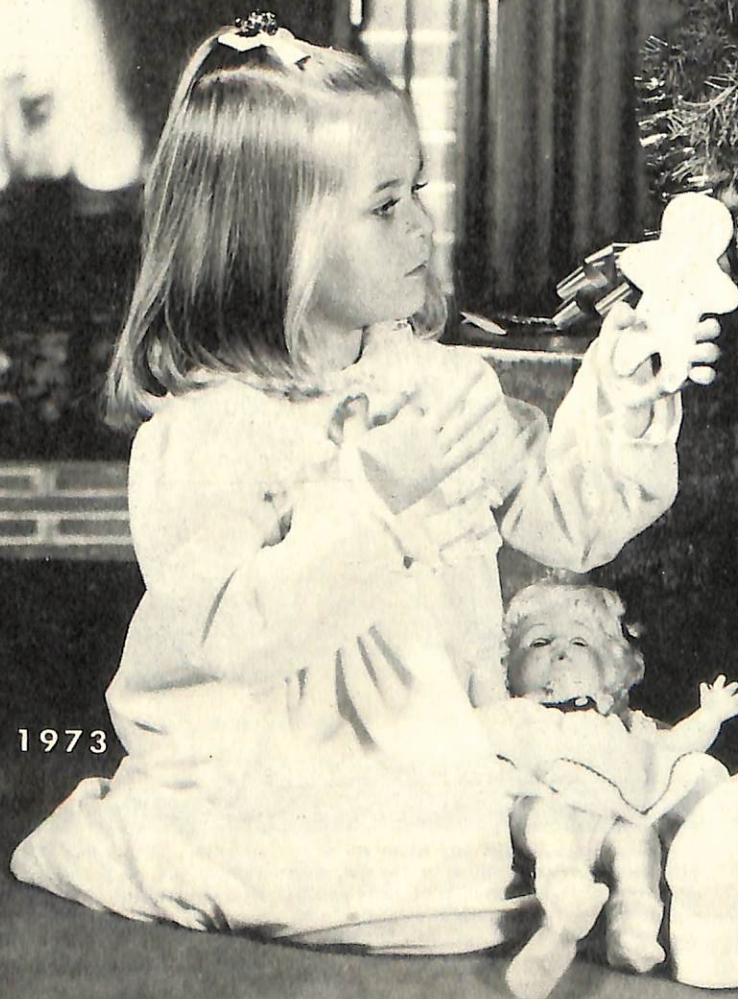


American Dane



magazine

DECEMBER 1973





Merry Christmas

Vol. LVIII December 1973 No. 12

In This Issue:

DENMARK'S CHRISTMAS "NISSE"

4

ANNUAL BOARD REPORT

5

OUR NEW MEMBERS

9

DANISH CHRISTMAS HEART

10

OUR READERS WRITE

13

FRATERNAL PROTECTION

17

The objects of the Brotherhood are to: (1.) Encourage its members in their fidelity to the constitution and laws of the country, in which they live, whether it be the United States of America, Denmark or the Dominion of Canada. (2.) Perpetuate memories and traditions from Denmark for the benefit of future generations in America. (3.) Render aid to its members and their dependents whenever illness, disability or death may befall its members or their dependents. (4.) Assist unemployed members in securing employment. (5.) Provide and maintain a fund for the payment of such sums, as may be stipulated by law, to the surviving beneficiary or beneficiaries of every insured member or person. Rules governing the administration and maintenance of the insurance fund are prescribed in the by-laws of this society. (6.) Conduct its affairs, as a fraternal benefit society, in the manner of the subordinate lodge system.

the American Dane magazine



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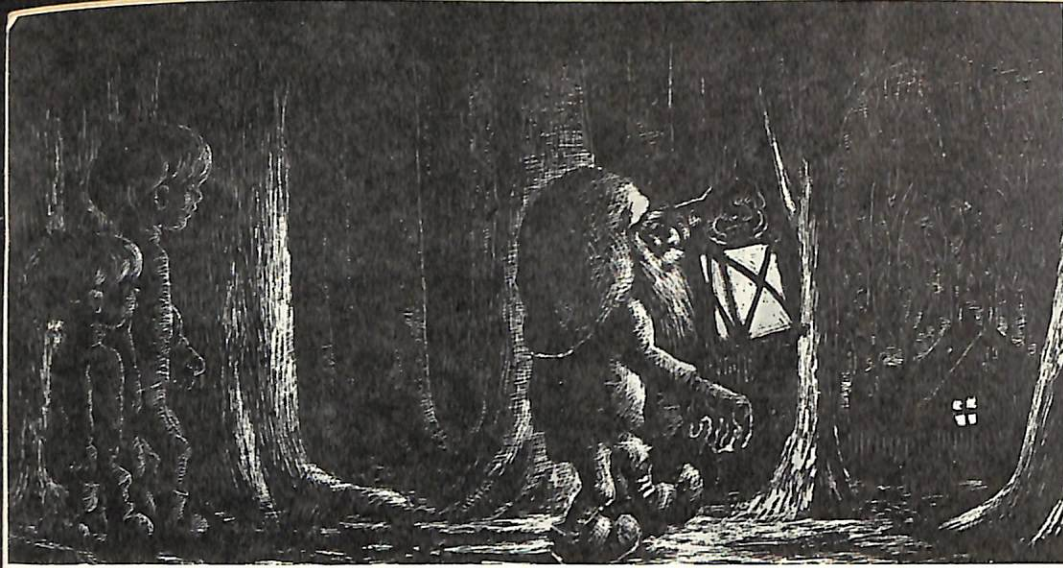
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NATIONAL BOARD OF OFFICERS

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Love, happiness and inspiration are what most of us seek and find at this time of year. During this beautiful season each of us has the opportunity to regain the joy, peace and laughter that shines in the eyes of a young child as he gazes on a Christmas tree. The deeper religious significance of Christmas should serve to fill each of our hearts with a hope for tomorrow as bright as the star that hovered over Bethlehem on that very first blessed Christmas.



tradictory origins; he may well have been all things to the one who understood and needed no explanations.

It befell him perhaps as it has befallen brighter gods than he. When new ones came in and their power had to be bolstered, the old ones had to turn about and become devils. From recent times we know that the nisse is not unrelated to the Devil himself. Nis is identical with Niels; and in Danish we call the Devil Old Niels.

Festival before the darkness

Certainly Christmas is a Christian festival, and we celebrate the birth of

DENMARK'S CHRISTMAS NISSE

For centuries it was a Danish custom on Christmas Eve to put porridge out for the nisse, an ancient and mysterious creature.

Text and drawings by Ib Spang Olsen

The nisse is old but agile; not big, but strong. A gruff greybeard, not without humour; of simple ways; unassuming and helpful where respected, but grumpy and perhaps a little bit dangerous when disregarded. His homespun clothes, breeches and smock of unbleached wool, are grey, the cap red. This is what you see as he vanishes before your eyes. He is ancient, 4,000 years old or thereabouts; he cannot remember, everything being so long ago to a nisse. He is perhaps rather rheumatical after his long, cold nights in sheds and barns, but is still a robust fellow.

One has seen pictures of nisse women, even nisse girls, with bare legs. This is a nisse-genetical absurdity; nisser are not females, no family affair; indeed no.

Bad times for Christmas Nisser

He has been a nisse a long time, a Christmas nisse for not so long; a hundred years or so. Nowadays one sees many, incredibly many, Christmas nisser in December. No doubt that is why their circumstances are now so reduced that they have to have a regular job carrying billboards, selling neckties in department stores, and recommending toys that all too quickly break. The role does not seem to suit him. Why does he have to push Christmas sales? Why is he a Christmas nisse, indeed why a nisse at all? The bells ring for Christmas, but nobody has ever seen a nisse kneel before the infant Jesus. He scarcely belongs on that side.

The history of the nisse is lost in the pagan past; and like everything else from those obscure times, we cannot assume anything at all definite about it. At the same time, the daemonic in the wintry

gloom of our remote ancestors can strike answering chords in many of us.

Ruled domestic fortune

For though formerly the nisse was a farm dweller, a figure invisible or only rarely seen in a family's house, a household spirit controlling domestic fortunes and so present all the year round, he came to belong especially to mid-winter. He came to belong to that Yule (not to be confused with Christmas) that is ancient and deeply pagan, and so darkly benighted a Northman hardly dare believe there will ever be any sunshine again.

The farm dweller was perhaps the spirit that inhabited every house with a hearth. Perhaps he was the forefather who, dead and buried in the mound in the field, nevertheless ensured that all went on according to life's laws. Something in his character seems to suggest this: helpful as long as he had his own way; otherwise snappish like any other unregarded pensioner. He was one of the powers; one from the other side. Some see in him a household god, a relic of ancestor worship; others, the Devil himself. Only we see the incompatibility of these apparently con-

Christ at that time. But there was Yule before there was Christmas or Christianity. There are those who think that the word 'Yule' (in Danish, jul) means 'wheel,' the sun's wheel, the solstice, or seasonal cycle. One celebrated — and we still celebrate — the return of light. But at the back of this a wise old scholar has discerned an ancient festival of darkness; of the dead, and the darkness that envelops them and threatens us all. At Christmas-time, the dead hold their meetings; at Christmas-tide they are commemorated and receive small offerings on their graves, or wherever they are thought to reside. This festival of death has been worldwide since ancient times, a modern form of it being the Catholic All Souls' Day. Perhaps we have a tiny relic of this in the greater solicitude for the nisse at Christmas.

On lots of Christmas cards

It is less than fifty years since porridge — the ancient dish only abandoned as a staple food by the present generation — ceased to be put out for the nisse on Christmas night, a situation illustrated now on lots of Christmas cards. Although few people had seen him, they were enough for us all to know what he looks like; perhaps the beard has grown longer and the legs shorter since I last saw him.

On Christmas night, when the dead were about, all living things had to keep indoors. Anybody who stayed out might be carried off by the Asgaardsrejsen, a surging train of dead souls which swept through the land, headed by the god of death himself, Odin. They were the nisse's kinsmen. No one would venture out of doors until some time after midnight, men bearing blazing torches, going out to meet the new sun; in later times, to gather in church for Christmas Mass, an event of such importance that it gave its name to

(Continued on page 9)



REPORT TO MEMBERS OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING



The National Board of Officers held their annual meeting in the National Headquarters September 28 through October 1, 1973. All Board members were present. Einar Danielsen, George Godthaab, and George Jacobsen had enjoyed trips to Denmark since the last meeting. Each board member gave a report of his activities since the semi-annual meeting held last spring.

Much interest has been generated concerning the question of whether The Danish Brotherhood should require members to purchase life insurance protection. This subject will be an important issue at our 29th National Convention to be held in Denver, Colorado in 1975. Examples of questions which must be answered prior to convention so that delegates may evaluate properly the impact such a change would have on The Danish Brotherhood include:

1) Can we have an optional insurance program and still qualify as a fraternal benefit society under the Internal Revenue Service code?

2) What amendments to our Articles of Incorporation and Constitution and By-laws must be made to change to a successful, optional insurance program?

3) How are life insurance certificate-

holders' interests protected under a voluntary life insurance program? Many state laws prohibit social members from voting on insurance matters.

4) Who are eligible to serve as Board members and what type of organizational structure must we have?

5) What will the impact of an optional insurance program be on the Home Office and our lodges?

6) How will we be able to function financially: For example, Home Office expenses, convention expenses, fraternal fund resources, etc?

7) Will we have to revise our dues structure?

8) What will be the impact of a dues revision?

These questions and many other legal and technical questions must be answered before the Board can make recommendations to the delegates at the 1975 Convention. The Board passed a resolution authorizing an in-depth study of the optional insurance question, conferring with our legal counsel, actuary, and state insurance department personnel, to enable the Board to make positive, constructive recommendations.

Agency Department Consultant John Dressler, was in the Home Office while

the Board was in session and participated in one of the meetings. Mr. Dressler reported that final work had been completed on the new rate manual. Development of sales material and instructions for new representatives was underway, which included packaged rate and value plan cards, training kits and supplies for our representatives.

A new publication, Harbour Highlights, has been initiated as a method of regular communication with our representatives. Work is progressing on the development of contracts and compensation schedules for part-time, career, and regional managers. Also discussed were recruiting programs and objectives through which additional representatives for Danish Brotherhood membership sales would be obtained. The Board discussed the negative attitude many lodge members have toward the purchase of Danish Brotherhood life insurance. This attitude has been developed over a period of time and is not easily removed but is rather difficult to understand. It is through the vehicle of DB life insurance that our many fraternal programs are financed. We must emphasize that progress for Danish Brotherhood local lodges can only be

(Continued on page 20)



Michigan, Ohio

Lodge No. 227, Detroit, Mich. — On October 6th several members of No. 227 and their wives had the pleasure of greeting approximately 75 farmers who were visiting the United States and Canada from all areas of Denmark. Werner Walther, who is the Vice-President of Lodge No. 227, was the chairman of the arrangements for the evening. The visitors were entertained at the St. Peters Danish Church in Detroit. We were all served coffee and Danish cake by the ladies aid of the church. Pastor Peter Thomsen had a few words of greeting for our visitors as did Werner. They had an advantage over many of us as they speak Danish. We had a very pleasant evening talking with these people and finding out a little more about each other.

On October 10th Lodge No. 227 initiated three more brothers into our society. They are as follows: Thomas Dreaver, Helmer Beck and Jan Jensen. President Harold Capion conducted the ceremonies, after which Past President Moose Larsen welcomed the new brothers to the lodge and the Danish Brotherhood.

The second meeting of the month was held on October 24th, but there was not much business to conduct so the 35 brothers in attendance had a short business meeting and then a bottle of beer before going home. In the lodge drawing the name of Eric Molvang was called but he was not present to collect so the pot continues to grow.

By the time this article is published Lodge No. 227 will have celebrated its 68th birthday with a dinner dance at the Danish Club of Detroit. If past practice holds true, I am sure everyone in attendance at this party will have a great time.

Robert Sorensen, Correspondent.

Our Lodges in Action

Lodge No. 301, Akron, Ohio — We celebrated our 60th anniversary with a dinner dance October 6th. National President Einar Danielsen did us the honor of coming from St. Charles, Illinois to be our guest speaker. Our President Robert Williams bid everyone welcome and Walter Madsen, who was our first juvenile member 21 years ago and now lives in Springfield, Ohio, gave the invocation.

Canton Lodge No. 225 was well represented with 13 people and there were 11 from Lodge No. 170 Rocky River. Secretary Bentzen from No. 170 told us they would be celebrating their 70th anniversary the following Saturday, October 13 and hoped many of us would help them celebrate.



Photograph taken at speaker's table: Seated from left are, R. Thayer, treasurer; Mrs. Williams and Mr. Williams, our president; E. Madsen, secretary; Einar Danielsen, National President; Ruth Madsen and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Petersen, president, Canton Lodge No. 225.

The door prize, a 1970 B & G Christmas Plate, went with Mr. and Mrs. Gundersen to Cleveland and the flowers from the speaker's table went to Mrs. Jean Petersen from Canton who had the lucky number. A total of 76 young and old seemed to enjoy the party.

E. Madsen, Secretary.

Lodge No. 51, Ludington, Michigan — On Thursday evening, October 11 Lodge No. 51 held their regular monthly business meeting at the Danish Hall, conducted by President Al Seguin. Following the business meeting the "Tony The Bartender Special" was awarded to Brother Art Fredericks. Brother Alf (who?) Larsen was the lucky winner of the jackpot, so now we must start all over. Brother Howard Barber was our chef for the lunch afterward.

On Wednesday evening October 17, Lodge No. 51 held their regular monthly Pinochle Party with Treasurer Al Garcia and Inside Guard Lars Christoffersen in charge. Following the games prizes were awarded and a potluck lunch was served by the committee with Mrs. Lena Hansen and Mrs. J.M. Jeppesen assisting.

On Thursday evening, October 25, we held our monthly social event. Brother Don Wagner was awarded the "Tony Special". Brother Gilbert Larsen would have been awarded the jackpot but as he was not present, the pot will grow larger.

Get-Well wishes go to our Brother Dick Enbody who is in Mason County Hospital at this time. Our lunch afterward was prepared by Treasurer Al Garcia who had prepared baked potatoes and fried fish for the occasion.

Alf Larsen, Correspondent.

Lodge No. 30, Muskegon, Michigan — We have had the last of our outdoor events for this year. There have been quite a few get-togethers this past year. Now we will plan on having a few social meetings at our homes, as the wives enjoy coming.

We had a very nice turn-out at our business and social meetings in October. Art Burkall and Bob Bolhuis were in charge of social affairs. At our regular meeting, we were served a nice sandwich supper, and on our social meeting, we were served fish from a local restaurant. We really enjoyed our social meeting, as Mr. Stan Robinson from Consumers Power Company gave a picture-talk show on the hydro plant at Ludington, Michigan. It was really educational as well as interesting.

This next month we are having a perch fry. We already have the fish, so we should have a great time. Hope all of you have a nice trip deer hunting.

Clayton Hansen, Secretary.



**Connecticut, New York,
Vermont, New Jersey,
Pennsylvania,
Rhode Island
(Eastern Lodges)**

Lodge No. 32, New Haven, Conn. — On January 2, 1974, the brothers and sisters are having a joint installation as in past years. We hope this one will be very enjoyable. Hope to see you there. Brother Phillip Petersen is still on the sick list at the present time in the hospital.

This will be my last news letter this year. The officers of Lodge No. 32 wish you all a happy holiday season.

Chris Simonsen, Secretary.

Lodge No. 71, Penn Yan, New York — We had a great turnout at our annual dinner at Dresden Hotel but the fond memories are saddened by the loss of one of our hardest working brothers, Paul Christiansen, 75, who died November 13 at S.S. Hospital. Brother Paul was always working for the Brotherhood that he joined in 1922, and was well known through the eastern lodges.

Also a long time member of St. Paul's Church and a great worker for the church, Paul was born in Holstebro, Denmark but spent most of his life in Yates County. He retired from farming a few years ago and was a member of Penn Yan Kiwanis Club. He leaves his wife, Agnes, six sons and four daughters. Our sincere condolences go to all the Christiansens.

Laurids S. Pedersen, Correspondent.

Lodge No. 102, Providence, Rhode Island — Congratulations and good luck to Brother and Mrs. Asbjorn Guldhaug on the arrival of a new baby girl in their home on November 5th. Their first.

Sister Lillian Gill and young son Brendan are on an extended visit with her folks in Herning Denmark. We just know they'll have a grand time. She is the wife of President William Gill.

Sister Edith Rasmussen entered R.I. Hospital on October 16th for an operation on her knee. Glad to hear that she's getting along fine.

Brother Raymond Lauridsen passed away on October 10th after a long illness. We extend deepest sympathy to his wife Alice.

Brother Erling Braumann has been assigned by the Home Office as a part-time representative in making Brotherhood membership effective. All questions regarding insurance and other fraternal benefits will be cheerfully given by him and the undersigned.

From all of us to all of you, — Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

Carl W. Sorensen, Secretary.

Lodge No. 116, Springfield, New York — Our lodge's Christmas party for the young and not so young will be held on December 23, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. This year it is right at Christmas time and should fit right into the holiday spirit.

The president's dinner dance on October 27, was again a very nice party with good attendance. Thanks to the committee for all their work in arranging this party and it is a lot of work. How often do we go to these affairs and enjoy ourselves and then go home and that's it. But I always remember that these parties don't just happen, they are arranged and it does entail work. So if we keep harping for you to come out and support your lodge this is one of the main reasons.

Poul N. Iversen, Secretary.

Lodge No. 172, Philadelphia, Penn. — Christmas Party: Don't forget the Christmas Banquet on Saturday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. The place will be at the American Swedish Historical Society on Pattison Avenue. It will be a real old-fashioned Danish Christmas.

And again, if you want to help at the decoration party on Friday, December 14th, please call Ea Keegan or Nick Knudsen.

Children's Christmas Party will be held on the following day. That is Sunday, December 16th, also at the Swedish Museum. The time is 1:30 p.m. There will be some lively entertainment. The committee wants to know who is coming. Call Henny Janco at 463-8276 or

Sussie Hansell at 724-8062 with names and ages of your children.

Hanne Bell is back in town and now lives in Devon, Pa. We hope you will all help us make her welcome back with her friends . . . Knud Koefoed's niece, helle, has been visiting for the summer months. She is a daughter of Knud's sister in Denmark . . . Welcome to our new members, Rita and Svend Nielsen who were initiated at our October meeting.

The Lief Ericson Society. Have you heard of it? Only eight months old, it promises to be one of the liveliest societies to hit the Philadelphia scene in many years. The society celebrated Leif Ericson Day on October 9th by laying a wreath at the statue of Thorfinn Karlsefni on the East River Drive. The wreath, of course, was made of wheat and grapes. The night before, 24 Danes were among the witnesses to the presentation of "Lief's" sword at a dinner at the Viking Inn. You too can join for a dollar by calling LE 4-1456. Sign up now and help stamp out all the nonsense about late comer Columbus.

A Folk Fair meeting was held on September 25 to make plans for our participation in the Philadelphia affair next April.

George Clausen, Secretary.

Lodge No. 190, Schenectady New York — Prior to our meeting Wednesday, October 3rd, we had a good Smoked Ham Dinner, served by Lawrence Jones of the House of Haiku. We had a good turnout at this Dinner.

The Sick Committee reported that Ole Hansen was back in Ellis Hospital for a check-up.

Al Jensen is still in V.A. Hospital in Albany, but Al is doing good and expects to be home soon.

Svend Munck is recuperating at home, and is doing better. We wish them all well.

Wednesday, October 17th was supposed to be a birthday party, but none of the brothers who had birthdays in October were present, so it was decided that the Lodge furnish a bottle of snaps for the dinner. We had a fine chicken dinner with all the trimmings, and it was served by Marie Strom.

After dinner we had our meeting upstairs. A report was given about our outing at George Severson's camp. This year was the third time that we had been invited to George's camp, and we all had a good time, with plenty of food and refreshments. Two good brothers, Walter Christensen and Pete Sorensen volunteered to be bartenders, and they did a very fine job — nobody was running dry or out of food. Thanks, Brothers, We had 16 brothers at the party, and enjoyed a fine day. The weather was beautiful, and the sights from George's big window was just lovely. Yours truly took many pictures, and luckily, they all came out good. As I understand it, we are already invited to come again next year, but that will be, we hope, at Judge Severson's camp. As you all know, George is up for election for Surrogate Judge.

At our meeting we again had a discussion about moving from the old Danish Hall. We find that this owner does not keep the place as clean as we are used to, and that the bar service is terrible. It was decided that we go outside and have our meetings at different places in November. So our next meeting will be held at the Carlton Restaurant on Becker Street, November 7th. At that time, we will announce where we will have our second meeting in November. If you want to attend our second meeting, you can call me and I will let you know where that meeting will be held.

At our next two meetings we will have nominations for officers for 1974, and the first meeting in December will be Election Night.

It was suggested that our Secretary send a birthday

card to Brothers who have birthdays in each month, and ask them to come to the Birthday Party. Let us see if we can get more members to celebrate their birthdays together with us.

Chris Beiring, Secretary.

Lodge No. 325, Long Island, New York — Our host for the November smorgasbord will be Maurice and Joan Gruber and Martin and Vivi Hansen. In December it will be Hans Juergensen, Evelyn Ramano, Rita Nielsen and Lili Goldstein on the refreshment committee. Andespil was planned for one of our November meetings. The winners brought home a goose or perhaps a turkey. "Mortens Aften" was on Saturday so it would be very appropriate to bring a goose, turkey or duck to celebrate this occasion.

At our October meeting Kai Mogensen's application for membership was unanimously accepted and we expect to initiate this new member soon pending approval by the head office. George Jacobsen won the jackpot and Bill Stephensen the bottle of snaps. Aren't we lucky. The jackpot is back to \$5.00.

We hope to continue our chess activity at our next meeting, requesting all enthusiasts to bring their chess sets to begin the winter games. We appeal especially to beginners to improve their skill. Finess comes only by play!

The lodges 47th anniversary will be celebrated Saturday evening, December 1 in the Baldwin Yacht Club, South Main Sreet, Freeport. It will be a catered Smorgasbord affair. Due to limited space members and their spouses have priority. After that relatives and friends may be invited. See Hans Pedersen for reservations. Tickets are \$7.50 per person.

In December we will have nomination and election of officers for 1974 . . . our last meeting of the year and perhaps the most important one.

Bill Steffensen, Secretary.



**Washington-Oregon
British Columbia
(Pacific Northwest)**

DB 113 Enumclaw this year paid tribute to their fifty year members which included two very active brothers and long-time officers —

Nis Hansen joining in Jackson, Minnesota (1923) and Jens Holm (also 1923); three members joined the great lodge above during the summer with the passing of Brothers Bonde Bondesen, Fred Petersen and Louie Wohlman; the Hoilands and the Gundersons have been entertaining Sofie Bollingtoft from Vejle, Denmark; Past President Kai and Beulah Rasmussen vacationed in



Nis Hansen (left) and Jens Holm

(Continued on page 15)



New Member	Location	Sponsor
Gerda Coulter	Council Bluffs (10) ..	Gustav Axelsen
Orren Coulter	Council Bluffs (10) ..	Gustav Axelsen
Oscar Jorgensen	Council Bluffs (10) ..	Gustav Axelsen
Earl Foster	Council Bluffs (10) ..	Gustav Axelsen
Brian E. Grunberg	Council Bluffs (10) ..	Gustav Axelsen
Peter J. Kavalialiskas ...	Kenosha (14)	Roger Sorensen
David Alan Jensen	Kenosha (14)	Robert Ibsen
Helen J. Richardson	Minden (16)	Herbert Nielsen
Christ J. Wakild	Chicago (35)	Carl Meyer
Michael Roskos	Perth Amboy (46)	H. Mathiasen
Andrea C. Neve	Albert Lea (75)	Alton Neve
Kristen A. Anderson	Albert Lea (75)	Otto Thompson
Leo Gonzales	Los Angeles (126)	Alfred Munck
Ann Borgisen	New York (164) ..	Robert Rasmussen
Carla Olsen	New York (164)	Martin Olsen
Harold Mikkelsen	Detroit (227)	Paul Christensen
Soren T. Pedersen	Detroit (227)	Tage Guldbrandsen
Bjarne Jacobsen	Santa Barbara (322) ..	Eric Jorgensen
Kai Mogensen	Nassau County (325) ...	Egon Larsen
Alice Hegedus	Omaha (600)	Norman Jensen
Holger Jensen	Omaha (600) ...	Howard Christensen
Barbara Ann Petersen ...	Omaha (700)	Howard Petersen

Demmark's Christmas Nisse

(Continued from page 4)

the English Christmas and caused it to be celebrated the morning after Christmas night. The German name — Weihnachten — seems to suggest that chief importance was attached to the night itself.

Christmas Nisse and Santa Claus

But times change and customs become modified, and now the nisse is no more than a nursery figure and a top seller in department stores. Here he has a rival for the children's favours. This is the Julemand; and it can be difficult, even for grown-ups, to distinguish between the two. Chiefly they are known by their size. And then the Julemand is far better known abroad — as the Weihnachtsmann and Santa Clause or Father Christmas. There was never much initiative in the nisse; he is a Scandinavian stay-at-home. There is a lot more 'go' in Santa Claus; the Americans, with their respect for transportation, have been fascinated by his journeyings across the Arctic, the world's first trans-polar route. Santa Clause has many resemblances to the nisse, in his beard and clothes, though he cannot wear clogs in snow; but they are not related. The nisse is a sprite (an elf); Santa Clause, a saint.

Yet there are those who maintain that the nisse is more related to the Julemand than the Julemand is related to Santa Claus. For what does the Julemand do on Christmas night? Does he not speed through the air across the icy waste, drawn by eight legs? Cold he, behind his cozy cotton-wool beard, in fact be Odin incarnate, on his eight-legged horse?

But that is another story, and perhaps not altogether a true one. The truth is that the nisse, at Christmas at least, is a fully manifest reality to children and childlike souls, as well as to

everyone else who goes shopping for Christmas; and so he will be for a long time to come, until one day he gives up his job in the shop and goes off alone to where he came from.

Special Tape Offer Expires on February 1

If the Danish language tapes have not exactly "set the world on fire", we're not too concerned because they have certainly started a large glow of enthusiasm in many parts of it.

Within the few short months they have been available to our members, the tapes have been sent to almost all of the 50 states as well as Denmark, Canada, and South Africa.

These Danish language tape kits come in a beautiful blue vinyl binder with an authentic Danish-English dictionary enclosed and may be obtained by simply clipping the handy order coupon/post card found in this issue of "American Dane" and returning it to the home office along with a check or money order for \$19.95.

Yes, the tapes are still only \$19.95 but beginning February 1 we will be forced to raise the price to \$24.95 because of increased production costs to us. So, don't wait until it's too late. Clip the coupon and order your Danish language tapes now!

SECTION 7, PARAGRAPH 3 [b] — Payment authorized in the laws of the society under one or more of the laws following Section 5, Paragraph 4 and/or Section 6, Paragraph 1; Section 6, Paragraph 2; Section 14, Paragraph 2, is hereby published: October:

Einar Danielsen — Salary \$236.35. For attending Board Meeting in Omaha, Nebr. — Transportation — \$84.52 Per Diem — \$150.00.

Kristen Jorgensen — For attending Board Meeting in Omaha, Nebr. Transportation \$203.28 — Per Diem — \$150.00.

George Godthaab — For attending Board Meeting in Omaha, Nebr. Transportation — \$176.55 — Per Diem \$150.00.

George Jacobsen — For attending Board Meeting in Omaha, Nebr. Transportation — \$175.91 — Per Diem \$150.00.

Byron W. Petersen — For attending Board Meeting in Omaha, Nebr. Transportation — \$112.46 — Per Diem — \$150.00.

Donald B. Moon — Representing Board at Midwest District Convention — Transportation \$13.60 — Per Diem \$50.00. For attending Board Meeting in Omaha, Nebr. — Transportation \$91.28 — Per Diem — \$150.00.

Svend A. Sonderup — Representing the Board of Officers at Nebraska General Committee Convention — Transportation \$76.27 — Per Diem — \$50.00. For attending Annual Board Meeting in Omaha, Nebr. Transportation — \$93.27 — Per Diem — \$150.00.

Thought for the Month

Ask thyself, daily, to how many ill-minded persons thou hast shown a kind disposition.

—Marcus Antoninus.

HOW TO MAKE:

The Christmas Heart - A Beautiful Danish Tradition

Every Danish home has — somewhere — one or two large, mysterious and lightweight cardboard boxes which are brought forward into the daylight just once a year. These are where the family keeps its Christmas decorations. One evening late in December, when the Scandinavian nights have become long and dark, the boxes will be fetched from their hiding place and brought to the paper-covered dining table, where scissors and paste, adhesive tape and staple machines, red ribbon and lots of other exciting bits and pieces are already waiting. And where the family — particularly the children — are ready to set to work.

What you find on the Christmas tree

With happy noises of recognition — equally enthusiastic each year — Mummy, Daddy and the children carefully inspect all the familiar and favourite decorations that make our Christmas tree so special. There are multicoloured paper cones and hearts made of glazed paper, baskets in the shape of animals, silver bells and golden stars, angels and tinsel, tiny galleons made of empty walnut shells, birds, squirrels and deer — all the woodland animals — made of fir-cones and scraps of wood, and delightful, delicate items of glass, paper and straw. The cardboard boxes contain their own fairytale world, even in the bright

lamplight of an ordinary December evening. With the emotion of warm memory we examine every greasy thumb-print, every singed corner, before starting to repair last year's casualties or cutting out new decorations even more beautiful than the old.

And if family tradition permits, we can nibble a few of the newly baked vanilla biscuits Mummy has just made — and perhaps the older children who can remember the words of the different Christmas carols will sing for their younger brothers or sisters — who can usually just manage the first line of anything. All the while our fingers are busy cutting out, folding, pasting. There's no time to lose, it seems. Even the not-so-nimblefingered are doing a grand job. Maybe Daddy can help with the difficult bits. That's all part of the tradition. In the old Danish poem, 'Peter Christmas', the Victorian father even made the Christmas decorations secretly at his desk in the study:

He's clipping paper every night
But just as soon as I appear
Hides everything from sight.

Hans Andersen and the Christmas Tree

It is a long-standing tradition that the evening the family prepares its tree decorations is the unofficial start of the Yuletide season in Denmark. Hans Christian Andersen, in his tale 'The Christmas

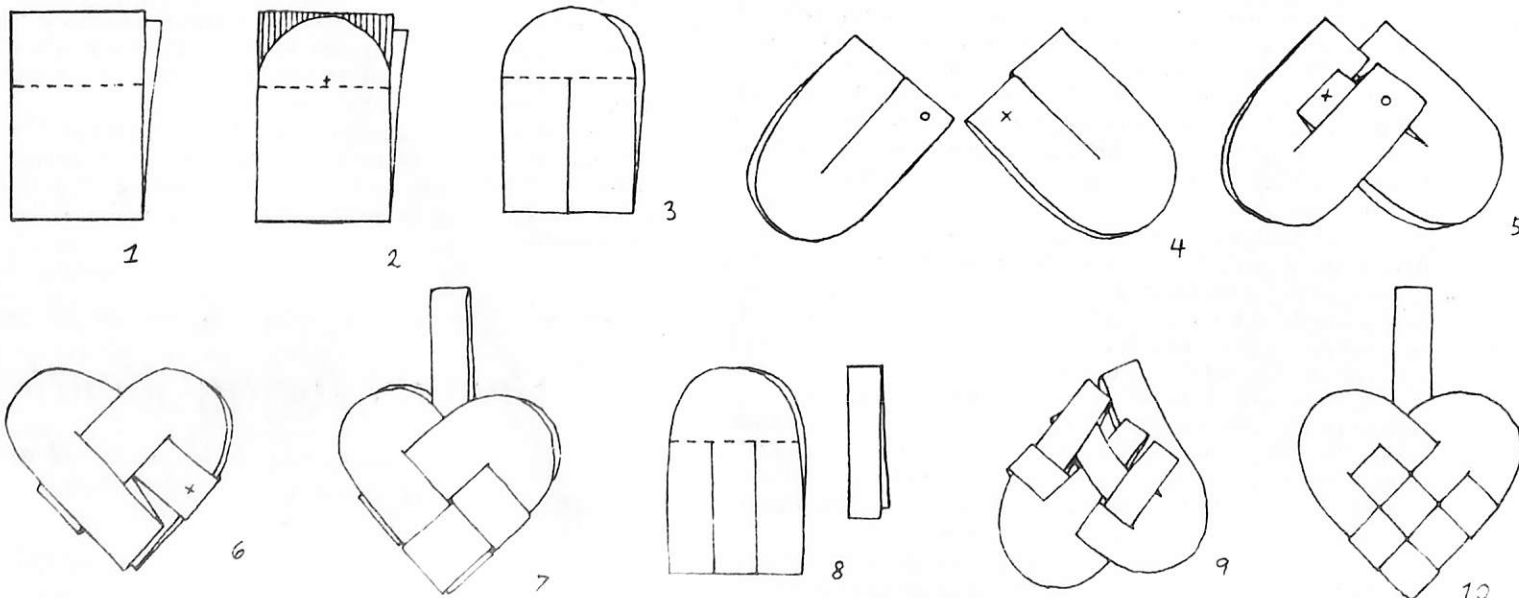
Tree', written in 1845, described the excitement of choosing the tree in the forest, bringing it home and decorating it: '... on one branch there were finely made nets, cut from coloured paper; each net filled with sweets and other goodies; gilded apples and walnuts hung as if they had grown there, and more than a hundred red, blue and white candles were carefully stuck among the branches... and right at the top was placed a star of gold tinsel; it was a magnificent scene, quite unforgettably magnificent.'

The first Danish Christmas tree was illuminated in 1802 at the Holsteinborg

**EVEN THE YOUNGEST
CHILDREN CAN MAKE PA-
PER HEARTS FOR THE
CHRISTMAS TREE.**



estate. The custom reached Denmark from Germany, where decorated fir-trees with candles, sweets, toys, apples and gingerbread had been part of the Christmas scene at the close of the 18th century. There was not much in the way of paper decorations on those early Christmas trees — paper did not really find its way into the tradition until the Victorian age when everything had to be packed so nicely. Paper itself had become more



common and inexpensive; the paper-making machine was introduced to Denmark in 1829, and about this period certain literary circles had quite a fad about paper artistry. Hans Andersen was particularly adept with a scissors, cutting out silhouettes and folding and snipping his way to miniature masterpieces. He very probably made the 'fine nets, cut from coloured paper' himself. And he was also an expert at paper cones and baskets, with silky paper edging.

Interlocked hearts in red and white

Bearing in mind that Hans Andersen often took the heartshape as a popular ornament in his decorative paperwork, it is tempting to guess that he may have been the anonymous inventor of that special Danish Christmas decoration: the interwoven paper heart. It would seem to be peculiar to Denmark. It is nowhere to be seen in the classic German Christmas tree pictured at Wandsbecker Castle in 1796, nor is there evidence of the paper heart in the fine English steel engraving of Victoria and Albert's family Christmas tree in 1848. The Pickwick illustrations do not feature the paper heart — and even the President's enormous Christmas tree in the White House does not bear a single paper heart. The heart is obviously a very Danish Christmas decoration. The traditional heart is in red and white, the colours of the Danish flag. This would indicate its origin in the southern part of Jutland, where the border people have frequently resorted to silent symbols in Danish national colours to show where their hearts lay.

How to make your own paper hearts

Nowadays however we live in a period when we must share our hearts and our know-how with each other. We are therefore about to reveal to the world at large the secret of a most important Danish manufacturing process: how to make paper hearts for your Christmas tree! Of course you **could** simply cut out two circles of glazed paper, fold them in half and glue them together more or less in the shape of a heart. The result is nice, and even the youngest members of the family can cope with the materials. But the art of the genuine Christmas heart is to weave the two pieces together. Follow these instructions, and keep an eye on the drawings:

[1.] You require two pieces of glazed paper, each a different color. The folding and cutting instructions are the same for both pieces: fold each piece in half, coloured side out. From the fold and upwards, mark off a square (to the broken line).

[2.] Taking the top of the square as the diameter, draw a semi-circle above the square with a pair of compasses or by means of something circular (a drinking glass or cup). Cut off the shaded portion.



***Special thanks to Marie Louise Palvdan of the Danish Foreign Ministry for this article.**

[3.] In the two folded pieces of paper cut from the exact middle of the fold up to the top edge of the square.

[4 and 5.] Slide the flap marked 'x' through between the doubled paper at 'o'.

[6.] Pull flap 'x' through and — gently! — hook it over the unused flap on the left-hand half of the heart. The other flap is now hooked over the flap marked 'o', and slid between the parts of the second flap on the left-hand half of the heart.

[7.] The heart is now finished — and should be fitted with a paper handle.

[8, 9 and 10.] A slightly more

complicated heart can be made by cutting twice in from the fold, an equal distance apart. First you weave one flap: hook over, in between, hook over. Then the second: in between, hook over, in between. The third flap is woven in the same way as the first.

You can vary the appearance by making 4 or 6 flaps, or with a wide central flap and two narrow outer flaps, or vice versa. You can even experiment with your own designs. Even with curved lines. The main thing is to enjoy yourselves. And have a Merry Christmas!



Glance Back -and- Look Ahead

Editor's Note: Paul A. Rasmussen, a gifted writer and member of the DB, is a former public relations executive who lived in Chicago, and now resides in Miami, Fla. He is now writing a column for this magazine, under the heading which appears with this article.

(Concluded)

Not too far behind the influence and prestige of the Danish churches in the great Midwest (and for Chicago's Danes the Midwest was then considered roughly everything from Eastern Colorado to Pittsburgh) now came the Danish Brotherhood movement. History will tell you that they had a language problem in those days too. A wee bit different from "modern" America, the DBS members had difficulty getting the English words and writing. My recollection is that everything except the Postal Laws' requirements were in Danish. There was a steady and interesting stream of news of Lodge work and related activity from Racine, Detroit, Askov, Grand-Ashland, Blair, Dannebrog, Omaha, Audubon County Iowa, Dwight, Menominee, Cedar Falls and Solvang.

We kids remember from the earliest years being taken summer and winter to affairs and meetings of the Broder-Lodge both in the Normal Park area and up to the far Northwest side after we got our first family car — an Overland 6 made in Toledo, Ohio in the very same building that was to bring forth the world famous Wyllys "Jeep."

In those towns named above, and a score or two other spots around the nation were established Danish churches, communities, enterprises, co-operatives Lodge Temples, newspapers and printshops, creameries, egg candleries, repair shops, seminaries — and to us at least the best known was the already then prominent Grand View College in Des Moines.

I don't know what ever happened to the Danish movement that at least got started as an adjunct to either church or fraternal society. It was DSU (Danish Sammenslutning Ungdom).

As we raced past childhood days we

might have noticed that the tough young Chicago milk drivers, brick masons, teamsters, painters, who had carried Denmark's banner and the soccer fields — and regularly like the English, the Swedes, the Germans, the Poles and the Slovenians and most others around including Greeks and Scots, were now aging and slowing down and now were winning very few matches if even still having teams. Something was already taking place — maybe — but that's another story — isn't it?

Before the kid days had gone for good there had been the pleasure of meeting and knowing a man named Ove Knudsen. This man must have had a profession or trade — what, I don't know — but his contribution was as a leading producer and director of amateur plays and musicals. How I knew this was because it fell to me to be the one son used by my mother as "prompter" in her preparations and rehearsals for the broad range of character parts she played under Knudsen's guidance and inspiration. Anna B. was usually in the leading adult male role. A natural born actress she was. To packed houses — and to the delight of critics — she probably played her best role as that of an aged, Jute peasant come a courting to a much younger and much richer town widow. Her costuming and her props (all home made) her improvisations and ad libs to the audience not only had everybody in stitches, but her chief fan and mentor, Mr. O.K. himself would lead in the shrieks of approval. For the record, Mr. Knudsen was a refined, articulate and urban genius at his work.

I was to meet many great Danes — including American Danes (a term which I prefer to being a hyphenated American) and here I name (but I do not list) a row of persons in no special order of appearance. Some I might designate as "lowly" in the same way that I can lay no claim to either fame or noble birth. Just to mention about half of them: Enok Mortensen the minister who followed in the footsteps of Rev. Dan at St. Stefan's, and Dr.

Hojbjerg, headmaster at Grand View College. These two were considered leading intellectuals in that time. Emil Oppfer — a Danish journalist who once interviewed me for a Copenhagen daily paper. Laurits Melchior the grand singer, who may or may not be in Heaven. Bob Nelson, Minnesota Farmers Union head, who must certainly have gone to Valhalla. Victor Borge. Had he come along in Anna Rasmussen's best days, they would have been real friends. These two both had deviltry, depth and a doggedness of spirit and heart. Svend Godfredsen — staunch union leader and journalist, with whom I proudly associated myself in bettering the conditions of the packinghouse workers in the early CIO days, and the fight for social justice. A whole rack of people in Kimballton, Iowa during the final years of my school days. I'll lead off with T.G. Muller and family. Then Jorgen Petersen, the Rasmussens, Jensens, Nielsens, Kaltofts, more Rasmussens, Larsen, Nordby, Esbeck, Thomsen, Lykke, Christensen, Faaborg Brothers and others.

Arne Swabeck, the Chicago painter and decorator who sounded some of the earliest warnings against Hitlerism, who helped many workers think as well as organize. He progressed most naturally as he himself said, to becoming a theoretical supporter to Chairman Mao. He would be kicking around in his 80's now.

Now, all these fine descendants of the Norsemen, my whole family including the in-laws, and all of the dozen more do not weigh a hundred weight in the scales of history, but they do weigh a great deal sociologically. Every man Johannes, each and every one of them (especially if we are permitted to count in the wives and mothers) have had a lot to do with this thing we call culture. I like the word Kultur better. Danes, their children and grandchildren have played a hell of an important role in the building and in the preservation of what "we so proudly hail."

I gave fair warning that I would write about even more Danes in my lifetime and maybe yours too.

There were the Jensen sisters, Anna, Laura, Marie and Olga without whom there would not have been one of the finest Sunday schools in the country. Marriage altered their names to Hendriksen, Jacobsen and Hansen.

The music genius George Dupont-Hansen, a blind organist and composer. As a man and for his music he was loved and liked by all elements of the colony.

Mr. and Mrs. Aksel Nielsen, Denmark born, a hard worker and one who learned the American system fast and early. With his wife as a real help-mate and associate, they were sure about starting from the bottom. From all-day drudgery at making sandwiches and box lunches and selling them from the trunk of an old car, they went on and on six or more days a week. That had them ready and prepared for the great and immediate need for food catering that was so necessary to the new

(Continued on page 19)

Our Readers Write



Dear Editor:

First, I like your approach of encouraging the members to participate in the magazine. It seems to me that this is most important. As each one of us goes through life we seem to have a variety of experiences, from which we may or sometimes, unfortunately, may not learn something. Whether we do learn or not is determined, of course, by whether our minds are open. Yet it is possible, in some cases, to come to two different conclusions, honestly, from the same facts. We see this, occasionally, at lodge meetings. Thus it is important that we all participate so that the decisions may be closer to representing the thinking and desire of all the members.

When only a few speak up or take action, it reminds me of a library in which we constantly refer to just one or two books. The rest remain on the shelves gathering dust, the knowledge and experiences which they contain being lost and of no use to us. When we all speak up, there are bound to be differences of opinion. By the same token, the Brotherhood has an opportunity to separate the wheat from the chaff. Also, those in charge of meetings or our various publications, can see that these things don't get out of hand or temper by rules of order or judicious restraint. We can thus harness one of our weaknesses and convert it to a strength.

Secondly, why is there such a wide spread interest or re-awakening of cultural heritage in the various races and nationalities which make up our beloved country? We are not alone. May I suggest that perhaps we have misled ourselves by considering our country to be a melting pot and that we should all come out like peas in a pod? This prevents us from being ourselves and we find that we are unable to be some one else.

Our country became great primarily because we received such a rich variety of cultures, ideas and dreams from the immigrants and the opportunity was open to them to express their singular views by word or deed. Further progress, based on this successful recipe, requires that we learn and practice our heritage. We must do so for to quote a Biblical statement loosely — "If the salt has lost its savor, is it fit for anything but to be cast out!" We already know that the various races and nationalities which make up our country have many things in common, it is those few differences which help to bring out the best within us, for it is natural.

No one race or nation is better than another, there are only individuals who

rise above the crowd and in whose actions we can all take pride and are encouraged to try ourselves. On page 10, December 72, "The American Dane" is this statement by Dr. Earl R. Mezoff, "What is truly American is not a distinctive set of differences from many cultures but a mosaic of the very best from many cultures". I have a suspicion that we are both talking about the same thing.

Which leaves us with the question, "What is a Dane". Let us hope that we never really find out for that would be the surest way to debase its meaning in the world. Instead let us be true to ourselves and in so doing we will be true to our country and those who came before us as well as those who will follow. Please turn to page 3, "The American Dane," August 72, and we find this quote by Danny Kaye at Rebild: "I have been in Denmark time and again, I love your country; here is my second home and I like to be with you." In his statement we are seeing ourselves through the eyes of another and I believe that this is the only way it can honestly be done.

I have come to the conclusion that "To Be a Dane" is a way of life. This has nothing to do with the color of our eyes or hair — whether we are large or small in stature — whether we are round heads or long heads or whatever. Rather, it is the way which we find most natural to accept or meet or overcome the joys and problems of life. As a race our thoughts and constructive efforts may vary considerably, and yet all follow a similar channel whether it be the beauty and simplicity of Danish design, the attractiveness and honesty of ingredients of Danish cuisine, or the instinctive desire to do a job right or not at all.

No doubt some will disagree with my conclusion, while others may improve it to a point readily acceptable to all. If my conclusion is correct; if we are to be a flavorful salt in our beloved U.S.A., then we must sharpen our native talents by acceptance, study and use. To recognize that, although our roots cross the ocean to Denmark, we in the U.S.A. are now in the "New Frontier" of life. If we can successfully become this mosaic which Dr. Mezoff describes, while being true to ourselves with all that this means, then the world should be able to do likewise, eventually.

But, first we must accept ourselves through learning and experiences; we must consider the picture which our culture projects as seen in the eyes of others, and we must come to an understanding of our individual limita-

tions as well as strengths. At this point we can accept others gracefully and honestly.
Fraternally yours,

Anon E. Muss.

Dear Sirs:

Being a recipient of the Danish Brotherhood Scholarship, I am writing to express my thanks for the check recently sent to me and to describe my present activities at Lawrence University.

Last year, I applied for and was accepted to the German Study Center here in Eningen, which is one of the foreign study centers for Lawrence University. Lawrence sends members of its faculty here and also hires some German professors. With the emphasis at Lawrence being on a well rounded, liberal arts education, one need not be a German major to come. Also, those on financial aid can receive grants and loans from the university to help with the costs of travel, attending concerts, etc.

The program lasts six months — from the end of June to the end of December — so I will not be returning to the United States until December. At that time I will be able to cash the check you sent me and pay it to Lawrence.

Being in Europe has offered me the opportunity to experience new cultures and learn different ways in which to view events. I've been exposed to art and the entire spectrum of European history.

Andrew Christiansen.

"SCANDINAVIAN RECIPES" Christmas Cards



The story of Christmas in the Scandinavian countries is now brought to you on this beautiful "SCANDINAVIAN RECIPES" Christmas Card. There also are 12 special recipes for Christmas and plenty of space for your own personal greeting on each card. This certainly is a card to be saved . . . and treasured! Mailing envelopes are of course included with each card.

35¢ Each, Box of 12 cards \$3



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Our Lodges in Action

(Continued from page 8)

South Dakota this summer; recuperating from an accident and from a recent operation is Past President Hans Weston; Past District Sisterhood President Rosamod Hansen is presently hospitalized in the "little city with the big attractions"; another Past District President, Myrna Rieck, has been honored with showers of appreciation on her retirement from 11 years as organist for the Hope Lutheran Church; Past President Elmer Boysen visited his relatives in Iowa following his and Anna's 46th Anniversary on October fifth; Brother Arthur Abbott had the misfortune of losing the tip of a middle finger last month; Brother and Mrs. Peter Liane celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on October 11th; and Brother Ed and Agneta slott observed their 57th on October 19th.

DB 29 Seattle mourned the loss of Brothers Hans Hansen, age 75, and Rasmus Christensen, age 86, who passed away in August and September, respectively; the Northwest Danish Home staged another successful bazaar on November third; December ninth is the date of the Annual Christmas Party and at which time Danelog folk dancers will perform; and your correspondent had also written an article on the event of Brother Edmund Olsen's becoming the fifth Seattleite to be knighted by the Danish Government but evidently Brother Lem Petersen's contribution had priority, hence belated congratulations to Ed and his wife, Ruth; this month.

DB 328 Vancouver, British Columbia, has initiated Brother Niels Sonderlev into our Order; DB 167 Portland's Past District President Peter and Veronica Pihl are visiting in Denmark; and DB 33 Tacoma members joined with the "Enumscratch" brothers in touring the Olympia Brewery and then departing to Brother Benni Anderson's Lakewood Terrace Restaurant on August 25th.

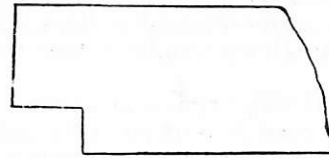
DB 42 Spokane's Brother John Wales recently returned from a holiday in England; Brother Kris Wales has been on army duty in Ellensburg and Yakima; and second generation Danes in the Lilac City (Wil Overgaard and Kjel Kiilsgaard) are football stars at the University of Idaho.

To commemorate the rescue of Danish Jews in World War Two from capture by the Nazis, the Danish Club of Seattle observed the 30th Anniversary by joining hands in a special service at Temple Beth Am on November 9th. Brothers Martin Metzson and Paul Nielsen were speakers along with Rabbi Norman Hirsch. Also, on November 15th at the Washington Plaza Hotel, a social hour and dinner was enjoyed as reminiscences were shared in remembering "the daring enterprise in small Denmark three decades ago". Although the Jewish population in the Danish Isles numbered only 7,800 in 1943, virtually all of them escaped the Nazi death chambers.

The 25th Annual Convention of the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood lodges in Canada, Washington and Oregon is all set for May 17th, 18th and 19th, 1974, in Spokane, the Inland Empire City. Conclave Presidents Emil and Mary Larsen are proud to announce the lamplighter Lodge as our Silver Anniversary site. Spokaneians, young and old alike, are working day and night to get the Expo Worlds Fair (May through November) ready and last week when Sonia and I came through the buzzing bee hive, it looked like everything was under construction. To mark the Silver Jubilee event, a buffet supper is planned for Friday by the granddaughters of the late Brother William F. Wind (founder of the Danish Brotherhood and the organizer of their local lodge). A large delegation is expected so circle

your calendar now and send in your reservation directly to Post Office Box 3385, Spokane, Washington 99220. Dr. Frederik Bredahl-Petersen, Professor of anthropology at Temple University, Philadelphia, and a Danish expert on behalf of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C., has been in our area of recent date and it is hoped that he will be back again when the Danes invade Spokane.

Norbert E. Grove, Correspondent.



Nebraska

Lodge No. 1, Omaha, Nebraska — Now that Thanksgiving and the Christmas season are almost here, we are all busy with parties and Christmas buying and baking; that goes for Lodge No. 1 too.

We will have our annual Poultry Bingo party on November 20th, and our Christmas party, which will be held jointly with the Danish American Club, on Tuesday, December 18th. This is always an enjoyable evening.

I was appointed State Historian at our last convention of the Nebraska General Committees of the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood; now, I need lots of help. I am asking anyone who has any information from previous conventions, such as clippings, pictures, programs, dates and places of conventions, and about how many attended to send it to me. I do have some information for the past 20 years, but need from way back. By the way; D.B.'s Nebraska General Committee will be 50 years old in 1974. My address is: Chris Larsen 4855 Blondo, Omaha, Nebraska 68104.

In behalf of Nebraska General Committee, and D.B. Lodge No. 1, I would like to extend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and friends.

I would like to apologize to Lodge No. 161 in Ruskin and to Lodge No. 177 in Cordova for being late in getting your news into the last issue of the "American Dane." My wife and I were on vacation, so it was too late to send it in. Hope you will excuse me and keep on sending me more news.

Chris Larsen, State Correspondent.

Lodge No. 161, Ruskin, Nebraska — We met October 13 for our Halloween Masquerade Party. Prizes were given to the best costumes. Harley Jensen (clown) received the prize for the men and Glennis McCutcheon (ape) received the prize for women. We all had an evening of laughs.



Business meeting was conducted by the president, Wayne Schultz. It was decided that the Christmas Party

is to be held December 3 with cafe supper and grab bag for all members and prospective members.

Applications have been received for ten new members. The evening was spent playing cards. A cooperative lunch was served by the committee.

Glennis McCutcheon, Correspondent.

Lodge No. 177, Cordova, Nebraska — Greetings to all Danish Americans from Lodge 177, Cordova, Nebr., almost the middle of the nation U.S.A.

The Danes came and settled here on the prairie many, many years ago, we owe a lot to those early settlers that came and formed the many small communities that still dot the prairie.

It was here at Cordova that they organized Lodge 177 and on July 15, 1973, we honored five of our fifty year members. They came with well filled baskets bringing the old traditional dishes and the new.

After the hardy meal at noon president Harold Jorgensen assisted by the State President Lenard Davidson and our own recently crowned "Miss American Dane" Julie Petersen, presented the 50 year pins to Hans Jorgensen, Cordova, Nebr., Enguert Jensen, Exeter, Nebr., Louis Hansen, Seward, Nebr., Angelo Paulsen, Aurora, Nebr., and Otto Petersen, Exeter, Nebr.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent reminiscing, recalling the Sunday afternoon meetings and the annual goose dinner.

Another highlight that made our day more enjoyable was having as special guests State President Lenard Davidson, his lovely wife and family join us for the memorable occasion. Thank you.



Julie Petersen and 50-year pin winners

Lodge No. 214, West Point, Nebraska — Christian Nielsen, affectionately known as "Little Chris," a member of D.B. Lodge No. 214 at West Point, Nebr., but now living at Cheyenne, Wyoming, reached his 96th birthday on October 11, 1973.

The enclosed picture was taken October 20th, the day he received the check for his insurance. The bouquet of flowers was a gift from the D.B.

The check and flowers were presented to him by his niece whose husband is treasurer of the West Point Brotherhood. Present for the occasion were his two children and their mates, his three grandchildren and three great grandchildren and another niece. Also present was a Danish friend Axle Christiansen, of Cheyenne — also a D.B. member.

Little Chris is a big favorite at the nursing home



Christian Nielsen

where he now lives. He has had to give up his favorite pastime of reading because of his poor vision. But his spirit is still young, as is his sense of humor. He likes to tell of the man, a friend, who promised to hire a hall and throw a big party for Chris on his 100th birthday. "But," said Chris, "he is getting worried." When asked why he was worried this long in advance Chris answered, "Because I was 80 when he made the promise." We would say that Chris stands a good chance of celebrating his 100th birthday.



California, Nevada

"THANK YOU" California-Nevada — was said 36 times several times by the recent visiting Danish Boys Choir. Faithful and always devoted to the Danish-American cultural programs, our lodges in Solvang-Santa Barbara-San Diego and Las Vegas did not waste any time in accepting the challenge of promoting some of the best from Denmark. The Danish Boys Choir (Park) was indeed that! Seldom have we seen or heard a group of boys so well trained into a beautiful selection of songs from all over the world. For the 28 charming boys it was like a play and the thousands of people who enjoyed their performances had the same feeling.

The boys and their eight leaders chose to spend the extended fall vacation from the schools in Denmark by doing America. That happy break from an otherwise dull classroom benefited not only our lodges in California-Nevada but also the many Americans who for a few hours got acquainted with these boys from that little delightful land.

San Francisco Bay Area was the place of the choir's American premiere and 300 people showed their approval by a standing ovation after the concert. Again we noticed a new aspect when it comes to entertainment from Denmark. The audience consisted mostly of "the silent majority" as far as the Danish-American are concerned. Missing were the well-known leaders from the various Danish organizations and many others who only salute Denmark on functions where cocktails are being served. Unfortunately a trend we see in bigger cities with sizeable ethnic groups.

Incidentally, our president, Richard Nixon, is an ardent admirer of boys choir and a football fan. If he had turned on CBS TV network, Sunday, October 14 along with other 50 million fans, he would have seen the Vikings from Minnesota beat the San Francisco 49ers. For him maybe the climax, but secondary for the Danish-American people all over U.S.A. They enjoyed the beautiful rendering of the National Anthem sung by the Danish Boys Choir. As Mr. and Mrs. P. Hansen, Seattle, Washington wrote: "What a surprise to see these 28 blonde blue-eyed boys. It was touching and made us very proud of our old land".

H.A. Jensen.

Lodge No. 230, Arcata, California — Another year has almost gone by us, therefore, I wish to take this opportunity, in behalf of Humboldt Lodge No. 230 to bestow upon all DB lodges our congratulations for work well done in 1973, and best wishes to all new officers for 1974. Even though our delegates, at the last minute, were

(Continued on page 18)



fraternal protection

Family financial planning is a personal matter and is best discussed confidentially between you and your Danish Brotherhood

representative. These questions which appear below arise frequently, however, and are answered openly as a service to DB members:

WE ARE AT THE AGE WHEN WE ARE BECOMING CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING ADEQUATE INCOME FOR RETIREMENT. DOES DANISH BROTHERHOOD HAVE A RETIREMENT POLICY? Yes we have a special plan designed for either male or female members that provides retirement income to supplement Social Security or other pension benefits.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, UNTIL RECENTLY I WAS THINKING THAT ALL YOU NEEDED WAS YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS AT 65 AND YOU HAD IT MADE — BUT I FIND THAT OURS PLUS A PENSION WOULD NOT PROVIDE ENOUGH TO LIVE ON IF INFLATION CONTINUES! You are so right. Few people can live comfortably on their social security checks. In fact some startling statistics were released by the U.S. Department of commerce . .

The chart below shows the Financial Status of 100 individuals who have reached the age of 65 or over.†

28 out of 100
have incomes of

over **\$38 per week**

28 out of 100
have incomes of

\$19 to \$38 per week

*** 32 out of 100**
have incomes of

less than **\$19 per week**

*** 12 out of 100**
have

NO INCOME
of their own

DESPITE SOCIAL SECURITY, PART-TIME WORK, OLD AGE ASSISTANCE AND PRIVATE PENSIONS 44* OUT OF THESE 100 INDIVIDUALS MUST EXIST ON INCOMES OF LESS THAN \$19 PER WEEK.

†Latest U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census figures

ALMOST 3 OUT OF 4 PERSONS AGE 65 DON'T HAVE A LIVABLE INCOME! HOW CAN WE INSURE THAT THE SAME FATE OF INADEQUATE INCOME WON'T HAPPEN TO US? Your retirement income should be planned while your **present earnings** can provide for it! Your very own Danish Brotherhood has an ideal plan that will guarantee \$100, \$200, \$300 or more income to supplement your other pension benefits.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST FOR AN EXTRA \$100 MONTHLY RETIREMENT INCOME. First it doesn't really cost. Second you must be willing to save based on your age, health and sex, a given amount of money regularly. When you determine how much you can save weekly or monthly, the Danish Brotherhood or one of our local Representatives will design a plan to fit your pocketbook and needs. The following are some examples based on age and sex:

DANISH BROTHERHOOD RETIREMENT INCOME AT 65 \$100 Monthly Life Income, 10 years certain

Issue Age	MALES		FEMALES	
	Monthly Premium	Additional Life Income from Dividends*	Monthly Premium	Additional Life Income from Dividends*
25	\$ 21.70	\$70.59	\$ 23.50	\$69.71
30	26.50	44.89	29.20	44.42
35	33.32	45.27	36.60	44.85
40	42.80	34.34	47.20	34.07
45	57.00	24.28	62.90	24.11
50	80.60	14.78	89.50	14.67
55	128.50	8.96	143.40	8.88

PLUS OTHER BENEFITS:

- \$10,000 death benefit, or the cash value if larger.

- Guaranteed cash value at 65 is \$15,770 for males, \$17,990 for females.

*- Dividends if accumulated at our current scale and interest rate can purchase additional life income, for the indicated amount. Dividends not guaranteed.

12-73

I can save weekly, \$5_____ \$10_____ \$20_____ \$30_____

Send me information on a retirement plan to fit my pocketbook:

Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TO: Danish Brotherhood, P. O. Box 31748, Omaha, Nebr. 68131

Our Lodges in Action

(Continued from page 16)

unable to attend the General Committee Convention in Solvang, the same wishes apply to those officers, and we are looking forward to meeting some of them at our 1974 installation.

We had our annual picnic in August at Arcata Redwood Park. It was a beautiful day, the sun shining down through the redwood trees to a sheltered clearing that was especially delightful so that our older members could be outdoors in comfort. The lodge furnished the chicken and drinks, thus making the menu lighter for the members.

In September, our oldest member, Brother Peter Iversen and I drove down to San Rafael to attend the annual picnic in Aldersly. We had a very enjoyable time, meeting many old friends. However, we had to leave before the program started as it is a good five hour drive back to Eureka.

On November 3, we celebrated our 68th anniversary with the lodge providing a dinner for its members at Bella Vista Inn. President Viggo Poulsen acted as M.C. for the evening. There were about 30 present. This year we did something different. We presented five of our 50-year members with a life membership certificate to Lodge No. 230. This is to take effect January 1, 1974, however, each member is to pay his own assessment, as his insurance certificate varies. These members, Peter Iversen, Soren Holgersen, Marius Holgersen, Carl Christensen and Aage Christensen were quite surprised, and the lodge is grateful to present these worthy members with such a certification.

Election of officers will be held at our next meeting, December 13. We hope to have a good turnout for that meeting because this is very important. Then, on December 15, again at Bella Vista, we will hold our annual Christmas party. Be sure and mark this on your calendar as this is a very great occasion this year.

Your correspondent is still recuperating from an auto accident October 16, in Richmond, Calif. My sister-in-law and I were on a delightful vacation, travelling to State Line, Stockton, (where we had a nice visit in our motel room with Al and Ethel Tunsen;) San Francisco, Solvang. Here, we had a most delightful dinner and visit with Per and Borge Andreassen at the Danish Inn. I am taking this opportunity to deliver their message of hilsen to all their friends in Arcata, Eureka, and Ferndale. We stopped here the next day and then drove farther south to Hemet, Calif., where we spent the weekend with my brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Larsen. The weather there is indeed quite a change from our Northern California rain and wind. Then we headed north up on Highway 5 to Fremont to spend the night. We left our relatives there about 9:15 a.m. and about an hour later we were in Richmond where we were rear-ended by a large truck, totalling out our car. With the aid of our insurance people, we were driven to the airport and flew home, where we were met by Sheila and Keith. About a week later the soreness crept upon me and I was hospitalized for 10 days. We are both taking therapy treatments now for whip lashes and sore backs, but are so thankful that we were not injured any worse and that we were able to get home. Here, I would like to thank all my friends and relatives for the flowers, cards, and good wishes sent to me, and my sister-in-law, Mary Lewis.

Again, our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Laura L. Schuler, Secretary.

Silver State Lodge No. 339, Las Vegas, Nevada — hosted the Danish Boys Choir on October 21, 22 and 23rd, 1973. This was a very successful event, and the concert presented by the Danish Boys Choir on Monday night at the Clark County Library was a most successful concert, bringing a full house to enjoy the many songs sung by the boys. The concert was very well presented with a good variety of music to please everyone present.

A special thanks goes to Harold Reed for his many hours of preparation for this concert and his efforts in making it such a success. Also a special thanks goes to Jutta Reed for her many hours of work in arranging the housing for the choir, which included many of the lodge members, but also included some of Jutta Reed's neighbors and friends who took some of the travellers into their homes willingly. Several weeks before the concert all members of the travelling group were placed.

The charter bus arranged to stop in front of the Reed's home and all the boys were given a good supper which was prepared by the members of the Lodge, and from there they were picked up by their respective hosts and transported to the various homes they were to stay with. Monday many of the boys spent their day at Circus Circus, one of the casinos that has sections with games and rides for the children in it. Monday evening the choir performed at the Clark County Library which is a newly built Library with facilities to present concerts such as these. Tuesday all the boys were transported to the airport by the respective families housing them, and sent off to their next destination which was to be Aspen, Colorado.

It was very gratifying to see how successful this concert was and to also meet some new potential members at the concert. Also it was really gratifying to see how unified the Lodge worked in order to make this concert a success, which it was. Silver State Lodge members are to be commended on their unselfish efforts put forth to insure the success of this venture. Our thanks also goes to the publicity department of the Clark County Library for their part in advertising this event.

Alice M. Pinkerton.

Dana Honors Madsen

Dr. C.C. Madsen, who retired as the eleventh president of Dana College in 1971, was named President Emeritus of the College by action of the Board of Regents during their annual fall meeting held on campus last month. The Board's action makes Madsen the first Dana president to be accorded this high honor.

Emeritus status is an honorary one reserved for those few persons who have served the College faithfully and well for a long period of time. Madsen's record of service to Dana includes serving as a member of the teaching faculty from 1946 to 1956 and as president from 1956 to 1971. During his tenure in office, Dana experienced her most dramatic growth both in student enrollment and campus expansion. Since retiring from the presidency, Madsen served the College as a Consultant. He will continue in that capacity with the title of President Emeritus.





Danish Kitchen

What on earth can you have for dinner when you are asked to make a typical Danish dinner? This feature offers a new and authentic Danish recipe each month for the culinary enjoyment of our readers. Can't you just smell those wonderful aromas wafting from the kitchen right now?

PEPPARKAKOR

Cream together thoroughly
 2 cups sour cream*
 2 cups sugar
 2 cups white Karo Syrup
 3/4 lb. butter or margarine
 Sift and add
 4 tsp. ginger
 4 tsp. cinnamon

4 tsp. cloves
 2 tsp. ground cardamom
 1 tsp. mace
 5 tsp soda*
 8 cups flour

*Add soda to sour cream. Add alternately with flour. Flour may vary — should be consistency to roll and cut in stars. Place 1/2 almond in center of each star. Bake 350 degrees.

Glance Back and Look Ahead

(Continued from page 12)

defense construction jobs and then contracts inside the huge new plants.

Ferd Sorensen, a church caretaker, a sweet man and almost a free spirit. "I'm just the janitor" he would say, but we knew he was a rebel against the injustices all around him. There was fiber and feeling in that man.

There were the Strandskov girls. Willing to and doing day work of any kind. Never too tired or too busy to teach us kids and provide good company and serious discussions among the elders. I last saw them digging away at the job — the many jobs — of running a tea room on West North Avenue not too far from Dania Hall.

The stalward Petersen brothers. The two were built like lumberjacks and wrestlers. The third was a smaller man. Holger, Earnest and Alfred — all with great love for their mother, their fellow man and for their native USA, but "genuine Danes," they were and said so on all occasions.

The Fensholt family — Martinus by now a streetcar motorman, and Botilde his wife of the twinkling eyes, quick into hard labor and deep mother love, were both born on Danish farms. They had three marvelous daughters — Gudrun, Ellen and Eva. A close knit family that could also find love and concern for strangers, the Fensholts were dealt an irreparable damage when Gudrun died in maiden girlhood. There were many of us around

then who had considered Gudrun a remarkable person and surely destined for leadership and greatness. She had charisma and a cut-the-mustard strength.

There was John Hansen, lay leader in the church. Sparkplug in the church's younger set. Organizer of the "100 men society" in Chicago, all this and a captain in the Danish Brotherhood. Today's feature writers would have termed John Hansen "simply terrific."

Before turning away from specific personalities I have to call the names of Emil Harwey and his loving wife, Olga. Though they were "city people" from Denmark, they came close to our family. They were a marvelous influence all around. Mr. Harwey was a master printer and had come to the U.S. where his skill and ambition might have a better chance. He established the Artcraft Printing Company in Chicago, then moved to Jacksonville in central Illinois. This beautiful marriage waited years and years for a child that finally came — then a sudden illness and soon death came to Emil, the cultured, calm, dignified, pipe-smoking humorist. This man must surely have had impact on other youngsters of my day — who of you such are still here and do you remember Emil Harwey.

In the interests of time and space I have to cut out detail from the personal contact — summarize, delete and even forego paragraphs about Mrs. Hoyer, Mrs. Harboe, Uncle John Frelsen, Fred Brown, Mads Hansen and dozens more. How could I even start about my own

family? I could write about "The Rear Squad," about Mrs. Brix, about the splendid put downs of my mother and her biting remarks about Danes who were ashamed to admit to birth outside the U.S.



Christmas in Denmark

When it's Christmas time in Denmark
 The little stars hang low,
 And silver all the rooftops,
 And twinkle on the snow.

A thousand bearded elfin-men
 With pointed caps of red
 Will bring the Christmas presents
 When children are in bed.

And in the barren winter trees
 The sheaves of oats are hung
 So grateful birds can join the song
 When Christmas hymns are sung.

And lights will gleam and sparkle
 As the bells of Christmas ring
 In the cottage of the peasant
 And the palace of the King.

—Author Unknown
 (submitted by Adeline Nielsen, Omaha)

Report to Members of Annual Board Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

accomplished by a dual-track system of providing progressive fraternal and insurance programs.

Many lodges do not allow women or children to join or contribute to the strength of their organization. Development of family lodges will make a great deal of sense toward building increased membership and dynamic family fraternal programs.

The Board also discussed the dues and insurance payment structure and considered the merits of the Home Office collecting insurance premiums and local lodge dues and remitting dues to the local lodge.

The Board was very pleased with the progress made by the Fraternal Affairs Department during the past six months. Don Eversoll presented the newly completed Junction City Scandinavian Festival Slide Program, the first program in a series entitled "The Danish Festival ... A Living Heritage." This as well as additional programs are now available for

Lodge and community use. The popularity of the Danish folk dance and language kits has exceeded expectations. A "Young Vikings" program for members ages 1-15 of the society has been initiated by mailing to the local lodges a certificate proclaiming each junior member, a "Young Viking." Programs specifically designed for juveniles will be implemented in the future to include them in the fun of lodge activities. Many new plans and programs were brought into focus for the coming year.

The Fraternal Department has taken on the additional duty of acting as a clearing house for all information between various charter flight directors in our districts and lodges and will act as the hub for communications between these flight leaders.

During the Board Meeting, each of the committees charged with specific responsibilities made reports to the Board of Officers. These committees included the Bylaw Committee, who reported that five

local lodges submitted bylaws for review. The Trustees, in accordance with their duties as set forth in the bylaws had, with the help of all Board members, inventoried the securities owned by The Danish Brotherhood. The Investment Committee reported on all investment transactions which had taken place since the spring meeting. The Scholarship Committee asked the Board to consider proposing to our National Convention in 1975 an amendment to the bylaws which would enable additional scholarships to be granted deserving Danish Brotherhood members. The Fraternal Activities Committee made four recommendations to be explored by the Department of Fraternal Affairs:

1) Develop a series of programs designed for use in our lodges as entertainment at monthly meetings. These programs may take the form of films, slides, tapes, or perhaps prepared speeches covering a variety of subjects of interest to American-Danes. They may be presented or read by any lodge member and should lead to a discussion and participation by all present. Additional data should be added, in fact, by members in the audience for the benefit of the lodge and all members. We must make it possible for every lodge to make their meetings more meaningful and thereby, encourage members to participate regularly and be willing to bring guests to lodge meetings. We must offer lodges concrete programs that are interesting and informative and persuade them to abolish antiquated rituals and boring business sessions that take too much valuable time.

2) We should stress the importance of our new family membership concept and how lodges may benefit by including women and children in their activities.

3) We must pursue a program of offering our cooperation to Danish cultural groups visiting the United States and Canada, and publicize their travel schedules. We should contact these groups and other cultural sources in Denmark to help our membership share the benefits of their cultural programs.

4) We should encourage articles in the American Dane Magazine to promote progressive changes that are being made in The Danish Brotherhood for the betterment of our society.

Budget matters were discussed in the Executive Committee Report and were reviewed by the Board. Reserves were established for annual statement reporting. Refunds of gains and savings were declared by the Board and specific details of this 18th Consecutive declaration will be printed in the January issue of American Dane. The opening date for the semi-annual meeting was established as March 21, 1974.

DECEMBER ASSESSMENT

No. 894

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LODGE TREASURER

December 1, 1973

AND MUST BE PAID BEFORE

January 1, 1974

Members failing to pay to their local lodge treasurer

as per above will be considered in arrears.

HOWARD CHRISTENSEN,
Secretary-Treasurer.

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Also notify your lodge secretary of your new address.

December 1973

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Lodge No. the lodge is

Name

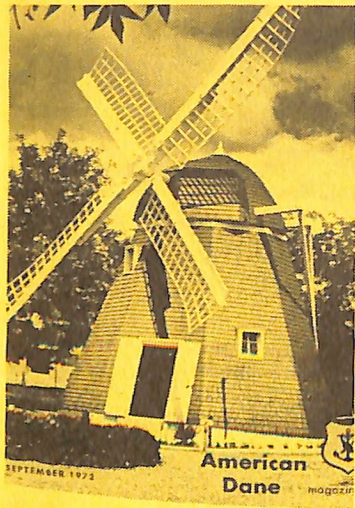
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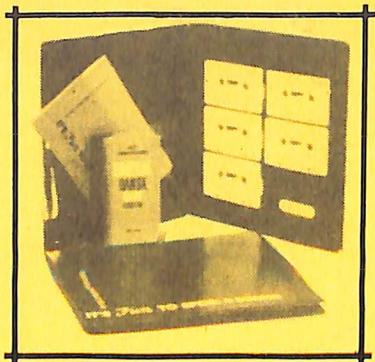
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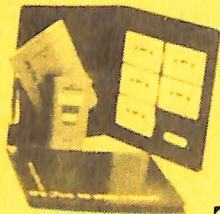
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