



AMERICAN

DANE *September 1984*

The Danish Brotherhood in America



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American Dane

magazine



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Denmark Our Heritage - America Our Home

Monthly Features:

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VOLUME LXVIII

SEPTEMBER 1984

NUMBER 9

Cover photo: Lodge No. 1 secretary (left) Jim Christiansen of Omaha, delivers a mini-Rebildfest program to J.J. Exon, United States Senator. Senator Exon is also a former Nebraska governor. Jim is wearing an authentic Danish postman's uniform.



President's Page

Robert E. Ibsen
National President

Each year Danish Brotherhood scholarships for insured members attending college or a vocational school are awarded. All insured members are eligible under the Bylaws of The Danish Brotherhood to compete. A committee of the Board of Directors is appointed by the President to determine criteria and to evaluate applicants. Serving on the committee is an enjoyable task for a Board member. He sees our benevolent side in action.

The Scholarship/Camp Grant Committee is chaired by Clyde Langsted, Second Vice President. Its membership includes Kenneth Pedersen, Woodrow Petersen and Erling Braumann. They also administer our camp grant awards.

Applications for Danish Brotherhood scholarships or camp grants must be requested from the National Headquarters office. When scholarship applications are requested, a check of membership is made.

The committee is able to communicate directly with graduating high school seniors about scholarships through use of a membership listing showing DBIA members ages 0-25. The Committee believes direct communication with the young member will create greater interest.

Bylaws of local lodges and districts are another concern for the Board. The Bylaw Committee consists of Erling Braumann, Chairman, and Paul Carlsen. Erling and Paul review proposed new bylaws for lodges or districts and amendments or changes being adopted. They make suggestions for change if they think change is necessary. The foremost purpose of the committee is to prevent subordinate units from adopting bylaws that conflict with national bylaws or with governmental regulations.

Many lodges offered members through their bylaws a sick benefit in the Society's early years. As rules governing fraternal benefit societies became more rigid, it was determined by approval of lodge bylaws including sick benefits, the national organization seemed to be obligating the national Society. It was also determined benefits offered by the lodges were not actuarially sound. Therefore, they could not be fairly administered in the opinion of lawmakers. The Bylaw Committee may not approve subordinate bylaws dealing with sick benefits. Sick benefit rules are written as an addendum to their bylaws.

Lodges or districts changing their bylaws must have these changes approved by the Committee.

The Society owns an outstanding National Headquarters building in Omaha, Nebraska. The Building Committee of the National Board of Directors is responsible for the property. They make recommendations for repair or maintenance when needed. This committee is chaired by Director Kenneth Pedersen and includes Director Woodrow Petersen. They may recommend improvements, too.

An important benefit provided to National Headquarters employees is the Danish Brotherhood Retirement Plan. The plan is a legal document approved by the Internal Revenue Service. It is subject to approval and review by the IRS at any time. All changes must have IRS approval. The Society is required to have a Retirement Committee which looks after the assets of the plan.

To participate in the plan, employees of The Danish Brotherhood must work 1,000 or more hours during the year, and they must have attained the age of 25. They are not eligible to receive benefits from the plan until they have completed ten years of service to the Society. Director Carlsen chairs the Retirement Committee with Past President George Jacobsen and Secretary-Treasurer Howard Christensen.

The newest task delegated to a committee of Board members is annual selection of President's Award winners. A committee review of applications is apt to give more objective results. I will chair this committee and will be assisted by Past President George Jacobsen and First Vice President Peter Weber.

Looking over all functions under assorted committee titles, and being aware of added responsibilities shared by members of the Board, it is sometimes curious that eight men and a professional staff are able to assume and accomplish the many projects for the national organization. It has been my experience the rewards of serving on the Board, while not material, are as great as the responsibilities for those who have sought and won those positions.

Board members serving on committees accept their appointments with enthusiasm and work well together during their terms. Perhaps this reflects their earnest desire to contribute as much as possible to the progress of The Danish Brotherhood.

A Steak in Our Future . . . And a Byte More

6

new members



4

steaks



1

satisfied you



We congratulate the 30 + lodges registered for the Steak/Byte promotion!

Lodge No. 14, Kenosha, WI
Bennie Peterson, Chairman

Lodge No. 345, Orange Co., CA
Ken Olsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 186, Luck, WI
Ernest Espelien, Chairman

Lodge No. 35, Chicago, IL
Raymond L. Nielsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 1, Omaha, NE
James Therkildsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 29, Seattle, WA
Frank Poulsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 36, Milwaukee, WI
Elmer C. Jorgensen, Chairman

Lodge No. 342, Bucks Co., PA
Edward R. Haag, Chairman

Lodge No. 341, Elk Horn-Kimballton, IA
Melvin C. Boose, Chairman

Lodge No. 263, Askov, MN
Byron Petersen, Chairman

Lodge No. 17, Chicago, IL
Merle L. Nylén, Chairman

Lodge No. 217, Humboldt, IA
Hedy E. Sorensen, Chairman

Lodge No. 346, Riverside, CA
Vikki Garrison, Chairman

Lodge No. 219, Clear Lake, IA
Steven Sorensen, Chairman

Lodge No. 70, Greenville, MI
Brian Gibson, Chairman

Lodge No. 16, Minden, NE
Mabel Haselbarth, Chairman

Lodge No. 15, Des Moines, IA
Richard Hansen, Chairman

Lodge No. 328, Vancouver, B.C., Can.
Peter Jensen, Chairman

Lodge No. 51, Ludington, MI
John D. Laird, Chairman

Lodge No. 89, Superior, WI
Howard C. Christensen, Chairman

Lodge No. 325, Nassau Co., NY
Elizabeth Pedersen, Chairman

Lodge No. 323, Alhambra, CA
Frank E. Jepsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 167, Portland, OR
Jens N. Jensen, Chairman

Lodge No. 206, Blair, NE
Jerry Christensen, Chairman

Lodge No. 3, Davenport, IA
Leonard C. Scherff, Chairman

Lodge No. 294, Barre, VT
Harry Mikkelsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 45, Minneapolis, MN
Inge Marie Poulsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 227, Detroit, MI
Howard A. Olsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 273, Dillon, MT
Ronald G. Nielsen, Chairman

Lodge No. 195, Omaha, NE
Edward C. Krause, Chairman

Lodge No. 4, Racine, WI
Al Sornson, Chairman

Lodge No. 299, Solvang, CA
Max Hanberg and C. W. "Bill" Rasmussen, Co-chairmen

Lodge No. 34, Dwight, IL
James Andreasen, Chairman


Lodge No. 161, Ruskin, NE
Ella Boyles, Chairman

Some members are on their way to winning 4-8 oz. Omaha top sirloin steaks by sponsoring and having initiated two members or more since the contest began on July 1. It will end on June 30, 1985. Be sure your lodge has registered and reserved the slide and tape program for your kick-off meeting. Don't forget, one sponsor nationally will win a personal home computer.

Sponsor a Member In 1984

Invite a friend or family member to join The Danish Brotherhood by completing the short membership form below — have it signed by the applicant and submit it to the home office. For insured membership (required under age 50) the new member will be contacted by a lodge representative or directly from the home office regarding the choice of life insurance plans and the completion of the insurance application.

If you will complete the membership application, we will make sure the new member is provided with information about the life insurance programs. Send to The Danish Brotherhood in America, P. O. Box 31748, Omaha, NE 68131.



The Danish Brotherhood in America

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

LODGE NO.

CITY

STATE

PLEASE PRINT SOC. SEC. NO. _____

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|-----------|--|--|---|--|
| 1. FIRST NAME | | INITIAL | LAST NAME | | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> INSURED MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP | | |
| 3. RESIDENCE - ADDRESS | | STREET | CITY | STATE | ZIP | | |
| 4. AREA CODE - TELEPHONE NO. | | 5. DATE OF BIRTH | | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE | | 7. MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOW/WIDOWER <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED | |
| 8. PLACE OF BIRTH | | 9. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP | | | | | |
| 10. OCCUPATION | | <input type="checkbox"/> DANISH ORIGIN <input type="checkbox"/> DANISH CITIZENSHIP | | <input type="checkbox"/> SPEAK DANISH <input type="checkbox"/> LIVED IN DENMARK | | <input type="checkbox"/> RELATED TO MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> BY MARRIAGE <input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS OF MEMBERS INTERESTED IN DANISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE | |
| 11. EMPLOYER | | 12. BUSINESS ADDRESS | | | | | |

I DO HEREBY DECLARE AND AGREE:

- a. That the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Society which are now in force or which may at any time hereafter be duly made or enacted shall be binding upon me, my family and all beneficiaries.
- b. That the decision of the Secretary-Treasurer and/or the Board of Directors or their successors in office, shall control in all matters of dispute between the Society or any lodge or officer or member thereof and myself relative to membership or the obligations of membership.
- c. That if I make application for insured membership and I am rejected for insurance by the Home Office Underwriting Department, I shall be considered as having made application for social membership.

SIGNED BY ME ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 19____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

| RECOMMENDER | INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| NAME _____ | 1. _____ |
| LODGE NO. _____ | 2. _____ |
| CITY _____ | 3. _____ |

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE APPLICANT WAS APPROVED FOR MEMBERSHIP ON _____ DATE

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE: _____

Colonization of Greenland

One thousand years ago the Norwegian-Icelandic chieftain Erik the Red was outlawed for homicide and went westward to Greenland to explore and colonize the country. He was the first European to settle in the western hemisphere.

Erik spent three summers and three winters in Greenland eagerly studying its fjords and coasts. After that he ventured back to Iceland, as a propagandist for emigration to the new areas. "The country he had explored he called Greenland for, he said, with a pretty name it would surely lure people," says the Icelandic saga, not without subtle humor.

According to the saga, no fewer than 25 ships left Iceland together, carrying emigrants for Greenland, but only fourteen reached their destination. The rest were driven back by storms or lost at sea.

Although thinly populated, Iceland, with its lava fields, naked mountains and glacial deserts, was not ample enough to feed very many immigrants. Thorvald and his son Erik were probably among the latecomers and though Erik may have been a violent man he need not have been the instigator of all those conflicts which eventually made life in Iceland a hopeless affair for him. In this respect he shared the destiny of many others so after only a few generations of colonization "Iceland spilled over" and exported its population surplus to Greenland. Leif Erikson's attempt a few decades later to extend the colonization further to the coasts of North America should there-

fore be seen as nothing more than a continuation of the process begun in Iceland.

Archaeologists have long since excavated the site of the farm at Oagssiarssuk which according to tradition must be Erik's own Brattahlid — but without making any finds that could corroborate the veracity of the tradition. But in 1961 they were in for a real surprise. In the course of some diggings they hit upon skeletons from a burial site. The local clergyman halted the digging and reported the find to the National Museum in Copenhagen which entrusted the scientific investigation to archaeologist Knud J. Krogh and anthropologist Jørgen Balslev.

They found the site of a small building with curved longitudinal walls, typical of the Viking Age, and with outer walls of stacked turf, precisely like the old churches in Iceland. And surrounding this small structure which could be nothing but a church they found about 150 graves. The skeletons were in tolerably good condition and yielded sufficient material for abundant information about the people living at a large Greenland farm in the Viking Age.

So here was a tiny primitive church with its churchyard, loudly demonstrating Christianity in the young pioneer community of Greenland during the Viking Age. Did the sagas have anything to say about this?

In the story about the domestic squabbles at Brattahlid there is mention of the church building

which was presumably erected on the initiative of Erik's wife, Tjodhild and so far removed from the main wing of the farm as not to hit Erik in the eye the moment he stepped outside. So there can be little doubt that it was indeed Tjodhild's church which was discovered in 1961, and even if the anecdotes about Erik's refusal of baptism may have been made up later to explain the remote location of the church, the essence of the tradition can only be judged true.

The graves at Brattahlid tell about a family with a short life expectancy, calmly facing the fact that the next voyage might well be the last. And they show how utterly spellbound these people were by the new faith, by the conviction that after this brief life they must and should rest in the consecrated ground of the church.

We have no record of when Erik the Red of Brattahlid, the colonizer of Greenland, died. But the civilization he brought with him to Greenland was to survive for nearly five hundred years, eventually under extreme hardship. Ironically the last inhabitants of the Norse colonies seem to have become extinct almost at the time that a Genovese in Spanish service landed in the West Indies and won world fame as the "discoverer of America."

Erik Kjersgaard

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Creative Writing Winner . . .

Ouzel

by Paul J. Lindholdt

Among pebbles of the streambed
it dips and prods,
now underwater, wings outstretched
for balance against the current,
turning over stones
where small insects hide,
darting there and there
after them, clutching the bottom
as though on a vertical slope,
swept back them climbing
forward again, a liquid shuttle
grooming the streambed,
loosening debris that swirls
into the current, still underwater,
still prying, a squat
grey genius of balance,
voiceless and singleminded,
perpetually hungry,
never stepping twice
on the same stone, dipping
to seize larvae, always
bobbing and searching,
feeding upon the flux
of its home, the current
sliding past, thin, clear
and insistent, the bird clinging,
probing between its toes,
now breaking the surface to light
on a low spruce branch
where it rests and dries its wings.

Annual Board Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of The Danish Brotherhood will begin on October 25, 1984, at the National Headquarters Building, 3717 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68131.

Minot, North Dakota Outpost of Scandinavian Heritage

October 19 will see the opening of the sixth annual Norsk Høstfest in the All Seasons Arena, State Fairgrounds in Minot, North Dakota. All five Scandinavian countries: Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Finland, will be represented. Scandinavians can glimpse the old cultures through authentic knowledge and accurate information offered during the festival.

Since its beginning in 1978, the Norsk Høstfest has grown to the fourth largest gathering of people in North Dakota. From a meager first year attendance of 1,000, the celebration has expanded annually with more than 25,000 people joining in the harvest festival activities in 1983.

An Import Shop features items from all the Scandinavian countries. There is continuous music, singing and dancing for a generous serving of entertainment.

This year an authentic replica of a Scandinavian kitchen will be the backdrop for eager bakers making Scandinavian delicacies — mouthwatering smørrebrød sandwiches, krumkake, kringle, flatbrød, sandbakkel, Danish aebleskiver, sweet soup and rommegrot. Booths featuring homemade foods and crafts abound. Entertainers include Myron Floren, Victor Borge, Ray Price, the best dance band of Norway, Miss Universe 1984, Luther Bjerke, and others. For information write the Minot Convention and Visitors Bureau, P.O. Box 940, Minot, ND 58702; telephone (701) 852-6000.

Solvang Danish Maid



Solvang's 1984 Danish Maid, Linda Clausen, wears her Danish costume designed and fashioned by Frances Detmer of Solvang, current treasurer of the Solvang Sisterhood Lodge. Basically blue, the skirt of the costume is of imported multi-striped handwoven cotton. The bodice is velveteen trimmed with imported braid, cluny lace and pewter fasteners. — King Merrill Photo

Linda Clausen reigns as Danish Maid of the 1984 Danish Days celebration in Solvang (September 15-16).

Maid Linda and her parents, Bent and Annalise Clausen, who will serve as co-chairmen of the festival, were introduced at a dinner meeting of the Solvang Business Association/Chamber of Commerce at the Sheraton Royal Scandinavian Inn. This year's Danish Days will be the first in history in which the maid is a daughter of the celebration co-chairmen.

Being in the public spotlight as Danish Maid will not be a new experience for Miss Clausen. She was judged the most photogenic contestant in the Miss Santa Barbara County Fair competition in 1980 and two years before had been an extrant in a Miss Santa Barbara County Teen contest.

Our Lodges in Action

Material for publication must be received by the tenth of the month preceding month of issue.

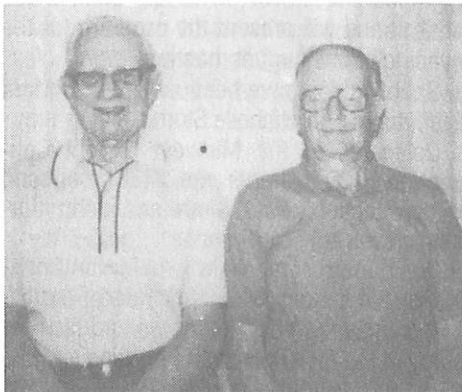
The American Dane is mailed by the sixth day of the month of issue.

The magazine reserves the right to edit material accepted for publication.

The award for "Best Idea" for the September issue goes to Lodge No. 1 in Omaha, Nebraska, for their mini-Rebildfest theme for the state picnic.

PACIFIC-NORTHWEST

Lodge #167, Portland, OR — Edward and Elmer Ussing were born on the Island of Mors in Denmark. They both came to the United States from Brabrand, Denmark in 1927; spent three years in Pennsylvania before coming to Portland. They joined The Danish Brotherhood in 1934.



50-year members Elmer and Edward Ussing.

Their father was a school teacher. Edward and Elmer were carpenters. Edward and Elmer are the examples of what membership in The Danish Brotherhood stands for, carrying on the culture and heritage of the Danes in America.

We salute you, Edward and Elmer Ussing, on 50 years of bringing your culture to the United States and spreading it among us.

Jens N. Jensen, Cor.

Lodge #328, Vancouver, B.C., CANADA — The Brotherhood tug-of-war team once again showed their good form by winning the trophy at the competition held at the annual Peace Arch Park picnic in June. Poor weather kept a lot of the brothers away who should have been present to cheer on our team to victory.

Our Fest Committee is planning a Høstfest for Saturday, September 15. It will be held at the Swedish Hall starting at 7 p.m. Dinner will consist of a salad bar, "Helstekte

rødspetter" flown in directly from Denmark, and an assortment of other delicious items savory to the palate. There will be dancing afterward to Jimmy's Orchestra. Tickets cost \$17.50 per person and can be bought from Peter Praegel, Jens Peter Vestergard, Hans Jensen or any Fest Committee member.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

Lodge #184, Hayward, CA — It is time again for our annual bus trip to Reno. It will be on October 6 and 7. We will be staying at the Sundowner. The price is \$45 per person, double occupancy. \$28 will be refunded at the various clubs. Reservations must be made by September 15 to Diane Mahler, 39636 Bliss Ct., Fremont, CA 94538; phone 657-9753. Money must be turned in when reservations are made.

Congratulations to our bowlers on Team No. 2 — Ceil Mahler, Jonna Villadsen, Diane Mahler, Marianne Troxel and Signe Ann McNeil, and Team No. 1 — Fred Mahler, David Mahler, Lynn Troxel, Walter Hansen and Herb Anthony. They placed 11th and 14th in the National Tournament. Diane Mahler also won High Series and High Individual Game for the women. Steven Mahler, son of David and Diane Mahler, tied for High Game for the Young Vikings. Congratulations to all of you.

Signe Ann McNeil, Cor.

Lodge #299, Solvang, CA — July 11 we sat down to a good dinner prepared by Eric Petersen, Hans Larsen, Max Hanberg, and Alton Nielsen. The very good dessert was prepared by Jean Petersen. We could use a repeat on that. The queen candidate, Vanessa Dunlap, sponsored by the Brotherhood, Sisterhood and Dania, raised the most money for Coordinating Council Youth Activities and was declared winner and queen of the Fourth of July parade.

The Brotherhood's entry in the parade



Front and back views of Solvang's winning float.



won first place in the senior division. The Uncle Sam figure went up and down 20 feet. It was entitled "Salute to the Olympics." The builders of the float are Andy, Thora, Ken and Donna Andersen, Matt Gillette, Sharon Atwood, Mindi and

David Christian, Eric and Jean Pedersen, Bill Rasmussen, and Mark and Brenda Anderson.

Two \$500 scholarships were awarded; one to Monique Fredericksen, one to Janet Mortensen. Arnold Detmer acted as secretary in the absence of Bill Rasmussen who was away on a trip. Committee for August is Bob, Robbi and Bill Petersen and Jack Nedergaard.

September 17 a dinner and dance will be held at Memorial Hall by the Brotherhood and Sisterhood. **Henry Edwards, Cor.**

1983 President's Award Activity Schedule

Lodge #345, Orange CO., CA — Our annual Danish picnic was a tremendous success. Those attending had a lot of fun. The food was delicious, and there was a lot of it. Hats off to Howard Kjellsen who arrived at the park at 7:15 a.m. to get the "coolest spot" in the park and for making the aebleskiver. Hats off to Gerry Olsen for making the afternoon a fun time. Gerry lined up games and relays, such as the egg toss and the water balloons. A big thank-you to all who worked to make this annual event so successful.

We will hold our 7th anniversary party August 11. We will have a barbecue; the lodge will furnish the salad bar, french bread and our anniversary cake. We will meet to elect our nominating committee. This is membership drive month, and we will show some slides from the home office on the new membership contest.

Our luau is on September 8.

Hazel Kjellsen, Sec.

Lodge #346, Riverside, CA — Friday, July 13, we held an informal meeting, our "Unbirthday Party." It was an extremely hot night, and 24 of us were together in a small dining room at Minicks Barn. Two new members, Rita and Sheldon Penn, were initiated (just before they melted). Rita and Sheldon are involved with many Southern California Danish organizations, and we are extremely proud to have them as our newest brothers. Welcome to Kodan!

September 29 is our Harvest Ball/Celebration of Kodan's 6th birthday at Ken and Nancy Nielsen's home. There will be an informal meeting. **Nancy Nielsen, Sec.**

MIDWEST

Lodge #4, Racine, WI — October 6 is our Danish Festival (Dansk Festdag) with President Ken Janssen in charge. October 9 is our fresh torsk dinner organized by John Hawk, as will be the Halloween dinner/dance on October 27.

New Members

| Name | Lodge No. | Location | Sponsor |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Sharon A. Eilers | 1 | —Omaha | Mrs. Verne A. Madsen |
| Larence H. Pedersen | 1 | —Omaha | Armand Thomsen |
| Donna L. Sump | 1 | —Omaha | Mrs. Verne A. Madsen |
| Burton C. Foster | 3 | —Davenport | Carl Christensen |
| Edgar G. Gastaldi | 14 | —Kenosha | Edgar F. Gastaldi |
| Julius G. Gastaldi | 14 | —Kenosha | Edgar F. Gastaldi |
| Michael J. Gastaldi | 14 | —Kenosha | Edgar F. Gastaldi |
| Lawrence P. Niesen | 14 | —Kenosha | Stanley Jensen |
| Irma F. Holmen | 17 | —Chicago | Merle L. Nylen |
| Ebba Poulsen | 17 | —Chicago | Paul Poulsen |
| Eric Hans Antonsen | 36 | —Milwaukee | Albert Larsen |
| Emanuel Malm | 62 | —Sioux City | Harold Falk |
| Ruth Malm | 62 | —Sioux City | Harold Falk |
| Ardell R. Forney | 143 | —Petaluma | Henry C. Brown |
| Anne W. Flindt | 167 | —Portland | Shawna M. Reed |
| Paul B. Lasbo | 167 | —Portland | Mel Pihl |
| Shawna M. Reed | 167 | —Portland | Mary Jensen |
| Roger S. Styne | 167 | —Portland | Argene B. Styne |
| Violet H. Bergeson | 217 | —Humboldt | Fremond Nielsen |
| Brenda L. Koch | 600 | —Omaha | Paul Wehner |
| Niels E. Mortensen | 600 | —Omaha | Andy Andersen |
| Erik K. Nicolaysen | 600 | —Omaha | Andy Andersen |

Our annual picnic was August 5 and our Racine night at the Brewers was scheduled for Saturday, August 25.

Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI — Welcome new members Lawrence Niesen, Michael Gastaldi, Julius Gastaldi and Edgar Gastaldi.

Our team finished 2nd in the Midwest District Trap Shoot held in Dwight, IL. The team consisted of Dan Ervin, Mat Fosbinder, Erik Hansen, Bob O'Neal and Louis DeFord - the guys reported that No. 34 did their usual good job on the shoot and a fine meal was enjoyed afterward.

Dan, Bob, Mat, Erik and Jay Moore brought home a beautiful plaque to the lodge for their 1st place finish in the J. I. Case Gun Club Trap Shoot League.

July 6 a busload went to the Brewers game. Although they lost both games, it was a very enjoyable evening. The seats were excellent. Thanks to Chairman Rich Walker, Ken Hansen and Duke Ellingham — our song leader.

Once again it is time to kick-off one of our most important fund-raising events for the benefit of our Building Fund — Jule Fest raffle ticket sales. Elmer Nelson is the chairperson again this year.

September 15 is set aside for our German Fest — we have an authentic German band coming, German food and many more surprises. Your committee is working hard.

1983 President's Award Social Activity

Lodge #35, Chicago, IL — Shirley Thomsen, one of our members, is a handwriting

analyst and will present the program for the evening at our August meeting.

Scholarships have been awarded to Mark Steffensen and Michelle Sloth.

Delegates to the Midwest District Convention in September are Al Iversen and Henry Jepsen. Paul Sloth and John Jorgensen will act as alternates.

Our Dane for the Night was Martin Christensen, Jr., from Oklahoma. Marty participated in the golf outing and he and his wife enjoyed the festivities in the evening.

Elsa Petersen, Cor.

Lodge #36, Milwaukee, WI — Congratulations to George Lilhammer, our faithful member who joined the lodge August 7, 1934. He has earned the right to wear his 50-year pin with distinction.

Eighteen members attended the backyard picnic at the Elmer C. Jorgensen's, Sunday, July 22. The Jorgensen's hospitality was only out-done by the refreshments, the hors d'oeuvres and gourmet food Sally prepared. It was a warm, sunny day and most of the attendees cooled off in the beautiful in-ground swimming pool. Our thanks goes to the Jorgensens for another successful event.

Elsa Berlin and Albert L. Larsen were elected delegates to the 33rd Annual Midwest District Convention to be held September 29-30, 1984 in Lincolnwood, Illinois. Alternates are Grace E. Gertz and Rev. Ernest O. Norquist. **Albert L. Larsen, Sec.**

Payment to Board Members

AUGUST 1984
Robert E. Ibsen, salary, \$262.00.

Lodge #92, St. Charles, IL — Wow! What a picnic for Lodge 92. We had a really great time. The weather was good, the food even better, and the fellowship extra special. We had a guest from Denmark, a young fellow visiting for about nine months in St. Charles. He was the winner of the water balloon toss and also winner of the cherry pit spitting contest. One of our members treated us to some accordion music. We all sang along with expertise.

The Pinewood Derby was won by a couple of our boys (I might add, not little boys). First place went to Marty Seyller and second place to Bob Mylin. Personally, I think they had help from their kids in making their cars.

It sure was a great day for everyone. Thanks to the Mylins for sharing their lovely home and yard with us.

It would be especially great to have a big group for our September meeting. We will have as a guest, Adeline the Psychic. I'm sure it will be a really informative meeting. There is a possibility you may find out something about a fellow member you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask. Come one and all for this delight filled evening. Help us have a good time with your presence.

Lois Skraboly, Cor.

Lodge #186, Luck, WI — Our meeting on July 16 was conducted by Past President Irvin Edling. President Willis Erickson was conducting a tour to Denmark and other Scandinavian countries. Vice President Ernest Espelien was enjoying a camping trip through our western states.

August 5 we were honored to have members of the Askov, MN lodge join us for an indoor picnic at our lodge building. It was an extremely warm Sunday afternoon. The West Denmark 4-H Club, from a community two miles west of Luck, entertained us with various Danish and Scandinavian folk dances in Danish costume. Ellen Jepsen accompanied them with her accordion as well as leading us in a sing-a-long. It was interesting to hear about the activities of the Askov lodges and to note Byron Petersen, who works at printing your copies of the **American Dane** at Askov, was one of the members present. We hope to get together with them again in the future.

Esther Nies, Sec.

Lodge #340, Wood Dale, IL — Congratulations to Barbara and Rune Karsbaek (Brian, too!) on the arrival of their "little Viking," Erik Brandan, born July 2, 1984.

The "Ploughman Open" Scotch Doubles Golf on June 10, 1984 kicked off the fun. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Ted Kaiser for another job well-done, and to

Dorothy and Harry Ploughman for their wonderful donation of a traveling trophy.

The MWD Trap Shoot on June 23, hosted by Dwight Lodge 34, proved that our lodge does have winners. Dick and Matthew Christensen walked away with prizes.

The MWD Golf Tournament hosted by Chicago Lodge 35 on July 21, was really fun. Our lodge donated two bottles of akvavit to the event. Dwight turned out to be the big winner, but not before Ted Kaiser placed in the men's competition. Terry Clayton received a dozen used water balls to replace the seven he lost on the course.

September 28-30 is the MWD Convention sponsored by DBIA Chicago Lodge 17 and DSS Dagmar 4. October 20 is our MWD Dart Tournament sponsored by Dwight Lodge 34. November 3, a Halloween party will be held at the Georgetown Clubhouse. Invite family and friends.

We will be electing delegates to the MWD Convention at our August meeting. We will discuss the possibility of getting together on a regular basis for bowling rather than joining a league.

Sue Andersen, Cor.

Lodge #343, Waupaca, WI — We had an interesting meeting on June 28. Program co-chairperson Melda Mortensen arranged to have Theresa Stuempeges of Clintonville, Wisconsin present in Danish costume. She gave an interesting slide travelogue of her trip to Denmark with special emphasis on the beautiful gardens and church interiors.

Robert Marcom, who purchased the historic Danes Home building built in 1894 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was introduced. Mr. Marcom outlined his proposed renovation of the old Danes Home. He anticipates small shops available for leasing might be ready by Christmas. He will use the lower portion of the building for his antique shop and expects to have a restaurant to occupy the former ballroom portion; so the beautiful ballroom will not be divided. The building will be called Danes Home Shops and will be using a logo from the original Danes Home Society. He brought for our enjoyment many old bills and receipts which were found, along with many more, in the upper part of the building. Many of the bills were in Danish.

Our meeting on July 26 was a lumberjack picnic with interesting clothes worn at one of our local parks. Nail pounding and other lumberjack-type contests took place after we consumed all those Danish goodies on the long buffet table arranged by Henry and Melda Mortensen.

It was decided our annual aebleskiver supper will be held on our regular meeting date in September. Vice President Loyal

Lundorff agreed to chair the September 27 aebleskiver supper. **Evelyn, Doerr, Pres.**

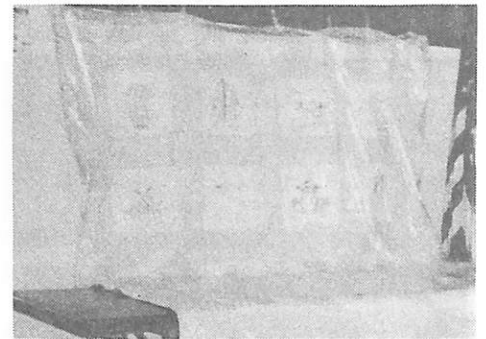
NEBRASKA

District News

The Nebraska General Committee's annual convention will be hosted by Lodge 16 of Minden, September 21-23. The convention starts with a social evening and short program at 7 p.m. Friday evening. This includes a free buffet and will be held at the Country Club, located ½ mile north of the Pioneer Village.

Saturday meetings will be held at 10:30 a.m. at B.J.'s Lounge, 1 block north of the east side of the town square.

The Saturday banquet and dance will be held at the Country Club. Breakfast will be served on Sunday morning.



Minden's Centennial quilt, designed and made in Minden, to be raffled during Nebraska District convention.

We have reserved a block of rooms until September 15. We urge you to call Pioneer Village and reserve your room. The number is (308) 832-2750. This is a busy weekend for the motel.

We invite everyone to be a part of our 1984 Centennial Year Convention. We are happy our National President Robert Ibsen will be with us and will speak at the banquet. See you in Minden.

Herbert Nielsen, Cor.

Lodge #1, Omaha, NE — July 29 guests from throughout Nebraska attended the mini-Rebildfest hosted by our lodge. The event required the cooperation and planning of our officers and our culture committee. The response of guests and members of the well-planned morning and afternoon program was enthusiastic.

The mini-Rebildfest was patterned after the annual program for the Independence Day celebration held at Rebild Park near Aalborg, Denmark each year. An actual program from the Rebild celebration was located and the printed program for our festival was taken from that, with activities given in both Danish and English.

Omaha's Benson High School Band provided appropriate music. We borrowed a



Our lodge secretary, Jim Christiansen, chats with one of Omaha's Scandinavian dancers. (Photo courtesy Ted Stollard)

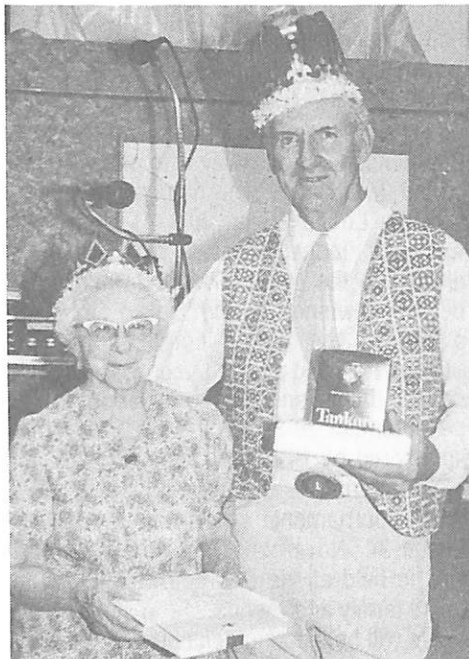


Part of the crowd on July 29 for the mini-Rebildfest. (Photo courtesy Ted Stollard)

Danish postman's uniform from neighboring Elk Horn-Kimballton, Iowa. Members were asked to wear Danish costumes and Omaha's Scandinavian Dancers performed. The film about Rebild obtained from the Chicago Royal Danish Consulate General was shown at three different times that day. The principal speaker for the United States was The Honorable J. J. Exon (U.S. Senator). Congressman Hal Daub shared lunch with us. Our principal speaker for Denmark was our own member Poul Stefensen, Knight of the Dannebrog.

The members of the lodge sincerely appreciate the attendance of so many guests at the mini-Rebildfest.

Lodge #16, Minden, NE — As part of our Centennial celebration in 1984, our annual Minden Ethnic Days program was expanded to a three-day program. Activities include softball, an ice cream social, crafts and booths, games and the great food that accompanies these events. Entertainment was provided by the Sweet Adelines of Kearney, the Plain Label String Band of Lincoln, Minden Junior Danish Dancers, the Stromsburg Swedish Dancers, the Kronborg Danish Dancers, the Hastings Indian Dancers, Willis Heideman on electronic



Monarch King and Queen, Bill Jorgensen and Rosa Nielsen of Minden, NE. (Photo courtesy Minden Courier)



Stromsburg Swedish Dancers perform Maypole dance. (Photo courtesy Minden Courier)



Minden Junior Danish Dancers. (Photo courtesy Minden Courier)

accordion and Alan Jorgensen on piano and others.

A 1984 Ethnic Days King was named (Erik Andersen) and a Queen (Robin Hansen).

Our tradition of crowning a Monarch King and Queen for the Danish Brotherhood continued with the selection of Bill Jorgensen and Rosa Nielsen.

We look forward now to the opening of the Nebraska District Convention in Minden on September 21. Our handmade quilt with a Danish motif will be raffled during the convention.

Lodge #84, Lincoln, NE — "All Aboard! Velkommen — Welcome" a fun, food and fellowship day was spent on our annual excursion. This year, it was a bus trip to Omaha by forty-one Brotherhood, Sisterhood and friends of Lincoln.

At 9:25 a.m. our bus departed with Sisterhood Gladys Sorensen as our sponsor. With Paul Collison, the friendly and courteous bus driver, we were made comfortable.

Highlights of our trip to Omaha were a view of our National Headquarters building for The Danish Brotherhood, a tour of Omaha's Old Market, the buffet dinner at nearby Firehouse Dinner Theater, which presented a brigade show on stage from 1 to 2 p.m. We were then treated to the main feature of our tour, the stage production, a comedy entitled, "No Time for Sergeants."

Following the conclusion, our friendly bus driver took us back to Lincoln.

Don Lehn, Pres.

1983 President's Award Best District

MICHIGAN-OHIO

Lodge #51, Ludington, MI — Lodge 51 met Wednesday, August 1. Seventeen members attended. A discussion was held on insurance. We reminded every insured member of Lodge 51 to have their insurance policies brought and kept up-to-date. For further information, if you have questions, please contact Earl Jensen, phone 843-3263.

July 18 we had one new member initiated. We all welcome Dennis Macher into The Danish Brotherhood in America.

Our softball team has just completed their season by winning another game. It's just too bad the season is over now, as our team was starting to make their move. But stick with it gentlemen, there is always next year.

Saturday, the 4th of August, the Michigan-Ohio District held their annual baseball outing hosted by the Detroit Lodge. It was another splendid effort by Detroit to make it a memorable and enjoyable day. Ludington had a delegation of 34 members and guests. Until the buses left the Danish Club for Tiger Stadium, the time was spent socializing and renewing old acquaintances.

Then we were at the old ballpark with a crowd of over 41,000. The ball game wasn't too good because Detroit lost, but they didn't run out of beer, hot dogs, popcorn, and stuff like that, so everyone still had a good time, even rooting for the losing team. In the sixth inning there was a cloudburst. We had to leave our box seats and head for cover, but before long we were all back in our seats enjoying the ball game again. The score was Kansas City Royals 9, Detroit Tigers 5. After the game, we boarded the buses for the Danish Club. A very good meal had been prepared for us. Thank you Detroit, for making this a very enjoyable district event for about 120 people, with Muskegon, Ludington, Greenville, and Detroit lodges represented.

Keith Koegler, Pres.

1983 President's Award Civic Activity

Lodge #227, Detroit, MI — We welcome Niel Woodring. Niel was initiated into our lodge July 11. After discussion, we canceled our July 25 meeting and enjoyed a social night instead. Danish sandwiches,

beer, pastry and coffee were available.

A new podium has been purchased by the lodge and is equipped with a sound system for better listening during our meetings.

The Tiger baseball game is past history and was enjoyed by all who attended. A chicken and frikadeller dinner was available at the Danish Club afterward.

September 29 the lodge will be celebrating its 79th anniversary with a dinner/dance in the Viking Hall. Reservations are necessary.

Ken Christensen, Cor.

GCEL

Lodge #32, New Haven, CT — Chris Simonsen was elected delegate to the GCEL convention and Berit Mann as alternate.

September 15 we are sponsoring a catered Clam Bake at Gerda Sorensen's home on Long Island Sound. On the menu is lobster, clams, steamers, potatoes, cole slaw, and watermelon. For those who don't care for lobster, we will serve steak. A keg of beer will be provided. This feast will cost \$15 a person and it's open to your friends, as well as our members. There is a limit of 60 tickets.

Winnie Edmonds, Cor.

Lodge #71, Penn Yan, NY — A little news from Wendia Lodge No. 71 in Penn Yan, NY. Wendia Lodge for the first time has made a scholarship award to a Penn Yan Academy student who was an outstanding student in language for three years, also for culture and international lifestyle.



President Carl Spencer of Lodge No. 71 and Andrina Kniesen, the winner of the Danish Brotherhood award in language.

Brothers Roscoe Powers, Harry Jensen and Harold Jepsen are ill at their homes. We wish them good health in the future.

It will soon be time for our annual

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 |
|---------------|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 6-5-84 | Verner C. Andreasen | 85 | Omaha, Nebraska | 15 | Des Moines, Iowa | 1925 |
| 6-30-84 | Ferry Christiansen | 74 | Hamburg, Germany | 15 | Des Moines, Iowa | 1961 |
| 5-9-84 | Gerhardt Henriksen | 84 | Copenhagen, Denmark | 600 | Omaha, Nebraska | 1929 |
| 6-26-84 | Einar F. Sorensen | 83 | Kristrup, Denmark | 107 | Chicago, Illinois | 1945 |
| 6-25-84 | Henry George Jensen | 77 | St. Paul, Minnesota | 126 | Los Angeles, California | 1947 |
| 6-19-84 | Andrew C. Christensen | 90 | Perth Amboy, New Jersey | 46 | Perth Amboy, New Jersey | 1912 |
| 7-4-84 | Thorvald Hansen | 82 | Holsted, Denmark | 143 | Petaluma, California | 1921 |
| 6-19-84 | George Johnson | 85 | Racine, Wisconsin | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1944 |
| 4-1-84 | Roland A. Hurley | 66 | Delavan, Wisconsin | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1951 |
| 6-20-84 | James Jensen | 82 | Aalborg, Denmark | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1940 |
| 6-9-84 | Nels M. Petersen | 80 | Menominee, Michigan | 600 | Omaha, Nebraska | 1947 |
| 7-18-84 | Harold T. Jensen | 63 | Petaluma, California | 143 | Petaluma, California | 1947 |
| 7-6-84 | Krabbe Nielsen | 83 | Skive, Denmark | 50 | Byram, Connecticut | 1927 |
| 7-13-84 | Lavernon Luther | 58 | Oshkosh, Wisconsin | 227 | Detroit, Michigan | 1971 |
| 7-4-84 | John Holst | 94 | Lynby Sogn, Denmark | 240 | Rochester, New York | 1908 |
| 7-28-84 | Dean G. Mosher | 70 | Corydon, Iowa | 117 | Plainview, Nebraska | 1961 |
| 7-23-84 | Dale Johnson | 57 | Plainview, Nebraska | 117 | Plainview, Nebraska | 1951 |
| 5-15-84 | Anders S. Christiansen | 93 | Kirke Vaerløse, Denmark | 163 | Edmore, Michigan | 1911 |
| 7-17-84 | Jens P. Pedersen | 89 | Truust, Denmark | 45 | Minneapolis, Minnesota | 1920 |
| 7-20-84 | Paul Smith | 81 | West Allis, Wisconsin | 14 | Kenosha, Wisconsin | 1944 |
| 7-21-84 | George F. Hansen | 85 | Evansville, Wisconsin | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1943 |
| 7-10-84 | Victor Johnson | 74 | Racine, Wisconsin | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1941 |
| 7-29-84 | Jens Engholt | 89 | Jerndrup, Denmark | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1920 |
| 7-1-84 | Ejner Emil Olsen | 72 | Dalum, Denmark | 36 | Milwaukee, Wisconsin | 1974 |
| 5-15-84 | Marie N. Olson | 77 | Brodgate, Iowa | 217 | Humboldt, Iowa | 1975 |
| 5-3-84 | Carl J. Sorensen | 74 | Aarhus, Denmark | 126 | Los Angeles, California | 1963 |
| 6-24-84 | Alfred Andersen | 72 | Mt. Clare, Nebraska | 161 | Ruskin, Nebraska | 1975 |
| 7-3-84 | Thorvald Christensen | 80 | Denmark | 143 | Petaluma, California | 1975 |
| 7-9-84 | Wesley E. Foss | 74 | Exira, Iowa | 341 | Kimballton-Elk Horn, Iowa | 1976 |
| 5-23-84 | Axel Andersen | 69 | Viborg, Denmark | 345 | Orange County, California | 1976 |
| 4-9-84 | Robert E. Huld | 73 | Copenhagen, Denmark | 345 | Orange County, California | 1977 |
| 7-28-83 | Lawrence V.M. Schou | 100 | Copenhagen, Denmark | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1903 |
| 6-21-84 | George H. Benson | 80 | Racine, Wisconsin | 4 | Racine, Wisconsin | 1958 |
| 7-6-84 | Peder T. Madsen | 63 | Vordingborg, Denmark | 15 | Des Moines, Iowa | 1983 |
| 7-31-84 | Frances Hansen | 74 | Omaha, Nebraska | 1 | Omaha, Nebraska | 1967 |
| 6-1-82 | Iva M. Karch | 88 | Central City, Iowa | 347 | Cedar Rapids-Marion, Iowa | 1979 |

banquet. Time and place will be announced later. Dance lessons should start sometime in October this year. Come to the meeting and enjoy the coffee hour — you will meet a lot of your friends there.

Clarence Jensen, Sec.

Lodge #116, Newark, NJ — Fremad Lodge 116 will celebrate its 85th anniversary with a dinner-dance at the Town and Campus, 1040 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ on Saturday, October 20, 1984 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and may be ordered from Carl Ingeholm, 8 Wisteria Terrace, Morristown, NJ 07960; telephone (201) 538-2621.

John Madsen, Sec.

Lodge #164, New York, NY — Our annual Codfish Dinner in February was attended by nearly 100 people. A Bing & Grøndahl figurine was among several prizes offered in the raffle, and everyone had a good time dancing to the music of Walter Ericsson's orchestra.

At a recent meeting, members were treated to Svend and Sunny Beyers' film of a trip they took to Denmark in 1947. The Beyers are consummate filmmakers. Although this footage was shot over 35 years ago, the color quality is still excellent.

The film began in Frederikshavn fishing harbor and continued through the reconstructed 16th-century village at Aarhus and the 4th of July festival at Rebild National Park. The highlight of the presentation, however, concerned Svend's native island of Samsø.

Old records of Danish folk songs and dances accompanied the silent film. Members who knew the songs sang along.

Barbara Perrin, Cor.

Lodge #325, Nassau Co., NY — The GCEL convention is in New Hope, Pennsylvania, Labor Day weekend, September 1, 2 and 3. Bucks County Lodge 342 will host the event.

Our annual dinner dance is Saturday, November 3 at Baldwin Yacht Club.



Youth News

Lodge #184, Hayward, CA — Congratulations to Steven Mahler, 10 years old, for winning High Game for the Young Vikings in the National Tournament. It is the first time Hayward has entered a Young Viking in the tournament. After this, it certainly will not be the last. We are proud of you, Steven.

(Editor's Note: Congratulations also to Todd Sonsalla of Lodge 219 in Clear Lake, Iowa. Todd and Steven tied for High Game by a Young Viking. We appreciate all of the Young Viking entries this year.)

Lodge #219, Clear Lake, IA —



Young Vikings and adult members discuss ways to turn a canoe and snowmobile trailer into a Viking ship.



Work begins.



Kristen Sorensen cuts tail of ship's dragon while father, Steve Sorensen, and Jerry Sonsalla watch.



Vikings Todd Sonsalla, Tony Sorensen, Yvette Sorensen (mermaid), Kristen Sorensen, and Tammi Sonsalla, ready for the parade.



The trailer was painted blue to simulate water. Everything was put together after they arrived in Clear Lake, 30 miles from the building site.



With the threat of rain, the day was cool and the parade began as scheduled at 10 a.m.



Tammi and Kristen walked with the ship, handing out Danish stickers.

Young Vikings from Clear Lake, Lodge #219, received 2nd place in the Youth Division of the July 4th Parade at Clear Lake. The parade theme was "Celebrate U.S. Democracy." Over 100 floats were entered.

We met at the Thorvald Sorensen home

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at Plymouth and work began on the "Viking Ship." Youth from age 3 to 15 worked on the float with some help from the "Older Vikings."

The mermaid, Yvette Sorensen, enjoyed waving at the crowds along the route from her rock (a covered bean-bag chair) next to the ship. In the ship were Young Vikings Todd Sonsalla and Tony Sorensen. They held swords and shields with "Danish Brotherhood Lodge 219, Clear Lake, Iowa" on them. The Danish flag flew from the mast; shields lined each side of the

ship. The United States and Danish flags were mounted on the van with signs on each side of the van reading "World's Largest Celebration of U.S. Democracy held every July 4 in Rebild, Denmark." Thorvald Sorensen, president, supplied a sound system which played the Danish national anthem and announced the celebration at Rebild.

Following the parade, Jerry and Todd Sonsalla decided to launch the Viking ship on Clear Lake with lots of comments from on-lookers about the Vikings.

SEPTEMBER ASSESSMENT NUMBER 1023
 Is Due and Payable to the Lodge Treasurer
September 1, 1984
 And Must Be Paid Before
October 1, 1984
 Members failing to pay to their local lodge treasurer as per above will be considered in arrears.
HOWARD CHRISTENSEN,
 Secretary-Treasurer

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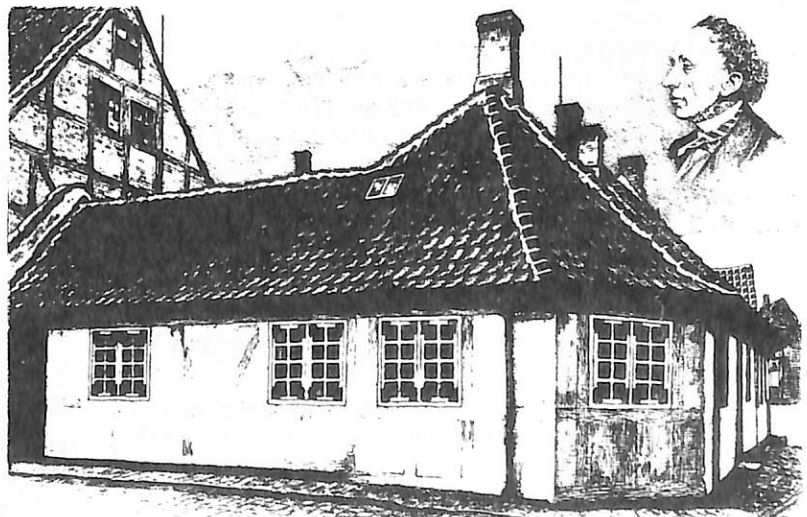
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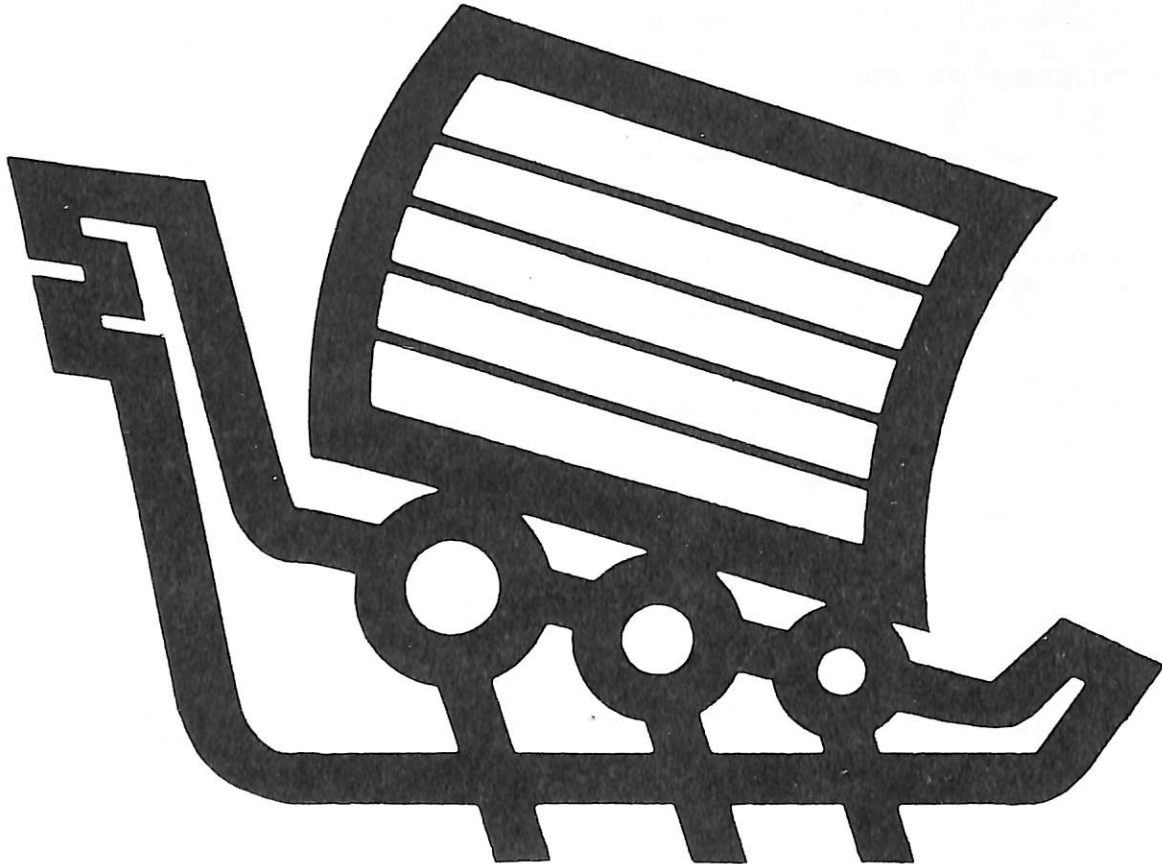
Artist J.O.P. Pedersen shares with you a timeless portrait of the H. C. Andersen House in Odense, Denmark, including illustrations from 6 Andersen fairytales and a portrait of Andersen himself.



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Foundation for Democracy

by
Kenneth M. Jungersen



Though few people realize it, some powerful principles for a Democratic Society were conceived and instituted more than a thousand years ago in a valley bounded by dark towering lava cliffs. This natural amphitheater, created when the earth heaved, fractured and sank, thousands of years earlier in the geologically active area, was chosen as the meeting place for the Icelandic Althing. The Althing, which has been deemed the oldest parliamentary body in Europe, was a precursor of future democracies such as the United States.

To better comprehend the accomplishment of the Icelandic people, one needs to fully understand just who these people were and what underlying motives spurred them on.

The first recorded Norse settlers reached Iceland's shores in 874. Parts of the island were icebound year round, large areas were barren volcanic wastelands, the growing season was short, timber of any stature non-existent, in short, Iceland was not the most hospitable place on earth. Rough hewn and ignorant outcasts might be expected to settle there. Instead, the cream of Norway's populace sought a new home in Iceland. The most civilized and learned of society, many nobles among them, were determined to escape the mounting tyranny of King Harald Haarfager. In the late ninth century, the King strove to bring much of Norway under his influence in an oppressive feudal system. The upper tier of society had the most to lose from his ascending

power. Therefore, with little other recourse, the most peaceful and cultivated Norse fled because of their highly regarded principles.

A similar migration, based on principles, would see the New England states colonized several hundred years later. Historically, such a motivation is a rarity.

Thus, Iceland was settled by people driven there by neither greed nor criminal banishment. Many of the immigrants were well-to-do, because only they could mount the expense of the crossing with their families and servants. An interesting corollary is that virtually no Icelandic Viking is named in the sagas. Even in the period when Viking raiding and plundering was considered quite proper, there seems to have been a noteworthy dearth of Icelandic Vikings. The settlers were just as physically adroit as their counterparts in Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. Their ships and weapons were the same. The absence of Icelandic Vikings and the brief treatment afforded Viking exploits in Icelandic sagas probably stemmed from a basic dislike of the practice. Undoubtedly, the Icelanders had the wherewithal to mount piratical raids, but their advance intellect and principles prevailed, and that in itself is significant.

The drive for a National Assembly was started in the 920s. Local regions copied Norwegian Things or Assemblies. But the concept of a National Assembly, the Althing, was a revolutionary

idea. In lieu of a monarchy, the inherent dangers of which the Icelanders were all too well acquainted with, the idea seemed sound.

The country was divided into twelve districts, each of which was represented by three chieftains at the Althing. These 36 chieftains formed the legislative court. They made, changed and repealed laws, granted exemptions and deliberated on any issue of public concern. Each member also nominated one judge to the judicial court. The judiciary would hear cases brought by individuals against individuals. Another function of the legislative court was to elect a lawspeaker. This person served as chairman for the legislative court. He had a special place at the Althing, called the 'Law-rock'. Each year of his renewable three year term, the lawspeaker would recite from memory one-third of Iceland's laws.

The Althing met for a fortnight each year and was preceded and followed by sessions of the district Things. All of these gatherings were open to the populace and public comment.

One notable deficiency was that the Althing lacked central executive authority. This was probably because of the underlying fears of such power wielded by a single man. The free men whose love of independence sent them into self-imposed exile were intent not to duplicate the ill conditions from which they had fled. Theirs was not a perfect creation. In fact, in some respects it was seriously flawed, but it was a bold new concept which took the first solid step towards a true democracy. The same spirit of independence which united them to forge a new nation saw another group of rebels found the United States of America. Thanks in part to principles espoused by the early Icelanders, the latter day revolutionaries established a more refined, yet still not perfect democracy.

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Your duties will be to work with your lodge in seeking out new members and explaining our insurance plans to members and prospective members. To qualify and reap the rewards you must be willing to devote enough time to become familiar with The Danish Brotherhood life insurance program and assist members and prospective members in the selection of a life insurance plan.

So, please think about it and if you would like to find out more about this opportunity, drop us a line.

**Andy Andersen, Sales Director,
THE DANISH BROTHERHOOD
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Mr. Robert E. Ibsen
National President
Danish Brotherhood in America
8644 - 33rd Ave.
Kenosha, WI 53142

Dear Bob:

I am delighted to notify you that Tara Mansavage, a member of Lodge No. 15, Milwaukee, Wisconsin is the national winner of the seven hundred fifty dollar (\$750.00) Centennial Anniversary Gift Scholarship donated by the national Danish Brotherhood to the Danish Sisterhood of America. Tara is a worthy student and was selected by our judges. We are pleased to make this award.

Our Lodge No. 15 is especially proud that our Sister Tara is the recipient of this award. she is our first member to win a scholarship.

May you continue with successes in your office of national President.

I look forward to seeing you at the Midwest District Convention.

Fraternally yours,
Lorraine Mattsen Zembinski
Scholarship Chairperson
Supreme Lodge of the Danish
Sisterhood of America

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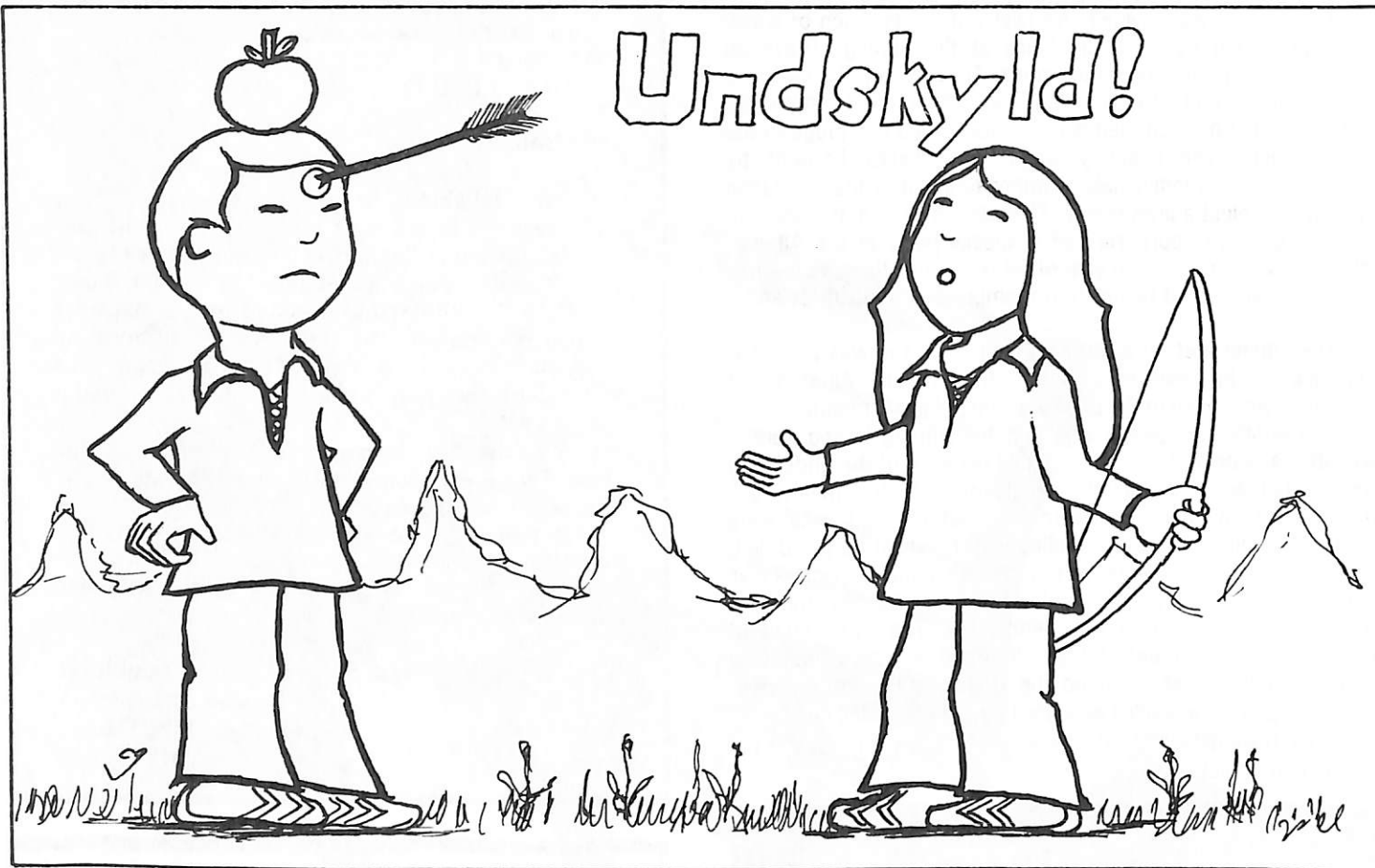
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Better Yet Come Visit Us!

Hans and Grete



Grete asks Hans to excuse her (undskyld, excuse me) when her arrow misses its target.

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).

August winners: Niel Danko, Christy Miller, Krista Lawell, Chris Hokanson.

Grandma's Kitchen



by Dagmar Jensen

Frikadeller (Meat Balls)

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1½ lbs. ground round steak | 4 tablespoons flour |
| ½ lb. ground pork | ½ teaspoon cloves |
| 3-4 slices white bread | 1½ teaspoon salt |
| 1 grated onion | 2 eggs |
| ⅓ teaspoon pepper | Milk or cream |

Be sure the meat has been ground 3 or 4 times, add grated onions and the bread, which has been softened in milk, mix well. Add the remainder of the ingredients. Whites may be used instead of the whole egg. Add the milk or cream a little at a time. Stir well after each addition. Some use tomato juice as their liquid instead of the milk or cream. Fry the meat balls in a hot pan, use suet or good shortening. The meat balls are placed in the pan with a spoon, which has been dipped in the hot fat each time; fry the meat balls until light brown. Make a gravy to serve with the meat balls by adding more meat juice or bouillon to the pan in which the balls were fried and thickening the gravy with flour which has been stirred out with milk or cream.

Viking Adventures

Coming Together — A Beginning

Keeping Together — Progress

Working Together — Success

This column is dedicated to all of our members who are graduating seniors in high school this year. Good luck as you complete this part of your education. If you are an insured member of DBIA, you can compete for a scholarship. Scholarships are granted for colleges and for vocational schools.

DANISH BROTHERHOOD SCHOLARSHIPS

Lisa Christensen is a former DBIA scholarship winner. This is what she wrote: *I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you for selecting me as one of your 1979 college scholarship recipients. I also would like to update you as to what I have done since completing college.*

This past December (1983), I graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. I am now employed as an assistant engineer with the McDonnell Aircraft Company of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation. I have supplemented my work experience by enrolling in a company-sponsored computer design class. Life has not been all work, however, as I plan to be married on the first of October. Next January I plan to resume my education by working towards a Masters of Science degree in electrical engineering.

Thank you, again, for your financial support and your encouragement.

We asked for a picture of Lisa and her new husband. We wish them a very happy first anniversary. Lisa fulfilled all of her plans. McDonnell Douglas gave her a four-month leave of absence to begin work on her masters degree.

If you are graduating from high school this spring, write to the national Headquarters now for scholarship applications and information. You could be selected to receive up to \$2,000 in financial assistance for your education. Last year 24 young people applied for this benefit. Nine were selected as scholarship winners. To



Lisa Christensen McDonald and husband Michael on their wedding day.

apply for a DBIA scholarship you will need to send us a letter outlining your educational experience to date. You will need to send a transcript of your grades in high school and a report form filled out by your counselor. You will need to complete an application for a scholarship, but there are no special tests to be taken.

Has your decision been to attend a technical, vocational or business school? Two of our scholarships must be given to young people who plan to further their education in these institutions.

If you are already attending, you could be eligible for a partial scholarship. Time has a way of getting away from us, especially now that school's back in session. Make the most of your membership and send a request for scholarship forms to: The Danish Brotherhood in America, P. O. Box 31748, Omaha, NE 68131, today.

IT'S FUN TO SPEAK DANISH

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 \$45.00 U.S. 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 \$35.00 U.S. per kit.)



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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 _____

Mail To: _____ name _____ age _____

The Danish Brotherhood in America
P.O. Box 31748, 3717 Harney Street
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