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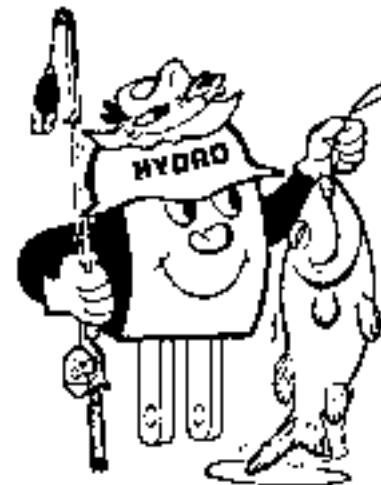


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EDITORIAL

The Icelanders Elect A New President

On June the 30th this year Dr. Kristján Eldjárn, Curator of the National Museum of Iceland, was elected the third President of the Republic of Iceland with an overwhelming majority of votes. Dr. Eldjárn succeeds Dr. Ásgeir Ásgeirsson who earlier in the year had made the announcement that he would not seek reelection. The decisive mandate given Dr. Eldjárn assumes added significance when it is taken into account that his rival candidate for the presidency, Dr. Gunnar Thoroddsen, was also well qualified for this high office as an experienced academic, statesman, and diplomat.

Dr. Kristján Eldjárn has not been associated with any particular political organization; as a result, his qualifications for the presidency were not of a political nature. Rather it is obvious that his academic accomplishments as well as the way in which he has discharged his responsibilities as guardian and interpreter of Iceland's ancient treasures must have weighed heavily with the people. Of prime importance are his numerous books, essays and articles, which have won him international recognition as a scholar. In addition, he is a distinguished speaker and lecturer whose inspiring addresses have been greatly lauded.

To the undiscerning eye of the layman an ancient museum piece may seem quite uninteresting. Therefore it is all the more noteworthy that through the sure touch of Dr. Kristján Eldjárn

the artifacts in the National Museum of Iceland have assumed the vitality of Iceland's time-honored literary tradition. This he has achieved by relating his archeological research to other fields of cultural history. By following an interdisciplinary approach he has found it possible to give his themes a wide enough perspective to arouse the interest of readers and audiences far beyond the limited circle of scientists. One may go further still and state that aside from their scholarly content, the writings of Dr. Kristján Eldjárn have been widely acclaimed for their marked literary quality. Therefore he may be classified with Iceland's most important authors and essayists. It should perhaps be added here that he is a competent translator of poetry and indeed a poet in his own right.

The President of Iceland speaks and writes with a style which is at once unassuming and aristocratic—a style which is closer to the culture of the Icelandic countryside, where his mother tongue has been best preserved, than to the stilted idioms of the ivory towers. One is reminded of a famous saying which implies that it is all but impossible to differentiate between an author's mode of writing and his own character. A similar statement would be highly relevant in our present context, since the works referred to above certainly reflect the attributes of their author. He is a man of rare integrity, a true humanist in whom one recognizes both genuine warmth and



Kristján Eldjárn, President of Iceland

unobtrusive dignity as outstanding personal traits.

The wife of the President, frú Halldóra Ingólfssdóttir Eldjárn, is held in high regard for her pleasing personality and intellectual endowments.

★

Having pursued his academic studies at the Universities of Copenhagen and Iceland, Kristján Eldjárn received his M.A. degree from the University of Iceland in 1944. In 1957 he was award-

ed the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the same university. In 1947 he was appointed Curator of the National Museum of Iceland. In addition to his position as Curator of the Museum, Dr. Eldjárn has served on numerous boards and committees in the academic and educational field. His most important publications are the following: *Rústírnar í Stöng* 1947, *Gengið á reka*, tólf fornleifaþættir 1948, *Um Hóla-kirkju*, 1950, *Kuml og haugfé úr heiðnum sið á Íslandi* (a doctoral dissert-



Halldóra Eldjárn, Wife of the President of Iceland

ation) 1956, *Stakir steinar, tólf mánjaþættir* 1961, and *Hundrað ár í Þjóðminjasafni* 1962.

In addition to the books listed above, Dr. Eldjárn has written introductions to books on Iceland in languages other than Icelandic. As an example, mention may be made of *Ancient Icelandic Art*, with an introduction and picture-text by Kristján Eldjárn, München 1957. Only recently he contributed to the famous book *The Viking* which was published in Sweden

in 1966 and has now appeared in several languages. Then he has served editorially and frequently contributed to the well known encyclopedic series *Kulturhistorisk Leksikon for nordisk middelalder fra vikingetid til reformationstid*. Last, but by no means least, it must be mentioned that since 1949 Dr. Eldjárn has served as editor of the highly reputable journal *Árbók Hins íslenska fornleifafélags* (The Annual Publications of the Icelandic Archeological Society), a journal con-

taining many of his own articles and observations.

Dr. Kristján Eldjárn was born in 1916 at Tjörn in Svarfaðardalur in northern Iceland. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Þórarinn Kristjánsson Eldjárn (Mrs. Eldjárn: frú Sigrún Sigurhjartardóttir). In 1947 he married Halldóra Ingólfssdóttir, born in 1923, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ingólfur Arnason (Mrs. Arnason: frú Ólöf Jónasdóttir) at Ísafjörður. Dr. and Mrs. Eldjárn have a family of four: Ólöf, Þórarinn, Sigrún, and Ingólfur.

★

As has already been indicated, Dr. Kristján Eldjárn received his academic training in both Denmark and Iceland. This explains in part his firm belief that while the Icelanders must cultivate their own national heritage, they must also take good care not to forget that they are a part of a larger community of nations. Before he abdicated his post as Curator of the National Museum, Dr. Eldjárn made this discerning analysis of the cultural significance of that institution:

"... the museum should first and foremost be a cultural institution for the Icelanders themselves—a place of education in Icelandic history and national culture. Icelanders, young and old, should have the opportunity of studying their own history and their own way of life as if in a mirror. A small people like the Icelanders needs every support possible so as not to lose sight of their destiny to live as an independent, modern nation in the family of nations and at the same time preserve its ancient and remarkable cultural heritage, for it is only the Icelandic nation itself that can do this and benefit from it."

(Iceland Review No. 2, 1968)

On the first day of August this year, the day of his inauguration as President, Dr. Eldjárn included the following comments in his address to the nation:

"Few nations can give an account of their own origins in a way similar to that of the Icelanders. But it is of greater significance that they have always rested upon the foundations of national culture brought into existence by the settlers of Iceland and their descendants. As one may expect, our nation has experienced both periods of success and times of hardship. But irrespective of this changeable nature of our fate, we have preserved the heritage which our ancestors brought with them to their new land. This unbroken continuity in our culture manifests itself in many different ways. Though few in number, we possess a keen awareness of our duties and responsibilities as a separate nation. We are also determined to preserve our independence and our rights to dispose of our own affairs. Neither should we fail to mention Old Icelandic, the language of our fathers, which not only forms a close relation with our literary tradition, but has also served us to this day as a means of articulate expression. Our present attitudes and mode of thinking are traceable to an ancient heritage in an even larger measure than is commonly believed. All these attributes combine to form a unified whole which is identified as Icelandic culture. As a nation we have set ourselves the objective of preserving this culture and of securing a continuing enrichment

of its nobler traits. In pursuing this goal we must be careful not to fall victim to unjust pride and chauvinism. Icelandic culture is not to be viewed as an isolated phenomenon; rather it is one of the strands which have been woven into the fabric of western civilization. Nonetheless, it represents the part which has been placed in our care in order that we may protect it against the forces of deterioration. If we properly maintain our vigil, our share in this important enterprise will bring dividends proportionate to the best qualities of our larger communion of national cultures.

Throughout their history the Icelanders have continuously been the recipients of stimulating cultural influences from other nations. Thus they have never allowed themselves to become isolated, even though our country was in the past far off the international routes. Today cultural isolation is not one of our difficulties and may it never be.

It is my firm conviction that if we wish to fulfill our prime obligation, we must add strength to our national culture at the same time as we remain in tune with all the beneficial features of those other national cultures which lie within our sphere of communication." (loosely rendered from the inaugural address of President Eldjárn, printed in Morgunblaðið, August 2, 1968).

The above excerpts clearly indicate that President Eldjárn will be deeply concerned with the very phases of Icelandic life which have warranted the inclusion of Iceland in the league of western civilization. Few would be better qualified to join the standard bearers of that league than the new President himself.

The members of the Editorial Board of the Icelandic Canadian Magazine wish to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to the President and his family and express the sincere hope that good fortune will always attend them.

—Haraldur Bessason



NATO Conference in Reykjavik,

JUNE 23–26, 1968

The NATO Ministerial Conference was held for the first time in Reykjavik, June 23–26, Iceland being one of the 15 member-nations of NATO.

An enormous amount of work is involved in preparing for these Conferences and great credit is due to all who participated. References to the splendid arrangements in Reykjavik were made again and again both on the platform and in informal discussions.

On Sunday, June 23, a preliminary meeting was held by representatives of the press, presided over by Mr. Manlio Brosio of Italy, the Secretary-General of Nato. About fifty representatives of the press attended. Mr. Brosio welcomed the press representatives and stated that after each conference meeting, which would be held in private, such information would be passed on to the press which the Conference was prepared to release. A question and answer period followed for about half an hour.

The Conference itself was formally opened on Monday morning at 10 o'clock in the University of Iceland main building. Dr. Bjarni Benediktsson, the Prime Minister of Iceland, presided. Beside him to the right was Mr. Willy Brandt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, and to the left was Manlio Brosio the Secretary-General of NATO.

Seated at a long table behind the three speakers were the representatives of the 15 member-nations and behind each one was the flag of his country on a fifteen-foot pole. In front of the stage and below them was a profusion

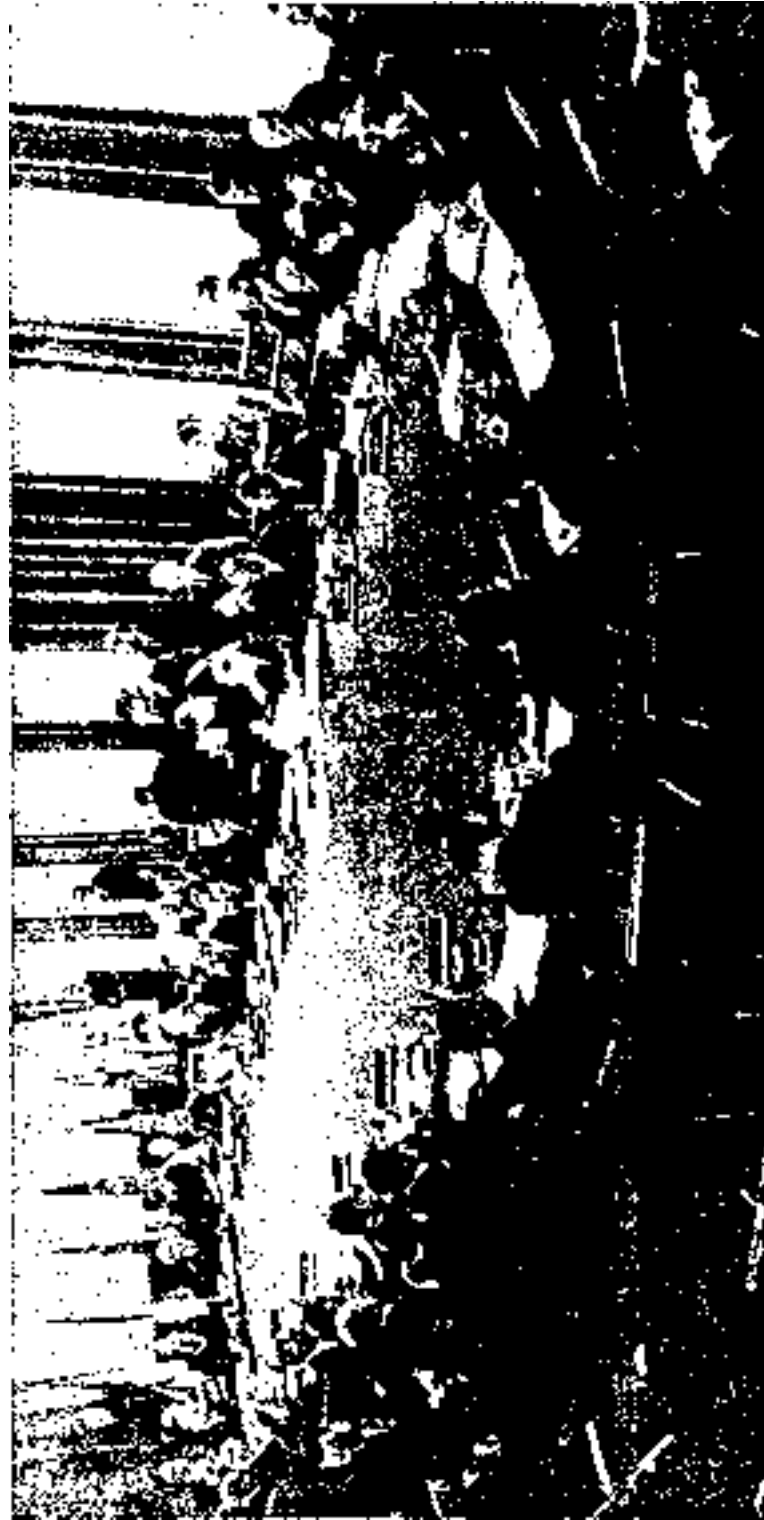
of flowers. It all presented a spectacle of dignity worthy of the important occasion.

In the course of his opening address Mr. Benediktsson said:

— — — Immediately following the War, we hoped that such security could be achieved through membership in the United Nations. Experience soon showed this to be a false hope, and as a result we became one of the signatory states of the North Atlantic Treaty. I considered it then—and still consider it today—a great personal honour to have signed the Treaty on behalf of my country. . . .

— — — As far as my own country is concerned we have entered into a special defence agreement with the United States, within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty, but it depends entirely upon our own evaluation at the given time how long American troops remain in Iceland. And I want it to be clearly known that, in all the manifold relations which the Icelanders have had, for over a quarter-century now, with the Americans, over the defence of our country, they have never used the difference in strength which exists between the two countries to their own advantage, even though they are the greatest power in the world and we one of the smallest, and utterly without the means to defend ourselves. Despite its overpowering strength the United States has always, both in word and in deed, fully respected Iceland's formal equality and sovereign rights. . . ."

Mr. Benediktsson was followed by Willy Brandt who spoke with feeling



NATO Ministers in session in the grand hall, University of Iceland, Reykjavik. June 28-29, 1969.

on his country and the fallacy of maintaining the artificial present status quo:

“ . . . Coming from a country which has had a turbulent history I am deeply impressed by the fact that the traditions of democracy and freedom in Iceland are as old as its very history. This small Icelandic nation has made an admirable contribution to Western civilization. I am confident that Iceland will continue to lend its moral weight and strength to the attainment of the ideals which the Atlantic Alliance stands for. . . .

“— — — The political landscape in Europe and in the world is changing faster than many of us at first noticed. In Europe, both in East and West, but also in America and in other parts of the world, a restless young generation with a passion for political activity is attacking established structures. But these young people in eastern and western Europe, despite all differences in their thinking, seem to have one thing in common: they are against petrifying the status quo in Europe, the division of Europe into two mutually hostile blocs, and the artificial barriers between the nations of Europe.

Attempts to set up new barriers between nations and within one nation, like the ones we have just recently experienced in Germany—in connection with Berlin—are doomed to failure in the face of this development.

I am convinced that the urge for freedom, the consciousness of the

solidarity of a nation and of all the nations of Europe are a more powerful driving force than ideologies of the past. I am sure that our Alliance is heading the right way, realistically assessing the possibilities open to it and carefully working for a settlement of controversies in Europe and preparing the way for a just and lasting peace order in Europe. . . .”

Mr. Brosio the third speaker said in part:

“ . . . — — For centuries the island lived in relative isolation. This fact, no doubt, contributed to the remarkable preservation of its ancient language and culture. But in today's world no country can live in isolation; and Iceland is no exception.

“— — — During the last few days, the Norwegian Parliament has expressed its determination to remain in the Alliance beyond 1969. These are encouraging signs of political wisdom. Certainly it is not necessary from a legal point of view to take any special initiative to renew the Alliance. There are many false assumptions in this respect. In too many quarters it is believed that the Treaty will expire in 1969, and that some positive action is necessary to prolong its life. This is not the case; after August 1969, any country may, with one year's notice, withdraw from the Alliance. Without such a decision the Alliance goes on indefinitely and automatically. All the same, the fact that the members of the Government of Iceland and the Norwegian Parliament, two Nordic

allies, have chosen to reassert in this connection their faith and their loyalty to the Alliance should be recalled here as a source of legitimate satisfaction — — —.

“— — — The ultimate political purpose of the Alliance is to achieve a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe, accompanied by appropriate security guarantees. The basis of this search for peace is the maintenance of our common military strength and political solidarity, for let us be clear in our minds about one central point: as long as the Soviet Union continues to support an enormous and growing military establishment, there can be no hope of any lasting and fair settlement unless the Allies have the will to maintain adequate defences and unity of purpose. . .”

The Government of Canada was represented by Mr. M. Cardieux, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, substituting for Hon. Mitchell

Sharp, who, on account of the elections in Canada on June 25, was not able to be present. Mr. Cardieux had a special meeting of the Canadian delegation and the Canadian press representatives which included W. J. Lindal of Winnipeg and Vladimir Mauko of Toronto, who represented the Canada Ethnic Press Federation. Judging by his remarks Mr. Cardieux appears to have had a premonition of what was going to happen in Czechoslovakia. He warned about not being disturbed about the “hardening of Soviet policy and restrictive measures by East Germany with regard to Berlin”.

On behalf of Mr. Mauko and myself I wish to express our appreciation to the Government of Canada, and in particular to Hon. Mitchell Sharp for including representation from the Canada Ethnic Press Federation in the delegation to the NATO Conference in Reykjavik.

—W. J. Lindal



Guidelines to World Peace in the Icelandic Record

Dr. Sigurdur Nordal, the sage of Iceland's men of letters, has referred to the “unbroken continuity in language and literature” of the Icelandic people. As that continuity is of permanent record, ancient, medieval, and modern, it admits of comprehensive study and realistic analysis.

In that record, which has continued in North America as well as in Iceland to this very day, examples can be found of self-directives and human action revealing guidelines which appear to be appropriate to an amazing degree to the furtherance of peace in the troubled world of today.

Four principles, as laid down in that continuity of thought and resulting action, will be discussed.

The first, perhaps the most fundamental of them all, is to be found in the Sagas and the Eddas. It probably developed in the evolution of Norse mythology and is much older than the sagas and poems in which it is recorded. In the original Icelandic (Norse) and the English translation it reads as follows:

Hann vill ekki vamm sitt vita.

He brooks no blemish in himself.

This is a directive, perhaps the most powerful directive, a human being can apply to himself. His conscience would dictate what he regarded as a blemish in himself, but the application of that directive would, through that very process, be character building and, according to that great roving English

linguist, Richard Cleasby, would develop “a conscientious and thoroughly honest person”. In course of time a norm should evolve in the community, not dissimilar to the Christian “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”.

This is clearly and consistently revealed in the actions of the Norsemen of old when they embarked upon expeditions in all directions. True, when they met resistance no quarter was given, but after the resistance had been broken, or if they were received in a spirit of friendship, or occupied areas not peopled, the true spirit in which the advances were made is revealed. The man who declines to do that which would be a stain on his character will not seek to become a dictator, will never build an empire of overlordship of some over others, a mother country over colonies, an aristocracy over a proletariat.

The Swedes, Rurik and Askold, in their expeditions to what is now the Ukraine, did not act the part of conquerors. They joined with the local Slavs, in Novgorod and Kiev, and took the lead in defending the fertile and open lands of the Ukraine. Rollo invaded the north of France. He did not seek to establish a Norse colony but founded a dukedom within France and became the first Duke of Normandy. The Normans, as the British historian, Dr. E. A. Freeman, has said, strengthened the national usages and national life wherever they went.

The Norsemen who occupied the Isle of Man established a Parliament for the island, now called The House of Keys. Eiríkr the Red (Thorvaldsson, who settled Greenland, laid the foundation there for an Althing to govern the island, wholly independent of the Althing already established in Iceland. If Thorfinnr Karlsefni had been able to maintain a settlement in Vinland (whether the locale was Newfoundland or Cape Cod is of no moment), it would have been independent of Greenland, Iceland, and Norway. One can generalize: he who brooks no blemish in himself will not form or help to develop a state, an empire, or a world power, in which there are second-class citizens: he would not seek to establish two levels of citizenship.

The advance, however, may not be geographic but ideological. If it is by force and is perpetuated by force it violates the same basic principle.

So also the advance into other countries may be economic. Here legitimate trade, reasonable financial co-operation and assistance must be expected. Financial control, however, may be abused and may endanger the economic and finally the political independence of a country.

Brook no blemish in yourself! That self-directive cannot be over-emphasized. It helped to develop positiveness in the feeling of fatalism which, all the authorities agree, was deep-rooted in the ancient Norsemen. A man virtually said to himself: "If I am fated then I must so direct myself as to be worthy of that for which I am destined." It can be and has been applied in all phases of modern human conduct, in commercial enterprises as well as in domestic affairs, socially as well as in athletics.

The second rule of conduct is to be found in the last two lines of the third

verse of a "Song of Praise" (Lofsöngur) by Rev. Matthías Jochumsson, which is now the National Anthem of Iceland. The following are the two lines:

Verði gróandi þjóðlíf með þverrandi tár,
sem þroskast á guðs-rikis braut.

Give strength to our people, diminish their tears

On their course to a kingdom of God.

This is a prayer to God but it is not a prayer for help in building a kingdom in a mould of man's choosing (where power usually becomes the objective); it is a prayer for guidance in building a kingdom of the kind the conscience of a thoroughly honourable man tells him God would want to have builded.

The invocation is to God and it is not limited to the Trinity of Christianity. It could equally be to Yahweh of the Hebrews, to Allah of the Mohammedans, to the Creator, to the Universal Mind — no matter what word is used. The power that inspired Gotama, the last Buddha, or which created the doctrine of Confucianism, and the philosophy of Hinduism, may equally be supplicated.

If communism is distinguished from forms of dictatorship then it would not be unrealistic to say that the theory originated by Marx and Engels is an unconscious deification of the working classes — the proletariat. They envisioned an ultimate classless society of workers, which to them would be a heaven on earth. World experience has shown that the acceptance of that theory is capable of creating an intensity of zeal and a willingness to sacrifice one's own life as if a deity were being worshipped.

One could draw a general conclusion that the faith, principle, or theory which enables the human being to develop a high degree of zeal and a willingness to lay down life itself, creates the vision of a pinnacle to be reached: World Peace. That pinnacle may be far off but it is seen by all in the distant blue. On the travel up to that pinnacle all human beings could become and be brothers.

A third rule is laid down by Stephan G. Stephansson, the Iceland-Canada poet. He became universal, and of all times, when he laid down the following exhortation to humanity:

Að hugsa ekki í árum en öldum,
að alheimta ei daglaun að kvöldum,
því svo lengist mannsæfin mest.

Think not in years but in ages.

Claim not at once but in stages,

Only then life on earth will endure.

The poet points out how destructive it is if a farmer "mines" his land, takes all it can yield, does not fertilize, re-sow or replenish for those who succeed him. When that course is taken the time will come when nothing is left but wasteland. From this inevitable destruction the poet generalizes. If people (and nations) reach out for all they can encompass, and make no provision for improvement or for those who succeed them, an end is inevitable. Man must build not only for the present and himself but for others and for the future. Only then "mannsæfin", human life on earth will endure.

The poet closes with this warning:

það er ekki oflofuð samtíð,
en umbætt og glaðari framtíð,
sú veröld, er sjáandinn sér.

Not an over-praised present,
A future improved and more pleasant,
Is the world which the prophet does see.

(This poem was composed in 1904 when there was comparative tranquility throughout the world).

In order to bring the record in North America up-to-date one needs but quote from a poem by Paul A. Sigurdson, a third generation Icelander in Canada, who teaches school in Morden, Manitoba.

As might be expected, Paul Sigurdson, a polio victim, accepts the philosophy of history as expounded by Arnold J. Toynbee, the famous British historian who regards adversity as a virtue in the struggle of human existence. In a chapter entitled The Virtues of Adversity, Toynbee points out that there is an optimum of adversity beyond which it does more evil than good and claims that in Iceland there was an optimum of adversity.

The title to the poem is "Weeds", and it is an allegory, the attack of weeds upon cultivated vegetation being a sustained metaphor, depicting the struggle that human beings have to wage to provide for their continued existence on Earth. The lesson to be learned in this continuous struggle is revealed in the following verse:

The weed:

Our stimulation;

Our challenge;

Our point of bearings;

Where life takes two directions

And we leave unity to God.

On earth there are adversities, constant adversities — weeds that retard growth. To Paul Sigurdson they are an inspiration. The greater the struggle, the greater the challenge. On earth man chooses the direction he

takes. A battle ensues; the weeds may gain ground. Eventually God, the Supreme Power and Wisdom and Law, provides direction for the establishment of unity — Peace on Earth.

One can summarize:

the Norse sense of positive fatalism gave rise to a self-directive which led to upright and honest action, individual and collective;

a man of the cloth in Iceland exhorted his people to build as God — the supreme deity — would want them to build;

an Iceland-Canada poet appealed to mankind to be ever mindful that human life on this planet

will continue only if a part of man's service is devoted to that upon which permanent life on earth can be builded — **World Peace:**

a Canadian of Icelandic blood, himself afflicted, has in a modern parable pointed out how worldwide rivalries have provided the needed adversities to enable man to find the right of two directions, leading to permanent peace — unity with God.

These are guidelines which are to be found in the Icelandic record. They appear to be timeless and universal.

—W. J. Lindal



FRON RAISING A BUILDING FUND

The 50th anniversary of the Icelandic Society Frón in Winnipeg will be observed in 1969. It was formed May 23, 1919, but still has no permanent home or meeting place. It is a Chapter of the Icelandic National League.

As an anniversary project the society in June set out to establish such a home by 1969, and for this purpose started a fund-raising campaign, the objective \$3,500. More than \$500 was subscribed in the first week, and more has since been received.

Over the years the society has gathered a library which now contains in the neighborhood of 4,000 volumes. This is presently housed in the headquarters of the Icelandic National

League in Winnipeg. A permanent home would accommodate this growing library and provide for the beginning of a museum and a meeting place for the society.

The aim is to renovate and remodel a portion of the Icelandic National League building to provide a meeting area, a library reading space and for the beginnings of an Icelandic museum.

The fund-raising campaign will go into full gear this fall with the object to have the necessary funds in hand as soon as possible. Contributions to the fund are being received by the treasurer of Frón, Jochum Asgeirsson, 126 Lodge Avenue, Winnipeg 12.

A TOAST TO CANADA

Address by the HONOURABLE STERLING R. LYON, Q.C., at Islendingadagurinn or The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba at Gimli, Monday, August 5, 1968.

Greetings to the Queen of the Mountains and Mr. Sigurgeirsson.

I consider it a real pleasure to participate in these festivities today; have the honour to sit in the Legislature with five M.L.A.'s of Icelandic origin.

To me, the Town of Gimli and the Icelandic community of this province are no strangers largely because of the continuous and enlightening exposure to its culture I have had over the past ten years from one of your principal sons, my friend and colleague, The Honourable Dr. George Johnson, Minister of Education.

I note with great satisfaction that your newest school has honoured him by adopting his name. This is most fitting. For now and with greater impact through the years the rich and varied contribution of this man to our public life will surely mark him among the equal of any of the great Canadians which your race has given our land.

He, in turn, has paid the highest tribute to you and your forefathers by deporting himself at all times with rare distinction and by the intelligence, integrity, broad humanity and wise leadership which have been the hallmark of his decade of public office. Here, indeed, is a son of Iceland who has brought everlasting credit to his race, his family and himself in the annals of this province.

Dr. Johnson, I know, considers that his education of me as a student of Icelandic-Canadian culture is incomplete. One of my children, he would say, must ultimately marry into the community to seal the bond. Although they are a bit young yet to contemplate such binding contracts, that, I can assure you, would be a proud

acquisition to any Canadian family tie. Meanwhile, he has made me aware of the contribution of the early Icelandic settlers to this area and our province.

And today, it is with some share of your justifiable pride that I join you in paying tribute to those original adventurers who found along the shores of our great Lake Winnipeg, the timber — hay — the fish — and the farmland which inspired in them the vision, hope and expectation to name it New Iceland.

My own forebears, following the same water route from Minnesota, came west only one year after the original Icelandic migration of 1875. So I share with you today the marvel and the pride of ancestry in the steadfastness, the dedication and the will to overcome adversity which was the common characteristics of these early pioneers.

Floods, snow and pestilence they endured and overcame. There was no substitute then—as there is not now—for hard work — for suffering — and for bereavement — and for the strength of character which these trials and stresses built and undergirded in a new people in a new land.

The land, the water and the elements they fought and eventually tamed, gave them back, at first meagre and, later, bountiful returns in food, shelter, security and the contentment of the family circle.

But perhaps more than most other groups of immigrants, the Icelandic pioneers brought with them a dedication to and long experience in — orderly, democratic government.

This no doubt was in the mind of Governor-General Lord Dufferin when

he said in a visit to the settlement of Gimli in 1877:

"Not only will your future prove bright and prosperous, but it will be universally acknowledged that a more valuable accession to the intelligence, patriotism, loyalty, industry and strength of the country has never been introduced into the Dominion."

Icelandic-Canadians through successive generations, spawned from this noble seed, have lived up in full measure to this prophecy.

Even the "Manitoba Free Press", a paper not always famous for its accuracy of prophecy or unbiased wisdom, particularly in political matters — displayed a rare streak of accuracy when it noted of the first settlers:

"They are a smart-looking, intelligent and excellent people and a most valuable acquisition to the population of our province."

Who in looking over this impressive assembly today and in particular who in noting the Icelandic-Canadian ladies — could deny the fidelity to truth of that comment.

Almost a century separates us from those early exploits of the pioneer Icelandic settlers — a century in which settlement has added a countless thousand fold to our numbers from a rich heritage of European and world races — a century in which Divine Providence has been extremely generous to this land and its people.

Today, while we pay homage to the past, it is equally an imperative that we take stock of the present and look to the future of this Canada of ours.

We are now 20 million in number — we have the second highest standard of living of any nation in the world — next to our great American neighbors. We live in a land of bountiful resources and one in which there is still the opportunity — rare in any country — for personal achievement, gain

and enrichment limited only by our ability and our toil.

To hundreds of millions of souls on this earth who still scratch out a bare existence we must truly appear to be "God's chosen people."

Certainly we have a unique heritage and enviable status among men — a nation vast in physical proportions — so thinly populated — occupying without fear the northern half of this continent in amicable relationship with the most powerful and affluent nation in world history.

All of these global conditions impose their own imprint and demands on our national character and outlook. And as with all things in life, some of these characteristics are good and others bad and potentially harmful if allowed by drift or indecision or lack of purpose to propagate and become imbedded in our national life.

What then would I wish for Canada, for my sons and daughters and yours as today I ask you to join in a toast to our homeland?

I would wish first for a re-affirmation of spiritual faith among our people. National character and strength are largely a collective reflection of the individual citizen's moral and spiritual worth. Under wise leadership, this collective richness of character can have a meaning beyond our imagination in a world so needful of moral strength today.

Secondly, I would wish for a tempering of the permissive attitudes which today and in the future could lead to an undermining of the fundamentals of good national character. An orderly, decent and civilized society is not the product of the "God is dead" philosophy — nor of the philosophy of anything goes, the hippie or beatnik attitude of opting out of life. These are not the broad paths along which our people must travel to keep in sight

the goal of decent civilization and civility among men.

I would wish thirdly for a rapid de-emphasis of the growing cult of serving one's own interest regardless of the cost to neighbour, friend or society in general. For self-interest can become — as it so often does — mere greed. The public interest cannot be shuffled off to a role of minor importance from its imperative position of pre-eminence.

In this regard, it seems to me clear beyond question that localized or national labor-management disputes in vital areas of public service are beyond the compass of the usual labor-management negotiation techniques and that such differences must, if necessary by law, be resolved without the resort in any way to the luxury of the strike weapon. The public interest surely must be and remain dominant and never secondary to the private whims of either labor or management in vital areas of public need.

I would wish as well for a re-education in the fundamentals of democratic government at all levels — a re-education for the people and for elected representatives as well in their purpose and role, their rights and responsibilities, in the great but delicate adventure of government in this age.

We would do well to remember that the democratic form of government is a recent but brilliant evolution in the art of determining man's relationship to man. Because of its youth, it has still some fragility and cannot with abandon be subjected to brute abuses such as assassination, public disorder or violent, continuous and thoughtless derogation.

Living as we do in an age of verbal emancipation where any and all opinion from whatever quarter, is fair game for broadcast, no matter how virulent, wicked, ill-founded or merely malicious or mischievous, our com-

munications must exercise great care to ensure that we do not unconsciously lead ourselves into the inescapable tyranny of an uneducated, superficial and thoughtless public opinion.

We therefore might wish that today's tools of mass communications — the most sophisticated and all pervasive ever devised by man — might well be rededicated and devoted to the positive role of undergirding the fundamental prerequisites of a decent society — social, economic, governmental, cultural and educational.

Rather than aimlessly filling our minds with negativism and the sport of pulling apart our institutions from the Church down while, regularly with sometimes devastating consequences, blathering a plethora of trivia and mediocre—even ludicrous—comment on trivia or thoughtless carpings from uninstructed minds which casually pass for factual information on everything from God to deodorants.

Finally, I would wish that we might as the new Canadian society, more resolutely strive for the pursuit of excellence in all that we do. The pursuit of public office, far from being exempt from this ideal, should be in the forefront of the van. The selection, advancement and reward of your public servants should take second place to no scientific, cultural or mere entertainment endeavour, if we are to survive and prosper as a nation worthy of the heritage which Providence has bestowed on us.

This is not an exhaustive catalogue of our needs in Canada today. They represent only some ideals we might better strive for to earn for this country the destiny which can be ours.

Mr. Chairman, with humility but with fervor among the gracious company of Icelandic-Canadians who have done so much to make this country great. I propose a toast to Canada.

Sesselja Eldjarn

Miss Sesselja Eldjarn, an aunt of Kristján Eldjarn, the President of Iceland, spent about a month last summer visiting in Manitoba. She was the guest of Mr. Gudjon and Petrina Arnason of Gimli, and Mr. Theodor, son of Gudjon, and Marjorie Arnason, formerly of Gimli and now of Winnipeg. Sesselja is related to the Arnasons and to Marjorie. While in Manitoba she more or less commuted between the two homes.

Sesselja Eldjarn was born at Tjörn in Svarfaðadal in Eyjafjarðarsýsla in the north of Iceland. For many years she has resided in Akureyri. It was in Akureyri, where, with her sister Ingibjörg, she maintained what may be termed a combination of a boarding-house and a home of culture. When Kristján Eldjarn was attending school in Akureyri he stayed at his aunt's boardinghouse and breathed in his full share of the atmosphere of that humble yet cultural home. Miss Eldjarn could give the names of several of Iceland's men of stature who shared that same nourishment in their boyhood years.

Sesselja has inherited her full share of Icelandic stoicism and courage. The day before she left Iceland she broke her left arm close to the wrist. The following day was her seventy-fifth birthday. But neither accident nor age stopped this modern Bergþóra. She had her arm put in a cast and left for Canada, arriving in Winnipeg on Saturday the third of August. The following day her brother, Þórarinn Eldjarn, the President's father, died suddenly. The President cabled Sesselja the sad

news and urged her to complete the trip as planned.

The Icelandic Day annual celebration took place in Gimli the following day. Miss Sesselja Eldjarn, in her stately Icelandic costume, sat in the audience close to the front during the afternoon programme. The mingling of national pride and sudden personal bereavement in her countenance was as the sun, as it, at times, penetrates an opening in thunder clouds.

Sesselja carried on her planned trip and, as invitations for visits crowded in, she extended it, and on September 6, in company with Mrs. Marjorie Arnason, started her return air journey, stopping off at Toronto in order to see Niagara Falls, and then proceeded with Marjorie to New York where she boarded a Loftleiðir plane for Iceland.

The visit of Sesselja Eldjarn to Canada has all the appearances of something which has been fated. Actually the original plan had been to go to the Scandinavian countries and not to Canada.

In Iceland, as might be expected, there is a very active society called "Slysavarnarfélag"—an "Accident Prevention Society", largely engaged in rescue work at sea and in the mountains. It has a number of branches and there are women's auxiliaries. Sesselja Eldjarn founded the auxiliary in Akureyri and has been its president ever since. This year the rescue society is celebrating its fortieth anniversary and in recognition of Sesselja's long and conscientious service it offered her



SESSELJA ELDJARN and PETRINA ARNASON
standing in front of the White Rock Monument, raiser in commemoration
to the first Icelandic settlers who landed at that rock in October, 1875

a holiday trip to the Scandinavian countries, and she accepted the invitation.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Arnason visited Iceland in July and while there spent a good deal of the time with their relative Sesselja. Who is to be given the main credit need not be analyzed but as a result of discussions between the three it was decided that the invitation from the Accident Prevention Society be changed from the Scandinavian countries to Canada. The Society agreed and Miss Eldjarn went with Mr. and Mrs. Arnason to Manitoba.

This proved most fortunate, not only for the people immediately concerned but in the cause of east-west Icelandic relations. Sesselja Eldjarn, through her

pleasant manner and her clear understanding of the inescapable difference between the people of Iceland and people here of Icelandic descent, proved to be an excellent ambassador of good will between the two who, in spite of differences in surroundings and even in language, have so very much in common.

The large White Rock monument on Willow Point, near Gimli, is a perpetual reminder of the place where the first Icelandic settlers landed on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, in October 1875. It is very appropriate that this ambassador of good will from Iceland should be pictured standing beside the monument with Petrina Arnason on the other side.

—W. J. L.

The Scandinavian Airlines Inaugural Flight—Copenhagen to Reykjavik

The Scandinavian Airlines System Inc., which operates an extensive aircraft service, not only in the Scandinavian countries but in other parts of Europe, across the Atlantic and to the East, decided last spring to add a flight between Copenhagen and Reykjavik. Accordingly an "Inaugural Flight" from Copenhagen to Reykjavik was arranged to take place on Tuesday, June 11, 1968.

About 50 people were invited to participate in the flight. There were 13 representatives of "Icelandic and Scandinavian Authorities", 19 representatives of the Press of European countries, 16 representatives of the Travel Trade, 7 representatives of SAS itself, and 3 representatives of Icelanders in North America, one from the United States and two from Canada. The two invited from Canada were Professor Haraldur Bessason and retired Judge W. J. Lindal. Mrs. Lindal joined the party but unfortunately Mrs. Bessason could not go.

The three from Winnipeg left on June 8, travelled via Northwest Airlines to Chicago and from there direct to Copenhagen via SAS. The Inaugural Flight to Reykjavik took place, as scheduled, on Tuesday, June 11, and on Wednesday and Thursday the guests could go as they pleased. On Friday, June 14, there was an excursion

to Thingvellir, the original site of the Icelandic Althing, the gorgeous waterfalls, Gullfoss, and to Hveragerði, noted for its hothouse flowers and fruits.

On Saturday there was a flight to Akureyri on the north coast of Iceland and the beautiful Mývatn district. Luncheon of choice Mývatn trout was served as well as Icelandic skyr at Hotel Reynihlíð. Both were a treat to all in the party including Italians and others from southern Europe. Some members of the party stopped off to fish in "Laxará" the Salmon River, and one group reached the north coast and went by boat to the edge of the icefield and actually stepped on to the ice. It was somewhat rough and from two to three meters thick above the ocean surface.

The party returned from the Mývatn area, with its strange lava figures, to Akureyri, reaching the town about 7 p.m. The town council and local authorities took over during the evening. There was a refreshment hour in the "Sjálfstæðishús" and a complete dinner was served in the Hotel K.E.A.

At 11:30 p.m. the flight back to Reykjavik by Icelandair commenced and lasted for three hours as detours were taken in different directions. In fact, it proved to be a most interesting and instructive trip. First the aircraft

was flown over Grimsey, an island north of Iceland, and then over the most northern tip of Iceland itself. The midnight sun was observed as the airplane crossed the Arctic Circle and when the plane was lowered to bring it as close to the icefields as was reasonably safe.

The ice floes, stretching north to the horizon, had drifted close into the deep bays of the north coast of Iceland and from the air presented the appearance of a mass of perfectly flat floes of ice, broken here and there where the ocean water could be seen. The ice floes, however, are not flat, but somewhat rough (as above described by the members of the party who had walked on one of them). Here and there where there was a break in the ice which was diagonal the clear glacier ice below could be seen, and appeared to be about six times the thickness of what was above the surface of the ocean. (Actually ice floats higher in salt than fresh water, but the difference is not very much). Judging by the thickness of the ice

one can imagine the drop in temperature when there are large floes of ice on the north shore of Iceland.

The low-flying trip over Iceland was most fascinating. The cratered tops of extinct volcanoes appeared as huge bowls of hardened lava. The barren wastelands of the inland plateau of Iceland revealed very graphically how little of Iceland is fit for cultivation. All the more credit to the Icelandic people for what they have accomplished.

Unfortunately there was mist above Mt. Hecla so the craters at the top of it could not be seen. The whole night journey was in broad daylight and the richly green "tún", cultivated hayfields, in the valleys, were such a refreshing contrast to the interior.

Reykjavik was reached at 2:30 a.m., Sunday morning.

During the whole of the Inaugural Flight excellent meals were served, lavish refreshments, and most courteous service rendered.

—W. J. Lindal

THE ICELANDIC AMERICAN CLUB OF CHICAGO

The 10th anniversary of the Icelandic American Club of Chicago was celebrated in June at a gathering in the Swedish Club in that city. Following a dinner, club president Dr. Valur Egilsson introduced Ivar Sigurdsson who outlined highlights of activities during the club's first 10 years. Guest speaker was Dr. Richard Ringler, professor of ancient Icelandic at the Uni-

versity of Wisconsin. Scrolls were presented to three members, honoring them for their efforts in promoting the club. They were Thrainn Sigurdsson, prime leader in formation of the club and its president for the first three years, Arni Helgason, consul of Iceland in Chicago, and Rognvaldur Hovden, manager of the Chicago office of Icelandic Airlines.

LOSSES and GAINS

The Icelandic Canadian, now well passed its quarter century mark, has one enviable record. It has never been even hinted to members of the Magazine Board that their contribution had been diminishing. Every resignation from the Board has always been voluntary, based entirely upon the member's own wishes. The converse is equally true. Never, to this writer's best knowledge, has anyone, on being asked to join the Board, refused, or even reluctantly accepted. As it all is voluntary work, this record speaks well both for present members of the staff and those that have served in the past.

It is the editor-in-chief's duty to record two losses from the Magazine Board, Miss Salome Halldorson and Mr. Hjalmur F. Danielson.

Salome Halldorson joined the editorial staff in the autumn of 1959 and served until in June this year when she made it known that on grounds of indifferent health she felt she could not serve any longer. Miss Halldorson was a valuable member of the staff. She contributed excellent editorials and articles and in addition volunteered to perform the somewhat tedious but exacting job of preparing the annual lists of Icelandic Canadian graduates, medal and scholarship winners, primarily from the University of Manitoba but from other universities as well. Trips had to be made to the University and letters written to parents for required information.

In the first number of the Icelandic Canadian, which is dated October 1, 1942, Hjalmur F. Danielson is recorded in charge of "Circulation", and in

the March number of 1943 he became "Circulation Manager", a position he held until in the summer of 1952 when he was appointed "Business and Circulation Manager". This position he held until the publication of the last number of Volume XXVI of the magazine. He thus was on the staff of the magazine for the first twenty-six years of publication. By letter dated March 27, 1968, Hjalmur Danielson, resigned, the resignation to take effect at the end of the current publication year.

Mr. Danielson was more than the Business and Circulation Manager of the Magazine. At meetings of the Magazine Board he contributed to discussions, but his most valuable service, outside the business management, was in writing articles for the magazine. In preparing for these articles he always made extensive research which put the stamp of authority upon them. Space permits mention of only two of these articles: "Iceland's Golden Age Literature, a Brief Summary of How it was First Introduced to the World" (Volume XIV, No's III and IV); "The Ancient Schools of Iceland", (Volume XXI, No. IV).

The loss of these two members of the Board is keenly felt but, as has happened so often before, the losses are met by compensating gains. Three new members have been added to the staff and once again it can be said that the first three spoken to gladly accepted.

John V. Samson has been appointed Business and Circulation Manager. He is connected with the printing firm of Viking Printers, at 868 Arlington St. in Winnipeg. The firm has printed the



JOHN V. SAMSON

newly elected Business and Circulation Manager of the Icelandic Canadian magazine.

magazine from the beginning and has now entered into a contract with the Magazine Board for the work entailed in the circulation and printing of the magazine. John Samson entered the printing business in 1928.

John Samson, who is an ex-alderman of the City of Winnipeg and served on the Winnipeg Police Commission for three years, has acquired experience in public relations work which will prove to be a distinct asset to the Magazine Board.

Two new members are on the editorial staff, John Harvard and D. H. Bergman.

John Harvard is with the C.J.O.B. Broadcasting station of Winnipeg. He has a clear radio voice and a pleasant TV appearance and has a promising future in this rapidly expanding calling. In an address at the Icelandic

Canadian Club Dinner and Dance last spring, he properly emphasized that he was a Canadian and "had a responsibility to spread the spirit of Canadianism". He, however added: "We haven't forgotten our past", and "our responsibility to offer and pass along what was contributed to us."

David H. Bergman obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1963 from the University of Manitoba. He took his undergraduate work at Brandon College, now the University of Brandon, where his parents resided at that time. He taught biology in Brandon College for a while and then accepted a position in the Department of Biology at United College, now the University of Winnipeg where he is at the present time.

David Bergman is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman S. Bergman, formerly of Brandon and now of Winnipeg, and grandson of Mrs. Emily Bergman and the late Mr. Justice Hjalmar A. Bergman.

While on the subject of change it is in order to make two announcements.

Reference has on former occasions been made to a quarterly published in English in Reykjavik. It was originally called "The Iceland Review" but now the name is "Atlantica and Iceland Review". The change in name is significant. This quarterly seeks to reach across the Atlantic and in that way it is on common ground with The Icelandic Canadian which, during the years, has established contacts, primarily in Iceland, but elsewhere in Europe as well.

While in Reykjavik last June the

Editor-in-Chief made tentative arrangements with the Editors of the Review for a joint subscription price below the combined individual subscription. The price of the Atlantica and Iceland Review is \$5.70 per year in Canada and the price of this magazine is \$2.00 a year, total \$7.70. The tentative arrangement made and now confirmed is that both quarterlies be available at a combined subscription price of \$6.00 per year, thus effecting a saving of \$1.70 a year. Orders on this side of the Atlantic are to be sent to the Business and Circulation Manager, **John V. Samson**, at 868 Arlington St., Winnipeg 3.

While in Reykjavik the Editor-in-Chief was able to obtain the services

of a representative for this magazine in Reykjavik, who, by reason of his occupation and training, is particularly well qualified to render that service for the magazine. The man is Gissur Eggertsson who has a bookstore at Rauðalæk 39 in Reykjavik.

This magazine would be remiss in its duty if it did not record its appreciation to the former representatives, Anna J. Jonsson, a former Vestur Íslendingur, and Baldur Þorsteinsson who is in the service of the Skógræktarfélag, the Forestry Association of Iceland, for their service to the magazine.

W. J. Lindal,

Chairman of the Magazine Board
and Editor-in-Chief

Annual Meeting of The Icelandic Canadian Club

The annual meeting of The Icelandic Canadian Club was held on May 6, in the Parish Hall of the First Lutheran Church. The President Leifur Hallgrímson was in the chair.

In the course of his report he drew to the attention of the meeting that Mr. Hjalmar F. Danielson had resigned from the Magazine Board and paid tribute to him for his many years of service. The Chairman of the Magazine Board, W. J. Lindal, confirmed that Mr. Danielson had resigned and that the Board had accepted the resignation with regret. In appreciation of the long and efficient service of Hjalmar, extending back to the time the magazine was launched twenty-six years ago, the Magazine Board had increased the usual honorarium granted

to him of \$300.00 to \$400.00 for the last year of service.



GISSUR ELIASSON

the new President elect of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Winnipeg.

A motion was passed by a hearty clap of hands to Hjalmar Danielson for his long service not only to the Magazine but to the Club as well.

The formal report of the President showed that the Club has had a very successful year. The attendance at the annual concert was very good, the Parish Hall of the Lutheran Church being packed to the doors. Although the admission to the annual banquet and dance in the Fort Garry Hotel was \$10.00 per couple, the Club broke even and all had a very pleasant time.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. John Johannsson, showed that the finances of the Club are in good shape.

Mr. W. Kristjánson submitted the twofold report of the nominating committee which was unanimously accepted.

The following is the Executive of The Icelandic Canadian Club for the ensuing year:

Past President,	Leifur J. Hallgrímson
President	Gissur Eliasson
Vice-President,	Timothy Samson
Secretary	H. J. Stefánsson
Treasurer	John Johannsson

Executive Committee:

Miss Caroline Gunnarson
Mrs. Lillian Page
Mrs. Lara Sigurdson
Mrs. Hrunn Skulason
W. J. Lindal
Dr. John Matthíason
E. J. Sigurjónson
Douglas Stefánsson

Lara Sigurdson, though a past president, rejoined the Executive. Dr. John Matthíason and E. J. Sigurjónson are newcomers.

The following were elected to comprise the Magazine Board:

David N. Bergman
Prof. Haraldur Bessason
Miss Caroline Gunnarson
Miss Mattie Halldorson
John Harvard
W. Kristjánson
Aurilius Isfeld
Miss Janis Johnson
Hon. W. J. Lindal
Miss Kristin Olson
John V. Samson
T. S. Thorsteinson

David H. Bergman, John Harvard and John V. Samson are newcomers to the Magazine Board. At its first meeting the Board elected the following officers:

Editor-in Chief and Chairman of the Magazine Board	W. J. Lindal
Secretary	Miss Mattie Halldorson
Business and Circulation Manager —	John V. Samson

The new Executive of the Club held its first meeting at the home of the President Gissur Eliasson, at 890 Dominion St. on Monday Sept. 16, at which all but two attended, one of whom was ill. The President is optimistic and has in mind to widen the activities of the Club, with particular reference to co-operation with the Chapter Fron. The meeting unanimously voted a grant of \$100.00 to the Fron building fund.

Two new projects were approved and others discussed.

It all augurs well for the Club and the magazine.

Hjalmur and Holmfridur Danielson Invited to Iceland



HJALMUR F. DANIELSON



MRS HOLMFRIDUR DANIELSON

In July of this year Hjalmur and Holmfridur Danielson, of 869 Garfield Street, Winnipeg, visited Iceland as the invited guests of the Patriotic League in Reykjavik, Iceland, and the Snæfellsnes and Hunavatns Societies, in recognition of their manifold services in the interest of the Icelandic heritage in Canada and the United States.

Hjalmur Danielson was born at Hólmlátur in Snæfellsnessýsla. The family emigrated to Canada in 1894, proceeding direct to the Icelandic pioneer settlement at Shoal Lake, east of Lundar, in the Manitoba Interlake district.

Hjalmur's interest in literature and his community service were displayed early on his initiative and that of Bjorn Thorsteinson in the develop-

ment of a very fine community library, referred to by the poet Guttormur J. Guttormsson as his university.

Hjalmur was one of the early generation of Icelandic students who attended the Manitoba Agricultural College, from which institution he received his B.S.A. degree in 1915. Two of the M.A.C. graduates, Hjalmur Danielson and Sigfus Sigfusson, for some time contributed to one of the Icelandic weeklies a page on agricultural matters.

Shortly after graduation, in March, 1916, Hjalmur enlisted for overseas service with a field ambulance unit and served at forward casualty clearing stations, and with the army of occupation in Germany after the Armistice.

Hjalmur's career was with The Soldier Settlement Board as field representative, finally covering the whole of the Manitoba Interlake district and some other parts of Manitoba as well.

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Winnipeg was founded in 1938. Hjalmur was one of the early members and has been an active member through the years. He was one of the chief founders of the Icelandic Canadian magazine in 1942 and has given that magazine loyal service as Circulation Manager for 26 years and as Business Manager for 16 years. The Icelandic Canadian has played an important part in the preservation of the Icelandic heritage in America and passing this on to the younger English-speaking generations of Icelandic descent.

Holmfridur Danielson has been prominent in Icelandic Canadian community life for a great many years, as well as in the wider Canadian community.

Holmfridur was born at Kaldrana, in Húnavatnssýsla, and in infancy accompanied her family on their emigration to America, where they settled temporarily at Mountain, North Dakota, and permanently at Arborg, Manitoba. She attended Normal School at Manitou, Manitoba, and taught school for three years before her marriage to Hjalmur.

Holmfridur has been active in drama for over forty years, as actress, director of plays, and teacher of dramatics and adjudicator at regional drama festivals in several rural towns in Manitoba for the Manitoba Drama League.

She has been a long-time active worker in the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, in the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, where she has been Regent and Secretary, and on the national executive. She was also regional Red Cross secretary for a number of years.

In the Icelandic community, she has been prominent in the Icelandic Canadian Club as executive member and as President. When, in the mid-forties, the Icelandic Canadian Club with the co-operation of the National League, founded an evening school, with instruction in the Icelandic language, literature, and history, Holmfridur was the organizer and director. During her time as Club president, thirteen lectures were given on Icelandic history and these were published in book form with the title **Iceland's Thousand Years**. She was editor-in-chief of the Icelandic Canadian magazine for six years, contributing at the same time extensively to the magazine with her writing.

For many years she has been active in the National League, including her years as Secretary and she has been active in the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg. At the time of the centenary of the Icelandic settlement in Utah in 1955, she wrote and directed an impressive historical pageant.

Such has been the work of Hjalmur and Holmfridur Danielson, fittingly recognized this summer by the invitation of the three societies in Iceland to visit Iceland. —W.K.

ISLENDINGADAGURINN 1968



Sigurður Sigurgeirsson

guest of honor. He delivered the Toast To Iceland address at the Isleendingadagurinn.

The 79th Icelandic Day celebration, at Gimli, August 5, has passed into history, but not under the old name, but under its new name, the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba. Be it known, however, that the Icelandic form, Isleendingadagurinn, is still on the gold standard.

The festival followed much the usual pattern, except that new events were added. There is specifically an attempt to interest the young people, as will appear in the course of this narrative.

With due regard to all other events on the program, the most prominent feature of this year's festival was the visit of the guest of honor, Sigurður Sigurgeirsson, president of the Patriotic Society (Þjóðræknisfélag) in Reykjavík, and one who has done much for many years to welcome visitor from America to Iceland. He was ac-



Honourable Sterling Lyon

delivered the Toast To Canada at the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, in Gimli.

companied by his wife, frú Pálína Guðmundsdóttir. His visit to America, and participation in the Festival was on the invitation of the Icelandic Festival Committee, The Icelandic National League, and Loftleiðir (Icelandic Airlines).

To relate events of the weekend in chronological order, on Sunday morning the guests of honor, Sigurður Sigurgeirsson and frú Pálína, attended morning service at the Lutheran Church in Gimli, and visited the Betel Home, and in the afternoon they went on a boat trip on Lake Winnipeg, on the palatial yacht of Mr. W. Harris, of the Winnipeg Yacht Club. A convoy of eight yachts in column made an impressive scene.

Sunday evening the Gimli Chapter of the National League held a dinner for the guests of honor at the Viking

Motor Hotel, with addresses of welcome and a musical program.

Later Sunday night, the Brothers Grimm from Winnipeg provided emphatic popular music for an audience of some 600, not only the young but people of all ages.

A midnight dance from 12 a.m. to 3 a.m., with music by the Gimli Fifth, drew a capacity crowd of over nine hundred.

Early Monday morning, Gimli was astir, with thousands of townspeople and visitors forming solid embankments along Centre Street and Icelandic music blaring from loudspeakers.

Colorful was the parade of some twenty-five units and bands and majorettes. In the leading automobile were the Fjallkona, Miss Sigríður Hjartarson, Matron of Betel Home, Gimli, and her two maids of honor, Patricia Arnason and Ingrid Sveinsson.

At the Pioneer Memorial cairn the parade paused for the Fjallkona to place a wreath.

First prize for floats went to the Johnson Memorial Hospital, of Gimli, with a float depicting a hospital operating scene; second prize to the Gimli Youth Club, with a float showing a Hawaiian scene, and third prize to Tip Top Clover Farm, with a model of Surtsey in eruption, which became most realistic when the mechanism malfunctioned and flames shot up and smoke belched forth.

During the noon-break, many people availed themselves of the opportunity for a treat of rullupylsa, vinararterta, skyr, and Icelandic coffee, while during the afternoon some 1500 packages of hard fish specially imported from Iceland found ready customers.

At the beginning of the formal afternoon program the chairman, J. F. Kristjansson, faced a massed audi-

ence of some two thousand people.

The Fjallkona delivered her greeting to her children in America.

The Toast to Canada was delivered by Hon. Sterling Lyon, Attorney-General in the government of Manitoba. He paid tribute to the Icelandic pioneers and their descendants and spoke of Canada's future, including the need for law, order, a sense of responsibility, and spiritual faith.

In his Toast to Iceland Sigurður Sigurgeirsson expressed in poetic terms love of his native land including the landscape and the Icelandic language.

Musical items on the program included selections by the Gimli Band; a solo by Miss Aurora Stevens, accompanied by Mrs. Elma Gislason, and Icelandic folksongs by Leonard and Karen Vopnfjord.

A pleasing item were the Icelandic folk dances by a group of young girls in costume, under the direction of Meros Leckow.

Several visitors from Iceland, including ungfrú Sesselja Eldjárn, aunt of the newly elected President of Iceland, Kristján Eldjárn, were present and were presented to the audience.

Community singing in the evening was conducted by Ken Honey and Meros Leckow, assisted by Heimir Thorgrimson for the Icelandic numbers.

During a break in the community singing, awards were presented to the beauty contest winners. Miss Ellen Benjaminson of Winnipeg, carried off the honors, and the runners-up were Miss Heida Kristjansson of Winnipeg, and Miss Melanie Meredith, of Glenboro.

Athletic awards were presented. The Club trophy of the senior sports, the

Oddson Shield, was won by the Gimli Track and Field team and Ross Burgess won the Skuli Hanson trophy for the grand aggregate and the Einar B. Johnson trophy for track events.

After nightfall, a film, A Helicopter View of Canada, was shown outdoors. This was followed by a well attended dance in the Pavilion, which brought the Festival to a close.

— W. Kristjanson

TWO ICELANDIC BOOKS ON GEOLOGY REVIEWED

The June 26 issue of Science, one of the world's foremost weekly scientific journals, contains an article which shows how Icelandic scientists have come to the forefront in the study of geology. The article is a review of two books published in Reykjavik last year.

The first of these, Iceland and the Mid-Ocean Ridges, is a report of a symposium held in Reykjavik in February and March last year in which 26 Icelandic earth scientists discussed the geology of Iceland in relation to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. This ridge is a great mountain chain underlying the Atlantic Ocean of which Iceland is the northern above-water projection. Other peaks of this mountain chain that rise above sea level are the Azores Islands, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. Volcanic action occasionally occurs in this mountain ridge. In recent years the most notable examples have been the eruptions of Hekla in 1947-48 and of Tristan da Cunha a few years later. The symposium dealt mostly with the nature of volcanic action and with the concept of the spreading of the sea floor and continental drifting.

The other book reviewed was The

Eruption of Hekla 1947-48 by Sigurdur Thorarinsson. Although it deals mainly with the scientific aspects of the eruptions, it also places the known eruptions in their historical settings, beginning with the eruption of 1104, and shows their impact on the life of the Icelandic people.

The reviewer of the book, a geologist at the University of Rhode Island, pays a striking tribute to Sigurdur Thorarinsson. He concludes his article with the following paragraph:

"This volume is a rarity in the scientific literature, being at the same time a significant scientific treatise, on important historical analysis, and a pleasure to read. These qualities reflect those of the author, who is not only a renowned volcanologist but a scholar of Icelandic history and a poet in Iceland as well. His flowing writing style, even through the translation by Peter G. Foote, wastes few words, while avoiding the intensely dull scientific style of most writers. The reader comes away with a significant insight into both the volcano and the history of a culture living in a harsh environment."

Jónas Jónsson frá Hriflu



Jónas Jónsson frá Hriflu

Jónas Jónsson frá Hriflu, who was Minister of Justice in Iceland at the time of the millennial celebration in 1930 of the founding of Alþing, died on July 19, this year.

He may be regarded as the founder in Iceland of the movement for the due recognition of the Icelanders in North America for their contribution to the preservation of Icelandic language and Icelandic culture in general.

Recognition is also due him for writing an "Íslands-saga" for use in schools in Iceland. In its concise story form Íslands-saga is an ideal book for Vestur-Íslendingar, many of whom are intensely interested even though they know very little if any Icelandic.

Volume I (175 pages) is particularly useful as it covers the period of the Icelandic Republic, 874-1262. In an Epilogue to the first Volume, dated August 1966, the author says in part:

"This book has its history. At the time I began recording its contents I had something to do with studies for use in the Teacher's College . .

"The history of Iceland is a difficult subject. Children said they could not grasp the content in the prescribed text and asked me to reduce the subject into short stories. I read books and changed the contents into story form. This pleased the children and I gathered the stories I had mapped out and published them."

Icelanders on both sides of the ocean have reason to feel a debt of gratitude to the late Jónas Jónsson frá Hriflu.

—W. J. L.

Saga of Hecla Island

by Tom Saunders

Over the years — and especially over the past decade—much has been written about Hecla Island and its Icelandic community, some 45 miles above the southern tip of Lake Winnipeg. Ten years ago my colleague, Fred Manor, described a car trip he made there over some of the worst roads in Manitoba — a trip he has been in no hurry to repeat. The island itself he described as a “fairylad”, but the hazards encountered in getting there were nothing short of a nightmare.

With hard-surfaced roads for most of the way, it is less difficult today to get to Hecla, the only bottleneck being the limited capacity of the ferry (seven cars) which, on week-ends especially, can be rather trying on the traveller's patience.

But the saga of Hecla Island is more than the story of its roads or its ferry. It is the story of its people. One of the oldest Icelandic communities in Manitoba, the first settlers had no need of roads. They were fishermen and sailors, and they came there by boat. That was in the 1870's. Where other pioneers in the settlement of the west lived off the land, they lived off the lake. And for many years, in a pioneer and post-pioneer environment, the living — if not easy — was good enough to sustain life. In a modest way the community flourished. As late as the early 1950's it supported a population of around 500. Today Hecla's population has dwindled to 78.

There have been several reasons for this decline in population. One is that the fish harvest from the lake is not what it once was. A second is that the fishermen who are now at the mercv

of the fish companies, get a smaller share of the dollars that the fish harvest brings. A third is that it costs more to live today than in pioneer or post-pioneer years, and this, combined with the factors already mentioned, has forced many people to leave the island to seek more gainful employment elsewhere.

Today the island is almost denuded of its young people, who see no future in the fishing industry. Hecla's high school was closed in 1964. Last year its elementary school had only ten pupils; by this fall the number will be reduced to five. Every indication is that, in the near future, the elementary school will go the same way as the high school and, unless something is done to upgrade the economy of the island, the tragedy of Hecla will be complete.

It is a tragedy that is all the more tragic because of the calibre of the people who have lived there — and of those who remain. They have been an industrious, independent people, proud of both their industry and independence. Even in the 1930s, when so many Canadians were on the relief lines, the people of Hecla maintained their independence. It is rumored that one family did go on welfare, but this was considered such a community disgrace that, even to this day, it is seldom mentioned.

But the saga of Hecla is not all tragedy. Realizing that their old way of life was dying, the people of the island began to look for a new way. The answer to their problems, they felt, was tourism. Mr. Manor is not the only traveller who has remarked

on the beauty of Hecla, and some years ago — in an attempt to capitalize on their tourist resources — the islanders formed their own area development association.

They drafted and presented to the provincial government a comprehensive report and land-use map, hoping to take advantage of the financial and technical help available through the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Administration (ARDA). But, though government personnel visited the island and were impressed with its possibilities, nothing came of this effort.

Hecla islanders don't give up easily, however, and two recent developments have revived their hopes of using their natural resources as a haven for tourists and cottagers. The established beaches on Lake Winnipeg have now become crowded, and even the Whiteshell is no longer as sparsely settled as it once was. If Winnipeggers require another resort area, Hecla would be a logical choice. It is no farther away than much of the Whiteshell (the distance to the ferry is the same as to Falcon Lake) and it is only slightly over half the distance to Clear Lake. Improved ferry service (or better still, a causeway) would make the island an accessible summer resort with much to commend it.

But Winnipeg's need of new resort areas is only part of the picture. Even more profound in its effect on the Hecla Islanders was the signing of the Fund for Rural Development (F.R.E.D.) agreement in Arborg last May. With government planning to pump \$85 million into the Interlake area over a 10-year period, the islanders see no reason why their area should not benefit from some of these funds.

They have, they point out, not only the beauties of Hecla to attract tour-

ists and cottagers. If properly developed, there are the advantages of three neighboring islands as well. These other islands—Black, Punk and Deer — are uninhabited, but they are so positioned that they break the sweep of wave-whipping winds that harass boaters in the open lake. And each is blessed with large stretches of beautiful sandy beaches. It is a saying on Hecla that the white sands on Black Island make the sand strips at Winnipeg and Grand Beach look like sandboxes.

Nor is this all that the islands have to offer. Gull Harbor, on the northern tip of Hecla, is considered by fishermen and owners of large pleasure boats as the best natural harbor on the southern end of the lake. Both Hecla and Black Island have large moose populations, as well as other species of animals and bird life, and they have the additional advantage of being the centre of excellent duck and goose hunting grounds.

Hecla Island itself is some 20 miles long by four-to five miles in breadth, and almost 90 per cent of this is Crown land owned by the people of Manitoba. The islanders argue that this alone is ample reason for government to spend some of the \$85 million of F.R.E.D. money on its development.

Anyone who has seen the island admits that they have a case. Apparently, at this point, the government does too. It is understood that a feasibility study is now under way. If the results of this study are favorable (as they should be) it could inaugurate a new day for a proud and independent people. It could mean not the end of the saga of Hecla Island but the opening of a new chapter.

—from The Winnipeg Free Press, June 29/68

Magnus Theodore Paulson



Magnus Theodore Paulson

Magnus Theodore Paulson, an active member of the real estate board at Toronto, Ont., since 1955, last spring was elected chairman of the 650-member Board of Trade Club of Metropolitan Toronto by acclamation.

President of Magnus T. Paulson Realty Limited, Mr. Paulson was born and raised in Winnipeg and attended the University of Manitoba from 1927 to 1931. He relocated in Eastern Canada in 1936. After some years in the investment business he entered the real estate profession in Toronto and became a member of the 15,000-member Toronto Real Estate Board five years later.

Mr. Paulson has been active in community life in Toronto and served for several years on the executives of both

the Toronto Junior Board of Trade and the Board of Trade Club. He is past president of the Scandinavian Canadian Club, past president of the Downtown Optimist Club and past president of the Icelandic Canadian Club.

The Board of Trade Club of Toronto is very active. General meetings are held every Monday night from October to April, addressed by men of national stature. In addition there is the variety of activities usually carried out by Boards of Trade in large cities.

Mr. Paulson is musical and plays the piano from the heart rather than the music sheet. His grandfather, Thordur P. Gudjohnsen, has often been referred to as the father of music in Iceland. An aunt, the late frú Lára Bjarnason (Mrs. Jón Bjarnason) inherited the same musical talent, which she devoted to the Icelandic community in Winnipeg.

Mr. Paulson was credited with what was termed his proudest achievement in the real estate field, the conception, promotion and sale of a huge area for a satellite city, now called Bramalea.

Married, Mr. Paulson's wife was the former Lillian McLeod. They have two sons and two daughters. His hobbies range from golf to poetry and music.

The Icelandic Canadian extends congratulations to the energetic chairman of the Board of Trade Club of Metropolitan Toronto.

SIGURDUR SIGMUNDSON



Sigurdur Sigmundson

General Manager B.C. Hydro

In June 1968 the Board of Directors of B.C. Hydro approved a new corporate structure designed to improve the efficiency of the organization. Eight new divisions were created under a new office of General Manager to which Sigurdur Sigmundson was appointed.

Sigurdur Sigmundson was born in Iceland, and in 1923, then a small boy, migrated to Winnipeg with his parents, Johann and Thórdís Sigmundson. He attended public and high school in Winnipeg, and was awarded the Governor General's Medal from the Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute. He received his B.A. at the University of Manitoba in 1930, majoring in Mathematics and Economics. Mr. Sigmundson attended the Executives' Course, Harvard Business School, in 1953.

His business career commenced in 1930 when he joined the Statistical Department of Winnipeg Electric Co. on a scholarship appointment. He transferred to the Railway Manager's office in 1931 and was appointed transportation assistant in 1937. From 1942 to 1945 he was regional director of Transit Control, Department of Munitions and Supply, for B. C.

Mr. Sigmundson joined B.C. Electric as transportation assistant in 1945 and was appointed Operations Manager, Transportation, a year later. He was named General Manager, Transportation, in 1954, and Division Manager in 1962. He was retained by the Brazilian Traction Co. Ltd., for six weeks in 1954 to survey the company's system in Rio de Janeiro, and to recommend such changes in policy and operations as were deemed prudent.

Mr. Sigmundson is chairman, Advisory Committee, Canadian Transit Association, and a past president of the association; and serves as director with the American Transit Association, Downtown Business Association, Downtown Parking Corporation and Vancouver Visitors Bureau. He is a member of the Terminal City Club and past president of the Scandinavian Business Men's Club.

Sigurdur Sigmundson married Rosa, a daughter of the late Olafur and Anna Petursson of Winnipeg. They have five children, Olaf Johann, Elin, Petur, Paul and Eric. There are nine grandchildren.

The Icelandic Canadian Club, of which Sigurdur was a member when he left for the Coast, and this magazine extend congratulations to this man of proven executive ability.

BRAGI MAGNUSSON

by VERA JOHANNSSON YOUNGER

Bragi Magnusson was born in Iceland in 1922, and lived there until 1943. Upon graduation from junior college he was named the best all-round athlete of the school and awarded two simultaneous scholarships for study at the University of Minnesota. One of these was awarded by the Icelandic Government, the other by a national committee on physical education. Bragi received a B.S. degree, cum laude, in 1946 and a Master of Education degree, the same year, from the U. of Minnesota. He worked in the field of social work and education for a period of ten years and was superintendent of a state school, in Iceland, for delinquent and emotionally disturbed boys for five years. While in Iceland he travelled to Europe to conduct a special study for the State Department of Education, with main emphasis on the Scandinavian countries.

He was instrumental in projects to promote good will and better understanding of America in Iceland and served as secretary of the Icelandic-American Society for many years.

Bragi came to America as an immigrant in 1955 and went to work for Paul S. Amidon & Associates, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Amidon Company is unique, in this country,

for its specialized educational consultation service to business and industry. They have developed educational programs for General Mills, Minnesota and The Continental Can Company, The Northern States Power Company and the Minnesota Bankers, among others.

Bragi became vice-president, stockholder and a member of the board of directors of the company in 1958, a position he still holds.

On May 24, last spring, the Hekla Club held one of its regular meetings, attended by about 150 people. The main item on an enjoyable program was an address by Bragi Magnusson on "Heredity and Heritage". The following is a part of his talk:

I am sure you are aware of the risk involved in putting an Icelander into any kind of a pulpit. However, this evening, I just want to share with you a few thoughts that seem appropriate.

Although I have not given much thought to Iceland for some time I became quite involved in this intriguing subject of heredity and heritage. Once it woke me up in the middle of the night and these thoughts came to me

Nú er eins og landið litla
lyftist upp í annað veldi
sviftar sjónir hugi bylta
og svífa heim í arnar feldi.

Ekkert stöðvar strauminn þunga
sálarrótum undan móðu,
bernsku leikir og landsins tunga
lyfta görðum er árin hlóðu.

The Icelandic Canadian is doubly pleased to receive this news item from Mrs. Robert Younger. The reporter, Vera, is a daughter of Mr. Johann G. Johannsson, retired High School teacher of Winnipeg. The item comes from Minneapolis where there is a wide-awake Icelandic Womens' organization, the Hekla Club, which has been in existence for many years. —Editor

I am not offering this as poetry, but rather as a very old and honorable Icelandic tradition.

There are two main currents that run through all of Iceland's history. One has to do with unique and often brilliant accomplishments, the other consists of unbelievable disasters, hardships and misery. One relates more to cultural heritage, the other to heredity, as far as they can be separated.

It is believed that Iceland was known to people of other countries, as early as four hundred years before Christ. However, it is not until 12 centuries later that Irish monks discovered it, as a sanctuary from the strife and wars of Europe, in general, and probably from the raids of the Vikings in particular.

To the PAPAR, as they were called by the Vikings, it was indeed God's Country, wrought as it was from the

waves of the Atlantic in one of nature's most awesome display of anger and fury.

It was covered with birchwoods, and rich grazing lands extending across the lowlands, over the highest hills and far up into the mountain sides.

Water was plentiful and wildlife so tame, it is said, you could walk among the birds and the seals and pet them.

Then came Naddoður, Hrafna, Flóki, Garðar and Ingólfur.

They named it Snæland, Garðars-hólmi and Ísland. To others it was known for centuries as Ultima Thule, or the land farthest out.

The settlement of the Vikings is said to begin in the year 874 and lasted until the year 930 when Iceland became a republic with the establishment of parliament and laws for the entire country.

JOSEPH SVEINSON, Correctional Counsellor

Joseph Sveinson in July was elected mayor pro-tem of the city of Gonzales in California. A member of the city's council for more than six years, he has two years of his current term yet to serve. In his first year on the Gonzales council he was elected president of the California League of Cities, Southern Monterey county. He is also a member of the California League of Cities law enforcement committee. A correctional counsellor, Mr. Sveinson has been employed by the California Department of Corrections for 25 years, 18 of these at the Correctional Training Facility at Soledad.

★

J. RAGNAR JOHNSON, HONOUR- ED BY THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND

John Ragnar Johnson, Q.C., honorary consul of Iceland in Toronto since 1947, in May was made a Grand Knight of the Order of the Falcon by Iceland's then president, Ásgeir Ásgeirsson. The honor was presented to him by his cousin, Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson of Iceland, on behalf of the president during a private visit to Toronto. Mr. Johnson was created a Knight of the order in 1951. Born in Winnipeg, Mr. Johnson is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and Manitoba Law School and has practised law in Toronto since 1935.

★

Graduates and Scholarship Winners

Stefan Glenn Sigurdson received an honors bachelor of arts degree from the University of Manitoba at the university's convocation in May. He has also been awarded a \$2,500 Steinberg Fellowship for study leading to a master's degree in economics at McGill University, Montreal. He is the son of Stefan and Sylvia Sigurdson of River-
ton, Man.

★

Donna Mae Wopnford in May received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Winnipeg. She is the daughter of Sigurdur and Helga Wopnford of Arborg, Man.

★

David Gunnar Tomasson graduated in May with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Manitoba. He is the son of Helgi G. and Helga Tomasson of Hecla, Man.

★

Mrs. Sharon Kathleen Holzt received her bachelor of arts degree in May from the University of Manitoba. Mrs. Holtz is the daughter of Einar and Bogga Solmundson of Hecla, Man.

★

Grant V. James Einarson graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a bachelor of arts degree in May. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Fisher Einarson of Winnipeg.

Two Winnipeg brothers, **Pall Sveinn** and **Bjorgvin Christopher Westdal**, graduated in May from the University of Manitoba with bachelor of arts degrees. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Sveinn Westdal and grandsons of Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Westdal, all of Winnipeg. Both are married. Paul has a daughter and Chris a son.

★

Mrs. Patricia Mae Schwartz received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Manitoba last October. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arni Thorlacius of Ashern, Man.

★

Carl Magnus Thorsteinson of Winnipeg received his master's degree in electrical engineering in May from McMaster University at Hamilton, Ont. and was awarded a scholarship of \$3,600 by the National Research Council to continue his studies. He is the son of Magnus and Valgerdur Thorsteinson of Winnipeg.

★

Maurice Olson has been awarded a \$3,600 National Research Council post-graduate scholarship and is studying for his Ph.D. degree in mathematics at the University of Waterloo in Ontario. He is the son of Kari and Emily Oleson, formerly of Riverton, Man., and now resident in Winnipeg.

★

Rev. Barry Day, B.A., received a bachelor of divinity degree from the University of Winnipeg in May. He has been a minister at the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto for three years. His wife is the former Lilja Eylands, daughter of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. V. J. Eylands of Winnipeg.

★

Martin Keli McNichol received his bachelor of science honors degree in zoology in May from the University of Manitoba. He also received a National Research Council bursary of \$3,000 and a \$100 scholarship from the Icelandic Canadian Club in Winnipeg in February, and is now studying for his master's degree. He is the son of Archie and Lovisa McNichol of Winnipeg and grandson of Rafnkell Bergson, also of Winnipeg.

★

Gerald Thorbergur Jones graduated with a bachelor of science degree from the University of Winnipeg and with a bachelor of education degree from the University of Manitoba in May. He is the son of the late Allan and Louise Jones of Hecla and Selkirk, Man. His grandmother is Mrs. Anna Jones of Hecla.

★

Michael Carl Paul Hannesson of Selkirk in May graduated with a bachelor of commerce degree at the University of Manitoba. He subsequently went to Calgary, Alta, where he entered the employ of Pacific Petroleum Oil Company.

★

Rea Milton Josephson graduated with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture (honors course) in farm economics from the University of Manitoba in May. Mr. Josephson is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Josephson of Sinclair, Man. and grandson of the late Thorsteinn and Hólmfridur Josephson, pioneers of the Sinclair district. He is now studying for his master's degree.

★

George Barry Josephson in October last year received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Manitoba, and his certificate in education in May of this year. He is the son of Ada and the late Gunnar Josephson and was born at Sinclair, Man. His grandparents were the late Thorsteinn and Hólmfridur Josephson, Sinclair pioneers.

★

Mrs. Doreen Joachim, a former pupil of Elma Gislason of Winnipeg and now studying with Elgar Higgen of Calgary, received a scholarship last spring from the Canada Manpower Centre to attend the Banff School of Fine Arts during the summer to study opera. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Borgford of Winnipeg. Mr. and Mrs. Joachim now live in Edmonton, Alberta.

★

Darwin Sigurgeir Sigurgeirsson, B.A., B.S.W., received his L.L.B. degree at the University of British Columbia in May and is articling with the legal firm of Thompson and McConnell at

White Rock, B.C. Mr. Sigurgeirsson is the son of Sigurgeir and Johanna Sigurgeirsson of Steveston, B.C.

★

Denis N. Magnusson, 25, son of Brigadier-General N. L. Magnusson and Mrs. Magnusson, in May received the Queen's University gold medal in law when he graduated from the university's law school.

Mr. Magnusson received two gold medals from the University of Manitoba, one in commerce in 1964, and the other in honors commerce in 1965.

He is a brother to Warren Magnusson who won a Rhodes scholarship from the university in 1967.

The late Ari Magnusson was the grandfather of these outstanding students.



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IN THE NEWS



Bjorgvin Christopher Westdal

Bjorgvin Christopher Westdal, commonly known as Chris, worked for the C.B.C. as announcer during the summer holidays. He has a good voice and no doubt could get into TV and radio work but is undecided as he may take postgraduate work. He obtained his B.A. degree last spring. (See report on graduates in this issue).

★

MRS. LILJA B. GERAN, COMMUNITY LEADER

Scholastic achievement and community service are the hallmark of Mrs. Lilja B. Geran of Rouleau, Sask., and evidence of this came recently when she was elected president of the local United Church Women. She is also chairman of the Christian education committee, treasurer of the community's memorial fund committee and head of the museum committee centennial project. She is agent at Rouleau of the Saskatchewan government

insurance office. She and her husband farm near Rouleau. At the age of 29 she decided to complete her senior matriculation by correspondence and won a government scholarship for training at Teachers' College at Regina. She later taught school at Rouleau. She is the daughter of the late Gudmundur and Jonina Stefanson of Vestfold, Man., and has three children, a married daughter and son and a daughter at home.

★

Karen Johannsson, a graduate in fine arts of the University of Manitoba, has teamed up with two other Winnipeggers to establish a Winnipeg boutique. They are Ruth Yates, a graduate in interior design, and John Erkel, a clothes designer. The establishment, named the Rag Doll, is a compact shop idea at 127 Garry Street. Miss Johannsson designed the store front, Miss Yates the interior while Mr. Erkel creates the clothes in various designs geared to the individual and his or her taste. Mr. Erkel is a graduate of the National School of Dress Design in Chicago, Ill.

★

GENE GUDMUNDSON RECEIVES HIGH AWARD

A certificate signed by Lieutenant-General Thomas S. Moorman of the United States Air Force, superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy, was presented last spring to Gene Gudmundson of Mountain, North Dakota, a 1968 graduate of Edinburg High School. The award is known as the "Scholarship and Leadership Honors at Entrance" award.

Mr. Gudmundson ranked among the top 10 per cent of a group of 1,250

select young men who joined the air force academy cadet wing this year. The "Honors at Entrance" award is given in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement based on the academy's entrance tests and evidence of leadership ability.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Gudmundson of Mountain, he entered the air force academy in June at Colorado Springs, Colo. Mr. Gudmundson on graduation at Edniburgh High School was co-valedictorian. He has been active in basketball, football and baseball, served as president of the student council this year and has held class offices during his high school career.

★

MRS. EVELYN ALLEN REPRESENTS MANITOBA

At the Folkways '68 Festival held in the Manitoba Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg in May, soprano Evelyn Allen, Rose Bowl winner at the Manitoba Musical Competition Festival in 1967, represented the Icelandic community, wore the Fjallkona costume and sang an Icelandic song. A talent scout, Leon Kossar of Toronto, attended and chose Mrs. Allen to represent Manitoba in a Variety Show in Ottawa commemorating Canada's 101st anniversary, sponsored by the Department of the Secretary of State. She sang at three performances in Ottawa, in Leamy Park June 30 and in Vincent Massey Park and on Parliament Hill July 1. Mr. Allen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Thorvaldson of Winnipeg.

William D. Valgardson of Winnipeg has been advised that his poem, Paul Isfeld: Fisherman, has been selected to receive first prize award of \$100 in the Rochester Festival of Religious

Arts poetry competition in the United States. The awards were presented to winners at North Rochester, N.Y. in April.


Mr. Valgardson has during the past fall and winter been teaching rhetoric at the University of Iowa City, Iowa.

In April he was awarded a \$720 Canada Council grant and during the summer will make his home at Gimli where he will work on compilation of his book of poetry about Lake Winnipeg and the lake region.

★

Mr. Harry E. Thorsteinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Thorsteinson, of Ottawa, formerly of Winnipeg, has passed his Bar Admission Course at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and was admitted to the Bar in March 22, 1968. He will practise in St. Catherines, Ont.

★



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HER BOY

by BOGI BJARNASON

He began it by clawing, with his tiny red nails, at his mother's breast when suckling. From that day on he clawed at her breast, physically and figuratively, at every turn. At first he had not the strength nor the means to hurt her very much, tender as her breast was; but in time he cut through the cuticle, where her heart lay shallow. As she gave him of her strength and substance he acquired the means to tear and, with her heart exposed, he tore. But through it all she held him to her bosom, smiling through tears of pain; for a mother's heart is tender to the callow touch.

He was her boy; for had she not borne him—borne him in sin and shame and the agony of body and soul! Yet not hers alone, for there was much of his father in him. He had his father's cast of features, evident to the mother at first sight, wrinkled and beet-red as he was. But he inherited more than a flat nose and thick lips; he also had the cruel and treacherous spirit of his sire. The mother was mercifully spared knowledge of this throughout the period of his puling infancy, rejoicing in her new-found love. It fell to her lot to learn of that as the years went by. He was now Her Boy; she would share him with no one.

Her past had been, almost uniquely, a bleak and loveless past, with little of youth and less of kindness in it. Always there was the work which had to be done, much of it plain and featureless drudgery. She had accepted this without complaint and without understanding, as the ox accepts the plow. In consequence she was grown

up at age twelve and beginning to age at eighteen. Without the groundwork of comeliness which naturally and necessarily blooms in the middle teens of a girl's life, she was at no time attractive. At her best she was plain; that was the best that could be said about her. And but few troubled to say even that much. Indeed, there was little occasion to say anything about her. She was Nobody.

Her origin was obscure. The people with whom she lived and for whom she slaved had brought her with them from distant parts. That was as much as she knew; that was as much as they cared to impart. Her lot with them was, indeed, a lowly one. It was that of the original Cinderella, with this difference, that she had not the imagination nor the passions to even wish to go to the King's ball. Hence no fairy godmother, no coach, no glass slippers. She had not even the purring cat to comfort her.

Withal it was a featureless existence, with little of recompense. But deep within her was that of which she was not aware—the capacity to love greatly, and the capacity to sacrifice herself to serve that love. And because bitterness had not yet thrust its iron into her soul, it was inevitable that her Prince Charming should be whoever first interested himself in her, who first spoke a kindly word to her. Nothing further was needed. In itself that was a wholly new and wholly delightful experience in her life. Inevitably she gave herself into his keeping and as inevitably she fell. It is painful to have to record that he was not worthy of that trust; that he

abused her and then flitted, after the manner of his kind. A recital of her experiences from the first grim awakening to the significance of her position till the dawn of her new love would be no less painful and will be slurred over in this account. Enough to say that she looked for little sympathy and met with even less; that on the day of her great trouble she found herself alone and in the wilderness of a great and distant city, having fled knowing neither why nor whither; and that she came through it somehow. With this background of their history established, we find the new day breaking upon the mother and her infant son. With his coming she had taken a new lease of life, sick unto death though she be. That resolve brings her out of the depths. This is Her Boy; she must live to serve him. How he requites that service the reader shall presently know, as the history of their lives is unfolded in these pages.

To revert—he began life, after his first lusty yell, by clawing at her breast. That was but the first time he abused his position in her affection; it was by no means the last. Till the hour of her death he kept clawing at her in one way or another; in “cute” and babyish ways during his infancy, fondly overlooked; in skittish pranks during his early boyhood; in more

serious mischief and displays of ungovernable temper later on; in out-of-hand licentiousness and disregard of his mother's feelings during adolescence; in the wilful adoption of a life of vice and crime at maturity. And through it all he was Her Boy, whom she nurtured and cared for; whom she led and taught; whom she pleaded with and admonished; whom she prayed for; whom she prayed and wept and asked forgiveness for—ever hoping, ever forgiving, ever loving. Also, lest it be lost sight of in the more impressive phases of their lives, the boy whom she slaved for, cheerfully giving to the last dregs of her strength that he might not want. Somehow she managed to keep their little home, such as it was, on her meagre earnings. It was not always light or simple. There were times when the wolf, beseiging the one door, also put a paw on the sill of the one window; times when sickness almost bore her down and fever burned in her cheeks as she bent over the tub or stitched the long seam; times when the little box with the calico curtain had but one crust of bread, which the boy, round of face and sturdy, ate, omitting to ask why his mother went without.

At age eleven he was on the records of the juvenile courts; and the mother, as she paid the nominal fine, was warned to keep him better in hand.

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MANITOBA

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MAFEKING, MANITOBA

At twelve, having been caught once too often, he was obliged to report to an official twice each week. Nothing deterred and unashamed, the warnings of the court and the pleas of his mother fell upon deaf ears. He was in disgrace at school, where his attendance was most irregular; and he was known to boast that he had never done a cap of work in his life. This despite the fact he was quite liberal in his spending of what his mother earned, and remarkably adept in his manner of getting his hands on it as soon as earned.

To say that his mother was blind to his large and numerous faults would be to place too heavy a task on the credulity of the reader; would, in fact, be an overstatement. She saw much and felt more. But because he was Her Boy and because she loved him she tried valiantly to shift the blame, now to the gang with which he associated, which, indeed, he led; now to her own shortcomings in the manner of upbringing. So, as she wept in her pillow, she hoped and she prayed—and she forgave. It mattered not however low he fell, with what unconcern and even scorn he treated her, she was ever at his beck to serve him and to minister to his every want. His thanks were abiding scorn and a mounting hate; for this remains a law of life, that we hate most ardently those whom we injure most grievously and most unjustly.

A brute in body as in mind he was unacquainted with the ills to which most of human flesh is heir. With the typical arrogance of the brute he had nothing but scorn for the weak. Instead of ministering to his mother when illness overcame her, he abused her, with implications of threat. With his own immediate physical comforts satisfied, he merely ignored her, which was as near to kindness as he could

come. In her turn she apologized for the inconvenience her temporary incapacity brought him, and in his magnanimity he accepted it, in a spirit of condescension. When able to be about again she resumed her rounds of service; and that was all.

When the law laid its hand upon his shoulder after a hectic chase he merely shrugged it, half turning to the officer while a leer puckered one cheek. He was foiled; nothing more. There had been a weak link in the chain of his plans. His remorse went no further than to acknowledge inexpertness. But his record and his reputation told against him and his sentence was the maximum—four years at hard labor. To one of his age the years are long, even with freedom; to the incarcerated they are well-nigh interminable. But they also pass surely, and there is an end to the longest. So while the mother wept and prayed for her erring boy, she also languished in her prison house of separation. She was denied the mother's joy of ministry, but she cherished the image. He was still Her Boy—her erring boy, long since forgiven. Her dream was the joy she anticipated in again having him with her, the divine privilege of again serving him. He was, by turns, the helpless infant (the dearest image), the chubby boy, the sturdy youth. Towards the end of the term there was little of reality left in her image; she had chiselled perfection on a pedestal, almost deified—Her Boy.

He emerged with the pallor of confinement on his cheeks and the devil in his heart. He remembered his mother and her little shack; there was where he would go to eat and sleep and browse and be his own boss. There, also, he would perfect his plans; for if the police and other authorities

were done with him he was not done with them. He had a score to pay off; and there would be no errors this time.

His mother received him with open arms—Her Boy—loved long since and lost awhile. Now he was back—had hastened to her. The taper had burned bright in her one window from the first, to guide his feet back to her haven—letters written for her by a friend (herself, she had never acquired the art of writing or reading); reminding him that a home and a welcome awaited his return. That he had never troubled to reply to these letters occasioned her no thought; she, poor soul, could not have read his messages had he written.

At the first blush he was heartily glad and appreciative of his mother's tender ministrations, used as he was to the harshness and even brutality of his keepers. But the thin edge of his gratefulness soon dulled, and towards the end of his second day at home he was demanding as a right what he had received with a smile upon his arrival. By the end of the week he was back in his old haunts with what remained of the old gang. Before the last quarter of the same moon he had enlisted the necessary accomplices and enough enthusiasm to attempt the coup of which he had so fondly dreamed. He was eager for the revenge, and satisfaction that he could "beat the machine". Things were accordingly made ready, and according to plans which "could not fail".

His mother, however, in the parlance of the gang "smelled a rat". Whether by intuition or observation she sensed that something was afoot of which she would not approve and of which she was not to be apprised. On the eve of the night in which the deed was to be "pulled off" she broached the matter of her fears to him, charging him to withhold his hand in what-

ever it was, in God's name and for her sake; to be a good boy and seek no evil. Fear for his safety lent her courage to plead with him. Impassioned words of admonition came to her tongue with a readiness that surprised her.

Taken unawares the boy gaped with a darkening brow. He had looked for no meddling from that quarter, he would brook none. Words designed to restrain had the effect of soap in a geyser. His rage welled and gurgled before breaking out in torrential fury as of escaping steam. When it broke it poured over her like sulphurous

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lava, and reeking of filth as if it issued from a vent of hell itself. Aroused, his fury was that of a madman; a conflagration creating its own wind to fan itself to yet greater heights of frenzy. It overwhelmed, crushed her. It bore her down and ground her into the dust no less than his fist and his heel. She was broken before ever he struck. At his hands she died two deaths, the later a comparatively painless extinction of life in the body. Not the blow itself that killed her, but realization of the fact that he was capable of striking her—this boy whom she had given life, whom she had nurtured and loved—Her Boy. Her mother-heart stopped beating. Further developments were but incidental to that central fact—mere detail. Her death agony was not physical but mental.

Seeing his mother prone before him in no wise lessened the young man's fury. On the contrary it seemed but to add fuel to the flames of his rage. It hissed and shrieked in diabolical vehemence. All the pent-up evil in him, smoldering without an outlet throughout his long confinement, now broke its bounds in one consummate act. The sum of his hatred of society, in arms against him—of his captors, of his keepers, of the whole world was here resolved. The body of his mother was the epitome of everything that had tried to restrain him, and he wreaked his vengeance on it. Her heart was the symbol of that restraining influence: nothing less sufficed than that he crush it in his own hands. He would tear it from its roots, hot and quivering! He—

A frenzied tear at the poor covering of her breast, a slash with his great knife, a plunge of the hand. It was firmly anchored, this heart of a woman; but he was strong. And there it

was, warm and dripping. He stood up, gloating, exultant, the light of hell-fire in his eyes. Between the fingers of his strong right hand the yielding heart of his mother bulged as he contracted the grip. Now . . . but what was that! A wave of realization swept over him. Within a moment his fury had turned to terror, smiting him, scourging him. One look at the gaping wound, then flight, precipitate, without direction or destination—flight from a nameless terror. Headlong he plunged and headlong he fell; and as he fell the instinctive action of putting forth his hands to break the fall released the object clutched in his grip, clotted as it was with the life-blood of his victim—the heart of his mother. There it was, darkened and distorted, in the muck before his very face as he lay, half-stunned with the impact. And a poor, pitiful object it was, this heart of a mother. A dead object, surely, save for the Grace of God and the love of a mother, which may extend its solicitude beyond the portals of death and reach ministering and caressing hands across the grave.

Once again it was vouchsafed the mother to speak to her child, and this last time not with the lips but with the heart. As Her Boy lay after his fall, and as his mother's heart lay in the muck before him, a voice issued out of it, low but loud enough for him to hear, and of infinite tenderness, saying: "My Boy, are you hurt?"

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