

Fjalla Blað

Mountain Chat
I. C. A.
P.O. Box 63
Mountain, ND 58262-0063



Fifteenth Edition 2009

*“Hvað er svo glatt
sem góðra vina fundur?”*

*“What is as joyful as a
gathering of good friends?”*

A wise old owl sat upon an oak; the more he saw the less he spoke;

The less he spoke the more he heard; why aren't we like that wise old bird?

Fjalla Blað
*Icelandic Communities
Association
POB 63
Mountain, ND 58262-0063
USA*



Return Service Requested

Gearing up for the
110th Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration
July 31st-August 1st, 2nd
Mountain, ND

THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW:

Our Celebration will always be held on the weekend preceding the first Monday in August!
This enables visitors to also attend the Islendingadagurinn in Gimli on the first Monday in August.
2009-110th Deuce of August Celebration--Friday, Saturday, & Sunday—July 31st--August 1st, 2nd
2009 is the 131st anniversary of the settlement of the Icelandic Communities in Northeastern North Dakota!

President, Curtis Olafson-13041 84th St.NE-Edinburg,ND 58227-Ph. 701-993-8240-E-Mail-colafson@polarcomm.com
Vice-President, Leslie Geir-8517 Hwy. 32-Edinburg,ND 58227-Ph. 701-993-8367-E-Mail-lesgr@polarcomm.com
Secretary, Loretta Bernhoft-P.O. Box 204-Mountain,ND 58262-Ph. 701-993-8282-E-Mail-bernhoft@polarcomm.com
Treasurer, Bjork Olafson-13041 84th St.NE-Edinburg,ND 58227-Ph. 701-993-8240-E-Mail-bjork@polarcomm.com
Editor, Duane Halldorson-P.O. Box 064-Mountain, ND 58262-Ph. 701-993-8116-E-Mail-halldor3@polarcomm.com

I would like to remind you that if you have any friends you think might enjoy getting this newsletter have them drop us a line with their mailing address or e-mail address and a brief note on how they heard about us. Please feel free to contact us at any time at the Icelandic Communities Assoc., PO Box 063, Mountain, ND 58262-0063, Phone# 701-993-8268 - E-Mail (august2@polarcomm.com) - Fax,(701-993-8239) Also, don't forget to check out our Web Page (www.august2nd.com) for up to date information on our Celebration plans and other activities.

The 2009 Membership drive is underway.

Membership runs from Jan. thru Dec.

\$10.00 per person

Any Membership payment that arrives after November 15th of that year will be applied to the following year.

NOTE: Membership dues are not tax deductible, but any contributions over and above that are tax deductible.
ICA has 501 c 3 (tax-exempt non-profit) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

NOTE: You may pay your dues in advance.

“Please note on your check which year’s dues you are paying”

2008 Deuce of August

\$1000 & \$500 ICA MONEY RAFFLE.

2008 Winners were

\$1000-Pandora Hemsher Rapid City, SD - - \$500-Robert Strand Sr.-Hazen ND

Our Raffle Ticket Super Salesman for 2008 was once again Arvid Knutson.

Thanks Arvid for all your hard work.

2009- \$1000 & \$500 Raffle Tickets well be available in June

Contact Duane or Jeanne Halldorson-701-993-8116--halldor3@polarcomm.com

President's Message

Curtis Olafson

Greetings to all of our friends and supporters. The 110th Deuce of August Celebration is fast approaching and the ICA is hard at work getting ready, so **mark your calendars now** for the next edition of the Deuce of August which **will be held on July 31st, and August 1st & 2nd, 2009**. We will be planning a schedule similar to previous years, with most of the tried and true events that are enjoyed by so many, both young and old. In addition, we are planning a couple of new events to add a bit of change to the schedule.

One of the concerns we have been hearing has been what effect the economic downturn might have on how many guests we can expect from Iceland. We are pleased to hear from Iceland that there are currently several tour groups that are planning to travel here this summer and will join us for the Celebration. The country of Iceland was very prominently featured in the news when the world-wide economic downturn began. I have been telling people that it may be the perception of the rest of the world that Iceland was the first country to suffer an economic crisis, but they might also be the first to make an economic recovery. If anything will carry them through and bring a return to prosperity and economic security, it will be the indomitable spirit of the Icelandic people.

I would also like to draw your attention to an exciting event coming up in early May. We will be hosting a very talented group of young musicians from Iceland called "**Baggalútur**." There are 8 people in the group in their late 20's and early 30's and they perform Icelandic folk music. They will be performing in concert at the Akra Hall at Icelandic State Park on Tuesday, May 5th, at 7 PM. This event will be a fundraiser for the Mountain Community Center project and a free-will offering will be taken, and lunch will be served. Please join us for a fun evening of great music, great food and great fellowship!

I would also like to take the opportunity of this President's Message to draw your attention to the current status of the Mountain Community Center project. I would ask you to please take the time to review the letter from the Mountain Community Center Fundraising Committee which is included as an insert in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in Mountain this summer for the 110th Annual Deuce of August Celebration!

Watch for more information on the Celebration in a later newsletter, and check out our website at www.august2nd.com to learn more as we continue to make our plans for this summer.

Icelandic Country/Rock/Easy Listening Group to Appear In Concert Here

Submitted by Loretta Bernhoft

A nine-piece band from Iceland, known as Baggalútur, will be holding a concert on Tuesday, May 5th, 7PM at the Akra Hall at the Icelandic State Park. Their style of music ranges from the 50's to the 80's and they proudly emulate the North American rock 'n' roll and country tunes.

They will be performing at the Icelandic National League Convention in Canada as well.

This concert is open to the public and is co-sponsored by the Icelandic Communities Association and the Mountain Community Center Capital Campaign.

A lunch will be served and a free will offering will be taken for the Mountain Community Center project.

Genealogy

Submitted by Pam Furstenau

**Article for the Icelandic Genealogy Society quarterly magazine
called “Fréttarbréf Ættfræðifélagsins.” Guðfinna Ragnarsdóttir, Editor.**

Cousins across the Ocean

Meet two people in North Dakota, USA that are dedicated to genealogy with a special enthusiasm for the history and links to Iceland. Pride in their heritage and the significance of family history followed the Icelanders that moved to North America and these two descendants of Icelanders are passionate and keeping it alive! Both are published authors and are involved in various genealogical and historical organizations.

Pam (Olafson) Furstenau and George Freeman are devoted to genealogy but they are partners in a unique quest to discover and restore relationships between Icelandic visitors and their “Western cousins.” Pam and George are both retired and work full-time on genealogical activities.

Each year, we volunteer at a wonderful three-day celebration called “The Deuce of August.” This Icelandic Heritage Festival takes place the weekend before the first Monday in August at Mountain, North Dakota.

This year, we celebrated the 109th annual celebration. It is the oldest ethnic festival in the state of North Dakota and the largest Icelandic ethnic event in the United States. Dignitaries, choirs, tour groups, and visitors from Iceland attend the celebration each year. It is indeed a great honor for our community to have them take part in and attend the celebration. Their presence clearly demonstrates interest and camaraderie towards the Western Icelanders and we appreciate this connection.

In the past years, many reunions and relationships have developed when the Icelandic visitors just talk to people on the street and at the various activities throughout the weekend. Other relatives are connected because of the work we do at the Genealogy Center and our new “Cousins Across the Ocean” project.

George Freeman officially initiated the project just this year. We had great success in the previous years, but thought that we could have increased success if we received information in advance. He contacted the tour guides for the three buses of Icelanders planning to attend the celebration. George offered our assistance to the visiting Icelanders to help them find cousins in the United States and hopefully in the Mountain area.

One of our earlier successes came unexpectedly. In 2006, Sigþór Guðmundsson was a visitor to Mountain with a tour group from Iceland. He entered the Genealogy Center and waited patiently for an available volunteer. Pam had been helping two American sisters from the Laxdal family named Norma Thompson and Laura Bowles. These two sisters were searching for information on their grandmother, Sigríður Jónatansdóttir. Sigríður had left Iceland in 1888 and her family ties in Iceland had vanished. Well, Pam found the names of Sigríður’s parents (Jónatan Jónatansson and Kristbjörg Bjarnadóttir) including facts about their wedding records in Myrká, Eyjafjörður, Iceland. Information on how to order the microfilm was given to the Laxdal sisters. Additional information was provided to the sisters using a wonderful database in Iceland maintained by Hálfdan Helgason. Seeing the growing line of people waiting for help, the Laxdal sisters thanked Pam and got up to leave with their treasure.

Sigþór then took their spot at the table and he said, “ I am searching for information on my grandfather’s family that left Iceland in the late 1880s.” Pam scanned the first page of his handwritten notes and recognized the same names - Jónatan Jónatansson and Kristbjörg Bjarnadóttir. With much excitement, Pam cried out to the Laxdal sisters as they were leaving the Genealogy Center, “Come back! COME BACK! You are cousins!”

The sisters and Sigþór were so surprised and overcome with emotion. They exchanged names, addresses, and phone numbers and spent the rest of the day discussing their family history.

One of the difficulties that confronted Sigþór and many other Icelanders in their quest to find family members are name changes. Sigríður's husband was named Sigmundur Sigurðsson in Iceland. When the family moved to North Dakota, they found that many families had taken the surname Sigurdsson. The family agreed to change their name to Laxdal because they emigrated from the Laxárdalur area in Iceland.

Not only did many of the Icelandic pioneers change their surnames, the women no longer kept the Icelandic tradition of patronymic (or sometimes matronymic) naming instead of the patrilineal naming patterns in North America.

Trying to connect cousins from Iceland to their cousins in , "Western Iceland" has been one of the purposes of the Genealogy Center. This year, it became an official project and we were able to connect many cousins. This service is on a first-come first-serve basis. We must also limit the amount of requests due to time constraints. We volunteer our time and resources for this project. Many people want to show appreciation for our work. Donations for the Genealogy Center are accepted at the Icelandic Communities Association in Mountain, ND.

A few of our 2008 successes follow.

Valgerður Jónsdóttir of Iceland, is the great granddaughter of Jón Benónýsson. She was searching for descendants of Valmundur Benónýsson Sveinsson Swearson. George was able to connect Valgerður with her cousins in the Swearson family of Towner, ND.

Guðriður Ása Jóhannsdóttir connected with her second cousins in the Samson family – Lorraine Johnston and Elaine Timke from Drayton. Gisli Friðbjörnsson Samson married Guðrun Ingibjörg Rafnsdóttir in America. Guðrun was a sister to Ása Jóhannsdóttir's grandmother. Other Samson family members came from Park River to meet Ása. Guðný Margrét Ólafsdóttir met Lyman and Nancy Bertsch of Bossier City, Louisiana and Jack Long from Bismarck, ND. Jack and Lyman are first cousins. They are both second cousins to Guðný.

Grímkell Arnljótsson of Iceland met Edward T Bernhoft of Los Angeles, California and the Bernhoft family from the Mountain area.

Others met their cousins in Gimli, Manitoba and several were not able to meet their cousins at this time but were connected with phone numbers and e-mails.

Magnús Magnússon Norðdahl came with the group from Bændaferðir and was unable to meet his cousins in Canada but we enjoyed meeting him very much! His ancestor was Gestný Gestsdóttir born in 1889. Gestný was his grandmother's (Guðný Gestsdóttir) sister. She married Friðrik Lúðvik Kristjánsson and they had at least 7 children in Canada.

We are very fortunate for the assistance of Hálfðan Helgason and his database in Iceland. Hálfðan has also been so kind to visit with us over a live audio-visual link during the Genealogy Center hours.

We use many other resources in the Genealogy Center. Other records include Pembina County Cemetery Records, Local Histories, Census Records, ND Death Index, Ancestry.com, Naturalization Records, BLM Records, Vesturfaraskrá, Vestur-Islenzkar Æviskrár, and our own personal databases.

We appreciate the assistance of Mágus Haraldson from the Iceland Genealogy forum, Valgeir Þórvaldsson from Hófsos Emigration Center, and Nelson Gerrard, a noted Genealogist and author from Manitoba. We value the input of these fine gentlemen.

George Freeman has compiled all the biographies of the pioneer women in Pembina County into three volumes. These were hand written histories of over 1000 women pioneers, which were typed in 1940 to honor the memory

and spirit of the women who pioneered in Pembina County. The hardships and events of the pioneer women's biographies paint a vivid and colorful picture of the homestead era of Pembina County, North Dakota.

You can order them or see the index of individuals at the website:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ndpembin/html/pioneer_daughters.html

Pam is the webmaster for several websites with a focus on Pembina County and her Icelandic Heritage.

www.august2nd.com – the website for “The Deuce of August” and the Icelandic Communities Association.

www.thingvalla.org – a website honoring a historic Icelandic Church and Memorial Site

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ndpembin/pembina.htm> - a free Genealogy website through US GenWeb. Site includes information about Cemeteries, Churches, Databases, Historic Places, Maps, People, Places, Pioneer Daughter Biographies, Local History, Links, and Query.

The Deuce of August is a time-honored tradition that continues to celebrate our Icelandic Heritage. Other activities during the weekend include dances, luncheons and dinners, a parade, a Heritage Program, Choir Concerts, and tours of area historic sites, farms, and cemeteries. There are activities for children and other events such as the North Dakota State Tractor and ATV pull, a car show, basketball tournaments, souvenir shop, family reunions, etc. Visitors can also attend the Islandingadagurinn in Gimli, Manitoba, Canada, which is held on the first Monday in August. Gimli is north of Winnipeg, Manitoba on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, which is about 180 miles north of Mountain, North Dakota.

This tiny town in Mountain, ND has just over 100 residents but it swells to about 5000 for the annual celebration.

To all our past and future visitors,, “Come to North Dakota! We want you to feel welcome and to come and see the area where many of the Icelandic pioneers settled.”

Bring your information to the celebration or contact us in advance if you will be attending the annual Icelandic Heritage Celebration in Mountain, ND. For more information, Pam can be contacted at pam@rootstotrees.com. George can be contacted at gfreeman@gra.midco.net.

Icelandic League of North America

Nov. 22, 2008 Regional Report for MN, ND, KS areas

Icelandic Communities Association of Mountain, ND

Curtis Olafson, President.

I communicated with Loretta B. Club Secretary. They are active with the Mountain Community Center project helping, as they are able.

This fall they have been busy responding to the unpredictable North Dakota weather that has provided for an uncertain and unpredictable harvest, which is still ongoing this mid November 2008.

They feel the current INL Iceland project by Valdigir for a ND celebration at Hofsos in 2009 is exciting and will be an opportunity for several in the Club and community.

They publish a newsletter called **Fjalla Blad** that can be found on their website linked to the INL of NA website.

FM Icelandic Klub of Fargo-Moorhead

They publish an excellent newsletter, and hold general meetings on a regular basis, meeting at an eating establishment in the F&M area.

Planning is starting for the Klub to sponsor a celebration of the Klub's 30th anniversary in 2009, will include more details in future reports.

They participate and sponsor the Icelandic effort in the annual fall Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival each year. This year they claim total attendance of about 6,500 people over the several day events. In 2010 the Icelanders will be the focused group, this year (2008) the Danish support group had the honors.

Yearly they sponsor two scholarships for local students in an undergraduate program that come from Icelandic descent. A very worthwhile project.

Icelandic History Expert to Speak in Moorhead

Nelson Gerrard will be speaking at the 34th Annual Family History Workshop on September 26, 2009 at Minnesota State University in Moorhead.

Nelson is a Manitoba historian and genealogist who specializes in the Icelandic immigrant experience in North America and works from his home at Eyrarbakki on Lake Winnipeg. The author of *Icelandic River Saga* and *The Icelandic Heritage*, he is currently writing a 3-volume history of pioneers in the Gimli area, and *Silent Flashes*, a book exploring Icelandic pioneer photography. He spends summers at a museum/visitor centre at Hofsóðs in Northern Iceland. Further information: www.sagapublications.com and www.icelandicriver.com

Presentation titles:

1. Icelandic Genealogy: A Journey
2. Silent Flashes: Exploring Our Photographic Heritage

For more information about the workshop, see the website:

<http://survey.mnstate.edu/heritageed/index.php> or contact

Pam Furstenau at 701-200-1694 or email at pam@rootstotrees.com

The Heritage Education Commission presents "Cyber Family Trails."

Nelson Gerrard will be a special speaker this year. He is our favorite top rated genealogist and author along with his other work relating to our Icelandic Heritage. He will present two sessions. The main speaker is Alan Mann, a key person in the development of the new FamilySearch.org website along with a long list of accomplishments. There are six speakers per session, a keynote speaker during lunch, and a variety of booths throughout the day.

For more information, contact Pam Furstenau.

701-200-1694 pam@rootstotrees.com

SNORRI PLUS 2009 - Application deadline: March 24, 2009

Although the formal deadline has passed we still have some openings and will be accepting applications until early May.

Dates: August 20, 2009 (Departure Aug 19) - September 2, 2009

A fantastic opportunity for people over 30! Our program is for people who want to get more out of their experience than an ordinary tourist would. We meet the needs of both those who want to go for the first time and people who have been to Iceland many times. The program consists of the same components as the Snorri Program; nature, culture, genealogy and lectures. 68 individuals have participated since 2003.

It has never been as reasonable to travel with Snorri Plus! The program fee and Icelandair flight quotes are lower than ever seen before. We have also added Lake Mývatn to the schedule!

Anyone living in Canada or the United States can apply for the program. As long as you are over 30 (no age limit) and healthy you are eligible to participate.

For more information, application form and prices please go to: www.snorri.is/snorri-plus.htm

or mail to: info@snorri.is

Early bird applications (March 12) will receive a discount of 100 dollars + a Norden Voyager discount card - www.nordenvoyager.com

No other program/trip will offer all of the following in the same package, and remember that the Snorri Foundation is a non-profit organization:

- *Accommodation for the whole period *
- *Cultural program in Reykjavík, including all lecture documents*
- *Welcome reception and gala dinner*
- *Genealogy: family tree back to the Icelandic settlement and contact with relatives

(assistance in finding the farmstead(s) of your ancestors and/or a short visit if possible)

*Golden Circle Tour and Alþingi, the Blue Lagoon, Þingvellir, boat tour to Drangey, horsback riding and more. *

Visit to museums in Reykjavík and Akureyri, Hofsós' museums, and other outside the capital.

Information Package: maps, brochures, etc.

*7 nights in Reykjavik, 1 night on Snæfellsnes, 1 night in

Akureyri, 1 night by Lake Mývatn, 1 night at Hofsós, 2 nights in Hafnarfjörður *

*Domestic traveling costs * *14 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 Dinners*

*Visits to companies/organizations/institutions related to each individuals' line of work *

*Personal service throughout your stay (24/7 if needed) and assistance related to your interests *

Please go to www.snorri.is check out our fantastic prices and fill in a form and email today!

There is no better time to travel to Iceland than 2009 and I will be there to take care of you!

Best,

Asta Sol

2008 I.C.A. Memberships

Abrahamson	Andrea	Christianson	Gerald	Heck	Scott
Abrahamson	Eric	Coleman	Stephanie (Byron)	Heiser	Carrie (Einarson)
Abrahamson	Jana	Cox	Gladys (Finnson)	Helgisdóttir	Amanita M.
Abrahamson	Jonathan	Davidson	Gerald	Helgoe	Lee & Viola (Halldorson)
Abrahamson	Karen (Hillman)	Davidson	Ronald & Martha	Hemsher	Pandora (Byron)
Abrahamson	Karie	Diaz	Frances	Hendrickson	Dorothy (Johnson)
Abrahamson	Karl	Dickson	Kathy (Johannesson)	Herzog	Douglas
Akset	Orlin	Einarson	Betty (Hughes)	Hillman	David
Anderson	Duane & Emilía (Jónsdóttir)	Einarson	Dennis	Hillman	RS Lyle & Diane
Atwood	Gary	Einarson	Dennis	Holliday	Orval
Axelson	Cobie (Bjornson)	Fafnis	Reynis & Elizabeth	Horgan	Ruth (Snowfield)
Barrett	Tom & Cindy	Flanagan	Lynn & Celeste (Bernhoft)	Jensen	Ray
Baumgardner	Cindy (Stefanson)	Fossum	Diane (Davidson)	Johannesson	Richard
Benjaminson	George	Fredericksen	Heather (Prien)	Johannesson	Clarence
Benjaminson	Paul	Fredericksen	Ms. Alexis	Johannesson	Ingibjorg (Heigaard)
Bernhoft	Neil & Melaine (Nordquist)	Furstenau	Jeff & Pam (Olafson)	Johannesson	Kenneth F.
Bernhoft	Orville & Judy (Einarson)	Gammons	Elin	Johnson	Arni & Dolores (Gaffney)
Bernhoft	Ryan & Stacie (Larson)	Gamons	Ellen	Johnson	Bernice
Bernhoft	Wayne & Loretta (Thorfinnson)	Geir	Leslie	Johnson	Dawn (Benjaminson)
Biliske	Eleanor (Geir)	Gudmundson	Howard	Johnson	Jim & Marilyn (Halldorson)
Biliski	Dennis & Sue	Gudmundson	Karla	Johnson	John & Darlene (Hunt)
Bina	Patricia	Gudmundson	Norman	Johnson	Lillian
Bjornson	Brent & Linda	Gudmundson	Rose	Johnson	Richard & Roberta
Bjornson	Fred L.	Gudmundson	Shirley (Bourbanis)	Johnson	Verna
Bjornson	Lori	Hall	Christine (Geir)	Johnson	Victor & Dorothy
Bjornson	Richard & Janyce (Gudmundson)	Hall	Greg & Ruth	Johnson	Elizabeth
Blair	Jacque	Halldorson	Ashley	Johnson	Donald & Junell (Halldorson)
Bleakley	Bev (Einarson)	Halldorson	Barney	Johnson	Esther (Baarstad)
Bleakley	Bud & Bev (Einarson)	Halldorson	Dennis	Johnston	Jonathan
Bowles	Harlan & Helen	Halldorson	Duane & Jeanne (Jacks)	Jonasson	Moritz & Lorraine (Walter)
Briese	Gloria	Halldorson	John	Jonasson	Robert & Rosemarie
Busch	Karen Thordarson-	Halldorson	Kenneth & Karen (Carlson)	Jonasson	Darlene
Busch	Margaret (Thordarson)	Halldorson	Nicky	Jonasson	Sally
Byron	Andrew & Gwennie (Beard)	Halldorson	Richard & Ellyn (Brown)	Jonasson	Arvid & Darlene (Bjornson)
Byron	Carter	Hanson	Alfred	Kenny	
Byron	Chris & Cecelia (Adams)	Hardy	Jim & Charlotte	Kidd	
Byron	Chris & Julie	Hardy	Mark	Knutson	
Byron	Emerson				
Byron	Hudson				
Carpenter	Eugene & Jackie (Thorfinnson)				
Christianson	Arnold & Donna (McDonald)				

Koehmstedt	Joseph & Kristin	Olafson	Doran	Sigmar	Ethel
Kopf	Bernadine	Olafson	Eugene	Sigurdson	Joe & MaryAnn (Christianson)
Kristjanson	Ingibjorg (Hallgrimson)	Olafson	Judith (Sigurdson)	Smith	Frederic & Linda (Stefanson)
Kristjanson	Sibbie & Emily	Olafson	Kenneth & Faye	Stanford	Cheri (Olafson)
Lagen	Nicolette (Biliske)	Olafson	Kristi	Stanton	Lara K. (Kristjanson)
Laxdal	Sharon (Indergaard)	Olafson	Larry	Stefanson	Effie (Einarson)
Leahy	Sylvia K.	Olafson	Magnus	Steinberg	Audrey (Hillman)
Lorenzen	Margaret (Olgeirson)	Olafson	Robert M.	Steinolfson	Marino & Doris (Goodman)
Lowe	Jim & Erna	Olafson	Robert & Betty (McDonald)	Steinolfson	Steingrimur
Machacek	Donald & Bessie(Hallgrimson)	Olafson	Roger & Marilyn (Olson)	Thompson	Lawrine & Norma (Laxdal)
Mathewson	Elin (Melsted)	Olgeirson	Robert	Thorfinnson	Craig & Margaret (Strand)
McNamera	Margaret	Orcutt	Sharon	Thorfinnson	Jamie
Mohagen	Jane (Benjaminson)	Otto	Austin & Doris (Biliske)	Thorfinnson	Kristin
Morrison	Adeline	Paulson	Beverly	Thorfinnson	Rosa (Kristjanson)
Morrison	Pat (Nason)	Perila	Joyce	Thorfinnson	Sean
Morrow	Shirley	Peterson	Kris & Dorothy (Einarson)	Tiffany	Norma (Asta Myrdal)
Myrdal	Donald & Lillian (Helgason)	Powers	Tim & Susan (Sigurdson)	Timian	Carol (Christianson)
	(Hall)	Prien	Bryan	Vatnsdal	Gene & Judy
Myrdal	Rosemarie	Prien	Debbie (Halldorson)	Volrath	Lon & Diane
Nason	Norma (Johnson)	Prien	Megan	Warmoth	Beatrice (Snydal)
Nelson	Chris	Readel	Kathlyn	Watson	Jo Ann (Geir)
Nelson	Doreen (Einarson)	Readel	Margaret (Geston)	Wessels	Doug & Lorraine (Johnson)
Ness	Kim	Rinaldi	Sue (Herman)	Wild	Lillian (Snydal)
Nielsen	Einar	Rollin	Leon & Mae (Heigaard)	Wild	Richard & Mary (Bjornson)
Nielsen	Linda	Rosencrans	Bev	Wild	Shirley
Northfield	Amy (Kristjanson)	Schroeder	Theodore & Lorraine (Bjornson)	Williamson	Allan & Marvel (Kristjanson)
Olafson	Anne	Sherry	Pauline	Yost	Susan & Stephen
Olafson	Curtis & Björk (Eiriksdottir)	Sigmar	Eric		
Olafson	Dean				

2008 Contributions

Beck	Helene	Lowe	Jim & Erna
Bernhoft	Wayne & Loretta (Thorfinnson)	Morrison	Adeline
Fafnis	Reynis & Elizabeth	Morrow	Shirley
Farms	Bernhoft	Olafson	Larry
Gudmundson	Norman	Rinaldi	Susan (Herman)
Hammer	Ronald & Judy	Shack	Akra Snack
Helgisdóttir	Amanita M.	Tail	Otter
Inc.	T-Global		

2008 Tractor Pull Sponsor's

AgCountry	FCS-Grafton	Heuchert	Willow Creek Ranch
AgCountry Farm	Credit Services	Hurt	Equipment- Hoople
	Fargo	Langdon Implement	Company Inc.
Bernhoft Farms/NTB Seeds	Farms-Mountain		Langdon
Bjorneby Trucking	Bill Bjorneby	Northdale Oil	Neché
	Hoople	Olafson Brothers	
Bjornson	Oil- Cavalier	Park River	Implement
Cenex-	Edinburg	Readel Farms	Farms-Mountain
Cenex Harvest States	Milton	Richard A	Insurance Agent
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Dakota Services	Craig & Margaret Thorfinnson	Samson Elec.	Ltd.-Park River
Farmers Union Oil	Adams-Lankin-Milton	Simplot	Walhalla
First United Bank	Park River & Grafton	Skeet-R-	Gone - Grand Forks
Grafton	Equipment Co.	United Valley Bank	Cavalier
Hanson's Auto & Implement	Cavalier & Grafton	Wells Fargo	Bank Grafton

2008 & 2009 Memorial

Gudrun	(Gunna) Einarson
Peterson	Dorothy
Stony & May	Herman
Orcutt	Sharon
Dr. Duane	Sturlaugson

Gann	Kenneth & Rebecca
Frovarp	Patricia
Greemer	Hillman
Peterson	Kris & Dorothy
Halldorson	Duane & Jeanne
Ingibjorg	(Baby) Kristjanson

Halldorson	Duane & Jeanne
Johnson	Jim & Marilyn
Ólafur	Skúlason
Steinberg	Audrey
Paul	Benjaminson
Olafson	Judy

2009 ICA Members

Abrahamson	Andrea	Kristjanson	Sibbie & Emily
Abrahamson	Eric	Lagen	Nicolette (Biliske)
Abrahamson	Jana	Machacek	Donald & Asta (Bessie Hallgrimson)
Abrahamson	Jonathan	Myrdal	Donald & Lillian (Helgason) (Hall)
Abrahamson	Karen (Hillman)	Nason	Norma (Johnson)
Abrahamson	Karie	Ness	Tim & Kathy
Abrahamson	Karl	Nielsen	Einar
Anderson	Duane & Emilía (Jónsdóttir)	Nielsen	Linda
Atwood	Gary & Sue (Herman)	Northfield	Amy (Kristjanson)
Axelson	Cobie (Bjornson)	Olafson	Curtis & Björk (Eiriksdottir)
Benjaminson	George	Olafson	Dean
Bernhoft	Neil & Melaine (Nordquist)	Olafson	Drew & Samantha (Swanson)
Bernhoft	Ryan & Stacie (Larson)	Olafson	Doran
Bernhoft	Wayne & Loretta (Thorfinnson)	Olafson	Eugene
Bleakley	Bud & Bev (Einarson)	Olafson	Judith (Sigurdson)
Briese	Gloria	Olafson	Kristi
Busch	Margaret (Thordarson)	Olafson	Robert & Betty (McDonald)
Cox	Joe & Gladys (Finnson)	Olgeirson	Shirley J.
Davidson	Ronald & Martha	Peterson	Kris & Dorothy (Einarson)
Davidson	Ronald & Martha	Powers	Tim & Susan (Sigurdson)
Einarson	Betty (Hughes)	Prien	Debbie (Halldorson)
Einarson	Dennis	Selzer	Greg & Renata (Olafson)
Fafnis	Reynis & Elizabeth	Sigmar	Eric
Fredericksen	Ms. Alexis	Stanford	Dave & Cheri (Olafson)
Furstenau	Jeff & Pam (Olafson)	Stanton	Lara K. (Kristjanson)
Halldorson	Barney	Steinberg	Audrey (Hillman)
Halldorson	Dennis	Steinolfson	Marino & Doris (Goodman)
Halldorson	Duane & Jeanne (Jacks)	Timian	Carol (Christianson)
Halldorson	John	Vatnsdal	Gene & Judy
Halldorson	Kenneth & Karen (Carlson)	Walters	Forrest
Heck	Scott	Warmoth	Beatrice (Snydal)
Heiser	Carrie (Einarson)	Watson	Jo Ann (Geir)
Helgisdóttir	Amanita M.	Wild	Lillian (Snydal)
Helgoe	Lee & Viola (Halldorson)	Wild	Shirley
Hemsher	Pandora (Byron)	Williams	Ramona
Herzog	Douglas	Williamson	Allan & Marvel (Kristjanson)
Johnson	Bernice	Wright	George & Sandra (Matthiasson)
Johnson	Victor & Dorothy		
Jonasson	Moritz & Lorraine (Walter)		
Knutson	Arvid & Darlene (Bjornson)		

2009 Contributions

Atwood	Gary & Sue
Bernhoft	Wayne & Loretta
Wright	George & Sandra

From The Souvenir Shop

Jeanne Halldorson

During this year’s Celebration the Souvenir Shop will once again be located next door to the Genealogy Center. Not only will you be able to pick out your favorite souvenir, you’ll be able to pick up your ICA Raffle Tickets, your Icelandic Communities International Dinner Tickets, take care of your ICA Membership Dues, and satisfy your cravings for Hardfiskur. This year we will be offering the “Icelandic –English Concise Dictionary” for \$12.00. We still have a large selection of t-shirts, tote bags, visors, aprons, onesies, ”Icelanders in Dakota” DVDs and video tapes, “Life In The Vast Lane” posters, Thingvalla Church Plates, Deuce of August Bracelets, and 221 Melsted Place Cookbooks.

To place an order, call me at 701-993-8116 or e-mail jeannel@polarcomm.com. All orders are mailed insured priority mail.

VISORS.....	\$15.00	KIDS T-SHIRTS.....	\$12.00
ADULT-T-SHIRTS.....	\$15.00	2009 INL CALENDARS.....	\$10.00
TOTE BAGS.....	\$12.00	THINGVALLA CHURCH PLATES.....	\$20.00
APRONS.....	\$15.00	BRACELETS.....	\$3.00
ONESIES.....	\$12.00	221 MELSTED PLACE COOKBOOKS.....	\$15.00
ICELANDERS IN DAKOTA DVD’S...	\$15.00		
ICELANDERS IN DAKOTA VIDEO TAPES...	\$12.00		
LIFE IN THE VAST LANE” POSTERS.....	\$20.00		
HARDFISKUR.....	\$15.00		
ICELANDIC/ENGLISH DICTIONARY.....	\$12.00		

**SEE ARTICLE BELOW ABOUT
THE 2010 INL CALENDARS**

2010 INL Calendar to Feature Works of Local Craftsman

The folks familiar with the Mountain area will probably know **Alfred Hanson**. They know him as a quiet and friendly man, a farmer who does all of the “farmer things” like cutting and baling hay, raising cattle and small grains, and repairing whatever breaks down. He is a self-taught welder and electrician. But many people don’t know that Alfred Hanson is a skilled woodworker as well. So skilled, that some of his works including chip carving, wood turning, and parquet projects have been selected for inclusion in the 2010 Icelandic National League Calendar!

Each year the INL of North America creates a themed calendar to sell as a fund raising venture. The theme for 2010 is visual art, such print making, drawings, sculptures, carvings and the like. Artists must be of Icelandic descent to submit works for the project. Photos of the woodworking projects were submitted in late October and word was received in November that Alfred’s work would be included as one of the 12 subjects selected for the 2010 calendar!!

Alfred’s works will be on display in the Genealogy Center during the celebration. Plan to stop in to see them---you will be impressed! The calendars will be \$10 each and will be available at the Souvenir Booth next door to the Genealogy Center. If you are interested in reserving a copy you can contact Jeanne Halldorson at (701-993-8116) or jeannel@polarcomm.com.



Kitchen Korner

Contributed by Susan Sigurdson Powers

I'll admit it... it has taken me a lifetime to figure out some of the complexities and connections of my little Icelandic hometown. One example: I was, oh, 27 years old before I figured out that Oli Post's last name wasn't Post!!!! His name was Oli Thorsteinsson, but since he was the mailman in years gone by and delivered the mail (póstur in Icelandic), he was known as Oli Post! Of course, it all makes sense now! You can laugh, but it took me a long time to figure it out. It went along with all the other local naming system— like 'Gunna Carl's' to identify that you were talking about Carl Johnson's wife Gunna, not Gunna Husky's or Gunna Chris'

Another thing I never figured out until a few years ago (and I'm a good '29' now) is this: Where on earth did those bars that were served at various functions in the Icelandic communities get the name "Matrimonial Bliss"???? (page 131, Borg Cookbook). Peanut Butter Rice Krispie Bars and Chocolate Revel Bars made sense to me, but Matrimonial Bliss? Well a few years ago, I found my second favorite cookbook with Icelandic recipes, Icelandic Food and Cookery by Nana Rögnvaldardóttir. It is largely a cookbook, but it is also a history book of sorts, telling the stories behind the recipes that 'Icelanders think about when they get a bit nostalgic--the food our mothers and grandmothers cooked'. In the Cakes, Pastries and Cookies section, I found a recipe called Hjónabandssæla or *Wedded Bliss*! When I read that title my mind instantly flew to the Borg Cookbook (my most favorite cookbook with Icelandic recipes) and the bar recipe credited to Augusta Austfjord from the Akra district!! A quick comparison confirmed the similarities and it finally made sense! This name was the English translation of a recipe probably brought from Iceland by our immigrant ancestors. According to Nana Rögnvaldardóttir, the Icelandic name for the very popular easy tart is a bit of mystery. The common explanation is that it is so quick and easy that almost anyone can make it without failure, so it's a perfect treat for a young bride to bake for her husband.

Traditional fillings for this treat are rhubarb or prune jam, but any jam can be used. Augusta Austfjord's recipe uses a date filling, which is usually how it was prepared for local gatherings. The recipe is basically a double recipe of the 'Bliss' in Rögnvaldsdóttir's book. Here's Augusta's recipe:

Matrimonial Bliss

Cream well:

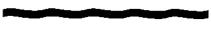
1 ½ cup brown sugar
1 cup butter

Add and mix well:

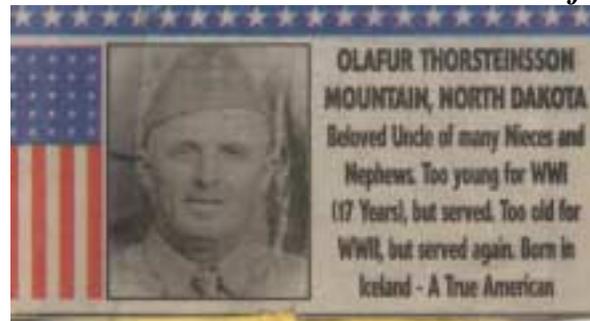
2 cups rolled oats
2 cups flour
1 tsp baking powder
Pinch of salt

Take 2/3 of this mixture and spread in a greased 9 x 13 pan. Make a filling of 1 lb dates and 1 cup sugar. Cook together and cool. Put filling on dough and then put the remaining third of dough on top.

Bake in a 350*oven for approximately 30 min.



ICA member Ethel Thorlacious sent this article with memories of her uncle, Oli Thorsteinson.



Anyone with roots to Mountain will remember Oli Post, I'm sure, and will enjoy learning more about this interesting Icelander. (Ethel wrote this article in 1995)

Fifty years ago, it was the beginning of the end—of the Second World War. In the news during the past months, we have heard of the Normandy Beachhead, the Battle of the Bulge and the deliverance of the concentration camps. It was at these times I often thought of one person, my husband's Uncle Oli.

Uncle Oli became too old to be drafted into the war. The draft called the younger men earlier and gradually worked its way up to the older fellows. My dad's number came up, but he had five children, so he was deferred.

Uncle Oli was a single man, and went into training when he was still within the age limit. Shipping over from England to France, it was discovered he had passed the maximum age and now was too old for the war. He was told to return him, but he refused to leave his buddies. The officers were too busy to bother much with him and he was finally assigned to drive a truck in the rear lines.

He became part of the Battle of the Bulge and suffered the same deprivations and discomforts the rest did. He was one of the lucky ones that came home and he was always proud to have played a small part in the battle that ended such a bloody war. I had heard this story early on, but was more aware of how proud he was to be an American Legionnaire. He was active in his post, participated in the honor guards and other post activities until he became just too old and infirmed. When he died, he was honored, not only by his Legion Post, but by all who knew him as a soldier who would not leave his comrades when he could have left the war and gone home. My family was so proud of him. He was a pretty special Uncle Oli.

He was born in Iceland in 1896 and came to North Dakota at age 6. My husband's mother (Oli's sister) was 2. The mass exodus of emigrants to this area was about over and the land was long gone, so the family lived in an old house in town and eked out a living with farm labor jobs. (An interesting note—they lived next door to my dad's-Asgeir Byron- family). As a young man, he worked at farm labor and also construction work. An accident ended that kind of work and he got a job that made him "Oli Post". The towns of Mountain and Gardar were inland towns with no access to the railroad except through a freight driver. In the early days, my grandfather hauled freight and mail with horses, but in the 50's and 60's, Uncle Oli got the contract. His was important work, not only hauling mail and freight, but medications and items of groceries for whoever could catch him to run such errands. He always complained about it, but inwardly, I think he was proud to be such an important person to the community.

Uncle Oli was deemed a 'character' and had been so all his life. He never married, which likely helped shape his eccentricities. The older he grew the grouchier he became. Nothing was ever right, but always wrong. He had his favorites and everyone else was either wrong or no good. He lived his last years in a little trailer house, railing at the world around him. Most people ignored his bad humor, and when the time came for him to be honored for courage, service, and faithfulness, he was so honored.

To those who knew him best, he will always be Oli Post, an old soldier.

“Reunion in 2008”



Class of 1958 Plans 50 Year Reunion

Back-L to R-Earl Johnson, Vernon Benjaminson, George Kristjanson, Richard Bjornson, David Hillman, Orin Steinolfson

Front-L to R-Oscar Byron, Janyce Gudmundson, Supt. Glenn Lian, Shirley Gudmundson, Veronica Byron



L to R- Oscar Byron- David Hillman
Vernon Benjaminson
Janyce (Gudmundson) Bjornson-Richard Bjornson
Shirley (Gudmundson) Byron

Mountain High School class of 1958 held a 50 Year Reunion during Mountain's 109th Ducece of August Celebration with six of the ten graduates present. Those attending were David Hillman, Vernon Benjaminson, Oscar and Shirley (Gudmundson) Byron, and Richard and Janyce (Gudmundson) Bjornson. They met at Byron's Bar for the Pitchfork Steak Fondue on Friday evening and had a Float entry in the parade on Saturday. George Kristjanson was unable to attend due to a family wedding in Chicago. On Saturday afternoon a gathering of class members, other MHS graduates, and friends took place at the Bjornson home for reminiscing and visiting. Departed class members, Orin Steinolfson, Ronnie Byron Bischoff, and Earl Johnson, were remembered with a Blue and Gold balloon release in their memory. Stoney Steinolfson shared a video of a very moving ABC News interview with Orin that had taken place while Orin served in Viet Nam. Special guests were Clarine Lian, wife of our Superintendent Glenn Lian, Grand Forks, Cyndy Bischoff Rodacker, Jamestown, daughter of Ronnie Bischoff, and Steinolfson family members.

Submitted by Richard and Janyce Bjornson

WANTED – NEEDED – DESPERATELY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

As with any good celebration it takes many manhours to put on a successful event, and all of these hours are provided by volunteers. The following areas would gladly accept any volunteers interested in helping:

SOUVENIRS - Sales - Jeanne Halldorson - 701-993-8116

GENEALOGY - Knowledge of local history & computers - George Freeman - 701-740-7350

FOOD & LOGISTICS - Moving of tables, chairs & misc items - Loretta Bernhoft - 701-993-8282

3 ON 3 BASKETBALL - Contact – Tim Moore Jr. – 701-331-0863

FUNDRAISING - Sale of raffle tickets - Duane Halldorson - 701-993-8116

PARADE - Organization of entries - Hugh Ralston - 701-657-2283

STREET DANCES – Ticket sales & set-up/tear-down - Darren Olafson - 701-993-8765

AD/MEDIA COORDINATOR-Leslie Geir-993-8367

*The 2009 Membership drive is underway.
Membership runs from Jan. thru Dec.
\$10.00 per person.*

2009- \$1000 & \$500 Raffle Tickets will be available in June thru August 2nd

Drawing will be held after the Tractor pull, August 2nd

Contact Duane or Jeanne Halldorson-701-993-8116--halldor3@polarcomm.com

*For 2009 schedule of events
check the ICA web site (www.august2nd.com).*

Góða nótt!



Mountain City Council

Mayor

Tim Moore

Aldermen

Grant Hunter

Keith Gudmundson

T.J. Cardino

Katy Readel

Auditor

Sylvia Moore

Mountain

Community Center Capital

Campaign Committee

Co-Chairmen

Tim Moore

Curtis Olafson

Secretary

Loretta Bernhoft

Treasurer

Katy Readel

Board Members

Hugh Ralston

Skip Kotchman

David Hillman

Joyce Hansen

Leslie Geir

Rosman Readel

Shirley Olgeirson

Craig Thorfinnson

Honorary Special Consultants

Rosemarie Myrdal

Mike Olafson

Dr. Eugene Byron

Orville Bernhoft

PO Box 165
Mountain, ND 58262
www.mountainnd.com

Mountain Community Center Capital Campaign

Dear Friends,

We are writing once again to share the latest news about the progress of the Capital Campaign and the current status of the Community Center project. As you know, the project was let for bidding late last summer. Unfortunately, the bids for the project came in significantly above the architect's estimate and we were not able to move forward with the project at that time. While it was disappointing to have that happen, we were not alone in having that experience. The bidding environment was very volatile at the time and many projects that were bid last fall did not move forward. Record high fuel prices, high commodity prices on copper, lumber, plumbing supplies, and a general uncertainty as to whether and when input costs would stop rising contributed to unfavorable bids for our community center project and many others.

Since last fall, our steering committee has been working diligently with our architect and other parties, and has spent many hours working on design changes to reduce the total cost of the building. These design changes have included a reduction in the square footage of the building and a multitude of interior infrastructure changes which will significantly reduce the construction cost of the building without sacrificing its functional value or capabilities. We are confident that, with the combination of the design changes and what appears to be a far more favorable bidding environment, we will be able to move forward towards a successful outcome in the next bid letting.

Since we last wrote to you, we have continued our fundraising effort locally and we have also received support from around the country. In two years, we have passed the **\$500,000** mark in fundraising, all of which can be used as matching funds! We have in place over **\$711,000** in federal grants thus far! Our community and our supporters can be very proud of that outstanding achievement, but we have more to do. Our goal from the beginning has been to raise sufficient funds to match all of the federal grant dollars. It is important to remember that the **federal dollars must be matched**. The remaining amount needed to match is approximately \$300,000.

We would ask you to please consider making your commitment at this time in support of the Mountain Community Center Project. We would also like to remind you that we need to have **all** necessary funding in place, either with donated or borrowed funds, **before** a bid can be advertised and the project can move forward. As you consider your support for this project, please note that donations can be made as a one-time, tax deductible contribution, or in the form of a pledge, payable in annual payments for up to 5 years. We encourage you to consider a one-time contribution because this lessens our need to borrow funds.

We look forward to hearing from you as we continue to pursue the dream of building a new Community Center in Mountain!

We thank you for your interest in this project, and for your continued support.

Mountain Community Center Capital Campaign Committee

