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THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN



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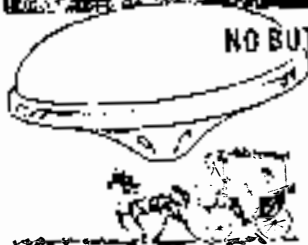


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The Icelandic Canadian

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Spring 1967

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EDITORIAL

WELCOME PAN-AM

"Western Hospitality", what an endearing term to most of us!

In general the residents of the Western provinces of Canada feel a great measure of pride when these magic words are spoken. Seldom is the expression used by "outsiders" when it is not intended as a confirmation of great satisfaction derived from treatment accorded them, above and beyond the realm of common courtesy.

Westerners are proud indeed of this reputation that travellers and tourists have bestowed upon them. Individually they seem to assume that they deserve this honour. They must, therefore, feel that personally they have performed deeds of hospitality that have helped to crystallize this impression in the minds of those who have been recipients of friendly acceptance in places strange to them in the West.

Forthcoming Pan-American Games in Winnipeg will surely give us ample opportunity to prove to the great population of the American continents that the fame of western hospitality is not a bubble that will burst from the first real prodding it is about to receive.

It is expected by those in authority that Winnipeg will witness the greatest participation in the games since they were initiated. The greatest previous participation was in 1955 when over 2,500 athletes from 21 coun-

tries participated in the games in Mexico City. Over 3,500 athletes, representing at least 26 countries, are expected to join in competitions involving 23 specific sports. In addition to this invasion of athletes there is expected an influx of some 60,000 visitors. What an opportunity for "Winnipeggers" to uphold the "Western Hospitality" reputation!

Those of us who are of Icelandic descent often enjoy an even greater reputation of lavishing hospitality upon travellers, be they acquaintances or complete strangers. Often do these strangers tell of being invited in for the traditional, "coffee", only to find it to be more of a feast "fit" for a long lost friend. This you will understand more fully if you are familiar with the habit among Icelanders of keeping a well-stocked larder of the finest of preparations for just such occasions.

We then, as an ethnic group, have a double responsibility towards maintaining and upholding a traditional hospitality. It is to be hoped that all such groups will be solidly united in a desire to create as good an impression as possible when our Pan-Am guests arrive this summer. Let us band together in a common endeavour to assure our distinguished guests that Winnipeg is indeed the friendly city of the West. May our greetings always be: "Welcome, Pan-Am friend"!

—Arelus Isfeld



His Excellency, General, The Right Honourable
Georges P. Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., C.D., P.C.,
the late Governor-General of Canada

Canada's Most Distinguished Citizen Passes Away

by WALTER J. LINDAL

Georges P. Vanier, Governor-General of Canada since 1959, beloved by all from school children to university presidents, from boy scouts to army generals, and from page boys to prime ministers, died peacefully in Government House, Ottawa, on Sunday, March 5, 1967. The night before he had watched a hockey match with Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. He died of heart failure: the tired old heart of the brave dashing army lieutenant finally gave up.

His Excellency, General, The Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., and Bar LL.B. LL.D., C.D., P.C., the son of Phileas and Margaret, nee Maloney, Vanier, was born on 23rd of April, 1888, in Montreal, P.Q. He was educated in Loyola College, Montreal, and in Laval University, where he received his B.A. in 1906 and LL.B. in 1911. In 1921 he married Pauline, daughter of the late Hon. Mr. Justice Charles Archer. They had five children, four sons and one daughter.

The late Governor-General enlisted in World War I with the rank of lieutenant in the Royal 22nd Regiment and served at the front in France and Belgium for over three years. He was wounded, losing a leg, and won the D.S.O., M.C. and Bar, Chevalier, Legion of Honour, France. After the war, in 1925, he was appointed Officer Commanding the Royal 22nd Regiment. He served in World War II, being attached to the French Govern-

ment in exile, under General Charles de Gaulle, with rank of Brigadier General. When appointed Governor-General he held the rank of Major-General and while in office was raised to the rank of General.

General Vanier entered the diplomatic service in 1931 as secretary in the office of the Canadian High Commissioner in London where he served until 1938. In 1944, he was appointed Canadian Ambassador to France and served until 1953 when he retired. In 1959 he was appointed Governor-General by the then Prime Minister of Canada, John G. Diefenbaker.

General Vanier will be best remembered for his service as Governor-General of Canada. Even though physically handicapped he travelled all over Canada, going even to the Northwest Territories. He was most anxious to meet Canadians of all ranks and all origins. On one of those journeys, in May, 1965, the Governor-General and Madam Vanier were the guests of honour at a luncheon in the Royal Alexandra Hotel in Winnipeg. It was held under the auspices of six organizations—in itself a precedent and within the Governor-General's desire to reach all Canadians. They were the two Canadian Clubs, the Royal Commonwealth Society, the French Canadian Education Society, The Canada Ethnic Press Federation and the Citizenship Council of Manitoba. Madame Vanier, who with an



Mrs. Stupak of Winnipeg presenting flowers to Madame Vanier. Mrs. Stupak obtained her Certificate of Canadian Citizenship a few days before this Celebration took place.

sense of duty, had rendered most distinguished service on all official visits at distant points as well as at Government House, has spoken with "warmest remembrances of that wonderful luncheon".

At the luncheon the Governor-General delivered an address which later was, on instruction from the Premier of Manitoba, Hon. Duff Roblin, delivered to every school in the province of Manitoba. In that address General Vanier revealed his inmost thoughts on Canada and her people. He said in part:

"If one looks beneath the surface, one finds that mankind is united in appreciation of the essential values of life

and in recognition of the wisdom and power which is to be derived from diversity. . . .

"Let us approach and appreciate our differences in the way a mature man should. Let us remember that no one point of view, nor any way of life, has any monopoly of virtue. Quite the contrary: the road to real knowledge lies in comparison, mutual compassion, and understanding. Each of our people, each one of us individually, has some element of truth, some glimpse of enlightenment to offer to all of us. Therefore when we meet a man with an opinion that is new to us, or a people with a tradition we have not met before, let us look at them

with respect and perhaps even with envy, for he and they know something that we do not, he and they have achieved a further step toward wisdom. Then, if we approach the differences between us in this way, respect leads to appreciation, appreciation to understanding, and understanding to affection. . . .

"We are ten Provinces. I am proud of each one of them, proud of their inhabitants, but not always happy that the boundaries between those Provinces at times look more like barriers than happy meeting places. Let us open the windows and the doors of the Provinces. Let us look over the walls and see what is on the other side. Let us know one another, that will lead to understanding.

"Yes, I am proud of each Province, but I am prouder of Canada which comprises the Provinces. I want to be known abroad and at home as a Canadian, not only a citizen of one of the Provinces. . . .

"A country with such antecedents as ours, the founders, the discoverers, the explorers, can, and must, look forward to a prodigious destiny. This Nation, unless it goes forward as a whole and not as separate Provinces, will not be able to achieve this destiny."

The funeral of a great man often reveals through the people what his greatness has meant to them. The very silence across the vast distances of Canada told, in language that only hearts can understand, how deep-felt was their appreciation of the man who to them represented the finest in a fellow Canadian.

The services in the Roman Catholic Basilicas in Ottawa and in Quebec City were a prayer and an appeal.

In Ottawa the coffin was met in the Notre Dame Basilica by Cardinal

Paul-Emile Leger who with ten other priests celebrated the funeral mass. He himself delivered prayers in English and French and was assisted in the service by two sons of the deceased: Trappist Father Benedict who said the prayer for the dead in Latin and Dr. Jean Vanier who read the Epistle. Representatives of other faiths participated in the service: Rt. Rev. Ernest S. Reed, Anglican Bishop of Ottawa; Rt. Rev. Timotheus, Greek Orthodox Bishop of Toronto; and Rev. M. J. Carson of the United Church, president of the Ottawa Council of Churches.

The Government of Canada and the Governments of all the ten provinces were represented.

In Quebec City the service was conducted by Cardinal Maurice Roy. Here the youngest son, Michel, read the epistle and prayers were said by Protestant ministers. The body was laid to rest in the crypt of the Notre Dame Basilica and will be transferred later to the memorial chapel of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

The solemnity of the Roman Catholic Mass, the part taken by members of the Vanier family, the participation by leaders of other Christian faiths, the presence of representatives of the eleven governments—it all was as if the great Canadian himself were placing before the people of Canada his inmost thoughts, his hopes, his love, himself, there to abide through the ages.

A week of mourning was declared. To many, if not all, it was mourning but yet something more; it was a week of thankfulness that all felt for having been privileged to witness in the life of that great Canadian the qualities of mind needed for the building in this land of a noble nation worthy of a high trust.

THE VIKING SHIP PROJECT

A most unique and ambitious family centennial project is currently under way at the west end of the "Floating Bridge" at Kelowna in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. Here, a man of Viking ancestry, E. Gordon Jennens, is attempting to reconstruct an authentic replica of one type of the ancient Viking ships.

Through an authentic volume of family genealogy Gordon can trace his Viking ancestry back to the times of King Canute. This record gives conclusive evidence that his family was well established in England some fifty years before the invasion of the Normans under William the Conqueror, in 1066.

This project of reconstructing one phase of Viking history was not embarked on without full realization of the vast amount of research required, nor the time and expense involved. Nor was the project begun until Gordon had collected enough authentic data to assure a successful completion of the undertaking.

It takes, however, more than Viking ancestry to conceive and carry to completion a project such as this. A thorough knowledge of the material used in the construction, expert craftsmanship, engineering skills and a wide background of related experiences are all essential to assure success of the undertaking. These Gordon possesses in a rich measure.

He built his first kayak at the age of six years; from then on building boats became his hobby and later a vocation. He has built racing shells for rowing clubs in Winnipeg, Min-

neapolis and elsewhere. Prior to the Olympic Games in Helsinki, in 1952, he was commissioned to build the racing shells for the Canadian Olympic rowing team and employed to assume responsibility for their maintenance for the duration of the games.

A project of this nature also requires time and patience to undertake extensive research from authentic sources. During the last 14 years Gordon has gathered information relating to the project from virtually all available authentic sources. Before returning to Canada from the Olympics he visited the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo, Norway, where he got his first glimpse of a Viking ship reclaimed from ancient tomb-mounds and reconstructed by the best experts available. This visit initiated Gordon's desire and determination to honor the scores of thousands of the Vikings who have played such a vital role in the development of so many communities in Canada and the United States. He also hopes to stimulate the interest of the present generation in research to acquire authentic knowledge of the accomplishments of past generations and their way of life. In 1957 he visited museums and examined archives in London, Denmark and Holland in search of additional information pertaining to Viking ships and the routes of the early westward voyages of the Norsemen. On his third trip to Europe, in 1965, he added to the voluminous store of materials already gathered. Presently he is preparing for a trip to Iceland and some of the other Scandinavian countries in search of additional information pertaining to

some of the minor details necessary to complete the construction and outfitting of the ship before the launching this spring.

Gordon has had the good fortune to arouse the interest and secure the co-operation of such outstanding Scandinavian archivists as: Erna Aasheim, Magister Arne Emil Christensen, Ole Crumlin Pedersen, Dr. Olaf Olsen and other museum personnel and authorities on the subject. These sources have supplied him with drawings, photographs of reconstructed Viking ships and a great deal of useful technical data. From his own research he has drawn maps showing the most probable routes of the Viking voyages to the now extinct Norse settlements in Greenland and the first voyage of Bjarni Herjolfsson, in 986 A.D., and the later voyages of Leifr Eriksson, who in the year 1000 A.D. made voyages of exploration to the Eastern Atlantic seaboard of North America.

Gordon was well aware of the many difficulties he would encounter and the time and the money required to complete the undertaking. In order to devote his undivided attention to the project he sold his business, which handled largely small contracts for the Department of National Defence. Gordon now spends ten to fourteen hours a day on the project; his wife and growing family put in as much time as they can spare. A brother and additional hired help are called on when required.

The basic design is the same as the "Gokstad" Viking ship. This was selected as a model because it is the best preserved of the ancient crafts and authentic plans and specifications of materials were made available to facilitate the reconstruction. These ships were essentially utility vessels used principally for exploration and

cargo carrying on Viking voyages during the 9th and 10th centuries.

Special type of oak for the hull was imported from California. Garry Oak from Vancouver Island, with its tough fibres more closely resembles the Norwegian oak used by the Vikings than anything else available here today, is being used for the ribs and knees. Instead of kiln drying the oak to remove the sap from the green wood and hasten the seasoning, Gordon uses the ancient process of boiling the wood for as long as thirty consecutive days if necessary. This process leaves the exterior surface of the oak as black as charcoal. The black coating is then removed by scraping.

The finished ship will have an overall length of sixty feet, with a beam of fourteen feet, and when completed the hull, without gear and equipment, will weigh six and a half ton. The nails and rivets are of hand forged wrought iron. The thirty-four foot long mast is fashioned from pine and the square rigged linen sail will have dimensions of approximately 20' x 25'. The high arched bow and stern will both be hand carved. The carving alone will take a month's work. The over-all outside protective coating will be pine tar, which was also used for protective covering on some of the Viking ships. It will also be outfitted with all the fighting gear, weapons shields, utensils, sleeping gear and tools, etc., with which the Vikings equipped their ships. Gordon estimates that the completed ship fully equipped will cost approximately \$10,000. The Sons of Norway Branch in Victoria has displayed keen interest in the project and has assisted Gordon in many ways. They have also offered to help officiate at the launching ceremony in Kelowna this spring.

After the official launching of the ship on Lake Okanagan it will be mounted on a specially designed trailer so constructed that viewers can come aboard and examine the ship and equipment at their leisure. From Kelowna the ship will first be taken to the west coast and sailed on the Pacific Ocean and displayed there in various ports. It will then be reloaded on the trailer and displayed en route on its eastern journey to Newfoundland.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennens and their family of five ultimately hope to re-live a voyage of the Vikings of old by sailing the ship from Greenland to the eastern Atlantic sea-board.

Some 13,000 visitors to Kelowna during the last summer paid an admission

fee of 25 cents to see the building project in progress.

Mr. Jennens is simultaneously working on a replica of the "Santa Maria" in which Columbus made his trip across the Atlantic in 1492, almost 500 years after Leifr Eriksson began his explorations of America. This is a still more ambitious undertaking than the Viking ship. The Santa Maria will have an overall length of 101 feet, a beam of 27 feet, and will weigh 72 tons empty and 115 tons registered. The total cost of construction is estimated at \$130,000. The launching date for the Santa Maria has been set for 1968.

—Jon K. Laxdal

Icelandic Club formed in Hamilton, Ont.

Reykjavik-born Mrs. Ragnheiður Reichenfeld and her husband, a physician, came last October from Iceland to Hamilton, Ont. where Dr. Reichenfeld took over a position on the staff of Chedoke Hospital.

Noting 1967 was Canada's centennial year, they soon decided, as their own personal centennial project, to have an Icelandic Christmas celebration and invite to it all the Icelanders of the area they could find. But for Mrs. Reichenfeld the problem was to find them.

Regular channels failed for the 40-year-old mother of four, so she asked the Hamilton Daily Spectator for help. On December 15 an article describing her search appeared. All 24 people at the party had contacted her through the article.

None of them was born in Iceland but they knew Icelandic well. The con-

versation, combined with Icelandic pastries and smoked lamb, the Icelandic equivalent to Christmas turkey in Canada, made the gathering a success.

Mrs. Reichenfeld held her party for many reasons. "Canada is a mixture of many groups," she said, "and, while it is important to be good Canadians, it is also important that we do not lose contact with our past."

She added that Icelanders always have a good time at Christmas.

Only a few of her guests from Hamilton, Burlington and St. Catharines had met before, but the common language, food, slides of the homeland and tiny flag decorations soon brought them together.

The Spectator article brought many welcome letters and phone calls from Fort Erie and London, and Vancouver, B. C.

PAUL BJARNASON

Paul Bjarnason of Vancouver is no longer with us.

Sincerity and honesty are among the priceless traits that have been given to man.

One may disagree entirely, perhaps violently, with the "philosophy" which Paul preached. (Here the word philosophy is used in the same sense as in the editorial referred to below). It may be that before the fundamentals of a society in a world of permanent peace have been laid, other philosophies may also have to be devised.

In 1923 the late Gunnar B. Bjornson, was still editor of The Minneota Mascot. In an editorial of that year he refers to a discussion on a cold, blustery night. A few men clustered around one of those necessary box-shaped heating stoves, "in a shack of unpretentious dimensions and simple equipment". A discussion arose resulting from a simple question:

"What is the matter with the world?"

The editor reports to one who had remained aloof but obviously was listening intently. "Our philosopher", as the editor called Paul Bjarnason, laid down his philosophy of life.

"Individual freedom is the natural state, therefore every man should act with the utmost freedom. What man wants to do, that he should be permitted to do—with the possible exception of the violently vicious, or the insane. There should be no money, as we know and use it. There should be no such thing as compelling people to work. There should be no government to tell people what they must or must not do.

"I did not say you would not have to work. What I said was that in an ideal state one would not have this thing that you understand by work. In the state or society that I am talking about, I would not compel any man to work. I would let everyone do just as he pleased and I would have the state responsible for housing, feeding and clothing all. When everybody is free to work at the thing that he likes, work ceases to be work in the sense that we now understand. It is because we are compelled to do the things that we do not like to do that work becomes a drudgery and labor a curse. Let people follow their inclinations, do the things in which they take pleasure, and work produces joy and gladness instead of pain and depression.

"When everybody can do the things that he likes best, there will be no idleness. Then everybody will be seeking work, seeking to be employed, and no one will want to be idle. To be busy will be to be happy."

It seems that when fundamentals are reached they are, in the views of men who would appear to be diametrically opposed to one another, not so different—in fact the same. It is in the methods of reaching those fundamentals that differences arise often leading to positions taken most difficult for others to understand.

To Paul Bjarnason, no less than to his most severe critics the objective was peace—peace for all humanity. It is on the paths leading to that objective, still far in the distant blue, where the clashes occur.

W.J.L.

The Unitarian Church Of Winnipeg

1891 — 1966

Last year, in October, the Unitarian Church of Winnipeg observed its seventy-fifth anniversary, having set aside a week, October 23rd to the 30th, as anniversary week, concluding with a banquet on the 28th and a guest speaker at the service on the final Sunday, in the person of the Rev. John H. Morgan, minister of the Unitarian Church in Toronto, with the present minister in Winnipeg, the Rev. William P. Jenkins, presiding.

On Sunday, the 23rd of October, two services were held in the church, one in English at 10:30 a.m. and one in Icelandic in the evening at 7:00 o'clock, conducted by the writer of this article, in the course of which the history of the church was briefly traced, from its first beginnings in 1891, down to the present day.

That story has been varied both as to background and early origin, beginning with people of Icelandic descent and culminating these seventy-five years later in a single congregation, deriving from at least three different streams of liberal religious thought and practice, which have run together to carry on as one.

The Unitarian church in Winnipeg did not blossom forth full-blown overnight. There were many influences that led to its final organization. Many of these emanated from Iceland, as was noted by Rev. Jón Bjarnason in 1890 when he said ". . . nútíðar kirkjan á Íslandi verðveitir talsvert af hinu andlega súrdegi Unitara van trúarinnar í

sínu eigin skauti. . ." (Saga Íslendinga í Vesturheimi).

The Icelandic immigrants were not unfamiliar with liberal religion. Many had been acquainted with the writings of one of the most prolific writers on theological matters that has been known in Iceland, Magnús Eiríksson. Though he lived the greater part of his lifetime in Copenhagen, his works reached Iceland and took hold on the minds of many. Matthías Jochumsson, a great liberal himself a follower of Magnús Eiríksson had through his poetry, his plays and other writings raised many questions in the minds of his countrymen. Björn Gunnlaugsson, astronomer and mathematician, published a book known as "Njóla", in verse form in 1853, containing altogether 518 stanzas, calling in question the doctrine of eternal damnation, and preaching, in verse form, the all encompassing love and wisdom of God, which would make it impossible for him to condemn any creature of his creation to everlasting torment. This book had a deep effect on the Icelandic people and helped to lay the groundwork for the Unitarian movement that was to rise among the Icelandic people in this country. An interesting sidelight in connection with this book and the place it held in the minds of Icelandic Unitarians, is the fact that a copy of "Njóla" had been placed in the cornerstone of the Unitarian church on the corner of Sherbrook St. and Sargent Avenue in 1904, and came

to light in 1962 when the present owners of the building removed the cornerstone in the process of building an addition to it.

There were others, writers, poets, teachers and theologians, who exerted a liberalizing influence, which was later reflected in the attitudes of the Icelandic people here.

Then there were some on this continent, such as the Rev. Kristofer Jansen, a Norwegian poet and theologian who had travelled among his countrymen in Minnesota preaching Unitarian principles and organizing congregations. Björn Petursson, had immigrated to Gimli in 1876 and later went to N. Dakota, finally moving to Winnipeg in 1890. (See *Saga Íslendinga í Vesturheimi*, p. 56). He became acquainted with Kristofer Jansen, translated some of his writings on Unitarianism, and set about organizing a congregation in Winnipeg, which he did on Feb. 1, 1891. His first wife Ólafía Ólafsdóttir died in 1884. In 1890 Björn married Jennie Elizabeth McCaine. She came from the New England States and had lived in St. Paul. When Björn died in 1893, she carried on the work of the church in Winnipeg, conducting the services and preaching the sermons until 1894. A church building had been erected in 1892, with Jón Eldon as president of the congregation. Thus the Unitarian movement became firmly rooted in Winnipeg.

Jón Olafsson, poet and writer kept services going for a time until Rev. Magnus J. Skaptason took charge, August 1, 1894. His ministry lasted until 1899 when he left for Minnesota. Rev. Rögnvaldur Petursson, then a student at the Meadville Theological School, served the church as student minister during the summer months

of 1900 and 1901. Rev. Johann P. Solmundsson, a graduate from the same school was in charge of the church from July 1902 until April 1903. In August of that year Rev. Rögnvaldur Petursson was installed as minister and carried on his pastorate until 1909 and again from 1915 to 1922.

Other ministers who have served the church were Rev. Gudmundur Arnason, 1909-1915; Rev. Ragnar H. Kvaran, 1922-1928; Rev. Benjamin Kristjansson, 1928-1932.

In 1904, a second church, still bearing the name First Icelandic Unitarian Church of Winnipeg, was built on the corner of Sherbrook Street and Sargent Avenue. This was to be the home of Icelandic Unitarian activity until in 1921.

In the meantime another church, with liberal views had arisen in Winnipeg among the Icelandic people, as an offshoot of the Lutheran Church. It took the name "The Tabernacle", and was made up of a membership of liberal minded people whose leanings were in the direction of the "New Theology" (*Ný guðfræði*). A church was built in 1894 on Furby and Sargent Avenue. During the pastorates of its first two ministers, Rev. Hafsteinn Petursson (1894-1899) and Rev. Bjarni Thorarinson (1900-1903) a tug-of-war was carried on between those in the church and those in the Lutheran synod, over the question of membership or non-membership in the synod. The question was finally settled during the pastorate of Rev. Fridrik J. Bergman, a man of great mind and deep understanding. He served the Tabernacle from 1903 until the day of his death on April 11, 1918.

It was at a church conference in 1909 that the final step of separation was

taken. Representatives of the Tabernacle found it impossible to commit themselves to the statements demanded of them to qualify for membership in the Lutheran Synod and the decision was made to sever the relationship that had existed. The church decided to carry on an independent existence. A new church building was erected on Victor Street in 1912, and during the years that followed the congregation flourished.

In April, 1918, the church suffered a bitter blow with the death of its minister. New problems arose. Very friendly relations had been established between the members of the Tabernacle and the Unitarians. Co-operation had been good, and when the problem of calling a minister had little or no response, the possibility of amalgamation with the Unitarians came to the fore, and more particularly when it was proposed that a search for a minister acceptable to both congregations be made in Iceland and also that the name of the church be changed to suit both congregations, although still preserving the liberal outlook of each.

Unanimity was not reached among the Tabernacle members, and a division developed among them, one side wishing to revert to Lutheran membership and the other side expressing a preference for the Unitarians. Each side claimed ownership of the building. A long drawn out court action followed, creating much bitterness on both sides. The final outcome was that the church building was awarded to the Lutheran faction.

The dispossessed group and the Unitarians joined hands to erect a building of their own, the building now in use on Banning Street and Sargent Avenue, the cornerstone of which was laid in the spring of 1921.

The name adopted by the merged group was "The First Federated Church of Unitarians and Other Liberal Christians", and the church was incorporated under this name in 1921. A minister, the Rev. Ragnar H. Kvaran was called from Iceland, to begin his ministry in 1922. He was a man of great breadth of mind, an able speaker and a born leader. He was well received by the whole Icelandic community and did much to help heal the wounds and the bitterness that had resulted from the controversy that had waged before his coming. He was succeeded in 1928 by the Rev. Benjamin Kristjansson, a man of scholarly attainments and of liberal outlook. He, too, did much to draw the Icelandic community together in a spirit of understanding.

The third stream of Unitarianism, which combined with the other two to make up the Unitarian Church of Winnipeg as it is to-day, flowed from the efforts of a small group of English Unitarians who had come to Winnipeg from the old country, bringing their Unitarian faith with them. The charter members of what was to become The All Souls' Church (Unitarian) were attracted to a gathering, called by the Rev. F. H. M. Ross, who had been in touch with the American Unitarian Association in Boston. With its encouragement he proceeded to try to organize a congregation. The first meeting was called for May 8th, 1904 and two weeks later an organization meeting was held, in the Sons of England Hall on Portage Avenue.

Mr. Ross continued as minister until in January 1907. In 1908 the Rev. Frank W. Pratt, then newly appointed as Unitarian Field Secretary for Canada spent several months with the congregation. In the spring of 1909 final

steps for the incorporation of the congregation were taken and the name All Soul's Unitarian Church of Winnipeg was adopted.

The next minister was Rev. W. A. Vrooman, who served from October 1, 1909 until in the spring of 1912. During that period the first steps to purchase a site for a building were taken and the site bought, a lot on the corner of Furby Street and Westminster Avenue. The Rev. Horace Westwood was installed as minister in October, 1912, and the building plans were proceeded with. By the fall of 1913, the building was completed. The next few years were years of progress. The church prospered, and grew in spite of the problems imposed by the first World War.

In 1919 Mr. Westwood left to take charge of the Unitarian Church in Toledo. A succession of ministers followed, Rev. Walter G. Letham; Rev. A. N. Kaucher; Rev. James A. Hart; Rev. Edgar Whitehouse and Prof. W. G. Smith.

In July, the writer of this article, having graduated from the University of Chicago, and completed his studies at the Meadville Theological School, came to Winnipeg and was installed as minister of the All Soul's Church. However, this was the year in which the depression began, and the Church, already experiencing difficulties, was hard hit. The First Federated Church, also lost its minister when Rev. Benjamin Kristjansson returned to Iceland in 1933, and was also experiencing dif-

iculties. By 1934, the two churches sought a solution to their problems through the suggestion of sharing the same minister, and sharing the same building. This was acted upon (and if I may use the personal pronoun) by suggesting to me that I spend a winter in Iceland for study and improvement in the Icelandic language. This I did in the fall of 1934, returning in June, 1935. I then took charge of both congregations, in our present building.

For the next ten years each organization retained its separate identity. Each had its own board, independently of the other. Each had its own chairman, its own treasurer, its own secretary. Services in the English language were conducted each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and in Icelandic at 7:00 in the evenings. Co-operation between the two congregations was good. Finally, in 1945, the two congregations decided to merge, and become one Church. The name, The Unitarian Church of Winnipeg, was again adopted.

This step strengthened the Church, and it began to grow in numbers and effectiveness. In 1950 the building underwent a major interior remodeling with resulting good effects. The church school grew beyond the facilities of the church. The house originally the church manse, was given the name "Unitarian House" and was taken over for church school purposes.

In 1964, after thirty-five years of service in Winnipeg, I decided it was time to resign and give over the conduct of the church into other hands.

The congregation chose the Rev. William P. Jenkins, formerly of Toronto, and Rochester, N. Y. and Hamilton, Ont. He began his duties in September, 1964. Under his vigorous leadership the church has shown continued and continuing progress, with the result that now, from the vantage point of the 75th anniversary, we are able

to look over the past years with pride of achievement, and to look forward to the years ahead, with confident anticipation of victories to be won, even greater than the ones of the past. The future for the Unitarian Church in Winnipeg looks very bright.

—Philip M. Petursson

THE LEIFR EIRIKSSON PLAQUE

The selection of the site in Ottawa for the Leifr Eiriksson plaque has now been finalized. It will be placed on one of the walls of a large combination auditorium-foyer in the new National Library and Archives Building which is on Wellington St. west of the Supreme Court Building, two Confederation Buildings and the three Parliamentary Buildings. The building, just being completed, will be one of the most beautiful buildings in Ottawa. The walls of the large central hall, facing Wellington St., are of marble and the walls of the Auditorium-foyer on the left and the reading-writing room on the right are of select hardwood.

One of the walls in the Auditorium-foyer is an exception. On it are two doors, quite a distance apart, leading to a most modern and fully equipped concert hall with a seating capacity of about 500. On the wide wall between the two doors leading to the concert hall the woodwork extends only about three and one-half feet and above there is burlap of matching color.

The auditorium is open for use by departments of governments, or other-

wise, and on such occasion those in attendance will face the semi-burlap wall of paintings, other art work or whatever may need be exhibited on the particular occasion. When the concert hall is in use the people will gather in the auditorium-foyer in which there will be occasional chairs and perhaps chesterfield sets, all facing the burlap wall.

The Leifr Eiriksson plaque, securely bolted, will centre on the wall between the two doors. As the plaque is about four feet wide it will be at just about the right height for people who may want to read the message on it.

It has now been officially decided that the presentation and unveiling of the plaque will take place on Friday, April 14, at 4:00 p.m. Invitations to attend the ceremony will be extended by Hon. George McIlraith, the Minister of Public Works. As this is a centennial project as well as a gift to Canada, John Fisher, the Centennial Commissioner will be in some way associated with the ceremony. Further details await arrangements.

Early Icelandic Builders In Winnipeg

An address delivered by S. A. Thorarinson at a Luncheon Meeting held Feb. 28

First of all I should like to thank the Chairman for his many kind remarks. Modesty and honesty prevent me from accepting all of these compliments but thank goodness for the rumor!

Secondly; I should like to thank the Icelandic Canadian Club for the honor they have bestowed in asking me to give this address today. I must say I feel flattered.

Thirdly; I should like to apologize to you for the manner in which the material for this talk is presented. The subject is of much interest to me, and, as you have already heard, is "Early Icelandic Builders in Winnipeg," but although I have perused many books seeking information in connection with these early Icelandic Builders, quite surprisingly I have not been able to find material of any consequence on the subject; yet these early Icelandic Builders played a very important and active role in the shaping of this Province, and particularly here in Winnipeg where they were present in such large numbers.

My chief and really only source for material on this subject has been from talking to some of the members of our group who remember these early builders and remember the buildings they constructed. I am greatly indebted to the following people whom I have talked to and who have been extremely co-operative and helpful in assisting me to assemble this material: Walter Bergman, Rafnkell Bergson, Eddie

Benjaminson, Arni Eggertson, Carl Hansson, Bill Johannson, Kobbi Kristjansson, Margaret Petursson, Sam Sigurdson, Heimur Thorgrimson, Thor Thorsteinson.

Before the 1880's there was very little building done of any consequence except that which was necessary to stay alive. Wages were extremely low and when the first Icelanders arrived, wages for carpenters who were actually cabinet makers, were 10 to 12½c per hour. As a result there were very few Icelanders from the early immigration that followed the carpentry trade, and it was not until about 1883 that there is any record of carpenters amongst the Icelandic settlers. At that time the Icelandic colony in Winnipeg consisted of 754 persons; occupations were listed at 12 dressmakers, 12 merchants, 10 carpenters, 5 organists, 4 printers, 3 painters and 1 blacksmith. At that time wages for carpenters had risen to approximately \$1.75 to \$2.00 per day for a 10-hour day, or 17½c-20c per hour which still doesn't seem like very much. Mind you the dollar was fairly valuable at this time as you could rent a 4 or 5-room house for \$16.00 to \$20.00 per month, beef was selling at 20c per pound, and you could get board and room, for a single person, for about \$16.00 per month.

These were the early pre-turn of the century days when Western Canada was first being settled. The road back is a vanished world and can be travelled only in the memories of the

old timers. Things were considerably different in those days as Winnipeggers lived on terms of intimacy which grew out of the pioneering spirit. They seldom passed one another on the street without pausing for more than a greeting, and in most instances during these years, each person was acquainted with every other person of respectable appearance in the town.

The Icelandic Builders who were active prior to 1900 were very few. I understand a man called Helgi Jonsson was the first Icelander to build a house in 1889 which was on Pacific Avenue. Gudmundur Jonsson who built the North West Hall in the 1880's was also one of the first. Bjorn Blondal, the father of the late Dr. August Blondal, built many houses in the West End of the City and also built the Hotel at Gimli which is now the Betel Old Folks Home. Another early builder was Jon Vopni who built houses in Winnipeg, C.P.R. stations in the country and built an apartment block on Ellice and Langside. Another real early builder was Jonas Johanneson, father of Connie Johanneson. Jonas Johanneson built a block on the corner of Victor and Wellington, the Verona Apartments, also one other and several houses. These early builders for the most part worked along with the men as foremen.

In these years a builder could by good management and hard work build a house or an apartment building for almost the amount of the mortgage but only by working at and supervising the construction himself. Times like these were a real opportunity; however, to be a good builder requires many other qualifications. It requires intelligence, requires imagination, requires a great deal of energy, ambition and optimism and also you have to

know over the long haul, what your financial limitations are and work within them. Unfortunately in the early years building also was a very hazardous occupation as good times were usually short lived and followed by severe setbacks or by depressions, and many of our early builders flourished for awhile, then, through no fault of theirs, lost everything they had.

Another early builder was Albert C. Johnson, the father of Dr. Johnson, the dentist. Albert C. Johnson came to Winnipeg in 1886 and worked at many trades, including railroading, printing for the Logberg and next a meat market. He later started building and became very successful; in fact for a long time was considered one of the wealthiest Icelanders in Canada. In 1905 he built a 3-storey building on Young and Sargent which at that time was said to have been the second largest block that an Icelander had built in North America. Two other blocks he built were the Nova Villa on Sherbrook St., and the Alfhall Court on Maryland St., and I understand he bought and sold many others.

The years from 1900 up until the First World War were very active in the building trade, and many energetic Icelandic builders appeared on the scene — one was Thorsteinn Oddson who lived in Winnipeg from 1901 to 1924. Mr. Oddson was very active and built many apartment blocks including the Hazlemere Apartments on Ellice Ave., the Coronado Apartments on Furby St., Claremont Court on Burnell St., the Kolbrun, Komoka, Kelowna and St. Pauls Terrace, all on St. Pauls Ave. He then built the Thelma Mansions on Burnell St., and in 1914 ran into financial difficulties due to the War, and I am told lost most of his property. Mr. Oddson was reputedly

a very generous man and helped many Icelandic people with work and other assistance. A rather humorous story I have been told with regard to him arose from one of his foremen called "Kristjan". This fellow Kristjan seems to have been a real character and one day while supervising the carpenters on one of the Blocks he noticed that Oddson was arriving. Kristjan immediately said to the carpenters (I regret that I have to use the Icelandic so bluntly but if I mince words it would lose its bite) "Berjið þið nú strákar, því nú kemur helvítið." — When Oddson came into the building Kristjan completely turned the other cheek, smiled and said to him "Mikið þotti mér vænt um að sjá þig Oddson min, og mikið hef jeg nú að spryja yður um". After a warm and friendly discussion Oddson would leave quite satisfied with his visit and the progress of the work. Kristjan then said to the carpenters: "Eg skal segja vkkur strákar. Við sköllum nú bara hafa þetta eins og okkur sýnist. Kvaða vit haldið þið að karlinn hafi á þessu þó hann hafi nú einhvern tíma smíðað hlandkopp heima á Íslandi."

Another rather humorous incident was his conversation with one of his workmen called "Julli"—Oddson arrived at the worksite where several stonemasons were endeavoring and struggling to place a large stone in place. He noticed Julli doing absolutely nothing and leaning against a pillar, with his mind in neutral and just looking on—Oddson very patronisingly said: "Júlli minn, hjálpaðu þarna með stóra steininn, góði, eg skal styðja stólpinn á meðan. . ." Although Oddson is said to have lost everything he owned in Winnipeg, he moved to Los Angeles and made and lost another fortune there. He died in Los Angeles in 1934.

One of the early builders who had a long and successful career was the late Asmundur Johannson. He arrived from Iceland in 1901, penniless as did most of the immigrants. He first worked as a carpenter on the University of Manitoba until 1903—he then formed a partnership with Sveinn Palmason and they built several houses in the West End between 1904 and 1910, doing practically all of the work themselves. In 1911 to 1914 Asmundur built the Theodore Apartments on Maryland St., the Vingolf Apartments on Agnes St., and Alloway Court on Alloway Ave. Then the war years came with a depression and construction came to a standstill; however, Mr. Johannson because of his good judgement and outstanding ability had already established his financial independence and security. He was also very active in all forms of Icelandic social activities and gave of himself both in time and money as we are all aware. In 1926 he built the Agnes Apartments in partnership with his son, Bill Johannson, and later he built the Cavell Apartments on Kennedy St. They also built many buildings in the City for other people, and in 1938 a Theatre, a Dance Hall and Bowling Alley in Pine Falls. When Mr. Johannson died in 1953 he left behind him a truly useful life with accomplishments which not only benefitted his family but our entire Icelandic community. He was truly one of our outstanding citizens. His sons like himself have played an active role in our present Icelandic affairs.

Another outstanding family who were very active in construction were the Petursson brothers. Bjorn Petursson built the Vesta Apartments and the Corinne Apartments on Agnes St. in 1911, and later in partnership with Thorstein Thorsteinson built the Vinborg Apartments also on the same

street. Hannes Petursson built the Fansala Apartments on Arbothnot St. In 1912 the brothers, Olafur Petursson, Hannes Petursson and Rognvaldur Petursson formed a partnership known as the Union Loan and Investment Company. I am told that they started this business with \$3,500.00 in 1912, and when they wound up their affairs, after several years, owned 8 Apartment buildings and managed others, controlling in all about 400 suites. In 1913 they built the Acadia Apartments on Victor St., and the Elsinore on Maryland St. In 1914 they built the Tremont Apartments on Sherbrook St. During the War years there was a pause until 1926 when they built the Trevere Apartments on Furby St., and later the Fairmont and the Monterey Apartments on Carlton St., and finally in 1929 the Camelot Apartments on Assiniboine Ave. Here truly was another outstanding family amongst the Icelandic community, and particularly the late Reverend Rognvaldur Petursson who was honored many times by the Icelandic Government and gave of himself in both time and money to the good of the Icelandic community.

An early builder who did quite well financially was Jon T. Bergman who built the Diana Court on Furby St., in 1911. I am told that in 1913 he sold two blocks for a total of \$170,000.00

Lindal Hallgrimson in partnership with Jon T. Bergman built the First Lutheran Church on Victor St. Jon T. Bergman it is said, liked to have his own way with the construction on the church, but then would humorously and good naturedly say "Það er einginn vandi að vinna með mér ef jeg fæ öllu að ráða." Mr. Hallgrimson also built several other blocks, and I am told lost his money in the Grain Exchange.

Sveinn Brynjolfson built the Warwick Apartments on Qu'Appelle Ave., another block on Toronto St., and the

Riverside Apartments on Langside St. Thorsteinn Borgford as foreman for McDiarmid & Co. finished the Parliament Buildings, built the Federated Unitarian Church on Banning St., the Canada Block on Donald St., the Playhouse Theatre and the Knox United Church — and so it goes on and on.

Johannes Sveinsson built many houses, also the Alhambra Block on Assiniboine Ave., and the Ivanhoe on Wellington Ave.

Loftur Jorundsson built some blocks and many houses including the Quo Vadis Apartments. A humorous story is told about Mr. Jorundsson—he left a crew of his workmen one day and went to the Leland Hotel to get some—well—toddy for the body. The workmen ran out of material so work came to a standstill. Jorundsson didn't show up and the men finally in desperation came down to the Leland to plead with him to order material so they could continue working. When Jorundsson saw them arrive, he hiccupped a bit and said in a loud voice—"Champagne for everybody". Needless to say construction halted for a day or so but continued later with renewed vigor.

Jon Bildfeld built the Ladywood Apartments on Kennedy, and also two blocks on Toronto St., the Sylvia and the Hrefna which were named after his daughters. Unfortunately I understand he traded his blocks for land which shortly after dropped drastically in value. I further understand he didn't even get to keep his daughters.

Another very successful builder was Arni Eggertson who began building in 1903. I am told he was worth three-quarter's of a million dollars some ten years later, and then lost most of it in the war depression days for taxes. He built the Thelma Apartments on Home Street in 1913, then a jump to 1928 when he built the Eggertson Apartments on Qu'Appelle Ave., and

the Fleetwood Apartments on Lenore St. He also built several stores, business buildings and about 100 houses. He also at one time owned a half-interest in all of the land on Cordova, Brock and Campbell Streets between Kingsway and Grant Avenues. He was very active in Icelandic affairs and became the commercial representative to Iceland and was instrumental in conjunction with the late Asmundur Johannsson, in sending food to Iceland during the war years. Mr Eggertson was also known as the father of Hydro and turned the first sod of the electric plant at Point du Bois.

These early builders lived extremely interesting lives—they went from rags to riches and sometimes back to rags. For the most part they tried to employ Icelandic labour and thereby helped their kinsmen by providing work. They found also that in employing their own kind they got good honest value for their money. Carpenters from Iceland had been trained well in both Iceland and Denmark and were in fact experienced cabinet makers. Wood was turned into works of art, and many a joint was spliced together not only with glue but with pride of workmanship and indeed with love. Some times a little Copenhagen Snuff would also be visible at the joint and this gave it character and a Scandinavian trademark.

Halldor Halldorson built many houses and apartment blocks. Some of his blocks were being constructed during the depression years and wages were extremely low — labourers were getting 12½c per hour and carpenters 25c and very little work to be had. The feeling throughout the trade was that these wages were unconscionable, and one day two Icelandic carpenters met on the street, and one, a poet, said to the other:

Kvað er að frjetta um Halldorson?
Já, hann er að láta vinna
og gefur líka góða von
að geta borgað minna.

Quips like this were frequent during the low pay years, and certainly should not reflect on the employer. In most instances the employers had started building and once started they had a tiger by the tail to finish, and some times couldn't swing it.

Another partnership in construction which flourished was Viglundur A. Davidson and my late father Metusalem Thorarinson — they built a great number of houses, some 200 in number, and then branched into apartment buildings. They built the Astoria Apartments on Kennedy St., the Mount Royal on Smith St. Viglundur Davidson continued alone and built the Newcastle Apartments on Assiniboine Ave., and my late father, Salli Thorarinson as he was called, built the Palliser Apartments on Stradbrook Ave., and the Royal Crest Apartments on Wellington Crescent. Both of these men were extremely energetic but when on October 24th, 1929, the New York Stock Market shuddered and then finally collapsed, they were seriously affected. In my late father's case, he owned four apartment buildings before the depression and emerged after the depression owning only one building and that one shakily. Losses of this kind were very common and I am sure most of you present today had similar experiences; if not yourselves, then to members of your families.

Halldor Johanneson built the Ella Apartments on Agnes St., and several houses and stores.

Halldor Sigurdson in partnership with his brother Randver Sigurdson built three apartment blocks — one on Langside, one on Morley Ave., and one on Ellice between Burnell and Bann-

ing. He also built Breen Motors and several schools including the Gimli School in 1915.

Another extremely active and reputable builder during the early years was Skuli Benjaminson. In addition to a great number of houses, schools and banks he built the Sparling Apartments on Sherbrook St., Raleigh Apartments on Vaughn St., Brantford Apartments on Ellice Ave., Enfield Apartments on Preston Ave., Winnetoba Apartments on Toronto St., Bessborough Apartments on Assiniboine Ave., Saxon Apartments on Balmoral St., Churchill Apartments on Sherbrook St. and the Gaspé Apartments on Broadway. His son Eddie Benjaminson, has followed in his father's footsteps and is a very active builder in Winnipeg today. Again I say, so it goes on and on. . .

Joseph Jonsson built four apartment buildings and many houses.

Harold Olafson built two blocks on Sherbrook St.

If it wasn't for the spelling of the names, the ownership of all this property would indicate another nationality had been present.

Fridrik Kristjansson partly in partnership with Adalsteinn Kristjansson built a large number of houses, also the Heckla Block on Toronto St., the Asa Apartments on Langside St., and one, the name of which I am not sure of, on Wolseley Avenue opposite the Gordon Bell High School.

Hannes Lindal in partnership with Peter Anderson built several houses. Mr. Lindal built a very fine building in its day, the Lindal Apartments, on Furby St., in partnership with Lindal Hallgrimson. Peter Anderson later acquired the Stevens Court on Langside, the Belrose Apartments on Wolseley and the Layton Apartments on Coroydon. Arinbjorn S. Bardal built the

Bardal Block on William and Sherbrook.

During the 1930's jobs were extremely scarce and a story is told of Sam Sigurdson who was doing some modernizing in the Stevens Court for Peter Anderson — every evening after work Sam would look over the job — pace up and down and then smile contentedly and say "Lots of work tomorrow, boys."

Walter Bergman was and is another large scale builder. He has been very successful with an excellent reputation. He has built some 500 houses, many schools, 4 or 5 apartment buildings, some of which are the Hilton Apartments, the Royston Apartments, both on Langside St., and the Brighton on Carlton St. — several Salisbury Houses and several R.C.M.P. Barracks. His father before him, Jonas Bergman, built many houses and Walter's sons are continuing with the fine old tradition of the name.

I would be very remiss in my duties if I failed to mention that to compliment the work of the early builders was the work performed by the various subtrades. These men can in a sense also be classed as builders but time does not permit me to deal with them here. Subtrades such as carpenters, plasterers, electricians, plumbers, painters lathers, roofers, excavators, bricklayers, stonemasons and so on were all well represented by men of Icelandic descent. Some of these were very successful and their names remain yet today on businesses which they themselves founded.

My topic today does not deal with present day builders of Icelandic descent; however, there are many of these and very competent ones — some of whom construct on a very large scale. After the depression the War years came and there was virtually no con-

struction as all materials were channelled into the War effort. Consequently after the war when the boys returned in 1945 and 1946, the country underwent one of the largest building booms in history due to extreme shortages in all types of accommodations. This boom has lasted to the present day and statistics now show that building and construction contribute at least one-fifth of the national product.

I would like to pause and apologize to you at this point because I am almost certain that I have omitted prominent names from my list of Builders — perhaps I have omitted one which is related to some person present here today — if so, I shall be extremely indebted if you will come and advise me of such omission after our gathering has concluded.

In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen I should like to pay warm tribute to

our early builders — they faced an era of much challenge; met that challenge with extreme vigor and enthusiasm, and although we have not committed to writing their feats and accomplishments, or created verse to their honor or monuments to their memory, as we do for our Statesmen and intellectuals — the building industry has perhaps little romance to it, I submit to you that these men created their own monuments with their own accomplishments. Their buildings of mortar, steel and stone, stand yet today in mute and silent tribute to their efforts and to their toil, and we can come away firmly convinced that here again is another field where people of Icelandic origin made a substantial contribution.

Mr. and Mrs. Hallson of Eriksdale Honored

Mr. and Mrs. Olafur Hallson of Eriksdale, Man. were honored by their family on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary in February at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Ryckman of Stony Mountain, Man. with whom they live during the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. Hallson were married in Reykjavik, Iceland, and in 1910 came to Canada and direct to Eriksdale where Mr. Hallson opened a store which he operated until retirement in 1953 when his son Hallur took over management.

Over the years Mr. Hallson was active in municipal, church and political affairs as well as in activities of the Icelandic National League, on the executive of which he served for a number of years. A lover of music he composed over the years a number of melodies.

Mr. and Mrs. Hallson had eight children, of whom four are living. Besides son Hallur and Mrs. Ryckman are daughters Ingibjorg, Mrs. H. W. McGlynn of Winnipeg, and Kristjana, Mrs. Ingolfur Bergsteinsson in California. There are ten grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

BENT GESTUR SIVERTZ

Retired Commissioner of the Northwest Territories



Bent Gestur Sivertz

Bent Gestur Sivertz officially retired as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories on January 31, 1967. (See article in Icel. Can. Autumn 1966). The following is a more detailed account of his life's work.

Mr. Sivertz was born in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1905. In his youth he spent ten years at sea in ships under sail and steam and visited many parts of the world. Returning to the land, he attended normal school and graduated from the University of British Columbia. He taught in schools on Vancouver Island and in the City of Vancouver.

In the Navy during the war, his previous experience as a seaman, navigator, mathematics and specialist teacher led to his appointment as Of-

ficer in Charge of the Navigation School when it was formed, and later, Commanding Officer of the Naval Officers' Training Establishment H.M.C.S. "Kings" at Halifax. He was awarded the O.B.E. (Military) in January, 1945.

After the war, Mr. Sivertz came to Ottawa as a Foreign Service Officer in the Department of External Affairs. He was Assistant Chief of the Consular Division as Canada developed her consular service and supervised the establishment of many of the new offices.

In 1950 he transferred to the Department of Resources and Development, which later became Northern Affairs and National Resources. Mr. Sivertz' work brought him into contact with all Branches of the Department and, in particular, with northern affairs as his special field. When the Arctic Division was created in 1954 Mr. Sivertz was appointed Chief of the Division, and has since travelled widely in the north.

In 1957 he succeeded F. J. G. Cunningham as Director of the Northern Administration Branch. On July 10th, 1963, Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing announced his appointment as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, succeeding Gordon Robertson.

In 1948 Mr. Sivertz was married in San Francisco to Barbara Isabel Prael of Portland, Oregon.

MY ICELANDIC HERITAGE

by Shirley Una Bjarnason

In Iceland, some eight hundred to a thousand years ago, a parent would tell his children about their proud Norse heritage. He would speak of adventures far afield, and freedom and self-government. Today, that heritage and the heritage of an additional eight hundred to a thousand years is mine. It is mine because it has been passed down from generation to generation, by word of mouth and the written word and carefully preserved. In present times, it is passed on, not only by parents but also by the facilities of several universities on the North American continent and in Britain. The University of Manitoba has its Chair of Icelandic, with an extensive Icelandic library. I have studied about the heritage and I am proud to be a descendent of the Icelandic people.

Among the many interests of the Icelandic people is literature. Their deep interest in literature was very much in evidence in the Middle Ages, at a time when literary activities in the Scandinavian countries were almost unknown. Shortly after the Reformation, Bishop Gudbrandur Thorlaksson translated the Bible into Icelandic and had it printed at Hólar, in 1584. Another important scholar and man of letters of this period was Reverend Arngrimur Jónsson, who made other European countries acquainted with the magnificent literature of Iceland and in so doing corrected many mistaken ideas current about Iceland and Icelandic culture.

In the main there were three kinds of literature in 12th and 13th century Iceland; Eddic poems, Skaldic poems and the Sagas. Most of the Eddic poems are in a 13th century collection called the **Elder Edda**. These poems are concerned mainly with mythology, moral etiquette, and the lives of heroes. These poems are anonymous and most of them are thought to have been composed between 800 and 1100 A.D. The most famous poem in the Elder Edda is **Völuspá**, which deals with the beginning and the end of the world and a vision of the life to come. Another important lay in the Elder Edda is **Hávamál**, the main part of which is a collection of points in proper etiquette and philosophy of life which apply today as much as they did a thousand years ago. For example, verse 34 says that it is always a long way to go to visit a bad friend even though this man is a neighbour, but the road to a good friend's home is always short, even though he may have moved far away.

Skaldic poetry is more generally known as court poetry. Some of the Skaldic poems were composed by known authors during the period 800 to approximately 1300. One characteristic of Skaldic poetry is the frequent use of kennings, or metaphors. Among the greatest masters of kennings was Egill Skallagrímsson, Iceland's celebrated Viking and the "last Germanus", in the early 900's. One of his

well known court poems is called **Höfuðlausn** (Head Ransom). At the time he wrote this poem he was being held prisoner by King Eirik Blood-Ax of Norway. With this poem Egill wanted to save his own life and this he succeeded in doing by praising the king for his courage and generosity. Good examples of Skaldic poetry are contained in the Younger Edda, compiled by Snorri Sturluson about 1220.

Of the last Old Icelandic literature, the Sagas are the best known. Firstly there are 12th and 13th century works, dealing with Icelanders who lived in the 10th century. Secondly there are sagas of kings dealing with Ancient Scandinavia, and thirdly, there are Ecclesiastical Sagas, of purely historical nature, which concern religious matters and sagas about legendary heroes and supernatural events.

The above has been just the briefest outline of one of the Icelandic courses. I took last year in the Icelandic Department at the University of Manitoba — one I took because of my interest in my cultural heritage. My parents were responsible for awakening in me this interest about Iceland. Later this interest became stronger when I entered University and registered in various courses in Icelandic literature and mythology. These courses broadened my knowledge of Iceland considerably.

The history of Iceland is the topic which I find fascinating. Of course I am fully aware that an Icelander, Leifr Eiríksson, discovered and explored on the north-east coast of America, that an Icelander, Halldor Laxness, received the Nobel Prize for literature for reviewing and streamlining 13th century Saga style in 20th century novels, that an Icelander, Grímur Jónsson Torkelin, bound the Beowulf

manuscript and pointed out its significance for Old English literature. There are so many things of which an Icelander can be proud and all these things are a part of this cultural heritage.

It is very important for a person to be proud of his heritage. One's heritage provides one with a feeling of security and of belonging. I must confess that my pride in my Icelandic heritage sometimes has reached such proportions that I eat blóðmör even though I dislike it intensely. However, one cannot live in the past. Icelanders, it seems, tend to congregate as Icelanders even though they are good Canadians. I am extremely guilty of this. When I meet an Icelander I feel that I have more in common with him; and therefore I am more at ease with him than with others. This attitude seems to be more noticeable in the first and second generation and less so in mine. Why is this so in the third generation? One reason may be that the present living conditions in Canada do not make it necessary for people to rely on their own ethnic groups for survival as was the case with Icelanders who made their new home in Canada about 90 years ago. Another reason can perhaps be found in the steady increase of university graduates who wish to identify themselves with their country for their own personal security. In such turbulent times as the present it is of course for the young people to be loyal Canadians.

The heritage must, however, not be forgotten. As Icelanders we will continue what our ancestors taught us — to be proud of our heritage and to take intelligent interest in it.

I am fully aware that the third generation Icelander is not such a master of the Old Icelandic language that he is able to read the sagas. Therefore I have listed below some important Icelandic literature which is available in the English translation at the Icelandic library at the University of Manitoba.

- ARENT, M.** (Translator) **The Laxdæla Saga**, University of Washington Press, 1964
- FINCH, R. G.** (transl.) **The Saga of the Volsungs**, T. Nelson and Sons, 1965
- HALLBERG, P.** **The Icelandic Saga**, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1962.
- HIGHT, G. A.** (transl.) **The Saga of Grettir the Strong**, Dent and Sons, London, 1965.
- HOLLANDER, L.** (transl.) **The Saga of Jónsvíkings**, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1955.
- JOHNSTON, G.** (transl.) **The Saga of Gisli**, Dent and Sons Ltd., University of Toronto, 1963.
- JONES, G.** (transl.) **Eirik the Red and Other Icelandic Sagas**, Oxford University Press, 1961.
- JONES, G.** (transl.) **Egils Saga**, Syracuse University Press, 1960.
- JONES, G.** **Scandinavian Legends and Folk Tales**, Oxford University Press, London, 1965.
- LAING, S.** (transl.) **The Olaf Sagas**, Vol. I. (part of Heimskringla), Dent and Sons, 1964
- LAING, S.** (transl.) **The Olaf Sagas**, Vol. II, Dent and Sons, 1964.
- LAING, S.** (transl.) **Sagas of the Norse Kings** (part of Heimskringla), Dent and Sons, 1961.
- MAGNUSSON, M.** and **PÁLSSON, H.** (translators) **Njal's Saga**, Hazell Watson and Viney Ltd., 1960.
- SCHACH, P.** (transl.)- and **HOLLANDER, L.** **Eyrbyggja Saga**, University of Nebraska Press, 1959.
- TURVILLE-PETRE** **The Heroic Age of Scandinavia**, Hutchinson's University Library, 1951.
- VIGFUSSON, G.** (transl.) **Sturlunga Saga**, Vol. I, Oxford at Clarendon Press 1878.
- YOUNG, J.** (transl.) - **Edda Snorra Sturlusonar**, Bowes and Bowes, 1954.

The Five Midwinter Gatherings

The annual conference of the Icelandic National League is the basis upon which five events among the Icelandic Canadians of Manitoba have evolved. They all have a common theme and differ only in approach. That theme is the due recognition which all feel should be given to a common ancestry and a common contribution to the development of a united Canadian citizenship.

a. The Religious Service

The service on the Sunday preceding the conference of the League; this year on Sunday, February 26, was within the pattern already established. Dr. V. J. Eylands conducted the service, all in Icelandic, and Rev. Philip M. Petursson read the scripture lesson, after which, as President of the League he made a few remarks. The lay sermon was delivered by Dr. Richard Beck, his subject being in free translation The Church is a Dwelling of the Ages.

b. The Midwinter Meeting of .. The Chapter Frón

This is the first of three concerts and held on Monday night, all in Icelandic. The speaker was Gunnar Sæmundsson of Arborg. For one born in Canada he has a remarkable command of the Icelandic language. It is to be hoped that his address will appear in Lögberg-Heimskringla.

Magnus Eliasson recited extracts from the poem Jón Austfirðingur by the late Guttormur J. Guttormsson. Miss Judy Scheske, of Lunder sang both English and Icelandic songs, ac-

companied by Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson. Miss Elaine Sigurdson gave a piano selection. The president Leifur Hallgrímsson was in the Chair.

c. The Business and Professional Men's Luncheon

The usual Icelandic Canadian Club luncheon was held in the Mall Hotel on Tuesday noon and was well attended. The speaker, S. Aleck Thorarínson gave an interesting and informative address on Icelandic builders, particularly the builders of apartment blocks.

d. The Icelandic Canadian Club Concert

The Club held its annual concert on the Tuesday night the main feature of which was an address by Mr. Roy St. George Stubbs. It will appear in the special Centennial number of the magazine.

The well-known and favorite poem of Guttormur J. Guttormsson, Sandv Bar, was read in the original by Prof. H. Bessason and in the translation of Dr. Watson Kirkconnell by Mrs. Lara Sigurdson. An Icelandic choral group, under the direction of Miss Mattie Halldorson, and conducted by Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson, rendered two groups of songs. Mrs. Doreen Joachim, nee Borgford, sang both in English and Icelandic accompanied by Mrs. Sigrid McKee, nee Bardal.

S. Aleck Thorarínson presented scholarships from the Canada-Iceland Foundation and also the Good Templar, the Mundi Johnson, the G. Magnuson Estate and the Harold Olson scholarships. The Icelandic Can-

adian Club scholarship was presented by the President, Leifur Hallgrimson, who was in the Chair.

The final meeting of the League, and the closing concert, all in Icelandic, took place on Wednesday night. The main item on the program was an address by Valdimar Bjornson of Minneapolis. The address which will be published in *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, should be translated and published in the magazine but there is neither time

nor space. Miss Sandra Sigurdson played a piano solo and a number of girls danced under the direction of Mr. Meros Leckow.

The President was in the Chair to conduct unfinished business of the League and the retiring Vice-President, Prof. H. Bessason was in charge of the program.

Excellent refreshments were served after the service and the three concerts.

—W.J.L.

Specialist in Pediatrics



Dr. George M. Johnson

Dr. George M. Johnson of Bismarck, North Dakota, last fall received his board certification in pediatrics at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Ill. and is now a diplomate of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The son of Mrs. Ruth Hallenbeck Johnson of Bismarck and the late Justice Nels G. Johnson of the North Dakota Supreme Court, Dr. Johnson is associated with the Missouri Valley Clinic in Bismarck. He is a graduate of Bismarck High School and the University of North Dakota where he

received B.A. and B.S. degrees, and completed two years in medical school. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Washington in 1960.

After internship in Duluth, Minn. he served as director of communicable disease control for the North Carolina Board of Health under assignment from the Epidemic Intelligence Branch of the Communicable Disease Centre in Atlanta, Ga., a division of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Following this he completed his pediatric residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. and began practicing in Bismarck in August, 1965.

In addition to his pediatric affiliation, Dr. Johnson is a member of the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association and has published several papers pertaining to communicable diseases. He is married and has three sons.

Dr. Johnson's grandparents on his father's side were the late Gudbjartur and Gudrun Johnson of Upham, N. Dakota, who hailed from Akranes, Iceland. An aunt on his father's side is Mrs. Eylands, wife of Rev. Dr. Valdimar J. Eylands, minister of the First Icelandic Lutheran Church in Winnipeg.

University of North Dakota Marks 75 Years of Scandinavian Instruction

The beginning of the present academic year marked the 75th anniversary of the introduction of teaching of Scandinavian languages and literature at the University of N. Dakota.

In 1891 the N. Dak. State legislature passed the following resolution:

"It shall be the duty of the Trustees of the State University at Grand Forks to cause to be taught at said institution the Scandinavian languages, and they shall for that purpose immediately after the taking effect of this act employ as one of the teachers of said institution a professor learned in those languages."

In compliance with this act, Rev. George T. Rygh was elected instructor in Scandinavian languages, beginning his work in the fall of 1891. After four years of service he resigned. Owing to lack of appropriations, instruction in the Scandinavian languages was suspended for a three year period.

In 1898 the department was reorganized by Professor E. J. Rollefson, who divided his time between the teaching of Scandinavian languages and physics the next three years.

In 1901 Professor John Tingelstad came to the University as Professor of German and Scandinavian languages, serving in that capacity for ten years. From 1911 until his resignation in the spring of 1929, he devoted his full time to the teaching of Scandinavian languages and literature, except for a leave of absence during the academic year 1928-29, when the classes were taught by Jalmer Muus and Frederick Weltzin.

Since the fall of 1929, Dr. Richard Beck has been Professor of Scandi-

navian languages and literature and also head of the Scandinavian department until 1954, when in common with the other language departments at the University, it became a part of the Department of Modern and Classic Languages. In 1965 he was designated "University Professor", but continues his teaching in the Scandinavian field.

Since 1962, Dr. Arne Brekke, has, along with courses in German, taught classes in Norwegian language and literature both on the undergraduate and the graduate level. This fall he was promoted to an Associate Professorship in Germanic languages.

Because of the large percentage of people of Norwegian origin in North Dakota, and the resultant interest in Norwegian language and literature, instruction in those subjects has received the greatest emphasis. At present, courses are offered in first, second, and third year Norwegian, and, for more advanced students, in Norwegian literature in the original language.

Courses have also been regularly offered in Modern Icelandic (and occasionally in Old Icelandic), in the history of the Norwegian people, Ibsen, and in Recent Scandinavian Literature in English translation. In its day, the Scandinavian department was, in fact, one of the first such departments in the country to introduce such a course years ago.

The enrollment in the Scandinavian courses has in recent years been steadily increasing, especially in the elementary courses. Last year the total enrollment was about 135 students, while at the beginning of the 1966-67 academic year over 150 students were enrolled.

A Distinguished Scholar from Copenhagen Visits Winnipeg

Dr. Ole Widding the Chief Editor of the Arnamagnean Dictionary of Old Norse which is now in preparation at the University of Copenhagen visited Winnipeg during March 15-19 this year. Dr. Widding was on a lecture tour in Canada which took him from Vancouver to Montreal. In addition to this he visited the University of Washington in Seattle.

While in Winnipeg Dr. Widding was the guest of the Department of Icelandic and Literature at the University of Manitoba.

On Wednesday, March 15, Dr. Widding gave a public lecture at the University College on the University of Manitoba campus on "The Introduction of Latin Script into Norway and Iceland—and the Cultural Background of the Earliest Literature in Old Norse". This lecture was well attended by both students and members of staff.

On Thursday evening, March 16, Dr. Widding spoke at a meeting in Parish Hall of the First Lutheran Church on Victor Street on "Old Norse Literature in General and its Significance in Scandinavian Culture". This meeting was sponsored by the Winnipeg Chapter of the Icelandic National League "Frón" and the Icelandic Canadian Club. After the meeting the Winnipeg Icelanders had a chat with their visitor over a cup of coffee in the Lower Auditorium of the Church.

In addition to the two public lectures in Winnipeg, Dr. Widding had one informal meeting with students in the Icelandic Department of the University of Manitoba at which he dis-

cussed the Arnamagnean Institute in Copenhagen and with students of Medieval History where he lectured on the Early Scandinavian Church.

Before coming to Winnipeg Dr. Widding had given several lectures at the University of Washington, Seattle and the University of B. C. From Winnipeg he went to the University of Toronto. He expects to end his Canadian tour in Montreal where he will deliver several University lectures.

Dr. Ole Widding received his academic training at the Universities of Iceland and Copenhagen. From 1929-1947 he worked for the Danish Institute of Dialectology in Copenhagen as editor of the Dictionary of Dialects of the Danish Islands. From 1939-1946 he served as assistant editor of the Arnamagnean Dictionary of Old Norse at the end of which period he was appointed chief editor of the same dictionary. During 1951-1955 he was a lecturer of Danish at the University of Iceland; during 1956-57 he was a visiting professor of Old Norse at the University of Stockholm in Sweden. He has also lectured at universities in both Finland and Norway.

Dr. Ole Widding is the author of many articles and has contributed to learned publications on many occasions. A list of these publications would extend over several pages in this magazine.

Icelanders in Winnipeg were impressed with their learned visitor and delighted to find out that he speaks Icelandic better than many a native speaker would.

Haraldur Bessason

IN THE NEWS

REMARKABLE MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT

Remarkable achievements in the field of music have been attained by 15-year-old G. Sigmar Martin, son of Halldor E. Martin and Lilja (Palson) Martin of Hnausa, Man., presently a Grade 10 student at Brandon Collegiate Institute and studying at the same time music at the Brandon College School of Music.

He began his musical studies, both violin and piano, when he was 8 years old. By the end of July, 1965, he had completed Grade 6 violin, Grade 6 piano and Grade 2 theory with the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music under the supervision of his mother, a pianist and teacher, and his uncle Johannes Palsson, violinist, soloist and teacher.

Following is the record of his achievements during the past five years: 1962, Grade 3 violin, highest marks in Manitoba, silver medal, awarded the Frederick Harris scholarship of \$30; Grade 4 violin, highest marks in Manitoba, silver medal, awarded the Frederick Harris scholarship of \$20; 1964, Grade 5 violin, highest marks in Manitoba, silver medal, tied with two others; 1965, Grade 6 violin, highest marks in Manitoba silver medal.

In July, 1965, he was offered an audition for the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company scholarship in strings at the Brandon College school of music, and would have been awarded this if he had been a year older. Dr. Albert Pratz of the Brandon Col-



Sigmar Martin

lege school of music faculty recommended him for a special scholarship which he was awarded to cover music study costs. He was given a scholarship of \$300 by the Manitoba department of education to help pay for his stay in Brandon, attend high school and study music. He studied music under Dr. Pratz and Miss Erika Benedick, a senior student of Dr. Pratz at the school of music.

In August, 1966, he was awarded the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Company centennial scholarship in strings (junior award) at the Brandon College school of music, to cover costs of study under Francis Chaplin, member of the Halifax Trio, violinist and teacher at the school of music.

Again Sigmar was granted a Manitoba education department bursary, in the amount of \$500, to cover costs of high school and music studies at Brandon.

Sigmar has twice entered the Winnipeg Musical Festival, on both occasions was highly praised by the adjudicator, and was only one mark below the winning contestant.

During the latter part of 1964 and up to July, 1965, he played in the first violin section of the Greater Winnipeg School Symphony Orchestra under Miss Muriel Milgrom.

Sigmar's grandparents and great grandparents were among the first pioneers that settled in the Icelandic River district in the Icelandic colony of New Iceland in the summer of 1876. His maternal grandfather is Jon Pals-son of Geysir, Man., whose brother, Dr. Johannes Pals-son, retired some time ago and now lives in British Columbia.



DR. RICHARD BECK RETIRES

Dr. Richard Beck was one of two University of North Dakota professors, retiring at the close of the current academic year, who were honored at the University's Founders Day Banquet on February 27. He has been Professor of Scandinavian Languages and Literature since the fall of 1929. In 1965 he was one of the first three faculty members to be honored with the special title of "University Professor" in recognition of long and distinguished service.

At the Founders Day banquet he received the "Hilborn Distinguished Teachers Award", given by the University Alumni Association. The \$250

award is accompanied by a plaque bearing the seal of the University and an inscription explaining the award.

In presenting the award, J. Llovd Stone, executive vice-president of the Alumni Association, noted that the award was presented for "outstanding teaching and distinguished service to the University," adding that the two recipients so honored, "have brought great credit and distinction to the University over a period of many years."

President George W. Starcher of the University also paid high tribute to the two retiring faculty members, saying in part:

"Dr. Beck, your long record of excellence as a teacher in the classroom, your published works, and your other contributions to the life of this University as a member of its faculty for 38 years are matters of record. The impact of your life and work on this University has come from your penetrating insight into the relationships between people and into the function of language as a tool of human relations, and this perception is precisely what has given you great understanding, including that of your own position in the scheme of things, and has added to your effectiveness as a teacher."

Following his speech, Dr. Starcher presented to Dr. Beck, as an expression of thanks and appreciation from the University, a beautiful desk set, appropriately inscribed.

At the request of the Founders Day Committee, Dr. Beck read at the Banquet the following poem, written

... specially for the occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDERS
With noble vision and determined will
You lifted high the torch which guides
us still;
Like flaming beacon on a distant shore,
It shines as brightly as it did before.

With faith which saw these halls of
learning rise
Above the plains and greet the
morning skies,
You set your course toward the rising
dawn,
Which gave your spirit wings and
led it on,

To the great goal, which was your
cherished dream,
That here the torch should ever
star-like gleam,
And with its flame eternal light the
way
To youth in search of truth and better
dav.



APPOINTED PRINCIPAL OF HERITAGE SCHOOL



Dennis Neil Stefanson

Dennis Neil Stefanson, formerly of Gimli, Manitoba, was recently appointed principal of the new twenty-four room Heritage School in Kirkfield Park, Manitoba.

Mr. Stefanson has been principal of the Kirkfield School for the past two years. He has been teaching in the Kirkfield Park area for eight years.

Mr. Stefanson graduated from the University of Manitoba with the degree of Bachelor of Pedagogy in Oct. 1966.

Mr. Stefanson is married to Clair Gontier. They have two children, Cheryl Lea and Brent Ross. He is the son of Eric Stefanson, member of Parliament for the Selkirk constituency and Mrs. Sigrun Stefanson.



DENIS TOMASSON IN MANI- TOBA ALL-PROVINCE BAND

Denis Tomasson, son of Doris and Laurier Tomasson, principal of the high school at Souris, Man., this winter was selected to play in the percussion section of the Manitoba All-Province Band. Denis, who is 15, has been participating in band work since 1963. This 60-piece concert band was selected by auditions arranged in various locations throughout Manitoba.

The first pre-tour appearance of the band was at the Manitoba Music Educators' workshop at Brandon in January. The band was scheduled to assemble in Winnipeg March 23 for a short rehearsal period before leaving March 25 for Burlington, Ont. for

their first concert. On March 28 they appear both afternoon and evening at the national convention of the Canadian Music Educators' Association at London, Ont. Other concerts were to be presented at Brandon, St. Catharines and Brampton.

Band members are scheduled to do considerable sightseeing while visiting Stratford, Waterloo, Kitchener, Niagara Falls and Toronto before returning April 2 to Winnipeg for their final concert.

Dr. Merton Ugaard and F. A. Merritt are co-directors of this All-Provincial Band. The Band uniforms are quite unique as band members were scheduled to wear blazers of the official Manitoba tartan, with grey flannel trousers and skirts.

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Gary T. Athelstan

Gary T. Athelstan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Arnold Athelstan of Minneapolis, was awarded the Ph.D. degree in

Counseling Psychology at the University of Minnesota in December, 1966.

For the last two years Dr. Athelstan has been employed as a research psychologist and project coordinator at the Center of Educational Research in Rehabilitation Medicine of the American Rehabilitation Foundation in Minneapolis. While completing his studies for the doctorate, he was also conducting research on the occupational interests and career development of workers in the rehabilitation professions.

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Donald S. Thorson

Mr. Donald S. Thorson, formerly Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice, has been appointed Deputy Minister of Justice, effective March 1, 1967. He is the son of Hon. J. T. Thorson. Donald Thorson joined the Department of Justice in 1951. In 1957 he be-

came Director of the Legislation Section of the Department of Justice and in 1961 was appointed an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Department and this year was appointed Deputy Minister.

The Embassy of Iceland in Ottawa has announced the opening of an Icelandic Consulate in Ottawa and the appointment of Mrs. Margaret Ellen Lasky daughter of Hon. and Mrs. J. T. Thorson to be Honorary Consul in Ottawa.

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Mrs. Paul Finnhogason, has been elected President of the newly formed Icelandic Centennial Committee of Brandon, Man., the object of which is to place English translations of the Icelandic Sagas and other Icelandic literature in the library of Brandon College.

The first meeting was addressed by Hon. J. T. Thorson.

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Notice re Extra Copies of the CENTENNIAL ISSUE OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A Centennial issue of the Icelandic Canadian will be published next June. This issue will include a variety of interesting articles, as well as some poetry and pictures, and will contain upwards of one hundred pages of reading matter.

Extra copies will be printed, to be available at \$1.00 a copy.

Those wishing to secure an extra copy or copies are requested to advise the Circulation Manager, Mr. H. P. Danielson, 869 Carfield St., Winnipeg 3, or any member of the Editorial Board before June 1, to give aid in determining the number to print.

NEWS SUMMARY

A new enlarged edition of Dr. Richard Beck's English poems, *A Sheaf Of Verses*, has recently been published in Winnipeg. Two earlier editions have been out of print for years.

The new 70-page edition contains 21 poems, several of which appear in book form for the first time, including tributes to President John F. Kennedy and Sir Winston Churchill. The collection includes both general poems on various subjects and a number of Christmas poems.

The book, printed by Columbia Printers, Winnipeg, is attractive in ap-

pearance and carefully bound. Cost is \$2.00 postpaid. It can be ordered directly from Dr. Richard Beck, University Station, Grand Forks, North Dakota, U.S.A.

★

Three young men from Iceland arrived early in the winter in the Los Angeles area of California to study and train. Asgeir Christiansen from Hafnarfirði and Marvin Friðriksson from Reykjavík are taking flight training at a flight school in Hawthorn while the third, Kristján Friðjonsson from Kópavogi is taking electrical engineering in Inglewood. Mr. Friðjonsson is

married and plans to bring his wife and two children over soon. The three are all former aircraft mechanics with Icelandair in Reykjavik.

★

The first "Theatre For Children" presentation of the season, Benjamin Britten's *The Little Sweep*, brought thousands of Winnipeg children to the Manitoba Theatre Centre during the 12 performances in October and November. Of the regular cast of 11, three were of Icelandic descent, Garth Gisla-son of 306 Balfour Avenue had a dual adult role in the play. The other two, teenagers, were Carol Westdal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Westdal of 40 Garnet Bay and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Westdal and Mrs. Snjolaug Gillis, and Gregory Nordman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rurik Nordman of 19 Ericsson Bay, and grandson of Kristjan and Jean Nordman.

★

Ed Skatfeld last year was appointed assistant manager of the Alberta region for Federated Co-Operatives Limited, and placed in charge of the southern Alberta area served from Calgary.

Mr. Skatfeld returned last summer from Guyana (formerly Br. Guiana) where he had been assigned as one of a three-man mission to advise the new government on possibilities of consumer co-operative development.

Born at Baldur, Man., he gained retail and fur trade experience in the north before joining the co-op movement in 1956 as manager at Pierson, Man. For several years preceding his appointment to the Alberta post he was general manager of Northern Co-Operative Trading Services with headquarters at Prince Albert, Sask.

★

Ed Vopni of Winnipeg in February was elected president of the Air Cadet

League of Canada. He succeeds Robert F. Inch of Hamilton, Ont. who becomes chairman of the League's advisory board. The League raises and administers aid cadet squadrons across Canada.

★

Johannes (Joe) Sveinsson was elected in January to the city council of Gonzales in California for a second term and chosen vice-mayor. Mr. Sveinsson, who has been active in the affairs of the Southern Monterey County League of Cities, was born in Winnipeg in 1912, the son of Asa (Nordal) Sveinsson and Johannes Sveinsson, a building contractor. The family moved to California in 1922. Mr. Sveinsson's older brother Harold recently retired from service with the Hughes Aircraft Company of which he was vice-president. His other brother, Walter Swenson, is a retired building contractor and inventor of Swenson Shears, steel cutters now being sold throughout the United States and Canada.

★

(Can. Scene) — A study financed by the Alberta government, and initiated by the federal Department of Immigration, could result in some form of legislation in the Prairie Provinces under which skilled European labour would be lured to the Prairies. As it is now, the federal government assists immigrants by giving them transportation loans and grants, but these encourage immigrants to stay near where they land—in Eastern Canada or on the West coast; if they go to the Prairies, they have that much more money to pay. The shortage of skilled labour in Canada is most acute in the central provinces, and the report could result in legislation providing both federal and provincial grants to immigrants.

Minister of National Revenue



Ministre Du Revenu National

INCOME TAX NOTICE

In Canada, all residents are taxed, regardless of citizenship, providing they are taxable. Taxes are paid on the basis of all income received while living in Canada. This includes income received from abroad, but not before entry into Canada. After deductions are made for children, medical expenses and other items, income tax is calculated on what is left.

All residents of Canada who receive income must fill out a tax return by April 30 of each year. This is necessary even if your employer deducts taxes from your salary. When you mail in your tax return, you pay any tax still owing, or ask for a refund if you have overpaid.

The forms on which you report income are available at all post offices and Taxation Division Offices. If your income is salary or wages, use the T1 Short form. If your income is more complicated, e.g. from rents, commissions, etc., use the T1 General form.

There are information guides with these forms explaining how to fill them out correctly. But if you get stuck and need help, phone or visit your nearest federal Taxation Office, where confidential assistance is available free. In some areas special telephone lines are opened at night. Announcements are made in newspapers and by radio.

This year the income tax return includes space to apply for a refund in case you overpaid to the Canada Pension Plan. This could be caused by a change of job, or a period of unemployment. Full details are included in the information guides that come with the tax forms.

After you have sent in your first income tax return, your name will be added to the mailing list so that the following year you should receive your income tax form in the mail, addressed to you personally. Use these "personalized" forms because the labels contain identification numbers which speed the handling of your account and enable us to get your refund back quickly if one is due.

E. J. BENSON,
Minister of National Revenue

Centennial Report

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

by JOHN FISHER, Centennial Commissioner

(Canadian Scene)—I wish the Centennial Commission could buy a ticket and the travel fare for every person in Canada to see Expo 67 this year. But I don't have the budget to do that.

Millions of Canadians won't see expo but most of them who can't make it to Montreal will be able to see some Centennial spectacular in the nearest city. Canada's leading events are shared by all parts of the country: it could be a performance of the Canadian Armed Forces Tattoo, one of the largest spectacles of its kind to be presented in North America; it could be the touring Centennial air show, with thrilling flying by the Forces' formation aerobatic team of pilots specially picked for the 1967 celebration.

Those living on or near the coasts and waterways will be able to see impressive naval assemblies of the majestic ships of Canada's forces, and the navies of a number of other countries.

In major cities there will be dazzling performances on stage by top artists from Canada and abroad. There will be art shows. There will be sporting events, such as the Pan American games at Winnipeg, and the winter games in Quebec.

Proposed international events in Canada next year include a balloon race across the prairies; world snowshoe championships; a North American

ski championship meet and international ski jumping competitions near Ottawa; an international air show at Abbotsford, B.C.; international motorcycle races near Toronto; world hydroplane championship races at Valleyfield, P.Q.; and a water skiing world championship meet at Sherbrook, P.Q.

The point I make is that no one who can't afford that trip to Montreal should be disappointed about Centennial Year. In the realm of spectacular events, there will be something to see in every major Canadian city. The small towns will have their visits by the touring Centennial Caravans carrying exhibits of Canadiana, and their own community Centennial events. For those unable to leave their own homes—even shut-ins—the year 1967 will be a special one. With our coast to coast radio and television communications, all will be able to witness or listen to the great sporting events, see or hear Centennial performers, follow the 4,000 mile canoe race. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has great plans for Centennial coverage, and so have the magazines and newspapers of Canada.

It's going to be a big birthday celebration. No one is going to be left out of the party. There will be something for everyone—young or old—to do, to see and to be happy about.

CENTENNIAL REPORT

The Province Of Quebec

Many artists and poets have tried to picture and describe the Province of Quebec, but it has a charm that is beyond the expression of paint and words.

Quebec is made up of a thousand small things and sentiments. It has been different from other provinces throughout Canada's history, and it will continue to be different because it is only at the beginning of its thrust toward economic maturity whereas some other provinces are already far advanced.

Quebec is today an expectant province, looking forward to satisfaction of its ambitions. The old agrarian society has been broken away from; men and women whose fathers could scarcely bear to travel beyond the sound of their village church bells are now working in the towns and cities. From the insularity of only twoscore years ago the province has opened its doors to the world through inviting all nations to take part in the World Fair in 1967. Urbanization and the rise of a vast industrial complex have set in motion an irreversible process.

The characteristic vegetation of the greater part of Quebec is forest. Occupied agricultural land totals 22,185 square miles, while forest covers 378,125 square miles. The highest mountain is Mount Jacques Cartier, 4,160 feet. There are four lakes over 400 square miles. Quebec has a long sea frontage on Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, Ungava Bay and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Quebec is on the march

Life in Quebec in the sixties has a

new roundness, three dimensions, instead of the photographic flatness seen by observers up until a few years ago. Nothing is static, but moving.

Here is a place where three distinct populations, French-Canadian, British, and continental European, mingle in American-type surroundings.

From their farm homes, suburban bungalows and apartment windows they look back over six thousand years of civilization, four hundred of them participated in by Canada, a hundred of them marked by a united Canada.

There have been differences of opinion about this and that, but even our greatest clashes have been ladylike compared with those of many other nations.

Now Quebec is moving into the second century of Confederation with confidence, exulting in the progress she has made in coping with changing world conditions.

Quebec, like all the rest of Canada, will benefit from the renewal of the democratic spirit evident in centres all across the country. It is based on respect for the rights of the human person, on the tolerance necessary for any dialogue between men, and on the concern for the common good which prompted the provinces to get together in 1867.

As the Quebec Royal Commission of Inquiry on Education said in its report: "The responsibility of the democratic State consists in allowing diversity while avoiding chaos, in respecting all rights while preventing abuses, in guaranteeing freedom within the boundaries of the common good."

1.

I sit alone in dark, withered places
 Where crumbling walls of ice-cracked bricks
 Are over-run with winter-vine; among sticks
 Long cut for building, triumphant nettles spread
 And in the darkness of the shadows, dead
 Grey shapes appear and disappear
 Until my mind is filled with flitting dread,
 While one by one I count the cold, white faces
 Which drift along in sunlight—each to each
 A separate being, moving past just out of reach.

2

Deceitful shadows of a more real world
 Which flickers faintly on a wall
 To change and change a thousand times;
 Distorted, twisted, still a name
 A unity of diverse imagery.
 Distorted, twisted by beholder's sight
 The shift of wind
 The time of day, of seasons
 And the light.
 A concrete unreality
 Lies beneath our shadow hands
 Responding with its weight.
 Fluid figures on a schizophrenic screen
 Which appear before our eyes
 As a shadowed separation;
 A world in which a yearning consummation
 Is thwarted by the very substance
 Of creation.

3

The city smells of discontent
 And stink of sun and sweat
 While noon-tide marchers parade
 Away the need for human company;
 And each lone soul peeps forth
 In hope of happy union,
 But finds no hope in faces grey
 Which hide each soul's secret
 Longings, aspirations.
 Along the lunch bars piled with hunger
 They sit in silent communion
 And take the sacrament of toast
 And coffee
 Which separates instead of binds.
 Then jostled down the aisle
 They do their penance in the sun
 Until it is time to crawl into marble halls
 And file away to well lit graves.

W. D. Valgardson

BOOK REVIEW

Centennial Tales and Selected Poems,
 by Watson Kirkconnell,
 Published for Acadia University by
 University of Toronto Press, 1965.
 Pp. 528. \$7.95

I have enjoyed Watson Kirkconnell's *Centennial Tales and Selected Poems*. In this attractively printed and jacketed volume of 528 pages there are several old friends and acquaintances, including "European Elegies", "The Eternal Quest", and "The Flying Bull". "The Centennial Tales", some one hundred pages, are almost all new, and new is "The Coronary Muse", while the remaining pages are a selective consolidation from some forty previously published books and brochures and from hundreds of items in periodicals. Translations included are from numerous languages, ancient and modern.

Because of the great scope and variety of subject matter, it is difficult to give one overall impression but definite impressions there are. One marvels at the author's total achievement, including erudition, craftsmanship, word mastery, and descriptive power. The contents range from poetry to verse; from the moral and philosophical to the facetious. The classical scholar can doff his gown and put on shorts to play games—word games. There is imagination and feeling, even extreme sensitivity. Poems such as "Centennial Tales" and "The Flying Bull" are lively narratives, but "The Eternal Quest" has a wealth of classical allusions and erudite words and must be read slowly for full value.

The author's incredible range of detailed knowledge extends to Greek and Norse mythology and ancient

Egyptian, Greek, and Roman history, as well as modern history of many lands.

"Centennial Tales" is a sweeping overview of five thousand years of our own Canadian history, beginning with the Alaska crossing about 35,000 B.C., and author and reader visit in spirit with the Icelandic settlement in Vinland, Champlain's Order of Good Cheer, the Quebec Conference of 1864, and the Canadians on Cyprus today.

In "Centennial Tales" there is a sense of the sweep of the ages; also evidence of detailed knowledge, even facts not in general circulation. How many people know of William Hall, V. C., a Canadian Negro born of a slave? Was the Massacre of Seven Oaks plotted at QuAppelle? There is a dramatic picture of John A., Brown, and Taché at the Quebec Conference, and of Captain Henry Hudson's tragic ending.

"The Coronary Muse" begins with grateful acknowledgement of all the kind remembrances that flooded in to the invalid's bedside at the time of a critical illness some three years ago.

"The Flying Bull and Other Tales" is a faint Manitoba echo of "Canterbury Tales" and of Baron Munchausen's yarns, in which the author gives free rein to his imagination. The narrative is lively, humorous and witty, with an occasional indulgence in grisly horror. The poems have many vivid thumbnail sketches of people and often a story is told in a line. The narrative begins thus:

"Caught by the blizzard as it fell
In that old Manitou hotel,
We sat and smoked around the fire."

"The Eternal Quest" is vastly different from "The Flying Bull". These poems present, or adumbrate, as the author says, twelve varieties of human experience, each with its own virtues and limitations. They include the approach to life of the scholar, scientist, artist, warrior, capitalist, worshipper, and others, their "ardent quest for life and living's immortal lore".

"Hard by the golden navel of the
world,
Twelve pilgrims stood in anxious
discontent:
And saw before their feet twelve roads
unfurl'd."

There are two ways of reading "The Eternal Quest". One is to skim over many classical allusions and erudite but precise words; the other is to read with an encyclopaedia and a dictionary at hand, for the full value of this ambitious work.

An unexpected feature of "The Eternal Quest" and some of the other poems are several horror passages. The task facing the Physician is one.

"For nothing could withstand the
brooding plague,
The livid throat bred ulcers, oozing
gore;"

But these horror scenes may well be disregarded—for a second reading they will surely be skipped—but they are incidental. Transcending are the classic and poetic qualities of this series, and the life philosophy, the search for the meaning of life and the simple but basic answer given. The first lines of "Beyond the Looking-glass" move towards the author's answer.

"Like a bright silvery mist the glass
made wav
And melted like a dream about their
feet."

There are many descriptive passages of exciting beauty. These are from "The Eternal Quest".

"Above him, sky-borne fleets of
myriad sails,
The white clouds drifted onward
without rest:
Or floated, vaporous flakes, across
the dales,
Sifting the checker'd sunlight through
their shifting veils."

"Rock-pools, in pattern'd shadow,
caught the moon,
And golden flakes of light, like
falling leaves,
Sank softly through their depths."

Creative images abound, as in the description of the railway locomotive. "While coal-fed stallions, prompt at
his decree,
Drew thundering trains by land with
great energy."

On reading the original poems in the book an awareness grows on one that the author has strong human sympathy and social consciousness, that he hates war, and militant communism not much less; that he has a sense of humor, that he is a Canadian with a world-wide outlook and sympathy.

This volume contains somewhat less than one-thirtieth of Watson Kirkconnell's translations. "European Elegies", originally published in 1928, is a selection of one hundred in memoriam poems from European literature in fifty languages. Of special interest to people of Icelandic origin are the translations from the Icelandic: Old Norse, mediaeval, and modern Icelandic. Included are The Ballads of Thrym;

the Ballad of Tristram; Jonas Hallgrímsson's "Death, the Reaper" (Alt eins og blómstrið eina); Steingrímur Thorsteinsson's "Where are the Song-birds?"; David Stefansson's "I Sail in the Fall"; Kristinn Stefansson's "The Old House"; Guttormur J. Guttormsson's "The Care of the Bees"; Einar Pall Jonsson's "The Close of Summer"; and Stephan G. Stephansson's "Rememberance" (Þótt þú langförull legð-ir).

Though you have trodden in travel
All the wide tracts of the earth,
Bear yet the dreams of your bosom
Back to the land of your birth.

Granite rocks growing with flowers,
Glaciers warm in the sun,
O kin of volcano and floe-sea,
Cousin of geysir and steep,
Daughter of downland and moorland,
Son of the reef and the deep.

Many things have been touched on in this review; many facets in this volume of over 500 pages have not been mentioned. There is much authentic poetry and many selections that do not rise to that level, but I have enjoyed the reading and I prize the possession of **Centennial Tales and Selected Poems**.

— W. Kristjanson

HON. J. T. THORSON SPEAKS AT BRANDON

Hon. Joseph T. Thorson, for 22 years president of the Exchequer Court of Canada and now retired, was guest of honor at a gathering in February of more than 70 Icelanders and their families at the Prince Edward Hotel in Brandon, Man. Mr. Thorson, a Rhodes Scholar and former cabinet minister, was in Brandon in the course of a cross-Canada tour to speak before Canadian Clubs.

He was born and educated in Winnipeg, which, he told the Brandon gathering, at one time held more Icelanders than any city in the world except Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

Mrs. Paul Finnbogason, president of the newly formed Icelandic centennial committee of Western Manitoba, out-

lined the group's project. It is to present to the Brandon College library several volumes of English translations of the Icelandic sagas and other works by Icelandic scholars.

A booklet, entitled *The History of the Sagas*, written by Petur Sigurdson and translated into English by B. Bjarnason, has been reproduced as a memento for those who participate in this centennial project. Mrs. Finnbogason presented the first copy of this booklet to Judge Thorson.

Judge Thorson was introduced by Prof. Barney Thordarson. Also assisting in the afternoon's arrangements were Dr. and Mrs. F. Fjelsted, Mr. and Mrs. Arni Josephson, Paul Finnbogason, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. T. Simons and Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Thorsteinson.

THE IMPOSTER

by Einar Benediktsson

Translated from the Icelandic by L. L. BJARNASON

(continued from Winter issue)

After greeting his parents and the others, he looked around and up to the window of the room on the second story where she was accustomed to stand and look out over the road, especially on holidays when many people were about. Then he looked at his mother, but she drew him close to her before he could question her.

"We shall not discuss it in the presence of others," she whispered to him on the way.

He did not understand what she meant: He had no forebodings but he obeyed her unconsciously, walking silently ahead of her into the guest room. Then it occurred to him that it must be something unpleasant, sad tidings which his mother would not relate to him in the presence of others. He stopped and looked at her.

She avoided his glance. She gave the impression that she was tired and he recognized the familiar signs of fatigue.

He wanted to know what was happening and was about to ask her when he remembered the Englishmen. It would not do to let them discover that they were not expected, so he explained to her in a few words that he had invited them to remain there overnight, and that he planned to show them Mogils-bluff on the river which so many foreigners came to see.

Hearing the Englishmen ride into the yard, he hastened out to be the

first to greet them. With a smile he walked towards them and bade them welcome, signalling to the shepherd boy to take their horses. He tried to act as though nothing had happened, but he sensed immediately that the Englishman suspected that something was wrong.

"Well, was it not true, what I told you? A person should never look forward to anything," the Englishman was smiling and bantering as usual.

Sigurd's parents spoke no English. It was necessary for him, therefore, to remain close to the guests in order to avoid violating the laws of hospitality. However, the Englishman chatted about this and that avoiding the subject of the discussion which had taken place on the heath. He knew that it would inevitably hurt his young companion.

"Who is this most beautiful girl?" asked the Englishman as he picked up a picture of a young woman from the top of a group of photographs on the table.

"My fiancée," answered Sigurd quickly, and in order to continue the conversation added, "don't you think she looks a great deal like her sister?" pointing at another picture of a young girl in foreign dress.

"No," replied the Englishman, "I don't think they are alike. The photographs are similar but . . ."

"But what?" demanded Sigurd almost unconsciously. His thoughts were elsewhere.

The Englishman did not answer immediately, but finally he looked up at Sigurd. "I mean that the pictures are in reality as much alike as pictures of sisters can be, but it is obvious from the photographs that they represent two different persons.

This was the second time that Sigurd felt that the Englishman had touched upon too personal a subject. What did he know about the appearance of Sara Valdal or her sister? But it was impossible to become angry at him; he was so marvelously tender and so serious-looking when he spoke these words.

But just as Sigurd was about to break the silence which followed the Englishman's words a sharp and hard knock resounded and the door opened. They all stood up. Yes, it was Sara Valdal herself, blushing and smiling. She wore a riding habit and carried a little silver-inlaid whip in one hand and the folds of her riding skirt in the other. She stopped just inside the threshold and looked at each of the people in the room in turn. Sigurd tossed the picture on the table and walked toward her, smiling and overcome, almost as in a dream. He did not know what he should say or how he should greet her.

The Englishman looked down at the picture again and the servant stared into the blue as though he were made of stone. There was a silence in the room, uncanny and foreboding as silence is when it occurs suddenly in a situation unforeseen and unforgettable.

The silence lasted but a moment. It was Sara who broke the spell. She reached out her hand to Sigurd as she opened the door and beckoned to a

strange man who stood just outside with his hat in his hand.

"My fiancée," she said and looked at the guests. At the same time she took Sigurd's hand warmly and sincerely.

The newcomer bowed politely to the son of the host and greeted the other two quickly. Then he turned to Sara and asked with a smile and in very broken Icelandic.

"Is this the young man you told me about?"

Sigurd stared at Sara, thunderstruck. He did not understand a single word of what had been said. Who was this young man who spoke so familiarly to his beloved and so companionably of him, in this unattractive dialect?

Sara's breast heaved as though she had just come from dancing, her expression revealed a serene and happy state of mind.

"Yes", she replied, "It is he. I hope that you will become good friends. This is my fiancée," she stated again as she looked at Sigurd.

"Who is your fiancée?" he questioned. It seemed to him that his own words were spoken by some other voice—from beyond the room.

"Mr. Pierre de Lavatte, Count of Normandy," answered Sara, her eyes sparkling, and the strange man bowed again and more deeply, to Sigurd.

Sigurd's breath was taken away as though he were under a deluge of ice water, but only for a moment; then he understood everything.

"You must bear with me since I am not as well prepared as you for this peculiar comedy, but I hope that in time I can play my part in it as it should be played," he said, gnashing his teeth tightly. He was at a loss to know what to do in the face of such unheard of, such unparalleled shamelessness.

Sara's expression had now become more serious, and she looked straight into Sigurd's eyes.

"It might well be," she said, "that any other girl might have done this differently. But it seemed to me easiest and best to do it in this manner. Why should you learn from others that I had become engaged again? And why should I attempt to describe to you the man whom I have chosen? Was it not best that we come together to see you and to talk to you, just as we have done?"

Sigurd considered her companion for a moment. He was short, rather fat, red-headed, almost middle-aged, and becoming bald from the forehead back. He was friendly and rather gentle looking, but his expression was not as straight-forward as it might be. He was well built and carried himself with a natural grace; everything about him indicated that he had been well brought up.

Thus each looked at the other. A silence fell upon the room, longer and even more uncanny than before. Sigurd felt something break loose in his throat; he could not tell whether it was a sob or a spasm of laughter. He opened the door and pointed out into the hall.

"Is it not in your plays that the leading characters are shown out?" he shouted in an unnaturally loud voice not at all like his own.

"Oui, b-but you s-simply s-say silly little c-cliches," said the Frenchman as he took Sara's arm in his and walked from the room in a stately manner,

smiling as though nothing had happened.

Only when the door had closed behind the lovers, did the flood of pent-up emotion break. Sigurd threw himself at full length on the sofa by the table and laughed as loud as his lungs would allow. He disregarded that he was not alone in the room; he simply laughed louder and louder until his laughter resounded throughout the whole house. It occurred to him that he was going out of his mind, but on the other hand it seemed to him, that there was another explanation for his laughter. The more he laughed, the better he seemed to feel; one spasm followed another. It was as though he were being tickled in the ribs, and would never stop.

Finally, the spasms became weaker. He sat up, red in the face from laughing and from shame at having been made the fool in this accursed comedy, without his knowledge and against his will.

The Englishman sat rigid with an expressionless face. It was as though he were deaf or made of stone. Sigurd stood up and was about to leave when he turned back and said to his fellow traveller: "You must forgive me for behaving in such a fashion. The predictions that you made while we were having lunch on the heath are now coming true. I cannot discuss with you what has taken place here; you probably have sensed it even though you did not understand the words that were exchanged. You must not judge me too harshly for this lack

of courtesy—this madness. Will you grant me that even though I do not explain?"

"Please stop apologizing, young man, by all means. It is I who should do that, not you," said the Englishman. "But, even so, I will not refuse your kind and generous offer to show me the river bluff. Everything that I do is governed by the steady march of time, regardless of what happens. It is rather for you to forgive me disturbing you and your home at such an unfortunate time."

Sigurd replied in a sincere and gentle manner as might be expected and the guests remained overnight at the farm as had been planned.

Sigurd guided the Englishman to all the places on the river usually explored by travellers. They talked together constantly, but never about anything which related to Sigurd's secret. When it was time to depart, again, determined by his rigid itinerary the Englishman mounted his horse.

As a mark of friendship Sigurd accompanied his guest to the edge of the home field. This was the custom in the district. For a short while he was silent—but he seemed to feel the necessity to refer to the incident in the parlor. When they had come almost to the gate, he finally said, as though he were thinking aloud: "It is rather un-

usual to see a red-headed Frenchman. Have you seen many of them?"

"No," answered the Briton, "I have seen only one."

"Only one? That's remarkable. Each of us has seen only one Frenchman; however, you have traveled more widely than I," said Sigurd.

"Yes, and both have seen the same one," the Englishman added.

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Sigurd sat on the turf wall which formed the lane leading to the farmhouse. "What do you mean? Do you know that French count, or whatever he calls himself?" he asked.

"We shall discuss that further when I come back," said the Englishman.

"So you are coming back! I shall be happy to have you visit us again," said Sigurd, "but is it certain that you will not be selecting a different route?"

"Yes, that is certain," replied the Englishman as he looked over his shoulder at Sigurd, "it is written in my travel schedule." He then started the nag on a slow trot and continued his journey.

On the evening of the day that he had arrived home Sigurd went direct-

ly to his mother and asked whether it had been with her knowledge that Sara and the count had come upon him unprepared and in the company of strangers bringing the news that everything was over between her and Sigurd. His mother told him that Sara as well as the home-folks had known from his letters when he planned to arrive. She said that she had suspected to be sure, that Sara was coming to present herself and her new lover when she saw them riding along the road to the south just after Sigurd and his guests had entered the yard. Sara had dropped hints in that direction on those few occasions they had met after it had become common know-

ledge that she and the "count" were seeing more and more of each other.

Sigurd's mother told him further that she had been unwilling to assume the responsibility of deciding how Sara should inform him that their engagement was at an end. She stated that she had always considered that it was best to have nothing to do with the love affairs of others; anyway it was unlikely that she would receive any thanks for having interfered. In any event, it was her opinion that, under the circumstances, everything had turned out as well as could be expected. Now he knew Sara better and could see her in the right light. His mother added that she had not been able to write him about it in her latest letter for the count had not yet appeared at that time. This engagement of theirs was only a few days old.

"But how could Sara get herself en-


tangled with this, this middle-aged, dropsied, bald-headed fellow?" — Sigurd asked himself and his mother this question, time after time, but neither of them could supply an answer. Sigurd dared not discuss the loss of his beloved with his own father, for the old man would become frightfully angry if Sara's name was as much as mentioned. He said that she had grievously insulted their home and their family and he called her names that Sigurd would not repeat.

Sigurd was not sure himself that he was actually sorry to have lost Sara. The whole situation was utterly preposterous and Sigurd could easily have lapsed into the same kind of laughter that had seized him in the parlor on the day of his return. Indeed he did not feel well, and he pondered long as to what it was that disturbed him.

Finally he was able to recognize it. It

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was not actually his love or a sense of loss: it was a burning envy of this extraordinary, well-limbed, fat, and deceitful foreigner that caused this unendurable revulsion throughout his whole body.

He could have accepted the situation philosophically in view of the fact that Sara had proven herself neither noble nor trustworthy—if only she had chosen a young, handsome man as her prize. But to know that this burned-out rake had her in his power—caused Sigurd such smarting pain that he was overcome with hatred and jealousy.

He half-way despised himself for allowing this base emotion to gain power over him. But what good did that do? One's most degrading feelings are always the strongest, and Sigurd gradually fell victim to this powerful passion, the mother of love. He fought against it with all his strength; he analysed it carefully in his mind and realized how despicable it was of him not to be able to forget Sara since he could no longer love her. He even admitted to himself that in this regard he was in a weaker position than "the count", since the latter had—whatever else might be said about him—wooed Sara for her own sake. But the moment it occurred to Sigurd that the count had her in his power he felt this unendurable fire burning within him.

He could scarcely control himself when he thought of the two of them together. But how was it that the lower his opinion became of the so-called "count", the more fiercely his jealousy burned. He recalled various love

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stories which he had read, in which old and unrepossessing men were allowed to enjoy the company of young women. He had always disliked such stories. But was it something more than dislike? He had heard that certain men, who were considered even by their family to be dropsied and undesirable, had an amazing power over women, and this peculiarity caused them to be even more disliked by other men. Sigurd realized for the first time in his life that the


world is not big enough for a man who loves a woman possessed by another man.

It was of no avail for him to struggle against himself. The more he tried to suppress these thoughts, the more active they were, just as the fish first becomes aware of the hook after he has seized the bait. He just had to see Sara and her new suitor, regardless of what people might think, and regardless of what his parents might say.

(continued in next issue)

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Boy, is my face red!

I can't remember half of what I did last night.

And I wish I could forget the rest.

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Do you suppose I have a drinking problem?



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