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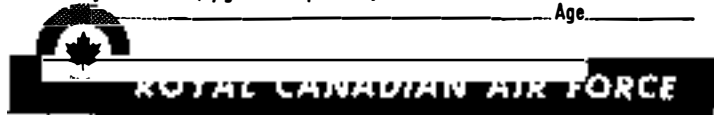
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The Icelandic Canadian

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Autumn 1961

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THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

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EDITORIAL

Canada and Iceland

It is hardly a mere accident that Canada was the first country in the Western Hemisphere* to extend a state invitation to His Excellency, Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, the President of Iceland. Furthermore, as such invitations are not unilateral but rather the result of embassy interviews and diplomatic correspondence, it may be assumed that it was not accidental on the part of Iceland that Canada was the first Western Hemisphere country with which such top level negotiations were carried to a tangible completion.

It is not difficult to ascertain reasons for such priority. It might be said that Canada extended the invitation because more Icelanders settled in Canada than anywhere else in the West, and Winnipeg is at times referred to as the capital of Iceland in America. It might also be said that the common stand taken by Canada and Iceland on territorial waters and fishery limits was a factor. But in view of the agreement entered into between Iceland and the United Kingdom that question is at present not of vital concern. To find a reason for the priority one must look for something deeper and of a more enduring nature. The invitation appears to follow as a natural diplomatic step, giving expression to some-

thing distinctive which these two nations have in common in the international field. That common characteristic comes to light in the attitude taken and course adopted by these countries in their international relations.

Both Canada and Iceland are nationalistic in so far as they insist upon freedom and independence. But theirs is not a narrow nationalism. They are international in that they do not find it difficult to harmonize their nationalism with world facts. Perhaps the simplest way to describe the common characteristic is to say that, except on a fundamental noted below, neither country is regional or hemispheric in outlook.

★

Canada has never accepted the Western Hemisphere principle known as the Monroe Doctrine, and has been lukewarm to the Organization of American States (OAS), signed in Bogota, Colombia, in 1948, at the ninth International Conference of American States. Overtures have been made to Canada to become a member of OAS but so far Canada has not made any commitments.

Canada has not even been North American in sentiment. That arises partly through the close British relationship and Canada's membership in the Commonwealth of Nations. But those are not the only factors which cause Canada to adopt the wider view.

* On June 17, 1944, Iceland became a republic. The late Sveinn Björnsson was elected its first President. In August of that year the late Franklin D. Roosevelt then President of the United States, invited the President of Iceland to be his guest at the White House. But that was not an official state visit.

The others are trade and national security.

Canada is a heavy exporter of primary products. Grain is shipped to England, to Communist China and to satellite Poland. Economic need overcomes ideological barriers. But what transcends all else is Canada's security. Because of geography and the stark realities of the world situation, Canada must not be continental or place undue emphasis upon the British or Commonwealth connection.

★

Iceland does not picture itself as being essentially European. Actually a part of Greenland is east of a part of Iceland, and it can be truly said that the boundary between the Eastern and the Western Hemisphere cuts across Iceland and the northeastern part of Greenland.

Partly because of its insular position far out in the North Atlantic, but mainly through causes that arise from within the island itself, there is a strong national sentiment in Iceland. Two factors have combined to develop this intensity of feeling.

The elements in Iceland—the land of frost and fire—have been fierce, but yet kind. No rewards have been won without struggle, and hence, in conformity with the law of human effort, have had their twofold value—material and of the mind. At times human forces from without intervened but that only intensified the struggles and made more precious the rewards.

The other factor is the Icelandic language and the literature to which it is the key. The power and felicity of expression in that ancient language have been preserved and have made it a priceless national asset.

But in spite of this strong national sentiment the Icelander, no less than the Canadian, is tolerantly international, and in his thinking a similar aloofness can be detected. Here, also, economic factors and stern present world realities dictate policy. Over ninety per cent of Iceland's exports consist of fish and fish products, which are sold in England, Russia, Spain, and in other countries where markets are available. Iceland is on international air routes and Keflavík is one of the world's largest airports—facts which in a world of ideological conflicts cannot be ignored.

Iceland's international viewpoint, almost paradoxically blending into its internal nationalism, can be clearly seen in its attitude to the trade associations that have in recent years been formed in Western Europe. There is the six nation European Economic Community (O.E.E.C.), usually referred to as the Common Market, and the seven nation European Free Trade Association (E.F.T.A.). It is predicted that the application of the United Kingdom to join the Common Market will lead to the merger of E.F.T.A. and E.E.C. in a thirteen nation Western European Trade Agreement.

It is significant, yet understandable, that Iceland is not a member of either organization, not even the outer seven which include Norway, Denmark and Sweden. Iceland, however, co-operated with the thirteen nations when the Organization for European Economic Co-operation was formed last year.

★

Even though Canada and Iceland are not continental or regional in outlook, still if something more vital than material advantage or regional sentiment calls for a widening of interests and areas of collaboration, these coun-

tries are prepared to enter into pacts or arrive at understandings.

Both countries are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Here the prime consideration is mutual defence but the Treaty contains an economic provision which in recent years is gaining in significance. Article 2 in the Treaty provides for the elimination of conflict and the encouragement of collaboration in the economic field.

It is not without significance that a Canadian, Hon. Lester B. Pearson, former Secretary of State for External Affairs, took the lead in having Article 2 inserted in the Treaty. Iceland has never had a standing army and no doubt never will. The military force commitment of Iceland to NATO may be little more than a token one but Iceland gladly accepts other NATO commitments because the people of Iceland do not hesitate to accept their relative and just share of responsibility

In The Editor's Confidence

It would be painfully trite to say that the President of Iceland and the Chatelaine at Government House, Bessastaðir, Iceland, "came and saw and conquered". Any such expression is wholly foreign to the finest in Icelandic tradition. Even to say that they came and won our hearts would not give thought to the full amplitude of the event. They came and they found in our hearts an affection which they set aglow. The ember became a torch. They came and found that a part of the soul of Iceland has been planted in the land on which Leifur Eiriksson set foot over nine centuries ago. W.J.L.

★

The main editorial, which is not signed and thus has the endorsement

in the defence of fundamental freedoms.

There is a possibility that an agreement will be reached which in the economic field will parallel NATO. Dr. Walter Hallstein, President of the Commission of European Economic Community (C.E.E.C) envisages the enlargement of the European free trade area to include the United States and Canada. Both Canada and Iceland would be following established precedents if they encouraged such an organization. On that level economic considerations converge with those of mutual defence of freedoms.

Whether by design, in view of common attitudes, or by accident, it is most fortunate and appropriate that diplomatic correspondence between Canada and Iceland has led to an official state invitation and acceptance with the happy result that Canada is the first country of the Western Hemisphere to be visited by His Excellency, Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, the President of Iceland.

of the whole editorial board, was written before His Excellency, the President of Iceland, arrived in Canada. In that editorial an attempt is made to show how much Canada and Iceland have in common.

It was a matter of some satisfaction to hear Ásgeir Ásgeirsson emphasize in some of his addresses and in casual conversation this similarity of mental attitude and geographic location. The fact that he included Norway merely gave added force to the similitude.

★

The Magazine Board regrets the delay in publication of this number. All that needs be said is that the President of Iceland does not visit Canada every year.

The Address of Ásgeir Ásgeirsson at The Icelandic Canadian Luncheon

Kæru Vestur-Íslendingar:

My wife and I are very pleased to be able to meet with you, members of the Icelandic-Canadian Club, the officers of the Canada-Iceland Foundation, and the editors of *The Icelandic Canadian*. You are an indispensable link that else would be missing. Your labour consists in transferring the Icelandic heritage from generation to generation, now that it has become more difficult to cross the old bridge provided by language. Your purpose is high and you are doing your best to span a perilous gap.

It may be that at one time it was expected that the Western-Icelanders would become almost a new nation struggling against the influence of the alien culture of the environment. You and the Icelandic National League share the same purpose between you, that is: to preserve the Icelandic heritage, in Icelandic, or else in English where that is feasible. Surely, it is in the nature of things that the younger generations of Icelandic stock should become English speaking people.

A new publication called the "Ættarskrár Vestur-Íslendinga", or "Western Icelandic Genealogies", is being brought out, and I wonder if such work can be found among other nationalities in the New World. I have leafed through the first volume and was very much impressed. I hope that this publication will fulfill its promise. Here you will be able to trace your gene-

alogies—families—back to Iceland, and once you are there, you may be able to go all the way back to the 11th century.

In other nations, only royalty or noble families can trace their ancestry anywhere near that far back in time. This is therefore one of the special characteristics of Icelandic culture. One of the reasons why the Icelandic manuscripts were so much in demand in the 17th and 18th centuries was the desire of the royal and noble families of Scandinavia to prove their descent from ancient kings and also to trace their own relationships. "The Western Icelandic Genealogies" which have now started, will offer you the same kind of information, and although you may not be particularly interested in ancient kings, you will not have to go far back to find bishops, lawmen or other desirable forebears in your families. You will see how very short the distance was between bishop and small farmer in Icelandic families, the circulation in society being varied and rapid. Suddenly an unexpected ancestral likeness may appear anywhere in the form of great gifts and character. Then it may give you both pleasure and profit to mark on the map the place where your grandmother and grandfather lived, and you can amuse yourselves by tracing your ancestry on the map as far back as you please.

This study would be an ideal preparation for a trip back to Iceland. Traveling to Iceland would be very much



His Excellency Asgeir Ásgeirsson, the President of Iceland and Mrs. Ásgeirsson; and His Honour Errick F. Willis, the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and Mrs. Willis, at the Airport, Stevenson Field.

worth while, even if you do not master the old mother tongue. But English is our esperanto. And your forefathers inhabit every hill and mountain there. History lives on in the landscape itself. He who wants to rest and retire for a while from the crowd will find no better retreat than Iceland. The country is still public domain, its grandeur and beauty the property of all. There are no fences or watchdogs. Travelling in the air, you may jump from peak to peak like the giants of old.

We Icelanders have never known our country better than we do now. Never before, in any generation, have so many people been to Þingvellir or Ásbyrgi, or seen Gullfoss and Dettifoss. And if you visit the memorial for Stephen G. in Vatnsskarð you will see the whole of Skagafjörður and all the way out to Drangey, where Grettir spent his last outlaw days and Illugi gave his life out of loyalty to his brother. You will be greeted by friends and relatives and you will be sent off with many a warm handclasp when you depart on your journey back home.

You in the Canada-Iceland Foundation and in the Icelandic Canadian Club are moving in the right direction. When the nerve of language is cut new approaches are in order for the future generations and new working methods are required for maintaining the tradition. The language is important but even when that bond is broken there are still ways of passing on the heritage. Even Christians, to take the strongest example, must be content to read the Bible in translation, and for you, reading the Icelandic classics in English translation, studying genealogy, and visiting the old country, will be of great consequence.

Your quarterly, the Icelandic Canadian, is excellent. It provides exactly the right kind of link with Iceland and it is also important for us who look across to you from the shores of Iceland. There we can read about the youngest generation of Western-Icelanders and look at the pictures of students and soldiers, good-looking people and Icelandic of countenance. They have fought in defense of ideals but never as aggressors, fought in defense of the free world, which desires liberty to elect their governments and allow others to do likewise. In this respect the clock has been turned back to the middle ages in large areas of the world and it seems certain that a long time will have to pass before a secure peace is again established. There are many people besides Gunnar á Hlíðar-enda who have to defend themselves and, even against their will, have to fight.

This is a pleasant gathering which we see here before us and to my eyes it is Icelandic. Still, I cannot tell exactly how I recognize the Icelander although I sometimes can spot him in the crowd of a city. Perhaps, it is something subconscious, which unites us, part of our very selves, which is infinitely more powerful than the slender rock of daily consciousness, which, for the passing moment, emerges briefly from the deep. It is there that the Icelander survives longer than we imagine.

"Much had been lost, if Iceland had not burst up from the sea", says Carlyle. Let us all keep this in mind and take care that our culture shall not sink back into the depths of oblivion.



The Visit of the President of Iceland

This is the saga of the visit of the President of Iceland to Canada. In response to an invitation extended by Prime Minister the Right Honorable John G. Diefenbaker last February, His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, President of Iceland, accompanied by Mrs. Ásgeirsson and an entourage of twelve, arrived in Canada on September 11, on a sixteen-day cross-country goodwill tour.

Other members of the President's party included Honorable Guðmundur I. Guðmundsson, minister of foreign affairs; His Excellency Thor Thors, ambassador of Iceland to the United States and Canada; Haraldur Kroyer, Secretary to the President; Hallgrímur F. Hallgrímsson, the consul-general of Canada in Iceland, and Dr. Finnbogi Guðmundsson, information officer, all with their wives.

The presidential party landed at Quebec City, Monday, September 11. During their stay in Quebec, they were the guests of Governor-General and Mme Georges Vanier, at the Citadel, the official Quebec residence of the Governor-General.

On Tuesday, the President and his party arrived at Ottawa, where they were greeted at Uplands Airport by Prime Minister Diefenbaker. There was a red-carpet welcome, with the red carpet unrolled, an R.C.A.F. guard of honor, a 21-gun salute, and the route to Parliament Hill bedecked with the Icelandic flag and the Canadian ensign.

Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker gave a state dinner in honor of President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson, followed by a reception at which three

hundred people were present. President Ásgeirsson presented Mr. Diefenbaker with a model of a Viking ship, with the dates 1000 and 1961 inscribed at each end, and with the Prime Minister's and the President's name on the sides.

During the Ottawa stay the Honorable D. Roland Michener, Speaker of the House of Commons, gave a luncheon for the guests of honor, President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson. The President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson gave a luncheon, at the Chateau Laurier, for the members of the Icelandic community in Ottawa, which numbers over seventy people. On Wednesday, the President and his party visited the gallery of the House of Commons. The President was formally welcomed by Prime Minister Diefenbaker, Honorable Lester B. Pearson, leader of the Opposition, and Mr. H. W. Herridge, of the C.C.F. Mr. Diefenbaker extended a warm welcome to the President, speaking of his great contribution to the maintenance of good relations among the nations, the close relations between Canada and Iceland "going back for a thousand years", and the "persuasive influence that the possession of a parliamentary form of government for ten centuries has had on the thinking and the lives of those either born in or descended from that country". In conclusion, the Prime Minister wished the President and his party an enjoyable visit.

"I hope that their stay in Canada will be an enjoyable one and that in the years ahead, as in the past, we shall walk together in freedom."



His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson laying a wreath at the statue of Jón Sigurðson on the Legislative Building Grounds, Winnipeg.

Mr. Pearson said that he had had the privilege of visiting Iceland twice, and had been the beneficiary of the "legendary hospitality of the friendly people of that island". He paid tribute to the contribution of Canadians of Icelandic descent and also to the Icelandic people, who a thousand years or more ago had learned how to govern themselves peacefully through free parliamentary institutions and who, ever since then, have earned the respect of all peoples not by their power but by their civilized decency and their passionate devotion to liberty under the law".

Mr. Herridge spoke warmly of the great kindness which his own family had received from people of Icelandic origin when they were newcomers in Winnipeg, early in the century. He also referred to the first republic in the British Commonwealth formed by Icelandic pioneers in the North-West Territories, and later incorporated into Manitoba.

During the Ottawa visit, the President, Mr. Guðmundsson, and Mr. Thors conferred with Prime Minister Diefenbaker and Minister of External Affairs Mr. Green. Later, Mr. Guðmundsson and Mr. Thors met with Mr. Green and Norman Robertson, Under Secretary of State for External Affairs. At the close of the interviews, Prime Minister Diefenbaker said, "We discussed the world situation in general and the NATO organization in particular." The tense Berlin situation was specifically discussed.

At Ottawa, the President visited the National Gallery, and placed a wreath on the National War Memorial. President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson made an excellent impression at Ottawa and the welcome they received made the visit to the Canadian capital a memorable one.

On the arrival of the President and his party at the airport in Winnipeg, Thursday, September 14, for a five-day visit in Manitoba, they were greeted by Lieutenant-Governor Errick Willis; Premier Duff Roblin; Grettir L. Johannsson, Icelandic consul in Winnipeg; Dr. Richard Beck, President of the Icelandic National League; representatives of the armed services and their wives, and a number of other dignitaries and private citizens. The Icelandic national anthem was played and a 21-gun salute was fired. The President inspected an R.C.A.F. color party and a 100-member guard of honor. Manitoba September weather was at its best with blue skies and warm, bright sunshine, providing a perfect setting for the impressive welcome ceremonies.

The President and his party were officially welcomed at a ceremony in the Legislative Buildings. Present were members of the legislature, the justices of Manitoba high courts, representatives of the foreign consulates in the city, former MLA's of Icelandic descent, representatives of the armed services, and representatives of Icelandic groups and associations.

In his address of welcome, Premier Duff Roblin said that since the first Icelanders had settled in Manitoba, eighty-six years ago, their impact had been out of all proportion to their numbers. Iceland, he said, in its early days had established the rule of law and democratic institutions and this tradition was a part of the gift Iceland had made to Canada through its children in this land. President Ásgeirsson was formally installed as a member of Manitoba's Order of the Buffalo Hunt, an order established to commemorate Manitoba's pioneer past.

President Ásgeirsson thanked Premier Roblin for the wonderful reception

given on his arrival. He said that Canada had received the largest number of Icelanders ever to seek residence and a new future in another country.

"We know", said the President, "that they have prospered here, and acquired a fine reputation. Therefore it is good to be with you. We feel at home here."

Following this ceremony, a public reception was held in the Legislative Buildings. Some fifteen hundred people, members of the Icelandic community and others, were present to shake hands with the President. The reviewing line included Honorable Errick Willis and Mrs. Willis; His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson and Mrs. Ásgeirsson; Honorable Duff Roblin and Mrs. Roblin; Honorable A. W. Harrison and Mrs. Harrison; Honorable Guðmundur I. Guðmundsson and Mrs. Guðmundsson, and His Excellency Thor Thors and Mrs. Thors. Unanimous was the warm commendation expressed by the people of Icelandic descent and others of the dignity, courtesy, kindness and charm of the President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson.

Following the official reception, President Ásgeirsson placed a wreath on the statue of Jon Sigurdson, Iceland's distinguished patriot statesman, which is located on the Legislative Building grounds. The President was obviously deeply moved. "He remains our eternal President", he said.

The day ended for the presidential party with a state dinner at Government House, given by Lieutenant-Governor Errick Willis and Mrs. Willis for the President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson. On this occasion Mrs. Ásgeirsson wore the festive costume of Iceland, with its black bodice embroidered in gold, and headress of white lace veil cascading over the shoulders.

On Friday morning President Ásgeirsson paid a courtesy visit to the

city hall, and was officially presented with a scroll of honorary citizenship by Mayor Stephen Juba. Mayor Juba also gave the President a silver brooch with the city of Winnipeg's coat-of-arms for Mrs. Ásgeirsson.

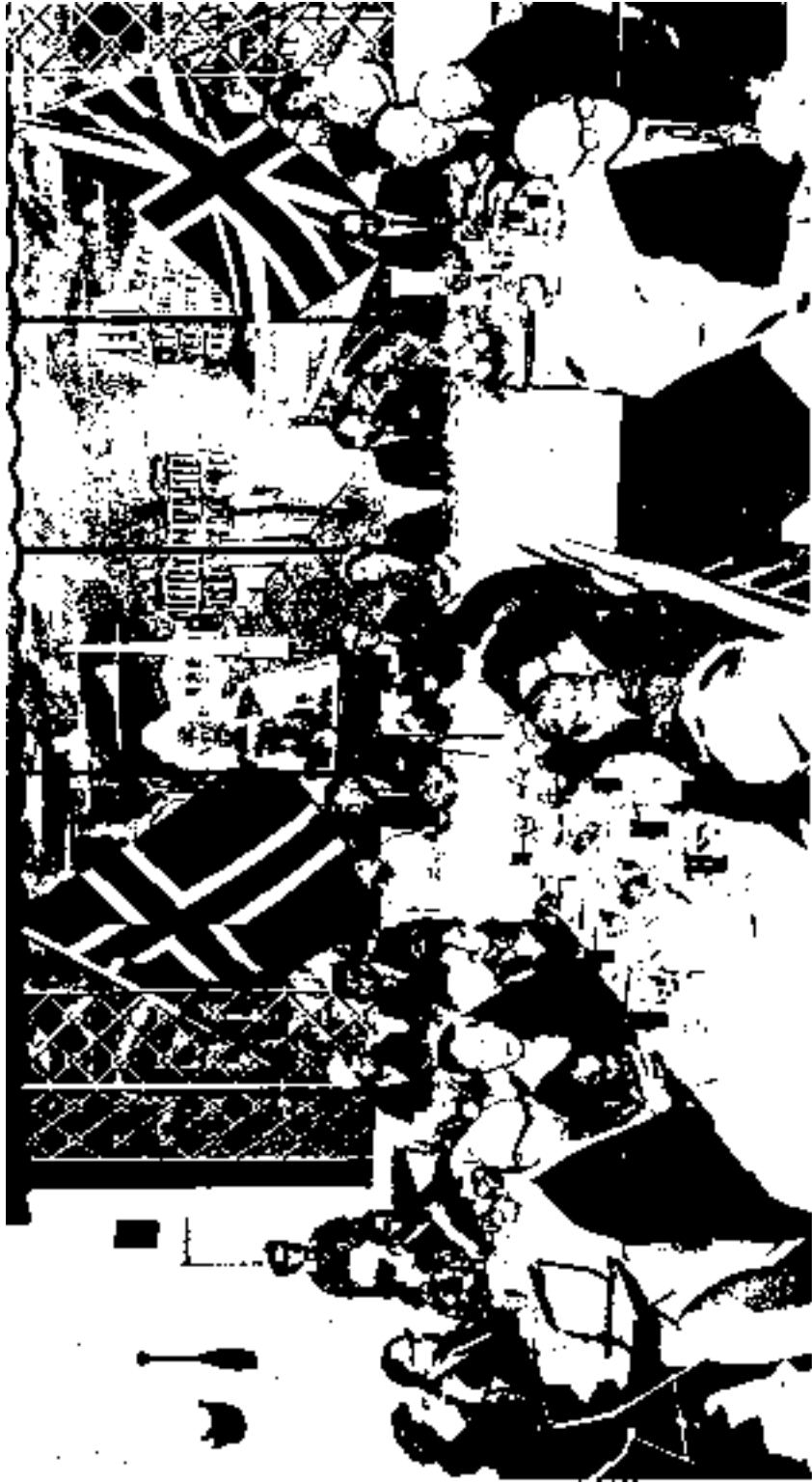
"The City of Winnipeg got itself a new citizen Friday, and a distinguished one at that", said one of the Winnipeg daily papers, both of which gave excellent coverage to the proceedings of the entire visit.

Already, on the morning of the second day in Winnipeg, the President was moved to say: "I have been here only a short time, but so many things have happened it feels like a month".

At the Unitarian church, where the Sunday evening services are conducted in Icelandic, the President was greeted by the minister, Reverend Philip M. Petursson, and Mrs. Petursson and members of the congregation, and he signed the guest book.

At noon, on Friday, the Canada-Iceland Foundation, the Icelandic Canadian Club, and the Icelandic Canadian magazine board were joint hosts at a luncheon given at Pierre's restaurant, in honor of the President and his party. The chairman was Judge W. J. Lindal, who, in terms befitting the occasion, extended a heartfelt welcome to the President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson. Judge Lindal also spoke of the aims and achievements of the Canada-Iceland Foundation. Aleck Thorarinson extended greetings on behalf of the Foundation; Gunnar Eggertson spoke for the Icelandic Canadian Club, and Miss Mattie Halldorson, on behalf of the Club and the Magazine, presented the President with a finely bound and suitably inscribed nine-volume set of the Icelandic Canadian magazine. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. Ásgeirsson by Miss Jonasson.

In his brief address, which appears



LUNCHEON AT PIERRE'S CAFE, MAGNIFIQUE, SEPT. 14th 1911 — Head table starting from left: Mrs. Beck, Consul G. L. Johannsson; Mrs. Eggertsson; S. A. Thunzarsson; Mrs. Guðmundsdóttir; Hon. Thun Thun; Mrs. Lindal; President Ásgeirsson; Judge W. J. Lindal; Mrs. Ásgeirsdóttir; Hon. Guðmundur Guðmundsson; Mrs. Thors; General Eggertsson; Rev. P. M. Þorvaldsson; Miss Mattie Halldóttir; Dr. Richard Beck. At tables in front: Mrs. G. Eggertsson; Mrs. K. Eggertsson; Mrs. G. Kristjánsson; Dr. E. G. Árnason; Mrs. A. Eggertsson; Miss Anna Kruger; Mrs. Sabson; Guest Kristjánsson; Ulfríður Eggertsson; William Katerjansson.

elsewhere in this issue, the President showed his appreciation of the work being done by the organizations there represented. "You are", he said, "an indispensable link that else would be missing. Your labour consists in transferring the Icelandic heritage from generation to generation, now that it has become more difficult to cross the old bridge provided by language."

During the few free moments after the luncheon, the President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson both showed obvious pleasure in meeting with people. They wished to establish personal contact with every person within reach.

On Friday afternoon there was a reception for the presidential party at the Consulate of Iceland, with consul Grettir L. Johannsson and Mrs. Johannsson as hosts. The following day there was a luncheon with relatives and a few others, at the Carleton Club, with Mr. and Mrs. Oliver G. Bjornson as hosts.

A banquet at the Fort Garry Hotel, on Saturday evening, was sponsored by the Icelandic National League. Consul Grettir L. Johannsson was chairman. About four hundred people were present. Stars of order and other decorations were in evidence. Head table guests on this impressive occasion included His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson and Mrs. Ásgeirsson; Honorable Errick Willis and Mrs. Willis; Honorable Duff Roblin and Mrs. Roblin; Honorable Guðmundur I. Guðmundsson and Mrs. Guðmundsson; His Excellency Thor Thors and Mrs. Thors; Honorable Joseph T. Thorson, P.C.; Honorable George Johnson and Mrs. Johnson; Mr. John V. Samson, representing the City of Winnipeg, and Mrs. Samson; Mr. Grettir L. Johannsson and Mrs. Johannsson; Dr. Richard Beck and Mrs. Beck; Mr. Eric Stefanson, M.P., official escort of the Canadian Govern-

ment, and Mrs. Stefanson; Dr. Valdimar J. Eylands, Past President, the Icelandic National League, and Mrs. Eylands, and Reverend Philip M. Petursson, Vice-President of the Icelandic National League, and Mrs. Petursson.

Numerous addresses were delivered, commencing with the address of welcome by Dr. Richard Beck. Following these addresses President Ásgeirsson expressed appreciation of the contribution that the people of Icelandic descent in America have made to Iceland and he also spoke of their contribution to their new homeland, in peace and in war. Honorable Errick F. Willis expressed his interest in the Irish element in the racial composition of the Icelandic people, and the influence of this on the racial characteristics of the Icelandic people. Honorable Duff Roblin paid tribute to the Icelandic traditions of individual freedom and parliamentary government. Honorable Joseph T. Thorson, speaking as a Canadian of Icelandic descent, paid tribute to the forefathers who passed on qualities that have stood their descendants in America in good stead. His Excellency Thor Thors spoke of his pleasure in past visits to Winnipeg, where the aura of Icelandic speech made him feel at home. Honorable Guðmundur Guðmundsson expressed deep appreciation of the strong support Canada had given to Iceland in its struggle to secure the extension of the fishing limits essential to the country's economic life. Speaking of the world situation with great earnestness, he said that the only alternative to co-existence was non-existence.

A toast to Mrs. Ásgeirsson was proposed by Dr. V. J. Eylands and Mrs. Ásgeirsson was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Mrs. Holmfríður Danielson.

Miss Sjölaug Sigurdson, who was



Forsetafrú Dóra Þórhallsdóttir, wife of the President of Iceland, shaking hands with Sharon Stevens, who at the ceremony in the Gimli Park on Sunday, September 17, presented to the President and her a bound record of historical events in the Gimli district, which in the pioneer days was called New Iceland.

introduced by the chairman as "our foremost musician of Icelandic descent", gave selections on the piano from Grieg.

At the close of President Ásgeirsson's reply, Professor Haraldur Bessason, on behalf of the Icelandic National League, presented President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson with a beautiful silver tray, for which the President expressed their appreciation.

The reception at Gimli on Sunday afternoon, must be considered one of the highlights of the President's tour. It had variety and distinction, and it was Icelandic. The President and his wife visited the Betel Home and made the day memorbale for the Senior Citizens there. After leaving the Betel Home, the President placed a wreath on the cairn in memory of the pioneer Icelandic settlers.

At the gathering in the Gimli park greetings were conveyed to President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson by the Gimli and Arborg Chapters of the Icelandic National League. The distinguished New Iceland poet, Guttormur J. Guttormsson, recited an original ode, by himself, in scaldic metre, addressed to the President. A junior girls' choir sang Icelandic songs and young Omar Sæmundsson recited in masterly fashion poems in Icelandic, by Guttormur J. Guttormsson.

A joint Lutheran and Unitarian church service, held in the First Lutheran Church on Sunday evening, was attended by President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson. About seven hundred people were present. Reverend Philip M. Petursson and Dr. Valdimar J. Eylands both conducted short services. Two of the hymns selected for the occasion were composed by Mrs. Ásgeirsson's grandfather.

Following the service, President Ásgeirsson delivered an address in Ice-

landic, which was carried by the C.B.C. regional network. The president spoke of the conditions of hardship in Iceland in the emigration period, contrasting them with the vastly improved conditions today. He again expressed his appreciation of the contribution made by the "Western-Icelanders" to Iceland, such as in the formation of the Icelandic Steamship Company. The President urged his hearers to maintain the bond with Iceland, but at the same time to be loyal Canadians. "It is possible to be a good Icelander in the English language", he said.

The President presented a gift from the Government of Iceland to the National League, a photostatic copy of the manuscript of the historic *Flateyjarbók*. Dr. Richard Beck, in his words of acceptance, expressed with emotion his appreciation of this treasured gift. Following the address, refreshments were served in the lower auditorium of the church.

Monday afternoon there was a reception at the home of Dr. P. H. T. Thorlakson, chairman of the endowment committee of the Chair in Icelandic at the University of Manitoba, and Mrs. Thorlakson.

At a special convocation of the University of Manitoba, Monday evening, an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on President Ásgeirsson. The Chancellor of the University, Mr. Justice Samuel Freedman, made the presentation. There was a stately and colorful academic procession and the ceremony was impressive.

Mrs. Ásgeirsson, with her grace and charm, shared fully in her husband's popularity. Her's was the woman's contribution. In her press conference she spoke of the important work of the women of Iceland on behalf of organizations concerned with welfare and culture, such as the national hosp-

ital and the nationally important society for the prevention of accidents at sea. Her face lit up with pleasure when she spoke of her family, including her three children and thirteen grandchildren.

Mrs. Ásgeirsson, Dóra Þórhallsdóttir, as she is known in Iceland, where a married woman keeps her maiden name, is a daughter of the late Þórhallur Bjarnarson, a former Bishop of Iceland. It was when her husband was secretary to the Bishop that she met him.

The University function marked the end of the President's memorable visit to Winnipeg. On Tuesday morning, September 19, the party made a brief stop at Regina, where they were met by Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. F. L. Bastedo, and other provincial, civic and army representatives. When asked about his impression of the prairies, President Ásgeirsson said that after the mountains of Iceland it was like living in a house without walls.

A three-hour visit at Wynyard was termed "what will probably go on record as the least formal visit of any head of state to a Canadian centre". The President and his party were greeted on their arrival by several hundred cheering children and in the Wynyard arena more than two thousand people were gathered to hear a short address

from President Ásgeirsson and for the presentation of an official gift from the town and district. This was a painting by Rose Gudjonson, of Wynyard, especially done for the occasion, depicting a typical scene from the Lake District, or **Vatnabyggðir**, as the district from Wynyard to Foam Lake is locally known.

The main visit took place in the Federated Church, which was filled to capacity. Coffee was served. The President met old friends and made new friends. People "just talked" and enjoyed themselves. For many of those present, it was the highlight of a lifetime.

From Regina and Wynyard, the presidential party proceeded to Edmonton and Markerville, in Alberta; Victoria and Vancouver, in British Columbia; then east again to Toronto, and finally home, to Iceland.

"The bonds between us are growing ever stronger", and "there is need for unity in a world where there is so much disunity", said President Ásgeirsson. These words indicate very clearly the message to us of the visit of President and Mrs. Ásgeirsson. They were ambassadors of goodwill and friendship. Distinction, cordiality, and warmth marked their reception everywhere.

—W. Kristjanson

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN'S CHRISTMAS BARGAIN

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Extracts and Excerpts from Addresses of Welcome

The inspiring and encouraging address which His Excellency, Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, delivered at the luncheon in Pierre's Cafe Magnifique, sponsored by the Canada-Iceland Foundation, The Icelandic Canadian Club and The Icelandic Canadian quarterly, appears elsewhere in this number of the magazine. The following are extracts and excerpts from the four addresses of welcome.

MISS MATTIE HALLDORSON, secretary of the Magazine Board.

From the earliest days the Icelandic pioneers sought to maintain their culture and keep in touch with one another. To that end newspapers and periodicals have been published throughout the years in the Icelandic language.

But "time and tide wait for no man" and one must ride with the tide or be engulfed by it. Realizing that the Icelandic language was gradually being supplanted by the English language, especially among the young people, the Icelandic Canadian Club launched the project of printing a quarterly magazine in the English language. The main aim was to guard our Icelandic heritage and make it a living part of ourselves in our new homeland. It was felt that such a magazine could reach a number of people who could not fully appreciate the true beauty of the Icelandic language. . . .

It is worthy of mention that the Icelandic Canadian enjoys the unique distinction of being the only publication of its kind which is published on a purely voluntary basis. Men and women have given generously of their time and talent, firm in their conviction that the culture of Iceland — its ancient sagas and its modern literature — has a distinct place in the mosaic of Canadian culture.

The Icelandic Canadian has covered many fields. In its volumes can be found human interest stories of the early pioneers and their descendants and records of outstanding achievements of Icelandic men and women in their fields of endeavour in many lands.

Eminent writers and poets have contributed to the magazine. Gems of Icelandic poetry with an accompanying English translation have appeared in it. Aspiring prose writers and poets have had the thrill of seeing their efforts on the printed page.

During World War II Icelandic men and women in Canada and the United States of America heard the call of duty to serve in the armed forces at home and abroad. The Icelandic Canadian printed over six hundred photographs of service men and women with information of their achievements in the arenas of war. Particular mention was made of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

The magazine has a wide circulation which takes it from the Atlantic to the Pacific in Canada, to more than half the states, including Alaska, in the United States of America, to Iceland, Great Britain, Norway and elsewhere.

The Icelandic Canadian reflects in permanent record the hopes, the thoughts and the aspirations of the people whose name it bears as they look back, view their surroundings and gaze into the future.

MR. ALECK THORARINSON

Treasurer of the Canada-Iceland Foundation

As Canadians of Icelandic descent we are justly proud of our heritage. This pride has manifested itself in many ways since the early Icelandic pioneers came to Canada more than eighty years ago. Many organizations have been formed over the decades because of this strong pride and a need felt by the Icelandic Canadians to maintain the bonds with our Icelandic heritage. One of such organizations which has recently been formed is the Canada-Iceland Foundation, and as the Chairman has mentioned we have the good fortune of having one of the Grand Patrons of the Foundation with us here today, namely His Excellency Ásgeir Ásgeirsson, the President of Iceland. We also are fortunate to have other leading men of the Foundation with us in the presence of The Honourable Guðmundur I. Guðmundsson who is on the Honorary Advisory Council and His Excellency Thor Thors who is an Honorary Trustee.

We of Icelandic origin are one of many groups that have come to Canada. Each group contributes to Canada something of value from its own heritage. The Canada-Iceland Foundation wishes to preserve this heritage

and in so doing contribute its value to Canada. In Iceland itself there has been established the "Ísland-Kanada Ráð". This organization compliments the work of the Foundation. Thus the two organizations can mutually assist each other and work towards the common goal of strengthening these cultural bonds and understandings between the two countries. The support that they have been given to-date has been very gratifying, but a large task remains ahead.

It has been said that the best citizens are those who show a reluctance to part with the loyalties of the past. Sometimes I don't know how good we are as citizens but we certainly show a reluctance to part with the old ways. This often extends to traditional items like skyr and hardfish and even Copenhagen Snuss.

MR. GUNNAR O. EGGERTSON

President of The Icelandic Canadian Club

In Canada we honor our pioneers who tamed the wilds, in Iceland your brave sons still face the treacheries of the deep. We puzzle what to do with our seemingly limitless natural resources. In Iceland you develop what is to be prized above gold and diamonds: the character and intellect of a sturdy people. We welcome you as the leader of a free country in this world so torn with the clamorous demand of tyrannies and oppressors.

Iceland, has, Your Excellency, a pearl of great price. You have a tradition of personal integrity, of intellectual pursuits and of respect for your fellow man. Iceland's achievements in the world of letters, and in the opportunities it affords for creative artists in all fields makes us humble.

It is to capture some of the spirit of these achievements and traditions that the Icelandic Canadian Club exists. For some twenty-four years the club has attempted to convey to its members and others the spirit of Iceland. We are Canadians all. We love our native land but we feel that there are qualities in the Icelandic way of life which could enrich the culture of our nation.

Our club is trying to present in the English language some of these attitudes towards life which we feel are worthy of emulation. In the long run the impact of Icelandic culture will not be felt in the teaching of the language, important as that may be, but by the imparting to those who do not speak your native tongue, the tradition of personal freedom, of personal integrity and of intellectual honesty of which Iceland has produced such conspicuous examples.

JUDGE W. J. LINDAL

chairman at the luncheon gathering and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Canada-Iceland Foundation.

(delivered in Icelandic)

We welcome Your Excellency as the President of Iceland. We greet you, much less formally, as a Grand Patron of the Canada-Iceland Foundation — a co-worker in a worthy cause.

It was and is the view of those who launched the Foundation that if it is to reach its objective it is necessary that it have its roots not only among Western-Icelanders but also in Iceland and among cultural institutions of this country.

Even though the work has barely commenced, it is clear that this broad foundation is both sound and essential. Your Excellency is aware how closely the Ísland-Kanada Ráð has worked with the Canada Council. Four graduates from Iceland have been awarded fellowships by The Canada Council, one each year since the Council began functioning. That is truly remarkable when it is realized that applications have been received from over fifty countries, including the large nations, and only about forty foreign fellowships awarded each year.

The work and the purpose of the Canada-Iceland Foundation is appreciated among organizations and individuals both in Iceland and here. The Icelandic Good Templar Chapters, Hecla and Skuld, which now have ceased operating, have contributed \$4000.00, the interest on which will provide an annual scholarship of \$200.00, to be awarded students of Icelandic descent. A woman in Iceland, over 80 years of age, who received a small inheritance from her son in Winnipeg, donated a sum which may reach close to two thousand dollars. The interest is to be awarded annually to a university student of Icelandic stock. A start has been made in the building of a fund through annual contributions, which in the future will amount to many thousand dollars.

We feel that in this way a bridge is being built across the ocean. This cooperative effort is dedicated to the preservation of Icelandic culture, which is related in such a remarkable way to the culture of the English people.



MISS ICELAND (Sigrun Ragnarsdottir) on the right, displays trophy won in preliminary group judging for being most beautiful in evening dress. Miss Brazil (left) won in the "native dress and speech" category and Miss Spain (centre) in the playsuit division. All reached the final five. Miss Brazil placed second, Miss Pain third, and Miss Iceland fifth. Miss Holland took the crown and Miss Canada (Edna MacVicar of Galt, Ontario) was fourth becoming the first Canadian entry to make the final five.

—R. Emery

ICELANDIC BEAUTY REACHES FINALS

For the second consecutive year a lovely girl from Iceland has made the final five in the annual International Beauty Pageant recently held in Long Beach, California.

Sigrun Ragnarsdottir, from Kopavogi, a new residential area skirting Reykjavik, placed fifth in the global beauty contest which crowned Miss Holland, a brunette, as Miss International Beauty 1962 from a field of 52 beauties from every corner of the world.

Blonde, blue-eyed Sigrun, who celebrated her nineteenth birthday during the pageant, got her first taste of victory in the preliminary judging when she won a trophy for being selected the most beautiful of her group in evening dress. As fourth runner-up to the winner, she received a cash award of \$1000 plus a participation plaque. A cash award of \$10,000 goes to the winner of this non-commercial beauty contest sponsored by the City and Port of Long Beach. In addition to the cash awards, the girls received many gifts from the merchants and service clubs of Long Beach who played host to them on many occasions during the ten day Congress.

Iceland's "Nordic doll" as she was called by the reporters is 5'4", 110 pounds with attractive statistics of 36-21-36. She is not interested in becoming an actress. "Girls with accents," she says "find the going hard in Hollywood." However, she has been offered a screen test.

"Back home" she models fashions and demonstrates cosmetics. She lives with her parents and an older sister and younger brother.

There is no particular boy at home but she admits she makes friends with men more easily than with women.

Among her favorite hobbies are ice skating, singing and dancing.

Susan Hayward and the late Jeff Chandler are her favorites among the Hollywood celebrities. When the latter's mother heard of her devotion to her late son, she sent Sigrun a photograph of Jeff. "I prize it very much," said Iceland's immaculate beauty.

What does this lovely girl from near the Arctic Circle, the Northern lights and the Midnight Sun think of America? "It is very big and what I have seen of it is wonderful," she said in only slightly faltering English. She intends to stay around for a few weeks and to see more of the country and the people.

She will also be visiting with two of her predecessors, Sigridur (Sirry) Geirsdottir, who placed third in the Pageant in 1960 and Sigridur Thorvaldsdottir, Iceland's delegate in 1959 and a semi-finalist. Both are still living in the Hollywood area.

Sirry's bright future of a year ago has been slow developing but she is making personal appearances, modeling and getting some work on television and in movies. Talented Sigrid who came to America in 1959 still desires very much to work in the theatrical world but finds she must augment her income with a regular job.

When asked about her future plans this year's beauty queen from Iceland always gives the same answer: Simply to work at something she likes until she marries for love. —Rhuna Emery



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STEFAN HANSEN

STEFAN HANSEN

1910–1961

“Mathematics makes man subtle”, said Francis Bacon; a study of other humanities “gives flexibility”, said Tryon Edwards. The one is a training in keen and accurate perception, the other a training in the probabilities and vicissitudes of life. Both combined give power. If an innately keen and inquisitive mind acquires this twofold training one would expect an unusual capacity for logically directed work resulting in distinct contributions in the chosen field of endeavor.

Stefan Hansen received both types of training; he possessed a keen, inquiring and challenging type of mind. At the time of his death, barely passed the half century mark, he had already won international fame for his creative work in the relatively new field of group insurance.

Stefan was born in Iceland, March 22, 1910, the son of Bjorn and Kaertas Hansen. Four years later his parents migrated to Canada. They settled in Arborg, Manitoba, and later moved to the Wynyard district in Saskatchewan. Stefan's first school days were in Arborg and on completing his high school education in Saskatchewan he entered the University of Manitoba. Stefan selected the Honors Arts Course and in his fourth and fifth years majored in mathematics, the other subjects being economics and liberal arts. He graduated in 1934 and on graduation accepted a position with the Monarch Life Insurance Company. He very soon commenced actuarial studies, and in 1946 became a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries of America.

The year before, he had left the Monarch Life Insurance Company and accepted a position in the Statistical Department of the Great-West Life Assurance Company. Within a year he was transferred to the Group Insurance Department and became Group Secretary.

It was most fortunate, both for the Company and for Steve Hansen himself, that he was assigned to group insurance. Individual life insurance, in all its branches, had already been put on a sound actuarial basis, but group insurance was relatively new. The complex mathematics of group insurance had not been actuarially worked out and here Stefan Hansen's inquisitive and challenging mind came to the fore. An opportunity for creative work presented itself.

The Great-West Life Bulletin of April 1961, contains the following:

“In the decade of Mr. Hansen's leadership, the Company attained a position of pre-eminence in the group insurance field. Group business in force increased from \$349,000,000 in 1950 to \$2.5 billion at the end of 1960, and the Company became the largest single underwriter of health insurance in Canada. In recognition of the growth of group business, Mr. Hansen was appointed an executive officer in 1952, with the title of Director of Group Insurance. In 1958, he was promoted to Vice-President and Director of Group Insurance.”

An official statement from the Great-West Life Assurance Company contains the following:

"Mr. Hansen's death removes from the life and health insurance scene a man who made a significant and lasting contribution to his profession and his industry. In his particular field, group insurance, the influence of his knowledge, ideas and concepts was widely felt and appreciated. He earned the respect and admiration of all those with whom he came in contact. He will be remembered as one of the men who gave impetus and direction to the development of group insurance during the most dramatic period of extension and expansion in the history of employee welfare benefits."

During at least his earlier years with the Monarch Life Insurance Company Stefan Hansen had not definitely fixed in his mind what his future course was to be. That decision really was not reached until he entered the Group Department of the Great-West Life Assurance Company, when new vistas opened to him for challenging work.

Mr. Hansen was at all times interested in public affairs, and for a while during those early years he took an active interest in politics. He became a member of a Young Liberal group at the time when the Liberals and Progressives in Manitoba were laying the foundation for a permanent fusion. At heart Stefan Hansen was a Liberal with a small "l". He, like so many of his countrymen from Iceland, inherited a passion for freedom. Liberalism to him was freedom in action. Hence overtures to any other party appeared out of the question and he opposed the fusion.

During those early years, Steve Hansen became interested in youth move-

ments. The depression years had been particularly severe on the youth of Canada and their plight called for serious consideration by public spirited people. Stefan Hansen's interest in youth groups continued throughout his life. One Jewish group, the "Menorah Chapter No. 500 B'nai B'rith Young Adults" received his special attention. The B'nai B'rith Order have a beautiful way of giving expression to an appreciation of worthy deeds in their behalf. In Israel there is a "B'nai B'rith Martyr's Forest" in which trees are planted in memory of those who have rendered selfless service. Twelve trees have been planted in that Sanctuary, and a symbolic scroll issued bearing the words: "In Memory of Stefan Hansen, With Sincere Sympathy."

During those exploratory years Stefan Hansen gave thought to his ancestry as well as to his surroundings. He reached a conclusion as to the relation which should exist between his national group and the nation being moulded in Canada. The preservation of values in the culture of the land of his birth did not, he felt, depend upon a retention of the language in the homes. He readily saw the need of an Icelandic publication in the English language, as one of the links between the past and the future. When the Icelandic Canadian came into existence in October 1942, Stefan Hansen became the Associate Editor. This did not mean that he advocated the elimination of weeklies or periodicals in the Icelandic language. He took the position early that there should be only one Icelandic weekly in Winnipeg. It was not until in 1959 that he got an opportunity to put theory into practice. He was appointed chairman of a committee of five members of the Canada-Iceland Foundation to endeavor to bring about the amalgamation of Log-

berg and Heimskringla. Many efforts had been made before but this one succeeded.. The late Mr. Hansen is entitled to credit for launching the negotiations which led to this long overdue step.

Stefan Hansen saw at once the potentialities of the Canada-Iceland Foundation, with its branch in Iceland and its Canadian cultural representation. He became the secretary when the Foundation was organized, a position he held at the time of death.

Even though Stefan Hansen had decided upon a definite course, and was concentrating his efforts upon exploratory work in group insurance, that did not mean that he had withdrawn from outside activities. He was an active member of the Winnipeg Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs and participated in group studies on problems in the Far East and other areas of friction and disturbance. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Education, appointed in 1957 to study and report on public and high school education in Manitoba. After two years of hearings and intensive study a comprehensive report was made. It contained a number of recommendations, one of which was that government grants be given to parochial as well as public schools. In that recommendation one can see Stefan Hansen's concept of freedom. Just as liberalism was to him an out-

ward manifestation of freedom, so to him freedom in religion meant that government grants should be given to all public and high schools, up to required standards, no matter what religion, creed or denomination was given a preference in religious instruction.

Steve Hansen had one distinctive and understandable hobby. He was a carpenter, or rather a joiner, a skilled craftsman. Here again his creative instinct found expression. He not only planned his study in his new house—completed only a short time before his death—but in his spare time worked with other carpenters at the paneling and other fine woodwork. His complete set of carpenter's tools was the envy of many a craftsman.

The untimely passing of Stefan Hansen was a great loss but already much had been contributed. His was a mind dedicated to freedom and exploratory work leading to an actuarial sound basis for employee welfare benefits.

Stefan Hansen died on April 1, 1961. He is survived by his widow, Jessie Hermione, and two daughters, Wendy Lorraine, 19, 4th year Arts at the University of Manitoba, Signy Joyce, 17, attending high school. His parents reside in Ottawa, a brother, William, in Los Angeles, a sister, Mrs. C. Grant, in Winnipeg, and a sister, Mrs. H. Lawrence, in Las Vegas.

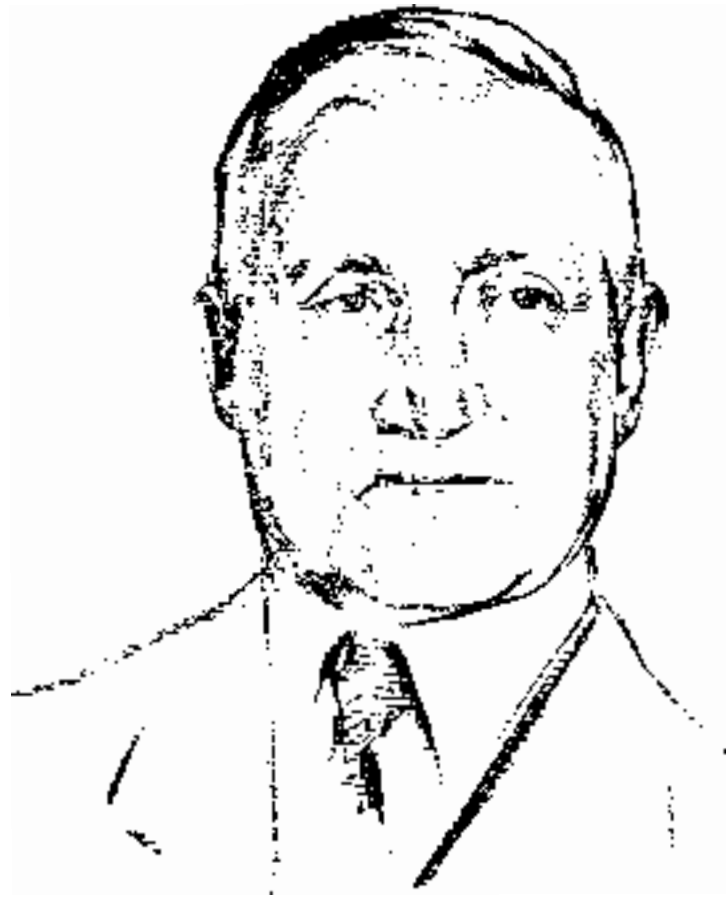
—W. J. Lindal



GALLERY OF CANADIANS:

Author and Jurist from Manitoba

By RALPH HYMAN



Walter Jacobson Lindal

—George Lonn.

Walter Jacobson Lindal, who sits on the Manitoba bench, is the son of an Icelandic father who left his native land to seek a better life in the untapped wilderness of Canada's hinterland.

Judge Lindal some years ago wrote a book about the Saskatchewan Icelanders and how they helped open up a new land and bring civilization to a wilderness. In describing how they fared in the land of their adoption, the judge told his own story.

In 1887, when Judge Lindal was born in Iceland, his father decided to emigrate to Canada. In 1890 the family settled in the Logberg district of Saskatchewan, a remote and isolated territory. Here young Walter Lindal grew to manhood and when he became of age in 1908, he took up homesteading in the Holar settlement, near Leslie.

He knew that education was the key that would unlock the door leading to a career far removed from homesteading, so he worked in a sawmill and at commercial fishing and the money he earned helped put him through Wesley College in Winnipeg.

A brilliant scholar, he stood first in every year of his arts course and graduated as gold medallist in 1911. Deciding on law as a career, he entered the University of Saskatchewan and graduated with honors in 1914. The First World War cut short his legal career and he enlisted and saw overseas service with the 27th Battalion and the Sixth Trench Mortars.

He was gassed in the Battle of Paschendale and invalided back to Canada, where he spent several months in hospital.

In 1919 he was admitted to the Manitoba Bar and in 1942 he was appointed to the Manitoba bench.

His book, *Two Ways of Life*, was published in 1940 and drew praise from literary critics. Author Lindal contrasted totalitarianism with Western democracy, and the continuing struggle to find an equitable balance between the freedom of the individual and the authority of the state. In 1946 he published *Canadian Citizenship and Our Wider Loyalties*, in which he expounded his theme that "the smaller the world, the wider the loyalties have to be."

In 1958, Judge Lindal was elected the first President of the Canadian Ethnic Press Federation.

The above, title, sketch and contents, which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* of Toronto, July 29, 1961, is one of a series on leading Canadians in the Saturday edition. Due acknowledgements are made to *The Globe and Mail*, the artist, George Lonn, and the writer of the article, Ralph Hyman.

Appointment to Faculty of Teachers College

Mr. Axel Vopnfjord, for many years a prominent member of the teaching profession in Manitobba, has been appointed to the faculty of the Manitoba Teachers College at Tuxedo as a Science teacher.

Mr. Vopnfjord graduated with honours as a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Manitoba and began his teaching career upon graduating from the Normal School the following year. Shortly after the founding of the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba, Axel completed his requirements

for his Bachelor of Education and has more recently completed all the courses required of a Masters degree in Education and has only a thesis to complete.

During his teaching career, he has served as principal at Dominion City, Manson, Belmont and Pilot Mound where he earned the reputation of a capable administrator and an outstanding teacher.

In 1942 he was appointed to the City of Winnipeg teaching staff and served first as a teacher of Science and

Mathematics at the Isaac Brock Junior High School. Since the opening of the Technical Vocational School, he has taught Science and Mathematics there and been the Vice-principal of their night school. He served one year as exchange teacher at Aberdeen, Washington. He was for many years on the executive of the Winnipeg Teachers' Association and finally in the capacity of their President.

In the Icelandic Community here, Axel is best known for his untiring work on the executive of the Icelandic Canadian Club and as its President for two years. He has also served as a mem-

ber of the Editorial Board of the Icelandic Canadian for most of the years since the publication was founded, and as chairman of the Board for two years. His articles therein were always written in a distinctive, readable style and his editorials on many topics gave evidence of a sound analysis of his subject matter.

Axel is married to the former Charlotte Olafson of Selkirk. They have two children, a married daughter Mrs. Lorraine Bjornsson, Seattle, and Leonard at home, ready to enter university.

—J. K. Laxdal

GRADUATE IN PSYCHIATRY

Dr. Solveig Gislason of St. Peter, Minnesota, a physician for 40 years, last spring completed post graduate studies in psychiatry.

Possessor of a long record of academic achievements, Dr. Gislason was born in the Gardar district of North Dakota, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Grimur I. Thordarson.

Following public and high school education she completed teacher studies at Valley City in 1909 and won her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1914 at the University of North Dakota. Subsequently she studied medicine for two years before going to Montana where she homesteaded and was a school teacher.

In 1918 she resumed her medical studies at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and graduated in 1921. She interned at the Children's Hospital in San Francisco, California.

She was married in 1922 to Arni B. Gislason, lawyer and later judge, and

they subsequently lived at Marshall and, later New Ulm, Minnesota. Judge Gislason retired in 1953 after 20 years on the bench and they moved then to St. Peter. Judge Gislason died in 1957.

Their son, Robert Warren, is a lawyer in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Dr. Solveig Gislason

His Job is Sharpening Curling Stones

by ROBERT W. CLARKE



Not many people can lay claim to having a job in a field that is less crowded than the one in which Herb Olson of Edmonton makes his living. He sharpens curling stones.

We must confess that we weren't even aware, until we met up with Herb, that those heavy granite rocks the curlers heave around ever required such a thing as sharpening. Nor would we have realized that it's such a specialized type of business it's done in only four places in the country.

Herb, 27, a good-looking blond young man with a bushy "air-force" moustache, was in town for several days this week sharpening the rocks which are used in play at the Atikokan Curling Club. He's sharpening rocks from early April until late October every year.

This actually is a family business, one where much of the skills were handed down to Herb by his father, Oli. The father, incidentally, is regarded as the master curling icemaker in the country, and is often called upon

to make the ice at the Canadian Curling Championships.

Apart from the Olsons, who are Icelanders and who hail originally from Saskatchewan, the art of sharpening curling stones is practised only by a man in Brandon, Man., named Andy O'Neill, a firm in Calgary and one in Levis, Que. Herb, who carries his equipment in a trailer, logs thousands of miles each year sharpening stones in clubs from Quebec province in the east to British Columbia in the west. He also enjoys a good deal of business in the United States.

When Herb talks about curling, incidentally, he is able to do so with considerable authority since a rink he skipped represented Alberta two years ago in the Brier at Quebec City. In that blue ribbon event he lost out for the championship in a playoff against Saskatchewan's Ernie Richardson, one of the great names in curling.

Herb does his sharpening with a machine that he assembled himself in contrast to a hand operated sharpener first invented by his father nearly 30 years ago. He doesn't mind people watching him work, although it's a matter of record that Andy O'Neill, the Brandon expert, wouldn't let anyone see the technique he employs in sharpening a stone.

What's sharpening a stone all about?

Perhaps the best way to describe it to the uninitiated is to draw a comparison between the way the finished stone appears and the rim of a saucer. When the stone rides along the ice it's touching in somewhat the same way an inverted saucer would be. Ground the way it should be, the rim of the stone is about one-eighth inch in width. Through constant abrasion this rim may get to be as much as five-eighths of inch in width and the stone no longer is true.

A few years ago, Scotland's stone-makers (all the best rocks come from Scotland and are made of granite) began to make rocks which could be used on either side simply by reversing the handle. Herb figures that the normal life for one side of a rock is about four years before sharpening is required. A two-sided rock, of course, can thus be used for eight years.

If it seems strange that ice will wear away granite, it can be more readily understood when one realizes, as Herb explains, that the average rock probably travels across 350 to 400 miles of ice in a year. Bit by bit, then, as inceptible as it might be, the fine edges of the stone are dulled.

In sharpening stones, Herb produces an edge that is about one-sixteenth of an inch in width. Usage then works the stone to the accepted standard of one-eighth of an inch. "It's just like breaking in a new car," says Herb.

Before coming to Atikokan, Herb sharpened the stones used on the 17 sheets of the various clubs at Red Lake. After he completes his job here he'll be heading in his station wagon and trailer for jobs at Nipigon, Schreiber, Terrace Bay and other points along Lake Superior's north shore.

—:

● The Icelandic Canadian is glad to reprint articles on men and women of Icelandic extraction. The above with the photograph appeared in *The Progress of Atikokan, Ontario*. The writer of this article Mr. Clarke, is married to the former Sheila McLeod from Selkirk, Man., who is of Icelandic extraction on her mother's side.

Herb Olson's father, Oli Olson, was born in Iceland. His father homesteaded in the Churchbridge district in Saskatchewan and in the dry cycle of the early '90's moved to Russell, Man. Oli Olson became a first class curler and for many years his name was prominent in Russell rinks at the Winnipeg bonspiel. To bring back jewellery from the bonspiel became a habit with him. —Ed.

Scholarships and Awards

AWARDED GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MEDAL



Eric William Olson

Eric William Olson, son of Olafur and Johanna Olson, formerly of Gimli, now residing at 110 St. Mary's Road was awarded the Governor-General's Medal as the outstanding student at the Nelson McIntyre Collegiate Institute at the closing exercises this summer.

The student selected for this award must excel in scholarship and must also have taken an active part in student body activities. He must likewise have won the respect and confidence of staff and student body. This young man has qualified in all these respects. He maintained an average of 84.8% on his examinations throughout his year in Grade XI. He gave outstanding leadership as president of the Student Council. He served as a member of the

year book staff, took part in the school's musical production as well as participating in most of the major sports activities sponsored by the school.

He was further honored by being selected by staff and student body to represent his school in the Adventure in Citizenship at Ottawa. On his return from this trip he gave an excellent report both to the school and to the Norwood Rotary Club which sponsored this project.

As a grade X student last year Bill was also awarded a scholarship given by the Norwood Scholarship Foundation.

This Summer Bill has taken a job in the Buffalo National Park, Fort Smith, North West Territories where his father's uncle, Edvald Olson is the Superintendent.

Bill hopes to enter the Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba next year. We extend our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future to this talented young man.

★

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MEDALIST 1960-61

Ross Maddin was awarded the Governor-General's Medal at the Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute this year. Ross is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Maddin. Mrs. Maddin is Herdis, daughter of Mrs. Eyolfson and the late Sigurdur Eyolfson, formerly of Vestfold, Manitoba. The following account is taken from the Collegiate paper, Breezes.

The Governor-General's Medal for the term 1960-61 has been awarded to Ross Maddin of Room 7. In his two



Ross Maddin

Grade X, and an average of eighty-five in Grade XI. He will also take part in the ceremony of passing the emblems at the graduation service. Although he is eligible for exemptions this June, he has chosen to write his examinations for the chance of a scholarship.

Next year, Ross intends to return to Daniel for Grade XII, and then to continue on to the University. Although his future plans are not definite, he appears to be interested in architecture.

★

WINS \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP

years at Daniel McIntyre, Ross has participated in varied activities and displayed the qualities of sportsmanship, scholarship, and leadership for which the Governor-General's Medal is awarded.

In his Grade X year, Ross was elected president of his home room. He participated in Daniel's bowling league, inter-room sports, and co-ed volleyball, and was on the inter-high track team.

During Grade XI, Ross was chosen as Boys' Sports Editor for the "Breezes" and became secretary-treasurer for his room. He was again a member of the bowling league, and took part in inter-room sports and co-ed volleyball. He won two first places in Daniel's own field day, and as a member of the inter-high track team, he placed third in the high jump and broad jump. During the May elections, Ross ran for the office of school president.

In spite of these many extra-curricular activities, Ross has not neglected the academic side of school life. He had an average of eighty-seven in



Donald Wayne Swainson

Donald Wayne Swainson of Winnipeg, a 1960 graduate in Arts of the University of Manitoba, last spring was awarded a \$1,500 Woodrow Wilson scholarship following post graduate studies at the University of Toronto. Mr. Swainson, who over the years has won many scholastic awards, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. I. Swainson of 471 Home Street, Winnipeg.

★

DAUGHTERS OF MAGNUS PAULSON, FORMERLY OF WINNIPEG, GRADUATE IN THE U.S.A.



Signy Margaret Paulson



Stephanie Lillian Paulson

Stephanie Lillian Paulson received her graduation diploma from Chamberlain College in Boston, Mass., and Signy Margaret Paulson received her Bachelor of Physical and Health Education from the University of Toronto. They are the daughters of Magnus and

Lillian Paulson of Toronto. Magnus is the son of Fred Bjarnason of Winnipeg. When three years old he was adopted by the late Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Paulson of Winnipeg, both deceased.

★

WINNERS OF SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES IN JUNE DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS IN MANITOBA



Lorna Ellen Sigurdson, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin E. Sigurdson, Oak Point, Man., won the following awards:

- Queen Elizabeth Bursary.....\$400.00
- Margery Brooker Bursary.....200.00
- Icel. Can. Club Scholarship.... 100.00
- Alumni Ass'n Scholarship.....100.00
- Prize for highest average (Grade XI) in White Horse Plains school division 50.00

(Also awarded a prize of \$40.00 in the May Mathematical examination, 1961, sponsored by the Canadian Mathematical Congress).

Lorna is presently taking first year Arts at United College.



Michael Danielson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Danielson of Lundar, Man. Graduated from Grade XII Lundar Collegiate Insntitute, June 1961 and won the University Board of Governors Bursary of \$200.00.



John Allen Farewell, Winnipeg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Farewell. Mrs. Farewell is Marja, daughter of the late Dr. B. B. Jonsson and the late Mrs. Jonsson. Allen won the Grade XI Alumni of University of Manitoba scholarship \$100.00, and also won \$100.00 for a perfect mathematics paper in the

fifth annual mathematics contest sponsored by the Canadian Mathematical Congress and the Winnipeg Actuaries Club.



Kenneth Wesley Sigurdson, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Sigurdson, of Lundar, Man. Won the University of Manitoba Bursary of \$500.00. At present taking second year science.



Verne Gudjon Johnson, son of Gudjon and the late Mary Johnson, of Lundar, Man., on graduating from grade XI, Lundar Collegiate Institute, won the following:
Dr. G. Paulson scholarship 100.00

Secondary school Bursary (Manitoba Government) 50.00
Alumni Ass'n of University of Manitoba scholarship 100.00

★

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AT UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA 1961

Home Economics Award – Home Management Prize, presented by the T. Eaton Co. of Canada Ltd. for highest standing in the course in Household Management –

Elizabeth Ann Sigurdson, Silver Tea Service. Parents—Mr. and Mrs. Olie Sigurdson, Swan River, Man. (For previous honours won, see Icel. Can. Summer 1959 and Summer 1960.)

Canadian Pharmaceutical Association Book Prize—for highest standing in Pharmacy First Year



James M. Thorkelson, son of Donovan Oscar and Jean Thorlacius, Charleswood, Manitoba.

William Hurst Prize for distinguished achievement in 3rd Year Engineering

Eric Laurence Sigurdson, son of Dr. Larus A. and Mrs. Sigurdson of Winnipeg. (For previous honors won, see Icelandic Canadian Summer 1959 and Summer 1960.

Isbister Scholarship Arts and Science Second Year



Donald George Peterson—\$100.00. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Peterson, Winnipeg.

Isbister Scholarship, 1st Year Agriculture



Sigurberg Orman Thorlacius — \$100.00

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Rosemary Johnson, Parents: Mrs. J. Johnson and the late John Johnson, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

★

GRADUATES IN NURSING



Miss Patricia Kristveig Johannesson graduated as a nurse from the Victoria Hospital on September 5th. She is the daughter of Mrs. Anna Johannesson of Ashern, Man., and the late Grimur Johannesson, formerly manager of the Ashern creamery.

In her last year as student nurse, Patricia was awarded a Bursary of \$100.00 by the Department of Education.

Patricia has taken a position on the nursing staff of the hospital at Ashern.

★

Arlene Lillian Fines graduated as a nurse from the Winnipeg General Hospital in May 1961. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Fines, both deceased. Mrs. Fines was the former Freda Einarson from Clarkleigh, who at one time was principal of the school




at Arborg. Arlene won the H. E. Sellers scholarship award and also the General Hospital School of Nursing award for proficiency in obstetrical nursing. She was granted a bursary to take a course at McGill University in teaching and supervision.

★

WINS \$3,800 FELLOWSHIP



Gary T. Athelstan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Arnold Athelstan, Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been awarded a \$3,800 stipend for graduate study in Counseling Psychology, by the U. S. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Mr. Athelstan, a 1960 graduate of the University



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of Minnesota, will return there this fall to begin work on his Master's Degree.

Mr. Athelstan and his wife, the former Helga Matthiesen of Hamburg, Germany, spent the summer of 1960 in Germany and the Scandinavian countries. Since their return, he has been employed as a counsellor with the Minnesota Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

IN THE FIELD OF MUSIC

Ruth Wynn Johnson, age 14, passed with first class honors the Grade 6 piano examination and with honors the Grade 2 Theory examination of The Toronto Conservatory of Music.

Ruth is the daughter of Mrs. Nell Johnson, daughter of the late Albert Johnson of Winnipeg, and granddaughter of Kristjan and Ingibjorg Johnson.

IN THE NEWS

STEPHEN SKAPTASON CHOOSES UNIQUE VOCATION



Stephen Skaptason

That a descendant of the Vikings of old should select costume cutting and designing as a calling is very unique. That is the vocation chosen by Stephen Skaptason of Winnipeg. The selection must have been prompted by a strong urge from within as in the case of ballet dancers and other artists. As the work is in response to the vision of an artist one would expect it to succeed. Such, indeed, is the case.

Already, at the early age of 19 Stephen Skaptason is being lauded by artists and people in the show business. Newspaper reporters who have seen his artistry in costumes on the stage and TV have again and again referred to his artistry. Costume expert, Bernard Polly says that Stephen is "tops in the business", that he "is a genius."

While still attending Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Stephen worked for Rainbow Stage and has now been with them for three years. He has also done costume cutting and designing for other Winnipeg productions. Last spring he was employed by the Stratford Festival of Stratford, Ont., and has been rehired for next year's season. After Rainbow Stage closed for this year Theatre Centre engaged Mr. Skaptason where he is employed at the present time. Bernard Polly predicts "a glowing career for this young man".

Stephen Skaptason is the son of Haraldur Marelius and Johanna Zoega Skaptason of Winnipeg. His grandparents on the father's side are Mrs. Anna and the late Halli (Hallsteinn) B. Skaptason, and on the mother's side, Mrs. Bjorg (nee Zoega) and the late Sigurður Johnson of Winnipeg.

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FIRST ICELANDIC WOMAN MAYOR IN MANITOBA



Mrs. Violet Einarson

Mrs. Violet Einarson was elected mayoress of the town of Gimli, Manitoba, during the civic election there in August. In a spirited contest she won over two other candidates and is the first woman to be chosen chief magistrate there. She had been a councillor for four years and succeeds current mayor Barney Egilson.

Mrs. Einarson was born and raised in Gimli. Her father, William Bristow, the son of a clergyman, came to Canada when 16 years old, and was a fisherman on Lake Winnipeg for many years. Her mother Gudrun Fridrika Gottskallsdottir of Akureyri, Iceland came with her parents in the 1876 group of Icelanders who settled in the Gimli district.

Mrs. Einarson's husband, Einar Einarson, formerly a Lake Winnipeg fisherman is now a Gimli businessman. They have one daughter, Donna Mae, Mrs. W. L. Arnason.

★

JOANNE THORDARSON IN STUDY GROUP IN EUROPE

Joanne Thordarson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Thordarson of Seattle recently returned from an extensive tour in Europe. Joanne was one of a group of 80 students from throughout the United States who were selected for foreign study in Vienna, Austria, and Madrid, Spain, for a year. The selection was made on the basis of fluent German, high grade point average and physical fitness.

Following her year of study, Joanne went to Sweden where she attended an International group school of sixty students representing every race and creed for one month.

Leaving Sweden she travelled to Iceland where she spent four weeks working for a family who raised carnations for the florists in Reykjavik. She reported wonderful hospitality, her employers giving her a most treasured possession, a pure white sheep skin. She described Iceland as very beautiful, the people gracious and friendly, and it meant a great deal to see the land of her forefathers.

She returned from Europe via New York and enrolled for her senior year at the University of Washington.

Miss Thordarson is the granddaughter of the late Kolbeinn S. Thordarson, Vice-Consul of Iceland at Seattle and Mrs. Thorbjorg Johnson of Staffholt, Blaine.

★

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Helgi Thordarson of Gimli, Man. were honored in June at the home of their son Eric in Gimli on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Numerous friends and relatives called to offer best wishes during an afternoon and evening

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reception. Apart from two or three years spent at Piney, Man. they had lived all their married life in the Arnes district of the Manitoba interlake region until they retired in 1941 to make their home in Gimli. Their children, besides Eric, are sons Thorleifur, Sveinn, Pall and Bjorgvin, all of Gimli, and daughters Erna, Mrs. W. T. Hjordleifson, Johanna, Mrs. Barney Hjordleifson, both of Riverton, and Anna, Mrs. Skuli Sigfusson of Winnipeg. There are 28 grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sigurdson of Selkirk, Man. celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last spring. They were married in Selkirk by the late Rev. N. S. Thorlakson and lived at Westbourne, Man. for 40 years before retiring to make their home at Selkirk. Both were born in Iceland. They have six children, daughters Mrs. O. B. Peterson of Edmonton, Alta., Mrs. David Egilson of Langruth, Man., Mrs. Hall McKenzie of Duncan, B. C., and Mrs. Helen Randall of Winnipeg, and sons Harold of Indianapolis, Indiana, and George of Selkirk. There are 20 grandchildren.

FELLOW OF A.C.P.



Dr. Sveinbjorn Stefan Bjornson, M.D. of Wilmington, Delaware, U.S.A. at present associate pathologist in the Wilmington General Hospital, received his FACP (Fellow of American College of Pathologists) in New York this summer. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. S. E. Bjornson of White Rock, B. C.

Graduates Manitoba Teachers College June 1961

(Available information on parentage included)

Averil Gertrude Baldwinson, 339 Dubuc St., Norwood. Both parents deceased.

Dora Joan Collison, 240 Evangeline St. Selkirk, Man. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. J. Collison. Granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Sveinson.

Carol Helga Erlendson, Vidir, Man., Mr. and Mrs. Fred Finnson

Donald Arni Flatt, 238 Dunkirk Drive, Mrs. V. E. Flatt. Grandson of the late Arni Anderson.

Mrs. Anne Jean Hanna, Box 14, Portage la Prairie, Man. Granddaughter of Jón Jónatansson.

Diane Eva Henrickson, 1003 Mulvey Ave., Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Henrickson.

John Allan Howardson, Lundar, Man.

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ward St., Mr. and Mrs. Paul Johnson.

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Harold Gordon Jonasson, Amaranth,
Man. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jonasson.

Johannes Goodman Laxdal, Arcola,
Sask. Mr. and Mrs. Th. E. Laxdal.

Alice Roberta McCartney, Langruth,
Man. Mrs. D. Egilson, mother

Sigrun Roberta Olafson, 815 Dor-
chester. Mr. and Mrs. H. Olafson.

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presenting the Icelandic Canadian to
the President will appear in the next
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NEWS SUMMARY

Edythe Mae Nordal took office as Honored Queen when officers of Bethel 4, Order of Job's Daughters, at Selkirk, Man., were installed in June. Her sister Irene took office as chaplain. They are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nordal, 279 Eveline St., Selkirk. Others of Icelandic origin taking office with them were Lorraine Stephenson as senior princess, Ivy Jefferson as guide and Carole Jefferson as treasurer, Edith Oliver as librarian, Tanis Hokanson as messenger, Noreen Simon as junior custodian and Donna Williamson as outer guard.

★

Arni G. Eggertson, well known Winnipeg lawyer, was re-elected to the board of directors for a two-year term at the annual meeting in Reykjavik of the Icelandic Steamship Lines. Mr. Eggertson with son Arni M. went to Iceland for the meeting and on their return visited Britain and the Continent.

★

Mrs. A. Goodridge of Winnipeg was re-elected president at the 37th annual convention in June of the Icelandic Lutheran Women's League of Man-

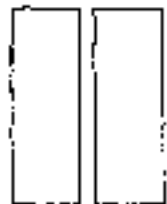
itoba. The three-day convention was held in the First Icelandic Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. Named vice-presidents were Miss Mattie Halldorson, Mrs. J. Ingimundson and Mrs. W. G. Johnson. Mrs. C. H. Scrymgeour was named secretary, Mrs. T. H. Freeman treasurer and Mrs. E. Hallson corresponding secretary.

★

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Goodman of Blaine, Washington, in June were honored by family and friends on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. In attendance were their 13 children and several grandchildren in addition to a host of friends. A reception in their honor was held in the Unitarian Church where Rev. Albert Kristjanson was speaker. Miss Joy Bergman was soloist.

★

During the week of September 9th it was noted that the Icelandic weekly newspaper Heimskringla was established in Winnipeg 75 years ago. It was amalgamated with another pioneer Icelandic weekly, Logberg, two years ago, under the name Logberg-Heimskringla.



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ANOTHER CHAPTER

by HANNAH KAHN

Mine is the voice that he no longer
hears;
This child of mine, now grown beyond
the reach
Of adolescent dreams and childish
fears,
Has grown aware of more than I can
teach,
Youth has a way of taking life in
stride,
Not bowing to a designated age,
The tentacles of time are thrust aside
And planets measured by a newer
gauge.

From what vague, distant sphere could
I perceive
This man, once boy, now definite
and sure?
What amulet of grace could I receive
To fuse him with my world, now
grown obscure?
Mine are the words he will no longer
spell,
The story now is his, for him to tell.

ANNAR KAPITULI

by HANNAH KAHN

Translated by PAUL BJARNASON

Mín rödd ei lengur á við eyru hans,
Sem undi smár við tryggja brjóstið mitt
Og dreymdi fjarlæg afrek mikils
manns,
Er máske síðar bæru nafnið sitt.
Hinn ungi treður létt sitt lífsins skeið
Án lotningar við fyrri-tíða síð.
Hann bægir tímans torfærum úr leið
Og temur kend við glæný sjónarmið.
Er til sú hæð sem horfa mætti frá
Á hann sem, vaxinn, þrammar ótta-fri?
Og hverskyns töfra tæki það að fá

Hann til míns gleymda hverfis,
barn á ný?
Hann styðst ei lengur við mín sjónar-
svið,
Og sagan er nú hans að ljúka við.

★

Skating

Poem by Alphonse Beauregard

Translation by LORNA SIGURDSON

Effortlessly, I turn, I slide,
As moved by a propellor's guide
Into blackening pitch.
On shimmering ice my skates do trace
A filigree of finest lace
To the last raised stitch.

An insane waltzing urge incites
The group which runs, whirls with
delight,
Heads forward cast.
As swishing supple cloth does swirl
A graceful charge by boy and girl
Counters the blast.

O, delightful, joyous fancy!
This whimsical wave envelops me
With trembling joy.
Twisting, I assail it, turning,
Jostling a couple, who, in discerning,
Seem as a toy.

They seem to vanish just as I,
Vague points are we in the sky.
I truly don't know
If I skate or I fly,
I see the earth go whirling by,
High and low.

Now scraping steel, gossip near me,
Does this moving ecstasy
Escape me yet?
The last grinding sound is heard

without
I was a little drunk, no doubt,
Without regret.

CLIPPINGS FROM FÉLAGSBLÁÐIÐ

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Olafur H. Bachmann was elected president at the annual meeting April 30th of the Icelandic-American Club in Los Angeles, California. Skuli Agustson was named vice-president, Hulda Dunbar secretary and Sigrídur Agustson treasurer. Guðmundur Thorsteinsson, past president, was named trustee and Skuli Barneson re-elected editor of *Félagssblaðið* which will continue to be printed by Guðny M. Thorwaldson as heretofore. The meeting was in the Polish Auditorium at 4434 Cranshaw Boulevard.

★

Dr. Niels Dungal left Los Angeles, California, in June to return to Iceland after lecturing on cancer in several United States cities and at Vancouver, B. C. Dr. Dungal had been invited to the United States to deliver the lecture series.

Ingvar Hallsteinsson returned to Iceland last spring after spending two years in the printing department of the Division of Engineering, California State Polytechnic College, at San Luis Obispo, California. He planned to spend the summer vacationing in Iceland and to return this fall to begin another two years of study leading to graduation. Ingvar hails from Hafnarfjörður.

★

The Icelandic-American Club celebrated the annual Icelandic Independence Day on June 17th at the Kings Restaurant at 9854 Long Beach, Boul-

evard, South Gate, with some 100 people in attendance.

Eugene Dodge was master of ceremonies and club president Olafur Bachmann welcomed those present. Consul Stanley T. Olafson brought greetings from Iceland and from Icelandic Ambassador Thor Thors in Washington.

Sverrir Runolfson sang three Icelandic songs and Mrs. Olavia Einarsson read The Spring Song by Jon Thoroddson — “Ó fögur er vor fósturjörð um friða sumardaga”. Mrs. Dodge, who speaks perfect Icelandic, was attired in an Icelandic costume.

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A feature was an address by a young Negro woman from Ghana, Edith Dewar, who told about her native land. She wore her native dress and told of her impressions of America and of the

Icelandic people she had met. She is a Ghanaian newspaperwoman.

Skuli Agustson introduced the numerous guests. Dancing followed the formal program.

Myvatn, IDYLIC LAKE AMONG ICELAND'S VOLCANIC PEAKS

Lake Myvatn had no definable edge. Many little waters, streams, and islets warned of the lake's proximity. I had already seen snow bunting, and now as we ran alongside a subsidiary lake I saw my first great northern diver. We stopped the jeep. The Icelandic knew a *himbrimi* when he saw one. We watched the majestic bird, quite as big as a goose, moving purposefully about his fishing. The driver could tell me much about him, as many of the local waders.

Now the interlude of rural sweetness in the valley came gently to an end. We saw an amphitheater of distant peaks, and under them, though near us, a large sheet of water—Lake Myvatn. Skirting another lesser run of water, we stopped again, where myriad trout ran under the green twilight of willow banks. Here all the ducks of an ornithologist's dreamland came to display their weird and lovely courtship in season—teal, widgeon, mallard, shoveller, pintail, gadwall, gossander, red-breasted merganser, scoter, long-tailed and tufted duck and scaup. Among the fringing waters of Myvatn was a timeless Eden, that keeps Barrow's golden-eye from other shores, a fabulous bird not unlike our own visitor, except the eyepath is crescent-shaped on a glossed purple.

As we skirted Myvatn, its vast extent became evident. Islands too numerous to count lay on it—

islands made from the tips of long-dead volcanoes just keeping their heads above water—islands constructed of lava in arches and stepping stones, pillars and monumental images, all sired by the belching fires of a quaking earth. Contorted most fantastically by violence and destruction ages ago, Myvatn had mellowed into one of Iceland's most idyllic places. . . .

Without the mountains, the lake would be just a lake, but because of its setting, the whole area became a magical place pre-eminently silent while the spells were worked. Some of its hills were old volcanoes, now no more than slag-heaps of mournful but lovely grays. Others were ranges of blackest basalt, gilded by touches of yellow pumice. But better than any were the rhyolites, rising to the sun with their own burning colour, like the glistening midday Arabian deserts, the shifting unearthly mystery of the noon Sahara. The heat of the creative fissure-ovens seemed to be still burning in a white swelter. As Myvatn's sun pierced through the clouds and rode over the coarser lava, and touched the rhyolite hills, struck them like tinder, I thought that the place was well-named a desert.

—From “Summer Saga: A Journey in Iceland”, by Robin Bryans. Copyright, 1960, by Robin Bryans. Faber and Faber, Ltd. London.

—Christian Science Monitor, March 14, 61

LAKE CHILIKOOT

by EINAR S. JONASSON

EINAR SIGURJON JONASSON, obtained the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Mechanics from the University of Saskatchewan. He was born and raised in Gimli, Manitoba and is the son of Mrs. Anna Jonasson (nee Tergeesen) and the late Einar Jonasson, for some years M.L.A. for Gimli constituency.—Ed.

Lake Chilikoot is perhaps one of the most beautiful bodies of water which I ever have perceived. It is not more than three miles in length and in width varies from one-half mile to about three hundred yards. It varies in depth from about thirty feet in the centre and becomes shallower near the shore. It gives the appearance of a mighty sheet of glass dropped into the depth of the forest. In no place is more peace, serenity, and grandeur to be found.

The surroundings of the lake are exceedingly beautiful. The forest is a motley array of stately birches and hemlocks and grim pines. In among these primeval forest giants may be found small dells whose bottoms are carpeted with a layer of moss and leaves. Aloof and peaceful, these are a welcome sight to the traveller. The ground likewise rises in spots, setting one to think that in years past a giant had dug a mighty garden, digging out the earth, forming dells and leaving the earth in great mounds.

Many animals inhabit the forest and lakes as these retreats are far from the "accustomed haunts of man". From afar can be heard the cry of the ducks and geese shattering the stillness but it is not till one has approached closely that he can hear the grouse chirping as they come to drink and once more return to fathom the solitary deeps of the forest as they go about their mating. At times the moaning of the pines sets uncanny sounds passing through the depths of the forest and one has the impression that some presiding spirit is present as well as are the forest

denizens who wander unmolested in this beauty spot. The chatter of squirrels can be heard and an occasional dart of brown tells of their presence. In the water the lake trout may be seen gliding noiselessly while the sun plays on their backs and covers them with silver flickerings. The muskrat likewise has his place here among God's children of the forest. His presence is discovered when one hears his splash as he enters the water and before long he may be seen dividing the glass-like mirror of the lake and sending out smooth ripples which dance and play when they reach the sandy shore. One is quickly attracted by these creatures who wander through the water and the forest, whose floors are studded with needles of the pines, massed up through the ages.

The influence of Nature is so pacifying and awe-inspiring, when one stands on the steep banks of the lake, that a person can not but be impressed by the splendor which surrounds him. The quiet which hangs over the misty lake towards nightfall makes one feel that God is present in all the surroundings. Peace is the strongest element evident—peace and quiet. There may be murders and foul doings in the dark, gloomy depths of the forest, but only mute sentinel trees perceive, and recollect long years after. From this spot one leaves, feeling purified in body and soul; and, tracing a way homeward with only the forest giants as comrades, one feels that he has discovered what peace really is after standing gazing at this jewel set in the silent forest.

—:—

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