

CANADIAN AUTHORS

(Mrs. Laura Goodman Salversen)

(By Winnifred Reeve (Onota Watanna))

Mrs. Laura Goodman Salversen, author of "The Viking Heart," was born in the city of Winnipeg. Her parents fled from Iceland, about fifty years before, when that country was devastated by a fearful volcanic eruption. They put to sea in one of the old-fashioned vessels then in use, and suffered harrowing experiences. The ship was lost for weeks, and a pestilence broke out aboard. Two of Mrs. Salversen's brothers and a sister died from the pest and were buried at sea. After long wanderings, her parents reached Quebec, and started, with other Icelandic exiles, on the journey west, entering Manitoba on the second train that went in that province. Here they were among the early pioneers and lived to see Winnipeg grow from practically a barren wilderness into a thriving city.

Mrs. Salversen's father is a literary man, and has for many years written critical book and art reviews for the Icelandic papers of Canada. One of her brothers is a well known cellist in the United States. Mrs. Salversen likes to explain that the Icelanders are different from other Scandinavian people, inasmuch as they are of Irish as well as Norse descent, and she says that this explains the Icelandic sense of humor, a quality notably lacking in other Scandinavian people. She comes from one of the oldest families in Iceland, who were noted for their relation to art, literature and education. Her cousin is the present governor-general of Iceland, now in his second term.

fully, accompanied by Mrs. Eddie ands.

The proceeds of the tea will be used to aid persons who do not apply to charitable organizations and in supplying

Wrote Short Stories

Prior to the publication of "The Viking Heart," Mrs. Salversen had had a number of short stories and poems from time to time in Canadian and American magazines and journals. She gathered her poems together and "with a quaking heart" sent them forth to American and Canadian publishers. While the poems were under consideration Mrs. Salversen wrote her novel, taking a period of only six weeks in which to actually write the story, though she had been gathering the material for years, and had mapped out the scheme and the characters for her tale. She had barely finished the

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notices for this column, if telephoned, must be in before 6 p.m. Written announcements will be accepted until 10:30 p.m.

Unity chapter No. 26, O.E.S., will hold a bungalow dance Friday, Nov. 28, in Sandstone hall. All members and friends are cordially invited.

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The Ladies' Aid of St. Paul's Presbyterian church will hold a bazaar at the church November 20. A hot dinner will be served from 6 to 8 p.m.

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The Bow Valley Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, will hold a card party tonight in the Masonic hall, Hillhurst. All members and friends invited. Admission 35c. —Advt.

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Instead of the usual Guiders training class on Monday evening, all guiders who can possibly do so are asked to attend the lecture on psychology by

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story when she received word of the acceptance by the publishers of her book of poems.

At their request for the privilege of examining anything else she may have written, she immediately despatched her novel manuscript. It created something of a sensation in the publisher's office, the reader's verdict being that it would "prove to be a Canadian classic." Professor Allison who also read the novel while in manuscript, pronounced it "a valuable chapter on Canadian history. Meanwhile the American publishers declared "The Viking Heart" to be "The best Canadian book we have ever handled." High praise, indeed, from an American publisher for a Canadian book. The novel was rushed in ahead of the volume of poems.

Has Penned New Novel

Mrs. Salversen has already planned out her new novel to follow "The Viking Heart." Iceland has always appealed to her a great subject for romance. She purposes now a story of so large a scope that one marvels at her courage in attempting so ambitious a piece of work. Her new novel will be concerned with the migration of the Irish to Iceland in the early days; of the intermarriage of these pioneers with the descendants of the Norse chiefs who were already there, and who had broken away from King Harold Fair Head of Norway. She will follow the race down through successive generations to the present hardy people who still survive the incredible hardships of a volcanic ridden island. One volcano steadily erupted without cessation for an entire year. It is her ambition to reveal to the world this little known, yet most romantic country, mis-named Iceland, for, says Mrs. Salversen the climate of Iceland is the mildest of any of the Scandinavian countries. In fact, it closely resembles that of Scotland, to which country geologists declare it once was joined, some asserting it still is joined under the water.

Mrs. Salversen has recently become a resident of Calgary, and is a member of the Authors' association here. She was formerly on the executive of the Edmonton branch.