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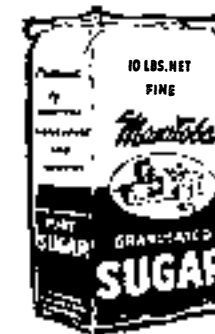
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The Icelandic Canadian

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Autumn 1964

EDITORIAL—The Icelandic Celebration, W. Kristjanson	10
The Front Cover	11
IN MEMORIAM—Frú Dóra Þórhallsdóttir	12
EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESSES —	
1. Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson	13
2. Hon. Errick F. Willis	15
3. Hon. Wm. M. Benidickson	17
VISIT OF ICELANDS PRIME MINISTER, G. Kristjanson	20
THE LOFTY LOVE OF LAND, W. J. Lindal	27
MISCELLANEOUS	
Man and His Music—M. D. Magnusson, Louise Gudmunds	36
Dinner With Halldor Laxness, Herman G. Nelson	30
Janet Maddin, Athlete of the Year	35
John Matthiasson, Lives with the Eskimos	49
A Vilhjalmur Stefansson Memorial Library	40
Semi-Finalist in Beauty Contest, Rhuna Emery	34
Vacation Work in Icelandic Islands	19
ANNUAL AWARDS, University of Manitoba	46
POETRY—	
Two Sonnets by Vilhjalmur Stefansson	42
Preface on Earth, translated by C. Gunnarson	29
Indigence and Wealth, translated by Paul Bjarnason	44
IN THE NEWS 33, 39, 43, 51, 53; 56; 59;	
NEWS SUMMARY 60; 62; 64	

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

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EDITORIAL

The Icelandic Celebration: 75

The seventy-fifth Icelandic Celebration is now history. It was a success.

Seventy-five years may seem a short time by Old World standards but it is relatively a much longer period in the annals of the New World. In America, seventy-five years have seen virgin lands settled and villages become metropolitan cities. Seventy-five years ago, in 1890, Sir John A. Macdonald was Prime Minister of Canada and the 1st Icelandic church in Winnipeg had been built only three years previously.

Pioneering events have a special significance, but further to that the first Icelandic celebration, held in Victoria Park in Winnipeg, was a memorable occasion. The day began with an impressive procession from the starting point at the corner of Ross and Nena (Sherbrook) to the Victoria Gardens, east of Main Street. The Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, Sir John Schultz, was a guest of honor, and the American, Danish, and German consuls, and other dignitaries, were invited guests. There was a long and varied program, with speeches, singing, original poems, and a variety of sports. The Icelandic community in Winnipeg was at that time relatively much larger than it is now, and furthermore there were numerous visitors from the Icelandic communities in rural Manitoba and North Dakota; the procession was one of the most impressive that the city of some twenty thousand had as yet witnessed, and the event attracted attention; it was fully and favorably reported in the Winnipeg dailies.

At the seventy-fifth celebration, held at Gimli, there was an impressive program. The Prime Minister of Iceland, Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson, was the guest of honor and the main speaker.

Greetings from the Government of Canada were conveyed by Hon. William M. Benidickson; from the Government of Manitoba by Hon. George Johnson, and from the City of Winnipeg by Mayor Stephen Juba. His Honour, Errick F. Willis, Q.C., Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, following the pattern set by his predecessor of 1890, gave the toast to Canada. There were visitors hailing from North Dakota, Vancouver, and Alaska.

The Prime Minister in his address, paid tribute to the contribution of the Icelandic people in America to Iceland. He recalled from personal knowledge a stream of visitors from America ever since the days of his youth, naming several prominent persons. From America there had been a contribution of practical and technical knowledge, as in the development of hydro-electric power, and there had been a vitally important contribution in the launching of the Icelandic Steamship Company in 1914. The Icelandic people in America, he said, had opened a window for Iceland on the great outside world.

Referring to present day association between Iceland and Canada, Dr. Benediktsson recalled that he and the present Prime Minister of Canada, Hon. Lester B. Pearson, had signed the NATO pact on behalf of their respective countries. NATO he called a shield of freedom.

The Prime Minister was an ambassador of good will. He made a very favorable impression with his personal charm, outgoing personality, and his directness and democratic manner. During his stay in Winnipeg he and his wife frú Sigríður, were guests at Government House, and he was honored by the City of Winnipeg, and dined by the Icelandic community.

The celebration of 1890 was a source of inspiration to the Icelandic people in America at that time and in the years since the celebration has been a factor in promoting community spirit and in the maintenance of the bond between kinsmen in America and Iceland. The Icelandic Celebration of 1964 was in the best tradition of the past seventy-five years.—W. Kristjanson

THE FRONT COVER

The Front Cover tells a real and a true story. But it is more than that. It epitomizes what will be, not tomorrow but in the scores of years, and even centuries that lie ahead.

Behind, but yet on guard, perhaps more closely watching the more distant than the immediate future, is frú Sigríður Björnsdóttir, wife of Bjarni Benediktsson, the Prime Minister of Iceland. She is the embodiment of Iceland's culture, now in full bloom, a culture not entirely limited to Iceland.

On the right is Bjarni their son. He is studying law at the University of Iceland and eagerly accepted the first opportunity accorded him to travel to Canada and see for himself what is being retained of the heritage the Icelandic pioneers brought with them.

Talking to young men and women of his age, who trace their ancestry through at least one branch of the family tree to Iceland and watching them in action, Bjarni was able to see how much of the essence of Icelandic culture is being retained, diffused and passed on. His interest in the young people he met is the type of encouragement they need as they perform their twofold duty in this, their homeland.

On the left is Donald Arni Flatt.

In 1886 a man by the name of Jón Arnason migrated from Iceland to Canada with his wife and six children.

One of them Arni, was then nine years old. The family settled in Winnipeg and chose the surname Anderson. Arni, who studied law and practised in Winnipeg married Annie M. MacDonald, a Canadian girl of Scottish descent. Both of them became strong supporters of the then Methodist Church, Arni being in his day one of the top Sunday School teachers in Winnipeg. Their daughter, Olive, who did not learn Icelandic, married William D. Flatt. One of the children of that marriage is Donad Arni Flatt, one-quarter of Icelandic descent. He has obtained the B.A. and B. Ed. degrees and this fall will commence studies for the Masters degree. He has a definite literary bent and has become interested in the Sagas and other Icelandic literature. Deeply impressed by the samples of that literature which he has read in translation and, as he says, appreciative of his mother's Icelandic traits, Donald has decided to study Icelandic as part of his Master of Arts degree.

The present factual picture provides a glimpse of the widening picture of the future.

Iceland's teeming Tree of Life
In tender leaf and flower,
Ever reaching out the roots
Retain their strengthening power.
W. J. L.

Frú Dóra Þórhallsdóttir IN MEMORIAM

The sad news of the passing of frú Dóra Þórhallsdóttir, the wife of His Excellency the President of Iceland, has just reached us.

The untimely death of Her Excellency leaves all Icelanders and the numerous friends of the young Republic of Iceland with a deep feeling of bereavement. In no small measure does this sense of loss make itself felt among Canadians of Icelandic descent who still cherish the memory of the visit to Canada by the President and his lady three years ago. Canadian Icelanders clearly recall the many occasions in recent years on which warm and generous hospitality was bestowed upon them at the Presidential Home in Iceland. Frú Dóra Þórhallsdóttir always took a keen interest in the descendants of Iceland in North America and along with her husband, she added new strength to the bonds between Iceland and its sons and daughters in the west. Ours is an abiding gratitude for her distinguished service.

Her Excellency was exceptionally well qualified for her high position as "The First Lady of Iceland". Refinement was a personality trait with her and an unmistakable mark of noble origin. All her life she had been in a position where she could virtually feel the very heartbeat of the Icelandic nation. Her parents were Þórhallur Bjarnason, a Bishop of Iceland and his wife frú Valgerður Jónsdóttir. Thus the home of her youth was the bishopric at **Laufás við Reykjavík**—a home which for a long time was widely recognized for its unique atmosphere of culture and learning. She married the man who at an early age became one of Iceland's leading statesmen and rose to become President of Iceland. Last summer he was re-elected President by acclamation—equally a tribute to frú Dóra and Ásgeir Ásgeirsson.

Our heartfelt condolences go to His Excellency the President, his family, and the Icelandic nation as a whole.

One of the Keys to the English Language

The following is an extract, in translation, from the address delivered by BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON, Prime Minister of Iceland, at the International Inn, Winnipeg, on Wednesday, August 5th, 1964.

All of us, whose roots lie deep in Icelandic soil, have abundant grounds to be proud of our descent.

Actually, it is exceptional that a nation so small in numbers, should be able to maintain an independent and a richly cultural state in a land of such size and adverse elements as Iceland. At the same time it is little short of a miracle that you, west of the Atlantic, in that vastness of nations, should not only have succeeded in sailing your ship of state on a course leading to wealth and distinction, but should at the same time have succeeded in maintaining fresh and undiminished a memory of your origin and your former homeland. To accomplish this you have drawn upon your rich store of energy, your courage, your patience and your exceptional faith. Through this, but with due modesty, we have reason to be proud. It is the hope of all that this Icelandic tenacity will be perpetuated in your descendants wherever they may go.

But even if we desire to maintain the distinctly Icelandic traits we must not forget that the Icelandic people are not an indigenous growth. They alone do not inhabit this planet.

It has frequently been stated that western civilization derives from three main root elements, Greek, Roman and Hebrew. Not for a moment would I minimize any of the following: the independence of thought and the arts of the Greeks; the Roman administration of law; the Hebrew background to the Christian religion. But, above all, here in Canada you must not forget the great contribution the north-western part of Europe has made to present day civilization.

In order to appreciate this one need but consider the important role the English language is playing. It is the main language throughout North America, and it is hoped, will increasingly become a world language which every nation will understand alongside its native tongue. **The man who seeks to understand the origins of English will find that no living language can provide a better means for that purpose than Icelandic.**

It is for that reason that a study of the Icelandic language means much more than the mere ability to understand and converse in a language which fewer than 200,000 people use in their daily contacts.

It would be unrealistic to imagine that large numbers of people will either have the opportunity or even the desire to learn Icelandic merely for the purpose of acquiring a better understanding of the essence, the construction, and the evolution of the English language. But men of learning who seek to acquire that understanding, and be in a position to impart that understanding to others, are bound to benefit greatly from a study of Icelandic.

A grasp of Icelandic learning is more than a mere language study; it leads to a literature which is an exceptional product of an ancient culture, and is no less a contribution to western civilization than the three other cultural heritages—the Greek, the Roman, and the Hebrew. We who speak with knowledge, recognize that some of the Icelandic Sagas, and the “Heimskringla” (story of the Norse Kings) compare favourably with the finest literature which was produced at or about that time anywhere in the world. Some acquaintance with the best in that literature should be equally a part of the general store of knowledge as choice selections from the Greeks, the Romans and the Hebrews. This applies particularly to “Hávamál”, the Sayings of the Wise One, Völuspá”, The Sybil’s Prophecy, and also some of the old Icelandic laws.

In that ancient literature one will find examples of that calm of mind and self control which distinguish the Anglo-Saxons from others; also a guide to the democratic process which they, more successfully than any other people, have developed in their forms of government.

It is regrettable that interest in this phase of western civilization appears to be less at present than at other times. That, no doubt, is partly the result of the disrepute of Nazi-German propaganda which presumptuously appropriated that literature to itself and gave it a wholly misleading interpretation. For that reason it is the more important that we take pains that the Norse contribution be not forgotten.

In that field you, Vestur-Íslendingar (Western-Icelanders) have special opportunities and indeed special duties in relation to your Icelandic origin. By maintaining a loyalty to your heritage you not only enrich your own lives but you provide color and variety to the cultural life of your Canadian nation—a nation which has already become and will increasingly continue to be one of the leading nations of the free world.

Extracts from address of Hon. Errick F. Willis

The following are extracts from the speech by His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, HONOURABLE ERRICK F. WILLIS, on the 75th Anniversary of the Icelandic Celebration at Gimli Park, Monday, August 3rd, 1964 and excerpts from his remarks at the Banquet in the International Inn, Metro-Winnipeg, Wednesday, August 5th, 1964.

We welcome today the Prime Minister of Iceland, Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson, Mrs. Benediktsson and their son Bjarni. We are honoured they are staying with us at Government House, and each day I learn more about Iceland.

One half of those who left Iceland came to Canada and of those, more than fifty per cent came to the Province of Manitoba.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the great contribution made by these cultured immigrants to Canada.

I am happy to point out that persons of Icelandic descent have achieved many of the most important positions in Canada—in the judiciary, field of medicine, as professionals in the other professions, and also in the field of politics.

In Canada we are all immigrants, or sons or grandsons of immigrants. My people left Ireland at the time of the last potato famine and I think they made a wise choice.

The girls from Iceland were beautiful and the men were aggressive and consequently they were soon assimilated into the fabric of Canada, to the great benefit of our country.

I have been asked today to speak on Canada. The first thing I should like to say is that our best Canadians are those who respect and honour their racial background.

I feel that in the past we have failed to speak out in regard to the fine qualities of our country, and that as a result we are not as well informed as we should be, in reference to Canada.

We are a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and as such we become not merely a nation of eighteen million people but, in addition, we form an important part of the Commonwealth of Nations of some six hundred million people.

We have the advantage of being a pioneer nation—for the people of Canada are either pioneers or sons or grandchildren of pioneers. We have not, therefore, gone soft in spite of the fact that we are reasonably well fed and constantly attending banquets. The ability of our people to withstand hardships was well exemplified in the difficult period of the 1930's when our people successfully stood the test of that depression with courage and determination.

Law and order are well maintained in Canada. Our courts, based upon the British system, have the full respect of the people. Our judges are carefully selected and are appointed for a period extending until they reach the age of seventy-five years.

Our people have always been internationalists, and not isolationists. Early in the life of our nation it was

realized that Canada could not be neutral, and as a consequence we have always been active on the side of justice as we saw it. Our sacrifices and contributions to other nations have been very large indeed, when it is remembered that we only have two-thirds of one percent of the population of the world.

We have no aristocracy worthy of the name and as a consequence Canada is ruled and controlled by the great middle class. We do not have any large numbers of people who are either extremely rich or extremely poor.

Although our population is small we have accepted our full responsibility as a nation. Canada now is one of the vice-presidents of the United Nations, and we have taken a full part in NATO. In the last war 42,000 Canadians were killed in foreign fields, and we spent twenty billion dollars in that patriotic effort. We are still spending two billion dollars annually for defence.

There are those who fear that the large investment which has been made

in Canada by our American friends will be highly detrimental to our country. They even suggest that Canada is owned by the people of the United States and that we will soon become a part of that great nation.

I have more confidence in our public men in Canada than to believe that it will become possible for the United States to rule Canada simply by the investment of large sums of money in our country.

Political control is quite a different matter to the mere investment of money and, as in the instance of Great Britain, this becomes a political impossibility having in mind the present good character of our public men.

If I have given you greater pride in Canada, or if I have given you some satisfactory reasons to prove the greatness of Canada, or some facts to pass on to your children—or if I have given you a desire to serve your community—or even if I can send you away with a feeling that you are glad to be a Canadian, that will be my adequate reward.



Extracts from address of Hon. Wm. M. Benidickson

The following are extracts from the remarks of the HON. WILLIAM M. BENIDICKSON, Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys at the 75th Anniversary Celebration of "Íslendingadagurinn", the National Icelandic Day in Gimli Park, Gimli, Man.

As Mr. Pearson's representative here today, it is my pleasant duty and honour to welcome you on behalf of the Government and people of Canada. It is a sincere and cordial welcome sir that I now extend to you and your family on behalf of the Government of Canada and on behalf of all Canadians **from sea to sea**. Mr. Pearson would like me as well to convey his personal regrets on being unable to be here himself. I have been asked to hand you his personal letter of welcome to Canada. Would you also accept his personally autographed photograph which is inscribed "To a friend and esteemed Prime Ministerial Colleague, Bjarni Benediktsson, from Lester B. Pearson, Ottawa, July 27, 1964."

It is well known, ladies and gentlemen, that one of the outstanding characteristics of the Canadian of Icelandic descent has been his passionate pursuit in the preservation of the precious gems of Icelandic literature. This love of the language and literature of his forbears has inspired the Canadian Icelander to outstanding literary efforts which will be as great and lasting as the old Norse treasures of prose and verse. I am confident you will leave here today proud and happy that your Icelandic family in Canada has maintained through this annual festival the great literary tradition of the Icelandic race. I am confident you will be pleased that the grand-children and great-grand-children of the early Icelandic emigrants to this area, may

still know the beauty of the language, music and songs of Iceland as we have heard it here today.

The continuation of this great love of our cultural and historic heritage is assured through these festivals and through the education of our children who have been taught respect for the past while being urged to be, as His Honour Judge Lindal has so eloquently said "Pioneers in new and better human relationships" and "adventurers dedicated to the future" of their own country.

In his new book Educational Echoes Mr. Roy H. Ruth has said "literature and education are basic and fundamental in the Icelandic philosophy of life". How true this is when one recalls that on October 30, 1875, only 9 days after the first Icelanders had settled in Gimli, and before shelter had been secured for the winter, an urgent letter of appeal was sent by special messenger to the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. This letter stated in part "the Icelanders in the colony are desirous of having a school for their children as soon as they can put up a school house. They have a teacher with them and wish to be connected with the regular educational system of Canada".

. . . Today, as a result of the Icelandic pioneer's desire for education of his children, Icelanders in Canada are known throughout the nation for their educational achievements, which they

have always placed far ahead of material wealth or gain.

The Canadian people are proud that the Icelandic emigrants of the 1870's chose Canada for their new home. . . . This is the message which I would like you to take home sir, a message which I am sure you will be proud to bear to your people.

In appreciation of your hospitality

. . . I would like you to accept as a memento of your visit here, a personal gift from one Benidickson to another. I would also like to present your wife, Mrs. Benediktsson and your son with a souvenir of this visit. I hope that these small tokens will remind you when you return to your home that you have gained many Canadian friends who will always be glad to welcome you again.

VACATION WORK BY STUDENTS ON ICELANDIC ISLES

Three arts students from Queen's, who are helping to overcome an acute shortage of labour in the fish industry in a group of small islands off Iceland, have been telling me (by letter) about their jobs.

The Westmann Islands where they are working, are evidently a vital part of the Icelandic fishing industry; one third of the country's fish products come from them.

Robert Thornberry tells me that he and his friends have had to do a wide variety of jobs—like gutting, filleting, packing and freezing fish, as well as loading the end product on cargo ships.

Mechanisation often cannot be taken very far in the fishing industry, and there is always a demand for labour for it in Iceland.

The height of the season, Thornberry says, is between January and March, when the islanders often work 18-19 hours a day for seven days a week. During the winter family life on the island is almost non-existent as the men are out at sea and the women working in the factories.

Only in early summer can families really get together and during this short period an all-out attack is made

on accumulated domestic tasks which have to be done.

A great feature of Westmann Island life, Thornberry tells me, is community co-operation. This applies to house-building more than anything else and evidently the most popular way of constructing one is for someone to do it himself with a group of friends.

This relatively affluent society in which the wages may rise to £60 a week at the height of the season—suffers from the disadvantage that it has very little on which to spend its money. Despite rough roads and an import duty of 100 per cent, cars are popular and large American models are a common sight.

There is no television and thus the cinema is all-important. British, American and German films appear regularly and evidently the islanders make what they can of them without the help of Icelandic sub-titles.

Thornberry is impressed with the Westmann Islands. Considering the lack of resources within the islands themselves, he says, a remarkably efficient way of life has been evolved.

—from the Belfast Weekly Telegraph, July 10, 1964.

FJALLKONAN



Frú Asgerður Bessason

VISIT OF ICELANDS PRIME MINISTER

and the Icelandic Day Celebration at Gimli, 1964

Icelanders in the Western Hemisphere have been particularly fortunate in recent years in that they have had the privilege of entertaining first the Chief of State of Iceland, President Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, three years ago and now the head of the Government of Iceland, Bjarni Benediktsson. As a result of arrangements made by the Committee in charge of the annual Icelandic Celebration at Gimli, Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson, Prime Minister of Iceland, his gracious wife, frú Sigríður Björnsdóttir and their son Björn, were the honoured guests at the Icelandic Day (Íslendingadagurinn) Celebration in Gimli and also at other festive gatherings in Manitoba and Western Canada.

Their arrival at Winnipeg's International Airport August 1st saw many of the leading members of Winnipeg's Icelandic community out to welcome them. The Prime Minister's party later proceeded to Government House, where they were guests of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, Errick F. Willis and Mrs. Willis for the duration of their stay in Winnipeg. This was the first time that a Prime Minister of Iceland had visited Manitoba.

The Prime Minister, his wife, and son attended a religious service on Sunday, August 2nd at the First Lutheran Church. The pastor, V. J. Eylands expressed the appreciation of the congregation for having the distinguished visitors present. Speaking to the congregation, Dr. Benediktsson expressed his pleasure at finding the

Icelandic language still alive among the descendants of the pioneers who first brought it to this country.

On Monday morning, starting at 8 a.m., August 3rd, the Prime Minister's party was taken by motor cavalcade to Winnipeg Beach, where he was taken aboard a boat provided by the Manitoba Yacht Club. With a flotilla of six boats, the last few miles of the historic route followed by the York boats of the original settlers eighty-nine years ago, was retraced. The Prime Minister was shown Willow Island and the Point where the settlers landed.

Hundreds of people were already on hand to greet the Icelandic Prime Minister at the Gimli Pier as he and the official party arrived aboard the "Carlabob J." A ceremony at the dock followed the landing of the official party. Dr. Benediktsson was presented with an honorary membership in the Manitoba Yacht Club by the Commodore of the Club, and was also made a gift of the burgee flown on the Commodore's vessel. In return, the Prime Minister presented the Commodore with the Icelandic split flag which he had flown on board. After the brief ceremony, the official party joined the parade which then moved through the streets of Gimli. The large number of brightly-decked floats helped to make this year's parade a particularly impressive one. As the car bearing the Prime Minister reached the monument to the pioneers, the cavalcade stopped, and the Prime Minister, accompanied by the Fjallkona

Rev. V. F. Eylands—Dr. B. Benediktsson—Mrs. Sigríður Benediktsson—Mrs. Eylands—Rev. P. M. Peterson—Mrs. Peterson



for the day, laid the wreath to the pioneers in a brief but impressive ceremony. The party had lunch at the Betel Old Folks Home and had an opportunity to chat with descendants of the original pioneers.

The feature event commenced at 2 p.m. in Gimli Park. Warm sunshine bathed the audience of nearly 3000 as the Fjallkona with her two Maids of Honour was escorted to the special platform. The program opened with O Canada, and Ó Guð vors lands. Presiding was the chairman of the Celebration Committee, Aleck Thorarinson, who extended the welcome of the assembled gathering to the distinguished guests. Reigning over the day's festivities as "Fjallkona" (Lady of the Mountains) was Mrs. Ásgerður Bessason. The "Icelandic" and "Canadian" themes received much attention in the addresses delivered during the course of the afternoon. Canadians have found much of their strength in diversity, said the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba in his brief but witty address in that so many of her people had come from various parts of the world. He pointed out to the largely Icelandic audience that the first settlers in Iceland were Irish (Mr. Willis is himself, of Irish ancestry) and that in later years the Icelanders raided Ireland because the women were "willing and eager". Speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister of Canada, who sent his regrets that he was not able to attend in person, was the Honourable William Benedickson. A part of his address appears elsewhere in this number.

In the feature address of the afternoon, Dr. Benediktsson, speaking in Icelandic, urged his audience to do their utmost to preserve the language of their forefathers. However, this need not diminish their Canadianism. Ice-

land, he said, was proud of the emigrants who had come to the new land and of their achievements therein.

Manitoba's Education Minister, Dr. George Johnson, brought greetings from the Manitoba Government. Other distinguished guests who briefly addressed the gathering were Gimli's mayor, Mrs. Violet Einarson, Rev. P. M. Petursson, representing the Icelandic National League, and Grettir Johannson, Consul for Iceland in Winnipeg. Representatives of Icelandic organizations on the platform were introduced.

Musical contributions to the program were given by the Gimli Children's Choir (directed by Mrs. Shirley Johnson, Mrs. Gudrun Stevens, and Mrs. Anna Stevens), and the Winnipeg Scandinavian Male Choir (directed by Arthur Anderson; Gunnar Erlendsson, accompanist).

The usual program of athletic sports were held; but special features which added to the distinction of the day included a demonstration of Icelandic "Glíma" (wrestling), a special travel movie on Iceland, a sale of "harðfiskur" flown from Reykjavik, and a museum display of some extremely interesting mementos of early days in the New Iceland colony.

Following the afternoon program the Prime Minister was the honoured guest at a small reception held at the home of Eric Stefanson, M.P. At 6 p.m. there was an informal dinner at St. Michael's Parish Hall under the auspices of the Icelandic Day Celebration Committee, which included the honoured guests, the guests of the day and the representatives of the Icelandic organizations. At the dinner the Prime Minister presented S. Aleck Thorarinson, the Chairman, with the Order of the Falcon.



S. Aleck Thorarinson — Mrs. M. Bessason — Prof. H. Stefanson — Mrs. S. A. Thorarinson — Hon. Erick F. Willis — Mr. E. F. Willis



Bjarni Bjarnason — Frú Sigríður Benediktsson — Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson

Following the dinner the guests of honour were driven to Willow Point where they saw the celebrated "White Rock", a landmark since the original landing October 21, 1875. Shortly afterwards the official party left for Winnipeg.

On Tuesday the Prime Minister's party visited another well-known area of Icelandic settlement in Manitoba, the Baldur-Glenboro district.

The major social event of the Prime Minister's visit in the Winnipeg area was the banquet held at the International Inn on Wednesday, August 5th. All of the organizations prominent in Icelandic cultural affairs in the city were represented at the gathering, and spokesmen on behalf of these organiza-

tions passed on their warmest greetings (some in English, some in Icelandic) expressing their appreciation over the fact that it had been possible for the Prime Minister to visit Canada at this time. Extending their welcome for these organizations were the following: Mrs. H. F. Danielson for The Jon Sigurdson Chapter I.O.D.E.; Mrs. Ingibjörg Jónsson, for Lögberg-Heimskringla; Rev. V. J. Eylands, D.D. the First Lutheran Church; Grettir Eggertson, the Betel Home Foundation; Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, the Canada-Iceland Foundation; Hon. W. J. Lindal, The Icelandic Canadian; Prof. Haraldur Bessason, Dept of Icelandic, University of Manitoba; W. H. Finnlogason, the Icelandic Canadian Club;

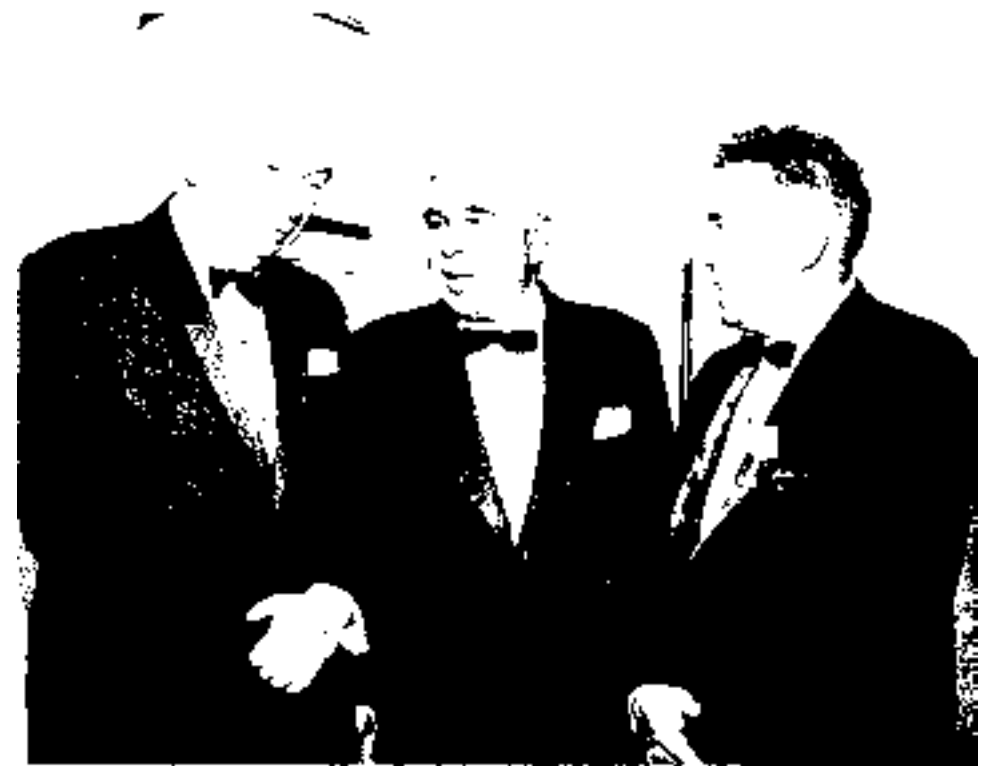
Rev. Philip M. Petursson, President, Icelandic National League and The First Federated Church; Hon. J. T. Thorson, Retired Exchequer Court Judge. Hon. George Johnson, Minister of Education, and William McGarva, City of Winnipeg Alderman, brought greetings from the Province and the City. The Lieutenant Governor, Errick F. Willis, a part of whose remarks appear elsewhere was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Falcon.

Consul G. L. Johannson introduced the Guest of Honour, Bjarni Benediktsson. A part of the Prime Minister's address appears elsewhere in this number of the magazine.

On Thursday morning the Prime Minister visited His Worship Mayor

Juba, and was made an Honorary Citizen of Winnipeg. At 11 a.m. he held a press conference attended by representatives of the Winnipeg Free Press, The Winnipeg Tribune and the ethnic press of Winnipeg. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Canada Press Club.

The Government of Manitoba tendered a luncheon to the guests of honour at noon on Thursday, in the Fort Garry Hotel, to which were invited representatives of the Icelandic organizations in Winnipeg. Hon. George Johnson presided and on behalf of the Government made Bjarni Benediktsson a member of the Order of the Buffalo, and presented him with a desk size mounted buffalo.



Hon. Errick F. Willis

Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson

S. Aleck Thorarinson



Mrs. H. Bessason

Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson

Mrs. Gustaf Kristjanson

On Thursday afternoon an opportunity was provided for all people interested in meeting the Prime Minister to attend a reception tendered by the Government of Manitoba at the Legislative Building. Dr. George Johnson welcomed the visitors on behalf of the government. After the reception, at which tea was served, Dr. Benediktsson laid a wreath at the statue of Jon Sigurdson, which stands on the grounds outside the Legislative Building.

On Friday the Prime Minister's party left for visits to Edmonton,

Markerville, Alta. (the community where the noted poet, Stephan G. Stephansson lived), Banff and, eventually, Vancouver.

Reports on these visits will be added if in time for this issue.

On his way back Dr. Benediktsson accepted an invitation from the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson to an informal visit at the White House.

Thus ended a most satisfying visit by the Prime Minister of Iceland to Western Canada.

Gustaf Kristjanson



THE LOFTY LOVE OF LAND

Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861)

Stephan G. Stephansson (1853-1927)

Hjálmar Jónsson (1796-1875)

What distinguishes the world poet from others, though of skill and power of expression, is that the ideals he feels and fights for are universal. The object of his love, in itself, is not all important. With mastery of phrase he weaves his ideals into the poem so that it grips the one who reads and brings out the best within, which otherwise might have remained dormant.

When the universal poet selects love of land as the means through which he gives expression to those ideals he rises above the commonplace, above what the word patriotism connotes. The land he loves is lifted above anything mundane. It, in turn, becomes an ideal upon which is lavished the finest within the poet's soul.

Actual locale loses significance; the poet carries his ideal with him wherever he is destined to go. His path may lead to ease or penury; it may lead to the confinement of prison walls.

The acts of those who rule or dwell within that land are measured only in their effect upon his ideal. Whether what they do hurts or provides comfort to the poet himself is of little moment. But if what they do mars that ideal the curses of the poet are reeked upon them.

Universal poetry is not confined to love of land. But it is appropriate at

this time to pause for a moment and turn to a universal poet whose ideals oft have found expression in the love of land in its loftiest form. This year happens to be the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine's world poet, Taras Shevchenko.

Two poems from Shevchenko are selected as they appear in "The Ukrainian Poets" by Andrusyshen and Kirkconnell. Both poems logically follow that little gem "An Evening" describing a cottage beside a cherry grove in the Ukraine. The translators repeat that it has been said that if Shevchenko had written nothing else, it would have made his fame.

Two other poets are selected to illustrate the universality of the ideals which find expression in love of land in its purest form. One is Stephan G. Stephansson, a Canadian poet "in the foothills of the Rockies" recognized as one of Canada's "top rank poets". The other is Hjálmar Jónsson, a bard of Northern Iceland.

Wherever Shevchenko may physically have been his Ukraine was always with him, always as beautiful as he painted it in "An Evening". Very fittingly the word picture is followed by a poem the translators have entitled "It is Indifferent".* Far away his Ukraine is present.

* In "The Poetical Works of Taras Shevchenko", just out, the same translators use the title "It is all one to me indeed".

"It is indifferent to me, if I
Live in Ukraine or live there not at all,
Whether or not men let my
memory die;
Here in an alien land, mid snows
piled high,
It will not matter that such things
befall".

He continues in the next poem en-
titled "The Sun is Setting"

"But I look wakeful around; my
spirit's fiat
Sets me to fly to orchards of Ukraine;
On, on I flit, deep in the gulfs
of thought
And thus my heart can find relief
from pain"!

A parallel flight is to be found in
the poetry of Stephan G. Stephansson,
who was born in Iceland and composed
in the Icelandic language. He migrated
to America in 1873, then ten years old.
He lived in the United States until
1889 when he moved to Markerville
of Alberta, where he farmed until he
died in 1927.

He and his Iceland never separated.
In 1904, he gave an address at an
Icelandic Day Celebration in Win-
nipeg. A part of that address was a
poem of three verses, which to Iceland-
ers is what Lincoln's Gettysburg Ad-
dress is to Americans. The central
thought is in the second half of the
first and last verses. Here is a weak at-
tempt to translate the first verse.

"Though in far-distance travels
Many lands you may roam,
Your thoughts and your feelings
Bear the stamp of your home.
The mountains, the geysers
The clear ocean blue
The falls and the valleys
Are all cousins to you."

The second selection from Shev-
chenko is also from "It is Indifferent".
There is a change of theme, an attack,
not an expression of sameness what-
ever the locale. The poet's thoughts
turn to those who are unjust to his
beloved Ukraine. He cries:

"But while I live I cannot bear to see
A wicked people come with crafty
threat,
To lull Ukraine yet strip her
ruthlessly
And waken her amid the flames
they set —
By God, these wrongs are not all
one to me".**

This time a parallel thought is to be
found in the poetry of Hjálmar
Jónsson of Iceland. He cries:

"He who harms thee, false, unworthy,
May he, poisoned, rot and perish".

Hjálmar Jónsson was born in the
north of Iceland. For a number of
years he eked out an existence on a
farmstead called "Bóla", and for that
reason was known as "Bólu-Hjálmar".
Dr. Richard Beck in "Icelandic Lyrics",
says: "His life was a continuous
struggle with poverty and adversity."
If the inner "Bólu-Hjálmar" had not
lived on the high level given only to
men of vision, he might have cursed
the land in which he lived and the
people in it. On the occasion of Ice-
land obtaining a measure of self-gov-
ernment in 1874 Bólu-Hjálmar and
others composed poems.

To translate his poem of six verses
is impossible, at least to this writer.

** The latest translation is selected.

The following is an attempt to trans-
pose the second verse into free verse
couplets.

"On thy bosom is thy infant
Nourished by his mother's blood.

"I, your son, have sworn to serve thee
Always true, whate'er befalls.

"He, who harms thee, false, unworthy
May he, poisoned, rot in anguish!"

To all three the homeland was an
ideal through which they bared their
souls to humanity.

W. J. Lindal

FORMÁLI Á JÖRÐU

By STEINN STEINARR

Út í veröld heimskunnar,
út í veröld ofbeldisins,
út í veröld dauðans
sendi eg hugsun mína
íklædda dularfullum,
óskiljanlegum
orðum.

Gegnum myrkur blekkingarinnar,
Meðal hrævarloga lyginnar,
í blóðregni morðsins
gengur sorg mín
gengur von mín
gengur trú mín
óséð af öllum

Drjúp sár og brennandi

Óséð af öllum.

Svo að ljóðið megi lifa,
Svo að andinn megi lifa,
Svo að guð megi lifa.

PREFACE ON EARTH

By STEINN STEINARR

Translated by CAROLINE GUNNARSON

Into a world of stupidity,
A world of aggression,
A world of death,
I send my thought
Clothed in mysterious,
Opaque
Words.

Through the murk of deceit,
Among death-dealing lies,
In murder's bloody rainfall,
My sorrow walks
My hope walks
My faith walks
Unseen by all

Deep wounds and burning

Unseen by all

That the poem may live
That the spirit may live,
That God may live.



Dinner with Halldor Laxness

by Herman G. Nelson¹

"I've always tried to do my best."

This remark to me by Halldor Laxness characteristically sums up a lifetime of energetic authorship which in 1955 was climaxed with the award of the Nobel Prize in Literature to this famed son of Iceland.

It is the remark that lingers with me as I try to recapture the evening of Sept. 11, 1963, when my wife and I were guests for dinner in the Laxness home, located in the beautiful countryside about 20 minutes by car outside Reykjavik, Iceland's capital.

At 61, Laxness appeared vigorous and in excellent health. By his own admission, he works hard at writing and allows himself hardly any leisure when he is home in Iceland.

He is by far the best known person in Iceland and reportedly one of the most difficult to meet. He adheres to a rigid schedule which permits few interruptions. By his own word, he seldom answers letters.

We had turned to Raymond J. Stover, public affairs officer of the United States Information Service in Reykjavik for help. A telephone call to Laxness by Stover resulted in an invitation to meet him the next day in the Reykjavik Radio Station. This was changed the next day to dinner at his home. Mr. Laxness telephoned our Hotel Saga that he would stop for us that evening.

As could be expected from a gentleman of the old Icelandic school, polished by years of travel and living abroad, Laxness was a charming dinner host.

A third guest was a friend of the author's wife.

All of us retired for our coffee to the large elegant living room and there Laxness spoke freely for over an hour about himself and his literary career.

"When you look at a book written years ago, you find it missing many qualities," Laxness commented. "Since you cannot correct it any more it's better not to look back after a book is published."

Laxness discussed frankly that he was then writing the final chapters and making the final changes in a book setting forth his personal experiences and viewpoints. He said he had been working constantly on it, without interruptions, for 10 months.

"It is an account of what I've learned through my experiences," the author said. "I'm working hard to finish the last chapters." He added: "My wife and I have not had a single holiday during the last 10 months."

He explained that six or eight chapters are about his stay in America. He assured me he referred to his rather long stay in America as a young man in the 1920s, rather than his more recent visit when he made a study of the Mormons in Utah and wrote a book entitled "The Paradise Regained" with the Mormon background. He said he had made many friends among the Mormons.

Laxness told us that as a young man, when in the United States, he became an admirer of social fiction. He spoke

of his contacts in those years with Sinclair Lewis and Upton Sinclair and their books. He admitted that their social fiction had influenced his writing.

He recalled how in that early stay in the United States, spent largely in California, he often lectured to Women's Clubs to get money so he could eat and continue writing. He said "I was happy to be paid \$50, and when I received \$100 I went out of business lecturing for a long time."

In describing his work methods, he said "I usually dictate to my wife. Sometimes I do a rough draft in long-hand, after which I dictate it. I then go through the copy several times, making changes and additions."

Laxness writes in Icelandic, and many of his books are reminiscent of the old Icelandic Sagas in language and diction. His books have been translated and published throughout the world.

Laxness has lived in many parts of the world. He spent his early youth in Europe. In more recent years he has lived in Moscow, India and Peking of Red China. Up to World War 2, when he built his home in Iceland, he lived outside of his native land much more than at home and even today he makes it a custom to live abroad half of each year.

He told us he had received an invitation from the government of Israel to come there for the winter months and that he was leaving Iceland as soon as he had finished his autobiographical book.

He called his new work "a balancing of accounts," also as being "A Poet's Time," or "A Poet's Lesson," or "an author's lesson." He mentioned all these titles as he groped about for the best way to express what he meant

and perhaps what he wanted to call it. He said "It is an account of my experiences."²

Laxness said he never answers questions or questionnaires about his personal opinions. He said he feels an author's opinions and what he thinks are his stock in trade as an author and are to be found in what he writes by those who care to read his works.

He told us that "one can't just make a blunt reply to a question on opinion because here are so many facets to every idea that there has to be a balancing — yes, a balance of one thing against another."

From these remarks, it appears to me that in the mind of Laxness there is nothing truly black or truly white, or established so that it cannot be changed, but that there is always a balancing of facets and facts.

Laxness' books have been translated and published in most countries. In Europe, they have been published in all but Albania and Portugal. He said he thought "four or five of my books have appeared in America."

He credited a review in the New York Times about his book "The Independent People" as having focused attention on him in literary circles abroad to the extent that the Swedish Academy became interested in considering him for the Nobel Prize and in 1955 awarding it. By the time the award came, Laxness said all the surprise had been removed but that it was a thrill to be acclaimed the Nobel prize winner in literature.

I gathered in the course of our evening with Mr. Laxness and his gracious wife, somewhat younger than her husband, that his principal relaxation from intensive writing is playing the piano. He has a grand piano of quality in the large living room and he commented in referring to it: "I try to

spend at least half an hour a day practicing." He added:

"I play only for myself. I have studied piano a little and music a great deal." He indicated wide acquaintance with the different systems and schools of music and their composers.

He also has a large outdoor swimming pool, heated with hot spring water the year around. His wife makes a hobby of keeping a planter, along an extended picture window, filled with a variety of shrubs and flowering plants, which she termed "a jungle because I haven't cleaned it out recently." Her plantings are luxuriant in growth.

Laxness considers his biggest and most important work "The Happy Warrior", written in the language and style of the old Sagas. He said he worked on it for six years.

"It is unthinkable that I am an author without the Sagas," Laxness said. He pointed out that Icelanders read the Sagas in the original. The Sagas are Iceland's only national literature in existence from the Middle Ages. They are in manuscript form.³

Iceland has for some years tried to regain possession of these Saga manuscripts from Denmark, where they are being held.⁴

"I think we'll get them back shortly," Laxness said. He added that he understood a law had been passed in Denmark approving return of the Saga manuscripts to Iceland. That day will be one of jubilation to the Icelanders. The Sagas are part of their daily life, just as much as the air they breathe and the herring and cod they fish.

The Laxness comments about the Sagas were somewhat new to me. Reason for the Sagas, according to Laxness, is that "the Inquisition of the Middle Ages never reached Ice-

land. Where all but pious literature was banned in most countries of Europe for a thousand years, secular literature flourished in Iceland because it was isolated by the sea.

"The Sagas are proof," Laxness said, of what the Middle Ages were capable of producing."

Laxness appears very casual, a perfect sophisticated gentleman, but I had been told he is "a very complex personality." That he may be since he has seen a world in turmoil during most of his lifetime and has witnessed it from two vantage points—from the isolation of his own country, Iceland, and from its midstream in the cities of many countries where he has lived.

Laxness is married a second time and has two daughters by this marriage. They are Sigrid, 12, and Gudny, 9. He has a son, Einar, by his first marriage. The is an historian.

The wife of Laxness appears to be a truly fine companion of a famed writer, who works side by side with him and also carries the brunt of the family's social life and everyday routine. She is cultured, charming and alert to the times.

She remarked that Reykjavik had stood still for many years but "all at once had come to life." She commented "About 10 years ago Reykjavik started moving and it is still doing so at a faster pace—with much new building."

A third guest at the dinner in the Laxness home was a friend of Mrs. Laxness. She was a Swiss woman, Dolinda Tanner, married to a lawyer, Olafur Bjornsson, and now living in the isolated village of Seidisfjordur. Born in Switzerland and educated at universities there, she also had lived in England and Sweden before she came to Iceland. She stayed for two years, went back to Switzerland but returned to

Iceland, where she married and is now planning to live permanently. She is happy at what she described as "the slower pace of life."

Laxness has his roots in the old Sagas and culture of Iceland. That culture is precious to every Icelander and it is for this reason that Laxness means so much to the nation and its people. Some may say that Laxness has shortcomings but when he is measured by his own yardstick "I've always tried to do my best" he assumes stature that will continue to grow in the years to come.

His autobiographical book should answer questions asked by many people. But if I understood Laxness, he will leave many of his thoughts untold and questions unanswered. What he writes will have importance to himself and to others because it will put

into perspective viewpoints of an active lifetime. They will probably be weighted by facts and facets to leave his readers guessing how he truly feels and what thoughts are predominant.

¹ The author, **Herman G. Nelson**, is an American of Scandinavian descent who has been associated with *The Rockford Morning Star*, of Rockford, Illinois, for over 30 years.

² The title finally selected by Laxness was "Skáldatími", *The Poet's Hour*.

³ The language used by the author is slightly confusing. The original manuscripts are not read but many modern editions have been published, with introductions and explanatory notes. The manuscript texts have, however, been scrupulously retained, thus preserving the original language and literary style.

⁴ Latest reports indicate that an agreement will be reached with Denmark in regard to the final situs of the manuscripts now in Copenhagen. —**Editor**

Walter Thor Johnson on Potash Mining Duties in the Sahara

Fate took a sudden turn for some young men in south-eastern Saskatchewan when modern science uncorked what is thought to be the richest potash mine in the world.

One of them is Walter Thor Johnson of Churchbridge, Sask., who is spending a year on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert as a draftsman with the International Minerals and Chemicals (Canada) Limited.

Thor was employed in 1960 in the forty-million-dollar plant built by the company 11½ miles from his home town. Explorations for the ore began in 1957. By 1962 mining was in full swing and the yearly production of potash was estimated at 1,200,000 tons.

Young men of the area were sharing in a payroll that neared \$20,000 per day. Many were sent for training courses at the firm's expense. Others

found new outlets for skills they already possessed.

Last April Thor was asked to go to Taiba, Senegal, where IMC owns an interest in an open pit phosphate mine. It borders the southern Sahara Desert and is approximately 70 miles from the seaport of Dakar. He is the only Canadian on a team of 8 agriculture and chemical personnel sent to provide technical service to the mine. It is estimated that improved methods introduced by this skilled personnel will increase production of the mine by one million tons a year.

Thor is the son of Valdi and Dyrfinna Johnson. His paternal grandparents were Sigurdur and Palina Johnson. His mother's parents were Eyjolfur and Ingibjorg Hinriksson, all pioneers of the Thingvalla district, near Churchbridge, Sask.

SEMI-FINALIST IN BEAUTY CONTEST



Elisabeth Sigridur Ottosdottir

Elisabeth Sigridur Ottosdottir, a long haired, natural blonde from Reykjavik and Iceland's eighth entrant in the twelve-year old annual beauty pageant in Long Beach, California reached the fifteen semi-finalists from which the judges chose statuesque 5' 10" Miss Philippines as Miss International Beauty 1965.

Following in the footsteps of Gudrun Bjarnadottir, who became the Queen last year, Elisabeth felt she didn't have a chance to win but "just becoming a semi-finalist was most gratifying."

Elisabeth, who lives with her parents and two sisters loves to swim, dance and tips the scales at 125 lbs. and stands 5' 7" tall. Her hostess describes her as a decisive, well organized young lady which will be an asset if she goes on to become a teacher, her present ambition.

The eighteen year old from Iceland dislikes the topless swim suit. "I never saw one in Iceland or Europe," she said. She loves the English Beatles and found American men very charming from what she could see of them during her very sheltered ten days of the Pageant which is sponsored by the City and Port of Long Beach and the County of Los Angeles. In addition it is reported to have been seen by two million viewers as a TV spectacular produced by NBC, with popular TV star Hugh O'Brien as master of ceremonies.

Miss Iceland shared her room with a bubbly brunette representing Latin America's Nicaragua. "We both spoke English so could communicate very well. She was fun to be with," re-

ported Elisabeth from Iceland and Ileana del Carmen Rojas Arana from Nicaragua said the feeling was "most" mutual.

Pounds thinner than she was last year, Gudrun Bjarnadottir, last year's International Beauty, relinquished her crown with mixed feelings. She admitted her prize of \$10,000 was still in the bank "collecting interest" and that she has been taking dramatic lessons. However, it was quite evident

that her heart is in Paris where she is a highly-paid photographer's model.

Iceland, a late-comer to the annual beauty pageant in Long Beach has sent eight lovely girls. Six of them have reached the semi-finals, one took second place, one third and, of course, last year The Icelandic representative walked off with the crown and \$10,000. The first two entries have married and have children. The others are working, either "at home" or in New York.

—Rhuna Emery

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Janet Kristine Maddin

Janet Kristine Maddin, member of Winnipeg's Flying M Track Club, daughter of Charles A. and Mrs. Herdis Maddin of Winnipeg, may prove to be Canada's athlete of the year.

Fifteen years old Jan, as she is known among sports writers, made records in this year's Canadian age-class track and field championships which were held at Sargent Park on August 28 and 29, which for one sports meet, will undoubtedly stand for many years. Lloyd Percival, one of Canada's most notable track authorities said:

"With a year or two of weight training she could easily become the best female sprinter in Canada."

Sports writers at the meet paid glowing tributes to Janet. Terry Fraser said:

"Maddin's performance was exceptionally noteworthy because this is the first year in which she has seriously trained for track."

Jan Maddin's triumph won her the

MAN AND HIS MUSIC



Magnus Daniel Magnusson

Magnus Daniel Magnusson (Dan) was born at Hallson, North Dakota, April 4, 1920. He came to San Diego, California in Dec. 1922.

At 13 years of age Dan started studying the B flat clarinet while in Junior High School. He had no private lessons but class lessons in Junior High where he played in the orchestra.

At the beginning of Senior High School year he began private lessons. He studied with Karl Kuehne who had been a member of Sousa's Band and the Minneapolis and Los Angeles Symphony orchestras. Kuehne was semi-retired at San Diego and teaching when Dan began his studies with him. Dan studied with Kuehne for approximately three years and played in the Federal Music Project Band for one year (1938-39) that Kuehne conducted.

Dan graduated from San Diego High

Mayor Stephen Juba trophy as the meet's top Manitoba athlete.

Janet won four gold medals in the Midget events. She won the 100 yards sprint and established a Canadian record in the 60 yard dash at 7 seconds flat, which, however, may not be recognized because of a tailwind. But her national record of 25.0 seconds for the 220 sprint will undoubtedly be recognized as well as her splendid run in the 440 yard Midget relay. She anchored the team of four which ran the 440 relay in the record time of 50.7 seconds.

Janet's athletic career started when she won the Athletic Award Trophy at the General Wolfe school. She won the outstanding athletic Award Trophy at the Red River Relays, held

in the Winnipeg Arena in April, 1964. She has numerous medals, all firsts, for track meets in Women's open events, some before she reached the age of 15. She received the Rose Bowl Trophy of the Scottish Sports, July 1, 1964, for the Women's highest average.

Janet Maddin is a grade XI student at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate and in high school has always been an honor student. She was Freshie-Queen in grade X and is prominent in school activities. She is Vice-president of the Junior Young Peoples of the First Lutheran Church.

Janet plans to pursue her studies at the university level and obtain a degree in Physical Education. She hopes that during that course she will at least be able to attend lectures on Icelandic language, literature and history.

School in 1937, then worked for one year in the Security Bank in San Diego. The following summer when he was 18 years old he played second clarinet in the San Diego Symphony Orchestra. From 1939 on he has been a steady member of that organization and associated with the First Chair.

In 1939-40-41 Dan attended the San Diego State College majoring in music, during which time he discontinued lessons with Kuehne and outside playing. At that time San Diego Symphony Orchestra operated only in the summer time. This was profitable for Dan as he was able to remain with it since production time was between school sessions. He also gave private lessons while at State College and received scholarships. He did not graduate. He was married December 19, 1941.

At this time Dr. Nikolai Sokoloff who was founder of Cleveland Symphony Orchestra was the conductor of San Diego Orchestra. Dr. Sokoloff suggested to Dan that he go to Julliard School of Music in New York for an auditioning. Dr. Sokoloff wrote a letter of recommendation to the school. Dan didn't want to go. His reactions were negative. He had misgivings about being able to qualify and besides he didn't have the fare.

Well, both sides of the family got together (his and his wife's) and pooled the necessary funds—so off he went in September 1942 and was accepted. He received a Julliard Graduate Fellowship as full-time student. At that time Julliard admitted students only on a scholarship and fellowship basis.

He stayed one semester and then was inducted into the army where he remained for three years. All service years were spent in the Southern States—Virginia, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. He was discharged Dec. 1945 and returned to Julliard Sept.

1946. He graduated from there June 1948. During his term at Julliard he played in orchestra and quintette made up of students of the school. He also worked part-time at New York City Public Library branch.

Dan's teacher at Julliard was Dr. Arthur Christmann.

After graduating in 1948 Dan accepted a teaching position at Los Angeles Conservatory of Music where he taught clarinet and chamber music until 1950. Simultaneously he attended the University of Southern California to attain his Bachelor of Music teaching credentials 1948-1950. He now has his Master of Music degree and is taking all units required for the Doctorate degree.

In 1950 Dan was engaged by the city schools in San Diego. He taught in High School for four years, but he prefers elementary school work because it is less consuming and allows time for symphony, chamber music, private teaching and other musical activities.

A year ago last spring (1963) Dan was soloist with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra (which consists of 80 to 90 members) when he played the Premiere Rhapsodia by Claude Debussy.

In the summer time he plays with the Starlight Opera Company Orchestra (Light Opera) for 10 weeks in the Balboa Park Bowl (an outdoor theatre and concert area provided by rolling hills forming a bowl that functions with sunny or starlit skies as an ideal and romantic setting for the Muses of the Arts.

We were told by a member of the family that at one time a renowned guest conductor rehearsing with San Diego Symphony, stopped the orchestra after a difficult clarinet solo passage, to tell Dan in effect that he

had the clearest, cleanest tone articulation he had ever heard. Another guest conductor said that Dan was the best clarinetist on the west coast. Dan is very modest and would never divulge these statements.

Dan has experimented in the creative element of music. He played a recording for us of a Folk Song Suite for Woodwind Quintet which he calls Icelandia and which he has transcribed into a descriptive style. The arrangements are in good taste and prove his sensitivity for the texts. The suite consists of the well known old-time Icelandic songs, —Sleep my darling sleep (Sofðu unga ástin mín),—Hoffinn is a-coming (Hjer er kominn Hofinn), — Lullaby Baby (Bí, bí og blaka) — Beautiful Chirping of the Bird (Fagurt sýngur fuglinn), —Now the weather is good (Nú er veðrir svo gott)—God of our country—Iceland's National Anthem (Ó guð vors lands). Together with the recording our visit was climaxed very profitably and inspiringly when Dan played Debussy's Premiere Rhapsodia, this time with piano accompaniment skillfully and sympathetically rendered by his wife. We enjoyed that treat very much.

Dan is presently enrolled in a correspondence course titled "Elementary Icelandic" given through the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. L. L. Bjarnason is the teacher for this course. The purpose of the course is twofold: (1) to give credits toward his academic standing and (2) to acquire a working knowledge of the language. The latter is most important because he has hopes of someday going to Iceland and teaching in the United States Navy Dependent School.

Magnus Daniel (Dan) is the son of Kjartan Magnusson and Svava Reykdal. Kjartan was born in Iceland in 1872 and four years later came to Am-

erica with his parents in the "Large Group" which settled in 1776 on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg. They landed where Riverton is now. A smaller group had landed the year before where Gimli is now. The whole settlement was originally called "Nýja Ísland", now generally known as the Gimli district. Kjartan's parents soon settled in Gimli. Kjartan died April 14, 1930, in San Diego.

Dan's mother, Svava Reykdal Magnusson was also born in Iceland. Svava's parents came to America in August 1881 when Svava was not quite one year old.

Svava will be 84 years old this September. She keeps her own modest attractive stucco house in shipshape condition—and gardens. She has an engaging personality and one senses a long range vision far beyond human circumspection. The loving kindly wrinkles that grace her face win hearts. But most of all, her gentle strength has achieved a goal that she has, no doubt, yearned for from early youth. Once she played a little organ in a little church in Hallson, N. D. Her dreams must have been far beyond that place. Now, her own ambitions are fulfilled in the accomplishments of her son Dan, for she has during the years encouraged him and given him moral support. For instance, one day in 1939, when Dan was out, his teacher Kuehne came to the house to announce that the Claninet First Chair had just been vacated and that he should go down early in the morning to apply for the position. Dan didn't come home when expected. Kuehne had to leave without seeing him, trusting the message to Dan's mother. That evening Svava told him the news. He refused to concede to Kuehne's suggestion, contending that he was not qualified. Mother and son stayed up all night debating

the issue,—she the positive side, he the negative. By morning he had capitulated. He applied for the job and got it, and as before mentioned, has held it ever since. Svava's dream has come true.

Dan is a tall man of a retiring and warm personality and quiet poise. The acquisition of knowledge has contributed a modest self-assurance.

Dan is married to an American woman of Dutch-Italian extraction, —Lottie Marie Brown. She is an ac-

complished pianist, accompanist and teacher. She is a gracious person and according to outside information she has been a true helpmate.

Dan and Lottie have three children, Magnus Daniel Jr., Kaaren, and Robert William, all musical and all acquiring musical training.

A charming and inspiring musical family—with Magnus Daniel Magnusson taking the lead.

—Louise Gudmunds

Appointed Medical Director—Neepawa



Dr. Kjartan I. Johnson

A well known medical practitioner in Manitoba, Dr. Kjartan I. Johnson has been appointed Medical Director of the Neepawa Health Unit, effective August 10. He will assume his duties August 17.

Born in Lundar, Manitoba, Dr. Johnson graduated from the Univer-

sity of Manitoba in 1937 with a degree in medicine. He interned at Winnipeg General for two years, then practiced medicine in Brandon for a year.

After a brief period in private practice at The Pas, Dr. Johnson settled in Gimli for the next eleven years. For the past fourteen years he has been in private practice at Pine Falls.

Dr. Johnson is an immediate Past President of the Manitoba Medical Association, a Mason, and a Shriner. He was an Official Trustee of the school board at Pine Falls for nine years, President of the Pine Falls Chamber of Commerce (2 years), Elder of the Pine Falls United Church, and Charter President of the Kinsmen Club at Gimli.

Married to the former Dorothy Morton of Gladstone (nursing graduate of Winnipeg General Hospital) Dr. Johnson has three children, Margaret (Mrs. Noonan) of Regina; Linda, in training at Vancouver General Hospital, and Stefan William, at school at Gladstone.

—The Minnedosa Tribune, 20/8/64

A Vilhjalmur Stefansson Memorial Library

The following is the pertinent part of an article under the above heading which appeared in the Lake Centre News, of Arborg, Man., in the issue of Friday, July 31st, 1964. In a way the most significant fact about the article is that it was published in a paper the editors of which are non-Icelandic, and that it was written by a woman not of Icelandic descent. The underlining in the article is ours. The re-publication of the article in the magazine may be accepted as endorsement of the suggested project by The Icelandic Canadian. The Icelandic Canadian Club is already on record in favor of a Centennial project associated with the name of Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson. —Ed.

This year, Gimli, Riverton, Arborg and the rural municipalities must decide on what shall be their centennial projects. A limited amount of federal and provincial grants is available towards these projects. Gimli has been seriously considering several projects, the leading ones of which are the addition to the skating rink, something we have needed for some years and must have regardless, a memorial park; and a library to house the books which we hope will be made available to us when the vote for the regional library

is held in October. The centennial committee has not received the support it should have had, from the community and the organizations, and has postponed a decision until fall. But we do not doubt that each organization and individual has realized deep down inside that we must and will have some project for our centennial. We cannot let the rest of Canada celebrate while we do not. Therefore it is time for the uncommitted to start thinking and commit themselves. It has been made clear to the representative on the centennial corporation in a recent letter, that the final decision as to the project is fully in the hands of the council, and no deadlock will be broken by the corporation, whose sole task is to approve or disapprove of the suggestions.

Naturally our council wants to follow the will of the majority. But what is their will?

There is reason to believe that Icelandic people from outside of this area, who are anxious to commemorate the name of New Iceland's most illustrious son, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, would support financially a project big enough to capture the imagination of the world and to perpetuate not only the memory of this man, but of all the other sturdy pioneers who came from

the tiny island of the north to form their new home here, and to send forth their sons to enrich Canada and indeed all of America. Some of them have suggested that a library and museum located in the largest centre of New Iceland, but shared in every way by all other communities of the area, would be a most fitting centennial. A combination of all the centennial money for this purpose would result in something really memorable, and give all Icelanders a place of which they could be proud, as well as providing a beautiful library for all residents of the area. Naturally, if such a building were decided upon, and the regional library comes to be a reality, part of the money would be used to build branch libraries in other centres, to which books would be circulated.

Can we in the eastern Interlake work together to such an extent? Or does one community endanger a good cause by asking the others to cooperate? Icelandic people are known for their individuality, their strong minded singleness of purpose, and their basic honesty. They are a people of whom Canada can be justly proud, and a memorial of such a nature and size would preserve their heritage here.

Can a non-Icelander who has made

herself aware of their basic nature, and who has adopted this area as home, persuade them to forget their strong desires to remain apart as individual committees, and work together to produce something really momentous for 1967? We have been told that we were thinking too small—we have been told of Steinbach Mennonite village, the Ukrainian village. Can we hope for a similar great project for the Icelandic settlements? Vilhjalmur Stefansson, though he only lived here a few short months, brings our area to the attention of all who read about him in the Encyclopedias of the world. He was a typical Icelandic Canadian, and to quote a review on his autobiography in the Saturday Free Press, "it is for one quality alone that he shall be remembered: his ardent and inextinguishable desire for the truth". This alone makes him the most typical of Icelanders, who cherish truth and accuracy above all else. He showed the world the Eskimo and the Arctic as it really is, and in so doing, performed a most valuable task for his native Canada, whose future lies in the great North. This man is of us—by using his name and perpetuating his story, we can share his glory. Shall we do it?



TWO SONNETS

by the Arctic Explorer

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON

Because of Vilhjalmur Stefansson's fame as an explorer, a lecturer and scientist, not much has been said about him as a poet. Some mention has been made of his excellent translations of Icelandic poems into English, but very little about his original verse, except his "Philosophy at Twenty" which is an acknowledged masterpiece. And yet in his teens and early twenties he wrote a number of poems, some of which were published in the Icelandic papers in Winnipeg and elsewhere; and he has said somewhere that his first chief ambition was to become a poet of some distinction. Somewhat later, however, eventualities changed that obsession. His tal-

ents were averted to another field, and that story is now well known.

But what may not be so generally known is that shortly after he entered the University of N. Dakota he wrote and published a number of poems and a play, of a somewhat satirical nature, which at first were regarded with disfavor by some of the faculty. But he soon became known as the institution's chief poet and many of his shorter pieces appeared in the University's magazine "The Student". As samples of his work I wish to append two sonnets that appeared in its issue of March 1901.

Paul Bjarnason

WHITMAN

Whitman, thy rolling rhythms surge
 With maddened fury through the shoreless seas
 Of human life's eternal tragedies;
 Sinking their tone—now to a moaning dirge
 Of sorrow, and now raising it to scourge
 Thy self-dwarfed littleness that shrivles and flees
 Before thee. The impassioned mysteries
 Of life brood in thy heart and wildly urge
 Thy fingers o'er the sounding harp that thrills
 With all thy knowledge of the heart of man
 And all thy love of nature and mankind;
 That tells the firmness of the rock-ribbed hills,
 The depths of space, and of the eyes that scan
 Those depths and dream of that which lies behind.

SCIENCE

Science, thou daughter of untrammelled thoughts,
 Child of fearless searching for the truth,
 Fair with the beauty of perennial youth,
 For thee have earth's best heroes strongly wrought,
 Buildd eternal temples, dearly bought
 With vigil and with blood—nor sought the truth
 Nor praise of men—from cults and forms uncouth
 The grains of truth their patient hand had sought.
 Glorious is the mead thou dost bestow
 Upon the worker—through him to the world.
 Thou placest his hand upon the cadent flow
 That swells the world pulse. To him is unfurled
 The never-retreating standard moving on,
 Leading the marshalled ages to the dawn.



GIMLI GIRL WINS FORD SCHOLARSHIP

Patricia Gail Johnson, 16 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Helgi Johnson, formerly of Winnipeg and now of Gimli, has been awarded a Ford of Canada Canadian Centennial Performing Arts scholarship of \$100.00 to further her vocal studies.

Patricia, who took grade XI last year, has a grade 8 standing in piano and grade 7 in vocal. When she re-

sided in Winnipeg she took lessons from Mrs. Elma Gislason and Mr. Russell Standing. Her Gimli music teachers are Mrs. Sara Udow and Mrs. Muriel Milgram.

Patricia has won awards in the Manitoba Musical Festival continuously for six years. She sings in English, Icelandic, German, Italian and French.

Indigence and Wealth

by THORSTEINN ERLINGSSON

translated by PAUL BJARNASON

That poverty by grace was given us
By God — that is an oft-repeated story.
But God and men by now are never thus;
Another way is said to lead to glory.

Of old the safest way was plight and pain,
With penury and every sore disaster.
But now the more the men of faith can gain,
The more their standing rises with the Master.

The pauper is deprived of bread and health
And places high in God's esteem no longer.
So first, my friend, you have to win the wealth;
Then will your claim to Heaven be the stronger.

For if you never fill a favored seat
And fail to beat Luck's most unkind reverses,
Among your brethren you will face defeat.
And friends of God will pass you by with curses.

Though God Himself was never known to you,
Your neighbors and your friends reveal your station.
The chosen fill the envied inner pew
In every house of worship in the nation.

Among the rich the method is the same.
God's mercy all their patent sins erases.
The young inherit all their elders' fame
If under-brained, God's grace the lack replaces.

For theft and fraud the favored have a "pull"
And Father God protects the wealthy classes.
But countless jails on earth are always full
● of indigents and drifters from the masses.

So you, the lowly, poor and penniless,
The pious mark for Hell when life is ended.
But if by chance you come to gain "success",
Your case in Heaven and earth will be defended.

ÖRBIRGÐ OG AUÐUR

eftir ÞORSTEIN ERLINGSSON

Þú manst, að fátækt var af náð oss veitt
af vorum drottni; það er gömul saga.
En guð og menn og alt er orðið breytt
og ólíkt því sem var í fyrri daga.

Því fyrr var vissast vegi drottins á
að vera af hor og örbirgð nærri dauður;
því herra nú sem herrans þjónar ná,
því hærri laun, því meiri völd og auður.

Í fátækt skortir bæði náð og brauð,
því bendir guð þér veg með þjónum sínum
þú verður, vinur, fyrst að fá þér auð,
þá færðu líka náð hjá drottni þínum.

Því hafi þér ei heppnast "stöðu" að ná
og heldur ekki lánast vel að búa,
þá mun þér veröld verða gæðafá
og vinir drottins að þér baki snúa.

Þó drottin sjálfan þekkir ekki þú,
þá þekkjast allir best af vinum sínum;
og gáðu að, hverjum hlotnast virðing sú,
að hafa sæti næstir presti þínum.

Og eins er drottinn auði vorum hjá
og allar vorar syndaflækjur greiðir,
og börnin okkar verða völdug þá,
þó vitið skorti, náðin guðs þau leiðir.

Og eins er það, að þá, sem eiga gull,
frá þjófnæð verndar náðarherrann blíði,
en þúsund svarthol á hér fjandinn full
af flökkupjóð og öðrum sultarlýði.

Þú félaus maður mátt hér líða nauð
og munt í Víti síðar kenna á hörðu;
en takist þér að eiga nógan auð,
þig englar geyma bæði á himni og jörðu.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

ANNUAL AWARDS

1964

The following students of Icelandic parentage were listed as winners of annual awards, 1964:



Kenneth Lincoln Johnson

Kenneth Lincoln Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo E. Johnson of Winnipeg, won the following awards in Third Year Dentistry:

1. Certificate of Merit (Honors standing).
2. International College of Dentists (Canadian Section) Scholarship — \$100.
3. G. V. Mosby Book Award for highest standing in Prosthodontology.

4. G. V. Mosby Book Award for highest standing in Anaesthesiology, Oral Surgery and General Surgery.
5. Winnipeg Dental Supply Company Scholarship (for highest standing in Clinical Dentistry) — \$100.
6. University Bronze Medal — for highest standing in Pharmacology — (See Icelandic Canadian, Summer '62.)

★



Lorna Ellen Sigurdson

Sigurdson, Lorna Ellen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Sigurdson of Oak Point, won the following: 1. Is-

bister Scholarship, 3rd Year—\$100, 2. L'Alliance Francaise Book Prize— for highest standing in French III or French III portion of IIIH. Winnipeg Underwriters' Association Scholarship (for highest average in Third Year Arts, General, Honors, or Latin Philosophy) \$100. (See Icel. Canadian, Autumn '61, page 45).



Verne Gudjon Johnson

Johnson, Verne Gudjon, son of Gudjon and the late Mary Johnson, of Lundar, Manitoba, won the Dean A. E. McDonald Memorial Bursary (Second Year Engineering offered by the Professional Engineer's Wives Association) — \$200.00 (See Icel. Can. Spring '63 and Autumn '61, p. 46).

★

Johnson, Valdine Gudrun, daughter of Mrs. Olina and the late John Johnson of Winnipeg, won the Canada-

Iceland Foundation scholarship of \$200.00 for highest standing in Icelandic. (see Icelandic Can. Summer 1964, page 47).

★



William Helgi Donald Hurst

William Helgi Donald Hurst, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Hurst of Winnipeg. Mrs. Hurst is Gvda, daughter of Mr. Gisli Johnson and the late Mrs. Johnson of Winnipeg. He won the following:

1. Architectural Woodwork Prize — (offered by Acme Sash and Door Co.).
2. J. G. Fraser Ltd. Summer Sketch Prize

★

Magnusson, Denis Norman, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Magnusson of Minot, N. D. won the following: 1. T. Eaton Co. of Canada Limited Scholarship in Third Year Commerce—minimum 75 per cent \$200.00.

2. Isbister Scholarship, Third Year (See Icel. Can. Summer '64 and Summer '62, page 48)

Greetings to Ambassador Sigvaldason

The Icelandic Canadian extends cordial greetings to His Excellency John P. Sigvaldason, Canadian Ambassador to Norway and Iceland, and Mrs. Sigvaldason upon their visit to Manitoba where the Ambassador was born and received his education. John Sigvaldason has been a subscriber of this magazine for many years and a strong supporter.

Below is a notice of the meeting at which Winnipeg subscribers and others will have a chance to hear and meet His Excellency and Mrs. Sigvaldason.

—The Magazine Board.

His Excellency

JOHN P. SIGVALDASON

Canada's Ambassador to Norway and Iceland

TO VISIT WINNIPEG

The Icelandic Canadian Club is very fortunate in having Ambassador Sigvaldason as our Guest of Honour and Speaker at the **OPENING MEETING THIS FALL**, which will be held in the Parish Hall, First Lutheran Church, Victor Street, just south of Sargent, **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th** at 8:15 p.m.

Our President, W. H. Finnbogason, will outline what he and his executive have in mind both as immediate and long range objectives.

Two brief reports will be given: one on the Brief to the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism by Dr. Baldur Kristjanson; one on the Club Membership by Hon. W. J. Lindal.

John Arnason, the Vice President, will introduce our Manitoba born Canadian Ambassador. Following the Ambassador's address all present will shake hands with the Ambassador and Mrs. Sigvaldason, after which refreshments will be served in the Church Parlour.

ALL INVITED — BRING A FRIEND

Mrs. Margret Ramsay, Secretary W. Leo Johnson, Asst. Secretary
Phone GR 5-7551 Phone SU 3-5590

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB

LIVES WITH ESKIMOS FOR A YEAR



John Matthiasson

John Matthiasson, son of Jona, now Mrs. W. Kristjanson of Winnipeg, and the late Dr. M. J. Matthiasson, has just returned after spending a year in an Eskimo community of about 200 at Pond Inlet on the northeast tip of Baffin Island.

Mr. Matthiasson has been studying for a doctorate at Cornell University, and is doing some of his studies in a most practical and realistic way. He decided to spend a year in the far north among the Eskimos.

While in Winnipeg he was interviewed by a staff reporter of The Winnipeg Tribune, Bert Bruser. The following is a part of the report.

He lived with an Eskimo family and became part of the community.

He ate their food, which was usually seal or caribou meat, often raw, and he slept beside them in their huts and igloos. When the men went hunting, John went with them.

He adapted well, and the Eskimos began calling him "Inoongwah," which he says means "like an Eskimo." Eventually they shortened the name to Inook, or Eskimo.

All of the Eskimos in the community are Anglicans. They make their living by hunting.

Aside from religion, the other visible influences from the white man's world are motor boats and rifles, which have taken the place of kayaks and harpoons.

And when an Eskimo gets money he invariably buys a transistor radio, Mr. Matthiasson said. Although they can't understand the words, they like listening to the music.

The biggest problems were the cold, the food and his inability to communicate.

The Eskimos spoke only about 100 words of English, and he spoke even less of the Eskimo language. He was forced to use sign language.

In February he developed pneumonia and was unable to make the 12-hour dog sled trip for first aid at the Hudson's Bay post because of storms.

"I had to sweat it out," he said.

He was interested mainly in legal acculturation, which is the mingling of the old legal system with the white man's system.

"The Eskimos still don't know what it means to be a citizen of Canada. They don't understand the vote," John said.

"They are masters of inter-personal relationships, however, and get along well with each other".

"Once, after 18 hours on the hunting trail, we stopped to build a snow house. It was almost finished, but one block

kept falling down. One of the men got mad and knocked the whole house over. The other men understood that he was releasing his tension, and nobody got mad, even though it meant a great deal of extra work."

All property is shared. If a man has an excess of meat he shares it with those who don't have as much.

There is therefore no theft.

Mr. Matthiasson has returned to Canada and will spend next winter writing his thesis for the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

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IN THE NEWS

MISS AUDREY FRIDFINNSON APPOINTED TO RESPONSIBLE POST.



Miss Audrey Fridfinnson

the psychiatric consultant to the service.

Miss Fridfinnson obtained her B.A. degree and holds a diploma in Social Work from the University of Manitoba. She went to the University of Chicago where she obtained her Masters degree from the School of Social Work. She has studied at Smith College school of social work, and also in the graduate division of the University of New York.

In Manitoba she has served with the Children's Aid Society and the Society for Crippled Children and Adults, as well as in the School of Social Work.

Audrey is the daughter of Mrs. Bertha Fridfinnson and the late William Fridfinnson, who was Secretary of the Falcon Hockey Club when the team won the World Championship.

★

WINS EDUCATIONAL AWARD

Mrs. John Davidson Brown, the former Unnur Anna Kristjanson of Winnipeg, this summer was named the outstanding graduate student for 1963-64 in the school of nursing at the University of Washington, Seattle, U.S.A. The Nursing Education Award of \$100 was presented to her. Mrs. Brown has her master of nursing degree from the University of Washington and her bachelor of nursing degree from McGill University, Mon-

Miss Audrey Fridfinnson is one of a three member counselling service which has been inaugurated in the University of Manitoba. The functions of the service are counselling, testing and guidance, and generally to improve the academic functioning of university students.

The Director of the Service is Dr. Robert I. Hudson of Minnesota, with the status of Associate Professor of Education. Miss Fridfinnson is a counsellor and Assistant Professor of Social Work. The third member, Dr. Gordon M. Stephens of Winnipeg, is

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treal, Que. where she received a similar award for her work toward her undergraduate degree. Mrs. Brown currently holds a teaching position on the faculty of the school of nursing, University of Manitoba. She is the daughter of Mrs. Fridrik Kristjanson of Winnipeg and the late Mr. Kristjanson.

★

**ACCEPTS TEACHING ASSIGN-
MENT IN NIGERIA**

Mr. Olafur Allan Olson, School Principal, who has been Principal of the Neepawa Collegiate for the last three years, and has taught in other Collegiates in Manitoba has accepted an assignment to teach in a secondary school at Kaduna, in Nigeria, Africa.

Nigeria has a population of about 45 million and there is a great dearth of teachers and other trained people. Fortunately there are many applicants for these jobs. From Manitoba alone, 38 teachers applied and only 6 were accepted.

The schools are maintained by the government of Nigeria and the Commonwealth Aid Plan. The teachers are under a contract for two years, no doubt renewable.

Mr. Olson will be teaching in Kaduna which is on a plateau so above the tropical heat of the coast line and other parts of Nigeria.

Nigeria is one of the former Commonwealth of Nations colonies, which, upon obtaining its independence, decided to stay within the Commonwealth.

Mr. Olson is married and his wife Phyllis and their two children, Jona Elizabeth, 4, and David Allan 2, will

**Olafur Allan Olson**

go with him. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Olafur H. Olson of Winnipeg. His father is a son of the late Arnljotur Olson who donated his large library of Icelandic books to the University of Manitoba. His mother, Elinborg, is a daughter of the late Sigurdur and Maria Baldwinson who pioneered at The Narrows on the east shore of Lake Manitoba.

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This space is being paid for by prominent public men and leading corporations in Winnipeg who desire to support the Canada Press Club in its public service.

The Icelandic Canadian, which is a member of the Canada Press Club, is providing this space and a similar amount of space in the next issue when the names of the contributors will appear.

The Canada Press Club was organized in 1942. Its two main objectives are:

1. To interpret the Canadian scene, its background and its problems, thus striving to a more united and sounder Canadianism.
2. To study Canada's position in relation to the Commonwealth of Nations, the United States, the United Nations, and her position in relation to all nations dedicated to uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy.

The Canada Press Club is a member of The Canada Ethnic Press Federation which is holding its biennial meeting in Toronto this year. This is a very important meeting and the Canada Press Club hopes to be able to have a good representation at that meeting.

—Inserted on behalf of the Canada Press Club.

ACCEPTS POST WITH U.N. IN IRAN



Dr. L. Burbank Kristjanson

Dr. L. Burbank Kristjanson, Ph.D., who has been Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba has accepted a position of high responsibility with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in Iran. Dr. Kristjanson accepted an assignment in Iran a few years ago and brought back a wife with him. Dr. and Mrs. Kristjanson have 2 children Sharon, age 4, and Kevan age 6.

★

OBTAINS Ph.D. DEGREE

Ronald Halbert Goodman was granted a Ph.D. in Physics at the Convocation of McMaster University at Hamilton, Ontario, on May 25, 1964. He took all his high school grades at the Carrot River High School and then graduated in Arts from the University

of Saskatchewan in 1956. The following year Ronald went to the McMaster University to do research in nuclear physics on a National Research Council fellowship. He is the son of Hallur S. Goodman of Carrot River. His grandmother was the late Mrs. Maria Goodman who came from Iceland in 1909 to settle in the Wynyard district. At present Ronald lives in Ottawa and works on research projects with the Department of Mines and Surveys.

★

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LOANS FOR STUDENTS

Purpose The purpose of the Canada Student Loans Act is to facilitate bank loans for students who need financial help to continue full-time studies beyond secondary school level at Universities and other educational institutions.

Who can apply: Any Canadian citizen, or anyone resident in Canada for one year who intends to live in Canada after completion of studies, may apply for a loan under the Act. An applicant must be enrolled or intend to enroll as a full-time student at an educational institution approved by provincial authorities, and must meet the standards of academic qualification and financial need established by the student loan authority in the Province in which he applies.

Amount of loans: Depending upon individual circumstances and financial need, loans up to \$1,000 a year may be made, with a maximum of \$5,000 during a student's academic career. The Provincial Authority receiving applications and determining eligibility will issue a certificate to each eligible student stating the maximum amount the student may borrow. This Certificate of Eligibility is required before a student can arrange a Government Guaranteed Student Loan with the bank of his choice.

Repayment: Interest-Free and Delayed Repayment Period

To assist students, the interest on loans during the period a student continues full-time studies, and for six months thereafter, will be paid by the Government of Canada. During this period no repayment of principal is required, nor will any service charge or fee be payable by the student.

Method of Repayment

Borrowers will begin to pay interest and to repay loans six months after they cease to be full-time students. The current interest rate to students is 5% per annum. Normally the repayment period will be five to ten years. Borrowers have the right to repay loans in part or in full at any time without penalty.

Life Insured

In the event of the death of a borrower responsibility for repayment of the loans will be assumed by the Government of Canada.

Where to apply: Students should obtain a brochure which is now available at banks, universities and other educational institutions. This brochure contains lists of Provincial Authorities

The above notes are based upon the Canada Student Loans Act 1964 and are for reference only. All applications and loans are subject to the full terms and conditions of the Act.

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HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS FOR ERIK BRYNJOLFSSON

Three awards for achievement among 700 students were presented to Erik Brynjolfsson, Grade 12 graduate, at the closing exercises in June of Eric Hamber Secondary School at Vancouver. He was given an honor award for highest marks in mathematics in the school, a 98, the Marpole Rotary Club scholarship for outstanding achievement in all subjects, in athletics and extracurricular work, and the Lower Mainland basketball scholarship for achievement in athletics. He is the son of Mrs. Gudrun Brynjolfsson, presently living in Iceland, and the late Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfsson.

★

LEIF ERIKSON DAY

The following is an Associated Press despatch of Sept. 3, 1964.

"President Johnson has proclaimed October 9th as Leif Erikson Day in honor of the Viking Voyager of 1000 years ago, the White House said Thursday. He issued the proclamation after signing legislation calling for designation of the day.

★

Konrad Sigurdson, a former Winnipeg school teacher has been teaching for over a year at Katsina in Nigeria, Africa. He is married to Karen, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Anderson of Winnipeg. Oscar is a son of the late grain merchant, Peter Anderson, and Mrs. Villa Anderson.

WINS CANADIAN LEGION BURSARY THREE TIMES



Alda Davidson

Miss Alda Davidson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davidson of Santa Patricia, Ont., this spring was awarded the Canadian Legion bursary for the third time for highest marks in her high school examinations this spring. Her paternal grandmother is Mrs. R. Davidson of Winnipeg and her maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Olafur Bjarnason of Gimli, Man.

★

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NEWS SUMMARY

Mr. J. W. Page, Manager of Canadian Fish Producers, was one of a group of Canadian food producers who attended the British Food Fair which is held in London, England, every second year. The Canadian display of fresh and frozen foods was one

of the best displays. It is reported that Manitoba whitefish were renamed "Silverfins". Whether that name will be adopted in Manitoba and elsewhere in Canada remains to be seen.

★

For many years Scandinavian groups at Edmonton, Alta., in addition to their own activities individually, have made a practice of gathering twice each year for a Scandinavian celebration jointly. These are the Icelandic, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and Finnish organizations. Meanwhile each has, among other things, celebrated its national days and feasts, the Icelanders the Thorrablot for example. Ten years ago they jointly began gathering funds to finance the erection of a Scandinavian centre which all could use individually and/or jointly for meetings,

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social gatherings and such. This year this dream became a reality. In June was opened Edmonton's Scandinavian Centre. The operating firm, Scandinavian Centre Co-Operative Association, publishes a ten-page monthly periodical, the Scandinavian Centre News.

★

At the annual meeting in May of Staffholt, home for the elderly at Blaine, Wash., U.S.A. Thordur Asmundson, Mrs. Anna Karason and Gudmundur P. Johnson were re-elected to the board of directors. Einar Simonarson, Blaine lawyer and president of the organization, presided. The other members of the board are: treasurer, Skapti Olason; Mrs. Dora McPherson, John Breidford, Hugh Johnson, Walter Goodman, Mrs. Ella Thorsteinsson, Carl Frederick and Sigurdur Christjanson. Mr. Asmundson is the secretary.

★

Miss Margaret Anderson, teacher at Selkirk Collegiate, Selkirk, Man. for 18 years, was honored in June by former students, teachers and friends at a gathering in the collegiate in recognition of her long and faithful service. In attendance were some 500 persons, including guests from Kenora and Geraldton, Ont., Calgary, Alta., Vancouver, B.C. and Thompson, Portage la Prairie, Miami, Dauphin, Pine Falls and Camp Shilo in Manitoba. Receiving with Miss Anderson were her mother, Mrs. O. B. Christianson, and her sister-in-law, Mrs. S. Anderson.

★

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shanks of Winnipeg were honored by family and friends August 15 on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary at a

gathering at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Shanks in suburban St. James. Present also were their other children, son Alfred and Mrs. Shanks of suburban St. Vital and daughter Eleanor, Mrs. R. Gunter with Mr. Gunter and family from California. Present also were Mrs. Shanks' sister, Mrs. Disa Anderson and family from Arborg, Man.



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Index to Advertisers

Allways-Travel Bureau	6	Loans for Students	57
Arlington Pharmacy	6	Malkin, Dr. C. & S.	6
Asgeirsson's Ltd.	52	Manitoba Sugar Co. Ltd.	1
Bank of Montreal	62	Montreal Trust Co.	7
Bardal, A. S. Ltd.	52	MacLeods Ltd.	1
Beaver Moving and Storage	5	McDonald Dure Lumber Co.	4
Blackwood Beverages Ltd.	64	McKague Sigmar & Co.	6
Booth Fisheries Co. Ltd.	3	McLean, J. J. H. & Co. Ltd.	64
British American Oil Co. Ltd.	3	McCurdy Supply Ltd.	54
Brooks Bond Canada Ltd.	54	Nell's Flower Shop	59
Broadway Florsits	58	North Star Co-Op Creamery Ltd.	60
Canada Press Club	55	O'Neill & Hunter Ltd.	60
Canadian Fish Producers	54	Park-Hannesson Ltd.	5
Canadian Oil Co. Ltd.	8	Quintons Ltd.	Cover
Capital Lumber Co. Ltd.	7	Riverton Co. Op Creamery Assc.	3
Chief Home Bakery	53	Roberts & Whyte Ltd.	52
City Hydro Electric System	4	Ramsay-Mathews Ltd.	6
Codville Co. Ltd.	Cover	Russel Motors Ltd.	8
Community Hotels	4	Salisbury House	61
Crescent Creamery Ltd.	58	Sealy Mattress Co.	61
Doying, G. L. and Co.	56	Security Storage Co. Ltd.	56
Dowse Sash and Door Co. Ltd.	50	Selkirk Garage Ltd.	5
Eatons of Canada Ltd.	Cover	Sigurdson, Dr. L. A.	52
Eggertson & Eggertson	6	Sigurdson, H. & Son Ltd.	3
Ellerby & Hall	6	Sigurdson Fisheries Ltd.	3
Gelhorn Motors Ltd.	4	Simpson-Sears Ltd.	Cover
Gilbart Funeral Home	58	Snowden Ltd.	8
Goodbrandson's Transfer Ltd.	58	Tallin, Kristjanson, Parker Martin & Mercury.	5
Great West Life Assurance	Cover	Thorarinson, S. A.	6
Grey Goose Bus Lines	3	Toastmaster Sales Ltd.	58
Hercules Supply Ltd.	2	Thorlakson, Dr. P. H. T.	52
Investors Syndicate of Can. Ltd.	2	Thorvaldson, Eggertson, Saunders & Mauro	6
International Inn	60	Uptown Bowling Lanes	58
Kirkfield Park Hotel	61	Viking Printers	62
Kristjanson, Dr. G.	6	Vopni, R. B. & Co.	56
Lakeland Dairies Ltd.	52	Western Paint Co. Ltd.	8
Leckie, John Ltd.	54		
Leland Hotel	61		

The toast to the honored couple was proposed by Fred Wilkie, brother-in-law of Mrs. Shanks. Mrs. Shanks is the daughter of Icelandic pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Gudbrandur Johannesson of Geysir, Man. They were married in Winnipeg.



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