

Wisteria Hall  
3830 "U" Street  
Sacramento, CA

Monitor Lodge  
No. 218  
Editor: Marie Tillman



**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA**

Vol. 15, No. 10

December, 1991



**T**here will be a regular business meeting starting at 7:30 pm, Friday December 6, 1991. After the business meeting, the program will include Christmas music, Jultomten, exchange of gifts, glögg and refreshments. If you want to exchange a gift, bring a \$3.00 gift and mark it for a man or a lady.

and those who took a copy home please return it so that others may read them.

We always remember our members who are ill or otherwise unable to attend our meetings. Traditionally these members receive special Christmas gifts from the lodge. So, at the next meeting there will be a table for home baked cookies, poinsettias, and other delicacies. These will then be packaged and delivered to our home-bound members.

The Christmas festivities will provide a nice introduction to lodge activities for our three applicants who will be initiated. The By-laws will be discussed

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Monitor Lodge No. 218  
Vasa Order of America  
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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Our annual Smörgåsbord was a good way to start the holiday season. Every year our members work hard at this fundraiser, and this year again it was a success. There were many comments about the food and table arrangements. Our thanks to all who participated.

Now in December we have our Julkalas and Lucia program to carry on the Swedish tradition. The children's club has been busy preparing for the Lucia program on December 13th. We hope everyone can join us in these celebrations.

I thank everyone for your support this year and wish you a happy holiday season.

*In truth and unity*  
— Myrtle Widmark

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## NÅL OCH TRÅD

Tisdagen den 10 december, kl  
19.00 hos:

Inger Thörnros  
3849 Thornwood Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
(916) 971-4010



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## THANK YOU

The smörgåsbord committee is very grateful to all the members who worked so hard to guarantee the success of our smörgåsbord. All together 253

people were served. A report summarizing this colorful event will be submitted to the next business meeting.

— Peggy Carlson

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## CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBER

*Lois Mullen*  
(916) 922-3303 (message phone)

*Madeleine Hallstrom-Hinman*  
(916) 771-2186

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## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON CAMELLIA PARADE

Elizabeth Johnson and I attended the IFC meeting Tuesday November 12th. This year the host country will be Spain and the luncheon will be Saturday March 14, 1992.

There has not been a date set for the Camellia Flower Show. The Camellia Parade will be Saturday April 4, 1992. We would like to have a Maid of Sweden to represent us at the IFC luncheon and to ride in the parade. The Maid of Sweden should be 16-21 years of age. Any member who has a daughter or granddaughter that would like to represent us, please submit their name at the meeting or to the secretary. The name should be turned in by January 1st to the IFC for publication in the program.

— Myrtle Widmark

compared to Greenland, but the natives were unfriendly. The attacks of the natives forced them to return to Greenland after two years.

Markland (Labrador) appears to have been visited from time to time to cut timber. There were no trees on Greenland nor Iceland. No permanent settlement appears attempted.



In the year 1000 Europe was not ready for expansion to the new world. Greenland was a very poor base for such expansion and so was Iceland. Without timber ships had to be constructed in Norway. The population of Greenland and Iceland was only a few thousand.

By contrast Spain could support Columbus voyages. In 1492 the moors had been expelled from Spain and there were demobilized soldiers and adventurers eager to seek the gold, gems, and spices that were promised. The cranberries, furs and timber which attracted the Vikings meant nothing to them.

Columbus was fortunate; he encountered unwarlike natives. Also 500 years make a lot of difference. Columbus had firearms. While these were not too accurate, they were impressive. The Vikings were much on the same basis as the natives with regard to weapons.

— Ted Olson



**God Jul  
och  
Gott Nytt År**

— Marie & Terry  
Tillman



I really appreciate the diversity that this article has engendered, and hope that in the future, members of other heritages may also be recognized. I sincerely feel that may be a key to future recruitment.

Let's face it, the Icelanders came (at least 50% worth) from Sweden. In today's world, it is Norway, but in those days, Norway had not yet been invented. I'll leave the Celtic heritage question of the Icelanders for another time. No wonder Ted wanted to know about my temper! He knows about Icelanders!

Thanks again to Ted, and thanks to you and the lodge for printing his article and the recognition of this very small Scandinavian heritage. (If I had been born in Iceland instead of being first generation American, it would have been Gretchen Raymondsdottir - isn't that a kick in the britches?)

— Judy Rae Johnson Beal



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### LEIF ERICSSON OR CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

As we approach 1992 there is great interest in the voyages of Christopher Columbus five hundred years ago. History is being revised; many now speak of

the encounter with rather than the discovery of the new world since it had been populated for thousands of years before Columbus.

In these discussions there is often passing references to the Viking voyages from Greenland and brief settlement in North America about the year 1000. These were only the content of Icelandic sagas until recent archeological discoveries of a settlement in Newfoundland.

Why is there so little recognition of this early encounter of the new world? The primary reason is its lack of permanence. It was settled briefly and then abandoned. According to the sagas Leif Ericsson (son of Eric the Red who settled Greenland) made a voyage south from Greenland and found a land he called Markland because of its trees. He continued south and found a land he called Vinland. According to the sagas he and his crew built huts and spent winter before returning to Greenland.

In spite of his enthusiastic report there does not seem to have been a follow-up voyage for twenty years. Then another Greenlander, Thorfinn Karlsefni, attempted to establish a colony there. This was an ambitious attempt with 150 people and some cattle. They settled on the northern tip of Newfoundland where remains of the settlement have been found. They found the weather mild, at least as

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### CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The "Hej på dej" T-shirts which will make nice Christmas gifts will be for sale at the meeting at \$12.00 each.

We have some julbock Christmas cards also. These Swedish designed cards are \$5.00 each for a package of 10, or 5 packages for \$20.00. See Myrtle Widmark to order your's.

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### REMEMBER

Turn your inventory of lodge property in to the trustees for their annual report.



Bring your aluminum cans and soda bottles for recycling for our Anniversary-Convention Fund.

The Children's Club annual Lucia program will be held on **December 13, 1991 at 7.00 pm** at the Wisteria Hall (where we have our lodge meetings). You are welcome to attend.

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### LOST AND FOUND

An address book, two small straw goat ornaments, brown cardigan, hankie. Call Myrtle Widmark for more information.



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### DUES ANNIVERSARIES

If you have already paid your dues, please disregard the listing of your name and thank you for your promptness.

*Eva Allred  
Karin Bodelson  
Viola Bodelson  
Joyce Burns  
Camilla Caldwell  
Kenneth and Peggy Carlson  
Martha Fredrickson  
Ethel Hoffman  
Ronny and Christi Kågström*

Dues are \$14.00 per year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the December 6 meeting or mail them to the Financial Secretary; Elizabeth Johnson, 4332 T Street, Sacramento, CA 95819. Questions? Ph. 452-2470

Let's give the new Financial Secretary a break and pay up all 1991 dues! There are still a few October and November dues unpaid. Thank you for your early responses.

— Elizabeth Johnson

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### SICK COMMITTEE REPORT

We were all pleased to see Ruth Lundberg at the Smörgåsbord. Roland Erickson is still having headaches, but he is able to use his walker well. He and Dorothy greet all of you.

— Elizabeth Johnson

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## BIRTHDAYS

Hjärtliga  
gratulationer på  
födelsedagen!

Congratulations!

12/3 *Marjorie  
Skicklig*

12/3 *Gary Doze*

12/4 *Kersten Hakansson*

12/7 *Ellen Herrod*

12/12 *Margaret Carlson*

12/15 *Lynn Lundberg*

12/15 *Jean Marie Barney*

12/18 *David Swanson*

12/24 *Evelyn Anderson*

12/24 *Sophia Swanson*

12/26 *Dorothy Erickson*

12/30 *Betty Bergman*

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## CHRISTMAS TRADITION IN SCANDINAVIA

Each of the Scandinavian countries has its own Christmas traditions, but the Danes and the Finns come closest to the American concept of Santa Claus. The Dane has his "Juleman" (Yule man) who, many foreign children believe, lives in Greenland, while the Finn has his "Joulupukki," who comes from Korvantunturi, in far off Lapland.

The more familiar Christmas celebrity however, is the gnome like Nisse, as the Danes or Norwegians call him, or "Jultomten" as he is known in Sweden. He, too, comes by sleigh, but instead of coming down the chimney while all are asleep, he strides through the

front door on Christmas Eve with gifts and kind words for children. The Nisse also is the guardian of the farm and is considered somewhat mischievous; therefore, Scandinavians prudently leave him the traditional rice pudding, either in the hayloft or, in the city, outside the kitchen door.

Officially, of course, Christmas throughout Scandinavia begins on December 24th. Shops and offices close at noon and the streets are soon deserted. Everyone hurries home where mother is busy cooking her traditional dishes and father decorates the tree with much help from other family members, not the least the kids.

The main dish at dinner in Finland, Norway and Sweden is ham, often preceded by

"lutefisk," which is dried cod, soaked in a lye solution, rinsed and boiled and served with a cream sauce and boiled potatoes. In Denmark, the traditional dish is roast goose stuffed with apples and prunes and served with red cabbage and caramel browned potatoes. Rice pudding is featured everywhere, and hidden inside is an almond. Its finder will get married, have other good fortune or be awarded



a prize, possibly a marzipan pig. There are numerous special breads, cookies and cakes, too.

After dinner, and sometimes before, all join hands around the tree, and gifts are exchanged. At the resort hotels, too, where many foreign visitors now come to enjoy their "White Christmas," there are presents for all their guests.

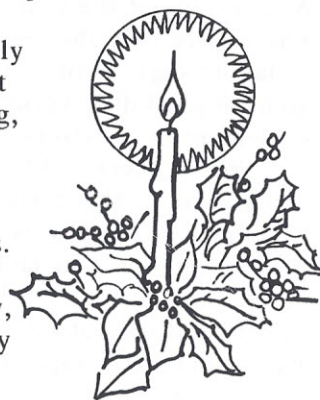
Early the next morning, all rise for church services. In Norway, this may mean rowing

across the fjord to church. In the Swedish countryside, villagers ride to predawn services in horse drawn sleighs with torches piercing the darkness; in Dalarna province, many of the congregants wear their folk costumes. The rest of December 25th is spent quietly at home. But in Finland, Star boys roam the countryside portraying the wise men of the East and singing Christmas songs.

December 26th is the second day of Christmas, a day for visiting and good fellowship. In Finland, it is "Tapanin Paiva" (St. Stephen's Day) with horse races along country roads. In Norway, clubs and businesses have parties, and during the next eight days,

Norwegian youngsters dress in outlandish costumes, as on Halloween, and ask for handouts of goodies. New Year's is much like in the U.S. with gay Copenhagen providing the most fun.

January 6th used to be observed as the "Day of the Three Wise Men," when students went through the streets singing ancient carols; today it is largely significant as the last day of school vacation. The Christmas tree remains in Sweden until "Tjugondag Knut," January 13th, when the children strip it of its ornaments with great zeal. By then, mothers all over Scandinavia are beginning to think again about next Christmas.



**Next deadline for the Newsletter is December 15, 1991. Please send material to Marie Tillman, 1605 Truckee Way, Woodland, CA 95695**

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## THANK YOU

Just a short note to recognize Ted Olson and thank him for realizing that not all of our members are of direct Swedish heritage. I sincerely appreciate his recognition of our "one" Icelandic heritage member, namely me.

# Lucia Festival

Presented by VASA Youth Children's Club  
Sponsored by Monitor Lodge  
VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 PM

Wisteria Hall  
3830 U St.  
Sacramento, CA

\* for information  
call 967-9248

Program of Swedish song  
and dance \* Presentation  
of Lucia \* Raffle drawing \*  
Refreshments \* Tomten  
to visit children (bring a  
small gift for Tomten to give to  
your child.)



Public Welcome \* God Jul

