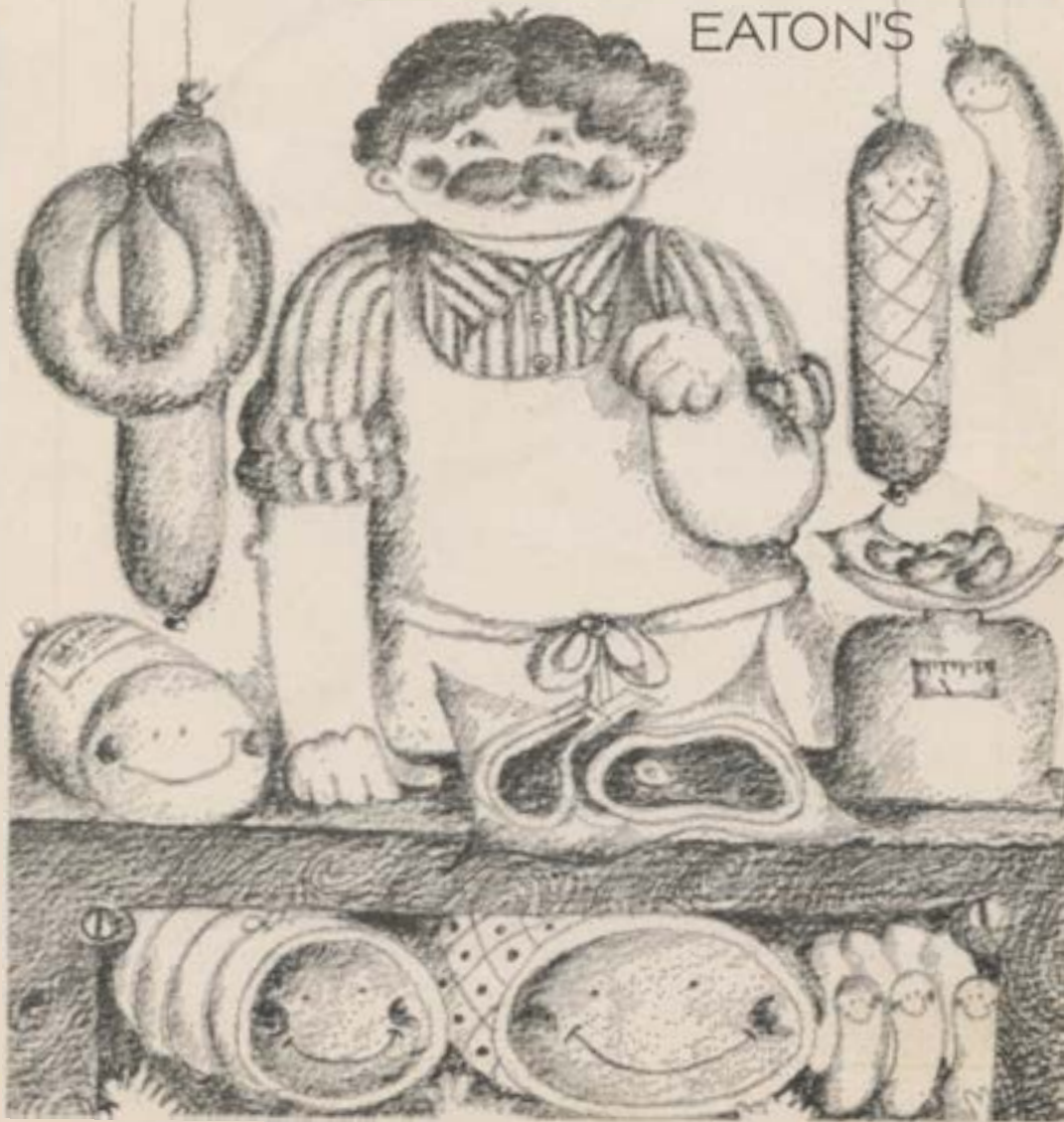


**There's something
nicely old-fashioned
about buying your meat
at Eaton's**

It's the service. At Eaton's Third Floor Meat Department you can talk to your butcher, ask his advice, and trust him to sell you only the best. He knows about cuts — he'll recommend you the choicest to suit your needs. His steaks receive tender loving care — it's guaranteed. Because all Eaton's beef hangs for 14 days to ensure proper aging and mouth-watering tenderness. If it's poultry

you fancy — just ask your Eaton meat man for freshly killed chickens, turkeys, ducks or geese. A nice bit of salmon flown in from B.C. Sausage meat made right here at Eaton's. Twelve different varieties of fresh or frozen fish. Head cheese, corned beef or a crown roast of lamb. Your Eaton butcher really knows about meat. And he's so friendly. Visit him soon.

EATON'S

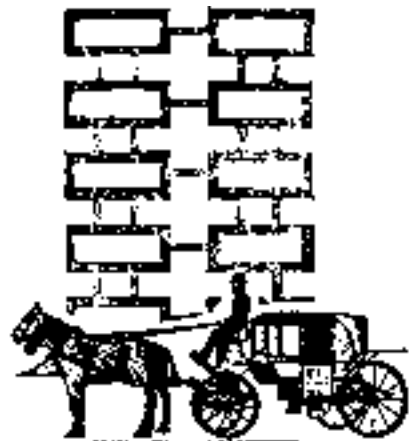


SUMMER 1972

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN



SUMMERTIME ON HECLA ISLAND



*Symbol of Service
since 1894*

BARDAL
funeral home

843 Sherbrook Street, Phone 774-7474



THOSE IN THE KNOW . . . TUNE

information
radio cbw 990

6:00 A.M. — 9:10 A.M. MONDAY — FRIDAY

Cor. Academy Rd. and Wellington Crescent

Phone
452-2806 — 3 lines

Academy Road Service Ltd.

E. R. (Earle) HIEBERT, Manager

MANITOBA MOTOR LEAGUE SERVICE

— We Specialize in Simonizing —



ÆVISAGA —

Sera Jon Bjarnarson

by RUNOLFUR MARTEINSSON

AVAILABLE FROM

JON L. MARTEINSSON
BOX 238, KEEWATIN, ONTARIO

B. TH. MARTEINSSON
103-7184 NEAL ST., VANCOUVER 14,
BRITISH COLUMBIA

TALLIN, KRISTJANSSON, KLETA & SMITH

BARRISTERS and SOLICITORS

4th Floor—238 Portage Avenue — Area Code 204 — Phone 942-8171

CARLSON

MOBILE HOMES LTD.

1991 PEMBINA HWY. — WINNIPEG, MAN.
R3T 2G7

TELEPHONE 452-2222 — 453-4766

EXHIBITION PARK,
THUNDER BAY. ONTARIO

EMO, ONTARIO

THE PAS, MANITOBA

BRANDON, MANITOBA

HUDSON BAY, SASK.

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN, SECOND CLASS MAIL — REGISTRATION
No. 1909 — PRINTED AT 868 ARLINGTON STREET, WINNIPEG 3,

THE WESTERN PAINT CO. LTD.

"The Painter's Supply House Since 1908"

521 HARGRAVE ST., WINNIPEG, MAN. PHONE 943-7395
R3A 0Y1

J. A. SCHIMNOWSKI, President

VISIT OUR NEW ULTRA MODERN WALLCOVERING BUILDING
NEXT DOOR. — FREE PARKING

JOHN LECKIE LTD.

640 King Edward St.
ST. JAMES

★

"TANGLEFIN" NYLON NETTING
COMMERCIAL FISHING SUPPLIES
CANVAS GOODS
MARINE HARDWARE
LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENT

Phone 774-1887

WINNIPEG 21, MAN.

Sigfusson Transportation Company Ltd.

SERVING OFF-HIGHWAY
POINTS IN NORTHERN
MANITOBA
AND NORTHWESTERN
ONTARIO

Phone 586-8341

1803 Hekla Avenue
WINNIPEG 23, MAN.

MOVING PACKING STORING

BEAVER MOVING & STORAGE

Member Allied Van Lines

2190 NOTRE DAME AVE., WINNIPEG PHONE 786-6081

B. Greenberg, Manager.

Greetings

from

A Friend

**GILBART FUNERAL
HOMES**

309 Eveline St.

SELKIRK, MAN.

Phone 3271

FIRST STREET

GIMLI, MAN.

Phone ZE 17000

- Serving the Interlake Area -

COMPLIMENTS OF

ROBERTS & WHYTE LTD.

Sargent & Sherbrook St.

Phone SPruce 4-3353

THE WEST END'S
FAMILY DRUG STORE

McKAGUE SIGMAR CO. LTD.

WINNIPEG'S LARGEST
REALTOR

SERVING ALL OF WINNIPEG

WITH 5 OFFICES

MURRAY SIGMAR

President and General Manager

Head Office 943-1431 Res. 253-1979

COMPLIMENTS OF

**ASGEIRSON'S -
LIMITED**

698 Sargent Ave. — Ph. 783-4322

*

Headquarters for
PAINT WALLPAPER
and HARDWARE

Greetings

from

A Friend

RICHARDSON & COMPANY

BARRISTERS AND ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GREY RICHARDSON, Q.C.	J. F. REEH TAYLOR, LL.B. Q.C.
CHARLES R. HUBAND, LL.B.	W. SCOTT WRIGHT, Q.C.
WILLIAM NORRIE, B.A., LL.B.	WALTER J. KEHLER, B.A., LL.B.
GARTH M. ERICKSON, B.A., LL.B.	GARRY R. SMITH, B.A., LL.B.
JAMES H. COOK, B.A., LL.B.	DAVID I. MARR, B.Sc., LL.B.
PHILIP L. ASHDOWN, B.A., LL.B., M.B.A.	RICHARD K. BEELEY, B.A., LL.B.

Counsel: BERT V. RICHARDSON, Q.C.
274 Garry Street, Winnipeg R3C 1H5 — Phone 957-1670

COMPLIMENTS OF . . .

YOUR INVESTORS REPRESENTATIVES

"your best friends financially"

Investors
SYNDICATE LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE: 280 BROADWAY, WINNIPEG

**POWER & MINE SUPPLY CO. LTD.
WESTERN ELEVATOR & MOTOR CO. LTD.**

Grettir Eggertson, President

123 PRINCESS STREET,

WINNIPEG 2, MANITOBA

Sigurdson Fisheries Ltd.
 Agents for
**FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING
 CORP.**
 Telephone 378-2456
 RIVERTON MANITOBA

NELL'S FLOWER SHOP
 WEDDING BOUQUETS
 CUT FLOWERS
 FUNERAL DESIGNS
 CORSAGES
 PHONE 772-9509
 921 NOTRE DAME - WINNIPEG 3

**NORTH STAR CO-OP
 CREAMERY & CHEESE PLANT
 ASS'N LTD.**
NORTH STAR FOOD LOCKERS
 Makers of Canada First Grade Butter
 Finest Bacon, Ham and Mutton Curing
 and Smoking
 ARBORG, MANITOBA R0C 0A0
 Creamery 376-5562 Locker 376-2307

ARLINGTON PHARMACY
 - PRESCRIPTIONS -
 POST OFFICE
 Sargent and Arlington
 Phone 783-5550
 Winnipeg, Man.

VIKING PRINTERS
 868 ARLINGTON ST.
 Phone 774-6251

S. A. THORARINSON
 BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR
 708-294 PORTAGE AVENUE
 OFFICE PHONE 942-7051
 WINNIPEG MANITOBA

DR. G. KRISTJANSSON
 PHYSICIAN and SURGEON
 PHONE 772-9453
 WESTBROOK MEDICAL CENTRE
 Logan and Keswatin
 Winnipeg, Manitoba

DUFFY'S TAXI
 775-0101
 Your Neighborhood Taxi

GREETINGS
 FROM TWO BROTHERS

**SELKIRK FUNERAL CHAPEL
 LTD.**
 DIRECTOR: GARTH CLARY
 LICENSED EMBALMER
 SERVING SELKIRK AND INTERLAKE AREA
 AMBULANCE SERVICE
 CALL SELKIRK 482-6284 COLLECT
 209 DUFFERIN AVE. SELKIRK, MANITOBA



**WHEN YOU'RE SMILING
 CALL FOR
 'LABATT'S
 BLUE'**



**THE TRUE-BLUE
 FRIENDLY BEER**



WHICH ICELAND WILL YOU VISIT IN 1972?

- IS IT THE BELOVED ICELAND YOU REMEMBER?
- IS IT THE MODERN ICELAND YOU NEVER IMAGINED?
- IS IT THE ICELAND YOU'VE DREAMED ABOUT BUT NEVER SEEN?

In 1972, there is an Iceland for everyone — young people, old folks, businessmen, students and groups. And Icelandic Airlines (Loftleiðir) will fly you there for less money any time of the year.

NEW JETS! NEW FARES FROM NEW YORK: Normal season jet fares for individuals are only \$150 round trip for up to 21 days in Iceland (you must pre-purchase \$70 in land arrangements to qualify for this fare); or only \$165 for 29 to 45 days, only \$190 for 17 to 28 days. Also, special low fares for **STUDENTS** and **GROUPS**. For detailed folders, contact your travel agent or Loftleiðir.

**ALL-JET SERVICE TO ICELAND, SWEDEN, NORWAY,
DENMARK, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & LUXEMBOURG.**

ICELANDIC  **LOFTLEIDIR**

630 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10020; Phone (212) 757-8585
37 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill., 60603
Phone (312) 372-4792

The Icelandic Canadian

Volume XXX, No. 4

Winnipeg, Canada

Summer 1972

EDITORIAL:

Message from the Chair of Icelandic, Haraldur Bessason 10

NARRATIVE

Njal's Saga, transl. by Magnús Magnússon and Hermann Pálsson 12
Mercy Flight, Dr. L. A. Sigurdson 15

FEATURE ARTICLES

The Gimli Waltz, Arilius Isfeld 19
The Noble Norseman, Don Dwiggin 23
This Icelandic Childs "Mother" Tongue was Cree, W. Kristjanson 29
Anniversaries, excerpts from speech by Valdimar Bjornson 33
Achievements of the Icelandic People in Manitoba, William Prescott 41

POETRY:

The Skald of the Foothills, Art Reykdal 27

BOOK REVIEW:

Morris, William: Icelandic Journals, George Hanson 32

MISCELLANEOUS

Elma Gislason's Festival Opera Group Score Success 44
Icelandic Festival Essay Contest 17
Entry Form for Art Exhibit at Icelandic Festival, Gimli 18
The Icelandic Festival — Íslendingadagurinn, 1972 26
The Centenaries Celebration Committee 31
Icelandic Festival Scholarship 22

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian, Winnipeg, Manitoba

MAGAZINE BOARD:—

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF EMERITUS: Hon. W. J. Lindal

EDITORS: W. Kristjanson, Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of the Board, 1117 Wolseley Ave., Winnipeg 10; Arilius Isfeld, Assistant Editor, 896 Palmerston Ave., Winnipeg 10; David H. Bergman, 532 Lindsay St., Winnipeg 9; Prof. Haraldur Bessason, 38 Greyfriars Rd., Winnipeg 19; Caroline Gunnarsson, 18-51 Arbuthnot Rd., Winnipeg 9; John Harvard, c/o C.B.C., Winnipeg 10; Gustaf Kristjanson, 12 R-300, Roslyn Rd., Winnipeg 13; Miss Kristin Olson, 14-270 Roslyn Rd., Winnipeg 13; T. O. S. Thorsteinson, 400 Parkview St., Winnipeg 12; Axel Vopnfjord, 1206 Dominion St., Winnipeg. 3
Miss Kristine Jakobson, 100 Killarney Ave., Winnipeg.

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD: Miss Mattie Halldorson, 748 Ingersoll St., Wpg. 10

BUSINESS & CIRCULATION MANAGER: J. V. Samson, 868 Arlington St. Wpg. 3

ADVERTISING SOLICITOR: P. V. Reykdal, 154 Kenaston Blvd., Winnipeg R3N 1V2

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

Subscription Rate: \$3.00 per year. In Iceland: kr. 280. Single copies .75; in Icel. kr. 70.

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

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

EDITORIAL

HARALDUR BESSASON

**A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF ICELANDIC
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

Last year the Chair of Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba marked its twentieth anniversary. Indirectly, this occasion has given rise to the following report:

During the last academic session forty-eight students, at the undergraduate levels, were enrolled in Icelandic at the University of Manitoba. In addition, almost twenty adults took part in weekly seminars on Icelandic language, literature and history. These figures bespeak considerable academic and public interest and in part they reflect increased flexibility in University regulations about foreign language options. One must be quick to add, however, that current measures in support of bilingualism and biculturalism in Canada have brought about a certain kind of 'cultural consciousness' of the Prairies as a meaningful addition to the Anglo-French background of Canada, and their claim would appear justified, provided the ethnic heritage in point retains a positive nonpolitical perspective. One thing is also certain: Canadian university students are becoming increasingly eager to evaluate, on the basis of their own ethnic origin, the merits of distantly related languages as, for example, French and Icelandic. Recognizing, however, that it is beyond the scope of this editorial to determine the

criteria for an assessment of this kind, the present writer wishes to reiterate that, in an English speaking country, Icelandic studies have a uniquely important place in the academic curricula inasmuch as they bear directly upon the development of English language, literature and history. Then the study of Icelandic has, of course, its own independent value, a point which is easily understood in Manitoba, where the Icelandic language represents the cultural heritage of a great number of people. Further, it must not be forgotten that the North-American-Icelandic literature is a relevant field of study in the western Canadian provinces. On a previous occasion, the writer summarized this matter and other related points in the following way:

North American Icelanders have enlarged the domain of Modern Icelandic literature by giving expression in Icelandic to their thoughts and experiences after they became citizens of the New World. On the other hand it must not be forgotten that a considerable portion of this literature is firmly rooted in its new environment . . . In Western Canada the Icelandic language merits not only consideration for its classical values as the language of the Eddas and the Sagas, but in the history of

Canada this ancient tongue deserves a separate chapter, for on the Canadian prairies it was the first language to become the vehicle of literary excellence.

Although the Icelandic professor at the University of Manitoba is currently on the editorial committees of two different journals, 'Mosaic' a **Journal for the Comparative Study of Literature and Ideas** published by the University of Manitoba, and 'Scandinavian Studies', published in the United States by the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, it has become increasingly apparent that the Chair of Icelandic must strengthen as it were its external relations. This is one of the reasons why the writer of this editorial and Dr. Robert J. Glendinning of the Department of German at the University of Manitoba have recently made the proposal to the appropriate authorities at the University that the University of Manitoba Press initiate a publication series in the field of Icelandic studies. This proposal received the unanimous support of Icelandic organizations in Manitoba. The readers of this mag-

azine are perhaps aware that the first volume of the proposed series consisting of an English translation of 'The Book of Settlements' (**Landnámabók**) will appear soon. The concluding paragraph in the 'Editors' Foreword' to that volume runs as follows:

It is the hope and intention of the editors that this volume will initiate a series of publications devoted exclusively to the study of Icelandic history, literature and culture. Both the mediaeval and modern periods will be dealt with, and particular emphasis will be placed on the international relevance of the work under consideration wherever this is called for.

The preceding announcement may well turn out to be one of significance. Although it is yet too early to predict failure or success, the realization of the project outlined above hinges in part upon effective co-operation between the Chair of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba and the many Icelandic organizations in North America.



NJAL'S SAGA

Translated by Magnús Magnússon and Hermann Pálsson

There was a man called Mord Fiddle (Mörður gígja), who was the son of Sighvat the Red. Mord was a powerful chieftain, and lived at Voll (á Velli) in the Rangriver Plains (á Rangárvellum). He was also a very experienced lawyer—so skilful, indeed, that no judgment was held to be valid unless he had taken part in it. He had an only daughter called Unn (Unnr); she was a good-looking, refined, capable girl, and was considered the best match in the Rangriver Plains.

The scene of the saga now moves west, to the Breidafjord Dales (Breiðafjarðardala), where a man called Hoskuld (Höskuldr) Dala-Kollsson lived at Hoskuldstead, in Laxriverdale (Laxárdal). He had a half-brother called Hrut (Hrútr) Herjolfsson, who lived at Hrutstead; they had the same mother. Hrut was a handsome man; he was tall, strong, and skilled in arms, even-tempered and very shrewd, ruthless with his enemies and always reliable in matters of importance.

On one occasion, Hoskuld was holding a feast for his friends; Hrut was there, sitting next to him. Hoskuld had a daughter called Hallgerd, who was playing on the floor with some other girls; she was a tall, beautiful child with long silken hair that hung down to her waist.

Hoskuld called to her, "Come over here to me." She went to him at once. Her father tilted her chin and kissed her, and she walked away again.

Then Hoskuld asked Hrut: "What do you think of her? Do you not think she is beautiful?"

Hrut made no reply. Hoskuld repeated the question. Then Hrut said "The child is beautiful enough, and many will suffer for her beauty; but I cannot imagine how thief's eyes have come into our kin."

Hoskuld was furious; and for a time there was coldness between them.

Hoskuld's mother was Thorgerd, daughter of Thorstein the Red, the son of Olaf the White, the son of Ingjald, the son of Helgi and Thora, the daughter of Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eve (Sigurður ormur í auga), the son of Ragnar Hairy-Brecks (Ragnar loðbrók).

Thorstein the Red's mother was Aud the Deep-Minded, the daughter of Ketil Flat-Nose, the son of Bjorn Buna.

2

On another occasion, Hoskuld and Hrut rode to the Althing together. There was a large attendance.

Hoskuld said to Hrut, "I would like you to look to your future, brother, and find yourself a wife."

"I have been in two minds about it for a long time," replied Hrut. "But now I will do as you wish. Where should we turn our attention?"

"There are many chieftains here at Althing," said Hoskuld, "and we have a wide choice. But I have already decided on a match for you, a woman called Unn (Unnr); she is the daughter of Mord Fiddle, a very wise man. He is here at Althing now and his daughter is with him, so you can see her if you wish."

Next day, as people were making their way to the Court of Legislature (til lögréttu), the brothers saw a group of well-dressed women outside the Rangriver booth.

"There is Unn now," said Hoskuld, "the woman I was telling you about. What do you think of her?"

"I like the look of her," replied Hrut. "But I do not know that we are destined to be happy together."

They walked on towards the court. Mord Fiddle was interpreting the law there as usual, and afterwards he went back to his booth. Hoskuld and Hrut rose and followed him. They entered the booth and greeted Mord, who was seated at the far end; he rose to meet them, took Hoskuld by the hand, and gave him the seat beside his own. Hrut sat down beside Hoskuld.

They talked about a number of things. Eventually Hoskuld said, "I want to discuss a marriage-deal with you. Hrut wants to make an offer for your daughter's hand and become your son-in-law, and I shall not be sparing of my support."

"I know that you are a great chieftain," said Mord, "but of your brother I know nothing."

"He is a better man than I," replied Hoskuld.

"You will have to settle a very large sum on him," said Mord, "for Unn will inherit everything I own."

"I shall not keep you waiting long for my offer," said Hoskuld. "Hrut is to have Kamsness and Hrutsead and all the land up to Thrandargill; and in addition he owns a trading ship, which is out at sea just now."

Hrut intervened. "You must realize," he said to Mord, "that brotherly love makes Hoskuld exaggerate my virtues. But if you are prepared to consider the matter at all, I would like you to name the terms yourself."

"I have already decided on my terms," said Mord. "Unn's dowry from me will be sixty hundred*, which you are to increase by half; and if you have heirs, the whole estate is to be divided equally between the two of you."

"I accept these terms," said Hrut. "Let us now call in witnesses."

They stood up and shook hands, and Mord betrothed his daughter to Hrut, the wedding to take place at Mord's home a fortnight after midsummer.

Both parties then rode home from Althing. Hrut and Hoskuld were passing Hallbjorn Cairns (Hallkjarnarvörðum) on their way westward when Thjostolf (Þjóstólfr), the son of Bjorn Gold-Bearer from Reykjardale, came riding towards them. He told them that Hrut's ship had arrived in Hvit River; on board was Ozur, Hrut's paternal uncle, who wanted Hrut to come to see him as soon as possible. When Hrut heard this he asked Hoskuld to accompany him, and together they rode to the ship, where Hrut welcomed his uncle warmly. Ozur invited him into his booth to drink. They had their horses unsaddled and then went in and drank with him.

"And now, kinsman," said Hrut to Ozur, "You must ride west with me and stay with me for the winter."

"That's out of the question," said Ozur. "I have to tell you that your brother Eyvind is dead. He named you as his heir, Hrut, at the Gula Assembly, but if you don't come to Norway at once your enemies there will seize the inheritance."

"What's to be done now, Hoskuld?" asked Hrut. "This raises difficulties, now that I have fixed my wedding date."

"You must ride south and see Mord," said Hoskuld. "Ask him to alter the

agreement and have Unn wait for three years as your betrothed. Meanwhile I shall ride home and bring your goods down to the ship.'

Hrut said, 'I want you to have some of this flour and timber, and anything else you would like from the cargo.'

The horses were fetched, and Hrut rode off to the south, while Hoskuld continued his journey home to the west. When Hrut reached the Rangriver Plains he was well received at Mord's house. He explained the position to Mord, and asked him for his advice.

'How much money is involved?' asked Mord.

Hrut replied that it would be two hundred marks, if he got it all.

'That is a lot compared to what I shall leave,' said Mord. 'Certainly you must go, if you wish to.'

They changed the agreement, and Unn was now to wait for three years as his betrothed. Hrut rode back to the ship and stayed there throughout the summer until it was ready to put to sea. Hoskuld brought to the ship all the goods that Hrut owned, and agreed to look after Hrut's property in the west while he was abroad. Then Hoskuld rode back home, and soon

afterwards Hrut and Ozur set sail before a favourable wind. After three weeks at sea they reached the Hern Islands, and then sailed on east to Oslo Fjord.

*The 'hundred' (in fact 120) refers to ells of woollen cloth, and was a common method of computing value. Six Icelandic ells (approximately three yards) were equivalent to one legal ounce, and there were eight ounces in the legal mark. Thus Unn's dowry was 150 marks. Hrut's inheritance of 200 marks was actually 240 marks. In terms of livestock, one milch cow or six sheep were worth nearly two marks at this time. Unn's dowry was equivalent to 80 cows, Hrut's inheritance to 128 cows. —Translators' note.

Published with the permission of Hermann Pálsson.

N.B.—The Icelandic form of names is inserted for the benefit of our readers who know Icelandic.

The translation of *Njála* by Magnús Magnússon and Hermann Pálsson is published in the Penguin Classics series. —W.K.

ARNI MAGNUSSON, GREAT ICELANDIC SCHOLAR AND PRESERVER OF MEDIAEVAL MANUSCRIPTS

Arni Magnusson, known in Denmark as Arne Magnusson, is one of the greatest figures in Icelandic literary history. He devoted his life to the collection and study of priceless Icelandic and other mediaeval manuscripts. He was Secretary of the Royal Archives and Professor of Danish Antiquities at the University of Copenhagen and he established the famous Arnemagnæan Collection at the University.

The biography of Arni Magnusson, "Arne Magnusson, Den store Handskriftsamler", by the Danish scholars Hans-Bekker Nielsen and Ole Widding has been translated into English by Robert W. Mattila, M.A., of Seattle, Washington. An announcement concerning this translation appears in this issue of *The Icelandic Canadian*.

—W.K.

MERCY FLIGHT

by L. A. Sigurdson

On October 9, 1971, at 6:30 in the evening, our very large Air Canada DC8 left the Winnipeg International Airport on a routine course over Baffin Island, direct to Copenhagen. I was in seat 13A, from which I could see the lights of my home town growing farther and farther away. The lights of the plane were turned down and since there were no passengers in the two seats beside me, I, like many of my fellow travellers, settled down to sleep. I thought how strange and wonderful, that we should be six miles above the earth, flying at six hundred miles an hour in perfect comfort. Sleep did not come to me but I rested.

We had just passed Frobisher Bay in Northern Canada when suddenly the lights came on. Most of the people sat up, sensing that something unusual was happening. A moment later, when we were fully alert, we heard the voice of our captain, E. J. Geddes, on the intercom. He said, "We apologize for waking you. There is nothing wrong with the plane, but we are going to alter our course in order to make an unscheduled stop in Sonderstrom, Greenland. We have been asked to stop and pick up an eight-week old Eskimo child and transport him to Copenhagen, thus providing evacuation service for the child, Michael Poulsen, and his nurse, Miss Kirsten Trendemolle."

The captain continued, "Sonderstrom is located at the end of an inlet on the western coast of Greenland, about seventy-five miles inland. There

is a large American base located there and the runway is large enough to permit us to land."

I told the chief stewardess that I was a doctor and volunteered to help. She asked me what kind of doctor I was and when I told her I was a general practitioner, she said "Great!", and told the captain about this. Now my eyes searched for the first lights of Greenland. A few came into view and finally there were many, to indicate our destination. Soon our tremendous Air Canada plane thundered down the tarmac and was flagged to a stop in front of a large hotel. The ground crew of the Scandinavian Air Line and the United States Army had been alerted in order to organize our landing and look after our needs. We had to take on four thousand gallons of fuel.

It was very dark outside, but we were able to see a large hotel. Soon the lights of the ambulance appeared. Then the nurse came aboard, carrying Michael in a bassinette. Close behind was the physician in charge, Dr. Ellis, an intense, rugged man, dressed in a warm parka. He told us the baby required continuous oxygen because of a congenital heart defect. He brought with him two tanks and we had plenty of oxygen on the plane. He said the baby's condition was serious. He had collapsed twice and he felt his patient could not survive until the regular plane, which was not due for two days, should arrive from Copenhagen. It was for this reason, he had called

"medicav", indicating that medical attention was urgently needed.

We were only thirty-eight minutes on the ground in Greenland. During this time I had time to think of the courageous Viking, Eric the Red and his journey from Iceland to Greenland.

Eric was probably born in Iceland, about 930 A.D., according to recent research, (see article by Professor Haraldur Bessason, of the Department of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba, in the Icelandic Canadian, Winter, 1965.) A description of the man himself will be found in The Icelandic Canadian, Winter, 1971, written by Sveinbjorn S. Olafson: "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." My youngest son, Eric, is named for this great man because of the reddish tinge of his hair. Eric the Red did not set out on a voyage of discovery without a compelling cause. He was banished from Iceland for three years because he killed a man. This was not an uncommon crime, one thousand years ago. The local parliament (Thing) of Thorsnes in Iceland passed judgment on him.

He sailed westward to a point off the east coast of Greenland, then, turning south, he rounded Cape Farewell and worked his way up the west coast as far as Eiriksfjord. The winters proved long and cold, but in summer the coastal lands were beautiful. A green belt of vegetation, with an abundance of grass, flowers, berries and brush, stretched along the coast. There were many animals and birds, and fish abounded. Water was plentiful, clear and fresh. While there were signs of former habitation, the land

was uninhabited. Fully aware of the importance of a name, he called this land Greenland.

Greenland impressed him so much that at the end of his three year banishment, he sailed back to Breidafjord, Iceland, determined to come back and colonize this great new country. This he did and the colony flourished. At one time there were three thousand Icelanders in Greenland, who developed their own constitution on a democratic basis similar to that of Iceland. It was Eric's son, Leif, who discovered land southwest of Greenland a few years later. He called this land Vinland. Eric died in 1022. Today Greenland is a colony of Denmark.

Soon the motors were started and our plane was in the air again. I went and checked the baby. He was very small and helpless as he lay in his bassinette, with the oxygen mask held to his face by the lovely dedicated nurse. She told me she had not slept for twenty-four hours. I knew she would have at least four more to go. She looked tired and worn from her long and constant vigil. During the rest of the flight I made several trips to check on Michael.

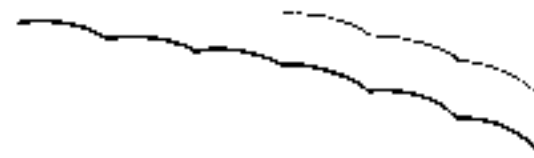
The crew did everything with speed and efficiency. Captain Geddes spoke to each of the passengers individually in order to explain the circumstances. He mentioned to me that the ground personnel worked so efficiently that we could have been airborne in less than the thirty-eight minutes we were on the ground, but the air traffic had piled up so much that we could not have taken off safely.

The ambulance was waiting when we arrived in Copenhagen and Nurse Kirsten Trendemolle whisked Michael off the plane. He was taken to the Ries hospitalen for heart surgery. The next day I went to the hospital to enquire about Michael and found that

he was doing very well but it was necessary to wait a few days for the operation.

I was proud to be a Canadian and know that we had been able to divert a multimillion dollar Air Canada plane for the sake of an unknown baby. I was proud of Captain Geddes and his crew. The maple leaf emblem on our plane was symbolic of our best.

In the December number of "Between Ourselves", published by Air Canada, Captain Geddes wrote: "On October 26, I crossed over Greenland, within VHF range of Sonderstrom, identified myself and enquired as to the present condition of our new found friend Michael. They remembered me and advised that Michael had his heart surgery on October 11th, and was well on his way to full recovery".



THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

ESSAY CONTEST

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba Committee is sponsoring an essay contest, open to contestants 18 years or under, on the following subject: **"The Centennial of Icelandic Settlement in Manitoba."**

Manitoba is to be interpreted as including New Iceland, originally north of the Provincial boundary.

The following rules apply:

- The approach to be in analytical rather than an historical narrative, e.g., a discussion of such matters as the importance of the immigration movement to the Icelandic settlers themselves and to Manitoba and the rest of Canada.
- Entries not to have been published previously.
- Manuscripts must be typed or legibly written, and on one side of the paper only.

- The writer's pen-name only to appear on the manuscript; the writer's name and address to be given in a sealed envelope accompanying the essay, and on the outside of the envelope the pen-name and the name of the article to be shown.

- The essays are not to exceed 1500 -2000 words.

There will be three prizes, unless in the opinion of the judges there are not three essays of sufficient merit to qualify— \$100.00; \$75.00; and \$50.00.

Closing date for submission of entries is October 14, 1972.

Entries are to be mailed to:

Miss Mattie Halldorson,
Executive Secretary,
748 Ingersoll Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3G 2J6

ANNUAL ART EXHIBIT

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA (Íslendingadagurinn)

The fourth Annual Exhibition of paintings, pottery, ceramics and sculpture, by artists of Icelandic descent, will be held on Íslendingadagurinn, August 6th and 7th, 1972.

Purchase prizes amounting to \$250.00, of which \$150.00 is donated by Investors Syndicate Limited, will be awarded for the best work in each class.

1. All work submitted must be the original and unaided work of the artist, not previously exhibited at Icelandic Day.
2. Participants may submit three works.
3. All work must be delivered to Tergesen's General Store, Gimli, Manitoba, before or on August 5.
4. A label with name, address, title, must be attached to the back of each work.
5. Paintings must be suitably framed, ready for hanging, with wire kept back one inch from top of frame.
6. All works must be removed after the show on August 7th.
7. This entry form must be filled in and returned to the following address, not later than July 21st, 1971.

Mrs. Lorna Tergesen,
Box 154,
Gimli, Manitoba.
R0C 1B0

PARTICULARS OF ENTRY

No.	Title of Work	Medium	Price	Value for Insurance Purposes
1				
2				
3				

ARTISTS NAME (Surname first).....

ADDRESS Phone No.....

THE GIMLI WALTZ

by Arilius Isfeld

"In a house in Riverton, Manitoba in the early 1930's, Laugi Johanneson walked up to the front of a crowded room and tucked a violin under his chin. Two boys aged 12 and 9 followed suit. The tune they were playing was an old Icelandic song "Um Draumsins Huldar Heim", later to be known as The Gimli Waltz. The boys were his sons, Johnny and Kris. They were taking lessons from the most accomplished violinist in the district, Johannes Palsson from Geysir".

The above quotation appears on the jacket of a long-play album titled "The Gimli Waltz—Old-Time Dance Tunes, by Johnny and His Musical Mates" and is signed by Sol Sigurdson, Riverton, Manitoba.

That the tune they were playing was "an old Icelandic Song" is incorrect. The lyrics were written by Jón Jónatanson and it is assuredly correct to say that the music was composed by the late Olafur Thorsteinson of Husavik, Manitoba; "assuredly correct"—because this tune has often been mistaken for the Westphalia Waltz but when listening to the latter as rendered by the Rodgers Brothers Band on a long-play album titled "The Blue Skirt Waltz and other favorite Old Time Waltzes— Frank Olson, an accomplished musician assured me that the two waltzes were indeed not the same, having only a slight similarity at the beginning.

Shortly after the turn of the century Oli Thorsteinson and Frank Olson began travelling considerably through-

out the New Iceland district playing at the various old-time dances. At this time the tune was often referred to as Oli's Waltz. Later when the Old Timers' Orchestra was organized the Gimli Waltz became a regular request. "Millions" of miles no doubt have been danced to this tune that expresses this delightful lilting love story.

Some claim that Jon Jonatanson wrote the poem to his sweetheart, and others think they recall hearing that he had dedicated it to Maria and Sigurjon Isfeld. Sigurjon often was floor manager at the old-time dances and literally sang out in rhyme the directions for the square dances and took great pride in dancing the waltzes.

Oli Thorsteinson taught music in the inter-lake district and was as well a very skilful violin maker. There are hand-written copies of the Gimli Waltz music in existence which show the initials O. Th. A copy of one of these accompanies this article.

The following quotation is from The Icelandic People of Manitoba by W. Kristjanson: "Olafur Thorsteinson of Husavik arrived from Iceland as a young lad of fifteen in 1889. In 1951 he had successfully piloted over three hundred pupils through the Toronto Conservatory of Music examinations, including 109 with first class honors and 154 with honors". Three of his noteworthy pupils the author of this article can name are Johannes Palsson, Pearl Palmason and Palmi Palmason. No doubt many readers will be able to point out several others.

Violin. Old Timers Waltz
Gimli Waltz *O.Ch.*

Frank Olson, in conjunction with an excellent translation of the lyrics of the Gimli Waltz, states as follows:

"The Gimli Waltz was introduced and popularized in the early days of

the New Iceland colony by the late revered Oli Thorsteinson of Husavik, Manitoba.

The Icelandic lyric was written by the late Jón Jónatanson of Gimli and

Winnipeg.

It has been played, sung, danced to and cherished with nostalgic fervour

by New Icelanders since the turn of the present century".

GIMLI VALSINN

Um draumsins hulda heim, minn hugur svifur rótt.
Hann heyrir skæran hreim, um hljóða vetrar nótt.
Hann hvarlar lánga leið, uns loks hann nær til þín.
Ljúfasta ljósið og leiðarstjarnan mín.
Vagga mjer vært vina, ljúft og hlítt,
Kistu mig kært, klappaðu blítt.
Svæfðu mig sætt, sál þinni nær.
Láttu mig dreyma' um sæluna' og sumarið, sól fagra mær.

Svo hægt og ljúft og ljett, liður þú með mjer.
Held jeg hendi þjett, hægra mitti þjer.
Vinstri vermir þú, váginn brennir þinn.
Blíðlega bærst þú barminn upp við minn.
svífum við svo, sælli í ró,
Skínandi skó, skiljum við þó.
Hvers annars alt, elskan mín kær.
Tra, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la;

leynt sem að grær.

— Jón Jónatanson

THE GIMLI WALTZ

O'er dreamland's mystic shores, my spirit hovers light
On wings of song it soars, this silent winter night.
Though far afield it fare, it e'er returns to thee.
Light of my love and life's guiding star to me.

CHORUS

Bliss heavenly bliss, rock me to rest.
Kiss, fervently kiss, lips tenderly pressed.
Sleep, lull me to sleep, in your arms caressed.

Let me dream of Love's rapturous summertime,
Sun maiden blest.

So through this wondrous world, we drift in dreams divine,
 My right arm round you curled and left hand
 clasped in thine.

Thus swirling cheek to cheek, we find eternal grace.
 Two hearts as one, beating now as we embrace.

CHORUS

Soar peacefully, soar; sweet ecstasy!
 Clear, perfectly clear to you and to me.
 Love, Oh perfect love, to our souls revealed.
 Tra, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la;

blooms though concealed.

translated by Frank Olson

NOTE— We welcome any information music should be donated to a museum
 anyone can supply, concerning the or the archives.
 Gimli Waltz. Original copies of the

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

SCHOLARSHIP

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba Committee is offering two sets of scholarships, one set for grade XII Matriculation students proceeding to a university and one for students who have already commenced study at a university. These scholarships are for \$125.00 and \$75.00 respectively, in each category. They are tenable at any one of the universities in Manitoba: the University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg, and Brandon University.

The following is the basis for selection:

- Icelandic or part Icelandic descent.
- A first class academic standing

standing desirable; a “B” standing is the minimum.

- Participation in extra-curricular or community activities.

Applications for these scholarships with relevant supporting information, including age, the name of school or college attended, and a transcript of marks are to be forwarded by September 30, to the Executive Secretary of the Festival Committee:

Miss Mattie Halldorson,
 748 Ingersoll Street,
 Winnipeg, Manitoba
 R3G 2J6

THE MARK VI NOORDYNNORSEMAN WAS ONE OF THE KEYS THAT OPENED THE GREAT CANADIAN NORTH.

THE NOBLE NORSEMAN

The story of Geiri and Jim Johnson and the Gimli Air Service

by Don Dwiggins

Multi-hued northern lights blazed across the night sky, iridescent celestial searchlights probing unseen flyways where long Vees of Canadian geese wander on their long annual migrations. The aurora was bright enough for me to photograph it from the small airfield at Gimli, half a hundred miles north of Winnipeg, where we had flown the day before on a secret mission — find the Great Uglv Eagle in its nest.

Tracking this amazing bird had been relatively simple. Ask any Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer (the RCMP always get their man!) and he’ll direct you to its hideout, back in the bush at Arnes, Manitoba, not too far from Gimli. And Gimli, as any Manitoban knows, isn’t too far from Winnipeg Beach, on the western shore of 275-mile-long Lake Winnipeg, the shallow remnant of an ancient Pleistocene basin called Lake Agassiz.

Bob Arabsky flew me up there in his little J-3, and after buzzing the home of Geiri Johnson, a veteran bush pilot of Icelandic stock, we slipped into the stubble field at Arnes and out he came in a cloud of dust to pick us up. Geiri and his son Jim, own and operate Gimli Air Service, which consists of four pilots and six planes — a Piper PA-12, two Cessna 180s and a pair of Cessna 206s, plus the Great Uglv Eagle.

This latter bird, we learned, got its name from its Canadian registration CF/GUE — the latter letters being responsible for its unique appellation. But it’s a good name, very appropriate in describing what is officially known as a Mark VI Noorduyn Norseman, one of only a few flying today.

The Norseman was designed originally as a rugged bush plane to meet the demanding requirements of operating in the Canadian wilderness, from the ice and snow during winter months, and from rough land and rougher water in the summer.

Rough water is no novelty to the Great Ugly Eagle, which holes up in an inlet at Gimli for protection from raging storms that lash 100-foot-deep Lake Winnipeg into a froth when cold fronts slam through the Manitoba countryside.

GUE’s domain is the whole Province, but especially the tortuous shoreline of Lake Winnipeg’s 9,460 square miles of open water. Numerous islands dot the lake; the largest, Reindeer Island, embraces 70 square miles, and on these islands live Indians whose only contact with civilization is the Great Ugly Eagle.

“We fly an average of a ton of freight a week into the Indian settlements”, said Johnson, as we drove from the little airport to Gimli inlet. “Meat . . . provisions . . . medicines.

Then we do a lot of business with the Hudson's Bay Company, further north."

Gimli Air Service's biggest business, however, is flying fishermen up to Johnson's main camp at Sassaginnigak, an Indian name meaning "many ways to go", some 75 miles up the lake, where you can hook up a giant muskie, pickerel, or jack with every cast. Johnson also operates two out-camps still further north, and so fantastic is the fishing there that whole towns in the United States have been known to charter them for an incredible week-end of angling.

We learned from Geiri that there are only 46 Norsemen flying in Canada today, and a few others are used in the States, mainly as sport parachuting club jump ships.

According to official civil aircraft registries, some 95 Norsemen are registered in Canada, 20 in Europe, four in Australia, and seven in the U.S.A. but many of these are ground-bound for one reason or another. The records also show that the Norseman first flew in 1935, as a light freighter and eight to-ten-seat transport, with a 450-hp Wright R-975-E3 radial. The first production model became the Mark II Norseman, and in 1937 followed the Mark IV powered with the 600 hp P&WR-1340 Wasp.

During World War II the Royal Canadian Air Force ordered the Mark IV Norseman in quantity for radio and navigational training. In 1942 the USAF adopted a modification called the C-64A, a total of 746 being built, as the first Canadian-designed aircraft delivered to the USAF (then the USAAF). The Noorduyn plant, headed up by R. B. C. (Bob) Noorduyn, in Montreal, also turned out a wartime variant of the AT-6 advanced trainer called the Harvard II.

When we finally arrived at Gimli Inlet, the Great Ugly Eagle was out on a mission, but there was plenty of excitement — a Gimli Air 180 had just landed and Geiri's boy Jim was helping two other pilots off-load a stretcher case. The patient, an Indian woman, had suffered from food poisoning, and Gimli Air had been alerted by RCAF short-wave radio to go get her. Within an hour they'd picked her up, flown her to Gimli, unloaded her into a station wagon and rushed her to a local hospital, saving her life.

When things quieted down Jim pointed to the eastern sky. "Here she comes!" he yelled.

Lumbering low across the treetops came the Great Ugly Eagle, bending around in a near-vertical bank to slide down into the inlet on her big Edo floats, throwing spray beautifully as she slid to a stop, turned, and taxied back to the landing. Then, from Jim Johnson we learned more about the Norseman and her handling characteristics, while his dad drove to the hospital with his patient.

"She flies better loaded than empty", Jim began. "That's why she's the perfect bush plane. With near-empty tanks and only two people on board the center of gravity moves so far forward it's difficult to land, she's that nose heavy. But you can load her up well over gross and she flies like a big ol' Cub."

Gross takeoff weight on floats is 7,540 pounds, with a useful load rated at 1,379 pounds, but up in Manitoba, where the cold air is heavier, a normal load runs closer to 1,800 pounds.

You only have to climb aboard this big boy (there are four doors, two up front, two in the rear to see why it's a favorite bush plane. The fuselage is made of welded chrome-moly tubing faired to an oval section by steel

frames and T-section spruce stringers, and the skin is of both aluminum and fabric. Wings are fabric covered routed solid spruce spars with walnut pieces under fittings, spruce ribs, steel tubing drag struts and swaged wire bracing. Leading edge is dural-covered; ailerons and flaps are of the slotted mass-balanced type built of steel tube framework, also fabric-covered. The high wing is supported by steel tube Vee struts.

"An interesting thing about the ailerons and flaps", Jim was saying as we studied her rugged beauty. "Aileron and flap controls are so interconnected that with the first 15 degrees of down flap, the ailerons also droop 15 degrees." The flaps are mechanically operated.

This full-span droop effect is a big help in lifting heavy loads off the water, as Jim demonstrated. Taxiing and tacking across a brisk wind, he lined up with the inlet's mouth, dropped half flaps, firewalled the throttle. The Great Ugly Eagle's wings seemed to want to flap as she thundered ahead.

Jim waited until the speed meter needle read 40 mph, then threw the control yoke over hard. Up came the left float, cutting the water drag, and at an indicated 55 mph she came unstuck. Her floats dripping, the Norseman settled into an easy 1,200 fpm climb indicating 85 mph at 36 inches and 2250 rpm. Jim eased the power back to 31½ inches and 2200 rpm and flattened the climb, indicating between 100 and 105 mph.

Leveling out at 2,000 feet, Jim trimmed the Norseman for straight and level with power set at 24 inches and 1925 rpm, which gave an indicated cruise of 115 mph.

"Don't believe the books, that the Norseman'll cruise at 141 mph," Jim grinned. "Maybe she will empty in a

terminal dive, but not the way bush pilots fly 'em. You just don't want to burn up your engine, and anyway, the Indians up here are never in much of a hurry."

At that cruise setting, Jim said, the Norseman will fly 4½ hours, which gets him just about anywhere he wants to go nonstop. He can extend the range by pulling the power back to 27 inches and 1925 rpm, which gives a gas consumption of 31 gph instead of 34 gph.

Back at Gimli Inlet, we met Geiri Johnson again and learned that he's been bush flying since 1949 and has logged more than 10,000 hours bush piloting over some of North America's most scenic wonderland. He likes the Norseman because it has about the same takeoff and cruise capability as the DeHaviland Otter.

The Gimli Air Norseman Mark IV serves the Johnsons well, its roomy cabin equipped with six seats that can quickly be removed for cargo hauling, the configuration it was in when we saw her. Two side-by-side pilot seats up front are positioned ahead of steel tube bracing, and there is a single swing-over control wheel. Power quadrant is mounted at the centre, with throttle, propeller, and mixture controls clustered together.

There is a sense of massiveness about the Norseman that gives a feeling of solidarity, like she won't come apart in wild turbulence that frequently strikes with little warning. If that happens, the Johnsons and their hired hands are no heroes. "Tis better to land in some snug cove, or on some snow field, and live to fly another moose-goosing mission, they figure".

Flying back to Winnipeg with Bob in the back seat of his J-3 with the big side door open, I got to thinking, what a way to live, and what a place

to be! Endless miles of forest land and wheat fields along the Red River Valley . . . countless sparkling lakes to fish in . . . and the vast cavern of

an unpolluted sky, where the northern lights dance across the cosmos. This is Norseman country!

—Reprint from
Plane and Pilot Magazine,
April, 1972

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

[ISLENDINGADAGURINN]

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba is planning a very interesting and varied program for the annual event, the "Íslendingadagurinn", which will be held at Gimli, Manitoba, August 5, 6 and 7.

Professor Haraldur Bessason has issued the following news release for the Monday afternoon program:

Fjallkona (Maid of the Mountains) — Mrs. Jon G. Johnson, the former Rosa Petursson.

Toast to Iceland — Prof. Pall Ardal, Professor of Philosophy Queens University, Kingston, Ont.

Toast to Canada — Mr. John Sigvaldason, former Ambassador for Canada to Norway and Iceland.

Mrs. Ragnar Gislason is in charge of the musical program.

The singsong in the evening will be conducted by Mr. Gus Kristjanson, accompanied by Mrs. W. Kristjanson.

On Sunday afternoon Ken Kristoferson will present a three-act play, "The Golden Gate", a translation on Davið Stefánsson's play. Twenty-nine students from the University of Manitoba are in the cast.

The Sports program will include the Canadian Championship 10-mile

Road Race, Sports Car Races, a Fish Derby as well as other family participation events.

The Parade, to be held Monday morning August 7, will have floats, using an ethnic theme, several bands, including the Brass Band of Reykjavik, with twenty-five members, and the Beauty Queen Contestants. The Brass Band will perform before the program in the Park. Several units of the Shrine bands will participate.

There will be a number of events at the Dock during the Festival; Bathtub Race, Novelty Races as well as others.

On Sunday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. a Pancake breakfast in the Park is planned. Immediately following there will be an Interfaith Service conducted by the resident pastor, Reverend Ingthor Isfeld.

All roads will lead to Gimli the first weekend in August. There, people will meet their families, re-new acquaintances and make new friends.

The Festival promises to be such a gala event that it should attract a host of visitors to Gimli.

—Mattie Halldorson

STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON:

THE SKALD OF THE FOOTHILLS

by ART REYKDAL

On an old Alberta homestead, slowly rotting with the years,
Stands a house wherein the spirit of a man long dead appears.
Through this long-abandoned remnant of another day
the themes
Of the poet of the foothills come re-echoing, it seems.

*Think not in years, but in ages.
Claim not at once but in stages.
Only then life on earth will endure.
It is not the overpraised present,
But a future more wholesome, more pleasant
That visions eternal ensure.*

An exile from his native land, an alien to the new,
He lyricized a language understood by but a few.
While toiling in the fields of grain he taxed his brawn
and thews.
By day he tilled Alberta soil, by night Icelandic muse.

Sitting in a cloistered study while his wife and children slept.
A captive of poetic thought, a midnight tryst he kept.
And when the rays of rising sun began to break the dawn,
At the table in the window still his pen went scratching on.

The distant grandeur of the Rockies mesmerized his gaze,
Reminding him of homeland scenes and far-off childhood days.
He tried to find a parallel 'twixt each divergent land.
He loved them both; he praised them both in lilting
lays and grand.

*Though you have trodden in travel
All the vast tracts of the earth,
Bear yet the dreams of your bosom
Back to the land of your birth.
The mountains, the geysers,
The clear ocean blue,
The falls and the valleys
Are kindred to you.*

His thoughts returning from the past to scenes of present days,
 He gave to his adopted land full many lines of praise.
 Although his words were ancient Norse, the sentiment still took
 In clasp of cordial fellowship the land of the chinook.

*Thy glorious valleys widen down
 Through straths and shining passes,
 By shelter-belts of forest brown
 And hollows warm with grasses,
 To a mighty plain of green that wakes
 In a wind that laughs and quivers,
 Fringed with a hundred azure lakes,
 Embroidered bright with rivers.*

When sons of his adopted land went marching off to war,
 The poet's pen could never praise the thund'ring cannon's roar.
 Though patriotic passion was the fashion of the times,
 Defiantly he spoke his mind in pacifistic rhymes.

*In Europe's reeking slaughter-pen
 They mince the flesh of murdered men
 While swinish merchants, snout in trough,
 Drink all the bloody profits off.*

*About the graves in No-man's-land
 May peace be with the slain;
 And may the stains of clotted gore
 Conceal the marks of Cain.
 But oh, to see the human wrecks
 That wander home again
 Repletes a mother's pain!*

And when at last they laid him down, a grizzled pioneer,
 And clods of rich Alberta soil had covered up his bier,
 The government bestowed a cairn to mark the mortal bone
 . . . His soul went back to Saga Isle, at last returning home.

And now they bicker and complain the house should
 be a shrine
 immortalizing memories of each immortal line.
 But Stephan smiles from heaven's gate at all
 their complaints berserk.
 His monument he built himself within the poet's work.

*But every martyr, man or saint,
 Has made at last the same complaint:
 That when their heart and hope were spent
 The harvest seemed a punishment.*

Stanzas in italics represent excerpts from Stephansson's poetry translated by W. J. Lindal, Watson Kirkconnell and Paul Bjarnason.

This Icelandic Child's "Mother" Tongue Was Cree Indian

by W. Kristjanson

In the year of the small-pox epidemic in New Iceland, 1876-1877, a Reverend Alfred Thomas, a Cree Indian, was Anglican minister at St. Peter's Indian Reserve, north of Selkirk. His home was a half mile north of Selkirk.

One day on his travels he came to a pioneer's cabin. A young couple lay dead of the small-pox but an infant boy was alive. Reverend Thomas adopted the boy and brought him up as his own. He was baptized Alfred Thomas.

Who were young Alfred's parents? Reverend Thomas never told his adopted son, but years later a grandson, Lloyd, told Mrs. Anna Frisk, then of Grand Marais and now of Winnipeg, that Reverend Thomas had learned that the name of the people in the cabin had been Gislason. He had not learned their Christian names.

As young Alfred grew up, his playmates were the Indian boys on the Reserve. He learned the Cree language first, then Ojibway and English. He attended school on the Reserve.

The boy Alfred Thomas is now 95 years of age. For the last five years he has been a resident of St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, on Salter Street, Winnipeg. He suffered a leg injury that took him to hospital and to St. Joseph's, but he can give a good pic-

ture of events of long ago. It was when interviewed in May, 1972, that he said his father had never told him anything but that he had heard from different parties that his natural parents were Icelandic, and Icelanders had told him that they had died of small-pox.

Of his "other" father, Reverend Thomas, he said that he was a big, strong man. He used to build boats for the Indians who came from many miles around. The boats were made of cedar wood, Alfred cutting the boards with a handsaw. In those days "nobody had money" so the Indians used to bring such articles as a coat or a pair of moccasins in payment.

At the age of twenty-four, Alfred was married, to Sara Matilda, of Grand Marais, of Scottish descent on both sides. Reverend Thomas performed the ceremony, which took place in St. Peter's Church, on the east side of the Red River, below Selkirk.

Alfred lived for eight years on the Fort Alexander Indian Reserve, on the Winnipeg River. He hunted with the Indians, for example up the Bear River, for moose and bear. For bears, the Indians made a bear trap, framework with an open door. When the inquisitive bear entered, he would displace a stick, causing the door to close and thus trap himself. He had four sleigh dogs to carry the meat home.

When the hunters camped out at night, they would spread spruce tree branches on the snow-covered ground, and keep fires going, with branches and dead-wood. Probably it was exposure on these hunting trips that gave Alfred rheumatic fever.

They always had a good supply of meat and they also caught sturgeon in the Winnipeg River.

St. Peter's Reserve was moved to Hodgson, Manitoba, about 1910. "Did you know some of the people outside St. Peter's who moved to Hodgson when the Reserve was moved there? There were Thomases, Slaters, and a Norquay."

"Yes. I knew Thomases and Slaters. What were their other names?"

Reverend Thomas was transferred to Grand Marais, on the south-east shore of Lake Winnipeg, where he was minister at St. Jude's Anglican Church. Presently Alfred settled on a farm there. He kept some cows and sold milk at the Beach. The sons remained at home for many years.

"Your wife being Scottish", I said, "she would be a good wife to you."

"Yes", he said, "she was a number one wife."

The Thomases had six sons—Bertrand, Harold, Clifford, Roderick, Richard and Charles — and a daughter, Emily May, who died at the age of

two months, from whooping cough. Then they adopted a daughter, Margaret. The son, Richard Edward, served in both World Wars. He died at Deer Lodge Military Hospital in Winnipeg, in 1970.

"We had an Icelandic school teacher" Alfred remarked, referring to their home at Grand Marais. "She boarded with the Thomases", interjected Anna Frisk, who was present at the interview. "She was Anna Hermannson, from Gimli."

"I never liked cars", Alfred said, but the boys had old Ford rattle-traps. I always had a horse and buggy." Ironically, it was getting out of a car that he suffered a leg injury that took him to hospital, the General Hospital, in Winnipeg.

"I never got home again. It was when I was away that my wife died."

"I used to smoke cigars and a pipe", Alfred said.

"What kind of cigar did you smoke?"

"I stopped smoking and I am not going to start again", was the firm reply.

Alfred Thomas looks Icelandic, especially when he smiles. He smiles with his eyes. His head is slightly rounded and he has been fair-haired.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with my new-found friend.

THE CENTENARIES CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

(Landnámshátíðarnefnd)

During the year 1974 the people of Iceland will celebrate the 1100th anniversary of the settlement of their country. From the year 874 to 930 A.D., people from Norway sailed to Iceland, there to be joined by others of their kin from northern Scotland and from western Ireland (and Celtic retinue) to form a new and independent nation. In 1975 people of Icelandic stock in Canada will celebrate the centennial of the Icelandic settlement on the west shores of Lake Winnipeg — the Founding of New Iceland — and the beginning of an Icelandic community in Winnipeg. Other memorable and important centennials of Icelandic settlements in North America have been and will be celebrated in many communities in this decade.

In preparation for these anniversaries, the Icelandic National League of America set aside a special session during its 1972 convention in Winnipeg to discuss ways and means of forming a representative committee which would coordinate the plans and efforts of all groups and individuals participating in the forthcoming commemorative events.

Three members of the League were appointed to act as a special committee to convene a meeting of representative individuals for this purpose. The three members were Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, Holmfridur Danielson, and Dr. Philip M. Petursson.

A meeting was called and hosted by Dr. Thorlakson at the Tuxedo Inn, April 29, to initiate plans and preparation for the centenary celebrations. Some forty persons attended, includ-

ing 21 committee members and others from Winnipeg and other points such as Morden, Gimli, and Selkirk. Dr. Thorlakson was chairman.

In addition to projects already under way, such as the publication of the translation of *Landnáma* (The Book of Settlements) by the University of Manitoba Press, and the proposed publication of Anthologies of Icelandic Canadian literature by the Icelandic Canadian Club of Winnipeg, a wide variety of commemorative projects was suggested, including:

- A group flight to Iceland in 1974, as a tribute to Iceland on the country's 1100th anniversary.
- The compilation of a Book of Remembrance, with a collection of pictures and other material.
- An International radio program including Iceland, Canada and the United States.
- The writing of a centennial Cantata.

Any and all suggestions will be welcomed for consideration.

Officers of the Committee are:—

Chairman— Paul H. T. Thorlakson.

Vice-Chairman — Skuli Johannsson.

Vice-Chairman — J. T. Samson

Vice-Chairman — Brian Jakobson

Treasurer — Grettir Eggertson

Secretary — J. Victor Jonasson.

—W.K.

HAROLD'S MEN'S HAIRSTYLING

1085 ELLICE AVENUE AT WALL STREET

DISTINCTIVE HAIRSTYLES — MEN'S HAIR COLORING
SCALP & HAIR TREATMENT — HAIRPIECE SALES & SERVICE

CONVENIENT APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

NO SATURDAY APPOINTMENTS

8 A.M. TO 6 P.M. PHONE 775-0687 CLOSED MONDAYS

BOOK REVIEW

MORRIS, WILLIAM:
Icelandic Journals,
 With an introduction by James
 Morris. New York. Prager, 1970
 251 p. \$16.50

For the first time we have the **Icelandic Journals** as a separate volume. They were last published in the collected works of Morris (1910-1915) and long out-of-print. Containing some of Morris's most descriptive writing and unlike his other works, the **Journals** record his two visits to Iceland, undertaken in 1871 and 1873, likely for two reasons—to escape the depression caused by his wife's relationship with Dante Gabriel Rossetti and to visit that "grand, melancholy, magical island, a place of poets and heroes in the northern seas . . ."

Following a tradition going back to Gray, Morris had a great interest in Icelandic literature and his pilgrimage to Iceland in 1871, in the company of Charles Faulkner, a fellow Oxford student: W. H. Evans, a gentleman of Dorset; and his friend and teacher, Eiríkur Magnússon of Trinity College, Cambridge, was a desire of long standing.

Morris did not write the usual "travel book" of this period. While the geysers seemingly did not greatly interest him (even though he wrote vivid descriptions of the landscape) and Reykjavík (only a small town at that time) disappointed him, his real interest was in the treasures of a heroic people and literature—such as he found associated with such places as Bergþórshvoll and Hlíðarendi where the great heroes Njáll and Gunnar had lived.

Such scenes so impressed Morris that he later redescribed them in such

prose romances as **The Well at the World's End**, **The Land of the Glittering Plain**, and **The Wood Beyond the World**. He was also inspired to render into English, with the assistance of Eiríkur Magnússon, the literature of Iceland in the "Saga Library" and to write his last and longest poem, "Sigurd the Volsung," which appeared in 1876.

Although Morris, according to Burne-Jones, ". . . has come back smelling of raw fish and talks more of Iceland than ever", the pages of the journal reveal to us the deep influence Iceland had cast upon Morris, an influence that was to remain with him for the rest of his life. Perhaps he realized the truth of the words spoke by his hero, Carlyle, in 1840:

In that strange island Iceland, — burst up, the geologists say, by fire from the bottom of the sea; a wild land of barrenness and lava; swallowed many months of every year in black tempests, yet with a wild gleaming beauty in summer-time; towering up there, stern and grim, in the North Ocean; with its snow jokuls, roaring geysers, sulphur pools, and horrid volcanic chasms, like a waste chaotic battlefield of Frost and Fire;—where of all places we least looked for literature or written memorials, the record of these things was written down. On the seaboard of this wild land is a rim of grassy country where cattle can subsist, and men by means of them and of what the sea yields; and it seems they were poetic men these, men who had deep thoughts in them, and uttered musically their thoughts. Much would be lost, had Iceland not been burst-up from the sea, not been discovered by the Northmen.

—George Hanson

ANNIVERSARIES

Excerpts from a speech by Valdimar Björnson at the Annual Dinner of the Icelandic Canadian Club, in the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Man.
 April 21, 1972

Anniversaries are a fetish with Scandinavians, and particularly, perhaps, with Icelanders. We have a tremendous range of interesting topics to cover under the broad title of "Anniversaries". We shall look for a while at some recently past, some presently in progress, and some very important ones coming fairly soon.

Iceland has some time since begun the rallying of interest and endeavors toward what will certainly be an elaborate observance of the 1100th anniversary of the first permanent settlement, coming up in 1974.

Glimpses of what is in store as to Iceland's 1100th anniversary in 1974 have already been brought us.

Icelanders are urging descendants of the "old country" here in the west to attend this celebration. It will be reminiscent of the 1000th anniversary of Iceland's parliament, marked in 1930, when so many went from Canada and the United States.

For us, here in the western world, 1975 will be a notable anniversary year. It will mark passage of a full century since the founding of settlements in Winnipeg, New Iceland and Minnesota. There will, of course, be elaborate planning in that connection, and the celebrations, where marked, are certain to be impressive.

There were preludes to 1875 here in Canada, in Kinmount, Ontario. The work of a great leader, Sigtryggur Jónsson, and later in Manitoba, was well traced in Watson Kirkconnell's

article in the last issue of the Icelandic Canadian.

Now for a quick backward glance over some past anniversaries. There have been many of them.

As for a major anniversary involving you folks here, I think I need say little. I refer, of course, to the big events of 1970, when the 100th anniversary of the admission of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories to the Canadian federation was celebrated. It was certainly a noteworthy event.

I think there is one notable fact about the 1970 anniversary, though it was by no means one linked exclusively with Icelanders. That is the emphasis which came upon what amounted to a year-long observance with an extensive prelude. There were endeavors to do something constructive. There was determination that there should be lasting memorials to the centennial anniversary. There was emphasis on the construction of new public buildings. There were endeavors to leave something of lasting value, rather than mere memories of a pleasant and impressive anniversary celebration. Here in Winnipeg, one of your distinguished leaders over a long span of years, Dr. Thorbjörn Thorláksson, arranged the memorable meeting of 900 doctors from 41 nations of the world, assembled here in an impressive and genuinely worthwhile gathering.

The year 1970 was marked by one genuinely Icelandic anniversary, the centennial of settlement by Icelanders

on Washington Island, off the Green Bay Peninsula in Lake Michigan, part of the state of Wisconsin.

The few Icelanders who live on Washington Island in Wisconsin have always taken particular delight in their Icelandic background. That is not peculiar. As for Icelanders in general, I think one interpretation applies — pride of ancestry goes in inverse ratio to population.

The oldest settlement of Icelanders in the United States—and thereby in North America—is the Mormon settlement in Utah, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1955. The 1955 centennial, held mainly at the base of settlement, Spanish Fork, Utah, not far from Salt Lake City, was an elaborate one.

The migration that really “broke the ice” as to Icelanders coming to the United States was in 1870. “Once upon a time” there was a Dane by the name

of William Wickmann, who came to Iceland in 1855. He came to work for Gudmundur Thorgrimsen, “faktor” at Eyrarbakki, father of one of the founders of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod in North America, Rev. Hans Thorgrimsen, who left his native land in 1872. Wickmann wrote letters back to his old associates at Eyrarbakki, praising his new location, after settling on Washington Island off Wisconsin’s Green Bay peninsula, in 1865. Some others who worked for Thorgrimsen, and a few of their neighbors too, set out for the United States in 1870, going first to Milwaukee, and then the distance of some 200 miles north to Washington Island, to a settlement predominantly Norwegian.

Milwaukee became the center of Icelandic immigrants to the United States in this period. Hans Thorgrimsen was joined shortly after his arrival in 1872 by his first cousin, Pall Þor-



MANITOBA HYDRO

Electricity does so much for us, in such an unobtrusive way, that we tend to forget what it means to us. Even when it isn't there for some reason we take it for granted that it'll be back on in a few minutes. And it usually is because dependable people work swiftly and surely to restore service. At Hydro we're proud that the quality of our service is good enough to be . . . taken for granted.

laksson, both of them to become leading Icelandic clergymen.

A fairly sizeable number of Icelanders had reached Milwaukee by 1873. It is a memorable date in the history of Icelanders in this hemisphere, that in Milwaukee on August 2nd, 1874—the one thousandth anniversary of the permanent settlement of Iceland—the first religious service in Icelandic in modern times was held, with Rev. Jon Bjarnason delivering the sermon.

Icelanders marched from a small church in Milwaukee that day to a park on the outskirts, where the principal speaker was Jon Olafsson, editor, poet, member of Iceland’s parliament—even editor of Lögberg for a time.

The sixtieth anniversary of this significant event was marked in Milwaukee in 1934, through auspices of the Icelandic National League (Þjóðræknisfélag Íslendinga í Vesturheimi). After all, the 1874 occasion coincided in the United States with the memorable date to which every Íslendingadagur in Gimli or Winnipeg or elsewhere has since been attached — the 2nd of August—the day the first Danish monarch ever set foot on Icelandic soil, Christian IX, with his grants in the direction of autonomy, and the day on which “Ó Guð vors lands” was first sung, the anthem written by the great master, Séra Matthías Jochumsson, with its difficult music composed by Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson, whose Canadian and British links are familiar.

From this early Milwaukee centre, a small colony was established in Shawano county, Wisconsin. Its most distinguished member was Stephan G. Stephansson, for his family came there. The Thordarsons, later in North Dakota, were in that colony too — Hjörtur, the great Chicago inventor and manufacturer of electrical

transformers, and the rest of that family. The Shawano colony was virtually transplanted to the Gardar, North Dakota area in 1878.

There were efforts from the Milwaukee center to find more suitable places for Icelanders to settle. One may almost ignore Jón Ólafsson’s attempt to transplant all Icelanders to Alaska. Nothing came of it. A man virtually as well known among Icelanders as Jón Ólafsson, Torfi í Ólafsdal, was in on that venture, but he and others looked closer to the Wisconsin scene for areas of rural settlement. They went to Nebraska. A small settlement was formed there, and even today there are some descendants of Iceland, particularly in the region of Bassett, Nebraska.

Another “offshoot” from central Milwaukee in this early time was the move by several Icelanders and their families to Dane county, Wisconsin, where Madison, the capital, is located. They came into fine farming country there, and one of the Icelanders given a helping hand by Norwegian neighbors in Dane county in 1873 was Gunnlaugur Pétursson. When the Norwegian neighbors of his chose

Soon to be published in Denmark, an English translation of

ARNE MAGNUSSEN,
Den store håndskriftsamler

by Ole Widding and Hans Bekker-Nielsen.

This is the only work in English on the life and work of the great 18th century Icelandic mediaeval scholar and bibliophile. Available in a very limited edition only. Reserve your copy now.

Approximately 60 pp.; 16 illustrations. Paper covers. Price \$4.00 U.S. plus 25¢ to cover postage.

Please mail cheques to:

Robert W. Mattila,
4614 S. Mead Street,
Seattle, Wash. 98118

to move still further westward to southwestern Minnesota, in 1875, Gunnlaugur and his family and others with him, went along. Thus, the Icelandic settlement in the region of the village of Minneota in southwestern Minnesota began the very year that settlements in Winnipeg and New Iceland had their origin.

Let's get back now to the 1970 centennial observance at Washington Island, Wisconsin. Understandably, it

was not on any great scale of magnitude. Settlers there were few in the original instance. But it was a most impressive and satisfying occasion. Four young men from Eyrarbakki in south central Iceland were the first settlers in the fall of 1870, joined later by an additional number. Jon Gislason was a leader; the other three were Gudmundur Gudmundsson (called "Gamli Gvendur" in later years), Arni Gudmundsson, and Jon Einars-

WALK — WORK — IN COMPLETE COMFORT

HEALTH SPOT SHOES FOR WOMEN

27.00 PR. Sizes 10½ and over, \$1.00 extra
Available in Black, Brown or White Kid
FOR MEN — in Black or Brown — \$32.00 pr.



- Proper foot support
- Balanced body weight
- Correct posture
- Relief from painful corns and callouses

"YOU ARE AS YOUNG AS YOUR FEET"

MACDONALD SHOE STORE LTD.

492 MAIN STREET

— PHONE 943-4604



Go-Ahead people make things happen with a low-cost Go-Ahead Loan from

TORONTO-DOMINION

The Bank where people make the difference.

son. "Gamli Gvendur" was an inveterate letter-writer. Quite a few of the letters were published back in Iceland.

There is an interesting sidelight involved in one of his letters. It concerns a family spending their latter years in the Minnesota settlement — Johannes Magnusson, his wife and their daughter Ella. Gudmundur Gudmundsson, in one of his numerous letters published in a newspaper in Akureyri, referred to Johannes Magnusson and his enthusiasm as to the early days in Washington Island. Johannes was comparing the average daily menu in the new settlement to some of the lesser variety in the old home land of Iceland. He spoke with pride of having daily pancakes and syrup and all the trimmings. Icelanders have rather a mean streak, as we

should all perhaps acknowledge. In the Icelandic language it is called "að uppnefna fólk" — to give them nicknames.

History is full of such nicknames among the Scandinavians, long before Iceland was ever settled. Imagine the native Dane long associated with Norway called Ragnar Loðbrók, which means Ragnar Woolen Britches. His son had the incredible name, Ívar beinlausí—Ivar the Boneless. A famous character, of course, was Einar Thambaskelfir. — And what does Thambaskelfir mean? It means "shaking belly", designating undoubtedly a man of generous physical proportions. Poor Jóhannes Magnusson, who finally came to Minnesota from Washington Island, got the name of Johannes Pannakaka — Johannes Pancake, because of his favorite dietary item. He died in the Lincoln county settlement southwest of my home town of Minneota, Minn. His daughter, Ella, I remember well. Imagine the persistence of Icelanders in this deep-rooted and somewhat discourteous custom — they called her Ella Pannakaka. And even the English-speaking carried it over from their Icelandic neighbors and she was widely known as Ella Pancake.

A major feature of the Washington Island centenary was dedication of a new ferry-boat, appropriately named "Eyrarbakki", whose pilot is the veteran Arni Richter — his mother was the



It's time to rewire - rewire on time

Why wait? Why put up with blowing fuses? A lack of electrical outlets? Slow appliances? Poor lighting? Change all this — rewire now and pay later! (Use your Hydro's convenient Rewiring Financing Plan to pay for the wiring you need. No money down, up to 3 years to pay, low interest.) Call your electrical contractor or for further information call



DR. HERMAN JOHNSON

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

PHONE 772-9453

WESTBROOK MEDICAL CENTRE

LOGAN AND KEEWATIN

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

daughter of Arni Gudmundsson. They didn't use the customary method of cracking a bottle of champagne against the ship. They had an ingenious idea, that of getting a bottle of water from Eyrarbakki in southern Iceland and using that for christening the new vessel. They were aided in this undertaking by Loftleiðir (Icelandic Airlines) and its president in New York, Sigurdur Helgason. Actually, a moving spirit in this enterprise and most helpful in the Washington Island celebration was a Norwegian who worked for Loftleiðir in Chicago — Ragnvald Hovden.

A sign at the dock where the ferry-boat landed after its seven-mile trip from Gill's Rock Landing welcomed celebrants with the words "Velkominn Íslendingur" — they didn't mind using

the singular rather than the plural form!

A feature of outdoor celebrations in summer, both at the north end of Green Bay Peninsula and over on Washington Island, is what they call a "fish boil." They simply use some of the abundance of fish in Lake Michigan, boiled in big vats, and served up to hungry and appreciative throngs. Programs prepared for the anniversary occasion announced that there was to be, on Sunday, a "Fiska Sjóða." What they meant, undoubtedly, was "soðinn fiskur", — boiled fish. Someone had picked out of the dictionary the verb forms meaning 'to fish' and 'to boil' and that sufficed as a designation for the program feature.

In the principal store, on landing on Washington Island—the store operated by an Icelander—there were sweaters on sale. They carried descriptive language as to Washington Island, "largest settlement of Icelanders in the United States." It has been pointed out that the settlement was actually the smallest and by no means the oldest. Rank in that latter particular goes, of course, to the Mormon settlement in Utah. Actually, from meager beginnings in 1870, Icelandic settlers remaining on Washington Island numbered only 39 in 1900, 30 years later. Some have moved away, but the maximum number of settlers

P. VALDI REYKDAL

154 KENASTON BLVD.
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
R3N 1V2
PHONE 489-5163

Kalendar King Calendars - Gift Specialties
Pens and Pencils - Promotions

LLOYD GUNNLAUGSON PLASTERING CO. LTD.

★

TEXTURED PLASTERING

STUCCO — DRY WALL and TAPING

1433 Erin Street Phone 774-8838

P. T. GUTTORMSSON

Barrister and Solicitor
Notary Public

1040 GRAIN EXCHANGE BLDG.
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
R3B 0V3

Office 942-0678 Res. 453-1820

was certainly always well within one hundred.

One cannot, however, help admiring the tremendous spirit of those who survived the original Icelandic settlement in Washington Island. They are proud of their ancestry. The settlement becomes almost a tourist attraction, though the original population was heavily Norwegian, with quite a few Germans and other nationality groups represented. There are few in settlements anywhere in North America who have been as untiring as the Icelanders in Washington Island in their constant emphasis upon what is a unique ancestry in that area.

It is interesting to note that Washington Island has several Icelandic ponies which are rented for horseback rides by interested tourists. They ship in the original stock from Maryland, where an American has long raised the smaller type of Icelandic horses,

descendants of the Nordland ponies of Norway, where a big horse might reach a weight of 1000 pounds.

The ferry-boat dedication on Saturday afternoon, and a very well-attended dinner session in the evening, were major features of the Washington Island centennial.

People in Washington Island are well aware of their family ties. The community is close-knit and the people friendly. There is one completely English-speaking "Yankee" among them, Bryan Conant, who has done much in preserving the history of Wisconsin's Door County Peninsula, of Washington Island, and of Rock Island, just a mile beyond it, where the great inventor and electrical manufacturer, Hjörtur Thordarson, wrought so many improvements and built so many impressive and elaborate structures.

GAMBLES

DISCOUNT DEPARTMENT STORES

SAVING YOU MORE

3 LOCATIONS

NORTH GATE PLAZA
GRANT PARK PLAZA
PARK - SHOP - SAVE NAIRN & HWY 59

THE STORE THAT SAVES YOU
MONEY

OPEN 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

MON. THRU FRI. OPEN 9 A.M. - 10 P.M. SAT.

THE BOOK OF SETTLEMENTS

A translation of the Old Icelandic LANDNAMABOK, with Introduction and Notes, by Paul Edwards and Hermann Palsson, edited by Haraldur Bessason and Robert J. Glendinning of the University of Manitoba.

Support for the publication of this book is being provided by Icelandic organizations in Manitoba, and by the Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Those wishing to receive copies should complete the form below and mail it to the University of Manitoba Press.

The price of this work is \$12.00.

A Deluxe Edition with special binding, numbered, and with purchaser's name engraved on the cover in gold embossing, is available at a price of \$20.00.

MAIL TO:

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA PRESS

Box 8, University of Manitoba

WINNIPEG, CANADA

R3T 2N2

Please send me copies of THE BOOK OF SETTLEMENTS, for which I enclose \$.....

Please send me copies of the Deluxe Edition of THE BOOK OF SETTLEMENTS, for which I enclose \$.....

The name to be embossed on the cover is

.....

(Please print in block letters)

Please send me an announcement when further books are published in the University of Manitoba Icelandic Studies series.

NAME

ADDRESS

City _____ Zone _____ Province _____ Country _____ Zip
or State _____ Code _____

"WILLIAM P. PRESCOT" (Pen -Name)

The Achievements of the Icelandic People of Manitoba

To understand the Icelanders' motivation for hard work and achievement, one must realize why a person would leave familiar places for an almost unknown, uninviting, harsh wilderness.

A common reason for inhabitants close to the Arctic Circle to leave, would be the weather, and the Icelanders were no exception. The winter conditions during the latter half of the 19th Century were unusually severe. Another Icelandic problem in the 1870's was political strife. Foreign control of Iceland, had plagued the small nation since the Middle Ages. The people were striving to achieve constitutional government.

From their point of view, the Icelandic immigrants of 1872 and 1875 were not leaving their homeland for an almost unknown, uninviting, harsh wilderness, but were going onward to a new life, full of new hopes and unlimited possibilities.

On October, 1875, the first Icelandic settlers in Manitoba landed at Willow Point, on Lake Winnipeg. The difficult had been accomplished.

One early achievement of the Icelandic people in Manitoba was in the field of woman suffrage. A campaign conducted by Margret J. Benedictsson and others among the Icelandic people was influential in the achievement of votes for women in Manitoba. During the years 1895 to 1914 the suffrage

movement in the Province had been generally in the doldrums. As far as Margret Benedictsson and her co-workers were concerned, the movement was still alive. Following a resurgence of the movement, the Manitoba legislature, in January 27, 1916, granted the franchise to women. Manitoba was the first province in the Dominion to grant the franchise.

Several medical men of Icelandic origin have earned distinction in the practice and teaching of medicine. The record goes back some seventy years to include specialists in surgery, obstetrics; chest diseases and eye, ear and throat diseases; pediatrics radiology and psychiatry.

The Manitoba Icelandic community produced men and women who were prominent in academic circles, government, law and medicine. One of the greatest and most beloved of these was the late Dr. B. J. Brandson, who, before his death in 1944, was one of the provinces most eminent surgeons and teachers of medicine. His achievements and good works brought him great honors during his life time, but above all the respect and affection of thousands of ordinary citizens in Manitoba.

Other prominent Icelandic medical men were: Dr. M. B. Halldorson (1869-1943) known for his Halldorson method of treating; Dr. Baldur H. Olson (1888-1952) a chest specialist and

lecturer at the Manitoba Medical College - such was his skill in lung surgery that patients came to him from distant parts of Canada; Dr. C. J. Houston was the first woman of Icelandic origin to graduate in medicine from a Canadian university. In the nursing profession, the first Icelandic graduate was Miss Inga Johnson who received both British and Belgian decorations for her war services in the war of 1914-1918.

The prominence of Icelanders does not stop in the field of medicine. Thomas H. Johnson, the first lawyer of Icelandic descent in Canada, graduated in law from the University of Manitoba. He was also the first to be created K.C. (King's Counsellor), and he served as Attorney-General in the Norris cabinet for five years. Another distinction of this minority group was that upwards of twenty lawyers were

called to the Bar in Manitoba in the first quarter of the century. Hjalmar A. Bergman possessed one of the keenest legal minds in Canada in his day. He was versed in Canadian, British and United States law. Mr. Bergman was twice President of the Manitoba Bar Association and twice Chairman of the Manitoba Law Society. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Manitoba in 1947.

In the field of scientific research the best known Manitoba-born Icelander is Vilhjalmur Stefansson. His scientific observations made in the course of thirteen years of exploration in the Canadian Arctic won for him international fame. In the course of 22,000 miles of travel, he demonstrated that an explorer can live off the land and off the drifting ice on the Beaufort Sea. Because of his experience

Compliments of . . .

The MANITOBA SUGAR Co. Ltd.

FORT GARRY, MANITOBA

Wonderful Flavour!

Blue Ribbon Coffee

DISTRIBUTED BY

BROOKE BOND FOODS LTD.

and knowledge, he was appointed to command the Canadian-sponsored Arctic expedition in 1913. Thorbergur Thorvaldson, Ph.D., is prominent in Canada in research in alkali-resisting cement, important in the foundations of bridges and buildings. His research has brought him international recognition.

The Icelandic settlers on their arrival had everything to learn about machinery. As early as 1897 radical new inventions were developed by these immigrants. Inventions such as a new type of hay mower, a milking machine, a steam sleigh with a chain drive and spikes, an elevator for negotiating snow drifts and a primitive snowmobile—never reached the practical stage due to a lack of financial support. One idea that did materialize was the flame thrower, used in World War II. The chief inventor was Major Einar Arnason, of Winnipeg.

The pioneers possessed few musical instruments, and among them love of music found expression chiefly in song. In later years, many Icelanders became famous in the field of music. Two pianists, cousins, have made their debut in the Town Hall in New York, both receiving praise for their colour, delicacy, and fluent technique. Frank Thorolfson organized and conducted a chamber orchestra in Winnipeg in 1937 which music critics praised. In Chicago, after war service, he conducted the Bach Chorus and the Collegium Musicum of brass, woodwind and vocal ensembles. He is presently Director of Music at McMaster Uni-

versity and a member of the Board of Governors of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra.

A familiar characteristic of the Icelandic people is their love for literature. This love remained virtually unbroken from the saga age onwards. Modern Icelandic poetry is of a high standard, and the author, Halldor Laxness, of Iceland, is a recipient of the Nobel prize in literature.

The prominence of individual Icelandic reputations does not overshadow the sacrifices and achievements concerning the entire Icelandic community of Manitoba. Many Icelanders lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, fighting for a country they had not resided in for more than thirty years. The bravery and courage displayed by these men did not go unrecognized. The majority of the Icelanders serving in the Wars, either received a promotion or were decorated.

In conclusion, the Icelanders played an important part in the development of the area around Lake Winnipeg. They achieved prominence in many fields such as politics, medicine, nursing, law, industry, commerce, music and literature. Above all, the Icelandic people have retained their cultural identity, and have entered wholeheartedly into the national life of their adopted country.

• Will "William P. Prescott" please communicate with the Editor of the *Icelandic Canadian* and give his real name.



ELMA GISLASON'S FESTIVAL OPERA GROUP SCORES SUCCESS

The Festival Opera Group of Winnipeg has two conductors, Elma Gislason for the music and Nenad Lhotka, for acting and setting. The two performances of the Opera Group at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, May 17 and 18, received warm, unstinted acclaim for their entire performance from the music critics of the two Winnipeg dailies. Unfortunately space permits republishing only a small part of two extensive reviews. Joy (Gislason) Antenbring's reviews are selected as a sample of the generous praise accorded many individual performances.

A Review by Ronald Gibson

OPERA GRILL MIXED DELIGHT

There are times when a mixed grill can provide a most delectable meal. In music, this often occurs, but rarely with the all-round pleasure that was afforded by The Festival Opera Group in their Evening of Grand Opera, at the Manitoba Theatre Centre before an audience that ought to have been larger.

This group consists of 10 men and 24 women. Every one pitches in, and if not singing a principal role, they sing in the chorus. This chorus has a splendid vitality got from a well focussed tone, excellent diction and precision, and carefully nurtured blend and balance.

Elma Gislason, the music director, is able to bring out the best in the singers, whether it be arias, ensembles or chorus. So often we hear operatic choruses which bellow continuously. The singing here was always musical, and some of it was extraordinarily good.

Excerpts from four operas were presented. In the case of Gounod's Faust, it was a capsule of the whole story. In the case of Mozart's Magic Flute, it was a sampling of the music, not following the story (if indeed it can ever be followed?) but to enjoy the genius of Mozart.

Two arias from Puccini's Tosca, and two items from Verdi's Aida rounded out the evening. The sets were most

appropriate, and the costuming was fresh and effective. In the Faust items — Joy Antenbring displayed a voice of delightful quality; and she sang the Jewel Song very creditably.

The chorus, whether off stage or on, sang alertly, and were a model for this sort of thing. All contributed significantly to a most enjoyable evening.

★

By Madeleine Bernier

Tribune Music Editor

EVENING OF OPERA:

TRUE AMATEUR CULTURE

An evening of Grand opera, presented by The Festival Opera Group at the Manitoba Theatre on Wednesday is one of the most imaginative musical spectacles presented in this city in a long time.

This was not "put-on culture" that scrapes off like veneer under adversity. This was culture springing from a team of dedicated amateurs, in the best sense of the word, and two highly competent professional directors: Nenad Lhotka, director of the pro-

duction and choreographer and Elma Gislason, music director and founder of the group.

Scenes from Faust and Aida were presented with sets so arrestingly stylized, one was left pondering on why most opera producers feel compelled to spend so much money on the visual aspect.

One of the striking aspects of the evening was the number of excellent soloists — 20 including two trios. Some singers displayed greater musicianship and vocal calibre than others, but all sang with taste.

Joy Antenbring, as the ill-fated Marguerite of Gounod's Faust, sang the Jewel Song with a subtlety many artists never achieve. Her voice is creamy and she fondles her top notes. Her characterization evolved convincingly through the love scene in the garden, to the final prison episode.

The extreme difficult Prison Scene, with Miss Antenbring, Mr. Oeste and bass James Franklin, as Mephisto, was sung with intense feeling. Miss Antenbring betrayed a moment of fatigue as the melody climbed gradually towards the apotheosis. But impact was hardly diminished because of the fervor she projected.

NOMACS DENTAL LAB. LTD.

1100 NOTRE DAME AVENUE AND GARFIELD STREET

— REAR ENTRANCE —

COMPLETE DENTURE SERVICE

PHONE 772-9040

PHONE COLLECT FOR APPOINTMENT

BRANDSON BROS. LTD.

LATHING CONTRACTORS

109 KANE AVENUE — WINNIPEG, MAN. R3J 2N8

S. BRANDSON

PHONE 774-1176

B. BRANDSON

**THE
FIDELITY TRUST
COMPANY**

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
& RESIDENTIAL SALES
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
APPRAISALS



REAL ESTATE DIVISION
417 ACADEMY ROAD
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
R3N 0C1
TELEPHONE 452-7471

J. ARTHUR EASTMAN, GENERAL MANAGER

**Want to keep some of your
tax dollars for yourself?**

Let me show you how

FOR INFORMATION, CALL OR WRITE



H. J. (DORI) STEFANSSON

296 BALTIMORE ROAD
WINNIPEG 13, MAN.

OFF.: 943-0473 RES.: 453-5763

Great-West Life
ASSURANCE COMPANY

McDonald Dure Lumber Company Ltd.

since 1906

LUMBER AND ALL BUILDING MATERIALS
"One Piece or a Carload"

WINNIPEG

Wall and St. Mathews

Phone 783-7055

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Academy Road Service	1	Malkin, Dr. C. and S.	6
Arlington Pharmacy	6	McDonald Dure Lumber Co. Ltd....	36
Asgeirson's Ltd.	4	McKague Sigmar Ltd.	4
Bardal's Funeral Home	Cover	Manitoba Hydro	34
Beaver Moving & Storage	3	Manitoba Sugar Co. Ltd.	42
Brandson Bros. Ltd.	42	Manitoba Telephone System	48
Brook Bond Food Ltd.	42	Nells Flower Shop	6
Bjarnason, Séra Jón ...	1	Nomacs Dental Laboratories Ltd....	44
Canadian Broadcasting Corp. ...	Cover	North Star Co-op	6
Carlson Mobile Homes Ltd.	2	Pizza Place	Cover
Duffy's Taxi	6	Reykdal, P. Valdi	38
Eatons of Canada	Cover	Richardson and Co.....	5
Einarson Enterprises	48	Roberts and Whyte Ltd.	4
Fidelity Trust	46	Selkirk Funeral Chapel	6
Gilbart Funeral Homes	4	Sigfusson Transportation Co. Ltd....	3
Great West Life	46	Sigurdson Fisheries Ltd.	6
Guttormson, P. T.	38	Sigurdson, Dr. L. A.	4
Gunnlaugson, Lloyd, Plastering ...	38	From A Friend	4
Harold's Mens Hairstyling	30	Tallin and Co.	1
Icelandic Airlines	8	Thorarinson, S. A.	6
Investors Syndicate	5	Toronto Dominion Bank	36
John Leckie Ltd.	3	Viking Printers	6
Johnson, Dr. Herman	37	Western Elevator & Motor Co. Ltd....	5
Kristjanson, Dr. G.	6	Western Paint Co. Ltd.	3
Labatts Manitoba Brewery	7	Winnipeg Hydro	37
		University of Manitoba	40

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS**

DRIED HADDOCK—HARÐFISKUR

IMPORTED FROM ICELAND AND AVAILABLE AT

NEPTUNE FISHERIES 472 DUFFERIN AVENUE
 CLIFFS TOMBOY 906 SARGENT AVENUE
 SELKIRKS TOMBOY SELKIRK, MAN.
 THORARINSON'S STORE RIVERTON, MAN.
 CLOVER FARM STORE LUNDAR, MAN.
 CLOVER FARM STORE GIMLI, MAN.
 CONSUMERS CO-OP STORE ARBORG, MAN.
 G. C. THORVALDSON 6012-101st A Ave., EDMONTON, ALTA.
 JOHNSON'S STORE EDDYSTONE, MAN.
 NEIL LAMBERTSEN 1134 Dennis St., BRANDON, MAN.
 CENTRAL MEATS & GROCERIES LYNNE LAKE, MAN.
 S. GRIMOLFSON 453-11th AVE. EAST, PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.
 H. M. JOHNSON, Phone 738-7725 VANCOUVER, B.C.
 MARVIN BRIESE GLASSTON, N. DAK.
 WYNYARD CO-OP WYNYARD, SASK.
 MELVYN FORKAS 4642 N. Drake Ave, CHICAGO, ILL. 60625
 MARYLAND GROCERY MARYLAND and SARA

Distributor

Einarson Enterprises Winnipeg, Man.

happiness!

is a

Long Distance call

The happiness of hearing a voice you love...exchanging news...making plans. It's yours to enjoy by Long Distance. Get happy today—and make someone else wonderfully happy, too.



"Long Distance is the next best thing to being there."

JOIN THE CIRCLE



Great Pizza and Spaghetti

WINNIPEG: SEVEN LOCATIONS

THOMPSON - DAUPHIN - PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE
 BRANDON

YORKTON, SASK. - EDMONTON, ALTA.

RESORT AREA LOCATIONS:

MANITOBA: CLEAR LAKE, FALCON LAKE, WINNIPEG BEACH,
 GRAND BEACH