

Gunnar B. Bjornson

GUNNAR B. BJORNSON always maintained stout ties of affection with his native Iceland. In turn Iceland honored him as a distinguished son. But Mr. Bjornson was first of all a devoted American who brought many rugged qualities to his adopted land.

Minnesota came to know those qualities in many ways and found itself richer because of them. It knew Mr. Bjornson as an editor, as a state legislator, as a state tax official, as a man who served in each role with dignity and competence. It saw him assume a natural and kindly leadership among Americans and Canadians of Icelandic descent.

It shared Mr. Bjornson's pride when he was singled out for honors by the government of Iceland. It was aware of his deep religious convictions and of the serenity of mind that flowed from them. And it noted often the staunch elements of loyalty and devotion, the humor, the camaraderie, the unselfishness, that marked the Bjornson family.

Through the years, this has been one of Minnesota's best known newspaper families. The Minneota Mascot, which Mr. Bjornson owned for nearly half a century, was a fruitful training ground for his sons. It would be difficult indeed to write the exciting story of journalism in Minnesota without affectionate references to the Bjornson family.

Now Gunnar B. Bjornson is dead but innumerable pleasant memories live after him. Minnesota was fortunate indeed that it became the home of this public-spirited man from Iceland.

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