

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
Monitor Lodge No 218
Vol. 11 No. 4
Meets 1st Friday



Wisteria Hall
3830 "U" Street
Sacramento, CA.
May, 1987

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Dated Material

THE MONITOR

LADIES TO BE ENTERTAINED

Friday May 1st 6:30 PM
Bar opens at 6:00



Dinner - LADIES FREE Men - \$5.00
drinks \$1.00



The men always serve a delicious dinner.....this year it will be beef pot roast and Ted Olson is chairman. On the committee with Ted is Don Gustafson, Ed Dahlberg, Ernie Skorheim, Henry Hjersman, Leo Krastins, Roland Carlson, Steve Stromgren (new member) Gil Holm will be their bar tender.

It's MAY DAY.....a special program is planned. There will be a surprise for all the women. The men even have a program planned.

New members will be taken in, Scandia Lodge is suppose to be our honored guests that night. There will be special refreshments after the meeting. It would be a good time to bring prospective members. A busy, busy evening, but fun for all.....hope you can make it.

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL....May 9th
10:30 to 3:30 at the Fruitridge
Community Center - 4000 Fruitridge
Rd. It is open to the public. There
will be all kinds of Food, Music
and booths of all kinds, all day
long. If you haven't signed up to bring baked goods, or
help in any-way....do so now. Phone the Veis' at
489-5729.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Thanks to all of you members and committee alike, for making our Diamond Jubilee birthday party such a pleasant event. Over a hundred guests joined in making the evening one of renewed friendships, fond memories, lively conversations, music and dancing!

Out of town guests included G.L. Deputy Eric Johnson and wife Phyllis; D.M. Craig Petersen and wife Phyllis; Vice D.M. Robert Peterson and wife Mary Ann; Dist. Secy Joan Graham; V. Dist. Secy Helen Mingram; D.E.B.M. Marlene Swaffer; D. Membership Chair. Joe Mingram; D. Childrens Club Sup. Florence Griffith; D. Blood Bank Chair. Claude Griffith; Owner and publisher of "Vestkusten" Karen Persson.

Other visitors included members from Framåt Lodge in Berkeley, Svea Lodge in San Jose, Lindbergh Lodge in Palo Alto, Fylgia Lodge in San Francisco, Feather River Lodge in Oroville, Nord Lodge in Stockton, Scandia Lodge in Yuba City and Sierra Kronan Lodge in Roseville.

A special surprise for us during the evening was a presentation from Scandia Lodge of a full set of flags of the member countries of V.A.S.A. They were presented with an engraved display stand to commemorate the occasion of our 75th Anniversary. We shall now be quite proper during formal occasions of installations and initiations. What a delightful touch to the evening.!

Our only regrets were for those of you who were unable to attend. Our deepest sympathies to the Linns in the loss of Charlie's brother-in-law. And we hope you other members are feeling much better now.

In Truth and Unity,

Muriel Gjeraman



There was no general agreement among the conspirators and their supporters on a future course of action, except that peace should be made as soon as possible and that the king must go. While some argued for the retention of the Gustavian system of government with Duke Charles acting as regent for the king's son, others wished Charles to take the crown. Among those who favoured the latter solution, some wished to bind the royal hands with a new constitution; others, including the all-powerful Adlersparre, were willing to allow the Duke to ascend the throne without any limitations on his power. The Estates, when they met, decided to make the Duke king, but not until he had accepted a constitution drawn up by his future subjects. Within a month such a constitution was prepared, accepted by the Estates and agreed to by Charles, who was duly proclaimed king as Charles XIII. Having failed to save the succession for his son, Gustavus left Sweden for ever, to spend the rest of his life wandering about Europe, growing more and more mentally unbalanced; he died as Colonel Gustafsson in Switzerland in 1837. He has been harshly judged by posterity and certainly lacked the stuff of which leaders are made, but it must be remembered that he had to struggle throughout his reign against defeatism and disloyalty in many of his servants.

(Note-the end of the reign of Gustav IV is a sad event in Swedish history but it is not the end. There are more dramatic events to follow.)

Ted Olson



GUSTAV IV 1792-1809 (conclusion)
Part 2

(Note-Finland was lost to Russia in 1808. This loss was deeply felt in Sweden. Finland had been a part of Sweden for hundreds of years although it had retained an individual identity. The Swedish military especially felt the loss. One general mourned that Sweden had lost its best soldiers. The loss was blamed on Gustav's policies.)

Dissatisfaction in Sweden itself was growing. Britain refused to increase her subsidies, and the cost of the war could only be met by the imposition of new taxes, which the peasants particularly resented in view of the poor harvests from which they were suffering. The nobles, who still filled the higher ranks of the Civil Service, shared the pessimism of their military equals and supported their monarch with a lethargy little short of treason. They were, however, too disunited to be able to do anything positive; it was left to the army to take the initiative. Here there had been talk of a *coup d'état* to depose the king as far back as 1807. It was not, however, until, as a punishment for the supposed cowardice of some of their number in Finland,

he attacked the most influential families in the land by depriving officers in the Guards of the privileges granted to them by his father, and not until he made it quite clear that he was determined to continue the struggle against Russia into 1809, that decisive action was taken. In March of that year, Lieutenant-Colonel Georg Adlersparre of the army facing Norway occupied the town of Karlstad in Värmland and gathered there a force with which to march on Stockholm. As soon as Gustavus realized the seriousness of the situation, he began to make preparations to leave his capital at the head of its garrison and march south to join the army in Scania, which he believed to be loyal. This at last stung the bureaucrats into action. They arrested him before he could escape, and persuaded Duke Charles, who had long been on bad terms with his nephew, to act as regent until the Estates could decide what was to be done next.

Happy Birthday

Chuck Nelson, George Uffens,
Charlie Linn, Don Johnson, Gordon Olesen, Deidre
Dahlberg, Nancy Misenti, Frances Misenti, Elizabeth
Coleman, Dr. Dan Link, and many more happy birth-
days!



Welcome to
Monitor, Steven John Strömrgren! Steve's address
is 4016 U St., Sacramento, CA 95817, Ph. 736-3163.
(No excuse, Steve, you can leave home at 7:28 P.M.
and get to the meeting on time -- only 2 blocks!)

Let's all help make our business meetings crisp and efficient! Please notify chairman or secretary at least 3 days in advance of meetings of any New BUSINESS you wish included in the agenda.

PLEASE when depositing moneys with Financial Secretary, do so before meeting begins. Reports are quite in order after money has been deposited.

Post announcements on blackboard before meeting

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!!!

**DUES ANNIVERSARY! Dorothy and Roland Erickson,
Astrid Horyza, Eivor Pfannkuch.**

Ch. of Address: Carl E. Larson, 6005 Beech Ave.,
Orangevale, CA 95662, Ph. 989-9226. Phone change:
John Forsberg, Penryn. 663-2447.

REMEMBERmark this on your calendar.

Breakfast of Vikings (Sill Frukost) May 30th 11:00 AM
in Ed and Lucy Dahlberg's garden. More on this next
month.

TUSEN! TUSEN! TACK to Russell Ellis for doing our
address labels.....and Hank Hjerzman for taking
care of that job.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT! Vasa Star, April, 1987, pages
6 and 7. Fill out Page 7, instructions on 6, and
bring with you May 1st to give to Cultural Leader
Wendy Strand. Perhaps we should make this a
"Price of Admission" for dinner. (Tsk! Tsk!)
Let's help the Archives set up and complete the
VASA GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT at Bishop Hill. Additional
forms will be available at our meeting.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? There is a Program Book for
each family of the Monitor Lodge. These are paid
for! PLEASE PICK YOURS UP OR SEND \$1.00 TO OUR
SECRETARY, MRS. ELIZABETH JOHNSON, 4332 T ST.,
SACRAMENTO, CA 95819, AND SHE WILL MAIL THE PROGRAM
BOOK TO YOU. Postage is \$0.88 and the envelope for
mailing is the difference.



There is still time to sign up for
our bus trip to Kingsburg, Saturday
May 16, 1987. PLEASE let Margaret
know as soon as possible. It's only
\$17.

The bus will leave Sacramento 5:00 AM
BUT we should be back here by 8:00

or so, as I found out they don't have any-thing that
great going on in the evening. Bring a friend..... I
know if you go one time you'll never want to miss it
again. Give Margaret that call today 457-7376.

Our deepest sympathy to Ted and Alice Olson in the loss
of Alice's brother.

John Forsburg is laid up at home with back problems. We
wish you well.

Martin and Hanna were riding a bicycle-built for
two in St. Paul. After much effort they finally reached
the top of a long and very steep hill.

"I didn't tink ve ever vas gonna make it." said
Martin.

"Me needer," said Hanna. "And it's a good ting I
vas skveecing on de hand brake, or ve'd have rolled
back down for sure."

HANDBOOK from the Grand Lodge. Order yours at the
Secretary's desk. It's loose-leaf with hard cover
and contains G.L. Constitution & By-Laws, Consti-
tution for District Lodge, Constitution for Local
Lodge and Local Lodge Ritual. The Grand Lodge
Executive Board has suggested that this be a
Handbook to which we can add District and Local
Lodge Bylaws, List of District Officers, Listing
of Local Lodge Officers and members. All in one
cover. Changes and additions can easily be made
as this is a loose-leaf binder and would, incident-
ally, keep costs of printing minimal. These cost
\$5.00 each. Order yours at May 1st meeting!