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The Icelandic Canadian

Volume XXVII, No. 4

Winnipeg, Canada

Summer 1969

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THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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Editorial and news correspondence should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief or to the Editor concerned. Subscriptions and business correspondence to the Business and Circulation Manager.

Subscription Rate: \$2.00 per year. In Iceland kr. 125. Single copies 50c in Icel. kr. 30.

REPRESENTATIVE IN ICELAND: Gissur Eggertsson, Rauðalæk 39, Reykjavik.

Second Class Mail Registration No. 1909, Post Office Department, Ottawa

GUEST EDITORIAL

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN and our cultural heritage

One of the most serious problems facing any minority ethnic group is that of maintaining its own cultural traditions while at the same time conforming to the culture of the society in which it finds itself.

The Icelandic settlements in Canada and the United States are, in most cases, too small and too widely scattered to maintain for long their language and cultural traditions. They are like tiny islands in the English-speaking sea around them, subject at all times to erosion and at almost any time to inundation. The Icelandic colony at Winnipeg and in near-by areas has been large enough and cohesive enough to resist effectively this erosion, but even here scores, perhaps hundreds of Icelanders—even those born in Iceland to say nothing of the second generation—find it much more convenient, and at times absolutely necessary, to express themselves in English rather than in Icelandic. If this is happening in the most populous settlement, consider the plight of one of the smaller colonies, namely, the Icelanders of Utah.

As is well known, the 19th century was a difficult time in Icelandic history. There was a dreary succession of political and diplomatic disappointments, economic difficulties, long winters and short summers, drift ice blocking the shipping and fishing, and finally earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that laid waste mile upon mile of fertile farmland. Is it any wonder that

thousands of Icelanders left their homes in order to seek better living conditions elsewhere? Among the first to leave was a small group of 16 souls under the leadership of a certain Samuel Bjarnason. Motivated by the principles enunciated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints as well as their desire to improve their living conditions, this small group arrived in Utah in 1855, only nine years after the first band of Mormon Pioneers under the leadership of Brigham Young entered the Great Salt Lake Valley. They were directed by the Church to settle in Spanish Fork, then a small community on the southern shore of Utah Lake, about 55 miles south of Salt Lake City. Soon they were joined by other Icelanders; in fact, all through the sixties, the seventies, and even through the eighties new arrivals from Iceland reinforced the original group. Most of them took up homesteads in Spanish Fork or in nearby communities such as Springville or Provo. Only a few of them settled in other areas such as Lehi or Salt Lake City, the capital. Numerous as the Icelanders in Spanish Fork were, however, they were considerably outnumbered by other peoples, such as the Danes, the English, and the Welsh. The official language of the land was English: they had to learn and use this language in order to transact business and legal affairs and to participate in the social life of the community. Since

English was the language of the schools, all the children learned it as a matter of course, even though many of them used Icelandic at home. Bilingualism was an accepted and expected accomplishment among the Utah Icelanders even up to about 1920 or 1930. By that time the greater number of those born in Iceland had died, and even those who lived on found it more convenient to use English. One can still find a few second- and even third-generation Icelanders in Utah who understand Icelandic and who carry on a brief conversation in the language of their forefathers, but as a vehicle of expression it has yielded to English.

Despite the fact that the language is all but gone, there exists among those of Icelandic descent in Utah a rather lively curiosity about things pertaining to Iceland. Perhaps this fascination for the homeland is prompted in part by friends and relatives from Iceland who have visited them, possibly in part by the fact that many of them have "gone home," especially at the time of the millennial celebration. In part at least it has been encouraged by the interest that the Mormon Church takes in genealogy, a subject dear to the hearts of almost all Icelanders. It is no exaggeration to say that nowhere in the world is there a more complete genealogical centre than that maintained by the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City. It is probable that in the future anyone interested in Icelandic genealogy will find it more convenient and more profitable to study in Salt Lake City than in Reykjavik.

The people of Icelandic descent in Utah are interested, however, not only in the dead; they are also interested in the living. To a great degree, however, they are isolated. The local papers such as **The Desert News** or **The Salt Lake Tribune** feel no obligation to cater to the interests of such a small minor-

ity of their readers. The result is that unless the second- or third-generation Icelanders subscribe to **The Icelandic Canadian**, they have little opportunity to keep abreast of what is happening in Iceland or to learn what is going on in the Icelandic communities of Winnipeg, Blaine, North Dakota, or elsewhere. Thus, their chances of retaining cultural affinity with others of their ethnic group are seriously restricted. I, for one, consider this a tragic and deplorable situation.

What has been said regarding the Utah Icelanders is undoubtedly applicable, at least in part, to second- and third-generation Icelanders elsewhere in the United States and Canada. What can be done to stem the tide? Is it impossible to change the course of history? Is it possible, if not to maintain the language, at least to maintain the cultural ties? We must concede that even in such a centre as Winnipeg, Icelandic will eventually yield to English, but we can delay the process and we can certainly enrich the culture of our adopted land by bringing to it as much as possible of the very best of the cultural inheritance of the country from which we come. Certainly, **The Icelandic Canadian** may well be proud of the role it has played in keeping alive an interest in Icelandic culture, literature, history, and language. As effective as this journal has been in the past, however, it can and must do more in the future. It must reach a greater number of people of Icelandic descent, i.e.; it must increase its circulation. It must also continue to print articles about Iceland, the prominent people there, the economy, the history, and the literature. Nor should the Icelanders in Canada and the United States be forgotten. I should like to see in each issue a two or three page biography of an important man in Ice-

land today. If two such biographies were to appear in each issue, eight could be covered each year. To complement this, I should like to see a similar short biography (or possibly two if space allows) of outstanding American or Canadian Icelanders. Such biographies have appeared before in **The Icelandic Canadian**; in fact, the Spring 1969 issue has a fine biography of Dr. Paul H. T. Thorlakson together with an excellent picture. If this practice were followed systematically, American and Canadian readers could learn who are the important men of affairs in Iceland. They would also learn which of the Western Icelanders have become famous and for what reason.

Moreover, I suggest that there are many scholars in Canada and the United States, not to mention Great Britain, who would be happy to contribute articles to **The Icelandic Canadian** if they were invited to do so. For example, I know of one scholar who spent nearly two years in Reykjavik studying the latest slang of the capital city. Care should be taken to avoid over-technicality in such articles, but not everything written by scholars need be dull. Many a renowned scholar has a lively sense of humor and writes in an engaging style.

Finally, I suggest that **The Icelandic Canadian** could render its readers an invaluable service by condensing into a page or two a review of the significant events that have taken place in Iceland since the last issue. As I indicated above, a great many second-generation Icelanders do not read Icelandic and therefore do not subscribe to **Lögberg-Heimskringla**. Their major source of news of Iceland is their local newspaper which is seldom interested in presenting news from this quarter of the globe.

In summary, in no way do I minimize the great work done by **The Icelandic Canadian** in maintaining and furthering Icelandic culture and traditions in the New World. Judge Walter Lindal and his whole staff deserve the thanks and the praise of everyone, Icelanders and Canadians alike, for their efforts in preserving our cultural heritage. The suggestions herein presented are intended not as criticism but rather as encouragement and a plea for even greater effort to maintain contact with second-, third-, and now even fourth-generation Icelanders.

Loftur Bjarnason

Professor of Literature
U.S. Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, California



In The Editor's Confidence

Pertinent Suggestions

During the last year or two suggestions have been made that this magazine should put on a campaign to raise funds for financing the magazine and putting it on a basis that at least token salaries could be paid to the people who are giving so much of their time and experience in behalf of the magazine. The following is a recent letter.

Vancouver, B.C.,
May 27, 1969

Dear Sir:

. . . . This writer suggests that a special Trust Fund be raised to support this magazine, its managers and writers, so they can continue their excellent work in promoting this publication for the Icelandic communities in Canada, the U.S.A., and in Iceland.

Yours truly,
(Miss) A. Anderson,
Apt. 8, 1171 W. 12th St.,
Vancouver 9

There is a standing committee headed by the editor of *Tímarit*, the editor of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, and the editor-in-chief of this magazine studying ways and means of effecting an amalgamation or close association of these three publications. It is the view of this editor that while this study is under way these publications should not make appeals for financial assistance, except on behalf of them all

— W.J.L.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND (in translation)

Reykjavik, Iceland.

Dear Valdimar:

Some time has passed since I received your letter, dated April 12, and a copy of the Spring 1969 number of *The Icelandic Canadian*.

I now have leafed through the magazine and read much of it, as I always do. You people always show efficiency and good taste—something one cannot but admire. I always find items in each number which arouse special interest. The tone of the magazine is wholesome and it serves our good Icelandic cause well.

It is not difficult to understand that the magazine has to be written in the English language, in fact, it is my view that it is very clear to most people that the future of Icelandic as a living language in the West is bound to be very circumscribed. The language, however, is not everything although it is a very important, if not the most important factor. But the Icelandic consciousness and the Icelandic cultural heritage can continue and maintain their values even though the language is no longer spoken or written. This is exactly what your magazine has demonstrated.

I thank you for the letter and for drawing my special attention to this number of your magazine. I wish every blessing to you and to the cause for which you and your associates are serving.

With kind regards,
Kristján Eldjárn

Iceland Then and Now

by Jon K. Laxdal *

Many apt and eloquent descriptions have been given to this "Land of Frost and Fire" but none so concise and precise as the following written in the King's Mirror more than seven centuries ago. "There vast and boundless fires are to be found, phenomenal frosts and glaciers, boiling springs and violent ice-cold streams". The beauty of the landscape may be disputed but its variety and grandeur never.

Lord Dufferin in his "Letters from High Latitudes" written after visiting Iceland in 1856 wrote: "It would be worth to go around the world in order to visit Thingvellir". In the year 1877 after becoming Governor-General of Canada he visited the newly formed Icelandic colony at Gimli on Lake Winnipeg and in speaking to the settlers said: "I welcome you to this soil; no race has a better right to come amongst us than you, for the world is indebted to you for the discovery of this continent."

Lord Tweedsmuir, when visiting the Icelandic settlement at Gimli almost sixty years later said: "You have become a vital part of the Canadian people, I wish we had more of you. Wherever I go I hear praise of your qualities, the industry and enterprise of your race". The Earl of Athlone on his visit to Gimli in 1945 spoke in much the same vein as he referred to the accomplishments of this small segment of the Canadian population.

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. in his forward to Vilhjalmur Stefansson's "Iceland" (Doubleday Doran, 1939) gave a glimpse of both land and people.

Few countries have the romance of Iceland — It is not a country that attracts those in search of a soft living. It has deserts and glaciers. Its climate is harsh. Only a third of the island is utilized by man. It is a country for hardy men and women. — Poetry is deeply imbedded in the Icelandic character. Their sagas are among the most beautiful ever written. Iceland's democracy may be studied with profit by Americans today.

Iceland is also a land of green fertile valleys, peaceful prosperous rural communities, quaint fishing villages and modern industrialized cities. This largely barren Arctic island is today the home of some 200,000 thrifty industrious Icelanders enjoying the third highest standard of living among the nations of the Western World.

Iceland, with an area of 103,100 km. is the fourth largest island in the North Atlantic, after Greenland, Britain and Newfoundland. The island was formed from the highest outcrop of a submarine ridge which extends in a nor-westerly direction from Scotland to Greenland. Its northernmost extremities almost extend to the Arctic Circle

JON KRISTINN LAXDAL, now of Vancouver, formerly of Winnipeg, where he was for many years Assistant Principal of Teachers' College, has written a synoptic history of Iceland which will prove of inestimable value to people of the West who have an interest in Iceland either by descent or through association but have not available or may not have time to read a history of Iceland of average length. The synopsis will appear in two or three instalments. —Editor

which passes through Grímsey just off the northern coast. Geologically, Iceland is young; hence most of the surface area is jagged, rough and precipitous so that except for the lower grassy river valleys it is almost void of soil and lacks the smooth gently flowing contours that characterize older land formations.

During the period of the Ice Age the whole country was covered with a cap of ice so ponderous that the island sank under its weight. When this ice cap melted the land rose to such an extent that remains of the post-glacial shore levels, in places, are still visible at heights up to 120 metres above the present sea level. The average inland altitudes are about 500 metres over sea level. The island is one of the most actively volcanic countries of the world with more than 200 post-glacial volcanoes. Since the country was permanently settled in 874 A.D. at least 30 volcanoes have been activated resulting in about 150 recorded eruptions, containing, however, more ash than lava. The most widely known and the most active of these volcanoes is Mt. Hekla which has erupted 15 times since its first recorded eruption in 1104. Its latest eruption began on March 29th, 1947 and continued for thirteen months pouring out a Km³ of ash and lava with the vapors, at times, rising to 30,000 metres. The latest submarine eruption off the southwest coast which began November 14, 1963 left an island (Surtsey) almost 3Km² in area which now sustains both plant and animal life. Although earth tremors are frequent only two disastrous earthquakes causing heavy loss of life and property have occurred, the first in 1784 and the latter in 1896; both originated in the southern lowlands. Although the climate has moderated somewhat in recent years and caused some of the smaller glaciers at the lower altitudes

to melt, even now 11½% of the island is still covered with glaciers. The largest of these glaciers is Vatnajökull of 8400 Km² which exceeds the combined area of all the glaciers on the European continent. Heavy rainfall, melting snows and icefields give rise to numerous rivers. Those originating in the glacial areas carry vast amounts of suspended materials which give them a murky appearance, while those draining the basalt areas are crystal clear.

CLIMATE

Iceland's climate with its relatively mild winters and cool summers is best classified as cold-tempered oceanic. During the period 1931-1960 the mean annual temperature in Reykjavik was 41° F.; the mean temperatures for January and July were 24.8° F. and 52.16° F. respectively. While comparisons are sometimes misleading these records show that the mean January temperatures approximate those of Philadelphia and the July readings are about 6° F. lower than the temperatures in San Francisco for the corresponding period. Three factors, principally, influence the climatic conditions. The chief moderating influence is a branch of the Gulf Stream which is deflected westward in a clockwise direction around the south-west coasts, keeping the numerous harbors in these regions free of ice all year. A continuation of this warm flow becomes submerged under the cold Greenland Current as it reaches the north coast. Two air currents, one polar, and the other of tropical origin cause widespread variations in the temperatures throughout the island by bringing warmth and sunny days to one section of the island while the other generates damp chilly weather to another region. Occasionally the

Greenland polar currents bring drift ice to the northern shores chilling the coastal regions and closing the harbors in its path.

FLORA AND FAUNA

At the present time approximately one-quarter of the island is covered with vegetation. The remaining surface area is composed of sand dunes, lava flows, rocky wastelands and ice fields. During the period of colonization, however, the lowlands were covered with birch woods; but wanton waste by men and grazing sheep have reduced this natural growth to scattered remnants in the sheltered valleys. A fairly extensive reforestation program, in operation for many years, is now beginning to show excellent results. Apart from many small well treed parks, only two natural wooded areas of any appreciable size remain, Vaglawood in the north, and Hallormstaða wood in the eastern part of the island. Flowering plants, ferns and their allies total about 500 species; most abundant are the grasses, particularly the sedges. Several varieties of berry bushes and willows are widely scattered throughout the lower elevations. Potatoes and turnips thrive reasonably well under natural conditions in many areas and course grains e.g. oats and barley have reached maturity on experimental farms.

The only native mammal at the time of colonization was the Arctic fox which in spite of efforts to exterminate it is still quite common. Two species of rats and two of mice have now found their way in foreign freight into the country. An occasional polar bear reaches shore from drift ice but these are soon destroyed. Two mammals have been deliberately introduced; reindeer have repeatedly been imported from Norway. Their present

total, existing in the wild state in the eastern highlands, is estimated at about 2000 head. Mink were also imported for fur farmers in 1930, but unfortunately some escaped and have now multiplied to such an extent that they have become a menace to bird life. A bird census lists 241 species of birds frequenting the island. Of this number 72 species nest regularly; the others are migrants, visitors or accidentals.

The king of the native birds is the gyrfalcon internationally known to falconers. At one time, while Iceland was under Norway's domination, the king issued orders that he alone should have the privilege of having these caught and exported from Iceland. He even sent ships to Iceland expressly for this purpose. To watch this king of birds soar without any apparent effort, dive upon its prey with unmatched speed and unerring accuracy, knock it senseless with one slap of its wing, and clutch it in its talon before it reaches the earth, is a sight of ceaseless wonder to behold. The huge, formerly common, white-tailed eagle although enjoying complete protection, has now been reduced to some 10-20 pairs. The commonest of the many little waders, and the best loved of all the summer residents, is the golden plover whose plaintive call may be heard on every heath. Known the world over to ornithologists as the outstanding breeding place of water fowl is Myvatn (Midge Lake) in northern Iceland. During a morning visit in July 1963, the writer met bird watchers from as far as Australia and New Zealand, as well as enthusiasts from the U.S.A. and from most of the European countries; all were taking pictures within a few feet of their subjects. The lake was dotted with whistling or whooping swans, several varieties of geese and innumerable smaller swim-

mers. Sixteen species of ducks nest on the lakeshore or on the numerous islands in the lake. If this earth has a bird watchers' paradise, it assuredly is Myvatn in Iceland.

SETTLEMENT and POPULATION

The first people to settle in Iceland about 795 A.D. were Irish monks who came there to seek seclusion. They, however, left when the Norse colonization began in preference to association with the heathens. Ingólfur Arnarson, a chieftain from Norway, is regarded as the first permanent Norse settler. The original period of the Norse settlement extended over a period of about 60 years (870-930). Iceland was thus the last of the European countries to be settled. The main body of the settlers were Norse chieftains who refused to bow to the dictates of Harold-the-Fair-Haired who had subdued virtually all Norway. On their way to Iceland these Vikings raided the coasts of the British Isles, principally Ireland, seizing women for their wives and thralls to serve them as slaves. They were also joined by other Norsemen who had previously settled in the British Isles and inter-married with the Celts. Since the years of the original settlement there have been few foreign immigrants so that the culture of the island has remained Nordic and the language is virtually unchanged from the old Norse spoken in Scandinavia of the Viking Age. Perforce the vocabulary has been expanded as new descriptive words have become necessary, but although the pronunciation has undergone some change, the grammar and syntax remain practically unaltered.

The most reliable estimates place the population total at about 70-80,000 by the year 1100. During the years 1402-1404 the plague, starvation and other national disasters claimed about

two-thirds of the population. In 1703 an accurate census giving name, age and occupation of every inhabitant showed a population figure of 50,358. In the next few years famine and an epidemic of smallpox again reduced the population to an estimated 35,000. Morale was at its lowest ebb as the whole nation was poverty stricken with 11% of the population existing as parish paupers. Any marked trend in population increase was not evident until after 1890. The present population, of about 200,000, is now showing an annual increase of approximately 2% which is the highest population growth among the Western European nations. Iceland with about two inhabitants per Km² is still, however, the most sparsely populated country in Europe; Norway is next with approximately 11 persons per Km².

GOVERNMENT

During the period of settlement there was no central authority to govern the country; but the secular priests (godar) were in effect the rulers. As the population gradually increased problems, particularly concerning land tenure, threatened to disrupt peace and harmony within the state. Consequently, it became increasingly apparent that a code of laws and a governing body to interpret and enforce these laws was necessary to maintain and retain amity within the colony. To solve this problem the chieftains, in the year 930, established Althing, the first general assembly empowered with legislative and judicial authority in the Western World. The British representatives to the millennial celebration of this historic event in 1930 referred to this original Althing as the "Grandmother of Parliaments" for their Model Parliament was not instituted until 1290.

(Continued in next issue)

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA



MRS. INGIBJORG L. ASGEIRSSON
The Lady of The Mountains

FESTIVAL PRINCESSES



MISS GAIL EASTMAN



MISS CAROL JENSON

Plans are well advanced for the 80th annual Icelandic Festival of Manitoba which will be staged at Gimli on the civic holiday weekend August 3 and 4. There will be an expanded program this year which will cover two full days.

Reintroduced will be long distance races in which the premier attraction will be a 10-mile road race, revived after a lapse of many years. This race will be from Winnipeg Beach to Gimli and will be staged August 2, the day preceding the two-day festival program. Other running races will be staged August 4, and will include 100, 200, 400, 800, 1,500 and 3,000-metre races for men.

The Lady of the Mountain (Fjallkonan) this year will be Mrs. Ingibjorg L. Asgeirsson of Winnipeg who will deliver her traditional address. Her princesses will be Miss Carol Jensen and Miss Gail Eastman both of Winnipeg.

A monument erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to honor the memory of the famed Arctic explorer, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, will be dedicated at a ceremony Aug. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at Arnes, 11 miles north of Gimli.

The Aug. 3 program will end with a late evening hootenany in Gimli park starting at 10:00 p.m., followed by a midnight frolic in the park pavilion which will continue till 3:00 a.m.

Gimli town council and local organizations including the Kinsmen Club, Kinettes, Youth Club, Good Neighbors' Club and others are planning a number of new attractions in co-operation with festival authorities.

A major feature of the August 4 program will be the forenoon parade starting at 10:00 a.m. while principal feature of the day will be the formal program in Gimli Park starting at 2:00 p.m. at which the toast to Iceland will

be by Dr. Richard Beck of Victoria, B.C., former head of the department of Scandinavian studies at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, now retired, and the toast to Canada by Frank M. Arnason, a Winnipeg electrical engineer and business executive who was born and raised at Gimli and is a grandson of the late Capt. Baldi Anderson, an early Gimli area pioneer.

Held during both days will be an arts and crafts exhibition in the provincial recreation training centre in Gimli for which the program will include demonstrations in art and craft work.

While the festival executive is currently formulating this year's program,

consideration is also being given to 1970, Manitoba centennial year. While no action has been taken on this, festival executives hope to have present prominent persons from Iceland and official representatives of the Manitoba and Canadian governments.

Thought is also being given the festival in 1975 which will be the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first group of Icelandic settlers who reached Gimli a century before, landing at the nearby and now familiar Willow Point in the late fall of the year.

J. F. Kristjansson of Winnipeg is festival chairman again this year, V. B. Arnason of Gimli vice-chairman, Dennis Stefanson of Winnipeg secretary and Helgi Johnson of Gimli treasurer.

THE FRONT COVER

THE ICELANDIC CAIRN

In the year 1935 a cairn was erected in Gimli, Manitoba, not far from the Gimli Park, to commemorate the arrival of the first settlers who reached Willow Point, near Gimli, late in the afternoon of October 21, 1875.

The cairn was constructed in accordance with a sketch drawn by the late Dr. August Blondal. There is an inscription on the front of the cairn which is as follows:

<p>ÍSLENDINGAR NÁMU HÉR LAND 21 OCT. 1875</p>	<p>THE FIRST ICELANDIC SETTLERS ARRIVED HERE 21 OCT. 1875</p>
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The large stone at the top of the cairn was taken from the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

FROM ICELAND TO LAKE WINNIPEG IN 1876

An address delivered before a meeting of the Manitoba Historical Society

April 17, 1935 by Dr. O. Bjornson

On a sunny evening early in July, we left our home in Iceland and began our journey to America. We were mounted on ponies, for which the island is famous, and for the first time in my life, I was allowed to ride horseback alone. In a short time we came to a large river. We were ferried over in a boat while the ponies swam across. We then journeyed on through the night, if night it might be called, for it was bright as day. Toward midnight I became sleepy and developed a list to starboard, so to prevent my falling off, father took me and held me on the saddle in front of him. Early in the morning we came to the crest of a hill and there before us in panorama, appeared an arm of the ocean. A fairly large ship lay at anchor in the bay and along the shoreline nestled a cluster of houses, a typical fishing and trading post. An aunt of mine lived in the village, and we were guests at her house for ten days or so, while waiting for the ship on which we were to sail. At last the ship came and with much bustle and excitement we, along with some four hundred other emigrants, were transferred on board and stowed below in the hold. The night was foggy and drizzly and the ship's siren blew a mournful blast as she steamed out of the harbor. Many a sigh and many a pang must have gripped the heart of these people who were leaving home, friends and loved ones to embark on a journey into an unknown land.

In the morning a pathetic scene presented itself in the hold. Sea-sickness had gripped nearly everyone and great misery and wretchedness prevailed among the passengers. Unwashed, unkempt and dishevelled, they were tossed about by the rolling of the ship, and bags, boxes and trunks careened crazily about.

Our first stop was at the Faroe Islands and those who were able, went on deck to see Thorshavn, the chief town of the islands.

On the third day we came to Granton and were at once put on a train for Glasgow. This was my first railway journey, and I remember being puzzled over what made the cars go, but finally came to the conclusion that there must be men running behind and pushing them along.

On the way we stopped off in Edinburgh where lived an old college mate of father's. We remained at his home two or three days and he took us through the city to see the sights. The only one I remember was Sir Walter Scott's monument, a lofty granite column on top of which stood an heroic figure of the poet. I remember being laughed at because I looked up, plucked father's coat and timidly asked, "Is he alive"? The journey to Glasgow was then continued and on arriving there we were quartered in a large building on one of the principal streets.

A never-to-be-forgotten event now

took place. Queen Victoria was visiting Glasgow and rode in state through the city. This was the Queen's first appearance in public since the death of the Prince Consort some fifteen years before. I can still remember the magnificent carriage drawn by snow white horses in which sat the Queen with her ladies in waiting. But what interested me perhaps still more were the out riders in brilliant uniforms, mounted on prancing chargers who rode before and after the carriage.

We next boarded the steamship Phoenician and sailed down the Clyde on our way to Quebec. Through some influential friends of father's we did not travel steerage as did all emigrants, but had cabin accomodation instead. I soon made friends with the sailors, and they took me all over the ship, into the hold and down to the engine room where I was greatly impressed by the swiftly moving machinery and the shining brass fittings. We could not, of course, understand one another, but they no doubt had some fun out of my eagerness, curiosity and simplicity.

Reaching Quebec we were at once put on a train and sent westward with brief stops in Montreal and Toronto. At Kingston a stop was made for dinner and we were all gathered into a large dining hall where ample justice was done to the menu. Dinner over, the proprietor demanded payment for the meal. When this was not forthcoming, he shut the door and assumed a belligerent attitude. This was too much for the sturdy carls frae the north. They started for the door and proceeded to force it open. Some scuffling followed and the proprietor, a very corpulent man, was thrown to the floor. His wife screamed at the top of her voice and prayed heaven to deliver her from these awful savages. Just then the interpreter came and explained that the meal would be paid

for by the Dominion Government and so peace was restored.

From Kingston we continued by train to Collingwood where we were put on a boat which took us over Lakes Huron and Superior to Duluth. A train was waiting there which carried us across the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota to a little hamlet on the Red Lake River known as Fisher's Landing. I have in recent years visited this little town and stood on the very spot from which we embarked. The water in the river is now quite low and would no more than float a good sized row boat. Here we boarded the river steamer "Dacotah" and proceeded on our way to Winnipeg. On the way we stopped at Pembina to take on cordwood. While it was being loaded some of the men went on shore to look around. One more adventuresome than the rest, thought he would take a little stroll on the prairie. Suddenly the whistle blew, the boat backed into the river and proceeded down stream. The venturesome one saw his plight and at once started in pursuit. I can see him yet, sprinting along the river bank trying to keep up with the boat. However, the steamer stopped at Emerson only three miles down and he was taken on board again.

The following day we arrived in Winnipeg and the boat docked at the north bank of the Assiniboine river just a stone's throw east of the present main street bridge. We were housed in tents on the Hudson's Bay flats, while waiting for the boats to take us to Lake Winnipeg. A man brought a herd of cows and sold them to the settlers. Father bought one for \$35.00 and two men were hired to watch the cows until they could be driven to the lake. But one night they fell asleep and some of the cows strayed away and could not be found. Needless to say, one of these was father's.

We were now put on huge barges or scows which were towed by steamer to the mouth of the Red River. Here they were set loose and left to the winds and waves to do as they pleased. They were steered partly by a huge oar manipulated by some husky emigrants. They drifted along the west shore and next morning touched land just south of Willow Point. Some small boats took us to Gimli where we were welcomed by some of our countrymen who had come over earlier in the summer. We found lodging in the home of Mr. John Taylor who was in charge of the colony.

My father now set out to locate a homestead and found one at a place called Sandy Bar, about five miles south of the present village of Riverton. With the help of some others, he felled trees and cut logs and built a house. He then returned to Gimli to get the family. A York boat was secured and in it we sailed and soon reached our new home, which awaited us complete in every respect except that it lacked a roof, floor, doors and windows.

The west shore of Lake Winnipeg extending northward from Boundary Creek to the White Mud River had been acquired by treaty from the Indians and was set apart as a reserve for the Icelandic colonists. All the Indians, however, had not vacated but were still living in their homes, especially in the northern part of the reserve. This was not altogether comforting, for on the way down the river, we had been told about the Custer massacre in Montana only some two months previously. An Indian family named Ramsay was still living on the homestead selected by my father. This family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay, a baby in arms, a girl of about my age and two boys about fourteen and sixteen.

They lived in a neat log cabin, such as you see even today along the banks of the Red River. The logs were hewn and dove-tailed at the ends; it was plastered with mortar and there was a good floor and a thatched roof. It was my parents' intention to move into this cabin when the Indians vacated it, but it was otherwise ordained, as we shall see later. Ramsay was quite friendly and helped my father in many ways. He showed him how to mix clay, chopped grass and water to chink the spaces between the logs, and also how to thatch the roof with bundles of sluice grass to keep out the rain.

The second Sunday we were there a missionary came and conducted services for the Indians in Ramsay's house. We were invited to attend and sat in a devout attitude during the service. The message however, I feel, fell into stony ground for it was delivered in the Indian language.

We had now reached the journey's end and had come into the land of promise. Keen dissapointment must have come into my parents' hearts when first they set foot on this anticipated Utopia. The west shore of Lake Winnipeg was not then, and is not now by any means, a golden strand. The shore line was low and covered with an ugly growth of scrub and dwarfed trees, poplar, tamarack, spruce and an occasional birch. The ground behind was low and swampy with here and there a small grassy plot. In a little clearing stood the walls of the log house that was to be our home. It was now late in September and much work remained to be done. A roof was put on the house, the walls were chinked and doors and windows put in. There being no lumber available, spruce branches were cut and spread over the earth in lieu of a floor. But during the winter, my father and a man who lived with us, erected a scaf-

fold, put some logs upon it and with a rip saw, sawed enough boards for a roof, a floor and an upstairs. In addition, they split pieces of tamarac into thin slices, thinned out one end into a shingle with a hand iron and covered the roof with them. I mention this simply to show the ingenuity and resourcefulness of these pioneers to meet whatever difficulties faced them.

Following the many incidents and adventures of the journey, life for me became somewhat dull and colorless. Playing in the sand, and gathering pebbles and shells soon lost its novelty. So now the Ramsay boys came to the rescue. They took me with them for long walks through the woods and along the shore. They showed me birds nests, curiously shaped stones and multi-colored shells. They let me shoot with their bows and arrows and once took me in a canoe, a short piece from land and taught me by gestures, how to sit in a canoe without tipping it.

About this time, a grim and appalling tragedy fell upon these hapless newcomers. Late in the month of September, a case of smallpox developed in a man in the southern end of the settlement, who lived in the northern end, and in spite of being very ill, he insisted on going home and stopped at several houses on the way. In a few days, a virulent epidemic had gripped the entire colony. It has been estimated that from one hundred to one hundred and fifty died. We had all been vaccinated and though repeatedly exposed, none of us contracted it. And yet the fool says in his heart that vaccination does not protect one against small pox.

The disease was especially severe on the Indians who had not been immunised. Eleven died in one house about a quarter mile from our place, and in the Ramsay family, only he and the little girl survived. This winter

proved one of the most tragic ever undergone in the history of western immigration. Simultaneously overwhelmed by cold, famine, pestilence and death, it is not to be wondered that even the bravest spirits were daunted. The following spring the government sent supplies of food and other necessities. A band of sanitary inspectors was also sent to fumigate the houses and clothing and to scrub and air all dwellings. They were also ordered to burn up all the Indian houses, and of course among others, the Ramsay house into which we had hoped to move. I remember mother standing watching with a resentful frown on her face, as it went up in smoke.

With the coming of spring, the hopes of the settlers were somewhat revived. Yet the life of a newcomer in those days was not altogether enviable. Planted in a strange environment, unused to the ways and customs of the country, ignorant of the language and lacking the means and requisites necessary to enable them to make a new start in life, their lot was not a happy one. The task of gathering fuel and bringing in supplies for the family needs was indeed an arduous one. The wood choppers axe was new to them and many a bump and bruise they suffered in wielding it. They must needs be their own beasts of burden, for everything had to be carried on their own shoulders or else drawn by handsleighs over the snow and ice. In summer small flat-bottomed boats driven by their own arms served the same purpose. It fell to their lot to suffer the extreme rigors of winter and to endure the oppressive sweltering heat of summer. Well might they have said with the Duke in "As You Like It", "Here feel we but the penalty of Adam, the season's difference, as the icy fang and churlish chiding of the winter's wind.

which when it bites and blows upon my body even till I shrink with cold, I smile and say "This is no flattery; these are counsellors that feeling persuade me what I am". — Indeed, all too often they were reminded of what they were: strangers in a strange land, ignorant of its customs and usages, inexperienced in the use of tools and implements, and lacking in even the barest necessities of life.

Early in November a cold spell set in and snow fell. In a few days it became warm again and remained so for about ten days. This was our first Indian Summer. Some controversy has arisen as to the origin of this term. The explanation given me by my father has always seemed to me a plausible one. The Indian is by nature indolent, irresponsible and improvident. Through the long days of summer he spends his time fishing, hunting and lying under the trees smoking his pipe. With the first fall of snow he is reminded that a long winter is at hand, so during the mild days that follow, he busies himself gathering food and fuel and tightening up the walls of the teepee. Therefore, this brief spell of mild weather became the Indian's industrial summer. Hence the name. Later in the fall, after the freeze up, the Dominion Government sent a band of surveyors to survey the land that had been reserved for the colonists. Many of the settlers earned their first money by cutting lines through the bush to enable the surveyors to establish section lines. They also cut a road the entire length of the reservation. This, however, was not made use of for many years, for both winter and summer all traffic was by the lake. Later the road was graded and culverts and bridges put in. With the advent of the automobile, portions of it were gravelled, but even today after nearly sixty years, an all weather

road does not lie through this, one of the oldest settlements in the province, with the exception of those on the banks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers.

The following year was the remarkably open winter of the year 1877-78. The lake did not freeze till sometime in March. This did not please me because it was too cold for swimming and not cold enough for sliding. In the spring the Dominion Government provided the settlers with garden seeds and also supplied them with garden utensils. With a spade, father broke a piece of ground, hoed and raked it and then seeded it with various vegetables. The season being favourable, he harvested in the fall a good supply of garden truck to fill the family larder.

For another year he continued to struggle, but by then he became convinced, along with many others, that there was no future in remaining there, the land, as it was then, being ill adapted for either farming or stock raising. So during the years 1879-80 a large exodus from the colony took place. Some took up homesteads in western Manitoba in the municipality of Argyle where a large and prosperous settlement was formed. Others crossed into the United States and took up land southwest of the present village of Pembina in what was then the Territory of Dakota. But misfortune again laid a heavy hand on them. During the flood years of 1881-82 their land was inundated with water and they were forced to move farther west towards the Pembina mountains, where their descendants are living yet.

It may now be of interest to devote a few minutes to the question of what led to the migration of the Icelandic people to the Dominion of Canada. Up to the early seventies emigrants coming into the Dominion were limited almost

entirely to those coming from the British Isles and France. With the exception of a small band of Mennonites in the year 1874, the Icelanders were the first emigres coming from European shores. There had been a sporadic movement of young men previous to that time, but a concerted movement did not begin till the year 1875 when a group of about three hundred people came to Manitoba and settled at what is now the village of Gimli. The following year two groups of approximately eight hundred and four hundred, settled in the reserve set apart for them on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg.

One of the primary factors in this movement was the late Lord Dufferin who had been a friend and admirer of the Icelandic people since his visit to them in the year 1856. The story of his visit is most interestingly told in that delightful volume, "Letters from High Latitudes". In 1872 he was appointed governor general of Canada. The cry was then, as it has been for many years past, that Canada must have more people. Is it not reasonable to suppose that he may have pointed out to the Dominion Government that these hard working, thrifty, intelligent people living on a semi-barren island, would be desirable emigrants to invite to the Dominion? In confirmation of this theory it may be pointed out that there was at that time a young Icelandic living in Toronto who had come there in 1872. This man was Capt. S. Jonasson who is still living, hale and hearty though somewhere on the shady side of eighty-five, in the village of Riverton. He was commissioned by the Dominion Government to visit Iceland and to suggest to his countrymen the desirability of coming to Canada. He came to our home where there was gathered a number of farmers from the surrounding districts. He spoke elo-

quently of the beauties of Canada, the fertility of its soil and the economic advantages they would gain by going there. His message fell into receptive ears, for a great many, including my father, signed up.

In the summer of 1877 Lord Dufferin made a triumphant tour through Canada, and arrived in Winnipeg on the 7th day of August. The reception accorded him was one of the most spontaneous and enthusiastic ever tendered a distinguished visitor. This visit is told of, by the Marchioness of Dufferin in her charming book, "My Canadian Journal", written by her during their tenure as Viceroys between the years 1872 and 1878.

In spite of innumerable demands made upon his time and energy, his Excellency did not forget his Icelandic friends and insisted on visiting them in their new homes. The steamer Colville was chartered and gaily bedecked with flags and bunting, carried the Governor General with his entourage, to Gimli harbor where it docked at 10 a.m. on September 14th. His Excellency was escorted on shore and was received by the prominent men of the place and about one hundred villagers. He insisted on visiting every home, and speaking of his impressions afterwards, he observed that small and crude as the cabins were, they were clean and tidy, and that in every one there was a shelf on which there were twenty or thirty books.

A platform had been erected and he was led to the seat of honor, and an address of welcome read to him in Icelandic, a translation into English was then given to him. In reply he welcomed the Icelandic settlers to Canada and wished them a happy and prosperous future. In his remarks he emphasized the fact that no people were better entitled to homes in America than the Icelanders. They had been

the original discoverers of America and in addition there was a tradition that the Genoese adventurer, Christopher Columbus, had visited Iceland and by search among the national archives, had been confirmed in his belief that land existed in the Western hemisphere. (Analogy of Columbus voyages). He then concluded by saying: "It is a country in which you will find yourself freemen, serving no overlord, and being no man's man but your own:

each master of his own farm like the Udab men and Bonders of old days I trust you will continue to cherish for all time the heart stirring literature of your nation, and that from generation to generation, your little ones will continue to learn in your ancient sagas that industry, energy, fortitude, perseverance and stubborn endurance which have ever been the characteristics of the noble Icelandic race".

DEW ON THE EARTH

by Halldora B. Bjornson

Transl. by Caroline Gunnarsson

A mere fluff of grey cloud had the sky all to herself. Wafted along by any breeze that found her, she drifted in all directions through the eternity of space as if destiny and purpose were no part of her fate.

Then a beautiful sun ray found her by pure chance. All warmth and light, he was the son of the source of life.

Suddenly the world was full of light. It was love, of course, that magnified the might of this new chip of the ancient sun, for the tiny ray was passionately in love with the fluff of cloud. With his father's indulgence he burst upon the sky at the break of dawn, and ceaselessly the tiny ray and fluff of cloud stared at each other for days. So intense was their love that by sunset each evening, the fluff of cloud was a red ball of fire.

And the farmers trudged restlessly through the scorched fields in their valley, touched their toes to the sun-burnt growth in their dooryards and

grumbled to one another: "It looks bad. We won't have a blade of grass if this weather holds. It might too — a red sunset bodes no good."

The farmers turned prophetic eyes to the sky and absentmindedly took pinches of snuff from one another to comfort their drying nostrils.

Then one morning the sunbeam didn't turn up in the sky. The fluff of cloud waited all day and all the next day, but her ray of light was not to be seen again.

The fluff of cloud lost hope and wept for her lost lover, son of the source of life. Torrents of tears fell from heaven to earth and soaked the thirsty soil.

That morning the farmers sprinted lightly over the greening fields of their valley. "This rain saved us," they mumbled smugly into their beards.

But in the brooding sky the fluff of cloud was no more.

She was dew on the earth.

Gwen S. Lindal

Gwen Lindal died in Winnipeg on April 30 this year, and early in May a local department store delivered a parcel of children's books addressed to her at the family home. They were one of Mrs. Lindal's last thoughts before entering hospital for critical surgery.

To successfully match the books to the children she had in mind might be no easy task, for her circle of young friends was large and far-reaching, but it would serve her pleasure well and place a lasting legacy where she had intended. The uncounted books that Gwen bought for children during her lifetime were not picked up lightly in passing. They were chosen with special thought for little individuals whose peculiar needs and tastes she sensed with unerring insight. For she was a teacher by talent and training. Seasoned by many years in the profession, she retained intense interest in the welfare and education of the young.

A quiet, cheerful and gentle person, she was down to earth, straight forward and just in her dealings with all people, but she harbored a special concern for the vulnerability of the young. A casual telephone chat with her could easily develop into a discussion of practical psychology if the subject of children and school strayed into the conversation. "I strapped a boy once," she told me on one such occasion, "and I'm sure I did wrong. but I was young and foolish, and I learned to manage without it all the years that I taught." She said she had found that children most prone to harsh punishment at school were too often the ones who suffered violent



Gwen S. Lindal

treatment at home. The strap taught them nothing and they had little need for added pain.

Gwen was a person of great compassion and no pretensions. Those with whom she lived and worked sensed her qualities and paid her back with affection and respect. She was Walter Lindal's wife, devoted to their home and two daughters. But she also found time and energy to pour generous measures of strength into worthwhile causes in the community.

She was an untiring supporter of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and one time president of their women's auxiliary. Her efforts were not confined to impersonal acts of office. She was a friend visiting friends when she called upon the blind, and if she bore gifts, as she often did, they were

offerings from one neighbor to another, not charity. Well remembered is a television set she insisted should be given to an overburdened mother of many children rather than sold for cold cash in aid of the cause.

"Who is more in need of diversion for the children and maybe an odd moment's entertainment for herself than this woman?" she questioned, arguing that it would relieve some tension to be able to go about her tasks knowing that the brood was safely spread on the floor in front of the television screen.

Gwen Sigurbjorg Lindal was born October 11, 1895, at Lundar, Man., the daughter of Olafur and Bjorg Magnusson. She married Judge Walter J. Lindal, a widower, in 1950 and took a mother's place to his two daughters, Anna Ruth, now Mrs. Douglas W. Hilland, and Elizabeth, Mrs. Robert H. Brown.

Beside her husband and two daughters, Mrs. Lindal is survived by eight grandchildren and two brothers, Agust Magnusson at Foam Lake, Sask., and Sveinn in Winnipeg. A brother, Mundi Magnusson was killed in action during the first World War.

THE HALF-CENTURY ANNIVERSARY OF FRÓN

The Chapter Frón, of The Icelandic National League, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on May 24, at the Scandinavian Centre in Winnipeg. The celebration was in the form of a social evening. The visiting at tables was briefly interrupted by a programme under the charmanship of its President, Skuli Johannsson.

In his opening address he referred to what had been accomplished in the past and paid tribute to all Vestur-Islandingar who had supported the undertaking of Frón to provide suitable quarters for the library, the nucleus of a museum, and for accommodation for small meetings.

The secretary Pall Hallson read greetings from Rev. P. M. Petursson, Dr. Richard Beck, and Dr. V. J. Eylands, the present and two of the past presidents of the League. A message in verse form was received from Agust Gudmundsson of Iceland.

Hon. W. J. Lindal, representing The Icelandic Canadian Club and The Icelandic Canadian Magazine, referred to the close cooperation that had existed this past year between the Chapter

Frón and those organizations. He pointed out how much they had in common and that their objectives were the same—the preservation of the Icelandic heritage in Canada. The only difference between the two was that in Frón Icelandic was the prevailing language but English in the Club and the Magazine. It was a treat, he said, on such an occasion to attire in the beautiful festal robes of the Icelandic language. Next day all could don the every day clothes of English.

Mr. Heimir Thorgrimson gave a brief address in English in which he referred to past accomplishments of Frón.

Piano selections, both solos and a duet, were rendered by the cousins, Helga, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Baldur Stefanson and Carol, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Sigurdson, Mr. Jochum Asgeirsson was presented with a mounted silver colored map of Iceland on a black background, in recognition of his thirty years of service as treasurer of Frón.

Coffee, sandwiches and cake were served in the lower hall of the Centre.

**THE NEW
MANITOBA
GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Ed Schreyer has been called upon to form a new Government of Manitoba, following the elections of June 25, 1969, the Magazine has taken a glimpse into the near future and seen the following:



Hon. Ed Schreyer, Premier of Manitoba



Hon. P. M. Petursson



Hon. A. R. Paulley

Dr. Thorlakson Installed as Chancellor

At the second Annual Spring Convocation of the University of Winnipeg, held in the Winnipeg Auditorium on Sunday, May 25, 1969, Dr. Paul H. T. Thorlakson was installed as Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Gordon Blake, Professor of Economics at the University, presented Dr. Thorlakson and the oath of office was administered by the President of the University, Rt. Rev. W. C. Lockhart.

The Chancellor's reply follows.

RESPONSE BY

Chancellor Paul H. T. Thorlakson

Dr. Lockhart, Your Honor, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Graduating Class, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Board of Regents and The Senate of the University of Winnipeg have conferred a great honour upon me. To them I express my deep appreciation and pledge that such talents, as I may possess, will be used towards helping to build a progressive and influential centre of higher learning—one that will be strong and responsive to the needs and expectations of our students, of their parents, and of society.

On our University Campus, we have Manitoba Hall and Wesley Hall. These historic names are constant reminders of the early pioneering days, when it took a great deal of vision and fortitude to found Colleges in a settlement of a few thousand people. Manitoba College founded in 1871 and Wesley College founded in 1888, later became United College, which was

destined to become a University in the heart of this growing metropolis.

As monuments to the faith and foresight of our predecessors, we also have Sparling Hall, Bryce Hall, Ashdown Hall, Riddell Hall and Graham Hall. Less than an hour ago, The Minister of Youth and Education, the Honourable Donald W. Craik, laid the cornerstone of a new building which is being erected on the Campus, and which will be known as Lockhart Hall. This is a most deserving and fitting tribute to a man whom we wish to thank, and honour, for his qualities of heart and mind, and for his courageous and effective leadership of the affairs of this institution for fourteen years. It was under Dr. Lockhart's guidance, that United College was elevated to University status.

Because of the many progressive developments in education in Canada, it behooves every adult citizen—both young and old—to be well informed of the academic, administrative and financial problems and difficulties facing our educational institutions, and care enough to do something for them. Our personal and collective involvement in education promises to become one of the most exciting and challenging Canadian adventures during the remaining years of this century. It is, therefore, with a sense of keen anticipation that I look forward to my association with the University of Winnipeg.

The purpose of this Convocation is two-fold—to honour four distinguished Canadians and to confer degrees upon the students who have successfully completed their course of studies at the University of Winnipeg.

In the process of learning, you have gained a foundation of knowledge upon which you can continue to build for the rest of your lives. You have acquired a sense of value and adopted attitudes which you will continue to develop. In your further pursuits of knowledge, you will—I hope—be constructively critical of some of the presently accepted ideas, and be helpful in finding workable solutions to some of the explosive and perplexing problems which confront us today.

To each graduate, I extend my good wishes and express the hope that life will present you with ever-widening and challenging opportunities.

At the Baccalaureate Service this morning, we sang a hymn of guidance, "O God of Bethel". The third verse read as follows:

"Through each perplexing path
of life
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread,
And raiment fit provide."

May God grant that you and I will be true to ourselves, prepared for the responsibilities that lie ahead, and worthy of the academic gowns which we wear on this day.

SISTER LAUFHEY OLSON OBTAINS ARTS DEGREE



Sister Laufey Olson

At the convocation in June of Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter, Minn. Sister Laufey Olson,

former deaconess at the First Icelandic Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, was given her bachelor of arts degree "cum laude", highest award which she won in final examinations.

Sister Olson was born at Selkirk, Man., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Jonasson. She graduated from the college of the United Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1957 and was ordained a deaconess in the First Icelandic Lutheran Church in Winnipeg in June, 1958. Her husband, Rev. Carl J. Olson, also a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College, died in September, 1951. Sister Olson had continued as deaconess at the First Icelandic Lutheran Church until entering Gustavus Adolphus College two years

CANADA PRESS CLUB VISITS KETTLE RAPIDS



MEMBERS OF THE CANADA PRESS CLUB ARRIVING AT GILLAM, MANITOBA ON A TRANSAIR LTD. AIRCRAFT

On the invitation of the Manitoba Hydro, members of the Canada Press Club, about 30 in number, visited the huge Kettle Rapids electric power project on the Nelson River, on Saturday, June 14, and spent an unusually pleasant and profitable day.

The tour was under the direction of Kris Kristjanson, the Assistant General Manager of Manitoba Hydro, Earl

Mills, the Manager of Public Relations, and Thomas Woodhall, Director, Engineering Division.

The chartered airplane left Winnipeg shortly before 8:00 a.m. and flew almost straight north to Gillam on the Hudson's Bay Railway, a distance, as crows and airplanes fly, of about 460 miles. Gillam was reached about 10:00 o'clock.



KETTLE PROJECT: A VIEW OF THE DOWNSTREAM SIDE OF THE POWERHOUSE INDICATING THE HEIGHT OF THE STRUCTURE. A 98.5-FOOT HEAD OF WATER WILL BE HELD BACK BY THE DAM AND DIRECTED THROUGH THE TURBINES. UPWARD SLOPING CONCRETE STRUCTURES IN FOREGROUND ARE CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH THE WATER WILL PASS DOWNSTREAM AFTER LEAVING THE TURBINES.

The morning was spent in the rapidly growing town of about two thousand. There are a few remnants of the old railway divisional point village but otherwise the town is a most modern business and shopping centre. The newly constructed houses are up-to-date with modern household equipment. The school-age children, numbering over 400, were attending school in a recently built school, built according to latest demands and requirements. The small children playing in front of the houses and the occasional young housewife darting in and out completed the picture of an expanding town of young married couples.

As one would have expected, food prices increased at an alarming rate. The energetic people of Gillam rose to the occasion. They formed a co-operative shopping centre of their own which keeps prices at reasonable levels and at the same time is just as fully equipped for serving customers as shopping centres in the suburbs of Metro Winnipeg.

At noon a full course roast beef meal was served to the guests. The food was excellent and the service superb. Many of the waitresses were university students.

In the afternoon the power plant was visited, all donning comfortable factory helmets. What attracted the attention of many of those who in their youth had on occasions used shovels, was to watch the steel "fingers" grip the handle at the top of large steel buckets, holding three cubic yards of

concrete, and release them when the huge cranes had conveyed them from loaded trucks to where the concrete was being poured into the plant under construction — a distance of several hundred feet.

The Kettle Falls plant, when completed, will have twelve generators and will have a capacity of 1,224,000 kilowatts. The drop in the water level is close to 100 feet.

Further down the Nelson River there are two large potential power sites, one at Limestone with an estimated capacity of 1,840,000 kilowatts, and the other at Gillam Lake with a potential capacity of 832,000 kilowatts. The total Nelson River potential with the proposed Churchill River diversion included, is 5,553,000 kilowatts, the second largest in Canada.

Before the guests left Mr. Kristjanson, in referring to the huge Nelson River power potential, reminded those present that to maintain large power plants reservoirs of water, either natural or artificial, have to be maintained so that the needed flow of water is available during the winter when the flow through natural streams is at its lowest point. "You can store water", he said, "but you can't store electric power".

The Canada Press Club greatly appreciates this invitation and extends greetings to Mr. W. D. Fallis the President, and to the officers and other personnel who made the trip so very pleasant.

—W. J. L.

I Stood By The Hospital Door, Mother

by ART REYKDAL

I stood by the hospital door, Mother,
And silently whispered your name.
I longed to return to your side, Mother,
But that wasn't part of the game.
For visiting hours were past, Mother,
And so I was forced to remain
Outside of those hospital walls, Mother,
But I wanted to kiss you again.

I wanted to kiss you again, Mother.
I longed to caress your old face.
I wanted to whisper my love, Mother,
And hold you within my embrace.
For one fleeting hour I stood, Mother,
An hour I couldn't retain,
And I tenderly clung to your hand, Mother,
But I wanted to kiss you again.

You lay there so quiet and still, Mother.
More helpless you hardly could be.
I wanted to drive off your fears, Mother,
As you did so often for me.
That night I was going away, Mother,
And as I was boarding the train
That would lengthen the miles in between us
I wanted to kiss you again.

The years have been taxing and long, Mother.
You faced them so dauntless and brave.
But your spirit was weakened and spent, Mother.
You'd started to long for the grave.
Death came like an angel of mercy
And bore you away from your pain.
I'd not call you back if I could, Mother,
But I still want to kiss you again.

CITIZENSHIP DAY

On Thursday, May 15, 1969, The Citizenship Council of Manitoba held its annual Citizenship Day special session of the Court of Canadian Citizenship. This time it was held in the Council Chamber of the Winnipeg City Hall.

The court ceremony followed the usual Citizenship Day pattern, with Peter Taraska, President of the Court, presiding. Greetings were extended by representatives of the Government of Manitoba, the Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg and the City of Winnipeg, as well as by Mrs. H. H. Roeder, President of the Citizenship Council of Manitoba. The main address of the evening was given by Dr. H. H. Saunderson, President of the University of Manitoba. The customary reply to the address was given by Mr. Udo Fuith, who recently received his certificate of Canadian Citizenship.

One of the feature events was a choi selection by the Portage Indian Student Residence Glee Club, under the direction of Mr. J. Harris.

Following the Citizenship ceremonies coffee and light refreshments are always provided by a church society, an ethnic organization or some other type of community service organization. This time the refreshments were provided by The Icelandic Canadian Club—the first time in Winnipeg that an Icelandic organization had undertaken to perform this very appropriate citizenship service. It is well to recall the words of Dr. Saunderson who said that being a good Canadian citizen

means more than performing your work well in your chosen calling and certainly more than not breaking the laws of Canada. Participation in work for the building of good citizenship is something, he said, in which all citizens can take a part, no matter whether great or small.

Arrangements for refreshments were in charge of Lillian Page (Mrs. R. J. Page) who is on the executive of The Icelandic Canadian Club. They were served in one of the conference rooms on the second floor of the Administrative Building, and all attending the Citizenship ceremony, close to two hundred, attended. Needless to say there were plenty of Icelandic delicacies such as the popular vinar-terta. This is the first time that food was allowed to be brought into City Hall from the outside. Unfortunately there were no facilities for making coffee in the Icelandic way with a "poki", the nearly perfect way of making drip coffee.

Much credit is due Mrs. Page and her assistants not only for the refreshments but for the arrangements made for the service, quickly and efficiently. She was ably assisted by Mrs. Gissur Eliasson, wife of the President of The Icelandic Canadian Club, Mrs. Lena Goodman, Mrs. Olavia Olson, Mrs. Sylvia Storry, Mrs. Audrey Samson, Mrs. Olaf MacDonald, and Mrs. Irene Hallgrimson, wife of the Immediate Past President of the Club, Mr. L. J. Hallgrimson.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB

The annual meeting of The Icelandic Canadian Club was held on July 3, in the Parish Hall of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg.

The President, Gissur Eliasson, gave a report on the activities of the Club during the past year which clearly indicated progress in the club.

There were two new items, each very effective. The first was the visit of Ragnar Bjarnason, of Reykjavik and his concert in St. Mary's Hall. It truly brought young Reykjavik to Winnipeg. The second was the appearance of Hon. Johann Hafstein and Frú Hafstein at the annual concert of the Club on February 25, when they met recipients of scholarships and awards. One could feel the warmth of the handshakes and their winning smiles as they walked by and shook hands with the scholarship winners and the two artists who performed that evening.

Hon. W. J. Lindal, the Editor-in-Chief of the magazine, instead of referring to the magazine which he said spoke for itself, read an extract from the guest editorial appearing in the present issue. The timely and appropriate suggestion in that editorial, to-

gether with some other topics, referred to by the Chairman, could, he said, form the "Food for Thought" at a general discussion this coming year.

The financial report, submitted by the auditor, showed the finances of the Club in good shape.

Mr. L. J. Hallgrimson submitted the report of the nominating committee which was unanimously adopted.

The slate of officers and the executive members follows.

Honorary President: Mr. Alex S. Thorsarinson.

Past President: Mr. L. J. Hallgrimson.

President: Mr. G. Eliasson.

Vice-President: Mr. T. Samson.

Secretary: Mr. H. J. Stefansson.

Treasurer: Mr. Jon Johannson.

Executive Members: Hon. W. J. Lindal, Mrs. Lillian Page, Mrs. Hrund Skulason, Mrs. Lara Sigurdson, Miss Caroline Gunnarsson, Mr. John Mathiason, Mr. E. Sigurjonsson, Mr. Doug Stephanson, Mr. Harold Bjarnason, Jon Samson.

All the present members of The Magazine Board have agreed to serve another year.

Notice of Scholarship Awards

ANNOUNCEMENT from the Department of Education Iceland

The Department of Education in Reykjavik, Iceland, offers a student of Icelandic extraction, residing in Canada or The United States, financial assistance for studies in Icelandic history language and literature in the Department of Philosophy in the University of Iceland, from October 1, 1969 to May 1, 1970.

The amount of the bursary is kr. 66,500, which at present exchange rates is approximately \$825.00 in Canadian funds.

The bursary is based upon the amount needed for board, sleeping quarters and textbooks. Meals are served in the students dining hall and sleeping quarters provided in the Students' Residence of the University, both at prevailing rates, deductible from bursary.

Applications should be sent on or before July 31, 1969 to

Prof. Haraldur Bessason,
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg 19, Manitoba

I. O. D. E. SCHOLARSHIPS

The Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Memorial Scholarship — \$150.00

To be awarded each year to a student with complete Gr. 12 Man. Departmental standing who is enrolled in the first year of a degree course in a Manitoba university or affiliated colleges. Candidates will be selected on the basis of scholastic standing, good

citizenship and leadership potential. First consideration will be given to candidates of Icelandic origin.

★

Elinborg Hanson I.O.D.E. Memorial Scholarship — \$75.00.

To be awarded each year to the student who places second in the competition for Johanna Gudrun Skaptason I.O.D.E. Memorial Scholarship.

★

Jon Sigurdson Scholarship — \$75.00

A scholarship of seventy-five dollars is awarded annually to a student of Icelandic extraction, who obtains the highest standing (not less than 70) in piano, violin, voice or violincello, (in grades VI to XI inclusive).

Applications for scholarships, Jon Sigurdson Chapter, I.O.D.E., should be made on or before September 30, 1969, and should be sent to: **The Educational Secretary, Mrs. Lena Goodman, 892 Goulding Street, Winnipeg 10.**

THE CANADA-ICELAND FOUNDATION AND THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

The Canada-Iceland Foundation and The Icelandic Canadian Club are offering scholarships of from \$100.00 to \$200.00 for the 1969-70 academic term to students of Icelandic descent or other students showing an interest in Icelandic language and literature who have completed Gr. 12 in one of the

high schools of Manitoba, and who plan to attend the University of Manitoba or the University of Winnipeg or the University of Brandon.

Qualifications will be based primarily on the results of the departmental examinations, but consideration will also be given to qualities of leadership, and to need for financial assistance.

Candidates are hereby invited to send their applications to the undersigned before August 31, 1969, together with a statement of examination results and testimonials from two leaders in the community.

People who read this announcement are asked to bring it to the attention of any worthy candidate.

W. J. Lindal,
Icel. Scholarship Com. Sec.
788 Wolseley Avenue,
Winnipeg 10, Man.

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP

The Icelandic Festival Committee of Manitoba (formerly the Icelandic Celebration Committee) announces its offer of a \$100.00 scholarship for the academic year 1969-70 to a student who is entering or is already enrolled at one of the three universities in Manitoba: the University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg and the Brandon University.

The following is the basis for selection:

- (1) Icelandic or part Icelandic descent.
- (2) A first class standing— a "B" standing the minimum.
- (3) Participation in extra-curricular or community activities desirable.

Applications for this scholarship, with relevant details are to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Festival Committee, Mr. Dennis Stefanson, 39 Keats Way, Winnipeg 22, on or before August 31, 1969.

Graduates and Academic Awards

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Master of Science

WESTDAL, John Arthur Swain, Parents: Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Westdal, Fort Garry 19, Man.

Doctor of Medicine

JORUNDSON, Edward Ralph. Parents: Mr. Oscar Jorundson and the late Grace Jorundson, Riverton, Manitoba.

Doctor of Dental Medicine

Olafson, Irvin Hjalmar, B.Sc. (M.E.) Parents: Mr. and Mrs. B. Olafson. 765 Broadway Ave., Winnipeg.

Bachelor of Arts, (Honours)

ELIASSON, Melba Marina, (First Class Honours) Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Gissur and Elvira Eliasson, 890 Dominion St., Winnipeg 10.

JOHANNSSON, Robert Donald, Parents: Mrs. A. Owen, 254 Montrose St., Winnipeg 9, Manitoba

Bachelor of Science (Honours)

JOHNSON, James Sigurdur, (First Class Honours). Parents: Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Johnson, 551 Centennial St., Winnipeg 9, Man.

Bachelor of Arts (General Course)

ISFELD, Robert Harold. Parents: Gestur and Bertha Isfeld, Winnipeg

Beach, Man. Mr. Isfeld has been teaching for some years and next year will be Vice-Principal of a school in The Pas.

JOHNSON, Kenneth Albert. Parents: Dr. and Mrs. A. V. Johnson, 300 Kelvin Blvd., Winnipeg 29, Man.

JOHNSON, Stefan William. Parents: Dr. and Mrs. K. I. Johnson, Gladstone, Manitoba.

OLESON, Thomas Tryggvi. Parents: Mrs. Elva Oleson, 435 Rosedale St., Winnipeg, Man., and the late Dr. T. J. Oleson.

THORVALDSON, Donna Maureen. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Thorvaldson, 918 Campbell St., Winnipeg 9, Manitoba.

Bachelor of Education

ELIASSON, Glen Skuli, B.Sc., Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Gissur and Elvira Eliasson, 890 Dominion St., Winnipeg 10, Manitoba.

HJALMARSON, John Handford, B.A. Parents: The late Dr. and Mrs. Numi Hjalmarson, Woodlands, Manitoba.

Bachelor of Laws

STEFANSON, Kristjan Fredric, B.A., Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Eric and Sigrun Stefanson, 102-355 Lanark, Winnipeg.

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honours)

HOLM, Frederick Arnor, Parents: Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Holm, Husavik, Manitoba.

Bachelor of Science in Engineering, (Electrical)

SMITH, Tryggvi Harvey. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Harvey and Elin (Eggertson) Smith.

Bachelor of Science (General)

JOHNSON, Johann Garth,

Parents: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Johnson, 1169 Boyd Ave., Winnipeg 14, Man.

Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy

EYOLFSON, Davilyn Teed Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Deminsky, 207 Green St., Flin Flon, Man.

JOHNSON, Marlene Emily. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Johnson, 328 Toronto St., Winnipeg 10, Manitoba.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (General)

JOHNSON, Dorothy Ann. Parents: Mrs. C. H. Johnson, 275 Royal Ave., Winnipeg 17, Man.

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, (General)

ANDERSON, William Donald. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Anderson, Forrest, Manitoba.

BRECKMAN, William Arni. Parents: Mrs. K. S. Breckman, Lundar, Man., and the late Gudlaugur (Laugi) Breckman.

OLSON, James Paul, Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Olson, Box 388, Gimli, Man.

Bachelor of Physical Education

ARNASON, Robert William, Parents: Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Arnason, 76-6th Ave., Gimli, Manitoba

MAGNUSSON, Penny Lynn, Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Kristinn Magnusson, 172 Teakwood Ave., Winnipeg 17, Manitoba.

Certificate of Education

BOTTING, Karen Thora, B.A., Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Skapti J. Borgford, 1292 Valour Rd., Winnipeg.

HELGASON, Merriane Lyn, B. H.Ec. Parents: Prof. and Mrs. S. B. Helgason, 810 Oakenwald Ave., Winnipeg.

JOHANNESON, Joan Lorraine, B.A. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. John Johan-

nesson, 519 Kildare Ave., West,
Winnipeg 25, Manitoba.

JONASSON, Iona Ruth, B.A.,
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Jonas and
Evelyn Jonasson, Winnipeg, Man.

SIGURDSON, Sandra Julia, B.A.,
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Johann and
Helga Sigurdson, Lundar, Man.

SIGURDSON, John Randolph, B.A.,
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Arnthor and
Magnea Sigurdson, Arborg, Man.

Postgraduate Scholarships

JOHNSON, James Sigurdur, — \$3,600.

HJORLEIFSON, Geoffrey Ronald, —
\$2,000.00.

Further particulars with photographs
will appear in the Autumn number.

Canada Law Book Company Ltd. Prize

STEFANSON, Kristjan Fredric.

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Bachelor of Science

JONASSON, Ralph Thidrick,
Lipton St., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Bachelor of Arts

BECK, Michael Ross,
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Beck,
975 Ingersoll St., Winnipeg, Man.

EINARSON, Katherine Constance,
354 Green St., Flin Flon, Man.

HJARTARSON, Frederick Theodore,
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Hjart-
arson, 1117 Downing St. Winnipeg.

★

MRS. J.W. (Evelyn) DOWNEY, of
Winnipeg received her degree of
Social Work from the University of
Manitoba, in May, 1968. Her thesis
was a study of women graduates of the
School of Social Work at the University
of Manitoba, including employment
and mobility pattern.

Evelyn received her B.A. degree from
the University of Manitoba (United

College) in 1950.

Mrs. Downey is the daughter of Mrs.
and Mrs. W. Kristjanson of Winnipeg.

**RONALD WILLIAM KRISTJAN-
SON**, of Winnipeg, received his degree
of Master of Arts from the Graduate
School, University of North Dakota,
in February, 1969. His thesis was a
study of vocational counselling for
university students.

Ronald received his B.A. degree
from the University of Manitoba
(United College) in 1962.

Ronald is the son of Mr. and Mrs.
W Kristjanson, of Winnipeg

**MRS. DR. J. S. (Carolyn Jean) MAT-
THIASSON**, of Winnipeg, received
her degree of Doctor of Philosophy
from Cornell University, Ithaca, New
York, in September, 1968. Her thesis
was a study of the adjustment of Mex-
ican immigrants in the United States.
She is teaching anthropology in the
University of Manitoba.

WILLIAM JOHNSON, of London,
Ont., received his degree of Doctor
of Science from the Massachusetts Insti-
tute of Technology, in February, 1969.
The subject of his thesis is a study of
transportation networks.

William has been appointed Senior
Research Officer with the Greater
London Council, London, England.

William is the son of Mr. and Mrs.
Magnus Johnson, of London, Ont.,
and formerly of Winnipeg.

MATT BJARNASON received his
Bachelor of Science degree in geology
in May at the University of Calgary.
Upon graduation he accepted employ-
ment with Texaco Exploration Com-
pany and headed an airborne geolog-
ical survey party operating out of Innu-
vik, Northwest Territories. Matt is the
son of Alfred and Victoria Bjarnason,
of Calgary Alberta.

IN THE NEWS

— ANNOUNCEMENT —

**The Management Board of The
Icelandic Canadian hereby announces
that commencing with the Autumn
1969 issue (Volume 27) the subscrip-
tion rate will be \$3.00 per year. The
Christmas Gift Rate and any other
special rates will be announced in the
Autumn number.**

W. J. Lindal,
Chairman of the Board
Mattie Halldorson,
Secretary of the Board

★

DR. O. E. LAXDAL APPOINTED TO HIGH OFFICE

REGINA (Special) — An appointment
with major significance for medical
practice in Saskatchewan was made a
short time ago in Saskatoon.

The University appointed Dr. O. E.
Laxdal, formerly in pediatrics practice
in Regina, to the newly created posi-
tion of director of continuing medical
education.

Dr. Laxdal is responsible for devel-
oping a unified educational program
through which physicians across the
province can keep abreast of medical
progress. The position, created in re-
sponse to a growing need for assistance
in professional improvement, puts
Saskatchewan in line with a nation-
wide trend toward more intensive con-
tinuing medical education.

Dean D. F. Moore, of the College of
Medicine, said that the Saskatchewan
Medical Association, the College of
Physicians and Surgeons, the College
of Family Physicians, and the Depart-
ment of Public Health will be co-oper-
ating in the development of this ex-

panding area. The program will in-
clude short courses, rural conferences,
publications, and the use of audio-
visual aids. The co-ordination of
graduate medical training throughout
the province also comes under the new-
ly established post.

The Saskatchewan Medical Asso-
ciation has a committee on continuing
medical education and has provided
information and speakers to the var-
ious districts of the province for sever-
al years. The objective, according to
Dr. E. H. Baergen of the SMA, has
been to keep physicians up to date in
the diagnosis and treatment of the
common disorders they are likely to
meet in the areas they serve. The new
program, he added, hopefully will in-
corporate and extend what already is
being done.

Dr. Laxdal commented that nowa-
days, particularly in rural areas, it is
difficult for doctors to keep up to date.

"To maintain the high standards of
medical practice that people expect,
doctors need effective and direct com-
munication with centres of medical
education. Practising physicians are
aware of this and have been using
many types of techniques to remain
currently informed."

Dr. Laxdal brings a broad back-
ground of educational and profession-
al experience to the new position. A
graduate of the University of Saskat-
chewan with the bachelor of arts degree
in 1943, he went to the University of
Toronto and obtained the degree of
doctor of medicine in 1947. He special-
ized in pediatrics, taking residency
training at Toronto's Hospital for Sick
Children, the Boston Children's Hos-
pital, Bellevue Medical Centre, New

York, and the Toronto General Hospital. He became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Canada) in 1954 and fellow of the American Academy of Pediatricians in 1964.

★

ERLING BJARNASON BECOMES PRESIDENT OF DRUG STORE CHAIN

Erling Bjarnason, a native of Wynyard, Sask., in March was elected by the board of directors at Vancouver as president of Cunningham Drug Stores Limited, a drug store chain with 77 stores in British Columbia and Alberta and a western wholesale division. Mr. Bjarnason joined the company in 1937, held various managerial posts including store manager, personnel manager and merchandising manager, then vice-president and general manager of the retail division. Mr. Bjarnason received his education in Wynyard schools and began his apprenticeship with Arin and Ted Eyolfson at Wynyard Pharmacy. He graduated from the School of Pharmacy at Vancouver. Married, his wife is the former Evelyn Jonasson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jonasson, pioneers of the Wynyard district. Mr. Bjarnason was the son of the poet and writer, the late Paul Bjarnason and his wife Dora. They have three children.

★

APPOINTED MERCHANDISE MANAGER

Ryan Sigurdson in April was appointed merchandise manager of the Winnipeg firm of Robinson, Little and Company which operates Robinson stores in Western Canadian centres. Mr. Sigurdson was with the Hudson's Bay Company for 12 years, becoming resident fashion buyer in the Bay's Montreal office, and for the past eight

years has been associated with the Saan and Metropolitan stores in both Winnipeg and Montreal as buyer for all facets of women's wear.

★

GEOLOGY GRADUATE KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

The sad news has been received that Matt Bjarnason, mentioned in the graduate list in this issue, while on a geological survey flight in the Northwest Territories, was one of three men killed when their helicopter went down. He had received his Bachelor of Science degree in geology last May.

★

PROF. BJARNASON BECOMES COLONEL IN U.S. MARINE CORP.

Prof. Loftur Bjarnason of the government and humanities department of the Naval Postgraduate School in California was this spring promoted to the rank of colonel in the United States Marine Corps. Prof. Bjarnason, who lives with his family in Monterey, received his Ph.D. degree from Stanford University and has been on the postgraduate school faculty as a professor of literature since 1958. Dr. Bjarnason was born in Utah, descendant of an Icelandic family that moved to Utah about 1850.

★

S. A. THORARINSON APPOINTED VICE-CONSUL

S. Alec Thorarinson, Winnipeg barrister and solicitor, in May was appointed vice-consul of Iceland in Winnipeg with the vice-consulate offices in the Crown Trust Building, 364 Main St. The announcement came from the embassy of Iceland in Ottawa. Mr. Thorarinson over the years has been prominent in western Icelandic affairs and in business circles in Winnipeg.

J. S. HELGASON RETIRES

J. S. Helgason, deputy assistant superintendent of St. James-Assiniboia school division retired in June, bringing to a close an association with the division which began in 1959. With the creation of the unitary school division of Assiniboine North in 1967 Mr. Helgason was named superintendent and was largely responsible for the fine development of elementary schools within the area. His contribution to education was further recognized when he was awarded the Centennial Medal. Mr. Helgason had since January of this year been assistant superintendent in the newly-formed division of St. James-Assiniboia.

★

ICELAND'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED IN SEATTLE

The Icelandic Club of Greater Seattle celebrated Iceland's Independence Day (June 17, 1944) at Norway Center, Seattle, on June 20, at 7 p.m. The celebration was in the form of a banquet and dance.

Iceland's "Fjallkona" the traditional personification of Iceland and its people was represented by Erika Thorlakson Eastvold. Mrs. Harold Eastvold. She is a sister to the Thorlakson brothers, Rev. Octavius, Dr. Paul H. T., Fred and Halfdan, and to Margaret, widow of the late Rev. Haraldur Sigmar, D.D.

The Fjallkona, Lady of the Mountains appeared in the beautiful Icelandic festival dress, which, for the occasion, was made by Inga, Mrs. Benedikt Langholt and by Thuridur, Mrs. Gudmundur Hjaltason.

★

MR. and MRS. SVEINN KRISTJANSON OF ELFROS HONORED

Mr. and Mrs. Sveinn Kristjanson of Elfros Sask., were honored in March on their 60th wedding anniversary, at a gathering of family and friends in the Elfros Union Church at which the guest book was signed by some 200 persons. Guests were from Saskatoon, Wynyard, Mozart, Quill Lake, Nipawin, Wadena, Leslie and Elfros. The program, introduced by Mrs. Ernie Holliday, included musical numbers, presentations from the community and the Senior Aid and reading of messages of congratulations and good wishes. A short address was given by Rev. Dale Morrison of Wynyard. With Mr. and Mrs. Kristjanson for the occasion were their two sons, Sveinn and Stanley and their wives, and a grandson, Rev. Douglas Morrison. They have four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Kristjanson were married March 24, 1909, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Borgford in the Holar district by Rev. Mr. Fjelsted.


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GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. and Mrs. Sigurdur Victor Sigurdson of Riverton, Man. in May were honored by family and friends on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary at a large gathering at Riverton Hall. Both have over the years been prominent in community, church, municipal and business fields in the Interlake area. Mrs. Sigurdson is the former Kristrun Marteinson who was born at Hnausa. In early years Mr. Sigurdson with two uncles established a fishing business on Lake Winnipeg. He was a member of Bifrost municipality council for 17 years, became the first mayor when Riverton was incorporated and held that post for 12 years. He has been head of the Monarch Construction Company since its inception. Mr. and Mrs. Sigurdson had eight children, of whom seven are liv-

ing and married. There are 23 grandchildren.

★

Nearly 700 persons gathered in the community hall at Vidir, Man., on April 6 to honor Mr. and Mrs. Vilberg Eyolfson of Arborg on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Present were guests from Brandon, Winnipeg and Selkirk.

Mr. and Mrs. Eyolfson farmed in the Vidir district over the years until retiring to make their home in Arborg, and Mr. Eyolfson for many years was a member of Bifrost municipal council. Mr. Eyolfson was a surveyor and Mrs. Eyolfson a school teacher prior to their marriage. They took an active part in community and other affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Eyolfson had three children, a son Edward who died while young, and two daughters, Grace, Mrs. Anderson, and Kathleen, Mrs. Michael

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Harasym. Both daughters and members of their families were present for the occasion.

Sigurdur Sigvaldason of Vidir was master of ceremonies and speakers

were Thorberg Johannesson, also of Vidir, and Arborg mayor Mrs. Kenneth Reid. A musical program was presented.

★

GRADUATES WITH B.A. DEGREE

Janet Kristine Maddin, daughter of Charles and Herdis Maddin, 800 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, received her Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Psychology, from the Simon Fraser University of Vancouver, B. C., in May, 1969.

★

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by PAUL SIGURDSON

Oh, wee soft bundle of God!
Cloud-like pinkness,
Such sacred mischief
In thy face;
Such a gurgling mirth
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In thine eyes.

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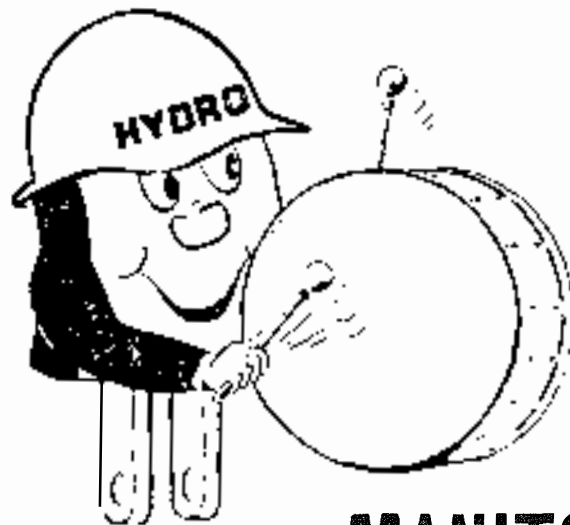
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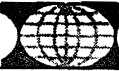


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