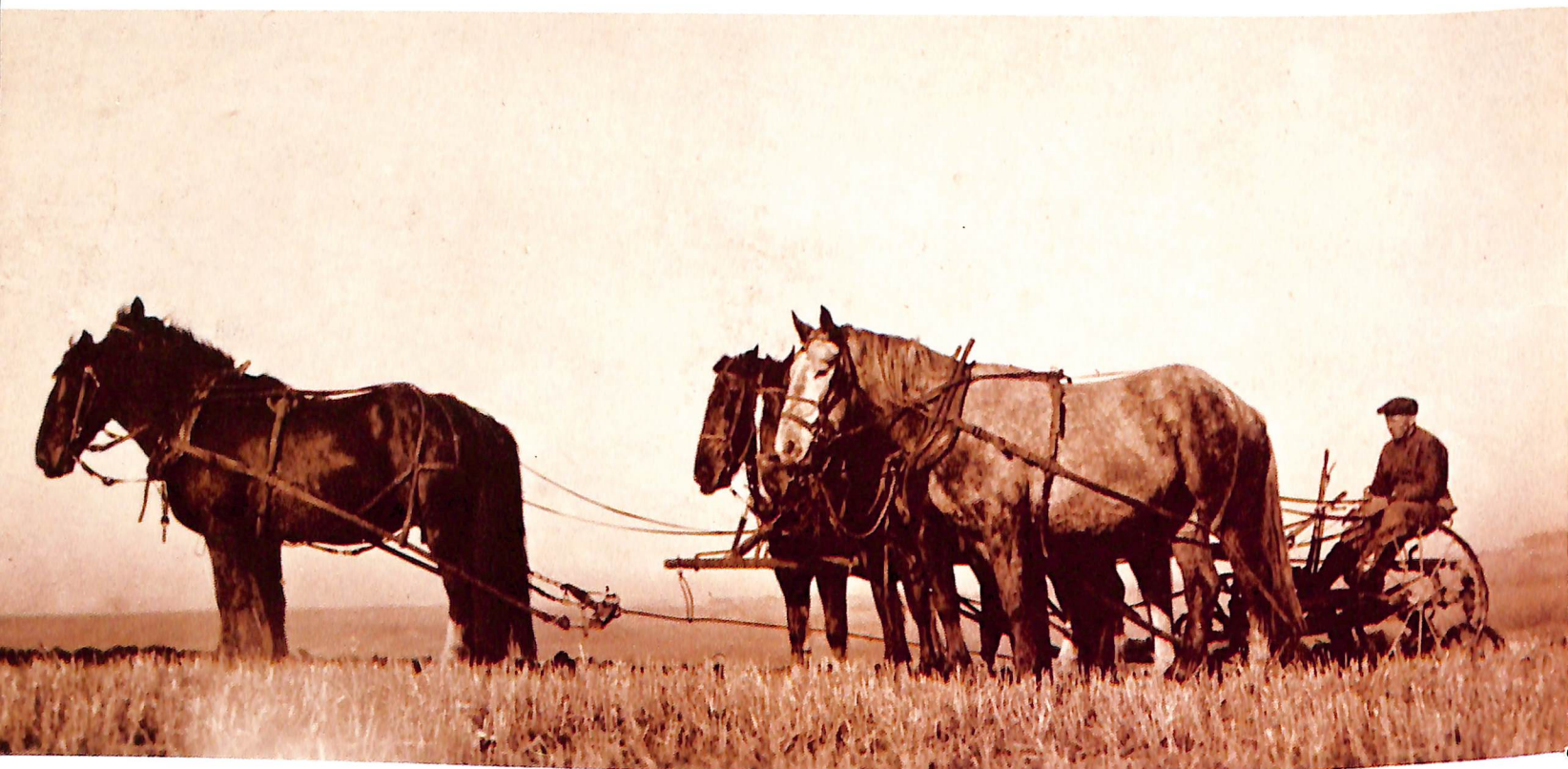


Denmark our Heritage  
America our Home

**The Danish Brotherhood in America**





## A Century in Retrospect



With affection and curiosity we review 100 years of history. Ours is a society which, while changing, has been true to one purpose. That purpose was to enrich the lives of those it touched.

According to our records in the past 100 years approximately 90,000 men, women and children have been members of The Danish Brotherhood in America. Each of these people have in some way contributed to the attainment of the goals set by the founders.

The lean years, those when the Brotherhood barely had enough capital to operate, are well behind us. We stand financially strong after 100 years.

Where will we be tomorrow? It is with certainty I can tell you every man now serving on your Board of Directors and the members of our home office staff are dedicated to finding those answers.

During the series of workshops sponsored in 1980, when staff members came into as many lodge areas as possible, they listened to what you said. You saw constructive changes in the things that mattered to you.

A new approach toward making The Danish Brotherhood a family organization was recently adopted. We have more educational, instructional, beneficial and entertaining programs to offer new members than have ever been available during any other period of our history. We are not self-satisfied or complacent.

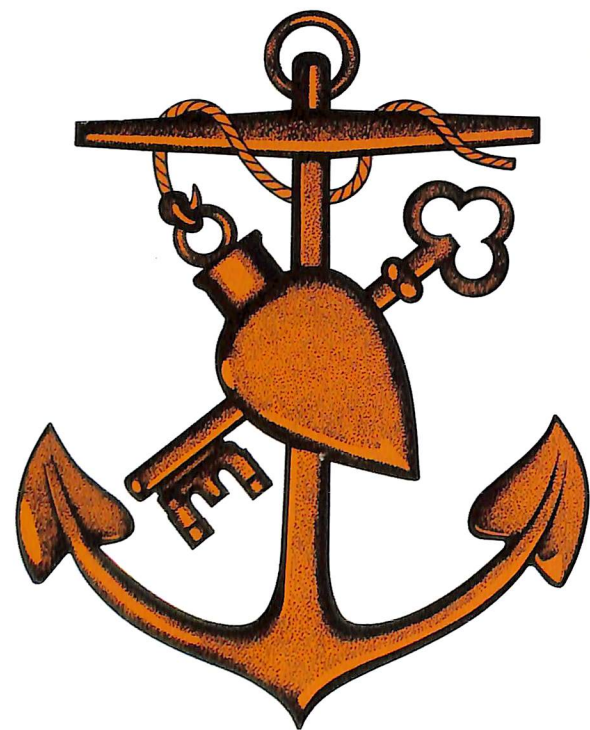
We are aware we exist in a fiercely competitive environment. We intend to remain a functioning, prosperous, part of our members' way of life.

You will continue to see a growing, changing Danish Brotherhood. But our promise to you, to your children, grandchildren and future generations is this; we will continue to be bound by history and tradition to setting goals for the future which will return to you what you have given us.

George J. Jacobsen  
PRESIDENT



## current members of the Danish Brotherhood in America **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Since 1882, The Danish Brotherhood in America has been serving the Danish immigrant and his descendants. It has grown, adapted and changed and remains a viable entity today even though it was founded many years ago in relative obscurity.

To those men, we owe a debt of gratitude and our unflinching efforts to see that what they have begun is continued through our family and our friends. While the outward appearance may change, the premise that governs the Brotherhood will never change.

We welcome your interest in our Brotherhood and hope that through the reading of this booklet you find a group of people that you would like to join. For with your membership in The Danish Brotherhood in America, you can become part of a goal so worthy it has survived a century.

*Past President*, George Godthaab  
Newark, NJ  
*President*, George J. Jacobsen  
Nassau Co., NY  
*First Vice President*, Robert Ibsen  
Kenosha, WI  
*Second Vice President*, Peter Weber  
Solvang, CA  
*Director*, Norbert E. Grove  
Tacoma, WA  
*Director*, Clyde R. Langsted  
Seattle, WA  
*Director*, Kenneth Pedersen  
Ruskin, NE  
*Director*, Woodrow Petersen  
Chicago, IL  
*Secretary-Treasurer*, Howard Christensen  
Omaha, NE Ex-Officio



# PAST PRESIDENTS

## The Danish Brotherhood in America

**Not Pictured**

**A. F. MOLLER**, *Oshkosh, Wisconsin*  
January 17, 1891 — January 17, 1896



**WILLIAM WIND**, *Racine, Wisconsin*  
January 2, 1882 — January 17, 1887



**L. L. RIES**, *Clinton, Iowa*  
January 17, 1887 — January 17, 1891



**P. H. JOHNSON**, *Omaha, Nebraska*  
January 19, 1893 — January 17, 1896



**H. H. VOGT**, *Davenport, Iowa*  
January 17, 1896 — October 8, 1910



**T. P. NIELSEN**, *Seattle, Washington*  
October 8, 1910 — September 20, 1919



**SOREN IVERSEN**, *New Haven, Connecticut*  
September 20, 1919 — September 24, 1927



**JOHN CHRISTENSEN**, *Cincinnati, Ohio*  
September 24, 1927 — September 20, 1935



**N. B. NELSON**, *Spokane, Washington*  
September 20, 1935 — September 23, 1939



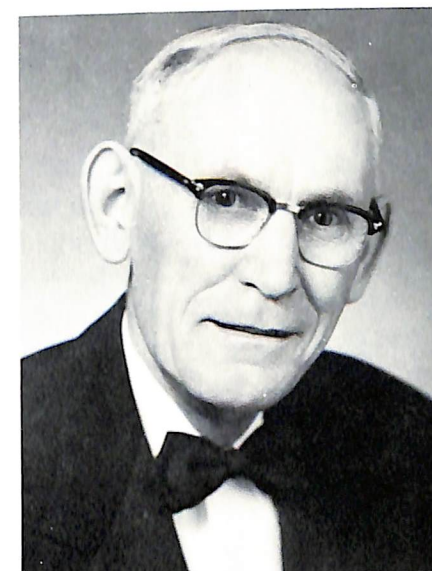
**JOHN HANSEN**, *Davenport, Iowa*  
September 23, 1939 — September 19, 1947



**C. B. CHRISTENSEN**, *Schenectady, New York*  
September 19, 1947 — September 23, 1951



**SVEND PETERSEN**, *Askov, Minnesota*  
September 23, 1951 — September 23, 1955



**OTTO NIELSEN**, *Seattle, Washington*  
September 23, 1955 — October 2, 1959



**HANS M. ANDERSEN**, *Selma, California*  
October 2, 1959 — September 20, 1963



**VIGGO MIKKELSEN**, *Detroit, Michigan*  
September 20, 1963 — September 21, 1967



**KRISTEN JORGENSEN**, *Seattle, Washington*  
September 21, 1967 — September 25, 1971



**EINAR DANIELSEN**, *St. Charles, Illinois*  
September 25, 1971 — September 20, 1975





## Sharing their Heritage and their Dreams

One hundred years have passed since a group of people — beginning a new life in a new land — formed a brotherhood to help each other.

The story of those years is a story of growth, and change, and striving to meet the needs of people living in a rapidly changing world. But most of all it's a story of people working together and sharing a commitment to preserving their heritage while pursuing their dreams in their new home.

The seeds of the Danish Brotherhood in America were planted in the 1870's as thousands of people were leaving their native Denmark to find greater opportunities in the United States and Canada. The immigrants came with a love for the traditions and culture of their native land and a hope and a dream for the opportunities they could find in their new home. But the language was new. And the culture was new. And they needed the help and support and companionship of those who shared their common interests.

That was the kind of companionship Mark Hansen was seeking when he formed the Danske Vaabenbrodre (Danish Brothers in Arms), an organization for Danish veterans, in Omaha in the 1880's. Since Hansen was a veteran of the Danish Army and had fought in the Civil War in the U.S., his organization emphasized the military service members had in common.

A war between Denmark and Prussia in 1864 had swelled the ranks of both Danish veterans and Danish immigrants, so the Danish Brothers

in Arms grew quickly — and other similar groups sprang up around the country.

In 1881, it was proposed that those local groups join together in a national organization. Five of the groups agreed to unite, and they planned the first convention of the new group for 1882.

By the time the convention opened the next year, many members had caught sight of a much greater potential for the organization. They recognized that there were thousands of Danish men in America who needed the support and social sharing of this group even though they weren't veterans.

A majority of members accepted the idea of a broader membership and at that convention The Danish Brotherhood in America was born — with the purpose of reaching out to "honorable men, born of Danish parents or who were of Danish extraction." William Wind of Racine, Wisconsin, was elected the first president of the group.

The new group planned to provide members with social activities, to nurture their common background through the use of the Danish language and songs, and to provide financial help to their members with a survivor's insurance and sickness and death benefits.



The Danish Brotherhood grew rapidly. The first year there were six lodges and a total membership of 200. Within ten years the membership had grown to 41 lodges and nearly 2,000 people!

The Brotherhood's reputation grew as more people heard about the group's commitment to helping their members. From the beginning, the group provided insurance protection that members might not have been able to find elsewhere; and in just a few years, invested earnings from the insurance program made it possible for the Brotherhood to offer extra benefits to members.

By July of 1902, \$245,000 in insurance benefits had been paid to brothers. In addition, \$85,000 had been paid to members whose

illnesses had caused family hardships, and \$11,000 had been paid in extra benefits just to help members through a time of need. The group had also paid \$3,000 to help with burial expenses for members' wives who had died.

The Brotherhood reached out to many people during those early years.



When the earthquake rocked San Francisco in 1906, Brotherhood members sent \$8,000 to help those who suffered losses. When elderly members needed help, they established an old age assistance fund and some districts even established homes for the elderly.

A publication to help members communicate with each other began in 1916, and membership grew each year. By 1925, 21,000 people were members of The Danish Brotherhood in America.



## Changing to meet changing needs

Throughout the years of growth, the Brotherhood had established a democratic organization that sought input from members through election of delegates at individual lodges. Delegates then met at national conventions to vote on bylaws, share ideas, and elect a Board of Directors.

Even while the Brotherhood was growing well, the Board of Directors began to look for ways to build a bigger, stronger Brotherhood that could meet the needs of a changing membership. Danish immigration peaked in 1882, and with fewer new immigrants to increase membership, the Board recognized

the day would come when they would have to more actively recruit members.



The Board initiated the first of many membership contests in 1917. While there were no prizes offered in the first contest, all lodges were encouraged to work for new members. In later contests, prizes were awarded and incentives were offered to members who brought in new members.

However, in spite of the efforts of the Board, membership in the Brotherhood peaked in 1925, and without the rush of new immigrants to join the ranks, the number of members began to decline.

Then the Great Depression hit the country. While many organizations faded away because people had no money for dues, members of the Brotherhood followed their tradition of turning to each other for help and clung together through those depression years. When a member couldn't pay his dues, the lodge paid for him — as long as the money lasted. As a result many members were able to hold onto the insurance protection for their families, and membership in the Brotherhood didn't suffer as much as it did in most organizations.

While the Brotherhood retained many of their existing members, few new people were added during those years, and the numbers in the organization continued to drop.

In the years that followed, an active and determined Board of Directors with the support of thousands of dedicated members began rebuilding the Brotherhood . . . making the changes that were necessary to appeal to a changing membership.

They gradually broadened their membership appeal, expanded their activities, and changed their approach to recruiting new members.

The Brotherhood enlarged their base of membership, at first, by encouraging participation of more family members. Men who were married to women of Danish extraction



were allowed to become members in 1939. The first juvenile members were accepted in 1952, and in 1961, the membership was opened to women, making the Brotherhood for the first time a true family organization.

Eventually non-Danish members were encouraged to join the group if they were interested in learning more about the Danish culture, and the membership campaign of 1939 was conducted in English for the first time.

By 1971, the group adopted a resolution which said, "Let us open our doors more and more, and let us all share our knowledge and love for the Danish Brotherhood. We should encourage wives and children to join our lodge, and to keep their interest, we must develop our programs to meet the cultural needs of the whole family."

Lodge activities also changed during the rebuilding years — to meet the needs of the expanded membership. The Brotherhood in the years following 1925 began placing less emphasis on helping immigrants and more emphasis on encouraging pride in the Danish heritage and pride in the achievements of the Danish people in America.



Through the efforts of Peter Reinsholm, the H. C. Andersen Broadcast over the NBC network Sunday, Dec. 1st, was a realization.

The Brotherhood established drill teams and a bowling league. They sponsored cruises to Denmark. They raised money to bring Danish athletes to the 1932 Olympics and sponsored a coast-to-coast radio broadcast in 1935 on the 100th anniversary of the first publication of Hans Christian Andersen's famous short stories.

Members of the Brotherhood took an active role in organizing the National America Denmark Association after Denmark was occupied by Germany in World War II. The organization raised money which was sent to Denmark for the relief effort when the country was again free.



In 1927 the Brotherhood began dispersing funds from a relief fund, and in the next eight years nearly \$200,000 had been paid to members who were in need of help.

The spirit of helping others reached to the local lodges which often spent the last dollar in their treasuries to help a brother through bad times. The history is full of stories like a man who received \$100 to help pay for an artificial limb when his leg was amputated in an accident, and a man who received financial help after he became blind. And one lodge brought all its members together to husk 90 acres of corn for a brother who had been ill.

Along with the expanded programs and a broadened membership base, the Brotherhood began a more aggressive search for members. Membership contests continued for years and included prizes and incentives for members who added to the membership. Lodge events were held for Danish members of the community to interest them in membership. A promotional director was hired. Advertising materials were printed. And each year, aggressive campaigns were aimed at increasing membership. The Brotherhood hired their first field representative to actively seek members in 1966.

As membership improved and the group grew stronger, a new headquarters building was built in Omaha and dedicated in 1967 — a sign of the progress the Brotherhood was making.

The determination of members and the progressive leadership of the Board of Directors brought the Brotherhood through a time of transition and saw the organization become a strong and successful family organization.

By 1974, the membership was growing again, the primary purposes were still at the heart of the organization, and members were enjoying greater social and financial benefits than ever before.



### On the Grow Again

The steady growth of the last decade has brought about a continuing increase in the social and financial benefits of the Brotherhood.

Entire families now come together to share in a wide range of activities that help them take pride in their heritage and learn more about the accomplishments of Danish men and women.

Through the Brotherhood, members sponsor activities to help keep the culture of Denmark alive in our communities. Lectures, educational programs, workshops, Community Danish Days, are just a few of the events that keep the Danish heritage alive.



In 1971 the Brotherhood gave a gift to help finance the archway entrance to the Hans Christian Andersen Park in California. And in 1980-81, the organization co-sponsored the American tour of Danish filmmaker Jørgen Leth.

New lodges again began springing up throughout the country as the new image of the Brotherhood became known to more people. As a larger national organization strengthened the group and a stronger insurance program provided increased funds for fraternal programs, benefits for members continued to increase.



Financial assistance was made available to needy members. Scholarships were offered to worthy students, camp grants were provided for children, and orphans' benefits were instituted.

And while the group was growing, the tradition of helping others continued to grow, too. The list of good works became lengthy and included such things as donating over \$2000 to help victims of flooding in Rapid City, and working to support five Danish Homes for the Aged that have been established through the efforts of local lodges.

## Still Dreaming

One hundred years have passed since those people beginning their new lives in a new land first came together to share their heritage and their dreams.



Their Brotherhood has changed in many ways since those early days, but the ideals at the heart of the group are as strong today as they were then.



The Danish Brotherhood continues to offer the joy of fellowship to many and to help thousands of people with thousands of dollars each year. Members continue to instill pride in their Danish heritage, while they offer the financial help and security that bring people a little closer to those dreams their ancestors brought from Denmark so many years ago.



## The Danish Brotherhood TODAY

The Danish Brotherhood today offers a unique combination of benefits to its members.

It is a family organization offering a rich program of activities designed to provide opportunities for friendship and sharing. Local lodge activities include everything from dances and picnics to contests for children.

Families come together easily in the Brotherhood with no evidence of a generation gap, and friendships are formed comfortably because members share a common interest in the Danish heritage, and they take pride in over 100 years of tradition in people helping people.



Workshops, lectures, lodge dinners, community events, and the monthly American Dane Magazine help keep the heritage of Denmark and the contributions of Danish Americans alive in the community.

The Brotherhood goes beyond the scope of many organizations by offering members a wide range of financial benefits as part of their membership.

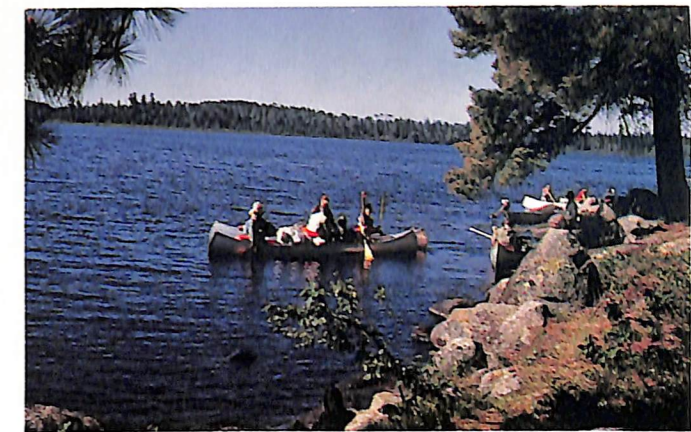


An excellent life insurance program is designed to offer members security, while investment earnings from the program allow the Brotherhood to provide additional fraternal benefits.

Today's benefits to members are far-reaching.

Through the Brotherhood's General Fraternal Aid, the group can make insurance premium payments for a member during a time of financial difficulty. Members can also apply for a monthly income supplement from the Brotherhood in time of need.

Benefits also extend to younger members of the group. A number of scholarships are available through the brotherhood to insured members who want to attend colleges,

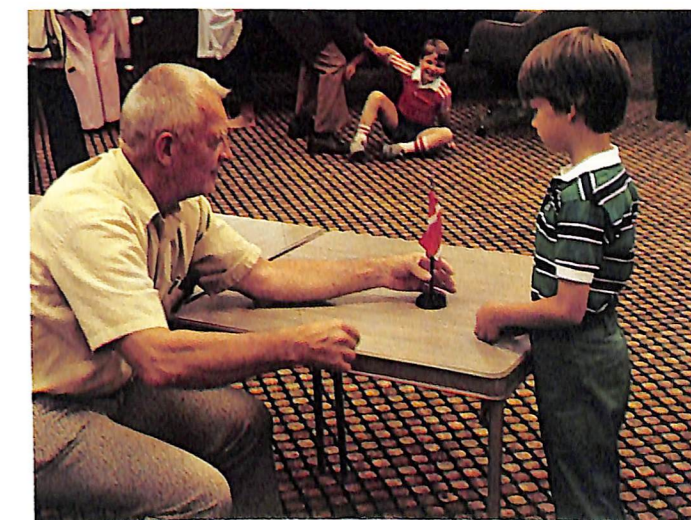


universities, or technical schools. Each year camp grants are given to youngsters who need assistance to attend the summer camp of their choice, and benefits and scholarship help are available to orphans.

In addition to such formalized programs of support for members, the Brotherhood today continues the tradition that has been at the heart of the group since its beginning so many years ago — people helping people. Members know that when trouble strikes, their brothers are the first to help.

When tornadoes ripped through Grand Island recently, members of the Brotherhood quickly offered financial help to members who were hit. That kind of help continues each day as part of the group's long tradition of caring for others.

But today, as in the past, there is much more to the Brotherhood than just social activities and financial support. In the Danish Brotherhood people are feeling proud. Proud of their Danish heritage and proud of their accomplishments as a group. In the Brotherhood entire families are getting to know themselves a little better by understanding their background and feeling good about it.





## Axel Skelbeck

Secretary-treasurer Emeritus

Axel Skelbeck began his career with The Danish Brotherhood in 1923. Frank V. Lawson was Supreme Secretary at that time. Rolf Rasmussen of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was treasurer.

In 1939, Axel succeeded Frank Lawson as Secretary of The Danish Brotherhood in America. Later, seeing the need to have all records maintained in a central office, he recommended the combination of the offices of Supreme secretary and treasurer to one position. This proposal was adopted by the delegates to the national convention in 1943.

During his years as secretary-treasurer of the Society, Axel established an outstanding record for handling the financial affairs of the Society. His attention to this important function helped The Danish Brotherhood achieve its excellent present-day financial health.

Mr. Skelbeck set many other goals for the Society during his distinguished career. It was through his urging that juvenile boys and later girls were admitted to membership. Finally, membership was opened to admit adult women, paving the way to the family organization we know today.

A long-time dream was realized for Mr. Skelbeck when the National Headquarters Building was dedicated in 1967. The building, constructed with the help of expert architects and quality builders, reflects the solidarity of the Society itself. Visitors may see many interesting items from Denmark and from the past of The Danish Brotherhood on display in the building.

With the satisfaction of many years of productive service, thousands of friends within the membership and positive plans for his future, Axel Skelbeck retired as Secretary-treasurer on January 1, 1970. It is fitting that one who has spent nearly half a century serving The Danish Brotherhood should be recognized in our Centennial Booklet.

## Brotherhood Lodges Through the Years

Danish Brotherhood lodges were chartered in the communities listed below during its 100-year history. Local lodges are found throughout the United States, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, and Copenhagen, Denmark. If you are not located near a local lodge and wish to become a member, you may do so by becoming a member of the national organization. Information is available on request.

\*denotes inactive lodges or lodges no longer in existence

Lodge No.	Location	Date Chartered
1	Omaha, NE	7/1/1882
2	Neenah, WI*	7/1/1882
3	Davenport, IA	7/1/1882
4	Racine, WI	7/1/1882
5	Moline, IL*	7/1/1882
6	Negaunee, MI*	7/1/1882
7	Cedar Falls, IA*	4/23/1883
8	Lyons, IA*	6/25/1883
9	Oshkosh, WI	7/18/1883
10	Council Bluffs	8/18/1883
11	Clinton, IA*	10/30/1883
12	Green Bay, WI*	11/19/1883
13	New Denmark, WI*	1/5/1884
14	Kenosha, WI	4/30/1892
15	Des Moines, IA	11/26/1883
16	Minden, NE	2/1/1884
17	Chicago, IL	3/31/1884
18	Chicago, IL*	5/24/1884
19	Omaha, NE*	7/26/1884
20	Manistee, MI*	10/6/1884
21	Kimballton, IA*	9/28/1909
22	Sheffield, IL*	4/14/1885
23	Rutland, WI*	6/10/1885
24	Burlington, IA*	8/4/1885
25	Streator, IL*	8/24/1885
26	Fremont, NE	10/26/1885
27	Pelican Lake, WI*	2/6/1886
28	Badger, SD*	6/5/1886
29	Seattle, WA	3/22/1888
30	Muskegon, MI	7/23/1888
31	Exira, IA*	12/20/1888
32	New Haven, CT	3/25/1889
33	Tacoma, WA	4/24/1889
34	Dwight, IL	10/16/1889
35	Chicago, IL	11/22/1889
36	Milwaukee, WI	11/22/1889
37	Bridgeport, CT	1/25/1890
38	Laramie, WY*	4/4/1890
39	Oakland, CA	8/11/1890
40	Rawlins, WY*	3/31/1890

Lodge No.	Location	Date Chartered
41	Derby, CT	7/21/1890
42	Spokane, WA	10/1/1890
43	Denver, CO	3/15/1891
44	Ishpeming, MI*	9/4/1891
45	Minneapolis, MN	4/9/1891
46	Perth Amboy, NJ	6/26/1891
47	Ironwood, MI*	6/26/1891
48	Rock Springs, WY*	7/29/1891
49	San Francisco	6/23/1891
50	Byram, CT	8/25/1891
51	Ludington, MI	9/30/1891
52	Joliet, IL*	9/5/1891
53	Atlantic, IA*	1/6/1892
54	Dannebrog, NE*	9/3/1892
55	Whitehall, MI*	3/26/1892
56	Kansas City, MO	4/18/1892
57	Lexington, NE*	9/7/1892
58	Jefferson Pk., IL*	8/10/1892
59	Menominee, MI*	10/28/1892
60	Nebraska City*	10/28/1892
61	Chicago, IL*	11/30/1892
62	Sioux City, IA	5/6/1893
63	W. Burlington, IA*	5/6/1893
64	Rockford, IL	5/6/1893
65	Duluth, MN*	5/6/1893
66	St. Paul, NE*	7/24/1893
67	Fresno, CA	7/24/1893
68	Green River, WY*	7/24/1893
69	Cleveland, OH*	8/12/1893
70	Grenville, MI	1/18/1894
71	Penn Yan, NY	1/18/1894
72	Owatonna, MN*	1/18/1894
73	Alden, MN	1/18/1894
74	S. Omaha, NE*	3/12/1894
75	Albert Lee, MN	5/7/1894
76	Waterman, IL*	5/7/1894
77	Turin, IA*	5/7/1894
78	Salt Lake City	7/27/1894
79	Marinette, WI*	6/20/1894
80	Neola, IA*	7/27/1894
81	Ansonia, CT*	9/17/1894
82	Victory, MI*	11/20/1894
83	Hutchinson, MN*	1/12/1895
84	Lincoln, NE	5/20/1895
85	Rochester, MN*	6/5/1895
86	S. Amboy, NJ*	7/19/1895
87	Boston, MA*	11/14/1895
88	Elba, NE*	12/3/1895
89	Superior, WI	12/3/1895
90	Port Reading, NJ	12/23/1895
91	St. Paul, MN*	12/28/1895
92	St. Charles, IL	3/20/1896
93	Hastings, NE*	3/18/1896
94	Goldfield, NE*	4/6/1896
95	Ferndale, CA	7/30/1896
96	Jackson, MN*	6/18/1896
97	Hopkins, MN*	8/28/1896
98	Blooming Prairie, MN*	9/15/1896
99	Northfield, MN*	9/8/1896
100	Rosendale, MN*	11/28/1896
101	Missouri Valley, IA*	11/5/1896
102	Providence, RI	9/6/1897
103	Waterbury, CT*	11/12/1897
104	Sherburn, MN*	12/11/1897
105	Salix, IA*	12/20/1897
106	Trufant, MI	1/20/1898
107	Chicago, IL	1/4/1898
108	Homer, NE*	3/7/1898
109	White, SD*	3/12/1898
110	Winside, NE	3/15/1898

Lodge No.	Location	Date Chartered
111	Austin, MN	4/30/1898
112	Portland, ME*	4/30/1898
113	Enumclaw, WA	5/23/1898
114	Lake Benton, MN*	3/10/1899
115	Geneva, MN*	3/10/1899
116	Newark, NJ	5/11/1899
117	Plainview, Ne	5/22/1899
118	Wolbach, NE*	5/22/1899
119	Pueblo, CO*	6/28/1899
120	Erwin, SD*	6/28/1899
121	Tyler, MN	6/28/1899
122	Bennett, NE*	6/3/1899
123	Clifton, IL*	7/31/1899
124	Lynch, NE*	9/14/1899
125	Weeping Water, NE	8/16/1899
126	Los Angeles, CA	9/14/1899
127	Reinbeck, IA*	1/17/1900
128	Avoca, IA*	9/2/1900
129	Hetland, SD*	2/16/1900
130	Henry, SD*	4/13/1900
131	Everett, WA*	5/18/1900
132	Osakis, MN*	5/18/1900
133	Oconto, WI*	6/25/1900
134	Ringstead, IA	9/11/1900
135	Suring, WI*	8/27/1900
136	Story City, IA*	10/11/1900
137	Boomer, IA*	11/10/1900
138	Butte, MT*	2/11/1901
139	Viborg, SD	1/7/1901
140	Chicago, IL*	1/21/1901
141	Irene, SD*	2/12/1901
142	Brainerd, MN*	4/20/1901
143	Petaluma, CA	7/23/1901
144	Dike, IA	9/13/1901
145	Newport, RI	11/16/1901
146	Ashland, WI*	11/18/1901
147	Newell, IA	12/17/1901
148	Cheyenne, WY	3/3/1902
149	Luverne, ND*	4/17/1902
150	Rorbeck, IA*	5/21/1902
151	Escanaba, MI*	8/2/1902
152	Wilbur, WA*	8/28/1902
153	Dannevirke, NE	8/22/1902
154	Withee, WI*	9/11/1902
155	Bellingham, WA	11/7/1902
156	Crystal Falls, MI*	1/10/1903
157	Audubon, IA*	12/30/1902
158	Harlan, IA*	2/20/1903
159	Kennard, NE*	2/20/1903
160	Underwood, MN*	3/28/1903
161	Ruskin, NE	6/27/1903
162	Murray, UT*	3/11/1903
163	Edmore, MI	3/18/1903
164	New York, NY	4/29/1903
165	Boelus, NE*	5/6/1903
166	Wilmont, SD*	4/22/1903
167	Portland, OR	5/8/1903
168	Winlock, WA*	7/6/1903
169	Hubbard, NE*	7/29/1903
170	Rocky River, OH	7/24/1903
171	Jamestown, NY	8/12/1903
172	Philadelphia, PA	8/7/1903
173	Kansas City, KS	8/15/1903
174	Big Sandy, MT*	8/14/1903
175	Jacksonville, IA*	8/20/1903
176	Ingalls, MI*	9/30/1903
177	Cordova, NE	9/9/1903
178	Herman, NE*	9/19/1903
179	Denver, CO*	9/26/1903
180	Oakland, NE*	10/16/1903

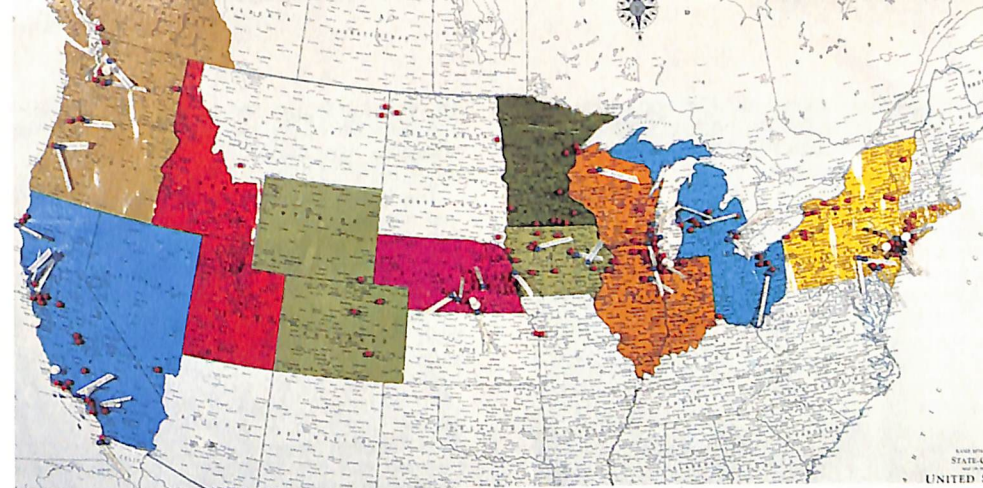




Lodge No.	Location	Date Chartered
181	Sidney, MT*	10/28/1903
182	Waukegan, IL	11/10/1903
183	Troy, NY	10/24/1903
184	Hayward, CA	11/10/1903
185	Madison, WI*	11/7/1903
186	Luck, WI	10/30/1903
187	Lindsay, NE*	10/30/1903
188	Del Rey, CA*	3/8/1904
189	Barronett, WI*	2/26/1904
190	Schenectady, NY	3/23/1904
191	St. Louis, MO*	5/20/1904
192	Worcester, MA*	6/23/1904
193	Filley, NE*	6/17/1904
194	McMinnville, OR	7/13/1904
195	Omaha, NE	7/9/1904
196	Geneva, NY*	8/23/1904
197	Woburn, MA*	9/1/1904
198	Kenmare, ND*	9/15/1904
199	Rumford Falls, ME*	9/16/1904
200	Omaha, NE*	3/11/1904
201	Westbrook, ME*	11/1/1904
202	Warren, PA	10/7/1904
203	Trenton, NJ*	10/14/1904
204	Maynard, MA*	1/12/1905
205	Brooklyn, NY*	1/20/1905
206	Blair, NE	1/21/1905
207	Grayling, MI*	2/9/1905
208	Spiker, NE*	2/21/1905
209	Marquette, NE*	3/7/1905
210	Grand Rapids, MI*	3/7/1905
211	Grand Island, NE	3/28/1905
212	Waterloo, IA*	3/13/1905
213	Ord, NE	4/24/1905
214	West Point, NE*	5/4/1905
215	Battle Creek, IA*	6/2/1905
216	Basford, NE*	5/19/1905
217	Humboldt, IA	7/6/1905
218	San Pedro, CA*	6/15/1905
219	Clear Lake, IA	6/27/1905
220	Crystal Lake, IA*	7/12/1905
221	Latimer, IA*	9/15/1905
222	Corry, PA*	9/9/1905
223	Thornton, IA*	9/5/1905
224	Alta, IA*	10/3/1905
225	Canton, OH	9/6/1905
226	Stockton, CA*	9/10/1905
227	Detroit, MI	10/24/1905
228	Indianapolis, IN*	10/6/1905
229	Brockton, MA*	11/18/1905
230	Arcata, CA	10/19/1905
231	Jewell, IA*	1/29/1906
232	New Haven, CT*	1/18/1906
233	Toledo, OH*	2/23/1906
234	Woodstock, IL	2/24/1906
235	Watsonville, CA*	3/21/1906
236	Wisner, NE*	3/29/1906
237	Ellendale, MN*	3/28/1906
238	Juhl, MI*	4/6/1906
239	Lake Forest, IL	4/21/1906
240	Rochester, NY	3/18/1906
241	Sayreville, NJ	5/25/1906
242	Erie, PA	6/25/1906
243	Fargo, ND*	6/22/1906
244	Cadillac, MI*	7/25/1906
245	South Bend, IN	8/2/1906
246	Los Angeles, CA*	8/4/1906
247	St. Onge, SD*	10/10/1906
248	New York, NY*	12/22/1906
249	Pierre, SD*	1/15/1907
250	Falmouth, ME*	1/18/1907

Lodge No.	Location	Date Chartered
251	Devils Lake, ND*	2/8/1907
252	New York, NY*	3/22/1907
253	Ruthton, MN*	3/14/1907
254	Brush, CO	3/16/1907
255	Selma, CA	3/26/1907
256	Hamlin, IA*	3/25/1907
257	St. Petersburg	4/25/1907
258	New York, NY*	5/16/1907
259	Colman, SD*	4/11/1907
260	Williston, ND	5/24/1907
261	Fowler, CO	6/4/1907
262	Cozad, NE	6/26/1907
263	Askov, MN	7/11/1907
264	Pocatello, ID	7/11/1907
265	Ordway, CO*	8/22/1907
266	Rice Lake, WI*	10/25/1907
267	Brigham, UT*	11/20/1907
268	Junction City, OR	1/16/1908
269	Oregon, WI*	1/17/1908
270	Cambridge, MA*	4/25/1908
271	Arco, MN*	5/7/1908
272	Newman, CA*	7/21/1908
273	Dillon, MT	12/14/1908
274	Portland, OR*	11/10/1908
275	Arnold, NE*	4/20/1909
276	Westhope, ND*	4/28/1909
277	Kensal, ND*	4/23/1909
278	Salt Lake City*	4/29/1909
279	Hunter, ND	7/17/1909
280	Gardner, IL*	9/20/1909
281	Cincinnati, OH*	11/22/1909
282	Upland, NE*	1/22/1910
283	Dagmar, MT	4/7/1910
284	Westbrook, MN*	8/23/1910
285	Bickleton, WA*	10/7/1910
286	Milltown, WI*	11/30/1910
287	Bismarck, ND*	3/14/1911
288	Cotesfield, NE	7/6/1911
289	Elk Horn, IA*	12/1/1911
290	Howard, SD*	3/29/1912
291	Ogden, UT*	4/15/1912
292	Dallas, TX*	6/4/1912
293	Chehalis, WA*	10/22/1912
294	Barre, VT	10/22/1912
295	Dell Rapids, SD*	11/12/1912
296	Galveston, TX*	3/21/1913
297	Brayton, IA*	7/17/1913
298	Chicago, IL*	6/30/1913
299	Solvang, CA	10/24/1913
300	Oneonta, NY	10/21/1913
301	Akron, OH	9/24/1913
302	Powers Lk., ND*	9/26/1913
303	Woodland, CA*	11/14/1913
304	Benson, NE*	1/26/1914
305	Fort Dodge, IA*	2/13/1914
306	San Diego, CA	4/13/1914
307	Astoria, OR*	5/5/1914
308	McCabe, MT*	3/19/1914
309	Ilion, NY*	8/5/1915
310	Minot, ND*	1/31/1916
311	Sidney, MT*	4/18/1916
312	Springfield, MA*	5/12/1916
313	Milwaukee, WI*	2/20/1917
314	Hartford, CT	6/14/1917
315	Buffalo, NY*	1/14/1918
316	Minneapolis, MN*	6/9/1919
317	Spencer, IA*	2/5/1921
318	Copenhagen, Den.	5/8/1925
319	Bakersfield, CA	1/18/1922
320	Santa Rosa, CA*	1/21/1922

Lodge No.	Location	Date Chartered
321	West Palm Bch, FL	8/29/1922
322	Santa Barbara, CA	3/23/1924
323	Alhambra, CA	12/19/1924
324	San Mateo, CA*	5/2/1925
325	Nassau Co., NY	6/26/1926
326	West Branch, IA	8/25/1928
327	Harlan, IA*	4/25/1930
328	Vancouver, B.C. Can.	5/6/1931
329	Long Beach, CA	9/24/1938
330	Prince George, B.C. Can.*	1/12/1944
331	Detroit, MI*	9/25/1946
332	Ripon, CA	11/30/1946
333	St. Paul, MN*	8/15/1947
334	Geneva, NY	4/6/1951
335	Port Alberni B.C. Can.*	4/6/1951
336	Escondido, CA*	2/22/1965
337	Fremont, CA	4/10/1965
338	San Bernadino, CA*	4/24/1965
339	Las Vegas, NV	4/27/1968
340	Wood Dale, IL	2/15/1975
341	Kimballton-Elk Horn, IA	4/7/1975
342	Bucks Co., PA	11/22/1975
343	Waupaca, WI	5/29/1976
344	Janesville, WI	5/28/1977
345	Garden Grove, CA	8/6/1977
346	Riverside, CA	9/30/1978
347	Cedar Rapids-Marion, IA	5/16/1979



## Lodge and District Histories

The historical information you are about to read is provided for this booklet by our various local lodges and districts. We are extremely appreciative of those officers who have preserved records through the years to make this summary possible. We are deeply indebted to the members and lodges who reviewed with great care the minutes and records of the lodge to make this section of the booklet a reality. A permanent collection of unedited material is held in the National Headquarters archives.



Original Racine Building



Current Lodge Building

### LODGE #14, KENOSHA, WI



Lodge #14 was first chartered on February 1, 1884 with Jorgen Andresen as the first President. The lodge disbanded about 1886 and was re-chartered on April 30, 1892 with Jens Larsen as the President.

Meetings were first held in a second floor room above a store in downtown Kenosha.

In 1910, the members built our present building in the uptown district. It is a two-story brick building with a retail store on the first floor.

Through diligent efforts of the members, the building has been mortgage-free for approximately forty years.

During the first and second world wars the lodge was very active in bond drives, blood drives and many other civic projects.

The lodge has been very active in gymnastics, singing societies, folk dancing and plans something for the members each month including an annual Danish Christmas Fair which attracts about 5,000 people.

At present, we are the third largest lodge in the Danish Brotherhood with 320 members and cooperate very well with the Danish Sisterhood Lodge No. 20.

We continue to be very active in the Midwest District activities.

Two national officers have come from Lodge #14 — Rolf Rasmussen, Treasurer, who served from 1906 to 1943 and Robert E. Ibsen, current Vice-President, who was elected to the Board of Directors in 1975.

We honor our older members each year with a Pioneer Award and also have a Brother of the Year Award which is given out at our annual banquet.

We are proud of our Danish heritage in Kenosha and have pledged ourselves to continue growing.

### LODGE #29, SEATTLE, WA

With a Charter dated March 22, 1888 and sanctioned by Supreme President, L. L. Ries, the officers and members of Lodge #29 were commissioned to carry out their obligations and responsibilities. Victor Conradsen brought his gavel down and opened the first regular business meeting of Lodge #29 on April 8, 1888. Brother Conradsen acted as President until the young lodge held its first election in June of that same year and elected H. C. Rosenfeldt as the lodge's first President. Brother Conradsen's efforts to establish the lodge are to be commended. He worked diligently and tirelessly. The eleven men who formed the first membership roster were: George Olsen, Soren Ploug, H. C. Rosenfeldt, Wm. G. C. Smith, James P. Smith, Geo. H. Robinsen, Gustav Fischer, L. J. Ravon, Ed Conradsen, Peter A. Rasmussen, and Alex Miller.

The first year or two for the young lodge was stormy and barren. Many cases of illness caused a serious deficit in the treasury. In fact, if some of the Brothers had not personally covered the deficit, the lodge might never have survived the first year. Membership growth was slow in the early days — only nine new members had joined by January 1, 1890. In that same period, two members died, so the lodge counted only 20 members as the new year was ushered in.

After that, however, things began to look a little better. 1903 proved to be a banner year with an increase of 109 new members — the largest number to ever join the lodge in a one year period. In 1907, 73 were taken in and about 50 came in each year until 1920, when world war demands took their sorrowful toll. The post-war years also produced a meager number of applications for membership.

This sad state suddenly changed in 1936 — 36 men joined the lodge. This happy change prompted three Supreme officers to come here to congratulate Lodge #29. They were: Former President John Christensen; President N. B. Nelson and Secretary Frank Lawson.

It is worthwhile to note some of the activities for which the lodge can be proud. In 1925, the Danish Home, formerly an estate, was established for its senior citizens. The men who served on its board were T. P. Nielsen, Wm. Petersen, Henry Clausen, John Hansen and Dr. Sorensen.

The Northwest District Convention was first held in 1947 in Seattle with the assistance of Tage Frederiksen and N. B. Nelson.

Seattle Lodge #29 is proud to have had three national presidents elected from its membership: T. P. Nielsen; Otto Nielsen, and Kristen Jorgensen. Member Clyde Langsted now serves as a Board member.

This brief history of Lodge #29 touches on just some of the high spots. If it is to be written in more detail, it will take a good deal more research and time to accomplish. A lodge whose interesting history covers such a wide span of years can only be completed in person.

### LODGE #30, MUSKEGON, MI

A few highlights from some meetings held in North Muskegon, Michigan those first few years (1888-91).

A committee of three was appointed to meet with three Knights of Labor Trustees to discuss the possibility of meeting in the Knights of Labor Hall. At the following meeting, the committee reported the hall could be rented for 75¢ per meeting, with the understanding the Danish Brotherhood would furnish their own wood for heating and kerosene for lighting. They agreed to permit renters to utilize drawer space on one side of the secretary's desk. Niels Nielsen moved to accept the committee proposal and to rent the Knights of Labor Hall for one year. Supported by J. Rasmussen. Carried.

Voted to hold a dance the 2nd of November, 1888 in the Woodman Hall in Muskegon, all lodge members free, but charge entrance fee to others, all Danes invited.

Decided to have a Christmas party and dance at Knights of Labor Hall on night of December 26, 1889.

In March, 1891 it was voted to pay Knights of Labor Hall in North Muskegon the final one month's hall rent, now doubled to \$1.50, this may have included heat and lighting, and to make a quarterly payment for the first 3 months (\$6.25) to the Scandinavian Hall on lower Western Ave., Muskegon. A masquerade ball was held there in April, 1891.

There were frequent initiations, and the ceremonies must have been really something different in the early days. For example, 2 uniforms were purchased; two capes, 1 red and 1 white one, and 2 masks of the ugliest faces possible. The applicant was usually taken into 1st and 2nd degree at one time, and if the new member wished, the members balloted (by ballot box) on letting him be initiated into the 3rd degree. (Some members objected to taking in more than one new member in the same ceremony, so they decided to do it individually.)

Each summer there were picnics, inviting all the Danes in the community to attend. These picnics were sometimes held in the woods or at one of the many nearby lakes.

The Secretary's record book contained a long Black List of rejected or expelled members from lodges all over the country. Once expelled, they could not be accepted into any other lodge in the country. (Reasons for expulsion were: Immoral character, drunkenness, slander against other members of the lodge, etc.)

The above procedure by the lodges may seem to be hard and unforgiving, but they were very helpful to one another and their sick or unfortunate members. In this day of no unemployment or sick benefits, no welfare or so-



cial security benefits, lodge members really helped out whenever they learned of someone in need, no matter where they were located. For example, a letter from the Harvard Lodge in Cambridge, Mass. included tickets to sell for chances on a Ford Sedan as a benefit for a sick brother, and the lodge voted to sell as many as possible.

When a member died, two Brotherhood members sat up all night as a sort of Honor Guard by the coffin (in the home) while the family slept. They were paid a fee for this by the lodge.

Funeral ceremonies were often rehearsed in advance, particularly if newer members were to take part. All members were given white gloves, purchased by the lodge for this purpose, and a flower or boutonniere to wear. The earliest accounts of funerals mentioned lodge members marching behind the horse-drawn hearse, designating the correct order for flag bearers and the member who carried the large red lodge banner which had been custom-sewn by a local seamstress. The metal ring at the top was both for hanging in the lodge hall and for carrying on a staff or pole at funerals or on parades.

The change from Danish to English came in the middle 1930's and now the only active member who can speak Danish is Holger Thuesen, age 70, who is also the youngest and last of the immigrant members.

Alice M. Thuesen (Mrs. Holger)

#### LODGE #34, DWIGHT, IL

Dwight Lodge #34 was instituted on October 12, 1889 and chartered on October 16, 1889. There were 17 charter members. Officers were: Past President Jacob Jacobsen; President Hans C. Hansen; Vice-President J. J. Smith; Secretary Simon P. Klitz; Treasurer Jens J. Schott; Conductor Chris Skafgaard; Inner Guard Frands Frandsen; Outer Guard Peder H. Gantzel; Chairman of Trustees Antoni Poulsen. Lodge #280, Gardner Lodge, was founded on September 20, 1909. We presently have 261 members (42 juvenile); 30 members have 25 years or more with our Lodge (24-30 or more; 16-40 or more; 7-50 or more; 5-60 or more; 1-72 year member, Lauritz Holm). Women were first initiated into the Lodge in April of 1974 with five women joining. We have hosted the Midwest District Bowling Outing, Trap Shoot and the Golf Outing. At Christmas time, we import 500 Danish Kringle from one of the Danish Bakeries and have a local Kringle sale. In 1980, we had a Danish food booth during the two-day Dwight Harvest Days which will now be an annual affair. We have a Viking Boat that we pull in some of the local parades and we sponsor an annual aebleskiver supper in the spring, usually serving around 400 people. One of our members is past president of the Midwest District. We instituted a monthly newsletter in June of 1975, which is mailed to all lodge members and secretaries of the MWD. In 1980, we won the National President's Award for Best Local Lodge Single Social Activity. Margaret Goodwin

#### LODGE #35, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Our lodge was founded by A. Olsen in November of 1889. Thirty-one men were charter members. Early meetings were held at 37 St. and Armour Avenue. This location is thought to have served as a boarding house for new Danes in Chicago.

There must have been a Danish library as library rules were found. A twenty-five year history was compiled by A. M. Petersen, E. C. Bunck and Rudolph Marker.

Chicago's Danes united for a Danish National Fest in the early 1900's under the guidance of the National Committee. The early members were very patriotic toward their new homeland, investing in war bonds and paying the dues of members in military service. They helped fellow members of the lodge and other lodges.

By 1923, a home for Lodge No. 35 was occupied. By October 7, 1927, the lodge had 404

members and was tied with Chicago Lodge No. 17 for the largest Danish lodge in Chicago.

A letter from Jean Hersholt, President of the NADA, was received by the lodge and read at the meeting August 6, 1943. He asked for the help of every member; "a unified effort to the end that the freedom and independence of Denmark and the Danish people be preserved". The Danish War Relief committee had been meeting at a church and were given the use of Odin Hall without charge for a fund raising event. Results were gratifying.

On May 17, 1946, a servicemen's banquet was held. One hundred complimentary dinners were provided. The next month a resolution to support the Danish population of South Schleswig was adopted. The lodge participated in an effort to raise \$100,000 in 60 days for the needy children of Denmark.

In 1948 Odin Hall was sold. The lodge continued but attendance gradually declined. Fish dinners were an annual event. The lodge gave attention to elderly members at the Danish Old Peoples Home and to the sick at Oak Forest Hospital, with annual commitments to Dana College in Blair and Grand View College in Des Moines.

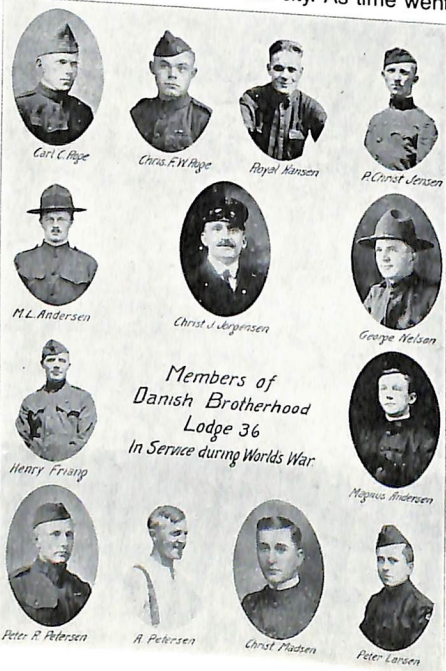
On October 24, 1975, the first family night meeting was held with a remarkable increase in attendance. The banquet of November 1975 also showed increased interest. In November of 1977, the lodge voted to admit women to membership. Janet Miller was the first woman initiated. Since then, many changes have been made in lodge meetings, which have helped to keep Lodge No. 35 an active and growing part of The Danish Brotherhood. Elsa Petersen

#### LODGE #36, MILWAUKEE, WI

The Charter reads, in part: "Know ye that the officers and members of the Supreme Lodge of The Danish Brotherhood in America incorporated under the law of the State of Nebraska, United States of America, do hereby grant this charter to: Past-President Frederik Olsen; President N. C. Christensen; Vice-President Peter Holm; Secretary Otto Tuttrup; Treasurer Peter Madsen; Conductor Robert Hansen; Inner Guard Niels Jensen; Outer Guard Lauritz Petersen; Chairman of Trustees Peter Petersen.

That's what we, who are now involved with promoting the Danish heritage, can gaze upon with wonder and admiration.

At one time there were two lodges in Milwaukee — Lodge #36 and Lodge #313. Lodge #36 members, for the most part, lived on Milwaukee's South side; Lodge #313 members lived in other sections of the city. As time went



on, membership dwindled to a point where consolidation of the two lodges was deemed advisable. Indications show the consolidation was completed prior to the mid 1930's.

The Danes were real United States patriots and showed their allegiance. Records include individual photographs of thirteen "members of Danish Brotherhood Lodge #36 in Service during World Wars".

Further proof of good citizenship is evident. With the U.S. participation in World War II looming, records reflect purchase of "U.S. Defense Bonds" as early as December 1, 1941. (The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941). Minutes of the October 8, 1946 meeting read: "Trustee John Jacobsen reported that two \$1000.00 U.S. Government Bonds had been purchased".

Benevolence on behalf of members who joined the Armed Services was "the bottom line". Minutes for September 14, 1948 read: "... Made the recommendation that the lodge provide for members in the service by taking care of their dues as had been done during the last war emergency. Brother Carl Roge made a motion that the lodge pay the dues of the brothers in the service for a period of one year (period to be extended at the end of one year subject to the draft act and war service). The motion was clarified to understand that the payment would take care of dues, per capita tax and insurance — this included everything except sick benefit. The motion was seconded and carried".

Ultimately, at our June 17, 1975 business meeting, a motion was made, seconded and carried that women be accepted into the membership. The first women were initiated into Lodge #36 on July 15, 1975.

On May 7, 1979, members participated in the Spring Ethnic Festival sponsored by the Inter-national Institute of Milwaukee County for the benefit of 2000 school children. Because the countries represented were Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and because of its theme, the occasion was more aptly referred to as the "Scandinavian Troll Festival."

Our members, and the lodge as a whole, as a pledged support of the European Village as a permanent exhibit at the Milwaukee County Museum, which opened to the public December 8, 1979.

As a result of the participation, the lodge was awarded the first Midwest District President's Award September 28, 1980 and the first National President's Award, each for the best local lodge single civic activity.

Our lodge also contributed \$100 to Channel 10/36 Friend's, Inc., Milwaukee's public television stations, and answered telephones during their "on-camera" Membership/Fund Pledge Drives during 1980 and 1981.

Lodge #36 became active in the Headquarters Home Office Insurance Representative system in April 1974, and worked with the Midwest District Area Manager, Flemming Andersen, from Chicago. The lodge still has a part-time Insurance Representative working in cooperation with the Home Office. Albert L. Larsen

#### LODGE #42, SPOKANE, WA

During the 1880s, all Scandinavians were drawn together in one society, but as the Scandinavian population increased, each of the four nationalities felt an urge to have their own organization. Among the Danes in Spokane that was also the case. William Wind had held the office as the first Supreme President of The Danish Brotherhood and came here from his home lodge in Racine, Wisconsin, to settle in Spokane. He came with the desire to spread the teachings of The Brotherhood. It may well be imagined with what enthusiasm this man was received by a group of Danes who for a year or more had wanted to form a Danish Society without knowing just how to go about it. Soon the necessary number had signed an application for a Charter and forwarded it to

Omaha. The lodge was named after Brother Wind and given the number 42.

Fourteen men put their names to the application for a Charter. The lodge was instituted on September 5, 1890, but it was not until October 1, 1890, that Supreme President L. L. Ries and Supreme Secretary Viggo Danielsen signed the Charter. Past Supreme President Wm. Wind served as the installing officer for the new lodge. The first elected President of Lodge #42 was Julius Quist. Peter Hansen was elected Past-President; Chris Sorensen, Vice-President; Louis P. Kjeldsen, Secretary; M. H. Christensen, Treasurer; Fred Kickenborg, Conductor; Soren Nielsen, Inner Guard; Hans Jensen, Outer Guard, and L. Jensen was the first Trustee.

The April 2, 1913 minutes showed that \$50 was given to Omaha to be distributed to countrymen in distress. This was the same amount as given to San Francisco after the earthquake.

Two Lodge #42 delegates to National Danish Brotherhood Conventions have attained the high honor of becoming Supreme Officers. Iver Sorensen was elected Alternate Supreme Trustee at the Milwaukee convention in 1919. He became a Supreme Trustee upon the death of a Supreme Officer. Likewise, N. B. Nelson became a Supreme Trustee upon the death of a Supreme Officer following his election as an Alternate Supreme Trustee at the 1927 National Convention in Omaha. N. B. Nelson then became Chairman of the Supreme Trustees at Detroit in 1931, and was elected Supreme President of The Danish Brotherhood in America at Denver in 1935. N.B. Nelson served as Supreme President for four years.

Wind Lodge's Golden Anniversary lasted for two days in 1940. Saturday, August 31st started out with a banquet at 7:00 P.M. at the Pythias Hall. We were welcomed by John Jurgensen, Lodge President. N. B. Nelson was the Toastmaster and, after dinner, dancing went to midnight when a 12 o'clock lunch was served courtesy of Spokane's Sisterhood Lodge members. Sunday the Danish visitors from Seattle and Portland went to different members homes, "Hi-Jinks Dinner" at the Desert Hotel's Donkey Room followed. Cost for everything on Saturday was \$1.25 each and Sunday's dinner carried a 75¢ charge per plate.

Ellen Colbert Downing and Marguerite Vida became Lodge #42 members at the June 6, 1970 meeting. Marguerite's husband, Rudy also joined that night. The two ladies' membership was significant because they were the daughters of pioneer parents and their Grand-

father was William F. Wind, founder of The Danish Brotherhood in America and Spokane's Wind Lodge #42.

Wind Lodge #42 voted to extend its membership to friends of members interested in Danish heritage and culture and to hold open meetings at its October 4, 1979 meeting. Lawrence Charneski



#### LODGE #45, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Acting President Einar Danielsen during National Convention in Minneapolis.

#### LODGE #64, ROCKFORD, IL

Indications are that 16 members started Odin Lodge on March 17, 1893. Our members signature book shows that 241 persons have been members of Odin. Today we have 38 members; many of them live out of town. Only two or three insured members are active and four or five social members are active.

During Paul Strands' promotion, with Sofus Sorensen's help, we gained five members. The late Flemming Andersen found a few members for us. Some of those we lost again. It is possible that the Sisters may join us and we can become a family club.

The active members left in Lodge 64 are: Otto Ehlers, Pete Larsen, John Andersen, Chuck Campbell, John Hubbard, Sofus T. Sorensen, Harry Meyer, Ralph Andres, George Andersen. Approximately six members are in attendance at our monthly meetings. I myself, came over in 1947 and have signed up several members for Lodge 64. Sofus Sorensen



#### LODGE #92, ST. CHARLES, IL

Lodge #92 was organized February 14, 1896 in St. Charles, Illinois, with 21 Charter Members. Before that famous meeting closed, another application was approved for membership and also admitted to the Lodge. Supreme Secretary, Viggo A. Danielsen, was the installing officer and N. Nielsen, of Lodge #18, was the conductor. The Charter of the Lodge was issued on March 20, 1896, and the Lodge was called "Gode Hensigter". (Good Intentions). On April 14, 1894, Lodge #76 of Waterman, Illinois was founded. Twenty-five years later it disbanded and merged with Lodge #92. A few of the members of Lodge #76 remained with Lodge #92 for a long time. The remainder were lost to the Society within a relatively short time as St. Charles was about 40 miles from Hinkley-Waterman.

At the third meeting of Lodge #92, Claus Jensen was admitted to membership. He transferred to Lodge #298 in Chicago, Illinois a number of years later and shortly thereafter he represented Lodge #298 at a National Convention and was elected to the Supreme Board. He served three four-year terms; the last as Vice-President.

In 1940, Einar Danielsen joined Lodge #92 and in 1955 represented Lodge #92 at a National Convention in Racine, Wisconsin and was elected to the Supreme Board as a Chairman of Trustees. He served five four-year terms. The last term, 1971-1975, as a National President. In 1967, he served one year as Supreme President, completing the term of Supreme President Viggo Mikkelsen, who stepped aside because of ill health.

After #92 was organized, the Lodge became very active both in the Danish Brotherhood and in the community. Throughout the years, a number of the members have served on the City Council, as Aldermen or as Mayor and on both the fire and police departments. As a result, the Lodge has enjoyed continued growth. The Lodge has about 150 members at present. Since 1896, a total of more than 540 members have been admitted to Lodge #92.

The Lodge, strong in membership and financially solid, admits both men and women to membership. Einar Danielsen

#### LODGE #110, WINSIDE, NE

Winside Lodge #110 was organized on March 5, 1898 and a charter issued by the Supreme Lodge of Omaha, Nebraska, March 15, 1898. Viggo A. Danielsen, Supreme Secretary, H. H. Vogt, Supreme President, with 20 members initiated as charter members 8 members being installed as the first officers of Lodge #110 as follows: Magnus Jensen (P.), Anton Jensen (V.P.), Niels R. Nielsen (S.), Ole Andreasen (T.), Mads Peter Madsen (G.), Peter Jacobsen (I.G.), Hans Jorgen Mortensen (O.G.) and Jens Peter Jensen (T.R.). 12 charter members as follows: Anders Christensen, Lars E. Nielsen, Fred Jensen, Anders H. Andersen, Christen B. Hansen, Peter Christensen, Niels Jensen, Niels F. Jorgensen, Wilhelm Larsen, Erik Nielsen Cook, Jens V. Rasmussen and Ole Olsen.

There have been 185 members initiated since March 5, 1898, of which 22 are currently members. So, #110 has held its own for 82 years.

There seems to be little interest since the real Danish Stock has gone on. On December 1980, our membership in Lodge #110 was 17 adult insured and 5 social members. We lost two members in the past year (1980), Peter J. Jensen, long time Secretary for #110, and his Brother Chris Jensen; sons of Magnus Jensen and nephews of Anton Jensen, first President and Vice President of #110 respectively. A third Brother, Fred Jensen, was also a charter member and father of Leo Jensen present Secretary-Treasurer of #110.

Our meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month at a member's home. Leo Jensen



#### LODGE #116, NEWARK, NJ

Lodge #116 received its charter with 12 members on March 29, 1899. The lodge met once a month in a number of meeting halls in or near the Newark, N.J. area. Meetings and minutes were carried out in Danish.

Due to fire, some records and minutes of the meetings were destroyed for the first 9 years. Member #100 was initiated in December, 1910. Social gatherings, a dance now and then as well as the yearly family Christmas tree party kept things humming.

The lodge became a member of the Danish Home for the Aged, Metuchen, N.J. in May of 1914. For years members supported the Home by doing chores, such as painting and general repairs. Several family picnics each year added to the lodge activities.

Throughout the years, Banquets or Dinner-Dances were always observed every fifth anniversary.

The lodge has been honored by having two brothers serve on the National Board, Chris Madsen and George Godthaab. Six brothers have served as District Presidents in the G.C.E.L. The lodge has at present 108 members.

The lodge did not adopt the rule to keep meetings minutes and records in the English language until January 1945.

Our biggest asset, and something we are proud of, is that after meetings refreshments — except drinks — are free. We also have a 120 point system. Points are gained at the rate of two points per year, one point for age, one point for membership. When reached, the member will no longer have to pay dues. Also, a member reaching the age of 85 holding a straight life policy with the Brotherhood will no longer pay assessments on his policy; the lodge picks up the tab. We have at present 12 members who no longer pay dues and three who enjoy the benefit of the lodge paying assessments on their policy.

Donald P. Heckmann

#### LODGE #117, PLAINVIEW NE

Danish Cornet Band organized around 1900. In the 1900's there were many Danish settlers in Wayne Co., Nebr. So many had the same first name that they were known by nicknames such as Corner Chris, Whistle Chris and Fiddle Chris.



First Row, left to right, J. C. Jensen, Fred Jensen

Second Row, Peter Christensen, Walter Petersen, Chris Hansen, Peter Jensen & Niels Jorgensen.

Third Row, J. R. Lindquist, J. P. Jensen, and Hans Andersen, Chris Jensen, Anton Jensen & Niels Nielsen.

#### LODGE #126, LOS ANGELES, CA

The first Danish club in Los Angeles was a very exclusive club with no chance for growth because of its strict requirements of membership. In 1897, the 8 members of the club decided to change and become a Danish men's social club named Dannevang. This club several times opposed joining The Danish Brotherhood and at one time a delegation from Lodge #67 in Fresno, California came to Los Angeles and offered to form the lodge if they would sign up that same evening. It was voted down. So were several later attempts for the

Club Dannevang to join The Danish Brotherhood. In August of 1899 the 28 members of Dannevang voted again. There were twenty for and eight against joining The Danish Brotherhood. Nineteen were signed up as Charter Members.

About 1906, the lodge moved to the fashionable Sunset Club on 3rd Street where there was a canopy over the side of the walk and marble stairways. The Sunset Club occupied the ground floor. The Danish Brotherhood lodges rented the entire second floor that had several meeting halls, checkroom, etc. and an apartment for a manager. The managers were Carl & Maria Petersen. Carl was bartender in the daytime at the Martin Paulsen's Saloon and Maria was an excellent cook and sandwichmaker. The Danes meeting place was very popular, especially on Sunday when all saloons and restaurants were closed. Tenants in the hall were the Sisterhood, Dania, Norwegian and Swedish lodges and others. It was, however, no bonanza for the Brotherhood lodges. We often had to dig into the Treasury for additional money to pay for the operation of the hall.

In January 1924, the first meeting of Los Angeles Lodge #126 was held in the new Danish Auditorium. The official dedication of the Danish Auditorium did not take place before Washington's Birthday in 1924. The Danish Auditorium was built by Danish contractors, all members of The Danish Brotherhood. The Danes felt right at home from the start and the Danish organizations prospered here until the Great Depression when members, for lack of employment, returned to their former home in the East and many returned to Denmark. There were also local members who resigned in order to economize although the lodge had created an emergency fund for needy members in order to keep them on the books.

When the population shifted, the Danish Center was opened and the Danish Auditorium later sold. Later, the lodge moved to the Soldier's Club.

There have been many outstanding officers elected who have served #126 well, but they are far too numerous to name in this report. There have in the lodges 81 years been a total of 1,676 members initiated or transferred into Lodge #126. In the same period, there have been 98 Presidential elections in the lodge but less than 60 members have served as President. Remarkably, the lodge in its 81 years has only had three Treasurers: Terkelsen, 33 years; Petersen, 38 years; and Miller, 9 years. Lodge #126 has, over the years, had many of its members serve as officers in the General Committee of California and Nevada.

Fred Holm

#### LODGE #139, VIBORG, S.D.

Viborg became a town in 1893. The Danish immigrants settled in this region and Viborg was known as the home of 599 Friendly Danes. They needed a place to meet and have entertainment — so, in 1900, 22 Danish men organized. On December 28th these Charter Members constituted the Danish Brotherhood Lodge 139 with Peter Johnson as the first President. Everyone looked forward to going and could hardly wait for the day to come. They had dances, parties, drill teams and plays.



They came by foot, horses, or drove their Model T's — it was important to come. The 28th of December has been celebrated each year since. A Banquet and Dance was held for years with a family-style banquet prepared by the D.S.S. Sister Lodge. Today, we have a potluck meal, the Danish Dancers liven the party up and Christmas treats are served.

Our old hall was built by the members in 1905. It truly was a landmark in Viborg and used for many community affairs. In 1969, the hall was sold to the local Bank and was torn down. On a new location, in 1970, a smaller building was built. With Robert Nelson as the President, the first meeting was held October 1971. Records were kept in Danish until 1955. Women were allowed to join in 1963. We also welcomed four members from Irene Lodge in 1973.

In June we have Danish Days and the ladies serve Danish food. We also have an annual Thanksgiving Party. For many years the D.S.S. baked aebleskiver and if you were a winner you got a live duck or goose in a gunny sack. We have Pot-luck Soup Suppers and aebleskiver, Basket Social for Valentine's Day and a picnic in the summer.

There have been over 800 members on record in the lodge's 80 years, with around 100 members now. Ruth Petersen

#### LODGE #144, DIKE, IOWA

The Danish Brotherhood Lodge is no doubt the oldest fraternal society of Dike. The fraternal benefit society received their charter on September 13, 1901. The organizational meeting was held in the Thomas Building (now known as the Masonic Temple) where they met a number of years.

Officers for 1901 were: Niels K. Nielsen, Ex-President; Niels Pedersen, President; Hans L. Henningsen, Vice-President; Anders O. Nielsen, Secretary; Jacob Jensen, Oluf Andersen and Hans Lund, Trustees; Niels J. Bonde, Conductor; Jens Petersen, Inner Guard; and Christian Christiansen, Outer Guard.

Chris H. Guldager, who was president of the lodge in 1910 and George Boysen, P. L. Henningsen, Ole Johnson and Chris Krog attended the DBS National Convention in Los Angeles, California, according to an issue of the Dike New Era, of September, 1910.

Officers listed for 1910 in the Dike New Era included: L. L. Henningsen, W. L. Jensen, J. J. Schultz, Will Krumlinder, Lauritz Petersen, Viggo Danielsen, Lars Andersen, Chris Maag, Hans Oversen, Laurits Christensen, H. L. Henningsen, and Chris Syndergard.

The Dike group later (possibly during the late 1910's or early 1920's) acquired a two-story wooden building on Main Street just north of the former Henningsen store. The building was later torn down.

The Dike group annually sponsors socials, potlucks, and oyster stew and chili suppers for their members and the Sisterhood Lodge. The men also have held annual New Year's Eve party-dances and an event where the public was invited to share in a Danish Christmas Tree party, with singing and dancing around the tree. An annual August picnic is well-received. Members are quite faithful in attending State and National Conventions, and have held offices at these levels.

A local scholarship award is presented to qualified Dike High School seniors who would find further education difficult. This was recently doubled and there have been approximately six recipients to date.

We are still "in there" and enjoying average turnouts each month. Looking forward to the challenges of the 1980's. Lyle Refshauge

#### LODGE #155, BELLINGHAM, WA

The Danish Brotherhood in America is approaching its 100th anniversary and, on this occasion, Lodge #155, Bellingham, Washington, pauses to take stock in the past and to ponder the future. We remember our brothers and their deeds as they are recorded

and we attempt to evaluate the impact they have had on our lodge as we know it today.

It can probably be said that, over the years, those who took charge of the lodge have carried us down the middle of the road, supporting and promoting the principles of our society and, by doing so, have appealed to members and potential members in the counties of Whatcom and Skagit.

Belling Bay Lodge #155 was chartered on September 20, 1902. According to the records L. P. Petersen, Seattle Lodge #29, was authorized by the Home Office to officiate during the initiation of the members and the installation of the first officers for the new lodge. Thirty brothers were initiated and, the following were installed as officers: L. P. Johnson, Past-President; Chris P. Jacobsen, President; A. V. Miller, Vice-President; Louis Larsen, Secretary; Petrus Nielsen, Treasurer; Peter Andersen, Conductor; Lars Matsen, 1st Trustee; James Andersen, 2nd Trustee; Anders Pedersen, 3rd Trustee; Einer Jacobi, Inner Guard; Fred Hansen, Outer Guard.

The meetings were conducted and recorded in the Danish language (a practice which was continued until January, 1944). We learn from the minutes that committees were being established to promote membership, to arrange for social events, to visit brothers on the sick list, and to help arrange for the funeral of a deceased brother. We also learn that new members were accepted and initiated into third, second and first degrees of membership (sometimes all three degrees in one sweep) and that brothers were transferred in and out of the lodge. Some, on occasion, were dropped from the roster due to delinquency.

Judging by the minutes, the lodge came by hard times during the depression. Attendance decreased and activities almost came to a halt. The lodge might not have survived, were it not for men like brothers Loft, Hans F. Hansen, Chris S. Hansen and especially Chris Christensen who served as President continually from 1927 until his death in August, 1941.

The following decade appears to have been a period of relative stability. The welfare of the lodge was still in the hands of the "old timers" such as Hans F. Hansen, Carl F. Hansen, C. Fred Hansen, Chris S. Hansen and James Petersen.

The fifties brought a new generation to the fore. Among the officers elected for the year 1950 were Arnold Grimlund, Hans R. Hansen, Chris Knutsen, and the brothers Albert and Carl Matsen.

An attempt to increase the strength and the membership by accepting women into the brotherhood was contemplated by the lodge. On April 10, 1953 this issue was presented at the monthly meeting and on May 8, 1953 the brothers "voted to bring in the women as full voting members. This was only a show vote to send to the Mother Lodge". Not until late in 1961 did this vision become a reality. The adoption of new national bylaws provided membership for women and Lodge #155 became one of the first lodges to accept applications from women.

At three consecutive national conventions, the lodge has trusted its representation to Karen Bruun, who also holds the distinction of being the first woman to serve on a national law committee. At the local level, the members have continued to promote the social fellowship without losing track of the ultimate goal: to attract new members into our society.

The Bellingham Bay Lodge #155 salutes our society on its 100th anniversary and wishes for continued growth in the future. Karen Bruun

#### LODGE #172, PHILADELPHIA, PA

As with all history, this is the story of people. It's about a group of Brothers who were all dedicated to the same purpose — helping one another in a new world while preserving ties to Denmark, the Homeland.

There were years of growth and years of struggle. There were many happy times and, when beloved Brothers passed away, some sad ones. But on an occasion like this, we can measure our success and be proud!

On the evening of June 5, 1903, 12 Danish men met at 533 Chestnut Street and organized "Enigheden" Lodge. The Supreme Lodge of the Danish Brotherhood in America granted the group a charter and, on August 7th, it became link number 172 in a chain of lodges.



Over a span of 75 years, "Enigheden" has met at 9 different locations. Six hundred-ninety-seven members have been initiated and there have been 50 Young Vikings as well. Like many other fraternal organizations, the lodge has had its ups and downs but, unlike many others, it has weathered the rough seas and survived.

The lodge is a member of the General Committee of Eastern Lodges and is regularly represented at its yearly conventions.

As we move forward, with a spirit of mutual cooperation and friendship, the future can be even brighter!

#### LODGE #177, CORDOVA, NE

Cordova Danish Brotherhood #177 was organized September 9, 1903.

Elected officers were: President August Christiansen; Ex-President Thomas Thomsen; Vice-President Hans Landmark; Secretary Henry Mortensen; Treasurer Hans J. Jorgensen; Trustees Peter Nielsen, Peter Thomsen, Henry Petersen; Conductor Carl A. Mogensen; Inner Guard Carl A. Jensen; Outer Guard Peter Jorgensen.

The Lodge name selected was "Harmony".

I, Marie Thompsen, the daughter of August Christiansen, will try and give a few highlights of the lodge as I remember: Only men could join this lodge but occasionally the lodge sponsored family nights. That was always a thrill to us kids and there were many kids as all had large families. Of course, no one could enter while the lodge was having the regular meetings according to form. In those days, the badges and ribbons were all worn and our lodge still has them but they haven't been used for years.

For many years, they assembled in the homes on a Sunday afternoon, women and children came, too. One room was closed off for the meeting and the women visited and played cards in another. In 1963, we bought the church building and had our meetings there for a few years. Attendance kept falling off, so they sold the building and have been meeting in the homes again each month.

Our lodge has entertained the State Convention three or four times. These were great days for the members, as much preparation had to be made. The building had to be prepared and decorated for the occasion and meals and lunches were prepared by the women. One time a marching band was hired for the entertainment. We always wound up with a dance in our spacious hall.

We were an outstanding lodge with a lot of enthusiasm. In the early days, we used to have annual oyster stew suppers and roast goose (gaasgild) suppers. The women dressed the geese and made all preparations. Dignitaries from Omaha came and enjoyed them, too. The weather and roads were not too good but

somehow they made it out here . . . over 100 miles. Every summer while the lodge was active, we had a summer celebration at some farm home. A tent was put up for the evening dance. A stand for selling pop and ice cream and other refreshments was set up. I remember one time, the men all played cards in the afternoon and had plenty of beer in a corncrib. The place was taboo for the children. The women visited in shady places and looked after the kids. We children played games.

Our lodge was always in good financial standing. In the 30's, a surplus of money, since they met in homes, allowed the lodge to carry all members who could not afford to pay during those dry years. They only lost one member. Marie Thompsen

#### LODGE #183, TROY, NY

In 1903, John S. Beck founded the Troy Lodge and, on October 24th, three Brothers of Lodge #164, New York City, came to install the new officers. These guests were Simon S. Skov, H. F. Mathisen, and N. P. Skov.

The original officers of Lodge #183 were: Ex-President Niels Schmidt; President John S. Beck; Vice-President Rasmus Jensen; Secretary Fred C. Christensen; Financial Secy. Anders I. Madsen; Treasurer Andrew J. Smith; Ch. Trustee Chris Jensen; Trustee Niels Wonsel; Trustee Jorgen Bork; Conductor Jess Smith; Inner Guard Thorwald Lauritsen; and Outer Guard Rasmus Rasmussen. There were 51 Charter Members.

In May 1908, the Lodge lost all of its property in the Dania Hall fire.

In October 1915, the Lodge purchased the building on 112th Street and renovated it for Lodge meetings.

In 1916, a two-story addition was built.

Since then, other improvements to the property have been made.

It was noted that the yard on the property was planted with potatoes and, at one time, there was a bowling alley in the cellar (one lane).

I also found that my uncle, Jens Peder Jensen, joined Lodge #183 on May 27, 1906 and died in a Flu Epidemic on May 30, 1906. A member for four days.



National Director Norbert E. Grove joins National President George J. Jacobsen in congratulating Harry B. Jensen, Jr., newly elected president of the G.C.E.L. from Lodge No. 183.

On October 27, 1928, the 25th anniversary of the lodge was celebrated in Dania Hall with nearly 300 attending. Harry Jensen, Sr.

#### LODGE #184, HAYWARD, CA

Hayward Lodge #184 was organized November 1, 1903. There were 16 charter members. We now have 37 adult members and 11 Young Vikings.

Our lodge initiated its first women members on March 17, 1972. They were Signe Ann McNeil, Beth Cowan, and Janis Baxter.

We are proud to have five members with forty years or more membership in our society. They are: Iver Poulsen with 47 years, Fred Mahler with 42 years, Harold Heiser, Sr. with 40 years, Larry Olsen with 40 years and Walter Hansen, also with 40 years. All are still active and holding office in our lodge except Harold Heiser, Sr.

Our lodge has had the honor of having three Past Presidents of the California-Nevada Gen-



eral Committee. Hans Vejby served as the General Committee's first President from 1921-1923, Harold Sundby was President from 1940-1941 and Anker B. Christensen was President from 1963-1964.

We have had several teams, men and women, win prizes in the national and state bowling competitions and several individual prizes have been awarded to our men and women in these tournaments.

We are a small lodge, but we are very proud of our members and our accomplishments. *Signe Ann McNeil*

#### LODGE #186, LUCK, WI



Danish Brotherhood in America, Fredensborg Lodge No. 186, Luck, Wisconsin was chartered on December 11, 1903 and held their first meeting on that date at their lodge hall located on the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Park Avenue. This building burned in 1931 and a new building was erected at the present site, corner of First Street and Third Avenue, in 1932.

Charter members who were the first officers of the lodge were: Past President Nels Petersen; President N. P. Jacobsen; Vice President Nels Petersen; Secretary John Burger; Treasurer Anton Jensen; Trustees P. F. Pedersen, Oluf P. Svendsen, Jens P. Sorensen; Conductor Harold F. Fahrendorf; Inner Guard Anton U. Jensen; Outer Guard Hans Petersen.

Meetings were held, and minutes kept in the Danish language until the meeting of May 26, 1943 when they began using the English language. Meetings were held twice a month.

Early in 1978, a meeting was held to consider the possibility of the dissolution of the lodge and the disposal of the property. The outcome was that a try would be made to make the lodge active as in the past, and to have a membership drive. The following agreed to hold office for one year and they were duly elected at the next meeting: Past President C. J. Back; President Irvin W. Edling; Vice-President Alvin Paulsen; Secretary Lillian Jacobsen; Treasurer Naomi Jensen; Trustees, Wm. R. Jensen, Art Asper and Norman Pedersen; Conductor Christian Jacobsen.

During the 1978 re-activation drive, Irvin Edling and Christian Jacobsen received recognition in the **AMERICAN DANE**, the DBS National Magazine, for outstanding achievement in the number of new members enrolled. In the following year, over 100 members joined the lodge and women became full voting members. The bylaws now permit the acceptance of people who have an interest in Danish culture and who are friends of people of Danish ancestry.

The inside of the hall was redecorated extensively, new equipment purchased and the lodge has become very active. It is used by a variety of organizations and individuals for social functions. It has become a valuable asset for the community.

On July 22, 1978, the lodge celebrated its 75th anniversary and several lodge members from Kenosha, Racine and Askov attended the celebration.

**LODGE #194, McMinnville, OR** The Danish Brotherhood in America Lodge #194 was organized July 13, 1904 in McMinnville, Oregon by 18 men of Danish descent.

At that time, there was a need for an organiza-

tion of citizens to aid the Danish newcomers to the McMinnville area.

The members were assisted during illness and the lodge had low cost life insurance available. For many, this was the only insurance they could afford. A sick benefit was available for many years and the lodge would hire nursing aid if needed.

The lodge held two meetings a month, one for the men members only. Women were not accepted to membership until 1962. The Danish language was spoken at the business meetings for many years. The members enjoyed keeping the language in use because many preferred to "Tal Danske" than speak English.

The lodge was also a center of entertainment for the Danish people of the area. The second meeting of the month was an open meeting attended by the family. These meetings were anxiously awaited. Entertainment in those days was centered around the various groups using their own talents.

Dances were very popular — the Danish people have always been known to love music and many were excellent dancers. Masquerades were also held. Music was furnished by the members, such as Jens N. Pedersen, violin; his wife, Maren, on the piano; Martin Peterson, violin.

Box socials were a popular form of entertainment and fund-raising. The boxes being filled with the ladies best Danish foods.

The summer picnic was held each year at some nearby river or grove or on a member's farm.

At Christmas time, the open meeting centered around the Christmas tree. The children of the members danced around the tree.

The lodge meetings were held in the Flynn Hall at Third and Baker Street, the Moose Hall at Fourth and Baker Street and now, for many years, the Knights of Pythias Hall on Third Street. *M. E. Christensen*

#### LODGE #206, BLAIR, NE

Lodge #206 was chartered January 21, 1905 and instituted January 6th by Jorgen Michaelsen with 35 charter members. Past President was Hans Hansen, President was Chris S. Nielsen and Vice-President was Chris Bendorf. On December 16, 1928, members of Spiker, Nebraska Lodge #208 were transferred to Lodge #206. Spiker Lodge was chartered with 19 members February 21, 1950. On April 1, 1934, members of Herman Lodge #178 transferred to #206. They had been chartered September 19, 1903 with 37 charter members.

Chris Korshoj of Herman joined #206 in 1917. Most of the members were originally born in Denmark. Lodge meetings were held upstairs in Schefflers Hall (still in its location). Entertainment was a box social once a year and, as fall arrived, two dances each month with music provided by fiddler Chris Petersen. Whether it was a dance or a business meeting the hall was always filled. Andrew Brock (deceased) was President. Some of the later members were John Jensen, J. P. Jensen and Chris Korshoj all of Herman and Chris Bendorf of Blair. Members passed away and gradually the lodge became inactive.



In 1974, Lodge #206 was revitalized by Andy Andersen, sales representative for Danish Brotherhood. Meetings are now held every fourth Monday at the Riverview Grange

Hall. After a short business meeting, there is some form of entertainment followed by sandwiches, coffee cake and coffee all provided by the committee-of-the-month. In the summer, we have one picnic, occasionally a dance and always a Christmas supper with Santa Claus and gifts for the children.

In May of 1977, our oldest member Chris Korshoj of Herman received his 60-year pin.

In October of 1975, the Brotherhood sponsored its first Danish Day Festival which has become a yearly event. *Harriet Betts*

#### LODGE #225, CANTON, OH

The Canton Lodge #225 was founded in 1905 by a group of men seeking unity and fellowship with their Danish counterparts. Peter Christiansen, Kennedy Johnson, Jacob Petersen, Mads P. Johnson, Rasmus Peterson, Karl Johnson, Hans Jensen, Andrew Johnson, Jorgen Peterson, Hokan S. Johnson, John J. Johnson, Gustav Jensen, Soren Petersen, Christian Bjerregaard, Thorvald Jensen, Anders Hansen, Louis Larson, Jens Jorgen Petersen and Kristian Pedersen were the original members of Lodge #225.

As times have changed so has The Danish Brotherhood. Women are now accepted as members and can hold offices. Children are also welcome as members. These changes have been accepted by our local lodge. Recently, it was established that a potential member need not be of or related to one of Danish heritage or speak Danish. An interest in Danish tradition now qualifies a person for membership.

"Members should act toward each other with kindness, never speak ill of each other but ever be ready to help one another in every way", according to the bylaws of The Danish Brotherhood of America.



Jacob Larson, 100 year old member of Lodge #225.

As the lodge enters another period of growth and extends its membership, the original principles of truth, loyalty and pride shall remain. As the ancestors of generations to come, we must both help and teach these principles just as our ancestors taught us.

#### LODGE #230, ARCATA, CA

On October 22, 1905, a group of men from Eureka and Arcata, met at the Woodsman Hall in Arcata, at 3:00 P.M. to discuss the formation of a Danish Brotherhood Lodge in Arcata. Christian Nielsen (known as "Cigarman" Nielsen) of Eureka, was chosen as Chairman and John S. Beck acted as Secretary. At this time, the name of the lodge was selected. Since two names were suggested, a vote was taken, the name of Humboldt received seven votes, and Roosevelt Lodge received one vote with four members abstaining.

On November 5, 1905, the second meeting was held at 3 P.M. also. It was agreed to rent the Woodsman Hall for \$20 per month and to hold two meetings per month. The names on the charter are: Past President John Roth; President Christian Nielsen; Vice-President Christian Jensen; Secretary-Treasurer John S. Beck; Trustees Robert Roberts, Henrick E. Jensen, Frederick Antonsen; Conductor Jorgen P. Rusthøj; Inner Guard Nels Mortensen and Outer Guard Peter A. Jensen. Constance Sherman, a direct descendant of Past-

President John Roth, presently holds the office of Inner Guard.

On Sunday, November 26, 1905, the formal institution of Humboldt Lodge #230 was held. The following is a quote from one of the local papers, THE ARCATA UNION. "The lodge was instituted by the District Delegate, Lauritz Lindrum, delegate to the last Supreme Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska. He conducted the work in an able and pleasing manner, satisfactory to all present. The ceremony began at 2:30 p.m. The delegates from Eureka arriving in a 5 seated Tally Ho, drawn by four horses from Sweasey's stables. Mr. R. Sweasey, being the driver. The gentlemen of the party were accompanied by their wives, who were entertained by Mrs. J. S. Beck, during the institution of the lodge in the afternoon. At 6 o'clock, the institution ceremonies being finished, the ladies were escorted into the hall, where a beautiful supper was partaken of. The tables were presided over by Mesdames, C. Nielsen, C. M. Jensen, and Niels Mortinson of Eureka, John Roth, John S. Beck, Miss Junker of Arcata., and Mrs. F. Petersen of Ferndale. The tables were prettily decorated with cut flowers. At 8 o'clock, all gathered in the lodge room which was decorated with American and Danish colors to witness the public installation of officers, followed by a very interesting program of music, songs, and speeches. Then at 11:00 P.M. coffee and cake was served before the members departed for their various homes in Eureka, Ferndale, and Arcata".

January 15, 1906, their first stated meeting, several letters of greetings and congratulations from various lodges throughout the U.S. were read.

Election of officers was held every six months. Several socials were held throughout the years, as well as picnics at Mad River and Sequoia Park in Eureka. Gimle Lodge #95, in Ferndale, often held their picnics in Sequoia Park in conjunction with us which, as I recall, was a lot of fun. There were rolling pin throwing contests for the ladies, races for the children, and tug-of-war for the men. The annual Christmas parties were anticipated events. The big social event for the younger folks was going to Ferndale to attend their Christmas party each year. It seems there was a lot of visitation between both lodges in those days, especially in the wintertime.

In March 1914, English was spoken during the meetings but the minutes were still written in the Danish language.

In 1928, the lodge was fortunate to obtain a building that the Arcata High School was selling. This was purchased and moved to a vacant lot across the street from the high school.

Then we got another "spurt" when Curtis Larsen moved back into the area and Brother Gunnar Ladefoged, (a great member, who has served in all offices, having the post of secretary for 30 some years and also acted as delegate to many state and national conventions) started a membership drive. They spent many hours signing up brothers and even got a Danish Sisterhood Lodge formed in Arcata in 1953.

In 1950, the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association was formed under the leadership of Cy Bendorf, who promoted this event and encircled all 4 Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. This has continued to be a successful annual event. The date was chosen as close to the Scandinavian Midsummer days as possible and included a dance on Saturday night followed by a picnic and dances of the various countries and regular dancing until late in the afternoon on Sunday.

In August 1952, Curtis Larsen and his wife Astrid were formally elected as Presidents of their respective General Committees at the convention in Santa Barbara.

The December 1953 annual Christmas party was outstanding as we entertained the Captain and crew of the M/S Norcap, which was anchored in Humboldt Bay. Since this was the first

time a Danish ship had entered our harbor for a number of years, everyone was delighted to entertain these men and, likewise, be entertained by the officers aboard ship.



In 1980 we enjoyed celebrating our 75th anniversary by having a few socials and a banquet in September.

We have concluded this year by taking in another member and sincerely hope that we can add more to our roster. *Laura Schuler*

#### LODGE #268, JUNCTION CITY, OR

D.B.I.A. Lodge #268, Junction City, Oregon, called Vestens Stjerne was started January 4, 1908 with 19 men as active charter members. Charter officers were: Julius M. Wilde, Past President, Rasmus P. Andersen, President; Christian Andersen, Vice-President; Jens Christian Larsen, Secretary; Peter Nielsen Bodtker, Treasurer; Christian Sand, Chairman of Trustees; Andreas Jacobsen, Trustee; Jens Frederik Rasmussen, Trustee; Christian Mortensen, Conductor; Peter Henrik Petersen, Inner Guard; Peter Jorgensen Mosegaard, Outer Guard. Additional charter members were: Lars P. Johnson, Rasmus Christian Rasmussen, Jens P. Jensen, Christian Gregersen, Mads Peter Jensen, Valdemar F. F. Nielsen, Hans P. N. Bodtker, Hans P. Petersen.

By the end of 1980, the lodge had 82 members, 53 active and 29 social. Many years ago the lodge had its own building but since has been sold and we are using a hall belonging to The Scandinavian Festival Association in Junction City.

The lodge holds its business meetings and its (potluck dinner) social on the first Tuesday and the third Tuesday of every month, families are invited. The fifth Tuesday is Stag Dinner Night with card playing after dinner.

As of December 31, 1980, 320 members had been initiated into the lodge. *Kris Sand*

#### LODGE #273, DILLON, MT

At the turn of the century, a few short years after Montana became a state and homestead land was available young unmarried men began arriving from other states and countries. It so happened that to this southwestern corner of Montana many Danish people came seeking for their fortune. Naturally, after the Danish men sailed away from Denmark the women soon followed them and began the first generation Danish families in this area.

Many other national cultures were laying down roots in this community during these years, also. To preserve and promote their Danish heritage, to strengthen family unity and probably to combat those terrible homesick blues, they took steps.

The Danish Brotherhood in America, a fraternal organization, was asked permission to begin a lodge which would surely offer some good things to the members, their wives, and children as they began to plan for naturalization and citizenship in the huge state of Montana. A charter granting the founding of Lodge No. 273 was received in December 1908. A meeting place was found in uptown Dillon in a building that still is in use and has taken care of all the lodge activities for more than seventy years.

The men who elected to put the Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 273 on course were: Ex-President Jens Christensen, President Rasmus Henningsen, Vice-President Jens H. Christensen, Secretary Jasper Nelson, Treas-

urer Laurits Jensen, Trustee Hans Mikkelsen, Trustee Hans Christensen, Trustee Hans Dehr Madsen, Conductor Hans H. Madsen, Guard Albert Mikkelsen and Outer Guard Hans Henningsen.

Monthly dances were held after business meetings. Children and teenagers joined their parents and had wonderful times. Infants slept in chairs moved together. Babysitters were unheard of. Open-face sandwiches with steaming coffee were served to everyone and good-byes were said until another meeting.

Very special planning goes into the Christmas party every year. Getting a perfectly shaped pine or fir or spruce tree fresh from a nearby mountain and giving it a place of honor in the center of the hall to await the arrival of beautifully dressed children and Santa Claus, is traditionally part of the holiday season. Everyone sings and dances and there are treats served, also.

When is the Danish Brotherhood picnic? This is frequently asked after the Fourth of July. Summer visitors like to plan their vacation to include the picnic.

There is another outdoor event very different from the summer picnic, but just as popular. A great fire is built in the fireplace of a government shelter. The barrel stoves provide heat for pots of chili; hot dogs and coffee. The winter afternoon is spent sledding, skating and snowmobile riding.

Before describing the annual banquet, we must go back in time to the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the declaration of World War II. With few exceptions, every eligible Brotherhood member of Lodge No. 273 has either served in the European or South Pacific theatre. Their names are engraved on a plaque which hangs in the hall and to commemorate these service men and their deeds of valor a banquet is held every year. Brotherhood members with long records of membership are recognized and given the appropriate service pin during the planned program. The best available music plays for those great dancers — the Danes.

All of the charter members and many others now rest in Mountain View Cemetery. The graves are lovingly marked every Memorial Day.

Our lodge has had a civic oriented membership throughout its history. When United States celebrated her Bicentennial in 1976 a float was entered in Dillon's Labor Day Parade. Three generations of Danish people rode on the red, white and blue float made of real flowers and proudly claimed first place.

When Dillon celebrated its one-hundred years of founding, twenty-nine log wood planters beautified the business area. The inspira-



tion and idea that moved the city fathers were those of the Danish Brotherhood. They grew the plants. They had a field day of planting the planters and another field day to place them and maintain them until frost came.

To date, the following have had fifty or more rich years of great togetherness in our beloved Lodge No. 273: Hans Mikkelsen, Berg Christensen, Ras Hansen, Chris Bay, Otto Christensen, Tony Christensen, Eli Petersen, Christian Petersen, Elmer Petersen and Axel Madsen. *Clifford S. Bay, Vernon C. Nelson, Elmer Petersen and Otto Christensen*



#### LODGE #288, COTESFIELD, NE

Christians Minde was the name of the lodge when it was first organized in 1911. Officers elected at that first meeting were: Ex-President A. P. Nielsen; President C. J. Fransen; Vice-President C. M. Pedersen; Secretary Svend Sorensen; Treasurer Hans C. Frick; Trustee P. J. Rasmussen; Trustee Carl C. Sorensen; Trustee Hans L. Hansen; Conductor Peter Hansen; Inner Guard Tom Jensen; and Inner Guard H. P. L. Madsen.

At their first meeting it was voted to hold meetings on or before a full moon. The lodge started with 24 members. The first social activity was a dance at the Dannevirke Hall on December 30th. All Danes were welcome.

In those days wages were small. The Treasurer received five dollars for his work. During the hard times each member was assessed \$2.00, in order to have a small amount of money in the treasury.

According to the records, a state convention was held in Lexington in 1932 and a member of our lodge attended, but the records show no name.

From the time this lodge was organized we have records of 78 names as members and social members. Most of these are deceased. Oswald Sorensen, who has belonged the longest of those still living, joined in April of 1928. The first minutes were written in Danish and Mr. Sorensen, being able to read Danish found this information for us.

In 1962 a membership drive was made and 13 new members were initiated with 9 social members.

At the present time there are 15 insured members and no social members. *Harriette Leth*

#### LODGE #294, BARRE, VT

Founded on September 12, 1912, the organizers were Thomas Mekkelsen, Henry Lunde, and Niel Olsen. On September 28, 1912, the following twenty members were initiated into the Lodge by Soren Iversen: Niels C. Nielsen, Christian Larsen, Thomas Mekkelsen, Niels Olsen, Henry Lunde, Andrew Bjorn, Edward M. Andersen, Anton Mekkelsen, Niels Nielsen, Christian P. Jensen, Albert C. Larsen, Christen Mekkelsen, Hans Nielsen, Kristian P. Kristensen, Lars P. Christensen, Anders Larsen, A. Marinus Larsen, Valdemar C. Madsen, Alfred M. Jensen and Carl C. Madsen.

The first Lodge room was in Scampini Hall. The meetings were the high spots in the lives of these staunch Danes. Meetings were very dignified and were conducted in Danish until the second generation joined the group and English was used more often. After the meetings they could hardly wait to get a card game going, "66" was a popular game. Many times the women who had been shopping or visiting would come and make coffee and serve pastries.

They had many group gatherings: picnics, Christmas and Easter parties with traditional Danish foods. Children and grandchildren of these and other early members are now in the Lodge. Our spirit is still good and we have our regular meetings, Christmas parties and picnics which are enjoyed by all.

In 1962 we celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a banquet, speeches and dancing. In 1972 we had another gala banquet for our 60th Anniversary.

On Labor Day weekend in 1978 we had the pleasure of hosting the Fifty-Fourth Annual Convention of the General Committee of Eastern Lodges.

Thomas Mekkelsen, one of the organizers, sponsored many Danes in coming to America. They would stay and work at his farm until they found other employment. Some moved on to the West but many stayed in this vicinity.

The block where we were holding our meetings in the 1940's burned down and the Lodge lost all of its property at that time. We had to get a new copy of our charter.

*Gertrude Mikelsen*

#### LODGE #299, SOLVANG, CA

Solvang Lodge #299 was instituted Sunday, August 10, 1913, with 21 charter members. The first President of Lodge #299 was Anton Ibsen. John Roth served as the Fourth President of California District from 1927 to 1928 and then served as Secretary for 30 years until December 1943. At that time C. V. Nielsen was elected Secretary and he served until 1955.

Harold Ferslew served as District President from 1932 to 1933.

The Lodge meetings and minutes were held in Danish until 1961. The first minutes recorded in English were on April 12, 1961 by Levi Persson.

On August 10, 1963, Lodge #299 held its 50th Anniversary with a dinner/dance. Supreme President Hans M. Andersen from Selma, California was present. California District President Alvin Olsen and California District Secretary, Rudy Olsen, also attended.

Lodge #299 has had several members serve as Trustee of the California District and in recent years one member has served as Secretary-Treasurer for four years and two members have served as President. We have currently one member serving a second four-year term as a National Director of D.B.I.A.

In 1967 Solvang Lodge started a scholarship to a local high school senior of Danish descent.

The first scholarship was \$100.00 and within the last five years it has been increased to \$500.00.

We still have a charter member with us — Jacob Svendsen — he was 96 years old September 12, 1981.

#### LODGE #308, McCABE, MT

In regard to the Danish Brotherhood Lodge #308 at McCabe, Montana, I wish to say that this has been a country where we homesteaded in about 1907. I talked with several fellows from Dagmar that had a Danish Brotherhood Lodge and I asked them if they would take time to come down to McCabe and help us to get it started. We had a Brother at that time by the name of Christensen and another one by the name of Paulsen to come down here and help us with the installation that was in the old, small school located here in McCabe. Everything went fine. We had a lot of people coming to the meeting and about 20 signed up. We got along that way in good shape until some of the older fellows began to die off and I, myself, am just an old kid.

The others are all paid up. I'm sorry to say we never have meetings anymore — we don't have any place to have them.

I may mention that we also sent a flag of the State of Montana to the Danish fourth of July picnic in Denmark. I don't remember the exact date but it must have been around 1914 or 1915. *C. W. Nelsen*

#### LODGE #319, BAKERSFIELD, CA

A meeting was held on November 15, 1921 to discuss the formation of a Danish lodge in Bakersfield, California. The meeting was organized by members of other Danish lodges then living in the Bakersfield area. About 40 people of Danish heritage attended and heard a discussion about the purpose and benefits of a lodge given by National Lodge Vice-President Alfred Jorgensen of Oakland, California. It was decided to form a Danish lodge affiliated with The Danish Brotherhood in America's organizational meetings were held on December 3, 1921 and January 5, 1922, in preparation for charter meetings. A Christmas party was also planned and held.

The charter meeting occurred on January 18, 1922. Brotherhood President Soren Iversen delegated Brotherhood Vice-President Alfred Jorgensen authority to found the new lodge. Assisting Brother Jorgensen was Brother Peter Behring from Fresno as Vice-President and Brother Andersen from Parlier as Ex-President.

Elections were held with M. Stenderup elected Ex-President, Geo. H. Nielsen Presi-

dent, Martin Williamson Vice-President, A. A. Sprehn Secretary, M. Pedersen Treasurer, Mathew S. Platz, Soren Jensen and Aage Lohmen Trustees, L. Sorensen Conductor, Louis Stenderup Inner Guard and Jacob Winther Outer Guard. Brother Alfred Jorgensen gave a short talk on the meaning of the Brotherhood. The members then joined their wives for a banquet.

The lodge in Bakersfield was a social organization. There were frequent parties and picnics which helped foster the spirit of Brotherhood. One memorable event was a whistle stop visit by Princess Ingrid of Denmark in 1938. One of the first big events was the hosting of the California District Convention in 1944. It was held at the Bakersfield Inn, one of the first, and at that time, the largest motel in the world. A \$1,000 donation from Jim Andreasen, owner of Superior Creamery, covered most of the expenses. Thus the convention site was elegant and the costs were low. In 1947 a Danish Sisterhood Lodge was formed in Bakersfield. Naturally, that gave the Brotherhood Lodge a boost. State Conventions were also hosted by the local lodge in 1966 and 1971 and these are always big events. *Alfred C. Nielsen, Louis Jacobsen and William McDonald*

#### LODGE #325, NASSAU CO., NY



Recent Lodge #325 ethnic display.

Long Island Lodge #325, Danish Brotherhood in America, was founded June 26, 1926. The founding meeting was held in a building on the southeast corner of Merrick Road and Atlantic Avenue in Lynbrook, Long Island, New York. Members from other lodges attended, among them a drill-team from Lodge #116 in Newark, New Jersey, led by former officer of the Danish Army, Captain Killedare Jensen. The drill-team wore white gloves, large red and white collars, huge emblems and carried long spears.

The presiding officer was Supreme President of the Danish Brotherhood, Mr. Soren Iversen of New Haven, Connecticut.

The 13 founding fathers of #325 were: Thorvald Hansen, Isak Isaksen, Herbert Kronenberg, Sofus Christensen, Poul Erik Holm, William Kronenberg, Svend H. Kronenberg, Otto Rolandow Petersen, George Gerlow Andersen, Helge M. Holm, Charles Wm. Christensen, Hans Nielsen and Stefan Jensen.

When the lodge first started, the meetings were conducted in Danish, and as new generations became members, English took over. You can still hear Danish spoken by older members. It is still a tradition to close our meetings with a Danish song.

During the depression in the Thirties some of the members were not able to pay their dues so they were out of the sick benefit program. The lodge then declared a moratorium and these members signed notes stating what they owed; then they were again entitled to benefits. All notes were honored and paid off when times got better.

On February 12, 1937, the lodge received a charter for a credit union, founded by fourteen members. It functioned to the early seventies and then it was closed.

During the years right after World War II, a drive was on to collect clothes to send to Denmark. At Christmastime crates with clothes, coffee, rice and nuts were shipped. The rice coffee, rice and nuts were shipped. The Graham Co. of

New York. As a gesture of appreciation, Lodge #318 of Copenhagen gave Lodge #325 a bust of King Frederik IX. In 1952 the bust was turned over to the home in Methuen for display in their living room.

During the war in Korea, Christmas gifts were sent to members who were in the military service.

Until 1963 most of the meetings were closed meetings, no ladies allowed. On occasion a meeting would be declared open to women.

This was changed by a motion from Sofus Christensen. From November on, the lodge would conduct open and public meetings. This led to a more open society and resulted in the acceptance of 3 lady members in January of 1965. As a result, on March 12, 1965, 19 new members was initiated.

With the ladies present at our meetings, we are enriched and have the benefit of the good dishes they prepare. We are looking forward to 2026, when we can celebrate our 100th year Anniversary. *Niels B. Hansen*

#### LODGE #326, WEST BRANCH, IA

West Branch Lodge #326 received their Charter on August 25, 1928. Alfred Krogh, Valdemar P. Christensen, Harald W. Christensen, Niels Ottesen, Severin Pedersen, Peter Espensen, Oluf N. P. Andersen, Peter Friis, Viggo H. Christensen, Aage Christensen, Magnus Christensen, George Peterson, Arnold D. Jensen, Christian E. Christensen, Viggo Christensen, Senius Sorensen, Magnus K. Jensen, Alfred J. Jensen and Viggo Christensen were the original 19 charter members. Alfred Krogh, who is 90 years of age, is now residing in Iowa City, Iowa, is the only living charter member. In 1928, Frank V. Lawson was the Supreme Secretary and John Christensen was the Supreme President.

Alfred Krogh joined the Danish Brotherhood in January 1918, in Davenport, Iowa. Ten years later, Mr. Krogh, with the help of his good friend, John Hansen from Davenport #3, started the West Branch Lodge.

In 1930, West Branch #326 had 20 members. The most members was 35. From August 1928 until April 1942, everything was spoken and written in Danish.

On November 7, 1931, 15 members from the Davenport and Moline lodges came to the West Branch meeting to try to interest the West Branch lodge into having "social get-togethers". This trip proved very successful and was done many times in the future, having dances, picnics and box socials.

On July 5, 1941, the lodge voted to help sell the book "I Choose Denmark" with the Home Office getting a commission for each book sold.

On September 6, 1941, a letter from the Home Office was read, asking each lodge to donate \$1.00 per member for gifts for Danish sailors on board English ships. The members responded 100% sending in 11 donations.

In 1942, Axel Werner won a \$25.00 United States Government War Bond for his efforts as runner-up in securing 22 new members. A quote from Supreme President John Hansen in the Brotherhood magazine, "the remarkable thing about this 'fete' is that Axel almost doubled the membership in his lodge. On percentage basis, Axel accomplished more than has been accomplished by any one member for a good many years. I know Axel personally and I know he will be happy in coming in as a fine number two".

In March 1943, the lodge purchased a \$50.00 United States Government War Bond.

In May 1943, the members gave a \$25.00 United States Government War Bond to Axel Werner as a "thank you" gesture for his efforts in the 1942 membership drive.

On February 4, 1944, the lodge held a "box social" with the money to go to help Danish refugees in Sweden.

In March 1944, the lodge gave \$10.00 to the American Red Cross.

It was noted many times in the minutes writ-

ten in Danish that the lodge paid dues for "Brothers" during those difficult years.

On May 3, 1946, John Hansen, Supreme President, showed pictures of Denmark taken during and after the occupation by Germany. And then, that same evening, pictures taken by Jean Hersholt, showing Denmark less than 30 days after the war — these pictures showed the destruction caused by the bombings.

In January 1965, the lodge voted to accept the women into their meetings.

For many years the lodge gave a "cash" donation to the "Danish Home for the Aged", in Metuchen, New Jersey.

In December 1975, the lodge decorated a Christmas tree in Danish style and tradition and had it placed in the Nursing Home in West Liberty, Iowa.

In January 1978, lodge members presented Secretary Deloris Ross with the "Booster Award" from the Home Office for her efforts in getting 11 new members into the lodge.

On August 27, 1978, the lodge celebrated its 50th Anniversary with members, friends, and Iowa United Lodges State Officers attending a dinner at a restaurant in West Liberty, Iowa. Recognition was given to Alfred Krogh, the lodges only living charter member from Supreme President, George Godthaab and from local lodge officers.

On January 5, 1980, local President Stewart Arnold, presented Alfred Krogh with his 60 year membership pin. Mr. Krogh is the lodges' only living charter member.



West Branch #326 has given 4, 25 year membership pins to Gunnar Krogh, Paul Krogh, Aage Jensen and Howard Nealson. So, in 52 years, West Branch #326 has presented 1 — 60 year pin, 3 — 50 year pins, and 4 — 25 year membership pins.

These then, are the most interesting happenings of West Branch Lodge #326. Our lodge is small, but we keep active with the showing of films, slides, potluck suppers, picnics, bus trips, card-playing, bake sales, aebleskiver suppers and the like. These past 52 years have been interesting ones. *Stewart Arnold and Deloris Ross*

#### LODGE #337, FREMONT, CA

Anker Lodge #337 of Fremont, California was chartered April 10, 1965, at the Elks Lodge Building in Fremont.

It was a gala affair attended by a large crowd of Danes from everywhere. Starting membership was 28, and the first President was Anker Back Christensen (in Danish circles better

known as A.B.C.).

In the preceding months A.B.C. had contacted area Danes and held several meetings at his home. It was only natural that the new lodge was named Anker Lodge in his honor. Until his death in October 5, 1968, he was the mainspring of our lodge and his untimely departure was sorely felt.

Annual activities of Anker lodge include Christmas parties, masquerade balls, Fastselavs and St. Hans Midsummer parties.

Anker Lodge, over the years, has entered floats in the local city celebrations and has won several awards. At Christmas our lodge participated in city sponsored bazaars; displaying and selling Danish Christmas decorations, homemade Danish Christmas cookies and Advents wreaths, produced and donated by Anker Lodge members.

#### LODGE #342, BUCKS CO., PA

At a grand charter banquet on November 22, 1975, Bucks County Lodge #342, The Viking Lodge, officially became the first lodge in the East to be established in almost a quarter of a century. The installation of the officers and members was performed by National President George Godthaab with Vice-President George Jacobsen as conductor.

This event climaxed an idea initiated by John Hinrichsen, area representative, and several members of the Philadelphia Lodge #172, living in Bucks County. Armed with a list of potential members, John Hinrichsen initiated a gen-

eral meeting in June of that year. With more than 30 people at the meeting it was agreed that there was indeed a need for a lodge in our area.

John Hinrichsen called for an organizational meeting in early September at the home of Gyda Jensen. A slate of officers was appointed and plans were initiated with the goal of holding the first general meeting on the third Friday of October. A committee was formed to locate a suitable meeting hall. And so with \$10 in our treasury and some borrowed cash, invitations went out for our first meeting in October.

About 35 people came to this first meeting. The first slate of officers was accepted. They were: Niels Malmquist, President; Geert Pedersen, Vice-President; Betty Jensen, Secretary; Melanie Madsen, Treasurer; Gyda Jensen, Assistant Secretary; Warren Jensen, Conductor; with William Madsen, Julius Jensen and Carl Abjornson as Trustees.

The lodge received its charter on November 22nd at a banquet attended by some 85 people



— the capacity of our hall. In accepting the charter for the lodge, President, Niels Malmquist said: "Today we are a small lodge, but trust us, for tomorrow we will be an important influence on all Americans with a Danish heritage".

In January of 1977 Geert Pedersen took the Presidency and led it with his charm and personality. And in 1979 the gavel went to Julius Jensen who, in his very organized and methodical way, has kept the reputation of the lodge on the right track. Elected for 1981, is Walter Nielsen, a jovial, story-telling individual who is promising to keep the members active and very interested.

Our first Secretary, Betty Jensen, stepped down in favor of Joan Nielsen, Walter's wife, in 1981. But without question, Betty Jensen has been of the utmost importance in holding the lodge together for the first 5 years.

Melanie Madsen has held the Treasurer's job since the beginning and has seen our treasury grow significantly. Her contribution to our lodge has certainly been second to none. From that initial \$10 in our treasury, the lodge has today,

five years later, increased its assets to more than \$4,000.

All our members must be given credit, too, for it has been their enthusiasm and contributions that have kept the lodge flourishing, and it is they who will continue to perpetuate our order.

The future stability of THE VIKING LODGE has been well secured. The beginning of an expansion program has been initiated with the lodge has been well-recognized among the other Eastern Lodges for its contributions and its active part in all Danish Brotherhood affairs. *Niels Malmquist*

#### MICHIGAN-OHIO DISTRICT

Representatives of several Michigan lodges met in Ludington, Michigan in June of 1926 and established the lower Michigan District of The Danish Brotherhood Society.

The first District Convention was held in Greenville, Michigan in September, 1926.

In 1931, lodges from Ohio joined the District and the name was changed to the Michigan-Ohio District.



Over the years, according to the minutes of past conventions, the main concern of delegates at these conventions seemed to be finding ways to better the Brotherhood and also to increase the overall membership in The Danish Brotherhood. This feeling still holds true today.

District Conventions are held annually and hosted by participating lodges on a rotating basis. Our conventions are held in conjunction with Danish Sisterhood Lodges in our area. We still keep close ties with the Danish Sisterhood.

In 1979, the District began a scholarship program and currently awards two \$125.00 scholarships each year. The recipients of these awards are college students who are the sons or daughters of Brotherhood members or members themselves of The Danish Brotherhood.

District activities include: A baseball outing in Detroit, Michigan; a fishing trip in Muskegon, Michigan and a District Bowling Tournament — the first of which was held in Ludington, Michigan in 1981. All of the above activities have been instituted during the past two years.

In addition to the above activities, the Greenville, Michigan Lodge is always active in their city's "Danish Days" Festival which is held in August of each year.

The Michigan-Ohio District is a relatively small district but we are trying to be more active and hopefully the above mentioned activities are just a start towards more activities on a district level.

Best of all, by being active at a district level we have made new friends and have found that we do indeed have a common goal — to work together to try to improve The Danish Brotherhood in America and at the same time, have fun doing it. *Robert Sorensen*

#### MIDWEST DISTRICT

The Midwest District was organized by the merging of two districts: Wisconsin-Upper Michigan and Illinois-Indiana.

In 1951 a three-man committee was selected by each of the two districts to work out the details required to bring about the merger.

From Illinois the committee consisted of Soren Miller from Lodge #35, Peter Nielsen from Lodge #182 and Einar Danielsen from Lodge #92. From Wisconsin it was Pete Jensen from Lodge #4, Martin Jensen from Lodge #14 and John Jacobsen from Lodge #36.

This committee organized a joint convention in Kenosha in 1952 and the merger was finalized and received unanimous support from all delegates present.

The first President elected to lead the new district was Einar Danielsen from Lodge #92, St. Charles.

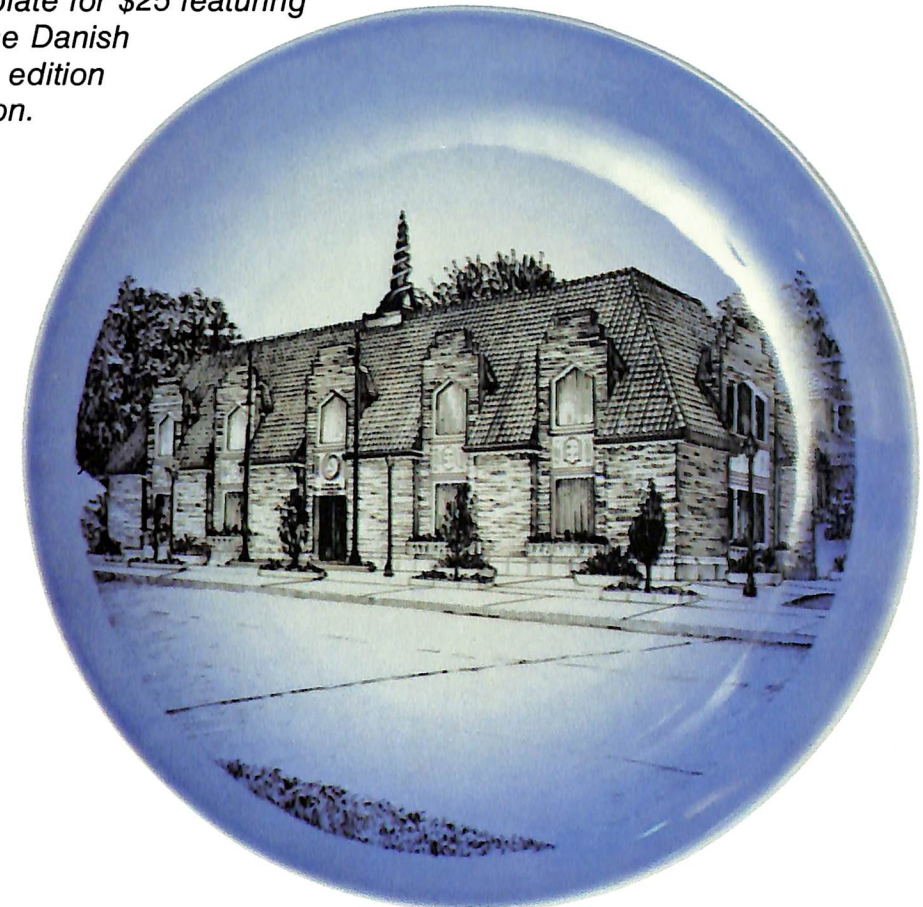
In 1955, after a number of years of intra-lodge bowling events, the District sponsored its first Annual Bowling Tournament. During 1976, through devoted and determined efforts of Flemming Andersen and Robert Ibsen, other annually sponsored events were added; i.e., Golf Tourney, 22-caliber Target Shoot, 12 gauge Trap Shoot, and Picnic.

The Midwest District has a scholarship fund and program providing up to 2 to 3 scholarships per year.

The object of the Midwest District is to foster better fraternal friendship among its lodges; to bind these lodges closely together; to hold annual meetings conducted by representatives or delegates of its lodges, for promoting Danish Brotherhood in harmony with the National Board to increase the mutual assistance and strength of the District and other districts.

The Midwest District welcomes all lodges from the geographic Midwest States, i.e., Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to participate with it and join in its endeavors and activities. *Richard Christensen*

During our centennial year, you are invited to purchase a special Bing & Grondahl plate for \$25 featuring the National Headquarters Building of The Danish Brotherhood in America. This is a limited edition which will fit beautifully into your collection.



Danish Brotherhood Centennial Banquet  
Saturday, May 1, 1982  
Red Lion Inn  
Omaha, Nebraska





**The Danish Brotherhood in America**

*P.O. Box 31748, 3717 Harney Street, Omaha, NE 68131*