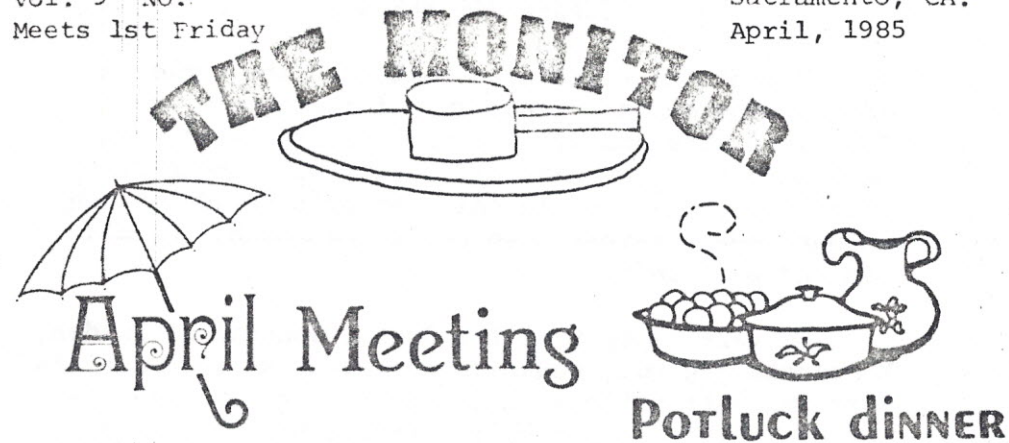


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VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
Monitor Lodge No 218
Vol. 9 NO.
Meets 1st Friday

Wisteria Hall
3830 "U" Street
Sacramento, CA.
April, 1985



Our April Meeting is the second Friday, April 12th at our new meeting place, Wisteria Hall (Stockton Blvd. and "U")

It's our 73rd Anniversary so we are having a "Festive Potluck" this time. Please bring your favorite dish big enough to serve at least 10 to 12 people. Potluck will start at 6:30 and the bar opens at 6:00.

On the committee is Eleanor Vine and Ethel Hubbell. Eleanor would appreciate a man to come early and help set up tables, PLEASE call her. We need some coffee servers too. On the dessert committee is Viola Hallen, Vera Anderson and Ethel Hubbell.

All past chairmen will be honored this time, also our cultural leaders have some thing special planned for us. Be sure and attend this "special" meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: If you were debating about going to Eureka for our Convention on May 3rd and 4th.....maybe this will solve your problem. Nord Lodge (Stockton) has room for 10 more people on their bus. It will cost only \$25.00 round trip and they will stop here in Sacramento and pick us up. You couldn't drive up there for that price. See or call Audrey Fales as soon as possible.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

One of the principles that make the world go around smoothly and pleasantly for everyone is "public praise and private criticism". When inexperienced officers have difficulty with their first initiation, that should call for private advice and encouragement rather than public reproach. We all can and will learn.

We were happy that the Consul General of Sweden, Margareta Hegardt, could be our guest at the Camellia Festival International Friendship luncheon. Everyone who met her could only describe her as charming. She wanted to meet our members and visited several tables before she was called to escort Theresa Cahill, our Maid of Sweden. She was very considerate of Theresa.

We called a recess in our meeting of March 9 to admit members of our sister lodges, Finlandia and Sons of Norway, and to show the slides of the building and final appearance of our Camellia parade float. These were taken by Berthell Nelson.

During the recess, Joe Rood of the Sons of Norway presented Monitor Lodge with a beautifully carved model of a Viking ship. The carving is very detailed and the wood was selected so the grain appears as planking. This model was displayed on our parade float. We are grateful to Brother Rood.

Ted Olson

A TREE GROWS IN SACRAMENTO

In 1925 Prince Vilhelm of Sweden planted a Cedar of Lebanon at 25th and N streets on the grounds of the Zion Lutheran Church. The tree is still living and growing. We located a photograph of the planting ceremony. This was copied by Henry Hjersman who also photographed the tree as it appears today. We presented these to Consul General Hegardt who also had an opportunity to see the tree. She made reference to this link between Sweden and Sacramento in her remarks at the Camellia luncheon.

CHARLES XI 1660-1697 (continued)

Charles came of age in 1672. He personally distinguished himself at the battle of Lund in 1676. However, the war with Denmark had been poorly conducted, the Swedish fleet had been destroyed and the national finances were in disorder. All these discredited the nobles who had governed during the King's minority.

The King called for penalties. Many estates were confiscated for the crown. The regents were heavily fined. This is known in Swedish history as "the reduction".

Charles built up the army and navy with the help of competent officers. The Riksdag granted him additional powers until it was finally decreed that he was "responsible to no one on earth" for his actions. He thus became the first absolute king of Sweden. This was the temper of the times, Frederick III was granted similar absolute power as king of Denmark.

History does not give much space to Charles XI. So much of history is devoted to war and the reign of Charles was remarkably peaceful with no major wars. A long period of peace was necessary to restore Sweden. Charles' rebuilding of the Swedish military and finances were important to future history.

In spite of his absolute power and vigorous action, Charles is described as quite shy and very religious. Charles married Ulrika Eleanora of Denmark. There were several children but only one son and two daughters survived at his death in April 1697. The son was the future Charles XII.

Ted Olson

CAMELLIA PARADE PRIZE WINNING FLOAT

The Camellia Parade float entered by the combined Scandinavian lodges of Vasa, Sons of Norway, Dania and Finlandia took first place in division, special effects award and the grand sweepstakes trophy.

The float was a dome, 14 feet in diameter covered with camellias and surmounted with a midsummer maypole. Each quadrant represented one of the Scandinavian nations with an outline map of the country in camellia petals and a 24 inch doll in the national dress. We called the float "Midsummer" in keeping with the Camellia festival theme of Scandinavian Holiday. The dome revolved at 5 RPM while the dolls revolved in the opposite direction at 15 RPM.

While all the lodges made their contribution, the basic construction was done by Ivar Axberg and Dick Forsty while Helen Forsty secured the dolls and costumes. Many others contributed: Lennart Andersson produced the mechanical details and Charles Linn provided casters for stability. There were many from all the lodges who provided camellias and worked to cover the float.

We are also indebted to Good Chevrolet for the shop space for assembly and decoration and to Battery Bill for the battery power for the special effects.

In recognition of their contributions the trophies were presented to Ivar Axberg and Richard and Helen Forsty.

BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Millie Johnson	24	Margaretha Logus
3	Harry Johnson	25	Ulla Veis
4	Inez Norling	25	Roland Erickson
5	Lennart Andersson	30	Holgar Nordquist
10	Emma Johnson	30	Didrik Anderson
20	Engegerd Bergkvist		

PAPER DRIVE ENDS

We started collecting newspapers and aluminum cans to provide a special fund in case we were required to meet special demands in connection with sponsorship of the Camellia festival. That is behind us now so we can discontinue this program.

We owe special thanks to Ivar Axberg who furnished his pickup for collection and found the best market for newspapers and cans.

Continue recycling; there are many worthwhile organizations that can use this help.

CAMELLIA FESTIVAL LUNCHEON

Archie Veis and Ruth can relax and sleep better. The thirty-first annual Camellia Festival International Friendship Luncheon is now behind them as a resounding success.

The luncheon was a colorful affair with many participants in their national costumes. The entertainment was outstanding. The VIP's were suitably impressed.

WELL DONE ARLIE AND RUTH.

Did you get some good snap shots of our float in the Camellia parade? if so bring them to our next meeting. Some people would like to get reprints.

Gerda Anderson is out of the hospital and doing great.....