

Fjalla Blað

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



Sixteenth Edition 2009

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

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

**Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back
in.**

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 the friends and supporters of the ICA. The 110th Deuce of August Celebration is just around the corner and we are busy getting ready for another great Celebration weekend filled with activities for the whole family. If you haven't yet marked your calendar with the dates of this year's Celebration, it will be held on **July 31st, and August 1st & 2nd, 2009.**

Over the years, it has been our privilege to have had wonderful support from the people and the government of Iceland. The 2009 Celebration will once again host several tour groups from Iceland and high level Iceland government officials. The government officials from Iceland will be led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Mr. Össur Skarphéðinsson. We have also been informed that Iceland's Ambassador to the US, Mr. Hjalmar W. Hannesson, will be attending. Providing the official welcome to North Dakota will be North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger.

In addition to our guests from Iceland, our Saturday afternoon Heritage Program will feature some great entertainment. Choir singing is a national passion in Iceland, and we will be entertained by a church choir from Iceland called **Kór Grafarvogskirkju.** We will also have some genuine home-grown North Dakota talent provided by a very musically gifted young couple, **Levi and Bethany Andrist.** I had the privilege of getting to know them when Levi served as the law clerk for the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee during the 2009 Legislative session. Levi was born and raised in Crosby and Bethany in Wimbledon. They both majored in music at college, with Levi attending Concordia College in Moorhead, where he was a member of the Concordia Concert Choir, and Bethany attending Northern State in Aberdeen, South Dakota where she participated in music and theater. Levi and Bethany have both performed with the Burning Hills Singers in the Medora Musical, with Levi performing for four seasons and Bethany for two. Levi is currently a third-year law student at UND and is the Editor of the North Dakota Law Review. Bethany is active in the Grand Forks Master Chorale and is the Operations Coordinator for the Empire Theater in Grand Forks. Don't miss all this great entertainment!

The Deuce of August is well-known for providing something for everyone, and two of our most popular events are the Friday and Saturday street dances and the North Dakota State Tractor and Pickup pulling contest. These events are growing bigger every year! We also have a very unique Celebration feature in the Genealogy Center. George Freeman and Pam Furstenau have become widely respected as genealogists and historians, and many people have discovered their roots and their ancestry with their help. Another very talented amateur genealogist, historian and archivist that will be attending the Celebration is Arlan Steinolfson with The Dakota Icelanders Project. Arlan has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to documenting and preserving the history of the Icelandic settlements and the Pembina County area, and has received many awards for his work. His booth will be located on the Steingrimur Steinolfson property northeast of the Vikur Church. The entire list of events is too numerous to mention here, so be sure to check out the schedule in this newsletter and please check out our new and improved website at www.august2nd.com to learn more as we continue to make our plans for the 110th Deuce of August Celebration! See you there!

Mountain Community Center Update

By Tim Moore and Curtis Olafson, Fundraising Committee Co-Chairmen

The Mountain Community Center Steering Committee and Fundraising Committee have continued their work in pursuit of our goal of building a new Community Center in Mountain. As you know from our last letter, we have been working with our architect to make design changes to the building to bring the total cost of the project down, and yet maintain the functionality and capabilities of the building. As this newsletter goes to press, we are very pleased to be able to announce that we have just been informed that our application for the construction loan and long-term financing for the project has been conditionally approved. We have been working with United Valley Bank and with the Bank of North Dakota. The Bank of North Dakota has conditionally approved a participation loan and the Flex PACE (Partnership in Assisting Community Expansion) interest buydown program for the long-term financing of the project. Accessing the Flex PACE interest buydown program will result in a dramatic decrease in the amount of interest that will accrue during the term of the loan. An appraisal of the planned building remains to be completed as part of the loan approval process. With the pending final approval of the financing package, we expect that we will be able to schedule a bid-letting very soon. Please watch for more news in the very near future on this exciting project!

Genealogy

George Freeman & Pam Furstenu

Genealogy Center –

For the sixth year, the Genealogy Center will help visitors search for their heritage.

NOT ICELANDIC? We can help you, too! We have many resources available for all nationalities.

We will again be located in Tim & Susan Sigurdson Powers house across from the Fire Hall and behind the Vikur Church.

The ‘Cousins Across the Ocean’ Project has become very successful and has received international attention. It has become a year-round project with the tour groups from Iceland. We found cousins for the May and June visiting tour groups and are researching for the Icelanders arriving for the annual 2nd of August Celebration. So far, visiting Rósa Ólafsdóttir will meet cousins Shirley and Robert Olgeirson.

Pam Furstenu and George Freeman continue to be the two main volunteers in the Genealogy Center and throughout the year. Hálfdan Helgason of Iceland continues to be our main resource person with Icelandic Genealogy. Please contact us if you have an interest in joining our team! The weekend is very fun and busy and requests are received throughout the year.

For locals and visitors from afar and near, if you are searching for your ancestors or your cousins, please fill out the form below and send it to Pam or George as soon as possible. We will work on your request first come – first served. This is a Volunteer Project and we fill as many requests as possible.

Come and visit us at the Genealogy Center (see schedule). Because of the Iceland Tour Groups on Saturday, we are more available on Friday and Sunday.

Alfred Hanson’s Woodworking will be on display in the Genealogy Center.

Genealogy Request Form – All Nationalities

Your Name & Birth Date _____
Your email address or mailing address: _____
Your ancestor with birth & death date _____
A description of your relationship to your ancestor _____

Provide all information that you know. Return completed form to George Freeman at gfreeman@gra.midco.net or Pam Furstenu at pam@rootstotrees.com as soon as possible.

In Honor of Borg Memorial Home’s 60th Anniversary’

Borg Pioneer Memorial Home History

Written by F. M. Einarson for the years of 1944 – 1949

Submitted by Pam Olafson Furstenu

The welfare of old people who no longer can care for themselves has long been a problem. The Icelandic communities throughout the country have had a problem of how best to take care of their aged people.

A Home for the Aged was a project suggested by Dr. B. J. Brandson, an outstanding Winnipeg physician and philanthropist, who was a native of the Gardar community. He was chairman of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod Old Peoples Home Committee at Gimli, Man. In 1944, he submitted to Dr. Harald Sigmar, then pastor of the ND Icelandic parish, the idea that a Home for the Aged should be built somewhere in Pembina County. Dr. B. J. Brandson said the Icelandic Synod of Winnipeg would donate \$15,000 out of the funds belonging to the Old People’s Home at Gimli, Man. As a result of this suggestion the seven congregations decided to sponsor the project. There was one member from each congregation elected to serve on a committee, to find out to what extent the people in the respective congregations would support such a project. After a thorough survey had been made, the committee was convinced that it was the desire of the people that a modern home should be built. (continued)

It took an unusual optimism, to say the least, to undertake such a project under the prevailing conditions, as the country was at war and a serious material and labor shortage coupled with the fact that the success of the project depended on voluntary donations of about \$80,000.

At this point it was decided to make the present committee a board of directors, and add the Upham Congregation of Bottineau County to the sponsorship, with one director representing them. The board of directors were instructed to organize and incorporate an Old People's Home Association under the sponsorship of the following congregations: Vikur, Gardar, Hallson, Eyford, Vidalin, Fjalla, Peters, and Upham.

The following are the names of the directors chosen: Chairman F.M. Einarson, Mountain; Treasurer J.E. Peterson, Cavalier; Secretary Victor Sturlaugson, Langdon; Alvin Melsted, Gardar; Alli Magnusson, Milton; Einar Einarson, Hallson; G.J. Jonasson, Eyford; Asmundur Benson, Bottineau; Dr. H. Sigmar, an ex-officio member. F. S. Snowfield, Cavalier, was retained as attorney for the association.

During the next three years much time was spent in soliciting funds and planning for the general construction of the Home. Where to locate the Home was a major problem. Many favored Mountain; others favored Cavalier as the proper location. The city of Cavalier offered to donate the site. Locating the Home at Mountain seemed to be out of the question, as there was no water system there.

To make it possible for the Home to be located at Mountain, the city council applied to the State Geological Department for a ground water survey to determine where and how much water would be available. The result of the survey showed ample supply of water, one-half mile west of the town. So great was the desire of the people of Mountain to have the Home located in the center of the Icelandic communities, that they authorized the city council to go to the expense of installing a modern water system for the town and Home. With the assurance that ample water would be provided, the committee selected a six-acre plot overlooking the beautiful Red River Valley. Five acres of this plot were later donated by Mr. and Mrs. Haraldur Olafson. Maria Olafson was the daughter of Mattusalem Einarson, an early settler of the community, and one acre was donated by Mr. and Mr. Walter Hannesson. John B Stephanson of Moosejaw, Sask., a son of Hensel, was given a cost plus contract for the construction. Carl Hanson, Winnipeg, Man., was retained as construction foreman.

June 24, 1948 was set for the construction to start. On June 22, a telegram was received informing the committee that the cement order had been canceled and could not be filled. The committee forthwith contacted lumber yards in Walsh, Cavalier, and Pembina Counties. In 36 hours, they had purchased and delivered 2,900 bags of cement and the work started on schedule. Men from the various communities volunteered their services in clearing the ground, pouring of concrete and hauling of material.

Fifteen hundred people attended the cornerstone ceremony Sunday, September 19, 1948. Among the well known persons present were Governor Fred G Aandahl, Attorney General Nels Johnson, and Clifford Williams, head of the Old Age Assistance Division, all of Bismarck, ND.

The program for the day with Reverend E.H. Fafnis, acting chairman, was as follows: F.M. Einarson, who was committee chairman, gave the address and welcome. Mayor M.F. Bjornson extended greetings. F.S. Snowfield, attorney for the committee then introduced the Governor. Personal greetings were then extended by Judge Grimson of Rugby, ND, Judge H.P. Thompson of Cavalier, Attorney Asmundur Benson of Bottineau, Arni Eggertson and Dr. B Olson, both of Winnipeg, Man.

A solo, "Drottin Vakir, Drottin Vakir," was sung by Reverend Fafnis. Mrs. G.S. Goodman also sang the song, "Trees." Music was furnished by the Langdon Band. The cornerstone ceremony was then opened by the singing of a hymn by all present and a Bible reading and prayer by Reverend Fafnis. Gamaliel Thorleifson, a pioneer of the Gardar community who was 83 years of age, then laid the stone and addressed the people in the Icelandic language. The stone was given by Carl Hanson of Winnipeg. Congratulations and greetings from distant friends who could not be present were then read by Victor Sturlaugson. The singing of the National Anthem closed the program for the day.

The ladies aids of the respective communities had charge of the lunch, which was furnished by the women of the area.

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In late October, the building had been closed in and work suspended for the winter. In January, we heard the shocking news - Thos. Jordan, the building contractor, had been killed in an airplane accident. Work, however, was started in the spring under the supervision of the committee. Graham and Son were given the contract for plumbing and Kyele Electric Co. for the electrical work, both of Grafton. W. H. Harris of Hibbing, MN, furnished the plaster, mill work, and roofing material at cost. John Axdal of Cavalier furnished Rusco Windows at cost. The following subcommittee of women was appointed to assist Mrs. B.F. Olgeirson, nurse in charge, in purchasing furnishings for the home: Mrs. F.M. Einarson, Mountain; Mrs. Victor Sturlaugson, Langdon; Mrs. Allie Magnusson, Milton; Mrs. Einar Einarson, Hallson; Mrs. J.E. Peterson, Cavalier; Mrs. G.J. Jonasson, Eyford; and Mrs. S.J. Olafson, Gardar.

Dave Davidson of Cavalier offered to assist the committee in purchasing the necessary furnishing through a wholesale house at cost. The ladies aids and different organizations of the communities donated money to furnish a room apiece. Other rooms were furnished in memory of loved ones. S.J. Bjornson, jeweler of Devils Lake, donated a \$300.00 clock. The Icelandic League donated money for the dining room furnishings in memory of Johannes Jonasson, Homeopath, who gave so much of his time and energy in administering to the sick in the early pioneer days. The living room furniture was donated by Mrs. Leonard Folson, Hoople; Mrs. Harold Dougherty, Park River; and the daughters of Dan Laxdal, attorney, who gave much needed legal advice to emigrants who were bewildered by the language and laws of this country, and were often the prey of unscrupulous men (promoters).

Mr. and Mr. Emil Walters of New York presented the Home with four beautiful pictures painted by Mr. Walter: "Land Blink in the Badlands of ND," "Duchess County, New York," "Kálfa Strönd," a residence in Iceland, and "Delphiniums."

In order to complete the building and pay for all material and labor, and yet avoid the necessity of putting on a drive for funds, the following men loaned the institution \$16,500.00. Theo Thorleifson, Helgi Laxdal, Hall Bros., Alvin Melsted, and Joe Gestson, \$1,000.00 each, all of Gardar; Melsted Bros., O.G. and H.G. Gudmundson, C.I. Gudmundson, Wm. Halldorson, and F.M. Einarson, all of Mountain, \$1,000.00 each; Grimsi Goodman, Milton, \$1,000.00; J. Snydal, Crystal, \$1,000.00; Ted Vatnsdal, Eyford, \$500.00. John Bjarnason had previously offered to loan \$5,000.00 without interest at a time when construction money was being used up faster than donations were coming in and that offer was accepted with gratitude. Asmundur Benson, Bottineau, and C. Geir, Eyford, \$1,000.00 each.

The Home was opened for occupancy with the following staff members in charge. Mrs. Gudrun Olgeirson, R.N.; Miss Olina Paulson, assistant; Miss Bertha Asmundson, cook; and Helgi Reykdal, janitor.

The names of those who had been admitted for residence January 1, 1950 are as follows: Gudridur Thorfinnson, Helga Bjornson, Adalheidur Sigurdson, Kristin Halldorson, Osk Johnson, Thuridur Johnson, Thorbjorg Oddson, Una Sturlaugson, Gudbjorg Snowfield, Thorbjorg Eyolfson, Johanna Thorun Johnson, John H. Bjarnason, S.K. Johnson, Ogmundur Swanson, Bjarni Peterson, and Sveinn Th. Gislason.

The dedication ceremonies were held Sunday, October 23, 1949. That brought 500 people, two hundred persons crowded the living-dining room. Three hundred listened in the halls and rooms through loudspeakers to the dedication ceremonies. Reverend E.H. Fafnis presided and led the dedication service. A community choir sang Icelandic and English hymns and anthems. Dr. H. Sigmar of Vancouver, B.C., pastor here when the project was originated, gave the dedication sermon in the Icelandic language. Dr. Richard Beck of the University of North Dakota Faculty, represented North Dakota Governor, Fred G. Aandahl, and as vice consul of Iceland, gave the official greeting of that country.

Victor Sturlaugson of Langdon, secretary of the building committee, gave the principal address. Other program features were a duet by Mrs. W.K. Halldorson of Mountain and Mrs. G.S. Goodman of Milton and a solo by Reverend E.H. Sigmar of Glenboro, Man., accompanied by his mother, Mrs. H. Sigmar. At the close of the program, Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Einarson were honored for their part in bringing the project to a successful close. Mr. Einarson had been chairman of the building committee since its organization in 1944. He was presented with a gold watch by Rev. Fafnis on behalf of his friends, and Mrs. Einarson was presented with a corsage by Mrs. Fafnis. Judge G. Grimson of Bismarck, one of the communities' native sons, was introduced; he is now on the State Supreme Court Bench.

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The community choir sang under the direction of Theo. Thorleifson, son of Gamaliel Thorleifson, who laid the cornerstone June 24, 1948. Lunch was served by a group of ladies aids of the Icelandic parishes. Thus there was brought to a successful close the erection of the Borg Pioneer Memorial Home, dedicated to the memory of the pioneers of North Dakota.

VIKUR LCW SALAD LUNCHEON

The annual Vikur LCW Salad Luncheon and Quilt Raffle will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2009, beginning at 11:00 am in the Vikur Church basement. The money raised from this event is used to help maintain the Vikur Church and to assist the Youth Fellowship and those wanting to attend Bible Camp. The salads and bars served at the luncheon are made and/or donated by generous volunteers in the community. The price of the Salad Luncheon is \$10.00. A beautiful large quilt, hand-pieced by Loretta Bernhoft, and machine quilted, will be raffled off. Tickets for the Quilt Raffle are \$5.00 each and can be obtained from any LCW member or at the luncheon. Anyone wanting raffle tickets before the Celebration or wanting to make a donation may do so by contacting:

Vikur LCW
C/O Sherry Hannesson
P.O. Box 146
Mountain, ND 58262

Come and enjoy some great food and help us keep Vikur Church the "best little church in Mountain".

BORG PIONEER MEMORIAL HOME AUXILIARY ANNUAL BAZAAR

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, beginning at 1:30 pm, the Borg Auxiliary will hold its annual Bazaar and Bake Sale. The Bazaar will have many wonderful items, made and donated by members of the community that would make nice Christmas gifts. Plus there will be the "white elephant" sale with many interesting items. And don't forget about all the delicious baked goods that will be for sale. The quilt for this year's raffle is called "Between Friends". It is a full size quilt that is done in black, white and red, and is machine quilted. Raffle tickets can be obtained from any auxiliary member or at the Borg Home after July 27, 2009. Come and visit with the residents at Borg, have dessert and coffee, and start your Christmas shopping all on the same afternoon. See you there.

2009 ICA Memberships

Abrahamson	Andrea	Byron	Chris & Julie	Heiser	Carrie (Einarson)
Abrahamson	Eric	Carpenter	Eugene & Jackie (Thorfinnson)	Helgisdóttir	Amanita M.
Abrahamson	Jana	Christianson	Arnold & Donna (McDonald)	Helgoe	Lee & Viola (Halldorson)
Abrahamson	Jonathan	Christianson	Jim		Pandora (Byron)
Abrahamson	Karen (Hillman)	Cox	Joe & Gladys (Finnson)	Hemsher	Douglas
Abrahamson	Karie	Davidson	Ronald & Martha	Hillman	David
Abrahamson	Karl	Davidson	Betty (Hughes)	Hughes	Christine
Anderson	Duane & Emilía (Jónsdóttir)	Einarson	Dennis	Johnson	Bernice
Atwood	Gary & Sue (Herman)	Einarson	Reynis & Elizabeth	Johnson	John & Darlene (Hunt)
Axelson	Cobie (Bjornson)	Fafnis	Ms. Alexis	Johnson	Lyle & Margie (Jonasson)
Baumgardner	Cindy (Stefanson)	Fredericksen	George	Johnson	Verna (Johnson)
Benjaminson	George	Freeman	Greg	Johnson	Victor & Dorothy
Bernhoft	Neil & Melaine (Nordquist)	Freeman	Megan	Jonasson	Esther (Baarstad)
Bernhoft	Ryan & Stacie (Larson)	Freeman	Jeff & Pam (Olafson)	Jonasson	Moritz & Lorraine (Walter)
	Wayne & Loretta (Thorfinnson)	Furstenau	Chad & Janna (Brandvold)	Knutson	Arvid & Darlene (Bjornson)
	Eleanor (Geir)	Gudmundson	Barney	Kristjanson	Sibbie & Emily
Biliske	Fred L.	Halldorson	Dennis	Lagen	Nicolette (Biliske)
Bjornson	Bud & Bev (Einarson)	Halldorson	Duane & Jeanne (Jacks)	Lorenzen	Margaret (Olgeirson)
Bleakley	Gloria	Halldorson	John	Machacek	Donald & Asta (Bessie Hallgrimson)
Briese	Margaret	Halldorson	Kenneth & Karen (Carlson)		Elin (Melsted)
Busch	(Thordarson)	Heck	Michael	Mathewson	Waldemar & Ida (Dearinger)
			Scott	Melsted	

Muldoon	William & Janet (Goodman)	Olafson	Robert M.	Steinolfson	Marino & Doris (Goodman)
Myrdal	Donald & Lillian (Helgason) (Hall)	Olafson	Robert & Betty (McDonald)	Thorfinnson	Rosa (Kristjanson)
Nason	Norma (Johnson)	Olafson	Roger & Marilyn (Olson)	Thorlacius	Ethel (Byron)
Ness	Tim & Kathy	Olgeirson	Shirley J.	Tiffany	Norma (Asta Myrdal)
Nielsen	Einor	Peterson	Kris & Dorothy (Einarson)	Timian	Carol (Christianson)
Nielsen	Linda	Powers	Tim & Susan (Sigurdson)	Vatnsdal	Gene & Judy
Northfield	Amy (Kristjanson)	Prien	Debbie (Halldorson)	Walski	Melissa
Olafson	Anne	Prollin	Leon & Mae (Heigaard)	Walters	Forrest
Olafson	Curtis & Björk (Eiriksdottir)	Rollin	Anna (Bjarnason)	Warmoth	Beatrice (Snydal)
Olafson	Dean	Scheving	Theodore & Lorraine (Bjornson)	Watson	Jo Ann (Geir)
Olafson	Doran	Schroeder	Greg & Renata (Olafson)	Wild	Lillian (Snydal)
Olafson	Drew & Samantha (Swanson)	Selzer	Eric	Wild	Richard & Mary (Bjornson)
Olafson	Eugene	Sigmar	Joe & MaryAnn	Williams	Shirley
Olafson	Judith (Sigurdson)	Sigurdson	Frederic & Linda (Stefanson)	Williamson	Ramona (Bjarnason)
Olafson	Kristi	Smith	Dave & Cheri (Olafson)	Wright	Allan & Marvel (Kristjanson)
Olafson	Larry	Stanford	Lara K. (Kristjanson)		George & Sandra (Matthiasson)
Olafson	Magnus	Steinberg	Audrey (Hillman)		

2009 Contributions

Atwood	Gary & Sue (Herman)
Bernhoft	Wayne & Loretta (Thorfinnson)
Biliske	Eleanor (Geir)

Byron	Chris & Julie
Christianson	Jim
Helgisdóttir	Amanita M.
Johnson	Margie (Jonasson)

Olafson	Larry
Wright	George & Sandra (Matthiasson)
Polar	Communications

2009 Memorial

Paul Benjaminson
from Judith Olafson

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
ADULT-T-SHIRTS.....	\$15.00
TOTE BAGS.....	\$12.00
APRONS.....	\$15.00
ONESIES.....	\$12.00
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
2009 INL CALENDARS.....	\$10.00
ICELANDIC/ENGLISH DICTIONARY.....	\$12.00

KIDS T-SHIRTS.....	\$12.00
THINGVALLA CHURCH PLATES.....	\$20.00
BRACELETS.....	\$3.00
221 MELSTED PLACE COOKBOOKS.....	\$15.00
CD-11-Icelandic songs by the Baggalútur.....	\$10.00

**SEE ARTICLE NEXT PAGE ABOUT
THE 2010 INL CALENDARS
& the Baggalútur**

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 E-Mail jeanne1@polarcomm.com. The postage and insurance for one calendar is \$3.50.

I would also like to draw your attention to an exciting CD we have to offer. Put together by a very talented group of young musicians from Iceland called **Baggalútur**. The name of the CD is **Sólkinið í Dakota (The Sunshine in Dakota)**. There are 8 people in the group in their late 20’s and early 30’s and they perform Icelandic folk music. They were kind enough to allow us to reproduce it and sell as a fundraising item. If you are interested in ordering a copy call, Jeanne Halldorson at (701-993-8116) or E-Mail jeanne1@polarcomm.com. CD-\$10.00-The postage and insurance for one CD is \$2.25.



Kitchen Korner

Jeanne Halldorson

The following recipe is from Nanna Rögnvaldardóttir’s Icelandic Food & Cookery Cookbook. Duane picked this one out because he thought it sounded interesting. We haven’t tried it yet.

GLAZED POTATOES (Brúnaðar kartöflur)

Caramelized or sugar-glazed potatoes are certainly not an Icelandic innovation. We learned from the Danes to make them, but they became immensely popular and used to be served with most roasted lamb and pork dishes, and often with pan-fried meat as well. They are still popular but not as common as they used to be.

It has to be said that while glazed potatoes can be really good, they can also be pretty dreary, especially if they have been sitting around for some time and have gotten soggy and fluffy. But I’ve known children who sat down to a sumptuous Christmas dinner and decided that the only thing they wanted was a heaping plate of glazed potatoes.

I prefer to replace half the sugar with honey—I feel it gives a better taste and is easier to manage. Another version replaces the butter with ¼ cup of cream and some people simply add a little hot water to the sugar when it has caramelized.

2 pounds potatoes, 6 tablespoons sugar, 3 tablespoons butter

(continued)

Boil the potatoes until tender, drain them, and peel them when they have cooled enough to handle (or peel them before boiling them). Cut them into even-size pieces, unless they are very small. Sprinkle the sugar evenly on a heavy frying pan and heat it. Watch the sugar carefully; it should melt and begin to brown but it must not burn. Stir in the butter when it is melted and cook for a minute or two. Add the potatoes and stir until they are covered in the caramel and heated through. **(Serves 6)**

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

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

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 Hofsó 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

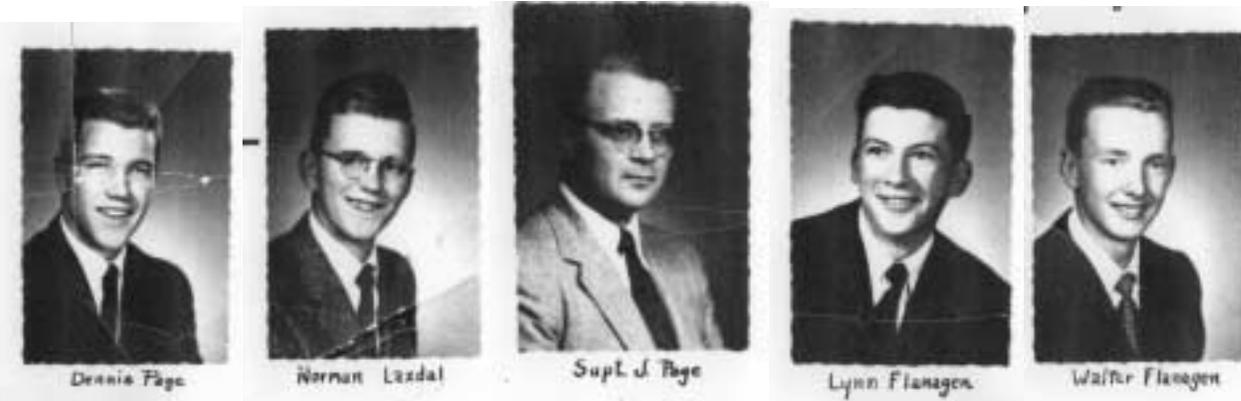
Icelandic Heritage. He will present two sessions. The main speaker is Alan Mann, a key person in the development of the new FamilySearch.org website along with a long list of accomplishments. There are six speakers per session, a keynote speaker during lunch, and a variety of booths throughout the day.

For more information, contact Pam Furstenau. 701-200-1694 pam@rootstotrees.com



The Mountain High School graduating class of 1959

Back Row: Eugene Byron, Eugene Johnson, Robert Halldorson, William Halldorson, Paul Cox.
Front Row: Darlene Bjornson, Supt. Glenn Lian, Carol Christianson.



Gardar High School- 1959

The Mountain High School graduating class of 1959 is making plans for a reunion during the August the Deuce Celebration in 2009. Our class is also inviting the remaining member, Lynn Flanagan, of the Gardar Class of 1959 to be part of our reunion. We are planning to meet for a dinner on Friday night, July 31st, at the Alexander House in Park River. We also plan to be in the parade on Saturday morning and a gathering will be held in the afternoon at the covered picnic shelter east of Borg after the program. There will be a table set up for pictures, memorabilia, etc., and we invite other Mountain and Gardar High School students to join us. Later in the evening we will enjoy a catered meal that will be served outdoors at Borg. It will be fun to visit with our friends from High School days. The class of "59" will welcome any ideas and information. You can contact either Carol Timian at 415-746-1766 or carol519@comcast.net or Darlene Knutson at 701-284-6871 or arvidk@polarcomm.com.

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 see next page or
check the ICA web site (www.august2nd.com).*

WEBSITE NEWS

Visit the website: www.august2nd.com. The website has continued to grow and change. This is a volunteer project and I am gradually adding more information about the Celebration and our Community History.

On the website, you will find lots of information! Check it out - there are 32 Pages including the the event schedule, map, Fjalla Blað past issues, membership information, genealogy and souvenir information, Borg Home, Vikur Church, Gardar, Fjalla, grand marshals, ICA and 2nd of August history, photos, sponsors, contact info and much more!

Because it is a volunteer project, any stories, photos, or information that you would like to share are appreciated. Please send them to me at the following address or bring them to the Genealogy Center during the Celebration weekend. Thank you ! (Takk Fyrir!)

pam@rootstotrees.com; Pam (Olafson) Furstenau, 2749 33 ½ Ave S, Fargo, ND 58104

A Laugh a Day.....

There are history books out there that will tell you the story of the Icelandic immigrants coming to North Dakota to start a new life. The Pioneer Daughter Stories are an amazing collection of stories of the settlement from the point of view of our immigrant grandmothers. But there are stories that will never make it into history books, but give a look into the daily life of our ancestors and show how humor carried them through the good times and the bad and made the days go better. These stories need to be told and retold so that they are not lost to time. Here's an example of the unique type of humor that has been a part of the Icelandic community's history:

The Story of Baldur* and Oli*

This story goes back to the days when the city water and sewer lines were being put in the streets of Mountain. As you can imagine, it was a mess. There were deep trenches dug for the lines and the only way to access the business establishments and church was to walk on the plywood walkways that were created across the trenches.

One day Baldur came to the Mountain Cash Store to get groceries for his family. Mission accomplished, he started walking over the plywood walkway to get back to his vehicle. As he climbed the incline, he saw someone walking down in the trench, hat bobbing along with each step. Baldur watched for a bit and figured out that it was Oli. Oli was known to visit the local taverns on occasion and apparently had had some trouble navigating the plywood walkway on his way out. Baldur called to get Oli's attention --"Oli! What the heck are you doing down there???" Oli bobbed along for a few more steps, then replied "I'm taking the subway home....."

*The story is true; names may or may not have been changed.

Did this story make you recall a story from the early Icelandic communities that makes you laugh when you think of it???? It's time to get more of these stories in writing!!! Write it down—doesn't have to be fancy—and send it to Duane Halldorson (halldor3@polarcomm.com) or Susan (Sigurdson) Powers (tpowerssig@cableone.net).

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



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

Árið tvö þúsund og níu (2009)

Mountain, ND

110th Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration

Friday, July 31st

“Dakota Mysteries and Oddities Museum” on display all weekend

4:00 PM **Genealogy Center** -2nd Ave & 3rd St, across from the Mountain Chalet **4-8 PM**

Alfred Hanson woodworking Open House at Genealogy Center **6-8 PM**

5:00 PM **Pitchfork Fondue** at Byron's Bar Beer Garden **5-9 PM**

9:00 PM **Street Dance**-Main Street of Mountain- Music by **“Free Beer”**

Saturday, August 1st

10:30 AM **Parade**-Main Street-**Next page for Parade Route and Events Map**

11:00 AM **Vikur Salad Luncheon**- Vikur church basement

11:30 AM **Genealogy Center & Souvenir Booth** 2nd Ave & 3rd St, across from the Mountain Chalet **11:30 AM-6 PM**

Alfred Hanson woodworking Open House at Genealogy Center-**3-5 PM**

12:00 Noon **Car Show and Shine**-Main street

12:00 Noon **Book Signing** by author **Denise Bjornson** for her novel **“Defining Gray”** Vikur Church Grounds-until **2PM**

12:00 Noon **3 on 3 Basketball Tournament**-Mountain Chalet Grounds

12:00 Noon **Kids Inflatable Games**-Mountain Chalet

12:30 PM **Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull**-immediately following the parade-Main Street

2:00 PM **Heritage Program**-Borg Home Lawn-**Please bring your lawn chairs!**

Keynote Speaker: His Excellency Mr. Össur Skarphéðinsson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

Choir Concert- Kór Grafarvogskirkju & Musical Entertainment by **Levi and Bethany Andrist**

3:15 PM **Coffee and Lemonade**-Borg Home Lawn

3:30 PM **Tours of area historic sites and farms**-Depart from Borg

4:00 PM **Iceland Geology Presentation** by **Howard Hobbs**-Vikur Church Basement

4:00 PM **ATV Pulling Contest**-Behind Mountain Chalet

4:00 PM **Old Time Dance**-Until 6 PM-Mountain Legion Hall-Music by **“Julie Lee & the White Rose Band”**

6:00 PM **Icelandic Communities International Fellowship Supper**-Borg Home Lawn

7:00 PM **Old Time Dance**-Mountain Legion Hall **7-10 PM**

9:00 PM **Street Dance**-Main Street of Mountain-Music by **“Betty Does”**

Sunday, August 2nd

11:00 AM **Worship Service**-Borg Home Lawn-**Catered Brunch to follow**

1:00 PM **Genealogy Center & Souvenir Booth**-2nd Ave & 3rd St, across from the Mountain Chalet **1- 3 PM**

1:00 PM **North Dakota State Tractor & Pickup Pulling Contest**-Behind Mountain Chalet

Raffle drawing to be held after Tractor Pull-Behind Mountain Chalet

4:00 PM **Bingo**-Byron's Bar

8:00 PM **Grampa's Amp Band** at Byrons Bar Beer Garden **8:00 pm -12 am**

The Souvenir Booth will also be selling Icelandic Hardfish, Saturday Evening Supper Tickets, and Raffle Tickets for the cash raffle. Cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$500 will be awarded, with the drawing to be held at the conclusion of the Tractor Pull on Sunday, August 2nd. For primitive camping information contact:

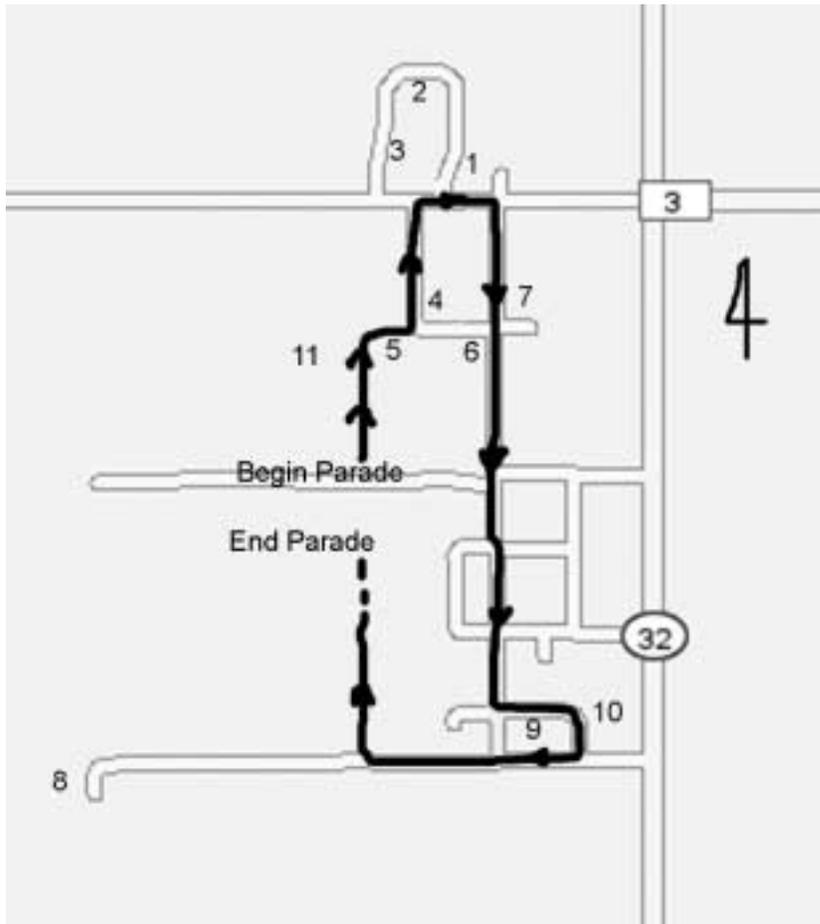
Katy Readell, ktreadel@hotmail.com- 701-993-8431

Parade Grand Marshal--Kris Bjornson

He is 96 (97 on Aug 18) and is the son of the first Mayor of Mountain, Magnus F. Bjornson

Parade Honorary Grand Marshal--Tommy Jordan

Prominent Pembina County contractor instrumental in the construction of Borg Home



- 1- Legion Hall
- 3- Campgrounds
- 4- Genealogy Center & Souvenir Sales
- 5- Mountain Chalet
- 6- Vikur Church
- 7- Bar
- 8- Mountain West Cemetery
- 9- Borg Home
- 10- Borg Home Lawn
- 11-ATV & Tractor Pull area

Góða nótt!