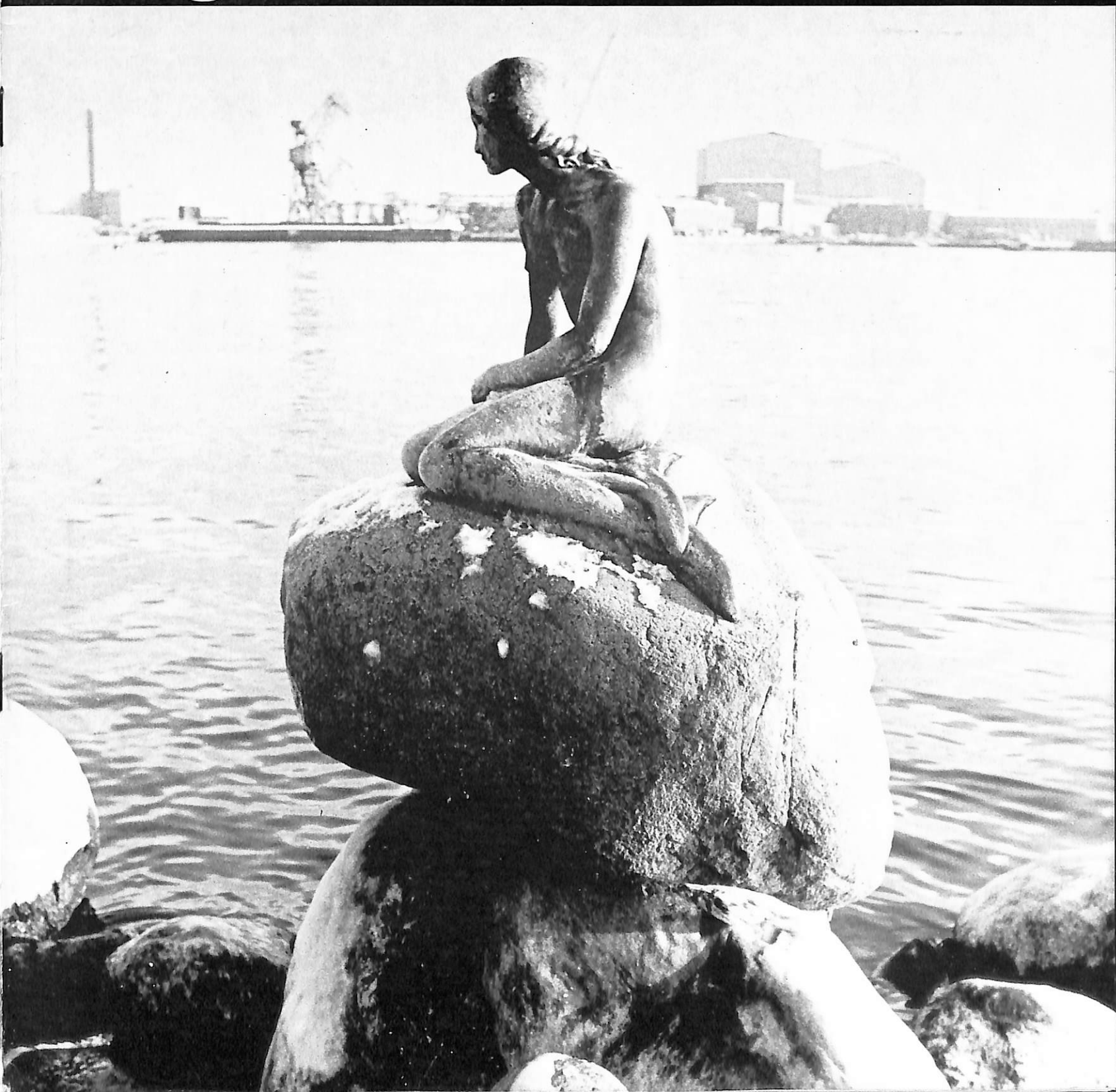


The  
**AMERICAN DANE**  
Magazine

*April 1981*



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# **NEXT TIME YOU GO HOME TAKE AN SAS VACATION**

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## What's New for April

This month Enok Mortensen continues his "saga" of his family's journey to our country in Part Two of America Bound. Many of you, I'm sure can readily relate to this tale through your own parents' and grandparents' stories of their journeys.

Scandinavians have journeyed to America longer than any other people, starting with Leif Ericson and his band of voyagers nearly a thousand years ago. We've all heard about their settlements in the Newfoundland area, but few of us have heard of the speculations about other Viking explorers in Florida. Sound intriguing? Let Russell McCarthy's article, **The Vikings... Florida's First Tourists?** whet your imagination.

As happens every spring, many of the Brotherhood's Fraternal programs get underway. You'll find many announcements for them throughout this issue.

Next month we have an article about a Dane who has learned a great deal about one of our country's favorite pastimes — football. He's learned so much, he now plays on one of America's largest university's teams! Until then, pleasant reading!

*Robert E. Coffey*

*Robert Coffey*  
editor-in-chief

*Howard Christensen*  
administrative editor



### National Board of Directors

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# The American Dane

magazine



USPS 148-180

**Denmark Our Heritage — America Our Home**

**Official Publication of the Danish Brotherhood in America**

Published monthly by the Danish Brotherhood in America, Home Office, 3717 Harney Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131. Advertising rates on inquiry. Second-class postage paid at Askov, Minnesota 55704. Member of American-Scandinavian Foundation, Nebraska Fraternal Congress, National Fraternal Congress of America, Danish-American Heritage Society.

**NOTE**

American Dane now available in 35mm microfilm and 98 frame microfiche. Contact: Gemgraphix Microfilm Company, 58 Old South Country Road, South Haven, NY 11719.

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Cover Photo

*The Little Mermaid, Copenhagen harbor*

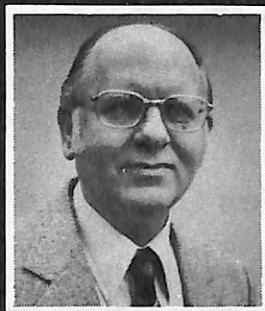
by Dan Shepard

VOLUME LXV

APRIL 1981

NUMBER 4

# The President's Column



**DBIA President  
George Jacobsen**

There's one activity in which everyone can take part. Signing a new member for their local lodge.

The first step is to get the name and address on a membership application. You should have the one printed in last month's **American Dane** and your lodge should have a supply on hand.

Once the membership application is signed, it can be mailed or handed to your lodge officers, your local representative, or mailed directly to the agency department of the National Headquarters.

If your lodge has a representative, he or she no doubt will make a personal call on this potential new member to explain the insurance programs and fraternal programs of the National organization. If not, Sales Director Andy Andersen has been very successful in providing insurance information through long distance calls and correspondence.

There is someone, not too far away, who would like to become a member of the Danish Brotherhood.

***The Nebraska District of The Danish Brotherhood in America has available for members and sons and daughters of members a scholarship of \$200 for 1981. See your lodge secretary for rules and an application.***

**J. Merton Kuhr, Scholarship Chairman**

***The Midwest District of The Danish Brotherhood in America deadline for 1981 scholarship applications is May 1, 1981. Please request application from: Ronald C. Jensen, Secretary-Treasurer, Midwest District, 10528 Sheridan Rd., Kenosha, WI 53140.***

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## *Martin Svendsen Receives Check*



**Secretary-Treasurer Howard Christensen presents check to Martin Svendsen, assisted by Lodge No. 195 President, Carl Emerson.**



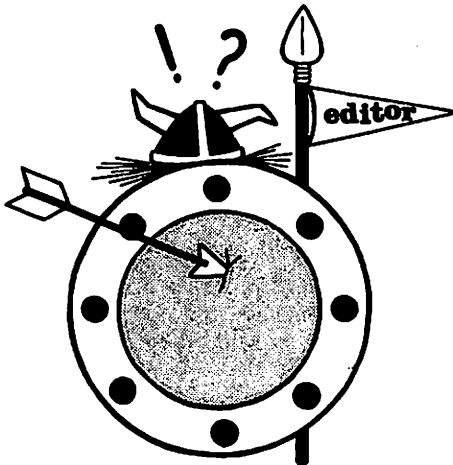
**Distinguished group includes Secretary-Treasurer Howard Christensen, Martin Svendsen, Axel Skelbeck, Fred Jensen, Sales Director Andy Andersen, and Edward Krause, Secretary-Treasurer of Lodge No. 195 and Alternate to the National Board of Directors.**

On March 6, 1981, Lodge No. 195 of Omaha helped Martin Svendsen celebrate his 96th birthday. Many members of the lodge and their families were on hand to see Mr. Svendsen receive a check for the proceeds of his Danish Brotherhood life insurance certificate. Among the guests were Mr. Svendsen's daughter, Karla Emerson of Omaha.

The check was presented to Martin by National Secretary-Treasurer Howard Christensen. During the presentation Mr. Christensen told Mr. Svendsen that while we have approximately 9,000 insured members, we present only 4-5 checks of this nature a year. Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Axel Skelbeck and Past Chairman of Trustees Fred Jensen were also on hand to congratulate Mr. Svendsen.

Carl Emerson, President of Lodge No. 195 and son-in-law of Martin Svendsen presented Mr. Svendsen with a token of appreciation from the National Board of Directors. Mr. Svendsen at the age of 96 is alert and active.

# LETTERS



to the editors

Dear Editor:

I would like to know the history of the Little Mermaid. So many people ask me about it. If possible, I would like to see it printed in the American Dane. Thank you.

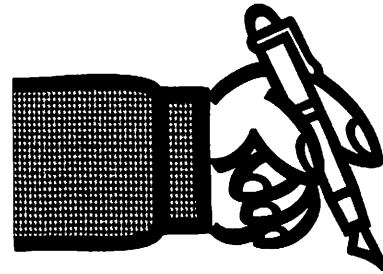
Mrs. A. Nielsen  
Omaha, NE

*The statute of the Little Mermaid is the work of the Danish sculptor Edvard Eriksen. It was commissioned by Carl Jakobsen and was completed in 1933. From the start, she was extremely popular and decorated postcards, souvenirs and advertisements although the original was copyrighted. She, of course, was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale of the same name. (See this month's cover photo.)*

**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:

MARCH 1981

George J. Jacobsen, salary,  
\$276.85.



## 2nd Annual Young Viking Essay Contest

- SUBJECT:** Were the Vikings as Adventurous as the Crew of the Millenium Falcon?\*
- LENGTH:** 300 words or less
- ENTRANTS:** Must be members of The Danish Brotherhood and between the ages of 9 and 16
- DEADLINE:** June 1, 1981
- AWARDS:** Cash Prizes in two groups. Ages 9-12 compete for first, second and third prizes of \$25, \$15, and \$10, respectively. Ages 13-16 compete for first, second and third prizes of \$25, \$15, and \$10, respectively.

\*For the benefit of our readers, the Millenium Falcon is the spaceship captained by Han Solo in the movies *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*.

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Sculptor George Bassett prepares clay model for Albert Lea's memorial to Danish immigrants. (Photo courtesy Jim Richey)

## *Albert Lea Statue Dedication Forecast for July 1981*

A statue to commemorate the Danish settlers who came to live on Albert Lea, Minnesota's North Side is taking shape in the workshop of sculptor George Bassett in rural Winnebago.

The statue is a project of Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 75 and will be placed in a fountain in Lincoln Park in that city when completed.

The sculptor is using Jerry Hansen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harlen Hansen, as a model for the statue of a young Danish immigrant. He is now working on a clay model for the statue.

When the clay model is complete, a rubber mold will be made over the clay, and a plaster mold made over the

rubber. The molds will be removed from the clay model, and the rubber mold will be filled with hot wax.

A ceramic mold will be made over the wax model, and when it dries the wax will be melted out. The ceramic mold will then be used to cast the bronze statue.

Don Levisen of Lodge No. 75 said contributions and memorials are being received to help finance the statue, and money is still needed. The committee for the project plans to dedicate the memorial in July.

Contributions in any amount will be most appreciated.

For each donation of \$100 or more, a name will be listed on a permanent bronze Memorial Plaque in the park.

## **"Hagar" Now a Success Story**



Dik Browne, creator of "Hagar the Horrible"

"Hagar the Horrible" is the hottest news in comic art in almost two decades and one of the greatest success stories in cartooning.

Created by Dik Browne in a laundry room in Connecticut, the comic is now syndicated by King Features to more than 1,300 newspapers, a circulation achieved by fewer than 10 strips in the entire history of comics. "Hagar" is translated into 12 languages and is read in 43 countries on six continents.

He conceived of Hagar when he was alone and at his drawing board. Hagar the Horrible was the name his children shouted at him when he roughhoused with them.

Hagar is loud and often flails out at the world, but he is a kind person. When he is sacking a town, what's on his mind? A size 52 dress for his wife; Hagar is a good family man.

Browne likes to think of his creation as having no messages. "The humor is straightforward. I'm not preaching, and I'm not selling anything. Is it funny? That is the only value judgment I'm interested in."

Dik works both day and night but prefers the night. His sons, Chris, 28 and Bob, 32 work with him.

His wife, Joan, is a native New Yorker, and there is also a daughter, Sally, 24, who is from China. The Brownes adopted her when she was four years old.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the  
Albert Lea Danish Memorial Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donations can be mailed to: Clifford Petersen, Treasurer,  
Danish Memorial Fund, Box 410, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

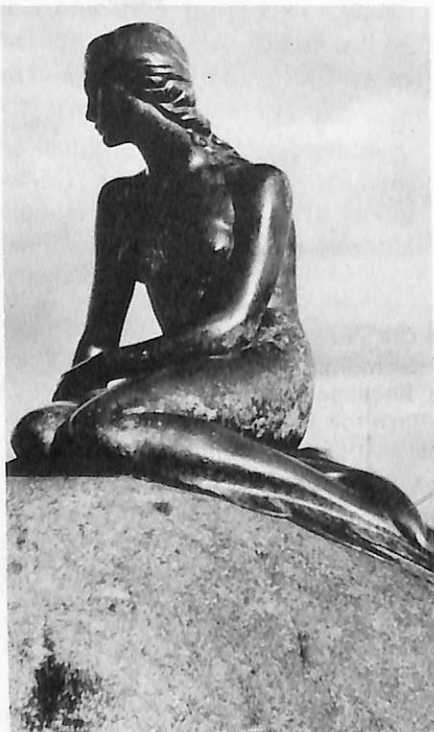


# Lest We Forget

In Grateful Remembrance of Their Service and Fellowship, We honor Those Members Who Have Passed Away Since the Last Report.

Death	Name	Age	Birth Place	Lodge No.	Location	Year Joined
1-26-81	Alfred Christensen	81	Hjorring, Denmark	34	Chicago, Illinois	1947
1-17-81	Thomas Thompson	86	Lrede, Denmark	34	Dwight, Illinois	1914
1-28-81	Paul M. Nielsen	75	Copenhagen, Denmark	164	New York, New York	1923
1-26-81	Alfred J. Nielsen	86	Slaseeballe, Denmark	29	Seattle, Washington	1916
1-18-81	Alfred Pedersen	86	Houlbjorg, Denmark	110	Winside, Nebraska	1912
1-19-81	Ludwig S. Andersen	85	Hobro, Denmark	126	Los Angeles, California	1915
1-16-81	Eldon Warren	57	Fowler, Colorado	261	Fowler, Colorado	1949
1-31-81	Fred Petersen	69	Portland, Oregon	268	Junction City, Oregon	1931
1-03-81	Carlo G. Kronenberg	80	Copenhagen, Denmark	325	Nassau Co., New York	1918
2-11-81	Carl C. Nielsen	86	Perth Amboy, New Jersey	46	Perth Amboy, New Jersey	1912
2-05-81	Carl N. Christensen	88	Lindum, Denmark	219	Clear Lake, Iowa	1924
12-10-80	Peter E. Andersen	79	Nr. Tranders, Denmark	227	Detroit, Michigan	1925
12-28-80	Frederik C. Nissen	84	Dresden, Germany	325	Nassau Co., New York	1928
2-01-81	Anton E. Jensen	66	Brooklyn, New York	600	Omaha, Nebraska	1935
2-16-81	Dan C. Andersen	80	Hornbaek, Denmark	49	San Francisco, California	1946
2-10-81	Leonard Petersen	70	Plainview, Nebraska	117	Plainview, Nebraska	1950
8-80	Carl J. Kromann	78		90	Port Reading, New Jersey	1964
2-11-81	Adeline J. Nielsen	69	Oakland, Nebraska	1	Omaha, Nebraska	1963
2-22-81	Thorvald Rasmussen	83	Denmark	164	New York City, New York	1959
1-11-81	Fred Lavens	60		227	Detroit, Michigan	1971

## PHOTO



## CONTEST

Been saving those photos from family and lodge Danish ethnic activities? Get them ready and follow the guidelines below for the Second Annual Photo Contest!

### TO ENTER

1. Send your photograph with your name, address, lodge and member number to The Danish Brotherhood in America, 3717 Harney Street, Omaha, NE 68131.
2. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of photo at the conclusion of the contest.
3. Indicate the category of the entry: **FAMILY DANISH ETHNIC ACTIVITY, DBIA LODGE DANISH ETHNIC ACTIVITY: OR DANISH BROTHERHOOD DISTRICT OR NATIONAL ACTIVITY.** Include a brief description of the event (15 words or less) and the date the photo was taken.
4. The entries may be snapshots or enlargements, but must not exceed 8x10. Glossy, black and white photos are preferred. Slides will not be accepted.

5. Contestants may enter a total of 5 photos annually.

6. Photos may have been taken any time after July 15, 1980. Entries must be postmarked by July 15 and received by July 30, 1981.

### AWARDS

First place winners in each category will receive \$25 and publication as a future American Dane cover photo. Second and Third place awards will be made in a category if 10 or more entries are received within that category. Second place winners will receive \$15 and third place winners will receive \$10. All winners will be published in the American Dane. In any event, no entrant may receive more than one award annually.

### YOUNG VIKINGS DIVISION

Special awards will be given to photos entered by members age 16 and under. In this division, the rules and categories for entries will remain the same, but **entries must include the age.** First place in the Young Vikings Division will receive \$25.

# FOREIGN ACCOUNTS SERVICE:

At present our interest rates are as follows:

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## 1981 Camp Grant Awards



Our society's camp grant program has been expanded, but requirements for application remain the same. Children who are members or who are relatives of members may apply.

Grants are awarded for attendance at a regular supervised camp. Awards will be based on need and interest shown by the applicant in attending.

Request application blanks from The Danish Brotherhood in America, P.O. Box 31748, Omaha, NE 68131, not later than April 15, 1981.

# Danish Brotherhood T-Shirts & Bumper Stickers

Danish Brotherhood T-shirts, white cotton printed in Danish red. Designs include "Danes Have More Fun," "Viking Power" and, new for spring, "Mor Dig Godt!", which in Danish means, "Have a Good Time."

Adult shirts \$5.00, sizes: small, medium, large or extra large.

Children's shirts \$5.00, sizes: small, medium and large.



Bumper stickers with stain and fade resistant finish. 5 different sayings starting with "I'm Proud to be a Dane", "Danes are the Best Lovers", "Everyone Follows a Dane, You're Proof", "Danes are Born Leaders, You're Following One" and "Mor Dig Godt!" Only fifty cents each.



Order from: Danish Brotherhood in America  
 P.O. Box 31748, Omaha, NE 68131

Quantity	Description	Size	Price
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

\*All prices are postpaid. Nebraskans add Nebraska sales tax.

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

YES, please include membership information with my order.

# Our Lodges In Action

**Material for publication must be received by the tenth of the month preceding date of issue. The magazine reserves the right to edit material accepted for publication.**

## FLORIDA

**Lodge #257, St. Petersburg, FL** — We were very pleased to have 54 members and guests at our February meeting.

Guests included Ruth Sorensen from Chicago, Kate Jorgensen of Elmwood Park, IL, Joanne Ager-skov of Treasure Island, FL, who has just applied for membership, and Arne Jensen from Norwalk, CT, who is our youngest member. Arne is the grandson of our lodge president, Elmer Jensen.

The entertainment committee is still attracting more guests for our March 20th banquet.

**Bill Steffensen, Sec.**

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST

**Lodge #167, Portland, OR** — Our Fasteiavn party is set for March 14. There'll be costumes, prizes, a dance, and, of course, "Slaa Katten Af Tønden."

Harold Jacobsen was recently appointed by our lodge president to be chairman of our Sick and Visitation Committee. Members can inform him of any persons they know who are ill or incapacitated.

The Pacific Northwest District Bowling tournament is set for March 7 in Bellevue, WA.

At the Scandinavian Ball in January, our Young Vikings pitched in to serve coffee and wienerbrød to over 300 in attendance.

**Lodge #328, Vancouver, BC, Canada** — For our March meeting, we are convening at the Scandia Restaurant, where we'll later

socialize over coffee and a bite to eat.

In February we welcomed 4 new brothers — John Stad, Wilki Kristensen, Theodor Jensen and Eggert Rasmussen.

Thanks to our advertisers and the hard work of editor Arne Moller, we've been able to produce our Newsletter with no financial support from the lodge.

**Lodge #29, Seattle, WA** — At our last meeting, we presented a plaque to Kristen Jorgensen for his second term as our lodge president.

The latest report on our soccer teams, "The Danes", is that the over-30 team is undefeated after 4 games. The younger team is 1-1-1.

In January, 96 people enjoyed a delicious dinner and a delightful evening at our joint installation of officers for the Brotherhood and Sisterhood lodges.

**Lodge #33, Tacoma, WA** — A group from our lodge who live in Olympia invited us and our families to help celebrate their first annual traditional Fastelavns Fest.

Costumes were encouraged, and our president, Peter Rasmussen, took first prize with his Reagan hat and mask. There were other costume prizes and also door prizes.

For entertainment, we had Slaa Katten Af Tønden and Scandinavian dance music by an accordion player. We also enjoyed Fastelavns Boller and other Danish foods.

**Signe Lindberg, Sec.**

## EASTERN

**Lodge #164, New York, NY** — At our February meeting, President

Ray Leth announced the awarding of a 50-year membership pin to Carl Borgstad (now living in Florida).

Guests of honor that night were Mr. and Mrs. Vigo Nielson from Newark, NJ. They were kind enough to act as installing officers as we greeted our 1981 lodge officers. We also had some prospective members present.

Our 50-50 raffle was won by Ernst Petersen who just happened to be in charge of selling the chances!

Greta Leth gave us an informative report on the problems of the Metuchen Retirement Home.

Later that month was our Cod Fish party, which was attended by members of other lodges as well. Prominent guests included DBIA President George Jacobsen and the Vigo Nielsons once again.

One of our new members, Chris Christiansen, was kind enough to entertain us with sing-along music on his concertina. Following dinner, we danced and awarded the raffle prizes.

To top off this beautiful function, we received a sizable donation from a friend of the Brotherhood, Walter Whitefield.

**Hi Mangurten, Ed.**

**Lodge #116, Newark, NJ** — In April we're having a membership dinner. Each member is requested to bring at least one prospective member — at no cost to either.

In May, we plan to have Ladies Night.

**Lodge #190, Schenectady, NY** — At our social meeting in February, we honored the birthday brothers present. We toasted them and told stories about their younger days.

At our earlier meeting that

month, Carl Christensen had to leave early once again as his daughter Jean was giving birth right then to a set of twin girls. The grandparents are holding up well.

Thanks go to Harold Hansen for taking time out of a busy schedule to visit the sick on our lodge's behalf and keeping us posted on their progress.

**Lodge #172, Philadelphia, PA** — Lady luck was with many of the players at Bingo during our February meeting. Some of the prizes included food, wine and cash. Thanks go to President Svend Aage Nielsen for his donations.

**Lodge #183, Troy, NY** — Is it quite a few years since you came to Troy, N.Y.? Well, here's your chance to visit our little city, for our lodge will host the 57th G.C.E.L. convention over the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5, 6, and 7, 1981, and we want you all to come.

Brothers Harry Jensen, Jr. and Gary Mulligan will co-chair this big event, which will be held at the Holiday Inn, Fulton Street and Sixth Avenue, Troy, N.Y. Cards for reservations will be sent to all lodges in the Eastern District in the near future. We have been promised special rates in an effort to keep the cost down.

Watch this column for more information.

**Betty Jensen, Corr.**

**Lodge #90, Port Reading, NJ** — To bring all of you up to date on our activities: We celebrated with Chris Nielsen his 50-year membership in our lodge. We're all proud of Chris' milestone, and we wish him congratulations.

Back during the holiday season we celebrated with a traditional Danish feast. Afterward we sang songs and toasted our brotherhood.

**Claire Kjems, Sec.**

**Lodge #342, Bucks County, PA** — We'll be meeting with Lodge #172 in March for the joint installation of officers. DBIA President George Jacobsen and GCEL President John Hjulman will conduct the ceremony.

The Vikings who came to celebrate Fastelavn the other night

did a spectacular job of hiding their identities. Several prizes were given for the best costumes.

We welcomed two new members into our lodge — Kenneth and Josephine Madsen.

Kirsten Konschak has volunteered to keep a lodge history and activity book. We're asking members to help by contributing pictures.

In April we'll view a travel movie narrated by Victor Borge which Charlotte Larson has procured for us.

Finally, Arnold Jensen is still looking for bowlers for the fast-approaching season.

**Lodge #46, Perth Amboy, NJ** — For our 90th anniversary celebration on May 9, we plan to honor our 50-year plus members.

Those fellows include Anders C. Christensen (who joined in 1912), Christ Sindet, Albert Borup, Peter Christensen, Wilbur Jensen, John Kirk and Lawrence Sondergaard.

A colorful print, donated by Brother Melin, depicts the lineage of the Royal Danish Family from Gorm the Old to the present Queen Margrethe II.

Our lodge also received an American flag from Charles Lund in memory of Mrs. Lund's cousin, William Jensen.

At the close of the meeting, Mrs. C. Christensen, the Danish Home housekeeper, was invited in, and we all enjoyed a "Welcome Back, Catherine" cake in her honor.

**Jens C. Jessen, Sec.**

**Lodge #32, New Haven, CT** — Back in January we got together new and old friends for our Danish Night.

This March we have our annual Torskegilde (Cod Fish supper). All members and their guests are invited.

And in May, we are planning a wine and cheese party. Each member is asked to bring some of each so we'll have good selection of everything.

**Lodge #325, Nassau County, NY** — For our meeting March 13, we will celebrate Fastelavns. We have invited a mailing list of 350 people from our area to join us and get better acquainted with our lodge and Danish traditions. A

smorgasbord is planned for the event.

In April, our Dr. James Mills will be traveling to Denmark for research work. (Perhaps he will also bring back some good ideas for our lodge as a result of his trip.)

**Niels B. Hansen, Sec.**

## IOWA-MINNESOTA

**Lodge #347, Cedar Rapids-Marion, IA** — In February we were entertained with music by a local high school group. That was followed by our annual Fastelavnsfest where George Fields was crowned king for the year.

We hope to see many of you Labor Day weekend for the District convention in Cedar Rapids.

**Ulla Wall**



**Niels Rasmussen receives his 50-year pin from Lodge 144 President Joe Galloway.**

**Lodge #144, Dike, IA** — At a combined meeting of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood lodges, Niels (Chris) Rasmussen received a 50-year membership from lodge president Joe Galloway.

**Lyle Refshauge, Sec.**

**Lodge #217, Humboldt, IA** — At our February meeting, a motion passed to send \$50.00 to the Dana College (of Blair, NE) Development Fund.

Another motion passed to hold a guest night with a potluck supper on April 13.

**Carl F. Hansen**

## MIDWEST

**Lodge #340, Wood Dale, IL** — Welcome to Robert E. Fortier as our first new member of 1981. We'll look for more prospective mem-

bers at our membership dinner on May 6 (free to prospective members and their sponsors).

We'll be sending all of our rummage over to Bob Christiansen soon for our June garage sale.

**Lodge #344, Janesville, WI** — Richard Christiansen, President of the Midwest District, and Sophus Sorensen, District Trustee, were present in February to install our 1981 officers.

Richard Christiansen also gave a talk about his lodge and some good suggestions for ours.

**Howard Hansen**

**Lodge #64, Rockford, IL** — We'd like to thank Marty Seyller (District officer) and Einar Danielsen for installing our 1981 lodge officers. Following the ceremony, Otto Ehlers received his past-presidents pin.

The Sisterhood lodge was invited, but this was "Men's Night in the kitchen."

Plans are being made for our potluck supper in March.

**Charles Campbell, Pres.**

**Lodge #92, St. Charles, IL** — March brings us the Spring and for our lodge, it also brings out our annual Torsk dinner (during which we'll celebrate our 85th anniversary) and the Midwest District Target Shoot — not to mention Sunday afternoon Bingo.

Either in September or October we'll be sponsoring the first Midwest District Dart Extravaganza. Details will be forthcoming.

Once again the Home Office is running a membership contest through June, so North and South teams should get ready to bring prospective members — especially to the Torsk dinner.

Our first Jodge newsletter has already received many fine compliments.

**Lodge #36, Milwaukee, WI** — In February we had a special social gathering at the International Institute with a theme of "Movie Night". The evening was patterned after the "dish night" at the movies back in the Depression days. Alice Andersen won the free dish that was given away.

We saw three films — "The Vanished Vikings, Part I: Erik the

Red," "The Vanished Vikings, Part II: Where Did They Go?" and "The Emperor's New Clothes."

On April 25 we'll have our Spring Torsk dinner. Our special speaker there will tell us how to protect ourselves against tornadoes.

We're meeting in March (a bit early) to celebrate the birthdays of Queen Margrethe II (April 16) and Hans Christian Andersen (April 2). In place of birthday gifts, we'll donate food items to Project Concern. We'll see a couple of movies and have supper available afterwards.

**Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI** — 1981 has started out in a big way for our lodge. At a January membership meeting we voted to approve an extensive remodeling plan for our hall.

Our steering committees for the District convention in Kenosha

this September have met and plans are underway.

**Lodge #186, Luck, WI** — In February we chartered a bus, and forty members went to Minneapolis for the Ice Capades.

Activities chairman Lester Madsen has also arranged for a bus trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts on April 5 to view the Vikings exhibit.

**Rosella Espelien, Sec.**

## MICHIGAN-OHIO

### Michigan-Ohio District News

Our "First Annual Bowling Tournament" is almost here! The date again — April 25 for this event hosted by Lodge #51, Ludington, MI. All indications point toward a great turnout.

And all signals are red and white (meaning come enjoy fun and

# New Members

Name	Lodge No.	Location	Sponsor
Lothard T. Jessen	1	Omaha	Rose C. Skelbeck
Kristina Mickevicius	1	Omaha	Judith Andersen
James V. Therkildsen	1	Omaha	Andy Andersen
Linda Therkildsen	1	Omaha	Andy Andersen
Wendy Therkildsen	1	Omaha	Andy Andersen
Jens Therkildsen	1	Omaha	Andy Andersen
Ruby J. Welna	1	Omaha	Lillian Granholm
James E. Schmidt	4	Racine	Richard Schmidt
Bob E. Lee	14	Kenosha	Bill Lee
George H. Pinzger	14	Kenosha	William Kastman
Marvin W. Swanningson	14	Kenosha	William Kastman
Ina Helweg	15	Des Moines	Edith Paulsen
Urban Helweg	15	Des Moines	Edith Paulsen
Esther M. Hansen	16	Minden	Reuben Hansen
Hans M. Andersen	29	Seattle	Thorvald A. Kofoed
James J. Donovan	29	Seattle	Thorvald A. Kofoed
Villy Mortensen	29	Seattle	Clyde R. Langsted
Lawrence M. Larsen	46	Perth Amboy	G.W. Ferdinandsen
William Larsen	46	Perth Amboy	George Larsen
Adam B. Cross	167	Portland	Mel Pihl
Kirsten F. Snitker	167	Portland	Don Bogh
Birthe Jaworski	170	Rocky River	John Mortensen
Poul E. Kolmos	170	Rocky River	August Hansen
Alex J. Clelland	227	Detroit	Otto Pedersen
Alex O. Madsen	299	Solvang	Holger Carstensen
Ella Pickwick	325	Nassau Co.	Svend A. Hansen
Harold Pickwick	325	Nassau Co.	Svend A. Hansen
Theodor K. Jensen	328	Vancouver	Mogens B. Mogensen
Wilki L. Kristensen	328	Vancouver	John Olesen
John Stad	328	Vancouver	Tom Christensen
Jens E.H. Westhoff	600	Omaha	Andy Andersen
Robert Zydowsky	600	Omaha	Ed Zydowsky

fellowship) for the District Convention, May 9, hosted by Lodge #227, Detroit, MI. Full details should be in the various lodges' hands by now.

"Tell me, I will forget; show me, I may remember; but involve me, and I will understand." Enough said? May we greet you at the convention?

**Oluf Jensen, Pres.**



"Slaa Katten af Tønden" crowned King and Queen and their spouses. To the left birthday boy, Brother Ebbe Moe dancing with his wife.

**Lodge #227, Detroit, MI** — Fine food, good fun and fellowship awaited all who attended our Slaa Katten Af Tønden party. After many swings and a few misses, we were finally able to crown our king and queen, pictured above.

Paul Carlsen presented 96-year young Brother, Fred Christensen, with his paid-up D.B.I.A. insurance check, dinner tickets for two at the Danish Club, plus the honor of hitting the barrel first. Fred declined only the latter.

We're now looking forward to hosting the District Convention, May 9, right here in the Danish Hall. We hope to have a full house of over 200, so please come spend the day with us.

**Oluf Jensen, Corr.**

**Lodge #51, Ludington, MI** — At our February meeting, we were privileged to initiate three new members — Russell Grams, Thomas Schneider, and Floyd Kaminski.

Our BIG event of the month was a dance. It began with a carry-in potluck supper, then went on until midnight.

**Alf Larsen, Corr.**

## CALIFORNIA-NEVADA



Floyd Petersen, of Holger Danske Lodge No. 345, has been appointed as Trustee of the California-Nevada District for the remainder of the year to replace our departed Trustee, Jorgen Larsen.

### California-Nevada District

At the California-Nevada District Convention in August 1980 a motion was made that we present a plaque to Mr. Sven Stribolt and Mr. Paul Dalby Andersen in recognition of their time and efforts put forth in the publishing of BIEN, which is a Danish newspaper published weekly. The plaque was presented by California-Nevada District President, Alice Pinkerton to Paul Dalby Andersen at the installation of officers in Los Angeles and to Sven Stribolt at the San Francisco installation, their respective lodges. This plaque read as follows:

#### APPRECIATION AWARD

Whereas to the Best Interest of the Danish Community there has caused to be a weekly newspaper called "BIEN" setting forth in native language the cultures of Denmark.

Whereas in an exemplified manner the above named person has spent much effort and time maintaining a high level of reporting the news causing a closer tie among the Danish in America.

Therefore, let this convention record on the date of August 23, 1980, while in session, honorable mention, in appreciation of a job well done.

**Lodge #323, Alhambra, CA** — For March we've planned a "Hobo

Party". Each family will bring a dish of stew and their own table-service — pie tins, tin cups, knives, spoons, etc. A prize will even be given to the "best-dressed" hobo!

We'll also have two new members to initiate — Leona and Ed Ferrand.

### Lodge #345, Orange County, CA —

At our February meeting, George Jorgensen procured some very interesting and informative Danish films for us. We're looking forward to having some more in September.

For our March meeting, we'll celebrate Fastelavns (Fast at Lent) Members will dress in costumes to add to the festivities, and they'll also bring along prospective members.

Coming events include Bingo in April, Mother's Day banquet May 9, and a bus trip to Solvang in June.

### Lodge #184, Hayward, CA —

We had another successful potluck dinner and Bingo game at our April meeting. Special thanks go to those who donated prizes.

We also had the pleasure of initiating a new member that night — Susan Cowan.

We made our first nominations for delegates to the District Convention in Fresno This August. Second nominations and elections will be held at our June meeting.

That night we'll have something special planned for our Sisterhood lodge's birthday.

**Signe Ann McNeil, Corr.**

#### APRIL ASSESSEMENT NUMBER 983

is Due and Payable to the Lodge Treasurer

April 1, 1981

And Must Be Paid Before

May 1, 1981

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

HOWARD CHRISTENSEN,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

# The Vikings . . .

## *Florida's First Tourists?*

by Russell McCarty

On a clear September morning, Henry Wooten and a friend loaded their gear on horseback and rode off into the thick woodlands of Alachua County in north-central Florida. The year was 1860, a little more than eight months before the Civil War. Their thoughts, however, were far from the coming war that would change their lives and alter the tempo of this backwoods area. They had started off on what was to be a leisurely hunting expedition of several days' duration, but if their account of the journey is true, they found much more than the deer or wild hogs they were seeking.

The following account, which is printed in full, is an article which appeared in the *Florida Peninsular*, a now extinct Tampa newspaper. The date of the article is November 10, 1860.

### **Discovery of a Cave in Florida**

The following account of the discovery of a remarkable cave in Florida is from a correspondent of the *New York Journal of Commerce*:

The structure of the under stratum of rock and earth in Florida is cavernous to a great extent. Indeed, as far as explorations have been made, the ground presents the appearance of a honeycomb, on account of the numerous cavities which are found to exist. Those indentations in the surface of the earth called "sinks" abound here — some of them dry and others partially filled with water; while rivers disappear under the ground and are seen no more. Florida is not only "the land of flowers," but, also, the land of wonders. — A few days ago Mr. Henry Wooten and myself started on a hunting expedition with the intention of

camping out a few days. On Saturday, the 29th of September, we pursued a deer into a hammock, and attempting to ride through it, Mr. Wooten's horse stumbled into a small sink. While Mr. Wooten was endeavoring to extricate his horse, I dismounted, and was engaging in examining a curious pile of stones which had attracted my attention. On one of them I found an inscription as if graven with some steel instrument, but nearly obliterated by the ravages of time.

Mr. Wooten, by this time had led his horse safely out of the sink, and, on rejoining me, said he had discovered a cave. After vainly endeavoring to decipher the strange inscriptions which I had found, we each collected an armful of pine wood to serve for torches. On arriving at the entrance we saw by the light of our torches that the bottom of the cavern was several feet below us. Handing my torch to my friend, I prepared to descend, which I accomplished with ease, the rocks serving as steps. Wooten then handed me down an armful of light wood and a torch, and prepared to descend further. We now found ourselves in a subterraneous passage, ten feet high and fifteen wide. We pursued this passage for nearly a half a mile, it growing larger at every step, and appearing to descend into the earth by an easy inclination, when we unexpectedly found ourselves in a cave of immense extent. We . . . . . (this sentence is illegible in the microfilm copy of the article). . . . . entering small caverns which led off from the main cave. We finally entered a sort of square doorway, and found ourselves in a cavern of most beautiful appearance, the reflection of our lights against the sides producing a magnifi-

cent effect. For the first time in my life I felt the full force of that beautiful description which Goldsmith has given of the grotto of Antiporas.

But the most wonderful thing that met our view in this cave was a Latin inscription, graven in the solid rock. The inscription stated that a party of Danes had visited this cave in the year 1050, and that a priest who had accompanied them had left this memorial of their visit. The name of this priest was Marcus Poleus. — It also stated that those bold navigators had embarked on a voyage of exploration, and had then been driven far South, also that they had visited many large islands, and finally had landed in a thickly populated country, where the people received them kindly, thinking them superior beings; that several of their number, together with some Greek artisans and two priests, had been left there as a colony. This is the substance of the inscription as far as it could be deciphered. Now, does not this suggest an important inquiry to the antiquarian? Is it not probable that the islands mentioned were the West Indies, and may not the country where they landed be Mexico? — We well know that the ancient Mexicans had a tradition that about four hundred years before the landing of Cortez in that country "Children of the Sun," with white faces, came to them and taught them the arts of civilization. Is it not probable that this colony of Danes and Greeks, with their two Latin priests, were the persons referred to by tradition? Perhaps many buried secrets concerning the early history of America may be revealed by that strange device.

This wonderful cave is easy of access

and situated a few miles from the Florida Railroad, and about ten miles from Waldo.

An incredible narrative that verges on pure fantasy? — a hoax concocted by two frustrated adventurers? — or is it possible that the account is true, shelved and forgotten — another victim of the long disruptive war which shortly followed the cave's discovery. The only evidence for the account's authenticity is hearsay, one hundred and twenty years old, and from a man long dead, hardly the kind of evidence that will stand up in the discriminating court of modern archeology. But before we call in a verdict, the matter bears further consideration.

The possibility of a hoax always exists, especially when it concerns the more exotic and unknown aspects of history. If this account is a hoax, it is an early one. It was not until 1837, twenty-three years earlier, that the Danish scholar, C. C. Rafn, published a book called *Antiquitates Americanae*, in which the rest of the world became aware of the old Icelandic sagas and

their descriptions of voyages to North America. The *Groenlendinga Saga*, in which is found most accounts of North American exploration and settlement, frequently mentions ships blown far off course to the south. While none tell of exploration parties that encountered large, densely populated islands, there is one account strikingly similar to that described by Henry Wooten and his friend. In the year 1121, Eric Gnipsson, the Bishop of Greenland, was sent to Vinland by the Vatican, ostensibly to convert the *Skraelings*, or Indians, but more likely to minister to the spiritual needs of the growing Norse colony in Vinland.

Charles M. Boland, an inveterate researcher of Viking explorations in North America, says that Bishop Eric came here with a fleet of ships bearing more colonists, cattle, and possibly hundreds of highly skilled artisans, artisans who would build the churches.

Could these be the artisans mentioned in the inscription in the cave? Or the Latin priest who left the message — was he a member of Bishop Eric's

party? The sagas, and other early records can not tell us — for Bishop Eric never returned from his mission to Vinland.

There is a discrepancy of a century between the date found in the cave and the date that Bishop Eric left for Vinland. This could be an error of translation or due to the poor quality of inscription. The other aspects of Henry Wooten and his friend's account are plausible. The old railroad which ran through Waldo, Florida in 1860, did traverse an area pock-marked by sinkholes and caves. The area is not far from the St. Johns River, which is navigable to large boats for almost two hundred miles inland. This could explain the presence of a seafaring group, at a point seventy miles from the coast.

The existence of this old newspaper article, which has only recently been re-discovered, may provide a clue to the fate of Bishop Eric and his lost party, and perhaps a serious investigation will solve the riddle of Florida's lost Danish cave.

## DBIA/DAFI

### Flight to Denmark

**WHEN DOES IT LEAVE?** June 27, 1981.

**FROM WHERE DOES IT LEAVE?** Minneapolis, Minnesota

**WHEN DOES IT RETURN?** You can choose to stay 2, 3 or 4 weeks.

**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?** All airfares up 15% March 1, \$776.25 for adults.

**IS A LAND TOUR AVAILABLE?** Yes, for an additional \$750 you can spend 6 days touring Denmark and 7 days touring Norway. All breakfasts are included, 11 dinners, land transportation, hotels, and a cabin with bath during a ferry trip in the fjords.

**IS THERE A PACKAGE DISCOUNT?** Yes, if you reserve your flight and land tour, the package will cost \$1,499. A substantial savings.

**WHERE DO I GET INFORMATION?** Write to the Danish American Center, 4200 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55416, or Folmer Strandskov, 3109 - 36 Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55418 (Phone (612) 781-7625). Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for full particulars.

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**Elk Horn, IA 51531**

# Annual Report of the Lodges

December 31, 1980

Lodge No.	Location	Insured Member	Social Members	Monthly Assessment	Total Insurance	Fraternal Benefits Paid	Total Assets
1*	Omaha, NE	153	116	87.33	447,415		
3	Davenport, IA	12	8	DB	22,250		1,422.76
4*	Racine, WI	244	94	170.24	310,500		
9*	Oshkosh, WI	14	0	4.61	11,500		
10*	Council Bluffs, IA	68	11	94.24	168,250		
14	Kenosha, WI	172	140	103.86	462,887	5,710.00	105,505.57
15	Des Moines, IA	47	20	45.23	66,000	60.00	12,801.47
16	Minden, NE	126**	71	286.49	582,025	356.98	7,330.79
17*	Chicago, IL	69	20	103.66	196,875		
26*	Fremont, NE	15**	0	DB	10,500		
29*	Seattle, WA	212**	35	236.89	576,235		
30*	Muskegon, MI	40	8	32.25	42,375		
32*	New Haven, CT	69	9	87.68	78,500		
33*	Tacoma, WA	15	22	4.81	30,750		
34	Dwight, IL	209	52	58.69	268,250	100.00	7,625.51
35	Chicago, IL	70**	30	21.69	103,085	1,220.00	44,853.89
36	Milwaukee, WI	42**	30	22.74	57,250		3,000.68
37*	Bridgeport, CT	19	0	13.56	16,375		
39	Oakland, CA	64	5	71.58	52,375	133.50	54,238.67
41	Derby, CT	22	0	22.25	17,875		2,952.81
42	Spokane, WA	51	19	50.45	59,875		6,426.72
43	Denver, CO	65	14	DB	91,875		6,200.00
45*	Minneapolis, MN	91	33	56.37	92,057		
46*	Perth Amboy, NJ	57	136	39.51	100,500		
49*	San Francisco	97	28	73.12	49,500		
50*	Byram, CT	13	1	12.82	8,875		
51	Ludington, MI	122	57	81.24	172,000		56,735.91
56	Kansas City, MO	32	12	38.56	24,500		3,044.52
62	Sioux City, IA	17	7	31.73	31,250		5,000.15
64	Rockford, IL	28	11	27.34	43,250		1,675.28
67	Fresno, CA	43	5	89.52	60,875	230.00	21,519.46
70	Greenville, MI	62	21	61.45	73,125		16,488.90
71	Penn Yan, NY	69**	14	77.93	78,625		352.00
73*	Alden, MN	10	0	DB	21,750		
75	Albert Lea, MN	55	47	187.69	90,375		
78*	Salt Lake City	10	0	DB	52.50		
84*	Lincoln, NE	37	13	44.14	55,000		
89	Superior, WI	8	6	1.99	3,750		323.71
90	Port Reading, NJ	15	9	25.38	14,250		591.67
92	St. Charles, IL	110	39	70.79	728,625	70.00	9,958.54
95	Ferndale, CA	44	20	76.26	42,875		8,325.96
102	Providence, RI	28**	5	32.78	47,625		725.54
106*	Trufant, MI	69	1	126.73	90,250		
107*	Chicago, IL	17	0	DB	11,750		
110	Winside, NE	15	7	11.90	14,000		569.56
111*	Austin, MN	22	6	18.65	21,250		
113	Enumclaw, WA	21	22	24.12	38,000		64,411.15
116	Newark, NJ	101	11	153.21	138,875		18,164.07
117	Plainview, NE	57	0	52.32	51,375	75.00	1,289.34
121*	Tyler, MN	8	0	4.94	4,750		
125*	Weeping Water	22**	1	23.77	66,500		
126	Los Angeles	196**	48	223.75	251,250	125.00	72,097.84
134*	Ringsted, IA	13	0	DB	12,500		
139	Viborg, SD	65	38	107.17	51,250		
143	Petaluma, CA	76**	26	38.06	89,625	95.00	11,845.45
144	Dike, IA	94	15	DB	210,243		8,256.22
147	Newell, IA	29	30	19.10	70,250		1,215.30
148*	Cheyenne, WY	12	0	DB	15,000		
153	Dannevirke, NE	5	1	DB	4,500		80.99
155	Bellingham, WA	18	18	25.78	15,250		
161	Ruskin, NE	73**	48	DB	142,000		4,239.65
163*	Edmore, MI	4	1	DB	1,750		
164*	New York, NY	31	28	28.41	27,875		
167	Portland, OR	188	64	109.88	747,500	200.00	16,232.51
170*	Rocky River, OH	27	12	44.45	56,000		
171*	Jamestown, NY	15	0	10.74	9,875		
172*	Philadelphia	102	27	DB	199,789		
173*	Kansas City, KS	17	0	DB	15,250		
177	Cordova, NE	34	3	36.37	42,500		1,258.27
182	Waukegan, IL	60	16	25.33	57,750		5,912.70
183	Troy, NY	38	4	47.30	34,750		25,700.00
184	Hayward, CA	48**	1	61.23	39,375		8,043.31
186	Luck, WI	39	109	DB	57,625		10,412.04
190	Schenectady	65	10	65.81	66,375	980.71	35,591.85
194	McMinnville, OR	13	13	8.44	10,500		2,226.12
195	Omaha, NE	22	5	47.65	26,625		1,992.03
202*	Warren, PA	19	5	37.41	17,250		
206	Blair, NE	26	81	DB	133,375		3,103.91
211*	Grand Island	48	31	27.14	126,875		
213*	Ord, NE	8	0	DB	9,750		
217	Humboldt, IA	38**	73	13.68	86,250		3,680.61
219	Clear Lake, IA	24	8	17.77	44,000		1,470.73
225	Canton, OH	67**	4	82.15	118,532	40.00	4,113.22
227*	Detroit, MI	345	175	354.87	730,375		
230	Arcata, CA	18	12	20.27	11,500		12,953.53
234*	Woodstock, IL	8	0	7.39	8,875		
239*	Lake Forest, IL	5	0	2.24	1,625		
240	Rochester, NY	7	2	2.25	2,375		483.73
241	Sayreville, NJ	24	0	18.62	13,750		6,409.04
242	Erie, PA	84	3	55.96	63,125	600.00	137,589.13
245*	South Bend, IN	33**	0	DB	23,750		
254*	Brush, CO	5	0	5.32	2,750		
255	Selma, CA	28	2	20.00	21,875		7,022.23
257	St. Petersburg	17	49	11.89	24,625		1,306.93
260*	Williston, ND	9	0	7.03	7,250		
261	Fowler, CO	61	11	73.58	76,500		5,090.00
262*	Cozad, NE	9	0	13.92	8,000		
263	Askov, MN	107	6	80.08	138,966	40.00	3,775.00
264*	Pocatello, ID	17	2	21.88	14,500		
268	Junction City	54	29	34.81	192,750	79.00	9,314.88
273	Dillon, MT	58	7	81.87	81,000	100.00	9,370.93
279*	Hunter, ND	6	0	1.39	4,625		
283	Dagmar, MT	80	4	63.46	88,125	425.00	11,044.55
288	Cotesfield, NE	15	0	40.41	14,000		150.90
294	Barre, VT	66	6	100.81	77,000		4,262.10
299	Solvang, CA	108**	48	104.14	425,875	520.00	910.24
300*	Oneonta, NY	9	0	DB	7,250		
301	Akron, OH	58	1	168.17	88,750		1,227.08
306	San Diego, CA	53**	23	52.48	39,500	200.00	12,267.31
314	Hartford, CT	72	8	52.92	54,500		64,782.22
318*	Copenhagen, DK	0	82				
319	Bakersfield, CA	32	5	41.80	31,875		3,924.50
321	West Palm Beach	7	9	8.08	5,500		745.08
322*	Santa Barbara	52	16	69.73	35,125		
323	Alhambra, CA	51	22	54.48	101,000		2,286.62
325	Nassau Co., NY	81**	44	169.51	108,750	200.00	6,895.00
326	West Branch, IA	19	14	DB	23,250		572.27
328	Vancouver, B.C.	0	131				17,537.00
329	Long Beach, CA	28	6	23.62	54,000		349.96
332	Ripon, CA	68**	12	78.12	81,875		10,963.77
334	Geneva, NY	28	3	31.58	36,250		3,571.05
337	Fremont, CA	31	14	43.50	19,625		367.25
339*	Las Vegas, NV	24**	6	DB	29,000		
340	Wood Dale, IL	87**	9	DB	685,500		1,033.28
341	Kmblytn.-Elk Horn	38	114	DB	158,750		822.45
342	Bucks Co., PA	39	28	DB	51,250		
343	Waupaca, WI	1	75	DB	1,000		1,189.89
344*	Janesville, WI	20	28	DB	40,500		
345	Orange Co., CA	70**	60	DB	186,000		5,430.23
346	Riverside, CA	29**	29	DB	41,500		2,200.26
347*	Cedar Rapids, IA	18	41	DB	47,000		
600	Omaha, NE	1098	66	DB	3,562,850		

\*The report for 1980 was not received, or was received too late to be included in the tabulation. The amounts used are taken from our records subject to final audit when the lodge report is received. Secretaries who find an asterisk (\*) after their lodge number are asked to submit their 1980 report to the Home Office as soon as possible.

"DB" All lodge members are on direct billing.

\*\*Includes juvenile lodge members. Juvenile membership not yet transferred to adult lodge.

The above listing gives 132 lodges and, as reported by the lodges, membership consisting of 7,769 insured and 3,137 social; a total of one monthly assessment of \$5,956.31 for all lodges and a combined amount of insurance of \$16,170,048. The combined insured and social membership is 10,906.

Lodges reporting for 1980

Paid fraternal benefits .....	\$ 11,560.19
Cash and other assets .....	\$1,024,855.79

The total sum of insurance assessments paid to the local lodge treasurer but not yet remitted to the Home Office is not included in the total assets as reported on the annual lodge report. All such assessments must be accounted for, and belong to the Home Office. However, all other assets belong to the local lodge and the Home Office has no claim on these where the lodge is in good standing.

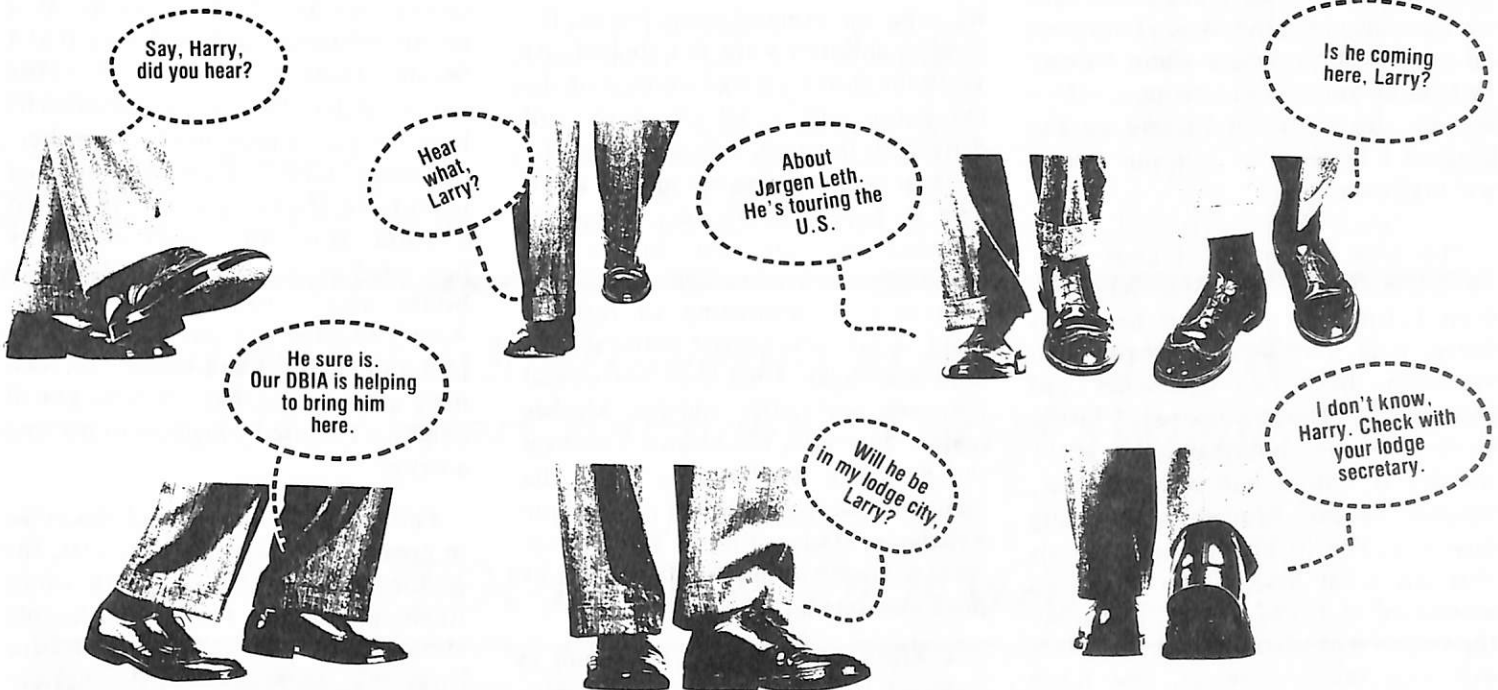
With few exceptions lodge treasurers have remitted promptly when due. In states where it is required to report delinquent lodges at year-end, this requirement has been met.

The average insured age attained as of December 31, 1980 is 52.

HOWARD CHRISTENSEN,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

## Pacific Northwest Cultural Conference to Open June 26

The lovely setting of the Menucha Conference Center near Corbett, Oregon, will again welcome Pacific Northwest Danish Cultural Conference participants. The conference will open June 26 and end June 28, 1981. Otto Hoiberg, Professor Emeritus of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Inga Kromann Kelly formerly of Tyler, Minnesota and now on the staff of Washington State University, and Russell Donnelly of University of Oregon Science Department are among those scheduled to speak. Thyra Nussel of Chicago will lead the singing, an integral part of conference activities. Write to Karen McCumsey, 410 Laurel, Junction City, OR 97448 for registration materials.



## Remember: Lodge Membership Contest

Is Continuing  
March 15 to June 15, 1981

***\$300 Awarded Every 30 Days!***

# America Bound

Enok Mortensen

(Part Two)

We continue the story at the point where Enok Mortensen's family has begun their dramatic voyage to America.

I have noted in my diary, which I began that day with a sixteen year old's self-consciousness of recording world shaking events, that:

...it is beautiful sunshine. Frederik VIII is scrubbed as clean and newly polished as one could wish. The orchestra intones the (Danish) national anthem and the little tugboat drags the big colossus out of the harbor. The throng of people wave and shout and we passengers do the same. I suppose all have a little anxiety about leaving Denmark, but when in about ten days we spy the Statue of Liberty on the horizon I believe the opposite feeling will take over...

That was how I felt. I know how Mother and my oldest sister felt. Sick even before the ship had begun to move, they were down in their cabin vomiting. Both had headaches and nausea, "probably worsened," father writes, "by the emotional upheaval." I wonder if Father had any anxieties. Neither he nor Mother were young anymore. The little brown book reveals that his total assets after the sales amounted to 25,762 kroner, and when the tickets had been paid for and other expenses taken care of, the book showed a balance of 3,158 kr. — less than \$700 with which to set up housekeeping for a family of eight in a new and strange world. True, he had been there before but that was some twenty-five years ago. Yet the diary fails to reveal any trace of trepidation. He notes enthusiastically after the farewell:

...right after Copenhagen was out of sight waiters rang a gong for dinner and we gathered in the large dining room with cozy tables decked with white cloths, two plates for each person, knife, fork and spoon. The first meal consisted of sweet soup with

raisins and prunes, then roast beef with stewed cabbage, potatoes and gravy, afterwards coffee...

Father notes further that supper consisted of a ragout, bread with many kinds of cold cuts and cheese, then crackers and tea. After supper and a promenade on deck the family assembled in one of the cabins where father read one of David's Psalms and we sang an evening song before the smaller children were put to bed. At 11:30 the ship anchored because of the menacing mines which were still drifting in the area, following the war. At 4 in the morning we moved again and it began to dawn. When we crawled out of our bunks the Norwegian coast was in sight. For breakfast — according to father's diary — we were served oatmeal with milk and sugar, fried liver and stewed potatoes, and coffee and tea. Mother hadn't slept well, but after a round on the deck she was able to enjoy the scenery as we sailed up the picturesque Kristiania (Oslo) Fjord. For dinner there was kale soup and big platters of pork with pickles.

I wrote critically that Kristiania in contrast to Copenhagen looked dark and deserted, and that "the streetcars are green and without windows." Some sixty passengers came aboard. Father noted in his diary that "the orchestra on board has as yet entertained only 1st and second class passengers." We were of course traveling third class. At 7 we anchored again because of the danger of drifting mines which could not readily be seen in the dark.

The evening was spent singing around the piano where some young people sang several songs such as "Nearer My God To Thee" and

"What a Friend we Have in Jesus." We raised anchor at 2:00 in the morning and the sea was turbulent as we left the fjord. We were all sick, except David, the youngest. Then Father writes:

Saturday we crossed the North Sea and Sunday morning when I arose Scotland was in sight, but the strong undercurrent in the narrows between Scotland and the Orkneys in connection with swells caused by a fresh breeze, contributed toward continuation of the seasickness, and I was forced to stay in the cabin most of the day. Only Martha and David are well...

My own diary reveals little about activities on board, the meals we ate, or the other passengers, except one. Between meals I read or found a corner in one of the lounges frequented mostly by men and it was here that I became fascinated by a man whose name was Jens Petersen. In America he had been blacksmith, teacher, dairyman, tailor, insurance agent and manufacturer of men's caps. He talked a good deal, and what especially interested me was that he had written books and contributed to Danish-American papers. I was determined to talk to him, for it had become increasingly clear to me that when we got to America I wanted somehow to become a writer.

Father on the other hand described in great detail the social activities, the performances of the orchestra which finally played also for us, and he told about the people who played chess or cards, but his most vivid descriptions were of the changeable weather and the effects on members of his family:

Wednesday May 7 the weather had quieted (after a big storm) but it was so cold and windy on deck that most passengers congregated in the large dining room. Mother, Esther and Lydia were so exhausted by seasickness that they stayed in bed. That night the wind rose to a storm and the angry waves swept over the tall ship with loud crashes. The noise made it almost impossible to sleep and worst of all was Mother's boundless fear lest the ship founder and we all find our death. But

God who once had said, "be still" caused also this storm to abate. . .

The doctor who visited Mother pronounced it "the worst damned journey" he had been on, and he himself had been ill. By this time we had reached the banks of Newfoundland and Captain Thomsen — an old experienced sailor, writes Father — changed the course in order to avoid icebergs. Our porter whispered confidentially that we were near the area where the Titanic had found its grave a few years earlier.

Sunday the 11th we were all up early because we had reached the Gulf Stream and it was warm and stuffy in our cramped cabins. Mother was able to join us on deck but the rain drove us into the lounges. Father writes that the dinner consisted of sweep soup and "real Danish roast pork" with browned cabbage, potatoes, and stewed apricots for dessert, and he continues:

In the morning because it was Sunday, the orchestra played the well-known melody, "Nearer My God to

Thee." Aside from that one would not have known it was a holiday. On the ocean as on land people are themselves. What would have been more natural than to have assembled and share in praise and thanksgiving to God who had thus far led us through dangerous waters. . . .

That night the fog shrouded the ship and the sirens sounded menacingly. In the morning we were up early and in the darkness we could see lights on shore. Sailors told us it was Long Island. There were ships coming and going. We were still a long way from port but everyone on board felt relieved and happy. Toward evening children played games on deck, a sailor squeezed an accordion, and young men grabbed girls and swung them in waltzes or polkas.

I knew that this night be the last opportunity to talk with Jens Petersen, the journalist. Fortunately most of the other passengers were outside watching the merry-makers, and I found him inside smoking his pipe as usual. Haltingly I stammered that I had hopes

of becoming a writer. In Denmark there had been no opportunities to get the necessary education, but in America—? And here I quote the diary:

. . .at this point he said, "no, journalist or author I will not advise you to be," and then he described how difficult it was to make a breakthrough, how many battles and privations one must endure, and how he had lost money trying to become a Danish-American writer. Then I thanked him for his information and left, somewhat crestfallen but by no means discouraged. No, it takes more than that when one is young and has a goal! . . .

Meanwhile the ship had slowed down to pick up a pilot. There was land on all sides now except behind us, and myriads of shimmering lights. Someone pointed out the Statue of Liberty barely visible in the distance. To the right we saw the renowned skyscrapers, to the left the Quarantine station.

(To be concluded next month)

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*present*

### *A TOUR TO DENMARK*

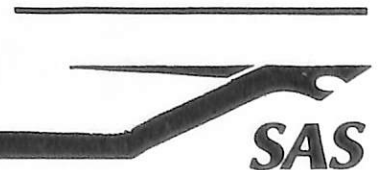


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# Life Insurance and Mortgage Protection

Your Danish Brotherhood now offers a Life and Mortgage Insurance package. While providing protection for the family, the life insurance can accumulate funds for retirement or pay off the mortgage before maturity resulting in substantial savings in future interest. The Mortgage Insurance is used to cover needs such as to pay off the mortgage in case of death of the mortgage holder making it possible for the survivors to keep the house.

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Danish Brotherhood in America  
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# Minden Ethnic Festival Set for May 30th

Don Thomsen of Lodge No. 16 in Minden, Nebraska, reports plans are well underway for the 1981 Minden Ethnic Festival sponsored by the lodge. The event will be held at the Kearney County Fairground 4-H Community Building.

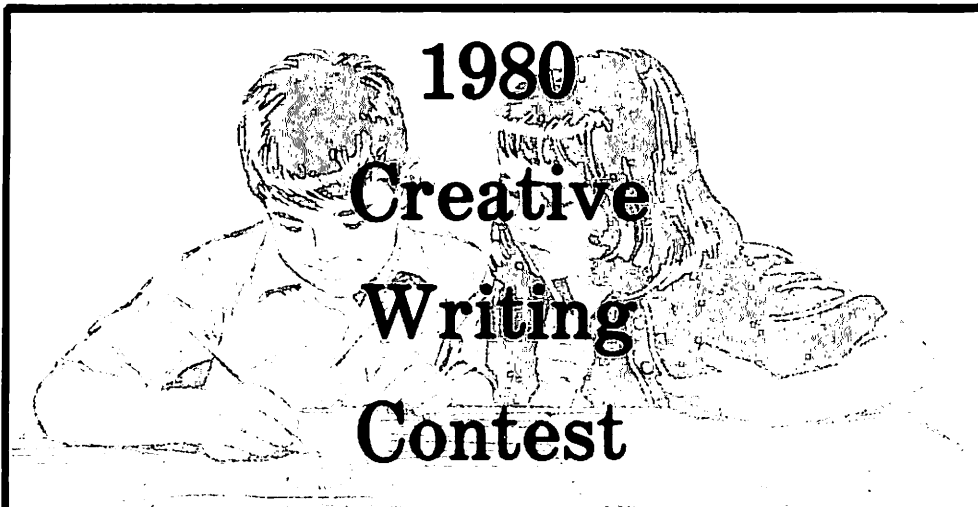
As in the past, the festival will

feature the dancing and culture of a number of ethnic groups from around the state and surrounding area. A large number of crafts and artwork will be on display. Another very popular part of the festival is the food served by various groups. Each has its own special dishes. Any

group or individual interested in selling or displaying their handiwork is invited to participate.

Several contests will be held during the day including the crowning of the aebleskiver eating champion.

Don would like you to contact him if you are interested in space at the Minden Ethnic Festival. Please write to him at: P.O. Box 104, Minden, NE 68959.



After another successful year, a few changes have been made in awards for 1980 but topic, content, and style remain unrestricted. Please do observe the 1500 word limit in all categories. Entrants may be members of the society or related to members.

## Contest Rules

1. All work must be original, preferably typewritten, double-spaced, and accompanied by a title page, giving the title of the work, name and return address of entrant, your lodge number or relative's lodge number, and group and category for entry. This information should not appear on the manuscript.
2. For return of manuscript, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
3. Include a snapshot of the author.
4. Entries must be postmarked by August 30, 1980, and received by September 11, 1980.
5. Enter as often as you like in as many categories as you like; however, no more than one prize per entrant per category will be given.
6. First, Second and Third prizes will be awarded in each category if

we have 12 entries or more. First and Second prizes will be awarded if we have five to eleven entries in a category. First prizes only will be awarded in categories receiving four or fewer entries.

Prizes in all categories will be: 1st place, \$15, framed certificate and publication in *The American Dane* magazine; 2nd place, \$10 and certificate; 3rd place, \$5 and certificate.

## Categories

Group I (Age 12 and under)  
Poetry, Fiction, and Non-Fiction

Group II (Age 13-18)  
Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction

Group III (Age 19 and over)  
Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction

Send entries to: **The Danish Brotherhood in America, P.O. Box 31748, Omaha, NE 68131.**

Include: 1. title sheet, 2. 3 copies of manuscript, 3. photograph of author, and 4. return envelope (optional).

**Remember, deadline is August 30, 1980!**

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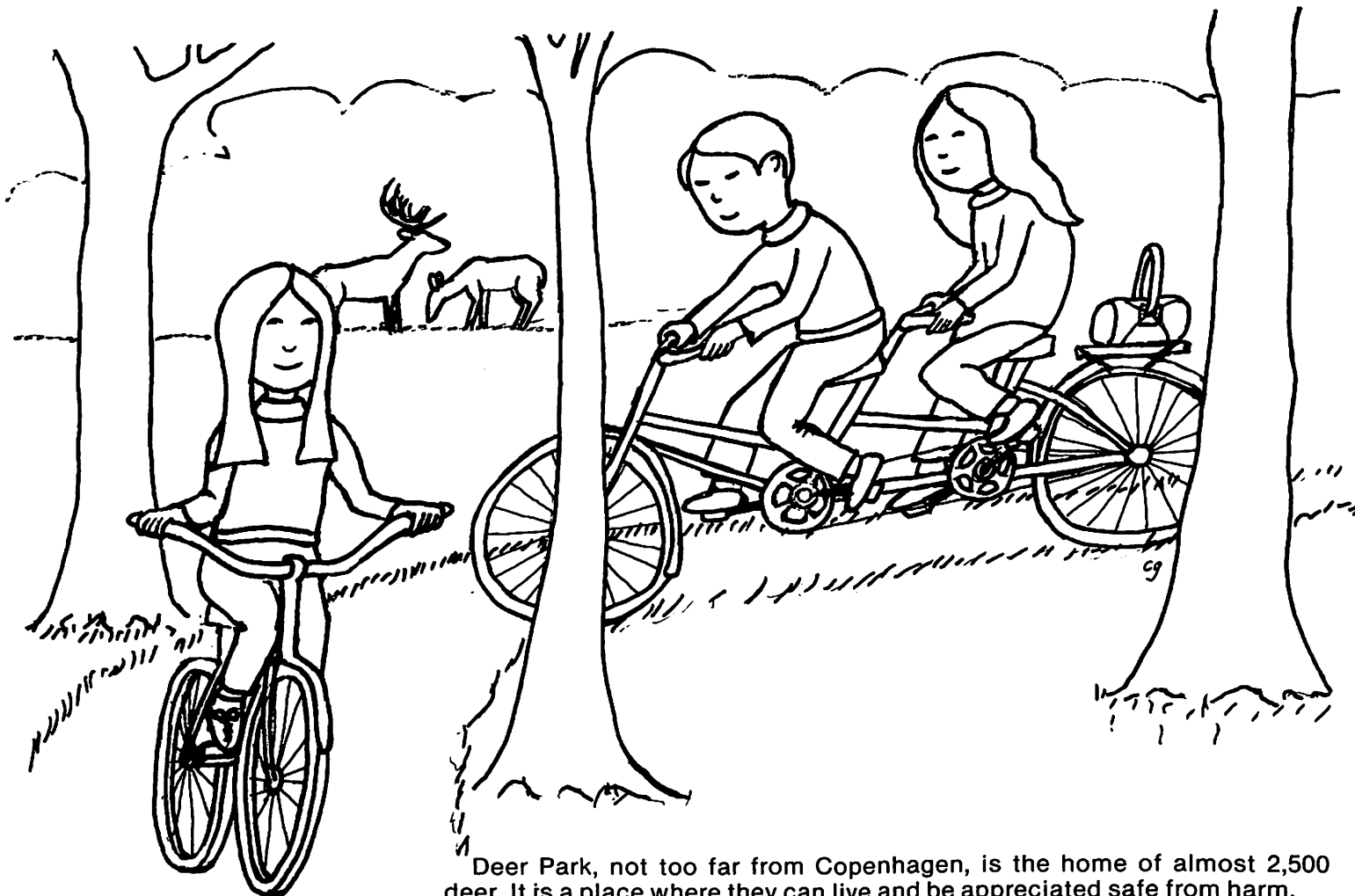
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Also included in the exhibit are paintings by Floyd Johnson and Paul VanDemark, sculpture by Rita Hickey, and wood carvings by Bernie Torberg. Call or write the gallery for a free brochure.

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Deer Park, not too far from Copenhagen, is the home of almost 2,500 deer. It is a place where they can live and be appreciated safe from harm.

### FANS\* (*Vifter*)

1 recipe puff paste\*  
sugar

Roll out a piece of puff paste very thin and about 12" wide, length as desired. Sprinkle with a thin layer of sugar and roll up into a tight roll. Place in refrigerator until stiff. Cut into slices about ¼" thick and place on baking sheet. Make a single cut in each from the center to the edge so that during baking they will spread out in the shape of a fan. Bake golden and crisp in a fast oven.

### DONKEY'S EARS\* (*Æselører*)

1 recipe puff paste\*  
sugar

Roll out puff paste very thin and about 12" wide. Sprinkle with sugar and roll both ends tightly in towards the middle. Set aside to cool and then cut into slices about ¼" thick. Bake pale golden and crisp in fast oven.

\*From the book, Danish Home Baking by Karen Berg. Puff paste recipe appeared in the January issue of the American Dane.

## Grandma's Kitchen

## We're Hans & Greta

Color our picture, clip it out and send to — The Danish Brotherhood in America, P.O. Box 31748, Omaha, NE 68131. You might win a LEGO building kit. Include: 1. your name, 2. your return address, 3. your date of birth; and 4. our colored picture.

You need not be a DBIA member to enter. Four LEGO toy kits awarded in four age groups each month (ages 2-4, 5-7, 8-9, 10-12).

March winners: Charlotte K. Mae, Maria Rodic, Mary Jo Galloway.

# Viking Adventures

**Coming Together—A Beginning**

**Keeping Together—Progress**

**Working Together—Success**

Spring is good news to all of us who have been kept inside because of winter's unfriendly behavior. Spring is a time of renewal, linked closely with lore about young people and romance. Most of the youngsters pictured in Dorothy MacKinnon's prize winning photo (the February American Dane cover) are a bit young for romance. They are not, however, at all young for the activities Dorothy leads in Petaluma, California.

## HILSEN FROM PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA

"I'd like to tell you about the group of young people you saw on the cover of the February American Dane magazine. The group travels to entertain the senior citizens at Aldersly once or twice a year. This past year they folk-danced at their annual bazaar in September and then again at Christmas.

"While the children dance, they sing the Danish words to the dance and you can hear the residents joining in with them as they sing. They put on an 'Our Gang' 1930's comedy school-room skit for them at Christmas with Buckwheat, Spanky, Alfalfa and others. There just happened to have been a Danish language lesson in the skit — with the counting of the numbers, days of the week and of course they finished the lesson by singing a Danish toast 'Hans Sol Leve.' They also pantomimed 'Little Ole' with the sleeping children, background singing by two of the youths, and little Ole and his umbrellas. The residents joined in the singing with the children as they sang around the Christmas tree.

"The children passed small red and white heart baskets to all at the end of the program. The baskets were filled with candy canes and cookies



*A performance of "Little Ole" by Petaluma's youth.*

they made at their Holiday Cookie Workshop. The children enjoy their visits to Aldersly and they are already practicing something new for their next visit."

So, as you can easily see, the young people in Petaluma are busily involved in their heritage. They have lots of fun, display their skills and no doubt bring a little extra enjoyment to the folks at Aldersly as well. Dorothy is their Youth Group Coordinator and I think we owe her a big "thank you" for what she is doing with the youngsters locally and the encouragement she offers to others with her successful program.

## NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

We know we have DBIA members who are residents of Aldersly. If any of you would like to do so, we would welcome your reaction to the visits by the youngsters from Petaluma! We'd be happy to publish your comments in this column of the **American Dane**.

# IT'S FUN TO SPEAK DANISH

We have replenished our stock of Danish language cassette tapes. And we're really pleased that we were able to acquire more.

Learning or re-learning to speak Danish is fun for the whole family. And it is a wonderful activity for the individual lodges, too.

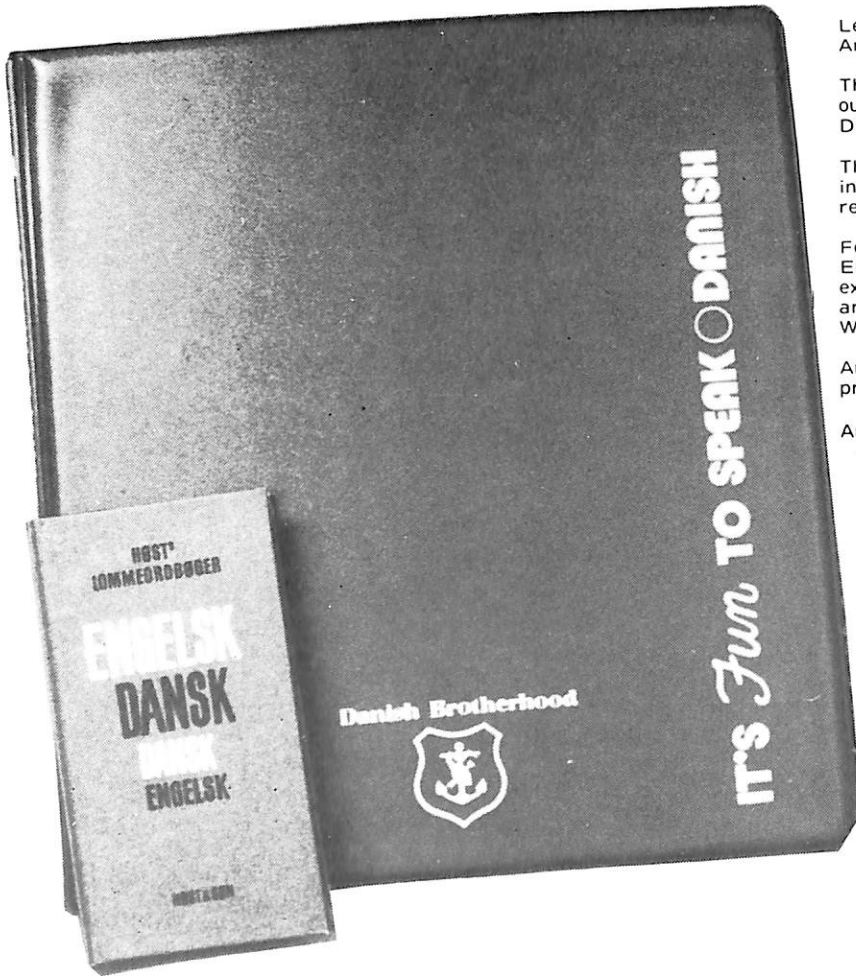
These five full-length cassette tapes fit any standard tape player, and our kits also include a read-along script as well as an English/Danish Dictionary all packaged in a handsome red travel or storage album.

This is a fantastic way for second or third generation Danes to become involved in our Danish heritage. And these tapes are perfect as a refresher course if you're planning a trip to Denmark.

For the convenience of beginners, young or old, both Danish and English are used in the five tapes. The tapes were developed by experts and educators to make the learning process fun. The cassettes are titled: (1) How To Speak Danish; (2) Putting Words Together; (3) What Did I Say?; (4) As We Say In Danish; (5) Sing It, Say It.

An easy, enjoyable way to build a useful vocabulary, learn pronunciations, and hear old Danish sayings and songs.

And all for only \$29.95 including postage and handling. (We are offering a lodge discount if more than five tape sets are ordered at one time. For five or more tape sets, the price becomes \$24.95 per kit.)



SEND TO:

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Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of

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## Proud to be a Dane?

We're proud of our Danish heritage and would like more information about The Danish Brotherhood. We understand we can become members even though we may not be near a local lodge. We will receive **The American Dane** each month as members and be eligible to apply for other membership benefits. Please send information to:

name _____	age _____	other family members:
street address _____	name _____	age _____
city, state, zip _____	name _____	age _____
	name _____	age _____

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