar Hjörleifsson, and other realists of that time. This event might be called the invasion of the European realistic trend into Icelandic literature."

He pointed out that both Gestur Pálsson and Einar Hjörleifsson had resided in Winnipeg and added:

"the Canadian period in the life of these two authors has not been sufficiently researched and because of that this part of their achievement and their literary development in Winnipeg is rather obscure."

Sveinn Höskuldsson is registered at the University of Manitoba in Graduate Studies and Research, taking two courses in English, the novel and nineteenth century thought. His main work here, however, will be research work on Gestur Pálsson and Einar

Hjörleifsson Kvaran. He has added a third author, Jón Ólafsson, who also resided in Manitoba in the same period of time.

Mr. Höskuldsson is anxious to get all possible information on these three men. The reader is referred to an article by him which appeared in Logberg-Heimskringla of November 17, 1960. He asks all who knew these men to communicate with him, and if they have any letters or other writings, or photographs or other bits of evidence concerning these men, to send such material to him. He undertakes to return it after he has perused it or taken photostatic copies.

Most of the contemporaries of these men have already passed the portals but their children may still have some of the old trunks brought from Iceland stored in an attic or a basement. In these trunks there may be precious bits of evidence concerning, as Sveinn says, "these remarkable literary personalities."

Three Fellowships have been granted by the Canada Council to residents of Iceland, one for each year since the award of non-resident Fellowships began. Sveinn Skorri Höskuldsson is the first recipient who has come to Winnipeg and attended the University of Manitoba. As we congratulate him and welcome him we ask readers to contact Mr. Höskuldsson if they think they can give him any information which might shed light on the literary development of these three authors during a period in the story of Vestur-Íslendingar which was eventful, if, indeed, not epochal.

—W. J. L.

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## THOR E. STEPHENSON

Environment largely dictates the pattern of activity of the individual. If that environment has limitations, the outward manifestations of the qualities of mind of the individual, and indeed of the group and the nation, may appear to have limitations as well. Here cause and effect must always be clearly distinguished.

The Icelandic people, on that formerly far off island in the North Atlantic, were for centuries largely cut off from centres of human action, particularly in the commercial and industrial fields. This might have caused a general decline and reduced the nation to a state of mediocrity. But something from within the people themselves forbade that. Largely barred from a training in material pursuits the people developed the purely cultural side of their mental faculties. Their main intellectual nourishment was the Eddas and the Sagas, and the language in which they were recorded. The classic Norse language was preserved, the heroes and the brave women of the Sagas, with their stoic fortitude, maintained the spirit of the nation; every second Icelander became a poet.

The sagas of the Icelandic people, both in Iceland and America, during the last half century—a period of human action unparalleled in history—reveals that in this nation there is a range of mental faculties much wider than a narrow interpretation of the past would reveal. The energy which enabled their forebears to subsist has become a driving force. The innate mental equipment, which produced a literature of a high order, and in the process, largely as a form of mental



Portrait by Nakash

Thor E. Stephenson

gymnastics, developed extremes in versification, has been found to possess an unexpected balance, as opportunities, both in Iceland and here, presented themselves at all levels and in all forms of human activities. Knowledge acquired at universities, skills in ever widening spheres, training in executive capacities—all have been readily applied and put to the test in modern national economies.

A good example of this bringing out of latent qualities in a nation is the subject of this article.

Thor Eyjolfur Stephenson was born in Winnipeg, November 7, 1919. He

comes of pioneer stock. His father, Fredrik Stephenson, was but seven years old when, in 1876, his widowed mother migrated from Iceland to Canada and settled on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg where a settlement had begun the year before. One year later, Thor's mother, Anna Olson, was born in the same settlement. Fredrik and Anna married in Winnipeg where Thor spent his boyhood years. He attended Wellington Public School and General Wolfe Junior High School and when not quite fourteen years of age, left Winnipeg to enter Pickering College in New Market, Ontario. In his final year he was selected to deliver the valedictory address. On graduating he won "The Gurratt Cane", awarded to the student obtaining the highest standing during the four years at the college, and at the same time was awarded the Cummer Scholarship of \$1000 for further studies at the University of Toronto. In 1942 he received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Toronto having specialized in Engineering Physics.

Immediately on graduation Thor Stephenson joined the National Research Council of Canada, in the mechanical engineering section. At first he was Assistant Research Engineer but soon became Senior Research Engineer.

In the fall 1946 Mr. Stephenson left the N.R.C. for post-graduate studies and entered the California Institute of Technology, where he specialized in Aeronautics and Dynamics. The following spring he obtained his Master of Science Degree. On returning to Canada he re-joined the N. R. C., and was assigned to work at Arnprior, near Toronto.

In the spring of 1952 a call came from the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, then Minister of Defence Production. By this time Mr. Stephenson had become

Assistant Director of the Mechanical Engineering Division of the N. R. C., and on entering the public service the rapidly advancing engineer-scientist was made an aeronautical consultant. The following year he was appointed Assistant Director of the Aircraft Branch of the Department of Defence Production. On May 3, 1954 Mr. Howe announced that Thor Stephenson had been appointed Director of Aircraft Production, which called for an expenditure of about \$100,000,000 a year.

In the fall of 1954 The Telegram, a daily of Toronto, decided to publish articles on twelve men "From the ranks of public servants, Dominion, Provincial and Municipal, who are typical of the many who labour for the 'public good'", and Thor Stephenson was one of them. The article on him appears in The Telegram of December 3, 1954. The following are extracts.

"A familiar visitor to Malton's Aero plant is Thor Stephenson."

"Only 12 years out of university, Mr. Stephenson is the man who right now is entrusted with the task of seeing that Canada gets value both dollar-wise and in strength from her giant aircraft program . . . ."

"Virtually entrusted with the spending in the current budgetary year of \$400 million, his rise to prominence in the aviation world has been fast . . . ."

"Probably no more unassuming man ever held such high post in Canada's civil service. One can visit Stephenson in his office and learn a lot about aircraft, how they're produced, what makes them tick, but one will learn precious little about Stephenson himself."

On July 12, 1956 Thor Stephenson resigned from the public service to accept a position with Canadian Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co. Ltd., in an

interview at the time Mr. Stephenson predicted that within seven years the Western world would have aircraft travelling at a speed of 2000 miles an hour.

In Life of October 17, 1960, there is an article on the American Air Force's B-70 bomber, which is expected to be in production by 1962. Its advocates predict that it will travel at 2000 miles an hour and climb to its cruising altitude of almost 15 miles in just three minutes. Its tremendous speed, it is anticipated, will create a wind-tunnel and by "an ingenious design of the wings and underbelly will climb right on top of it and ride it like a surf-board."

When Mr. Stephenson was with the N. R. C. at Arnprior he was in charge of all wind-tunnel tests.

Thor Stephenson has been described by some of his friends as a "man in a hurry". He continued his speed after joining Canadian Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. He was at first appointed sales engineer and service manager and in August 1958 was raised to the position of Vice-President and a Director. In the summer of 1959, on the death of the President, R. T. Riley, Thor Eyjolfur Stephenson became President of Canadian Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co. Ltd. The Financial Post of August 22, 1959, in part says:

"Today the Montreal-based firm is pushing on into new research and development fields of its own. Its first project was a small jet engine already being produced in the U. S. and soon to go into Canadair's new jet trainer, the CL-41.

"Stephenson brings a valuable training to his new job. He joined the company three years ago, equipped with two degrees in aeronautical engineering and a strong desire to cut away as much red tape as possible."

Canadian Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co. Ltd. has two large plants across the St. Lawrence River from Montreal, with a total floor space of 900,000 sq. ft. There are about 2400 employees, and even though sales volume is not made public one may hazard a guess that it runs into several tens of million dollars per year.

That the company is "pushing on into new research and development fields" may be gathered from words which the writer succeeded in extracting from this unassuming man who has the rare gift of combining heavy administrative duties with painstaking research work.

"Our main activity is the manufacture and engineering development of aircraft engines. We manufacture 8 different aircraft engines and ship them to more than 50 countries. More than 90% of our manufacturing business is for export, and we must be one of the largest exporters of precision goods in Canada.

"We also do creative engineering work in the engineering department which employs over 500 people. At present we are developing a 500 horse power gas turbine engine. I believe we are the only company in Canada now doing original work in this field."

In 1943 Thor married Aileen Olson, daughter of Mrs. Sigrid Olson and the late Dr. Baldur H. Olson. They have four children: Sigrid, age 16, Signy, 12, Kathryn, 10, and Norman, age 2. Thor's chief interest, apart from his work, is his family. In 1954 a newspaper reporter asked Thor whether he had any hobbies. "I have no particular hobbies", he said, "you can't by any chance have to look after a wife and three small girls and find time for hobbies, do you?" Now that a son has been added to the family hobbies are no doubt out of the question.

Thor was a hockey player of considerable ability during his school days. He is 6'-2", and has the build of a professional football player.

Though but 41 years of age Thor Stephenson has already shown exceptional executive ability. He has applied his technical and scientific training to exacting research work in one of the most advanced fields of science and

engineering—the development of engines for aircraft travelling at ever increasing, even supersonic speeds. Here heredity, opportunity for specialized studies and environment have combined to enable this young man to perform service of inestimable value in this turbulent and fateful period of time.

—W. J. L.



## DR. PERCY JOHNSON HONORED

Twenty-five years of service to northern Manitoba in the medical field were recognized when residents of Flin Flon, Man. and Creighton and Island Falls, Sask. gathered in the Flin Flon Community Hall auditorium in September to honor Dr. and Mrs. Percy Johnson. The function was arranged by Flin Flon service clubs and the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, Limited.

Established at the same time in honor of Dr. Johnson was a loan fund for aspiring Flin Flon area students to be known as the Dr. Percy Johnson Educational Loan Fund, initial amount in the fund \$2,000.

Dr. Johnson was born at Gardar, North Dakota, U.S.A. October 28, 1907, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jon Johnson. He received his early education there and at Grand Forks, North Dakota. He later attended the University of Manitoba and Manitoba Medical College where he graduated with an M.D. degree in 1934.

Following graduation he spent a year as interne at Winnipeg General Hospital and, prior to going to Flin Flon, was for a time on the medical staff of the Manitoba Sanatorium at Ninette, Man.

He went to Flin Flon in 1935 and the following year married Elizabeth Swain of Morris, Man., registered nurse and a graduate of Winnipeg General Hospital. They have two children, William and Fjola.

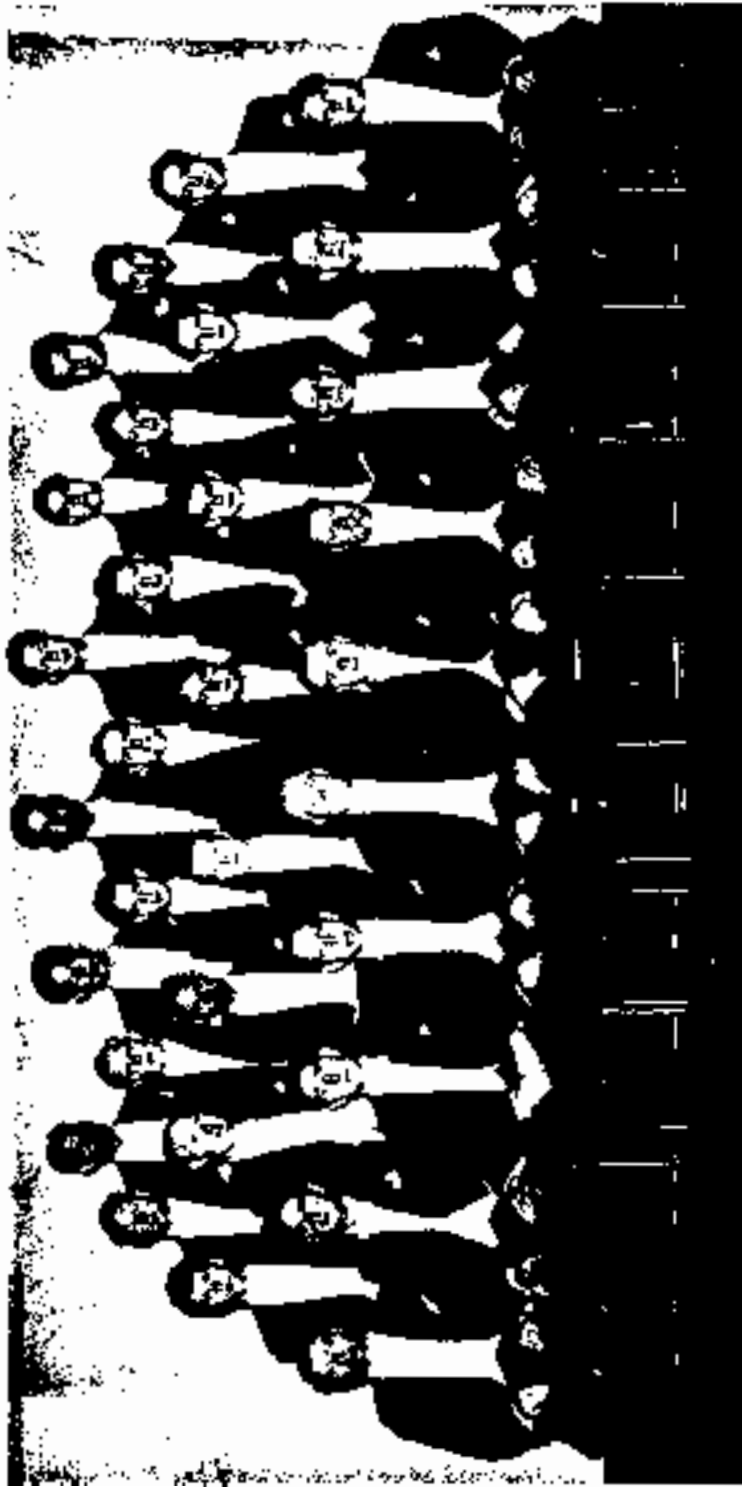
Continuing post-graduate studies Dr. Johnson received his L.M.C.C. degree in 1939 and in 1947 was granted a certificate by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons as a specialist in general surgery. He was named a Fellow of the American College of Surgery at a convocation in Chicago, Illinois, in 1955.

Dr. Johnson is past president of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba and past president of the North of 53 Medical Society. He is president of the board of Flin Flon General Hospital and has been medical supervisor of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Employees' Health Association since its inception in 1944. He is senior physician in the Flin Flon Clinic.

Dr. Johnson was president in 1955 of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, is a member of the medical advisory committee of the Manitoba Alcoholic Foundation and director of the Manitoba Division of the Canadian Cancer Society.



# KARLAKOR REYKJAVIKUR



There were 36, and the conductor, in the chorus which made the 1960 tour.

## Karlakor Reykjavikur — A Twofold Mission Fulfilled

"As a hand-across-the-sea gesture, Iceland couldn't have done much better than sending us the engaging male chorus known as Karlakor Reykjavikur." Those are the opening words in the report in the Winnipeg Tribune, by S. Roy Maley, of the first of two performances at the Auditorium in Winnipeg, October 21 and 22, this year.

The reporter caught the double purpose of the visit: to entertain and deeply move; to strengthen bonds of kinship and knit more closely ties of friendship between nations that have much in common.

This twofold mission was revealed not only in the two day visit but also in the background to their appearance. With one exception, Gudmundur Johnson, the members of the chorus are amateurs. They seek to serve in a cause that is dear to them rather than reap material rewards. They did not object to a most strenuous itinerary; it extended from New York to North Dakota, from Winnipeg to Nova Scotia, forty concerts crowded into a month and twenty days. The chorus travelled by bus; that resulted in one mishap. On their way to Winnipeg the bus had to be stopped at Cavalier, N. Dak., and another bus was called from Winnipeg. The singers arrived in Winnipeg at 3:00 a.m. on the day of the first concert. Only those who knew that circumstance could understand why there was more vigor in the singing the second night. But nothing could deter the chorus from carrying out its chosen mission.

Continuing his report Mr. Maley said in part:



SIGURDUR THORDARSON, Conductor

"There is a freshness and naturalness which is really invigorating about the chorus; no artificialities, when for example, they are building a crescendo there is a truly magnificent strength in their voices which carries great impact. . . .

"The chorus' strength is in folk songs, but fortunately, folk songs free of the weeping sadness and forced hilarity of touring Russian choirs. . . .

"Best soloist was Kristinn Hallsson, bass, whose singing of the Mozart aria, O Isis, from Magic Flute, was impressive for resonant firm tone and smooth legato line."

Ken Winters, the Free Press reporter, said in part:

"The Icelandic Singers gave a rather staid Celebrity Concert Friday night. Their best work was lyrical and lovely in a restrained way . . . .

"All the soloists were excellent, and when they were to the fore we had vigorous and artful singing even when the music itself was not too fine.

"Gudmundur Jonsson was particularly outstanding. . . .

"In quality Mr. Jonsson's voice reminded me a little of a lower version of the late Jussi Bjoerling's ravishing tenor. It's the kind of voice that would flatter almost anything in the baritone repertoire and I was a little discouraged to hear it being spent on a commonplace like Bruno Huhn's *Invictus*."

The second role of the chorus, that of ambassadors of goodwill, was equally successful.

At noon on Friday they were the guests of honour of the Council of the City of Winnipeg at a luncheon in the Charterhouse Motor Hotel. The invitations, included, besides the 40 members of the chorus, representatives of the Icelandic organizations in the city. About 100 persons attended.

In the unavoidable absence of Mayor Juba, Alderman John V. Samson presided and welcomed the *Karlakor* to Winnipeg and Manitoba. The Tour Manager, Gisli Gudmundsson, thanked the Mayor and Council for the honour bestowed upon the chorus and the recognition implied in the invitation. At the same time he paid tribute to the Icelandic immigrants and their descendants for the valuable contribution they had made and were making in the building of a nation here. Dr. Beck thanked the Mayor and Council on behalf of The Icelandic National League.

During the intermission at the concert Friday Evening Mayor Juba brought greetings from the City of Winnipeg and presented the conductor, Mr. Sigurdur Thordarson with a framed certificate making him an honorary citizen of Winnipeg. At the same time he presented Gisli Gudmundsson, the

Tour Manager, with a gold pin, the city crest engraved upon it.

Both the Friday noon luncheon and the intermission ceremonies in the evening were evidence of the clasping of hands across the seas—a large cosmopolitan city of Canada welcoming a group of singers who so graciously in word, song and action interpreted the finest in the culture of Iceland.

The luncheon on Saturday at the Town N' Country was truly a "þjóðræknismót", a meeting where Icelanders from Iceland and Canadians of Icelandic descent, at every stage of integration into the Canadian scene, gathered together in common rejoicing as the possessors of a common heritage. The *Karlakor* were more than guests of honour; they were contributors. The officers of The Icelandic National League were more than formal hosts; they were the recipients of merited rewards. All combined in creating an atmosphere of thankfulness and resolve; a prototype for future visits, both here and in Iceland, may have been provided.

Rev. Philip M. Petursson, Vice-President of the League, was in the chair. In welcoming the chorus he pointed out that there was a double reason for celebrating: "This month, 85 years ago, the first Icelandic immigrants reached Winnipeg; only yesterday we welcomed the *Karlakor* on their second visit."

In his welcome and introduction Consul Grettir L. Johannson recalled how the chorus had endeared itself to all who heard them, on their first visit 14 years ago. He pointed out that all the singers were busily self-employed or in fulltime employment, and on introducing them stated the nature of the employment of each one. Roughly, the occupations may be summarized as follows: 10 in commercial activities; 6 in the professions; 4 tradesmen; 4 in the

civil service; 3 in banking; 3 in farming or gardening; 2 in manufacturing; 1 contractor; 1 fisherman; 1 mechanic; 1 photographer.

The conductor, Sigurdur Thordarson, the feature soloist, Gudmundur Jonsson, and the accompanist, Fritz Weischappel, a naturalized Iclander, are all with the Icelandic State Radio. Gisli Gudmundsson is a director of Film Programs.

Mr. Johannson then presented badges with the emblem of The Icelandic National League embossed upon them, to the Tour Manager for distribution to the members of the chorus, as tokens of the high esteem in which they all are held by *Vestur-Íslendingar*.

Alderman John V. Samson, representing the City Council, once more welcomed the visiting singers.

Hon. George Johnson, the Minister of Health and Public Welfare, addressed the gathering on behalf of Premier Duff Roblin, who unavoidably was at a post of duty, and the government of Manitoba.

Most of the proceedings were conducted in English as many of those present know little and in some cases no Icelandic. Dr. Johnson was born and raised in Winnipeg and his command of Icelandic is very limited. But he decided to deliver at least a part of his words of welcome to the visitors in Icelandic. The pronunciation was bad, the accent so obviously that of an English-language Canadian, but those few words of welcome thrilled all present. To the Canadian born *Vestur-Íslendingur*, equally as much as to the native of Iceland that effort provided a link—a link more precious and inspiring than an address in perfect English or Icelandic. One could feel the reaction—an appreciation that a sincere effort was made, an understanding if

there were faults. Sentiment that wells from the heart is indifferent to vestments of expression.

Perhaps in order to be sure that he would not be misquoted Dr. Johnson turned to his native Canadian tongue when on behalf of the Province he bestowed upon conductor Sigurdur Thordarson the title of Officer of the Buffalo Hunt and presented him with a mounted replica of a buffalo, the emblem of Manitoba. He went on to remark that it must be most exceptional that one Iclander should honour another Iclander with an Order of the Buffalo.

Dr. Richard Beck, President of the League, addressed the guests of honour in both English and Icelandic. This quite fittingly followed the lead of the chorus which sought to fulfill a twofold mission. In the course of his remarks Dr. Beck said:

"As their program reveals, The Icelandic Singers present a varied number of selections truly international in character, which naturally, also include a representative group of Icelandic songs and compositions. This is indeed as it should be, and makes The Icelandic Singers splendid interpreters of Icelandic cultural life as well as messengers of international good will and understanding."

Then the *Karlakor Reykjavíkur* took charge.

The conductor, Sigurdur Thordarson, pointed out that any honour bestowed upon the chorus was an honour bestowed upon Iceland. "In and through our work" he said in Icelandic, "we seek to make Iceland known. We are proud of you, Icelanders of the West; every member of the chorus is anxious to be of assistance in strengthening and maintaining the bonds of a common ancestry." He went on to say that in spite of difficulties which beset

all newcomers the Icelanders in this land had accomplished much. "You are few in numbers", he added, "but the achievements of your leaders compare favourably with what is being accomplished by leaders of other national groups, who number millions." In recognition of that service the conductor asked the members of the chorus to rise and give four cheers, "þrefalt húrra" to Vestur-Íslendingar.

The Tour Manager, showed exceptionally good taste in the main theme of his felicitations. He had spent 10 years in Manitoba, 1928-38, and his address was in substance a toast to his former foster land—Canada. Mr. Gudmundsson then asked Dr. Beck to come forward and he presented him, as president of the League, with an artistic highly polished whale bone mounted on a stand, on which the following inscription is lettered:

**Til þjóðræknistélags Íslendinga í Vesturheimi**

**Frá Karlakór Reykjavíkur, 1960.**

At the same time Mr. Gudmundsson presented to Dr. Beck a gold medal, with the emblem of the Karlakór engraved upon it, in recognition of his constant and very valuable service in a common cause. He then asked Consul Grettir Johannson to rise and presented him with a similar medal for his equally faithful service.

## VALDIMAR BJORNSON RE-ELECTED

**Hon. Valdimar Bjornson** was re-elected State Treasurer of the State of Minnesota during the United States elections in November. Mr. Bjornson's re-election was by a majority of some 70,000 votes. This is a remarkable achievement because the Democrats won in the electoral college vote in Minnesota and the 11 votes from Min-

Gisli Gudmundsson has the faculty of saying or doing the right thing at the right time. He asked Consul Johannson's wife to stand up. Though not of Icelandic descent Mrs. Johannson appeared at the head table in an Icelandic national costume. Gisli complimented her on entering so sincerely into the spirit of Icelandic affairs. Mr. A. K. Gee, manager of Celebrity Concerts Ltd., was not forgotten. In recognition of the splendid work in the concert field, commenced decades ago by his father, the late Fred M. Gee, and continued by him, the Tour Manager presented Mr. Gee with the Karlakór Silver Medal.

Then came the climax.

The Karlakór sang the first verse of The Millennial Hymn of Iceland, now the National Anthem: "Ó, Guð vors lands!" It is a difficult anthem to sing and brought out the depth of feeling, and both the intensity and the softness of tone, which characterize the chorus at its best.

By special request the last encore at the Saturday evening performance was Ó, Guð vors lands, followed by O Canada, the audience standing during the singing of both. The drop of a pin could have been heard during the brief pause between the two anthems. Both words and music became universal in a common human appeal. —W.J.L.

nesota put Senator Kennedy over the half-way mark of 269 votes and assured him of election to the presidency of the United States.

Mr. Bjornson, a Republican, was head of the Minnesota delegation at the Republican presidential nomination convention in Chicago, Illinois, last summer.

## My Impressions Of Palestine

by REVEREND VALDIMAR J. EYLANDS, D.D.

Since my return from the European-Palestine Tour late in August this summer, I have frequently been asked about my impressions of the Holy Land, and its people. It appears that this country is still an object of universal interest, indeed, a "holy land" to millions of people, Jews, Christians, and Mohammedans alike, although for different reasons. Spending a week, or ten days, in a country, does not give a man an opportunity for real appraisal, but only a few fleeting impressions. My impressions of this country and its people were stretched over a whole range of human emotions: some were pathetic, some ridiculous, some sublime and inspiring.

It is pathetic to note the political and social conditions in this land of our Lord's birth. This small country is divided into two hostile states, which even now are technically at war with each other. These are the State of Jordan, an Arab country, and the State of Israel, composed for the most part of Jews. Jerusalem, the Holy City, is divided about two-thirds by one-third between these two states, with the greater portion, including all the places associated with the life of Christ, in Arab or Mohammedan hands. We could not travel from one part of the city to the other, because they have run a strip of "no man's land" through it, divided it with barbed wire fences, brick walls and other means of obstruction. We had to make a detour of several hundred miles by air, in order to get to the eastern or the Arab part, to visit the Old City of Jerusalem with its religious sites. It is obvious even to the casual visitor that the State of Israel is wealthy

and prosperous, compared to the State of Jordan. The Jews occupy the most fertile portions of the country, and are supported by the international Zionist movement, which is sort of a National League among Jews in all lands. The Arabs claim that they have been pushed out of their country which they have occupied for millenniums. Tens of thousands of these people live in refugee camps scattered over the country. I saw one of them, near the ancient city of Jericho, in the Jordan valley. The condition of these people appeared to be one of utmost squalor. They live on the charity of the United Nations at the cost of seven cents per day, per person. The Arabs are exceedingly bitter over their fate, and the Jews are determined to push ahead. Feelings run high on both sides, and the future looks ominous.

Another thing that I thought pathetic, is the commercialism connected with the so called holy places. The salesmen and vendors are so loud, insistent and rude that they spoil the visit to these places for a sensitive person. They pull your clothes, jump in front of you, yell or weep, according to what they deem most appropriate at the moment, and push cards, religious objects, linen goods, woodcarvings, live kittens, and almost anything imaginable at you, demanding money. The only way to make progress on the streets most heavily infested with this plague is to pretend that you are deaf and dumb. But even that is not always easy, because there are the real beggars, people who actually need help. Some of these are little children, obviously suffering from malnutrition, or maim-

ed old men and women holding a tin cup for wayfarers, crying for help. One of the worst places in this respect was the area of the Crucifixion in Jerusalem. The street which Christ is believed to have walked from the Judgment Hall of Pontius Pilate to Golgotha, is called the Via Dolorosa, or the Way of Sorrows. This road is marked in fourteen places, called the "stations of the Cross" where tradition tells us that certain events took place, while Christ carried his cross to the place of execution. This whole street is now one continuous outdoor bazaar, where almost everything imaginable is offered for sale. The street is very narrow, but it is constantly thronged with people: pilgrims from all nations, vendors who try to sell them the moon, and screaming donkeys who are being whipped by cruel masters, as they stagger under loads which are much too heavy for them. The squalor in this place is unbelievable, and the noise is hardly conducive to a meditation of the passion theme. It should be remembered of course, that these people do not pretend to be Christians, and that they have

no respect for the places associated with the name of Jesus Christ, apart from their commercial value.

Another thing which is both pathetic and ridiculous, is the superstition which has grown up in connection with the events of our Lord's life. It is of course well known that Jerusalem has been leveled to the ground, wholly, or in part, several times, since our Lord walked in these parts, sometimes by war, sometimes by earthquake and fire. Yet your guides point out the exact spots where this or that is supposed to have taken place. They show you the hole in the ground where the cross of Jesus stood. They show you the door to the tomb in which His body was laid, and the slab of stone, on which His body rested prior to the resurrection. They show you His foot prints in a rock upon the mountain of the Ascension. In Nazareth they showed us an underground cave, where Jesus is supposed to have lived for twenty-seven years of his life, with his family. Of course these things are only fiction, and the locations only approximate.



The Birthplace of Christ showing the Silver Star in the marble floor of the crypt, also the lamps burning above the traditional birthplace.

But in spite of all the superstitions, exaggerations and pure fiction associated with the life of our Lord as it is now related in the land of his birth, and although churches, temples and mosques have been built on almost every spot where Jesus is believed to have dwelt, and though these have been destroyed by successive wars, and replaced by new ones, until no one knows any more where the exact spots were, yet it is a blessed experience to have been in this country. Goethe, the famous German poet is quoted as having said that anyone, wanting to understand a poet, must visit the native land of that poet. If that is true of a poet, it is no less true of the great minds of all ages. Palestine, though small, barren, and torn with strife, furnishes the framework of Christ's life and teaching, and many things previously obscure, become clear and vivid. We know that He walked the hot, interminable hills of Galilee and Judea. We know that He burned with hunger and thirst at Jacobs Well in Samaria, even as we did when we were there last July, in a temperature of about 105 F. There He engaged a woman in an unforgettable conversation; but we were so hot and uncomfortable that we could hardly talk at all. We were on the Jericho road, which He also travelled; we visited the traditional site of his baptism at the River Jordan. We had a boat ride on the Lake of Galilee, and saw

the fishermen there dressed and fishing in a manner which has not changed during the last two thousand years, although those fishermen have now in some respects become modern, and use motorboats! We walked on the Mountain of the Beatitudes, where the Sermon on the Mount was delivered. We came to Cana, where the first miracle was performed, and we stopped at Mary's Well in Nazareth, where He must have walked daily in his youth, because it is the only water supply in the town, and there never was another. And of course we came to Bethlehem, that little town of which uncounted millions of people throughout the world will sing, this Christmas, as always. In the Church of the Nativity in that City the visitor is led down a marble stairway into an underground crypt. As you go down you see the reflection of a faint yellow light. Turning around on the last rung on the stairway, you see an altar, and under it hang fourteen silver lamps with lights burning. On the marble floor beneath the lamps, is a silver star, and around it the inscription: "Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est." (Jesus Christ was born here of the Virgin Mary.)

Standing there in the twilight, looking at this scene, is to any sensitive person, I believe, a sublime and inspiring experience.

An Icelandic Canadian Club was formed at Toronto this fall and is to be known as the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto.

The organization's first president is Mrs. Fanny Peacock, and the secretary Mrs. Erla Macauley.

The first club meeting was held in North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge Street, Willowdale, and a second meeting late in November. Planned by a group is a Christmas party for children December 29.

## Johanna Gudrun Skaptason

Johanna Gudrun Skaptason is remembered for her personal qualities of graciousness, warmth and dignity and for her steadfast devotion in a life time of community service. If any phase of her work is to be mentioned specially, it is her patriotic services in the two world wars and her work with the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, of which organization she was the chief founder, and regent for seventeen years.

Gudrun Skaptason was born March 16, 1878, in a pioneer settler's home, a short distance south of Gimli, Manitoba. Her parents were Simon and Valdis Simonson, members of the group of 1874 that wintered at Kinmount, Ontario, and members also of the group that founded the New Iceland settlement, in 1875. An older brother, Dr. Valtýr Gudmundsson, was a distinguished Icelandic political leader and man of letters, and he was for a period professor at the University of Copenhagen.

The Simonson family moved to Winnipeg in 1881 and a year later to the newly founded Icelandic settlement in Argyle (the Baldur-Glenboro district).

As was traditional in Icelandic homes at that time, Gudrun early developed a fondness for reading. She was early well versed in the Sagas and the Eddas, and the Bible she had read from cover to cover at the age of twelve. Her reading of the sagas kindled in her an abiding affection for Iceland and the Icelandic people.

At the age of seventeen Gudrun taught public school, at Arnes, north of Gimli, where she had the affection and esteem of her pupils. While there



Johanna Gudrun Skaptason

she assisted in the translation of a play and in a play performance.

At this time, through the instrumentality of her brother, Dr. Gudmundsson, a glamorous episode in her life opened its vista to the young teacher. She was engaged as a private tutor in Icelandic for Miss Caroline Foulke, of Richmond, Indiana. Miss Foulke was the niece of Arthur B. Reeves, a man of considerable wealth, who was a great friend of Iceland. He was well versed in Icelandic and was the author of *Wine-land the Good*. Teacher and pupil formed a life-long friendship and they maintained constant touch through correspondence until the recent death of Caroline. Miss Foulke became well-known as Caroline Foulke Urie, a friend of Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago, and a prominent worker for world peace.

In 1897, Gudrun visited her brother in Copenhagen and there she had the privilege of meeting with Henrik Ibsen, Bjornstjerne Bjornson and George

Brandes. The visit was extended to Iceland and there Gudrun met with her former pupil, Miss Foulke, who had acquired a background for her Icelandic visit partly by her study of *Njála* and *Laxdæla* the previous term.

In 1901 Gudrun married Joseph B. Skaptason, who became prominent in the Icelandic community in Winnipeg and filled positions of responsibility in the service of the Manitoba and the Federal Governments for nearly forty years, first in the office of the Provincial Secretary of the Manitoba government, then as Chief Inspector of Fisheries for Manitoba. Except for twelve years in Selkirk, Manitoba, their home was in Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Skaptason had a very happy married life and they were as one in extending the openhanded hospitality for which their home was noted. Many of the Icelandic students from the country cherish the remembrance of how they were made welcome at the Skaptason home, 378 Maryland Street.

Mrs. Skaptason joined Hekla Lodge, I.O.G.T. in 1907. She did excellent work as leader of the Juvenile lodge and in 1908 she was a delegate to Grand Lodge session and was elected Grand Lodge director of Juvenile lodges.

In December 1915, Mr. Skaptason enlisted for active service and he served at the front as Captain Paymaster. At this time, Mrs. Skaptason was a member of the William E. Gladstone Chapter of the I.O.D.E. Believing that there should be such an organization in the Icelandic community in Winnipeg, she promoted the formation of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, I.O.D.E. The organization meeting was held at her home, March 20, 1916. Three Icelandic congregations were represent-

ed in the Chapter and appropriately the motto was "United We Stand".

Contributions from the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter in the first ten months included one hundred dollars to each of the following: the Sailors Relief Fund, the Belgian Relief Fund, and the furnishing of a ward in the MacKenzie Military Hospital. The sum of seven hundred dollars was devoted for wool, Christmas boxes for the soldiers overseas, and for Christmas cheer and relief for soldiers' dependents.

"Twice annually during these first War days our home became parcel-packing headquarters, with cartons, and cases of food, socks, etc., piled ceilingward and women working day after day, pausing only for coffee."

Funds for this war work were raised by means of whist drives, dances, sales of home cooking, catering, garden parties, raffles, showers, and concerts. Also, a great deal of support came from organizations and private individuals in various rural towns throughout the Western Provinces and in the United States, cash donations ranging from one dollar to one hundred dollars.

Mrs. Skaptason accompanied her husband when he proceeded overseas, in 1916, and she remained there for a year. Their home was a home away from home for Icelandic soldiers within reach.

"Our home in England and particularly the one in Hythe, Kent, was always open to Icelandic servicemen and many a musical afternoon or evening was spent there. Christmas Day, 1916, at our big house in Seaford was a memorable day. Forty men spent the day with us and there could have been more had some not been in quar-

antine. There was feasting, singing, and reciting of poetry. Strict rationing was in effect so I don't know how mother managed it.<sup>2</sup>

The Icelandic Soldiers Memorial Book, published after the war of 1914-18 deserves special mention. This Memorial Book which numbers 538 pages, contains a biographical record, and, in almost all instances, a picture of upwards of twelve hundred service men and women. This monumental work cost some \$10,000 to publish and constitutes a very fine memorial.

No one person deserves all the credit for such a massive undertaking, but prominent were Mrs. Gudrun Buason and Mrs. Skaptason.

"Then there were countless hours and untiring effort spent in the unbelievable work of preparing the Memorial Book for publication. I remember mother and the late Mrs. Buason burning the midnight oil night after night, poring over stacks of notes, photographs, etc."<sup>3</sup>

Following the war, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter continued to be fully active. Mrs. Skaptason was Regent, at different times, for a total of seventeen years. There was support for school projects, libraries, observance of anniversaries such as Empire Day, and bursaries and overseas scholarships. Two students of Icelandic origin benefited from I.O.D.E. overseas scholarships, and to this scholarship fund the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter made a generous and a relatively high contribution among the Manitoba Chapters.

"As we look back over the events of the year", says one of Mrs. Skaptason's annual reports, "we can't help but feel that the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter has had

an outstanding year, having been able to contribute to nearly every cause that the I.O.D.E. stands for."

Mrs. Skaptason also did noteworthy work for the Provincial Chapter of the I.O.D.E. Her Film Convener's report for the year 1938-39 shows serious study in the field. She points out that in the United States one million children under fourteen years of age attend the cinema weekly and that a Payne Fund Study report expresses the opinion that only eight per cent of films produced in a specified year are suitable for children. This showed the need to promote high standard films, and that is what the I.O.D.E. endeavored to do by promoting the use of projection machines and good films in the schools. Mrs. Skaptason was also active as Educational Convener of the Provincial Chapter.

A Navy League, Manitoba Division, report in the I.O.D.E. Bulletin, May, 1942, carries what is editorially termed an "excellent report", presented by the Provincial Convener, Mrs. J. B. Skaptason. The Tag Day that year netted returns valued at \$7,260.

In 1940 the I.O.D.E. made a gift to the Canadian Government of a Bolingbroke bomber; at a cost of some \$100,000. The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter contributed more than any other chapter in Winnipeg. Mrs. Skaptason was Regent at that time.

The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter sponsored an impressive Welcome Home reception for the returned service men and women of the war of 1914-18, at the Royal Alexandra Hotel, in 1920. This was attended by some six hundred people. Also, a reception was promoted for the victorious Falcon hockey team on their return from Antwerp with the world's hockey championship, in 1920. In 1946, the Jon Sigurdson

Chapter joined hands with the Icelandic Canadian Club to sponsor a Welcome Home reception for the service men and women of the war of 1939-45. About seven hundred attended, of whom five hundred had complimentary tickets. The total cost of the reception and floral tributes sent to the next-of-kin of the fallen was over \$1,200. Chairman on the occasion was Mrs. Skaptason.

One instance of community service, apart from the I.O.D.E., was Mrs. Skaptason's work for the Jo Lindal Memorial Scholarship Fund, sponsored by the United College Alumnae Association. The objective was \$3,500. The amount forwarded by Mrs. Skaptason, who agreed to accept contributions in the Icelandic community, was \$467. Another instance was work with the Winnipeg Branch of the Local Council of Women, on problems facing the post-war world, such as food needs outside Canada.

From the time she was a young girl, Mrs. Skaptason was an active church worker. She made a loyal contribution to the activities of the Ladies Aid of the Unitarian and the Federated Church of Winnipeg.

Steadfast devotion to the causes that Mrs. Skaptason cherished is indicated by several honorary life memberships bestowed on her. She was made honorary life member of the I.O.G.T. lodge "Hekla", the Ladies Aid of the Unitarian church of Winnipeg, the Western Canada Alliance of Unitarian Women, the General Alliance of Unitarian and Other Christian Women of the Unitarian Association of America, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, and the Provincial Chapter, I.O.D.E. Leadership and service thus recognized are paid tribute

by another prominent I.O.D.E. worker, Mrs. Flora Benson. "Mrs. Skaptason called together a group of women and set before them the aims and objects of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. This meeting touched off a flame of enthusiasm that is still burning. Mrs. Skaptason had the happy faculty of inspiring her Chapter to do whatever the occasion demanded."

At the age of eighty, Mrs. Skaptason re-visited Iceland, accompanied on this occasion by a young granddaughter.

In addition to her active participation in manifold outside activities Mrs. Skaptason made a full contribution in her home life.

Mrs. Skaptason died, October 13, 1960. Her husband had predeceased her by ten years. Three daughters survive: Margret, Mrs. Norman Stevens, of Gimli; Anna, Mrs. H. C. Dalman, of Fort William; and Johanna, Mrs. Frank Wilson, of Winnipeg.

The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter has taken steps to establish a scholarship in honor of their founder's memory. The Chapter, with the help of the family and friends, has initiated the establishment of the Johanna G. Skaptason Memorial Scholarship, to be awarded annually to the student with the highest standing in the Province in the Grade XII English subjects and who is proceeding to further study, at the University or the Teachers' College or by way of nurses' training.

—W. Kristjanson

1. Personal letter, Mrs. N. K. Stevens

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Logberg, March 20, 1958.

## A Memorable Summer in Iceland and Norway

Dr. Richard Beck, professor of Scandinavian languages and chairman of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of North Dakota, spent most of the past summer in Iceland, as the specially invited guest of friends, organizations and communities in all parts of the country. The invitation was extended in recognition of his leadership in Icelandic-American cultural activities and for his scholarly and literary work in the Icelandic field.

Upon his arrival in Iceland early in June, he gave a public lecture at the University of Iceland, speaking on the history and the cultural activities of the Icelanders in America. As the chosen representative of his graduating class, the class of 1920, of the State College of Iceland at Reykjavík, he spoke at commencement exercises of the college and also was one of the speakers at the Alumni Association.

In his capacity as president of the Icelandic National League of America he appeared at numerous gatherings during the month of June. He addressed the annual conventions of the Icelandic Teachers Association, the Grand Lodge of the Icelandic Order of Good Templars, and the assembled ministers of the Icelandic Lutheran State Church. He also addressed the Rotary Club of Reykjavík and other local groups there.

He was one of the speakers at the annual celebration of Iceland's Independence Day, June 17, addressing an audience estimated at some 20,000 at Reykjavík, and the nation simultaneously over the Icelandic Broadcasting System. His address on that occasion was published in most of the Icelandic

dailies and in the Winnipeg Icelandic weekly "Lögberg-Heimskringla".

Late in June he was a special guest at the festivities marking the 30th anniversary of the Re-Forestation Association of Iceland (Skógræktarfélag Íslands) and one of the speakers at its anniversary banquet at Þingvellir. A few days later he spoke at a special program commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Re-Forestation Association of Eyjafjörður in northern Iceland, attended by a large number of people.

He was also one of the two featured speakers at a 4th of July program in Reykjavík, in observance of U.S. Independence Day, sponsored by the Icelandic-American Society, a large gathering. There he shared the platform with the Hon. Emil Jónsson, former Prime Minister of Iceland and now Minister of Social Affairs.

Sunday, July 10, Dr. Beck spoke at services in Matthias Church (named for the great Icelandic poet Matthías Jochumsson) in Akureyri, the country's second largest city, with the Vice-bishop of Northern Iceland, the Reverend Sigurður Stefánsson, in charge of the devotionals.

During the first part of his visit to Iceland, extensive interviews with him, largely dealing with the Icelanders in America, appeared in the Reykjavík dailies and the Akureyri weeklies.

Dr. Beck spent the latter half of July in Norway, largely in Oslo, the capital. A highlight of his visit there was an audience at the Royal Palace where he presented a letter to King Olav V. of Norway from Dr. George W. Starcher, President of the University of North Dakota. The King holds



The Right Rev. Sigurður Stefánsson, suffragan Bishop of northern Iceland (left) and Dr. Richard Beck (right) pictured in Matthias Church (Matthíasarkirkja) at Akureyri, after Dr. Beck had delivered the address at services in the church

an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University and had sent a special greeting for the University's 75th anniversary. In the King's absence from Norway, Dr. Beck was received by his private secretary, the Hon. Vincent Bommen.

While in Oslo Dr. Beck conferred with various Norwegian cultural leaders, attended a reception at the American Embassy and was entertained at the Icelandic Embassy. Otherwise, he spent much of his time in Oslo visiting publishers and bookstores to acquaint himself with the latest publications in the Norwegian and Scandinavian field.

After his Oslo visit he spent several days in Stavanger and elsewhere on the West Coast visiting scenic and historic places, including Hafursfjörður, where in days of old (traditionally dated in

872) there was fought the decisive battle between King Haraldur Hárfagri (Fair-haired) and his opponents, which in turn resulted in many powerful Norwegian chieftains migrating to Iceland rather than submit to what they considered King Haraldur's tyranny.

Several of the daily papers in Oslo and Stavanger carried interviews with Dr. Beck, in which, among other things, he discussed the work in the Scandinavian field at the University of North Dakota.

Upon his return to Iceland, Dr. Beck spent the month of August visiting and giving speeches in all parts of the country.

He began the month by attending the formal installation of His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, President of the Icelandic Republic, who was re-

cently re-elected to his third four-year term in that office.

On August 6 and 7 Dr. Beck was a special guest and one of the speakers at the annual celebration (Þjóðhátíð) of the residents of Vestmannaeyjar off the south coast of Iceland, where he addressed an audience of 4-5000. He also spoke at a meeting of the local Rotary Club.

At the invitation of the people of Ísafjörður he next visited the western part of the country, where he gave his lecture on the Icelanders in America, addressed by the Rotary Club, and was honored at a banquet given by the City Council.

He later addressed an outdoor gathering at Sauðárkrókur in the North, the Rotary Club at Siglufjörður, and gave several addresses at Akureyri, including his lecture on the Western Icelanders and a speech to the Rotary Club.

Touring the eastern part of the country, where he was born and reared, he delivered his lecture on the Icelanders in America at six public gatherings in as many places.

## John P. Sigvaldason Ambassador to Indonesia

Just at the time the magazine was going to press a news despatch from Ottawa revealed that the minister of external affairs, Hon. Howard C. Green, had announced that **John P. Sigvaldason** had been appointed Canadian ambassador to Indonesia. He is the first man of Icelandic extraction to be appointed an ambassador either in Canada or the United States.

John Sigvaldason was born in Baldur, Manitoba. For a while he was a school inspector and later was brought into the department of education,

Returning to Reykjavík he was a guest at the annual meeting of the Icelandic Ministerial Association and addressed the Rotary Clubs of Hafnarfjörður and Keflavík in the vicinity of Reykjavík.

His lecture on the Western Icelanders, originally delivered at the University of Iceland, and later, as indicated, at eight places in other parts of the country, was tape-recorded for later broadcasting by the Icelandic Broadcasting System, and is scheduled for publication in the Icelandic literary quarterly "Eimreiðin".

On Thursday, September 8, a few days before leaving for America, Dr. Beck addressed the Icelandic people over the radio, expressing his gratitude for the reception which he and his message had been given in all parts of the country. All the five Reykjavík dailies carried statements from him in a similar vein, in which he summed up the impressions of his memorable visit.

(Largely a reproduction of articles appearing in **Grand Forks Herald**).

where he served under Hon. Ivan Schultz, then minister of education in the government of Manitoba, now judge in the Court of Appeal.

In 1946 the new ambassador joined the department of external affairs in Ottawa. He served for a number of years in London, Eng., was called back to Ottawa, and at the time of his elevation to the rank of ambassador was chief of the inspection service in the department of external affairs.

The Icelandic Canadian extends congratulations.

## The Little Ode About The Little Pair

by **DAVIÐ STEFÁNSSON** frá Fagraskógi

Translated by **PALL BJARNASON**

Beside a little lake there is  
a little house,  
And in its wall there lurks  
a little mouse.  
The tenants love their low and cozy  
little den,  
For short of limb are little John  
and little Gwen.

They own a board with little legs,  
a little dish,  
A little spoon, a little knife,  
a little fish,  
A little coffee, little bread  
to live upon;  
For little needs have little Gwen  
and little John.

Their secrets, like their lives, are of  
the little kind,  
For Life endowed their little brains  
with little mind.  
They shape their little lives to fit  
their little berth:  
A lowly home, a little sky,  
a little earth.

Quite long they cherished little dreams  
of little tots,  
To play about the little lake  
with little yachts.  
But now, alas! that little hope  
at last is gone,—  
And not much love has little Gwen  
for little John.

## Litla kvæðið um litlu hjónin

eftir **DAVIÐ STEFÁNSSON** frá Fagraskógi

Við lítinn vog, í litlum bæ  
er lítið hús.  
Í leyni inni í lágum vegg  
er lítil mús.  
Um litlar stofur læðast hæg  
og lítil hjón,  
Því lágvaxin er litla Gunna  
og litli Jón.

Þau eiga lágt og lítið borð  
og litinn disk  
og litla skeið og litinn hnif  
og lítinn fisk  
og lítið kaffi, lítið brauð  
og lítil grjón, —  
Því lítið borða litla Gunna  
og litli Jón.

Þau eiga bæði létt og lítil  
leyndarmál,  
og lífið gaf þeim lítinn heila  
og litla sál.  
Þau miða alt sitt litla líf  
við lítinn bæ  
og lágan himin, litla jörð  
og lygnan sæ.

Þau höfðu lengi litla von  
um lítil börn,  
sem lékju sér með lítil skip  
við litla tjörn,  
en loksins sveik sú litla von  
þau litlu flón,  
og lítið elskar litla Gunna  
hann litla Jón.



## Dr. Thorkell Johannesson

The death of Dr. Thorkell Johannesson, Rector of the University of Iceland, on October 31, is a loss that will be felt far beyond Iceland.

On two occasions he had visited here in the West. In 1949 he stayed in Winnipeg for about two months, at the home of Mrs. Holmfridur Petursson, editing the book of sermons "Fögur er foldin", of her late husband Dr. Rognvaldur Petursson. At the same time he worked on the publication of the letters and writings, other than poetry, of Stephan G. Stephansson. About a year ago the work, consisting of 4 volumes, was completed and has been published under the name "Bréf og ritgerðir Stepháns G. Stephánssonar."

In July this year Dr. Johannesson visited Winnipeg again and was accompanied by Birgir Thorlacius of the Department of Education in Iceland. On that occasion a group of representatives of Icelandic organizations in Winnipeg gathered at the Charterhouse Motor Hotel to meet the distinguished guests. Later it was revealed the Rector had made the trip partly for the purpose of completing arrangements for the gift by Mrs. Rognvaldur and Margaret Petursson of \$15,000 to the University of Iceland.

Last fall Dr. Johannesson attended a conference in Norway of university presidents and rectors. Soon after his return to Iceland he suffered a heart attack which proved fatal.

From these and other incidents it becomes clear that Prof. Johannesson served beyond his native land. But the unusual breadth of service of this distinguished man can be seen in other

ways. His chosen field in Iceland was education but he was at the same time engaged in various other types of cultural activities. He was the author of several books and for twenty years was editor of two literary annuals published by "Hið íslenska Þjóðvinafélag" the National Cultural Society of Iceland, of which he was president at the time of his death. The one publication is "Andvara", which may be termed "On Watch", of about 100 pages, and the other is an Almanak, containing about 100 pages of articles besides the usual almanac data.

Dr. Thorkell Johannesson was born December 6, 1895, at Syðra-Fjalli, Aðaldal, in the north of Iceland. He completed studies at Menntaskólinn, a College in Reykjavik, in 1922, and in 1927 graduated from the Department of Arts in the University of Iceland, specializing in History and Icelandic Studies. In 1933 he obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree, his thesis being "Independence in the Labour Force of Iceland".

Dr. Johannesson was Head of the Co-operative Society Commercial School of Iceland "Samvinnuskólinn", from 1927 to 1931. He then accepted the position of Librarian at the National Library of Iceland, and served there until in 1944, when he was appointed Professor in the Philosophy Department of the University of Iceland. In 1954 he was elected Rector (president), re-elected in 1957 and again last summer.

A leading educationist and man of letters of Iceland has passed away.

—W. J. L.

W

## IN THE NEWS



Norma Celine Guttormsson

Culminating a childhood ambition to become an "educated nurse" Norma Celine Guttormsson graduated from the University of British Columbia with a bachelor of science degree in nursing in October, 1959, following a five-year term. She took the two-year requisite nurse's training at the Vancouver General Hospital.

Born at Flin Flon, Manitoba, she is the daughter of Dr. Petur B. and Salin (nee Reykdal) Guttormsson of Shaunavon, Sask., and granddaughter of Vilborg and Vigfus Guttormsson, the well known poet in Lundar Man. Her father was a general practitioner at the mining town of Flin Flon for several years during its "pioneer days" and has, in later years, attained eminence as a surgeon.

At an early age Norma moved with her family to Vancouver, then to Watrous, Sask. where she received her primary and secondary education. In 1951 she entered the Branksome Hall Private School for girls in Toronto

and completed her high school education in 1954.

While attending Branksome Hall she was one of four girls chosen to represent the school at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June, 1953.

As a member of the Order of Nurses, that guild for which "God ordered motion but ordained no rest", Norma, with her keen understanding and strong determination, will discharge her commission with distinction and honour.

★


**PROMOTED TO  
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Squadron Leader Wm. R. Lawler

The R.C.A.F. has announced the recent promotion of Fl. Lt. Wm. R. Lawler, 32, to the rank of squadron leader.

As a pilot with air material command in Ottawa, S.L. Lawler has taken part in a number of vital operations involving the ferrying of jet aircraft to NATO countries. He has been posted



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to a Canadian base in Europe for three years. He and his family expect to leave early next spring. S.L. Lawler is married to Dolores, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. V. J. Eylands of Winnipeg. They have three children and have made their home in Ottawa for nearly seven years. He is a native of Lindsay, Ont., and son of former Chief of Police and Mrs. Ralph Lawler.

★

### ELECTED TO LUTHERAN BOARD

Njall O. Bardal of Winnipeg was elected in October to the executive board of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship at the biennial convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, of the United Lutheran Churches in America.

Mr. Bardal is the second member of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod to be elected to an executive board of the United Lutheran Churches in America. The other is Rev. Eric H. Sigmar who is a member of the Board of Publications.

Mr. Bardal was one of ten elected by the approximately 600 delegates to the laymen's movement board out of a total of 27 nominated. He received 392 votes, the third highest. He will hold office for two years.

Mr. Bardal has been a member of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement For Stewardship for ten years.

★

### REV. W. M. BERGMAN PASTOR IN SELKIRK

Rev. Wallace M. Bergman this fall took over the pastorate of the Lutheran Church at Selkirk, Man. Born at Arborg, Man. Mr. Bergman spent his early years at Gimli where he completed collegiate studies in 1951. He

subsequently attended United College, Winnipeg, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1955, and then went on to Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary at Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A., where he received his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1958. He subsequently served as pastor for Minneota parish in Minnesota until August of this year when he went to Selkirk. Married, his wife is the former Helen M. Cairns of River-ton, Man. They have one daughter, Karen Diane, 2. Mr. Bergman's parents are Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Bergman, formerly of Gimli and Winnipeg and now residing at Victoria, B. C.

★

### SIXTY-FIFTH WEDDING AN- NIVERSARY CELEBRATED

On Sunday, July 17th of this year, the sixty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Straumfjord was celebrated at their home in Blaine, Washington.

Two hundred and fifty guests attended, some coming from Los Angeles, Seattle, Bellingham and Vancouver. And from Astoria came the nephew of the bridegroom, Dr. Jon Straumfjord, who, accompanied by his wife, made the trip in his own airplane.

The children of the couple, all of whom were present, were in charge of the celebration. They are Mrs. J. Pehrson (Dora), Bellingham; Mrs. Ed Peterson (Mae), Seattle; Mrs. Mike Brown (Asta Ruby), Blaine; Mrs. H. Nix (Lillian), Sattle; and Johann, their son, who came with his wife from California. A granddaughter whom they had brought up, Nancy Mae, now Mrs. Scheving, was also present, as well as a large number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.



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Johann Straumfjord, born in Iceland, came to Canada in 1876 with his father Johann Elias and his mother Bjorg. He married Bjorg Kristjansdottir in Selkirk in 1895 and they lived there until they moved to the west coast in 1901. There they have since made their home. Johann worked at house building, and also farmed near the town of Blaine. Now they are retired, living in the town of Blaine.

Johann and Bjorg have always taken an active part in the life of the community. Johann led in establishing a milk and egg co-op, and is one of the founders of Stafholt, the old folks home, being on the board of directors of that institution. He and his wife have supported wholeheartedly the Icelandic church, and all local Icelandic enterprises. Having resided for nearly sixty years in the community, they have lived up to the best in the pioneer tradition.

They saw to it that their children got an education. Dora and Mae are teachers, Lillian has university education, and Johann is a graduate engineer in Los Angeles. Nancy Mae, the granddaughter whom they brought up, is a graduate in dramatics of Washington University.

The father of the bridegroom was Johann Elias Straumfjord, well known in the Icelandic districts of Mikley and Lundar for his work as a doctor of homeopathy (self-taught). The brothers and sisters of Johann are: Jón, formerly of Lundar, deceased; Mrs. Ásta Sigurdson, and Mrs. Ragnhildur Magnúsdóttir, both of Lundar.

★

**WILLIAM A. VOPNI'S PAPER  
WINS AWARD**

The Manitoba Leader, published at Portage la Prairie, Man. was judged

the best weekly newspaper in Canada at the convention in Vancouver, B.C. this fall of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers' Association. The Manitoba Leader is published by Vopni Press Limited, owners also of the Portage la Prairie Daily Graphic and the Neepawa Press, the latter a weekly. Head of Vopni Press and editor-in-chief is William H. Vopni, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Vopni of Winnipeg. Three other brothers are in either the newspaper or printing business, John D. at Davidson, Sask., Magnus B. in Winnipeg and Herman at Seattle, Wash., U.S.A. W. H. Vopni is an alderman of the city of Portage la Prairie.

★

**REV. ALBERT E. KRISTJANSSON  
HONORED**

Rev. Albert E. Kristjansson, minister of the Icelandic Free Church (Unitarian) in Blaine, Washington, U.S.A., was honored at a banquet in Seattle this fall on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Mr. Kristjansson was born at Husavik in Iceland in 1878 and came to North America as a youth. He attended the Unitarian Meadville Theological College at Meadville, Pennsylvania and was ordained in 1910 upon his graduation there with a B.D. degree.

Mr. Kristjansson served congregations at Gimli, Mary Hill and Shoal Lake, Hove and Oak Point in Manitoba before going to Seattle in 1928.

★

**WINS A.S.F. FELLOWSHIP**

A student from Iceland, **Ottar Petur Halldorsson**, has been awarded an American Scandinavian Foundation Fellowship for study of engineering in the United States. This grant is one

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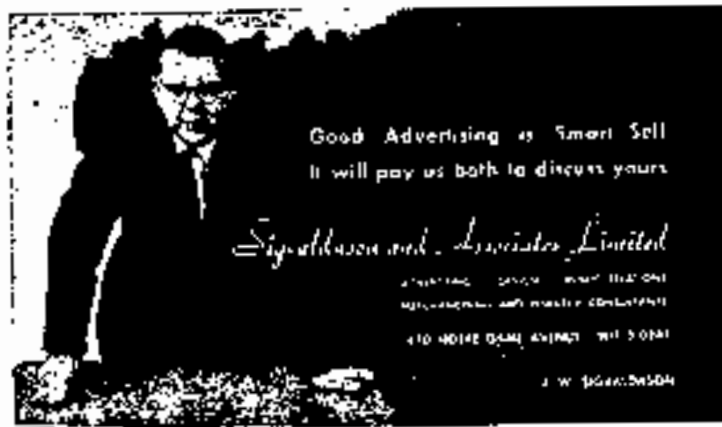
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of \$900 per year for a maximum period of three years. Mr. Halldorsson graduated from Reykjavik College in 1956 having specialized in mathematics, and since has studied chemical and civil engineering at the Technische Hochschule in Munich, Germany. The fellowship grant given him has been made possible by contributions from Icelandic Consul Arni Helgason in Chicago, Illinois, the E.H.P. Foundation of Detroit, Michigan, and Sveinn J. Storm of Ely, Iowa, U.S.A.

★

### LANGUAGE PROFESSOR STUDIES ICELANDIC

A United States educator, Dr. Michael Krauss, this fall took over the post of professor of language studies at the University of Alaska after spending two years in Iceland where he studied Icelandic on a fellowship. Dr. Krauss had gone to Iceland after winning his doctorate in language studies at Harvard University in the United States. He spent the past summer on language research in the Faroe Islands. At the University of Alaska he will conduct research into Eskimo language and dialects. Dr. Krauss, 25, is described as having become fluent in Icelandic in the two years he spent in Iceland.

### PIONEER CELEBRATES 98th BIRTHDAY

An Icelandic pioneer of Manitoba, Mrs. Gudridur Sigurdsson, celebrated her 98th birthday Sept. 15th at the home of her daughter, Sigurros, Mrs. James Nicol of 150 Mayfair Ave. Winnipeg, with whom she lives. Mrs. Sigurdsson was born at Hamrakoti in Andakilshreppi, Borgarfjörður county in Iceland, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jon Sigurdsson. She married Jon Sigurdsson from Olvaldsstöðum, also in Borgarfjörður County, and they lived in Iceland for a number of years before coming to Canada in 1898 and settling at Brandon, Man. They subsequently lived at Swan River, Man. for several years. Mr. Sigurdson died some years ago. Their children living are, in addition to Mrs. Nicol, sons Ingimundur and John of Vancouver, B. C., Theodore of Fort William, Ont., and Fowler S. of Bowsman, Man., and daughters Kristin, Mrs. Harold Fullerton of Toronto, Ont., and Louise, Mrs. Ed Wiley of Sudbury. A son, Raymond, died at Churchbridge, Sask. four years ago and another son, Gudmundur, was killed in action in the First World War. Two daughters died during their early years.

### Graduates and Scholarship Winners

#### WINS \$400 SCHOLARSHIP

Miss Gailya Maureen Grimolfson of Prince Rupert, B. C. was this fall awarded a \$400 scholarship upon completion of Grade 12 at Prince Rupert Senior High School, to continue her studies at the British Columbia Teachers' college where she plans to specialize in physical education.

Miss Grimolfson was born at Gimli, Man., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Skapti Grimolfson. The family lived for a while at Hecla, Man., before moving to the Pacific coast. Mr. Grimolfson was the son of Johannes and Gudrun Grimolfson and Mrs. Grimolfson, the former Jonassina Ruby Benson, the daughter of Benedict and Gudrun Benson, formerly of Hecla and now of

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Selkirk, Man. Both were born and raised at Hecla.

Gailya has maintained a high academic standing all through her school years and has participated in numerous extracurricular activities. She received the Outstanding Girl Athlete of 1960 trophy at Prince Rupert Senior High School where she completed her studies last spring. At 14 she won the Prince Rupert Daily News trophy after being judged the city's top swimmer. She was a member of Prince Rupert's all-star team which competed in the Northwestern B. C. basketball tournament.

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bjorn Gutormson of Winnipeg.

★

**WINNERS OF SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND BURSARIES**



Richard Petersen

Winners of Dr. G. Paulson Scholarship—awarded for highest marks in Grade 11 departmental examinations each year at Lundar High School. Amount \$100.00.

1959: won by Richard Petersen of Lundar. Parents—Rodney and Steinun Petersen.

★

Alice Caroline Kristmanson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur (Hjörtur) Kristmanson of Prince Rupert, B. C., was named winner of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire \$200 bursary by the Prince Rupert Municipal Chapter last spring. This bursary is given annually to a deserving high school student for further education. Her mother was formerly Ingibjorg Phillipson of Selkirk, Manitoba.

**WINS I.O.D.E. SCHOLARSHIP**



John Carlisle Wilson

John Carlisle Wilson, son of Kerr and Thelma Wilson, has been awarded the Jon Sigurdson Chapter I.O.D.E. scholarship for high marks in the Grade VIII violin examination of the University of Manitoba. His mother is the



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Alice Caroline Kristmanson

Besides excelling academically, Alice was very active in all school activities, being a member of the students' council, sports' representative, and vice-president of the curling club. She also played on school basketball and softball teams.

Alice has entered Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria to take nurse's training

★

Miss Heather Alda Sigurdson of Winnipeg this fall was awarded a Stella Boyd Memorial Scholarship in singing amounting to \$75 and a Rhys Thomas Music Scholarship of \$40. Miss Sigurdson, who has completed her Grade 9 studies in singing, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sigurdson of 134 Riverbend Crescent, St. James.

★

Marja Magnusson, daughter of Agnar and Lauga Magnusson of Winnipeg, won the following awards in the departmental examinations last spring: Manitoba Govt. Grade XII Scholar-

ship ..... \$100.00  
 Alumni Ass'n Scholarship ..... \$100.00  
 Marjorie Brooker Scholarship .. \$200.00  
 (This will be given to the winner every year until graduation from university if marks are satisfactory.)

Marjorie Brooker Bursary ..... \$100.00  
 For previous honors won, see Icelandic Canadian, Winter 1959.

Kris Sigursteinn Gudmundson—winner of Marjorie Brooker Bursary \$200. Eleanor Johnson, winner of Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg bursary, \$750.00.

★



Kris Johnson

1960: won by Kris Johnson. Parents—Kjartan and Thelma Johnson. Kris had an average mark of 78 per cent.

★

Rosemary Johnson, daughter of Mrs. Jon Johnson of Winnipeg, was awarded the Sellers scholarship of \$300 at the University of Manitoba last spring on completing second-year Arts. The previous year she also won the Sellers scholarship, of \$200. Her father, Jon Johnson, deceased, was at one time president of Frón (Icelandic patriotic society).

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CLIPPINGS FROM

## Félagshlaðið

Published in Los Angeles. Editor, Skuli Bjarnason. Assistant Editor Gudny Thorwaldson.

His honor Mr. Asgeir Asgeirson, who has served two four-year terms as President of Iceland, was inaugurated for his third term of office on August 1st of this year. In his inaugural speech he said: "I have now signed my oath of allegiance to the certificate of election, which I have now received. It gives me a great joy to start a new term of office. With deep feeling of appreciation I want to thank the people for their trust and confidence in me and the kindness shown my wife and me, something we cannot do without. I promise again to do my utmost as president for the welfare of the land and nation." In another place he says, "Democracy and our parliamentary system are not an imported commodity."

★

Dr. and Mrs. Copley, whose home is in New York, spent some time in Los Angeles on their way to Tokyo. Their daughter, Una Dora, accompanied them. Mrs. Copley is the internationally known artist and abstract painter, Nina Tryggvadottir, who is a native of Iceland. In Los Angeles she stayed with her cousin Valgerdur Olafsdottir Linden.

Dr. Copley and Nina lived in Paris five years and London, England, three years. She has had exhibitions in most of the capitals of Europe. Ten years ago we had the great pleasure of meeting her at a dinner party in Reykja-

vik. She is a Nordic beauty and a charming personality.

### Nordic Council

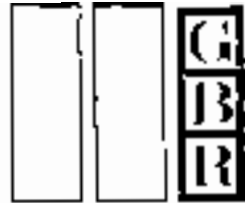
The Nordic Council opened July 28 in Reykjavik. What is the Nordic Council—this organization which can call together at one meeting a hundred of the most influential political leaders of five states? What does it do?

These questions are being asked by many persons in this country—now that the organization is holding its first meeting in Iceland, which is attended by large, distinguished delegations from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. For the next few days, 22 cabinet members from these countries in addition to seven of our own, many former cabinet members, political party leaders and members of parliament will receive reports on their speeches and resolutions, be informed about major and minor issues which affect the interests of more than twenty million inhabitants of five countries.

The following are a few basic facts about the Nordic Council:

The council was conceived by and established through the initiative of the popular Danish prime minister, Hans Hedtoft. He wishes to unite the Scandinavian countries, get them to work together in various fields as one unit.

The council is meant to be a forum where the national assemblies and governments of the five Scandinavian countries can confer with each other concerning common problems and interests. The council cannot reach binding decisions, but acts in an advisory capacity. Its proposals are forwarded to the governments of the countries



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concerned, which report on their progress.

The council is composed of sixteen members of Parliament from each of the participating countries—except five from Iceland—plus the cabinet members who are nominated in each instance. The cabinet members are free to speak at council meetings, but cannot vote.

★

We have been very fortunate in procuring translations from Iceland from five of the dailies and weeklies. The translations have been done for the American Embassy. We want to thank those who were instrumental in making the contacts to acquire the translations.

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## News Summary

Winnipeg Icelanders noted in October that it was 85 years ago that the first Icelandic immigrants reached the city and forthwith sailed north over the Red River to Lake Winnipeg to establish their settlement on the western shore at what was then known as New Iceland and now is known as Gimli.

It was reported there were 285 persons in this first group, most of them having lived in Ontario for a period before coming west.

As there was no way at that time to travel directly west to the new province of Manitoba, these Icelandic pioneers went south to Duluth, Minnesota, in the United States where they were joined by new arrivals from Iceland, and then came west to Fisher's Landing to board the steam riverboat International which was to bring them along the Red River to Winnipeg. It was in the afternoon of October 11, 1875, that the International tied up at the Hudson's Bay Company dock near the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers behind Fort Garry.

Meanwhile news had reached Winnipeg that the first Icelanders were coming and a large crowd was reported to have gathered at the river's edge to see these new immigrants.

The group remained at Winnipeg for a few days before boarding a York

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boat which took them up the Red River where Selkirk is now. There they transferred to the lake steamer Colville which took them to New Iceland. The Colville cast anchor at what was then known as Willow Point on Friday October 22.

On landing there was no time to waste. The immigrant group set to work to prepare for the long winter which was soon to come.

★

The Betel Home Foundation was officially established in September as a trust foundation under regulations of the province of Manitoba. Betel Home for the Elderly is located at Gimli, Man., established there by the Icelandic Lutheran Synod in 1918. Establishment of the trust foundation was approved at the annual synod conference last June at Glenboro, Man. Members of the trust foundation board are Grettir Eggertson, Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, K. W. Johannson, Victor Jonasson, S. M. Bachman and Hon. George Johnson, all of Winnipeg, Rev. S. Olafsson and S. V. Sigurdson of Riverton, Man., Barney Egilson of Gimli, and Lincoln Johnson, Robert Goodman and John Guttormsson, all of Lundar, Man.

★

A new book on the theme "Cancer is a Disease of Civilization" by the eminent Icelandic Canadian explorer and

anthropologist, Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, was published in October according to recent news dispatches.

★

Senator G. S. Thorvaldson headed a six-member Canadian parliamentary group that this fall attended a Parliamentary Union Conference in Tokyo, Japan. Senator Thorvaldson was accompanied by Mrs. Thorvaldson and while in the Orient they toured Japan for a week and on their return to Canada visited Honk Kong and the Hawaiian Islands. Senator Thorvaldson is a native of Manitoba.

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## THE TATTERED LAPEL

by BOGI BJARNASON

His name was Bill Smith, and it suited him. He was just that—Bill Smith—a nightwatchman, and a good one, in a planing mill. But that was all he was—a man who tended to his charge nights, and slept through many of the daylight hours.

Bill Smith liked his work and was reasonably happy. When he woke up in the late afternoon he bathed and shaved, after which he had his principal daily meal "in the bosom of his family"—with his wife. He would then make up his lunch-kit for a midnight snack, and amble off for his vigil. It was a satisfying life.

But it didn't satisfy his wife, who had ambitions. She hated this life and despised her husband. This placid existence was not what she had envisioned and bargained for in marrying him. Why couldn't he amount to something? be something more than another's hireling?

Most vehemently she disliked his looks, his face, so undistinguished, so plebeian! His nose was large and his chin receded into an adams-apple that bobbed when he swallowed. Steady he was, to be sure, and reliable, and as exciting and romantic as a wheelbarrow. That wasn't what she wanted.

Bill Smith knew all about this, and accepted it as his lot in life. He was aware of his looks, but didn't know what he could do about it. This was the way nature, or whatever, had designed him. He was resigned to it.

Then this thing happened. People—women especially—began to notice him, stare at him. On the street people ogled him—stared and whispered. Once upon pausing before a display

window he was all but mobbed by women, young and middle-aged, who appeared to converge upon him. In a department store a sales-girl became greatly excited and addressed him by name—a name that meant nothing to him.

Relating this to his wife she sneeringly charged him with daydreaming. No one, least of all teen-age girls, could possibly become enamored of his looks, his kind of face. It was ridiculous!

The Smiths were not "cafe society". Night spots, the classy, expensive ones, were as remote as Russia, whatever the distance in furlongs. They knew nothing about what went on there—at least Bill Smith didn't. Till one night, scanning a page of the newspaper his sandwiches were wrapped in he saw a picture—himself or his twin, the current vocalist sensation at The Twenty Club—Rogers, the very name the girl in the department store had called him. So now he understood. He Bill Smith, nightwatchman, was being taken for a celebrity of the name of Rogers. Well, their similarity was striking enough, almost uncanny. So there it was!

The blurb under the picture of Rogers said that he was having a rough time of it, each trip to and from his hotel to the club being an ordeal. If teen-age girls screamed and swooned when he sang, they went "haywire" if he came among them, even to tearing the clothes off him in their frenzy. According to the blurb this matter of getting to and from the club was becoming a problem for poor Rogers.

But it gave Bill an idea, upon which he acted the following day. Bearding

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the redoubtable star in his dressing room (incidentally shocking him by the likeness to what he saw in his mirror), he laid before him a plan to relieve him of the ordeal of being constantly mobbed by hysterical fans. They would exchange clothes twice each evening, and Bill Smith would travel as Rogers to and from the club, as it were baring his breast to the javelins of crazy teen-agers and other worshippers, for so much per diem—a mere pittance from the enormous fees the star received for his singing. (It is here fitly mentioned that Bill Smith did not apprise his wife of this arrangement, lest she further indulge in sneers about his looks. Anyway, it was a gentlemen's agreement, not to be bruited about.)

So this first night of the arrangement Bill Smith, at the conclusion of the entertainment at The Twenty Club, entered Rogers' dressing room and there effected a complete change of clothes with the star, who, as Bill Smith in a watchman's getup made his way to his hotel unmolested.

Not so Bill Smith who, as Rogers, suffered the vociferous attentions of a million women intent on getting his autograph or equivalent souvenirs. By the time he got out of the club and into a taxi he had parted with a sizeable part of the jacket, including all its buttons and one lapel. He found it to be an harassing experience.

Arriving home he learned that his wife, who had been out, was in the bathroom, her hand-bag on the coffee table. Fidgeting, he accidentally brushed the bag off the table, spilling its contents on the floor. Replacing them, an object caught his eye.

Examining it he recognized it as the lapel of Rogers' jacket which he himself had worn but a short hour ago.

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