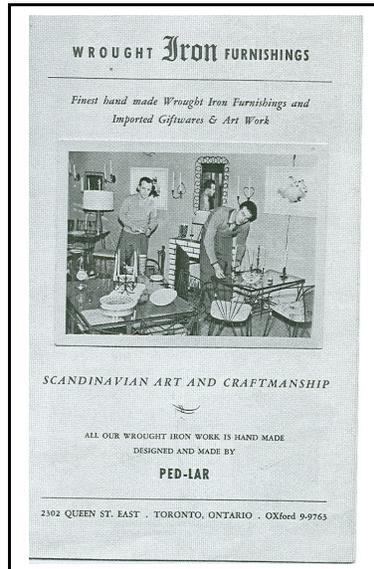


Across Oceans, Across Time® ...
Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is mystery. Today is a gift; that is why it is called 'present'." It is almost impossible for grandchildren to imagine what the life of a grandparent was like as a child and adult B. G. (Before Grandchildren). How did people live in an 'exotic' world without video games, computers, cell phones, Wal-Mart or pizza? Where one traveled by bicycle or train (or on foot) to get somewhere and crossed the ocean by ship rather than by jet? How *did* one get to be where one is today? One of the greatest personal gifts a grandparent can give their grandchildren is an account of his/her life journey, and this is what Danish-Canadian **Kurt Klarskov Larsen** has done. His vivid and humorous account of his "dash" through life begins with his birth and boyhood years in Flakkebjerg, near Slagelse, and continues through his years as an apprentice blacksmith, post-WWII Danish military service, and the momentous decision to come to Canada "for just 18 months" with his friend John in 1951. Starting out in Berwick, Nova Scotia, Kurt proceeds to learn English, moves to Toronto, learns Canadian business ropes by working various jobs, has an abundance of good times, and meets and marries a beautiful Scottish immigrant named Joy. Finally, he takes the plunge and goes out on his own. Through large measures of pluck, ingenuity, hard work, and its founder's 'why not?' outlook on life, this modest firm expands several times, evolving into "Blue Giant," an international company in the materials handling field. Fifty years-plus later, Kurt put it down on paper. Accounts of his business life are interspersed with personal stories and photographs: family visits, vacation trips, celebrations and near-disasters; in short, the fabric of a life lived intensely and with much humor. The account is filled with examples of Kurt's droll wit and aphorisms that make one pause, such as "Only a few vertebrae separate a pat on the back from a kick in the ____." This fascinating account of one man's life is a good example of the "present" that grandparents can give to their grandchildren. as well as the future.