

Wisteria Hall  
3830 "U" Street  
Sacramento, CA

Monitor Lodge  
No. 218  
Editor: Marie Tillman



## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

Vol. 16, No. 4

April, 1992



Our April 3, 1992 business meeting begins at 7:00 pm in the Wisteria Hall. After discussing final plans for the Scandinavian Festival, featured on April 11th, and our 80th Anniversary and District Convention, April 24-26, we will review the By-Laws. Later, delicious Semlor refreshments will be served, courtesy of Inger Thornros. These delicacies are light buns filled with a rich cream and usually eaten during lent in Sweden. Call June Delle, 363-7598, to help her in the kitchen.

Our March Moose Stew Social Evening had a large turnout, including a group from the Nord Lodge in Stockton. The kitchen crew, under Gill Holm's direction, presented a delicious dinner. Our guests from Yuba City, Robert and Ann Katrin Titus, added to our cultural knowledge of Sweden.

— Myrtle Widmark

### EVENTS CALENDAR FOR APRIL, MAY, & JUNE

- Apr 4 Camellia Parade beginning at 10:00 am. Our Maid of Sweden, Susan Lydecker will be riding in one of the jeeps. We need volunteers to help decorate the jeep with flowers.
- Apr 11 Scandinavian Festival, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, St John Vianney Church, 10497 Coloma Road, Rancho Cordova. (See enclosed flyer and map.)
- Apr 24 80th Anniversary and 77th  
-26 District Convention at the Red Lion Sacramento Inn, 1401 Arden Way. (Reservation forms were mailed with the March Newsletter, contact Muriel Hjersman at (916) 451-6940.)
- May 1 Mother's Day Social
- May 6 Business Meeting at 7:00 pm, Sacramento Savings Bank, 2150 Watt Avenue.
- May 16 Sill Frukost, 10:00 am at Ted Olson's house, Swedish Accordion Group will be guests.

Monitor Lodge No. 218

Vasa Order of America  
2529 Eastern Ave #26  
Sacramento, CA 95821

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- May 17 Bus Trip to "Värmlänningarna" play, Sveadal Park.
- May 30 Bus Trip to the Swedish Music Festival in San Mateo.
- June 5 Father's Day Dinner and Business Meeting, 6:30 pm.
- June 6 Sweden Day at Micki Grove in Lodi.
- June 20 Midsommar, Elk Grove Park

## ANNIVERSARY AND DISTRICT CONVENTION

"A Touch of Sweden" is the theme for our 80th Anniversary Celebration which will be held along with the District Convention, April 24-26 at the Red Lion Sacramento Inn. There will be several activities taking place, as shown below.

Friday & Saturday Afternoon, April 24-25  
Donn Stafford has made arrangements for golf Friday afternoon and bowling Saturday afternoon. Call Donn at (916) 487-4201, for more information and sign up sheets.

Friday Evening, April 24  
A No-Host Bar followed by a free reception where there will be music, dancing, and a costume parade. If you want to wear a costume, wear your provincial costume if you have one, or how about coming as someone from Swedish history, literature, theater, or maybe a Viking. It will be fun to guess who you are representing. There will also be Swedish singing and dancing. The instrumental group, "The Swedes" will be here from the Bay Area as

part of the entertainment.

Saturday, April 25  
7:30 am to 9:30 am. Our lodge will be serving home baked bread, rolls, coffee cakes, etc., with coffee to the convention participants.  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Convention Business Meeting  
6:30 pm. No-Host Bar  
7:00 pm. Banquet. Our decorating committee has been working on centerpieces for the banquet tables. The dinner will be a Swedish menu. Our Monitor Chorus will sing and Frank and Dolores will be there for dancing. We will also have the drawing for raffle prizes. Have you purchased your tickets to win one of the Swedish prizes? Return your banquet reservation form with payment to Muriel Hjersman.

We would like all members to attend the banquet and if you need a ride, call a Lodge Officer and we will arrange for someone to bring you.

Sunday, April 26  
7:30 am to 9:30 am. We will be serving home baked Breads again this morning.  
9:00 am to 12:00 am. Convention Business Meeting.  
12:00 Noon. Buffet Luncheon, during which our Children's Club will entertain. Reserve your luncheon ticket on the form and return to Muriel Hjersman.  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Convention Meeting. Installation of District Officers.

This will be a very busy weekend for our lodge but with so many members helping it's sure to be a success and one we will remember.

Thanks for all the cans and bottles, keep bringing them in. Remember, start baking extra

*The musical is performed in Swedish, but a narrator guides the audience through every scene in English, which means that an English speaking public can easily follow the plot and action. We know this with great certainty, since thousands of American tourists have seen the musical in Ransäter and have been thoroughly satisfied.*

— Eivor Pfannkuch  
Cultural leader

## ■ The Third King ■ (final chapter)

After Valdemar's conquest of Visby in 1361, confirmed by defeat of Sweden there was a general peace among the Scandinavian countries. During this time in April 1363, Valdemar's daughter Margareta married Haakon VI of Norway.

Valdemar was at the height of his power but still had enemies. In 1368 the still powerful Hanseatic League organized the German city states to attack Denmark. Valdemar also faced internal rebellion in Jutland and Holstein.

Valdemar has often done the unexpected and surprised his enemies. However, his return at Easter 1368, was both surprising and inexplicable. Valdemar turned conduct of the war over to the Earl-Marshal, Henning Podhisk and left the country for Germany. He was absent three years. His only involvement in the war was to induce the Dukes

of Brunswick, Brandenburg and Pomerania to attack the Hanseatic Cities from the rear. The cities were joined in Sweden, Norway, Mecklenburg and Holstein. The war went badly for Denmark and finally ended by the Treaty of Stralsund in 1370. The Hanseatic League regained their former privileges and revenues. Valdemar returned to Denmark. By diplomacy during his last years he regained most of what had been lost. He died in 1375 and was succeeded by Olaf, the son of Margareta, then six years old. Margareta became regent. In 1380 Haakon of Norway died and Olaf succeeded to the throne of Norway with Margareta as regent. Olaf died in 1387 at the age of 17. Margareta was elected ruler of Norway and Denmark. Unrest in Sweden resulted in her election as ruler of Sweden in 1388.

Valdemar regarded any defeat as only a temporary setback. His usual expression was "Atterdag" (another day.) He was known to his followers as Valdemar Atterdag. That name lives on. There was an Atterdag College at Solvang, California. The college is gone but there is still an Atterdag Avenue in that village.

— Ted Olson

delivered to Nusnäs, where the decorating takes place. This authentic handicraft continues as before.

*Have you purchased your raffle tickets for the beautiful Dalarna Horse we are giving away in the Convention Raffle? The impressive orange horse stands 17" high and would be a wonderful item to win! The tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. You also have a chance to win a Swedish stereo bench, a Swedish crystal bowl from Orrefors and a book about Sweden (in English). Please contact Myrtle Widmark or Arlie Veis for tickets.*

— Eivor Pfannkuch  
Cultural leader

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### VÄRMLÄNNINGARNA - A Swedish Rhapsody

On Sunday, May 17, there will be a fantastic opportunity to take in some real Swedish culture. Monitor and Sierra Kronan lodges are sharing a bus trip to Sveadal Park in Morgan Hill (75 miles south of San Francisco) to see the musical drama *Värmlänningarna* with a cast of performers from Sweden.

Sveadal is the recreational facility of the Swedish American Patriotic League and is an outdoor amphitheater placed in a beautiful Redwood grove.

With advance group rates the cost is only \$10.00 per person. Transportation will be \$15.00 per person. We have almost forty

people tentatively signed up already and the bus holds forty-five. Please send your \$10.00 ticket fee immediately to confirm your reserved seat. We will collect for the bus later, but you're welcome to pay all at once. Make your check payable to Eivor Pfannkuch and mail it to 1921 Columbia Drive, Yuba City, CA 95991.

### *Värmlänningarna — A Swedish Rhapsody*

*The piece was composed by F.A. Dahlgren, who was born in Ransäter, Värmland. It is a musical drama that contains much singing and dancing.*

*"Värmlänningarna" is the selection most played by the Stockholm Opera and is based on a classical story about a poor maiden, Anna, and a rich man's son, Erik. The musical is performed each summer in Ransäter in a specially built outdoor amphitheater, a tradition since 1954. The Ransäter Ensemble has had many highly skilled performers during the course of years, including Håkan Hagegård, who played the role of Erik for several years. The ensemble consists of eighty performers and includes actors and singers, the orchestra, a folk music group, a folk dance troupe, and a choir. Some of the members are professionals, such as Anna-Lotta Larsson and Torbjörn Pettersson, who play the leading roles of Anna and Erik.*

bread to serve in the mornings. Home baked refreshments are always much appreciated and there are many good Swedish recipes. (Note: we are **not** allowed to bring in store bought breads.)

— Myrtle Widmark

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### PROGRAM BOOK CORRECTIONS

New address:  
Peter Wardlow  
509 38th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
phone: (916) 451-3564

If you haven't picked up your Program Book yet, you can do so at the next meeting, or arrange to have someone pick it up for you.

— Jean Anderson

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### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee will be taking applications from High School Seniors (1992 Graduates) for the annual Monitor Lodge Scholarship. The same rules apply as in 1991. The applicants must be lodge members, children of members, or grandchildren of members. Those interested should obtain the needed forms from Eleanor Vine. Please mail the forms to the lodge secretary. The forms should include:

- The Student's Application,
- Three Letters of Recommendation, and
- One written composition focusing on the applicant's goals for the

future, and how the scholarship will assist him or her towards those goals.

The Deadline has been extended to April 15, 1992. Winners will be notified before June. For application forms, please contact Eleanor Vine, 7304 Sunsilver Lane, Sacramento, CA 95828, phone (916) 688-5296.

— Eleanor Vine

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### INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

There was a hearty turnout for the March 14th Friendship Luncheon, hosted this year by Spain. Beautiful Camellias were prominent throughout the affair.

A mouth-watering Spanish lunch rewarded all who attended. Plus, an opera singer and a troupe of Spanish dancers performed to everyone's fascination.

As luck would have it, out of the thirteen Monitor members attending the luncheon, three won door prizes!

Thanks again to Susan Lydecker, our lovely Maid of Sweden.

— Myrtle Widmark

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### NÅL OCH TRÅD

Tisdagen den 7 April, kl 19.00  
hos: Muriel Hjersman  
640 40th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
Phone: (916) 451-6940

If that date proves inconvenient for Muriel, we will meet at Ethel Johnson's, 4344 53rd Street, Sacramento, CA 95820

Phone: (916) 457-0966.

At this meeting we will price craft articles for the Scandinavian Festival to be held April 11. (See the enclosed flyer.) Please bring along all of your craft items for pricing.

#### REMEMBER

- ★ Bring Camellias to the April 3rd meeting to decorate our Maid's jeep for the parade.
- ★ Back issues of Vasa Star, preferably from 1990 and '91, are needed to give to prospective members at the Scandinavian Festival. Please bring your Vasa Stars to Audrey Arvidson Fales at the next lodge meeting.
- ★ Turn in your expense sheets, and submit your lodge receipts to the Secretary before the lodge meeting begins.
- ★ Bring your aluminum cans and bottles to the lodge meetings, to be recycled.
- ★ Wear your name badge at all meetings, and be sure to sign the attendance sheet.



#### SICK REPORT

LaVerne Gullans is recovering at Kaiser hospital. Her condition is stable. We at Monitor Lodge wish her a speedy recovery.

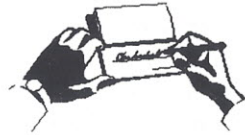
#### DUES ANNIVERSARIES

If you have already paid, please ignore the listing of your

name. Thank you for your promptness.

*Barney, Kerstin  
Hubbell, Ethel  
Niemoller, Donna  
Niemoller, Ricki  
Scherer, Dorothy  
Tillman, Marie  
Tillman, Terry*

Dues are \$14.00 per year, payable to **Monitor Lodge No. 218**. You may pay them at the April 3rd



meeting or mail them to the Financial Secretary; Ethel Johnson, 4344 53rd Street, Sacramento, CA 95820. Phone number: (916) 457-0966. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish a receipt.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Hjärtliga gratulationer på födelsedagen! Congratulations!

4 / 1 Robert Barrett  
4 / 2 Millie Johnson  
4 / 3 Harry Johnson  
4 / 3 Amy Glad  
4 / 4 Inez Norling  
4 / 5 Lennart Andersson  
4 / 7 Meghan Barney  
4 / 9 Vesta Brownell  
4 / 13 Peter Wardlow  
4 / 16 Lois Mullen  
4 / 21 David Dorey  
4 / 23 Ronny Kagstrom  
4 / 25 Roland Erickson  
4 / 28 Annika Anderson  
4 / 30 Annalena Bronson  
4 / 30 Holgar Nordquist

#### FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you Ingegerd Kennedy for filling in for me while I was in Sweden. You did a great job. The next deadline for the Monitor is April 15, 1992. Please send in your articles as early as possible. This is Easter week which means the mail might be a little delayed. The address is; 1605 Truckee Way, Woodland, CA 95695.

— Marie Tillman

#### HOW IT ALL BEGAN - THE STORY OF THE DALA HORSE

It was quite natural that it became a horse. You can trace the origin of this craft back to the lumberjacks' log-cabins as early as the 18th century. There they would sit around the open fires during winter, resting after the day's tree-felling and transporting logs. Having prepared and eaten their meal, checked over their tools, they often relaxed by carving figures from odd pieces of wood. The popular choice was a horse. These were taken home to the children in the villages where they became much treasured toys for play both in and out of doors. A horse represented a creature of great value, a tower of strength in helping the family. A faithful friend who drew loads in the forest during winter, worked in the field and meadow when spring and summer arrived, carried equipment up to the delightful summer pastures and

adjoining chalets. It also provided transportation between villages and parishes. They were needed for daily use as well as for different events throughout the year. Through trips to the mill, to the market, to church, it really "pulled its weight", a veritable beast of burden. There was so much pleasure with a horse. The children really enjoyed their company. They could ride bare-back and many were able to sit on a broad strong back at the same time.

During the 19th century, it became a custom to paint the wooden horses with richly colored flowered pattern like those Dala paintings that decorated furniture and interior walls. Those who travelled about the country to sell products of the cottage industry (baskets, grinding stones, and wooden casks) took Dala horses to add to their selection of goods. The latter were often used as payment for board and lodging. Wooden horses originally came from the Mora villages of Vattnäs, Risa, Bergkarlås and Nusnäs.

The most well known carver from the old days was Tysk Anders Gunnarsson, known as "Gambel Damben". In 1928, the brothers Nils and Jannes Olsson took up the old handicraft. Nils was 15, and Jannes was 13 years old. Since then, the genuine Dala horses have been made in Nusnäs. In surrounding villages many people are fully occupied with carving horses to be collected and

## SPECIAL TRIP TO THE BAY AREA

to see "Miss Julie" by the famous Swedish play writer  
August Strindberg.

The date is tentatively set for Saturday February 15, 1992.

The matinee starts at 2:00 pm.

Van service might be available at a cost of approximately  
\$12.00 per person.

The tickets for the play are \$10.00 each.

If you are interested in this very special event, please  
contact Eivor Pfannkuch at 673-5917 immediately.

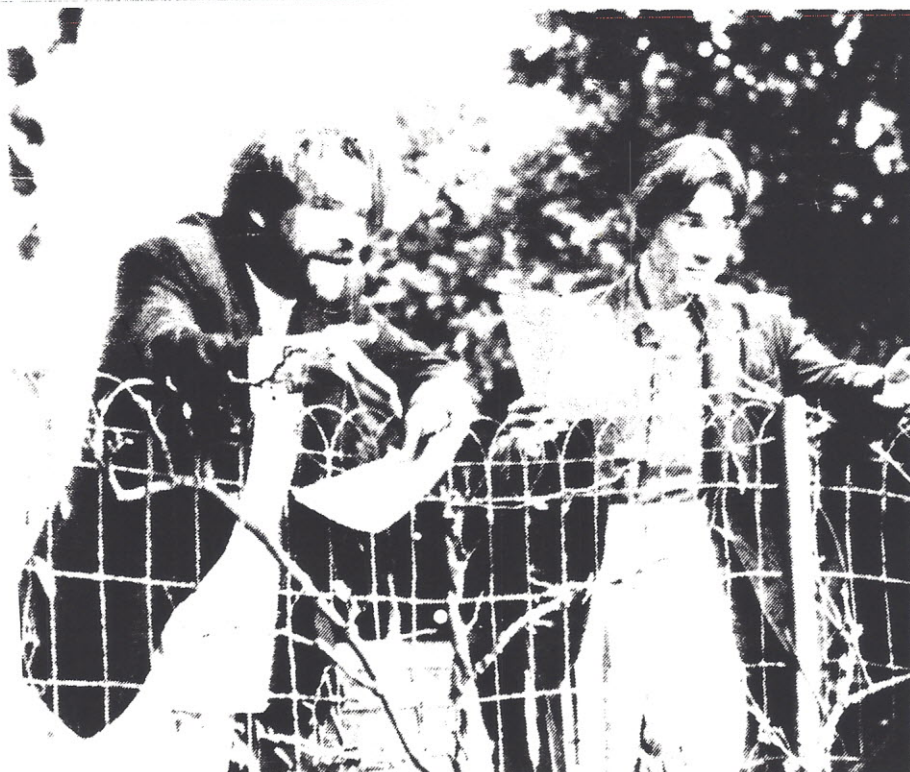
Through the efforts of several members of the Swedish Community, August Strindberg's play "Miss Julie" will be shown at the North Beach Repertory Theatre under the direction of Sasha Tihy, a former director at the Ruben Simonov Theatre in Moscow. The play will open January 24 with a gala event that gives you the opportunity to meet the actors over dessert after the perfor-

mance. A special performance will be put on for the Swedish community on January 30 and 31, with wine and hors d'oeuvres served before the performance. In the planning is also a special Sunday matinee for teenagers preceded by a lecture. The play will be on the repertory for 6 weeks with shows Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 pm and Saturday matinees at 2 pm.

"Miss Julie", as well as a planned staging of P.O. Enquist's "The Hour of the Lynx", is the result of several Swedes assisting the North Beach Repertory. Maud Hallin, one of those behind the project, says that "it's wonderful to be able to share two such outstanding Swedish plays with family and friends. A lot of energy and enthusiasm amongst the actors, director and the Swedish production team is going to create an outstanding performance." The Swedish interior designer Marielle Adegran of Tiburon is designing the scenery, and graphic designs are made by Nina Webber of S.F. Astri Feist, a well-known member of many Swedish organizations is lending some of her furniture.

Ulla Reilly and Karin Seeman of the Swedish Information Service have lent their expertise and professional support and prime funding comes from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The theatre seating is limited to 60, so we suggest you make your reservations early. The theatre is located at 2801 Leavenworth in the Cannery, S.F. For further information, call Maud Hallin, 415 781-3761. For reservations, write or call the Box Office, 415 928-4860.



Director Sasha Tihy and Artistic Director Anthony St. Martin

*Photo by Stewart H. Bloom*

