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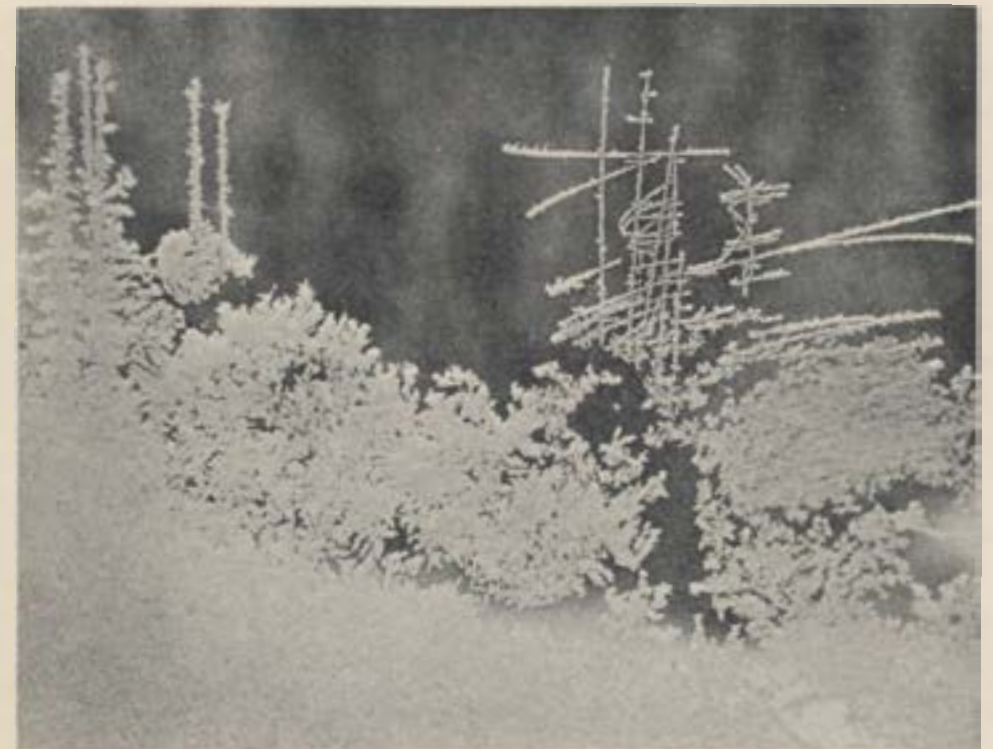
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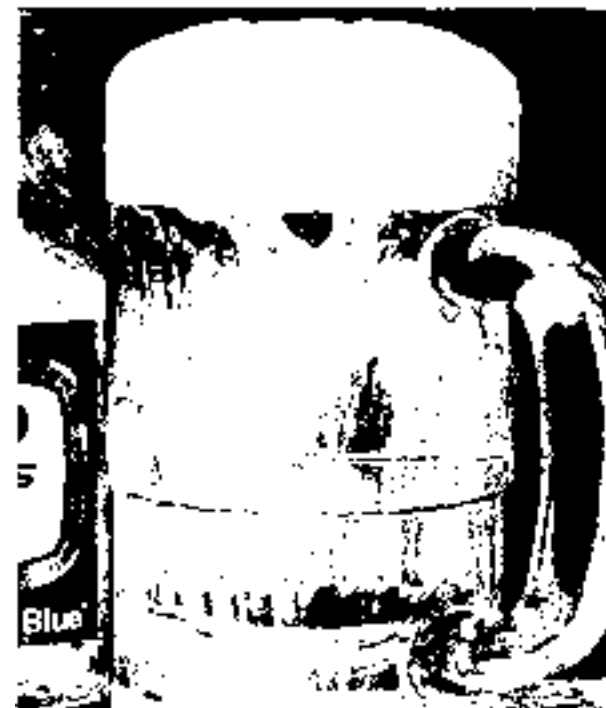
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EDITORIAL

Christmas Meditations at Semiahmoo Bay

The mist-enshrouded homes on the hillsides overlooking the bay emit an aura of tranquility, their immaculately groomed gardens reminiscent of something out of an English country calendar. On Marine Drive a teen-ager in a souped-up car races by, but generally the atmosphere in White Rock, British Columbia, is peaceful and subdued. To the south across Semiahmoo Bay the dim outlines of the San Juan Islands are faintly discernible, and to the southeast a fairyland of Christmas lights in Blaine, Washington, gleam brightly in the gathering dusk. In the distance, wafted across the hillside, the blessed chiming of church bells blends with the rhythmic beat of the waves against the shore.

In one of his poems Tennyson said:

"The time draws near the birth of Christ.
The moon is hid, the night is still.
The Christmas bells from hill to hill
Answer each other in the mist."

The world unfortunately has too many mists that tend to obscure the essential goodness and kindness of the human heart and the basic soundness of human nature.

A home-spun philosopher may be justified in calling the newspapers "daily saddeners". To maintain his mental balance he may deem it necessary to select specific types of articles to read, and to omit others, because they contain so many reports of crime and cruelty, greed and graft, selfishness and sordidness, suffering and sorrow. Otherwise he may be tempted to agree with the gentle, sensitive Roman poet, Virgil, about whom Tennyson said, "Thou majestic in thy sadness at the doubtful doom of humankind."

Once every year through the dark, silent mists of these negative, destructive forces ring the joyous bells of Christmastide, and the bright, penetrating light of good-will disperses the mists. Humanity seems transformed. "Gone are the sorrows, gone doubts and fears". Smiles replace frowns. Friendliness takes the place of enmity. The miracle of Christmas began with a message which the

world will long remember with reverence and gratitude.

Shepherds long ago heard the first Christmas message as they watched over their sheep one winter's night under the star-lit sky of a far Eastern country. They were huddled together for warmth, for even in a Mediterranean country the nights can get cold. They were unhappy. What had they to be happy about during their long, lonely vigil? A proud, haughty nation ruled over their land, a people that did not understand them, and despised the customs and religion of their fathers. In nearby Bethlehem people from the far corners of the country were gathering together to pay tribute to a far-off, tyrannical, hated Caesar. Winding over the distant hills roads could be discerned in the moonlight. They knew that these roads were bandit-infested, and death lurked in the shadows. Far away, dimly outlined against the sky-line could be seen the holy city of Jerusalem. There money-changers daily desecrated the Temple of Solomon. There were rumors of wars, cold and hot. Life seemed to them to be like "a tale told by the

idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing".

Then suddenly there appeared before them a heavenly host singing, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will towards men'. Instantly their hearts became transfused with a transcendent joy. They caught the vision of the world, and the wonders that would be. In place of strife and war, peace, and instead of enmity and hatred, good-will.

This was the message heard long ago on the Judean hills, and transmitted across the years to a distant land where the lights of Blaine and the church bells at White Rock are a reminder that a confused, strife-worn world, for a day at least, seems to understand it. One day, hopefully, that first Christmas message will dispel this winter of malevolence and destruction, bringing in its wake the spring-time of the brotherhood of Man and creative activity. Thus will Virgil's dire portent and "majestic sadness" at humankind's "doubtful doom" be exorcized.

—Axel Vopnfjord

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a HAPPY NEW YEAR



Gleðileg jól og farsælt nýtt ár

FROM THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN TO ITS READERS

AT THE EDITOR'S DESK



SEVENTY YEARS AGO, 1901

In January, 1901, the Icelandic Students Society in Winnipeg was formed. The first president was Ingvar Buason, B.A. 1900.

On October 9, 1901, the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba authorized that Icelandic be added to the foreign language options at the University.

Instruction in the Icelandic language and literature commenced in October at Wesley College (now University of Winnipeg), Winnipeg. The lecturer was Reverend F. J. Bergmann. The Chair in Icelandic was maintained at the College till 1927.

The Icelandic language weekly *Dagskrá II* (Daily Chronicle II), editor Sig. Júl. Jóhannesson, commenced

publication in Winnipeg. Causes which the paper espoused included Temperance, Women's Suffrage, Socialism, and Religious Freedom. Publication continued for two years, but not every week.

Early in the year, Thomas H. Johnson, a Winnipeg lawyer, and later a key man in the Norris government, was appointed chief enumerator for Manitoba for the 1901 federal decennial census.

Gisli Olafson, of Winnipeg, first Icelandic member of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, built the Olafson Block on King Street, Winnipeg, at that time one of the largest and most impressive commercial buildings in City.

Christmas Candles

Have all the people vanished
Behind their doors tonight
And left the street a desert
Wrapped up in chilly light?
Every house has glassy walls
And doors have changed their style,
But still they wear a candlelight
And beckon with a smile.

—Caroline Gunnarsson



JON KRISTINN LAXDAL

The committee meeting had been a stormy one; it seemed that each and every member not only had the perfect solution to the problem at hand but was prepared to present it in detail. One man listened with visible growing impatience, then waded into the torrent of talk. His remarks were terse and went to the root of the matter. Shortly the rumblings of dissension faded away like thunder on a summer afternoon. In an undertone one committee-member remarked, "Trust John to find the shortest distance between point A and point B."

This episode is typical of many which occurred during Jón Laxdal's long period of service to his community wherever he made his home. A burning desire possessed him to get on with the job, to inspire his fellows with energy and enthusiasm, to sweep aside procrastination and fear of failure. People of Arborg and Gimli remember him as a tireless worker who made order and diligence the watchwords of their schools. Thousands of teachers throughout the province and farther afield remember him as the alert administrator of the Teachers College who lost sight of no detail yet found time to sit down with a student to listen, suggest a plan, and finally to offer help in carrying out a course of action. For action is what Jón demanded: merely to wait for whatever chance might bring was quite intolerable.

Here is the answer for those who wonder at the amount of work Jón accomplished. Here is the reason why



Jón Kristinn Laxdal

this busy man was sought out by individuals and groups anxious to carry out some project. When they needed a driving-force they turned to Jón. He seldom refused.

Jón Laxdal's career cannot be fully traced in an article of this length. But his many friends will find a certain pleasure in recalling some of the highlights, familiar though they may be.

Jón was born October 7, 1900, in northern Iceland. At the age of eleven he followed his parents to Canada where they had settled in Sask-

atchewan. He attended school at Wynyard, later in Winnipeg at the Jón Bjarnason Academy. He continued his studies at the University of Manitoba, where he earned degrees in Science, Arts and Education.

At an early age Jón turned to teaching, and knew the joy and the toil of serving in one-room schools in isolated communities. Later he was a classroom teacher in the Gimli School. In 1932 he was appointed principal at Arborg and from 1935 to 1947 he held the same position at Gimli. He then moved to the Provincial Normal School (later known as Manitoba Teachers College) and taught science and mathematics. Within a few years he became assistant principal.

The excellence of his organization and administration of a large and complex institution soon became apparent. Perhaps more striking was his personal concern for those who came within his sphere. Enrolment at the College averaged about six hundred, including one hundred to three hundred resident students. Add to these a large academic staff and an even larger support staff and one begins to have some idea of the magnitude of the task facing an administrator. Nothing daunted, as each new term began, Jón set about learning the names of his students, something of their home background and something of the problems each individual faced as he or she ventured upon a demanding career. It is not at all surprising to those who worked with him that he was at one time urged to assume the principalship of the College. He said frankly, that he was too close to the age of retirement to accept the appointment. Jón's memory for names and faces and for events was phenomenal. And he was ever eager to hear more of the triumphs and the tragedies

that beset his former charges. On meeting one of them, perhaps years later, he would question him in a manner reminiscent of his years in the classroom, leaving no doubt as to the sincerity of his interest. In return he had news of other former students. It was always with pride that he told of their lives. Wherever Jón went he seemed to become the centre of a group. And humour was never long absent for Jón relished a good story. In fact, every moment of the brief but bewildering time we spend on this earth was of importance and interest to Jón.

In 1965 the University of Manitoba assumed responsibility for the training of teachers in this part of the province and Manitoba Teachers College was no more. Jón transferred with the academic staff to the Faculty of Education at the University. He was appointed associate professor. Here he remained for only one year, devoting his time almost exclusively to the organization of practical training which student teachers receive in the public schools. In the spring of 1966 he ended his long and eventful professional career. Friends and colleagues gathered at the University to express their gratitude and their good wishes. On several occasions friends met more informally with Jón to bid him Godspeed.

Much could be said about the part played by Jón in community affairs. Fresh in the memory of many residents of Gimli is his work during the war years. The people of that town, along with those of other centres in the area, for example Riverton and Arborg, can look back with deep satisfaction on their efforts: sale of war bonds, Red Cross work, charitable undertakings, messages and packages for men in the forces—every aspect of the war effort received their enthusiastic support.

And Jón was everywhere, taking part in everything. He forgot, for the time being, what it was like to come home at the end of the day's work and relax with his family. It was during this time, too, that pressure was brought to bear upon him to enter politics at the provincial level. Fortunately for the cause of education, Jón resisted.

For many people of Icelandic descent Íslendingadagurinn, now also known as the Icelandic Festival, is the high point of the year. This day, devoted to the enjoyment of music, poetry, speech-making, pageantry and traditional foods has for decades offered Icelanders a chance to forget their cares and meet with friends too often widely scattered. No one understood better than Jón the importance of this day: to older people for the comfort that only familiar things can offer, to younger people for the sense of identity to be gained from an awareness of one's heritage. For almost twenty years he worked tirelessly in every conceivable capacity for the success of this festive occasion. He assumed responsibility for a large share of the overall plan as well as for countless details. It is interesting to speculate upon the turn events might have taken had the vital importance of his position, coupled with his age, not prevented Jón from joining the armed forces. The temptation to picture him as the commander of a regiment of artillery is very strong. Such a post cried out for a man of Jón's talents.

It would be a grave sin of omission not to make some mention of Jón as he was during hours of relaxation. As with all people who find fulfilment in demanding work, he loved to relax with friends. National issues, local politics, problems arising in his special field of interest—upon all of these he

had views which he expressed freely. But to reminisce, to appraise the passing show, to tell an anecdote with typical understatement and mock solemnity, to laugh wholeheartedly—these were his joys when he met with friends. And fortunate indeed was the man who found himself numbered among his friends: that man need never feel himself deserted. Indeed, Jón was often called upon to share and so to lighten a burden of disappointment or to share and so to magnify a moment of triumph.

It is in the nature of things that not all people who work with a man of such drive, determination and energy will love him all of the time. It would be naive to expect that every individual should be satisfied with every decision made by a man so often called upon to assume the role of leader. But Jón possessed a unique blend of physical energy, power of concentration, humour, and joy in undertaking a challenging task. Along with this was his appearance: alertness, physical well-being, grooming, quick and well-coordinated movements all combined to give him an air of sureness. It was easy to forgive and forget in the presence of a man so wholehearted. No one could for a moment doubt, for example, that he put the welfare of the Teachers College and those who served therein ahead of his own pleasure and his need for rest. Nor could any person who once enjoyed the hospitality of his home fail to see the deep satisfaction he gained from bringing people together for good talk, laughter and generous refreshment. In short, to meet and to know Jón, even for a short time, was to remember him for a lifetime.

Jón owed his zest for life and his fruitful career in no small measure to his wife, Lára, whom he married in

1934. Lára provided the calmness and wise counsel when enthusiasm might have carried him away. And who can gauge the effect upon a man of returning year after year, to a house faultlessly kept, to a table beautifully set and laden with good food, to a home that maintained an air of tranquility even in times of crisis? Certainly Jón was fully aware of his good fortune. It is a comfort to know that now Lára has the love and support of three grown and happily married children: John Anthony, Joanne Maria Wiebe and Shirley May Jopp.

Jón Kristinn Laxdal passed away on September 19th, 1971, in Vancouver, B. C. Since his retirement he had suf-

fered ill health intermittently. But he always managed to pull himself up again and make the long trip every summer to Winnipeg and New Iceland from Vancouver. He looked forward to these reunions with old friends all through the winter. He was prepared to make the trip once more this past summer, but in July suffered a set-back from which he did not recover. His funeral took place in Gimli in the Lutheran Church on September 24th. He was laid to rest in the community cemetery. Upon this sad occasion it was good to see so many friends gathered to honour his memory and to show their affection for his family. —H.V.L.



AN ICELANDIC CULTURAL CORPORATION

An Icelandic cultural corporation has been formed at Gimli, through the initiative of local citizens. It was incorporated in May, 1971. The aim is to work for the preservation of Icelandic culture in North America through developments at Gimli.

The first project will be the establishment of a museum of North American Icelandic culture. Another project is the preservation of the pioneer cemetery at Gimli, the oldest Icelandic cemetery in Canada, except for the Icelandic graves at Kinmount, Ont., which date back to 1874-75. A third important project is the building of a full-size Viking ship replica as a companion piece to the Viking statue

which is a recognized feature of the Gimli scene. The teaching of the Icelandic language at summer school in Gimli is yet another objective.

The corporation will seek to raise funds for these projects among Icelandic people from all parts of America. The hope of the founders is to make Gimli an important Icelandic cultural centre in North America.

S. J. Stefanson, of Gimli, has been named chairman of the board of directors of the Corporation; Mrs. Margaret Rankin, of Gimli, is Vice-President; Timothy Samson, of Winnipeg, is Secretary, and Don Bjornson, of Gimli, is Treasurer.



PEACEKEEPING IN CYPRUS

by Captain John K. Marteinson

Cyprus, a tiny jewel-like island set in the Eastern Mediterranean has quite rightly been described as having a legacy of strife. The reasons behind the present conflict would take volumes to examine in depth, but in any case began centuries before with the migration of Turks to the island during the Ottoman Empire rule. With the birth of the Greek Kingdom in the early 19th century came a growing desire among many of the Greek-Cypriots that union of the island with Greece would bring them fulfillment among their own people. And, at the heart of the matter is the island's geography—only 40 miles from the mainland of Turkey, but more than 500 from the nearest of the Greek islands.

Violence has been almost an everyday part of life in Cyprus since the struggle for independence from Britain began in 1948. The British, after fighting the EOKA guerillas for almost ten years, disentangled itself from the problem by granting independence to the island in 1960. In their haste to pull out, the British left the new republic with an almost unworkable Constitution in which excessive power had been given to the Turk minority (20%) by the system of checks and balances. After three years of trying to make the government machinery function efficiently, Archbishop Ma-

karios, the President of the Republic, announced that a new constitution had to be written so that the government could function. The Turk-Cypriots vehemently rejected any change to the status quo.

On Christmas Day 1963 the island erupted in a wave of murder and terrorism. It has ceased to be relevant who began all this—both sides were certainly guilty of taking part in the slaughter that followed. After the wholesale massacre of hundreds of Turk men, women and children in the suburb of Omorphita, the Turk population over the whole of the island withdrew into barricaded enclaves, and in effect set up their own autonomous governing body under the vice-president, Dr. Kuchuk.

The entire international community became concerned when the fighting continued. British troops, already on the island in the Sovereign Base Area, were brought in to attempt to reduce the tensions, but they were only partially successful, and in any case the British government had no desire to be held responsible for enforcing the peace on the island. In February 1964 the United Nations Security Council was asked to intervene. Initially it was slow to react. Turkey threatened to invade Cyprus to protect the Turk minority. Again, in

March, appeals were made to the UN. The Secretary-General again appealed for troops to form the required force. Canada was the first to agree to provide troops, and only days later, on March 14th, the first Canadian Contingent landed in Nicosia. Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Ireland and Britain quickly sent contingents. Within weeks the United Nations Force in Cyprus was established throughout the island in areas of confrontation, the troops in pale blue berets doing their best to carry out their mandate to prevent a recurrence of the fighting and to contribute to the restoration of normal conditions.

The Canadian Contingent, initially numbered some 1000 men, was composed of an infantry battalion, and armoured reconnaissance squadron, headquarters and logistics personnel. At the outset the Canadians were made responsible for the area of the capital itself, but soon afterwards UNFICYP recognized that the greatest danger lay in the area of the largest Turk-Cypriot enclave, to the Northwest of Nicosia, and the Canadians, being the only professional soldiers in the Force, were considered best equipped to oversee this area.

The Greek and Turk groups on the island had developed a deep hatred and mistrust for each other, and so the task of keeping the peace was never really a simple job. Essentially it came down to one thing: a single UN soldier invariably carried with his very presence the whole weight of the "good offices" of the United Nations, and as such was an inviolate individual. His presence between belligerents was sufficient to stop them shooting at each other, for neither side dared risk the censure of the whole world by killing or wounding a member of the UN force. To this day it has been a

very rare occasion when UN soldiers have been threatened or molested. The existence of a UN outpost was often reason enough for neither side to instigate violence. It was often a means whereby Greek or Turk could "save face", so important in this part of the world, and not feel obligated to respond to some real or imagined insult from the other side. Constant vigilance has always been required by the UN so that at the first sign of trouble the UN could be on the spot to mediate a dispute before it became a battle. In the Canadian's district scores of observation posts were manned by the infantry unit in the most critical areas, and there were always men on stand-by waiting to be rushed to any potential trouble spot. The armoured recon squadron in their Ferret scout cars did a more mobile job—patrolling the whole of the district that was not under surveillance by the infantry. Theirs was largely the job of showing the UN flag regularly throughout the area, keeping watch over the many entrenched positions as well as giving comfort and some feeling of security to the isolated Turk villages in the predominantly Greek area.

But UNFICYP has not been universally successful. Two very serious confrontations have taken place since its creation, and on neither occasion was the UN by itself able to bring an end to the fighting. A major battle at Kokkina, on the Northwest coast, in August 1964, raged for a week before the Greek Cypriot National Guard abandoned their attack in the threat of a Turkish invasion. In November 1967 the Greek Cypriots attacked two Turk villages in the south of the island. Here at Kophinou the UN, with a force on the outskirts of the village equally as large as the attacking forces,

found it necessary to merely stand by and watch as the battle raged. Only the threat of a Turkish invasion of the island coupled with American diplomatic pressure was successful in halting the fighting.

While the political situation in Cyprus has improved substantially since the Kophinou crisis, and at least now Greek and Turk Cypriot authorities are meeting together in an attempt to resolve their differences, UNFICYP yet remains a highly visible element all over the island.

How then does one judge the value of this force? Before making any judgement it must be understood that the UN Force was not created to solve the Cyprus problem—only to prevent a recurrence of the fighting and to contribute to the creation of an atmosphere in which the two sides could work out their differences. UNFICYP has no mandate to impose a solution. In this light one would have to grant that UNFICYP has had at least a qualified success. First, without the UN presence a brutal and bloody civil war would have been likely. UNFICYP has, for the most part, kept violence from being constantly in the forefront of Cypriot life. It has, through patient negotiation, kept essential services in being on both sides of the barricades, and through its economic programme has kept

alive the economy of the country. Perhaps that is really all that could be expected. No group of soldiers, however dedicated, can change attitudes and opinions created over a hundred years of hate and mistrust in but seven short years. In the seven years of relative calm perhaps men of good will on both sides will have been able to reflect on the futility of trying to impose a solution on the other group by force of arms. Perhaps this was what was meant by the drafters of the UN Charter when in 1945 they said "since it is in the minds of men that wars are begun, it is in the minds of men where the foundations for peace must be built".

NOTE—The author, now an officer with the 8th Canadian Hussars, served for eleven years with The Fort Garry Horse, in Canada, Germany and Cyprus. While in Cyprus he commanded the Canadian troops deployed to the scene of the tragic battle at Kophinou in November 1967. He was co-editor of a Regimental History of The Fort Garry Horse published in May of this year. A graduate of the University of Manitoba who studied Icelandic under Haraldur Bessason, he was the recipient of the Icelandic-Canadian Scholarship in 1956.

Captain Martenson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Martenson, of Langruth, Manitoba. —Editor

THE GUNLOGSON ARBORETUM IN NORTH DAKOTA

A Gunlogson Arboretum, in North-eastern North Dakota, six miles west of Cavalier, invites visitors "to enjoy the natural beauty of this plant, animal and bird sanctuary". The varied terrain includes a gravel ridge which was once a beach of Lake Agassiz. There is a variety of communities and

wildlife. The Tongue River runs through the park.

The Arboretum is a part of the North Dakota Park Service. It comprises 200 acres, including the original homestead of the Gunlogson family, which dates back to 1880. Mr. Gunlogson gave this land to the State of North Dakota.

CONCLUSION

The Icelanders On Vancouver Island

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

by Dr. Richard Beck

While the largest number of the Icelanders on Vancouver Island, and their descendants, have resided and still reside in Victoria and its vicinity, a number of their ethnic group have also settled elsewhere on the Island, chiefly at Campbell River, B.C., and Port Alberni, B.C. These settlements are, however, much more recent than the early settlement in Victoria.

Mrs. Albert (Beatrice V.) Arnason, one of the earliest Icelandic settlers at Campbell River, has graciously furnished the writer with first-hand information about the settlement which will here be largely reproduced.

"The beginning of an Icelandic settlement took place in June 1938, when Mr. and Mrs. Kristján Eiríksson and their two sons, Carl and Thorarin sold their home at Comox, B.C., and bought property in the Big Rock district 2½ miles south of the village of Campbell River. Sveinbjörn Guðmundson of Edmonton, Alta., formerly of North Dakoota, arrived in Campbell River in February 1939, full of enthusiasm to form a "New Iceland" at the "end of the road" on Northern Vancouver Island.

Kristján Eiríksson and Sveinbjörn Guðmundson wrote glowing reports of a Utopia on the East Coast of the Island in both *Heimskringla* and *Lögberg* in February 1938. These articles naturally sparked a lot of interest

among those who were tired of adverse weather conditions, unemployment, and hardships endured during the depression years on the Prairies."

Besides Eiríksson and his family, and Guðmundson, Mrs. Arnason lists the following, who in addition to her and her husband, formerly of Mozart, Sask., arrived in 1939: Mr. and Mrs. Sam Erickson Pebble Beach, Man.; John Borgfjord, Miss Thora Sigurdson (later Mrs. Currie), and her brother, Arni Sigurdson, all of Lonely Lake, Man., and Carl Sigurdson of The Narrows, Manitoba. Later in the year they were joined by Mrs. John Borgfjord and the three children, Gislina, Ronald and Alda, along with Bogi Sigurdson of The Narrows, Mr. and Mrs. Eyjólfur Gunnarson of Bredenbury, Sask., also arrived late in 1939.

The following settlers arrived in 1940: Mr. and Mrs. Asgeir Baldwin, Edmonton, Alta. Mrs. Helga Johnson (widow of O. T. Johnson, former Editor of *Heimskringla*), Edmonton, Mr. and Mrs. Sveinbjörn Loftson, Bredenbury, Sask., Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Erickson and daughters Elaine and Beverley. Other settlers who arrived in 1940 included: Mr. and Mrs. Bjarni Sigurdson, Miss Anna Sigurdson and Stefan Sigurdson, Lonely Lake, Man., Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Gunnarson and son John, Bredenbury, Mrs. Runa Rafnkjelson, The Narrows, and Paul

Einarson, Winnipeg, Man.

In 1941 these settlers came: Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinn Einarson, Winnipeg, Gordon Erickson, Pebble Beach, Man.; and Eiríkur Eiríksson, Lundar, Man. Several others purchased land, visited, but did not settle in the Campbell River area.

After enumerating these early settlers, Mrs. Arnason goes on to describe the development of the settlement and life there as follows:

"The elderly folks were very happy in their new environment and seemed content to enjoy leisurely retirement.

The younger men found that jobs were not as plentiful as anticipated; they, however, either fished, logged or did carpentry work, etc. Eventually all found their own niche and have lived full and rewarding lives.

During 1939-1941 social evenings were enjoyed at different homes where we sang Icelandic songs often accompanied by Thorarin Eiríksson on the violin and Carl Erickson on his guitar; we also played Icelandic whist and had refreshments.

Our spiritual needs were attended to by Rev. Rúnólfur Marteinson of Port Alberni, and later Vancouver, who visited us on occasions and officiated at the christening of children born in 1939-1947. These services were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Arnason.

Elaborate plans were made for an "Íslendingadagur" in 1941, with Kristján Eiríksson and Sveinbjörn Guðmundson as speakers and other entertainment, our own Canadian flag and the Icelandic flag proudly waving side by side.

Those enlisting in the Armed Forces were: Lew Einarson, Oskar Sigurdson, Eirík Eiríksson, Arni Sigurdson, and John Sigurdson.

Since 1952 the main industry has been the paper mill operated by Elk

Falls Co., a subsidiary of Crown-Zellerbach Canada Ltd. Campbell River has developed far beyond the wildest dreams of Kristján Eiríksson and Sveinbjörn Guðmundson; the tourist trade soars yearly and educational opportunities exceed that of most districts on the Island. At present there are approximately forty families of Icelandic and mixed origin residing in the area."

Mrs. Eva G. Sigurdson, who came with her late husband, John Sigurdson, to the Icelandic settlement in Port Alberni, in 1947, has supplied me with the names of the earliest Icelandic settlers there. They were (year of arrival in brackets): Haraldur and Margaret Johnson (1935), Stefán and Jósa-fine Magnusson (1936), Helga Reid (1936), Sigurdur Asgrímsson (1936), Sverrir and Helga Gíslason (1938), Andres Gíslason (1938), "Shorty" Asgrímsson (1940), and Dr. B. T. H. Marteinson (1941), who has now for many years resided in Vancouver. Other settlers arrived between 1943 and 1950 and later.

Returning to the Victoria settlement, reference will be made, with a few notable additions to those first generation descendants of the pioneer Icelandic settlers in Victoria, who, as far as the writer has been able to ascertain, have gained special recognition.

The most notable of these is Björn (Byron) Ingimar Johnson. A highly successful businessman, he entered politics in 1933, when he was elected a member of the British Columbia Legislature as a representative of Victoria. From that point on his political career is succinctly summarized as follows in an article about him entitled "Liberal Premier a Native Son" (*The Victoria Daily Colonist*), May 23, 1962):

"Through gloomy depression times

he called for what he termed a progressive capitalist system with expansion of social service.

In 1937 Victoria dropped him from the legislature, but he came back in 1945 as the member for New Westminster—with a very handsome majority.

In 1948 he became a cabinet minister and premier at one stroke by winning the Liberal leadership over Attorney-General Gordon Wismer by a hair-breadth vote . . .

In 1949 Premier Johnson introduced compulsory hospital insurance into B.C., stating that he was "not worried about taxes if they are for health, pensions and educational opportunity for all."

White-haired and strikingly handsome, Byron Johnson seemed to be one of B.C.'s greatest premiers. But he was badly injured in a Quebec car accident in 1950 and his government was defeated by Premier W. A. C. Bennett's Social Credit group in the surprise of 1952.

A stroke ended his political career and left him an invalid. But he retains a fabulous number of first-name friends, including many who played with him or watched him play lacrosse and rugby."

In this article, which was published a few months before his death, at 73, on January 16, 1964, it was noted that in his younger days Johnson had become "the idol of local fans for his exploits on the rugby and lacrosse fields."

Let it be added that he was the first and so far the only Icelander to be elected to the Provincial Legislature in British Columbia, and also, so far, the only Icelandic Canadian who has been elected the Premier of a Canadian province. Tributes to him in the British Columbia press, on his passing, lauded him for his ability, integrity

and devotion to duty, and his social consciousness. (For his life and political career up to that time, see Mrs. Lillian T. Sumarlidason's article "Boss Johnson, Premier of British Columbia" *The Icelandic Canadian*, Spring 1948. His noteworthy address, "Thoughts of a Canadian", delivered at a concert under the auspices of The Icelandic Canadian Club in Winnipeg, February 23, 1954, is printed in the Spring 1954 issue of *The Icelandic Canadian*).

In his article "The Sivertz Family—A Success Story" (referred to earlier in this survey) Halldor J. Stefansson had told the story of that remarkable family up to 1949. The record will here briefly, be brought up to date.

Gustav (Gus) served, during the latter part of his career, in various capacities on the editorial staff of *The Vancouver Sun* until his retirement to Victoria in 1965, where he and his wife still reside. His articles "When We Were Very Young" used to be a popular feature in *The Victoria Daily Times*.

After long and notable academic careers at Western University, London, Ontario, and The University of Washington, Seattle, Wash., respectively, Dr. Christian Sivertz and Dr. Victorian Sivertz have now retired. Upon his retirement the former organized the Chemical firm London Laboratories Limited in New Haven, Connecticut.

The later and very prominent public career of Bent G. Sivertz, following his significant service in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, is effectively summarized by W. O. Ketchum in his article "Bent Gestur Sivertz" (*The Ottawa Journal*, Dec., 10, 1966, reprinted in *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, January 12, 1967):

"Following the cessation of hostilities Mr. Sivertz came to Ottawa as a
(continued on page 40)

Graduates and Award Winners

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

GRADUATES — FALL 1971

Master of Arts

Harold Nelson Westdal, Major: Economics. Ancillary: Biological Science. Comprehensive Examination.

Master of Science

David Hjalmar Bergman. Major and Ancillary: Zoology.

Norman Barney Brandson. Major and Ancillary: Civil Engineering.

Bachelor or Commerce (Honours)

Arni Clayton Thorsteinson.

Bachelor of Arts

Robert George Brandson

Joan Sigrid Johnson

Kenneth Norman Johnson

Eric Lorne Stefanson

Brenda Joan Vopni

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Patricia Lynne Bjarnason

Certificate in Education

Sigurjon Edwald Eirikson, B.Sc.

Linda Dianne Eyvindson, B.A.

Penny Lynn Olafson, B.P.E.

Associate in Education

Joan Margaret Arnason

Sandra Gail Breckman

Karen Winnifred Sigurdson

Laurel Belinda Sigurdson

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ASSOCIATES IN EDUCATION

In May, 1971, a mother and daughter received the degree of Associate in Education. They are Shirley (Mrs. Helgi Johnson) of West St. Pual, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnson's daughter Jacquelynn.

ARTS AND SCIENCE AWARDS

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Diploma Course in Agriculture

Harold Kristian Thorkelson — Winnipeg Livestock Exchange Scholarship

Aikins Scholarship

Olivia Julian Thorsteinson

Marcus Hyman Memorial Scholarship

Augusta Lynne Magnusson

(relinquished)

Lynne Magnusson relinquished two awards because she has been awarded a General Motors scholarship tenable for four years at \$1000.00 a year, with the stipulation that no other scholarship be accepted.

Lynne had the highest standing of all grade XII students in the Province on the Department of Education final examination in 1970. Also in 1970

she was awarded a University of Manitoba gold medal.

Also, Lynne tied for the highest standing on the First Year Arts final examination.

Klieforth Prize in American History

Gunnar Gunnarsson

Anne Matas Prize

Olivia Julian Thorsteinson

Ambassador of Switzerland's Book Prize

Olivia Julian Thorsteinson (German)

AWARDS — MEDICINE

Medical Research Council Summer

Undergraduate Medical Scholarship

Valdimar James Thorsteinson

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG GRADUATES

Bachelor of Science

Dianne Elinor Gudmundson

Allan Oliver Thorleifson

Bachelor of Arts

Kristjan Arnason

David Alexander Bardal

Brian Howard Bjorklund

Bjorn Christianson

Philip Goodman

Karen Jane Hanneson

John Robert Johnson

Astros Helga Emily Martin

1970 U of M ALUMNI

ASSOCIATION MEDALS

Duncan James Snidal — Kelvin High School, was awarded a gold medal for excellence, 9th in the Province on the final examinations.

Garry Austman, West Kildonan Collegiate, Isbister Scholarship.

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba has awarded two scholarships to University students, the first in the amount of \$100.00 to David Thor Jonasson, of 824 Sherburn Street, Winnipeg, and the second, in the amount of \$50.00, to Miss Lois Sigfusson, of St. Andrews, Manitoba.

David, who is enrolled at the University of Manitoba, graduated from Daniel McIntyre Collegiate this year with an average of 83.6. Lois, who is enrolled at the University of Manitoba, graduated from the University

of Winnipeg Collegiate Division with an average of 80.8.

David has been prominent in extra-curricular activities as well as in his studies. He was one of the organizers of the DMCI model parliament and served as prime minister. He was a delegate at the Model United Nations Assembly sponsored by the Winnipeg Rotary Club. He was a member of the School Mathematics and Chess Club and participated in a Ontario Junior Mathematics competition and was a member of the DMCI team that won

the Manitoba Shield in this field. He has been keenly interested in work with computers. He has been active in sports and, not the least important, in his church.

★



Lois Sigfusson

Lois is one of Manitoba's very promising young athletes. She has set provincial records in the high jump and shot put and in the recent Pan-Am trials she placed third in Canada in the high jump. In the last three years she has been the provincial champion in the Women's Pentathlon and in the last two years she has placed second and third respectively in the National Junior championships.

Recent activities have included some coaching and demonstrating at the 9th Annual Royal Canadian Legion Track camp at the International Peace Gardens. She has participated in gymnastics for eleven years, in the last three of which she competed in the Manitoba Championships. She holds the Intermediate Royal Life Saving and the Bronze Medallion Life Saving Certificates and has taught swimming for two years for the Lord Selkirk School Division. —W.K.

I.O.D.E. SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



James Charles Mathews

Douglas Edward Eggertson

David Thor Jonasson

Pauline Una Martin

The Jon Sigurdson Chapter IODE presented at their November meeting three academic and one music scholarship, awarded to outstanding students of Icelandic descent.

The Johanna Gudrun Skaptason scholarship of \$150.00 was presented to James Charles Matthews, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Matthews, of St. Vital.

James attained an average of 91 in his grade XII exams, and is proficient in many sports. He was local Junior Tennis Champion of Manitoba in 1970-71 and has represented Manitoba three times at National meets. This fall he was awarded the Carl Ridd trophy as outstanding basketball and volley ball player. He shared the physical education award with one other student and has a blue belt in judo; was winner of the Gold Medal at the Sask. Winter Games 1971, and is considered by his teachers and associates an outstanding young man. He was a student at Dakota Collegiate and is enrolled at the Science course at the University of Manitoba.

ERIC WILSON WINS BRONZE MEDAL IN SWITZERLAND

Eric Wilson, 21 year-old Winnipeg cellist, won the bronze medal at the Concours International d'Execution Musicale in Geneva, Switzerland. The announcement of the award was made by the Juilliard School of Music in New York. Mr. Wilson was accompanied at the piano by his mother, Thelma Wilson. He performed works by Bach, Schubert, Debussy, Boccherini.

During the summer Mr. Wilson was a member of The Juilliard Ensemble.

Two Elinborg Hanson Memorial Scholarships of \$75.00 each were awarded.

Douglas Edward Eggertson, son of Dr. and Mrs. Octavius Eggertson of Fort Garry, won the Latin award in Grade X and had the highest average in the regular University entrance course at his school, Vincent Massey. He has taken part in public speaking and the "Reach for the Top" TV programs. He has done extensive work in helping retarded children and adults. His average mark in grade XII was 88%.

David Thor Jonasson, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Arthur Jonasson, of Sherburn Street, Winnipeg is a graduate of Daniel McIntyre Collegiate.

David Jonasson has been awarded an Icelandic Festival of Manitoba scholarship and in connection with this award there is elsewhere in this issue of the magazine an account of his outstanding record. Ed.

The group performed new and unusual music during an extensive tour through the Hawaiian Islands. He then returned to Juilliard where he is continuing his studies as one of the school's outstanding scholarship students.

Mr. Wilson performed as a featured soloist with the Jeunesses World Orchestra in Canada and Copenhagen in 1970 and gave the New York premiere of the Ligeti Cello Concerto last December.

Mr. Wilson is well known in Canadian music circles for his performances with the Winnipeg Symphony and solo recitals in Montreal, the Universities of Manitoba, Alberta and Quebec. He was a featured artist at

the National Convention of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers held in Winnipeg in July, 1971.

He is the son of J. Kerr and Thelma (Guttormson) Wilson.

—Mattie Halldorson



BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



ships to Miss Kristin Agmundson, age 18, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. Agmundur Agmundson of Chilliwack, B.C. and Douglas George McFee, age 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Drigal E. McFee of Kitimat, B. C. The University undergraduate scholarships were presented to Miss Lynda Elinor Ives, age 21, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frances Ives of West Vancouver, B.C. and Norman Roy Albertson, age 23, son of Mrs. Ruby Albertson of Gimli, Manitoba and the late Alfred Albertson.

At a recent annual general meeting of the Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia, four students were winners of \$100.00 scholarships for their outstanding scholastic records.

The Scholarship Awards Committee Chairman, Dr. R. E. Helgason, presented the University entrance scholar-

The 301 member Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia has a \$5,000 scholarship fund, donated by members of British Columbia's Icelandic Canadian community. The interest accruing from the fund is used to provide four scholarships a year to B.C. students of Icelandic extraction.

Sveinbjorn S. Olafsson

Eirik The Red

Eirik the Red is a familiar, heroic name in history; few persons today know much more about this unusual and complex man of the 10th Century, other than that he discovered and colonized Greenland. Icelandic Sagas stress his deeds and accomplishments more than the man himself, but when the Sagas are searched, Eirik takes on flesh and blood, no myth or legend, but a hot-headed red head, a man of conflicting emotions — violence and peace. He died in 1002 A.D., in a manner not characteristic of a Viking. He died in bed, his sword by his side, a victim of old age.

It wasn't as if Eirik hadn't tried for Valhalla. In the prime of his life, a matchless sailor, navigator extraordinary, fearless explorer, leader of men, he was also a man of violence. Eirik and his father, Thorvald, came to Iceland in about 960 A.D. from Jaederen in southern Norway. They were outlawed from their native land for homicide, an event not unusual in Scandinavia in the 10th Century. Eirik hardly could have played a major role in the killing, for he was only ten or twelve years old at the time.

The best land in Iceland was taken by them. Eirik and his father were forced to move from place to place, at first. Although his family was wealthy and powerful, Eirik's father had been stripped of all his possessions when forced to leave his native land.

Eirik solved this problem by marrying a maiden from a wealthy and in-

fluent family in Iceland, Thjodhild.

Eirik now purchased a farm in Haukadal, in Western Iceland, and named their farmstead Eiriksstadir. Here a son, Leif, was born. (The four walls of the house are still discernible —having been built of turf and stone. Some 900 years later, my father was born across the valley opposite Eiriksstadir).

Eirik's life was never tranquil for long. His slaves caused a landslide fall upon a farm owned by a man named Vathjof, destroying it. The Sagas do not give a reason for this dastardly act. It is likely bad blood existed between Eirik and Valthjof. A kinsman of Valthjof, Eyolf Saur by name, retaliated by killing Eirik's slaves. Not waiting to count to ten, Eirik grabbed his axe and killed Eyolf Saur, and for good measure, also Hrafn the Duelist. Hrafn had fought many duels—successfully, but he met his match in Eirik the Red. Although Eirik did not start the quarrel nor the killing, he was banished from Haukadal by the local assembly.

Once again, Eirik relocated and built a new home. He took possession of two islands in Breidafjord in western Iceland.

While he was building, a friend, Thorgest, asked to borrow his benches. (They are panels on which were carved figures of Norse deities, Odinn, Thor and others. They were nailed in front of the benches that ran down either side of the main room).

Such a precious article generally was not loaned to others, as they were priceless family possessions. Reluctant to lend them, Eirik found it difficult to refuse a friend. When his house was completed, he requested their return. But Thorgest balked. Unhappy about such treatment, Eirik unceremoniously seized the sacred article. Thorgest gave chase. A battle ensued. Thorgest's two sons were killed, as well as several others.

Again Eirik, blameless for instigating the quarrel or starting the killing, was made to pay. He was now outlawed from Iceland for three years. This was the third time that he was made an outlaw; it was to be his last.

An outlaw was anybody's fair game. Eirik knew he had to go. But where? The British Isles were occupied, if not over populated; so also were the Faroe Islands, the Orkneys and the Hebrides. He decided to search for a land where he could live in peace. Nearly a century before, Gunnbjorn, son of Ulf, had sighted land west of Iceland when he was driven off his course. The memory of this was still alive among the Icelandic people.

Eirik was determined to find this land—and when his ship was ready, he loaded it with sheep, cattle, horses, household necessities, slaves and his family. He took affectionate leave of his friends. When the weather was favorable, he told them, if he found land, he would come back to visit them and repay their help and friendship, according to his ability. Eirik was off to a great adventure—the first man to explore the Arctic. This was in 981 or 982 A.D.

"Arctic explorers, both ancient and modern, have always taken guides with them when travelling in the Arctic, but Eirik went alone, with nothing to guide him but a century-old report and love of exploration," says Vil-

hjalmur Stefansson, a modern Arctic explorer.

Eirik sailed west from Snæfellsnes, Iceland. He sailed into treacherous seas of Arctic iceflows, fog caused by the warm Gulfstream meeting the Arctic current, wind and skerries, formidable for a heavily laden open boat. He reached Angmagssalik, near Greenland's east coast. Unimpressed, Eirik sailed south, rounding Cape Farwell, into a fjord in Julianehaab, which he proudly named Eiriksfjord. Here he based, passing the next three years extensively exploring south and west Greenland, as far north as the present district of Godthaab, sailing into numerous fjords and explored through green valleys. He gave names to these and to mountains and glaciers, carefully noting places that seemed suitable for farming and habitation.

He met no Eskimos (nor did the settlers later during the early period of the colony), but he found ruins of houses.

After three years, Eirik returned to Iceland, a free man. He told his friends about the country he discovered and explored, which he called Greenland. He knew if he gave it an attractive name, people from Iceland would want to settle there. His shrewdness and knowledge of human nature paid off. (One wonders what such a man could do today in America in the field of promotion.) Eirik's son, Leif, some 15 years later, was not to be outdone by his father, discovering land in the southwest which he called Vinland (Wineland). What could be more attractive to the thirsty Norsemen than grapes, ready for brewing? Vilhjalmur Stefansson, a man of the same race, a thousand years later, called the frozen north "The Friendly Arctic". It seems to be in the blood. The Vikings were famous for their understatements, but there are exceptions.

Eirik spoke glowingly to his countrymen about Greenland, a land that bore the greatest ice-cap in the world, outside of the two polar regions. So successful was his promotion, that 25 ships sailed with him, in 985 or 986 A.D. If any proof is needed to establish Eirik's leadership ability or to demonstrate the faith people had in him, between 600 and 700 people dared venture into the little-explored Arctic, to form a colony. Each ship was loaded to capacity with people, sheep and provisions necessary to start a settlement in a strange land.

The 180 miles of open sea between Iceland and Greenland can be extremely difficult to navigate. Eirik had some knowledge of dangers from his previous voyage, but kept this to himself. So violently did the elements combine their furious evil forces against the would-be colonists that only 14 ships reached Greenland while 11 returned to Iceland or were lost.

They sailed past Cape Farewell, turned north and landed in Eiriksfjord. Eirik built a large house and four barns, holding 40 head of cattle. He called it Brattahlid (Steep Mountain Slope)—modern Kagssiarssuk. He guided his settlers to choose their own locations for their homes in many fjords. Two settlements, called Eastern and Western Settlements, were situated on the west coast. It was appropriate that Eirik was located centrally as the undisputed leader.

At first, the colony prospered. There was enough grass for animal husbandry, fish were in abundance in the rivers and fjords, and large game such as reindeer, seals, walrus, whales and polar bears were plentiful. But the settlers were dependent upon foreign trade for many necessities such as corn and timber. They exported skins, furs, walrus hides and ivory. Timber

was scarce in Greenland. They built houses after the manner of houses built in Iceland—of stone, turf and drift-wood. The need for lumber strongly motivated Leif Eiriksson to sail in search of a new country. After his discovery of Vinland several voyages were made to secure timber. Several of the Sagas mention this.

Brattahlid was the true center. Every ship and important person who visited Greenland called on Eirik the Red. Here the first Christian Church in the Western Hemisphere was built. From here Leif Eiriksson sailed to discover Vinland about 1001 A.D. Also from here Thorvald, the brother of Leif, sailed to Vinland and occupied the houses that Leif had built. From here, Freydis, illegitimate daughter of Eirik, accompanied her husband to the New World. From here, the most significant voyage to Vinland was made by Thorfinn Karlsefni and his wife Gudrid. They remained in Vinland three years and attempted to start a settlement. Gudrid gave birth to a son Snorri, the first white child born in America.

In Greenland the best side of Eirik was evident. He was now purged of violence and bloodshed, a benevolent, respected leader of men. He dealt fairly with all; he was hospitable and generous, according to his means.

As Christmas drew near one year, Eirik seemed less cheerful than usual. Thorfinn Karlsefni (a rich Icelandic merchant) asked him, "What is wrong, Eirik? You are in lower spirits than you have been." Eirik answered, in a low voice, "I fear it will be said that you never endured so scanty a Christmas as the one you spent in Greenland with Eirik the Red." Thorfinn replied, "You have treated us with great hospitality and it is our duty to return your kindness as best we can. There is malt and flour in my ship.

You are welcome to as much of it as you wish, and prepare as rich a feast as your generosity demands." Eirik accepted the offer. A Christmas feast was prepared so lavish that people thought they had never seen one more magnificent.

Eirik ruled, not by force or fiat, but within the framework of laws. Greenland was an independent country with a constitution and an Assembly.

The Vikings never colonized for their home land. It was so in Ireland, Sicily and Iceland and this was the case in Greenland. Had they been able to settle in Vinland, the pattern would have been the same.

Christianity came to Greenland about 1000 A.D., or earlier, according to recent studies.

Christianity influenced Greenland and played an important part in the life of the Colony. Thjodhild, wife of Eirik the Red, was among the first converts. She built a small church 200 yards from their home: "not too close", say the Sagas, so as not to unduly anger Eirik who staunchly resisted the new faith. (The ruins of Thjodhild's church were discovered in the summer of 1961 together with the churchyard, containing the bones of the first generation of Greenlanders. and in all probability, the skeleton of Leif Eiriksson). Eirik held low opinions of priests—called them "insincere". Eirik may have had a point here for Scandinavia was Christianized more by means of the sword than by the spirit.

Eirik never forsook Thor or Odin. They had never failed him, either in peace or in peril and he would not forsake them now. He was to suffer for this resolute stand, for Thjodhild left him, refusing to live with a pagan. This was undoubtedly hard for Eirik for he was not a well man. Hardship

and advancing years had taken their toll. Yet, Eirik gave no quarters and asked for none. The Sagas give no evidence of disagreements existing between him and his wife. Thjodhild was a good wife.

Having read and re-read Eirik's Saga, Greenland Saga and several other sagas that mention him briefly, and being thoroughly acquainted with his moods, actions and reactions, one forms a strong opinion of the man's character and physical makeup. His hair and beard were red. His eyes were blue, fierce and penetrating; his voice, strong and gruff; his body powerful, quick and agile; his spirit revengeful; his will, resolute; his intellect keen and his personality forceful.

Eirik the Red died c.1002. He left to history an illustrious name—explorations and discoveries notable even in the Viking Age.

The Greenland Colony flourished. By the Twelfth Century it boasted 16 churches, a monastery, a nunnery and a bishopric. (The Cathedral Church was built at Gardar, now Igaliko. It was built of red sand stone from nearby mountains. Its ruins are well preserved. The Assembly was also held here). The population reached 3,000 or more, with 190 farms in the Eastern Settlement and 90 farms in the Western.

Eirik's dream of a colony came to an end at the close of the Fifteenth Century. (Clothing found in the churchyard at Herjolfsnes show that the Greenlanders followed European fashion in dress up to the end. About 1500 the settlement disappeared or about the time that Christopher Columbus rediscovered America by the

MOON MAGIC AT CHRISTMAS

Her foot caught in the silver tinsel she
 Is winding and winding like moonlight around
 A tree that stands, a diamond-decked fugitive
 From the forest, in a corner of the room,
 She stumbles toward the window, where yesterday
 She hung a star that feeds its glow on a live
 Current of warmth and light which wraps
 All within her house in wellbeing.

The man at a far branch of the tree drops
 His end of the moonlight and goes to her side.
 In the circle of his arm she gains her feet.
 And the two stand under the star at the window
 Gazing like wide-eyed children at real moonlight
 Weaving a shimmering pattern on crisp, white
 Snow. Like mercury it eludes the bewitched
 Eye, never to be prisoner of human memory.
 A mystery forever, the moonlight and stars
 Casting light and shadow on frozen snow
 This charming evening.

Unheard this moment are the shouts of
 Two small children. Balancing an angel
 And a popcorn ball in sticky hands, they
 Talk of the Moon, too, and men who will
 Leave this earth on Christmas Day,
 Leave their children, leave their wives,
 Leave the magic of the Moon's distance
 And draw close to the stark reality
 Of its burn-out fires, while earthlings
 Bask in the magic of their afterglow
 And Earth children hold the dream like
 A fragile bauble that maybe the astronauts
 Will make a gift of the Moon's nearness
 At Christmas

In a deep chair in a far corner of the room,
 A shapely head in soft white curls
 Nods in the warm glow of the candlelit twilight.
 A tiny girl stands by a small window
 In the dusk of evening and traces the
 Delicate pattern of the flowers on the glass,
 She blows warm breath on the frozen pane
 And through a circle of clear transparency sees
 The moonbeams flit over the shining runners
 Of a sleigh standing on the hard snow.
 Far off on the plains beyond the bare trees
 A coyote howls in hunger and loneliness
 And she shudders at the grief of him.
 She turns and takes a candle from the hand
 Of her mother and places it in the window.
 Its light is a living flame that feeds on
 Its waxen form. In the middle of the small
 Room a shiny iron stove closes around roaring
 Flames that feed on trees of the forest.
 Rendered fuel in the sweat of a father's brow,
 They wrap his loved ones in wellbeing while the
 Wind howls like a hungry wolf at the door
 Of the small cabin in the clearing.
 Grandma is dreaming in the deep chair

At the far end of the room.
 The man and the woman turn from the window
 To their children, who look up with faces
 That glow like candles in the dusk.
 Grandma rubs her eyes, blinks at the
 Twinkling tree and smiles wistfully down
 The years to the generations that have everything
 With more to come and the Moon about to
 Drop into their laps.
 But the light is in the window, where it
 Has been for uncounted ages on this enchanted
 Evening, the tree stands tall and glowing.
 In the shelter of its branches an ancient
 Angel sits with grubby, child-caressed wings.
 Warmth, light and a dreamy tenderness
 Draws close the generations.
 It's Christmas.

(continued from page 31)

south route. Hundreds of ruins still stand in Greenland as silent evidence of this great tragedy. In the corridor of one of the ruins, the skeleton of Nordic man was recently found, probably that of the last living man in the settlement whom no one was there to bury.

How the final end came is not certain. Failure of trade monopoly, adverse climatic change, the Black Death, and the return of the Eskimo

to their former hunting grounds, were among the principal causes.

Recent historical research indicate the likelihood that Leifr Eiriksson carried out his explorations in North America about 990 A.D. See article by Haraldur Bessason "Some Notes on Leifr Eiriksson's National Origin and the Sources on Greenland and Vinland", in **The Icelandic Canadian**, Winter, 1965.

By the same token Eirikr the Red may have been born in Iceland about 930 A.D. —ED.



NORTHERN CO-OPS MAKING PROGRESS

Agricultural Minister Sam Uskiw says progress made by Indians and Metis in northern co-operatives is "nothing short of amazing".

The co-ops formed to include fishermen, lumbermen and general store workers.

At Island Lake, 310 miles northeast of Winnipeg, fishermen at the Kee-No-Sae co-op receive \$1.50 an hour, plus unemployment insurance during the off-season.

The co-op covers 17,000 square miles and employs 230. Last year, earnings per fisherman were \$1,033, total earnings \$180,775.

Administration of the co-op is entirely in the hands of local people, under the watchful eye of an appointed supervisor.

As of mid-November, the fishermen had caught 1,467,000 pounds of fish, which is shipped to the Savage Island plant for grading, and packing for final shipment.

Helgi Johnson, formerly of Winnipeg and Gimli, and now of West St. Paul, is one of the two Supervisors from the Dept. of Co-op Development who works directly with the Kee-No-Sae Co-operative.

CHARTER FLIGHT TO ICELAND 1971

by Mattie Halldorson

At the annual convention of the Þjóðræknisfélag (Icelandic National League), in February 1970, Consul-General Grettir L. Johannsson, Mr. Jakob Kristjansson and Mrs. Kristin Johnson, were elected to plan a charter flight to Iceland in 1971. At once requests for passage began to pour in.

June 2nd was the departure date. The Air Canada DC8 plane carried a full compliment of 150 passengers, flying direct to Keflavik in Iceland, over the Northern route. Everyone was in a jovial mood; enjoyed the smooth flight, the excellent meals and refreshments.

On Friday June 4th the group was invited to take a tour of the city of Reykjavik, showing all the important points of interest. The President, Dr. Kristjan Eldjarn, and his charming wife, frú Halldora Ingólfssdóttir, invited everyone to Bessastadir, the official residence of the President of Iceland. The group met in the church, where the President welcomed everyone to Iceland and wished one and all an enjoyable stay. Afterwards a fellowship at Bessastadir was most pleasant.

At this reception Mr. Skuli Johannsson, president of the Icelandic National League, presented microfilm copies of newspapers and periodicals printed in Icelandic in Manitoba to Dr. Eldjarn. He brought greetings from the people of Icelandic descent in America and expressed appreciation of the contribution made by the people of Iceland to our Icelandic culture. The following were among the copies on the microfilm:

Framfari, New Iceland, Sept. 10, 1877 to January 30, 1880.

Leifur Winnipeg, May 5, 1883 to June 4, 1886.

Heimskringla, Winnipeg, Sept. 9, 1886 to July 29 1959.

Logberg, Winnipeg, January 14, 1888 to July 30, 1959.

Mr. Jakob Kristjansson presented Dr. Eldjarn with "The Manitoba Historical Atlas" by Prof. J. Warkentin and Dr. R. Ruggles, from Premier E. Schreyer, on behalf of the Government of Manitoba.

On Sunday, June 6th, The National League of Reykjavik, sponsored a reception in honor of the charter group. Frú Aslaug Sveinsdóttir, widow of Dr. Sigurdur Þordarson, made a presentation to Mr. Skuli Johannsson, for The Icelandic National League, of a photostatic copy of the first edition of "Guðbrandar Biblíá". Bishop Guðbrandur Þorláksson at Hólum, was responsible for the production and translation of part of the Bible. It was printed in 1584. The inscription in the Bible is: This book is given The Icelandic National League in memory of Sigurdur Þordarson, choir leader and composer, with sincere thanks for the warmth and respect accorded him during his visits with the Male Voice Choir of Reykjavik to Icelandic settlements in North America, in the years 1946 and 1960. With kindest appreciation (signed) Aslaug Sveinsdóttir.

Snæbjorn Kaldalons, son of the famous composer, Dr. Sigvaldi Kaldalons, presented to Skuli Johannsson, a col-

lection of two thirds of the compositions of his father, as well as the latest recordings of fourteen songs by the Male Voice Choir of Reykjavik. The gift was in memory of his uncle Gudmundur Stefansson.

On behalf of the charter flight group Mr. Skuli Johannsson donated 50,000 krónur to the Slysarvarnarfélag (National Life Saving Association).

Of the 150 on the flight, which is the largest number to travel to Iceland in a group since 1930, a few were over 80, two were 12 and 13, one colored, Pastor Lynell Carter, one Englishman, Mr. E. Evans.

Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson was accompanied by his three grandsons, Hartley and David Richardson and Derek Thorlakson, who was 12. When asked whether he could speak Icelandic his reply was "Svo lítið" (a little). His grandfather would interject "I teach them three words a day and they forget two". While in Iceland Derek signed his name the Icelandic way Þorlaksson. Hartley and David had an interview with the Farmers Association regarding returning to Iceland next summer to work on a sheep or cattle farm during their vacation. While in Iceland they read "Njál's Saga" and are reading Grettis-saga" in English.

There were passengers on the plane from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Minnesota and California. A couple from Edmonton, Mr. and Mrs. Lorne MacPherson, used the name Mr. and Mrs. Larus Petursson when signing guest books.

At a luncheon given by frú Þórunn Kvaran, for a number of the visitors

from America, the main course was salmon, garnished by tomatoes and cucumbers. One of the guests, Mr. Jakob Kristjansson (Kobbi) came to the table laden with all the delicious food noticed that the head of the salmon was still there so he was so happy to select the succulent head, eyes and all. One of the guests from Reykjavik said to him, "I am glad to see that one of the Western Icelanders can appreciate the best part of the salmon".

On Monday, June 28th, the day before the group was to leave Iceland, it was interesting to meet people who were busy doing last minute shopping in downtown Reykjavik. Everyone spoke Icelandic as a matter of course. The general topic of conversation was shopping for the beautifully patterned Icelandic sweaters, jewelry, ceramics, books and pans to bake ponnukökur (pancakes). All agreed that the hospitality was of the finest.

In a brochure about Iceland it is stated that Iceland is a country of contrasts; a land of frost and fire, volcanoes and glaciers, waterfalls and geysers, dark mountains and the midnight sun. While it is the land of the Vikings, it is a modern land of innovations in art, science, industry, social welfare and literature.

One is usually asked what the highlight of a journey would be. To me, it was to be present at the celebration on the 17th of June, Iceland's Independence Day, standing on Icelandic soil, hearing the Icelandic National Anthem "O, guð vors lands" sung by the Male Voice Choir of Reykjavik. It was a heart-warming, spine tingling sensation.

FORMER STUDENTS OF ICELANDIC ORIGIN AT MANITOBA, WESLEY, AND UNITED COLLEGES

AUTHORS:

The following is a list, perhaps incomplete, of former students of Icelandic origin at Manitoba College, Wesley College and United College who have published books.

—Compiled by W. Kristjanson

Elin Anderson, Wesley, 1920
We Americans, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1937, 286 pp.—A study of a cleavage in an American city.

Frimann B. Anderson (Frimann B. Arngrimsson). Manitoba, 1885.

Immigration and Settlement in our Vacant Lands in Manitoba and the Northwest; How Hindered! How Promoted! Winnipeg, The author, 1887, 19 pp.

Dugnaður Akureyrar og Snilli, Akureyri, Oddur Björnsson, 1915, 30 pp.

Mesta framfaramálið: Brot úr Sögu Akureyrar og Íslands, Akureyri, Oddur Björnsson, 1925. 32 pp.

Minningar frá London og Paris, Akureyri, Edda, 1938. 174 pp.

Sveinn E. Björnsson, Wesley, 1908-11.

Á Heiðarbrún, Winnipeg. Viking Press, 1946. 232 pp. Poetry.

A Candle to Light the Sun, Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1960. 316 pp.

Patricia (Jenkins) Blondal, United—1947.

From Heaven with a Shout, Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1963, 180 pp. A novel.

(Patricia Blondal was of Icelandic Association through marriage).

I. Gislason (perhaps Ingvar Gislason). Wesley, the 1920's.

Prairie Panorama; A Brief Study of the Prairie Provinces, Calgary, Western Canada Institute, 1948. 196 pp.

Thorstina Jackson, Wesley, 1910.

A Modern Saga, a history of Icelandic settlement in North Dakota.

Skuli Johnson, Wesley, a Rhodes Scholar in his third year Arts, 1909.

Translation into English verse of Selected Odes of Horace, Toronto University of Toronto Press and London, Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, 1952. 84 pp.

Baldur Jonsson, Wesley, 1911.

Leaves and Letters, Wynyard, Sask., Wynyard Advance Press 1918.

Wilhelm Kristjanson, Wesley, 1924

Glimpses of Oxford, Winnipeg. Columbia Press, 1935. 68 pp.

The Icelandic People in Manitoba: A Manitoba Saga, Winnipeg, Wallingford Press, 1965. 557 pp.

Walter J. Lindal, Wesley, 1911.

Two Ways of Life: Freedom or Tyranny, Toronto, Ryerson Press, 1940. 250 pp.

Canadian Citizenship and Wider Loyalties, Winnipeg, Canada Press Club, 1946.

Saskatchewan Icelanders, a Strand of

the Canadian Fabric, Winnipeg, Columbia Press, 1955, 363 pp. History

The Icelanders in Canada, Winnipeg, National Publishers and Viking Printers, 1967. 510 pp. — History.

Tryggvi J. Oleson, Wesley, 1934.

Saga Íslendinga í Vesturheimi (The History of the Icelandic People in America) Vol. 4, pp. 313–423, Reykjavik, Bókaútgáfa Menningarsjóðs, 1951. —Volume 5, pp 1-311, 1953.

Witenagemot in the Reign of Edward the Confessor, Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1955.

Early Voyages and Northern Approaches, 1000–1632, Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1963. 211 pp. — History.

Paul A. Sigurdson, Wesley, 1951.

The Icelander, a three-act play, performed at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg, May 1971 and at the Icelandic Festival, 1971.

Edward J. Thorlakson, Wesley, 1922.

The Derelict, a play presented at the Dominion Drama Festival in the mid-thirties.

BOOK REVIEW

Donald Swainson:

**JOHN A. MACDONALD,
the Man and the Politician**

Don Mills, Oxford University Press
1971, 160 pp. paper back. \$3.50.

On learning that Donald Swainson had written a book on Sir John A. Macdonald, one could not help wondering why anyone, including a member of the Department of History at Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., should attempt another book on Sir John, when Donald Creighton's impressive two-volume biography already dominated the field, but on reading Swainson's book, the finding is that he was justified.

Donald Swainson's John A. Macdonald, the Man and the Machine, is in an entirely different category from Creighton's work. It is scholarly but it is a relatively brief account of 157 pages, the human interest prominent, and the style lively and readable; it is a good book for popular reading. "This biography, which provides a useful and lucid summary of the main events of Macdonald's career as a poli-

tician, is also an entertaining and revealing study of the attractive and complex human being that was Macdonald the man".

John A. Macdonald deserves to be remembered. He was not the only important leader in the difficult years before Confederation who had a vision of the union of the colonies of British North America, but he was the practical statesman-politician who played the crucial role in the achievement of Confederation and building Canada after Confederation. "He was our greatest Canadian", said Wilfred Laurier.

Donald Swainson's book is a clear summary of the main historic events of Macdonald's period and his achievements, and an unbiased character portrayal. It shows Macdonald's remarkable instinct for managing men, his human warmth, loyalty to friends, sociability, delightful sense of humor and quick wit, fantastic memory, and love of reading; it shows also his heavy drinking and his great procrastination.

— W. Kristjanson

The Mountain

by Stephan G. Stephansson

You towering mountain that once had your birth
In ancient convulsions of old mother earth:
You catch every morning the sun's early rays
And turn to each sunset your snow-mantled face.

At dawn every morning the deep valleys thirst
For the rays of the sun that illumines you first,
And read from your face in the sun's early glow
The omens for sunlight or rainfall or snow.

But weatherwise mountain, the years have left trace
Of the keen tooth of time on your glorious face.
The glacier's flow and the hurricane's rage
Have worn on your features the furrows of age;
And the grandeur of granite that gloried your prime
Will be ground into dust in new eons of time.

That your grandeur will level to lowland I know
And sadly acknowledge that this must be so!
But a nation of men will enjoy the new land
Bequeathed by time's busy, unhurrying hand,
And they will rejoice that your crag-gendered soil
Gives gainful rewards for their hours of toil.

And is it an unworthy fate to bestow
Your substance on life in the lowlands below?

— Translated by Thorvaldur Johnson

(continued from page 22)

ICELANDERS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

foreign service officer in the department of external affairs. He was assistant chief of the consular division as Canada developed her consular services and supervised the establishment of many of the new offices.

In 1950 he transferred to the department of resources and development, which later became northern affairs and national resources. His work brought him into contact with all branches of the department, and, in particular, with northern affairs as a special field.

When the Arctic division was created in 1954, Mr. Sivertz was appointed chief of the division, and has since travelled widely in the north.

In 1957 he succeeded F. J. G. Cunningham as director of the northern administration branch. On July 10, 1963, Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Lang appointed him commissioner of the Northwest Territories, succeeding Gordon Robertson."

Bent Sivertz served with distinction in that capacity until his retirement on January 16, 1967. (Conf. tribute to him paid in the Commons as recorded in Hansard from that time). Since his retirement, he and his wife have made their home in Victoria.

Samuel, the youngest of the Sivertz brothers, following his distinguished service in the Canadian Navy during World War II, attended Western University graduating with a degree in Geography. For a number of years he has been office manager of London Laboratories Ltd., in New Haven, Connecticut.

The prominence achieved by him and his brother, Dr. Victorian Sivertz,

in the field of higher education has already been noted. A number of other of the first generation descendants of the Icelandic pioneers on Vancouver Island have also made a name for themselves in the realm of public education.

Walter Brynjolfson, a graduate of the University of British Columbia, had, when he retired in 1967, long been prominently identified with the public schools in Victoria. He served for two decades as Principal of Monterey Elementary School, and had, before his retirement, become Supervising Principal and Administrator for Richmond, Uplands, Cerebral Palsy and Monterey Elementary School in Victoria. His brother Stefan (Steve) likewise entered the teaching profession, and served for some time as Principal of the Powell River High School.

After graduating and teaching for several years at St. Ann's Academy in Victoria, Margaret Brandson (Mrs. Richard Beck), went to California, receiving an A.B. degree both from the School of Fine Arts in San Francisco and the University of California in Berkeley. She was for years a member of the Faculty of Everett Junior High School in San Francisco. Active in Icelandic-American cultural affairs she served for years as Secretary of The Icelandic Association of Northern California and as President of The Leif Erickson League in San Francisco.

For reasons of space, the above account of the achievements in the field of education has been limited to the first generation of the sons and daughters of the Icelandic pioneers on Van-

couver Island. An exception from that general rule has, however, been made in the case of the following two educators, because of their close links with Vancouver Island and their prominence in educational affairs in British Columbia.

Jóhann (Joe) Phillipson was, in the fall of 1970, named Deputy Minister of Education in British Columbia, having previously been Assistant Superintendent in charge of administration and school board relations.

He was born in the Icelandic settlement at Osland on the main land in British Columbia, but grew up in Sooke in the vicinity of Victoria. His parents Jón Phillipson and Jóhanna Jónsdóttir Phillipson came from Iceland to Canada in 1902, settled first in Selkirk, Man., but became pioneers in the Osland settlement in 1913.

Jóhann Phillipson attended public school in Sooke and Victoria, received his teaching training at Victoria Normal School, and graduated in Arts and Education from the University of British Columbia.

Previous to joining the head-quarter's staff of the Department of Education, he had served as Principal at Campbell River and Superintendent of Schools at Prince Rupert and Prince George. He was President of the B.C. Teachers' Federation in 1955-56.

Haraldur M. Pálsson was born in Manitoba, but grew up in Saskatchewan. He is the son of Dr. Jóhannes P. and Sigríður Sigfúsdóttir Pálsson, former residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but of Sooke since 1954. Dr. Pálsson is well-known among his Icelandic fellow-countrymen for his writings, short stories, plays and essays.

Haraldur Pálsson received his B.S. and B.E. degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, from which he also is an Associate in Fine Arts. After having taught for several years in the

North Battleford district in Saskatchewan and having been prominent in teachers' association work, he moved to Vancouver Island in 1948, when he began teaching at Belmont Junior High School. He has served as President of the Sooke Teachers' Association, and has, among other activities in the educational field, been for many years a representative to the South Vancouver Island District Council. He was President of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation 1962-1963.

Arni Myrdal, who spent his early years in Victoria, but his later years, to an uncommonly ripe age, at Point Roberts, Washington was, as previously mentioned, a memorable example of the traditional self-educated Icelandic. He was, as amply revealed in his numerous articles published in the Winnipeg Icelandic weeklies, a man endowed with a strong scientific bent of mind, not least in the field of mathematics. Otherwise, his many talents and interests are well described in an article published in connection with his 89th birthday in *The Ladner* (B.C. Optimist (Oct. 12, 1961):

"Mr. Myrdal is a skilled cabinet maker, tool maker and craftsman, an omnivorous reader, and an essayist in Icelandic and English on such subjects as astronomy, mathematics and the history of Iceland."

To which may be added, that Arni's spinning wheels—of which he made over 40—are rightfully admired for their masterful workmanship.

As previously noted Einar Brynjolfson was for years a member of a well-known construction firm in Victoria. Another of those pioneers, Thorsteinn Thorsteinnsson (Stoneson) was a contractor in a small way. His sons, Henry and Ellis Leo, were destined to become building contractors in an uncommonly large scale in San Francisco.

In her article "The Stoneson Brothers and the City They Built", Mrs. Louise Gudmunds has told their remarkable success story. The key note is effectively struck in the opening paragraph:

"Stoneson Brothers, the building tycoons of San Francisco, in spite of limited educational opportunities in early life, made a greater impact upon the construction business in California than most others whose beginnings were made auspicious. They combined a skillful use of hammer and saw with a natural talent for planning and design. It is said that Ellis could see a barren, worthless acre of land and in his mind's eye spread it with beautiful stately buildings."

Brandur Einarsson Brandson designed and built a number of houses in Victoria and elsewhere, and was a highly successful boat builder. The same was true of his brother, Gudmundur Einar (James), who was well known as a builder and driver of high speed racing boats, and was a member of the Victoria Inboard-Outboard Association.

John Johnson, brother of Byron Johnson, was an accomplished and well-known lacrosse and rugby player.

The Brynjolfson brothers were likewise noted and popular athletes. Walter Brynjolfson's versatility in that respect is indicated by the fact that he played baseball, golf, rugby and soccer, and was equally successful as a coach. Stefan (Steve) Brynjolfson was a star rugby player, as well as a prominent golfer. He has won the B.C. Senior Men's Championship and been a runner-up on several occasions.

Clarence Brvnjolfson was also an excellent golfer. Edward (Cotton) Brynjolfson (d. 1967) was a great athlete, in particular an outstanding

lacrosse player as well as a rugby player. He coached and managed the Victoria Foundation Lacrosse team which won the World's Amateur championship in Winnipeg in 1919.

The most widely known athletes of Icelandic origin in the Victoria area are the Peden brothers, who belong to the second generation of the descendants of the Icelandic pioneers there, but are here included because of their unusual eminence in the field of sports. Their mother, Mrs. Sigridur Peden (now Mrs. Tyrell), still a resident of Victoria, is the daughter of the early pioneers Jóhann (John) and Anna Myrdal Breidfjord.

Douglas and William ("Torchy") Peden are both internationally renowned bicycle riders. Douglas also starred in professional basketball and baseball, while "Torchy" was an outstanding swimmer. For a number of years Douglas has been a sports editor of The Victoria Daily Times. Rightfully, both the brothers are enshrined in the British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame at the Exhibition Grounds in Vancouver.

Acknowledgements:

In addition to those already mentioned in the text of the article as having furnished the author with information, he is indebted to the following for such or other assistance:

The staff of the Provincial Archives, Victoria; Mr. A. J. Helmeken, Victoria City Archivist; Miss Ragnhildur (Ranka) Anderson; Mrs. Margaret Brandson Beck; Mrs. H. M. Hannesson; Mr. Bjorn (Byron) Johnson; Mrs. Valgerdur (Vala) Myrdal Miller; Mrs. Sara Phillipson Ormiston; Mr. Haraldur S. Palsson; Mr. Gustav (Gus) Sivertz.

A VISION

Translated from Swedish in Heims-kringla, September 4, 1890, and translated from the Icelandic by Kristine Kristofferson.

★

In the summer of 1873 when I was 30 years of age, I was travelling alone over a lonely prairie, with my horse, gun and dog. I followed the trail made by oxen and camped one night near a bush where I could see over the plain. Tethering my horse, I ate the rabbit I had caught, wrapped myself in my blanket and went to sleep. The night was far advanced when I awoke in bright moonlight that made everything as clear as day. I saw something far off that moved slowly nearer. When I looked closely I saw it was a covered wagon. It looked as if the wagon were headed straight for my resting place and I became very curious. I couldn't understand why anyone would be travelling so late at night and why anyone would be using such a contrivance. They went very slowly as if the horses were exhausted and the man who walked beside them was ready to give up. Twenty minutes went by. The wagon stopped thirty feet from where I sat and the man began to look about as if deciding that here he should stop. Suddenly I realized that the wagon had approached without making any sound. There was no creaking of wheels, no sound of the hoofs of the horses or the man's footsteps. The man appeared not to take any notice of me though he must have seen me as clearly as I saw him. How could this be?

Was I dreaming? No, I was wide awake. Was it an hallucination? No it was not, because my dog faced the man and began to growl. I put my hand on his head and ordered him to be quiet.

The man stood in front of the front wheel and looked into the flap-opening and though I could hear no words spoken I was sure he was talking to someone inside. A woman's head appeared at the opening, looked around and nodded as if in agreement with the man's decision. The man unhitched the horses and let them graze. He looked back over the trail uneasily, then he helped the woman descend from the wagon.

Then something happened that absolutely astonished me. They walked back and forth as if they were looking for something particular in that desolate prairie. Finally the woman pointed to a spot between two trees and when the man had looked there he went back to the wagon and came back with a shovel. He marked a small square on the ground about 2 feet wide and 5 feet long and began to dig what was obviously a grave.

This took place in absolute silence. I was looking at living people working there a few feet from me and yet I did not hear a sound. Now my curiosity had become wonder. Here was something contrary to natural laws. These people were shades, not real. Yet the dog beside me was shivering, as attentive and wide awake as I myself, as burning with curiosity as I was. I held him fast.

The man kept on digging the grave until it was about 5 feet deep then he threw the shovel down. While he



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was busy digging, the woman had brought some boughs and laid them on the edge of the grave. Now she lined the grave carefully with branches. Then the man climbed up out of the grave and they stood looking down at their handiwork. Often they looked uneasily back over the trail whence they had come, then they walked together towards the wagon. They lifted up the canvas side, took out a cloth and spread it on the ground, then a small pillow which they laid on it. There was something on the pillow. The bright moonlight shone on the corpse of a small girl scarcely three years of age. The little white hands were crossed on her breast and long golden curls fell on the pillow. I saw the face clearly. It was sweet and innocent with a slight smile on the lips almost as if the child were alive. The mother was rearranging the child's clothing, straightening the gown and smoothing out a crease, then she tucked it carefully as if she were preparing the child for bed. Though I heard no sound I saw her heaving breast and the tears coursed down her cheeks. They knelt and kissed the little face and wept bitterly, trying to comfort each other. They carried the little corpse to the grave and laid it gently down. Then they spread the branches over the body and lastly, covered it over with earth. Then they knelt to pray beside the little mound.

Though I was convinced that this was not a natural scene I was witnessing, yet I was filled with compassion for the bereaved parents.

Suddenly I was aware of something ominous coming down the trail from whence they had so recently come. Several riders were fast approaching as if they were pursuing someone. By the way they rode I knew they were Indians. Now I understood their un-

easiness. These poor pilgrims had taken an opportunity to bury their dead child and intended to hurry on as soon as it had been accomplished. But the pursuers had picked up the trail and relentlessly followed to kill them.

I seized my gun to defend them and was about to call to warn them of the danger, when I realized that these were merely shades that I could not interfere with, and it was wisest to leave them alone. My dog was going to leap to his feet but I held him tightly. It seemed as if the pair did not realize the danger they were in until the Indians were almost upon them. Then the man leaped to his feet and helped his wife up. They looked toward the wagon as if for protection but it was too late. I saw the trace of bullets and arrows fly through the air though not a sound broke the silence of the night.

Both swayed on their feet as if the bullets had found their mark. They embraced as if they knew this was the last time they would ever hold one another. Another shot was fired and they fell together on the grave of their child, dead.

The Indians hitched the horses to the wagon and fled down the trail as if they feared something would pursue them. I watched them until they disappeared from sight. Then I was once more alone with my thoughts in the stillness of the night.

I could not sleep for the remainder of the night. At dawn I dozed and awoke to find the sun shining. I tried to tell myself that I had dreamed it all and my conviction grew when I looked about me and noticed that the spot where they had buried the child was not bare as I had seen it, but was overrun with bushes and small trees. Yet I could not contain my curiosity.

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I walked to the spot where I had seen the grave, pushed the bushes aside and strode in. I looked carefully about me. There was the small mound and on it lay two skeletons.

I sank down, too unnerved to think clearly. My mind sped back to the days of my youth. When I was a mere child, my brother, who was twenty years of age, had left home with his wife and child to settle in the newly-

opened west. They wrote home a few times, relating this and that about their trip. Then, suddenly the letters stopped coming and, though over the years we made many inquiries as to their whereabouts, no living human being could tell us what had become of the three of them.

I do not try to explain what I witnessed that night. I merely relate it as it happened.

REYKJAVIK AND WINNIPEG TWINNED

Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, and Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, were twinned in August when documents in this connection were signed by Mayor Stephen Juba of Winnipeg and Mayor Geir Hallgrimsson in Reykjavik. Text of the formal declaration

of twinning was written in both Icelandic and English. The Icelandic text was delivered by Grettir L. Johannson, consul of Iceland in Winnipeg, to Mayor Hallgrimsson while on a visit to Iceland in August.

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NEWS FROM THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEW EXECUTIVE ELECTED



Pall K. I. Johannesson

A former Manitoba resident, Pall K. I. Johannesson has been re-elected to a third term as President of the Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia.

Johannesson, age 53, is a representative of a major oil company. He was born in Baldur, Manitoba.

Elected to serve with Johannesson of the 301 member club are:

Gustave Tryggvason, Vice President.
Mrs. R. E. (Margaret) Helgason,

Recording Secretary.

Eirik Eirikson, Corresponding Sec.
C. A. (Connie) Anderson, Treasurer.

Oscar Sveinson, Membership
Mrs. E. B. (Frances) Johnson, Social
Convenor.

Mrs. L. O. (Heida) Hansen, Ass't
Social Convenor.

Harold E. Sigurdson, Public Relations
Wilmar Antonius, Ass't Public
Relations.

★

The daughter of former Manitoba residents, Dr. R. E. Helgason and his wife, Margaret, is the new Princess of the Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia. Susan Margaret Helgason, age 18, is the Club's thir-



Susan Margaret Helgason

teenth Princess and will serve a one-year term. She was chosen recently and was introduced to the club membership september 29th, at the organization's sixty-third annual meeting. Miss Helgason's father, a psychiatrist in New Westminster, near Vancouver, was born in D'Arcy, Saskatchewan and

is the son of Helgi Helgason. Her mother was born in Glenboro, Manitoba, and is the daughter of Bjorn S. Johnson. Miss Helgason succeeded Miss Laura Arnason, and is the first Princess to wear the club's recently acquired Icelandic costume, bought in Reykjavik with donations from club members.

★

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Members of the Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia are represented on the Board of the Icelandic Old Folks Home Society. Chris Eyford is President of the Society and directors are the club President, Pall Johannesson; Treasurer, C. A. Anderson; and Oli Philippon.

★

As of October, more than 80 people had expressed interest in the proposed Club charter flight to Iceland.

Charter regulations require that members of flight groups must be in good standing with the club and have been members for at least six months prior to embarkation.

★

At last count (in October) there were 308 active members of the Club.

The Club's first social event of the Fall season was an anniversary dance held at the Mount Carmel Pleasant Community Centre, on October 16. More than 100 guests were present.

A smorgasbord style light lunch included pönnukökur (pancakes), vinartertur, rullupylsa, smoked Alaska cod, salmon, cake, cookies and as always, delicious coffee.

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SEVENTY YEARS AGO — 1901-1902

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Arni Anderson, College, 1st year.

H. Arnason

Fridrik (Fred) Bjarnason

Sigurdur S. Christopherson

Olafur Eggertsson

Runolfur F. Fjeldsted, College, 1st yr.

Sigurbjorn (Barney) Finnson

Guttormur Guttormsson

Stefan Guttormsson, Col. 2nd year.

Sigurdur D. Holm

Kristofer Jonsson

Olafur Tryggvi Jonsson

Stefan Jonsson

Helga Josephson

Kristbjorg Kristjansson

R. Krokfjord

Andres Fjeldsted Oddstad

Pall Palsson

Haraldur Sigmar

Arni Stefansson

A. F. Sveinbjornsson

Gudny Sveinsson

Thora Thorarinson

Elina Thorsteinson

P. Th. Thorlaksson

Thorbergur Thorvaldson

Thorvaldur Thorvaldson, Col. 4th yr.

Valgerdur Walterson

Some of the students who enrolled were not able to complete the year, or the course, for financial or health reasons.

★



Sigurdur D. Holm

To the best of our knowledge, the sole survivor in 1971 of the Class of 1901-1902 is Sigurdur D. Holm, of Lundar, Manitoba.

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BOOK REVIEWS

AN EYE FOR THE DRAGON: by Dennis Bloodworth, 356 pp., Don Mills, Secker and Warburg, \$11.95

by Tom Oleson

Dennis Bloodworth has been the Far East correspondent of the London Observer since 1956. His news reports are among the finest coming out of that complex area and anyone who reads Mr. Bloodworth's first book, Chinese Looking Glass, or this current one, will understand why this is so.

Married to a Chinese wife and having spent 14 years in Asia, Mr. Bloodworth understands the Oriental world-view as few other Westerners can hope to do. Chinese Looking Glass offered the reader a glimpse into Chinese history and society, and the Chinese mind, that enabled the less-devoted China-watcher to make a little more

sense of the often seemingly inexplicable doings of Peking.

In an Eye for the Dragon, Mr. Bloodworth has turned his talents to the nations of South-east Asia: the lips to the Chinese teeth. He roams with apparent ease through thousands of years of history and thousands of miles of geography. From Burma to the Philippines, from Hanoi to Jakarta, the author has brought together a thousand anecdotes, a thousand insights, a thousand . . .

Every anecdote, every insight, every personal meeting is fascinating in itself but, after a heavy session of reading, the mind begins to reel, the pages blur and the eye that should be cast alertly on the Chinese dragon glazes. It is definitely not a book to be read at one sitting.

With this one reservation, the book comes highly recommended. If proper-

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ly read, it's fault becomes its greatest virtue. The reader who takes it a chapter at a time will be well rewarded. To open the book anywhere, to begin reading at any paragraph is to be carried into a world so different from our own that it might well be another planet.

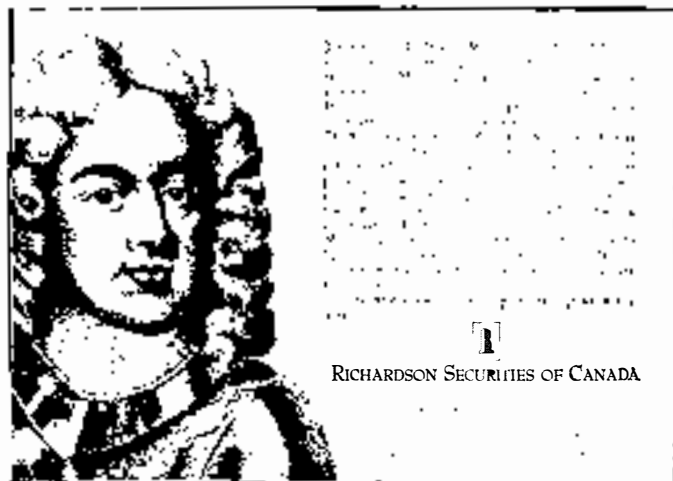
Mr. Bloodworth writes: "Southeast Asia is like the durian (fruit) — prickly, strange, smelly and beautiful, revolting, enchanting, an offence and an addiction. I am not an academic with all the facts and figures at my fingertips

"But I have made the Far East my diet for 16 years. My object . . . is to break it open and offer the reader a taste."

The taste is intriguing, if a little too rich for a steady diet. The author reveals to the reader presidents and peasants, Ho Chi Minh and Viet Cong irregulars, Prince Sihanouk and a Cambodian peasant who confided, "If Sihanouk should make us work as hard as the Chinese Communists, we should simply DIE."

Asian leaders who before were only sinister names in news dispatches come to life. We see Ho Chi Minh as not only the mastermind behind the Vietnamese nationalism but also as the man who kept his vow to Hanoi's street-walkers that they would walk the streets at night for the rest of their lives. Now they are street cleaners.

The ordinary Asians are here too. The Manila policemen who regard racketeers and criminals as their natural allies and, as such, something to be cherished, for when crime is eradicated so is the policeman; the Laotian soldiers who fire their guns into the air because their religion forbids the taking of lives; a Vietnamese leader rumored to feed those who displease him to his pet tiger; peasants who give their children such disagreeable names as Stinky and Bitchy in the hope of deceiving the greedy spirits of their ancestors who might otherwise gobble them up — these and innumerable other facets of Asian life make this anecdotal history of South-east Asia a delight.



The Saga of Snow Lake

by Clifford Casselman

Publisher: Snow Lake Chamber of Commerce

D. W. Friesen & Sons, Altona, Man. 1970, 86 pp.

by Mattie Halldorson

Snow Lake is blessed with a clear blue sky, that has received just that hint of blue from the giant paint brush to make it defy description; the magenta sunsets that transform the waterways to liquid fire. Snow Lake listens understandingly to the perennial grief of the bull moose, the unexpected splashes of the savage lunners, or Canada geese. Every season has its own private wonders to bestow on Snow Lake. So says the author of this very interesting book that has recently been published: *The Saga of Snow Lake*.

The author, Clifford W. Casselman, is a native Manitoban, having been born in the Interlake district, in Lundar, Manitoba. His father was Russell Casselman, butter-maker and owner of the creamery at Eriksdale; his mother, Maria Halldorson, the daughter of the pioneers, Halldor and Kristin Halldorson, who came from Iceland in the year 1887.

Snow Lake is the "eye" of the tri-

angle formed by the road from The Pas to Thompson to Flin Flon. It is surrounded by a myriad of lakes, rock outcroppings, and the omnipresent evergreens.

There is some speculation as to how Snow Lake was discovered. A man who has lived in the area for many years had undertaken some historical research and felt, though not certain, that such early explorers as Henry Kelsey, in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company, had come very close on his journey in the year 1690 or 1692. If Kelsey had not, perhaps Handy had, when he was on his way to the Blackfoot Indians for the Hudson Bay Company. Written records as early as 1896 show that a geological federal survey had been made in the Snow Lake-Wekusko area. Following surveys in 1913 gold was discovered. Chris R. Parres located and staked a gold occurrence on the east shore of Snow Lake in 1927, where eventually the town of Snow Lake was located.

When the editor was asked why he had decided to come to this northern town he said that a big part of the decision was a feeling of wanting to be a part of the adventure opening up in this untouched wilderness.

The train trip in May 1949 to the untamed country north of the 54th parallel was a memorable one. The first glimpse of the country was that

TO THE PEOPLE OF SELKIRK, MANITOBA

A JOYOUS
CHRISTMAS SEASON AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Mayor Frank Malis and Town Council of Selkirk

the land was flat and covered with pines that looked as though they had been deprived of their vitamins. Little did they know that they would come to love those trees and the area they represent.

In the early days mud plagued the residents. One poet said this in the third verse of his poem:

"It bubbles 'neath the sidewalks,
it sneezes through the doors,
And gurgles like an eerie spook
beneath the bunkhouse floors.
You'll find it in your fingernails
and going up your toes
And dripping from the ears and mouth
and stopping up your nose."

Nevertheless the towns people had gardens and made every effort to make the area beautiful.

The Howe Sound Company was the main source of income: for a great number of the people of the community until 1958 when the Hudson's Bay Company bought the assets of the company. This included the power line, plant buildings and equipment

houses, community hall, school, curling rink and hospital. They in turn sold most of the houses to their employees; the school, community hall and curling rink were turned over to the local government district.

At first communication with the outside world was difficult. In 1950 a telephone exchange was set up and in 1951 a radar system was installed, which connected with the Manitoba Telephone System and there was long distance service.

In the space of twenty years Snow Lake School moved from a single framed dwelling to a modern complex of physics and chemistry laboratories, gymnasium, Audio-Visual rooms etc. From one teacher in 1948 to twenty seven at the end of the 1960's. The nursing and hospital facilities have grown with the rest of the town. The hospital staff increased to include a resident doctor and four to six nurses. Churches have been built, community clubs organized, and a hockey arena with artificial ice completed. The towns people were concerned with all the projects to make their town one of the best. The editor commended the people of Snow Lake for developing the community who through their pioneering spirit, courage, self-sacrifice and resourcefulness chipped the community from the modern promised land.

The Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting Company was awarded the Award of Honor on the basis of the combined safety records of all six operating metal mines under their jurisdiction. Seven awards, including the Award of Honor, the Award of Merit, Certificates of Commendation and Presidents Letters from the National Safety Council of Chicago. The Company has made every effort to assure the best possible safety for their employees.

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Mr. Casselman can recall just two other men of Icelandic extraction who have lived in the Snow Lake area. One is the well-known prospector, Walter Johnson, Manitoba's Citizen of the Year who discovered the Moak Lake nickel ore body, from which Thompson has grown, as well as the Stall Lake find. Mr. Johnson said: "We must continue to look to the north for our economic prosperity, I firmly believe and am strongly convinced that in the years to come we will be able to see mine headframes spaced at ten mile intervals all the way from Snow Lake to Thompson."

As his dream is slowly becoming a reality, so has his vision and predication of our great prospector enlightened, encouraged and inspired the investigation and exploration of the vast potential resources of Northern Manitoba. Mr. Casselman states this

in the epilogue of "The Saga of Snow Lake". Alas, Mr. Johnson lived only a few years after the nickel find at Thompson.

The other Icelander who lived in Snow Lake for a short time was Mr. W. D. Valgardson, a teacher. He is a poet who has won several awards for his poetry and prose.

The concluding paragraph of the Saga is "tis not the beginning, nor the beginning of the end for our great northern province of Manitoba, it is only the beginning of the beginning." The words of Thoreau are quoted — "in the wilderness is the preservation of the world."

Both Mr. Casselman and his collaborator, Ronald Ledoux, were awarded the Provincial Medal honoring them for their contribution to Manitoba's Centennial.

IN THE NEWS

LITERARY PROJECT DISCUSSED

A project honoring the forthcoming centennial of Icelandic settlement in Manitoba was discussed at a general meeting of the Icelandic Canadian Club November 17. If launched, its success will depend upon active and equal involvement of all major Icelandic organizations within the province.

A proposal to publish two anthologies of literary works by Icelandic authors in North America was introduced by Will Kristjanson, editor of The Icelandic Canadian, one volume to cover poetry, the other prose. Some selections would be translated from the Icelandic while others were originally written in the English lan-

guage. Mr. Kristjanson presented a long list of authors, poets and translators who might be included in such anthologies.

He cited an announcement by Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau that the government would shortly set up a substantial fund in support of the ethnic multicultural within Canada. He felt that a fair share of this fund should be available to the Icelandic element, and that Icelandic groups within the community should be asked to examine the matter, discuss it and prepare briefs for an initial study. A committee was named, consisting of John Matthiason, vice-president of the club; Will Kristjanson, Bill Helgason, Caroline Gunnarsson and the club's

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president, Tim Samson, as an ex-officio member.

The meeting was open to the public and a number of non-members attended. The president challenged club members to take active interest in the club's activities and invited non-members to express their opinions to the meeting. Several responded with suggestions and relevant questions.

Club member Bill Helgason suggested that to keep members interested and aware of club activities, a news letter might be published and distributed at intervals.

Splendid entertainment followed the short business meeting, when Dr. Bjorn Jonsson of Swan River showed a selection of interesting slides taken on a recent trip to Iceland. Many were unique, with appealing touches of human interest. —C.G.

★

JONAS TH. JONASSON REMEMBERS —

Wesley College and Dr. Sparling

(Excerpt from a letter from Jonas Th. Jonasson, dated September 9, 1971)
. . . That brings back memories of sixty years ago, when I was at Wesley. On a cold winter morning there was a stream of students hurrying along Ellice Avenue to reach their classrooms before nine o'clock. When the nine o'clock bell rang Dr. Sparling took up his post at the door of his office with his watch in hand. If you happened to be a little late he would say, "You are a little late, my boy—a little late". That was all, but we took that more to heart than if he had given us a severe scolding. I think there were twenty-three graduating in my class — what a change to now! — All our teachers were dedicated men and I know that I remember some of

the things they said relating to matters outside the lessons while the material of the lesson has vanished.

★

DR. H. E. DUCKWORTH INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Dr. Henry Edmison Duckworth was installed President of the University of Winnipeg on October 16, 1971. Participating in an impressive ceremony were representatives from 93 colleges and universities the world over. They marched into the auditorium in the order in which their universities were founded, starting with Oxford and Cambridge, founded in the thirteenth century.

Chancellor P. H. T. Thorlaxson introduced Dr. Duckworth. He spoke briefly of Dr. Duckworth's accomplishments and qualifications and led him through the formal oath of installation. Dr. Duckworth is president of the Royal Society of Canada. He has been chairman of the Commission on atomic masses of the International Union of Pure and applied Physics and is internationally known for his research into mass spectroscopy.

Dr. Leo Kristjanson, of the University of Saskatchewan, represented the Canadian Association of University teachers in this occasion and Dr. Carolyn Matthiasson, of Winnipeg, represented her Alma Mater, Beloit College, in Wisconsin.

★

AN ICELANDIC DISPLAY IN WINNIPEG IN 1884

In September 1884, the Manitoba Historical Society arranged an exhibit in the Knox Hall, Winnipeg, in honor of visiting members of the British

Association for the Advancement of Science. Various committees in charge of the displays were kept busy arranging the donations which arrived from the Province and the Northwest. The British visitors were duly impressed and showed great interest and some amazement at the items assembled for their benefit.

The Free Press account of the display included the following item: "The Icelandic residents have also added largely to the exhibition. Their display consisted of clothing, jewelry, tools, and books used in Iceland".

★

THE VIKING CLUB OBSERVED LEIF ERICKSON DAY

The Viking Club of Winnipeg held its sixth annual celebration of Leif

Erickson Day, October 9, 1971, at the Scandinavian Centre of Winnipeg. Leif Erickson Day was proclaimed by Premier Schreyer and Mayor Juba and is a significant reminder of the discovery of America by Leif Eirikson about the year 1000 A.D.

Mr. Chris Schubert, Secretary and former President of the Club and Chairman of the Manitoba Civil Service Commission, proposed the toast to "The Immortal Viking Spirit" and Professor Haraldur Bessason, Chairman of the Department of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba replied to the toast.

A smorgasbord and dance were features of the evening.

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NEWS FROM ICELAND

On March 1, 1972, two years will have passed since Iceland became a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Immediately on entering EFTA, Iceland reduced by 30 per cent the protective tariffs for industrial imports from the EFTA area. At the same time, tariffs on Icelandic export products covered by the EFTA Convention were totally abolished in the EFTA countries. There is every evidence that this move has been positive and stimulating to Icelandic trade.

★

AN ICELANDIC MAIL ORDER

An attractive mail order and shopping guide from the Icelandic Market Company "Icemart", at Keflavik International Airport, Iceland, has been received by the Icelandic Canadian. Icemart is owned and operated by leading Icelandic manufacturing firms in various fields of production and offers a wide range of quality products made from first class Icelandic raw materials and representing the finest in Icelandic craftsmanship. This mail order catalogue has fine quality paper and colored illustrations.

★

The death rate in Iceland in the period 1926-1969 decreased from 11.5 to 7.1 per thousand, now being one of the lowest in the world.

★

Figures recently released by the Tobacco Monopoly of Iceland shows a decline of 13 per cent in the number of cigarettes purchased in Iceland in January and February, 1971, compared with the same two months in 1970. The decrease is attributed to a great extent to the anti-smoking campaigns led by the Icelandic Cancer and Heart Disease Societies. The Icelandic Parliament has approved a bill banning all tobacco advertising with effect from January 1, 1972.

★

SIXTEEN THOUSAND PERSONS OF 57 NATIONALITIES VISIT ICELAND IN JULY, 1971

Sixteen thousand passengers (16,289) arrived in Iceland by air and by sea in July of this year. 15,658 arrived by air.

Among the 57 nationalities represented there were: Americans, 3,759; Germans, 2256; British, 1,640; Danes, 1,063; French, 836; Swiss, 373 and Canadians, 164.

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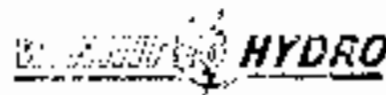
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to all our

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