



THE

AMERICAN

DANE

DECEMBER 1977

MAGAZINE



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It's December. The last month of this old year. And the beginning of a frantic time. Decorations must be made and trees must be lit; cookies must be baked and geese must be stuffed; presents must be wrapped and cards must be sent; parties must be held and old friends must be greeted. It is a hectic time but a joyous one.

And we hope all of you have a delightful holiday and a very happy New Year.



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IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---|-------|
| "ET LILLE OJEBLIK" | p. 4 |
| "JULE AFTEN" — <i>Irene Haley</i> | p. 5 |
| SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS | p. 5 |
| "THE CHRISTMAS HEART" — <i>Marie Louise Paludan</i> | p. 6 |
| "THE ANCHOR, THE HEART AND THE CROSS" — <i>Rosemary Hilgert Massey</i> | p. 7 |
| "DEN DANSKE PULS" | p. 9 |
| "CHRISTMAS IN DENMARK" | p. 10 |
| "JOURNEY'S END" | p. 11 |
| "THE 'NISSE' OF DENMARK" — <i>Ib Spang Olsen</i> | p. 12 |
| "OUR LODGES IN ACTION" | p. 13 |
| "DEN DANSKE UNGDOM", Part III — <i>David Valade</i> | p. 18 |
| "CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS" | p. 19 |
| "BOOKMAN'S HOLIDAY REVIEW" — <i>Christine Wahl</i> | p. 19 |
| "CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST RESULTS" | p. 20 |
| "GRANDMA'S KITCHEN" | p. 21 |

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Cover Caption

Our Italian Viking, John Hall, has created our December cover. And are they black trees in snow or white trees at night? Either way, I think they make a unique cover.

'ET LILLE OJEBLIK'



IOWA LODGES AWARD SCHOLARSHIP TO DANA STUDENT FROM UNDERWOOD

Blair, Neb., October 21, 1977 — For the eighth consecutive year, Iowa United Lodges has presented a Dana College student with a \$250 scholarship check. This year's recipient was Julie Lynn Larsen, a freshman from Underwood, Ia.



Julie is seen accepting the scholarship check from Paul E. Strand of the Dana staff in front of the complete collection of Royal Copenhagen Christmas plates which are displayed in the Heritage Room of the Dana library.

Julie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Larsen, are both members of D.B. and D.S.S. Lodges No. 10 in Council Bluffs, Ia.

The Iowa United Lodges scholarship is listed each year in the Dana College catalog.

ENJOY DENMARK'S OUTSTANDING OPEN-AIR MUSEUM TOUR

Travelers who love history should go to Denmark. Here they can relive the past with a unique tour — the "Open-Air Museum Tour" which explores three of Denmark's famous restorations and two flourishing towns where modern Danish life meets Danish history.

The tour is one of 25 individualized motor tours offered in Denmark's series of custom designed vacations that are as varied as travelers' tastes in the 70's.

Each is planned to combine the excitement of traveling on your own with the expertise and advice that travel agents usually reserve for large groups. Each is tailored to let the traveler indulge in his favorite pastime. And each is researched and planned by official Danish experts to provide an "inside look" that visitors seldom get.

The "Open-Air Museum Tour" starts in Copenhagen — Denmark's historical and cultural center. Travelers will want to allow some time to experience this colorful city and to whet their appetites by visiting some of the fine art museums and craft shops. From there one leaves contemporary Denmark behind and slips deep into the past.

The first stop by car is **Lyngby** — site of a first-class restoration of Danish farm life as it was 300 years ago. There are authentic farmhouses and barns of lush Funen region — fully furnished with characteristic bureaus and chests. There are also farmhouses transported from Jutland's rugged western coast — with their fascinating roofs sloping straight to the ground which provided protection from the strong western wind for both the men and the beasts who shared the shelter during the winter. Here visitors can revel in bygone Danish culture — with performances of folk dances and peasant festivities.

From Lyngby, the tour leads one to **Aerø** to visit one of Denmark's national landmarks — **Aerøskøbing**. Following a night at a historic old inn, the tour suggests a walk through the town — where one can recapture the charming old fashioned and serene lifestyle. After a visit to a unique museum housing the largest collection of bottled ships in the world, it's on to **Ribe** — where modern life flourishes in a centuries old town. Not to be missed are the venerable old monastery, one of the most spectacular in Europe, and the historic 1,000 years old cathedral.

The plan calls for spending the night at the Dagmar Hotel, offering modern facilities combined with the old world charm of the hotel and the ancient city surrounding it. And before leaving, it's worthwhile to have a drink at the 300 year old cafe "Weiss Stue".

From Ribe, the road leads to **Aarhus**, Denmark's second largest city with its outstanding "**Old Town**" **Open-Air Museum**, the development of a city and its life through the centuries. Restorations include the old bakery, the pharmacy and the mayor's house. The city itself is also the home of many of Denmark's cultural institutions and museums.

After a leisurely day and night in Aarhus, the tour brings one to **Hjerl Hede [Heath]**. A unique attraction, it is a 2,000 acre preserve of Danish heath land as it was before the Danish government successfully converted most of this barren rocky land into productive farmland. Nestled among the acres of heather are some of the most striking treasures of Danish rural culture, all brought here and reconstructed as they appeared years ago. Travelers will be charmed with the Winkle farm, whitewashed and crisp with its spinning wheel, sleeping alcoves and farm equipment. The Hede's other attractions make it a history book come to life.

Starting with a Stone Age dwelling from 3,000 B.C., there are examples of Danish culture of almost every era... a Romanesque church from the twelfth century, an old forge and water mill from the eighteenth century, an 1823 village school and an 1878 dairy. Each July the Hjerl Hede springs to life with young Danish students who come to recreate civilization as it was years ago.

For museum lovers and history lovers, the Open-Air Museum Tour is an unmatched way of seeing Denmark.

JULE AFTEN

by Irene Haley, Exeter, N.H.

How brightly on the holly
The gleaming tapers shine —
To warm the hearts at evening
When old friends come to dine
Far across a frozen world
I know their magic ray —
Although the winter snows lie deep
On paths along the way.

Storms may rage against the pane —
But in the firelight,
It's a sparkling tinsel road
I travel home tonight;
Rapt in the age old story
Which every Yuletide brings —
Since seraphs talked with shepherds
And beggars walked with Kings.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because of the longshoremen's strike on the East Coast our supply of Danish/English dictionaries has been delayed. We don't know how long it will be before they arrive. Please have patience, all of you who have ordered them. We will send them out immediately upon receipt. Thank you.

Our supply of Christmas cards bearing a Danish text has been depleted. **We only have English text remaining.** When ordering, please be advised that only orders for the English text will be filled. The orders for Danish text, unless indication of substitution is noted, will be returned unfilled.

The Home Office has Bylaw material available. And now is the time to begin work on proposed changes in the bylaws.

Our National Convention in Vancouver, B.C., during 1979 is fast approaching.

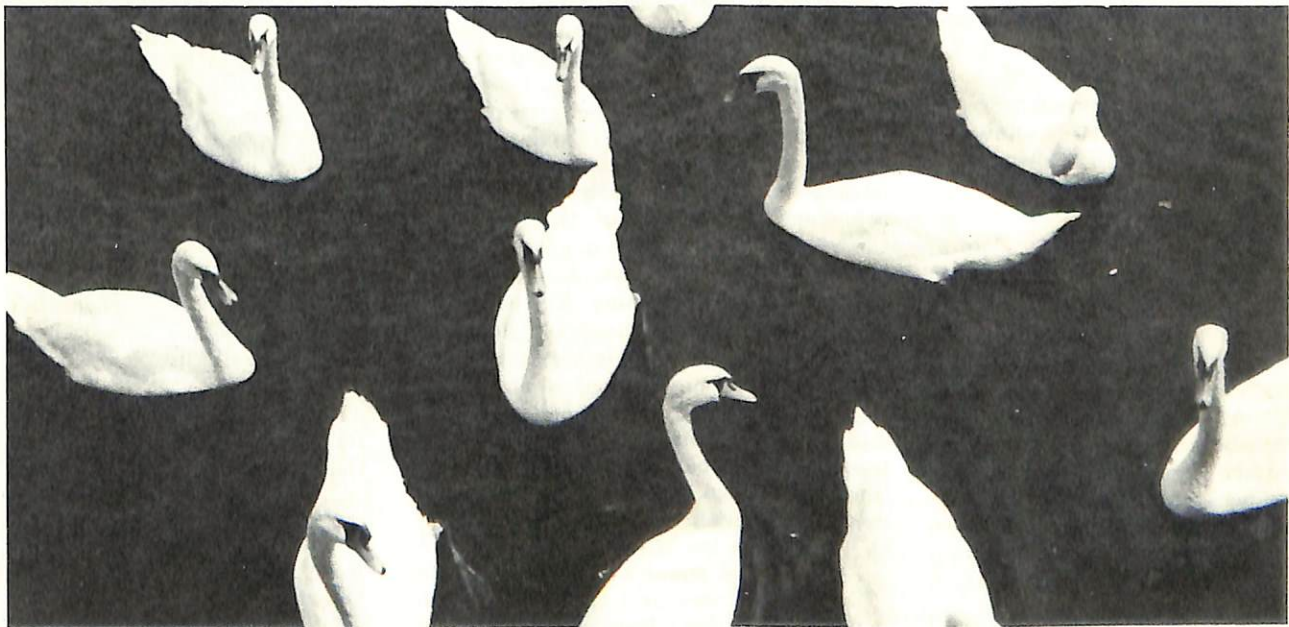
If information on the bylaws is desired, please contact us here.



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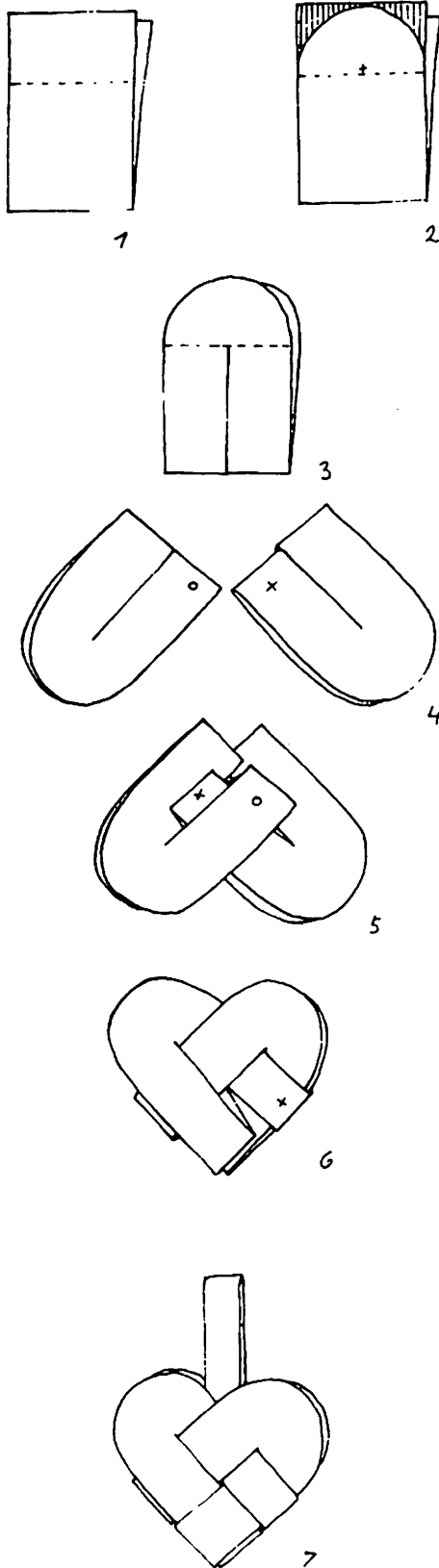
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"The Swans of Kronborg"

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 favorite decorations that make our Christmas tree so special. There are multicolored 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 cookies Mother 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 the first line of everything. All the while our fingers are busy cutting out, folding, pasting. There's no time to lose, it seems. Even the not-so-nimblefingereared are doing a grand job. Maybe Dad can help with the difficult bits. That's all part of the tradition. In the old Danish poem, "Peter's 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.

Interlocked hearts in red and white

The traditional heart is in red and white, the colors 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 colors 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, colored 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.

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 and 9. 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.

11 to 15. You can vary the appearance by making four or six 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!

Marie Louise Paludan.

The Anchor, The Heart, and The Cross

by
Rosemary Hilgert Massey
Omaha, Nebraska

She leaned back against the rough stones that formed the base of the house. She knew he felt it was important to make this trip into the small village they called a town. In this territory they called any non-descript group of houses with a man who sold a few items in a make-shift store a town. She knew he felt it was important to make this trip, even though the snow had been falling steadily for sometime, and the sky promised more. She thought of the many things that could happen to him, that would leave her alone out here with the three children. Bitterly she taunted herself with thoughts of a slipping horse or a blinding blizzard. She knew he would come home happy with the few things they were able to afford for their Christmas celebration. The few things they could afford out of their too-little money. She watched as the snow blew across the rocks littering the field in front of the house. Soon the snow would conceal them, making it

extremely hazardous. She had not tried to stop him though. How could one woman stop Christmas.

This was to be their third Christmas in this small cabin. Their third Christmas since Jens had decided they would no longer be poor in Denmark, or rather that they might be poor but their own masters in America. No longer would he have to work for others. They might be poor for a while, but then they would be rich for they would save all of the money they made. Yet one thought kept burning in her mind — what money? First, the hard winters, then the dry summers. Then the expenses. Even the cook stove they had needed for heat as well as to cook their sparse dinners had been a ridiculously expensive luxury.

Three years ago when they first arrived, she had stood and watched the immense snow-grey sky, its awesome beauty sucking her breath away. Now she only looked up to judge the hours between the daylight and the dark. In three years the beauty had vanished. Numbly she turned to the door.

She had finally noticed the familiar speck of a horseman on the horizon. Once again he would be coming. And he would be bringing Christmas with him. She felt no excitement, only relief. She would be no longer alone; he would be home soon. Once upon a time, it seemed centuries ago, she had hidden behind trees after Sunday church to see him for only a minute. Now, out here in the wilderness her only thought was that he had survived another long, treacherous journey. It did not encourage her. It only put off once more one of her constant fears and now allowed her to return to her more pressing duties. She would not meet him at the door. She had better things to do. Survival seldom had time for pleasantries.

Later, she heard the children tumble out to meet him. The panting of the heavily burdened horse and their shrill cries made the silence of the cabin that much lonelier, that much more stifling. She concentrated on fixing dinner, carefully slicing potatoes into the stew pot.

Finally he stomped into the cabin. Jens Mikkelsen was home. The frontier life these past three years had made him lean and muscular. Fine lines gathered around his eyes and his auburn hair was flecked with white. Still, he was a handsome man, one to make any woman smile.

He swept into the cabin trailing wisps of snow from his jacket, as well as bringing a rush of cold air and the three noisy children in his wake. She turned away, pensively stirring the large iron kettle. He threw his arms around her waist. "Ah, Margrethe, each time I'm away, I miss you more."

"You were gone long enough," she snapped quietly. Slowly he let his arms fall away from her.

"You know it was important," he answered.

After a long silence she looked up at him. "If the snow begins before there's enough fodder for the livestock . . ." she did not finish.

The three children stood by the door, watching, waiting. Recently they had begun to spend a lot of their time out-of-doors, even though the bitter cold often drove them directly from the house to the barn and back again. Their mother had seemed to grow more silent, more bitter, as each day brought the deepening winter about them. As quietly as possible they put their coats on the wooden pegs to dry. Yet the silence in the cabin only deepened as they prepared for dinner.

After the meal, a candle was lit, and Anna, who was only six, could not stand the suspense any longer.

"papa, what did you bring us from town?"



The three children fluttered around their father. "Well, where did I put my saddle bags?"

Nels and little Jens ran to tug the leather bags down from their peg on the wall.

Anna only looked from her smiling father to her mother who sat sewing in a corner by the stove, a deep frown squeezing the corners of her eyes.

"Papa," the little girl asked slowly, "did you really bring Christmas?"

The two boys looked down at her. "Of course he brought Christmas," said Nels. "Why else would he make the trip into town in this blizzard?"

Their father smiled at the three expectant faces. For the third year in a row he told them the story of his trip to town, of his meeting a strange little man, who he claimed had been looking all over the territory for the three Mikkelsen children. Of course he had told the tiny stranger ...

"It's the Jule-Nisse!" cried Anna. "We will have a Christmas after all!"

"Yes," Jens told his giggling daughter. "There will be a Christmas."

"That's enough. It's past time for bed. We don't want to waste any more wood tonight and it's getting too cold to stay up any longer."

The three children stared at their mother in amazement. Each year, after the trip into town, was the time when father told them all about Christmas, the grand, glorious Christmas of his childhood. They had waited patiently all during his long absence just for this one night when he would tell them about the tall, green tree aglow with candles, and the piles of toys, and the velvet gowns, and the singing, all that had become in its own fashion to be their own special Christmas story.

"Didn't you hear me? I said we must go to bed."

"No! Although you children must go to bed. But I will put some more wood on the fire. Margrethe, we must talk."

Later the quiet in the cabin was broken only by the breathing of the children curled in quilts against the cold.

"I brought you a newspaper," he said as his way of beginning. This was precious for it would be eagerly read and re-read, then put up on the walls for insulation.

"And the letters from home." He silently handed her the ragged bundle. Each year Christmas meant mail from their families in Denmark. She took the frayed envelope with her sister's writing on it first. She looked at the envelope in the dim light of the candle, the fine stationery watermarked and stained by travel. Her sister had stayed in the old country, marrying far better than she had. She looked at the envelope and at the weathered old hand that held it as though it were a priceless painting. The delicate paper and the rough, cracked hand, wrinkled and aged by the work that never seemed to end. She opened the envelope slowly and unsteadily read the delicate script.

Abruptly, she turned away from her husband. After three years she knew there was no way to hide her feelings. There was no privacy in a one room cabin.

"Bedstemor died three months ago," she said slowly.

And she began to cry, not for her grandmother, but for her children who had never met the fantastic old lady; for her children who now would never know a grandmother. And for herself, for she had lost her own mother. She cried for the funeral in the darkened church that she had not even known was taking place.

Jens held her tightly as she cried, saying nothing, only stroking the tightly bound hair, loosening it until it fell about her shoulders.

Page 8

"Margrethe, we cannot go back now," he said softly.

She reached into the saddle bag that lay on the table, reaching with one arm around her husband to search for other letters. Her hand touched a small box. She drew away from her husband and took it from the bag. "Jens, what is it?"

"It is your Christmas present."

"Oh, no," she scolded half-heartedly. "We agreed there was no money and there was no time to make you a present."

His face was troubled. "Margrethe, please open it."

She unwrapped the newspaper, turning it over and over until she reached the fine tissue paper, then slowly she tore the white paper off the tiny box. Suddenly her breath stopped, and she gave a small cry.

This time the tears burst out of her eyes, gushing down her cheeks, her breath throbbing against his wool shirt, as she sobbed into his chest. In her trembling hands she held a tiny mother of pearl cross, an anchor and a heart. All suspended from a silver chain.

"This was my mother's," she gasped. "Was this my mother's?"

"Yes," Jens answered quietly. "Your sister sent it for you as your mother asked."

The dam had broken. For several minutes the only sound in the room was her gentle sobs and the soft crackle of the wood burning in the stove.

"She felt you must have this," Jens began softly. "More than anyone else. So she sent it to you. 'Faith, Hope, and Love'."

Margrethe couldn't stop crying.

"Have faith," he whispered in her ear, "and hope, for you already have all my love."

She had moved her head a bit, looking up into his face. It was so strong and sure. She drew her strength from him.

Slowly he moved his arms and, taking the necklace in his hands, he clumsily fastened it around her neck.

"You did bring Christmas from town," she whispered. "The best Christmas of all."

Suddenly she was a bundle of energy. "We have so much to do tomorrow. Baking and sewing, cleaning, tomorrow is Christmas Eve. We must be ready. Tomorrow night you will tell the children about your Christmas. And I will tell them about my present. I will tell them about the anchor and the cross and the heart. Oh, Jens, we will have such a fine Christmas. The Christmas you brought all the way from town."





'DEN DANSKE PULS'

Dear Sir,

As usual I read the **American Dane** first when I got my mail. And your "Et Lille Øjeblik" got me on the subject. Saw about the Swedes, I presume has many versions and you are asking for some of them. Here is one I have heard many times and years:

"Ten thousand Swedes were running through the weeds led by a man named Fagan, and dust from the weeds made snoose for the Swedes, and they called it Copenhagen." Must be how that particular snuff got that name.

I live in the Danish Old Peoples Home in Racine, and am enjoying it. At first I was in another home in Illinois. There are several homes of that type in Illinois. I was there five months. And they have raised the price to one thousand a month. How can they charge such a price?

Here we pay \$175 a month until the last two months. High food prices forced them to charge \$200 a month. And that is home cooking — what a difference. Here everyone has their own rooms, and they are warm and nice. What a difference. No wonder it is mostly full.

Nu er dette aar snart forbi, saa vil jeg ønske alle en Glædelig Jul og et Godt Nytaar.

Carl Jensen

Dear Sir,

On page 4 of November **American Dane** magazine is a request for the rhyme: "Ten thousand Swedes fled through the weeds, pursued by one Norwegian."

Here is the way I heard it said some 50 years ago:

"Ten thousand Swedes fled through the weeds,

Chased by one Norway Pagan.

The dust from the weeds,

Made 'snoose' for the Swedes,

And they called it 'Copenhagen'."

Carl Kjeldsen.

Dear Danes,

Thank you very, very much! You sent me more than enough information. Thanks to you, I am getting an "A" on my report card.

Thanks again.

Marci Alman.
Med Venlig Hilsen.

[Editor's Note: Marci requested information on Denmark for a report for school.]

Dear Editor:

It gave me a great deal of satisfaction to find my article published in the September issue of **American Dane**. Thank you very much.

I am looking forward to reading more about your experiences on the tour in forthcoming issues.

The magazine is a fine publication and you can be proud of it.

Sincerely,

Adeline Nielsen.

Dear Gary,

I was just curious to know if you had any comments from your readers that may have tried the "Dansk Kringle Coffee Cake" recipe published in the September, 1977, issue of the **American Dane**. I tried the recipe myself and here at the Petersen house we laughingly refer to it as "Mom's interpretation of a Lucille Ball comedy". I had kringle dough rising all over the bottom shelf of my refrigerator when I put a double recipe in a single recipe bowl.

(Well, who would have dreamed that yeast would rise in the refrigerator.)

That I could cope with, but the fact that the dough never became firm enough to work with even after 24 hours was a bit frustrating.

(Have you ever had Kringle dough running between your fingers?)

Is it possible that there was a typographical error where the liquid was concerned? No other Kringle recipe I have read since calls for more liquid than flour. If this is the case it would be only fair to your readers (especially those that bake) to print a corrected version.

Just as a matter of record I did not throw the dough away — just kept adding flour till I was able to work with it.

Sincerely,

Janet Petersen.

[Assistant Editor's Note: The cookbook that the Kringle recipe was reprinted from shows the recipe exactly as we printed it — it's obviously a typographical error. The only advice I could give would be to figure the ratio of liquid to flour in another recipe and use the same ratio for the Dansk Kringle recipe, either increasing the amount of flour or decreasing proportionately the amount of water and milk.

However, in the January issue we will offer a replacement Dansk Kringle recipe as well as our apologies for flooding the refrigerator.



Christmas in Denmark

Danish Consulate, Chicago
Our Thanks & Our Best Wishes

The Danes observe Christmas Eve, which is the big family event of the year. Work ceases in the afternoon, and at five o'clock church bells in town and throughout the country begin to chime, summoning people to worship in candle-lit churches decorated with greens.

Danish Christmas is steeped in old tradition. Christmas is the oldest of the Nordic festivals. In heathen times midwinter festivals were held around Winter Solstice — the shortest day of the year — and exchange of gifts, gentleness towards one another and a longing for peace were closely connected with Yuletide even at that time. Up to this day, some other Christmas customs are not entirely free from the influence of both old heathen and early Christian traditions. Very old folks still remember the times when people made the sign of the cross before the ovens with the Yule dough.

To Christmas in Denmark in our days belongs first of all the Christmas tree. Hans Christian Andersen describes in his fair tale, "The Fir Tree", how it is picked in the woods, and brought into the home, where it is decorated with little drums, and cones and hearts cut out of glittering colored paper filled up with candy. And with gilded apples and walnuts hanging from the branches. And garlands of tinsel and flags and a silver star at the top. "Was I really born to such glorious destiny?" the fir tree wondered. The Christmas tree is a guest in every Danish home, in hospitals, hotels, restaurants and stores, and a big, tall one is often placed in an open square in major towns. Even tied atop the mast of Danish ships at sea you will find the Christmas tree.

But the Christmas tree as a symbol is relatively recent in Denmark. It was known in Alsace as early as in the sixteenth century. And in 1744 Goethe let his young Werther tell of the Christmas tree they used to have in his childhood home. In Denmark as well as in Sweden, the Christmas tree was introduced in the early nineteenth century by some German families, so this symbol of Christmas is about 150 years old in Scandinavia.

The tree is decorated the day before Christmas, but in homes with children the colorful paper decorations have already been cut and pasted or woven together during cozy December evenings. Then, when the tree stands dressed in all its glory, the little paper cones and baskets filled with sweets and the candles fastened, the door to the living room is closed and locked. Not until Christmas dinner is over — and most important, the dishes done — are the kids allowed to see the now radiant tree, the candles lit, and beautifully wrapped gifts stacked beneath the tree.

The traditional Christmas dinner is roast goose or duck stuffed with apples and prunes, and served with red cabbage, pickled gherkins, cowberry jam and small glazed potatoes. The dessert is Ris a'

l'amande (rice cooked in milk, and mixed with whipped cream and chopped almonds). One almond, though, is not chopped and, according to old Danish legend, whoever finds the whole almond will have a series of lucky adventures as well as the marzipan pig given as a prize after dinner.

After dinner expectations are high. But wait! First everyone takes one another by the hand, and goes around the tree, singing some of the old Danish Christmas hymns. One is "Glade Jul, Dejlige Jul" (Merry Christmas, Happy Christmas) to the tune of "Silent Night, Holy Night". Finally, after everyone has had the opportunity to choose his favorite song, the gaily wrapped gifts are exchanged. Sometimes the "Julemand" will enter with the gifts in his sack, a member of the family having dressed up as a Santa Claus with a long white beard and red cap. And now when all the excitement is over, refreshments will be served, with cookies of many sorts and shapes. Typical Danish Christmas cookies are pebernødder and klejner.

Apart from having a "Julemand", the Danes also have a good-spirited little pixie called the "nisse". He is much smaller than the "Julemand", and has for a long time — as a matter of fact for the last 100 years — been a guest in every Danish home during Christmas holidays. The "nisser" (plural for "nisse") are given to all sorts of mischief — like children at Halloween — but they are good little spirits. They keep a friendly eye on cows and horses in the barn, and on all the other domestic animals at the farm. They also marry and have children.

The "nisse" affects a long white beard as does Santa Claus, and all of them, old and young, wear red caps and blouses, grey trousers and red stockings, and black wooden shoes. They remind people to pour milk in a saucer for the cat, their best friend in the household. On Christmas Eve a platter with rice porridge is set up in the attic for the "nisse" family to ensure its goodwill during the coming year, and the following morning you will always find the platter licked clean. Only unimaginative people would suggest that the cat must have eaten the porridge.

Is the Danish Christmas "nisse" real? Certainly, he is just as real as the "Julemand", and everybody knows that there is a Santa Claus!!!

All Danes hope for a white Christmas, and once in a while their dreams come true. However, the birds would go hungry were it not for the thoughts which rise spontaneously in the hearts of good people, who put bread cubes and crumbs out at the window ledge, which is cleared of snow so that it won't disappear into the soft snow and out of reach of the little birds. Out in the country, farmers put up a on a pole a sheaf of grain which they have saved from the harvest to feed the birds at Christmas.

(Continued on page 18)

"JOURNEY'S END"

or

"IF THIS IS FRIDAY, IT MUST BE MALMO"

Part II

(Continued from October)

by

Gary Eilts

Editor, *American Dane*



Our last day in Denmark. It dawned overcast with a heavy mist blowing across the window panes. To make the designated flight departure time we had to be aboard the 10:45 a.m. ferry boat to Malmo. So, by 8:00 a.m., we were busily sorting, rearranging, repacking and discarding everything we had picked up on our three-week visit. And it was amazing how much we had gathered. We were the magnet and everything lying loose seemed to be attracted to us. Not that I, a proverbial pack-rat, objected in the least.

At last we were in the taxi hurtling hysterically through downtown Copenhagen towards the pier. But don't misunderstand, we weren't "hurtling" because we were late. We were doing so because our intrepid taxi driver was of the opinion that he was the reincarnation of Ben Hur and this particular morning were the tryouts of the big Mercedes chariot race.

We flew past Tivoli and Amalienborg simultaneously, finally arriving at the pier ten minutes before we'd left the hotel.

Then, as if by magic, my flock began appearing. By taxi and private car they arrived at the pier, many of them suffering from the same affliction — overstuffed luggage.

At long last we sailed, the Swedish flag flapping defiantly in the rain. The crossing was uneventful, morning coffee and a pill for sea sickness being the major menu item.

When we arrived in Malmo at noon, we began, like the industrious Danes that we are, to cart our luggage across the street and down the block to the railway station where we were to catch the airport limousine.

A simple enough maneuver. Except when accomplished in parade formation marching slowly like a line of soggy beavers transferring a forest from one side of the road to the other.

Incidentally, our flight departure time was now listed as "two hours delayed" — 5:00 p.m. rather than 3:00 p.m. So, like any good tourists, we checked our luggage and took off in all directions to savor Sweden.

Two hours later, after a ghastly expensive lunch and a good case of water-logging, we arrived at Sturup Airport to check in.

Each passenger was allowed 66 pounds of luggage. I made it with seven ounces to spare. And that wasn't counting my briefcase, flight bag, camera case and garment bag. The flight attendants just took one look at me and walked away smirking.

Well, playing tourist can be fun!

Now I should mention why our flight was late. It would seem that the air controllers, both in Canada and in England, felt they weren't being financially appreciated so to broadcast their grievances, they began what is commonly called a "work slow-down". Flights would spend up to an hour awaiting tower clearance to take off. Of course, it made no difference to them that they were inconveniencing thousands of people at the same time. To them, it was a necessary maneuver to blackmail their government into accepting their demands. To us, it was a damned inconsiderate annoyance.

And as 6:00 p.m. arrived but our plane hadn't, some of the passengers, though not the members of the Danish Brotherhood group, began being a bit hostile, directing it at anyone who seemed to possibly be someone.

I was only a lowly tour escort, and yet these loudmouths were under the assumption that all I had to do was wiggle my nose and a plane would magically appear to whisk them home to Canada.

"I don't understand why we can't get on a plane and get out of here," one of them snorted.

Checking the view from the airport window, I noticed that there wasn't a plane in sight.

"Go right ahead. If you can find one to get on, be my guest. And don't forget to let us know where you end up."

As for the Danish group, they were taking it in stride. Fortunes were lost and won in fast-moving games of gin rummy.

The entire three weeks were rapidly condensed into animated exchanges of anecdotes. And the coffee shop at Sturup did a land office business.

Finally at 7:00 p.m. the plane arrived. We were hurried on board only to sit and wait. It seems we had to fly over England, and the controllers just couldn't be rushed.

At last, precisely at 8:18 p.m., our B-707 soared off into the darkness.

Now, on the original schedule we were due in Toronto at 7:30 p.m.; a relaxed transfer to a nearby hotel, then an evening in Toronto to enjoy and unwind.

But, with our delayed takeoff, we were now due to arrive at midnight, with a hectic rush to the hotel to grab a few hours' sleep before continuing home the next day.

We arrived at 11:40 p.m. The van to transfer us into the terminal building finally arrived planeside at 12:05 a.m. We finally got into the customs' enclosure at 12:15 a.m.

And so did a crowded Air Canada flight from Jamaica.

Chaos descended.

Danes have never been known to be bashful. So they began taking things into their own hands. I suddenly realized how a headless chicken must feel.

Somehow or other we all cleared customs, hurrying outside to wait once more for the chartered bus to take us to the hotel. Chartered ox cart would have been more accurate, although not in appearance but only in speed.

Naturally, all of the luggage porters wanted to be tipped. The money exchange windows were closed, and all any of us had were Swedish Krone. These porters didn't know Swedish krone from purple prune pits. But they were tipped in Krone and liked it.

At 1:45 a.m. we arrived at the hotel only to learn that our "confirmed reservations" had been politely released. Our rooms were not available. And 92 Danes were suddenly turning hostile. That poor night manager and the desk clerk suddenly saw

(Continued on page 20)



The 'Nisse' of Denmark

Text and drawings by Ib Spang Olsen

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

The *nisse* is old but agile; not big, but strong. A gruff greybeard, not without humor; 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 us.

Page 12

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

It befell him perhaps as it had 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 Christ at that time. But there was Yule before there was Christmas or Christianity. It is still a little doubtful whether it has ever become more Christian than pagan. 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

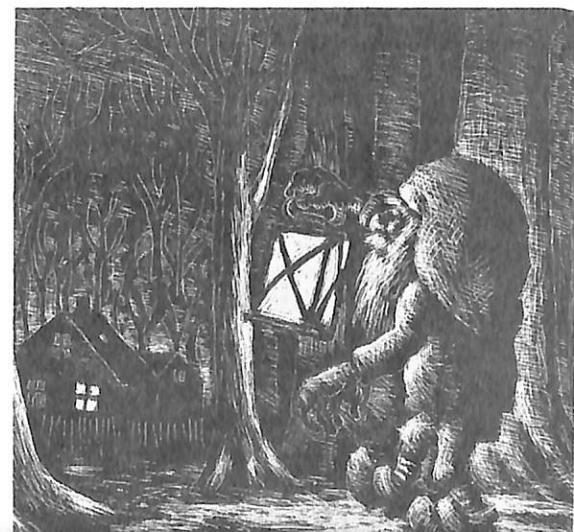
It is less than 50 years since porridge — the ancient dish only abandoned as a staple food by the present generation — ceased to be put out for the *nisse* on Christmas night, a situation illustrated now on lots of Christmas cards. Although few people had seen him, they were enough for us all to know 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 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 favors. This is the **Julemand**; and it can be difficult, even for

(Continued on page 18)





OUR LODGES

IN ACTION

EASTERN

Correspondent's Note: Well, I blew it in the October issue when I said that Perth Amboy held a great convention this past Labor Day. Not only did I not attend, but if I had gone, I probably would still be looking for the place. My apology is sent to Penn Yan, who were the ones that did put on the great convention. I know from the last convention that I attended that the area is beautiful and the people delightful. I am sorry that I missed the "grape picker" in action, after hearing some amazing stories about that machine.

Barry Edmonds, Correspondent.

Editor's Note: Don't feel badly, Barry. In that same issue I had our San Francisco Lodge celebrating a successful anniversary banquet two months before it happened. Next month's recipe in "Grandma's Kitchen" is going to be for baked crow and I'll split the first sample with you.

Lodge No. 190, Schenectady, N.Y. — Our meeting on October 5 began as the members gathered at the bar for a friendly cocktail or two. Very soon thereafter we could not resist the pangs of hunger and the delicious aromas emanating from the kitchen, so we hastened to sit down to a good old-fashioned "frikadeller" dinner with all the trimmings.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

William Peterson, Secretary.

Lodge No. 314, Hartford, Conn. — An important event occurred this year: the induction of our first woman member. This important milestone has been late in coming, but finally Hartford Lodge 314 has joined the ranks of many other lodges having women members.

Christmas party coming up on December 21, time is 6:00-8:00 p.m., so bring the children down and have a great time.

Peter Thomsen, Secretary.

Lodge No. 90, Port Reading, N.J. — At our meeting held November 1, the 12 members attending enjoyed sandwiches brought by Robert Reid. We initiated a new member, Mary Juelsen. Mary is our fifth female member.

Plans were made to bring gifts for children to our next meeting, December 6. They will be presented to children in the pediatrics ward of a local hospital just before Christmas. We are also planning a combination meeting and Christmas party for our December meeting. After a short meeting, refreshments, coffee and cake will be served and card playing will begin. Family and friends are welcome.

We would also like to wish a Happy Thanksgiving and also wishes for a Merry Christmas from our lodge to your lodge.

Claire Kjem, Correspondent.

Lodge 172, Philadelphia, Pa. — Scandinavian week was a huge success due to the combined efforts of some members from this lodge and that of Bucks County. Perhaps because we are biased, the Danish contribution was received with the highest praise by most visitors.

Preparations are underway for the 1977 Children's Christmas party. The date of the party is Sunday, December 11, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Arthur Thomassen, Correspondent.

Lodge No. 325, Long Island, N.Y. — There will be a Christmas party for the children on Sunday, December 11. Those eligible, as usual, are members' children, grandchildren up to and including age 12.

Since Santa Claus will be there, with a gift for each child, we must know exactly who is coming. Please contact Birgit Jacobsen for details.

Maurice Gruber, Secretary.

Lodge No. 242, Erie, Pa. — Lodge No. 242's 75th anniversary celebration was held October 8 with a dinner-dance party. Over 100 attended. Lodge President Mickey McMahon welcomed everyone and

asked Evelyn Heuriken to say grace. Cocktails were served prior to the dinner, the prime rib was superb, everyone enjoyed the cocktails and dinner after which music and entertainment was provided by the Jay Mar Quartet. A good time was had by all.

Lodge No. 32, New Haven, Conn. — Letters have been sent to area lodges as well as members of our own lodge to spread the word about our dinner on December 14. We figured it is about time we all got together and did a little old-fashioned celebrating. Barbara Larsen has agreed to cook a fine dinner for us and along with the beer and akvavit, everyone should be in fine shape. Please plan to come on down and meet with us.

Norman Edmonds, Secretary.

Lodge No. 102, Providence, R.I. — Our October meeting was a wash-out. Plainly speaking, it rained like the dickens.

We take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year from all of us.

Carl Sorensen, Secretary.

Lodge No. 342, Bucks County, Pa. — Foremost in our minds these days is still our annual Christmas dinner-dance. Ria Bartek, who is in charge of the affair, tells us that things are shaping up nicely and many have already made reservations. Dinner will be roast prime rib with all the trimmings, and we'll enjoy dancing to the music of the Dave Scott Four.

In October we celebrated our second anniversary with smørrebrød and the lively music of "Dolly", which, as in the past, attracted quite a crowd to fill our meeting hall. Before partying, we held a brief meeting and initiated three people — Jan and Karen Hansen and Soren Ryberg.

Our November meeting was devoted to an evening of "Andespil" which is the Danish term for bingo. We did things in typical Danish fashion, so the prizes included turkeys, ducks and Købmands

Kurv (a basket of groceries).

Soren Ryberg, who was just initiated, has volunteered to teach Danish to those of us unfamiliar with the language. If enough people in the area are interested, a class will be formed. It will be necessary to take turns meeting in various homes, since we do not have regular access to a meeting hall. You do not need to be a member of the Viking Lodge to join in.
Lorraine Malmquist, Correspondent.

MICHIGAN - OHIO

Lodge No. 70, Greenville, Mich. — By the time our news reaches the American Danes readers, we will have had the annual Steffelsefest, a dinner and dance that we all enjoy as it is open to our friends as well as the Danish lodge members.

The new members, Randall Ross and Frank Griffin, were welcomed to our group.

The "Black Top" in our parking lot is very much appreciated.

Soon it will be necessary to find selections for officers for 1978 election.

Best wishes to all.

Vern Minard, Correspondent
and Past President.

Lodge No. 227, Detroit, Mich. — The holiday season is upon us and I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and the very best in the coming new year.

Our lodge has had a good year both in fellowship and in growth and we are looking forward to an even better year in the months to come.

The thanks of the membership go to all of the officers from the past year and also to all of the brothers who have served on the various board and committees that are necessary to keep our lodge the active organization it is.

In the next issue of the magazine, the newly elected officers for the year of 1978 will be listed.

Don't forget the children's Christmas party is to be held on December 28 at the Danish Club.

At our pre-meeting dinner on October 12 we had 105 people in attendance, after which there were 60 brothers who found time to attend the business meeting. Those who were at the meeting watched as Peter Rasmussen and George Petersen were initiated into the Brotherhood by our president, Ed Woods, Jr.

We had a report from the board of the Danish Old Peoples Home on the progress of their plans for the construction of a senior citizens complex on the property that once housed the Old Peoples Home. At the present time, they are in the process of trying to get approval of their plans from the township zoning board where they hope to build.

Robert Sorensen, Correspondent.

NEBRASKA

Lodge No. 1, Omaha, Neb. — It is nice to know that someone in Lodge No. 1 is working hard in getting new members; and is getting results. We initiated ten new members at our November 1 meeting. Welcome to all new members.

We had a turkey bingo at our November 15 social night. Verner Thomsen and his committee were in charge. Our Christmas party will be held at our social night on December 20. No. 1 will join the Danish American Club with their Christmas party on Sunday, December 18, at Vennelyst Park.

With Christmas almost around the corner, it's time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Larsen.

Nebraska State Convention — The Nebraska General Committees of Danish Sisterhood and Brotherhood held their annual convention in Ruskin on October 7, 8 and L.D.B. Lodge No. 161 was host.

The Friday night get-together was a huge success. Paul Strand showed pictures of Dana College and of the Queen's visit.

We were fortunate to have Robert Ibsen, director on the National Board of Officers, from Kenosha, Wis., with us. Kenneth Pedersen, another director from Hardy and a member of Lodge No. 161 was also present. Robert Ibsen initiated Michael Gray into Lodge No. 211, Grand Island, during our meeting. Over 200 attended the banquet. Omaha Drill Team assisted with the installation. Sister Mary Jean Grunberg, first national trustee of the Sisterhood, and Robert Ibsen installed the officers for 1977-1978.

Our state picnic will be in Grand Island and the next convention for 1978 will be in Lincoln.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Chris Larsen, State Correspondent.

IOWA

Lodge No. 217, Humboldt, Ia. — The Danish Brotherhood met at its regular time, Tuesday, November 1, with 43 members and guests present.

Guest speakers for the evening were the city's two candidates for mayor with a question and answer time for each man. A short business meeting was held. Chris Pedersen was selected as chairman for the nominating committee. He is to select his own committee to work with him, nominees to be presented at the December meeting. The Christmas party will be held December 9 at Tod's Cafe, social hour from 6:00 p.m., dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.

Marie Pedersen, Correspondent.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Lodge No. 139, Viborg, S.D. — Gladelig Jule og godt Nytaar from South Dakota Lodge No. 139, Viborg, S.D. — to all other lodges.

For our October meeting a large group came out for a social evening. Those who didn't missed out on the aebleskage and Danish sandwiches. And we had visitors from Omaha. Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson stopped in and we were happy to see them. Hope they enjoyed themselves.

November 19 we had our annual Thanksgiving bingo party. We raffled turkeys, geese and ducks and served coffee, pie and cake.

December we have election of new officers and our family Christmas party will be held, too.

Ruth Peterson, Secretary.

CALIFORNIA - NEVADA

Lodge No. 345, Garden Grove, Calif. — Our meeting Saturday night, October 22, was another eventful fun-filled evening. Twenty new members were initiated and signed the charter, with 60 members in attendance.

The business meeting included the first reading of the proposed bylaws as submitted by the bylaws committee.

Lynn Brasch donated \$12.23 to the lodge that she received from selling discarded newspapers and aluminum cans to the recycling plant. Thorf Anderson also donated \$4.27 to the Young Vikings Christmas party he received from the sale of his discarded newspapers and cans.

Robert Huld gave an interesting report on the Huld's recent trip to Denmark. Bob and Kristy visited the Kronborg Castle and Bob said they went deep down into the dungeons and saw the huge stone statue of the lone Viking giant, Holger Danske (Holger the Dane). Holger Danske, Bob reported, is actually sleeping, as legend has it, and when Denmark is in peril he will rise, pick up his mighty sword and shield and then stride forth to defend his country. He did walk in a sense during World War II as a Danish resistance group named themselves after the huge Viking. Bob said a trip to see Holger Danske and the Kronborg Castle is a must.

Mrs. Alf C. Jorgensen died October 14, 1977, after a long bout with cancer. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Alf and family.

We topped off the evening by serving the "Bubbly", Danish pastry and coffee and playing bingo.

J. Christensen, Secretary.

FLORIDA

Lodge No. 257, St. Petersburg, Fla. — The turnout for our October 20 meeting was a pleasant surprise. Close to 60 members were present, besides guests. They had returned from various parts of the United States, Europe and elsewhere in good health, and were glad to be back in sunny Florida.

Our president, Robert Jorgensen, bid us all welcome. Five new applications for memberships were approved.

The guest of honor, Past President Anton Mose, Lodge No. 314, Hartford, Conn., was presented with the 60-year Danish Brotherhood pin. Our past president, Elmer W. Jensen, who is an old friend of Brother Mose, spoke highly of his accomplishments in starting Lodge No. 314. He also received a diploma signed by President George Godthaab.

It was a big day for Brother Mose and he thanked us heartily and appreciated being with us. He was given a standing ovation. His last remarks were: "I have and will always have a love for the Danish Brotherhood."

Our new bylaws were finally presented and approved — and are being sent to Omaha. Future plans for activity or entertainment were also discussed.

Gunna Jensen, Secretary.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

POPULAR FILM AND LECTURE SERIES

Lodge No. 29, Seattle, Wash.

Presented by DAN ED — Danish Educational Committee; Sponsored by Danish Brotherhood, Seattle Lodge No. 29, Danish Sisterhood, Evergreen Lodge No. 40, Danish Club of Seattle, Danelag.

In cooperation with the Scandinavian Department, University of Washington.

January 25, 1978 — Danish Business Trends, Political Climate, and the Welfare State — P. Krogh.

February 22, 1978 — Danish Immigration to the Pacific Northwest — C. Hyde.

March 29, 1978 — Danish Design and Crafts.

April 26, 1978 — Danish Women Writers — T. Hamilton-Nunnally.

May 24, 1978 — Contemporary Danish Music — L. Christensen.

Lodge No. 29, Seattle, Wash. — Seattle Lodge No. 29 has scheduled its installation of officers for Saturday, January 28, 1978, under the chairmanship of Gunner Sorensen.

April 8, 1978, is the date set for celebration of Lodge 29's 90th birthday. A big celebration is planned and an invitation is extended to all.

Dan Ed is our own type of Scan-Presence under the capable guidance of

Lem Petersen. Lodge 29 is one of the co-sponsors in cooperation with the Scandinavian Department, University of Washington. Lem Petersen is gratified at the response, especially with so many young people cooperating with their seniors. The program is now in its second year and with the support it is now getting, should continue for many more to come.

Lodge No. 29's past president, Ted Kofoed, was recently elected State Chaplain, Department of Washington, American Legion.

Clyde Langsted.

MIDWEST

Lodge No. 92, St. Charles, Ill. — After finishing our business meeting on October 14, a delightful program was put forth by the St. Charles Sweet Adelines.

Refreshments of hot beef sandwiches, homemade Danish coffee cake and coffee topped off a wonderful evening.

Thanks again to our wonderful social committee.

Lillie Mattsen, Correspondent.

Wood Dale No. 340, Wood Dale, Ill. — Barbara Leary-Henrichsen and Young Viking Anthony Maffei were initiated into our lodge by Ted Kaiser, who conducted a very informative meeting.

Ted reported on the Midwest District Convention and outlined ideas on Young Viking events, such as "Old Chicago", "Roller Skating", "Parent-Viking Scotch Doubles" and other events that might interest the Young Vikings.

The response of volunteers for the aebleskiver breakfast was really gratifying, as usual. Anyone else that would like to help out is welcome. **We hope to make this fund raising event one of our most successful ones we've ever had.**

Upcoming Event — December 11, No. 340 Children's Christmas Party.

Barbara & Rune Karsbaek,
Lodge No. 70, Greenville, Mich.

Lodge No. 35, Chicago, Ill. — Our lodge has now joined the ranks of many other lodges that are family lodges, at our meeting on November 4. The membership overwhelmingly voted to amend our bylaws so that women and children can be admitted to membership. The age limit is 14 years. Our law committee will now meet in the near future to make the necessary changes in our bylaws, subject to approval by the members.

Brother Einar Jorgensen recently returned from a trip to Denmark and reports that prices over there are almost out of reach for the average tourist. For example, a pack of cigarettes are more than 12 kroner, gasoline costs 42 kroner per liter, and a cup of coffee costs almost 4 kroner.

On the sad side, John Jensen, who was

an old timer at the lodge, passed away on October 23.

November 5 was our annual anniversary dinner in conjunction with Olga Lodge No. 11. Paul Sloth introduced "Woody" Petersen, the toastmaster, who did an excellent job in spite of losing his prepared speech. But then "Woody" is never at a loss for words. The principal speaker was John Mollerskov, who addressed the gathering and gave an outline of the programs for next year. The party was well attended with a party of ten from Dwight, Ill., as well as Einar Danielsen and a party from St. Charles, Ill., Lodge No. 17.

After the dinner there was dancing to the wonderful music of the Beltones, and from the looks of things, everyone seemed to have a good time.

Charles Jespersen, Secretary.

Lodge No. 182, Waukegan, Ill. — On November 18 members and friends gathered at the Swedish Glee Club for an evening of relaxation, fellowship and good Scandinavian food.

The December 9 meeting at the Waukegan public library, 7:30 p.m., includes the election of officers for the coming year as well as the annual Christmas party complete with the usual assortment of Christmas confections.

Then on January 13 the new officers for 1978 will be installed at the regular business meeting. Please plan to join us — support our lodge!

May the Hope, Love and Peace that is Christmas be alive in your life today and all through the new year.

Janet Petersen, Correspondent.

Lodge No. 34, Dwight, Ill. — Meetings: Second Monday, 7:30 p.m., VFW, Old Route 66, Dwight.

October 7, 1977 — a cold, rainy, lousy night, but that didn't stop our Danish Oktoberfest from going on. The American Legion opened their doors to us and by 8:15 p.m. that night, 500 Danish kringle from the Wisconsin bakery had been sold and five big pots of boiled, egg coffee had been consumed by cold, wet shoppers. Many thanks to J. Andreasen and R. Weller for getting up in the wee hours Friday morning to go to Wisconsin to get the kringle; to the committee for the planning and work put into getting this organized; to all those who came in and worked and to the American Legion for the use of their hall. A job well done and worth doing again. Free drawings were held for two \$25 savings bonds — winners were Kayla Andreasen and Irving Beier.

The dance on Saturday night was also a huge success. Winners for the drawing were Jack Halloran — \$25 savings bond; Tom Kaparan — homemade afghan; Carmen Thompsen — Danish blue plate; Don Johnston — basket of booze.

The November 14 Family Potluck
Page 15

featured movies for all, guessing games and Danish dances.

Meeting — October 10. I'm happy to report that our link continues to grow as new members, Niels Y. Schou, Kayla Andreasen, Lee and Margaret Patten, Gregg and Diane Jensen, were welcomed into the lodge. Viking certificates were given to Brian and Annette Bennett. Isn't it great?

Coming events — Mark your calendars. Monday, December 26, Christmas Tree Party.

"A handfull of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains."

Margaret Goodwin, Reporter.

Lodge No. 36, Milwaukee, Wis. — We hold two meetings each month at the International Institute, 2810 West Highland Boulevard, Milwaukee, Wis. Our "Social Meeting Night" is on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.;

business meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:45 p.m.

Our lodge was organized November 22, 1889, and to celebrate our 88th anniversary we had a "Frikadeller" supper prepared by our good Danish cooks, Westerlund, Petersen and Larsen. Milwaukee DDS Lodge No. 15 presented us with a beautifully decorated anniversary cake. Norman Tonn showed excellent sound movies of water skiing and Coho fishing.

Our Christmas party will be held on our scheduled "Social Meeting Night" Tuesday, December 6, at the International Institute. The party will begin with a potluck supper and we will be given a demonstration in preparing "Aebleskiver" by Ethel Tonn and Johanne Westerlund. Although plans are not complete at this writing, we will have the traditional "Juletrae" (Christmas Tree) and other festive "goodies".

Election of officers for 1978 will be held at our business meeting on December 20, 1977.

We are very sorry to inform you of the death of our Brother Olaf C. Olsen on October 13, 1977.

Plans for the 1978 Midwest District Convention are well underway reports its chairman, Elmer C. Jorgensen. The convention will be held in Milwaukee September 16 and 17, 1978.

Lillian Jensen, Correspondent.

CARVAL WESTERLUND HONORED

On September 13, 1977, National Board member, Robert Ibsen, presented Carval Westerlund with a plaque in honor of his 25 faithful years as secretary of Lodge No. 36 in Milwaukee. Carval was an active member both in his local lodge, Midwest district, and as delegate to many conventions.

Six days later, friends were saddened to hear of his passing on September 19, 1977.



REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MONTH

In addition to being the leader among the potential contest winners for an all expense-paid trip for two to the Home Office in 1978, Tage Guldbrandsen is also our representative for the month of October.

With the cooperation of our other representatives Tage has an excellent chance of becoming the Danish Brotherhood "Rep of the Year" and taking the trophy back with him to Detroit when he visits the Home Office early next year.

Congratulations, Tage, we will be looking forward to having you and Mrs. Guldbrandsen as our guests here in Omaha in 1978.

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 2; Section 14, paragraph 2, is hereby published:

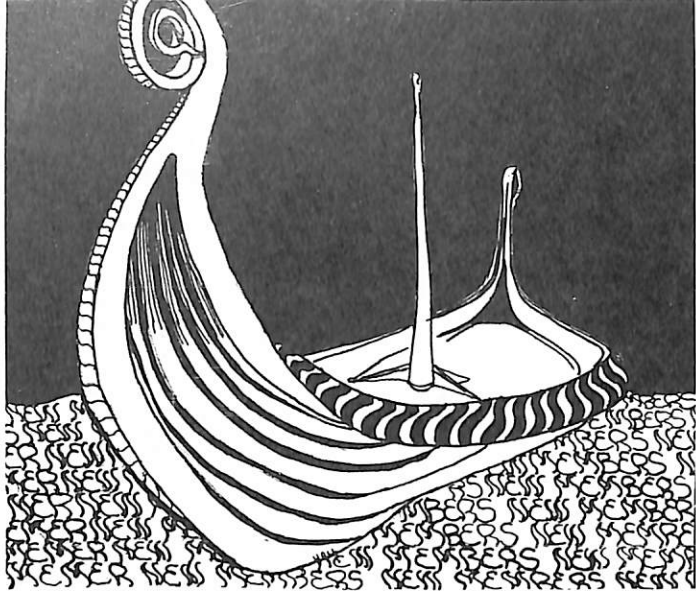
NOVEMBER, 1977

George Godthaab, Salary, \$252.50.
Expenses, Board of Directors meeting, October, 1977:

- George Godthaab, \$428.00.
- George Jacobsen, \$432.00.
- Clyde Langsted, \$420.00.
- Peter Weber, \$472.00.
- Robert Ibsen, \$512.00.
- Byron Petersen, \$331.00.
- Kenneth Pedersen, \$437.60.

*A Very Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Prosperous New Year.*

*From All of Us,
To All of You.*



NEW MEMBERS

| Name | Lodge No. | Location | Sponsor |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Clarence E. Nelson | 4 | Racine, Wis. | August Rasmussen |
| Leonard A. Christian | 4 | Racine, Wis. | Arthur L. McCallum |
| Henry C. Czarnecki | 14 | Kenosha, Wis. | Gordon Andersen |
| Fred J. Caracciolo | 14 | Kenosha, Wis. | Robert Ibsen |
| Christian Scheel | 29 | Seattle, Wash. | Sam K. Frederiksen |
| Nina L. Steichen | 34 | Dwight, Ill. | Metha Jensen |
| Marie C. Hansen | 34 | Dwight, Ill. | Metha Jensen |
| Beatrice I. Sondergaard | 34 | Dwight, Ill. | Metha Jensen |
| Nels O. Sondergaard | 35 | Chicago, Ill. | Charles Jespersen |
| Aaron R. Miller | 51 | Ludington, Mich. | Noel K. Howe |
| Morton J. Pritchard | 51 | Ludington, Mich. | L. Christoffersen |
| Kenneth W. Bisgaard | 67 | Fresno, Calif. | Howard R. Petersen |
| Janine P. Seyller | 92 | St. Charles, Ill. | Marlowe Seyller |
| Matthew C. Seyller* | 92 | St. Charles, Ill. | Carl Schouw |
| Harlan E. Detlefsen | 95 | Ferndale, Calif. | Francis Sweet |
| Carl B. Jacobsen | 116 | Newark, N.J. | Chris Mogensen |
| Florence J. Jacobsen | 116 | Newark, N.J. | Chris Mogensen |
| Kirsten I. Andersen | 126 | Los Angeles, Calif. | Peter Breum |
| Erik Eriksen | 126 | Los Angeles, Calif. | Palle Andersen |

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|--------------------|
| Beth Nielsen* | 139 | Viborg, S.D. | Esther Jorgensen |
| Keith Johnsen | 147 | Newell, Ia. | Weldon Anderson |
| Wilbert L. Reitz | 147 | Newell, Ia. | M. E. Petersen |
| Dorothy E. Anderson | 167 | Portland, Ore. | Mel Pihl |
| Shirley E. Jipp | 206 | Blair, Neb. | J. Merton Kuhr |
| Fern B. Christensen | 217 | Humboldt, Ia. | Walter Pedersen |
| Nona Have | 217 | Humboldt, Ia. | Walter Pedersen |
| Warren J. Petersen | 227 | Detroit, Mich. | Tage Guldbrandsen |
| William A. Olsen | 227 | Detroit, Mich. | Tage Guldbrandsen |
| Kenneth E. Culling | 227 | Detroit, Mich. | Otto W. Pedersen |
| Henry H. Gram | 227 | Detroit, Mich. | Carl B. Jensen |
| John E. O'Hare | 227 | Detroit, Mich. | Arne Jensen |
| Karl Kristian Sand* | 268 | Junction City, Ore. | Kristian Sand |
| Svend E. Jagd | 268 | Junction City, Ore. | Martin Taekker |
| Helen B. Lunde | 294 | Barre, Vt. | Francis Taff |
| Priscilla W. Taff | 294 | Barre, Vt. | Louis C. Taff, Jr. |
| Ann M. Fox | 294 | Barre, Vt. | Chas. T. Thygesen |
| Birthe J. Filby | 294 | Barre, Vt. | Alfred W. Lunde |
| Ruth Kephart | 326 | West Branch, Ia. | Deloris M. Ross |
| Gladys I. Erickson | 326 | West Branch, Ia. | Deloris M. Ross |
| Alfred A. Erickson | 326 | West Branch, Ia. | Deloris M. Ross |
| Victor M. Kephart | 326 | West Branch, Ia. | Deloris M. Ross |
| Marguerite E. Hoover | 329 | Long Beach, Calif. | Robert A. Jones |
| Ivan L. Hoover | 329 | Long Beach, Calif. | Robert A. Jones |
| W. Robert Phoenix | 342 | Bucks Co., Pa. | Virginia Robinson |
| Virginia Phoenix | 342 | Bucks Co., Pa. | Virginia Robinson |
| Nancy A. Desing | 344 | Janesville, Wis. | Donald Desing |
| Jeanne M. Kamlager | 344 | Janesville, Wis. | Donald Desing |
| Mary C. Hansen | 344 | Janesville, Wis. | Howard Hansen |
| Kenya K. Quiros* | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | Robert Huld |
| Erik L. Hansen | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | Maisie Hansen |
| Lorie L. Stump | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | W. Brasch, Sr. |
| Howard L. Kjellsen | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | F. Pedersen |
| Orvil E. Pedersen | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | F. Pedersen |
| Charlene I. Pedersen | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | F. Pedersen |
| Maisie L. Hansen | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | S. Petersen |
| Bjarne K. Hansen | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | S. Petersen |
| Richard D. Helberg | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | M. Hansen |
| Eleanor V. Helberg | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | M. Hansen |
| Dagmar P. Irvin | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | F. Pedersen |
| Helga S. Bjorn | 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | T. Andersen |
| Douglas M. Birkeland | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | Erik Erickson |
| Douglas Birkeland* | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | Erik Erickson |
| Jodeen H. Birkeland* | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | Erik Erickson |
| Kristine H. Birkeland* | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | Erik Erickson |
| Jytte A. Pasbjerg | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | Tage Guldbrandsen |
| Donald S. Reiffers | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | Tage Guldbrandsen |
| Victor H. Sorensen | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | "Andy" Andersen |
| Mary L. Erickson | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | Erik Erickson |
| Vera L. Christensen | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | F. Christensen |
| Keith B. Christensen | 600 | Omaha, Neb. | F. Christensen |

NEW MEMBERS NEW INSURANCE

OCTOBER, 1977

Year to Date

| Lodge Number | Location | New | | Year to Date | |
|--------------|--------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| | | Members | Insurance | Members | Insurance |
| 1 | Omaha, Neb. | | \$ | 28 | \$ 85,000 |
| 4 | Racine, Wis. | 2 | | 27 | 83,000 |
| 14 | Kenosha, Wis. | 2 | 5,000 | 36 | 106,000 |
| 16 | Minden, Neb. | | | 15 | 88,500 |
| 29 | Seattle, Wash. | 1 | | 4 | 51,000 |
| 34 | Dwight, Ill. | 3 | | 35 | 40,500 |
| 45 | Minneapolis, Minn. | | | 12 | 99,473 |
| 46 | Perth Amboy, N.J. | | | 27 | 0 |
| 49 | San Francisco, Calif. | | | 1 | 500 |
| 51 | Ludington, Mich. | | | 7 | 2,000 |
| 75 | Albert Lea, Minn. | | | 5 | 20,000 |
| 116 | Newark, N.J. | 2 | | 7 | 1,000 |
| 126 | Los Angeles, Calif. | 2 | 5,000 | 6 | 30,000 |
| 139 | Viborg, S.D. | 1 | 1,000 | 15 | 2,000 |
| 144 | Dike, Ia. | | | 4 | 62,341 |
| 161 | Ruskin, Neb. | | | 12 | 28,300 |
| 167 | Portland, Ore. | 1 | 5,000 | 20 | 91,000 |
| 217 | Humboldt, Ia. | | | 7 | 17,000 |
| 227 | Detroit, Mich. | 6 | 12,500 | 26 | 63,000 |
| 263 | Askov, Minn. | | | 4 | 139,010 |
| 299 | Solvang, Calif. | | | 8 | 116,000 |
| 325 | Nassau County, N.Y. | | | 7 | 10,500 |
| 328 | Vancouver, B.C. | | | 9 | 0 |
| 341 | Kimballton-Elk Horn, Ia. | | | 12 | 114,000 |
| 600 | Omaha, Neb. | 8 | 26,768 | 50 | 267,790 |
| | | 28 | \$ 55,268 | 375 | \$1,406,892 |

GROUP II [Lodges with 50 to 100 members]

| | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|---------|-------|
| 10 | Council Bluffs, Ia. | | 1,000 | |
| 15 | Des Moines, Ia. | 4 | 325,000 | |
| 35 | Chicago, Ill. | 1 | 5 | 2,000 |

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----|-----------|--------|-------------|
| 36 | Milwaukee, Wis. | | 3 | 10,000 | |
| 42 | Spokane, Wash. | | 1 | 1,000 | |
| 43 | Denver, Colo. | | 1 | | |
| 56 | Kansas City, Mo. | | 1 | 1,000 | |
| 70 | Greenville, Mich. | | 4 | 1,500 | |
| 71 | Penn Yan, N.Y. | | 1 | 1,500 | |
| 92 | St. Charles, Ill. | 2 | 21,000 | 22 | 136,500 |
| 113 | Enumclaw, Wash. | | 2 | | |
| 143 | Petaluma, Calif. | | 1 | | |
| 147 | Newell, Ia. | 2 | 2,500 | 3 | 2,500 |
| 164 | New York, N.Y. | | 1 | 2,500 | |
| 206 | Blair, Neb. | | 5 | | |
| 211 | Grand Island, Neb. | | 5 | 16,000 | |
| 261 | Fowler, Colo. | | 2 | 5,000 | |
| 273 | Dillon, Mont. | | 3 | 2,500 | |
| 283 | Dagmar, Mont. | | 2 | 1,000 | |
| 294 | Barre, Vt. | | 4 | | |
| 314 | Hartford, Conn. | | 2 | 10,000 | |
| 323 | Alhambra, Calif. | | 10 | 11,500 | |
| 340 | Wood Dale, Ill. | 4 | 69,000 | 26 | 264,000 |
| 342 | Bucks County, Pa. | 2 | 20,500 | 7 | 22,000 |
| 345 | Garden Grove, Calif. | 13 | 23,841 | 111 | 319,992 |
| | | 28 | \$136,841 | 227 | \$1,050,263 |

GROUP III [Lodges with up to 50 members]

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----|-----------|--------|------------|
| 30 | Muskegon, Mich. | | 3 | 1,500 | |
| 33 | Tacoma, Wash. | | 3 | 1,000 | |
| 67 | Fresno, Calif. | 1 | 1 | | |
| 89 | Superior, Wis. | | 2 | 2,500 | |
| 90 | Port Reading, N.J. | | 2 | | |
| 95 | Ferndale, Calif. | 1 | 19 | 8,500 | |
| 219 | Clear Lake, Ia. | | 2 | 76,730 | |
| 230 | Arcata, Calif. | | 3 | 1,000 | |
| 257 | St. Petersburg, Fla. | | 14 | | |
| 268 | Junction City, Ore. | 2 | 22,000 | 7 | 23,000 |
| 326 | West Branch, Ia. | 4 | | 5 | |
| 329 | Long Beach, Calif. | 2 | | 4 | |
| 344 | Janesville, Wis. | 3 | 3,000 | 12 | 12,000 |
| | | 13 | \$ 25,000 | 83 | \$ 126,230 |

New insurance includes new insurance on old members and juvenile members.

DEN DANSKE UNGDOM

Part III

by David Valade

This is the last of the series, "Den Danske Ungdom", and it will look at Danish youth and music. If I had to associate the young Danes with ten things, music would be in the top three. This is because every teenager I met in Denmark does not have a record collection of less than 20 LP's; a collection of one album is amazing in itself as a record costs about \$15.

The Beatles records are among the most collected albums in Denmark. I would not venture so far as to say that every young Dane owns a Beatles record but I would guess that 50 percent have at least one Beatles album.

So much for one of the most popular rock groups in Denmark; now to drop a word on one of the least liked groups. The group is Abba which is, if you don't know, comprised of four Swedes. I think this is the biggest reason Danes do not like them. Not many Danish teenagers would own an Abba album and for you tourists in Denmark, don't tell a Dane you like Abba.

You may be lucky and he will agree with you but again you might start the world's most heated argument!

Last August in Denmark I went to see The Doobie Brothers perform in Copenhagen before several thousand Danes and a few Americans. The concert itself was probably no different than any others The Doobie Brothers have performed in the States except for two factors. One, it was their first appearance in Denmark and they didn't know how the audience would react. And two, they were preceded by, as far as I could tell, one of the best Danish rock groups, C. D. Bjørn. Bjørn's music was all right but I don't think the group would do very well in the U.S. of A.

The Doobie Brothers were a great hit with the Danes. It started when, before the concert, one of the Brothers said, "Attention! We have word that there are narcotics agents in the audience looking just like you and me. If you have any drugs will you please dispose them on the stage. We will take care of them for you!" and ended when the group was called back for a second encore which they really weren't expecting.

I think part of the reason for the second encore was the Doobies use of the mirror ball and smoke coming out of the stage which engulfed the whole group and the first ten rows as well. I enjoyed the mirror ball even more. Why? This was my first Doobie Brothers concert so it is only proper that I should marvel at the ball

with lights shining on its many facets (giving the ball the look of a star). Then the "star" spun faster and faster along with the music which kept "going faster" until the audience was almost hypnotized. Next the "star" spun backwards getting slower and slower this time while the music did the same. The audience, including myself, nearly brought down the house after the "mirror ball performance". That was a great concert and my only regret was, it was on the night before I went home to the States.

Now, since the Danes like so much music, how come there aren't any really famous Danish rock groups? I have asked this question many times and I couldn't find an answer. There has been one Danish rock group, though, that has almost made it to world fame. It is The Savage Rose. A few years ago they were the hottest rock group in Denmark and they felt they could do well in the States. Well, they recorded an album for the American market. The record didn't sell because the quality of the music was bad according to the critics. Ever since then The Savage Rose has been on a decline.

"Den Danske Ungdom" has been fun to write and I hope you have enjoyed reading the series. I feel that schools, motorcycle gangs and music have provided a little information about the Danish youth so that you could see both how different and how alike the Danish and the American teenagers are to each other.

The "Nisse" of Denmark

(Continued from page 12)

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 Claus 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 Claus 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; Santa Claus, 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, over Jotunheim, realm of the dead, drawn by eight legs? Could he, behind his cozy cotton-wool beard, in fact be Odin incarnate, on his eight-legged horse? In old German pictures he would almost seem to be, as, rod in hand and black in the face, he comes to punish the children. But, more than St. Nicholas, he looks as if he

might have invented the idea of sleighing through the air. What does Santa Claus know of snow, anyway? And when an Englishman speaks of Old Nick, he means the Devil, the old and overthrown god.

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.

DECEMBER ASSESSMENT Number 942

is Due and Payable to the
Lodge Treasurer

December 1, 1977
And Must Be Paid Before
January 1, 1978

Members failing to pay to their local
lodge treasurer as per above will be
considered in arrears.

HOWARD CHRISTENSEN,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Christmas in Denmark

(Continued from page 10)

A favorite book in Danish homes is "Peter's Jul", written in the days of our grandparents by J. Krohn, with very charming drawings. Danish mothers still read to their young children the simple verses, for — as the first verse goes — if mother now will read aloud the very simple song, the little verse will take wings upon her Danish tongue:

For they are true for now and
aye,
The old and golden words that
say
In following one another;
Like Father only few are found,
But never one like Mother.

And the verses go on to tell of all the great expectations of children and the final revelation of their Christmas in faith and joy and glory.

Some 60 years ago Einar Holboll, then a post office clerk, originated the idea of the Christmas seal. A Danish immigrant, Jacob A. Riis, brought the idea to the United States, and made it known through an article in a magazine called "The Outlook".

"GLAEDELIG JUL" is the Danish way of saying MERRY CHRISTMAS.

CHRISTMAS

GIFT IDEAS

CHRISTMAS GIFT LIST

A directory of unique gifts available through the Fraternal Department of the Danish Brotherhood in America

1. A year's subscription to the **American Dane** magazine. For only \$6, you can insure a gift a month, each month, for the next year, of a very special magazine: the **American Dane**.
2. A Danish Language Tape Kit including a dictionary, a textbook, and five cassette tapes, this kit is the definitive course in learning to speak Danish available in the United States today. Each kit only \$24.95.
3. A plastic Viking Ship Kit. Every youngster likes to build models. And we have available a limited number of Viking ships complete with sails, shields, and detailed Viking warriors. Only \$4.00 each.
4. Red Nylon Water Repellent Jackets with the DBIA insignia. Another lasting gift, available in both lined and unlined, that proudly reflects pride in our Danish traditions. The jackets are available in both children's and adults' sizes. Please specify size and category.
Lined - adults - \$15.95 child's - \$12.95
Unlined - adults - \$13.95 child's - \$11.95
5. Danish Books make a fantastic gift. Nordic Books in Philadelphia is offering a comprehensive collection of Danish material, both fiction and nonfiction. A lasting and meaningful gift for both young and old. See last month's issue for titles available.
6. Scandinavian Music. Skandisk Music in Minneapolis is offering collections of Scandinavian music, primarily Norwegian; however, each album also contains Danish material. And my Danish must be improving because I understood the lyrics in a number of the Norwegian songs. They've just made available a Christmas Album of delightful, traditional Scandinavian carols and songs

sung by Mike and Else Sevig. Only \$6.75 each postpaid from Skandisk Music, 3424-19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402.

7. Give the gift that will last a lifetime. A Danish Brotherhood Endowment will benefit your **children** and **grandchildren**, and improve and gain in value every year. It will give them an early start on long-range insurance and retirement programs. They will have the benefits of a low premium rate. They may even accumulate money for a college education. The Danish Brotherhood Endowment is a gift of a lifetime of benefits.
8. Great stocking stuffers for the Young Viking (or the young at heart). DBIA bumper stickers are an excellent "extra" gift to tuck into stockings. They proudly proclaim Danish heritage. And don't forget the large selection of lapel stickers that identify the wearers to others: "Watch it! I'm a Viking!" and "Hug Me! I'm Danish!" are only two examples. 50c per bumper sticker and sheet of lapel stickers.
We also have decks of cards for the bridge or poker champion in your household. They have the DBIA logo on the back in blue and white. Only \$1.00 a deck.
Our DBIA key rings are also available at 35c each. They're bright red and a durable, unbreakable plastic.
9. Christmas decorations. Our American and Danish toothpick flags are ideal for get-togethers at Christmas with friends. Great for lodge Christmas parties, too. And our Danish flag garlands are replicas of the decorations actually adorning Danish Christmas trees. The toothpick flags are 4c each, and the garlands are 25c per four-foot strand.

For more information, contact Gary Eilts, Fraternal Director, Danish Brotherhood, P.O. Box 31748, Omaha, Nebraska 68131. All orders must be prepaid. All Nebraska residents include 4% sales tax.

REVIEW

by Christine Wahl, Assistant Editor

Two Minutes of Silence, a collection of short stories by H. C. Branner, takes its title from one of the stories included in the book. It is an appropriate title, for each story depicts a series of events, or one event, which brings the main character to a flash of self-revelation. A young man becomes overwhelmed by his conflicting feelings and overpowering love for his wife of one day as he contemplates her sleeping form. A little girl receives a beautiful and expensive doll for Christmas from the wealthy people who employ her mother, and in a burst of insight about the reason for the gift and what it represents, destroys it.

These crystal-clear moments of truth occur for everyone, but those which occur in childhood are often the most painful to experience and to recall. Several of the stories involve the experiences of children in the unique society of children. They remind us, however uncomfortably, that the innocence and naivete of youth is often accompanied by cruelty to and conscienceless manipulation of others in the peer group.

BOOKMANS

HOLIDAY

True, Branner's characters are not meant to be viewed as individuals but as representative symbols. This becomes obvious in the reading. However, his female characters, especially the younger ones, are almost consistently portrayed as the more threatening, the ones in control. These are his best characterizations. They are presented as soft and yielding, then calculating, cold, and omnipotent. In "The First Morning", the young groom struggles to sort out his feelings that his blonde bride is interchangeably his mother, a symbol of eternal womanhood, and his lover; in all cases, his life's direction since the wedding ceremony.

For these reasons, I cannot help but disagree with the statement by Richard B. Vowles, who, in the Foreword, states "Branner's portraits of women are almost invariably skillful — and sympathetic." In several of the stories, especially those about children, the female character is predator and man is the prey. In fact, Branner uses irony well when these roles appear to be reversed.

Two Minutes of Silence is absorbing, thoughtful and engrossing. His lucid insight is not for the reader who wants something light. He forces the reader to think and draws you into his accounts with his excellent description. It is a fascinating collection of vignettes of the mind.



"THANKS" — FROM "THANKS TO SCANDINAVIA"

A bronze placque commemorating the Rescue of Danish Jewry from the Holocaust has been presented by the "Thanks to Scandinavia" Scholarship Fund to the North American organization of Scandinavian Airlines for SAS's consistent support of the Fund's activities.

Presentation was made at a benefit performance of Victor Borge's "Comedy with Music", now on Broadway. Participating, from the left, were Mr. Borge, national chairman of the Fund; Dr. Alfred

A. Richman, the sculptor; Richard Netter, president of Thanks to Scandinavia; and B. John Heistein, vice president and general manager of SAS at New York.

Mr. Netter praised SAS's help in sustaining the Fund's effort to preserve recognition of the moral example set by the Danes, Norwegians, Swedes and Finns in sheltering their Jewish populations during World War II, by scholarships and other training opportunities in America for young Scandinavians.

The Rescue placque, which depicts one of the fishing vessels on which Danish Jews were evacuated to Sweden, was sculpted by Dr. Richman, a distinguished physician and hospital executive. Similar placques have been installed by Thanks to Scandinavia in the Resistance Museum at Copenhagen, the Mannerheim Museum in Helsinki, Akershus Castle in Oslo and in Malmo, where the Danish Jews found shelter in Sweden.

Journey's End

(Continued from page 11)

a vision of the avenging Vikings attacking their hotel.

Through a gargantuan effort, everyone got a bed although not necessarily as they had originally requested. In fact, a couple of teenage members of our party decided at 2 a.m. to go on a scavenger hunt for a missing rollaway. They found one. And then they smuggled it the length of the building, up on the elevator, and into their room.

Danes are also known for their ingenuity.

The next morning, the travel agents in Toronto had arranged a complimentary bus tour of the city prior to our departure for home. But, because of the late hour the night before, I believed very few people would take advantage of it. We were to meet in the hotel lobby at 8:45. I arrived expecting a dozen courageous, baggy-eyed tourists. Instead I found 65 of our 92 passengers, all bright-eyed and breakfasted, ready to go.

By the way, Danes have great stamina, too.

Around noon we began transferring everyone back to the airport for the flight home. And by 5:30 that afternoon, everyone had been delivered safely. The 1977 Danish Brotherhood Charter Flight to Denmark was over.

We hadn't lost anyone; we hadn't overlooked any baggage; we had all gained weight; and we'd had a truly memorable trip. All in all, it was an experience worth writing about. Thus, the topic for this epistle.

Category II — Age 13 to 18

Fiction

- First Inge-Lise Christensen Irwin, Pa.
"The Sailor Who Never Went to Sea"
- Second Ellen Matsen Bellevue, Wash.
"Changing Purposes"
- Third Cindy Mauritsen Kent, Wash.
"The Tree"

Non-Fiction

- First Karen Helleberg Minden, Neb.
"The Danish People —
Flower of America"
- Second Brian Jacobsen Minden, Neb.
"A Great Dane"
- Third Joan Rasmussen St. Paul, Neb.
"My Danish Heritage"

Poetry

- First Kathy Fantau Aston, Pa.
"Quiet"
- Second Dane Wittrup
Albuquerque, N.M.
"Sir Tom's Lament"
- Third Beth Young Akron, Ohio
"Memories"

Category III — Age 19 and over

Fiction

- First Paul Lindholdt Seattle, Wash.
"A Brief Vacation"
- Second Aksel Sand Pedersen Deposit,
Deposit, N.Y.
"A Letter to Nykobing"
- Third Kirsten Barfod Camden, Me.
"The Adult"

Non-Fiction

- First Mrs. Doris C. Jones Boone, Ia.
"Journey with Grandpa"
- Second Gladys Joy Loft Elstermeier
St. Paul, Neb.
"A Great American Dane"
- Third Karen Chadwick
Bloomington, Ind.
"Full Circle"

Poetry

- First Eleanor Leonard Clinton, Ia.
"The Empty Chair"
- Second Paul Lindholdt Seattle, Wash.
"View of the Waterfront"
- Third Diane Petersen Lyndhurst, Va.
"Untitled IV"

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST RESULTS

Category I — Juvenile to age 12

Fiction

- First Amy Tripodi Arroyo Grande, Calif.
"There Will Be a Sunday Dinner"
- Second Douglas Mirk Berkley, Mich.
"A New Beginning"
- Third Karen Lange Tacoma, Wash.
"Spacecraft to the Future"

Non-Fiction

- First Anne Marie Wittrup Albuquerque,
Albuquerque, N.M.
"A Danish Cemetery"

Poetry

- First Douglas Mirk Berkley, Mich.
"Haiku"
- Second Karen Lange Tacoma, Wash.
"The Sky"
- Third Anne Marie Wittrup
Albuquerque, N.M.
"Daniel"

GRANDMA'S KITCHEN

SODA CAKE [Sodakage]

1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar
3 cups flour
5 eggs, separated
1 cup milk
grated rind of 1 lemon
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
pinch of salt

Cream butter and sugar until white. Stir in egg yolks, grated lemon rind and salt. Sift flour together with baking soda and cream of tartar and stir in with the milk. Finally add stiffly beaten egg whites. Grease a cake pan with butter and sprinkle with flour. Tip dough into pan and bake in a hot oven for about one hour.

BISCUIT CAKE [Chokoladekikskage] Does not require baking

1 cup shortening
2 cups powdered sugar
1 cup cocoa
3 eggs
1 pack square biscuits
a little grated orange peel
a few almonds for decoration

Beat eggs. Sift powdered sugar together with cocoa and add to the eggs, stirring well. Stir in grated orange peel. Melt shortening slightly and pour in, stirring continuously. Take a rectangular, deep cake pan, grease with butter and line with paper. Fill up with alternate layers of cocoa-sugar-egg mixture and biscuits, beginning and finishing up with the cocoa mixture. Place somewhere cool. When it has cooled, the cake can easily be tapped out of the form. Remove paper and decorate on top with a few peeled almonds.

HONEY CAKE [Honningkage]

1 cup honey or syrup
1 1/4 cups sugar
1/2 cup water
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
2 eggs
1 teaspoon crushed cinnamon
1 teaspoon crushed ginger
1 teaspoon crushed cloves
a little chopped orange peel
4 cups wheaten flour

This is a very old Danish recipe. Danish children had for many generations had a weakness for honey cake, a fact confirmed by Hans C. Andersen in more than one of his fairy tales!

Warm the honey, sugar and water in a pot, but **no not allow to boil**. When cool, stir in the baking powder, previously dissolved in a little water, and the two eggs, beaten together. Add cinnamon, ginger, cloves and the finely chopped orange peel. Finally sift in flour and mix the lot thoroughly. Tip the batter into two greased and floured cake pans and bake in a slow oven for about one hour. When the cakes have cooled, either cut in slices and butter, or cut into two layers and spread buttercream (see recipe in this section) in between.

BUTTERCREAM [Smørecreme]

1 cup butter
1 cup shortening
2 cups powdered sugar
5 eggs
vanilla

Cream butter and shortening until smooth. Stir in the sifted sugar until the mass is white. Add eggs one at a time and stir again well. Finally stir in vanilla.

Lest We Forget

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP, WE HONOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY SINCE THE LAST REPORT.

| Date of Death | Name | Age | Birth Place | Lodge No. | Location | Year Joined |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 10-15-77 | Harold O. Pedersen | 67 | Brabrand, Denmark | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1928 |
| 10-23-77 | Johannes Jensen | 81 | Kelstrup, Denmark | 35 | Chicago, Illinois | 1920 |
| 10-23-77 | Christian E. J. Sondergaard | 88 | Nees, Kasby Sagn | 46 | Perth Amboy, New Jersey | 1911 |
| 10-15-77 | Jens P. Jensen | 85 | Twed, Denmark | 49 | San Francisco, California | 1924 |
| 10-25-77 | Noel K. Howe, Sr. | 59 | Ludington, Michigan | 51 | Ludington, Michigan | 1963 |
| 10-31-77 | Clair Ernest Feutz | 64 | Grand Rapids, Michigan | 106 | Trufant, Michigan | 1946 |
| 10-20-77 | Martin Kelso | 86 | Sonderso, Denmark | 184 | Hayward, California | 1934 |
| 11-2-77 | Rasmus Rasmussen | 92 | Lindum, Denmark | 594 | Denver, Colorado | 1959 |
| 11-2-77 | Louis N. Jensen | 83 | Minneapolis, Minnesota | 29 | Seattle, Washington | 1945 |

For the year January 1–December 31, 197 , or other taxable year beginning 197 , ending 19

Name (If joint return, give first names and initials of both) Last name Your social security number For Privacy Act Notification, see page 2 of Instructions. Present home address (Number and street, including apartment number, or rural route) Spouse's social security no. For IRS use only City, town or post office, State and ZIP code Occupation Yours Spouse's

Requested by Census Bureau for Revenue Sharing A In what city, town, village, etc., do you live? B Do you live within the legal limits of the city, town, etc.? C In what county and State do you live? D In what township do you live? (See page 4.)

Filing Status 1 Single (check only ONE box) 2 Married filing joint return (even if only one had income) 3 Married filing separately. If spouse is also filing give spouse's social security number in designated space above and enter full name here 4 Unmarried 5 Qualifying widow or widower Enter number of boxes checked 6a Regular Yourself Spouse b First names of your dependent children who lived with you

8 President's Campaign Contribution 9 Wages, salaries, tips, etc. 10a Dividends (If gross) 11 Interest 12 Income from rental property 13 Total income 14 Adjustments to income 15 Subtotal income

16a Tax, credits, and other adjustments b Credit for tax on prior year's federal income tax c Balance of refundable credits 17 Credits 18 Balance of nonrefundable credits 19 Other tax payments 20 Total (add lines 16a through 19) 21a Total federal income tax 21b 1975 estimated tax 21c Earned income credit 21d Amount of refundable credits 21e Other payments 22 Total (add lines 20 and 21c through 21e)

Balance Due or Refund 23 If line 20 is more than line 22 (Check here) 24 If line 22 is more than line 23 (Check here) 25 Amount of refund 26 Amount of tax due (including estimated tax) 26

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge. Sign here your signature Date Preparer's signature (other than taxpayer) Date Spouse's signature (if filing jointly, BOTH must sign even if only one had income) Address (and ZIP Code)

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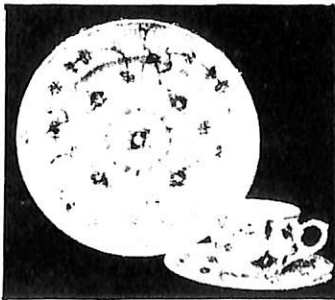
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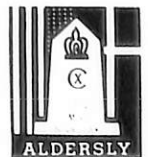
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