



THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY 1862-1962

By H.EINAR MOSE

CHAPTER III

1912-1942

When Peder Kristensen was elected as Dania's president in 1912, the chief executive post was not new to him. He had served as president in 1886-87, and had finished out Henry Ockenholdt's term in 1903. A cabinet maker from Struer, Kristensen was a good looking man, known for his sense of humor and his hearty laugh.

One of Peder Kristensen's main interests was the purchase of the Kedzie Avenue property, and in 1912 he shared the shovel with Henry Ockenholdt when ground was broken for the new Dania quarters. He was a proud president when, on December 29th, he presided over Dania's 50th anniversary party and was able to show off the new club rooms. Dania's debt was \$24,000.00 at this time, but the members' enthusiasm for the new club building, and their avowed support of Dania helped make the outlook a bright one. The ever generous Dania Ladies Aid Society pitched in and donated \$400.00 worth of furnishings for the new Dania headquarters.

Peder Kristensen's popularity was attested to by his re-election to the presidency in 1913 and 1914. Available Dania records indicate that no other man held this position for as many terms as he did.

Kristensen evidently agreed with Havelock Ellis that, "dancing is the loftiest, most moving, most beautiful of the arts", because one of his first proposals during his 1913 reign was to start a dancing school for the children of Dania's members. His idea won approval and actually became a profitable venture: a surplus of \$200.00 was the result of the first year's operation.

That Kristensen was popular not only with the men but with the women was shown by the fact that when his term as president expired, the Dania's Ladies Aid donated \$100.00 to Dania as a gesture of their gratitude to Peder Kristensen.

A banquet in Kristensen's honor was held in 1915, and again in 1938 when he had been a member of Dania for fifty years. The invited guests at that elegant dinner in 1938 were: Mr. and Mrs. Kristensen, Consul General R. Baumann, Carl Jacobsen, and the editors of the "Danish Pioneer", the "Danish Times" and the "Chicago Weekly". Christian Nielsen was the toastmaster, Agnes Andersen was at the piano, and Axel Andersen made the presentation to Peder Kristensen of a gold shield with the inscription: "1888-Dania's Thanks For 50 Years-1938". Dania's president, Hans Eriksen, then presented Kristensen with an envelope brimming to the top with fifty silver dollars. A song written especially for the occasion by Carl Jacobsen was sung, and many speeches were heard before the party was over. Kristensen was so moved by the whole affair that he had much difficulty in expressing his profound appreciation.

Peder Kristensen naturally became an honorary member of Dania, and in 1940, on his 75th birthday, Dania honored him once again with a special luncheon.

The dedication ceremonies at Rebild National Park took place on July 4, 1912. This memorable day in Danish-American relations was the culmination of many years of planning and organizing by Dania's member, Dr. Max Henius.

The story of Rebild probably goes back to 1906. In that year a Danish-American Association was formed in Racine, Wisconsin, headed by former Dania president, Henry L. Hertz. Dr. Henius became an enthusiastic member of this group, and two years later while visiting Aarhus, Henius got the idea of holding an American-Danish meeting on that city's exposition grounds. The Danish-American Association endorsed Henius's idea, and made Henius the chairman of the Aarhus Day Committee. The result was that the first American Independence Day was celebrated in Denmark on July 4, 1909.

This first July 4th celebration in Denmark was a tremendous success. The efforts of both Max Henius and Carl Antonsen were well rewarded by the attendance of over 1100 Danish-Americans. Dr. Henius and his associates then began looking for a suitable location for future annual meetings. They found a most flitting site of over 200 acres in the Rebild Hills, south of Aalborg. An option was acquired on this land, money was collected in America, and in 1911 the land was purchased and named the Danish-American Park, then changed to Rebild National Park. A group of Americans formed the American Rebild Committee, and before the dedication of the park in 1912, this committee went to Marselisborg Castle outside of Aarhus and turned over the deed to King Christian X as a gift from Danish-Americans to their native land. The deed stipulated the rights of Americans to celebrate July 4th and other American national holidays in the park. The Chicago members of the committee were all outstanding Dania members: Dr. Max Henius, president; Carl Antonsen, secretary; C. H. Hansen, treasurer; M. Hemingsen, asst. secretary; C. H. Hasselriis, vice-president (Danish-American Association); and Henry L. Hertz. World War I and World War II interrupted the annual festivals, but in all the intervening years and after, the American July 4th has been celebrated in Rebild with a spirit and fervor seldom seen even in the United States. Denmark to this day is the only country beyond America's borders that commemorates our Independence Day.

Dr. Henius, like so many Danes, was a staunch admirer of the Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln. Henius felt that a monument to this great American president would be most appropriate in Rebild National Park. Out of Henius's fecund mind came the idea of the Lincoln Log Cabin. Designed by Chicago architect and Dania member, Axel V. Teisen, the log cabin became an American-Danish shrine. At the 50th anniversary festival on July 4, 1962, a plaque honoring the outstanding journalist and writer, Georg Strandvold, was added to the other mementos in the Lincoln Log Cabin.

Dr. Max Henius frequently gathered his inner circle of friends at "Horgdalshuset", his straw-thatched summer retreat in the Rebild Hills. Brusque and domineering in manner at times, Henius had his share of enemies who circulated unflattering rumors about him. His friends, such as J. Christian Bay and Tyge Lassen, editor of "Aalborg

Amtstidende", always came to his defense. Lassen once wrote in his paper that Henius was, "a man whose intellect was governed by the fervor of his heart".

Henius was a member not only of Dania but also of Harmonien and the Kronborg Lodge #298. He was always grateful for Dania's greetings which were sent to him on numerous occasions, and he was especially appreciative of the painting of himself which Dania presented to him at a festival in honor of his 70th birthday.

Although Henius's origin and background were not essentially Danish, his life was one of a true Dane, and his name will forever be associated with the history of the Danes in America. Few Danes have been as deserving of his official reward, -the Medal of Merit in gold.

Joseph Jensen was elected president of Dania in 1915. He had become a member in October of 1902, and because he owned a woolen fabrics factory in Chicago he was known in all Danish circles as "Uldjyden" ("The Wool Jutlander": in Denmark, an "Uldjyde" was an itinerant businessman who sold woolen wares made in the region around Herning). Jensen, born near Viborg, was a colorful character, full of vigor and vitality. This was evident even when, at the age of eighty-two, he was an indefatigable member of the Dania-Harmonien pilgrimage to Denmark in 1930.

Joseph Jensen was an astute businessman, and because of his financial acumen he was elected one of Dania's trustees and became an excellent watchdog over Dania's coffers. In March, 1927, Jensen stated in a report that the members of Dania had subscribed to \$20,000.00 in bonds, the proceeds from which were to be used as a down payment on a first mortgage. Three years later Jensen pointed out that while there was no immediate concern about the installment payments or even a mortgage renewal, Dania had to be more serious in its desire and intent to retire its outstanding debt.

When Joseph Jensen celebrated his eighty first birthday, Dania presented him with a diamond studded gold chain as a token of appreciation for his many services. Jensen and his wife moved into a beautiful home in Florida, and both can be seen in a photograph included in the 1937 Dania Jubilee Book, the picture caption reading: "Our heartiest congratulations to Dania". Jensen spent his declining years in Florida, and passed away on December 31, 1943, nearly ninety four years of age. Jensen was not only an outstanding personage in Dania, but also in the entire Danish colony in Chicago.

On November 3, 1917, eight months after America's entry into World War I, a Soldiers' Committee was formed in Dania. This committee was comprised of representatives from both Dania and Dania's Ladies' Society, and had as its officers, Sophus Bock (president), Herskind Petersen (treasurer), and Charles L. Wilde (secretary). Packages of candy, cigarettes and tobacco were sent to Dania's soldiers, and this committee was responsible for sending a total of 543 packages abroad, plus 100 money orders of \$2.00 each. Charles Wilde personally wrote 600 letters to those soldiers who were serving overseas.

In March, 1918, Peter Bjerrehus replaced Sophus Bock as president of this committee. Fifty one soldiers were on the Roll of Honor, four of them Dania members, the rest being sons of members. Charles Wilde then proposed that an auxiliary be formed by the two societies, and be known as "Dania's Homeguards". It was shortly after this that the news came that William Bjerrehus and Harold Michelsen had been killed in action.

Ten months after the Armistice was signed, Dania held a "Welcome Home" party on September 11, 1919, at the La Salle Hotel. Henry L.Hertz was the toast-master and Charles Wilde was the main speaker. Wilde's "Welcome Home, Boys!" was an eloquent patriotic tribute to the returning soldiers and to America. A song written by Ove Knudsen was sung by Poul Bjornskjold, and speeches were made by the Superintendent of Schools, P. A. Mortensen, for America; Danish Consul Falkenstjerne, for Denmark; Colonel John Glinnin, for the soldiers; Colonel Abel Davis, for the parents; Mrs. Oppenhagen, for the Homeguards; and finally by Colonel Henry Reilly, "One Country-One Flag". The singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" ended the official part of one of the biggest celebrations ever put on by the Danes in Chicago.

When "Dania's Homeguards" dissolved in 1919, Charles Wilde turned his attention to the administrative functioning of Dania. His idea for an Activities Committee was approved, and President Christian Nielsen appointed Dr. Peter Clemmensen, Soren T. Corydon, Christian Bottker, Henry L.Hertz. N. Nielsen and Charles Ryberg to this new committee. Charles Wilde also fathered the Committee for Dania's Welfare.

At the January meeting in 1919, President John C. Christensen, the able chief architect for Chicago's Board of Education, resigned, and the chief executiveship was taken over by Christian Nielsen, the local editor of the "Danish Pioneer". Here entered upon the scene probably the most controversial president in Dania's twentieth century history.

Christian Nielsen was born in Vivild, Hadsten, near Randers, on July 19, 1861. When he emigrated and settled in Chicago his two main interests were the "Danish Pioneer" and Dania. A good newspaper reporter who loved his work, Nielsen was the Chicago editor of the "Danish Pioneer" for thirty six years, and was known as "Pioneer" Nielsen. He was made a member of Dania on April 21, 1909, and although prominent in the Kronborg Lodge #18, of the Danish Brotherhood, his heart was always in Dania.

In 1918, Christian Nielsen came forth with the idea that a society for the young people of Danish parents should be formed. This concept became a reality in January of 1919 when the Dania Young People's Society was founded and its bylaws were approved.

Poker was apparently one of Nielsen's joys, for he was a strong proponent of the opinion that poker was not gambling. In March of 1920, Martin Houlberg, supported by Peder Kristensen and the new president, Fritz Frantzen, insisted that poker playing in the club rooms must cease as it was gambling; Christian Nielsen maintained that it was not. Again at a meeting in January of 1921, it was announced that Dania's parlors were no place for a "royal flush".

In 1925, "Pioneer" Nielsen recommended that Dania become a closed membership and that each individual member have the right to sell his membership. Attorney-member, Peter B. Nelson, informed Dania that such an arrangement was not contrary to Dania's laws.

Christian Nielsen, also known as the "Runner" because he was always on the go, had a large insurance business which later was incorporated as Christian Nielsen & Son. He was a well-known figure on North Avenue, and everyone seemed to know this tall man with the impressive shock of white hair. In 1937, Christian Nielsen was knighted, an honor which most Danes thought he well deserved.

Nielsen loved Dania so much that on his deathbed he requested permission to be buried from Dania Hall, a request which was of course granted. He died on June 10, 1938, and his funeral was probably one of the largest Danish funerals which Chicago had ever witnessed. Two ministers, Rev. A. W. Andersen and Rev. Videbeck, officiated, and both clergymen spoke well of the deceased, who in his last years had become a more or less regular churchgoer.

When Christian Nielsen was Dania's president in 1919, Rasmus Egebergh was the secretary. A member since 1891, Egebergh had recorded Dania's minutes since 1910. In September of 1919, however, Egebergh put down his pen and resigned, apparently because of a misunderstanding with President Nielsen. Christian Bottker, the editor of "Revyen" ("The Review"), protested Egebergh's resignation, and in his paper implied that Christian Nielsen had demanded Egebergh's abdication. Some members contended that Bottker had no right to publish this "malicious insinuation", and it was decided to invite Egebergh to the November meeting so that he could explain the real reasons behind his resignation. Egebergh didn't come to that meeting, but instead sent a letter which blamed Christian Nielsen for the whole affair.

Egebergh's endeavor as Dania's secretary left something to be desired, as far as Charles Wilde was concerned. Wilde bemoaned the fact that since Egebergh had become secretary; no mention was made in the records about the passing of Dania members. This criticism wasn't shared by too many members apparently, for Egebergh was re-elected again three times after Wilde had voiced his objection in 1916.

Christian Nielsen's brainstorm, the Dania Young People's Society, held its first meeting in March of 1919, at which time it expressed its appreciation of becoming a branch society of Dania. The purpose of this new group was social entertainment and spiritual enlightenment, and it had as initial members over one hundred young men and women of Danish descent.

In 1922, the Dania Young People's Society, not to be confused with the Danish Youth Association -"Ungdomsforeningen" -which was founded in 1889, received the free use of Dania's club rooms, but not the hall, and for this the new society's president, A. K. Mose, thanked Dania.

From the beginning, the Dania Young People's Society had to navigate a course which was as precarious as that between Scylla and Charybdis. In 1928 the Society's status was so tottery that reorganization was required, and Dania was asked to assist in forming a new society. In July of that same year, Dania offered free membership in Dania to members of the Dania Young People's Society who were in good standing. Those who entered Dania in this manner were Albert W. Clausen, Oluf Lindeboe, Elker R. Nielsen, and Frank C. Skallerup.

At the July 17, 1935 meeting, it was decided to again revive the Dania Young People's Society, but it wasn't until 1936 that this Society's new constitution was read by A. K. Mose and approved. Disagreement shortly thereafter arose between the two groups as to the use of the club rooms. The young people didn't relish being shunted off to the basement area, and consequently began invading the upper quarters which didn't set too well with the Dania members. The younger set was also reported to be mistreating the furniture, etc., and President A. K. Mose took it upon himself to correct this regrettable situation. It must be remembered that the Dania Young People's Society was comprised mainly of second generation Danes born in America, and it could hardly be expected that they would have the same reverence or intense love for things Danish that their parents did. These young people did recognize their limitations due to their youth, and they requested that an older member of Dania be present at their meetings in the capacity of an adviser: Axel Andersen was their choice

A year after the end of World War I, a South Jutland Committee was formed. It was sponsored by Soren T. Corydon, a dry goods entrepreneur, who together with his brother had one of the largest business establishments around North and California Avenues. Corydon's committee collected over \$800.00, and it was later made known that the central committee had forwarded some \$50,000.00 in funds and clothes to South Jutland.

Soren Corydon, due to his business interests and his affiliation with the now non-existent St. Ansgar's Church, was not too active in Dania, although he did serve on several committees during the time he was a member. Corydon was made a Knight of Dannebrog for his invaluable aid to Slesvig. He passed away on October 8, 1952.

The entertainment fare in Dania during its lean years (1895-1920) was rather meager. There just wasn't enough extra money in the till to hire many professional entertainers and lecturers. The Danish poet, L. C. Nielsen, spoke in Dania in 1913; Mrs. Lois Pio, the wife of former member Louis Pio, lectured in 1915; Songster Poul Bjornskjold gave a concert for the benefit of the Soldiers' Fund in 1918; and in 1919, Dania member Otto Christensen, son of former President Adolph Christensen, arranged for a series of Wednesday night lecturers which proved to be popular.

The Activities Committee, after much disagreement, sponsored two "Oda Nielsen Evenings" during 1920. The first Oda Nielsen performance was a \$700.00 success, and the second one, which was an evening of songs for Danish children, brought in \$460.00.

When Carl W. Larsen was president of Dania in 1920 and 1921, he proposed some radical changes to Dania's bylaws. The gist of Larsen's thinking was as follows: The officers of Dania would consist of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer; and twelve directors (the directors would elect the vice-president) who, with the exception of the vice-president, would constitute the board of governors which would manage the society. Other changes involved the various committees, the time of year the meetings should be held, etc.

In 1922, when Charles P. Ditlefsen was elected president, it was decided to do away with Larsen's new bylaws and revert back to the old ones. Ditlefsen was an active member of Dania. Interested in both music and the theater, he was instrumental in Dania sending congratulations to composer P. Marinus Poulsen when the latter received a \$1,000.00 prize at the Chicago Theater for one of his musical compositions. Ditlefsen also was responsible for arranging the performance which actor Adam Poulsen gave at the Garrick Theater in October of '23. Following the performance, which netted Poulsen close to \$1,000.00, a reception was given for the touring Poulsens in Dania.

A member of Dania since January 5, 1915, Charles P. Ditlefsen suffered a fatal heart attack in the latter part of 1935.

Jens Christian Jorgensen followed Ditlefsen as Dania's president. Jorgensen was a popular man, well liked for his good spirit and his liberal points of view. Dania's flag flew at half-mast when Jorgensen passed away in June of '37.

During Jorgensen's reign in 1923, Louis Hansen passed away. The flags should have flown at half-mast for this old honorary member of Dania, but the flag lines were broken. It was at this time that flag conscious B. Wendt demanded that the flags being disrespectfully used as stage curtains be removed immediately.

Adolph Nielsen took over Dania's rudder in July of '24, and held it until January '26. Many improvements to the building were effected during this period, part of the expense being met by increasing the initiation fee from \$10.00 to \$25.00. Even though expenses ran high during these years, Nielsen left office with a surplus in the treasury. Possessed with the ability to handle money matters, Adolph Nielsen was Dania's treasurer until his death on June 3, 1945.

In March of 1927, Rasmus Egebergh, the former Dania scribe and an honorary member since 1924, was chosen to write a short history of Dania. In July, 1928, he delivered the manuscript (it covered Dania's history up to 1885), to the Board of Directors, and complained that the official records for the following years couldn't be found. In September, the Directors declared that Egebergh's history was incomplete because it omitted the accomplishments of the Building Committee and the Activities Committee.

Egebergh never had an opportunity to finish his history, for in October of '29 he parted with life and was buried from Dania. His manuscript on Dania's history was one of the sources of later histories. Charles Wilde even accused Anton Kvist of copying

Egebergh's work. It is impossible, of course, to write about Dania without leaning heavily, as this writer has done, on the research work which others have done in the past. As is true with many of the Dania histories written years ago, the Egebergh manuscript is now nowhere to be found.

During September, 1927, two loyal Dania members, Niels Tandrup and Carl Nielsen, passed away. Tandrup, a member since 1888, had the distinct honor of being a Dania member longer than anyone else at the time of his demise. He served on Dania's Board of Directors in the early 1900's, and his devotion to Dania was evidenced by the fact that he was buried from Dania.

Carl Nielsen joined Dania in 1893, became secretary in 1896, and served as president both in 1899 and 1901. A conscientious and devoted Dania member, Nielsen died of a heart attack while on the "elevated".

Hans Christian Eriksen was elected Dania's commander-in-chief at the January meeting in 1928. A smallholder's son from the Vejle region in Jutland, Eriksen arrived in America in 1911 and began working as a carpenter. Six months later, to everyone's amazement, he started his own construction company, Thorgersen & Eriksen, and within a short period of time was considered a well-to-do builder.

In 1921, together with his business partner Carl Thorgersen, Hans C. Eriksen joined Dania. For many years thereafter Eriksen was one of Dania's most popular, active, and prominent members.

In the same year in which he became Dania's helmsman, Eriksen was host to the members of the Dania Society of California who, together with some Nevadan Danes, were on their way to Denmark. The guests from the west were wined and dined in the best Dania style, and they promised to trumpet the news in Denmark that the Dania Society of Chicago really lived up to its name and reputation.

Later in the year 1928, a committee was formed to plan the Dania-Harmonien pilgrimage to Denmark which was to take place during the summer of 1930. Hans C. Eriksen was chosen director of this tour, and was very instrumental in making it a tremendous success.

Eriksen was evidently not a man to be crossed, for in the fall of 1932 he resigned as an officer of Dania due to a disagreement with the steward. His resignation was accepted at the November 9th meeting, but the records do not give any additional explanation for his abrupt action.

George Peter Jensen, the man whose energetic and patriotic efforts during World War II produced such remarkable results, became Dania's president in 1929. He was re-elected to the pilotship of Dania in 1930, and in this capacity naturally played a prominent role in the Dania-Harmonien trip in that same year.

On August 27, 1930, George Jensen announced the passing of Soren J. Hejberg and Carl Christensen. Hejbetg, & financial victim of the depression, is remembered for

his generous gifts to the Memorial Park at Sondermarken, to which Dania had also contributed in 1925. Hejberg is also remembered for his help in sending a deathly ill tuberculosis patient, member Sofus Sorensen, back to Denmark: Hejberg paid for the railroad fare to New York and for a separate cabin for Sorensen on board ship. In 1926 Dania had given Sorensen a gift of over \$250.00, -another example of Dania's willingness to help fellow countrymen in need.

George P. Jensen was one of the staunch supporters of the move to introduce the English language into Dania as the official language. He later became one of the first Dania members to publish a book written in English, this being his opus on Chicago entitled: "Historic Chicago Sites" (1953-Creative Enterprises).

When "Historic Chicago Sites" was published, a flier about the book and author was distributed in order to stimulate sales. It read: "Having lived all his life in Chicago, George Peter Jensen is well qualified to write about the city. When only a boy, he loved the city's fascinating history, and its strange and wonderful surroundings. He vowed that one day he would write a book that would depict the growth of this great city. While in the 7th grade, he had to leave school and go to work. But by reading and home study, and by attendance at evening school, he was able to pass a college examination. During the first World War he was appointed by President Wilson as a public speaker. Later he applied for admission to an officer's training camp, and was assigned to Camp Fremont, California. The author was a successful business man and makes his home in Chicago. He has traveled extensively, in Central America, Asia and Europe, and has lectured on these travels and written articles about them. He was past president of the Rebild National Park Board. He was an emissary from President Hoover to the King of Denmark, and has been active in promoting a better understanding between Denmark and the United States."

George Peter Jensen was that exemplary type of immigrant who loved his adopted city of Chicago as deeply as he did his hometown in Denmark. He was a Knight of Dannebrog, -quite deservedly, and he passed away on February 10, 1956.

Dania entertained its members well during the Twenties. In 1921, Dr. Max Henius procured as a lecturer, Nis Nissen, the outstanding South Jutland politician and member of the Prussian Landtag; Vocalist Christian Schroeder gave a concert to too few people, but singer Johannes Herskind, assisted by actress Karen Stevensen and Mrs. Alfa Petersen, gave a concert which netted him over \$400.00.

Dania threw a party in April, 1923, in honor of the American Minister to Denmark, His Excellency Maurice Egan; Ove Knudsen gave one of his inimitable performances exactly one year later; in July, '24, Danish opera stars Peer Bjorn and Ingvard Nielsen were feted at a luncheon; and later that year Rev. A. Th. Dorf spoke at a luncheon which was given in honor of Harmonien.

Prince Aage of Denmark lectured in Orchestra Hall on March 2, 1926, and afterwards attended a supper in his honor at Dania. A "Hard Times Party" two months later was such a smashing success that the three Dania groups, -Dania Ladies' Society,

Dania Young People's Society, and Dania, vowed to have a carnival party each year thereafter.

Dr. Mikkel Hindhede, the renowned dietician and president of the Food Education Society (London), spoke to Dania's members about their favorite subject, -food, in January of 1928. Two months later Dania entertained the 250 Danish guests from California and Nevada.

In October 1928, a "Denmark Committee" had been formed in Dania, with Dr. Max Henius as chairman, for the purpose of planning a joint trip to Denmark with Harmonien. It was decided to make this excursion in June of 1930, and to charter a Danish boat and visit the coastal and inland towns of interest. It was also decided to bring along a motion picture of Danish-American life in Chicago to show to the inhabitants of the various Danish towns to be visited.

Both George Peter Jensen, who was Dania's president in 1929-30, and H. Christian Eriksen, who was the official director of this trip, deserve much of the credit for making the Dania-Harmonien tour an inimitable experience for all of those who went along. The following brief account will serve to illustrate why this trip was so successful.

The ocean liner, "Hellig Olav" (American-Scandinavian Line), docked at Copenhagen's East Pier on May 30, 1930, and more than two hundred Dania and Harmonien members disembarked. The tour itinerary allowed the first eleven days to be "open", and the official tour did not commence until June 11th. On that day Harmonien gave a concert in Tivoli's concert hall under the direction of Joel Mossberg. Maestro Schnedler Petersen opened the musicale with the "Overture to Elverhoj", followed by the Danish national anthem. The opera singer, Johannes Fons, concluded with a toast-"Long Live the Faithful Danish-Americans".

The following day, the chartered Danish steamer, "Vistula", brought the group to Ronne. Here they were welcomed by County Sheriff Koefoed, after which they visited Dueodde, Nekso, Paradis Hojene and Ekkodalen. Harmonien then gave a concert, attended by two thousand people, at the "Almindinge Pavilion" in Ronne, for the benefit of the county library.

A few days later the visiting "firemen" from Chicago made an auto trip through Lolland-Falster, stopping at the manor houses at Pederstrup, Bandholm, Knuthenborg and Maribo. After a festive dinner back in Nakskov, a concert was held at the Nakskov Theatre.

The following day, the "Vistula" arrived at Kallundborg. Mayor Frederik Andersen extended a hearty welcome, and Dania's president, George P. Jensen, responded in an equally enthusiastic speech in which he brought greetings from President Herbert Hoover and the 200,000 Danish born citizens of the United States. A hike through the town was followed by an auto trip to Dragsholm Castle, and to Faarevejle Church where Mary Stuart's lover, the Earl of Bothwell, is buried. After lunching in Nykobing the group drove to Sjællands Odde and then back to Kallundborg.

The next stop was Hans Christian Andersen's birthplace, Odense. Consul Kruuse and the chief of the Tourist-Association, A. Kjaer, received the tourists. Museums were visited in the forenoon, as well as an excursion to Langeso Castle. The afternoon was spent exploring the many interesting places in Odense itself. In the evening a large public festival was held in "Fruens Boge". Harmonien performed, and the eventful day ended with fireworks and dancing.

After a few days of rest on the idyllic Svenborg Sound, the group proceeded on June 19th to Aabenraa in South Jutland. The city was decorated with Danish and American flags, and patriotic feelings ran high since the Slesvig cause had always been close to the hearts of the Chicago Danes. Mayor Fink spoke eloquently, as did H. P. Hansen, the leader of the South Jutlanders, when he received the group at "Folkehjem". In the afternoon a trip was made down to the Border, and to the national shrine of the Dybbol fortifications where the small Danish army, in 1864, bravely resisted the overpowering Prussian invaders.

A visit was made the following day to the beautiful island of Als. At "Faergegaarden" in Mommark, where lunch was served, George P. Jensen spoke in English about President Woodrow Wilson's deep interest in South Jutland. When the "Vistula" hoisted anchor and began steaming out of the harbor, the lovely summer evening was charged with much emotion, and never had "Der er et yndigt land . . ." been sung with more feeling.

The "Flensborg Avis", on June 25th, carried an interview with Christian "Pioneer" Nielsen. The visiting journalist boasted that the "Danish Pioneer", with its circulation of over 50,000, was the largest Danish-American newspaper in the United States. Nielsen also informed the "Flensborg Avis" that of the more than 20,000 Danish-Americans in Chicago, 5,000 were from Slesvig; and that many of these had attained much prominence in their adopted country, -such as the Corydon brothers, the Bendsen brothers, and Jens Jensen, the famous landscape architect. Jensen was one of the three men from Slesvig who had seen President Wilson in order to persuade him not to forget South Jutland at the peace conference table. Nielsen was asked which segment of the Danish immigrants in America had fared the best: he answered that the farmers had prospered more than the business and professional people, and that the Danish craftsmen, especially in the building trades, were more capable and better trained than their American counterparts.

Aarhus was the next stop on the Dania-Harmonien itinerary. Oddly enough no official reception was given the group upon their arrival. The city officials, however, hurriedly arranged a dinner party at "Friheden", a pavilion in the woods. Two hundred people turned up, and the dinner was a memorable occasion mainly because of the speech by seventy two year old James Skallerup (from Thisted), a Chicago cigar manufacturer.

The next day, a Sunday, the Chicago troupe assembled in Marselisborg Memorial Park. Among the many speeches was one by Caspar H. W. Hasselriis of New York, who said: "From without we only see the best, -what is outstanding in Denmark. We idealize the old country. But at every return we have found that what we saw and

came across did not disappoint us. To the Danish emigrant certain qualities, typical of the Danes, are discernible, -such as moderation, humor, plainliness, cordiality, thoroughness, and faithfulness. These are moderate virtues, many will say, but these virtues are also small keys which will open big gates. God bless Denmark." Harmonien sang in the evening, directed by the Falstaff-like Joel Mossberg, and "Wool" Jensen was, in spite of his eighty two years, the first one on and the last one off the dance floor.

After stopping briefly in Meriager, the "Vistula" moved slowly through the fog-shrouded Rander's Fjord. At Hobro, the visiting Danish-Americans were received by the largest crowd yet encountered on the trip. In Anton Kvist's poetic terms, -it was as if Hobro had bid them welcome with a bouquet of living flowers. The dinner banquet in Hobro was one of the most unforgettable of all the many memorable dinners given in honor of the Chicagoans. This was mainly due to a spirited speech by Dr. Max Henius: he pointed out that Hobro had had an unusual attraction for him from his earliest years; for it was here that he had had his first love tryst and had spent many wonderful days. Henius then stressed the fact that Hobro had a yeast factory, -probably the largest in Scandinavia, which gave everything and everyone in Hobro a tremendous lift. And then neighboring Aalborg with its schnapps distilleries -this certainly gave Hobro an atmosphere of good spirit, conviviality, and cheer, for what better combination is there than a good beer and a schnapps!

On the morning of July 4, 1930, the "Vistula" arrived in Aalborg. The reception had an especially warm flavor, and Hans Christian Eriksen presented the Mayor of Aalborg with a silver shield which was to be hung in the Aalborg City Hall as a memento of the Dania-Harmonien visit. George P. Jensen spoke on behalf of the entire group when he stated that Hans Christian Andersen's "I Danmark er jeg foedt ..." expressed the true feelings of all the Dania-Harmonien members. The only sad note in Jensen's address was the reference to the fact that Aalborg was to be the last stop before the long return voyage to America.

The afternoon celebration in Rebild National Park attracted thousands of people. Ten American state flags, including the Illinois flag, were donated to Rebild. A luncheon in Dr. Max Henius's summer cottage, "Horgdalshuset", preceded the celebration and two prominent men, Dr. Henry Leach and Dr. Knud Rasmussen, addressed the group. Dr. Leach spoke in Danish on "Dannebrog and the Stars and Stripes", going into the history of the two flags, and pointing out that the stripes of the American flag could be attributed to Captain Marks of the Philadelphia Light Cavalry who, during the War of Independence, gave his regiment a flag with thirteen stripes in one corner: in this manner, therefore, the Danes could be said to have placed their mark on American life from the earliest days of its existence.

Dr. Leach then paid tribute to Dr. Max Henius, the "Father of Rebild National Park", and to Niels Poulsen, the "Father of the American-Scandinavian Foundation". Leach went on to say that the Danish influence in America was an aesthetic discipline, -&n expression of dynamic worship of beauty. Optimism and generosity are two of America's virtues which are appreciated by the Danes, and America in turn values the aesthetic thoughts which are the fundamental spiritual characteristics of Danish culture.

Dr. Knud Rasmussen, the well-known explorer, then spellbound the audience with his poetic-historic explanation of the age-old urge to make discoveries and participate in exciting experiences such as the adventure of immigration. Rasmussen then spoke of the often neglected explorer, Vitus Bering, whose discoveries were, according to Rasmussen, some of the most extraordinary feats which the world has ever witnessed.

The evening festivities of the July 4th celebration took place in "Kilden". The former Danish Premier, J. C. Christensen, and the Finance Minister, J. Bramsnaes, both spoke.

On August 6th, a farewell banquet was held at "Wivel's Restaurant". George P. Jensen called attention to the democratic way of life in both Denmark and America, -a way of life which made people content and happy. Hans Christian Eriksen, visibly moved by the occasion, then made his farewell speech. The following day the ocean liner, "United States", weighed anchor. With flags waving, and everybody singing, "Der er et yndigt land . . ." the members of Dania and Harmonien shouted a last "hurrah" for Denmark. And so ended an unforgettable experience for many of the members of Dania and Harmonien, -an experience which would be indelibly impressed on their memories forever.

Both Charles L. Wilde and Dr. Max Henius were keenly interested in the preservation of records and the establishment of archives. At the June meeting in 1930, Wilde recommended that Dania construct a fireproof vault in the basement for its official records and other matters of literary value. Wilde complained that, "now a person runs around, looking for them, and sometimes they cannot be located". (This is as true in 1962 as it was in 1930). Wilde's idea was approved, but no action was ever taken on it.

Dr. Max Henius was more successful than Charles L. Wilde. The City of Aalborg owned Sohngaardsholm Manor which was located on the outskirts of the city. This manor had been built by Max Henius's father, sold several times, and then finally bought up by the City of Aalborg. Henius got the idea that this old manor house would make an excellent home for emigrant literature and other documents. With his customary energy and pertinacity, Henius persuaded the Aalborg City Council to donate the manor as an archive for emigrant literature. In 1932, the Dan-American Archives were opened, and Henius remarked, "My heart is in the Archives", for the building which housed these writings and documents had at one time been Max Henius's home.

In 1931, Jens Agger succeeded George P. Jensen as Dania's president. Agger, a reserved, successful businessman, (president of Chicago Rawhide Company), first became active in Dania in 1925 when he was made a member of the Building Committee and the House Committee. In that same year he was Dania's delegate to the Danish National Committee, and two years later was made an auditor.

During Agger's reign, the following bylaw changes were made: A former member could be readmitted to Dania for \$10.00, provided he received a majority vote and owed no back dues from the time of his previous membership period. A former member who had been expelled because of unpaid dues could not rejoin until those arrears were

settled. Also decided was that no member who was over sixty years of age when becoming a member could be eligible for the \$75.00 death benefit granted by Dania.

Adolph Nielsen, the treasurer during Agger's administration, received approval from the members to monthly set aside \$100.00 to form a sinking fund which would be used to retire the mortgage debt. The economic depression also made itself felt in Dania's rule concerning the membership initiation fee. This was temporarily reduced to \$15.00, and the steward's (Christian Larsen at this time) commission on rental income from the hall was cut to 10%.

Jens Agger was nominated for the presidency again in 1932, but he declined, and Paul Wester was voted into the post of command. Agger nevertheless remained very active in Dania's affairs. He served on many committees, such as the Dania Welfare Committee and a membership drive committee in '34. He did find time for a trip to Denmark, and before departing treated the members to beer and sandwiches after the January 9, 1935 meeting. Although born in America, Agger made a speech in Danish in which he stressed the importance of harmony and conviviality in Dania now that it had so many new members.

Because of his recognized business acumen, Agger was made a member of a committee whose function it was to seek a reduction in the interest rate being paid on Dania's outstanding debt. In 1935, Agger was secretary of the Bondholders' Committee, and it was at this time that he offered to pay half of the delinquent taxes for 1930 if other members would pay the other half: Soren Sorensen and Andrew Karkow co-operated.

At the General Assembly on January 25, 1939, Agger, as a member of the Law Committee, recommended certain changes be made in the protocols concerning changes and amendments made to Dania's bylaws. In the same year he helped beautify the club rooms by donating enough leather to cover the furniture, and he and his wife graciously hosted the Dania members at the Waltonian Hotel at Fox Lake.

At the April meeting in 1942, Agger gave a detailed report on the activities of the Rear Squad. A few weeks later Dania sent flowers to the Aggers who celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on May 12th. Agger ended his service on Dania's various committees when, in 1942, he became a member of the Library Committee.

Dania had a commendable Christmas custom of remembering the unfortunate Danes at the Oak Forest Home with Danish sandwiches and small money gifts. At such a Christmas visit in 1932, the members found 87 year old Christ Buck who claimed to have been a Dania member in 1868 when the Society was located at Canal and Kinzie Streets. Christmas time was not the only time Dania remembered the old inmates at Oak Forest: in 1953 John Eriksen, the caterer, furnished the refreshments at an Easter visit to the Home.

During the Prohibition era (1918-1933) strict orders were given all members not to violate the 18th Amendment. For some time no one except the officers of Dania were allowed to enter the kitchen or buffet room. At one time during those fifteen long, dry years it was rumored that Dania might have to be closed because it was not obeying the

federal law: the officers had to be present every evening in the club rooms to see to it that all members abstained from the use of intoxicants.

When the Prohibition Amendment was repealed in 1933, the parch-throated members celebrated on April 8th with a predominantly liquid luncheon which lasted for five hours and concluded with pickled herring and black coffee. Not only did this luncheon serve to welcome Bacchus back to the American scene but Dania's treasury was \$170.00 better off.

Chicago's spectacular fair, celebrating "A Century of Progress", opened on April 29, 1933. Four years before that, Dr. Max Henius had been appointed chairman of the Danish World's Fair Committee, but resigned from that post, remarking: "I could see that as far as Danish-American participation in the World's Fair is concerned, it will never be a success". Attorney Peter B. Nelson, a member of Dania, succeeded Max Henius as chairman. Henius later changed his mind and became very instrumental in placing the Danish exhibits in the Museum of Science and Industry. The Chicago Tribune, in an article which appeared in 1933, stated that "Denmark's decision to participate is largely due to the untiring efforts of Dr. Max Henius . . . and it is mostly due to his activities that the Danish government has granted 50,000 kroner (about \$8,000.00) to pay for a display of Danish scientific exhibits at the Fair".

It was not long afterwards that the tragic accident occurred. While driving on a winding road from Hobro to "Horgdalshuset" with his daughter Gerda, Henius's car was hit head-on by another car which was attempting to pass a horse and wagon. Henius was severely injured, and he and his daughter were rushed to a hospital in Aalborg. He lingered here for some time, but then pneumonia set in and finished the "Old Eagle" (his aquiline profile earned him this sobriquet) on November 15, 1935.

The City of Aalborg gave Max Henius a public funeral, and his passing was mourned throughout Denmark. His ashes were sent to the family burial place in Chicago. Henius was not a religious man, but as Dr. J. Christian Bay said in his eulogy at the memorial services at the University of Chicago Chapel, Henius had the greatest respect for the Church and regarded it as our greatest cultural asset. In 1959, on the 100th anniversary of Max Henius's birth, memorial services were held at the family tomb. Speeches were made by Dr. J. Christian Bay and Aksel Nielsen, and a large wreath was placed on his grave. Dr. Max Henius was certainly one of Dania's most famous members, and the love and gratitude felt by all Danes for Dr. Henius will never die.

At the regular Dania meeting in November of 1933, Anton Kvist was expelled from the Society because of nonpayment of dues. Although this action was in accordance with Dania's rules, to many it seemed like harsh treatment of a member whose literary accomplishments were incontestable. This ouster of Kvist was actually the result of various personal antipathies towards Kvist which had existed within Dania for some time. The author of this Centennial History, having no direct knowledge of Kvist's relationship with Dania, must rely on Dania's Records for the facts.

Anton Kvist, the Danish colony's poet laureate, has long been celebrated both here and in Denmark for his beautiful, inspiring poems and songs. Kvist is an example of a gifted man who is happy only when he has the pen in hand and is writing in Danish. Writing in Danish for American Danes is not only a thankless job but a highly unremunerative one. Yet there is nothing but praise, among discerning readers, for Kvist's writings, such as, "Lurerne Kalder," "Danske Streng," "Sange fra Vejen" and "Den gamle Pioner fortaeller."

Kvist had his antagonists in Dania. Christian "Pioneer" Nielsen was one, and Charles L. Wilde was no Kvist booster. Wilde didn't mention Kvist too often in his "Memorable Recollections of Dania," and when he did, it was in an unsympathetic way.

In September of 1921, Kvist recommended the establishment of a Memorial Archives which would contain material of historical interest to Dania. There was no affirmative action on this intelligent suggestion; nor was there any action taken on a similar proposal advanced by Charles L. Wilde at the June meeting in 1930.

There was a movement within Dania in 1926 to make Kvist an honorary member. Kvist himself questioned the honor because Dr. Max Henius, more deserving of the honor according to Kvist, had not been granted that honor by Dania. Some anti-Kvist members agreed wholeheartedly with Kvist that he didn't deserve the honor, and at the following January meeting, President C. M. Christiansen announced that no proposal for making Kvist an honorary member was in order.

Kvist apparently had his followers in Dania too. On December 1, 1928, the members voted to pay Kvist's unpaid dues as an expression of Dania's appreciation for the beautiful song Kvist had written for the anniversary festival. Again in September of 1930 it was voted to carry Kvist until December 31, 1931.

C. P. Rubardt, in May of '29, inquired about the "Dania History" which was being written by Kvist. The author informed the meeting that he was working on it, and after receiving an honorarium of \$100.00 he promised to submit his manuscript for review as soon as it was finished.

On July 13, 1932, Kvist suggested that his "History of Dania" be printed in 1,000 copies, the cost being \$350.00. The members, however, voted to start a subscription list before going ahead with the actual printing. Kvist then read sections of his history covering the pre-Dania period from 1837-1862.

The minutes of the May 10, 1933 meeting stated that Dania purchased Kvist's manuscript for \$250.00. At a later meeting in May, Kvist turned over his manuscript to President Christ Jorgensen, under the condition that Jorgensen would not let it out of his sight. Kvist also claimed that he had received only \$125.00 for his writing, not \$250.00. A committee then evaluated Kvist's manuscript and reported back that the history only went as far as 1875: Charles L. Wilde consequently felt that Kvist's work could only be used as a preface or a first chapter of Dania's history.

Kvist's banishment from Dania in November of 1933 may possibly have been the result of Kvist's role as editor and advertising agent of the Danish National Committee's annual Jubilee Book for that year. Dania's delegate to the Danish National Committee, Morten Westergaard, claimed that Kvist had refused to submit a list of advertising fees and voluntary contributions received. Since expenses were incurred without the knowledge of this income, there was no budgetary control on the Jubilee Book and a rather large deficit was incurred. It was then made known at the July meeting that Kvist, working on a twenty five per cent commission, had received a disproportionately large amount of money, and should be prevented from collecting any more commission in view of the deficit incurred on the Jubilee Book.

The Anton Kvist dichotomy in Dania became very obvious in the spring of 1948 when Marius Larsen, then the president of the Danish National Committee, mentioned that at a banquet for Kvist, occasioned by his appointment as Knight of Dannebrog, only three Dania members were present at the affair which was held in the hall of the Danish Workers' Singing Society on Rockwell Street. Larsen's motion that Kvist be made an honorary member of Dania was not carried, nor was the one by A. K. Mose that Dania's Entertainment Committee collect money for Kvist's forthcoming trip to Denmark.

At the Dania meeting in March of 1952, Axel M. Andersen, a Kvist supporter, suggested that Dania assign Kvist the job of writing Dania's history for the 90th Anniversary: the proposal was not carried. A. K. Sorensen then inquired whether Kvist had returned the source material to Dania that had been lent him over twenty years ago. (Kvist informed the Dania members at the June meeting in 1931 that all protocols and records obtained by him from Dania had been returned.)

When Anton Kvist became an octogenarian on October 29, 1958, Dania threw a fine party for him. Perhaps time does tend to heal old wounds. At the time of this writing, however, Anton Kvist is not a member of Dania. To many, the fact that Kvist, a gifted poet who had been knighted, and decorated with the Liberty Medal, is not an honorary member of Dania does not quite add up.

The early 1930's witnessed the passing of many of Dania's good members. Dr. Peter C. Clemmensen, a member since 1912 and very active on the Activities Committee, passed away in 1932. That same year Christ Agger (father of President Jens Agger) and Jens "Kongen" Jensen died. Both these men had become Dania members on February 4, 1911. During the "Century of Progress" Fair in 1933, James Skallerup and Berthel Nielsen passed away. Skallerup had been a member since 1900, and the generous Berthel Nielsen had been on the roster since 1898.

In 1934, bookbinder Christian Christensen, a member since 1899, met with a fatal accident. He had served well for several years as the recording and corresponding secretary of Dania. Christensen was joined during that year by Carl M. Petersen and Christ B. Nielsen. Petersen had been on the membership list since 1887, had served as a trustee for several years, and was one of the men behind the purchase of the Chicago Avenue property back in 1891. Christ Nielsen, the "official" undertaker for Chicago's Danish colony, had joined Dania at the end of World War I, and was greatly admired for his sympathy and aid to his bereaved countrymen.

The depression years affected Dania in the same way that it did other similar clubs and societies. Burdened with debt at a high interest rate, and unable to extract hardly any dues from the financially strapped members, Dania found itself in an embarrassing cash position. Vice-president Emanuel Nielsen reported that Dania's current liabilities exceeded the cash-on-hand by some twenty times. Many members should technically have been expelled from Dania during these years for failing to pay their dues. A person-to-person campaign, however, brought in over \$1,000.00, and no members were drummed out.

The financial picture began to grow brighter in 1935. A boxing match in Wicker Park yielded over \$800.00, and most important of all, slot machines were installed in Dania. Money now started to trickle into the coffers and Dania began benefitting from the fact that "there's a sucker born every minute." By 1937, Dania's mortgage had been reduced to \$15,000.00, and President Hans Christian Eriksen disclosed that the new mortgage loan had been arranged at a reasonable interest rate. The income from the "one-armed-bandits" was such that various remodeling work by Thorgersen & Eriksen, as well as new furniture and fixture purchases could be made.

Times were still difficult in 1938, and Dania's membership of only 236 men owed over \$1,100.00 in back-dues. The slot machines kept whirring, however, and the treasury soon showed a surplus of close to \$3,500.00. (To make sure that all the slot machine money ended up in the proper hands, it was found necessary to have the machines emptied in the presence of two Building Committee members.) During 1938, \$200.00 was set aside each month for the purchase of mortgage bonds in order to decrease the outstanding debt. This helped Dania reduce its debt by \$1,500.00 that year.

By 1942, Dania's mortgage debt liability was down to \$3,500.00. Axel M. Andersen, who had several times before accommodated Dania, agreed to lend the Society the \$3,500.00 at 4%, thereby enabling Dania to pay the remaining principal balance. Three years later, in 1945, Dania paid off the Andersen loan and was finally debt free.

One of the pillars in Dania during the Thirties and Forties was Axel Miller Andersen. An energetic and sagacious person, Andersen spent most of his spare time working for Dania and other Danish organizations. He is well remembered for his unusual oratorical gifts, and few people would disagree that where Axel Andersen moved, there was life. Andersen founded and belonged to more societies, and authored more "Jubilee books" than any other member of Dania. He was responsible for the "Jubilee books" for Harmonien's 50th anniversary, Dania's 75th anniversary, "Ungdomsforeningen's" 50th, and for the silver anniversary of Paul Hoff Kunst's Revues.

Axel Andersen was born in Storeheddinge, Sjaelland, on January 4, 1887. He learned the carpentry trade and finished his apprenticeship at the age of eighteen. The following year he immigrated to Minnesota where he worked as a carpenter, and found time to form a team of gymnasts. In the summer of 1911 he moved to Chicago and

immediately joined "Ungdomsforeningen," where he served as president for twenty five years.

On May 1, 1926, Axel Andersen joined Dania, and in January of '34 he became president. One of his first official acts was to crown Ove Knudsen with a laurel wreath at a banquet given in honor of that talented actor. This somewhat dramatic gesture was an expression of Dania's appreciation of Ove Knudsen's artistic performances, and for his co-operation with Dania on numerous occasions. (Monarchical recognition came some years later when the King of Denmark bestowed the Royal Medal of Reward, in gold and with a crown, upon Ove Knudsen.)

The January election in 1935 saw Axel Andersen's re-election as president. Emanuel Nielsen moved in as the officer next in rank, Adolph Nielsen became treasurer and Gunnar Jensenius was elected quill-driver. Seven members questioned the validity of this particular election since Nielsen (Adolph) and Jensenius hadn't been members long enough, according to the bylaws, to qualify for office. Sixty nine other members didn't quite see it this way, and the election remained as voted.

On more than one occasion, Axel Andersen played the role of a financial savior for Dania. The records indicate that several times he lent Dania money at interest rates lower than the prevailing money market rate. Politically, Andersen may have been a little radical, especially in his younger years, but basically he was a conservative. Several times he demanded that the old historic pictures be hung again on Dania's walls, and when it came to the financial management of Dania he warned repeatedly against a too liberal use of the Society's funds.

Andersen was an aggressive, strong-willed individual who didn't always find smooth sailing among all of Dania's members. No kudoos were thrown his way by Christian "Pioneer" Nielsen: the journalist protested a resolution by Carl Wogelius that a letter of thanks for work well done be sent to Andersen; "What nonsense! He deserves no thanks" was the remark Nielsen made in a letter to Secretary Jensenius.

When it came to the question of changing Dania's official language to English, Axel Andersen fought hard for retaining the Danish language. He was one of the "three musketeers" who refused to give up Danish without a fight: the other two were Carl Wogelius and Morten Westergaard.

Axel Andersen's deep interest in Dania induced him to continue Charles L. Wilde's "Memorable Recollections of Dania" with his own, "Dania's History 1935-1952." (Probably intended for publication, but now only existing in manuscript form.) In November of 1953, Andersen presented three typewritten copies of his Dania chronicle to the Society, together with the minutes of the first meeting of Dania on November 23, 1862. He submitted a typing bill for \$100.00, and A. K. Mose then moved that Andersen should be paid \$200.00 in appreciation of his fine work.

When Axel Andersen joined "General Rye's Brigade" on June 11, 1956, Dania and the Danish colony in Chicago lost a true soldier of Denmark. As a builder, and as one of the leading advocates of Danish culture, he will long be remembered. Axel Andersen

was the recipient of King Christian X's Liberty Medal, but many of his colleagues and friends felt he deserved the Knight of Dannebrog honor.

One of the most colorful characters appearing on the Dania scene during the past forty years was Morten Westergaard. He was a man of many talents, and yet at the same time was capable of being rebellious, stubborn, and indiscreet.

Westergaard was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1880, in Randers, Denmark. There was certainly something Irish about this Dane: he loved a gay time and was fond of what we might call "Irish Mist." Westergaard attended the Randers Latin School, and took the entrance examinations to the University of Copenhagen. He liked to flirt a bit with his knowledge of Latin, and later his language in the Dania minutes showed traces of this tendency.

Morten Westergaard began his journalistic career in Copenhagen as a reporter for "Klokken 12" ("Twelve O'clock") in 1902. He later worked for a theatrical paper, "Kritik & Program," but was fired for selling the programs on the sidewalk. A widower at age twenty two, he immigrated to the United States and remarried. For several years he worked for a Danish paper called, "Chicago Posten," then for a newspaper in La Crosse, Wisconsin (1908-10). After a few years of free-lancing he became connected with "Ugebladet" (The Weekly)-Minneapolis), and when he passed away on February 10, 1952, he was the local editor of the "Danish Pioneer."

Westergaard was the conscientious recording secretary of Dania in 1920, and with the exception of 1935-36, from 1926 to 1942. His election as secretary in January of '42 marked the twentieth time he had been balloted into that office. He wrote the most detailed (actually, too detailed) minutes of any recording secretary, and to his credit, he never omitted any reports which severely criticized himself for his ungentlemanly behavior toward, or remarks about, his fellow members. Westergaard also served on many committees, accompanied the presidents on visits to sick members, and was a dutiful delegate to the Danish National Committee in 1932-33.

No timid soul he, Westergaard had a volatile personality which occasionally was marked by a lack of self-control. In an article in the February 1922 issue of the "Danish Times," Westergaard's descriptive comments about Christian Nielsen were such that he very possibly could have been sued for libel. "Pioneer" Nielsen, smarting under the scurrilous Westergaard pen, wrote an indignant letter on March 1st to Dania's president, P. C. Petersen. O. P. Rubardt then demanded that an apology be published in the three Danish newspapers before the next meeting of Dania. Westergaard refused to comply with this mandate.

Charles L. Ryberg and Morten Westergaard co-authored a Revue which was to be given on March 23, 1924. President Petersen, knowing full well the acid content of both these writers' quills, had to guarantee the Dania members that their good names wouldn't be abused. The Nielsen-Westergaard feud was still red hot, and Westergaard's continuing refusal to apologize publicly resulted in his Revue being thrown into the wastebasket before it could be given. At the last minute, Charles P. Ditlefsen wrote a humorous revue which was used instead.

Ten years later, Dania's president, Axel Andersen, came forth with a complaint about Westergaard's behavior at a Board of Directors' meeting and in the club rooms. He demanded Westergaard's resignation as secretary, which was promptly turned in at the following meeting. Westergaard had, up to then, shown an exceptional ability as secretary, but in spite of this the members demanded that he step down due to his ignoble and unbefitting behavior, and at the January '35 meeting Gunnar Jensenius took over as Dania's scrivener. A year later, however, Westergaard was back in the saddle again as the official scribe.

Dania honored Morten Westergaard on his seventieth birthday with a luncheon and a purse of seventy silver dollars. Westergaard, who admittedly had his weaknesses, was a gifted man, stubbornly addicted to the Danish language. When English became the official language in Dania, Westergaard resigned as secretary because he absolutely refused to record the minutes in any other language except Danish.

Dania's president in 1936 was the handsome Dr. Emanuel Nielsen. Dr. Nielsen, a poet when not practicing dentistry, became a member on February 14, 1934. During his administration in 1936, a dinner on June 15th was given in honor of the Danish Minister, Otto Wadsted, who turned out to be very popular with Chicago's Danish colony.

Dr. Nielsen, on many occasions, put his gift as an eloquent and fervid orator to good use. He spoke at the 25th Rebild Park festival in 1937, and participated in the memorial services for Dr. Max Henius at the University of Chicago Chapel in 1935.

The poetry of Dr. Emanuel Nielsen is known to most Chicago Danes. His verse was first written in the Danish language, but he later made the difficult transition to English, and his first volume of poems in English, "The Heart Has Many Doors", appeared in 1958, the same year in which he resigned from Dania. Early in 1962 another collection of his verse, "The Eagle and the Man", was published by Bruce Humphries Co. in Boston.

The co-inventor of the loudspeaker, Peter L. Jensen, joined Dania in 1936. Due to his scientific interests and duties, the modest and famous Jensen never became an active member. He was honored with the Knight's Cross, and was an honorary member of the Danish Pilots Association, a laurel he treasured highly. Peter Jensen died in 1961 at the age of 75.

Dania's vice-presidency was entrusted to Axel Y. Teisen in 1936. Teisen, born on July 5, 1886 in Norre Naeraa on Funen, came to Chicago in 1910. After attending evening school for several years he became an architect in 1915, and in his later years was Assistant to Chicago's school architect, John C. Christensen. Christensen, who was Dania's president in 1917-18, and Teisen were not only associated professionally but were card-cronies, and both spent many evenings around Dania's card tables. As an architect, one of Teisen's most significant works was the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin located in Rebild National Park. Dania voted on March 1, 1933 to contribute \$100.00

for lumber from the Illinois State woods which was to be used in the construction of this shrine.

Teisen was especially active in Dania during the early Twenties. .In 1922 and '23 he served on the House Committee and the Building Committee. As chairman of the former, he recommended that a guard be hired to keep order in the hall and take care of the automobiles parked in front of the building: the estimated cost would be about \$300.00 a year. This recommendation was accepted, but Teisen refused to personally select the guard and suggested that the members choose between seven applicants. At the next meeting, however, Teisen announced that the House Committee had fired the guard. After some heated discussion about the House Committee's dictatorial procedure in this matter, its action was approved.

At the January meeting in 1923, Teisen informed the members that according to the House Committee's accounting the net income from Dania's building was over \$3000.00 and not \$1811.00 as previously reported by the treasurer. Teisen pointed out that the income derived from renting out the hall should make the financial administration of Dania rather easy.

When Axel Teisen was vice-president in 1936 he headed the committee to arrange a Hans Christian Andersen evening in Dania. This took place on April 7th, with Poul Leyssach reciting some of H. C. Andersen's famous tales and stories.

On July 14, 1961, tribute was paid by Dania to Axel V. Teisen who had passed away on July 5th.

The burly figure of Waldemar A. Bauer was well known to most members of the Danish colony in Chicago, for Bauer was a true lover of a good time and good food and drink. Although a member of Dania, Bauer was especially active in the Danish National Committee, the Kronborg Lodge, the Danish-American Sick Benefit Association, and the "Old Settlers' Society" which he was president of when he died in 1937.

A typical Copenhagener, Bauer loved the Danish Constitution festivals, where bedecked with his ribbons, he usually took advantage of the opportunity to make a speech. In May of 1937, seven months before his demise, Bauer requested that Dania's name be put on a petition to obtain an official recognition from Denmark for two women known for their outstanding charity work; namely, Mrs. Nanna Rasmussen and Mrs. Hilda Sorensen. (On November 17, 1939, the Royal Medal of Reward in gold was bestowed on both women by Consul General R. Baumann.)

Waldemar A. Bauer, an old and faithful member of Dania, was an ailing and weary man when he passed away at the age of seventy four on December 27, 1937. Childlike in some ways, but very likeable, many felt that Bauer deserved an official decoration from Denmark.

The year 1937 was a busy one for Hans Christian Eriksen. At the January meeting in Dania the reins once again were handed him. (He was president in 1928). At the July meeting, Eriksen reported that he had made plans for the remodeling of the basement, and that his firm could perform the work for a reasonable price of around

\$2,000.00. There wasn't that much money in the treasury: A. K. Mose protested; Eriksen was given the green light anyway. When the renovation work was completed, Eriksen held a grand opening for the members, and at the next meeting it was voted to pay Thorgersen & Eriksen's bill of \$2,493.39 even though there was some criticism of the work performed. Another "renovation" was much cheaper: the name of the basement was changed from "Rathskeller", Morten Westergaard's lingo, to "Lower Hall."

The crowning point of the year for Hans C. Eriksen took place at Dania's 75th Anniversary banquet. The Danish Minister in Washington D.C., His Excellency Otto Wadsted, bestowed the Knight's Cross of Dannebrog on Dania's outstanding leader.

At the January meeting in 1938, when Eriksen was re-elected as president, a letter was read from the Danish Aid and Relief Society informing Dania that many poor Danes were being buried in a potter's field. The Danish Aid and Relief Society, feeling this a disgrace, requested Dania to contribute to a fund which would be used to pay for decent internments for pauperized Danes. The request stirred Dania to donate \$25.00.

On August 22, 1945, it was President Albert Clausen's sad duty to announce the death on August 16th of one of Dania's most eminent members, Hans Christian Eriksen. Like so many of his fellow countrymen, Eriksen's life had a fairy tale finish: from rags to riches -from lowly circumstances in his native Denmark to prominence and opulence in America. Eriksen was proof that America was the best place for a Dane to become an Algeresque hero.

Dania members apparently felt very generous during 1938. When the Einar Mundts left for the East, Dania gave \$50.00 to Mrs. Agnes Mundt in appreciation of the many times she had entertained with her beautiful voice. The following year, when Russia attacked Finland, Dania contributed \$100.00 to the Finnish Red Cross, and the Dania Ladies' Society collected clothes for the Finns. Seventeen years earlier Dania had donated money to the "Friends of Starving Russians."

Another example of Dania's generosity in aiding unfortunate countrymen concerns the case of Otto Dohse. Dohse joined Dania in 1918 and in 1926 was granted a free membership. He then became destitute and blind, and Dania gave him \$50.00 plus a monthly check of \$10.00. Dohse reciprocated in the only way he could: he donated 59 books to Dania's library in 1938.

In 1939, the Dania presidency was taken over by A.K. Mose. Seventeen years prior to this he was the president of the Danish Young People's Society, and shortly thereafter, a new member of Dania. A. K. Mose was elected Alderman in the 50th Ward for the period 1927-31, and Dania gave a banquet in his honor on May 19, 1927.

Rather impressive in appearance, A. K. Mose is somewhat brusque and positive in his approach to his fellow Dania members. He has always been most assertive in his opinions, and he has never minced any words in making clear his ideas or his position on a matter.

A stickler for strict adherence to Dania's rules, A. K. Mose protested the election of Adolph Nielsen as treasurer, and Gunnar Jensenius as secretary, at the January 1935 meeting: neither man had been a Dania member for the required one year. In September of that same year, A. K. Mose was elected as vice president.

In 1937, A. K. Mose suggested that a calligraphed address be sent the King of Denmark on His Majesty's silver jubilee as the reigning monarch. Jens Eriksen, a Dania member from 1935 to 1942, produced this artistic address through his advertising firm, and the text of the address was written by Dr. J. Christian Bay, Chief Librarian of the John Crerar Library. A. K. Mose received Dania's thanks for the idea, and for coordinating the work.

On September 13, 1933, A. K. Mose reported for the Committee on Mutual Visitation Rights Between Dania, Norske Klub, and the Swedish Club. This committee's recommendation, shortly thereafter approved by Dania, was that the members of the three clubs be given membership-admittance cards in each society, but that all food and drink consumed had to be on a cash, rather than a charge, basis.

Through his political connections, A. K. Mose sponsored the boxing matches in Wicker Park Hall, such as the profitable one in October, 1935. He also was probably behind the proposal to make the Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago ex-officio, honorary members. This was voted down at the July 17, 1935 meeting, as was a similar proposal at the July 27, 1955 meeting.

It was quite natural, due to his connections, that A. K. Mose brought prominent political personages to Dania as speakers. He was undoubtedly instrumental in obtaining as a guest speaker for the luncheon on September 24, 1950, the Chairman of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, William N. Erikson. At a similar luncheon in October of 1956, the guest speaker was Senator Everett Dirksen.

At the January 27, 1960 meeting, A. K. Mose commented on a motion to sell the existing club quarters. He suggested that Dania remain at its present location for the time being, but select a committee which would investigate the possibilities of selling the property and re-locating.

Although active both in Republican politics (for over thirty years) and in his business as a realtor, A. K. Mose has shown a constant interest in Dania throughout the years. He has served on numerous committees, handled the liquor license fees, intervened whenever Dania ran into trouble with the city officials, and publicized the name of Dania through the press whenever possible. He also has played an important role when the Danish royalty visited Chicago; namely at the banquet for the Crown Prince and Crown Princess in 1939, and at the brief stopover the King and Queen of Denmark made at Dania in 1959.

A. K. Mose's assertive and positive manner has, quite naturally, rubbed other members the wrong way now and then. Not all members see eye to eye with him, yet the official Dania records certainly indicate that A. K. Mose has made an important contribution to the growth of Dania.

Harmony didn't exactly reign in Dania in 1939, especially when it came to sentiments about the ex-member and past president, Christian "Pioneer" Nielsen. Hans C. Eriksen, Dania's president in 1937-38, donated a painting to Dania of his late friend, Christian Nielsen, and had it hung in the card room. Rumors then followed that one of Dania's head executives had voiced the opinion that Nielsen's picture deserved a "special" place of honor, namely the room labeled "Gentlemen." One of Christian Nielsen's daughters got wind of this disparaging remark and wrote an indignant letter to Dania. A discussion among Dania's members concerning this whole unsavory incident revealed that "Pioneer" Nielsen had both as many friends as he had enemies within the Society. Axel Andersen rubbed some balm on the wound by having a letter of apology, signed by Dania's top brass, sent to Nielsen's daughter. That wasn't the end, however. It was then discovered that vandalism had been performed on the painting of Christian Nielsen, as well as on a group photograph of the Danish Crown Prince, Crown Princess, and Dania president, A. K. Mose (the latter's head had actually been effaced). A committee was immediately formed to find the perpetrator of these disgraceful and juvenile acts. It was impossible to track down the culprits, but the episode was later finally closed when Fred Nielsen informed Dania, by letter, that he was mostly to blame.

The decade of the 1930's was certainly one of the most eventful ones in Dania's long history. Starting with the trip to Denmark and ending with the visit of the Danish Crown Prince and Crown Princess, the 1930's were crammed full of interesting events. Miss Henni Forchhammer, Denmark's representative at the League of Nations, was honored at a banquet in 1931; a party for the "Veterans of Dania" (members of over 29 years good standing) was given for sixty members by the Activities Committee; and later in '31 Judge Barasso, of Governor Emerson's Joint Relief Committee, lectured.

In the fall of '32, Ove Knudsen and Orla Juel put on a cabaret evening which netted over \$100.00 for the treasury; and in November, Dania's 70th anniversary was celebrated with an elegant banquet, the highlight being the reading of a prologue written by Anton Kvist.

The year 1933 was a happy one. The death-knell of Prohibition was celebrated at the Dania Tavern Party, and the Scandinavian Week at the World's Fair saw Dania entertaining many out-of-town guests. Miss Thit Jensen, the Danish author and sister of the famous Johannes V. Jensen, was the honored guest at a luncheon in June.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's 52nd birthday was celebrated in Dania on January 30, 1934, at a festival sponsored by the Danish National Committee. In March, Dr. Peter Manniche, the president of the International Folk High School at Elsinore, and Aage Krarup-Nielsen, a prolific author of travel books, lectured in Dania. Three months later Dania gave a luncheon for three visiting firemen from Denmark; N. Friis-Skotte, the Danish Minister of Communications; P. Knutzen, the Director of the Danish State Railways; and Mrs. Knutzen. In December, Dania was part of the 250 year memorial festival of Ludvig Holberg which was held in Logan Square. Ove Knudsen played the role of Jeppe in Holberg's "Jeppe Paa Bjaerget," and also directed and played in Holberg's "The Changed Bridegroom" at a theatre evening sponsored by the Dania Ladies' Society.

The second half of the decade began with a dinner in honor of Mrs. Gorm Rasmussen, the Danish colony's generous benefactress, on October 19, 1935. The next year Dania participated in a Lauritz Melchior evening which was held in the club rooms of the Danish Workers' Club. Paul Leyssac and Jacob Texiere, noted Danish raconteurs of H. C. Andersen's fairy tales, entertained the members on two occasions that same year, but the attendance was rather poor.

Dania's 75th anniversary celebration in 1937 was one of the most outstanding events in its history. After much discussion as to where the jubilee regalement should be held, -some wanted Dania, others wanted Wicker Park Hall, -it was finally decided to celebrate in the Stevens Hotel. Axel Andersen, the jubilee program expert, produced a large, beautiful program which contained pictures and a resume of Dania's 75 years. One of the jubilee program's best features was that it was profitable to the tune of over \$2,000.00.

The Danish Minister in Washington D.C., Otto Wadsted, headed the list of distinguished guests which included all of the Scandinavian Consul Generals. A cocktail party preceded the dinner which was held in the beautifully decorated banquet hall.

The music for the gala affair was furnished by P. Marinus Paulsen and his orchestra. The first number was the "Overture to Elverhoj," probably the most lasting musical success on the Danish stage since 1828. Tenor Aage Werner then sang Airlie Dix's "The Trumpeter," followed by the orchestra which played P. Marinus Paulsen's "Danish Fantasia." Mrs. Agnethe Mundt then sang a group of songs: Tosti's "Goodbye"; Nielsen's "Farewell to Denmark"; and Lumbye's "Dream-pictures." After the orchestra had sailed through Strauss's "Blue Danube," Miss Olga Dane sang "My Heart At Thy Sweet Voice" from Saint Saen's "Samson and Delilah," and Kai deVermond sang Verdi's "Il lacerato spirito Bocca Negra." Lumbye's "Champagne Galop" ended the rather ambitious musical program.

President Hans Christian Eriksen bid everyone welcome and then turned the toastmaster's job over to Hon. Peter B. Nelson. Rev. A. W. Andersen of the Danish Trinity Lutheran Church gave the invocation, which was followed by a sumptuous dinner.

Since this was Dania's "diamond jubilee," everybody got into the act. Dines Miller read a prologue written by Carl Jacobsen; Vice President George P. Jensen spoke for Dania; Jorgen Berthelsen spoke for America; P. C. Petersen spoke in behalf of the ladies; His Excellency, Otto Wadsted, was the main speaker and delivered an eloquent address. Paul Hoff Kunst's wonderful songs, "Aeldgamle Dania" and "Dania Song" were sung, as was Mads Hansen's "Vi har sagt det saa tit . . .". The banquet program ended with the spirited singing of the national anthems of both Denmark and America.

Dancing followed the dinner until the wee hours of the morning. Everyone present considered this 75th anniversary celebration one of the most perfect Danish affairs that had ever taken place in Chicago. It even ended up \$382.32 in the black!

Dania's quarters were a hive of activity during these years. It became even more so when it decided, in July, 1938, to donate its club rooms to those members who were celebrating their wedding anniversaries or other family commemorations. In September of that year Dania became the temporary headquarters of the Danish Brotherhood who were on their way to a convention in Washington D.C. Gunnar Jensenius, chairman of the convention committee, had made a deal with Dania for the use of its rooms for five days for \$100.00.

Dania's big year, 1939, started with a lecture by Espen Jeppe Aakjaer, the son of the foremost Danish poet of that time, on February 10th. At the same meeting the 90th birthday of ex-president (1915) Joseph "Uldjyden" Jensen was celebrated. The most sensational event in '39 was undoubtedly the visit of Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid of Denmark on April 23rd. After a church service in Trinity Lutheran Church and a visit to the Danish Old People's Home, the Royal Highnesses came to Dania for champagne and pyramid cake. Police Lieutenant T. P. Hansen, a Dania member, was assigned to protect the Danish royalty while they were in Chicago. The Danish National Committee, headed by Dania member John Bang, held a banquet for the Crown Prince and Crown Princess at the Stevens Hotel on April 25th. The Scandinavian Consul General, the Governor of Illinois, and the Mayor of Chicago were among the honored guests. The banquet was truly a thrilling and elegant affair, and A. K. Mose, Dania's president, did an excellent job as the toastmaster. Much of the success of the Royal visit was due to the Royal celebrities themselves: Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Ingrid won everyone's hearts by their kind and democratic attitude towards all the people they met.

In the summer of '39, Mrs. Gorm Rasmussen turned over her estate, Elmwood Farm in Lake Forest, for a charity affair sponsored by the Danish Aid and Relief Society. Dania was well represented by Ove Knudsen who directed an excellent performance of Johan Ludvig Hejberg's "Elfenhill."

At the July meeting in Dania, the Danish Minister in Washington, the popular Otto Wadsted, was elected an honorary member of the Society. When he later moved to Rome, he wrote Dania and praised the club for the prominent role it was playing in the cultural life of Chicago.

Soren Sorensen, the owner of the Union Grove Dairy Company, was elected Dania's president by one vote at the January meeting in 1940. He served in this capacity in 1941, and passed away on February 2, 1949. A former Dania president in 1901, and honorary member, Martin H. Houlberg, went the way of all flesh in April, 1940. He had been an active member since 1893, and when not tending his paint store he spent many hours in Dania.

The meeting at Dania on April 11, 1940, was truly a sad and funereal occasion. Two days prior, on April 9th, Denmark had been invaded and occupied by its old arch enemy, Germany. Many members felt that Dania would be the only Denmark left.

George P. Jensen then fathered the idea that a Chicago-Denmark Committee be formed for the purpose of coordinating all the aid possible for the violated country. Axel

Andersen suggested that this committee should also help the Danish seamen who became stranded in the United States. In August the local Chicago-Denmark Committee became part of the National American-Denmark Committee, and by 1942 this organization had more than 100,000 members. Through the indefatigable efforts of George P. Jensen many U. S. Defense Bonds were sold by the local committee, and more than \$1,200,000.00 in bonds were sold through the national committee.

World War II, and especially the occupation of Denmark, brought about a much closer relationship between the Danish-American citizens in Chicago. United by their love for Denmark and by their sympathy for her plight, many joined Dania during this period. There was also a renewed interest in things Danish. The Dania Young People's Society put on "Han sidder ved Smeltediglen" , a play by the famous clergyman, poet and playwright, Kaj Munk, who was murdered by Hitler's henchmen. On September 26,1940, Dania wired congratulations to Denmark's popular and courageous King Christian IX on his 70th birthday.

Many large defense plants were built in the Chicago area during the early 40's. One of these was the enormous Buick factory which Hans Christian Eriksen's firm, Thorgersen & Eriksen, was constructing. On December 14, 1941, a week after the "Day of Infamy" at Pearl Harbor, the members of Dania visited this factory as Ericksen's guests.

On the second anniversary of the German invasion of Denmark, a well at- tended protest meeting was staged at Lane Technical High School. The main speaker was Ruth Owen Brian Rohde, the former U. S. Ambassador to Denmark. Jens Agger represented Dania's "Rear Squad", this being the new name for Charles L. Wilde's "Home Guards."

Dania's prime income producers, the slot machines, were put under lock and key in the fall of 1941, in order to avoid further taxation and court suits. The "one-armed bandits," throughout the following years, went in and out of use, depending on whether the "heat" was on or off. It was a severe blow to Dania's coffers when these machines were permanently removed by State's Attorney Adamowsky in 1957.