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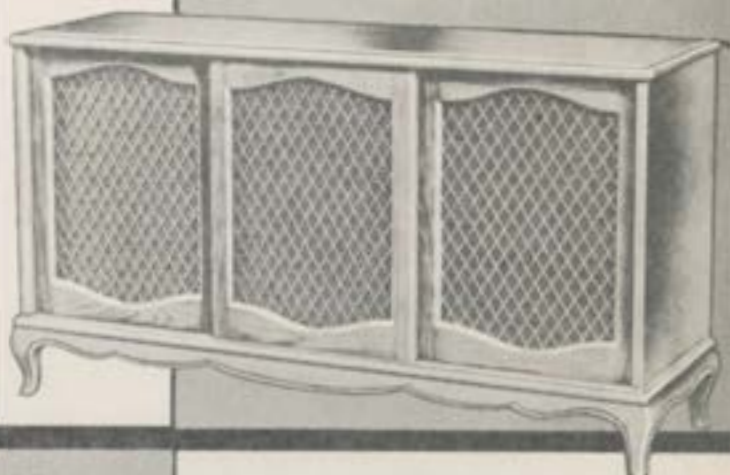
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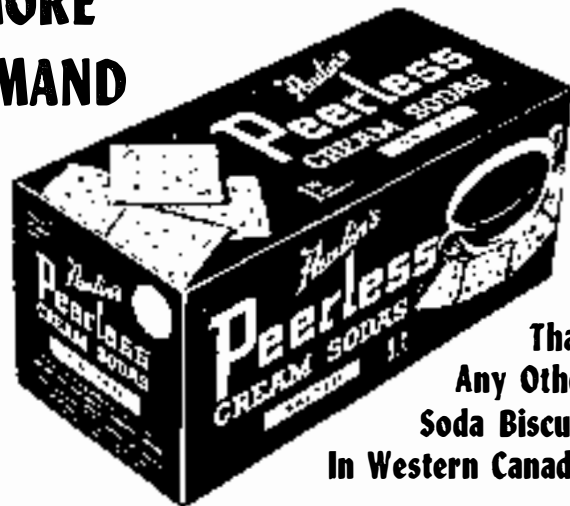
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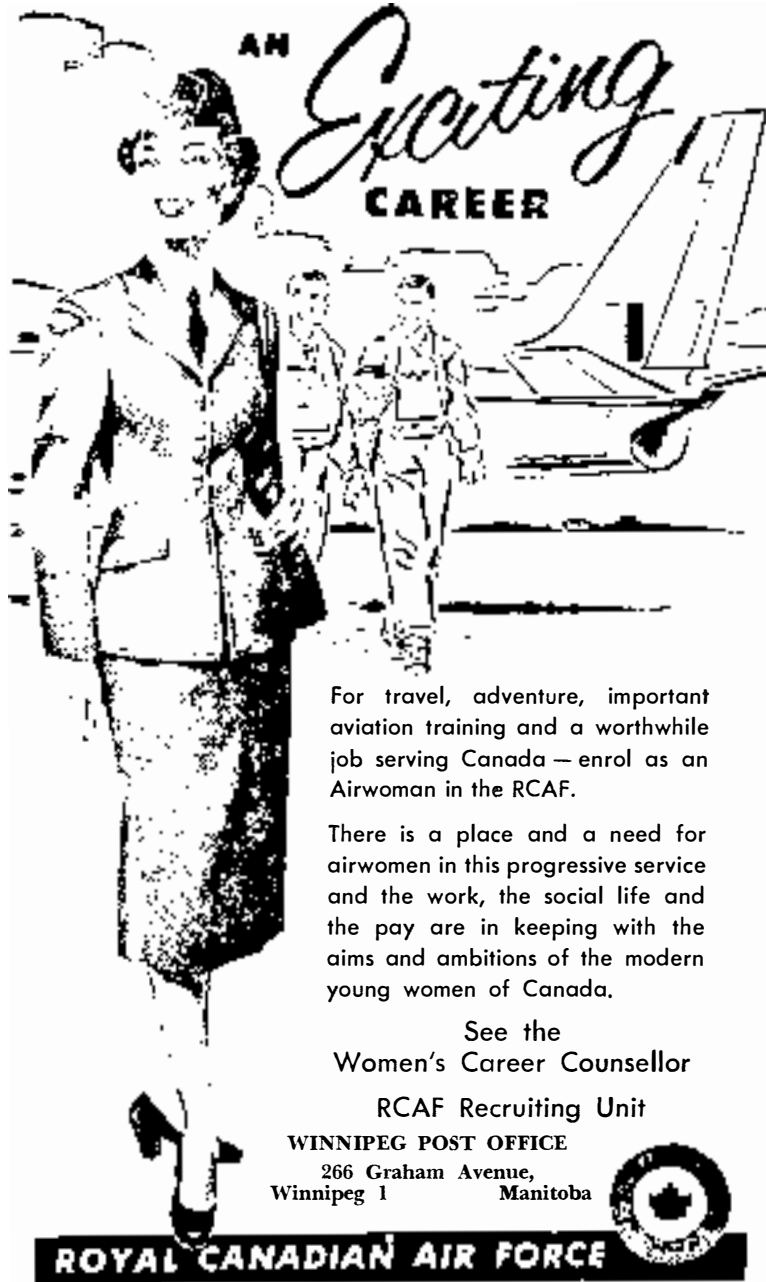
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The Icelandic Canadian

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Winnipeg, Canada

Spring 1961

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EDITORIAL

THE CONFEDERATION CENTENNIAL and Canadians of Icelandic Descent

Canada will be commemorating the centenary of Confederation in 1967. Suitably impressive observances of this important event will require long term preparation and a committee of Parliament has already been appointed to prepare for the celebration.

In so doing, Parliament has pointed the way for all committees and groups that wish to have their own celebration, in addition to full participation in the more widely based observances.

In 1967 it will be just five years short of the full century since the first permanent Icelandic settler in Canada stepped ashore at Quebec. As we look back over one hundred years of Canadian nationhood, we may thus have in mind another story that spans almost a hundred years. We will in effect be preparing in some respects for our commemoration of 1872.

What unique or distinctive contributions will the people of Icelandic descent in Canada make to the centenary celebration, combining forces from coast to coast and also as individual communities and groups? What are some projects we might begin developing now?

Already the Chair in Icelandic at the University of Manitoba has been founded. What objective of national significance, by way of publication or otherwise, may be envisaged for this University Department?

A Canada Iceland Foundation has already been formed. Its promoters envisage an ambitious program and it will take time and effort to establish this project on a strong basis. Undoubtedly, it will be functioning well before 1967, and will be in a position to play a notable part in the commemoration ceremonies that year.

We have a wealth of historical material on the Icelandic people in Canada already in print, in Icelandic and English. This includes general and local and group histories. Almost yearly this store is added to, but some of the settlements have not made their contribution to this record. Now is the time to do so.

We have the Icelandic library at the University of Manitoba, and the Icelandic Frón library in Winnipeg. The Icelandic Canadian Club has the nucleus of a library of English language books in the field of Icelandic Canadian interest, and this will be steadily enlarged. Just as the University library has copies of all books and periodicals currently published in Iceland, so should we preserve copies of all books and other worth-while publications by people of Icelandic origin in Canada. Now is the time to act, in order to complete the project in good time. Many precious books are already out of print. Where can we obtain a copy of Watson Kirkconnell's *North*

American Book of Icelandic Verse, or Baldur Jonsson's *Leaves and Letters* (1918)? Ask the Book Store for a copy of Lord Dufferin's delightful *Letters from High Latitudes* and the reply is, "out of print". Such a library would be a source of pleasure for many readers and most valuable for the research worker.

There are other worth-while projects. A modest museum has been established by the National League. This deserves to be added to and properly housed, either in an Icelandic community centre or in a large civic centre. An Icelandic pioneer settler has presented the Manitoba Provincial Library with an interesting album of photographs and pictures. The Icelandic Canadian Club plans a library of slides. Many valuable documents and personal letters have been destroyed, but there must be many yet that can be saved for the record.

Some of the projects mentioned, such as libraries and museums, would be properly and most fully developed at centres such as Winnipeg and Vancouver, and perhaps Edmonton and Saskatoon, but smaller centres such as Gimli, Wynyard, Lundar, Glenboro or Baldur, Langruth, and Flin Flon might well be interested in similar projects of their own.

When we commemorate the centenary of Confederation, and also a hundred years of Icelandic settlement in Canada, we shall be honoring the pioneers who broke the trail for us, and from our personal knowledge of them and from their works and their records which have survived or have been preserved, we shall derive inspiration for the next hundred years of Canadian life, and other centuries to follow. —W. Kristjanson

In The Editor's Confidence

Reference should be made to the article on "The Wreck of the Trawler *Dhoo*" by Ragnheidur Guttormsson in this issue.

In December, 1947, the British trawler, about which the story was written, was wrecked in a storm at the base of Latrabjarg and the Slysvarnarfélag—(Accident Prevention Society, organized mainly for sea rescue) very heroically rescued all the men. Both the British and the Icelandic people were very much impressed by this

achievement, and it was decided to re-enact the event and make it into a film. When all was set at the location a storm blew up and wrecked another British trawler. The Slysvarnarfélag was called and a rescue effected a second time. A picture film of this second rescue was made. This, of course, was unrehearsed and is a documentary of a real event.

The film will be shown in the near future in the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg. —S.H.



American-Scandinavian Foundation Makes Two Important Announcements

In the February 1961 number of the monthly bulletin "Scan", The American-Scandinavian Foundation, publishers of The American-Scandinavian Review, make two very significant announcements:

TWO MILLION DOLLAR BEQUEST

A bequest amounting to approximately two million dollars from the estate of Winnifred Thord-Gray, will on the death of her husband, General Ivar Thord-Gray, pass to The American-Scandinavian Foundation for the purpose of establishing an exchange scholarship program between Sweden and the United States. The announcement in part reads as follows:

"Mrs. Thord-Gray, nee Miss Winnifred Ingersoll of Canton and Chicago, Illinois, passed away on November 25, 1960 at her home in Coral Gables, Florida. She is survived by her husband, Brigadier General Ivar Thord-Gray.

"Mrs. Thord-Gray's interest in furthering Swedish-American relations was stimulated by her Swedish born husband, General Ivar Thord-Gray, now an American citizen although he served for many years in the British army, has had a remarkable career as scholar, scientist, military authority and author dating from his first tour of duty with the British Cavalry in 1897 in South Africa. . . .

"The fund will be called the Thord-Gray Memorial Fund and the scholar-

ships, which will number approximately 40 each year will not be restricted by field. This generous bequest will enable the Foundation to enlarge its student exchange program with Sweden to many times its present size and to apply money, presently apportioned to scholarship exchange between the United States and Sweden, to other projects of educational and cultural significance."

ASF Corporate Donor Program

The announcement in the "Scan" bulletin follows:

"In 1960 the American-Scandinavian Foundation began, as have many other educational and cultural organizations, a program for Corporate Donations. Recognizing the need for assured annual income Mr. Peter Strong, ASF Director, with the help of the Trustees, inaugurated a program for corporate giving which would supplement the income the Foundation receives each year from endowment and membership dues.

Due to the tireless efforts of Mr. Strong this program is off to a good start and we are pleased to list below the first contributors to the Corporate Donation Program."

Three lists follow: (1) fifteen Corporate Donors of \$1000 and up; (2) eight donors of \$500 to \$1,000; (3) and seventeen donors of \$100 to \$500 each.

Here there is a challenge to the Canada-Iceland Foundation and the Island-Kanada Ráð. —W.J.L.

The Shaping of the New Canada *

P. H. T. THORLAKSON, M.D. LL.D.

*"... Tradition must be not merely proud memories,
but an incentive to the shaping of the new Canada,
a summons to a high duty and a mighty task."*

LORD TWEEDSMUIR

A knowledge of history enables us to recognize and appreciate the impact of the past upon present trends and developments. Our attitudes and decisions should, in many situations, be based on this knowledge. It will often help to clarify and explain the purpose and meaning of the issues which confront us as Canadians.

This chapter of Canadian history deals with the origin and development of the Icelandic Canadian communities viewed against the broader background of the provincial and Canadian scene. I propose to correlate the dreams and aspirations of Canadians of Icelandic descent with those of their neighbors of other national origins. This presentation records but a small fragment of a complex and lengthy process involving many different national groups whose combined contributions will eventually determine the "shape" of a new nation.

The history of Western Canada is intimately interwoven with the early trading policies of the Hudson's Bay Company, the discoveries of the first explorers and voyageurs from Quebec, the tremendous encouragement to immigration by the completion of the trans-continental Canadian Pacific Railway, the law and order enforced by the North-West Mounted Police and the influence of the Christian Churches that served these territories. The story records the transformation of these western plains from vast graz-

ing grounds for millions of buffaloes and a fabulous fur-trading territory to a rapidly expanding industrial, agricultural, mineral, and a rich oil producing area. This change was accomplished initially by the enterprise and vision of the pioneers and later by the investment of outside capital in our natural resources. In the course of time, this development was supported by the influx of many thousand settlers of many nationalities converging at Winnipeg and then dispersing to the west, north and south in search of land, security, freedom, and fortune. This evening we are chiefly concerned with some of the divergent human forces that have been at work in the process of blending and welding together the pattern, the form and the structure of a new nation.

Early History

On May 2nd, 1670, King Charles II of England signed a Royal Charter granting to "the Company of Adventurers of England trading into the Hudson's Bay" exclusive rights to all the territories adjacent thereto. The King's cousin, Prince Rupert, was the Company's first Governor, and the land was called Rupert's Land.

The first white man to travel overland from the north into the area now known as Western Canada was Henry

* An Address delivered at the Icelandic Canadian Club Annual Concert, February 21, 1961.

Kelsey who, in 1690, was sent inland from York Factory by the Hudson's Bay Company to extend their fur trade with the Indians of this area. He travelled as far south as The Pas in Northern Manitoba.

La Verendrye, that intrepid explorer and fur-trader from the East, came with his party to the "Forks" of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in 1734. They built "Fort Rouge" and later in their westward travels may have sighted the Rocky Mountains.



Lord Selkirk

Approximately seventy-five years later, in 1811, Thomas Douglas (1771 to 1820), the fifth Earl of Selkirk, purchased a controlling interest in the Hudson's Bay Company. He at once set about to colonize the Red River Valley. The Company granted him 116,000 square miles of territory which included parts of present Manitoba, Minnesota and North Dakota. The

first Scottish settlers left Stornoway, Scotland, on July 11, 1811, and arrived at York Factory on the Hudson's Bay on September 24, too late to risk the southward overland journey of 700 miles through the wilderness. After wintering on a site on the Nelson River, the party set out for the Red River on July 6, 1812, reaching their destination 51 days later, on August 30. The site which they chose for their first buildings is now known as Point Douglas. This was the first of the three original "Selkirk" groups who made the hazardous journey across the north Atlantic into the Hudson's Bay and then overland to the Red River settlement.

Eventually the flag of the Hudson's Bay Company floated over one-fourth of the North American continent and, by virtue of its Royal Charter, the company enjoyed a complete monopoly of trade, property and Government.

In 1869 the Canadian Government purchased the territories granted to the Hudson's Bay Company for £300,000. On July 15, 1870 the Parliament of Canada formed a part of the territories, so granted, into a province, which became the fifth Province of Canada.

Addressing the Parliament of Canada in May 1870 on the Manitoba Act, the Honourable George Cartier, later Sir George Cartier, said: "The name of the new Province will be Manitoba, a very euphonious (Indian) word meaning 'the God that speaks'. Well, let Canada's latest addition always speak to the inhabitants of the North-West the language of reason, truth and justice."

The original Province was as shown in the sketch on page 18. The western boundary was Meridian 90° West (which runs approximately through Gladstone) and the north boundary was Latitude 50°, 30' (which runs ap-

proximately through Winnipeg Beach). In 1881 the boundary was extended west to the present boundary (between ranges 29 and 30, west 1st) and north to the north boundary of township 44 (which runs about 12 miles north of Mafeking). In 1912 the present Manitoba boundaries were formed.

The population of the Province of Manitoba in 1870 numbered in all 11,000 people including the Indians. Winnipeg was the capital and centre of trade and commerce with a population of 215.

There was no easy means of access to the outside world in this pioneering community. The Red and Assiniboine Rivers and Lake Winnipeg with its other tributaries constituted the main arteries of travel. Transportation was by canoe, York boats or small steamers. Steamers travelled on the Assiniboine River, at high water, as far west as Fort Ellice at the junction of the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle Rivers, now St. Lazare in western Manitoba. Otherwise the chief method of transportation across the plains and to the south was overland by horseback or by caravans of Red River carts drawn by oxen.



York Boats on the Red River

Arrival of the Icelandic Settlers

This was the situation in Manitoba when Lord Dufferin, Governor-General of Canada from 1872 to 1878, first urged the Canadian Government to send emissaries to Iceland to encourage some of its people to come to Canada. On earlier visits to Iceland he had made many friends and was familiar with the history of the country and its literature. He had published a book in 1857 entitled "Letters from High Latitudes" in which he dealt with his impressions and experiences on these voyages to the north.

During the previous forty years the people of Iceland, and especially those in the northern districts, had suffered great privations and hardships due to



The last ox-cart train through Portage la Prairie

a combination of factors. Polar pack-ice had remained in the fjords of the north for much of the summer months, preventing the fishermen from going out to sea. The weather was unusually cold. Grass and hay were scarce so that sheep died in great numbers and their wool was of poor quality. During this period there were repeated volcanic eruptions in the north which covered great areas with molten lava. The trade of the country was controlled by Danish monopolies which further served to restrict and depress the economy of the nation. For these reasons, the stories of free land and great opportunities in the New World fell on receptive ears. Many families decided to migrate.

0 25 50 75 100
MILES



Sketch map of Manitoba and Keewatin circa 1876 showing New Iceland and Gimli.

It was in 1874 that 365 Icelandic settlers came to Ontario. In 1875, 285 of this small group of hardy pioneers including some from Wisconsin, moved from Ontario to the west shore of Lake Winnipeg via Duluth and overland to Fisher Landing in Minnesota, then northward on the Red River to Winnipeg on the stern-wheeler "International". The last lap of their journey to Lake Winnipeg was by open York Boats. Gimli, just north of Boundary Creek, became the "capital" of New Iceland which included Riverton, Arbog and Hecla Island.

"New Iceland", situated north of the Province of Manitoba of that time, remained until 1881 "a self-governing republic under a constitution granted because of the almost complete absence of administration in the Territory of Keewatin."*

Lord Dufferin visited Gimli on September 11, 1877. In his address to the people of the settlement, he said:

"No race has a better right to come amongst us than yourselves, for it is probably to the hardihood of the Icelandic navigators that the world is entitled to the discovery of this continent. Had not Columbus visited your island (Iceland) and discovered in your records a practical and absolute confirmation of his own brilliant speculations in regard to the existence of a western land, it is possible he might never have had the enterprise to tempt the unknown Atlantic. . . and in coming amongst us, you will find yourselves associated with a race both kindly-hearted and cognate to your own; nor in becoming Englishmen and subjects of Queen Victoria need you forget your own time honoured customs or the picturesque annals of your fore-

* Bulletin, Department of External Affairs, October 1960.

fathers. On the contrary, I trust that you will continue to cherish for all time the heart-stirring literature of your nation, and that from generation to generation your little ones will continue to learn in your ancient Sagas that industry, energy, fortitude, perseverance, and stubborn endurance have ever been the characteristics of the noble Icelandic race."

Earlier in his address Lord Dufferin made this significant observation:

"I have not entered a single hut or cottage in the settlement which did not contain, no matter how bare its walls, or scanty its furniture, a library of twenty or thirty volumes; and I am informed that there is scarcely a child amongst you who cannot read or write."

New Frontiers

The extension northward of the Great Northern Railway from St. Paul to Winnipeg in 1878 and the beginning of traffic to the west on the Canadian Pacific Railway* in 1881 brought many changes to western Canada. The great influx of settlers from eastern Canada, the United States and Europe was about to begin.

The new settlements were largely composed of separate national groups. Their first objective was to survive. They also hoped to transplant a semblance of their former homelands to the new colonies, scattered and isolated upon these vast western plains.

As a result of this type of colonization of western Canada there soon developed settlements which were in effect new Scotlands, French speaking areas, new Englands, new Ontarios, Mennonite colonies, new Icelands, new

* The C.P.R. was completed as a transcontinental railway in 1885.



Lord Dufferin

Ukrainias, new Germanies, new Scandinavias, new Hollands, and many others. In the process of learning English, the second and third generations of the people from Europe often lost the ability to read or speak the language of their forefathers. Many of these young people seemed to think that a foreign language had no value or interest for them. The great Canadian experiment in the blending of many nationalities and diverse cultures was about to begin.

Many people from Iceland continued to migrate and settle in the Red River Valley and elsewhere in North America. Many settled in North Dakota, in and around Mountain. Others went to Lundar, Langruth, Baldur, Glenboro, Cypress River, Selkirk, and Winnipeg. From these areas, as well as di-

rect from Iceland, we trace subsequent migrations to Morden, Brandon and Piney in Manitoba; to Kandahar, Wynyard, Mozart, Elfros, Leslie, Foam Lake, Tantallon and Logberg-Thingvalla in Saskatchewan; to Markerville in Alberta; to Victoria and Vancouver in British Columbia; and south of the border along the Pacific Coast.

Isolation in separate communities, to a degree, was common to all the national groups of pioneers in the early days. Psychologically, however, the Icelandic people were never entirely isolated. Their story is one of reaching out and participating fully in the work of planning and building a larger community. After the Icelandic pioneers had built a shelter for their families, they began to think of building houses of worship and schools. Literary and debating societies were organized; Icelandic papers and periodicals were published. Assembly Halls were erected where Icelandic concerts and plays were presented. In course of time, Saturday morning classes in Icelandic language and grammar were held in many communities. Through-

out this entire period, a love of good literature in both the Icelandic and the English language was a characteristic feature of many of our people.

Since 1874 some 7,000 people have migrated to Canada from Iceland. There were only 80,000 people in Iceland at the time and many went to the United States. There are now about 26,000 Canadians of Icelandic ancestry, either in whole or in part, and approximately one-half live in the Province of Manitoba. In the intervening 87 years, there have been many changes in our business and professional relationships and associations. Each year more and more of the descendants of the original Icelandic pioneers are marrying individuals of other national groups. This natural and inevitable trend towards the blending of nationalities is bound to continue to the point when many Canadians of partial Icelandic origin will have names of one of any 15 or 20 other national groups. Most Canadians with Icelandic names will eventually be one-quarter, one-eighth, one sixteenth, or even less, Icelandic in their hereditary background.



Icelanders embarking at Port Edward on Lake Huron, Ont., in 1875, on their way to Lake Winnipeg

Educational and Cultural Developments

From the beginning of our Canadian story there were men and women seriously concerned about the establishment of a permanent school for the perpetuation of knowledge of Icelandic history, language and literature. The first significant step in this direction was the creation, in 1901, of a Department of Icelandic in Wesley College, now United College. The Jon Bjarnason Academy, which was founded in Winnipeg in 1914, continued to teach on the senior high school level until 1941.

In 1919, the Icelandic National League was organized. Its objectives were: to help develop the qualities of good citizenship among persons of Icelandic origin on this mainland; to preserve the cultural heritage of the Icelanders; and to maintain and strengthen ties with Iceland. With the assistance of its many chapters in North America, the League has carried out its worthy aims and objectives in a most efficient manner.

In June 1930, the Icelandic Nation celebrated the one thousandth anniversary of its "Althing" or Parliament. Over thirty thousand people including large numbers of visitors from Canada, the United States and many European countries gathered together at "Þingvellir" or the Plains of Parliament to commemorate this historic occasion. Lord Stanley spoke to the people of Iceland as the head of the delegation from Great Britain. In the course of the address he said "As a representative of the Mother of Parliaments I am pleased to be here to salute the Grand-Mother of Parliaments".

In the nineteen-thirties an Icelandic Canadian Society was established by some of the younger people of that

period and became an affiliate of the Icelandic National League. In the Fall of 1912 it adopted the name Icelandic Canadian Club and launched a quarterly called The Icelandic Canadian. That journal, published in English, has an enviable record. Together with the publications printed in Icelandic, it serves to keep us informed on events of common interest.

In the winter of 1875-76 a handwritten newspaper was distributed in the Gimli area. In 1877 it was followed by a printed paper called "Framfari" (Progress). The first Winnipeg paper was Leifur (Leif Erickson) which began publishing in 1883. It was succeeded by Heimskringla (The World), September 1886 and Logberg (The Law Rock), January 1888. After these weeklies had been published separately for over 70 years they merged in 1958 to become Logberg-Heimskringla, which has fully maintained the high standards set by its predecessors.

In 1951 the Chair of Icelandic Language and Literature in the University of Manitoba was established by the creation of a substantial Endowment Fund to which many Icelandic people of three nations contributed. This Department is a permanent memorial to the Icelandic pioneers and will be a perpetual source of information and a centre of research in Icelandic language and literature and in comparative philology.

Why should Icelandic be taught in our universities? The Icelandic language is the classical language of Northern Europe. For one thousand years this small island nation has preserved this "Old Norse" language which was spoken in 50% of the British Isles and over large areas of Northern Europe in the early centuries. Much of this "Old Norse" or Icelandic lang-



Lord Tweedsmuir

Governor General of Canada 1935 — 1940

uage has been carried forward into the modern languages of these countries. A great deal of the known history of the early era of exploration and discovery is recorded in the Icelandic Sagas. The language has a close kinship with Anglo-Saxon which forms the basis of the most forceful and effective speech in modern English. Icelandic is a required subject in advanced studies in the English language in the universities of Great Britain and in the older universities of America. Its study is being emphasized more today in centres of learning than ever before, and it is on the curriculum in seventy to eighty universities of the world today.

For many years the Icelandic Government has had a commission which is responsible for maintaining the purity of the language and devising and constructing new words to describe modern inventions and terms in industry and commerce, all based on original word roots. Unlike Latin and

Greek, Icelandic is still a living spoken language. In support of these statements we have the authoritative opinions of many great scholars including the late Lord Tweedsmuir, former Governor General of Canada, himself a keen and interested student of Icelandic language and literature. In his address to "The people of Gimli" in 1936, he said:*

"I wish I could address you in your own ancient language. Long ago when I was a very young man I fell in love with the Icelandic Sagas, and I learned enough Icelandic to read them with some difficulty in the original. Alas! since then I have forgotten what little of the language I knew. But I have always been deeply interested in your race. The Scandinavian peoples are the close kinsfolk of the British. In my own country of Scotland there is a great deal of Norse blood. The Buchan region of Aberdeenshire, from which I take my name, was settled by Norsemen, for there the Vikings used to land to salt down the wild cattle for victuals on their long voyages. My own family is Norse in origin. . . You have become in the fullest sense good Canadians, and have shared in all the enterprises and struggles of this new nation, and at the same time I rejoice to think that you have never forgotten the traditions of your homeland. That is the way in which a strong people is made - - by accepting willingly the duties and loyalties of your adopted country, but also by bringing your own native traditions as a contribution to the making of Canada.

"Sixty years ago Lord Dufferin remarked on the devotion which you

* Reprinted from Canadian Occasions by Lord Tweedsmuir, 1940, by permission of The Musson Book Company Limited, Toronto.

retained for your Icelandic culture. It is a very great culture, and it contains some of the noblest literature ever produced by mortal men. Far up in that lonely Iceland, girt by stormy seas, you developed a mode of life which, for simple hardihood and manly independence, has not often been paralleled in history. And you have produced great literature. For myself I put the Icelandic Sagas among the chief works of the human genius.

"There are two elements in your tradition, as reflected in the Sagas, on which I should like to say one word, for I hope that their spirit will never be forgotten. One is the belief in the reign of law. Everywhere in the Sagas you find that insisted upon. The old Icelanders were not only great warriors and adventurers, but they were acute lawyers and mighty jurists . . . The second element in the Saga tradition is still greater. As I see it, it is the belief that truth and righteousness must be followed for their own sake, quite independent of any material rewards. . . . It was the creed of your forefathers. It is the creed of Christianity. It is the only creed which can put salt and iron and vigour into human life. . . ."

Now, when it is almost too late, we in Canada and the United States are beginning to appreciate the value and necessity of learning or re-learning a second or third language. This rests not only upon the cultural value of a study of another language. The speed of travel and communication has forced us to realize that events in other lands may seriously affect our lives and the lives of our children. We speak of the current ideologies separating people but basically the separation is one of language and culture. Our educators now urge us to learn another language so that we can understand,

communicate and trade with our world neighbours. I am sure that our universities will some day realize that it is not so necessary for all engineers, lawyers or doctors to learn French or German so that one in a thousand might perchance read scientific articles in these languages, as it is important that the universities provide a wide selection of languages based on a student's free choice. We speak of the United Nations and of World Citizenship and exchange of foreign students and teachers. Our graduates of the Arts and Sciences go to many less fortunate countries to take part in the great work of developing untapped human and material resources yet we place restrictions, amounting in some cases to virtual prohibition, upon the student in his selection of foreign languages.

Canada-Iceland Foundation

The most recent ambitious venture into the field of cultural interests has been the formation of the Canada-Iceland Foundation. This organization has had a modest but significant beginning. Eventually it could become a great rallying point for all those organizations and individuals who aim to foster an interest in the great cultural heritage which belongs to the people of Iceland and which will, for an unpredictable period, continue to make its contribution to Canadian life.

His Excellency, The Right Honourable Vincent Massey C.H., the first Canadian to represent the Queen of Canada as Governor General, and His Excellency, Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, President of Iceland, were the first Grand Patrons of the Canada-Iceland Foundation. In an address delivered at Gimli on May 21, 1955, Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey encouraged and stressed many

of the ideals of the Charter of the Iceland Foundation, He in part said:

"Somehow, Gimli and this region catches my imagination. Here, some eighty years ago a small band of settlers arrived from Iceland. The story of their journey here and their early privations which included an epidemic of smallpox that killed over a third of the group, has all the drama and tragedy of those magnificent Icelandic Sagas of a thousand years ago. The ingenuity and resourcefulness of the first settlers in establishing themselves, starting farms, organizing the fishing



His Excellency Asgeir Asgeirsson
President of Iceland 1952 -

industry on Lake Winnipeg shows the type of men and women they were.

"I was most impressed to learn of some of the things which were given priority in this new community. As this area was then in unorganized territory, a constitution to fill local needs was

adopted which provided for the election by almost universal suffrage of those over 18 years of age, of a reeve and councillors; for relief for the needy; arbitration of disputes with the right of appeal and the levying of taxes



Right Honourable Vincent Massey C.H.
Governor General of Canada 1952 - 1959

for local purposes. Schools were established and I understand that during the first winter three issues of a handwritten newspaper were circulated and shortly afterwards the first newspaper started.

"I am sure these are all things which you know but I refer to them because they show that the founders of this community had a love of law and order, a profound respect for democratic institutions and a realization of the importance of education.

"Since those early days, the number of Icelanders in Canada has greatly increased and you have won a reputation for industry and enterprise of which your forebears could be justly proud. I am sure they would also be

proud to know that you have not forgotten the Icelandic National Anthem, which was sung so beautifully a few minutes ago.

"Since the turn of the century, groups from other lands have moved into this region and they too have made their contribution to the pattern of life in the area. I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed watching the Ukrainian Folk Dancing, performed with such skill and grace.

"Those of you, whatever your racial origin, who have become Canadian citizens, must surely have been moved by the thought of assuming the privileges and responsibilities of being Canadians. On the other hand, I am sure that all thinking Canadians realize Canada's good fortune in having such people here to share in the bright future of this country. Canada owes a great debt to those early settlers who came to Canada. Their hard work, courage, ingenuity, combined with the faith, traditions and customs that they brought with them, have contributed tremendously to the development of the country and we continue to reap the benefit through their children who are filling posts of importance and exerting their influence, not only here but across Canada. Each newcomer brings new ideas, new skills and traditions which cannot help but enrich the lives of all of us.

"You in this region have become good Canadians in the fullest sense of the word. You have sent your sons to fight for Canada; you have entered into the enterprises and activities of this country. I sincerely hope that, although you have Canadian loyalties, you won't forget your origins and discard the traditions and culture of your ancestors. May the richness of your heritage continue to be a part of your

lives and an inspiration to us all."

The main objects of the Canada-Iceland Foundation as laid down in the Charter Agreement are:

1. To foster and strengthen the cultural bonds and mutual understanding between Canada and Iceland.
2. To promote an understanding and appreciation of the related Icelandic and Canadian heritage in the fields of representative government and the rule of law.
3. To encourage and give assistance to the establishment and maintenance of Icelandic as one of the subjects in post-graduate and honour courses in English.
4. To assist or give scholarships to students studying Icelandic at Canadian Universities.
5. To assist Canadians of Icelandic descent in the study and enjoyment of, and the production of, works in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.
6. To award scholarships to and otherwise assist students from Iceland to attend Canadian Universities, and students from Canada to attend the University of Iceland.
7. To encourage and give assistance to the translation of Icelandic literature into English and Canadian literature into Icelandic.
8. To encourage and give assistance to visits and performances and exhibitions and publications of Icelandic artists in Canada and Canadian artists in Iceland.
9. To assist in the collection and preservation of works of art, handicrafts, books, periodicals, manuscripts, and documents by or relat-

ing to the people of Iceland or people of Icelandic descent.

The Charter Agreement provides that the Foundation may assist associations, publishers, and other organizations whose aims and objects are similar to the objects of the Foundation.

An objective of the Canada-Iceland Foundation is to reach and help young people of Icelandic descent as well as others who may be interested in Icelandic history, language and literature, increase their knowledge and develop their capabilities so that they will be better equipped to make their particular contribution to the development of Canada.

The Canada-Iceland Foundation with its advisory committee of prominent men in Iceland—the Island-Kanada Rad—is the most recent and, in my opinion, the most logical and effective instrument or organization for perpetuating and supporting in either or both languages our interest in the past, and for creating a continuous and effective bond with the old land.

In the years ahead, the Canada-Iceland Foundation should develop into a well-endowed organization able and ready for effective and constructive action. To date, only the idea and the form of the Canada-Iceland Foundation have been successfully launched. Only a few planks in the hull of this good, new "Viking Ship" have been assembled. Even so, the ship's compass has already been set. The flag has an old familiar design. A great deal of hard but pleasant work has yet to be done before our ship is made seaworthy. She must be capable of weathering the storms of protest and opposition, and the even more deadly calm of apathy and indifference. We must enlist many more sailors with spirit and vision to man her decks be-

fore we can hoist the sails. Gold and silver must be placed in her treasure chest to help defray the cost of travel and study for many young, promising students who will apply for passage. If everything goes well, she will be plying the inland waterways of this great continent and her young passengers will stop at many centres of learning. We will also expect the members of her crew (the sponsors) and her young student passengers to make an occasional voyage of re-discovery across the North Atlantic to Iceland. Herein lies the challenge. The success of our new venture depends on the initiative, enterprise, sacrifice, and response of many individual citizens acting in unison and with a purpose. This important project, the building of our "Viking Ship of the Future"—"The Canada-Iceland Foundation"—depends on our ability, as a group, to grasp the opportunities that are now within our reach.

During the period that lies ahead, as in the past, it will be the desire of the people of Icelandic ancestry to make a creditable contribution to the cultural, scientific and material progress of Canada.

This, then, is but a small chapter of the interesting historical background of our present environment.

New Horizons

Now, ninety years after joining Confederation, Manitoba has been enlarged and transformed from a predominantly Scottish, French and Metis settlement of farmers and fur-traders to its present size and development. Winnipeg is now a most cosmopolitan city. Every European nationality and others are represented among its citizens. One has only to be present at the Musical Festival, held in Winnipeg

every year, or to attend performances of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra or the Royal Winnipeg Ballet or the Manitoba Theatre Centre to realize that, both on the stage and in the audience, the cultural life of Winnipeg and of Manitoba is being developed and supported by individuals of many nationalities. The University of Manitoba represents on its staff and student body a veritable League of Nations.

This great diversity of national origins and cultural backgrounds will, in the long run, result in something new and distinctive. During the long process of development and integration difficulties and conflicting viewpoints may arise which call for tolerance, good-will and understanding based on a clearer knowledge of the background and aspirations of many different peoples.

No longer is this area isolated and inaccessible. Winnipeg is now within two hours distance, by jet propelled planes, from the city of Toronto and seven to nine hours from London, England. We can travel north by air or by rail* to Churchill on the Hudson's Bay. By automobile, we can travel on broad paved highways to any destination on the Atlantic or the Pacific coast. Radio and television have brought the news and the events behind the news into our living-rooms. The Queen of Canada and of the Commonwealth speaks to us from her fire-side in Buckingham Palace in London and in that very same instant we hear her voice in our homes.

* The C.N.R. completed its route to Churchill on the Hudson's Bay in 1929.

Even though our constitutions of government and our courts of justice are traditionally British and our official languages are English and French, it is now obvious that the Canadian citizen of the future will reflect the cultural influences of many other lands.

From the isolated settlements of the pioneer days there has been a steady expansion and coalescence of these areas and a gradual integration of people of many origins, resulting in the emergence of a distinctive Canadian consciousness.

Canada ultimately, therefore, can be compared to a mighty river which has drawn its strength, its size and its importance from the confluence of many converging streams. The course that these separate national tributaries follow determines their influence and impact on the main stream of Canadian life. In the process of merging and gaining strength from many national sources, there is bound to be a change and a gradual but perceptible loss of original identity.

In the fullness of time there will evolve an indigenous culture based on the experiences, traditions, ideals, sacrifices and struggles of the Canadian people. This distinctive Canadian culture will continue to be enriched in having its roots deep in our collective and diverse heritage.

The author wishes to express his appreciation to Mr. Hartwell Bowsfield, Provincial Archivist, for the pictures which illustrate the text and to Dr. Ross Mitchell for the sketch map showing New Iceland and Gimli.

Two Leading Citizens of Yorkton Pass Away

"Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Thus wrote John Donne over three centuries ago, and he added,

"And when these Bells tell me that now one, now another is buried, must not I acknowledge that they - - - have paid the debt I owe."

All are involved in the debt that mankind owes in fulfilling its destiny on Earth. What the one performs in the satisfying of that debt during his years is but a fragment; when it ceases the loss is that of mankind, of which each is a part which cannot be severed.

But to those who happen to be there during the years of service the fragment appears in the fullness of a life's work. And the years are not counted be they many or few. To them it is beautiful and well may we pause and view it in appreciation, even reverence.

★

Solveig Matheson, wife of D. W. Matheson of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, passed to the beyond at her home on August 21, 1960. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gudjon Thomas of Winnipeg. There she attended public and high school and graduated in Arts from the University of Manitoba. In her final year she was Lady Senior Stick, the most important post in the gift of the ladies of a graduating class.



Mrs. Solveig Matheson

Solveig went to Saskatchewan where she taught school for several years. She was teaching in the Wynyard High School when, in 1921, she married Donald W. Matheson Q. C. now a leading barrister in Eastern Saskatchewan.

Mrs. Matheson's life was truly one of service. That service did not cease during the last years when, owing to a heart ailment, she had to retire from community work. During those years her ever radiant smile, in hospital as well as when convalescing at home, was an inspiration to all privileged to visit her. They were her finest hour. The Yorkton Enterprise very truly said:

"Though compelled to lead the life of a semi-invalid for the past several years, her interest in world and community affairs never lessened. She enjoyed nothing better than a good discussion when friends called on her".

Solveig possessed in rich measure the faculty of combining public duties

with loyalty and devotion to family and home.

Her outside interests were many and varied. She devoted much time to the I.O.D.E., and in 1946 was honored by the Major Livingstone Chapter with a life membership. She was on the provincial executive and served as immigrant convener. Mrs. Matheson was interested in public affairs, national and international, and was a Liberal in politics. A member of St. Andrews United Church, she taught Sunday School and worked in the women's groups. She was a member of the University Women's Club of Yorkton, and both inside and outside the club stressed the importance of every child continuing its schooling to the full extent of its mental capacities.

Mr. and Mrs. Matheson had four children. A daughter died in infancy.

Three sons, Kent, Donald and Ian are already making their mark. Kent and Don are contractors and lumber merchants in Yorkton on a large scale and Dr. Ian Matheson, who has been practising in Saltcoats, Sask., left for Europe last fall to continue postgraduate studies.

Rev. J. E. Jones, who officiated at the funeral, related that Solveig Matheson had kept a notebook. "Characteristic of her" he said, "is this quotation, possibly the last she entered in her small notebook."

Life owes me nothing; one clear morn
Is boon enough for being born;
And be it ninety years or ten
No need for me to question when.
While life is mine I'll find it good
And greet each hour with gratitude.

Johann Otto Thorleifson was born in Saltcoats, Sask., on December 6, 1906. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Thorleifson who came to Yorkton in 1909. It is interesting to note that Gudjon Thomas, Solveig Matheson's father, who had a jewelry store in Winnipeg for many years, opened a branch store in Saltcoats and employed J. B. Thorleifson manager. In 1909 the store was moved to Yorkton where the business has been carried on ever since under the name of Thomas Jewelry Co.

Otto received his public and high school education in Yorkton and took three years in the Department of Arts and Science in the University of Manitoba. He then went into business with his father in Yorkton and in 1931 took over the management.

Mr. Thorleifson was not content with merely selling jewelry and china-ware. He studied the history of these industries and became an authority on



Johann Otto Thorleifson

fine gems. This knowledge made him a valuable member of the Canadian Jewellers Association.

On April 25, 1942, Otto married Ellen Moritz, who, and a brother, Dr. Wilfred Thorleifson of Vancouver, survive him.

Otto Thorleifson was essentially a part of the community in which he was raised and later carried on business. He was the founder and the first president of the Yorkton Film Council and always active in mapping out its programs. He was a director of the Yorkton and District Board of Trade, the first president of the Yorkton Male Voice Choir, a director of the Rotary Club and a past president of the York Lake Golf Club. The Yorkton Enterprise sums up Otto's activities:

"Otto Thorleifson had been many things in Yorkton—business man, civic leader, music lover, drama leader and a man ready to lend his talents where they might be needed."

Otto enjoyed life and gave of himself unsparingly. He would have subscribed to what Hemingway has Robert Jordan say in *For Whom the Bells Toll*: "The world is a fine place and worth fighting for". The bells rang for him on September 6, 1960 when he was only 53 years old, but in that tolling others were reminded of their debt.

★

Otto and Solveig have put to sea. Now that the numbing pain to loved ones is abating, and the sense of loss to the community is gone, there is no moaning at the bar, but a thankfulness and a deepened resolve. —W. J. Lindal

Obtains Master of Education Degree

His thesis, *A History of Education of the Icelanders in Manitoba*, won for Roy H. Ruth of Winnipeg a Master of Education degree at the University of Manitoba in October. It was a fourth degree he had attained. He won his Bachelor of Arts degree at Manitoba University in 1934, Master of Arts in 1953, and Bachelor of Education in 1955. Mr. Ruth is the son of Gudjon and Gudrun Ruth (Hrutljord) who farmed at Cypress River, Man. where Mr. Ruth was raised and received his public school education. He subsequently attended Jon Bjarnason Academy in Winnipeg before entering university. Mr. Ruth is already studying for his Doctor of Philosophy degree.



Roy H. Ruth

The Wreck of the Trawler Dhoon

by MRS. RAGNHILDUR GUTTORMSSON, Gimli, Manitoba

"And I have seen the ambitious ocean swell, and rage, and foam, To be exalted with the threatening clouds."

Thus sang Shakespeare, and we are awed by the mental picture. On December 12th, 1947, the crew of the trawler Dhoon from Fleetwood in England found themselves the centre of just such a picture. During the night their ship was driven on the rocks below Latrabjarg (Litterberg), on the north-western coast of Iceland, by a berserk, rain-whipped gale. Fortunately, the ship became wedged between huge rocks on an even keel, with the stem pointed towards land, so the waves broke upon the stern of the ship, instead of hitting it broadside, which would have ground it into matchwood in a very short time. As it was, the stern was partly submerged while the sailors found shelter under the "whale-back" of the vessel.

The whole of the long near-arctic night, the sailors huddled together on the deck of the creaking vessel, and felt the day broke at last, reluctantly, in the rain-dimmed gloom, it did not bring much hope to the shipwrecked

height, against which the huge breakers dashed themselves into foam.

The day before, while drifting listlessly towards the rocks, the Dhoon had sent out an appeal for help, which

was picked up by the Association for Prevention of Accidents in Reykjavik. They immediately sent out the coast guard vessel Finnbjorn to aid the crippled ship. Two English trawlers also picked up the message, and all three ships steamed towards the Dhoon. But the high seas, and maybe the presence of a powerful sea current at that point, made any attempt at rescue by sea impossible. Hence the Finnbjorn sent the following message by means of light signals, to the Dhoon; "Land if possible. Rescue impossible by sea." These signals were dimly visible from the heaving deck of the Dhoon, through the driving rain and the reeking seas.

Therefore, when the morning of the thirteenth of December dawned, the captain of the Dhoon, knowing that the only hope for survival lay on shore, and that there was no telling how long the crippled ship could withstand the ceaseless, pounding of the waves, decided to attempt landing in the life boat. With stiff, benumbed fingers the crew lowered the boat, manned by the

tempt. At the end of it floated a small piece of timber; all that was left of the heroic attempt.

To the crew the position appeared hopeless. In front the unfriendly cliffs seemed to reach up to the very heavens, sealing off any possible succour from land, while behind mocked the sea, the hungry roar of the waves drowning out hope itself. But the boatswain, who was now in command, was a man stout courage. He talked heart the sailors. "It seems only a can save us, we'll stay here and Miracles can happen."

Not so many years ago this story would have ended here, and none would have been the wiser. In the spring the people of the district when coming down to the rocks to hunt the sea-birds, would have seen the wreck on the rocks, and said a silent prayer in their hearts for the sailors who must have perished there. But this was 1947, and the men of Iceland were beginning to challenge the power of the sea, who through the ages had dealt them many a cruel blow. And so our story continues.

Finnbjorn, the coast guard vessel, broadcast a message to Reykjavik telling of its inability to aid the *Dhoo*, also the possible location where it might be driven ashore. At once an appeal was broadcast to the people of the district to locate the wreck, and aid the ship-wrecked sailors.

The appeal was not in vain. Every man dropped what he was doing, and turned all his energies to the rescue. Volunteer scouting parties were sent out to locate the ship, which was no easy task, through the driving, sleet rain. The shore-line at that point is uninhabited, wild rocky lava terrain. There are no roads, and the going was heavy owing to ice and wet snow. Therefore it was Friday evening before the ship was finally sighted on the rocks below Latrabjarg.

Latrabjarg forms a part of a high, rocky shore-line extending for about two miles along the coast. The cliffs, which in places rise fourteen hundred feet above sea level, are formed from alternate horizontal layers of hard bluish volcanic rock, and a softer reddish rock or tuff, formed from volcanic ashes. The softer rock has been eaten away by erosion leaving long ledges of the harder rock. On these shelves are hundreds of sea birds nest in the summer, murre, guillemots, razor-billed auks and others. The young men of the district descend into the cliffs at the end of strong ropes to snare the birds for food, an occupation which calls for great physical strength, courage and steady nerves.

Long before daylight on Saturday, a group of fifteen men from the three farms closest to Latrabjarg trudged through the slushy snow, and stumbled over the ice-coated lava terrain towards a cleft in Latrabjarg, the only possible route down to the sea. They had with them life-saving equipment, rocket, shot-line, hawser and life-car. Some of this was loaded on a horse and some they carried. A fourteen year old boy went along to take the horse home.

The route down to the sea was far from easy. The cleft in the rock was a grass-grown slope with steep rocky precipices at intervals, and now all covered with wet snow and ice. The only way to descend the 450-foot drop was by sliding down a strong rope made fast to an iron post at the top of the ravine, and bracing one's feet against the side of the hill, wherever it was possible to get foothold. Two men were left at the post to guard the cable, while twelve made their way in this manner down to a grassy promontory at the bottom of the cleft. This spur is about 130 feet long, and is called Flaugarnef, which means literally

Flutternose, a name which explains itself. From there was a sheer drop of three hundred feet, on all three sides of the spur, down to the seaboard; and could be made only when the tide was out.

In the grey gloom of the early day, four hardy men were lowered down to the seaboard, and the immense cauldron of foaming waves at the bottom of the cliff. They found foothold on the narrow seaboard, and after the life-saving equipment had also been lowered, they set off along the cliffs towards the wreck, which was located almost a mile down the beach. It was still raining, and they were drenched with spray; the going was difficult over slithery rocks, but the greatest danger came from the cliffs overhead. The shelves on which the sea-birds laid their eggs in the summer were now festooned with giant icicles; loosened by the rain, they were an ever-present hazard. One man had his head cut by a falling icicle, while another was knocked down by a flying stone which landed on top of the box of equipment he was carrying. Such incidents repeated themselves all through the rescue operations, and had to be guarded against.

When the four had ascertained that there were survivors on the wreck, they lost no time in setting up the life-saving apparatus. The first attempt at firing the rocket failed, but the second time the sailors caught the shot-line and made it fast to the wreck. Then the hawser was hauled to the ship and made fast, the rescuers drawing it taut on shore. The life-car was sent out on the hawser and by means of that, the seamen were evacuated from the wrecked ship. In less than an hour the survivors were on dry land. They were faint from hunger and exposure, but

luckily their rescuers had brought food and hot coffee.

However, this was only the first and easiest part of the rescue. How to get the men to the top of the cliffs, in their weakened condition, posed a serious problem.

Making their way as quickly as possible over the slippery rocks they finally reached Flaugarnef, where the life-saving cable was waiting for them. Every minute was precious, as darkness set in by four o'clock. By that time also the tide would be in, which made further work impossible because at high tide there was no beach at the bottom of Flaugarnef.

Thordur, the leader of the rescue party, was pulled up first, and then he directed the life-saving operations from Flaugarnef. The three other men carried on below, fastening the rope securely around each sailor in turn, in the fashion used in cliff-scaling operations. Then the seamen were carefully hauled up the three-hundred-foot distance to the top of Flaugarnef, those in the most weakened physical condition being sent up first.

Only seven of the ship-wrecked sailors had been pulled up when the tide came in and operations had to be suspended. The men on the beach below had to seek higher levels to protect themselves from the sea. For seventeen hours they huddled together under shelves of rock for protection from falling ice and stones, but still exposed to the wind; the rain abated during the night, but the gale continued. The men on Flaugarnef were not much better off. They tried to cover themselves with the dry, withered grass but found it only a flimsy protection against the biting wind. One or two, whose condition was at the lowest ebb, claimed they owed their life to Thordur, who exchanged gar-

The Midwinter Convention of the Icelandic National League

The three-day annual convention of The Icelandic National League, held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 20-22, followed the traditional pattern. It is really a "Miðs-vevtrarmót Vestur-Íslendinga", a mid-winter gathering, which has its roots deep in Icelandic history. In Iceland, centuries ago, and in the earlier days of Icelandic settlement in North America it was called "þorrablót".

The convention was opened on the Monday morning with Dr. Richard Beck, the President of The Icelandic National League, in the chair. In his address he referred to the activities of the League and gave a resume of leading events during the year such as the visit of Karlakór Reykjavíkur and the visit of Dr. Thorkell Jóhannesson, then Rector of the University of Iceland, and Birgir Thorlacius, a secretary of the Cabinet.

The concert, Monday night, was under the auspices of the Chapter Frón, with its newly elected President, Prof. Haraldur Bessason, in the Chair. The speaker was Mag. Art. Sveinn Skorri Höskuldsson, of Iceland, in Canada on a Fellowship from the Canada Council and registered in Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba. The following sentence struck a common chord in many listeners:

"Orðið Vestur-Íslendingur—þessi ó-lógiski samsetningur—þessi mótsögn í sjálfu sér—er einn hljóðlátasti og innilegasti vottur um ræktarsemi við íslenzkan uppruna og íslenzka tilveru, sem tunga okkar geymir."
"The word Vestur-Íslendingur*—this illogical compound, in essence a contra-

diction—is a most modest yet sincere illustration of affection for Icelandic origin and existence to be found in our language."

An excellent musical program was provided. Miss Heather Sigurdson, already a well known singer, sang solos, accompanied by Miss Winnifred Sim; the Misses Lynne and Diane Thorleifson, newcomers to Icelandic programs, played violin duets with Miss Sigrid Bardal at the piano; Miss Elin Josephson, a university student hailing from Glenboro, played piano selections.

An Icelandic concert without an original poem would be an exception. On this occasion the poem was supplied by Páll Guðmundsson who read it with appropriate introductory remarks.

The Icelandic Canadian Club sponsored the concert on Tuesday night with its President, Gunnar Eggertson, in the Chair. The speaker was Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, whose address is the feature article of this number of the magazine.

Another excellent musical program was provided. Mrs. Sylvia Sigurdson, another newcomer, born and raised in Winnipegosis, sang in both English and Icelandic. She was accompanied by Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson. The Kelvin High School Choir, conducted by Mrs. Gladys Brown, gave selections from Yeomen of the Guard. In a piano selection and an encore Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson again showed her art and skill on the piano. Gustaf Kristjanson, in charge of drama, C.B.C., Winnipeg, sang solos in both Icelandic and Eng-

* The literal translation is Western-Icelandic but the connotation is much wider.

lish; one of the selections was an Icelandic translation of O Danny Boy. Mrs. Jona Kristjanson accompanied on the piano.

The gathering Wednesday night was in three parts. The Icelandic National League disposed of unfinished business and then proceedings were handed over to Rev. Philip M. Petursson, the Vice-President of the League who chaired the program. Mrs. Evelyn Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Thorvaldson, sang Icelandic songs, accompanied by Gunnar Erlendson. There was community singing led by Thor Fjeldsted with Gunnar Erlendson at the piano. Consul Grettir Jóhannsson showed a colored film entitled

"This is Iceland" as well as some colored slides of scenes in Iceland. After the program The League re-convened and Dr. Richard Beck presented Mrs. Kristín Thorsteinsson of Gimli with an Honorary Life Membership in The Icelandic National League.

After each evening's performance refreshments of coffee and Icelandic dishes were served and a pleasant half hour of visiting spent.

There was one vacancy on the executive of the League and it was filled by J. F. Kristjansson, formerly Regional Employment Officer in Winnipeg of the National Employment Service. All the other officers were re-elected.

—W. J. L.

President of the Leif Ericson Society, Southern California



Johannes Newton

Johannes Newton this winter was elected for a second time president of the Leif Ericson Society of Southern

California. He was president ten years ago when the society was in its formative years. Mr. Newton was born at Silfrastodum in Skagarfjörður in Iceland in 1920. His mother, Guðrun Jóhannsdóttir, a native of Skagarfjörður, was a professional teacher and in that capacity was employed for 16 years in Denmark and France. His father Gordon Newton, was of Belgian, English and Scottish origin. Johannes Newton graduated from the University of Iceland in Reykjavík in 1941 and with the aid of scholarships continued his studies at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. where he graduated as a mechanical engineer in 1943. He went into the aviation field and served with the United States army for two years, from 1944 to 1946. His name is recorded in American Men Of Science and in World Who Is Who In Business and Industry. He is married and has a daughter and son.

GUDMUNDUR FJELSTED

At the sittings of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba on February 17, tributes were paid to the late Gudmundur Fjeldsted of Gimli, who died on January 20, last. The following are excerpts from two of them.

Hon. Duff Roblin, Premier of Manitoba:

The Province of Manitoba lost one of its pioneers; this House lost a former member in the death in January of this year of Gudmundur Fjeldsted at the very advanced age of 89 years. Mr. Fjeldsted was an immigrant to Canada. Born in Iceland, he came here in 1885 when he was 13 years of age, and about the turn of the century moved to the Gimli district where he lived the rest of his life as a farmer, fisherman and as a good citizen. He won for himself an excellent reputation as a farmer in that district, being particularly interested in the breeding of cattle and he was, for many years, the president of the Manitoba Co-operative Creameries Association. In 1920 Mr. Fjeldsted was elected to this House as a member of the Farmers' Party and sat here for three years until 1922. Though he did not return here, nor did he continue to be active in provincial politics, he continued to serve the municipality of Gimli for many, many years as a councillor; and

Prof. Haraldur Bessason, professor of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba, was elected president at the annual meeting January 30 of the Icelandic Chapter from in Winnipeg. Jakob Kristjanson was named vice-president, former president Heimir

was a gentleman who was well and very favourably known indeed among all his friends and neighbors, one of whom is the present member of Gimli, the Honourable Minister of Health and Welfare.

Hon. George Johnson, Minister of Health and Public Welfare:

Mr. Fjeldsted was one of that hearty stock who came to Manitoba during the '80's and lived in Winnipeg for a few years before settling in what is known as the Minerva District, just on the outskirts of Gimli, where he purchased a farm which had been a homestead of a former original settler. I came to know Mr. Fjeldsted very well, both as a friend and as a patient of mine during my years in practice in that area. Mr. Fjeldsted was a big man in everything he did. . . . Throughout his time I think that Mr. Fjeldsted can best be described as a very kindly and warm and friendly person who was very scholarly. For many years he ran, I think single-handedly, the purchasing and dispersal of books from a small library which has existed in Gimli for many years, to which he would often take his friends to show them what he had read. I don't think there was a saga of the early days that he had not perused and he was a most interesting person.

Thorgrimsson secretary and Benedikt Olafson assistant secretary. Jochum Asgeirsson was named treasurer and Gudbjorg Sigurdson assistant treasurer. Gunnar Baldwinson was chosen financial secretary and Gudmann Levy assistant.

Golden Weddings



Mr. and Mrs. Snabjorn Halldorson of Lundar, Man., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, Sunday, April 24th, 1960, when relatives and friends filled the Lundar Community Hall in their honor. Both have served on the board of Morning Star school district. They have seven children, Leo and Jonas, both of Lundar; Mrs. James (Rikka) Cox, of Kenora, Ontario; Mrs. Fjola Fjeldsted, of Chatfield; Mrs. Ed (Lilja) Ford, of Winnipeg; Mrs. Doug (Rose) Ellam, of Toronto; and Mrs. Leo (Johanna) Alfred, of Edmonton. The entire family attended the reception.

Toasts were proposed by Mrs. Rannveig Gudmundson, and Oli Paulson. Kris Fjeldsted, the eldest grandchild, presented a gift on behalf of the family. Mrs. Gordon Thorsteinson was soloist. Speakers were Elman Guttormson, M.L.A. for St. George, Kris Snidal of Steep Rock, and Vigfus J. Guttormson, who had been master of ceremonies at the couple's wedding

reception. Walter F. Breckman led community singing and Leifur Palsson was toastmaster. Included in the messages of congratulations were greetings from Prime Minister Diefenbaker, Premier Roblin, Douglas Campbell, former premier of Manitoba, and Lester B. Pearson.



Mr. and Mrs. August Eyolfson, of Lundar, Man., celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Saturday, Nov. 5th, 1961.

They were born in Iceland and have lived all their married lives in Manitoba. They farmed near Westbourne and Langruth for twenty years before moving to a farm east of Lundar, which they operated until 1946 when they moved into Lundar. Eight children were born to them, three of whom died in infancy. They have three mar-

ried sons, Gudmundur Agust Samuel, B.A., and B.E.C., school principal in Richmond, B.C.; Emil, postmaster at Hazeldell, Sask., who received the Distinguished Flying Cross in the

Second World War; and Gunnar Grimur, of Winnipeg. They have two married daughters, Laufey, of Clarkleigh, Man., and Verma, of St. Martin, Man. There are fifteen grand-children.



★

Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Freeman of Winnipeg observed the 50th anniversary of their wedding quietly on Wednesday, March 1st. They have lived all their married lives in Winnipeg. Mr. Freeman was born in Iceland, and his wife, of Irish descent, was born in Minnesota. They have three children and six grandchildren. The children are Mrs. Leonard Houser of Vancouver, Elmer and Harold of Winnipeg.

Obtains Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering



Richard Beck Jr.

Richard Beck Jr. of Grand Forks, North Dakota, in February won his master's degree in mechanical engineering with honors at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A. Mr. Beck, who received his bachelor's degree at the University of North Dakota in 1955, is the son of Dr. Richard Beck, professor of Scandinavian languages at the University of North Dakota, and the late Bertha Beck. He has accepted a position as senior design engineer with the McCulloch Corporation at Los Angeles, California. Mr. Beck was born at Grand Forks in 1933. He married Virginia Carrie Grunze of Lewisburg, Ohio, in 1959. They have one son, Richard Allan.

BOOK REVIEWS

When, in 1906, Vilhjalmur Stefansson abandoned a teaching fellowship at Harvard (anthropology) to join the Anglo-American polar expedition as field anthropologist he probably unwittingly entered upon a career that was to have far-reaching consequences on general thought about the polar regions. A young man and not too encumbered by prior "knowledge" about the Arctic (in fact, it was an accident that steered him to the Arctic instead of to Africa as he had planned), he felt free to form his own conclusions about northern stone age peoples, Eskimos and Indians. He was to live with them, and as one of them, for ten winters and thirteen summers, dressing and eating like them and taking his part in their activities while learning the language and absorbing their culture. His conclusions about them were, to say the least, somewhat startling—among others, that the Eskimos were probably the world's happiest and least inhibited people. This was of the order of heresy, and by no means squaring with the general idea that people living in snow houses and without the benefits of Christianity could be anything but miserable.

Stefansson was to startle the world with many other pronouncements about the North, one of which was that the earth is round—a sphere. Think of that! This made the Mercator Projection "haywire." The major landmass was north of the equator, so the shortest route between two points on opposite sides must be over the North Pole. Again, think of that! Foreseeing the air age of aviation, Stefansson suggested routing airlines over Arctic regions—from Vancouver, B.C., to Mos-

cow or even Amsterdam, precisely where they go today.

He also suggested that the comparatively thin layer of ice on the Arctic ocean and Beaufort Sea would prove no barrier to undersea craft. Sir Hubert Wilkins, Stefansson's former lieutenant in Arctic exploration, was to attempt this unsuccessfully; but of late several U.S. subs have negotiated this passage, proving its feasibility. But in Stefansson's day in the Arctic this was a bold prediction.

Stefansson made many other statements about the north which were questioned, even derided, but which have proved right. Who could conceive that the Arctic was "friendly"? Fantastic! There were lifted eyebrows in Havre, Montana, when he told an audience there that he had never in his thirteen years north of the Circle experienced the -60° that was then being registered outside; and that the nearest he had come to losing his life in a blizzard was in central North Dakota.

But Stefansson was primarily a scientist, and as such he was out to prove and disprove. There were things to "unlearn" and yet more to learn. Not a medical doctor, yet observant, he asked himself why these stone-age people were free of some of the scourges of civilization—colds, tooth-decay, scurvy, cancer. Was this because of the food they ate and the way they cooked it? Living with them, dressing as they did, eating frozen fish for breakfast and blood-soup at night, without salt, sugar, bread, condiments, or other civilized accessories, he enjoyed perfect health, nor did he crave or miss any of these things. Returning to civiliz-

ation he promptly came down with pneumonia. Many years later he underwent an experiment, under strict supervision, subsisting, with another volunteer, for twelve months on nothing but fat and lean meat products, and water, both emerging in the best of health with enhanced vigor.

Result—Stefansson's latest book, **CANCER: DISEASE OF CIVILIZA-**

TION (Hill and Wang, New York, Oct., 1960), with foreword and endorsements by the most eminent doctors and institutes—Rockefeller and Pasteur.

Readers of the Icelandic Canadian are urged to procure and read this book, the latest by Iceland's most renowned scholar and scientist, Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

—Bogi Bjarnason

—:—

NORTHERN LIGHTS—Review by **Joseph J. Harrison** of Northern Lights by Jacobina Johnson, in The Christian Science Monitor, January 27, 1961.

Icelandic: Firm hold on a heritage

There are few more remarkable cultures in the world today than that to be found in the fire and ice island of Iceland. For in few other spots has a group of people more deliberately and tenaciously held onto its cultural heritage. As a result Iceland today has a cultural pattern which not only descends in a firm unbroken line from its Viking originators of a thousand years ago but is a part of the average individual's life to a degree unmatched almost anywhere else.

It is for this reason, as well as for the intrinsic value which these poems contain, that Jakobina Johnson's translation of these verses from the Icelandic is so welcome.

By the poetic standards of today, these poems are neither complicated nor avant-garde. Just as Iceland is primarily a land of simple contrasts — the snows of glaciers, the steam of geysers, the fires of Mount Hekla, the blue of ocean waters—so its poetry reveals what, to the non-Icelander,

seems to be an essentially calm and uncomplex attitude toward life. For this it is doubly welcome.

Apparent, also, even in translation, is the strong flavor of the great Icelandic sagas of eight or nine hundred years ago. Witness these lines from Johann Sigurjonsson's poem "Greetings to Norway":

Into Norway's
Open coastline
Sink the fjords'
Fantastic carvings—
Scars that seam
The ancient visage
Of a warrior
Never vanquished.

How close such rhythms are to those we have from the pens of Anglo-Saxons, when they sang of the proud deeds of king and weaponman. But whereas the English world has exchanged its ancient glemanship for Latinate poetry, Iceland has refused to sacrifice the old.

Although Mrs. Johnson left her native Iceland more than 70 years ago, and today makes her home in Seattle, she has never lost her love for Icelandic poetry. Called "the poet laureate of

Iceland", she has spent her life strengthening it in its homeland and encouraging it in its new home among Icelandic immigrants in Canada and the United States.

For one who wishes to read warmly speaking verse and also make the acquaintance of an old and rich culture, "Northern Lights" will provide a many-hued introduction.

—:—

THREE TIMES A PIONEER—

Review by **Donald Stains** of Three Times A Pioneer by Magnus G. Gudlaugson, in The Vancouver Sun.

From the very sophisticated I'm going to move on to the opposite extreme represented by a neat, paper-bound and mimeographed book, strictly non-commercial, of 104 pages: **THREE TIMES A PIONEER** by Magnus G. Gudlaugson.

The totally unpretentious book is the account of one man's life since coming to Canada in 1883 when he was three years old. His parents soon died and he grew up with friends, married in 1906 and homesteaded in Saskatchewan and then five years later pioneered a third time in the Peace River district. Now 80 years old, the author is living in White Rock, his seven children and 18 grandchildren spread across the nation he helped to build.

It was just by chance that I dipped into this volume, but I found myself caught up in its warmth and simplicity. Incident builds upon incident without apparent climax and you are left with the profoundest admiration for those who could so matter-of-factly go about their business of creating Canada for us to enjoy.

Mrs. Holmfridur Danielson, who helped Mr. Gudlaugson to prepare this book, refers to it as a valuable addition to the records already collected about the Icelandic pioneers in Canada. It is that; it is almost a latterday saga.

It is also a tribute to all those who shared, Icelandic or not, in the hardships and joys of earlier times. And it leaves a modern reader with a feeling of incompleteness; there was, among all the hardships and heartbreaks, a reality to their life which is just not with us in the great cities today.

In proportion to population there are few who in age pass the century mark, and among these very few are Icelanders. This was noted with the death January 22, at Melfort, Sask., of Kristjan Jonasson at the age of 101. Mr. Jonasson, a farmer over the years at Wynyard, Sask., came from Iceland to Canada at the age of 19 and worked in Manitoba and North Dakota before going in 1905 to Wynyard. In 1906 he married Lorna Christianson. They retired from farming in 1937 to make

their home in Wynyard. Mrs. Jonasson died in 1942. Surviving are three sons, John B. of Edmonton, Alta., Wesley G. of Vancouver, B. C. and Jonas K. of Winnipeg.

★

The 60th anniversary of the Icelandic literary society Vestri in Seattle, Wash., was celebrated with a concert gathering January 20th. Featured in its first performance was a recently formed Icelandic male chorus under the direction of Tani Bjornsson.

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Appointed to High Post

On December 6, 1960, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation of New York announced that H. Harvard Arnason of Minneapolis had been elected a Trustee and Vice President of Art Administration of The Foundation. According to Harry F. Guggenheim, the Foundation President, Prof. Arnason will be responsible for "the areas of general policy and development" of the Guggenheim museum.

Prof. Arnason has already had experience in combining administrative work with that of his profession in Fine Arts. For over ten years he has been Chairman of the Department of Art in the University of Minnesota and also Director of the Walker Art Center in that city.

E. W. McDiarmid, Dean of the College of Science, Literature and the Arts of the University of Minnesota, in confirming the appointment said:

"Mr. Arnason's departure will be a great loss to the university and the Twin Cities cultural development. The appointment is a tribute to Mr. Arnason's prestige in the circles of art scholarship."

An editorial appeared in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune on December 8, last, which in part reads as follows:

"Congratulations are due both H. Harvard Arnason and the Guggenheim Museum in New York on Arnason's new appointment with the museum.

"As a trustee and vice-president for art administration of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, Arnason will occupy one of the few highest-level positions in the field of art in this country. He will be in charge of one of the



H. Harvard Arnason

unique museums of the world—long noted for its art collections and recently the subject of special attention because of its controversial building.

"Minneapolis has known Arnason as an expert art man and a down-to-earth administrator. As professor and chairman of the University of Minnesota art department since 1947, and as director of Walker Art Center since 1950, he has been influential in the growing public interest in art in the Twin Cities area. He is a prolific writer and lecturer, and has carried out a variety of special assignments for the United States government in other countries.

"It is a compliment to both Arnason and Minnesota's reputation in art circles that he has been chosen for the Guggenheim responsibility."

Harvard Arnason, who was born in Winnipeg in April 1908, is a son of the late Maria and Sveinbjorn Arnason. He received his public and high

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school education in Winnipeg and two years in Arts. His parents moved to Chicago and Harvard finished his Arts studies and obtained his Master of Arts degree from the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He then went to Princeton University, New Jersey, where he obtained a Master's degree in Fine Arts.

In 1945 Professor Arnason was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for advanced studies and during the following year he studied fine arts in France.

In 1946 and 1947 Mr. Arnason was acting chief of the program planning and evaluation unit of the Minnesota state department's office of international information and cultural affairs. In the fall of 1947 he accepted the position of Head of the

Art Department in the University of Minnesota. He has written many articles and treatises on both modern and mediaeval art.

Harvard Arnason married Elizabeth Yard of Chicago, Illinois. They have two children Eleanor and Jon. Two brothers are well known in Winnipeg: Dr. I. Gilbert Arnason, school principal, who last fall returned to Winnipeg after a two year assignment with the Canadian overseas forces in Europe, where he was Principal at Lorraine High School in France; and Terry Arnason, in charge of a high school near Minneapolis.

The Icelandic Canadian extends congratulations to H. Harvard Arnason and will watch his future in charge of the Guggenheim Museum with great interest. —W. J. L.

The Derelict

Cramped
On a metal cot,
His thin body
Looks jagged and broken.

His haggard face, a map
Of a thousand lines,
Each line a drink.

He sleeps,
And when he doesn't
He works.
Just long enough
For the price of one more drink.

He exists
In a cardboard shack,
With a broken window
Stuffed with paper;
Waiting for death.

Here,
In his narrow world
He is free from everything;
The people that despise him,
The taunting children,
And the world that passed him by.

Not dangerous,
Nor obnoxious.
Only,
A hired man
Not worth hiring.

—William Valgardson

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IN THE NEWS**KRIS THORSTEINSON APPOINT-
ED GENERAL SALES MANAGER**

Kris Thorsteinson

The Minn-Toba Industries Ltd. of Minnedosa, Man., who manufacture various kinds of special farm machinery, has appointed Kris Thorsteinson, at present of Brandon, to be their Western Canada General Sales Manager and Director of Public Relations.

Kris Thorsteinson is a son of Kristin and the late Gudmundur O. Thorsteinson. His father was a high school teacher and taught in various parts of Manitoba. Kris received his public and high school education in Manitoba, enlisted in the second World War and served four years with the R.C.A.F. After the war he worked in Flin Flon as a mining accountant, 1945-47, and at broadcasting in Eastern Canada, 1947-51. He then returned to Western Canada and in 1954 was appointed Clerk of the County Court of Minnedosa. In 1958 he resigned that position to accept a position as Public Relations Officer for District

3 of the Consumers' Co-Operative of Manitoba. On February 15, this year he resigned in order to accept his present position.

Kris Thorsteinson married Reita, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. McBratney of Minnedosa. They have three sons, Jon, 18, attending Brandon Collegiate, Vaughan 14, in grade IV, and Glen in grade II.

**FORTY YEARS OF KIRKCONNELL
TITLES**

The above is the title of a record of publications by Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, President of Acadia University in



Dr. Watson Kirkconnell

Wolfville, Nova Scotia. The record appeared in the January, 1961, number of the Acadia Bulletin, published by the Associated Alumni of Acadia Uni-

MOST PEOPLE PREFER

CLEANER
CARBURETORS
SPARK PLUGS
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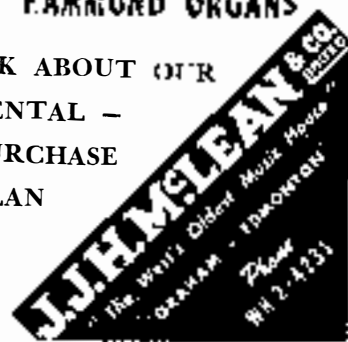
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versity. The introductory paragraph reads as follows:

“With the year 1960, President Watson Kirkconnell completes forty full years of publication. To mark the anniversary, we give below a list of his books, pamphlets and offprints, works done in collaboration, and contributions to collective works. Omitted, however, are several hundred articles and other items in periodicals.”

In the list there are 170 items under the following headings:

- I Books, Pamphlets and Offprints (112)
- II Works in Collaboration (4)
- III Contributions to Collective Works (44)
- IV Edited by Watson Kirkconnell (3)
- V Prefaces and Forewords (7)
- VI Other Book Manuscripts Completed, awaiting publication (8)

One of the eight unpublished works is his “Collected Poems”, (pp 3000)

The publications on Icelandic subjects, entirely or in part, are the following:

- 1 European Elegies (Graphic Publishers, Ottawa, 1928, pp 166)
- 2 The European Heritage: A synopsis of European cultural achievement (J. M. Dent & Sons, London, 1930, pp 184)
- 3 Canada to Iceland (Lindsay, Warder Press, 1930, pp 8)
- 4 The North American Book of Icelandic Verse (Carrier & Isles, New York, 1930, pp 228)
- 5 Icelandic Canadian Poetry (Dalhousie Review, 1934, pp 14)
- 6 The Eternal Quest (Columbia Press 1934, pp 136)
- 7 Canadian Overtones (Columbia Press 1935, pp 104)
- 8 Canada’s Leading Poet, Stephan G. Stephansson, (University of Toronto Quarterly, 1936 pp 15)
- 9 A Skald in Canada (Royal Society

of Canada, 1939, pp 15)

10 Icelandic History in Icelandic Vocabulary, (Columbia Press, 1948, pp 12)

A review by Dr. Kirkconnell of publications in languages other than English and French, under the title “New Canadian Letters” has appeared annually, since 1935, in the University of Toronto Quarterly. In these reviews Dr. Kirkconnell has made appropriate references to Icelandic publications, as they have appeared from time to time.

Dr. Watson Kirkconnell addressed the “Islandingadagurinn” at Gimli in August 1953, the title of his address being “Stephan G. Stephansson and North America.” The address appeared in Vol. XII, No 1, of The Icelandic Canadian.

*

**FINNBOGI GUÐMUNDSSON
OBTAINS HIS DOCTORATE**



Prof. Finnbogi Guðmundsson

Finnbogi Guðmundsson, who was appointed Head of the Department of Icelandic Language and Literature in the University of Manitoba when

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it was established in 1951, has obtained his degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Iceland. His thesis, extending over 400 pages, was based on "Translations of Homer" by Sveinbjorn Egilsson.

The Icelandic Canadian extends congratulations to Dr. Guðmundsson and at the same time express the hope that a copy of the thesis in printed or multigraph form be made available to the magazine.

★

**SASKATOON SISTERS CHOSEN
FOR NATIONAL YOUTH
ORCHESTRA**

Two talented young lady musicians of Saskatoon were chosen to perform with the National Youth Orchestra at a Massey Hall concert on Dec 31st. The girls are **Stephanie**, 18, and **Averil** 16, **Arnason**, daughters of Professor and Mrs. T. J. Arnason. Stephanie is a trombonist, and Averil a flautist, both members of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra. Last August the two girls played with the National Youth Orchestra in the Festival at Stratford. To have two members of the Saskatoon Orchestra (of 120 members) chosen in a group of players taken from all parts of Canada is a signal honor for the local orchestra and for the young ladies chosen as its representatives.

★

**FROM THE EDMONTON ICE-
LANDIC CANADIAN CLUB**

We seem to be growing in strength in the Icelandic Club here in Edmonton. The young Lunda Icelanders living here have given an impetus to our affairs and are promoting several functions in the future. Glen Eyford showed some movies sent direct to him from Iceland, and provided us with one memorable evening.

Lillian T. Sumarlidason

**PROMOTED TO SQUADRON
LEADER**



Fl. Lieut. Arthur K. Swainson

Flight Lieutenant Arthur K. Swainson of Winnipeg was promoted in January to the rank of squadron leader in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ingolfur Swainson of 471 Home Street, Winnipeg, Mr. Swainson received his education at public and high schools at Glenboro, Man., United College and the University of Manitoba. He graduated in 1954 with an L.L.B. degree in law and about a year later was commissioned in the legal branch of the R.C.A.F.

He spent a year as staff legal officer of No. 14 Training Group headquarters in Winnipeg and three years as Deputy Judge Advocate at R.C.A.F. headquarters in Ottawa, then was appointed in 1960 as staff legal officer at Air Defence Command headquarters at St. Hubert, Quebec.

He is married to the former Marion Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Olson of Winnipeg. They have two children: Cathy, age 4, and Nancy, age 2.

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RECIPIENT OF CANADA COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP HONORED AT LUNCHEON

Sveinn Skorri Hoskuldson, Mag. art., of Reykjavik, Iceland, who is studying at Manitoba University this year on a non-resident Fellowship granted by the Canada Council for the academic year 1960-61, was honored at a luncheon held in the Hudson Bay Store, Georgian Room, on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Dr. H. H. Saunderson, President of the University; Dr. Richard Beck, of the Icelandic National League; Grettir Johannsson, Consul for Iceland; Elman Guttormson, representing the Icelandic members of the Manitoba Legislature; and John Samson, Alderman of the city of Winnipeg, welcomed Mr. Hoskuldson, and congratulated him upon being awarded the Fellowship. Mr. Hoskuldson in responding, said he was glad to meet so many representative Western-Icelanders.

Judge W. J. Lindal was host and chairman.

PIONEER PASSES

Thordur Arnason, 87, pioneer of the Mozart district, died recently at Melfort, Saskatchewan. Mr. Arnason was born at Fagradal, Vopnafirdi, Iceland. He immigrated to North Dakota at the age of 16, and moved to Morden, Manitoba, in 1899. He moved to the Mozart district in 1906, where he had lived until recently. In 1902 he married Sigurros Thomasson. He was an active member of the Lutheran church and took a keen interest in community affairs. He served as councillor for the Local Improvement District at Wynyard, was first Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Elfros, and served as both secretary and trustee of Little Quill school district. He also held offices in the United Grain Growers' As-

sociation, and helped organize the Wheat Pool in the Mozart district. He is survived by his widow and seven children: Dr. A. P. (Arni) Arnason, Ottawa, Dr. T. J. (Thomas) Arnason, Saskatoon, Mrs. A. Vanness (Laura), Rossland, B. C., Mrs. T. Card, (Thordis) Edmonton, Mrs. R. J. Casey (Olive) Prince Albert, Mrs. J. C. Walker (Margaret), Mozart, and Thordur S. Arnason, Mozart; and one sister, Mrs. J. Thomasson, Smeaton.

NORTHERN LAKE NAMED IN HONOUR OF EINAR THOR WILKINSON

A hitherto unnamed lake in northern Saskatchewan near the Manitoba border has been named Wilkinson Lake in memory of the late Pilot Officer Einar Thor Wilkinson who at the age of 25 was reported missing and presumed dead while on a photo reconnaissance mission with the Royal Canadian Air Force over the Ruhr valley in Germany during the Second World War. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Wilkinson who now make their home at Ste 26, Trevere Apartments, 300 Furby St., Winnipeg, Pilot Officer Wilkinson was born at Gimli, Man. and lived with his parents in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. His mother is Icelandic, the former Karin Peterson of Gimli. Two other sons also served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War.

BRITAIN AND ICELAND SETTLE FISH DISPUTE

On February 27, last, Britain and Iceland agreed on proposals for settling their fishing dispute. The proposals have to be ratified by the Parliament of Iceland, which is taken for



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granted as the negotiations were carried on by Prime Minister Olafur Thors on behalf of the Government of Iceland.

A despatch from London, Eng., is reported in The Winnipeg Tribune on February 27 as follows:

Britannia Rules Waves—12 Miles Out

LONDON—The British Government has pulled down its colors in the 30-month codfish war with Iceland.

A news dispatch today says Britain has agreed to recognize Iceland's controversial 12-mile limit with one concession—British trawlers will be permitted to fish in areas up to six miles from the Iceland coast at certain seasons for a three-year period.

This agreement brought to an end a comic opera battle in which the chief weapons were hot words, exchanged in a series of international meetings since the little northern country extended its limits in 1958.

To tradition-conscious Britons, with a taste for history, the London announcement must have had a faintly familiar ring.

Once before, in the ninth century, the ancestors of these two peoples had met in battle and the Angles and Saxons of ancient England had fared little better that time.

While the British would eventually

see the results of defeat right in the nation's bread basket, at least they might find some satisfaction in their own conduct during the grand campaign.

Stiff Upper Lip

On the high seas, the navy had acted with dash and determination. On the diplomatic front, British envoys had displayed the proper stiff upper lip.

In September, 1958, men from the British navy had driven back two determined attempts by Icelandic boarding parties to seize British trawlers fishing within the 12-mile limit.

The British had even captured nine of the boarders even though they had to treat these prisoners as "guests" when the Iceland ships refused to take their men back again.

British Ambassador Andrew G. Gilchrist had come through with honor undiminished.

Who would criticize his pukka sahib behavior when outraged Icelanders attacked his residence at Reykjavik? He put on a bagpipe record to drown out the shouting after chiding the stone-throwers. "If they were cricket players, they would be better shots."

Undoubtedly, victory and fuller fish nets would have been more pleasing, but in a world that frowns on gunboat diplomacy, what else can an Englishman do but make the best of it and muddle through?

EXTRACTS FROM

Félagssblaðið

Published in Los Angeles; Editor, Skuli Bjarnason, Assistant Editor, Gudny M. Thorwaldson

Peace Effort

A lady by name of Mrs. Easter Beekly has organized a chorus of 70 voices

with one number from each nationality group. Victoria (Vickie) daughter of the Oli Bachman's has represented the Icelandic ethnic group. This group has been in existence for about three years and are getting to be very well known all over the U.S.A. The chorus is in great demand and right now have several commitments for the month of February. Mrs. Beekly en-

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listed the assistance of the consuls from the several countries, who were very helpful in procuring national dress for these children. They start their programs by singing "Let there be Peace on Earth, and let it begin with me," etc.

Very recently "Truth and Consequences" on channel 4 had a Polish boy on their program who had to translate "Old Woman in a Shoe", a Japanese girl who translated "Little Boy Blue", and Vickie Bachman who recited an Icelandic translation of "Jack and Jill went up the hill." The audience was asked to name the rhymes in the native tongue of the participants, but apparently there were no people of these nationalities there as no one could identify the rhymes!

On February 20, this group sang on T.V. on channel 4.

Mrs. Beekly deserves a great deal of credit for her efforts in behalf of United Nations.

Reflections of Gunnar Matthiasson on Political Topics of the Day:

"If the free Society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich."

(From Kennedy's Inauguration Speech)

★

FABRIC

I've tried to live each day in such a way
That when to-morrow makes to-day a
yesterday,
I will have woven into the fabric of
my Life
Some gay design, some patch of color,
Bright, to please the eye,
So that in the graying years to come,
When all the quick responsive senses
dull,
I may look back across the pattern of
my past
and, in my memory relive the joys
and dreams
of all my yesterdays.

These beautiful thoughts come from the pen of Mrs. Nina Halperin, who is a shut-in.

Scholarships

Thora Carol Baines, 21, of Tisdale, Saskatchewan, has been awarded one of the three Federal Government grants of \$5000 each, awarded to three University of Saskatchewan graduates to aid them in further study of social work.

Miss Baines graduated from the University of Saskatchewan last spring, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is studying for a Master's degree in Psychiatric Social work at the University of British Columbia.

The grant will pay university fees, travel expenses and a \$200.00 a month living allowance for the two years of the course.



Thora Carol Baines

Carol is a granddaughter of Mrs. Domhildur Johnson of Wynyard. Her

mother was the former Thruða Johnson. On completing Grade XII at Tisdale Carol won a gold watch.

★

TRIPLE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Wayne Douglas Pickering

On completing his high school education at Foam Lake Composite School of Foam Lake, Sask., in the summer of 1960 Wayne Douglas Pickering was awarded three scholar-

ships for scholastic excellence. They are:

1. Saskatchewan Government Scholarship, \$500.00
2. The Jack Moore Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Saskatchewan Canadian Legion, \$400.00
3. The Foam Lake Unit Scholarship \$100.00.

Wayne Pickering is currently attending the University of Saskatchewan taking 1st Year Engineering.

Wayne is a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Pickering of Elfros, Sask. His mother Stephania is a daughter of the late Jon Stefanson and Disa Stefanson who homesteaded in the district in 1905.

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down town department store. He is now enrolled in an Arts course, at the University of Alberta, Calgary, majoring in Mathematics.

★



Jim Bjerring

Jim Bjerring, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Bjerring of Calgary, Alberta, and grandson of Tryggvi Bjerring of Winnipeg, won the Wally Rowan Memorial Scholarship on graduating from Western Canada High School in Calgary.

Jim scored an average of 87.2 per cent on his Grade XII examinations. He was vice-president of the school Booster Club last term and was affiliated with the Anglican Young People's Association, the YMCA, the Tuxis organization, and served as one of Western's "Junior Executives" for a



Wilfred Franklin Sigurdson

Wilfred Franklin Sigurdson, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Sigurdson of Oak Point was awarded the following for his academic work during the 1959-60 term:

\$450.00 Queen Elizabeth Bursary, also the Professor James Elliot Scholarship for the highest standing in Grade XII at United College. This scholarship is donated by Mrs. Joseph Harris, 603 Wellington Crescent. He is presently taking Science II (pre-med) at United College.

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Richard Peterson

A scholarship to the amount of \$100 is awarded each year by Dr. G. Paulson to the student receiving the highest marks in the Grade XI Departmental examinations at Lundar High School. Winners of the scholarship are



Chris Johnson

1959—Richard Peterson of Lundar. — Parents, Rodney and Steinun Peterson. 1960—Kris Johnson, of Lundar. Parents: Kjartan and Thelma Johnson. Kris had an average of 78 per cent.

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