



Danish Brotherhood in America

November, 1993

American Dane



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Denmark our Heritage - America our Home

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Cover Photo: The Annaberg sugar mill on St. John. See related story on page 5. Photo courtesy of Shirley Jordan.

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President's Page

Woodrow T. Petersen
National President

As I write this column for November, the merger process continues. At this point, discussion continues and has progressed with at least four other fraternal organizations. These societies are re-evaluating the DBIA merger criteria and will present it to their Boards of Directors in order to determine if a merger is something they are interested in pursuing further. In time, the executives of the interested societies will meet with our Merger Committee. We had anticipated these meetings taking place in October in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the National Board of Directors. However, that was not convenient for some of the merger candidates we have been in touch with. It has been proposed that these meetings will take place next month. Regardless of when these meetings take place, the Merger Committee is dedicated to the process and will not place time constraints on it.

The Merger Committee of the DBIA National Board of Directors met prior to the Annual Meeting. Jerry Christensen, Secretary-Treasurer/CEO, shared with the committee the information and insight he has obtained when he visited the Home Offices of the merger candidates. The Merger Committee reviewed and discussed this information and set priorities regarding the merger criteria.

They also discussed the response from lodges regarding the special convention letter. Lodges' responses to the letter have been mostly positive. At the time of this writing 59 lodges have approved a special meeting and three have not. Some lodges have yet to respond and reminders have been sent to those lodges. If your lodge has not voted on this issue, please ask your Lodge Officers about it. As always, if you or members of your lodge have questions regarding the merger issue or any other topic, feel free to contact any National Board member or the Home Office Staff.

As many of you are aware, October is an important month in Denmark's history. October, 1993 marked the 50th anniversary of the Rescue of the Jews in Denmark. Many cities around the country held commemorative programs honoring the heroics of the Danish people. It was the selflessness of many which saved many of the Jews living in Denmark during the German occupation of World War II. It is an event not to be forgotten.

October, 1993 was historic for Danish communities in this country. The Danish Immigrant Museum, An International Cultural Center near Elk Horn, Iowa opened its doors to the public on October 10, 1993. The Museum developed from an idea in 1980, land was broken in 1988 and the doors opened last month. This is a dream come true for many Danes. It is quite a tribute to the Danish communities, past, present and future. As the Museum continues to develop and expand, it will rely on its friends for support and encouragement. I encourage you to visit the Museum when you are near the Elk Horn area.

This has been a year of natural disasters at home and abroad, political unrest over seas and our own personal struggles. In spite of these things it is important to reflect on our blessings and good fortune. We all have many things to be thankful for. On behalf of the National Board of Directors and Home Office staff, I extend a very Happy Thanksgiving to all of you and to your families.

Woodrow T. Petersen

Denmark's Island in the Sun

by Shirley Jordan

Yellow trumpet vines sprawl untamed along the doorways and crumbled walls where a village of 16 cabins once stood. Above, frangipani blossoms pour their heady fragrance into the tropic air. Sunlight burns red-gold through the flowering genip, flamboyant, and sugar apple trees.

The stately sugar mill at Annaberg Plantation towers nearby. It is among the largest of its kind and is constructed of lava, lime, and coral from nearby reefs.

Here on St. John, smallest of the three U.S. Virgin Islands, the visitor is swept back into an era of plantation life when these lands were Danish and sugar was king.

A Colorful History

First discovered by Columbus on his second voyage to the new world, the Virgin Islands became the site of failed settlements by a variety of European nations and the hiding place of cutthroats and greedy pirates. Not until Denmark established colonies on St. John and nearby St. Thomas did prosperity of any kind come to these battle-scarred islands.

It was in 1665 that King Frederik III first sent colonists to the Virgin Islands. The small settlement on St. John was ravaged by sickness and preyed upon by pirates from the nearby island of Tortola. Two devastating hurricanes roared through the islands that year, further sapping the struggling colony. After 19 months, the attempt was abandoned and the remnant of settlers returned to Copenhagen.

Five years later, newly-crowned King Christian V established a Board of Trade for the islands and signed a treaty with Britain that would neutralize the privateers on Tortola. He then chartered the privately-managed Danish West India Company, authorizing it to occupy and develop St. Thomas, St. John, and "any uninhabited islands nearby."

To populate the colony in this new attempt, the Danish West India Company was empowered to take two enlisted men from each company of the Danish military forces. They were to be "strong, industrious, married, and know some trade."

Providing field workers for the harsh toil of the sugar plantations was another matter. For this, the company was

authorized to remove as many prisoners as needed, both male and female, from the Danish jails.

The mortality rate on the first ships to leave Copenhagen neared 80 percent! The ships were overcrowded and the living conditions deplorable. In the first three years, of 324 souls leaving Denmark for life in the new world, 263 perished enroute or arrived so ill that they died soon after.

Even today, an examination of the thin, rugged soil on these volcanic islands makes it clear that early settlers faced a monumental task. Working under the blazing Caribbean sun, they had to clear and terrace the rocky hillsides. Then ashes, lime, and animal dung were worked into the meager soil before planting could begin.

Sugar cane matured in 12 to 18 months. The weather was unpredictable, and harvesting had to be finished quickly before the crop soured. Life was harsh for these Danish plantation owners, their families, and their servants.

A third island lay 40 miles to the south. St. Croix, long a French colony, had become a liability to the French crown. France and Britain were frequently at war, and the island was subject to privateers, religious conflicts, and illegal trading. Finally, in 1695, the French gave up the colony and moved the inhabitants to what is now Haiti.

The island lay largely deserted for more than three decades. In 1733, Denmark purchased St. Croix, and Danish possession of the Virgin Islands was complete.

Slavery was widespread during these decades, and nowhere was it more pervasive than in the Caribbean. Along with plantation owners from nearby Spanish, English, and Dutch islands, the Danish landholders eagerly awaited the slave ships that arrived regularly from Africa. Here was cheap labor for the enormous work load of the burgeoning plantations. Only by the regular acquisitions of slaves could farming the steep slopes of these volcanic islands be made profitable.

The Danish sugar industry reached its high point in the 1730s. There were 264 plantations on St. Croix, 207 on St. Thomas, and 109 on tiny St. John. In addition to the demand for shipments of sugar cane, there was a thriving business in the export of molasses and rum.

Slave uprisings were frequent in the Caribbean. Six of

them are recorded for the Virgin Islands, the most disastrous in 1733 on St. John, when 50 whites and 146 slaves were killed.

The last half of the 18th century saw rising support for abolition in both Europe and the New World. Slavery within England had been outlawed in 1772 and, when Britain ended the practice in her colonies in 1833, the event had a seismic effect in the Danish Virgin Islands. Suddenly the blacks of Tortola and the other British Virgin Islands were free.

It was Danish Governor-General Peter von Scholten who began a move toward the abolition of slavery on St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix. Finally, a royal decree in 1847 provided that all children born to slaves were to be free, and that present slaves would have their freedom in 12 years.

Thus began a move for human dignity but an erosion of the plantation system. Without cheap manpower, and with the growing popularity of European sugar beets, an era in the Virgin Islands was coming to a close. It was an economic decline from which there seemed no escape.

Negotiations between the United States and Denmark concerning the purchase of the Virgin Islands began during the Civil War and would continue for half a century. Stumbling blocks to accord were the asking price and the political status of the islanders. A number of treaties were drafted before agreement could be reached. Finally, on March 31, 1917, the islands were formally transferred to the United States.

The Culture Continues

Opportunities to observe the influence of three centuries of Danish rule await the visitor today.

St. Thomas, most visited of the islands and a frequent stop-over for cruise ships, has as its capital Charlotte Amalie, named for the wife of King Christian V. A huge statue of the king stands in Emancipation Park, not far from the waterfront. Close by is Fort Christian, now the museum. It is the oldest building on the island, dating from the first settlers.

Not far along Brad Gade (Broad Street) is found the red wrought-iron marketplace where for decades slaves were bought and sold. Today it serves as a colorful and noisy flea market each Saturday. Next is the Danish cemetery, boasting tombstones intricately decorated with shells.

At the eastern end of Charlotte Amalie is the Street of 99 Steps, an example of Danish ingenuity in coping with hills. Government House stands at the top, the date 1829 entwined in the wrought-iron balcony. On Denmark Hill stand examples of the 18th-century Danish architecture and Frederik Lutheran Church, in existence since the 1600s.

A short ferry boat ride away, St. John's momentos of Danish life are more pastoral. Three major plantation sites have been restored by the National Park Service, with tours and cultural demonstrations available year-round. Ranger-led hikes lead to vine-choked ruins that invoke centuries past. One, the Reef Bay trip, winds downhill for four miles and ends with an ancient Danish sugar factory. A boat waits nearby for the return trip to town.

St. Croix, the latecomer to Danish rule, blends the attractions of the other two islands. Its major port, Christiansted, is known for its enticing shops, pastel houses, and profusion of flowers.

Farther inland, remnants of immense plantations can be found along with a number of "great houses," manor homes of the aristocratic plantation owners. One of these, Estate Whim, has been carefully restored to the grandeur of its period.

Today, with their economy firmly anchored to tourism, the Virgin Islands continue to reflect the influences of those who came before. Some English, French, Dutch, and Spanish relics and customs remain. But it is the Danes, with nearly three hundred years of discovery and industry, who left the most lasting mark.

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The Old Danish Cemetery St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

by Anna Clarke

Mention of "the Caribbean" evokes images of sparkling, pristine waters caressing sun-drenched sand beaches ringed by swaying palms; rum punches and steel pan music; the brilliant "tropical" colors of hibiscus and bougainvillea and the pungent scent of frangipani. And then the history! Swashbuckling pirates, buried treasures, treason on the high seas, hurricanes, shipwrecks - myths and tales abound, with some old stories embellished through the years and not always quite accurate.

But for a glimpse of historical truth, take a walk through the old Danish Cemetery in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and be gently transported back to the days when the bustling port was full of trading ships and merchants, when shipwrecks and West Indian Fever took the lives of countless young and old.

Situated amidst a busy residential and commercial area of Charlotte Amalie, the old cemetery is a quiet and often

unnoticed oasis amongst the hubbub of modern day to day life. Surrounded by a solidly built old stone wall, the ancient mahogany trees filter the tropical sun as it dapples down on monuments to those long gone. The names are from all over the world. Local St. Thomians lie next to seafarers and missionaries; military men and traders next to former Governors and administrators of the island. Buried here are Danes, Germans, French, Scots, Swedes, English; and there are many older unmarked graves, some decorated with huge conch shells as was the custom of the time.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark, through the Royal Danish Consulate in St. Thomas, paid for basic maintenance of the cemetery over the years, but the place became sadly overgrown, and most of the tombstones were hidden behind masses of bushes and vines. As the general area became more built up, people climbed over



the low stone wall to cross over to adjacent streets, and vandalism was rampant. Tombstones were smashed, pieces of the wrought iron railings surrounding many of the graves were torn up; bottles, food cartons, car parts and other debris were routinely tossed over the wall into the cemetery; dog fighting took place there and even a horse was put there to graze.

In 1985, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs approached the Royal Danish Consulate and asked if there was any record of burials in the cemetery. A search revealed that no such official records existed, although one independent report was made in 1919 which even then was incomplete and was now very outdated. The Danish Consulate decided to create such a listing, and thus began a time-consuming project which entailed hacking out years of accumulated bush, cleaning up debris, washing down old and grimy tombstones and carefully documenting all the names inscribed thereon.

The data was finally gathered and entered into a computer database, copies of which were accepted into the historical archives on St. Thomas and St. Croix, and also into genealogical institutions on the U.S. mainland, in England and in Denmark.

In January, 1989, Mr. Holger Thorsøe passed away. A long-time Danish resident of St. Thomas, Mr. Thorsøe had always maintained a keen interest in the history of the islands and was particularly interested in the Danish Cemetery and the wealth of historical information inscribed on the tombstones. It had been his dream to compile a listing of those buried there, but poor health prevented him from accomplishing the goal. Upon his death his widow, Alma Thorsøe, asked his friends and associates that, in lieu of flowers, they donate money towards a fund that would help to restore the cemetery and continue the work that had already begun.

In October, 1990, The Danish Cemetery Restoration Fund was given tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service, and a serious fund-raising effort was commenced to raise money initially to erect a fence atop the existing stone wall in an effort to prevent further vandalism and the tossing over of debris. A lot of interest was given to the project, particularly from various individuals and organizations in Denmark.

On March 31, 1992, the Virgin Islands celebrated the 75th anniversary of Transfer Day when the United States purchased the territory from Denmark and, in time for this celebration, the initial goal of the Restoration Fund was reached. The new fence was erected, new iron entry gates were donated; ficus trees and oleander were planted around the perimeter; and several old mahogany trees which had been vandalized and were dying were taken down.

Future goals are to have all the wrought ironwork repaired and replaced where necessary; restore broken tomb-

stones, restore obliterated wording on old tombstones from information in the 1919 record; replace smashed crosses; install benches so that visitors can rest; add complete headstone inscriptions and graphics/photographs to the computer database; and generally continue to upgrade and maintain this historical site in perpetuity so that future generations will be able to share its story and learn from it.

If you should visit St. Thomas, please take time off from sunbathing and shopping and spend a little bit of time looking around the cemetery. It's directly across from the old Knud-Hansen Hospital - just tell that to the local taxi driver!

Anna Clarke is a Trustee of the Danish Cemetery Restoration Fund. If any members of the DBIA care to make a tax-deductible contribution towards the Fund, checks should be made payable to The Danish Cemetery Restoration Fund and sent to the Fund c/o The Royal Danish Consulate, Main Post Office Station, P.O. Box 7660, Charlotte Amalie, VI 00801-3299.

Payment to Board Members

October

Woodrow T. Petersen, allowance, \$65.13; Asbjorn Fisker, Nebraska District Convention, \$583.00; Edward Madsen, Heartland District, \$685.00.

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Evening Star

by Ruth Herman Nielsen

In this song, we again meet Christian Richardt, the poet who wrote *Come Skylark* which we sang in March. He wrote works enjoyed by children and opera texts. Richardt remains a greatly beloved poet in Denmark.

Carl Mortensen, 1832-1893, wrote the melody for *Evening Star*. He was an organist and a teacher of music in both folk schools and seminaries (an advanced education institution, not necessarily a school of theology. Most generally a school for teachers.) He opened a violin school, was an accompanist for many romantic song soloists. Mortensen developed a bibliography of Danish songs.

Evening Star is truly more than a beautiful song. It contains a progression of prayers using the imagery of nature from an evening star to the setting sun. This same melody is also used for *Sov Mit Barn Sov Laenge*.

The descant which can be sung with it adds a special harmony and beauty. Learn to love this song as many have through the years.

Eve - ning star up
Teach me, gen - tle

yon - der, Teach me like you to wan - der
flow - ers, To wait for spring-time show - ers,

will - ing and o - bedient - ly The path that God or -
In this win - ter world to grow, Green and strong be -

dained for me! Eve - ning star up yon - der!
neath the snow! Teach me, gen - tle flow - ers!

DESCANT

Eve - ning star up yon - der, Teach
me like you to wan - der Will - ing and o -
be - dient - ly The path that God or -
dained for me! Eve - ning star up yon - der!

Additional verses

Teach me, lonely heather,
Where songbirds nest together,
Though my life should seem unblest,
To keep a song within my breast!
Teach me, lonely heather!

Mighty ocean teach me,
to do the task that needs me,
And relect, as days depart,
Heaven's peace within my heart!
Mighty ocean, teach me!

Shady lanes, retreating,
Teach me, when life is ending,
To some weary soul each day,
Friends or foes who pass my way!
Shady lanes, refreshing!

Evening sun, descending,
Teach me, when life is ending,
Night shall pass and I, like you,
Shall rise again, where life is new!
Teach me, sun descending!

Dana's Sights and Sounds of Christmas

Dana's annual Sights and Sounds of Christmas will be held on Sunday, December 5 at the College in Blair, Nebraska. The day-long event features Christmas customs and traditions as celebrated around the world with a special emphasis on those of Denmark and other Scandinavian countries.

Attention Students

Jobs in Scandinavia are available in 1994 for American students in certain technical fields through The American-Scandinavian Foundation's (ASF's) training program. Students participating in the program have the chance to live in a community abroad, and get to know the people and their culture, while gaining international work experience and earning income.

Application deadline is January 1, 1994. A \$50 application fee is payable at the time of application.

For more information and an application, write to: Exchange Division, The American-Scandinavian Foundation, 725 Park Avenue, New York NY 10021.

Thousands of guests are expected to enjoy entertainment, a Danish Smorgasbord, music of the season, and much more. All events, with the exception of the smorgasbord, are offered at no charge. Reservations and advanced payment are required for the smorgasbord. The cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$8.50 for children 12 and under.

Reservations for the smorgasbord are available by contacting Dana College, Public Relations, Blair, Nebraska, 68008 or telephone (402) 426-7216.

Corrections:

Member Elmer K. Homo who died on May 21, 1993 was a member of Lodge No. 314, Hartford, Connecticut not Lodge No. 213 as was indicated on page 11 of the September **American Dane**.

The October cover photograph of Gutzon Borglum and the photograph of Mt. Rushmore National Memorial Monument were courtesy of the National Park Services. We thank them for the use of their photographs.

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Scholarship Applications Available

The Scholarship Committee of the Board of Directors of the Danish Brotherhood in America is pleased to announce that scholarship applications for the 1994-1995 school year are available. Eligible members wishing to apply should write or call: The Danish Brotherhood in America, Scholarship Committee, 3717 Harney Street, Omaha, NE 68131-3844, 1-800-553-1937. The deadline for applications is February 15, 1994. **Late applications will not be considered.**

Scholarships will be awarded in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Danish Brotherhood in America, Article V, Section 58, Paragraph 5.

Scholarships are available to Danish Brotherhood in America insured members only. Scholarships are awarded only for attendance at United States accredited colleges, universities, technical or vocational schools. Scholarships are not granted for graduate study. The Board will consider scholarship applications for attendance at schools and universities located in Denmark.

Our Lodges in Action

Material for this publication must be received at the Danish Brotherhood in America National Headquarters, 3717 Harney Street, Omaha, NE 68131-3844 by the tenth of the month preceding month of issue.

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

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

* **Bronze Lodge Award** ** **Silver Lodge Award** *** **Gold Lodge Award.**

Pacific

Northwest

** **Lodge No. 29, Seattle, WA**—President Clyde Langsted opened our September meeting. This was our honorary veteran's night. Kris Jorgensen, who occupied the president chair 43 years ago, conducted our meeting.

Our new member, Erik Bodholt was accepted into the lodge. The treasurer's report was read and approved. Trustees need to review the treasurer's report for 1992. Mel Hollister made a motion to secure a new trustee in place of Borge Schlegel. This motion carried. We approved a special national convention of delegates to meet on the issue of the potential merger with another fraternal benefit society. Gert Wolff reported the All Dane Picnic was superb, over

370 people attended. Past President Frank Poulsen met with Lillian, \$7.50 was the figure decided on for edibles at the meetings.

Past President Poulsen has secured the Sea Tac Airport Hilton for the District Convention in 1994. It was moved and seconded to sign the contract. Frank also informed us of the Installation party on February 2, 1994 with the Sisterhood at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned and we retired for refreshments. Thank you Gunnar Sorensen.

Jeffrey Jensen, Sec.

Lodge No. 33, Tacoma, WA—We welcomed Tage Christiansen, who transferred from Lodge No. 29.

Leo Madsen represents our lodge on the Lief Ericksen Memorial Committee. This committee sponsors an annual Scandinavian Days Festival. This event was open for three days in

October at the Western Washington State Fairgrounds. Our Lodge prepared and sold pea soup. Proceeds from the event provides scholarships for students of Scandinavian descent.

Our next meeting will be at noon on November 13 at the Turning Point Restaurant in Fife.

Jeannette Madsen, Cor.

Lodge No. 167, Portland, OR—The September meeting was called to order by President Thorkildsen with 30 members present. The treasurer's report was read and the bills were approved to be paid.

Kris Roley announced the beginning of folk dance practice. Norm Powell reported on the Seaman's Fair held in July. He returned \$425 in profits. It was voted to donate \$200.00 to the Seaman's Fair. Discussion followed in regard to what had been donated in the past. Ed Hirsch stated

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	Birthplace	Lodge No.	Location	Year Joined
7-26-93	Frederick S.B. Thomsen	94	Copenhagen, Denmark	15	Des Moines, Iowa	1936
9-1-93	Peter Kavaliauskas	87	Ashland, Wisconsin	14	Kenosha, Wisconsin	1973
8-30-93	Milton Lund	76	Perth Amboy, New Jersey	46	Perth Amboy, NJ	1983
9-14-93	Paul H. Naef	88	Luxembourg	14	Kenosha, Wisconsin	1982
9-11-93	Robert C. Hansen	70	Kenosha, Wisconsin	14	Kenosha, Wisconsin	1954
9-16-93	Allan C. Rasmussen	78	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	36	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1963
9-16-93	William G. Andersen	71	Kenosha, Wisconsin	14	Kenosha, Wisconsin	1942
8-14-93	Otto A. Rytter	88	Denmark	314	Hartford, Connecticut	1940
9-26-93	Carl Christensen	84	Chicago, Illinois	17	Chicago, Illinois	1961

that the Sisterhood had donated \$250.00 towards next year's convention. Our lodges are hosting the district convention next May. It was voted that we would like to donate a like amount towards expenses.

A letter was read from the National Headquarters regarding the merger of the DBIA with another fraternal benefit society. An amendment to the original motion of pre-approving a possible special convention did not pass.

Phil Baker asked for approval for holding another æbelskiver breakfast. Phil will head the event again. He will announce dates later.

Ruth Dally, Sec.

**** Lodge No. 348, Eugene, OR—** We met on September 9 for a pot luck feast. Our guests included Birgit Hillis' husband, Jim, and Karen and Holger Sperling, Danish cousins of Ellen Barthels and Marilyn Aird. Ellen's daughter Kathleen also joined us.

Following dinner, Lois Toftemark and Scott Stefansen presented a program about Himmelbjerget Danish Language Camp. This year, 65 campers participated in the activities. We heard from several campers who live in the local area. The lodge thanked the campers and their families for making it possible for us to hear firsthand about their experiences.

Jim Larsen gave a progress report on the Hostfest. We reviewed our summer activities and expressed appreciation to Knud Toftemark and Martin and Hanne Taekker for their hospitality.

We voted in favor of authorizing a special convention, if needed to negotiate the merger of the DBIA with another fraternal, but directed the executive board to send a letter to the National Board expressing our preference for a referendum instead of a convention.

Our next regular business meeting will be held on November 11 at 7:30

at the Sons of Norway Lodge in Eugene.

Diana Pedersen, Cor.

California

Nevada

California-Nevada District Convention

President Johannes Jaeger brought the meeting to order Friday, August 5. The convention opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence for our departed brothers.

President Jaeger introduced the national guest, Ed Madsen, National Director from Solvang. Then he introduced his Parliamentarian, Al Tunsen. The trustees reported that all the delegates' certificates were in order. This was followed by the roll call of delegates, youth delegates and honorary life members. A total of 42 voting members were in attendance. President Jaeger asked the District Past Presidents and Honorary Life Members to stand for recognition. He then appointed the Resolutions and By-Laws Committees.

The minutes of the previous convention were distributed along with the financial report and a list of donors to the Scholarship and Youth Funds. The treasurer's report for the year was reviewed. The minutes were approved as written.

President Jaeger reported on his travels throughout the district to install lodge officers. He thanked all the lodges for their hospitality and the district officers who assisted with the installations. He also reported on the Danish Brotherhood RV outings.

The trustees' report found the treasurer's books to be in order. Secretary Miller read the bills and correspondences. Gary Gossett, Conductor, reported on the youth activities and the mid-year meeting. The committee established that the youth age would be between 0 - 20. It was also

decided to request raffle gifts from each district lodge to raise money at the convention to support youth activities. He also indicated that the information sent to the district lodges was also sent to Omaha, who in turn sent it to all other DBIA lodges. He asked the youth to stand and they received a round of applause. There were 11 in attendance.

Trustee Ed Madsen reported on the scholarship fund. District Fraternal Coordinators, Jim Larsen and Ken and Gerry Olsen, gave their reports.

President Jaeger asked National Director Ed Madsen to address the DBIA situation for the delegates. He indicated that the best hope for the Brotherhood is to merge with another society. He answered questions raised by the delegates.

A five man proposal was presented to increase the number of delegates a lodge can send to the district conventions.

A motion was passed to pay the bills. A motion was made and passed to send \$100.00 to Omaha for flood relief. Another motion was made and passed to pay Daniel Barney \$50.00 for youth bowling trophies. Ed Madsen thanked the district for the convention package and donated it to the Youth Fund and indicated he would also donate \$100 to the Scholarship Fund. A final motion was made and passed that each lodge give a report of their monthly activities at the convention next year.

Next year's convention will be hosted by Lodge No. 345, Orange County, on July 28 - 30. Lodge No. 306, San Diego, will host in 1995.

The following officers were elected: Pres., Karl Duus, Lodge No. 126, Los Angeles; Vice-Pres., Gary Gossett, Lodge No. 345, Orange County; Sec.-Treas., Owen Miller, Lodge No. 126, Los Angeles; Trustees: Ed Madsen, Lodge No. 299, Solvang, Walter Miller, Lodge No. 143, Petaluma, and Karen Rowse, Lodge No. 126, Los Angeles; Con-

ductor, Bill Jensen, Lodge No. 306, San Diego; Guards, Kenneth Olsen, Lodge No. 345, Orange County and Deborah Mahler, Lodge No. 184, Hayward.

President Jaeger announced Harvey Ramussen, Lodge No. 143, Petaluma, and Arnold Detmer, Lodge No. 299, Solvang, the worthy recipients of the Hans M. Andersen Award for their service to their local lodges.

Lodge No. 299, Solvang, received a Bronze Lodge Award and a Silver Award went to Lodge No. 143, Petaluma, for their lodge activities in 1992.

Tina Hogan, Lodge No. 306, spoke to the delegation on behalf of the Youth Convention. She reported a profit of \$412.00 on their raffle. She thanked the convention and the lodges for their support. The Youth would like to have a raffle each year and asked each lodge to continue to support the Youth by donating a gift to the raffle. Each youth delegate introduced themselves. They received a round of applause.

Installation of officers was held. National Director Ed Madsen was the installing officer with the assistance of Al Tunsen as Conductor.

Owen Miller, Sec.-Treas.

Lodge No. 126, Los Angeles, CA—President Karen Rowse opened the September meeting. After roll call the minutes were read. In addition to last month's meeting, we had a short meeting at our barbecue on July 31.

The trip to Laughlin, Nevada, was a great success. Forty-six Danes went on the trip. On the bus we played Bingo. Many people took the boat trip on the Colorado River, some went to Arizona and some never left the gaming tables. We want to thank Karl Duus who organized the trip with Superior Travel and its owner Mette Haydt.

Karl Duus thanked us for the monetary contribution to his installation as president of the California-Nevada District. We congratulate him

and wish him a very good and prosperous year. We also received a note from the L.A. Sisterhood's new California district president thanking us for our help with her installation.

A motion was made and carried that should a special convention become necessary we would approve it. Owen Miller would be our delegate.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Our fish dinner is set for November 19 with Bingo to follow. If you have had good attendance at our monthly meetings this year, you will receive a free dinner.

A thank you to Doris Christensen for hosting our swim party in July.

**Kate Krake Nielsen and
Helen Kristensen, Cor.**

Lodge No. 345, Orange County, CA—We had a visitor, Hazel Thomas, at our September meeting. We took the opportunity to present her with a coffee pot for use at the recreation room at the mobile home park where we meet.

Correspondence and the financial report were read. Operation: H.O.P.E. chairperson Gertrude Nielsen gave a report explaining that she had taken the donated items to the Women's Hotel. She had also taken to the Y, several boxes of garage sale items which we did not sell. We are asking for items such as laundry soap, dryer sheets, towels, or anything useable.

Helga Bjorn reported that she has four B & G plates to donate to the lodge to use as raffle gifts at our installation and our upcoming convention. Helga is also continuing to collect the UPC codes from all Scott products. She will be taking them to the Ronald McDonald House who turns them in for cash.

Toni Gossett reported on the progress of the Convention Committee. The third garage sale proved to be very successful thanks to the wonderful donations made by our members. The fourth garage sale is scheduled

for February 19.

Secretary Gerry Olsen read the nominations for the Spencer Nielsen Award. Since they were all for Toni Gossett, the voting was eliminated and she was announced the winner.

Our Installation Banquet will be held at the Conestoga Hotel, El Dorado room on January 8 at 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$18.50 per person. We will be having dinner, installation of officers, raffle prizes and dancing.

Toni Olsen Gossett, Cor.

Lodge No. 346, Riverside, CA—Our next regular meeting will be November 6. We are planning the Christmas Party for Saturday, December 4, instead of December 11.

Sue Patterson, Sec.

Nebraska

Lodge No. 1, Omaha, NE—We agreed by proper motion that in the event there should be need for action by a convention that it be done by proxy.

Ruth Nielsen, Cor.

Lodge No. 16, Minden, NE—We met at the Senior Citizen Center with William Jorgensen, Jr. leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Everyone brought an "apple for the teacher" and the apples were to be taken to the Bethany Home. Following the school theme, Bill Jorgensen was our teacher and taught us how to count to ten in Danish, sing a Danish tune, table grace, reading and writing. He told us we all passed the course.

Roll call was taken, minutes read and approved. Treasurer's report was given and approved.

Everyone enjoyed the sack lunch they brought and rhubarb pudding served by the committee. Bill and Merrielle Jorgensen, and Gerald and Margaret Sorensen. Gerald Sorensen gave a humorous reading. Danish

table grace was recited by all.

Minna Newbold, Sec.

Heartland

Heartland District Convention

Heartland District Danes met in Luck, Wisconsin September 10 - 12 for the district convention. DBIA Lodge No. 186 hosted the event in conjunction with their 90th anniversary.

Dike Sisterhood had a brief memorial service for all departed brothers and sisters since the last convention.

National Director, Ed Madsen from California, presented the Silver Lodge Award for 1992 to Des Moines Lodge No. 15. He also talked at great length of the financial situation of the Danish Brotherhood.

Our district was happy to have guests from the Viborg, South Dakota, lodge with us.

\$200.00 was collected for our scholarship fund. Clear Lake Lodge No. 219 was presented the district traveling "Super Lodge Rug" award. Flor Johnsen from Humboldt Lodge No. 217 volunteered to be the district's new Youth Director. Harvey Andersen and Doug Lary from Des Moines Lodge No. 15 have volunteered to help with this important project.

Albert Lea Lodge No. 75 invited all delegates and guests to Albert Lea for the 1994 District Convention in conjunction with their 100th anniversary.

The annual "Certificate of Merit/ Great Dane Award" went to Carl Hansen and George Hansen from Askov, MN Lodge No. 263 for 64 and 68 years of service, respectively.

The new officers for the district are as follows: Past Pres., Gordon Sloth, Lodge No. 144, Dike, IA; Pres., Steven Sorensen, Lodge No. 219, Clear Lake, IA; Vice Pres., Judie Neilson, Lodge No. 326, West Branch, IA; Sec., Deloris Ross, Lodge No. 326,

West Branch, IA; Treas., Harlan Johnsen, Lodge No. 217, Humboldt, IA; Trustees: Harvey Andersen, Lodge No. 15, Des Moines, IA; Ed Melzark, Lodge No. 263, Askov, MN and Eileen Jensen, Lodge No. 186, Luck, WI; and Conductor, Flor Johnsen, Lodge No. 217, Humboldt, IA. These officers were installed by National Director Ed Madsen and acting conductor Andy Andersen.

The Saturday evening banquet was a smorgasbord and entertainment was by "Helga and Hilda" who performed and sang various Norwegian skits and songs followed by dancing. A quilt and many items were raffled off.

A special memorial tribute was acknowledged for departed member Soren J. Sorensen of Lodge No. 75, Albert Lea, MN for his 80 years as a devoted member. He died on March 18, 1993 at the age of 101. A special certificate was presented to Lodge No. 75 from the Heartland District.

Deloris Ross, Sec.

**** Lodge No. 15, Des Moines, IA—** On September 13 we were entertained by Lou Bredesky sharing slides taken in Norway during a Friendship Force exchange visit. Lou explained the Friendship Force organization. His program ended with a few scenes taken in Copenhagen.

Brief reports were given by Ed Harris, Svend Christensen, Doug Lary, Curt and Goldie Sorensen and Harvey Andersen about the Heartland District Convention which took place in Luck, Wisconsin.

Refreshments were furnished by Russ Jensen and Harvey Andersen.

Our November 9 meeting will feature Dennis Nissen presenting an update on the Danish Immigrant Museum.

Harvey Andersen, Cor.

Lodge No. 75, Albert Lea, MN— We met September 11 to enjoy a pot luck supper at the Senior Citizen's Center. President Harlan Erickson

called the meeting to order, opening with the Pledge to the American Flag. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted as read.

Marge and Alton Neve were elected to be our delegates to the district convention in Luck, WI. They were to invite the district delegates to Albert Lea for the 1994 convention. President Erickson requested volunteers to help in making plans for the convention and stated much help is needed the three days of the convention. Members were asked to prepare crafts and gift items to be sold at the "Country Store" where items are displayed and sold during the convention.

It was announced that Sunday, December 19, is the date set for the Miss Albert Lea Mermaid Statue fund raiser pancake breakfast to be held at the VFW Club rooms on East Clark Street. Volunteers are needed to help with preparing and serving the breakfast. It is hoped lodge members will help sell advance tickets.

Don Levisen of the Miss Albert Lea Mermaid Statue committee reported that due to the heavy rainfall, the equipment needed to install the statue in Fountain Lake has not been able to reach the shoreline. Mike Levisen will contact the Bing & Grondahl factory about the cost of a commemorative plate or a miniature statue replica. Sculptor George Bassitt, is now preparing bronze miniature replicas which can be ordered.

Secretary Tomson displayed the 1993 Danish Immigrant Christmas Card.

Hosts and hostesses for the evening were Bev and Harlan Nelson and Marge and Alton Neve who served ice cream sundaes following the pot luck supper.

Grace Tomson, Sec.-Treas.

Lodge No. 144—Our September meeting included much discussion about the proposed merger and the possible need for a special conven-

tion. We went on record favoring such a convention, only if the delegates and officers would pay their own expenses. We thank the Luck lodge for their very good convention.

Lyle Refshauge, Sec.

Lodge No. 341, Elk Horn-Kimballton, IA—We met September 27 at the Elk Horn Town Hall. Melvin Boose gave a report on the Heartland District Convention in Luck, WI. Melvin and Irene Boose and Signe Madsen served as delegates. Dennis Nissen, a member of our lodge, gave a report at the convention about the progress of the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa.

The evening closed with a lunch served by Lisa Riggs and Rollie and Peggy Hansen.

Alice Simonsen, Sec.

Lodge No. 349, Atlantic, IA—Forty-one members attended the September 13 meeting at the Rolling Hills Bank.

President John Nelson opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. Norman and Dorothy Henriksen were recognized, as it was their 40th wedding anniversary.

Emily Kregel gave a very interesting and informative presentation entitled "Watch Your Fat Intake" for weight management.

Lunch was served at the close of the meeting by the September committee.

Evelyn Rechtenbach, Sec.

Midwest

Lodge No. 14, Kenosha, WI—Jule Fest weekend will be Saturday, November 6, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday, November 7, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. We need volunteers. Call the lodge to help. The Torsk Supper and Dance will be held Saturday, November 13. Cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner

and dancing. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Call 657-3895 for reservations before November 7. To be eligible to attend the Membership Dinner on December 8, you need to sponsor a new member.

Our annual Corn Roast and Dance was held as a fund raiser for the Midwest District to help with costs of the National Convention in 1995. A \$200.00 profit was turned over at the Midwest District Convention. Thanks to those who attended from Waukegan, Milwaukee, Racine and Chicago. Thanks also to the committee, Todd and Annette Bernhardt, Jeff and Chris Bernhardt, Bob and Elaine Ibsen, Rich and Anita Weddel, Todd Barnett, Al Klees and special thanks to Chef John Mikus.

Golf league winners are: 1st-Wayne Lubeck and Ed Schiller; 2nd-Don Scott and Don Tredup; 3rd- Andy Smith and Jim Nolan. Low average went to Dick Richards, Wayne Lubeck and Chuck Woelffer. Thanks to league president Charles Thompson, secretary John Inele and treasurer Warren Piehl for their work this year.

Robert Ibsen, Cor.

* **Lodge No. 34, Dwight, IL**—It was voted on and approved to send \$200.00 for flood relief. Thanks to Rick Sullivan's mom for making us a new mast for our viking boat float. We won 1st place in the non-commercial division.

Margaret Goodwin, Cor.

Lodge No. 35, Chicago, IL—The meeting was called to order by President Iversen with 58 members present.

Paul Sloth reported over 200 people attended our annual picnic. He thanked everyone who helped make the day a success. Next year's picnic will be held on the second Sunday in August. The committee headed by Paul and Jodie Sloth, was thanked for their help the last three months. A profit of \$221.38 was realized. This

will be shared with Olga Lodge No. 11.

Ray Nielsen reported on the Midwest District Convention and said that it ran very smoothly. The installation of new MWD officers was held on Saturday evening, and dining and dancing was fun. Ray thanked all who helped. During the meetings on Saturday, delegate Arnold Aagesen gave his report on the activities of our lodges.

Frank Connery said participation is needed by members to sell the Entertainment Books. Last year a profit of \$300.00 was made on this project.

President Iversen asked for someone to chair the MWD bowling event for 1994 as we are the host lodge.

After the refreshments were served, a "Make it, Bake it, Sew it, Grow it" auction was held. Ray Nielsen was the auctioneer with Paul Sloth and Henry Jepsen assisting. A profit of \$228.00 was made and it will be sent to the flood victims. Thanks to all who contributed items for the auction.

For our Operation: H.O.P.E. project, bring winter clothing to the meetings and Woody Petersen will see that they are distributed to Lutheran Family Mission who will then pass them on to those in need. They can also use items of furniture in good condition. Cash is always accepted as Lutheran Family Mission shops at discount houses for food to distribute.

Elsa Petersen and Minnie Richard, Cor.

* **Lodge No. 36, Milwaukee, WI**—Thanks to Grace Gertz who served refreshments following the September meeting. We congratulate DBIA Lodge No. 35 and DS Lodge No. 11 for their excellent convention. Our delegates were Albert and Carol Larsen. During the convention, Woody presented the Lodge Rating and Award certificates. Albert Larsen accepted the Bronze Award for Lodge No. 36.

At each meeting we continue cash donations to the Milwaukee Christian Center Food Pantry. Thanks also to attendees who have donated to Sojourner Truth House, a refuge for battered women and children. If you can't attend our meetings, but would like to participate, please make your check payable to Sojourner Truth House and mail it to Secretary Carol Larsen.

Albert Larsen, Cor.

Lodge No. 343, Waupaca, WI—We held our regular meeting September 23. President Vivian Jensen called the meeting to order. Plans were made to have our annual Mortens Goose dinner November 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Waupaca Country Club. Members may bring guests. Fred Rasmussen will be chairman of the event.

Following the meeting each member present told something about their past, after which, lunch was served.

Vera Yorkson, Cor.

GCEL

Lodge No. 32, New Haven, CT—Our September meeting followed the convention and Lillie Peters was in charge of the activities.

Our November 12 meeting will be a turkey dinner with Barbara Larsen in charge. This will be a free dinner. We are inviting all the area lodges to come and enjoy an evening with us. This is a time to socialize with many people from all over the state. Plan on attending. An approximate head count is needed. If you are planning to attend, call Barbara Larsen or Winnie Edmonds.

Our Christmas Party will once again be held on a Sunday afternoon. Members, children of members and grandchildren of members are invited to attend. Gifts will be passed out by Santa Claus and entertainment will be

provided. All you have to do is call Berit Mann or Winnie Edmonds and tell them the names and ages of the children that will be attending.

Winnie Edmonds, Cor.

Lodge No. 46, Perth Amboy, NJ—Over the Labor Day weekend Thor Lodge #46 again hosted the GCEL Convention at the Landmark Inn in Woodbridge. Highlights of the social activities were the bus trip to Atlantic City on Saturday, the dinner dance on Sunday and the Monday morning breakfast at the Home.

Thor Lodge participated in the Harvest Festival on September 19 at the Home.

Some of our members have been giving time and skills in order to accomplish the alterations to some of the rooms at the Home and are nearing the end of this major undertaking.

Jens Jessen, Cor.

** **Lodge No. 172, Philadelphia, PA**—We will meet on November 5 for a smorgasbord.

Niels Malmquist, Cor.

Lodge No. 325, Long Island, NY—Our first meeting after the summer break was held on September 10. Dinner was served and our business meeting followed.

A discussion took place concerning a letter from the National Headquarters about the seeking of a merger partner. It was agreed that we need more specifics in order for us to approve a special convention.

John Hjulmand gave a detailed report of the 1993 GCEL Convention.

The president thanked Eluf and Marguerite Holmgren for hosting the August 14 picnic at their home.

Congratulations to President Helen Kofod. She was elected president of the GCEL Distirct.

Richard and Edith Munch led us in Danish folk dancing to end the evening.

Karen Witt, Sec.

Lodge No. 342, Bucks County, PA—Plan to attend the November 19 meeting. Magician William Foust will present Pantomime Magic. He will be assisted by his wife Meryl at the piano.

Bill Foust is a professional magician who has performed in many parts of the world. He is a member of the Society of American Magicians and the Order of Merlin.

We invite members of all Danish lodges to join us for our annual Christmas Dinner Dance which will take place on December 17. Music will be provided for dancing and entertainment. The dinner will be catered sit-down and the price is \$28.50 per person and includes open bar.

Reservations and payment must be made by the November meeting. It is on a first come basis. Call Geert Pedersen.

Niels Malmquist, Cor.

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Dana Building Dedicated

Five years after a fire destroyed Old Main, its replacement was dedicated during Dana College's Homecoming weekend October 2-3. Old Main was the primary classroom building at the college in Blair, Nebraska.

His Excellency Peter Dyvig, Ambassador of Denmark to the United States, participated in the dedication ceremony.

The new facility, known as the Dana Classroom Center and Trinity Chapel, is positioned near the original Old Main site and contains 30 faculty offices and nine general classrooms with the latest furnishings and teaching aids. Also included are broadcast and production studios for Dana's radio and television stations, a computerized print communications center, conference room, seminar rooms, lecture hall and the campus ministry center and a permanent chapel.

Trinity Chapel is the first permanent chapel building ever constructed on the Dana campus. It is named in tribute to the College's parent institute, Trinity Theological Seminary. The chapel has a seating capacity of almost 200.

The dominant architectural feature of the new Dana facility is a 90-foot tower complete with clock and carillon.



The Dana Classroom Center and Trinity Chapel, Blair, NE.

—photo courtesy Dana College.

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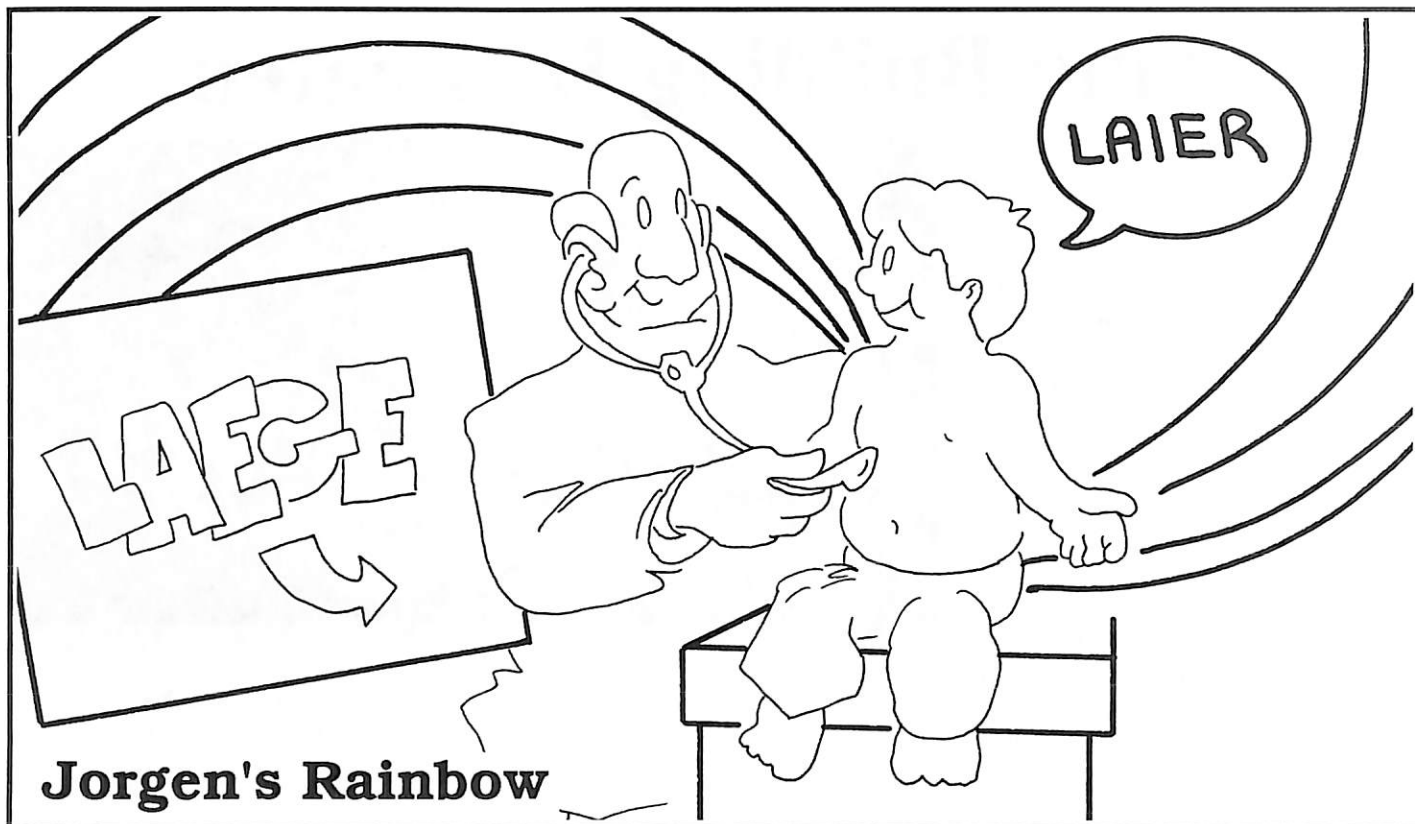
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Jorgen's Rainbow

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Brotherhood in America, 3717 Harney Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131-3844. Be sure to include your name, address and date of birth. You do not have to be a member of the DBIA to win. Four prizes are awarded every month, one for the following age groups: 2-4, 5-7, 8-9, and 10-12.

October winners: Chelsea Petersen and Anna Elbek.

Grandma's Kitchen

ROAST GOOSE WITH
APPLES AND PRUNES
(GAASETEG MED
ÆBLER AND SVESKER)



Gunild Ostergaard

8 prunes
9 lbs. goose
1/2 lemon
salt, pepper
4 medium sized cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced
5 cups water
plain flour
gravy browning or soy sauce

Rinse the prunes; soak them overnight and remove the pits. Clean the goose and remove and keep any excess fat. Rub the goose inside and out with lemon, salt and pepper. Stuff the bird with prunes and apples. Sew or skewer the opening together and truss the bird in the usual manner; prick the skin lightly with a fork all over to allow excess fat to escape during roasting. Place the goose on its side on a meat rack in the roasting pan in a moderately hot oven. After 30 minutes pour off the fat which has accumulated in the pan. Save it for dripping. Pour boiling water into the roasting pan and continue cooking, basting the goose from time to time; After 1 1/2 hours, 30 minutes before the goose is done, pour off the juices from the roasting into saucepan. Leave it to cook down and skim off the fat during the last 5-10 minutes. Leave the oven door ajar so that the skin of the goose becomes crisp. Occasionally spoon over several tablespoons of cold water and continue to cook with the oven door closed for 15 minutes. Meanwhile make the gravy from the juices by thickening with flour stirring to a thin paste with a little cold water and added to the boiling juices; season with salt, pepper and color with gravy browning; boil gently for 2-3 minutes. Serve with hot red cabbage and glazed potatoes.

Duck may be stuffed and roasted in the same manner as a roast goose. For 4 1/2-5 lb. duck roast about 1 1/2 hours.

Viking Adventures

Coming Together--A Beginning Keeping Together--Progress
Working Together--Success

A Dream Comes True

The weekend of October 8, 9 and 10 was a dream come true for many Danes. The Danish Immigrant Museum, An International Cultural Center, opened its doors to the public for the first time.

Chartermembers were invited to a reception on Friday evening to kick off the weekend.

Nearly 300 donors to the Museum attended a dinner in the new building on Saturday evening. They were thanked for their support by President Charles Frederiksen and Executive Director June Sampson. Also in attendance were Jorgen Grunnet, Minister Counselor at the Royal

Danish Embassy in Washington, DC, and Birgit Flemming Larsen of the Worldwide Archive in Aalborg, Denmark. Each brought greetings and well wishes. Past Presidents Signe T. Nielsen Betsinger and James Iversen recapped the Museum's development. Mervin Bro, a supporter of the Museum, spoke of his reasons for supporting the Museum and stressed the need for continued support. He then made an additional gift of \$33,600 to furnish the Mervin Bro dining area.

Director of Development Dennis Nissen pointed out a need for carpeting and challenged guests to help pay for the cost of carpet (\$9,600). Before the weekend was over, \$4,900 had been raised.

Over 1,000 people attended the open house on Sunday to view the expansive structure. Guests were able to tour the entire structure from the office space, to the kitchen, to the fuse boxes and back-up generator. Guides answered various questions about the structure, future developments and activities. Danish Brotherhood in America Lodge No. 341, Elk Horn-Kimballton, served coffee and kringle.

The Museum staff moved from their office downtown to the new facility the following week.

Museum hours are: noon - 5:00 p.m. on Sunday and 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday. According to Nissen, free will donations will cover admission charges until more artifacts are displayed.

For more information about The Danish Immigrant Museum, contact: June Sampson, Box 178, Elk Horn, Iowa 51531.



Danish Immigrant Museum near Elk Horn, Iowa .

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