

January 1985

# American Dane

The Danish Brotherhood In America

**Society  
Mourns Loss  
of  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Howard Christensen  
1935-1984**



**NEW  
Lower Airfares**

# Denmark At Super Savings

## SAS Round Trip Super Apex Fares

| Effective<br>Nov. 1, 1984–Dec. 13, 1984*<br>Dec. 25, 1984–Apr. 10, 1985 | NEW YORK     |              | CHICAGO      | SEATTLE      | LOS ANGELES  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                                                         | Mid-Week     | Week End     |              |              |              |
| <b>COPENHAGEN</b>                                                       | <b>\$649</b> | <b>\$699</b> | <b>\$775</b> | <b>\$875</b> | <b>\$910</b> |

- No need to belong to any special group to qualify
- *Guaranteed* reservations
- Regularly scheduled flights
- Stay abroad from 10 days to three months
- Combine with SAS' Fly/Drive Scandinavia for the lowest car rental prices on the market

See your travel agent for complete information

**SAS**  
SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES

\*Dec. 14-24, 1984—\$727 from New York; \$870 from Chicago; \$925 from Seattle; \$1011 from Los Angeles

NOTES: Reservations and ticketing must be completed at least 21 days in advance. Cancellation fee—\$75. Weekends—Fri, Sat, Sun.

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# American Dane

magazine



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## Denmark Our Heritage - America Our Home

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VOLUME LXIX

JANUARY 1985

NUMBER 1

Cover photo: Howard Christensen, Secretary-Treasurer of The Danish Brotherhood in America, died at the age of 49 on December 16, 1984.



# President's Page

**Robert E. Ibsen**  
**National President**

Since November 1, 1966, Howard Erik Christensen has served the members of The Danish Brotherhood in America as a member of the National Headquarters staff. It is with great sadness I tell you on December 16, at the age of 49, Howard lost his three-year battle against cancer.

During the eighteen years he was associated with The Danish Brotherhood, beginning as Assistant Secretary-treasurer in 1966 and becoming Secretary-treasurer in 1970 on the retirement of Axel Skelbeck, the national organization continued its development as an efficient and reliable fraternal society. His legacy to the membership was the progress made in home office operations, services and benefits during the career that has ended all too soon.

Howard was the oldest son of Erik and Esther Christensen of Racine, Wisconsin. His brother, Paul, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, and his sister, Judith Grebetz, lives in Racine. Howard is survived by his wife Joyce and their four children, Cynde, Nancy, Tom and Sue.

After finishing high school in Racine, Howard enlisted in the United States Army. With his service completed, he returned to the Midwest and graduated with a major in accounting from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, in 1960. He completed his masters degree in economics at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Before joining our staff, he worked for four years for the State of Nebraska Department of Insurance as a casualty supervisor.

Howard was well-known among his constituents in other fraternal organizations having served as President of the Secretaries' Section of The National Fraternal Congress of America. He was a member of the Nebraska Insurance Institute and active on the Insurance Executive's Committee of Omaha Chamber of Commerce. He was also a Past President of the state fraternal congress and Lodge No. 1 in Omaha.

Many of our members had the opportunity to meet Howard when he attended conventions and meetings as a representative of the home office. Many of you will recall his sense of humor, his broad knowledge of the society, and his commitment to its betterment.

The members of the Board of Directors who served with Howard through the years are missing a good friend and a trusted colleague. But perhaps what we will remember best about Howard in the years to come is the courage with which he faced his illness. He was very seldom away from the office during the past three years. Although the prognosis was unfavorable from the beginning, his spirit never flagged. Through his effort, the operation of the headquarters office continued to improve even during the final months.

He was my personal friend. I share your grief at our loss. If you would like, memorial contributions may be sent to Nebraska Parks and Games Commission, c/o Gene Mahoney, 2200 N. 33 St., Lincoln, NE 68503, an organization close to Howard's heart as an avid sportsman.

George Jacobsen, our Past National President, and a close friend of Howard, Joyce and their family gave the eulogy on behalf of The Danish Brotherhood in America; which appears on the following page. George has expressed our great feeling for Howard.

# **Eulogy for Howard Christensen**

**by**

**Past National President George J. Jacobsen**

**Memorial Service**

**Tuesday, December 18, 1984**

At 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 18, over 400 people gathered at Pella Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska, to attend the memorial service held for Howard Christensen. Past National President George J. Jacobsen was asked to give the following eulogy:

"I was asked to speak at this memorial service for Howard Christensen on behalf of the National Board of Directors of The Danish Brotherhood in America, its president, Robert Ibsen, and my colleagues on the Board — for the total membership of The Danish Brotherhood in America, who also loved and respected Howard, and as a close personal friend for many years.

"Death is always a tragedy, but in the case of Howard Christensen, the tragedy is compounded by the dreadful waste of the talents of a man still in his prime of life.

"It is a great loss to his family, to his friends and colleagues, and to the entire Danish Brotherhood in America, to which he devoted more than 18 years of his life.

"He was a tireless leader in the expansion and growth of The Danish Brotherhood. He was dedicated to seeking solutions to assure its continued existence, and he gave it his all.

"Even after the illness made it difficult for Howard to perform normal daily duties, he continued to work and to worry about the future of The Danish Brotherhood. He loved it as if it was his own.

"He was an example of courage and willpower, and he would never quit. Most human beings would have given up in the early stages of the illness, but Howard was a fighter all the way.

"He was also a realist who knew full well the odds he was up against, and he planned for the inevitable in a manner that showed great inner strength and courage. And he did it with dignity.

"When Howard talked about his illness, it was never in a way that would make his listeners feel uncomfortable, or feel sorry for him.

"He explained the situation in a straight forward manner and always made one feel at ease.

"Howard had a brilliant mind and he was a deep thinker. He had the rare talent of being able to quickly analyze a problem, and then offer sound suggestions and solutions. He was an expert in so many fields and he had the ability to convey his thoughts and opinions in a way that everyone could easily understand.

"I have known Howard, Joyce and their children for over 14 years, and have been a guest in their home on many occasions.

"It was a home where a keen sense of humor and quick wit were necessary, just to survive, and it was a privilege to be a part of it.

"It is these special moments that one will always treasure and remember — when good fellowship and friendship was shared in such abundance.

"This is how I will most remember Howard — as a dependable and loyal friend, who made a difference.

"As a man who loved competition and who would not only let you have it, but who could also take it in return.

"As a tireless warrior, who fought for what he believed was fair and right.

"His many contributions to mankind will long be remembered, but his greatest accomplishments in life were when Joyce and Howard became the proud parents of four of the nicest children anyone could wish for: Cynde, Nancy, Tom and Sue.

"He loved you dearly and spoke about you often. He was very proud of what each one of you has accomplished.

"Each one is so different, but you all came from the same mold, where independence, self-reliance and a healthy outlook on life, were part of the ingredients that made you individual human beings.

"What more could any father and mother have wished for.

"We will miss Howard, but always be thankful for the enrichment he gave to our lives and will now end my remarks by saying in Danish "aere vaere dit minde" Howard. It means "honor be to your memory."

"May you rest in peace."

Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service **U.S. Individual Income Tax Return** **1984** (0)

For the year January 1-December 31, 1984, or other tax year beginning , 1984, ending , 19 OMB No. 1545-0074

|                                                 |                                                                                      |           |                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Use IRS label. Otherwise, please print or type. | Your first name and initial (if joint return, also give spouse's name and initial)   | Last name | Your social security number     |
|                                                 | Present home address (Number and street, including apartment number, or rural route) |           | Spouse's social security number |
|                                                 | City, town or post office, State, and ZIP code                                       |           |                                 |

|                                         |                                                 |    |    |                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Presidential Election Campaign          | Do you want \$1 to go to ...<br>If joint return | No | No | Note: Checking "Yes" will not change your tax or reduce your refund. |
| Reduction Act Notice, see Instructions. |                                                 |    |    |                                                                      |

Filing status

1 person is your unmarried child

Instructions.)

|                                           |  |
|-------------------------------------------|--|
| Enter number of boxes checked on 6a and b |  |
| Enter number of children listed on 6c     |  |
| Enter number of other dependents          |  |
| Add numbers entered in boxes above        |  |

**Income**

Please attach Copy B of your Forms W-2, W-2a, and W-2P here.

If you do not have a W-2, see page 4 of Instructions.

1

18

19

20a

b

21a S

b Ta

22 Ot

23 Add

**Adjustments to Income**

(See Instructions on page 11.)

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 24                    | Moving expenses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |
| 25                    | Employer's contribution to a profit-sharing or money purchase pension plan                                                                                                                                                                          |    |
| 26a                   | IRA deduction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |
| b                     | Enter the amount of your IRA deduction included in line 26                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |
| 27                    | Payments of premiums for a self-employed retirement plan                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |
| 28                    | Penalty on early withdrawal of savings                                                                                                                                                                                                              |    |
| 29                    | Alimony paid                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |    |
| 30                    | Deduction for a married couple when both work (attach Schedule W)                                                                                                                                                                                   |    |
| 31                    | Add lines 24 through 30. These are your <b>total adjustments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                    | 31 |
| Adjusted Gross Income | 32 Subtract line 31 from line 23. This is your <b>adjusted gross income</b> . If this line is less than \$10,000, see "Earned Income Credit" (line 59) on page 16 of Instructions. If you want IRS to figure your tax, see page 12 of Instructions. | 32 |

**PREPARE NOW TO DEDUCT UP TO \$2,000 ON YOUR 1984 INCOME TAX RETURN**

You may establish your own Individual Retirement Annuity (IRA) and deduct the contributions even though you might be a participant in a formal retirement plan. (Contributions must be made by April 15 to be deductible for the preceding year.)

Call or write your local Danish Brotherhood Representative or the Home Office to discuss this idea.



**The Danish Brotherhood in America**

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • 3717 HARNEY STREET • OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68131

# Commemorative Membership Awards for 1985

## 60 Year Pins

| Lodge # | Name                   |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1       | Olsen, Donald W.       |
| 4       | Svendsen, Harry        |
| 14      | Thomsen, Aage          |
| 17      | Larsen, Lars A.        |
| 26      | Jensen, Thorvald M.    |
| 29      | Fredericksen, Soren R. |
| 39      | Madsen, Karl           |
| 45      | Jensen, Richard        |
| 45      | Jorgensen, S. M.       |
| 46      | Jensen, Wilbur S.      |
| 56      | Andersen, Marius       |
| 56      | Thomsen, Christian     |
| 75      | Thompson, Otto A.      |
| 75      | Andersen, Ernest       |
| 75      | Jorgensen, Christian   |
| 116     | Nielsen, Hans I.       |
| 121     | Hansen, Carl T.        |
| 143     | Iversen, Iven          |
| 147     | Paulsen, Chris P.H.    |
| 164     | Nielsen, Niels         |
| 167     | Lorenzen, Lorentz A.   |
| 177     | Olsen, Iner            |
| 182     | Sorensen, Woge I.      |
| 182     | Sorensen, Henry        |
| 184     | Sorensen, Johannes     |
| 227     | Vyff, Paul             |
| 230     | Ladefoged, Gunnar      |
| 242     | Andersen, Oluf         |
| 255     | Hansen, Carl J.        |
| 260     | Krogh, George          |
| 273     | Petersen, Christian    |
| 294     | Lunde, N. Kenny        |
| 294     | Matson, William Chr.   |
| 600     | Borggaard, Howard L.   |
| 600     | Jensen, Hans J.        |
| 600     | Ronde, Knud            |
| 600     | Nissen, Hans O.        |
| 600     | Laursen, Arnold H.     |
| 600     | Andersen, Willy R.     |
| 650     | Petersen, A. M.        |
| 650     | Rasmussen, S. Sc.      |

## 50 Year Pins

| Lodge # | Name                |
|---------|---------------------|
| 1       | Hansen, Earl L.     |
| 4       | Sorensen, Holger    |
| 14      | Haugaard, Walter    |
| 29      | Hansen, Ralph C.    |
| 29      | Olsen, Edmund S.    |
| 29      | Claussen, E. C. Fin |
| 45      | Johnson, William    |
| 45      | Pedersen, Alfred    |
| 45      | Revsbeck, Niels     |
| 49      | Christensen, N. Bek |
| 70      | Olsen, Alfred       |
| 70      | Olsen, Robert G.    |
| 70      | Jensen, Frank H.    |

|     |                       |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 78  | Andersen, Henry E.    |
| 106 | Hansen, Percy C.      |
| 116 | Reimann, Kell         |
| 116 | Madsen, John          |
| 126 | Christensen, Theodore |
| 126 | Hansen, Benjamin      |
| 155 | Matson, Gilbert       |
| 190 | Peterson, John        |
| 190 | Gunderson, Howard     |
| 217 | Andersen, Jens J.     |
| 241 | Thomsen, Niels J.     |
| 241 | Thomsen, Dietrick P.  |
| 242 | Beck, Harold          |
| 294 | Andersen, Harold      |
| 306 | Kistrip, Poul         |
| 318 | Thuris, Edvard        |
| 322 | Larsen, Carl          |
| 323 | Christensen, Carl     |
| 325 | Petersen, Borge T.    |
| 325 | Svendsen, Jacob       |
| 325 | Sandau, Hans C.       |
| 325 | Jensen, Berg          |
| 328 | Borsholt, O.          |
| 600 | Engskov, Gunnar S.    |
| 600 | Hansen, Clifford      |
| 600 | Simonsen, Simon P.    |
| 600 | Andersen, Svend       |
| 675 | Andersen, Kristian M. |

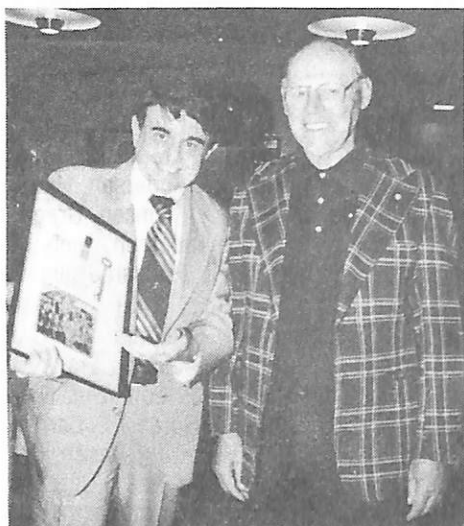
## 25 Year Pins

| Lodge # | Name                   |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1       | Thomsen, Armand        |
| 4       | Andersen, Eugene       |
| 4       | Nielsen, Holger A.     |
| 4       | Larsen, Einer          |
| 4       | Hoffmann, George       |
| 4       | Christiansen, Chris S. |
| 4       | Jensen, Billy          |
| 4       | Meldgaard, Axel        |
| 4       | Madsen, George         |
| 14      | Nielsen, Paul H.       |
| 14      | Skowronski, Frank O.   |
| 14      | Mitchel, Raymond E.    |
| 17      | Raabe, Arthur P.       |
| 17      | Larsen, Peder M.       |
| 29      | Wittman, Elmer         |
| 29      | Rasmussen, Mark E.     |
| 30      | Burkall, Ronald E.     |
| 32      | Larsen, Kristian B.    |
| 32      | Bjarno, Arne           |
| 32      | Bruch, John            |
| 36      | Rasmussen, Paul R.     |
| 42      | Wales, John P.         |
| 45      | Buck, Richard          |
| 45      | Nielsen, Helge         |
| 46      | Padula, David V.       |
| 49      | Woge, John O.          |
| 49      | Bavneman, Stanley      |
| 49      | Christensen, Ole       |

|     |                         |
|-----|-------------------------|
| 50  | Johansen, Niels J.      |
| 51  | Larsen, Christian       |
| 51  | Bach, Ernest            |
| 51  | Fredericks, Clarence A. |
| 62  | Boulden, Michael        |
| 64  | Hansen, Bent            |
| 67  | Hansen, John M.         |
| 67  | DeLaurant, David J.     |
| 70  | Mattison, Frank         |
| 71  | Andersen, Harold        |
| 71  | Jensen, Greg E.         |
| 75  | Andersen, Niels M.      |
| 90  | Hansen, Ralph P.        |
| 92  | Kusk, Donald            |
| 92  | Zackman, Alfred J.      |
| 95  | Latham, Frank M.        |
| 95  | Lorenzen, Niels         |
| 102 | Sorensen, Carl W.       |
| 116 | Jorgensen, Carl         |
| 116 | Mogensen, Christian     |
| 126 | Brodersen, Hans         |
| 126 | Olsen, Otto P.M.        |
| 126 | Hansen, Henry P.        |
| 126 | Luster, Wayne C.        |
| 126 | Moller, Erik L.         |
| 126 | Germansen, Peter        |
| 126 | Germansen, Paul R.      |
| 155 | Matson, Steven          |
| 170 | Petersen, Harold K.     |
| 172 | Rasmussen, Aksel        |
| 172 | Schmidt, Hans J.        |
| 172 | Knudsen, Heinrich N.    |
| 183 | Nelson, Robert E.       |
| 190 | Rasmussen, Jens         |
| 225 | Boring, Benjamin J.     |
| 227 | Nielsen, Jimmie M.      |
| 241 | Oasen, Richard I.       |
| 242 | Seiersen, John          |
| 242 | Jensen, John M.         |
| 242 | Jonasen, Edward         |
| 245 | Nelson, Richard         |
| 263 | Petersen, Brian         |
| 273 | Brown, Fred W.          |
| 273 | Pedersen, Norman H.     |
| 273 | Pedersen, Anders R.     |
| 273 | Benson, Neil W.         |
| 273 | Jensen, Harry W.        |
| 273 | Kimball, James W.       |
| 299 | Weber, Peter            |
| 299 | Mathiasen, Leo W.       |
| 299 | Bell, Tony              |
| 299 | Hopkey, Walter          |
| 300 | Nissen, James           |
| 300 | Nissen, Robert H.       |
| 300 | Christensen, Raymond M. |
| 300 | Pedersen, Erling J.     |
| 301 | Madsen, Walter          |
| 314 | Homo, Elmer K.          |
| 318 | Lonstrup, Knud          |

## Spokane Lodge Presented With William F. Wind Memorabilia

by Lawrence Charneski



Sheridan Perry, President of Lodge 42 (right) accepts plaque with mementoes from Rudy Vida.

Marguerite (Peg) Vida was laid to rest on September 17, 1984, in Spokane, Washington. She was the last direct descendant of William F. Wind, a founder and the first Supreme President of The Danish Brotherhood in America. He later founded the Spokane lodge, which continues to carry his name.

Brother Rudy Vida, Marguerite's husband, presented a plaque to Wind Lodge No. 42's President, Sheridan Perry at the November 1, 1984 meeting. The plaque contains two pictures and some of William Wind's Danish Brotherhood possessions. A picture in the upper left corner shows Mr. Wind with a caption which says, "WILLIAM WIND, First Supreme President, Danish Brotherhood, 1882-1887." Mr. Wind's presidential badge, ring and large lodge key border the text which reads as follows:

### THE DANISH BROTHERHOOD IN AMERICA

On a cold Monday morning, January 2, 1882, in Omaha, Nebraska, a group of men with a warm spot in their heart, had completed the formation of a lodge, or organization, which today bears the name of The Danish Brotherhood in America.

From this original idea of providing a common meeting place for Danish immigrants, many lodges were established across the country, with the same purpose in mind. Today there are members living in many parts of the World.

The original group of men saw the need for fellowship of people of the same nationality, and rich and poor alike came together and discussed common interests. Help was extended to one another in time of need. This is still an objective of The Danish Brotherhood today.

Time change, and the original purpose of the lodge has all but vanished, but today the Danish Brotherhood is keeping aware of these changes and shaping itself to conform to them. It has a great future. We invite your inquiry about membership.

Below the text is a picture of the Supreme Officers of The Danish Brotherhood in America taken at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The plaque will proudly be displayed at future functions of Wind Lodge No. 42 of Spokane, WA.

## A Place Called Dana



Two Dana College historians got together recently at Dana's homecoming: Dr. William Christensen (left), author of "Saga of the Tower," the 75-year history of Dana and Trinity Seminary, and Dr. Peter Petersen, author of "A Place Called Dana," the school's just-published centennial history. "A Place Called Dana" is available through the Dana Bookstore at \$15 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Nebraska residents add 52¢ in sales tax.

The campus of the Dana College we know today is a far cry from the campus of its forerunner, Trinity Seminary, in 1884. The school grew from a wooden frame building to an accredited, private college. Changes that made that growth possible required dedication of faculty and students to Dana.

Dr. Peter L. Petersen, an honor graduate of Dana in 1962, has written **A Place Called Dana**, the latest history of this American Lutheran Church college. Dr. Petersen went on to earn an M.A. in history from the University of South Dakota and his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He is a member of the history department at West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas. Dr. Petersen has remained close to Dana. His acceptance of the challenge of writing the new book, **A Place Called Dana**, illustrates the ties that make Dana students remember their days in Blair, Nebraska, affectionately.

When you step onto the Dana Campus you know the Dana Difference. Students look up and smile as you pass by. The grounds are immaculate, and during the growing season, alive with color. Inside the buildings the members of the faculty and administration greet you with courtesy and a genuine interest in your purpose at Dana. They have the same interest in each student.

**A Place Called Dana** will make you sit back and marvel at an institution that started so small, but had a special character all its own from the very beginning. With proper nurturing, the qualities apparent when the doors first opened have flourished through difficult times and through happy times. A competent historical work, **A Place Called Dana**, tells the story of the struggles and triumphs of Danish Americans.

Send a check for \$15.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling to the Public Relations Office, Dana College, Blair, NE 68008, for a hard-bound copy. Nebraskans add 52¢ sales tax.

## Grundtvig Festival

A Grundtvig Festival will be held at Grand View College May 17-19, 1985. The featured speaker for the event will be Pastor Peter-Balslev-Clausen, of Hellerup in Denmark.

Pastor Balslev-Clausen is an authority on the hymns of N.F.S. Grundtvig and particularly the English and American translations. An article, written by him in the Danish language, appears in the 1984 Christmas issue of **Church and Life**.

## Danish Immigrant Museum Thankful for Contributors

The Danish Immigrant Museum has a great many things for which it is thankful. Hundreds of people have contributed their time and services during the past three formative years of the Museum's growth. Fifty individuals, organizations and businesses have given more than \$22,000 in seed money for start-up expenses. With secure storage, the Museum has accepted gifts of artifacts from seventeen donors including photographs, traditional handwork, clothing, tools and books.

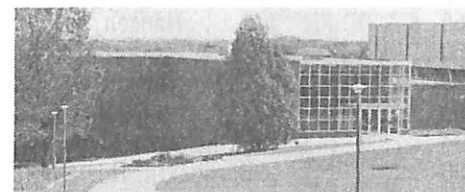
The Museum is especially thankful to the many people who have contributed their time and services toward its creation — from the original seed of an idea to the institution which is being built today. These people include members of the Board of Directors and local area committee, volunteers who give their time for typing, making scrapbooks, and hauling equipment, as well as the many hundreds of supporters who worked for the Elk Horn-Kimballton site of the Museum.

The Elk Horn Lutheran Church has donated the land for the Museum building, the single largest gift as yet received, for which the Museum is very thankful.

The Danish Immigrant Museum will tell the story of the Danish American experience through the use of authentic, historical artifacts. Some will be used in exhibitions and for study purposes and others will be used in educational programs in which students and visitors may use and feel tools and other objects from the past.

The address of the Danish Immigrant Museum is Box 178, Elk Horn, Iowa 51531.

## Dana College Has New Performing Arts Center



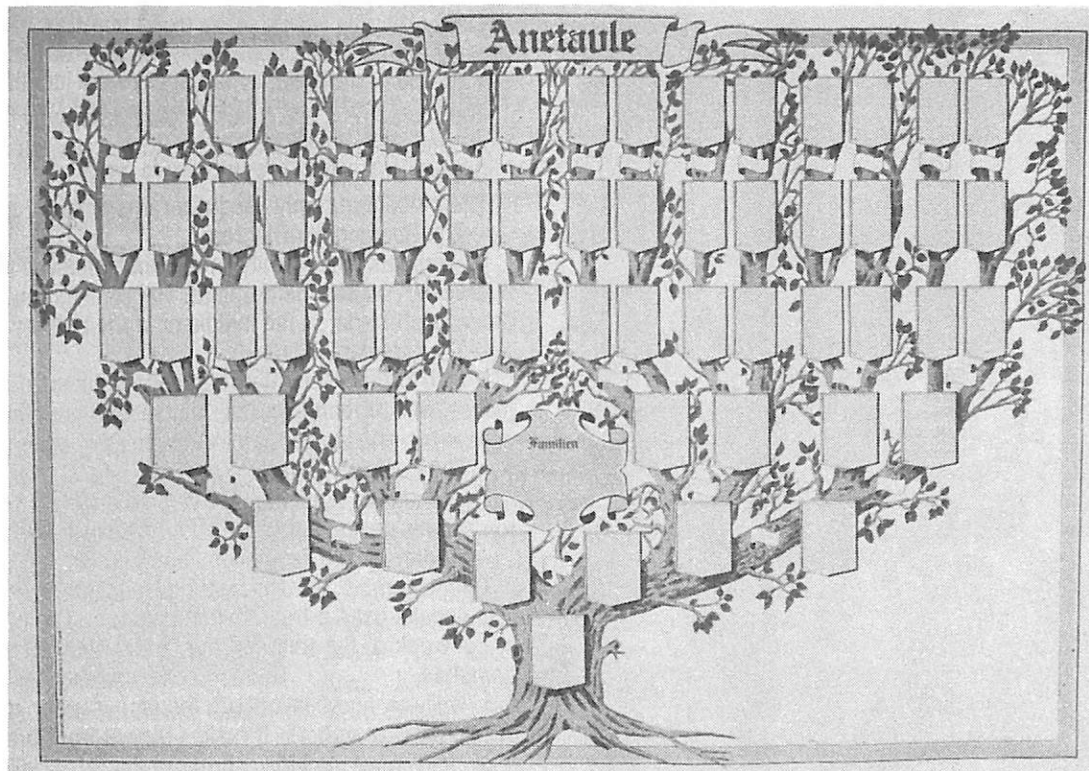
Dana's new performing arts center.

Dana has been celebrating the completion of its \$2 million Performing Arts Center with a series of free opening events. They include five performances of "The Threepenny Opera" by Bertolt and Kurt Weill, underwritten by Aid Association for Lutherans of Appleton, Wis., and a concert by the Nebraska Sinfonia, the chamber orchestra of the Omaha Symphony, under the direction of Bruce Hangen. Funding for the building came from the college's successful \$6 million, three-year Centennial Fund drive.

## Something About Grand View College

Enrollment in 1974 was 891; today it is 1323 — an increase of about 50%. Approximately 65% of the student body comes from the Greater Des Moines area. Residence halls are full this fall... Numbers in the dorms have reached an all-time high. Full-time faculty totals 64 (compared to 35 in 1974) with an additional 48 instructors working part-time — The college employs 75 administrative and support staff people... AND THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GRAND VIEW ON THE DES MOINES AREA IS ALMOST \$16 MILLION.

# Root-Tracing



## Part I by Inge Mardal and Steen B. Hougs

### Introduction

In Denmark there is increasing interest among people — young and old — to unveil their families' past. To find their roots.

This interest often expands to include tracing of the present family and active participation in establishing local archives which focus on the immediate neighborhood, county and province.

This interest also exists among American Danes — we learned that from helping out clients in Nebraska. A sincere interest, indeed.

Since their roots are in Denmark — or the other Scandinavian countries — root-tracing may seem impossible. There appear to be too many hurdles and unknowns. Where to begin, where to seek and where to end?

The 7 articles in this series, which we call "Root-tracing," have been written to give you answers to these questions.

Our goal is to give you a starting point and inspire you with the interesting activity of tracing your family.

We cannot, of course, tell you everything there is to say about this activity — we can, however, give you an insight into sources of information and the research work itself.

We'll do this in a result-oriented manner, where basic facts are mixed with descriptions of results obtained in real cases. These cases are selected provide a verbal illustration of the topics discussed.

In this introduction, we'll share with you some of the reasons our clients have had for getting started and the results they obtained.

What causes people or families to take an interest in unveiling

the past? What is it that they are curious about? We have listed below the most common reasons.

People want to:

- 1) Find out how far back in time it is possible to trace their families.
- 2) Trace specific branches of their families.
- 3) Find out from where the family-names originate.
- 4) Find out if they are descendants of ancient Danish kings back to King Gorm the Old, the famous viking-chief.
- 5) Know if there are interesting characters among their ancestors (i.e. pirates, dukes, famous statesmen or women, burglars, kings, or outlaws...)
- 6) Throw light on the everyday-lives of some of their ancestors. Where did they live? What did they possess, were they poor, were they rich? Where did they go to church, where and how did they celebrate? What did their neighborhood look like and what happened in the world around them?
- 7) Get old family legends, passed on by their grandparents, confirmed or disproved.
- 8) Establish family-trees dealing with ancestors or descendants.
- 9) Get the stories behind old effects, which immigrants brought with them from "the old country" and which may have a few initials and/or dates relating to family members.
- 10) Get old letters translated and the contents of the letters put into perspective regarding the families and their age.
- 11) Find out how many now-living Danish family members, it is possible to trace and establish contact with.
- 12) Put together a family-reunion in Denmark.



Detail of family-tree for King Christian III.

13) Put together a presentation describing the research involved and the satisfying results obtained from their efforts.

Please, don't get superstitious about the "13" above items. There are definitely many more! Each person's request has its own individual flavor.

Having been through one or more root-tracing exercises, how do people then use the results obtained?

Some keep the results for themselves.

Others share the results with relatives or friends. They may be used as gifts (complete or in successive parts) for Christmas, birthdays, graduation . . . .

Some families start root-tracing activities as a joint venture among several interested family members. This is a great way to go, because it has a lot of benefits attached. For example it could get family members together, sharing a common interest. It provides a better basis for reviewing the results and cut costs for each participating family member.

Credibility is the keyword where genealogical research is being done seriously.

Therefore, it is essential that information obtained during research activities is checked for correctness to the extent possible. The sources must be critically scrutinized — and it must always be possible to trace-back the sources of information.

The product is a composition of the variety of information obtained during the root-tracing activity. This information must be presented in a fashion, which provides:

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- Clarity
- Well-arranged layout
- Continuity

Clarity may be achieved by using some of the proven tools for presentation of a large amount of data, which would be the case if say 20-100 or more family members were identified.

The tools are a few types of diagrams, which all have evolved from the old-fashioned artistic family-trees, as they are found in churches and castles.

The most commonly used diagrams are:

—The Rectangular Diagram.

It presents the family members relative to the "principle character," called the proband. The proband may be positioned in the left hand side, in the middle or at the bottom of the diagram.

—The Circular Diagram.

It also presents family members relative to the proband, but places the proband in the middle and the family members in concentric rings according to their relative generations.

—The Posterity Diagram.

This diagram presents in a very free format the proband at the top and his descendants are entered below.

—Modern or Old Fashioned Family-trees.

This method of presenting ancestors and descendants traditionally uses a tree-shaped diagram. The proband is situated at the trunk of the tree and the family members are placed in the branches.

A well-arranged layout of results, is very important to both client and researchers. It makes the up-front presentation easy to read and may include photographs of family members, old portraits, buildings (farms, castles, churches, city-houses . . .), coats of arms, old documents — all things that once played a role in the lives of the family members' and which are referenced in the written part of the results of the research.

Coherence is achieved by arranging the results of the root-tracing strictly chronologically.

The criteria for a good product mentioned above applies to all root-tracing activities, whether it's a client's "first attempt" to unveil the history of his/her family or a broad-scoped multi-purpose tracing activity.

Many families choose to establish a book as the culmination of a series of tracing-activities.

— A family-book is the perfect way to share family history among now-living family members and other people interested in a particular family.

— This is also a good way to put all the odds and ends together and make it readable. Results provided by professional researchers are merged with information collected by the family. Information to bridge missing parts can then be traced.

— When results of root-tracing activities are made available to a broader audience, they inevitably create improved interest in the family. This often causes a flood of feed-back from their readers.

Knowledge of the family improves, confirms or disproves stories passed on by elder family members, and may provide clues which could be the basis for further research.

## Preview

In future articles we will deal with the research-work itself. You will read about the predominant sources of information, methods of tracing, limitations and possibilities.

We'll conclude the series by telling you how to get started either on your own or through professional researchers.

We are looking forward to being with you in the next issues of the American Dane!

# 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.*

## PACIFIC-NORTHWEST



We have a lot to be thankful for in Seattle, such as the sunsets on Puget Sound.



Our members cooperate with D.S.S. Lodge 40 for activities such as the aebleskiver booth at the Nordic Heritage Museum's festival.



Our soccer teams have been an extremely successful activity for the lodge.

**Lodge #29, Seattle, WA** — At our November meeting we enjoyed having with us Andy Andersen, our National Sales Director from the Home Office in Omaha, Nebraska. With Andy was our new District Manager of the Pacific Northwest District, Bob Wiegand.

**The best idea award for January goes to Lodge No. 343, Wau-paca, Wisconsin. See page 14.**

An application for one new member was accepted, sponsored by Borge Schlegel. Just five more new members, Borge, and you will receive 4 delicious Omaha steaks.

The fall soccer season is over, and a busy season it has been with 3 teams in the fields. Their scores up to now are as follows: Junior Team: 5 wins, 2 losses, 1 tie; Scan Design Team: 2 wins, 6 losses, 1 tie; the Old Timers: 4 wins, 4 losses.

**Ted Kofoed, Cor.**

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD BEST NEWSLETTER

**Lodge #167, Portland, OR** — With Omaha, Nebraska, as a birthplace, Leonard and Norma Storms have joined the Portland Danish Brotherhood. Leonard's cousin, Bob Storms, is Past President of Omaha Lodge 1.



Norma and Leonard Storms of Portland.

Leonard Storms' maternal grandfather (Mr. Hansen) came from Denmark in the 1880's and was a carpenter. All the children in the Leonard Storms family were interested in Danish heritage and culture, a legacy Grandfather Hansen left for them.

Leonard has been active in the American Legion in Portland and now wishes to help, with his wife Norma, in our Danish Lodge 167.

The district convention committee met and everything is going along okay. Entertainment is booked for Friday and Saturday nights. A letter will be going out soon to remind the other lodges of the convention.

**Jens Jensen, Cor.**

**Lodge #328, Vancouver, B.C.** — We will hold our annual general meeting in December. All members are urged to attend, since we are electing board members for the coming year. Each attending member will receive two free drinks with his smørrebrød after the meeting.

Royal Copenhagen ashtrays from the 1979 convention will be on display and for sale at the meeting. There are at present only about 80 left, so make sure you get one. They make beautiful presents.

The following five applicants were initiated into the Brotherhood at our last meeting: Peter Jorgensen, Per Caspersen, Tommy Nielsen, Keld Christensen, and Leo Pedersen. Welcome to all of you.

Our annual smoker for members only is coming up in January.

**Jarl Christensen, Cor.**

**Lodge #348, Eugene, OR** — At our November meeting we had the pleasure of having Andy Andersen (Omaha) and District Manager Bob Wiegand of Hillsboro visit us.

Nominated as officers for 1985 were: Past President, Svend Toftemark; President, Agner Ranch; Vice President, Paul Olesen; Secretary, Lois Toftemark; Treasurer, Margaret Lee; Conductor, Tony Toftemark; Trustees, Henning Kristiansen, Hugo Christensen, and Birgit Sand. Brockner Mikkelsen entertained us with slides from their trip to China.

February 1 is set as the date for our anniversary dinner with installation of officers.

**Kris Sand, Cor.**

## CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

**Lodge #184, Hayward, CA** — Hayward Lodge 184 and Olga Marie Lodge 166 will have their installation of officers on Friday, February 1. We will have cocktails from 7 to 8 p.m., and our installation at 8 p.m. Music for dancing and refreshments are to follow. Cost is \$5.00 per person. We would like to see a good crowd. Please join us.

**Signe Ann McNeil, Cor.**

**Lodge #230, Arcata, CA** — We celebrated our 79th Yuletide season with a delightful dinner party at Pete's Bella Vista Inn, Saturday, December 8. Forty-two members



(Left to right) Helen Christiansen, Herman Christiansen, Earl Kjer, Laura Schuler, Viggo Poulsen, and Vera Poulsen.

and guests attended. One of the guests was Jan Karlsfort from Denmark, who is visiting relatives. The room was decorated in the traditional Christmas theme, poinsettias, nativity figures, advent star, and Danish and American flags.

President Viggo Poulsen welcomed everyone and Vice-president Herman Christiansen called on program Chairperson Laura Schuler who presented Earl Kjer with a plaque, stating he had been selected as an honorary life member to the California-Nevada District of The Danish Brotherhood. Cards and letters of felicitations for Kjer's long years of labor and devotion to the order were read from Robert E. Ibsen, National President, Kenosha, Wisconsin; Clyde R. Langsted, National Second Vice-president, Seattle, Washington, and Walter Miller, of Petaluma, who is the president of the California-Nevada District of The Danish Brotherhood. These messages were endorsed with great enthusiasm from the fellow members and, guests, as Kjer has devoted many years of service to this organization. He has gone through the chairs and holds the office of treasurer. He and his wife Dorothy have lived in this area a lifetime, and never fail to be of assistance whenever possible.

Kjer is the third member of this organization to receive this honor. In 1971, the late Curtis Larsen received his certification, and in 1976, Gunnar Ladefoged, who resides on Humboldt Hill, in Eureka, received his plaque. Following this presentation, several Christmas carols in both Danish and English were sung, ending with our national song, America.

**Laura L. Schuler, Sec.**

**Lodge #299, Solvang, CA** — Jorgen Hansen and his crew served "Kok and Torsk" dinner which was relished by all. Nominating committee announced the proposed slate of officers for 1985. For President, Max Hanberg; Vice President, Pablo Petersen; Conductor, Bent Pedersen; Secretary, Bill Rasmussen; Treasurer, Arnold Detmer; Inner Guard, Bent Olsen; Outer Guard, Glen Jacobsen; and Trustees, Ed Madsen, David Christian, and Gary Unterseher. Election will be at the December meeting.

We had a distinguished guest at this Page 12



(left to right) National President Robert E. Ibsen, Mogens Mortensen, president of Lodge 299, and National Vice President Peter Weber.

meeting, Brotherhood President Robert Ibsen. He was presented by our own member, National Vice President Peter Weber. Bob gave a short outline of the Brotherhood's insurance program. It must remain non-profit. Still to be decided if insurance should be optional or mandatory.

Dinner committee for December: Peter Weber, Nels Nelson, Tom Nielsen, and Gary Jensen.  
**Henry Edwards, Cor.**

**Lodge #306, San Diego, CA** — The lodges are eagerly looking forward to the December 8 Christmas party. It will be a treat for entire families and will be a combined American-Danish traditional celebration in the Norway Hall.  
**Art Norgaard, Cor.**

**Lodge #323, Alhambra, CA** — Instead of our regular meeting, we invited all members and friends to our annual Christmas party on Friday, December 7.

Los Angeles Lodge 126 and the Sisterhood Lodge 68 will host the joint installation with Alhambra Lodge 323 on January 19 at the Alamo.

We have received word from the 1985 convention chairman, Howard Kjellsen, that the convention is to be held August 8, 9, and 10.  
**Kate Krake, Pres.**

**Lodge #345, Orange County, CA** — Officers elected for 1985 are as follows: President, Kenneth Olsen; Vice President, Clarence Motz; Secretary, Geraldine Olsen; Treasurer, James Dwyer; Conductor, Glenn Braken; Inner Guard, Helga Bjorn; Outer Guard, Soren Christensen; Trustees, Evelyn Andersen, Floyd Pedersen, and Rosemary Allison; and Past President, Howard Kjellsen.

It was decided at the November meeting to charter a bus to take us to the joint installation with Kodan Lodge 346 of Riverside. The installation dinner and dance will be held at Indian Hills Country Club in Riverside on January 12.  
**Hazel Kjellsen, Sec.**

**Lodge #346, Riverside, CA** — Congratulations to Albert and Monica Christensen, celebrating their golden anniversary on December 13; to Richard and Anne Lise Obetz, celebrating their thirty-seventh anniversary

on December 16; and to Knud and Anelise Andersen, celebrating their thirty-second anniversary on December 27.

Installation chairperson Kaja Del Grippo reported plans for the dinner/dance. It will be on January 12 at Indian Hills Country Club, starting at 6:30 p.m. We will hold a joint installation with Lodge 345 from Garden Grove.

This year's Christmas party will be a family affair, starting at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 16, at Sue and Jim Patterson's.

**Nancy Nielsen, Sec.**

## IOWA-MINNESOTA



Chris Hvolboll (seated) recently celebrated his 96th birthday. He was recognized by Lodge 75 in Albert Lea with a presentation by (left to right) son-in-law Charles Eastlund, Soren Sorensen, Rev. Fred Jacobsen, Clifford Petersen, and Alton Neve.

**Lodge #75, Albert Lea, MN** — Lodge 75 observed Christmas on December 1 at the Senior Citizens Center, Albert Lea, Minn. Sixty-three members and guests attended the festivities. Following the monthly business meeting, Paul Goodnature and his group presented a program of blue-grass music. Danish Christmas carols were sung, and Pastor Fred Jacobsen read the Christmas Gospel in Danish. Elvin Reim as You-Know-Who arrived in his red suit, and sleigh bells. With a Ho-Ho, he distributed gifts to all. Hosts for the evening were the Bob Bonnerups, Harlan Hansens, Fred Jacobsens, and Alton Neves.

**Alton and Marjorie Neve, Cor.**

**Lodge #326, West Branch, IA** — In the November issue of the American Dane, a typographical error was made which we wish to clarify. The activity of the lodge on June 9 was a potluck supper at the home of Stewart and Ruby Arnold. The activity on July 8 was the annual lodge picnic at the home of Ernest and Charlotte Krogh.

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD BEST DISTRICT

## MIDWEST

**Lodge #4, Racine, WI** — This year's Midwest District Convention was hosted by Chicago, Lodge 17, and held in conjunction with the Sisterhood convention hosted by

Chicago D.S.S. 4. Meetings and activities were held at the Hyatt Lincolnwood Hotel in Lincolnshire, Illinois.

The convention opened on Saturday morning with a joint ceremony for the Midwest District Brotherhood/Sisterhood. After the joint opening each group held their own meetings.

Reports were read on the Midwest District activities sponsored by the various lodges. Most reported having fun at the different events but complained on lack of support and attendance from distance lodges.

One of the activities covered to a greater degree was the younger group, called "Focus on Youth." It is felt that some means must be found to interest more young people and get them involved if the Brotherhood is to continue and grow.

One thing attracted considerable interest, and that was Skovsøen (Forest Lake) a Danish Language Village in Minnesota for youth. If they attend this camp they speak Danish and use Danish money for the time they are there. This summer activity is supported in part by the national office in Omaha, by grants and publicity (slides available). It will now also be backed by our Midwest District, as voted at this year's convention by the delegates. Fund raisers or donations are suggested to support this new project.

A youth committee was appointed with Bob Ibsen, advisor and Vince Roders, Kenosha and Alberta Nylen, committee persons.

The banquet was held on Saturday evening with a fine meal and a few short speeches. Entertainment after eating was by Chicago's Northside Dance Ensemble, Le Ballet Petit, directed by Kittie-Vadts LaPointe. Dancing followed with music from a good band.

Sunday morning brought the conclusion of the meeting and the election of officers for the following year. They are as listed: Past President, Merle Nylen #35; President, Ken Jensen #34; Vice President, Gordon Anderson #14; Secretary/Treasurer, John Mollerskov #14; 1st Trustee, Ray Nielsen #35; 2nd Trustee, Richard Sullivan #34; 3rd Trustee, Jack Andersen #340; and Conductor, Chris Jensen #182.

**Marty Andersen, Delegate**

#### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD ANNUAL ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

**Lodge #14, Kenosha, WI** — Our big fund raising event, the Jule Fest once again was highly successful. Steve Mostenan and Vince Roders were the co-chairmen this year with a lot of help from many brothers and their wives for which we are sincerely thankful. I am sure there were around 1,500

people who came through to shop and to eat. We had three booths in the newly remodeled rathskellar which worked out very well. Thanks once again to our Raffle Chairman Elmer Nelson for making that a success and, of course, to all who sold and bought tickets.

**Lodge #34, Dwight, IL** — It was decided to postpone our annual Kringle Sale in December until our aebleskiver breakfast in the spring. We will take advance orders and have them on sale at the breakfast.

We welcome into adult membership, Kelly Sullivan and Tammy Lund, who received their pins at this meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus are coming to our Christmas party Monday, December 10.

**Margaret A. Goodwin, Cor.**

**Lodge #35, Chicago, IL** — Two new members were taken in November, Sigred and Sigurd Carlson.

Paul Sloth moved \$100 he sent to Dana College and the same to Grand View College as we do each Christmas. Motion passed.

The following officers were elected: Ray Nielsen, President; John Bondegard, Vice President; Charles Jespersen, Secretary; Henry Jepsen, Treasurer; Al Iversen, 1st Trustee; Jess Muller, 2nd Trustee; Wanda Nielsen, 3rd Trustee, and Vicky Christensen, Conductor.

Due to the generous giving by our members, Woody Petersen was able to deliver a large amount of food to Lutheran Family Mission in Chicago to help fill their Thanksgiving needs. We will also be collecting non-perishable items for Christmas baskets.

On November 14, twelve members made their way down to the Museum of Science and Industry and once again trimmed the Danish Christmas tree. The tree is packed with red and white paper ornaments and lights and looks lovely.

**Elsa Petersen, Cor.**

**Lodge #36, Milwaukee, WI** — We had a Christmas potluck supper prior to the December 4 business meeting. The lodge furnished ham, and members brought the rest of the goodies and dined to background music sung by the Danish Nordjysk Pigeekor. Thanks to Elsa Berlin who made the favors for each place setting.

Following the business meeting, we played take-away bingo, where winners switched wrapped gifts with other players who were required to trade. Some of the packages were "taken away" many times and brought laughter when, at the end of play, all "prizes" were opened. Emily Petersen was the winner of the grand prize. a bottle of Danish KIRS-Berry wine.

The "Great Danes" quartet sang songs, from the Somands Potpourri sheets, brought back from Denmark by Jack Clark, to cassette accompaniment music sent by Ole Eis-Hansen, Odense, Denmark.

Members brought non-perishable food items which were donated to the Emergency Food Pantry at Bethany United Presbyterian Church.

**Albert Larsen, Sec.**

**Lodge #92, St. Charles, IL** — Lodge 92 held its November meeting on the 9th. We had quite a few members in attendance. It was the evening for election of new officers. A unanimous vote re-elected present officers. They will carry through for another year. We should all give them a vote of appreciation for a job well done and for all the hard work and time they spend on our lodge. I know they will continue to serve us in the same manner next year. You could give them your support by coming to our meetings. Installation of officers will be held at our January meeting as is the usual fashion.

At our November meeting we had our turkey raffle, always one of our fun events. Some got a certificate for a turkey. I won't mention any names, but just check out who had an increase in their waistline. I won't tell who won the wild turkey either, but you might be able to tell by the way he is walking.

Well, here's hoping we see all of you at the upcoming meetings. I know the weather will be cold and it would be nicer to stay at home in a nice warm house, but please make an effort to attend. A lot of work goes into preparing meetings and lunches. I know the people that put forth the effort will really appreciate a big turnout.

**Lois Skraboly, Cor. Sec.**

**Lodge #340, Wood Dale, IL** — We will be having our Grab Bag Christmas party on December 5. We will have lots of good eats and drinks, a very happy sing-a-long in Danish and English (music to be provided by Ted, Poul and maybe Rune), and a grab bag!

The nominating committee will be presenting us with a slate of officers for 1985.

Mark your calendars for March 30. Plans are already in the making for our 10th anniversary party. It will be at the Holiday Inn in Itasca and all of the Andersen's have generously donated the money for a 6-piece band.

**Barbara Karsbaek, Cor.**

**Lodge #343, Waupaca, WI** — November 10, 1984, 77 Danish Brotherhood members and guests celebrated with their annual Mortensaften dinner at the Waupaca Country Club. Tables and walls were decorated

with Danish flags, garland, larger Danish flags, red and white Danish emblems, and napkins containing a Danish prayer. Mistress of ceremonies, President Evelyn Doerr, welcomed those present and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. Ella Gudmandsen gave the Danish table prayer prior to a traditional dinner of fruit cup, goose with apple-prune dressing, baked chicken, parsley buttered potatoes, creamed peas and carrots, sweet-sour red cabbage, dinner rolls, sherbet and coffee.

The program began with short stories of "Mols" by Virginia Nicolaisen. Conductor-director Gerald Knoepel presented Stacey Stephens, Tammy Darrah and Melody Nelson, who gave several selections from the high school musical production "Half a Sixpence." Pastor John Rasmussen of Stevens Point reminisced about his experiences in Denmark while he was studying for the ministry. Melda and Henry Mortensen drew door prizes.

Tradition has it on November 10, during one of the battles between the Danes and the Germans for Schlesvig-Holstein, a flock of geese flew up honking and gave away the Danes position. Thus, Mortensaften is the day the Danes eat their traitors as well as recalling the death on November 11 of the French St. Martin, and the birth date of Martin Luther.

Program chairman Melda Mortensen made arrangements for dinner and the program, as well as the Danish programs which included the 1976 charter members of Lodge 343 along with the names of the distinguished Danish Brotherhood officials present when our first officers were installed. **Melda included recipes for Danish red cabbage, Danish apple cake, and roast goose with apple-prune stuffing.**

**Evelyn Doerr, Pres.**

## NEBRASKA

**Lodge #1, Omaha, NE** — Erik Andersen captured a number of succulent turkeys just in time for our November social evening. There were lots of lucky winners.

Membership applications for Dale, Pam, Molly and Jesse Dorau (Maxine Altic) were approved. Applications for Roy and Hazel Larsen (Joyce Madsen) were approved. Pam and Dale were initiated that evening. Welcome all, and especially tiny tots Molly and Jesse.

Officers were elected to serve during 1985 as follows: President, J. Duane Hansen; Vice President, Jim Therkildsen; Secretary, Jim Christiansen; Treasurer, Svend Greve; 1st Trustee, Ted Stollard; 2nd Trustee, John Norton; 3rd Trustee, Mike Nielsen, and Conductor, Clarence Hansen. Congratulations.

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The dates for the 1985 Nebraska District Convention were announced as September 6-8. The host lodge is No. 84 in Lincoln.

Our cultural report by Poul Steffensen was about Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754). Holberg was a writer whose plays are still performed and who wrote an important history of Denmark.

At 7:30 p.m., December 18 the lodge will hold its annual Christmas party.

Installation of officers is January 15, followed by a cheese and wine tasting. A popular event.

### PRESIDENT'S AWARD SINGLE SOCIAL ACTIVITY

**Lodge #16, Minden, NE** — We met October 18 for our annual Halloween and fun party. Costumes were judged with prizes for the best. We played several games, after which sandwiches and decorated Halloween cookies were served by the committee.

It was announced at our business meeting our lodge had received a plaque for the new district visitation program for our region.

Rose Nielsen expressed her thanks and appreciation for the surprise birthday party her family and the lodge had for her Saturday evening, September 22, during the state convention which our Minden Lodge No. 16 had hosted. She also thanked everyone for the honor plaque she had received for being chosen "Monarch Queen."

We met November 15 for our annual Thanksgiving turkey supper and election of officers.

**Mildred Christensen, Cor.**

**Lodge #84, Lincoln, NE** — No meeting was scheduled in December because of our Christmas party, new officers were elected for the 1985 year. Officers chosen were: Erik Hansen, Past President; Donald Lehn, President; Quentin Johnson, Vice President; Ralph Hendricksen, Secretary; Paul Hansen, Treasurer; Dwight Skow, Chairman of Trustees; Sten Pedersen, First Trustee; and Lennie Kincheloe, Second Trustee. Erik Hansen will be the installing officer at our January 12 meeting.

After our business meeting, a joint workshop was held with our Sisterhood members making Danish Christmas tree decorations. Following the workshop, a social hour was held with an enjoyable lunch of pie, apple cider, coffee and tea. Host and hostess for the evening were Stenvald and Ida Pedersen, assisted by Adela Holck, Merle Tomlinson, Joan White, Eudean and Don Lehn.

Visitors for the evening were Paul and Elaine Muggie of Lincoln; and Gerald and Margaret Sorensen of Minden Lodge 16.

An interesting Christmas party and pro-

gram is planned for Sunday, December 9 for all Lincoln Brotherhood and Sisterhood members and guests beginning at 4 p.m.

**Don Lehn, Pres.**

**Lodge #161, Ruskin, NE** — Ruskin Lodge 161 met Saturday evening, November 10, at the Ruskin Party Room. Thirty-eight were present to enjoy a bountiful pre-Thanks-giving supper.

A business meeting was held. Election of officers was held with the following results: President, Walster Williams; Vice President, David Autrey; Secretary, Joyce Erickson; Treasurer, Betty Smith; Trustee, Dean McGown; and Conductor, Ronald Lewis.

Plans for a Christmas party in December and a dance in March are underway.

Hosts for the evening were Helen Shaw, Walster and Margaret Williams and Ronald and Lois Lewis.

Nearly ninety members and guests were present at the Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 161 annual Christmas party held at the Elks Lodge in Superior Friday evening, December 7. Mette Nissen-Petersen, a foreign exchange student from Denmark, and her host parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hutchinson, of Superior, were special guests.

Following group singing of the doxology and a Danish prayer by Soren Thomsen, the buffet dinner was served. A gift exchange followed the dinner and the evening concluded with dancing to the music of the Keiffer Pair.

The next meeting will be held Saturday evening, January 12, in Ruskin preceded by an aebleskiver supper. **Lois Lewis, Sec.**

**Lodge #206, Blair, NE** — The following lodge officers were elected for 1985: President, Jerry Christensen; Vice President, Laurids Pedersen; Secretary, Merton Kuhr; Treasurer, Ivan Johansen; Conductor, Morris Palle; and Trustees, Lars Thorsen, Vernon Christoffersen, and Les Larsen.

We welcome the following people to membership: Robert Schmoll, Jolynne Oliver, Lydia Nielsen, and Thorkild Pedersen.

For your information, Dana College is offering some Christmas plates for sale at half price.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas party at Eagles on December 10, at 6:30 p.m. Our committee for the evening will be the Jerry Christensens, Norman Bansen, C.C. Madsens, and Tim Mann. Hope to see you there. **Jerry Christensen, Pres.**

## Payments to Board Members

DECEMBER 1984

Robert E. Ibsen, salary, \$262.00.

## MICHIGAN-OHIO

**Lodge #227, Detroit, MI** — On November 14 we held election of new officers for 1985. Elected were: Past President Howard Olsen; President, Kenneth Rehan; Vice-President, Jack Jensen; Treasurer, Paul Carlsen; Financial Secretary, Otto Pedersen; Recording Secretary, Houghten Smith; Conductor, Kenneth Christensen; 1st Trustee, Henning Jensen; 2nd Trustee, Edward Woods; 3rd Trustee, Willie Pedersen; Inner Guard, Bob Tremaine; and Outer Guard, Erv Rogee. We also initiated a new member. Welcome to Robert Warren.

The membership voted to make a \$75 donation to the Children's Hospital of Detroit.

At our November 28 meeting the membership was introduced to the new club manager, Norbert Uhlandberg. We wish Mr. Uhlandberg the best in the future with the Danish Club.

Ken Rehan announced the replacement of the old flag poles at the entrance of the club. New flag poles were to be installed December 2.

After the meeting, sandwiches, pastry and coffee were served while we watched a movie shown by Nels Hanse, Vikings: Life and Conquests — a very educational movie.

**Ken Christensen, Cor.**

## GCEL

**Lodge #32, New Haven, CT** — On October 12 we had a potluck supper with 40 people attending. After we ate, Christmas decorations were made, under the supervision of Ingelisa Pauzano and Jette Hansen. All the kids had a great time and were able to take their ornaments home to decorate their own trees. To top the evening off, we played bingo. Thanks to those who brought prizes or helped that evening. Special thanks to

Ingelisa and Jette and Chris and Barry for their help.

On November 9 we elected the following officers: Past President, Don Giesler; President, Winnie Edmonds; Vice President, Berit Mann; Secretary, Chris Simonsen; Treasurer, Barry Edmonds; Financial Treasurer, Norman Edmonds; and Trustees, Art Sorensen, Chris Larsen, and Vera Holms.

Our December meeting will be a bit different. We are planning a Christmas party serving a pork roast dinner (with all the trimmings). We are also going to have a special guest appearance from Santa Claus, who will give out presents.

**Winnie Edmonds, Cor.**

**Lodge #116, Newark, NJ** — Friday, December 14 at 8 p.m. will be our Christmas party, and the ladies are invited. Refreshments will be a buffet supper.

At our November meeting the following officers were elected to serve during 1985: Past President, John Jensen; President, Donald Heckman; Vice President, Paul Ifversen; Secretary, John C. Madsen; Treasurer, Viggo Nielsen; Conductor, Chris Mogensen; Trustees, Carl Ingeholm, Knud Fobian, and Arthur Shane. Delegates to the Old People's Home are Viggo Nielsen and Edith Nielsen. Alternates are Joan Madsen and Paul Ifversen. The new officers will be installed at the January meeting.

**John Madsen, Cor.**

**Lodge #172, Philadelphia, PA** — Congratulations to Annette Olesen (George and Birthe's daughter) and Robert Weckliner on their engagement on November 24th. The wedding is planned for October, 1985.

Our annual "Torskegilde" will be held after the January meeting. But come prepared to vote for officers at the January meeting.

**Lorraine Malmquist, Cor.**

**Lodge #294, Barre, VT** — Our regular meeting was held on November 12, with eight members present. The secretary reported there were five applicants for membership in our lodge. President Harold Thygesen appointed an investigating committee of Ken Lunde, Gertrude Mikkelsen and Dana Thygesen. All applicants were approved. We were saddened by the death of Catherine Olsen on October 31, 1984. She was the wife of Carl Olsen.

Harry Mikkelsen made a membership committee report and stated that progress is being made. Sister Gertrude Mikkelsen stated she had arranged to have our Christmas party at the Baptist Church on December 15. It was noted election of officers will be held at our next meeting December 10. We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas.

**Thomas C. Mekkelsen, Sec.**

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD CIVIC ACTIVITY

**Lodge #325, Nassau Co., NY** — Our annual dinner/dance at the Baldwin Yacht Club November 3 was a great success. The food was good and the entertainment superb.

The spirit rose a few degrees when mem-

## JANUARY ASSESSMENT NUMBER 1027

Is Due and Payable to the

Lodge Treasurer

January 1, 1985

And Must Be Paid Before

February 1, 1985

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

# Lest We Forget

In Grateful Remembrance Of Their Service and Fellowship, We Honor Those Members Who Have Passed Away Since The Last Report.

| Date of Death | Name                 | Age | Birth Place            | Lodge No. | Location        | Year Joined |
|---------------|----------------------|-----|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| 10-12-84      | Carl J. Miller       | 92  | Denmark                | 33        | Tacoma, WA      | 1959        |
| 10-2-84       | Leo R. Christie      | 87  | Eureka, CA             | 95        | Ferndale, CA    | 1959        |
| 11-5-84       | Marie Juliusen       | 99  | Aalborg, DK            | 301       | Akron, OH       | 1974        |
| 11-19-84      | Andrew Hansen        | 91  | Odense, DK             | 14        | Kenosha, WI     | 1945        |
| 11-22-84      | Mary L. Johnson      | 52  | Michigan               | 34        | Dwight, IL      | 1983        |
| 10-21-84      | James M. Petersen    | 92  | Folleslev, DK          | 17        | Chicago, IL     | 1916        |
| 11-11-84      | Irvin S. Miller      | 74  | Plainview, NE          | 117       | Plainview, NE   | 1947        |
| 11-9-84       | Jens A. Nielsen      | 89  | Tolstrup, Hjørring, DK | 139       | Viborg, SD      | 1916        |
| 9-16-84       | Elmer C. Lennox      | 70  | Sanger, CA             | 255       | Selma, CA       | 1952        |
| 11-4-84       | Knud F. S. Nielsen   | 76  | Kansas City, KS        | 600       | Omaha, NE       | 1928        |
|               | — Henry A. Mikkelsen | 78  | Geneva, NY             | 334       | Geneva, NY      | 1951        |
| 11-6-84       | Earl W. Schwuchow    | 59  | Kenosha, WI            | 14        | Kenosha, WI     | 1981        |
| 11-2-84       | Hans C. U. Olsen     | 54  | Skive, DK              | 45        | Minneapolis, MN | 1960        |
| 11-24-84      | Harry A. Rasmussen   | 89  | Sheffield, IL          | 600       | Omaha, NE       | 1914        |
| 11-18-84      | Thorvald J. Hansen   | 75  | Bogo, DK               | 306       | San Diego, CA   | 1943        |
| 7-5-84        | Peter Poulsen        | 85  | Skive, DK              | 600       | Omaha, NE       | 1928        |
| 11-5-84       | Gerdie Clemensen     | 94  | Thano, DK              | 134       | Ringsted, IA    | 1925        |

bers and guests participated in a sing-along — a first in our lodge — something we will have to try again. George Jacobsen and Niels Hansen were presented with awards from Lodge 325 for their dedication to Danish Brotherhood and the lodge. Thank you to Hans Pedersen, Rita Nielsen, and Birgit and George Jacobsen for pulling the whole thing off.

At our meeting November 9, we had a few guests. All enjoyed our smorgasbord and the arts and crafts show put on by our members showing their skills. All in all, November was a pleasant month.

**Niels Hansen, Sec.**

**Lodge #342, Bucks County, PA** — Our lodge is growing in leaps and bounds! Congratulations to new initiates Yvonne and Eric Nielsen, and Hedi Taurino. It's great to have you with us!

We're glad to welcome as guests Joe and Elin Jeantet from Lodge 172 who came to personally invite us to their annual Christmas party.

We will hold election of officers for 1985 at our December meeting.

**Lorraine Malmquist, Cor.**



## YOUNG VIKINGS

**Lodge #167, Portland, OR** — A Christmas party for children will be presented by both the Brotherhood and Sisterhood on December 15 at Bethany Lutheran Church.

This fun Danish Christmas celebration will include singing around the Christmas tree, entertainment, a visit by the Juleman and refreshments. This is a chance for children and grandchildren of members to enrich their Danish heritage and renew friendships. Starting time is 2 p.m.

Mark the date of January 13, Sunday, for our third annual outing to Snow Bunny Lodge. We will again have a room and kitchen area reserved for our group with each family bringing a picnic lunch to share. Sledding is done on innertubes, which can be rented by the hour or the day.

We had an absolutely wonderful time last year, and hope more of you will join us this year. All members welcome!

**Lodge #34, Dwight, IL** — The dance on  
Page 16

# New Members

| Name                        | Lodge No. | Location                | Sponsor                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jesse D. Dorau              | 1         | Omaha, NE               | Maxine E. Altic         |
| Molly M. Dorau              | 1         | Omaha, NE               | Maxine E. Altic         |
| Pamela K. Dorau             | 1         | Omaha, NE               | Maxine E. Altic         |
| Dale D. Dorau               | 1         | Omaha, NE               | Maxine E. Altic         |
| Leon Koker                  | 14        | Kenosha, WI             | Rudy Bernhardt, Jr.     |
| John L. Mikus               | 14        | Kenosha, WI             | Edgar Gastaldi          |
| Chester W. Ramage           | 29        | Seattle, WA             | Borge Schlegel          |
| Mari Allen                  | 33        | Tacoma, WA              | Peter T. S. Rasmussen   |
| Sigurd E. Carlson           | 35        | Chicago, IL             | Marie Muller            |
| Sigrid A. Carlson           | 35        | Chicago, IL             | Marie Muller            |
| Robert Lee Petersen         | 70        | Greenville, MI          | Dawn Noah               |
| Paul D. Muggy               | 84        | Lincoln, NE             | Lennie Kincheloe        |
| Michael C. Runland          | 113       | Enumclaw, WA            | Gerry Jensen            |
| Orestes D. Biscaldi         | 126       | Los Angeles, CA         | Laila Andersen Biscaldi |
| Robert H. Perrin            | 164       | Brooklyn, NY            | Barbara Perrin          |
| Nancy Gilpatrick            | 167       | Portland, OR            | Mel Pihl                |
| Norma M. Storms             | 167       | Portland, OR            | Mel Pihl, Robert Storms |
| Leonard A. Storms           | 167       | Portland, OR            | Mel Pihl, Robert Storms |
| Betty Gallagher             | 167       | Portland, OR            | Janet Rutledge          |
| Mae W. Wilson               | 167       | Portland, OR            | Janet Rutledge          |
| Virginia Nielsen Noffsinger | 167       | Portland, OR            | Jan Dawson              |
| Dorothy Nielsen Brace       | 167       | Portland, OR            | Mel Pihl                |
| Lillian R. Wik              | 167       | Portland, OR            | Cheryl Freeman          |
| Betty J. Pritchett          | 167       | Portland, OR            | Mel Pihl                |
| Zandra J. Wolfgram          | 170       | Rocky River, OH         | Andy Andersen           |
| Jolynn Oliver               | 206       | Blair, NE               | Harriet Palle           |
| Robert B. Schmoll           | 206       | Blair, NE               | Paul Strand             |
| Lydia D. Nielsen            | 206       | Blair, NE               | Harriet Palle           |
| Anna M. Labriola            | 225       | Canton, OH              | Robert Pedersen         |
| Hansine P. Hansen           | 273       | Dillon, MT              | Leonard Hansen          |
| Anna M. Nielsen             | 294       | Barre, VT               | Harry Mikkelsen         |
| John E. Mekkelsen           | 294       | Barre, VT               | Harry Mikkelsen         |
| Grace Mekkelsen             | 294       | Barre, VT               | Harry Mikkelsen         |
| Walter Ladd                 | 294       | Barre, VT               | Harry Mikkelsen         |
| Mildred F. Ladd             | 294       | Barre, VT               | Harry Mikkelsen         |
| Eva L. Stevens              | 321       | Lake Worth, FL          | Isabell Lassie Larsen   |
| Maurice D. Lykke            | 341       | Kimballton-Elk Horn, IA | JoAnne Potts            |
| Katherine A. Lykke          | 341       | Kimballton-Elk Horn, IA | JoAnne Potts            |
| David Ditman                | 600       | Omaha, NE               | Robert Ditman           |
| Amphorn Keokenchanh         | 600       | Omaha, NE               | Robert Ditman           |
| John E. Pecnick             | 600       | Omaha, NE               | Albert A. Pecnick       |
| Richard A. Pecnick          | 600       | Omaha, NE               | Albert A. Pecnick       |

**A Steak in Our Future . . . And a Byte More**  
**New Members Can Participate, Too!**

November 10 showed a slight profit. Rick Sullivan thanked all who helped. Rick brought up the subject of Youth for 1985 and raising money for camp grants. Maybe an auction at one of our first meetings.

## "Polar XXX"

SAS President and CEO Jan Carlzon today presented Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley with 30 expense-paid week-long vacations in Scandinavia for thirty children from Los Angeles inner city schools.

The travel scholarships will be awarded to Los Angeles children between the ages of 11 and 17 on a merit basis and will include city and rural highlights of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

Earlier in the week, Los Angeles officials paid tribute to SAS in a ceremony relocating and re-dedicating the "Greenland Stone," at a prominent location in front of the new Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles Airport.

SAS presented the stone monument to the city when the polar route was inaugurated 30 years ago.



**Jan Carlzon, President, Scandinavian Airlines Group.**

# A DRAGON'S TALE

A Danish Folk Tale by Beverly Swerdlow Brown



There once was a dragon named Kraken  
Who wanted so much to be mistaken  
For a whale, a shark or anything smaller  
But it could never be. He was one mile taller.  
He was so big, he made a sea of troubles.  
For when he moved he caused ten billion bubbles.  
He overturned ships and frightened men in the dark  
From the Isle of Crete to the Coasts of Denmark.  
"I'm all alone," Kraken said with a sigh  
And floated on his back and looked at the sky.  
When suddenly something bumped against his lid.  
Swimming beside him was a small, thin squid.  
"Hi," said Kraken. "Isn't it a lovely day?  
Would you like to chat or swim or play?"  
But before Kraken had a chance to blink  
The light blue sea turned the shade of ink.  
Kraken sighed, "I've frightened another. Woe is me."

(The squid was gone, far deep into the sea.)  
When all at once he heard a snapping sound.  
And as fast as he could he turned around,  
And saw a turtle with its mouth opened wide.  
"Don't touch me or I will bite," it cried.  
"I wouldn't do that. Have no fear,"  
said Kraken, watching the turtle disappear  
Into the ocean without any trace  
Leaving Kraken alone with a sad-looking face.  
"I'll never have a friend, it seems to me,"  
said Kraken softly as he looked into the sea  
And spotted a Thing on the ocean floor.  
So he picked it up and brought it to shore.  
"Hey," said the Thing. "Put me back down!  
I was happy crawling on the sandy ground!"  
"I'm sorry," said Kraken. "I didn't mean to offend.  
I was just looking to meet a real, true friend."

"Oh," said the Thing. "That's a reasonable wish.  
But please tell me something. Are you some kind of  
fish?"  
"Alas," sighed Kraken, "but unfortunately  
I'm a great big dragon off Denmark's sea."  
The Thing looked at Kraken for quite a long while.  
Then crawled closer to him and started to smile.  
"I'm just an old lobster who socializes,  
With friends that come in all shapes and sizes."  
Kraken was so happy to hear what he heard.  
That for a brief moment, he didn't say a word.  
Then he smiled and said, "I'm sure glad we met.  
This is one day I'll never forget."  
And off the two went. One big and one small.  
And as you can see, it made no difference at all.

*Kraken: legendary Scandinavian sea monster*

## Scholarship Announcement

The Scholarship Committee of the Board of Directors of The Danish Brotherhood wishes to announce that scholarship applications for the school year beginning September, 1985, will be considered beginning February 15, 1985. Eligible members wishing to apply should write to: The Danish Brotherhood in America, Scholarship Committee, P. O. Box 31748, Omaha, NE 68131. No applications received after February 15, 1985 will be considered by the Committee for the 1985 awards.

Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$250.00 per semester and are renewable, pending qualification, to a total amount of \$2,000.00.

Eligible for scholarship awards are insured members in good standing within their local lodge who are attending or planning to attend an accredited college, technical school, or vocational school in an undergraduate status. Under some circumstances, eligible persons attending school in Denmark may receive an award.

Changes approved by delegates to the Thirty-First National Convention of the society have increased the amount of scholarship awards. Eight scholarships may now be awarded annually, **two of which must be awarded to applicants planning to attend a vocational or trade school.** (See Art. V of the Bylaws).

# Our Lifeline

The Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 273

Dillon, Montana

by

Marie Larsen Meyer

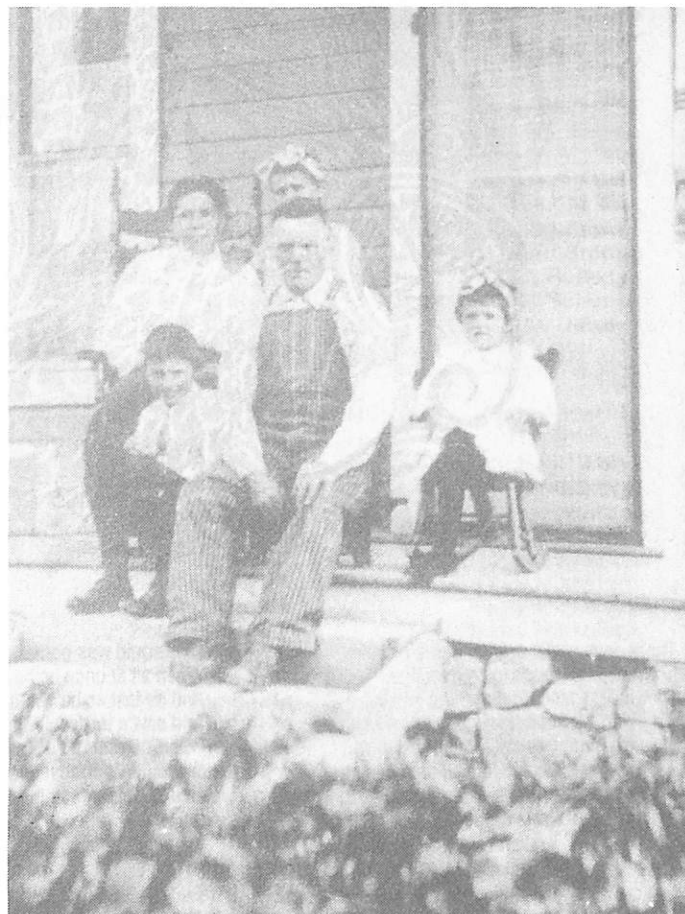
## **AN OPEN MESSAGE to the DESCENDANTS of the courageous DANES who left their homeland to put down roots in the UNITED STATES**

Before I write my story of what the members of the Danish Brotherhood, Lodge No. 273, meant to my family of five in the difficult, lean years from 1912 through the 1930s, I feel a deep need to awaken you — the children, the grandchildren and the great grandchildren of these early Danish immigrants — to the urgency of sitting down with your elders and really listening to and writing down the stories of their early lives in Denmark; of their reasons for leaving their homeland; of the hardships encountered in this vast and wondrous land thousands of miles from their homes.

Search your attics and your closets for pictures and for other memorabilia; learn to sing the old Danish songs; write the names of each individual in the photos, make scrapbooks, and above all DATE EVERYTHING. Cherish and preserve your SPECIAL DANISH HERITAGE!

For me, such an undertaking is too late. Now at age seventy-seven years, I search for answers I cannot find. The early part of my narrative is based partly on my childhood memories and on the bits and pieces of long-ago conversations heard at home.

At right: The Larsen Family — Thomsen Avenue, Dillon, Montana. Spring, 1915. Mor, Serina Larsen; Far, Soren P. Larsen; Johannes (Hans) 11 years, Anne Marie 9 years, and Elny Johanne 5½ years.



Thank you, Far Soren P. and Mor Serine M. Larsen for taking seven-year old Johannas (Hans), two-year old Elny Johanne, and me, five-year old Anne Marie to the United States. On June 14, 1912, we arrived in a snowstorm at the depot of Dillon, then a small western Montana town about two thousand souls, founded in 1880.

Why, after spending several years as a single man in Dillon, Montana, did you return to Denmark and then wait ten years before re-entering the United States? Evidently you could not forget Serine whom you had known for many years. You arrived in Denmark in December, 1902. Even though she refused to leave the country of her birth, you were married in May, 1903.

Your yearning to return to Dillon gnawed at you continually. Finally, when Elny was two years old, you said to Mor, "If you don't go with me while the children are small to this great land where opportunities for them are so great, I will send them to the United States when they are teenagers." Because Mor could not bear the thought of a permanent separation in the future, she said, "We go now!"

After the strenuous heartbreaking task of dismantling our farm home in Rorth Skov and of saying goodbye to our dog Trofast

(Steadfast) and our dear friends and relatives, we sailed steerage from Copenhagen in early May, 1912. We survived approximately five weeks of living aboard ship in stressful surroundings, of being processed through Ellis Island, of undergoing detention in Chicago, and of riding chair car for almost three days and two nights to Dillon.

The joyous welcome extended to us by a brother and a sister of Mor and by the many Danish men and women who met us was like "bread cast upon the waters" to this poor, tired, and discouraged family. Mor wept as she embraced her relatives, residents of Dillon before 1900. She asked, "Are we really at the end of our very long journey?"

Our lives were yet to remain unsettled for the next three years. Temporarily, we were "farmed out" with relatives and with friends. In that period of time, we lived in five different houses, surviving chicken pox, measles, pneumonia, and typhoid fever. During our brief stay in one house a mile from town, I contracted Typhoid fever from drinking contaminated slough water. Each night of my five days of delirium, Mrs. Christine Lorensen (Mads) and Mrs. Christine Jensen (Wilhelm) took turns to watch over me at night so Mor could rest. When I recovered in six weeks, Mor



This 1902 group picture of a Danish picnic, probably the earliest record available, is especially meaningful to me because it includes my father, Soren P. Larsen, as a single man.

In addition, I recognize my maternal uncle and his wife, Jasper and Margaret Nielsen (Nelson) and my maternal Tante Maria and her husband, Michael Lauterbach.

At least six men in this group, in addition to Jasper Nelson, became charter members of Lodge 273 in 1908; namely, Walter Carlsen, Jens H. Christensen, Otto J. Christensen, Albert Mikkelsen, Peter J. Petersen, and Rasmus P. Hansen.

1902 Danish picnic at Dilmont Park, Dillon, Montana. From left to right: Arrow 1 - Onkel Jasper Nelson; Arrow 2 - Onkel Michael Lauterbach, Arrow 3 - Tante Margaret (Mrs. Jasper Nelson), Arrow 4 - Tante Maria (Mrs. Michael Lauterbach), Arrow 5 - Far Soren P. Larsen.

came down with the dread disease and entered the local hospital — a private home. Again we children were “farmed out.”

After Mor recovered we moved into town to a three-room house shown in the accompanying picture with the five of us sitting on the front porch. This was a happy home. Every weekend the young Danish men and women immigrants filled our home with singing and with dancing to Far's accordion. My Uncle Jasper Nelson acted as a surrogate father to these young men and women. When they arrived from Denmark, he secured jobs for the young ladies as housekeepers and for the men as farm workers. Mor, now forty years old, became a surrogate mother to these lonesome young people. In turn, they were her LIFELINE!

Finally, in the summer of 1915, through a \$10,600 loan from Uncle Jasper, we moved to a small farm three miles south of Dillon, our home for the next twenty years. Because only half of the 160-acre farm was tillable and because of the critical economic situation in the late teens and in the 1920s, Mor and Far soon realized that there was no way they could pay even the six percent interest. One hundred pounds of potatoes sold for \$1; a 200-pound hog sold for \$7. Mor earned cash money by raising vegetables in the short three summer months and by selling butter, eggs, and chickens in town throughout the year.

Because she could not face the ordeal of moving again, Far and Mor made some arrangement through an agreement with Uncle Jasper that would allow them to live on the farm until the children were grown and educated. Then at that time they would relinquish the property to the Nelson children.

Far and Mor taught us thrift, industry, honesty, and the determination to improve ourselves. We never lacked for food and for friends. Each school day and each Sunday we walked a five-mile round trip for ten years. We completed the grade school, the high school, and the two-year Norman College teacher-training curriculums. With Hans to help summers on the farm, Far seldom had to hire outside help except for threshing time. Elny was Mor's “right-hand man.” I, the sturdy middle child, worked from age

eleven each summer for other farm and city ladies. My wages grew from \$1 a week to \$1 a day until I learned to type and to write shorthand in my high school junior year. With part of the \$150 earned that summer of 1924, I paid for my clothes and for my tuition.

On March 21, 1913, Far Soren joined the Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 273. We all looked forward to the numerous yearly events; namely, the Christmas dance, a masquerade, at least one picnic, and a basket social. The highlight of the year was the annual Christmas party with special attention given to the children. A very large tree, free from the Government forest, stood in the middle of the great hall. Scattered among the ornaments and underneath the tree was a gift for each child labeled with his or her name. Everyone, young and old, joined hands to sing both Danish and English carols. Far played the accordion for the dancing. One number was set aside for an adult to dance with a child. When the children were ready for Dreamland, the parents tucked them in on a folding chair. Dawn was near when the party ended — the cows needed milking!

For one masquerade, Mor Serine dressed six individuals. I, as Miss U.S.A., won first prize for the children. Far Soren won first prize as an old country lady carrying her knitting. Ordinarily a quiet man, he delighted everyone by dancing around the hall clicking the needles!

The tables laden with Danish food were a delight to behold! For many gatherings, the Committee hired Mor to make hundreds of open-faced sandwiches. Far Soren butchered a hog to prepare for these festive events. Elny and I helped to make sandwich spreads of head cheese, rullepølse, medisterpølse, blodpølse, liverpostej, and frikediller. Other Danish ladies brought klejne, vanillekranse, yoderkager, and kysse.

Though picnics took place at various sites, the most exciting ones were held one-half mile from our home at Berg Christensen's sheep ranch. Berg and Christine opened their home and yard to us. The three-story brick building, built about 1892, had five

magnificent marble fireplaces, antique velvet furniture, ornate chandeliers, a basement with an ancient furnace, and an attic with bats! The men arranged tables around the yard under the grove of trees; the ladies spread their individual lunches to be shared by all. The Committee gave prizes for many types of competition, including the three-legged and sack races. In the evening, we climbed to the third floor, chased out the bats, and danced the rest of the night to Far Soren's music.

But the families of the Danish community threw us a LIFELINE not only in happy times but also when tragedy struck. When I was ten years old, Mor Serine had a serious injury near the ankle of her left leg. Boys frightened Old Charlie, her horse, as she untied him from a tree in town. He reared and dragged the metal rim of the buggy's front wheel over the ankle. It was badly mangled but the bone was not broken. This accident was the beginning of six months of severe hardship for her and for her family. There was no money, no health care, and no antibiotics. Blood poison set in. Reports were rampant that Mor had lost her leg.

My sister and I at six and ten years found the task of keeping house, of cooking, of feeding the chickens, and of caring for Mor far beyond our ability. One day I wept and said, "Mor, we just can't do all this work." She realized that all was not right with us and with her leg. When Dr. McMillan arrived the next day, she said, "Tomorrow please bring a Danish lady to help in the house and Dr. Thorkelsen for consultation.

Mor's leg was saved but she carried a three-inch scar to the bone on the inside of that left ankle. Sixteen years later, when Mor was sixty years old, this scar blocked the passage of a blood clot formed following an appendectomy. Gangrene again raised its ugly head. This time, because Mor was diagnosed as having advanced arterial sclerosis, her left leg was amputated below the knee; she learned to walk again with an artificial limb.

Throughout this long convalescence, our Danish friends and neighbors helped in many ways. Mrs. Peter J. Petersen, (Magrette) brought us chicken soup with kod- and melbøller. Mrs. Jack Selway (Hansene), Mrs. Berg Christensen (Christine) and many other friends brought nourishing dishes.

The year of Mor and Far's silver wedding, 1928, was the highlight of their life together. They invited one hundred and twenty-five Danish friends to a dinner and a dance in the country. They butchered a young calf and twenty chickens, rented an old granary, and secured the help of Mrs. Otto J. Christensen (Brynhild) who catered parties. Elmer Petersen, then a member of the high school orchestra (now a senior member of Lodge 273), and his fellow musicians contributed the music for the evening dancing. Open-faced sandwiches were served at midnight. This happy affair ended about six o'clock in the morning!

Unbelievable as this may sound, the Danish guests collected monies and surprised Mor and Far with new furniture. They moved out the old and installed a sofa and two chairs, a living room table, a floor lamp, a rug, a dining room congooleum, and a table full of smaller gifts.

Finally, in 1935, Mor and Far, now in their sixties, knew the time had come to relinquish the farm to Uncle Jasper's children. The folks were ready to leave. The three children were raised. Both parents truly believed that the loss of the farm could never outweigh the friendships in good and in bad times of the members of the Danish community. Philosophically, Mor said, "Nu kande jeg ikke mere!"

There are, undoubtedly, many other Danish Brotherhood Lodges with such happy, loyal, dependable, and concerned Danes as we found during those years when we needed a helping hand. I recall a comment by Pat Laden, an Irish neighbor, when he gave me a ride home from school in his lumber wagon. After learning

# Danish root-tracers

## YOU HAVE:

- a sincere interest in knowing your Danish roots
- a few artifacts: letters, photographs, names ...
- uncertainty re: possibilities of genealogical research in Denmark

## WE HAVE:

- a new and flexible approach to root-tracing, which allows:
  - inexpensive start-up
  - continued research, tailored to your interests and budgets
  - modular growth of: Family-trees, Family-books ...
- a new way of adding value to your next trip to Denmark by arranging family-reunions and historical tours

## WE ARE:

- a new and fresh entity among professional genealogists
- affiliated with groups of recognized Danish research centres
- represented by: Inge Mardal  
Ved Skovgaardet 33  
3400 Hilleroed, Denmark
- looking forward to assisting you.

|                                                                               |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Larsen Bros. Danish Bakery</b>                                             |                                                      |
| 8000 24th N.W., Seattle, WA 98117 — (206) 782-8285                            |                                                      |
| <b>Danish Coffee Cake</b>                                                     |                                                      |
| <small>PACKED 1 PER BOX</small>                                               |                                                      |
| <b>Kringle . . . . .</b>                                                      | <b>\$6.50 Filled with Almond Paste and Raisins</b>   |
| <b>Smorkage . . .</b>                                                         | <b>\$4.50 Filled with Custard Almond and Raisins</b> |
| <small>Includes packing and UPS service in continental U.S.A. . . . .</small> |                                                      |
| Quantity _____                                                                | Price _____                                          |
|                                                                               | \$ _____                                             |
| To _____                                                                      |                                                      |
| Street _____                                                                  |                                                      |
| City _____                                                                    | State _____ Zip _____                                |
| Sign Gift Card as follows: _____                                              |                                                      |

that I was a Dane, he said, "By golly, soon there will be only Danes and dandelions left in this country!"

There are indeed many more Dillon Danes today. Though I left my hometown permanently in 1934, I return each June to visit my brother Hans in Dillon's one convalescent home. It is a time to reminisce and to thank mentally the Danes now departed who were our LIFELINE from 1912 and on through the difficult years. Today, those Danes of my age group, their children, and their grandchildren are still taking an active part in the activities of Lodge 273 of Dillon, Montana.

## National Bowling Tournament

All lodge secretaries will receive entry forms for the 1985 Danish Brotherhood Handicap Bowling Tournament.

The dates for bowling are between March 1 and June 1. Prize money is awarded to the top 20 teams. Prize money goes to the individual with the highest men's game, for the lady's high game, and for the high series for male or female.

Young Vikings may participate in a raw score tournament. They need not establish an average.

All teams may be mixed, but all participants must be members of The Danish Brotherhood.

The ladies' high team will receive an award as will the high Young Vikings team. No entry fee or expense is connected with this tournament other than the fee charged by the bowling establishment.

### 1985 25-Year Pin Awards, Continued from page 7

|     |                     |
|-----|---------------------|
| 321 | Schuldt, John       |
| 323 | Jepsen, Frank E.    |
| 325 | Schonberg, Viggo    |
| 328 | Rytter, Axel        |
| 600 | Thuesen, Harry O.   |
| 600 | Pedersen, David L.  |
| 600 | Kristensen, Paul S. |
| 600 | Skowronski, Randal  |
| 600 | Norgaard, Asger     |
| 600 | Sindhoj, Jorgen     |
| 600 | Dal, Orla J.        |
| 600 | Nyboe, Allen V.     |
| 650 | Sorensen, Kenneth   |

|     |                      |
|-----|----------------------|
| 650 | Skowronski, Brian    |
| 650 | Sabinsky, Jorgen     |
| 650 | Tedrick, James E.    |
| 650 | Wendt, Erik W.       |
| 675 | Rosholm, J.          |
| 675 | Petersen, C. W.      |
| 675 | Norby, Peder         |
| 675 | Hansen, Herbert O.   |
| 675 | Larsen, P. J.        |
| 700 | Giegerich, Donald B. |
| 700 | Jacobson, Michael    |

## Skovsoen

The Board of Directors of The Danish Brotherhood in America has given support to a fraternal project for Danish Brotherhood lodges. The purpose of the project will be to assist financially members, children or grandchildren of members between the ages of 8 and 17 who wish to attend Skovsoen, the Danish Language Village in Minnesota.

The project will provide support of up to \$200 per Villager. Half of the cost is to be borne by the local lodge and matched by the National Headquarters. Each participating lodge will contribute \$100 and the National Headquarters will contribute a maximum of \$100 for each Villager. Lodges may decide whether or not they wish to assist Villagers further with transportation expenses.

Skovsoen is an accredited two-week camp and is operated in connection with the 25 year old International Language Village program of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.



Sweater modeled by Sandy Masih of National Headquarters Fraternal Department.

Our 100% orlon sweater of premium DuPont Wintuk yarn has a royal blue background. Red and white Danish flags are knitted in.

With the look and feel of wool, the sweater is machine washable and dryable.

**\$40.00 postpaid**

Orders shipped by UPS in continental U.S.

The Danish Brotherhood in America  
3717 Harney St., P.O. Box 31748  
Omaha, NE 68131

| Sweaters \$40 postpaid | 32-34<br>S | 36-38<br>M | 40-42<br>L | 44-46<br>XL | Total Quantity | Total U.S. Dollars |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
|                        |            |            |            |             |                |                    |

Shipping instructions:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

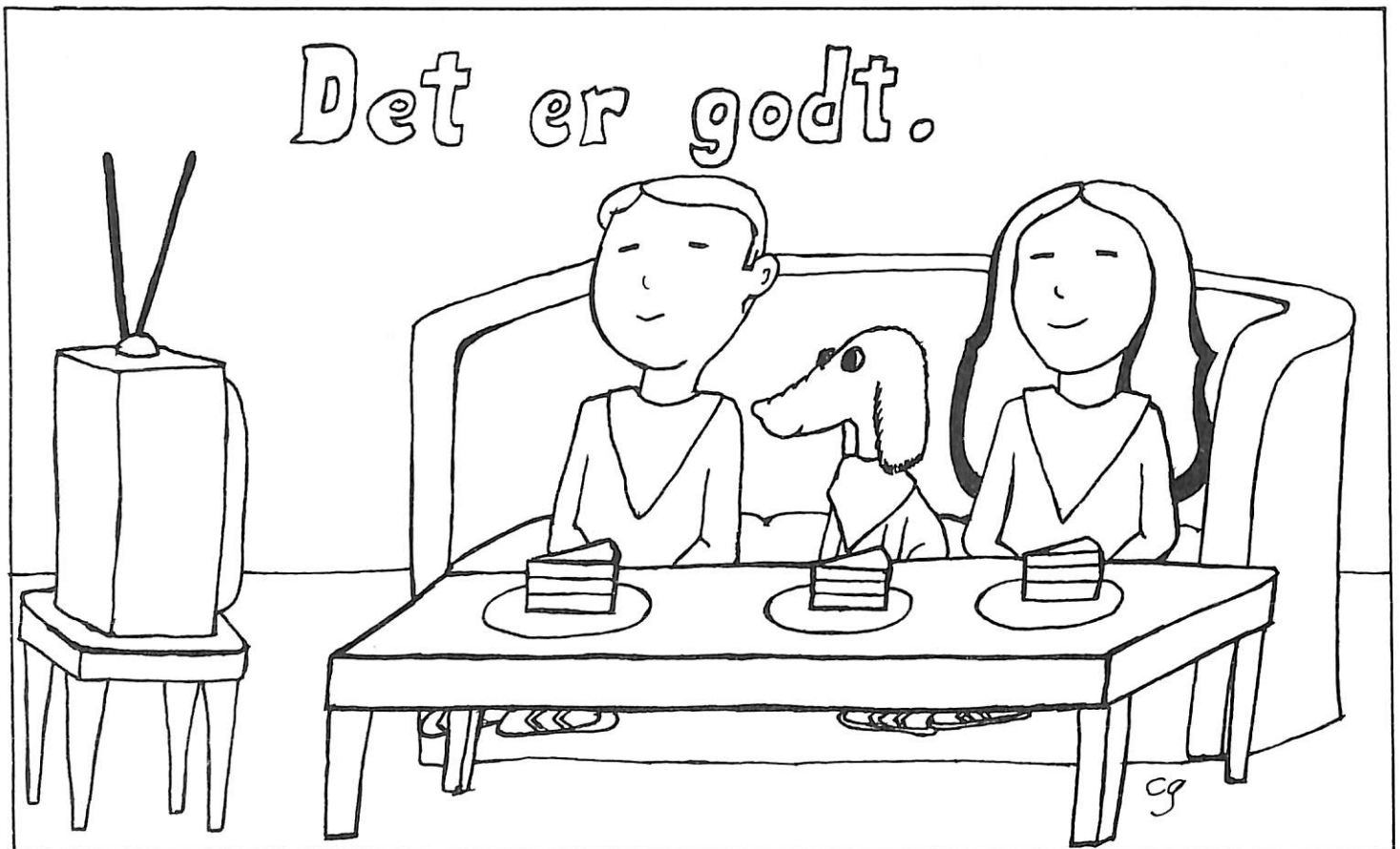
Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Hans and Grete



On a cold day in January, the twins think "det er godt" (that's good), while they watch TV and enjoy a snack.

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, 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).

**December winners: Allison Eitzmann, Trevor Rieck, Paul M. Christensen, and Chris Jessey.**

## Grandma's Kitchen

Danish Dumplings  
for Danish Hønseskødsuppe  
(Chicken Soup)



by Dagmar Jensen

½ cup butter                      1 cup boiling water  
1 cup flour                        4 eggs

Melt butter in a pan, add flour, stir well and add boiling water gradually. Mix well, remove from fire, let cool 10-13 minutes. Add eggs, beat. Drop almond shaped dumplings from a spoon or from a special device for this into boiling salted water, let cook for 3 minutes, agitate the water gently so the dumplings will turn over. These dumplings may be kept hot in small amount of broth, do not allow them to boil. When it is time to serve, remove the dumplings from the broth onto the serving dish. Pour the clear broth and vegetables over them.

## VIKING VITTLES

**Danish and American Recipes  
Kodan Lodge No. 346 - DBIA**

Members of Kodan Lodge 346 of Riverside/San Bernardino Counties in California have compiled a collection of favorite recipes. Viking Vittles is a 112-page book, spiral-bound, with 250 Danish and American recipes for conventional and microwave cooking. The book is indexed and has many helpful cooking hints.

Not only were some of the recipes brought directly from Denmark (or passed down by Danish parents), but many are Southern California specialties. Many show a Mexican-American or other ethnic influence. Others are meant to be enjoyed outdoors, reflecting the informal, relaxed California way of life.

Send for your copy by writing Kodan Lodge 346, c/o Sue Patterson, Cookbook Chairman, 28520 Hickney, Highland, CA 92346. Only \$5.50 per copy postpaid.

# Viking Adventures

On March 14, the postal service of many countries will observe International Correspondence Day. As an added service for young people, we are announcing the resumption of a Danish pen pal program.

## **PEN PALS FROM DENMARK** by The Danish Brotherhood/Penneposten DK

Everybody loves to get a letter. How much more exciting if that letter has the postmark of a foreign country. In cooperation with Penneposten of Copenhagen, Denmark, youngsters between the ages of 12 and 17 have the opportunity to become pen pals and to learn about each other. Correspondence will be conducted in English and in time may lead to a desire to learn the Danish language.

Fill out the application below and mail it to our office with two international reply coupons enclosed. (You can purchase international reply coupons at your local post office for about 65¢ each or \$1.30 total.) Please print or type this information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

age (circle):    12    13    14    15    16    17

What are your hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in sports, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What other things interest you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In what part of the United States do you live (circle)?

East    West    North    South    Midwest

Please send your application to: The Danish Brotherhood  
in America, P. O. Box 31748, Omaha, NE 68131.

## **A Place Called Dana**

The Centennial History of Dana College

by Peter L. Petersen

Dana College is the offspring of two Danish immigrant institutions — Trinity Seminary, established at Blair, Nebraska, in 1884 as the first Danish Lutheran seminary in the United States, and Elk Horn College in Iowa, which had its roots in the Danish folk school movement. Today Dana is a senior college of the American Lutheran Church and one of only two schools of higher education in America established by Danes.

In this scholarly yet warmly human centennial history, Peter L. Petersen reaches back into the immigrant experience to describe the founding of Trinity, Elk Horn College, and eventually Dana. As Trinity and Dana mature, the focus shifts to the sometimes painful process of Americanization during and after World War I, the optimistic "Greater Dana Program" of the 1920's, the often dark and difficult days of the Great Depression and World War II, the uncertainties and controversies which accompanied the long negotiations prior to the formation of the American Lutheran Church in 1961. In the final chapters, Petersen describes the merger of Trinity with Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, the rapid expansion of the "post-Sputnik" era, the emergence of student activism in the 1960's, the broadening of Dana's constituency, and the new challenges of the 1970's.

Written in a lucid style and generously sprinkled with lively anecdotes, **A Place Called Dana** is bound to evoke nostalgia among the many alumni and friends of Trinity and Dana. But it is also an enlightening analysis of one of the most universal and fundamentally important aspects of American history — the ongoing struggle between the inexorable process of assimilation and the desire of some immigrants and their descendants to preserve at least a portion of the ethnic heritage.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of "A Place Called Dana" at \$15.00 each plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Nebraska residents must add an additional 52¢ sales tax for each book. Orders will be filled after October 1, 1984.

Send to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Send orders and payment to the Public Relations  
Office, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska 68008.**



## 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.)

### SEND TO:

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



Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Danish language cassette tape sets. (Nebraska residents Nebr. city and state tax.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, Please Include Membership  
Information With My Order

USPS 148-180

**POSTMASTER: IF UNDELIVERABLE AS  
ADDRESSED, NOTIFY US PROMPTLY  
ON FORM 3579.**

Member: Send your address change,  
before moving for continued service.

**NOTICE!!! List all family members affected  
by this change.**

I belong \_\_\_\_\_ My number \_\_\_\_\_  
to Lodge No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the lodge is \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## 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:  
**The Danish Brotherhood in America**  
**P.O. Box 31748, 3717 Harney Street**  
**Omaha, NE 68131**

name \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

9406-4 JOHN 4-3076  
MOLLERSKV JOHN 4-3076  
1407 CAKDALE AVE  
RACINE WI 53406