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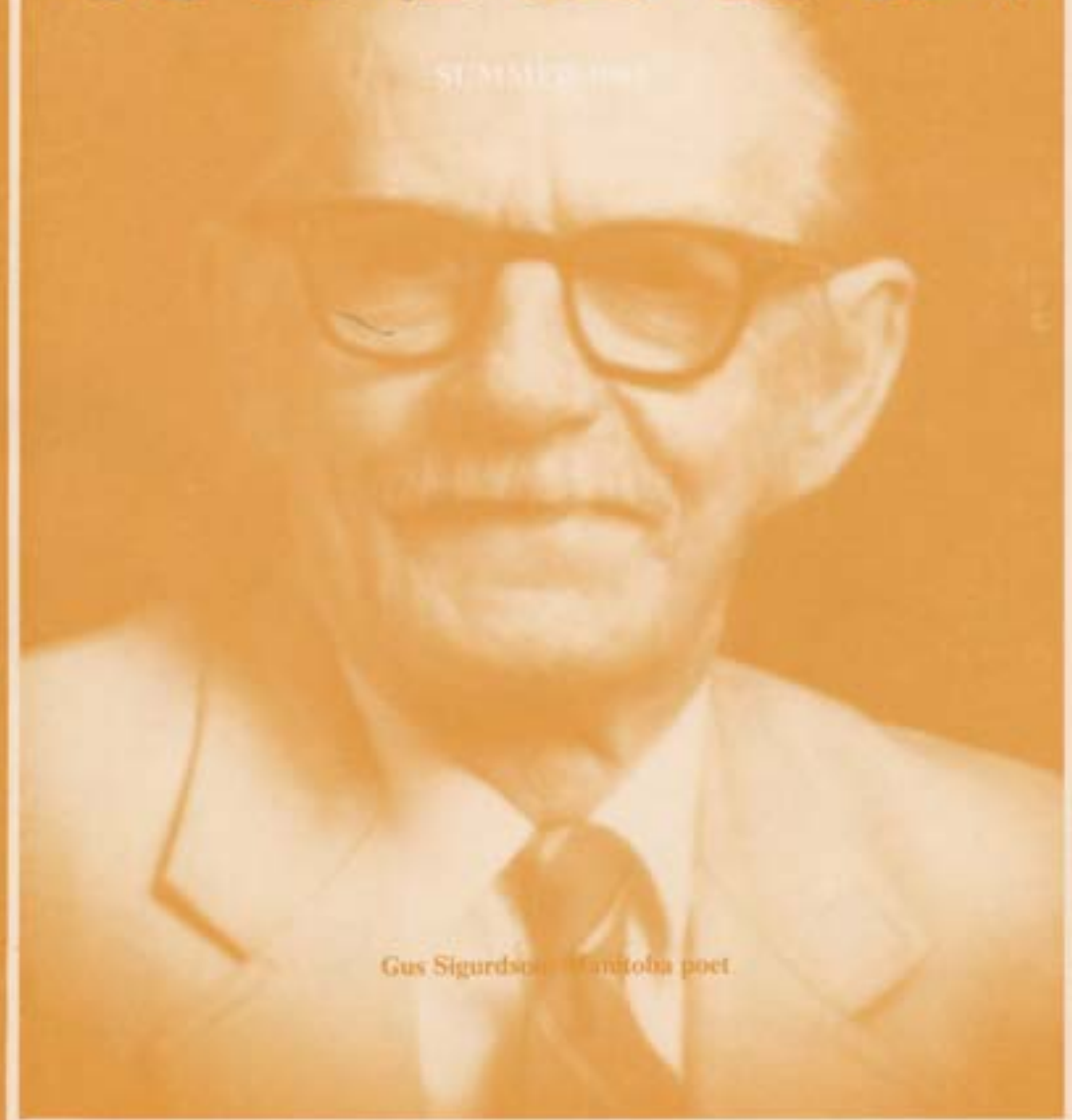
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# THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN



Gus Sigurdson, Manitoba poet.

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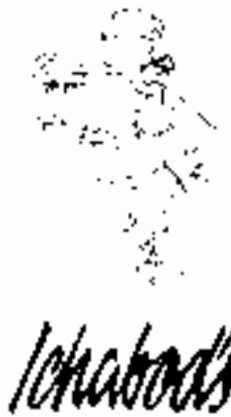


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# THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A North American quarterly published in Winnipeg, Canada,  
dedicated to the preservation of the Icelandic heritage.

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Summer, 1989

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*An error in volume number occurred with the publication of the Autumn 1987 issue of magazine. The volume number should have read: Volume XLVI not LXVI. Beginning with this issue the error has been corrected. The Board apologizes for any difficulties this may have caused our subscribers.*

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## EDITORIAL



Axel Vopnfjord, Editor Emeritus of *The Icelandic Canadian*.

There have been several changes at *The Icelandic Canadian* since the publication of the last issue. The magazine now has an Editor Emeritus, Co-Editors-in-Chief and Chairmen of the Board, and a new home.

After serving as Editor-in-Chief and Chairman of the Board for twelve years, Axel Vopnfjord has retired. Kirsten Wolf, Head of the Department of Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba, and Sigrid Johnson, Librarian of The Icelandic

Collection at the University of Manitoba Libraries, have agreed to serve as Co-Editors-in-Chief and Chairmen of the Board. A natural outcome of this has been that all correspondence, with the exception of subscriptions, should now be sent to the Department of Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba. And last, but certainly not least, at a meeting of the Board on May 2, 1989 it was unanimously decided that Axel Vopnfjord be made Editor Emeritus of the magazine.

Prior to the meeting of May 2nd, however, the Board had also expressed its appreciation to Axel for his many contributions to the magazine in the letter that follows — a letter that we wish to share with our readers.

April 13, 1989

Prix Manitoba Award-Heritage  
Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation  
3rd Floor, 177 Lombard Ave.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0W5

Dear Sirs:

The Editorial Board of *The Icelandic Canadian* magazine wish to nominate Mr. Axel Vopnfjord for the Prix Manitoba award. A motion to this effect was passed secretly by the Board, so that Mr. Vopnfjord is not aware that he is being nominated.

For twelve years, Mr. Vopnfjord has donated time, energy and funds to promote and maintain the magazine and his cultural heritage. He is a very strong Canadian, realizing this in his contribution to the magazine and many other community efforts.

The magazine was established in 1942 to promote the Icelandic culture in the English language. It was the desire of the founding Icelandic Canadian Club to involve non-Icelandic speaking members and the youth who had not learned the language. Literary works have always been of prime importance to the Icelanders and Icelandic Canadians.

The magazine underwent a period of difficulty in the early eighties. It was the dedication and resolve of Mr. Vopnfjord not to let it fail. Almost singlehandedly, he pursued the cause of maintaining the magazine. It did survive and is functioning successfully with much thanks to him.

At no time did Mr. Vopnfjord receive any remuneration for any of his work. Mr. Vopnfjord is eighty-seven years of age and, in spite of his advanced age, he has always kept up with the demands of his editorial position. It is important to note that the entire magazine Board is composed of volunteers and, therefore, much of the burden inevitably falls on the shoulders of the Editor-in-Chief.

The enclosed material has been provided by other Icelandic associations in support of our nomination.

We are very proud to have Mr. Vopnfjord associated with our magazine and we thank you for your consideration of this application.

Yours truly,  
*The Board*  
*The Icelandic Canadian*

Axel, we dedicate this issue to you.

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## FEATURE

### PROFILE: GUS SIGURDSON

by Roy St. George Stubbs

One of the crowned heads of literature, John Milton, regretted that when he wrote prose, he had only the use of his left hand. Gus Sigurdson, whose poetical works have been published, in a volume of 364 pages, under the title *Seven Books Between Two Covers*, echoes the same thought in more forthright words.

My verse was better than my prose,  
So this is why, in youth, I chose  
To write in rhyme — to reason out —  
What life to me was all about.

Gus Sigurdson was born in Clarkleigh, Manitoba, on November 23, 1915. His full name is Agust Sigurdur Sigurdson. His mother, the parent with whom he most identified, was born in Iceland. She came to Canada with her parents when she was eight years of age. Gus was raised by his maternal grandparents in Lundar, where he learnt to speak Icelandic and where he attended school. When he finished eighth grade, economic necessity forced him to go to work. For two years, he worked as a farm labourer but even farm work was scarce. He moved into Winnipeg where he eventually found work in a grocery store. In 1936, he rode the rods north to Fort McMurray. There were many so circumstanced, for the Great Depression was raging throughout the land. In Fort McMurray he found work handling freight. For five years, he spent his summer months in Fort McMurray handling freight and his winters working in Winnipeg in a grocery store. In 1942, he enlisted in Canada's Armed Forces. During the second world war, he saw service with the Royal Canadian Engineers in England and Ger-

many. Forty years later, he wrote a short poem which leaves no doubt as to his feelings about war.

LET US

Let us ban all wars and sever  
Every link that leads to hate.  
Let us outlaw wars forever  
In every country, every state.  
Let us not go on in blindness,  
Let us teach more love and kindness.

He came home from the war in January, 1946. With a partner, he set himself up in the construction business. The sledding was tough and eventually the business failed. Gus moved to Edmonton, where his mother was then living. There he found employment in the warehouse business. From Edmonton, he moved to Vancouver. In this city, he worked for the British Columbia Vegetable Board for some ten years.

At an early age Gus had the spark of poetry in him. But what fanned that spark into flame? His grandfather subscribed to the *Lögberg-Heimskringla* which, in those days, published verse in Icelandic in nearly every issue. When he encountered poetry for the first time Gus was inspired and began writing verses. He chose to write in English, not in Icelandic. At the age of nine, he wrote a poem in which he set forth his childhood creed:

Let me lift myself above  
All that's low and little.  
Let me speak of love  
But never harsh nor brittle.

Two years later, he wrote this poem to his mother:



Gus Sigurdson, one year and nine months old



and seventy years later



Gus Sigurdson during World War II

## MY MOTHER

I can not tell, how I love you well  
 Darling Mother, Dear.  
 I often say, when I'm far away,  
 "I wish that you were near."  
 And when I'm sad I soon am glad,  
 And my heart, it fills with joy,  
 When I know you pray, yes, every day  
 For God to guide your boy.

Not great poetry, perhaps, but not bad for a boy of eleven.

In the preface to his collected poems, Gus gives a statement of his poetic faith: "It was my great pleasure in my youth to be able to read and savour a wide variety of poetry in two languages, English and Icelandic.

"As many will undoubtedly know, there are two major types of poetic style — traditional and modern. My style has always been traditional, mainly because that was the style I grew up with and learned to love above all other literature.

"Many poets have influenced me throughout my life, and have been my greatest teachers as I evolved my own poetic style: Alfred Lord Tennyson, Robert Burns, Stephan G. Stephanson, Guttormur J. Guttormsson, Dr. Sig. Jul. Johannesson, Einar Pall Johnsson, Bliss Carman, Pauline Johnson, Wilson MacDonald, Robert Service, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Edgar Allan Poe. I owe them all many thanks!"

As a poet, Gus never followed the taste of the times. He realizes that his work is against the grain of present day fashions. He publishes his poetry, like many other Icelanders, at his own expense. He says that commercial publishers do not have the slightest interest in his kind of work. So why waste postage?

Gus published his first book of verse, *Pencil Stub Stanzas*, in 1950. Paul Bjarnason, poet and translator, bought a copy of the book and was so impressed with it that he sought out its author and invited him to lunch. "You are the best of the young fellows," he told Gus. They became friends.

Gus Sigurdson's life has been enriched by

two marriages. In 1959, in Vancouver, he married Stephanie Tymchuk. In 1966, he published a book, *Roses for Stephanie*, an eloquent tribute to her. Here is the poem which gave the book its title:

## ROSES FOR STEPHANIE

Pride and joy urge me tell this  
 'Bout my home in Burnaby:  
 Red red roses on the trellis  
 For my fair haired Stephanie  
 Blossom in their full blown essence  
 Bloom for loving eyes to see;  
 God, I'm grateful for their presence  
 And my blue-eyed Stephanie.

Red red roses on the trellis  
 At our home in Burnaby  
 Symbolize that love befell this  
 Man, and lovely Stephanie.  
 Every June it sets in motion  
 Every heart string deep in me,  
 Fills me with true love's emotion  
 For my darling Stephanie.

Gus found in books "the golden keys that open every door." This inspired him to open a bookstore. In 1950, he bought a second-hand bookstore in Burnaby, from an elderly man who wanted to retire. Stephanie ran the store while he continued to work for the Vegetable Board. The store's friendly atmosphere attracted many customers and for a bookstore, it was a financial success. In 1968, Stephanie passed away, however, and Gus moved back to Winnipeg.

In Winnipeg, he opened another bookstore. It was on Ellice Avenue and just as it was beginning to show a profit, the building in which it was located was demolished by its owner. Gus looked around for a new location. He finally opened a store on Main Street in Seven Oaks. The location was not the best but it offered a modest return. In 1974, Gus's health began to fail and he was forced to retire in 1977.

He married his second wife, Janet Mary Rumley, in 1974. It was a love match, on both sides. Here is a poem that Gus wrote to Janet:

## YOU

Yes, I have lived and loved,  
 But never before,  
 Have I approached so near,  
 To Heaven's door;  
 Felt the bright sun so warm,  
 The Heavens so blue,  
 The rose so red,  
 With thorns so sharp,  
 As since I met you.  
 Yes, I've been sad before,  
 But never as glad,  
 Nor have I known such suffering  
 As you have had,  
 Yet seen the moon so large,  
 Nor the stars as bright  
 As you can do.  
 It's a fond delight  
 My dear, knowing you.

Though a lover of books, Gus Sigurdson is not a bookish poet. He has studied from life itself. His poems deal with his personal experiences. The ordinary problems of ordinary people are the topics treated in his verses. He never goes beyond the understanding of ordinary men and women who can catch his meaning on their first reading, as demonstrated in the following poem.

## THE WAGE SLAVE

Works like hell;  
 Looks like a freak;  
 Scared of his job;  
 Always in fear.  
 Day after day,  
 Week after week,  
 Month after month,  
 And year after year.  
 Hanging on hard  
 Hoping he'll stay;  
 Better than naught  
 The little he'll make.  
 Man can exist  
 On starvation pay;  
 And knows that he must  
 For his family's sake.

Gus is orthodox as a poet, but not as a man. He does not accept all current values in politics and thought and morals. He was raised as a Lutheran. He has abandoned the

outward forms of worship but he has retained his faith. In other words, he is not a Christian only on Sunday. The emphasis of his faith, which is a seven-days-in-the-week affair, is on compassion not damnation; on brotherly love, not sin and hell-fire. He agrees most whole-heartedly with Dr. Johnson that a man who cannot get to Heaven in a green coat will not find his way thither in a gray one. His poem "Prayer" puts his faith in a nutshell.

## PRAYER

Fill my heart with happiness,  
 And show me how to be  
 A man with kindness in my heart  
 Towards humanity.

Let me at every turn I take  
 A kindly deed bestow  
 On every soul I chance to meet  
 Let human kindness flow.

To folk who are less fortunate  
 Along life's weary road,  
 Let me by chance be passing by  
 To help them lift the load.

As might be expected, Gus is left of center in politics. He does not have an overwhelming respect for the established order. He once cast a vote for the Conservative party, but he is unrepentant. It was cast for that White Knight who came out of the West — John Diefenbaker.

Gus also proved a good translator. Paul Bjarnason, who did not fear competition with anyone, once suggested to him that he translate Guttormsson's "Sandy Bar." Paul had just made his own excellent translation of this poem. Gus demurred. He felt that the task was beyond his powers. Some years later, Paul Sigurdson's translation of "Sandy Bar" appeared in *The Icelandic Canadian*. Gus read it with his second wife and told her of Paul Bjarnason's suggestion to him. Mrs. Sigurdson liked the idea and she kept after her husband until he had translated "Sandy Bar." It took Gus two months of living with the poem to complete the task. Gus has this to say of his translation:



Gus in the doorway of his bookshop in North Burnaby, c. 1955.

I have tried, but fear my failing  
 Hands are limited to sailing  
 Another's craft, my own prevailing,  
 Though but little, sails afar  
 Others sailed his ship, and stranded,  
 Awkwardly in port they landed.  
 None have made the shore in safety  
 Through the obstacles there are.  
 Nor have I, in truth, I grant you  
 Conquered all of "Sandy Bar."

In the summer of 1984, he and his wife Janet made a trip to Iceland. The beauty of the country inspired him to write a poem, which in its simplicity captures his feelings about his native land:

## ICELAND AND THE ICELANDERS

I stand on Iceland's solid sod,  
 This lovely land, designed by God,  
 To be the Vikings' native home.  
 Here they at last would end their wars  
 And heal forever all their sores,  
 As Icelanders upon these shores  
 Would settle down and cease to roam.  
 The rugged beauty of this land  
 Has shaped them with its mighty hand,  
 For near a thousand years or so,  
 Into the peaceful folk they be —  
 A people now both proud and free.  
 These ancient rovers of the sea  
 Are now a nation bound to grow.

Gus's verse is saturated with meaning for the readers of *The Icelandic Canadian*. In witness, let me cite this poem:

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 Loving your past and your ethnic source  
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## REFERENCES

- Iceland's Thousand Years* (1945) p. 145  
*The Icelandic Canadian*, Autumn, 1986, p. 9  
*The Icelandic Canadian*, Spring, 1951, p. 46



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I'm so glad I'm not just ordinary.  
I'm so glad I'm Icelandic.

Kristin Good, at age 10

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## LIFE BEFORE VCRs, TV AND ROCK 'N' ROLL

by Kristiana Magnusson

Yes Johnny, there actually was life before the age of VCRs, floppy diskettes, joy sticks, TV and rock music. It may have lacked the strobe lights, instant replay and eclectic ambience of today's entertainment, but while our Icelandic-Canadian immigrants were setting roots in Canada they managed to enjoy some lively and intellectual entertainment.

Books were highly valued by the early Icelandic-Canadian settlers. It was rare that an immigrant did not carry, somewhere amongst his meagre belongings, a few treasured books. One Icelander, Magnús Jónason of Vidir, Manitoba brought with him a trunk full of his favourite books from Iceland. Each evening the family would gather together around the kitchen table where the woman of the house would be knitting Icelandic socks and mitts to be bartered for groceries, while her husband read from treasured Icelandic sagas and periodicals.

With this great love of books it naturally followed that literary societies or reading groups were formed in the early years of the Icelandic-Canadian settlements. One of the greatest intellectual achievements of these early settlers was the formation of the printing company at Riverton in 1877 out of which emerged *Framfari*, the first Icelandic newspaper in America. The driving force behind this ambitious venture was Sigtryggur Jónasson, who became the newspaper's first editor. This newspaper lasted only two years, but it served to showcase the literary talents of the numerous settlers in New Iceland who contributed their poems and stories.

Community libraries played an important part in the life of the early settlers. The first such library established in the New Iceland

area was the Aurora Reading Association in Gimli. It was established in January, 1887 with 16 charter members. Most of the original collection of 100 books was donated by Gudni Thórsteinson and Jónas Stefanson. The annual membership fee of one dollar was eventually reduced to fifty cents. Those who could not afford the fee often donated books in lieu of payment.

In 1887, a Literary Society, known as Nordur Ljós (Northern Lights), was also formed at Hnausa. There were 15 founding members. Magnús Magnússon of Hnausa recorded information regarding this in his diary in June, 1921.

"I was at Lestrafjelag (Literary Association) meeting tonight. We saw in the secretary's books that the first meeting of the Hnausa Literary Association had been held in 1887 with Bjarni Marteinson as President, Nicholas Snaedal as Secretary and Magnús Jónasson as treasurer. Each founding member pledged eleven dollars to buy books. This literary group was very active and had plays, socials and variety concerts to raise money for the library."

Most of these libraries had modest beginnings. Arborg's library, "Fróðleikshvöt," was established with a fund of only fourteen dollars and the first books fitted in a bureau drawer. Gradually, through donations and fund-raising concerts, these libraries expanded and others were established in the rural areas . . . Visir at Geysir, Dagsbrún at Vidir and Mimir at Framnes. All of these reading societies had the same objective in mind, namely the preservation of the Icelandic language and traditions.

Eventually most of these libraries were absorbed into the Icelandic National League groups at Gimli and Arborg. Today some of the large collections of Icelandic sagas, poetry folklore, plays and novels are part of the

Icelandic section at the Evergreen Regional Library in Gimli.

The Icelandic weekly newspapers *Lögberg* and *Heimskringla* followed *Framfari's* lead, showcasing literary achievements and providing news of the homeland. The two newspapers had opposing political views, with *Heimskringla* expressing conservative ideals and *Lögberg* espousing liberal policies. Thus many a political battle was fought in the editorial pages of these two Icelandic weeklies, much to the enjoyment of the readers who eagerly awaited their arrival and the accompanying political drama and intrigue.

Debates were a popular form of entertainment and these were held, frequently, in the town centres and rural areas. Many of the early settlers were excellent speakers. As a result these debates became lively intellectual forums to expounding opinions, for and against, on such diverse topics as:

"Resolved that the Pen is mightier than the Sword."

"Resolved that Book Learning is more important than Work Knowledge."

"Resolved that Environment, not Heredity, controls man's destiny."

This was a most interesting debate, with Reverend Sigurdur Olafson speaking for the affirmative and Reverend Jóhann Bjarnason for the negative.

Sometimes these debates were held between rival communities, as indicated in this diary entry dated October 11, 1924 . . .

"Tonight a debate. 'Resolved that the world has changed for the worse,' was held at the Hnusa Hall. Geysir debaters, Tómas Björnson and Valdi Hallgrímson, spoke for the affirmative. Speaking for the negative were Hnusa debaters Eiki Einarson and Magnús Einarson, who were declared the winners, with their convincing argument that the world had changed for the better."

Music, dance and poetry readings played an important part in social life in New Iceland. Variety concerts were held, with programs including debates, musical selections,

poetry readings and speeches, followed by dancing. At first dances were held in homes and schools, where sufficient space was available. Later community halls were built. Often people walked long distances to a dance, even wading across swampy land to get there. During the winter months they often travelled by horse and caboose, a heated winter home on wheels. Brass bands were a popular form of entertainment at community events. Family bands and orchestras sprang up around Gimli, Arborg, Geysir, Riverton and Framnes. For years these family bands played at local dances, often until four or five o'clock in the morning.

Drama flourished in the Icelandic-Canadian communities. Numerous plays were presented. These were rehearsed over the winter months, then staged at various surrounding communities throughout May and June. Some of the more outstanding plays presented included "Eyvind of The Mountains," "Piltur og Stúlka" (Man and Maid), "Efintýri á Göngufor" (Adventures on a Walking Tour), "Tengdamamma" (Mother-in-law), "Eyes of Love" and "Skuggasveinn." One of the more memorable performances was that of Sveinbjörn Johnson of Framnes as Skuggasveinn. In 1932 the Arborg Theatre Group, under the direction of Hólmfríður Danielson and Ragnár Kvaran, placed first at the Manitoba Drama Festival Provincial Competition. Hólmfríður Danielson continued to play an important part in drama, as an actress, producer and director, and later as an adjudicator at Provincial Drama Competitions.

Such was the entertainment and social life of the early Icelandic-Canadian settlements. Then a wondrous invention came into being — the radio, which miraculously beamed its way into homes, bringing with it such entertainment notables as "Fibber McGee and Molly," "The Great Gildersleeve," "Lux Radio Theatre," "Guy Lombardo," "Ma Perkins" and "Pepper Young's

Family."

Magnús Magnússon, in his diary entry of December 18, 1932, has recorded this momentous occasion . . .

"It is quite a unique experience for us to hear by radio, a church service from Winnipeg. The sound comes through as clearly as if the speaker Reverend Björn Jónsson, was in the same room. It is indeed a joy to be able to hear the church service right in our own home."

So Johnny, if you should hear your Amma and Afi (Grandma and Grandpa) or your Láng-Amma and Láng-Afi (Great Grandma and Great Grandpa) speak of the good old days when they played a dramatic part in the play "*Piltur og Stúlka*," or when Great Grandpa won the debate on the 'World of Today' vs. the 'World of Yesterday,' remember — they are simply reminiscing about the social events that were such an important part of their lives. These have now all become part and parcel of the Icelandic-Canadian heritage. As such, they are now all a part of your cultural heritage as well.



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## PARADISE

by **Hrafnhildur Valgardsdóttir**

*Translated by Thorunn Hafstein*

They sat there and just looked at the sun. How it reddened the sky with its presence, how steadily it seemed to touch the surface of the sea and how softly it disappeared behind the horizon.

The sun was now out of sight but the sky was still red. They kept on staring, staring into space, staring at nothing.

"Are you cold?" he asked softly and came closer to her.

She was a bit startled, but then shook her head.

"Sometime, when I have become wise and rich I shall build you an airship — a zeppelin — and then the two of us will follow the sun. Then we can always stay on the sunny side of life. I will let you steer whenever you want to. Sometime we can fly past the sun and land on some beautiful place where no other human being has ever set foot; where the birds rejoice our coming with their singing; where the fish jump from the water and bid us welcome; where the trees stretch out their branches laden with fruit, where hundreds of blossoms spread their fragrance, and elves perform the most magnificent dances, dances which no human could possibly ever perform. There will only be the two of us to enjoy all these wonderful things. No one is going to criticize us and no one will ever deprive us of the freedom of being together — everyone there is good and kind."

She was silent for a while and her eyes looked dreamy.

"I would get lost and never find my way there so you would have to steer or tell me the way," she said after a while.

"Together we can do anything — even find Paradise," he said excitedly. "We only have to watch the sun come up and then follow it, because if we are going to be on

the sunny side of life, we must never lose track of it."

"But can't we then make Paradise our home, build ourselves a tiny, beautiful house and stay there forever?" she asked with a hint of disappointment in her voice.

"Certainly, if we are true followers of the sun, and ask it politely then maybe it will permit us to stay, at least, one month at a time."

He rose abruptly, straightened his back and winced. He startled her. She knew that the pain in his back tormented him, and the thought of him feeling pain and her not being able to make the pain go away, tormented her.

He took her jacket, dusted it off, and helped her into it.

"We must hurry home, it's late — she is bound to start looking for you. What if she finds you with me?"

She looked down. The thought scared her. All of a sudden he laughed, kicked her in the behind and said humorously: "O.K. Tutt, into the airship you go and through the air we'll fly home."

At once she jumped into the airship — their zeppelin — and in a few minutes they landed in her backyard.

"I'm certain we'll get three bags, yes, even four since we enlarged the garden, and if it doesn't freeze, it won't be long before the potato plants rear their heads from under the soil, and then we'll have to take good care of them. You'll get a whole bag so you can sell it and buy yourself new pastels and better paper. You are the best, and you are going to be much better."

She smiled softly, embraced him and ran inside. She loved him, he was her life. With him she was the best. Without him she was nothing and in everyone's way — did every-

thing wrong and was a menace to everyone. She hurried to the window so that she could see him run down the street pushing the dirty old wheelbarrow. Wheelbarrows were the best means of transportation, she would not trade them for any car. Too bad he had to strain himself pushing them, but he said that he could just as well carry a fly, since she was only 50 pounds.

She watched him dreamily as he hurried down the road. What did it mean when people said that he was a psychopath? Did it mean the same as having a backache? Her mother had told her not to talk to him, but after her father died her mother went out to work so it was easy for her to see him. She could still see him now even though he looked more like a dot on the horizon than a man. His hair and his beard stood out, both were white and long, and she adored the way they moved softly in the breeze.

The day had been wonderful. They had planted potatoes, eaten his picnic lunch, and then he had painted a picture of their Paradise and they had looked at the sunset. He taught her to paint blossoms only found in Paradise. Her mother told her that they looked nothing like blossoms, but she did not care. They reminded her of him, he who opened up a new world for her — a strange world full of wonderful things. She saw her mother coming up the walk so she hurried up the stairs to be inside the apartment ahead of her.

Silently they ate supper together. Her mother acted strangely tonight. Did she perhaps suspect something — something about her secret? No, that was unthinkable. After supper, as they washed the dishes, her mother talked about everything under the sun. But she remained silent, just listened to what her mother said, because mothers also have their dreams, even though their dreams do not include old, longhaired, bearded men who run along the streets pushing huge dirty wheelbarrows and painting funny pictures on the walls, pictures of Paradise

where no people live.

"Good night." Her mother kissed her on the forehead and then softly closed the door behind her. She was alone in the huge bed. She closed her eyes and thought of HIM. The phone rang and she could hear her mother say in a voice filled with joy: "Alright darling, I shall be ready in a few minutes." Her mother hung up the receiver and then everything was quiet. She curled up under the blanket and was asleep in an instant. A sudden blow of a car horn awoke her. She heard the front door slam, and she ran to the window. Her mother was running to a car waiting in front of the house, her face lit up like the face of a young schoolgirl. The man in the car took her in his arms and embraced her. Then the car quickly disappeared.

She was wide awake and the thought of going back to sleep did not appeal to her. She wandered how HE was feeling now. Was he painting? She could not stand the temptation, she got dressed and ran outside.

No one saw her, and yet, she thought she saw someone hiding behind the curtains in the house next door. No problem, she thought, she was her own master now. She ran down the street, to the right, and there was a little hut, a funny looking little hut which she loved.

She peeked inside and saw him where he was painting roses, nothing but roses. He looked a bit strange, a little stranger than usual, but she thought it was because of the light from the burning fire. He also seemed excited, and eager to create more and more roses. Eager to create larger and redder roses than ever before.

She walked silently towards the door and turned the knob. The door was unlocked. He did not see her at first but kept on painting like a madman. She saw that he was shivering all over, and when at last he saw her, his eyes were staring. But he was the only thing she ever loved on this earth so she ran to him, even though he seemed not

to recognize her.

"It is me, your little Tutt, don't you recognize me?" she asked bewildered. At first he stared at her for a long time as if he saw her in a mist. Then he rose softly and slowly, put his hand on his back and winced.

"Tutt, my little Tutt, at last you are here, I have waited for you for such a long time. I did not want to deceive you and leave without you."

His eyes were so strange and staring that she was startled. Maybe they saw Paradise. Maybe that was why they seemed so strange. She embraced him and asked him excitedly if they could really leave right away — now on the spur of the moment.

"Yes, yes, the sooner the better, our ship awaits. I built it myself. Let's hurry because the sun is far ahead of us. Put on my jacket so that you will not be cold. Yes, like that, and I shall tighten the hood, yes exactly like this, and now you will no longer have to look at this ugly world with your beautiful

eyes. I am going to tighten your cap so tight that it will cover your eyes. And now, my little Tutt, I shall take you with me to Paradise." And he took her softly in his arms and carried her to the wheelbarrow.

The mother came home, flushed and excited from the evening's events. What was happening? The police, an ambulance, and what were all these people doing here? Even the priest himself was present. And he could not express his sorrow. A very strange thing had taken place, and right under the very noses of many people, and so quickly that no one could lift a finger, only look on in terror — not even scream. This longhaired and bearded fellow had as usual run along the street pushing his huge wheelbarrow, all the way down to the sea and into the sea. The priest dried his tears and prayed to God begging him to open his arms to receive the little girl in the wheelbarrow and grant her passage into heaven; Paradise.

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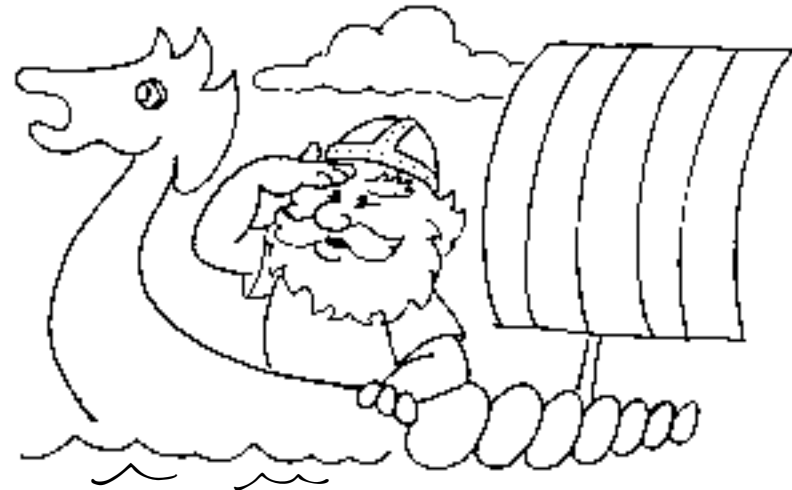
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## POET'S CORNER

### IN FRIENDSHIP

I am the sun's warmest moments,  
which stretch outwards  
to lighten your soul's burden.  
Yet there are times when I am hidden.  
May I always provide warmth  
for you when you are near.

I am the wind's gentle whisper,  
reaching further, shifting, and changing.  
Yet constant by simply being.  
Though my query grows,  
may my heart continue to trust,  
in all you have shared with me.

I am the earth's open prairies,  
hollowed by inner storms,  
Yet I am here for you to discover.  
Though my valleys have dried,  
may you find shelter,  
within my vast being.

I am the ocean's waves,  
full of hidden relentless anger.  
Yet gentle when love is learnt.  
Though weaknesses awaken,  
may I find a moment,  
to bathe within your friendship.

As warm as the sun.  
As diverse as the four winds.  
As open as the earth.  
And as gentle as the ocean.  
For one whose love is a truth,  
whose friendship brings joy to being.

### MY MOTHER'S CHILD

I watched you struggle and grow  
when money was not to be found  
yet still your pride held true  
and through your children it still flows.

Long ago you taught me value  
by standing fast within my belief  
Few if any know of how proud I am  
after all I am my mother's child.



I need to tell you of a new love  
found after years of wondering.  
She is one with whom I can grow  
a woman gentle in healing anew.

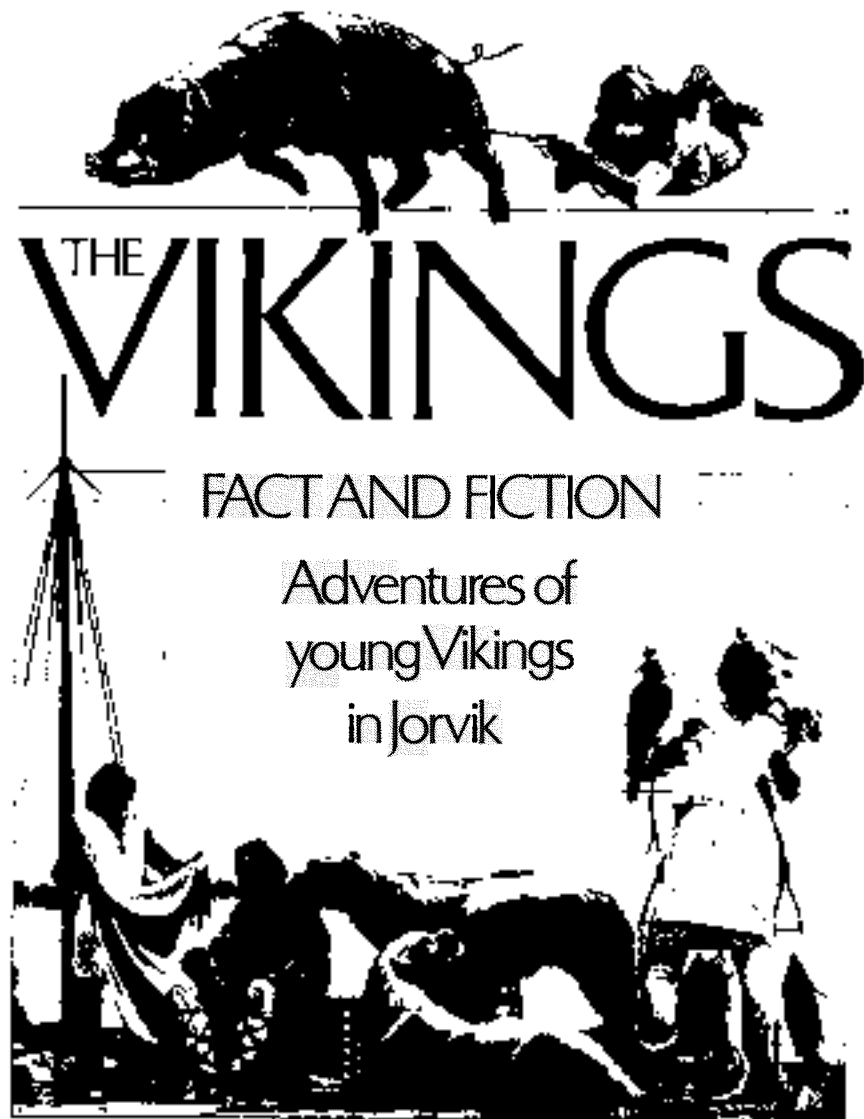
As all children who emerge into adult hood  
we still need to know of acceptance  
found within the women we mirror.  
Whether or not we are our mother's children.

I left that day beneath Manitoba's mornings fire  
with tears falling freely dropping silently  
upon a path of chosen pride and value  
for I am one of few who finds still  
that they will always be their mother's child.

*by Diane Alexander*

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## THE VIKING WORLD FOR YOUNG READERS

Place, Robin. **The Vikings Fact and Fiction Adventures of Young Vikings in Jorvik** (1985) Cambridge Books for Children, Cambridge University Press, New York. 32 pp. \$6.95.

Livesey, Robert and Smith, A.G. **The Vikings** (1989) Discovering Canada Series, Stoddart Publishing Co. Ltd., Toronto. 90 pp.

One measure of the importance of a topic is the realization that it is sufficiently important or interesting that it warrants the effort to produce works for children. A good example is the large quantities of books on dinosaurs. Over the decades, many books have been written on "the Vikings," most having this phrase as the title. They have been highly variable in quality and variable in audience interest. In the last few years, there have been several books written specifically for children so that young readers can develop an interest from their own perspective.

Writing books for children is a very difficult task. It requires much more than merely simplifying language or adding numerous pictures. It requires presenting the topic with a perspective to which the young reader can relate or be empathetic. These two books take very different approaches and will be successful with different audiences of young readers.

Robin Place's book consists of a series of stories focussed around Toki, a young Viking boy living at Jorvik. They consist of a variety of family activities involving several children. Each page of each story is accompanied by artistic renditions of the activities filling the oversized margins. These illustrations are in both colour and black and white, are accurate, and portray both realistic activities, e.g. boys admiring food in the market place, and dramatic activities, e.g. rescuing a friend who fell through the ice. Opposite each story page are "How do we know?" pages consisting of numerous photographs and illustrations of artifacts from

Jorvik and other Viking sites with brief descriptions which show how the stories and illustrations are based on archaeological findings.

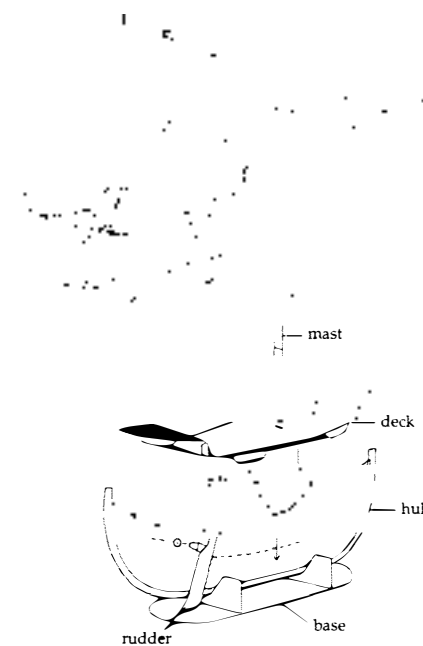
There is a wealth of information, particularly on day-to-day activities at Jorvik, packed into this small book. It probably has twice or three times the amount per page of most books but is successful in carrying this off because of the large number of illustrations and the two styles of presentation being used simultaneously. The story part would have been more powerful if it had been written in the first person. I would suggest that the book would be of most interest to readers in the range of grades 6 to 9 but would be of interest to others as well.

I have only one criticism which is relatively mild. Each of the "How do we know?" pages had a logo consisting of the upper part of a human skeleton. This irritating caricature is poorly rendered, meaningless, and distracting.

Livesey and Smith's book is a simple, clear-cut, highly illustrated children's book designed for the classroom or home self-discovering. It consists of 9 brief chapters which include topics such as discovery through Archaeology, who the Vikings were, Norse mythology, writing with runes, discoveries of Vinland, Viking weapons, and Viking houses. These topics have been covered frequently in other reference books, but this book is unique in that there are drawings on at least every second page, and there are a great variety of activities such as cutting out and making a knarr (cargo boat) and Viking house, translating runic mes-



ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM



Assembly diagram for making a paper/cardboard Viking ship in Livesay and Smith's *The Vikings*.

sages, playing hnefatafl (a sort of forerunner to chess), making a husnotra (measuring stick to determine the seasonal height of the sun), learning how to write a saga, making a paper helmet, and more. It is gratifying to see names such as Eirik spelled in the more traditional form rather than the Anglicized form, to see authentic portrayals of ships, costumes, and tools, to see the characters of the Vinland sagas such as Thorstein Eiriksson treated as common everyday historical people, and to see a variety of traditional terms such as knarr, husnotra and hnefatafl treated as normal words.

On the whole, the text and illustrations are accurate, clear, and present a simple but well-rounded portrayal of Viking life. There are a few minor errors, however. Baldur is spelled Balder. A number of erroneous early European impressions about North Ameri-

can Natives are, unfortunately, perpetrated, e.g. that some Inuit lived in caves or that some Beotuck Natives had blue eyes and white skin; it is unfortunate that the research on the Native peoples was not as thorough as on the Vikings. One such erroneous impression, the uniped that Karlsefni's men recorded, is even shown by a fanciful sketch; scholars tend to identify this uniped as a distant perspective of an Inuit with the distinctive coat consisting of a single "tail" piece coming down the back.

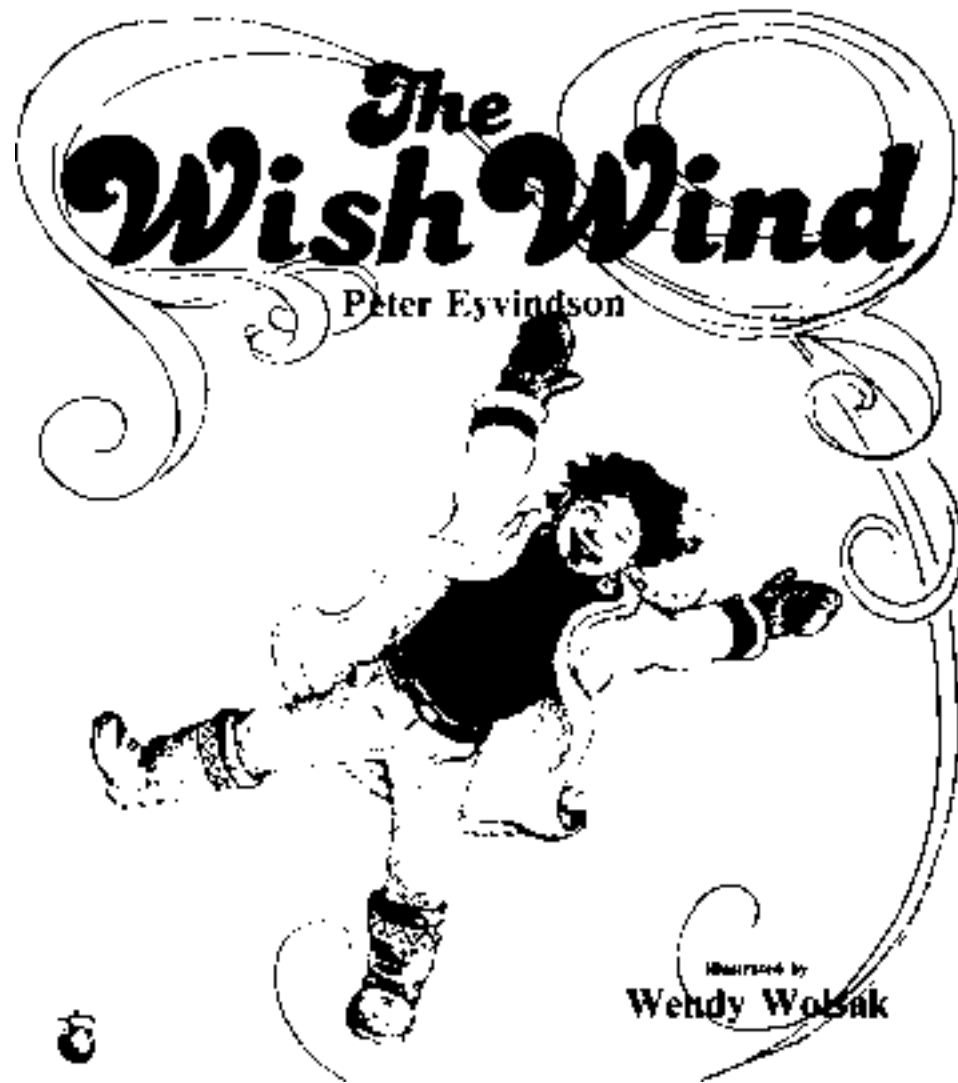
Regardless of these errors, the book should be in every home where there are children. I would guess that the book is most suitable for children in grades 5 to 8 although younger children would enjoy using it but would probably require help with the activities. However, I am also willing to wager that a considerable number of adults would enjoy both of these books as well.

Both of these books are a welcome addition to Viking literature and would be a welcome addition to peoples' libraries. Their presence would act as a frequent and subtle reminder of Viking heritage and would be a source of awareness and pride in one's "Nordic roots." Given the number of very bad accounts common in many school texts and references, these books are doubly important.

If you do not find these books in your neighborhood library or bookstore, then ask the bookstore to order copies. Most bookstores will be happy to order copies for customers.

*Reviewed by Leigh Syms*





Eyvindson, Peter. **The Wish Wind**. Pemmican Publications, Winnipeg, 1987. Illustrated by Wendy Wolsak, \$6.00 (paper).

Eyvindson, Peter. **Chester Bear, Where Are You?** Pemmican Publications, Winnipeg, 1988. Illustrated by Wendy Wolsak-Frith.

Anyone living through a long, cold Manitoba winter can readily identify with Boy, the main character in Peter Eyvindson's **The Wish Wind**.

*"Winter! I hate it!" Boy complained bitterly. "I hate cold. I hate snow and ice. If it were spring-time, things would be different. I wish it were spring."*

Boy's wish comes true but, although he is free of winter, he is only satisfied for a short while. Wish after wish is granted to the impatient Boy until he has been transformed into Old Man, who says

*"If I had one last wish to make I would wish only that Boy be given patience to enjoy the time that is now."*

By the book's end, Boy has come to a new understanding of the importance of living fully in the present. The reader is unsure whether this new awareness has resulted from the learning experience provided for Boy by the Wish Wind or whether his insight has come through a dream.

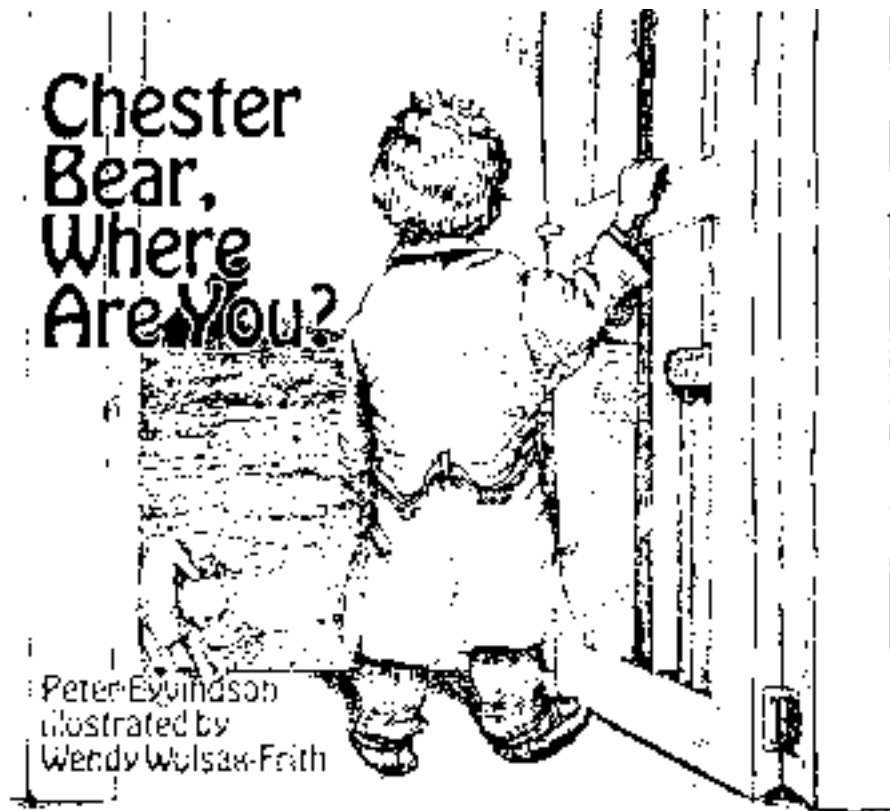
The book has the quality of a native folktale about it, which is appropriate considering that it was published by Pemmican Publications, normally associated with native writers and subjects. This is the third book that Eyvindson has published with Pemmican, which is surprising to many in view of the fact that he is of Icelandic-Canadian descent. Eyvindson, a professional, prop-assisted storyteller, published *Kyle's Bath* in 1984 and *Old Enough* in 1986. He is from Clavet, Saskatchewan and has three young sons who provide him with plenty of material for his stories.

At first glance, this children's picture book appears to be very straightforward but it is apparent to the careful reader that it operates on a number of different levels. The book is

a comment on the human condition — we are all, it seems, always waiting for "spring" to come. Many adults can learn from this book lessons which relate well to the hurried, stress-ridden times in which we find ourselves. We must learn to conquer worry and apprehension about the future and guilt and regret about the past and live in what is the only time we have — the present moment. Once we have come full circle through the aging process, as did Old Man, we are able to look back over our past life and see all the good things in the times that were and all the missed opportunities. So, the next time you are tempted to wish away winter, remember Old Man.

Vancouver illustrator Wendy Wolsak has collaborated with Peter Eyvindson on this book, as well as on his previous ones. The illustrations provide a wonderful counterpoint to the text. Totally executed in black and white, the drawings are so finely detailed that it almost seems that colour would have prevented one from focusing in on them closely enough.

The most recent collaboration between Eyvindson and Wolsak (now Wolsak-Frith) has resulted in a first for Pemmican Publications — a full colour storybook. A brief paging through **Chester Bear, Where Are You?** shows Wolsak-Frith's color illustrations are extremely effective for children and provide an added dimension to the story for adult readers. They create a totally different mood and effect than do the black and white illustrations in the earlier book. However, each set of illustrations seems to suit the particular content admirably. Eyvindson has again turned to his own three sons—Kyle, Konrad and Kristoffer—for his inspiration. They are the



featured characters in this sensitively told story of the loss of Kyle's cherished friend, Chester Bear, who acts as a talisman protecting Kyle from the dangers lurking in his dark bedroom during the night. Adults and children alike will relate to Kyle's feelings when his normal, secure bedtime routine is disrupted. Through his experiences with his family and the hundreds of children with whom he has had contact through his work, Eyvindson has managed to keep himself open and empathetic. He is able to look behind the overt things that children do and see the hidden feelings, needs, wants, fears and insecurities that are prompting their actions. In doing so, he gives his readers a wonderful gift.

How important it is to be reminded from time to time of how much we often tend to dismiss and undervalue children's feelings and responses to events that are insignificant to them, although they may seem trivial from an adult perspective. Through the mother character in this book, Peter Eyvindson emerges clearly as an insightful friend to children.

You will want to enjoy both of these books with your families again and again, not only because of their entertaining style and their delightful illustrations but also because they are *worthwhile* books which help to build relationships, understanding and self-esteem for all ages.

*Reviewed by Kristine Perlmutter*

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## PEOPLE

### THEN A WOMAN AHEAD OF HER TIME



*photo: courtesy Kristine Einarsson*

Andrea Johnson, daughter of Tryggvi and Hólfríður Ingjaldson, was born May 31, 1891 at Akra, North Dakota.

She received her education in Akra, and her teacher's certificate in Winnipeg. For several years she taught in rural Manitoba at schools in Framnes and Inwood.

On July 18, 1914, Andrea married Edward Johnson. In 1918 Andrea and Edward moved to the family farm at Arborg, Manitoba where Edward farmed in partnership with his brother.

Andrea was a life member of the "United Farm Women of Manitoba," later known as the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and Co-Operation (M.F.A.C.). She served as the president of this provincial organization for six years, and secretary of the local M.F.A.C. for many years.

In 1936 Andrea was chosen delegate to the "Associated Country Women of the World" in Washington, D.C. Chatting with women from so many different countries, Andrea found to be an enriching experience.

Her most vivid memory of the conference, however, was meeting and talking with Eleanor Roosevelt.

For seven years, Andrea served as a member of the advisory board of the Manitoba Department of Education, and for five years she was a member of the advisory board of the Manitoba Department of Health and Welfare. As well, she found time to serve as secretary of the Arborg Agricultural Society for thirty years, was the founding chairman of the Arborg Memorial Hospital, and a member of the Unitarian Ladies Aid.

Many times, Andrea was asked to enter the political arena, both provincially and federally. Her answer was always "no." She felt that she already spent too much time away from home with her many activities. Her neighbours, it appears, also thought that she spent too much time away from home. Her daughter, Kristine, recalls a neighbour asking Edward, "how can you let Andrea attend all these meetings and conventions?" Replied Edward, "this is what my Andrea loves doing and I would be the last one to take it away from her." Kristine adds, "my father was a very understanding man." Together Andrea and Edward raised four children.

Andrea Johnson was a "woman ahead of her time" — a "superwoman" of the 1980's living in the 1930's.

*This information was extracted from a memorial written to her parents by Kristine Einarsson — Ed.*

### NOW

#### CANADIAN HOPEFUL FOR THE 1992 OLYMPICS

A Canadian hopeful for the 1992 Olympics is training rigorously in San Clemente, California. Susan Berenda was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan where her father,



Susan Gelley, after 26 mile marathon  
3 hrs, 4 sec. — 1st in her category 1979

Gerry Gelley, was with the Canadian Air Force. Her mother, Connie Jonasson, is the daughter of Snorri Jonasson and his first wife, Runa. At the age of seven, Susan's father joined American Air Lines as a pilot and the family moved to the United States.

It wasn't until she was in high school in San Diego, however, that Susan took up running, seriously. While at Grossmont Junior College, she won the individual cross country title and was named Female Athlete of the Year. During her college years, she married Matt Berenda, an exercise physiologist who later became her coach. Because of her husband's encouragement, Susan has improved her 10,000 M from 37 minutes to 33:03 minutes.

"I'm the easy-going one in the family. My husband is the whip," Susan laughs. ". . . he's the one with the determination. He can be dictatorial (as a coach) but without him, I wouldn't be running as well as I am."

Susan has competed in Switzerland and Poland in the World Cross Country Championships. She ran in the 1987 World Track and Field Championship in Rome. She was planning to train for the Olympics in Seoul

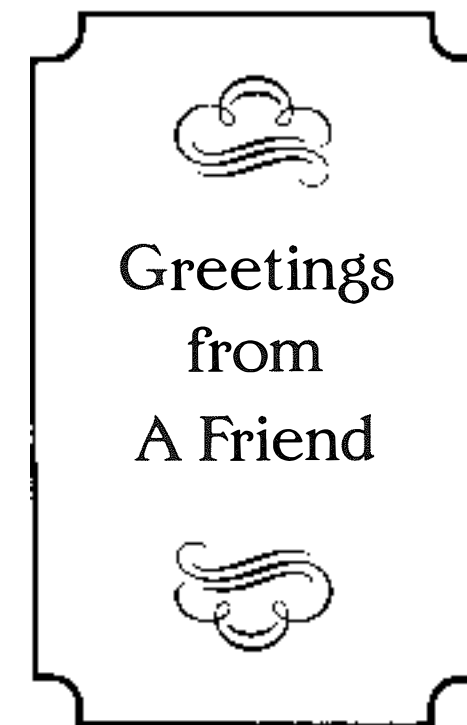
last summer but had to put her aspirations on hold due to a foot injury that required surgery.

To train for the upcoming Summer Games in 1992, Susan gets up at six a.m. and runs seven to nine miles, seven days a week. She never runs slower than 6:10 minutes per mile and is often as fast as 5:50. She also does laps on a hilly course; each lap about four minutes, twenty seconds of continuous hard running.

Although Susan has lived in the United States for twenty of her twenty seven years, she still retains her Canadian citizenship and plans on representing Canada in the 1992 Summer Games.

"I'm proud to represent Canada," said Susan, "I still have relatives who live there, including my grandfather who supports me a lot."

*This information was extracted from two articles from The San Clemente News Ed.*



*With this issue we are pleased to bring you what is hoped will become an annual feature of the magazine — the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Icelandic National League of North America. Many years ago the Icelandic Canadian was associated with Icelandic Canadian Fron, the Winnipeg Chapter of the Icelandic National League. It is therefore appropriate that we are able to provide the League with the format for a permanent record of its activities.*

### **Minutes of the Icelandic National League 70th Annual General Meeting**

April 1-2, 1989  
Wynyard Civic Centre  
Wynyard, Saskatchewan

Present: There were 71 registered delegates, representing a total of 1397 votes, and 8 Executive members present. There were a total of 161 signatures in the Register.

Chairman: Neil Bardal      Executive Secretary: Chris Roed

#### **Saturday, April 1**

1. The President took the Chair and called the meeting to order at 3:25 pm Saturday. Oli Narfason led the delegates in the singing of 'O Gud Vars Lands.'

2. The Chairman introduced Dr. Kirsten Wolf, Professor and Chair of the Department of Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Wolf spoke to the delegates about the aims of the department, its present strengths and weaknesses, and the changes which she is proposing to revitalize the department's programs.

3. As the minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting had been distributed to the delegates with their registration materials, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with. The following correction to the minutes as circulated was proposed:  
— Item 8 page 3, line 40 "Article #8 (b)(ii):" should read "Article #8 (e)(ii):"

MOTION: H. Austman/H. Vigfusson "that the minutes be adopted as amended." Carried.

#### **4. Chapter Reports**

Reports from the following chapters were submitted in advance for distribution to the delegates: Esjan, Leif Eiriksson, Norourljós, Vatnabyggo, Stephan G. Stephansson, Lundar, Bruin, and the Icelandic Canadian Club of BC. Written reports were not received from the Brandon, Gimli, Seattle or Winnipeg Chapters.

Each Chapter President was also given the opportunity to take the floor for a few minutes to add to or comment on the Chapter's report. During that time, Gene Juel gave a report on behalf of the Seattle Chapter, Baldur Schaldemose gave a report on behalf of the Winnipeg Chapter, and Helgi Austman, speaking for the Gimli Chapter,

referred delegates to a recent article in *Lögberg-Heimskringla* for the highlights of the Gimli Chapter's year.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The financial statements for the League which had been approved by the League's auditors were distributed to the delegates with their registration materials. The treasurer being absent, the Chairman of the Financial Committee, Jack Bjornson, presented the report. In addition to the information presented in the statements, Jack informed the delegates that the League had just heard that its application for a grant to help pay for the Convention and office expenses had been approved.

A question was raised regarding the cost to the INL for the visit of President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir to Vancouver. Neil Bardal responded, explaining that the League had agreed to underwrite the BC Chapter's losses, if any, and that those losses had been higher than expected.

Freda Abrahamson of the Leif Eiriksson Chapter then expressed a concern on behalf of the Chapters taking part in this summer's visit that they might also find their costs substantially higher than expected. Robert Asgeirsson of the BC Chapter responded to this concern, explaining that it was not so much that the costs of the visit were much higher than expected but that the club deliberately kept the prices for events low so as to encourage as many people as possible to come out.

MOTION: J. Bjornson/E. Simundsson "that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented." Carried.

#### **6. Constitution Committee Report**

Helgi Austman presented the report for the Constitution Committee. After discussing the outstanding constitutional issues at length, the Committee decided to propose two changes to the delegates. These were:

Membership — that the life membership clause be removed, but that existing life members should retain their membership.

Voting Rights — that each chapter should have 1 vote for each 50 members and that the president or his/her designate should be allowed to carry the proxies of any delegates unable to attend a meeting. Further, individual members attending the Annual General Meeting should be allowed to elect a delegate to vote for them if there are more than ten such members in attendance.

Voting on these proposals was deferred until Sunday to allow delegates time to think them over.

#### **7. Historian's Report.**

The League's historian, Nelson Gerrard, spoke about the importance which awareness of our history has in our efforts to generate the interest and enthusiasm needed to keep our Chapters alive. He gave several examples of the ways in which historical interests can be used to increase awareness and interest. Among these were centennial celebrations, establishment and maintenance of historical sites, reinstatement of traditional place names, and local and family history projects.

#### 8. Canadian Ethnocultural Committee (CEC) Representative's Report.

Oli Narfason, the League's representative on the Canadian Ethnocultural Committee, reviewed briefly the nature of the CEC and the role it plays. The CEC, which now comprises representatives of 37 ethnic groups, has two Board of Presidents meetings annually and a general meeting or assembly every second year. Oli reported that the League had been well represented at CEC meetings this year. He attended the Board of Presidents meeting on Dec. 10 and 11 in Toronto and Elva Simundsson, George Pattern, and Oli attended the last general meeting on behalf of the League. Also, Kendra Jonasson attended a meeting of the youth wing last fall.

#### 9. Cultural Director's Report

Hulda Danielsdóttir had submitted a written report which was circulated to the delegates. She also spoke briefly about the League's activities in this area, focusing on the need for individuals to be more active in seeking out cultural activities.

#### 10. IODE Presentation

Neil Bardal read a presentation prepared by Mrs. Westdal. She wrote to tell the delegates that Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of the IODE is preparing to publish a book containing the names of 1500 Icelandic Canadians who served during the Second World War.

#### 11. HIP Committee

Neil Bardal reviewed the history of the HIP Committee and its present status. The Committee has raised more than \$350,000 and there appears to be a very good chance that it will receive a matching grant of \$350,000 through the University Grants Commission.

#### 12. *Logberg-Heimskringla* Presentation

Neil Bardal read a presentation submitted by Bob Oleson, the president of the newspaper. Mr. Oleson wrote that the newspaper has taken steps to attract new subscribers through broadening and improving the quality of its coverage. To this end, they have appointed an assistant editor whose primary responsibility will be the Icelandic language content of the paper, established an editorial committee headed by a journalist with 20 years experience, and started an investigation into computerizing the production process.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:25 pm.

It was set to resume at 9:00 am Sunday.

### Sunday, April 2

The Past President, Oli Narfason, took the chair and called the meeting to order in the absence of the President at 9:17 am.

#### 13. *Icelandic Canadian Magazine* Presentation

Noni Whiteway spoke about the need for the magazine to remain relevant to the concerns of its audience and asked for the delegates' help in this regard. She asked that people either volunteer themselves or nominate others to help the magazine broaden its coverage of people and events across North America. She also announced that the Fall issue will be a commemorative of President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir's visit and asked for volunteer writers and photographers to help the magazine cover the visit.

#### 14. Canada Iceland Foundation

Sigurlin Roed, the League's representative to the Canada Iceland foundation, presented a report on the Foundation's activities this past year. The Foundation, which has aims very similar to those of the League, is the custodian of funds donated by individuals to support educational and cultural purposes dealing with the Icelandic heritage.

Looking to the future, she also reported that The Foundation is planning to institute a "Citizen of the Year" award and is investigating the possibility of producing an Icelandic language instruction videotape.

#### 15. Icelandic Festival Committee

Lorna Tergesen made a presentation to the delegates on the activities of the Festival Committee.

#### 16. Constitution Committee Proposals

The Proposals presented to the delegates on Saturday were brought forward for a vote. A motion was proposed to prevent the delegates from voting on the proposals at this meeting.

MOTION: D. Narfason, G. Geirholm "Since the delegates were not given an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments with the Chapter members beforehand, the amendments should be tabled until next year." Defeated — 156 For, 954 Against.

As that motion was defeated, the Chairman called for motions on the proposals.

MOTION: H. Austman/G. Cronshaw "that paragraph 5(b)(ii) be deleted and the remaining paragraphs be renumbered accordingly; 5(b)(iii) changed to 5(b)(ii) and 5(b)(iv) changed to 5(b)(iii)." Carried.

MOTION: H. Austman/S. Thorkelson "that paragraph 14 be deleted and replaced with the following:

14(a) Each Chapter shall be entitled to 1 voting delegate for up to 50 members, 1 voting delegate for each additional 50 members, and 1 more voting delegate if the remaining number of members is at least 10." Carried — 20 Against.

MOTION: H. Austman/S. Thorkelson "that paragraph 14(b) be replaced with the following:

14(b) Where all the eligible voting delegates cannot attend a general or special meeting of the League, then the president or his/her designate may carry the proxies for those delegates unable to attend." Carried — 920 For, 417 Against.

MOTION: H. Austman/L. Asgeirsson "that paragraph 14(c) be replaced with the following:

14(c) Individual members of the League present at a general or special meeting may appoint one delegate to vote on their behalf providing that there are at least 10 individual members present." Carried.

#### 17. President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir's Visit

Neil Bardal reported on the discussions that have taken place regarding the proposed visit to Canada by President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir of Iceland. Although nothing

was official yet, a committee had been set up to plan for the visit. The committee members are:

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Neil Bardal           | INL                          |
| Sigurlin Roed         | INL                          |
| Bob Oleson            | <i>Lögberg-Heimskringla</i>  |
| Lorna Tergesen        | Icelandic Festival Committee |
| Pastor Ingthor Isfeld | First Lutheran Church        |
| Dilla Narfason        | Gimli Chapter — INL          |
| Birgir Brynjolfson    | Honorary Consul for Iceland  |
| Donna Roed            | Secretary                    |

Neil also reported that he had asked Eric Stephanson to act as the contact person for the Saskatchewan portion of the visit and he had spoken to Tom Einarson about someone from the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto acting as the contact person for the Ontario portion of the visit. Finally, he said that he was planning to ask Robert Asgeirsson to act as a special consultant to the committee to share with them the experience gained during the President's visit to BC.

#### 18. Election of Officers

The Chairman turned this part of the meeting over to Oli Narfason, the head of the Nominating Committee. Oli reported that, during the year, the Board had developed several vacancies. Dennis Sigurdson, Al Nelson, and Don Bjornson had resigned and Iva Simundsson had reached the end of her three year term. He presented the following slate for election:

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| President           | Neil Bardal         |
| Vice President      | Sigurlin Roed       |
| Secretary           | Evelyn Thorvaldson  |
| Treasurer           | Loren Guobjartsson  |
| Financial Secretary | Hannes Thomasson    |
| Membership Director | Helga Sigurdson     |
| Cultural Director   | Hulda Danielsdóttir |
| Archivist           | Jack Bjornson       |
| Historian           | Nelson Gerrard      |

MOTION: S. Stefansson/R. Asgeirsson "that the slate of officers be accepted as presented." Carried.

#### 19. Appointment of Auditors

MOTION: H. Austman/C. Sigurdson "that Guomundur Palmason, William Perlmutter, and Harold Sigurdson be reappointed as auditors for the League." Carried.

#### 20. New Business

As a result of the workshop sessions, there were several resolutions to be presented to the delegates for their consideration. Kendra Jonasson presented the following resolutions on behalf of the youth delegates.

1. Be it resolved that the INL have an official youth delegation to the convention.

Be it further resolved that that youth delegation consist of one or more members from each member club of the INL.

2. Be it resolved to have a regular scheduled youth meeting as part of the INL Annual Conference and to have an official to report from this meeting to the full convention.

3. Be it resolved to have a national youth co-ordinator on the INL Executive (with full voting voice) and be it further resolved that there be a local youth co-ordinator in each member club. (We recommend Julianna Guobjartsson for this position.)

4. Be it resolved that a youth delegate to the convention should be between the ages of 15 to 25 years.

MOTION: K. Jonasson/J. Guobjartsson "that the four resolutions be adopted." Carried.

b. Kristin Perlmutter presented the following resolution on behalf of her workshop group.

Be it resolved that each Chapter Executive and the League's National Executive create a position or empower a member of their current Executive to act in the capacity of Public Relations or Reporter to write or collect and submit material to the appropriate media, be that newspaper, magazine, radio, television, or whatever.

MOTION: K. Perlmutter/H. Danielsdóttir "that the resolution be adopted." Carried.

MOTION: L. Guobjartsson/N. Gerrard "that the League take steps to put in place by next year a system for creating and maintaining a central directory of people interested in or involved with the Icelandic community in North America." Carried.

#### 21. The 71st Annual General Meeting

Neil Bardal reported that the Icelandic Canadian Frón had issued an invitation to the League to hold their 71st Annual General Meeting and Convention in Winnipeg.

MOTION: B. Schaldemose/V. Hilton "that the 71st Annual General Meeting be held in Winnipeg." Carried.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

### President's Report For the Term April 1988 - April 1989

As the snow subsided from the roads leading from Innisfail, we returned home from one of the most successful conventions ever held by the Icelandic National League, filled with renewed vigour and vitalization for the prospects of the National League. We had a mandate to continue cultivating the upward spiral of interest in the activities of the League and things Icelandic in Canada and the U.S.

The Executive met monthly over the past year, varying the place, from Winnipeg, to Eyrarbakki, to Lundar, to Selkirk, to our new headquarters at Quantext Information Systems, to Betelstadur, to Gimli, and to the Scandinavian Center. At each of these places, the local Chapter was asked to be present and see the Executive in action.

The executive took the responsibility of hiring a new Executive Secretary, Chris Roed, who was selected after a thorough

selection process by a very able committee under the direction of Dennis Sigurdson.

Early in the new administration, we took on such projects as sponsoring a Gestamot for the visitors from Iceland, a conference call for the Constitutional Committee, a reception for retiring members of the Executive and a welcoming reception for Kirsten Wolf. We made donations to the HIP Committee and the Icelandic Camp.

October was a banner month for the League as a result of our participation, with our B.C. Chapter, in hosting President Vigdis Finnbogadottir, during a three day tour of the Icelandic communities in B.C. and Washington state prior to her participation as chairman for the "Tourism, a Vital Force for Peace Conference," in Vancouver. This was a magnificent cooperative effort between the League and its Chapters. We took the opportunity to invite the President to visit other Icelandic communities in Canada in the summer of 1989 and help us to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Islendingadagurinn.

Overtures were made to *The Icelandic Canadian* magazine to work in closer concert with the League and be the repository of the minutes of our annual meeting. Representatives of the magazine and League met to discuss other mutual concerns and decided on an ongoing dialogue.

The beginnings of a database for names has been begun and we thank all those organizations that have cooperated so far in supplying us with their lists.

We were saddened by the resignations of Dennis Sigurdson and Don Bjornson from the Executive.

I was privileged to go to Iceland, in February of this year, to visit with the President and discuss plans for the forthcoming visit this summer. We were able to make

many good contacts while there. We spoke with the Minister of Culture, Svavar Gestsson, Gudmundur Magnusson, the chairman of the committee to deal with Icelandic communities outside Iceland, the Canadian Consulate Jon Bergs, and the president of the Icelandic-American Society, Olafur Stephensen. All of these people were positive and warm to the idea of working with the League to create a closer networking of the Icelandic communities in North America and Iceland.

The League has continued to be active in the C.E.C. and I have asked Oli Narfason to be our representative to that organization. He has attended the main meetings and continues to be a voice of influence within that group.

The business and happenings of the year will unfold in the various reports and you will have an opportunity to judge our success in these endeavours.

Our guest speakers, at this convention, and the participants at the business meeting will create an interesting and challenging meeting of minds. The hosts for the convention have worked diligently to make this a landmark event. We owe a debt of gratitude to Eric and his co-workers for their efforts.

We have created a committee to look after the President's Visit this summer and are looking forward to the opportunity the visit will provide to foster good will among the Icelandic communities in Canada.

Where are we going and how are we going to get there? These are the questions we post to this convention. We have a marvelous opportunity to bring the League into clear focus as a dynamic vehicle for networking, headquartering, stimulating, organizing and spearheading events of common concern to the pervasive Icelandic spirit on this continent. We have the people, intellect and means to accom-

plish whatever tasks are identified. We will find out, over the next two days, whether we have the will to do it.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the executive for their help and support over the past year, especially those who differed strongly with my methods of leadership but were ready to give me the benefit of the doubt. The new Executive Secretary Chris and his wife Donna have started the League on a substantial upward swing with their modern methods, patient analysis and tutorial upgrading of our meeting formats and inner organization.

The honour of being your president has been deeply felt. My lack of understanding of much of the history of the League has been ameliorated by the good counsel of Sigurlin Roed, without whose guidance and patient understanding, I would have surely floundered.

My hope is that we will decide to take the challenge that is ours to be the leaders of the collective Icelandic communities and organizations, and build an organization in keeping with the high ideals of our forefathers.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Neil Bardal,  
President*

### **Archivist's Report 1989 Convention**

1988 was a banner year for the Icelandic Cultural Corporation and its museum at Gimli.

In excess of six thousand persons visited our museum during the year.

Mother Nature dealt us a severe blow on June 26th in that we lost a large part of the museum roofing into the lake when the hurricane wind passed over Gimli, resulting in some minor damage.

The following day after a night of cleanup, we were honoured by a visit of the Ministers of Health, Gudmundur Bjarnasson of Iceland and Jake Epp of Canada. Accompanying the Minister of Health from Iceland was Jón Ingimarsson, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Health and Social Security. All these gentlemen were accompanied by their wives. For the visitors from Iceland a tour of the museum was conducted in Icelandic.

In 1988 we put forth a special effort to change the exhibits in the museum while still maintaining the story of the pioneers of New Iceland. To relate this story is always made easier by the fact that our museum stands precisely on the spot where the first settlers laid down their worldly goods in the bay to start their settlement at Gimli on October 22nd, 1875.

The visitors record book indicates that we have received visitors from ever so many foreign countries. Visitors from Iceland show a very keen interest in our Icelandic Museum, it being the only Icelandic Museum in the western world. The generosity of these visitors from Iceland has resulted in the museum receiving artifacts from Iceland which were used by our pioneers but have been unavailable to us here.

A very special display, a replica of the Gimli harbour as it was in the year 1940 was erected in the marine area of the museum. This display was designed and made by Fredrick Sigmundson of Gimli.

We are suffering to some extent by the lack of space, and we do have plans to expand. This is however governed by the availability of funds.

In all respects 1988 was a good year, and preparations are now in the making to have 1989 a special year as the Icelandic Festival celebrates its centenary and Her Excellency the President of Iceland will

honour us with a private visit on August 7th.

I would like to express our gratitude to the Town of Gimli and the Rural Municipality of Gimli for their assistance and co-operation toward the museum throughout the year.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Bjornson*

### Cultural Director's Report

My main involvement has been with the teaching of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba and at the Frón's language classes. Interest seems to be increasing. This year, forty people signed up for the Frón's language classes, which are taught at three levels. There are two beginners' classes, an intermediate class, and an advanced class.

Gunnvör Ásmundsson taught Icelandic at Gimli. Her students on one occasion visited the Frón's classes at the Scandinavian Center.

In terms of the future, we need to look into the potential for an Icelandic Drama Club, the implementation of Icelandic language classes within the public school system, the potential for an exchange program with Iceland, and the promotion of the Language and Cultural Camp for children and young adults.

Last but not least, we need to promote and encourage the translation of Icelandic Canadian literature from Icelandic into English so that English speaking people of Icelandic descent can enjoy their literary heritage.

*Submitted by:  
Hulda Karen Danielsdóttir  
Cultural Director*

### Chapter Report Icelandic Canadian Frón (Winnipeg)

Greetings from Icelandic Canadian Frón. It seems a short time ago that we met at Innisfail which I always tend to think of as Markerville. Frón has had a busy and an eventful year, due in large part to the momentum established by Past President Lee Brandson. Lee was a tireless worker dedicated to Frón and to the community during his term in office. Many times during the last year we've been appreciative of what Lee accomplished. Our sincere thanks are extended to Lee and to Jamie Magnusson for their time, their efforts and for the pleasant social atmosphere they always inspire.

The first significant act of the new executive was to re-affirm our objectives and our focus on preserving and promoting the linguistic, literary and cultural heritage of Canadians of Icelandic descent.

A "hugsa helgi" in August at a cozy cottage on a lake in the Canadian Shield delineated many ways and some of the means by which Frón could support other organizations and groups with similar aims. We've made a start in these directions. We've promoted *Lögberg-Heimskringla* and the *Icelandic Canadian Magazine* by encouraging members to submit news and articles of current interest and by seeking new subscribers for these publications. We are encouraging members to support Islendingadagurinn by offering the talents they have to the Festival committee on the theory that participation will foster understanding and lead to greater appreciation of and commitment to this celebration. We encourage financial support to the Icelandic National League, the H.I.P. Committee and to the Canada Iceland Foundation.

Icelandic Canadian Frón after several years of supporting Action 70 Group from St. Stephen-Lutheran Church, ac-

cepted responsibility for providing the Icelandic Component of Folklorama's Scandinavian Pavilion. This year a Viking theme has been accepted and a member of Frón has been chosen to be the Queen of the Pavilion.

"Images of the Past," a celebration of pioneer achievements in Western Canada, was a feature attraction at Union Station and the Legislative Building in Winnipeg this fall. Some faithful Frón members spent many hours and much effort to provide the Icelandic Component which highlighted the event.

Language classes were exceptionally well managed and were successful in attracting more and younger participants.

Youth delegates attended two seminars sponsored by the Ministry of Multiculturalism.

An oral history of life in the Icelandic community in Winnipeg was in the 1920's, sponsored by Frón and supported by the provincial Ministry of Multiculturalism, is nearing completion.

It hasn't been a year without aggravations. In the next few months Frón will be required to resolve an uncertain relationship with the Scandinavian Centre; jurisdictional and management. But we have the nucleus of a young and talented executive in place. I'm sure the initiatives that have been taken will be realized through them. Icelandic Canadian Frón has an interested future as a chapter of the Icelandic National League.

*Submitted by:  
Baldur Schaldemöse  
President*

### Chapter Report (Esjan (Arborg))

Esjan chapter held two official meetings in 1988 and has a total of 45 members.

The chapter's ninth annual thorrablót was held March 19th proving to be another successful event. Prof. Gisli-Sigurðsson obliged as a guest speaker, Gimli's "Blue Sky Quintet" entertained with song, catering by Frances Sigurðsson was as successful as always, and the . . . Orchestra provided the music for the evening.

July 31st, Esjan hosted a "Farm Group" from Iceland at a luncheon which made for an interesting and enjoyable afternoon. As the group was leaving Arborg they were given a guided tour of the farming area, noting the diversified farming network. Signs at the farm home entrances denoting their Icelandic historical place names did not escape the eyes of our visitors.

The Esjan was pleased to be able to provide a supper for the very busy Icelandic research team that was in this area doing their cardiovascular research work.

A sub-committee of Esjan's members has been working on a project to erect a marker at the homestead site of Johann Magnus Bjarnasson. It is felt that this project will not only honour J.M. Bjarnasson, a pioneer author, poet and teacher, but will also raise the profile of our heritage and provide a point of interest for visitors. We have been very pleased with the response of support and interest that so many people have shown to this project.

Donations were made to:

|                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Lögberg-Heimskringla</i>          | \$300.00 |
| <i>Icelandic Canadian Mag.</i>       | \$200.00 |
| Icelandic Language & Culture<br>Camp | \$200.00 |
| Icelandic Festival                   | \$50.00  |

*Respectfully submitted:  
Svava Simundsson — President  
Gudrun Gisslasson — Secretary*

### Chapter Report Bruin Chapter (Selkirk)

During the year we:

- Held the annual birthday party for residents of the Betel Home of Selkirk, providing entertainment and gifts.
- Sold tickets on a trip for two to Iceland in 1988.
- Held our annual first day of summer concert in April with two senior bands entertaining and ethnic Icelandic food served.

Donations:

- Heritage Image and Pride \$500.00
- Icelandic Festival Committee \$50.00
- Icelandic Camp at Gimli \$100.00
- Skogræknis Fjélag of Iceland \$25.00
- Two Scholarships to two students of Icelandic descent who are furthering their education. \$150.00 each
- Donated a set of O. Howardsons Tapes to the Selkirk Library.

Hosted a meeting of Icelandic League of Winnipeg Executive in October. Kristin Wolf, Professor of the Icelandic Chair, U. of M. was introduced.

*Submitted by:  
Gudrun Dryden*

### Chapter Report Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society (Markerville)

Activities over 1988 have certainly made for a busy time for the Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society (Chapter of the Icelandic National League) of Markerville, Alberta.

The Icelandic National League Convention was held in Innisfail, Alberta in March. We were certainly pleased with the large attendance from all the chapters of the League. We found it a most enjoyable conference and we believe much was learned and accomplished. It was unfortunate that the snow storm blew in for the last day making travelling impossible.

In June we had our Annual Icelandic Picnic in conjunction with Leif Eriksson Club of Calgary and Nordurljos Chapter of Edmonton. There were the usual activities, including the concert in Fensala Hall with an address by the Fjalkona, Donna Nelson. The Saga Singers entertained as well as other numbers.

July 9th was the date of the release of Stephan G. Stephansson's *Selected Prose and Poetry* translated by Kristjana Gunnars, Icelandic Poet of Winnipeg. Kristjana Gunnars also announced the winners of the Annual Poetry Contest. This event was co-sponsored by the Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, and Red Deer College Press.

July 10 was the date of the Tombola Festival at Stephansson House Site. Alberta Culture, with the assistance of many community groups and individuals, offers one of the largest heritage craft festivals in the area, featuring many demonstrations by local artisans. Folk singer Richard White performed musical renditions of Stephansson's poetry. There were other activities including a sheep shearing demonstration.

The highlight of our year was the Markerville Centennial (1888-1988). It was a gala four day event, July - Aug. 1. It brought back many former residents and filled the camp grounds to overflowing. The parade was equal to or better than parades of larger surroundings districts.

The Icelandic entries were the Markerville Float, the Stephan G. Stephansson Society Float with "Fjalkona" Donna Nelson, the Icelandic Ladies Aid "Vonin" Float, and the Hóla Community Society Float. Hóla was one of the two original Schools and was composed of mostly Icelanders at that time. Hóla is a community centre now and has been well kept.

We chose that time for the official opening of the Markerville Restored Creamery

as an Historic Site. It is a creamery museum.

Our President Kris Johnson acted as chairman for the ceremonies. Donna Nelson, Fjalkona, gave an address. Greetings were brought from the Alberta Minister of Culture, Hon. Greg. Stevens, our MLA Gordon Towers, MP Nigel Pengelly, Reeve Stayberg and councillors of the County of Red Deer. Other speakers were contributors to the restoration. Our main speaker was Mr. Wes Jackson of Lacombe, Alberta, who spoke of the early days of Markerville. Mrs. Regina Johansson, who at 89 is the oldest resident of Markerville, cut the ribbon assisted by Lyle Johansson, building foreman, and Martin Christensen, former cream hauler and butter maker. Dana, daughter of Carl Morkeberg, buttermaker for many years, reminisced.

Mr. Baldur Hofstad, Professor, Teachers College, Iceland, brought greetings from Iceland. He mentioned the Icelandic Poet, Stephan G. Stephansson, who was born in Iceland and did the greatest part of his writings from his home at Markerville. "The children of both countries will have a common bond as they read his work" Mr. Hofstad said. Mr. Hofstad and his wife spent three weeks at the Stephansson House.

The monument to the Pioneers was dedicated on Sunday following the church service. It was in the form of a large cream can. "They did so much with so little" was the inscription on it. There were many and varied entertainments throughout the four days.

August 28 was the date of the "Summer Finale" at Stephansson House Site. All activities at the Stephansson House Site are under Alberta Culture. There was entertainment and a "Mini Fair" where Baking, Preserves, Horticulture and Vegetables were judged. There were also Food Sales. The community helps in this.

We are now concentrating on the Museum Artifacts.

*Submitted by:  
Mrs. Fretha Stephansson  
Secretary*

### Chapter Report Leif Eriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary

The Leif Eriksson Club of Calgary brings greetings to the Vatnabyggd Chapter, as hosts of this 70th annual gathering, to all member chapters of the League, and to distinguished guests.

#### 1988 Club Activities

The Calgary Chapter started the year in a very special way through involvement with Icelandic delegation to the Winter Olympics. Icelandic Consul, Cliff Marteinson, was named attache to the Icelandic Olympic Committee and organized a delightful reception at the Calgary Winter Club, attended by about 150 people. In that pleasant setting overlooking the city we had the opportunity to meet the athletes and various members of their entourage. The guests were subsequently entertained on a personal basis by club members in their homes, and we still receive communications from them in which they fondly remember their time in Olympic City.

Three delegates and many interested members attended the 69th INL Annual Convention in Innisfail. An excellent meeting was, in the final analysis, somewhat eclipsed by the spectacular prairie spring storm that flung itself upon us while we dined and danced at the Thorrablot.

Club members enjoyed a variety of other activities during the course of the year:

- the three-Alberta-Clubs Picnic at Markerville was, as always, a highlight and an opportunity for visiting people we often don't see from year to year.

- the release of the new Kristjana Gunnars translation of Stephan G. Stephansson's poetry was an exciting yet gentle day in July at the Historic Site, concluded with the announcing of winners of the annual Stephan G. Stephansson Poetry Competition;
- the Markerville Centennial Celebrations were thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended;
- one of our members visited the home of Magnus and Mamie Magnusson in Scotland during the summer and presented them with one of our Club's Cookbooks as a souvenir of their visit with us previously;
- a family hayride at a local ranch was held in the early Fall; an enjoyable Games Night and Potluck Supper was held in October and a wonderful family afternoon took place in November when we spent time together making the traditional Laufabraud for our Christmas Party while two of our members showed videos of their summer visit to Iceland;
- and the year concluded with an exceptionally successful Christmas Party — always a highlight of Calgary's social year.

### 1988 Club Projects

We undertook a second printing of our popular all-Icelandic Cookbook. It has been main fundraising project and we have been surprised and delighted to receive orders from all across Canada, several points in the United States and as far afield as England.

By permission of the CBC, one of our members has reproduced a delightful taped interview conducted by Vicky Gaberau with Magnus Magnusson, and it has been a popular seller, especially around Christmas time as a "stocking stuffer." The Cookbook and tapes have been our major sale items when participating in the Annual Tombola at Stephansson House and the Christmas Bazaar at the Scandinavian Centre.

Our relationship with the Alberta Department of Culture and Multiculturalism was strengthened during 1988 by our assistance in recruiting Summer Historic Interpreters at various locations, with one of our youth members working at Stephansson House. We received many excellent comments on the fine job she did in her role of interpreting the Icelandic culture to the many visitors from around the world who pass through Stephansson House each year.

We are proud to have a very distinguished member of our Club, Mary Stewart, representing all three Alberta Clubs in 1989 as Fjallkona.

### Objectives for 1989

Recruitment of new members.

Fundraising projects to enable us to mount more significant programs of interest, i.e. geneology seminars, guest speakers, library and language tapes acquisitions, and so forth.

We look forward to participation in planning a memorable visit to Alberta by Her Excellency, Vigdis Finnbogadóttir.

We hope to improve two-way communication with the INL.

The three Alberta clubs have a good relationship already, but we look forward to even closer communication in the future.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Freda Abrahamson,  
President*

### Chapter Report Lundar

In 1988 we had 34 members, held 5 business meetings and had a most successful year. For the annual Convention held at Innisfail, Alta. one delegate, Helga Sigurdson, was sent. Our fund raising consisted

of 4 card parties, monies from the sale of Raffle tickets for 2 round-trip tickets to Iceland, and several voluntary donations from members and friends. Words of compassion are regularly extended to members in ill health and during meetings periods of silence honor any departed member; this year, Mrs. Margaret Lindal. Twenty-five dollars were donated in her memory to the Lundar P.C. Home Guild. This year we affiliated with the Man. Inter Cultural Council. A third flagpole was placed in our Memorial Park beside the Cairn and the Sun Dial to permanently fly our Canadian Flag. On special days we also fly our Icelandic flag and our Lundar flag.

We were honoured to have our president Helga Sigurdson chosen as Fjalkona 1988-1989 of the Islendingadagurinn at Gimli. Her two daughters Linda Collette and Sandra Heidrick and two granddaughters Deidre and Elizabeth served as her "hiromeyjar" three generations together. It was a memorable occasion.

Donations were made to: Icelandic Festival (\$100), *Lögberg-Heimskringla* (\$100), Skogaekatarfelag (\$50), H.I.P. (\$100), Language and Cultural Camp (\$100), *Icelandic Canadian* (\$100), Icelandic Chair of U. of M. (\$500), Centenary Book of Settlements (\$500 in two cheques, one post-dated till 1989, Icelandic Festival of Manitoba).

We were honoured with a tour bus of visitors from Iceland on July 30. After a trip to the Museum we hosted them to a social luncheon at our local Sportsmans Inn with as many members and non-members joining them as possible. Each Icelander was presented with a souvenir Centennial tumbler and the time passed all too soon.

In September we had the pleasure of having the Executive of the I.N.L. conduct their meeting in Lundar. At its close we were happy to meet with the members as

well as to be introduced to the new head of the Icelandic Chair, Dr. Kirsten Wolf. We served coffee and all the Icelandic dishes possible and it proved to be a most pleasant afternoon.

*Submitted by:  
Thelma Sigurdson, Secretary  
Helga G.J. Sigurdson, President*

### Chapter Report Vatnabyggd Icelandic Club of Saskatchewan

The Vatnabyggd Chapter extends greetings to all.

A successful Thorrablot and Raffle took place in March.

Four delegates attended the Annual Convention of the Icelandic National League at Innisfail Alberta. We thank the Executive and delegates for their support in accepting our offer to host the 70th Annual Convention in Wynyard 1989.

The Elfros Library held an Official Opening in October. The Ethnic book section shelves were donated by Stella and Eric Stephanson. Icelandic books in English and Icelandic form the major part of the Ethnic collection.

A membership drive beginning in November proved to be successful.

Memorial donations to *Lögberg-Heimskringla* were made, and we still subsidize *L.H.* and the *Icelandic Canadian* by 40% for new subscribers.

A \$600 payment was sent to the University of Manitoba, in support of the Icelandic Chair.

Our Club was accepted as a member of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan. We anticipate many benefits arising from this association, including the devel-

opment of a Newsletter which has many obvious advantages.

The interaction with other Ethnic groups within the Province will be of invaluable mutual benefit in promoting awareness and appreciation of the many cultures in this land.

*Respectively submitted by:*  
*E.B. Stephanson,*  
*President*

### Chapter Report Nordurljós Chapter Edmonton

It was a quiet year for the Nordurljós Chapter, but overall considered a successful one. After the annual general meeting in October '87, the first event of the Chapter's year was an afternoon Christmas party, well attended and much enjoyed. The Thorrablót came early in '88, on February 7, and was held at a new location, the Capilano Inn. The good old crowd was there, with a few new and welcome faces, to enjoy the excellent food and service, then good entertainment, and dancing to the music of Bud's Combo. The Nordurljós Chapter was able to send eight delegates to the I.N.L. conference in Innisfail. Those who attended not only felt it worthwhile and enjoyable, but also an unforgettable experience. We will remember the "Prairie Spring Blizzard Conference" for years to come!

Summer brought a busy time. The Edmonton group helped Markerville celebrate its centennial. The Saga Singers were invited to sing there, and many of our group attended the gala event. The very same Civic holiday weekend saw several of our members working at the Scandinavian Pavilion at Edmonton's annual Heritage Days, held in Hawrelak Park. This contribution of work by our members was much appreciated by the Scandinavian Heritage Society. One of

this Society's aims is to cultivate liaison among the Scandinavian groups in Edmonton and to eventually provide a meeting place for all of them. Since our club is small and not very rich, we feel this co-operative effort is vital to the life of our society, which has definitely declined in overall activity since the demise of the Scandinavian Centre.

The executive members met when occasions warranted. The Saga Singers have kept meeting, and sang at Thorrablót and the Christmas party. An interesting newsletter has done its part in keeping our members informed and interested. The society was able to make donations to H.I.P., I.N.L., *Icelandic Canadian*, and *Lögberg-Heimskringla*.

*Respectively submitted,*  
*Shirley Sigurdson, Secretary*  
*Sam Thorkelson, President*

### Chapter Report The Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia

This has been a very busy and successful year for the club. Your executive has worked hard at creating and managing successful events. A sense of responsibility towards costs has prevailed and we now boast, with the help of our fund raising projects — a very healthy bank account.

Having established some modest resources, we will now be able to examine our potential to develop some larger goals. Projecting potential funds that can be raised is a kind of crystal ball gazing affair. I say this because the majority of funds raised this year have been through Casino nights approved by the Provincial Lotteries Commission. We hope — and I stress the word **hope** — to be able to continue with this type of fund raiser. It may be dependent on the Provincial political mood and/or the Government of the

day. It would not be wise to concentrate all expectations of fund raising on this one method. Many other fund raising project ideas exist and will undoubtedly be pursued should we decide to pursue a Centre or facility of some kind. **Hopefully** they will all be as successful as the Casino nights seem to be.

So then, . . . we have taken our first small but successful step towards a larger goal — that of a Cultural Centre. Should we continue? Do we have the will to see a project of this size through to completion? What will be the condition of the Icelandic community 10 or 20 years down the road? Will the changing club executives carry on with the challenge from year to year? These are very important questions for us to consider later in this meeting.

The directors will be reporting on the details of the various events and activities this year, so, for the sake of brevity, I would like to close my report at this time by saying that it has been a privilege and honour to work with this executive. I would like to thank them all for putting up with me, . . . with phone calls late in the evening, . . . with long meetings . . . and with their considerable work loads carried out without complaint. Thank you all.

*Submitted by:*  
*Robert Asgeirsson*

### What is "The Timarit"?

The "Timarit" was a yearly publication put out by the Icelandic National League giving direction to and recording events of the League. It was first published in 1919 and continued for 50 years. It was a quality publication which contained articles on the Icelandic Heritage and the ideals founders of the League deemed were of utmost importance to the future generations of Icelanders in America. Prominent academics in Iceland and America wrote articles for the *Timarit* and it was widely read. It contained the

complete set of minutes of each annual convention. It is a 50 year record of the effort put forth by the Icelandic Community trying to live up to the goal set by the founders of the League; that of becoming the best citizens of their adopted country.

For 18 years the League operated in the Icelandic language exclusively. It then became apparent that unless the English language were allowed in the operation of the League there soon would be no young people joining and so in 1937 a committee was formed to establish young people's groups. The Winnipeg Young People's group first reported to a convention in 1938. They were known as the Young Icelanders. In 1940 they were looking for a clubhouse and changed their name to The Junior Icelandic National League. In 1941 they had a membership of over 100. Again in 1942 there was a change of name, this time to The Icelandic Canadian Club with the reported highlight of the year being the launching of the *Icelandic Canadian Magazine* which is still in operation.

1969 was the last issue of the *Timarit*. Since that time the League has published all of its information in the *Lögberg-Heimskringla*. While this provides a means of getting the information to the community it does not provide as nice a format for a permanent record of our activities. People have sorely missed being able to keep a collection of all the *Timarits* and the executive has been looking into this. We have been talking with the *Icelandic Canadian Magazine* and we are looking into the possibility of having one of the issues of the magazine largely devoted to covering events at the convention and happenings in the League during the year. This would provide us with a collection of material which was again in one place and in such a format that it could be preserved.

We invite comments from the delegates about what they think of the executive proceeding with this matter.

*Sigurlin Roed*

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

### **ROY ST. GEORGE STUBBS**

now retired, practiced law in Winnipeg from 1936 until 1970, except for service with the RCAF during the Second World War. He sat on the Winnipeg Family Court Bench from 1970 to 1982, and has been a frequent contributor to *The Icelandic Canadian*.

### **KRISTIANA MAGNUSSON**

of White Rock, B.C. formerly from the Arborg-Riverton area of Manitoba, is an author and poet.

### **HRAFNHILDUR VALGARDSDÓTTIR**

recently moved to Winnipeg from Iceland. She has authored two children's books in Icelandic and has worked as an editor for the Icelandic children's magazine ABCD. "Paradise" was the first story she wrote.

### **DIANE ALEXANDER**

is the daughter of Margie (Magnusson) Alexander. Articles written by Diane have appeared in *Lögberg-Heimskingla* but this is the first time that she is published by *The Icelandic Canadian*.

### **LEIGH SYMS**

served on the board of *The Icelandic Canadian* for many years. He is employed with the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg.

### **KRISTINE PERLMUTTER**

teaches on a part-time basis at the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba. She is Interview Editor of *The Icelandic Canadian*.

*Submissions of articles, book reviews, short stories and poetry are welcome. Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. The views expressed in all contributions which appear in **The Icelandic Canadian** are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Magazine Board.*

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