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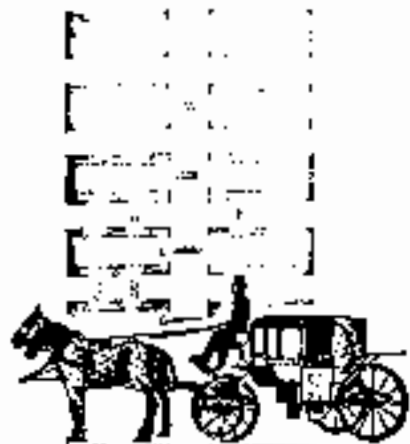


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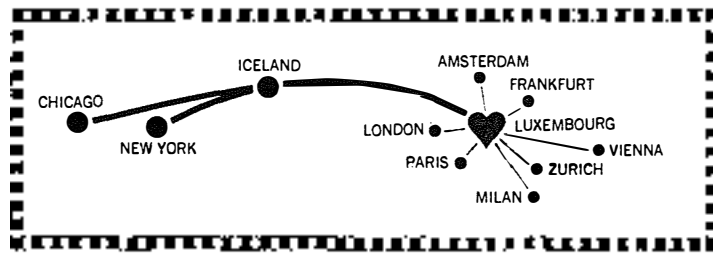


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The Icelandic Canadian

Volume XXXI, No. 4

Winnipeg, Canada

Summer 1974

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THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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Commonwealth Day Message

1974

FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Head of the Commonwealth

A remarkable feature of the Commonwealth is the way in which it has met the challenge of contemporary developments and has managed to benefit from them. Although rooted in history, it does not remain static.

Two of the most important advances of our times have been in communications and education and both have been of great help in strengthening the Commonwealth.

Modern communications, by shrinking distance and making the world smaller, have made it possible for our association of thirty four nations to get to know each other in a way not conceivable when our only link was by sea.

As I travel through the Commonwealth, I am always impressed by the number of personal contacts and by the flow of correspondence and ideas between friends, schools and government and voluntary organisations. Already this year I have myself been able to open Parliament in Wellington, Canberra and London, all within thirty seven days.

Education has transformed the Commonwealth and has begun to reveal the extent of the talents of its members. We have come to appreciate more fully our literary and artistic treasures, some of them coming from ancient cultural traditions, others breaking new ground in creative experiments.

Perhaps literature illustrates best the unity in diversity which is so important a feature of our Commonwealth. Using the same English language, writers of many races and backgrounds have enriched it with their individual qualities, and have expressed both universal human themes and the character of their own countries. We can all widen our experience from such writings, and gain that greater depth of understanding of each other's viewpoint which is one of the most valuable examples the Commonwealth can show to a changing and troubled world.

ELIZABETH R

Buckingham Palace

AT THE EDITOR'S DESK



TWENTY-FIVE NEW CANADIANS

Twenty-five new Canadian citizens took the oath of allegiance and received their citizenship certificates at a colorful and impressive Court of Canadian Citizenship ceremony at the Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg, Sunday, May 12. The Citizenship Court Judge, His Honour Peter Taraska, addressed the applicants in moving terms concerning their duties and responsibilities of citizenship, and Her Royal Highness, the Princess Margaret, presented the citizenship certificates. She extended to each and every candidate individually a welcome to the country they have taken as their new home.

These new Canadians come from fifteen different countries, i.e., Argentina, Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, and the United States. Such is the colorful and varied concourse of our Canadian people.

The Brilliant Success of The Royal Winnipeg Ballet

The mail strike last spring, including embargo on all air mail into Canada, almost sealed off news of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet on tour in Brazil. This generally prevented the Canadian news media from giving the Ballet the coverage due to them. The *Icelandic Canadian* is pleased to do its part on behalf of the Canadian Press in remedying this situation by publishing a few excerpts from a cable from the Embassy of Canada in Brazil.

"The Royal Winnipeg Ballet Brasilia performance . . . April 30 was a brilliant success . . . probably Brasilia's outstanding cultural event of the year . . . The audience was dazzled by combination of flawless technique, imaginativeness and creativity. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet was styled really one of the greatest authorities of the world of Ballet."

All Canadians can take pride in this achievement.



A Centennial Message from The Mayor of Winnipeg

On the occasion of Winnipeg's Centennial I extend my warmest personal greetings and best wishes to the citizens of our city of Icelandic descent.

Since the arrival of those first hardy Icelandic settlers in 1875, you have been an integral part of this city's history. The past 100 years have seen a great deal of growth and progress in our city and I know that during our second century Winnipeg will again be able to count on its Icelandic citizens to play an important role in its development as a cosmopolitan city.

An event such as the one we are celebrating this year is seen usually only once in a life time. It is my wish that you may enjoy it to the fullest.

Stephen Juba,

MAYOR



BY MAGNUS ELIASON

Members of Winnipeg City Council of Icelandic origin

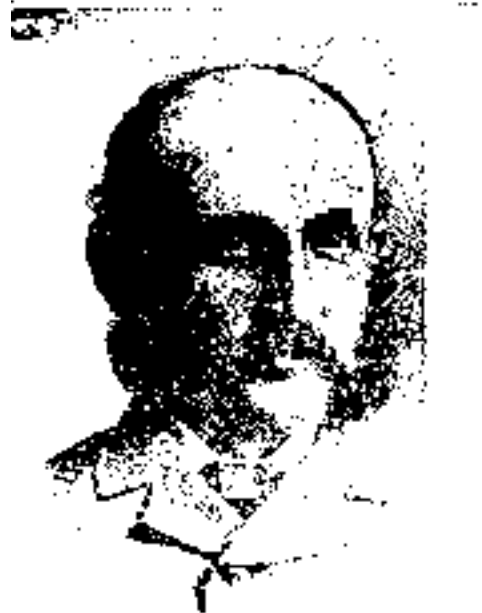
Winnipeg can truly be regarded as the Icelandic capital outside of Iceland. More people of Icelandic origin live in this city than in any other place but Reykjavik, Iceland. Winnipeg as a city is therefore recognized as the focal point of Icelandic settlement and activity in the western hemisphere.

People from Iceland first arrived in the prairie city about a hundred years ago. They soon became involved in every facet of community life. Today, Icelandic people are found in pretty well every occupation and in every type of business and profession. The

same applies to their interest in the civic political field, dating back to considerably prior to the turn of the century. As one who has been a member of the Winnipeg city council, I will attempt to give an account of the part played by Icelanders at City Hall. It would be difficult in a short article to give a full account of their achievements in city affairs or to deal with the influence they had on certain issues. However, suffice it to say that they were not known by and large to be passive and quiet members of council.

First Icelandic alderman in Winnipeg was Arni Frederickson, in 1892, representing old ward 4. He arrived in Toronto in 1873, and in Winnipeg in 1875. His parents, Fridrik Jónsson and Þórhildur Fridriksdóttir, homesteaded south of Glenboro, Manitoba, but Arni remained in Winnipeg where he became a merchant. Later he moved to Vancouver where he became a well known merchant in what was then called South Vancouver. He died August 2nd, 1934.

* * *



Arni Frederickson

Next on the scene came Arni Eggertsson, who held office in 1907, 1908 and 1917. He threw his energy into the hydro issue and fought hard for a city-owned hydro-electric plant. He even published his own paper to promote the idea. When City Hydro became a reality and the first plant was built on the Winnipeg river, Arni Eggertsson was unanimously chosen to turn the first sod. The publicly owned electric utility became famous over the years for supplying low cost energy. Winnipeggers thus benefitted by this man's foresight. Arni died in Winnipeg February 12th, 1942.

* * *



Arni Eggertsson



Jon J. Vopni

In 1917 and 1918, the council chamber echoed to the voice of Jon J. Vopni. Jon Vopni was well known in business circles in the city, having arrived in Canada in 1887. From then on he worked at his trade of carpentry. He built many houses and several apartment blocks in the city. Later, he branched into real estate and still later, along with his sons, established a printing plant which operated for a number of years. Like his predecessors on council, Jon represented old ward 4. He died June 12th, 1956 after having almost reached the age of 92.

* * *



Paul Bardal

Thirteen years elapsed until the next Icelander was elected to the city government. Paul Bardal entered council in 1932 and served for ten years. By this time there was a new ward system and the proportional representation method of elections had been established. Winnipeg by now had three multi-member wards, and Paul represented ward 2, as did the next four Icelanders elected to council. He served as Deputy Mayor during his last six years in office. Born in 1889, into a well known Bardal family, he later became a partner in the firm, Bardal Funeral Home. A man of great musical talent, he was choir leader in the Icelandic Lutheran Church for about thirty years. He died in Winnipeg, February 6th, 1966.

* * *

1933 saw the start of Victor B. Anderson's career on council, which lasted for a total of nineteen years, first for four years, 1933 to 1937 and then for fifteen years, 1940 to 1954. Victor was a printer by trade and worked for a quarter of a century at Columbia Press where Logberg was printed. He was president of the Winnipeg Typographical Union for many years. While on council he put up a stiff battle when suggestions were made that the city should get out of the hydro electric business. Mr. Anderson was later made an "Honorary Citizen" of Winnipeg and was given a Community Service award. He died in Vancouver April 14th, 1970.



Victor B. Anderson

Paul Goodman entered council in 1954 and served till his death on October 1st, 1959. Born in Selkirk in 1905, Paul was an ardent hockey player and was a one-time Stanley Cup winner. An electrician by trade, he set up his own business in 1927.

Paul was chairman of the Public works committee, a major committee of the Council. Disraeli bridge was built during his tenure of office and a plaque with his name was placed on the bridge. He worked assiduously for the beautification of Portage Avenue and Main Street.

* * *



Paul Goodman



John V. Samson

John V. Samson served one term on city council, 1960 and 1961, after which he was appointed to the police commission for a two year term, and then appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board for two years, one of which he was Chairman. John was a printer by trade, serving his apprenticeship with Olafur S. Thorgeirson who published the "Icelandic Almanak". In 1930 he began working for Viking Press, and in 1949 he, in partnership with E. T. Goodmundson, bought the Viking Press plant and operated it under the name of Viking Printers, at 868 Arlington Street. John started a general insurance agency in the early forties, which still operates under the name of J. Samson Insurance Agency, at 868 Arlington St. John passed away February 7th, 1971.



Magnus Eliason

Robert Johannson began his term on the new "Unicity" council in 1972, representing Cockburn ward. Born in Winnipeg thirty years ago, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba, with honours in English. In good Icelandic tradition Robert is a poet. Some of his poems have been published in *Logberg-Heimskringla* and other papers. He is a member of the United Church and at one time worked in the Student Christian movement. After city council had rejected the idea of Winnipeg being represented at the celebrations in Iceland this year, Robert was successful in persuading them to reverse their decision. He and his wife, Joan and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Catharine, live on McMillan Avenue.

There is no doubt that the Icelanders, who have participated at the local government level in Winnipeg down the years have left their mark. Their approach to civic government and their influence in many matters often

A newcomer to council in 1969 was Magnus Eliason, the writer of this article. I served during the last three years of the old Winnipeg city council, prior to the formation of 'Unicity'. Of interest to the Icelandic community are two things that I achieved while in office—establishing Reykjavik as Winnipeg's twin city and having Oct. 9th proclaimed as "Leif" Eiriksson Day" in Winnipeg, by the Mayor. I was born at Arnes, Manitoba and have lived in many places in western Canada prior to moving to Winnipeg in 1957. At present I am a Commissioner of the Manitoba Telephone System and I operate a general insurance agency on Wellington Avenue in Winnipeg.



Robert Johannson

* * *

changed the course of events. Others of Icelandic descent will more than likely be chosen by the electorate, to grapple with civic administration problems in the future.

THE SWAN RIVER DISTRICT

by S. Einarson

The Swan River district celebrated its 75th anniversary last summer, in 1973, and as people of Icelandic stock were among the first settlers it might be appropriate for the Icelandic Canadian to feature something about the descendants of the pioneers still living in the Swan River Valley. Also, as the valley has a history that goes much farther back than that of many other places in Manitoba, the readers might be interested in learning something about it.

How or when the river got its name is not known, but in 1797 David Thompson the explorer-surveyor was commissioned to survey the Swan River to its source, so it is plain that even at that early date the river was known by the name it bears today.

In fur-trading days it became a link in the chain of rivers and lakes used by the Hudson's Bay Company in stocking its trading posts with goods for the Indian trade and for bringing the furs out. Fort Pelly, although not in the valley proper, was the headquarters for the Swan River district. The so-called Pelly trail was still in use when the first settlers arrived, traversing as it did from the forts on Swan Lake to Pelly. Apparently it was necessary to carry some goods overland. One of the old-timers, Mrs. W. Anderson (nee Finnson) says she remembers vividly how scared they, the children, used to be when they heard the Indians coming along the trail, which ran across her father's homestead and not far from their house. They used to hide in the bush until the Indians had passed by.

The valley, like most valleys on the prairies, is a fertile plain between the Porcupine mountains on the North and west and the Duck mountains in the south. The Thunder Hill (Thunderbird Mountain of Indian legend) stands like a sentinel on the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border in the southwestern end of the valley. Before settlement, the valley was considered to be a veritable hunter's paradise with its many creeks and rivers that bisect the valley as they find their way into the Swan River. Today it is one of the most prosperous farming areas in the Province and it is certainly one of the most scenic.

Thorgeirson's *Almanak*, 1923 issue, lists 36 Icelandic families and individuals as having homesteaded in the valley. For one reason or another this has dwindled down to fewer than a dozen family names, with the Vopnis, Sigurdsons, Brandsons, and Hrappsteds being well represented in the list of names to be found in the telephone directory. Icelanders always were a small minority here even in the early days and even more so now as the figures quoted above indicate. It is safe to say that 90 per cent of the second generation intermarried with their Canadian neighbors, hence cultural or social activity on a racial basis soon came to an end when the older generation passed on with the result that very few read or speak the Icelandic language to any extent.

Most of the children of the early settlers were baptized and confirmed by Icelandic Lutheran ministers who visited the settlement from time to

time in the early days to perform these duties, sometimes during their holidays. Dori Vopni, son of the late J. A. Vopni, told the writer that he particularly remembers the Rev. Guttormur Guttormsson that used to drive all the way from Churchbridge, Saskatchewan on his pair of Icelandic ponies.

Farming has been the main occupation of our people here, J. A. Vopni, mentioned above, being one of the best known farmers in the district in his day. Many of the second generation have taken an active part in the farmer movement as well as the co-operative movement. Mr. Eggert Sigurdson was a director on the provincial board of the Manitoba Farmers' Union. He has also been the secretary, and still is, of the board of directors of the Swan Valley Consumers Co-op, which is one of the largest, if not the largest, of any co-op in the province.

Eggie, as he is known, is a nephew of the late Arni Eggertson, well known Winnipeg business man in his day. Very few entered the business field, only one merchant in the valley being of Icelandic stock. Fred Sigurdson, a grandson of J. A. Vopni, runs a good size grocery business in Swan River with his helper, Gestur Palson. Fred has also been active in community affairs, having served on the town council and on the school division board, of which he is the chairman. A few have entered the teaching profession, one of the first being Mrs. Bertha Johnson (nee Danielson), of Flin Flon, who has just retired from a lengthy career of teaching. She will be remembered by some for some very good short stories which appeared in the Press some time ago and poems that have recently been published in the *Icelandic Canadian*. Thordur Sigurdson, son of the late Jon and Gudridur Sigurdson of the Bowsman district,

also entered the teaching profession. After attending university, he became a principal of a school in this province. David MacLennan (his mother, Sigrid, is a sister of E. Sigurdson mentioned above) has had a distinguished academic career at the University of Toronto, as well as doing medical research at the Dr. Banning-Dr. Best Institute. His brother Gregory is a medical doctor in Winnipeg, specializing in surgery. Also a sister May, is a teacher in Winnipeg.

We have enjoyed the services of an Icelandic doctor here for some years now in the person of Dr. Bjorn Jonsson, who is really the only genuine Icelander among us, as he was raised and educated in the old country.

Bjorn flies his own plane, so he is not earth bound like us common mortals, but it is probably a good thing that he did not know about flying when he was a child for he might have contrived to make the attempt at least to fly to Germany to visit his brother, whom he missed very much, instead of swiping his mother's smjörtrog (a wooden basin for working butter) in which he intended to sail to Germany. It must be said that in either event the extent of his daring was exceeded only by his ignorance of the distance and perils involved. This of course, may be readily understood seeing that he was only four years old at that time. Dr. Bjorn Jonsson's many escapades as a youngster point up the truth of an old Icelandic saying which translates roughly "a wild colt often has the makings of a good horse". Dr. Jonsson is highly regarded as a doctor and citizen.

It may seem strange that so many of our people have left this area, but the main reason for that has been most likely that the latecomers had to settle on land that was very heavily wooded

and therefore very hard to bring under cultivation. The Bowsman district has been referred to earlier in this article, at one time a considerable number of Icelandic families lived there; today only one remains.

The original Icelandic settlers in the Swan River Valley were at that time the most isolated of any of the Icelandic settlements in Manitoba, the district itself, in a sense being an oasis in the wilderness, more than 300 miles north-west of Winnipeg and being the northernmost agricultural area in the Province outside of a small area around The Pas. Today the picture is totally different as two main highways converge in the town of Swan River, that is No. 10 and 83 A.T.H.

While we of the Swan River Valley cannot boast of the beauty of the Okanagan, where the sign proclaims as one enters that valley 'Pen Tic Ton'

an Indian expression which means 'A place to live in forever', it may be said that our people have found the Swan River Valley a good place to live in.

Steve Einarson, who contributes the article on the Swan River district in this issue of the *Icelandic Canadian*, spent his youth in Arborg, Man. In World War I, he enlisted in the 100th Battalion, Winnipeg Grenadiers, in 1916, and proceeded to France in that year. He took part in the battles of Vimy Ridge, Lens and Passchendaele, in which engagement he was severely wounded. After the war, he engaged in farming in Minitonas, Man. Now retired, he lives in the town of Swan River. He has been an active community worker. —Editor.



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GISLI JONSSON "TAKES THE CAKE"



"It was a truly "Royal" day for the residence of Lions Manor on Saturday, May 11th when H.R.H. Princess Margaret and her husband, Lord Snowdon, visited the Manor as part of their Centennial tour of Winnipeg.

* * *

"To the joyous and obviously sincere strains of "Happy Birthday, dear Winnipeg, - 100 years old", the candles on

were lit by members of the Winnipeg Lioness, as H.R.H. Princess Margaret, Lord Snowdon, and the residents of Lions Manor looked on. The first piece of cake, cut by the Royal visitor, was given to Mr. Gíslí Jónsson, oldest resident of the Manor. Mr. Jónsson will celebrated his own 100th birthday in less than two years."

By Miss L. J.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF WINNIPEG

At a meeting of The Icelandic Canadian Club on March 29th, last, Miss Mattie Halldorson and Mr. Halldor J. Stefansson were presented with framed honorary life membership certificates in the club. The documents are hand-inscribed by Professor Gissur Eliasson of the University of Manitoba art school.

Both Mattie and Dori have been tireless workers in the club since its in-

ception. Dr. John Matthiasson, president of the club, briefly traced Mr. Stefansson's career. Professor Haraldur Bessason spoke of Miss Halldorson's contribution in various fields of activities in the Icelandic community in Winnipeg. He spoke on behalf of W. Kristjanson, editor of the Icelandic Canadian magazine who could not be present.



Miss Mattie Halldorson

Mattie has for years served on the editorial board of the magazine, and has written numerous articles for the magazine.

She was also one of that dedicated group who collected pictures and information about armed forces person-

nel of Icelandic descent serving in the Second World War, for publication in the magazine, an onerous and time-consuming task. She was president of the Icelandic Canadian Club for a time, and has served many a term as its secretary, with the odd recess in between. Currently she is secretary of the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba committee. Mattie has been actively involved in affairs of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, was first president of the Dorcas Society and is still a member of the Women's group of the church. She was on one occasion chosen to preside as Fjallkona at the Íslendingadagur, a sign of the esteem she enjoys in the community.

★

Halldor Stefansson joined the Icelandic Canadian Club when he moved to Winnipeg in 1964 and immediately became actively involved in its affairs. He has served in many offices and undertaken a number of special tasks and projects. He has, for example, invested much time and effort in the Christmas entertainment the club holds

each year to honor senior citizens of the Icelandic community in Winnipeg. He was the club's treasurer for several years and its secretary for the last six. He has also served on the editorial board of the Icelandic Canadian Magazine and was its advertising manager for a time.

Halldor introduced the idea that young people from Canada and Iceland should exchange visits to their respective countries, and that 20 young people from Iceland, ranging from 14 to 17 years of age be invited guests in the homes of Canadian teenagers in the centennial year of Icelandic settlement in Manitoba, 1975. His suggestion was warmly received by the Centenaries Celebration Committee in Manitoba. Mr. Stefansson was asked to undertake the project and choose a committee to work with him.



C. G. Halldor (Dori) Stefansson



THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA, 1974

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba August 3, 4, and 5, promises a wealth of entertainment of great variety.

The Fjallkona will be Mrs. Borga Jakobson, of Neepawa, Manitoba, an active community worker. Hon. Ed Schreyer, Premier of Manitoba, will propose the toast to Canada and Dr.

Gunnar G. Schram, Permanent Deputy Representative of Iceland to the U.N., will propose the toast to Iceland. Musical numbers will be provided by Mrs. Ada Wingfield and Melvin Martin.

The parade will include a Viking ship model sponsored by the James Richardson Limited.

A Winnipeg Immigrant Girl — 1887

by Indo

The snow-clad mountain tops of Iceland were fast disappearing in the distance, when I, a girl of 20 years, awoke to the fact that there was nothing left for the eye to rest upon but the grim aspect of the dark green rushing billows, which slammed themselves against the side of the ship as though desirous of swallowing it at one gulp.

It was a small steamer loaded with a miscellaneous cargo, fighting its way over the uneven surface of the ocean, battling, as it seemed, with a foam-flecked beast whose myriad eyes glowered and threatened through the dusk, ready to hypnotize the slow-moving black speck and make it do its bidding.

The 200-ton little steamer carefully threaded its way through the fast-gathering darkness with a few coughs and snorts, paying no heed to the black clouds overhead nor the moaning of the angry waves around it.

It was neither the rocking of this Noah's Ark, nor the weirdness of the scenery which had the desired effect on my peace of mind. I had wished to forget the memories that came crowding my thoughts; memories of good-byes to friends and the beauties of nature which I loved and missed so much. My feeling was similar to that of an ostrich who wants to bury his head in the sand. Only I must have lacked the courage, for I found it safer to stay on deck and cling to the wooden bench where I had found a seat.

Only occasionally dared I raise my eyes to the few stars which the moody sky allowed to twinkle once in a while. It may not sound nice, but it gave me

the cold shivers when I thought of going down below amongst the other immigrants, for that bunkhouse happened to be right above the region where the sheep and horses were quartered; the odor arose like a spiral column through the thin boards between the animal freight and the human express. I had never before seen such a queer mixture. Nearly everything huddled together: men, beasts and baggage of all kinds and description, in the bowels of that brave little ship. And all these different goods were on their way to Canada, "the land of the free!"

My reverie was suddenly interrupted by a slim youth coming towards me, stumbling over the tangled mass of ropes and canvas littered all around the fore-castle.

I was pretty certain that this youth addressed me in Danish, though in my hazy state of mind, it sounded like gibberish, which did not penetrate to the grey matter in my top story. At last I understood him to be offering me a drink of red wine out of a tumbler in his hand, which might have been a red dye for all I knew. I guess he took me for some lonely bird, and out of the kindness of his Danish heart wanted this red liquid to warm my chilled personality; but all I did was to shake my head until he had to turn away with a sigh either of content or weariness. I really felt like some peculiar kind of an insect, not only in ideas, but in looks as well.

I was dressed in a travelling garb of an immigrant, black satin waist and a fine homespun skirt of dark color,

with black straw hat and two braided pig-tails hanging down my back, and dainty-looking sheepskin slippers on my black stocking-clad feet. You, my good reader, need not curl your lips in a smile when you see that expression, for when those slippers are made by a person with a little taste, they are very pretty. They are made from black-dyed soft skin, with a binding all around of a cured cream-colored skin, and shaped to fit the foot of the wearer neatly, as the Icelanders have a knack of performing their hand industry. I have seen garish-looking footwear in Canada, but none neater looking than these properly made sheepskin slippers.. Please let that sink in, as the slang goes, even if some of you have the distorted idea that Iceland is inhabited by imitations of the Eskimos.

My journey took a whole week from Iceland to the shores of Scotland and to the port of Leith, where change was made early in the day and we were piled into the train, which took us to the outskirts of the city of Glasgow.

It was a queer feeling which I experienced on that train journey, as if I was thrown into the two reverse conditions of heaven and hell; sometimes disappearing into the bowels of the earth, then again coming out into the bright sunshine, soaring above ground, seeing all kinds of lovely scenery. I did really have a half mind to throw myself out of the train window for the purpose of enjoying the sight of the green fields and dales of bonny Scotland, but soon ignored the notion as not healthy.

The train held a certain horror for me; I could not help comparing it with a black wriggling worm who had a smoke-stack on his head and a devil's eye in the centre. If you have ever seen a herd of cattle driven into a stockyard through slush and rain, perhaps you can visualize the picture of

my 900 travelling companions, myself included. There were also some Scotch and Irish emigrants. It was a long walk from one end of the city of Glasgow to the other. It took us from 9 o'clock in the evening till 2 in the morning. I don't doubt that we all represented a rare-looking phenomena to the eye of the Glasgow citizens, for even at that hour they were busy staring at us. So many of us were clad in dark clothes that it must have looked like a funeral march.

I am not stretching the yarn when I tell you that I was ready to fall down with fatigue . . . Let me tell you I felt more joy in setting foot on that gangplank and leaving that shore behind than I ever felt in anything in my life.

It was easy to imagine the scramble when this big crew of immigrants had to wash themselves out of a few wash-basins, where soap was not too plentiful, and then rush for a bite to eat, for we were all nearly famished. Things began to brighten up after that and all went fine, considering the obstacles which are likely to happen any time crossing the Atlantic ocean.

It happened to be my fate to bunk in with an old lady who had an enormous appetite, while I myself was on a diet for the whole two weeks while on board the big steamer, owing to a dizzy sensation at the pit of my stomach, which was probably caused by the rather unsteady pose of our floating vessel. For 48 hours the ship kept up something like a Charleston step over the waves, more backwards than forward, through such a thick fog that the eye of a lynx could not have pierced it.

It was not only while that condition lasted, but every day, I must order a full meal in my name for the benefit of the old lady's health, along with her own meals. Just the same, I had

the knack of enjoying myself while on deck as soon as the weather began to mend and the sun to shine, even though my share in the fun was to look on when others were singing and dancing. Something always occurred to attract my attention.

I had noticed an old man for some time following a young girl about who looked to be about 18 years of age, while he must have been nearly 70. He would single her out wherever she went and try to talk to her. I thought it strange that she never seemed to talk to anyone else. Yet, it was easy to see that she detested his advances. The old fellow kept taking his hat off every moment and bowing in the most aristocratic manner as if it was his special calling to pursue this poor lone girl, although she tried hard to avoid him. I was told that in his young days he had stumbled through a rudimentary education and had learned a few words here and there in two or three languages. His own mother tongue was, however, the only language in which anyone could hold even a stunted conversation with him.

I heard him tell some of the passengers that this young and pretty girl was of German descent, the only one of that nationality amongst the passengers and ship's crew of 1,400. She was on her way to her mother somewhere in Canada, and he considered he was the chosen one to keep her company because he could speak her language. He said that he knew best how glad she was of the opportunity which his dignified attention gave her.

It happened shortly after I had heard this explanation that I took it into my stubborn Icelandic head to strike up an acquaintance with this lonesome Luke of a traveller (this German girl) to see if there was a chance of delivering her from this persecutor.

As soon as he started on his usual round to chase the both of us, I quietly turned around on him and told him to go about his business.

So I took up with the German girl on deck of our big rocking cradle. We became fast friends, even though each spoke her own language, and we have remained friends ever since, perhaps because we have never met since we parted at the dock!

When this motley crew of immigrants landed in Quebec, they all wandered around like sheep with brain-fever. After I had done my own share of the roaming, I hit on a shoe store and bought myself a pair of leather slippers. They being a product of Canadian soil, naturally grew corn, which has lasted me ever since!

When all the immigrants and most of the baggage had disappeared, my one little trunk was left, the other one being taken care of by my bunk mate, the old lady with the appetite. The only thing for me to do was to sit on the remaining one and await developments, and I might be sitting there still if some well-meaning he-man had not come along and told me to jump on the train for Winnipeg before it started to move. "Well, I said, I have no ticket on my trunk." Which made him look at me and grin; I suppose he thought I meant a check. "I'll be a ticket on your trunk," he told me. He might have wanted to "sit on the lid and laugh". I can't tell. Anyhow, I got on the train and had to starve all the way from Quebec to Winnipeg because the old lady with the appetite had my other trunk. The seats on the train were made of solid hardwood, so we were in no danger of oversleeping ourselves. They made one feel the bumping of the train so plainly that the emptiness in the stomach was forgotten.

The government of Canada had provided us Icelanders with an agent all the way from our starting point until we reached our destination, and every time he opened his mouth, he kept describing to us the beautiful scenery in and around Winnipeg. But when we got to the old immigration shed in the north part of the town (this was in the year 1887), it seemed to us that this agent had somehow misjudged our sense of beauty. If he saw beauty in the muddy streets, ditches, and huts surrounding the immigration shed, all I can say is that his taste differed from ours considerably.

Because I did not mingle much with the rest of the crowd, I was at first somewhat of an outsider. Few of those that came to visit while we were newcomers ever took much notice of me. It was curious to look at those that dwelt within the once whitewashed walls of the immigration shed, or in other words, the living room of the lost and found. There came one, a young woman I had known slightly in the old country. Her quick and calculating eye soon noticed the only thing of value about my person, which was a fancy silver brooch. Very cautiously she asked me if I had any

money, and when I told her "No", she looked me over sweetly and said, as she pointed to my brooch, "Would you like to sell this little trinket, and get well paid for it?" I asked her how much she would give me for it. Then she held aloft a brand new silver coin. The shine of it must have affected my eyesight. I fell for it right away, not being acquainted with the value of Canadian money at the time. But later I discovered that it represented a quarter. But what did that matter, as long as I had such a new looking coin in my pocket. I guess it was the only time in my life when I did not want to spend my last cent. I had no idea in what direction to look for a store anyhow.

It is a peculiar sensation to find oneself surrounded by a flock of geese, everyone squawking at once. But that describes my feeling when I found myself installed in a private house, where I was to earn five dollars a month.

—The Free Press, 1927

N.B. It is revealing no secret to state that "Indo" stands for Oddny. —Editor



A CANADIAN TOASTS HIMSELF

By Paul A. Sigurdson

Hail to Canadians!
Two-fisted men of freedom!
Liberators of Indians and Eskimo!
Tolerators of Negro porters!

Hail to us and our achievements:
In the Arts — — —
Hemingway and Eliot — — Er — — um — —
Picasso? Auden? — — (I beg your pahdon")
Blissful Carmen,
And Tom Thumbson — — — Ah!

Our sports:
"Considering the number of people — mumble — mumble — mumble!"

Our politics:
"Where the American constitution fails mumble — mumble — mumble!"

Our Education:
"My but the standards in the U.S. don't compare —mumble — mumble!"

Our society:
"The corrupting influence of American stuff mumble — mumble — mumble!"

Our what-nots:
"Of course we haven't made it yet but our potential mumble — mumble!"

We have it — the "better" of everything;
I know it; you know it;
Foreigners are too prejudiced to know it.

So hail to us impeccables!
Hail hail and hail hereafter!
Hail fellow brilliants!
Hail you, and you;

Not you, you're Treaty; no beer for you!

Look and see, World!
We're here!

See us! See us!
Hey, look look! ?

— — — — — LOOK! ?

Damn!

THE CARLING COMMUNITY ARTS FOUNDATION

AWARDS

The Carling Community Arts Foundation, formed December 4, 1973, carries out a program of financial assistance to groups and individuals for their activities related to folk arts.

Prior to their first meeting, 216 submissions of 300 received, from virtually every province in Canada and representative of 41 different ethnic cultures, had been processed. On March 26, the Foundation announced its first awards, totalling \$109,000, to 80 groups across Canada.

Among the recipients of the awards were the Canada (Ethnic) Press Club of Winnipeg, towards publication of a book on the thirty-year history of the Club and its multilingual member publications, and the Women's Institute of Gimli towards the publication of the ethnic history of Gimli, "Gimli Saga". The Canada Press Club grant will total \$5,000 and the Women's Institute \$3,000.

The Canada Press Club book, "The Multilingual Publications of Manitoba" includes articles on the importance of the so-called ethnic press, including one by Dr. Watson Kirkconnell. The historical sketches of the publication members, over 20 in number, include the histories of Heimskringla, Logberg, Logberg-

Heimskringla and the Icelandic Canadian magazine. Included also are lists of all the "ethnic" publications in Manitoba, for example, all the Icelandic language publications from the time of Framfari, 1877-1880. The book will be off the press this summer.

The founder of the Canada Press Club of Winnipeg, 1942, was Judge W. J. Lindal, L.L.D.

The Gimli Saga, a book of some 500 pages, with 300 pictures, will be ready by mid-summer, 1975, the centennial year of Icelandic settlement in Manitoba

On May 16 two more successful applicants that will be of interest to the Icelandic community were announced:

Manitoba Holiday Festival of Arts, Neepawa, Man., To assist in bringing Indian artist from Island Lake to demonstrate his art of soapstone carving at Festival, \$1,500.00

Arborg Choral Society, Arborg, Man. To assist in providing costumes, staging and script for "Oliver". \$500.00

Mrs. B. Jakobson, of Neepawa, is prominently associated with the Neepawa Festival.



INVITATION TO ARTISTS

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba invites artists of Icelandic descent to submit art works to the Annual Art Exhibit (6th) to be held at Gimli on August 4th and 5th, 1974.

Awards will be made by purchasing outstanding works from various art forms, paintings, pottery, ceramics and sculpture, etc., thanks to Investors Syndicate Limited for their contribution to help make these awards possible.

- Artists must be of Icelandic descent.
- All work submitted must be of the original and unaided work of the artist, not previously exhibited at Íslendingadagurinn.
- Participants may submit three (3) works.
- All works must be delivered to Tergesen's General Store, Gimli, Manitoba, before or on August 4th, 1973.
- A label with name, address, title, must be attached to the back of each work.
- Paintings must be suitably framed, ready for hanging, with wire kept back one inch from top of frame.
- All works must be removed after the show on August 6th.
- This entry form or a copy must be filled in and returned to the following address, not later than July 20, 1974.

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.

Professor Skuli Johnson

It is one of the functions of a college magazine to give publicity to the literary efforts of students; it is also its task to record the achievements of distinguished graduates. Professor Skuli Johnson, who at the new year leaves Wesley College to assume the position of Assistant-Prof. of Classics in the University of Manitoba, is no stranger to the pages of *Vox Wesleyana*. It has been the good fortune of *Vox* to chronicle Mr. Johnson's brilliant undergraduate career, to record his addition to the faculty of the College, to publish from time to time articles, verses, translations from his pen and to benefit by his services as Honorary Editor. It welcomes, therefore, the opportunity of saying hail and farewell at the close of his long connection with the College.

Professor Johnson is a graduate of whom the College has many reasons to be proud. Coming to Wesley, like many another Winnipegger, from the old Collegiate Institute, he early found his place in both academic and athletic life. Scholarships and honourable mentions came to him consistently throughout his course. In the first year he obtained a general scholarship in Latin, English, Mathematics, Greek, French and Roman History. In his second year one in Latin, English, Greek, history, and Philosophy, also honourable mention in English, Greek and French. In his third year he tied with J. T. Thorson, now Dean of the Law School and Member for South Centre Winnipeg, for the scholarship in Classics. To these laurels he added



Professor Skuli Johnson

those of a star football player, an able debater and a gold medalist for essays and verse published in *Vox*. At the end of his third year he brought distinction to himself and to his College by receiving the award of the Rhodes Scholarship for Manitoba.

At Oxford he was a student of Oriel, the College of Cecil Rhodes. There he read **Greats**, long regarded as the premier Oxford course, and on which gives the widest training in Classics and Philosophy. It is the course which derives most liberal education in itself, by the side of which the Honours School of Modern History is a mere upstart. While at Oxford he helped establish Canadian lacrosse as one of

the recognized sports of the University, was a member of the Lacrosse Council and played in games against Cambridge, a distinction which today carries the coveted right of a "half blue".

Mr. Johnson returned to Winnipeg on account of ill-health in 1913, when he completed his work for his B.A. degree, and in 1917 took his M.A., both degrees being graded magna cum laude. For a time he taught classics at St. John's Technical School, and ever since that time has retained his interest in the work of secondary education in the province, an interest manifested by the fact that he has read many papers on classical subjects before the teachers of Manitoba.

In 1915 he became a member of the faculty of Wesley College, in 1917 was appointed Professor of Classics, and in 1920 he succeeded Dr. W. T. Allison as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, a position which he held until the present. During the eleven years that Professor Johnson had been on the staff he has given the fullest proofs both of his ability and success as a teacher and of unfailing interest in all departments of College life. For many a student he has transformed Latin and Greek from dead curriculum subjects into the record of the life and thought of living men. He has always given and expected the best. Since 1915, in addition to his work in Classics, he has held the position of Professor and Examiner in Old Icelandic for both the University of Manitoba and the Department of Education.

In the midst of exacting duties he has found time to publish works of a scholarly and literary nature. Poems translated from the Classics, from Old Icelandic and from Modern Greek have appeared in the *University Magazine*, and articles on technical and other subjects in the *American Scand-*

inavian Review and elsewhere. His M.A. thesis, **A Century of Sonnet Writing in Icelandic**, has been highly praised by those authorities who have seen it, and it is to be regretted that it has never received the publicity to which is originality and sound scholarship entitle it.

Educational policy, both College and University, has always challenged his interest and received his constructive criticism.

His close and sustained interest in student activities is well known. For two years he was a member of the University Athletic Directorate, while there is probably no College student organization of which he has not been at some time Honorary President and to which he has not given the benefit of his advice and co-operation. It is not too much to say that he has stood the supreme test of disinterested devotion—on an afternoon when he had planned to play golf he has acted as last minute judge at a debate.

No mere catalogue of achievements and interests, however, can distill the essence of personality or indicate the real reason for the regret felt alike by students and fellow members of the faculty at the closing of Professor Johnson's Wesley College period. Many generations of students have observed and appreciated, as they have admired the dignity and courtesy which are so peculiarly his, a courtesy and a dignity felt at once to be native and inborn. Good manners can be acquired, but the qualities marked in Professor Johnson are those which come from within, candour, simplicity and generosity. If it may be suggested without impertinence or flattery, there is a passage in the **Meditations of Marcus Aurelius** which, to one person at least, has for many years brought to mind the personality of Professor Skuli

Johnson. It is the one in which the philosopher—emperor records his debt to Maximus,—

“ From Maximus, self-mastery and singleness of aim; cheeriness in sickness or other visitations; dignity tempered with affability; the prompt performance of appointed tasks. Every one believed that what he said he thought, and that what he did was done honestly. Nothing could dazzle

and nothing daunt him; there was no pressing forward, no hanging back, no hesitation. Kind, generous and genuine, he gave one the impression of goodness undeviating and incorruptible. No one ever felt his patronising yet no one could have esteemed himself his better: so gracious was his manner.”

A.C.C. in Vox Wesleyana



MRS. JOHANNA SOLVASON CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Mrs. Johanna Solvason was born in Skagafjörður, Iceland, December 4th, 1873. She married Sigurður Solvason and in 1899 came to Mountain, North Dakota.

In 1905, they moved to Wynyard, Saskatchewan, where they homesteaded and made their home until Mr. Solvason's death in 1966, at the age of 101.

They had eight children, three of whom are living. There are ten grandchildren, twenty-seven great grandchildren and two great, great grandchildren.

Mrs. Solvason enjoys good health and is an avid T.V. viewer, follows all news with interest and enjoys visits from her many relatives and friends



Mrs. Johanna Solvason

★

ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB NEWS

ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 14, 1973

Our last Christmas Party came off very pleasantly indeed. The gay decorations in the Parish Hall of the First Lutheran Church set the tone for a happy evening of eating, singing, and friendly chatter.

Beside the lunch committee the entertainers, drivers and friends, about a hundred senior-citizen guests sat down to enjoy the food provided by Mrs. Lauga Sveinsson and her helpers. Mattie Halldorson had arranged with Snjolaug Sigurdson to bring her two church choirs to entertain with their

own selections, beside leading in interspersed carol sing-song in two languages.

To these ladies and helpers our thanks are due. Also to the two dozen volunteer drivers who left their homes on a bitterly cold night to gather in the guests from far-flung Greater Winnipeg and beyond.

This annual event has proved to be one of the best received projects sponsored by the Icelandic Canadian Club to serve the community.

ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

CLUB OF WINNIPEG

April 19th was the date chosen this year for the annual Dinner-Dance of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Winnipeg. As in recent years it was enjoyed amid the Victorian splendor of the Fort Garry Hotel.

The main feature on the program was an address by Dr. Valdimar Eylands, who returned from North Dakota for the occasion, along with Mrs. Eylands, to the familiar scenes where he labored for a generation in the vineyards of the First Lutheran Church. He was warmly introduced by Rev. Philip M. Petursson, who during much the same period served as Min-

ister of the Unitarian Church here. These two gentlemen long ago buried the hatchet that used to cleave the Icelandic communities right down the middle. Long may it rest so buried.

The formal program was under the direction of the president, Dr. John Matthiasson, who along with his family was to be off on the morrow for a tour of Portugal. Then vice-president Ted Arnason took over as dance manager. While many displayed their talented footwork on the dance floor, others relaxed with friends over a glass or two to warm the inner man.

For years this event has been plagued by red ink when all the bills came in. This time, however, a modest

profit was realized. A bouquet to Bill Helgason and his team of ticket promoters.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB

Breaking with tradition, Dr. and Mrs. John Matthiasson hosted the annual meeting of the Icelandic Canadian Club at their home on June 11th. The attendance was small; but dedication was not lacking in those present.

In his report, outgoing president John Matthiasson mentioned that six functions had been staged by the club this 1973-74 year for the most part well attended. In the light of two years' experience, he had some recommendations to pass on to the incoming executive.

The financial report, presented by treasurer John Johannson, showed that cost of services had exceeded the club's income, and it was decided to increase

the fees from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per person (but \$5.00 for a man and wife). Most members will probably be glad to contribute an extra dollar per year to the work of the club.

Dr. Will Kristjanson was able to report a successful year for the Magazine. He expressed the regret of the meeting at the passing of two of its best workers, John Samson and Hjalmur Danielson.

Endorsement had been requested from the club by Dr. Thorlakson of the proposed North American Conference of Icelandic Organizations, to be held in October, 1975. This was readily given.

H. J. S.

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MR. S. GLENN SIGURDSON ATTENDS IN GIMLI AND RIVERTON ON THE 1st and 3rd FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

Offices are in the Gimli Medical Centre, 62-3rd Avenue, between the hours of 9:30 a.s. and 5:30 p.m. with Mr. Sigurdson and his legal assistant in attendance.

(TELEPHONE 642-7955)

In Riverton, Mr. Sigurdson attends in the Riverton Village Office, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

ÍSLENDINGADAGURINN

85TH ANNUAL ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

GIMLI

MANITOBA



AUGUST 3RD, 4TH, 5TH

1974

Icelandic Canadians everywhere, visitors and friends are invited to join in the festivities—a unique experience in Icelandic Foods, Plays, and Fine Arts, with something of interest for every member of the family.

Plan your August weekend NOW, come and celebrate with us the 85th Annual Festival.

A partial list of the week-end's activities:

Fish Derby ★ R.C.A.F Fly Pass ★ Fish Fry ★ Raft Races ★ Sky Diving Demonstration ★ Skiers Aloft on Giant Kites ★ Barbecue Supper Evening Dance ★ Icelandic Play (in English)

Pancake Breakfast ★ 5 and 10 mile Western Canadian Foot Race Sports Car Racing ★ Musical Entertainment ★ Fine Arts Display Bingo Game ★ Repeat Performance of Play ★ Hootenanny ★ Fireworks Midnite Dance.

Parade ★ Fine Arts Display ★ Music and Poetry Show ★ Childrens and Special Event Races ★ Traditional Festival Program, speeches and songs ★ Community Singing and Entertainment ★ Old Time Dance.

Additional Attractions: Gymnastic Displays, Pottery Displays, Archery Display, Kiddies' Paint-in, Horse Show at Happy Acres Farm, Icelandic Food Sales and Bulk Food Sales — Meals at Air Base. Joyland Rides for kiddies throughout week-end.

FREE ADMISSION

TO GIMLI PARK GROUNDS

BEER GARDEN

ALL THREE DAYS

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

In January, 1969, Agricultural Minister J. Douglas Watt announced the appointment of Dr. Helgi H. Austman as assistant deputy minister in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Austman joined the department in 1948, serving as agricultural representative at Teulon until 1954, when he was appointed assistant director of the department's extension service. In 1965 he was promoted to director of the extension service and has served in that capacity since that time.

In his new position, Dr. Austman will concentrate on the development, co-ordination and evaluation of departmental programs, particularly as they relate to rural extension and agricultural development.

Dr. Austman has a wide range of agricultural contacts across Canada and abroad. He is a member of the Manitoba Institute of Agrologists, a past president of the Winnipeg Branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, a past president of the Canadian Society for Rural Extension, and holds membership in numerous organizations concerned with rural development and adult education.



Dr. H. H. Austman

Dr. Austman was born and raised on a farm in the Arborg area where he received his early education. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. After study at the University of Wisconsin he received a Master of Science degree in 1957 and a Ph.D. from the same university in 1961. In his doctoral studies he majored in extension administration, with a minor in rural sociology.



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Best Wishes
from



Community Water Services In Manitoba

by Dr. H. H. Austman

During the ten years prior to 1972 the Manitoba Government, through the Manitoba Water Supply Board offered a service to Manitoba communities to provide a water supply at cost; that is, the technical services, capital development costs and maintenance costs would be amortized and charged back to the town's residents over a twenty-five to thirty-five year period. This service was utilized by approximately thirty-eight communities during the 10 year period. However, many communities found that they could not afford the service because it had no subsidy connected with it and they also found difficulty in financing the additional services such as a water distribution system and a sewage collection and treatment system that would complement a water supply system.

In 1970, the Government asked some of its key civil servants in the Department of Agriculture, Municipal Affairs, and Mines, Resources and Environmental Management to look at this problem and bring forth a proposal which might alleviate some of the inequities in community water services. Studies showed that there were about 200 rural communities in Manitoba without any form of sewer and water services. Likewise there are many other communities with only limited service having either water or sewer and in some of those cases an inadequate system. It was concluded that many communities, particularly the

smaller communities but even some as large in size as 800-1000 could not, for a variety of reasons, afford to allocate a sufficient sum of its tax monies to pay for an adequate sewer and water system. Further study indicated that it was possible to set up a formula based on equalized assessment which could bring about some greater equity in the distribution of these kinds of costs. As a result of many meetings between the Committee of Civil Servants, and the Ministers of the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, a proposal was developed in late 1971 for submission to Cabinet. Approval was given to a policy which would assist communities financially and technically in development of sewer and/or water systems. This required new legislation and as a result, in July of 1972, the new Manitoba Water Services Board Act was passed. It superseded the former Water Supply Board Act and set up a new Board of four members all representing specific government agencies directly concerned with rural communities.

The Manitoba Water Services Board is chaired by Helgi Austman, Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of the Rural Development Division of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. The Board members are Mr. Tom Weber, Director of the Water Resources Branch, who is Vice-Chairman of the Board and was formerly in charge of the Water Supply Board; Dr. George Bowen, Assistant Deputy

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Minister of Environmental Management; and Mr. Tom Webb, Local Authorities Finance Officer for the Department of Municipal Affairs. The Board has a support staff, a small group of two professional engineers, a General Manager, four engineering technicians, an accountant and secretarial support. The General Manager is Bob Stokes, formerly with the Water Resources Branch. The staff for the Water Services Board is part of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and it works closely with the staff of the Water Resources Branch drawing on its engineering services.

Immediately upon announcing the formation of the new Board and the new policy on August 17, 1972, there were numerous inquiries about the services available. At the present time, over 70 communities in Manitoba have applied for assistance in either developing new water and/or sewer systems or extending and improving their present systems. These projects range in cost from a \$30,000 extension or improvement in the present system up to a four million dollar project in as large a town as Dauphin. In order to visualize some of the impact that will undoubtedly take place in certain communities, and in fact, in certain communities, and in fact, in certain communities, let us look for a moment at the interlake Region of the Province. This is a region where there are a number of Icelandic settlements and these settlements generally tend to be progressive and developmental. The communities in the Interlake which have by now

either signed an agreement with the Manitoba Water Services Board or are very close to doing so, are the following:

1. **Selkirk**—A major sewage treatment service project with some additions to the water system at a cost close to 3.5 million dollars. These costs will be shared by the local government and both provincial and federal governments with about one and a quarter million in grants.
2. **Stonewall**—A sewage system and water system of approximately 1.5 million dollars with over .5 million dollars in provincial grants.
3. **Teulon**—Up to this date there have been no sewer and water services. The Board is proceeding with construction of a project of sewage disposal and treatment at a cost of over \$500,000 of which approximately \$200,000 will be a grant.
4. **Lundar**—A sewage collection and treatment system will be constructed in 1974 for about \$500,000 of which approximately \$200,000 will be a grant.
5. **Riverton**—A sewage collection and treatment system is being constructed at a cost of \$400,000 with approximately \$175,000 grant.
6. **Winnipeg Beach**—A sewage disposal project is being considered

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for some \$800,000 of which approximately \$270,000 would be a grant.

7. **Woodlands**—Has applied for assistance in developing a sewage system and preliminary studies indicate an estimated cost of \$113,000.
8. **Arborg**—An extension to their sewage and water lines is proceeding at a cost of \$315,000 with \$131,000 in grants.
9. **Gimli**—Has made an application for major extensions to the sewer and water lines and expansion of the sewage treatment facilities.
10. **Eriksdale**—Has applied for a minor extension to their sewage system.
11. **Dunnottar**—Has applied for a sewage system.

Past experience has shown that whenever a rural community obtains reasonably good sewer and water services, the town usually grew and developed a more active business atmosphere. It goes without saying therefore, that one of the very important factors in enhancing the opportunity of rural people to live and work in the rural community, is the provision of sewer and water services. Also, if we are to adequately maintain a rural society such amenities are necessary.

This type of service is one that adds measurably to the quality of life of the people in rural communities. Although many old-timers have suggested that they managed for many years without sewer and water and could continue to carry their water in a pail and go out to the backhouse, this anomaly does not sit well with the younger citizens and it is believed that it is one of the factors that is causing the rural to urban migration. In ad-

dition to improving the quality of life, sewer and water services in a community can add significantly to that community's opportunity of increasing the number of jobs through industry, business or other kinds of development.

Briefly, the procedure is for a community interested in improving its water and sewer services to apply to The Manitoba Water Services Board for declaration as an area eligible for service and for assistance from the Board. Then the Board reviews with the community both the nature of services that it desires, as well as the financial arrangement that will be made. The staff then proceeds to do a preliminary study complete with estimates of cost for the project which it presents to the community for consideration. If the project proposal and costs are acceptable to the community then an agreement is signed between the community and the Manitoba Water Services Board to proceed with design and construction. The community must advertise its intent to spend money so that the citizens have the opportunity to oppose the spending. If the project is acceptable to the ratepayers, then the Board proceeds to have the project designed and constructed in most cases through the services of the Water Resources Branch of the Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. In some cases, the Board may hire engineering consultants to design and construct the project.

By providing technical services along with a grant and loan, it becomes feasible for most rural communities to proceed with this type of work which otherwise may well be a difficult or even impossible financial burden. It is hoped that this program will be an important element of the growth and revitalization of many rural communities in Manitoba.

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by G. Bertha Johnson

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IN THE NEWS

PROFESSOR BARNEY THORDARSON



Professor Barney Thordarson

Barney Thordarson, retired professor of English at Brandon University Manitoba, died Sunday, April 28 after a brief illness.

Professor Thordarson taught in the arts, science and education faculties at Brandon University for about 25 years before retiring in 1972.

He was born in 1904 in Langruth, Manitoba, where his parents settled after immigrating from Iceland. In 1922, Mr. Thordarson began teaching

at Maryhill, School near Langruth. He taught in public schools for more than 22 years, in which period he served as principal in the schools at Thornhill, Elgin, Carberry and Virden, Manitoba. During the second World War, he was education officer and instructor at the Elementary Flying school for a year and a half before coming to Brandon College in 1945.

Professor Thordarson received his Master's degree at the University of Minnesota in 1955, with a major in English and minors in history and education.

At his death, Professor Thordarson was president of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Western Manitoba, a club he was instrumental in setting up about three years ago.

He was past president of the Brandon Curling Club and the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

He was a past master of Tweed Lodge No. 113 AF and AM, a member of all Scottish Rite Bodies and of the Royal Order of Scotland, and an Honorary Inspector General 33rd degree.

—The Brandon Sun

CHRIS MAGNUSSON, SELKIRK STEELERS

The Selkirk Steelers are the 1974 Junior A. hockey champions of Can-

ada. They defeated the Smith's Falls Bears, Eastern Canada champions, to win the Centennial Cup, emblematic of the championship. A stalwart member of the Selkirk Steelers is Chris Magnusson, of Selkirk.

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AN ICELANDIC LANGUAGE CAMP AT GIMLI, MANITOBA

An opportunity for an Icelandic Language Camp at Gimli this summer presents itself. Its basic purpose is to arouse an awareness of our cultural heritage and history.

The camp is to be held in the Industrial Park from July 20 to August 2, 1974 at a cost of \$75.00 per person. Those attending should be at least 10 years of age. This cost includes accommodation, meals, instruction and all supplies needed for programs.

This camp will offer daily two short periods of Icelandic language training, arts and crafts, sports, field trips, music, drama and poetry. In general, an all around full camp life.

We must have 50 applicants willing to attend before the Provincial Government will sponsor us. Campers may come from all provinces and the United States. So we are hoping we can ask you to help us advertise this to anyone who may be able to come and attend this venture. Campers need not be of Icelandic descent.

For further information please write to: Lorna J. Tergesen,

60 Wildwood Park,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 0C8

or Mr. C. Semchyshyn,
200-185 Carlton St., Winnipeg.

Brochures are available.

Should you have any names and addresses of other interested parties, please mail them to me and we will send out the pamphlets. Hope to see you this summer.

Lorna J. Tergeson

★



RICHARD JOHANN GILLIS was awarded the Sarah Jane Abrey bursary of \$900 from the University of Saskatchewan and another from the Government of Saskatchewan of \$140.00.

Richard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Gillis of Theodore, Saskatchewan, and is great grandson of Mrs. Solvason of Golden Acres, Wynyard, Saskatchewan and the late Mr. Solvason.

★

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE OPENS DOOR TO NEW QUARTERS

Down through the centuries, the Scandinavian peoples have had their share of dissention, but modern Scandinavians, in Calgary, for example, have resolved to forget past differences and work together in co-operation and harmony at their newly-purchased Scandinavian Centre Co-op at 20th Ave. and 7th St. N.W.

Saturday May 25 saw the official opening of the building with a smorg-

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asbord and dance attended by 300 Norwegians, Danes, Swedes, Icelanders and Finns.

President Sam Austman outlined the objectives of the centre in perpetuating the Norse heritage with language classes, folk dancing and choral activities. The nucleus of a library is already established and projects will be expanded as time goes on and new ideas come to the fore.

Mayor of Calgary and consul for Finland Rod Sykes praised the Scandinavian people for their contribution to the development of Alberta. They are all different, he said, but the difference is maintained with respect, understanding, sympathy and friendship. He told of his visit to the Scandinavian countries, where he found each of them unique but all of them hospitable.

Minister of Telephones Roy Farran described some of his experiences among Scandinavian people. In a military posting to Norway during the Second World War, he said, he had learned little of the language but had three words he could utter with all sincerity: "Eg elsker deg". (I love you.)

A choir from the Leif Eiriksson Club under the baton of John Borgfjord sang several numbers. Though the lyrics were Icelandic, the setting of the songs touched each of the Scandinavian countries. Soloist Anli Sigurdson gave a beautiful rendition of Bless This House.

Rolf Hartvigen was master of ceremonies.

—Art Reykadal

★

Njáll A. Bardal, of Winnipeg, has been appointed Honorary Life Member of the Manitoba Funeral Service Association. This is in recognition of

his forty-five years of service with the Association. He was President in 1960 and in that year was convention chairman of a highly successful symposium on clergy relations concerning funeral services.

Mr. Bardal has been with the Bardal Funeral Home of Winnipeg, since 1929, with the exception of his war service with the Winnipeg Grenadiers at Hong Kong.

★



Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson

Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, of Winnipeg has been accorded a place in the Red River Valley Historical Society Hall of Fame. This is in recognition of Dr. Thorlakson's achievement in the field of medicine and his outstanding contribution to his cultural and other community affairs. The recognition ceremony took place in Fargo, North Dakota, April 19.

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BOOK REVIEWS

by Sidney Katz

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH CANCER

by Kelly M. Sveinsson;

Clarke, Irwin and Co., Toronto.

The week his book was hitting the bookstore stands Kelly M. Sveinsson died. That was April 10, 1974.

At the time, it was widely assumed that Mr. Sveinsson had died of cancer. Since then, however, an autopsy carried out by two doctors from the Manitoba Clinic has revealed he died of "an opportunistic infection" — a stray bug, in other words — and "a single small lymph node in the abdomen was the only evidence of Hodgkin's disease after a 12-year history. Control of the patient's Hodgkin's Disease was therefore excellent."

He had lived with the disease for 12 years. It had been a productive 12 years of fatherhood, business and university lecturing, culminating in the publication of the book: Learning to Live with Cancer.

Sveinsson had written the book because he wanted to help other people with cancer, help them learn to live as happily as possible with the disease, and perhaps beat it.

In the introduction to his book Sveinsson says, "I offer no medical diagnoses, no suggestions for treatment, no recommendations about doctors. But, speaking as a layman, I describe techniques I have used — techniques that, I am convinced, have helped me beat cancer.

"Not everyone who reads this book will beat cancer. To them I extend my deepest sympathy. To all patients I say, "Keep up the fight with all the strength you can muster, whether it be for a week, a month, a year, or more!"

"I hope this book will help in that fight."

Sveinsson's fight was a good long one, until he got sick early last month while he was conducting a seminar in Jamaica. He sickened, returned to Winnipeg and died one week after the publication date of his book by Clarke, Irwin and Co., Ltd.

Hodgkin's disease

Kelly Magnus Sveinsson would have been 50 years old this June. He had been told in March, 1962, that he had Hodgkin's disease, a condition in which the cells of the lymph glands reproduce at a wild rate.

All his life, Sveinsson had been accustomed to meeting his problems in a methodical, spirited head-on fashion.

"If you suddenly receive the shocking news that you have a serious disease", says Sveinsson in his book, "the number one rule is to adapt to a new way of life imposed by that disease."

That adaptation required coping with a succession of unfamiliar problems.

For instance, it's natural for a patient afflicted with a terminal illness to rail against fate. "Why me?" asked Sveinsson. "How come I'm picked to get Hodgkin's disease? After all,

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it hits only one man in 30,000, so why me?"

Partial answer

Sveinson confessed that a complete answer to that mysterious question eluded him. But, in the meantime, he found a partial answer that was satisfying to him.

He says he may have been afflicted because he was the kind of person who always thought positively, and since medical science had made great advances in the treatment of cancer, there was room for someone like him to write a guide to help other people cope with the disease.

"If my story does some good, then I have made a plus out of a minus condition," he says.

One of the first questions a cancer patient has to face is: Do you tell people you have cancer? Whom do you tell and how much do you tell them?

Until early 1962, when he began suffering pains in his arms and shoulders, Sveinson was the model picture of glowing health and burgeoning success. At 38, he was a partner in a thriving advertising business, was happily married and the father of four children. He had a comfortable home in Winnipeg and a summer cottage at a nearby lake.

Sveinson enjoyed partying, golf, fishing and swimming. He enjoyed a growing reputation as a public speaker and lectured in the behavioral sciences at the University of Manitoba.

"That was my lifestyle before I ran into cancer," said Sveinson. "Suddenly, my life was topsy-turvy."

Conceal fact

Initially, Sveinson's inclination was to conceal the fact from all but his immediate family. "I could not face

the facts and admit that I had fallen victim of cancer. What would that do to my pride, my ego, my manliness?"

Sveinson soon realized that secrecy was both impractical and inadvisable. He gradually disclosed his plight to an expanding group of people, including his friends and business associates.

His decision was based on the fact that his disease—barring a miracle—was not going to vanish, nor could it be swept under a rug. He realized that cancer was like other diseases, which, although incurable, could be controlled by medical treatment. It was like diabetes, or epilepsy, or hemophilia.

"The fact that, thanks to medical science, patients with certain incurable diseases can live in relative comfort for many years, helped me keep my condition in perspective," said Sveinson. It is now a fact that 52 per cent of Canadian cancer patients live five years or more.

Almost immediately, Sveinson received his first course of radiation therapy. Each series consisted of a daily bombardment that continued for two to three weeks. These treatments were to continue, intermittently, until his death, and temporarily left him nauseated, fatigued and unable to swallow.

Deep belief

Sveinson had always preached — and believed — that "if a man believes deep down in his heart that he will be a success, then he will be." This embraced the proposition that a person can improve his physical condition by strong, positive affirmations.

Sveinson devised a program of written "affirmations" which had two parts. The first was made up of short-range statements to meet specific problems; the second was a long-range goal

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that helped "to give me hope and the confidence that I will live a long fruitful life."

Here are some of Sveinson's short-range affirmations:

Problem. I am taking treatment in hospital; energy is low. **Affirmation,** I am walking to the window each day. I stretch my arms and do small exercises. My energy increases a little bit each day.

Problem: My appetite is poor. **Affirmation:** I am sipping some tea in the morning, I am nibbling at fruit and jelly. I take some nourishment daily to help my body.

Problem: Sleep will not come. I am getting the late night blues. **Affirmation:** I am alive this minute. I heard the sounds of the night. I will be here tomorrow, gaining one more day. My body will sleep when it is ready.

Problem: The hours of the day, whether in hospital or convalescing at home, pass so slowly. **Affirmation:** I break up the day into small pieces. I do little chores . . . write letters, make phone calls, read for an hour, clean my nails, shave, take a bath, wash my hair, listen to the radio, take a nap. My day is productive and passes easily.

Sveinson's list of long-range affirmations contains only one item. **Beat cancer!**

"Years ago", he says, "that statement would have been ridiculous. Today, with lengthening survival periods, the statement makes sense."

The exhortation, **Beat Cancer!**, advised Sveinson, should be read and repeated any time and all the time. "It's like planting a seed. It's a kind of self-hypnosis. It can work away in the subconscious without the patient being aware of it."

Sveinson, in his book, deals at length with the necessity of developing a

strong, positive attitude towards cancer because the mental state can, to a degree as yet unknown, influence the course of a disease.

"Some diseases," he writes, "like certain allergies and skin conditions, appear to be caused entirely by emotions. At the other end of the scale are afflictions where we just don't know the extent to which the emotions are involved." (Several articles are to be found in medical literature suggesting that certain people are "cancer prone" because of their attitude towards life).

Positive attitude

Sveinson cites cases where faith and a positive attitude can alter the traditional course of an illness.

"I don't need a complete answer to how these events occur," says Sveinson. "All I want is to keep beating cancer. We should not close the door on the subject of the mind acting positively on the body. Someday, perhaps, these unexplainable things will be cleared up."

Following his own prescription, Kelly Sveinson lived with cancer for more than 12 years. It was a productive, useful life.

Summarizing the quality of his cancer years, he says in his book:

"The period was more good than bad.

"You experience a new sense of living day to day. I discovered the sheer joy of looking around me, of seeing my wife and children, good friends, the outdoors in whatever season.

"All of these took on a new importance, a new value. Try it for yourself, whether you are ill or healthy. Take a minute to look around and "drink" in the good things."

(Mr. Katz is staff writer for The Toronto Star)

—Winnipeg Tribune

ARE YOU AWARE?

by R. D. Stevens

Throughout our history there have been certain sectors of our population, both private and public, who have been keenly aware of the possibilities of foreign domination of our institutions.

Unfortunately though, little or nothing has been said or done about this domination and consequently Canada is suffering from a rather unique distinction. That being that Canada has the highest level of foreign ownership of any industrialized nation. In the past it might have been necessary to allow certain amounts of foreign money to come into Canada for research and development of our own country. But isn't it about time we took it upon ourselves to develop our own resources? After all, it is our

country, and besides there must be profits to be made if other countries continue to invest their money and expertise here.

The domination doesn't stop there though. No indeed! We've also let ourselves become educated by other nations. Take a look at a textbook sometime. Who published it? Was it an American publishing firm? Most likely. Or was it published by W. J. Gage or Ryerson? If so that also makes it American because both of these publishers have recently been bought out by American investors. In fact about 95% of our textbook material published for high schools and universities is American in origin. We seem to accept this as a matter of course. We continue to read about

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"our President", and "our congress", and "our boys in Viet Nam", as if it were really true.

Another area of domination lies even deeper within our social structure. This is in the area of communications. Television in particular. TV has become the prime source of general information, news coverage and entertainment for our society. With Newfoundland excepted, 94% of the Canadian population is concentrated in a narrow strip within 300 miles of the United States, and most of these people live in an even narrower strip within 100 miles of the United States. Because of this proximity to our neighbour to the south, we are almost all of us within range of American television broadcast signals. Once again we're inundated with Americanism. In fact over fifty per cent of our prime time English language programming is American in origin. To give you an example of what effect this has on the Canadian identity I have some statistics from a survey that was taken amongst some 2,000 students in ten Kingston, Ontario schools in 1966. "While some 17% of grade VIII students could give a reasonably accurate description of the role of the Prime Minister and 72% could name him, over 26% could accurately describe the role of the president of the United States and 94% could name him"¹

¹ Hill, J.: "The Political Socialization of Children in a Rural Environment"; an unpublished B.A. thesis; Queen's University; 1969, p.52.

Well, you and I both know that it's all well and good to be able to expound these great gems of wisdom to the masses, but it becomes a little different thing to do something about our situation. Fortunately, there has been a movement in Canada within the last couple of years towards a greater awareness of our country and our identity. There has also been a group organized for furthering these interests. That group is commonly known as the CIC, or the Committee for an Independent Canada.

The CIC began as an idea in February 1970, among Walter Gordon, Peter Newman and Abraham Rotstein. By the end of September 1970, the idea had become concrete in the form of a National Executive, a National Office, and plans for a concentrated, highpowered campaign to bring the issue of foreign domination of the Canadian economy, to the attention of the Canadian people. "The Committee for an Independent Canada was to be . . . a coalition for survival, a chance, perhaps the last, to keep this nation from slipping into a continental morass."—(Maclean's Magazine, Dec. 1970.)

October events in Quebec made it necessary to postpone a national campaign until January 1971. By that time it was clear that the issue was ripe for a national discussion—Jack Webster's radio show with Walter Gordon as a guest, brought more than 3,500 letters from British Columbia indicating support for the Committee.

During the first half of 1971, the campaign was underway on several

fronts. Across the country, spokesmen were giving major speeches on behalf of the CIC on an average of four and five times a week. Some weeks the total speeches being made were nine and ten. The response was generally enthusiastic, yielding many members and even more signatures on the petition on support of the Statement of Purpose. Requests for speakers came from most established organizations and from High Schools. The volume of requests from the latter indicated that young people were among the Committee's most ardent supporters.

Cross country tours were organized to seek out those who would be willing to form local committees in their communities. Once established these local committees organized signature cam-

paigns in schools, shopping plazas—anywhere that people gathered in groups. They also sought the support of local newspapers, radio, and TV stations in publicizing the Committees' aims. They were responsible as well for advance publicity of Committee spokesmen visiting their area and for being available to distribute literature and to collect signatures after the address.

The national publicity program included the preparation and distribution of such campaign materials as buttons, posters, brochures and research materials. Radio and TV stations and newspapers were co-operative in producing programs and articles featuring Committee members and Committee themes. Invitations to periodicals across the country to write about the Committee also received a good response.

By June 1971, there were 170,000 signatures on the CIC's petition. A brief, including this fact, and outlin-

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ing the Committee's recommendations regarding control of the Canadian economy, was presented on June 29th to the Prime Minister and members of his cabinet. The brief was well received and the Prime Minister indicated broad agreement with its objectives. He added that the Committee's recommendations would receive full consideration when Revenue Minister Gray's report on Foreign Investment was studied by the Cabinet.²

Our involvement in politics has grown from there and our membership continues to increase because of this involvement. Presently the CIC has over 5800 members in some 40 chapters throughout Canada. Our members come from all walks in life and all levels of our social structure. More important though is that it is an active group with an eye on the future. Canada's future and your future! Don't misinterpret this though! We aren't flag wavers or anti-Americans. We're

² Reprint from Excerpts from the long-term planning report of the CIC

just concerned individuals trying to articulate this concern to our policy makers, in the hope that our example will cause our politicians to do something in the areas of foreign domination.

This isn't as futile an effort as it might seem, Canadians are talking about their country and discussing foreign ownership more and more every day. The Canadian government is also beginning to react to public pressure. Just recently the Canadian Development Corporation bought out the con-

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trolling shares of Texas Gulf Corporation. The CIC has presented briefs to the federal government on the development of Canadian-owned enterprises and on oil export policy, and has strongly encouraged public discussion on the development of the MacKenzie Valley Energy Corridor and the North, in general. Local chapters have made representations to provincial and municipal governments on similar issues.

There is a movement though and it's for your benefit. So if you're concerned about your country and want to know how you can help, or how we can help you start your own chapter, just drop us a line or give us a call. We have public speakers available, materials for distribution, and a concern for the welfare of our country.

For further information write to:

Box 55,
UMSU Center,
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
R3T 2N2
Phone: 667-2515

● Don Stevens is a student at the University of Winnipeg.

JAMES GOODMAN NAMED HBM & S GENERAL MANAGER

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited announced the appointment, effective January 1, 1974, of James E. Goodman as general manager of its mining and metallurgical operations in the Flin Flon-Snow Lake area of northern Manitoba.

Mr. Goodman had been manager of metallurgy at Flin Flon since August, 1971, responsible for milling, copper smelting, zinc refining and the research and assay department. Prior to that appointment he had been mill superintendent. Mr. Goodman graduated from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in metallurgical engineering in 1944 and joined the Company later that year.

Mr. Goodman is a former Winnipeg resident, and a brother of Mike Goodman, of the Falcons, Olympic Champions, 1920. His father had a tinsmith shop at Toronto Street and Notre Dame Avenue in Winnipeg.

The Daily Reminder

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