

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA  
Monitor Lodge No 218  
Vol. 10 No.7  
Meets 1st Friday



Wisteria Hall  
3830 "U" Street  
Sacramento, CA.  
August, 1986

# THE MONITOR

## AUGUST



# FAMILY



### MONITOR'S ANNUAL PICNIC

# PICNIC

Friday August 1st, 6:00 PM at  
the HOWE AVE. PARK...picnic  
area north of the pool - enter the parking area on Bell  
Street. Bring your own steaks, hamburgers or hot dogs.  
Barbeque fires will be ready for you. Bring a salad  
and what ever else to share, and of course your own plates  
and utensils, etc. Beer and soft drinks will be on ice  
for a nominal fee.

After the picnic we will move across the street to the  
Veis' back yard (2116 Bell St.) for an "arm chair cruise"  
by Berthel Nelson. Bring your own folding chairs unless  
you want to sit on the lawn. Coffee and ice cream from  
Chuck and Berthel's Baskin Robbins. Don't miss it.....  
bring a friend or prospective member. For information  
call 489-5729

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### "CRAYFISH PARTY"



This is one event you can't afford to  
miss, keep this day open for good food  
and a lot of fun and fellowship.  
It will be Saturday, August 23rd at  
Bea and Tom Dillard's, 3940 Silver Spur  
Way. Bar opens at 6:00 PM and eat at  
6:30. Bring a large salad, OR sandwiches, vegetables or  
fruit, dessert or what ever.....some thing that will go  
nice with crayfish. Come and learn the real swedish way  
to eat crayfish, Akvavit and all. The crayfish are bigger  
and better than ever.. Our fishermen (Don Gustafson, Ted  
Olson and Kenneth Carlson) have already been fishing.  
This time bring a card table & chairs, plates and utensils  
will be furnished.

Monitor Lodge News Editor  
Margaret Carlson  
5110 - 42nd Street  
Sacramento, CA. 95820  
phone - 457-7376 or  
452-2470

DATED MATERIAL

Address Correction Requested

## CHARIRMAN'S MESSAGE

We had our July vacation break but before that Monitor participated in Sweden Day and Midsummer. We had a good turnout on both occasions.

Now is the time to think of renewed activities. We will have our annual picnic on our regular meeting date of August 1. This will be at Howe Avenue Park followed by gathering at the home of Arlie and Ruth Veis. Our kräftkalas (crayfish party) will be on August 23 at the home of Tom and Bea Dillard. These are both informal occasions and appropriate for guests and prospective members.

We received several new members at our last meeting. If you sponsored one of these members make a special effort to bring them to our August festivities.

If you have not attended our crayfish party before, I urge you to attend. Crayfish are a very special delicacy in Sweden. August is the traditional month to enjoy them because the season is short in Sweden. Your fishermen have been out. The first efforts were very successful so we expect a generous supply of crayfish.

In June Alice and I had Evy and Arne Flygare as house guests. Unfortunately their schedule prevented from joining us for Midsummer but some of our members had the opportunity to meet them. While they were here, Arne and I discussed the changes occurring in Sweden with the great number of immigrants. I had planned an article on this subject but the Wall Street Journal beat me to it and included more information than I had available. Sweden in another generation may be very different than the Sweden of our parents. We may be the group responsible for maintaining the Swedish culture.

*Ted Olson*

# Directory Update

Brian and Susan Buscher  
2517 O St. #4  
Sacramento, CA. 95816  
phone - 457-4617

Bente L. Hall  
2755 Bradshaw Road  
Sacramento, CA. 95827  
phone - 361-1224

Ellen Harrod  
9546 - Mira Del Rio  
Sacramento, CA. 95827  
phone - 362-5273

Ruth Whisman  
3942 Ward Avenue  
North Highlands, CA 95660  
phone - 334-1422

Elizabeth Coleman  
4318 - Alderwood Way  
Sacramento, CA. 95864  
phone - 488-4566

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NOTE: Balder Lodge in Eureka will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary on Saturday August 9th and Sunday August 10th. Starting with a regular business meeting at 10:00 Saturday. Dinner Saturday night at Merryman's Beach House at 6:30 and a Barbeque on Sunday 1:00 at Williams Grove, Weott. Reservations must be in by July 26 th. For more information please contact Margaret Carlson at 457-7376.

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A Swede, A Dane, a Norwegian, and a Finn made an agreement with each other that if one of them should die, the others would each put ten dollars into the coffin to help the deceased pass safely over the River Styx in th afterlife. The Swede was the first to die. The Norwegian and the Finn each put a ten dollar bill into the coffin. Then the Dane came along and put in a check for thirty dollars and took the two tens as change.

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Election of new officers will be coming up in September Planning the program for next year etc; if you have some ideas please let us know what you would like.



- Brian Buscher
- Bente L. Hall
- Ellen Harrod
- Ruth Whisman
- Elizabeth Coleman

Welcome to Monitor Lodge

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Two Swedes were discussing married life.  
 "I never knew vat real happiness vas until I  
 gott married," said the first one.  
 "Ya, I know vat you mean," said the other one,  
 "but den it's too late."

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BITS AND PIECES.....

Keep in mind....we are not just a SWEDISH Lodge,  
 we are Scandinavian.

Do not address Monitor mail to 3830 "U" Street, we  
 won't receive it. Send mail to our Secretary at  
 4332 T Street Sacramento, CA. 95819

Remember on September 5th we will have our Country  
 store and Handcrafts, so please plan now what you  
 can make and bring.....

Our SMÖRGÅSBORD will be November 1st.....tickets  
 will be on sale by our September meeting.

Lot of our members are traveling or have traveled  
 many interesting places this summer.

You know it's time to stop going fishing when the  
 bait is larger than the fish you caught.

Democrats eat the fish they catch. Republicans hang  
 them on the wall.

Watch for interesting things to happen with our  
 childrens club.

BIRTHDAYS

- July 1 Regina Hanson
- 2 Patricia Nylander
- 5 Martha Fredrickson
- 7 Robin Aurelius
- 7 Herb Johnson
- 8 Hildur Benson
- 10 John Forsburg

August

- 10 Einar Pfannkuch
- 11 Ernie Skorheim
- 16 Camilla Holm
- 18 Ivar Axberg
- 18 Ellen Johnson
- 20 Lillie Blanchard
- 24 Joyce Johnson
- 29 Don Gustafson
- 31 Leo Krastins
- 1 Carl Larson
- 2 Alice Swanfelt
- 5 Sigrid Thorsen
- 5 Robert Erickson
- 6 Peter Engborg
- 7 Bertil Wessman
- 7 Harry Swanson

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- 7 Brian Buscher
- 10 Lars Oberg
- 11 Sue Bergman
- 13 Mary Anderson
- 14 Maude Engberg
- 15 Lars Ostlund
- 16 Jon Peterson
- 17 Martha Olson
- 19 Charles Badgley
- 22 Jennie Sea
- 26 Birgitta Persson
- 27 Regina Ryan
- 29 Dorothy Kingren
- 31 Rita Owens

Have a Happy Day!!!

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SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

- Hildur Benson was 89 July 8
- Ellen Johnson was 94 July 18
- Maude Engberg will be 85 on August 14
- Jennie Sea will be 82 on August 22

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ANNIVERSARY DUE DATES! A reminder! If you haven't  
 already paid your dues, please pay them at the  
 September meeting or mail your check made out to  
 Monitor Lodge No. 218 to Financial Secretary Harry  
 C. Johnson, 4332 T St., Sacramento, CA 95819.  
 Thank you!

July: Hakansson, Kerstin and Kjell; Mattson, Gus;  
 Sea, Jennie; Stafford, Dom and Lillian; Thorsen,  
 Sigrid.

August: Anderson, Jean; Biehler, Ester; Fales,  
 Audrey; Larson, Carl E.; Zeiss, Ellen.

September: Benson, Hildur; Cleary, Eva; Erickson,  
 Robert; Holm, Camilla and Gilbert; Lewis, Erika;

## Swedish Schools Threaten to Create a Tower of Babel

STOCKHOLM—Rodrigo, age 12, arrived here more than a year ago from Chile. But he still goes to school in Spanish, and his classmates are Spanish-speaking children. When teachers tested him recently, they found Swedish wasn't even his second language—English was. "English," reasons the chunky boy with a punk haircut, "is more important because you can use it everywhere."

Rodrigo is an extreme case. But he illustrates a problem likely to grow in Swe-

and third-generation "outsiders" will determine whether Europe creates a troubled class like American blacks. At a time when Western Europe struggles for unity, laws that can create permanent minorities are the focus of particular attention.

"These children have no chance," says Jan Guillou, a journalist who did a television documentary on the problem. Mr. Guillou himself was born to French and Norwegian parents and was educated under the traditional Swedish system. "We are creating a problem that doesn't have to be there," he says. "These people are being pushed into a ghetto life."

To visit a school in Stockholm's heavily foreign Tensta district is to watch the walls of Sweden's Tower of Babel rise. On a Thursday morning at the Gullinge school, Finnish-speaking nine-year-olds learn long division in Finnish in a second-floor classroom decorated with art from "Kalevala," a Finnish epic. Downstairs, nine-year-old Spanish-speakers listen as a Spanish-speaking teacher translates into their mother tongue a Swedish version of the ditty "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." Third-grader Katja points with pride to an elegy she wrote in both Swedish and Spanish after Swedish leader Olof Palme was gunned down in February. "*Todos Somos Diferentes*" ("We Are All Different"), reads a poster on the school wall.

The problems come later, when children are graduated from a comfortable mini-United Nations into tough, bureaucratic Swedish society. For Finnish children—many of whom will return home—weaknesses in Swedish may not cause trouble. But the system can mean that Turks, Spanish-speakers and Greeks from heavily immigrant areas like Tensta are deprived of a chance to learn Swedish until their teens. Mr. Guillou's documentary features interviews with youngsters from Tensta who've lived in Sweden all their lives but speak poorly.

The program's roots can be traced back to the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Sweden's sudden wealth permitted it to throw money at any worthy-seeming project. "It was a romantic era very friendly to pluralism," recalls Jonas Widgren, Sweden's undersecretary of state for labor. The welfare-oriented Social Democratic government felt public money should be used to help the some 800,000 children of foreigners here keep their parents' culture. Lobbying by Finns, Sweden's largest and most influential minority, hurried the system into motion.

The result has been a pricey program whose costs are ballooning. Back in 1975, the year before the language law was passed, the government was spending about \$13 million on "home language" education for children to the age of 16. Now it spends more than five times that for the same thing. Of the 45,000 children in Stockholm's grammar schools and junior high schools, about 9,000 are of foreign extraction. About 7,000 of these take some lessons in their parents' language, and 1,307 are enrolled in an intensive "home language program." These children start out in school hearing almost entirely their own language and spend six years working in it until they join regular classes.

In harmonious Sweden, this radical system is scarcely debated. Because the program is voluntary—children aren't forced to go—Swedes see it as a bonus. Few are troubled by the prospect of spreading state-sponsored culture. Government policy makers are starting to question the results of heavy doses of non-Swedish education and a 1985 law limits the program some. But the law also locks in the intensive home language program.

Even the nation's opposition Conservative Party also seems cautious about attacking. Per Unckel, the education spokesman for the party, does suggest a better program might allow Sweden to loosen its

tight immigration policy. "If we were better at integrating, we could have more open borders."

If politicians are a big obstacle to reform, the nation's teachers are an even bigger one. Over the past decade, foreign-language teachers have proliferated. Such instructors themselves acknowledge that their pupils' welfare is sometimes sacrificed for teachers'. One child, a teacher reports, was given five different instructors for 10 hours of Swedish a week, to provide part-time work for more teachers. The nation's pedagogical institutions continue to crank out instructors.

Part of the problem, ironically, stems from Sweden's readiness to recognize its modest status among bigger nations. Used to bending over backward to learn English, Swedes accept bilingualism as a necessity for their country of eight million. They argue that a polylingual populace will equip them to compete internationally.

What no one mentions is what this small nation's subsidized separatism will do to Sweden's national identity. Ubiquitous English already bothers many Swedes, who feel too many Coca-Cola cans and Penguin books tend to drown out their own culture. But few talk about stopping a program that could work toward making Sweden a kind of Nordic Yugoslavia.

One sign of the future can be divined at posh Rodaberg School, where foreign children line up for lunch in a yellow-walled cafeteria. Swedish staffers watch as pre-teens turn their noses up at a Monday menu of blood pudding with lingonberry sauce, a Swedish dish. Such a reaction seems to hold for all of this nation's traditions. Explains Ivana, a 13-year-old Yugoslavian whose American-accented English was paid for by the government: "Who needs to learn Swedish?"

Miss Shlaes is deputy editorial features editor of *The Wall Street Journal/Europe*.

### Europe

By Amity Shlaes

den. A decade ago, Sweden's progressive government passed a law making it a child's right to be educated in the language he speaks at home. Today this law means that some \$68 million of the taxpayers' money goes each year to teach foreign grade-schoolers in tongues from Catalan to Kurdish to Vietnamese. In Stockholm alone, some 7,000 children learn in 60 tongues. The theory is that they need to learn to read and write their own language to learn Swedish later. But now critics charge the expensive program works only to turn out second-class citizens. The system produces Swedish-born children who sound foreign and who can't compete.

Official results of Sweden's program aren't out yet. Already, though, it is the object of growing attention in Europe as governments wrestle with the legacy of post-war immigration. West Germany, France and other countries that welcomed foreign labor in the 1960s have long since moved to close their doors to additional arrivals. But about 15 million members of minority groups remain in classically homogenous countries and must be integrated. Decisions regarding the education of second-