

Wisteria Hall
3830 "U" Street
Sacramento, CA

Monitor Lodge
No. 218
Editor: Marie Tillman



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

Vol. 16, No. 5

May, 1992



May 3, 1992: Social Evening at Wisteria Hall. We all look forward to the annual Mother's Day Dinner prepared by the men of the lodge. The bar opens at 6:00 pm and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Remember, this is free of charge for everyone. All men, please call Ted Olson, 967-5538, to volunteer your help in the kitchen.

May 6, 1992: Business meeting, 7:00 pm at the Sacramento Savings Bank, 2150 Watt Avenue, 2 blocks south of Penney's at Marayal Drive. The meeting room is on the second floor and the elevator is operating. The revised by-laws will be reviewed and voted on. Other topics on the agenda are a report from the Anniversary Convention Committee and more detailed plans for upcoming activities. We were honored at our April meeting to have District Master Helen Mingram and her husband

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Joe with us. We were also pleased that Scott Matthews, Chairman of Sierra Kronan, his wife Kathryn

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Vasa Order of America
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and family could join us for the evening. Many thanks to Inger Thornros for the delicious semlor for refreshments.

— Myrtle Widmark

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is spring time again with members working in their yards, taking care of their gardens. The Swedish people like to be outside as often as possible to enjoy the sunshine. In May and June we have scheduled activities that take place outside. It is a good feeling of friendship to participate in these cultural events. We would like to see a good turnout. For those who were unable to attend in the winter months, the nice warm days should be inviting to all.

—Myrtle Widmark

ANNIVERSARY AND DISTRICT CONVENTION

Our plans are progressing smoothly. Committee members will be calling to remind you to send in your Saturday April 25th banquet and/or Sunday luncheon reservation before April 17th. They will also be signing up members to help at various functions during the weekend. Call Donn Stafford to sign up for golf on Friday April 24th and bowling Saturday April 25th. Lennart Andersson is in charge of the baked breads etc., which will be served Saturday and Sunday mornings.

— Myrtle Widmark

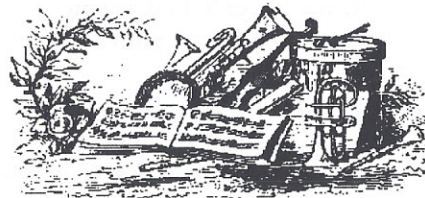
SILL FRUKOST

Our annual sill frukost is on May 16, 1992 at Ted Olson's on 8780 Sunset Avenue in Fair Oaks. We are expecting a group of Swedish accordionists to visit us. Come out for a good breakfast with authentic Swedish music. If you have any questions, please call Ted at 967-5538.

—Myrtle Widmark

SWEDISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

This spectacular event takes place on May 30, 1992 at the County Expo Center in San Mateo. Different stages in the area will offer continuous Swedish music throughout the day. To reserve your badge send a check directly to: **Swedish Cultural Events Committee, P.O. Box 494, San Carlos, CA 94070.**



The price is \$13.00 until April 20, 1992. Thereafter, each badge is \$16.00. Children under 12 are free. Your badge will be waiting for you to pick up when you arrive at the Expo Center.

The lodge has reserved a 45 seat bus for this trip. Please send your \$11.00 bus fare to Elizabeth Johnson, 4332 T Street, Sacramento CA 95819, as soon as possible, so that we have a count

THE SWEDISH NIGHTINGALE

She has been gone for more than a century but she is still remembered. Any crossword puzzle fan faced with a four letter word meaning Swedish Nightingale would have no difficulty coming up with LIND. Of course that refers to Jenny Lind. Her name is also commemorated in the name of the Vasa lodge at Turlock and in the name of a small town in Calaveras County.

Jenny Lind was born in Stockholm on October 6, 1820 and christened Johanna Maria Lind. She had a wonderful natural singing voice and made her operatic debut in Stockholm at the age of 18. Later she studied in Paris and came to the attention of operatic composers. Meyerbeer and Verdi both wrote special roles for her. When she sang in London in 1847 a reviewer gave her the title "The Swedish Nightingale". She was remarkable for her vocal control and agility and florid cadenzas.

She was deeply religious, and it is reported that she prayed before each appearance. In spite of her success in opera she felt it contrary to her religious convictions and she left the operatic stage and concentrated on oratorios and recitals.

In 1850 P.T. Barnum brought her to America for a recital tour. This was before Barnum became circus impresario but he was always a showman and producer.

The American mass audience was not ready for operatic arias but Jenny Lind won hearts everywhere by rendition of the romantic and sentimental ballads of the time. Her singing of "Home Sweet Home" and "The Last Rose of Summer" were especially popular.

In 1852 she married her accompanist, the German pianist Otto Goldschmidt. They settled in Germany and later in England. She continued to sing in oratorios until 1883 and then taught at the Royal College of Music in London. She died in England in 1887. That was over a century ago but she is not forgotten.

— Ted Olson



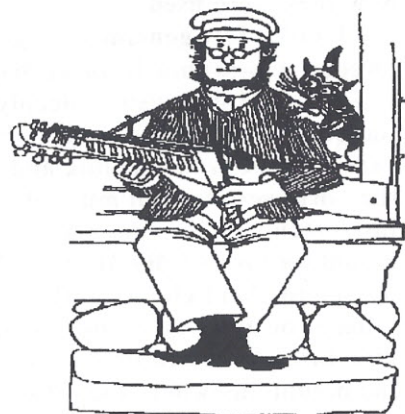
to urban centers had a devastating effect on the old folk culture.

As traditional music and dance forms were replaced by modern popular music at the turn of the century, it was feared that the older folk music would disappear altogether. To counteract these developments, fiddlers' competitions were organized. These gatherings called "spelmansstämmor" have now become non-competitive festivals with all kinds of Swedish folk music. In Bingsjö, Dalarna, the spelmansstämma is an event which gathers 20,000 to 30,000 people every summer. However, if you attend the spelmansstämma in Delsbo, Hälsingland, you will still find some fierce competition between fiddlers as to who will be named number one for the event.

Fiddlers' ensembles (spelmanslag) are also a typical Swedish phenomenon. During the past years many such groups have toured the USA. In California we have two "spelmanslag" who will be performing at our Swedish Music Festival on May 30, 1992.

At the musical "Värmlänningarna - A Swedish Rhapsody", you will see real Swedish musicians and dancers flown over from Sweden as part of a group of 60. Also at the Music Festival there will be dancing by the Swedish Folk Dance Club of Los Angeles. For a little background of Swedish folk dancing, it is interesting to

know that Nordic dance in its oldest form dates back to the Middle Ages. The polska, for instance, goes back to the 16th century. With the introduction of the accordion in the 19th century, the polska was overshadowed by newer dances such as the waltz, schottis and polka. The polska did survive in the form of hambo, which is still popular today.



Instrumental folk music that previously lived in the memory from generation to generation was never recorded. In Sweden today there is a great concern for the preservation of the old tunes and several folk music historians are occupied with the task. It is especially exiting to see how many young people over there are actively engaged in perpetuating traditional music and dance. It must be remembered that it is thanks to people who carry the traditions that the legacy of authentic ethnic music can be passed on to the next generation.

— Eivor Pfannkuch
Cultural leader

of how many are going. Please call Elizabeth at 452-2470 if you have any questions. Get your reservations in early.

—Myrtle Widmark

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

The weather was beautiful for the Camellia Parade this year. Our maid, Susan Lydecker with helpers, were able to decorate the jeep with plenty of camellias. Thanks to the members of Monitor lodge for donating the pretty flowers.

— Myrtle Widmark

NÄL OCH TRÅD

Tisdagen den 12 Maj, kl 19.00

hos: *Myrtle Widmark*
3900 Silver Spur Way
Sacramento, CA 95841
Phone: (916) 481-4056

Bring along projects of your own to work on. Some of us will begin our weaving.

Tisdagen den 26 Maj, kl 19.00

hos: *Eleanor Vine*
7304 Sunsilver Lane
Sacramento, CA 95828
Phone: (916) 688-5296

We will work some more on our own projects.

—Karin Bodelson

REMEMBER

★ Turn in your expense sheets, and submit your lodge receipts to the Secretary before the lodge meeting begins.



★ Wear your name badge at all meetings, and be sure to sign the attendance sheet.

SICK REPORT

Our sick committee chairperson, Gail Nemy, has been ill with pneumonia but is recovering at home now.

Hank Hjersman is in the Mercy General Hospital recovering after by-pass surgery. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Helen Tura is recovering from a stroke. With the help of Health Care, she has been able to recover at home. Marge Skicklig still has a cast on one foot, but the other foot has healed well. She plans to attend our May meeting.

We are sorry to hear of the death March 30, 1992, of Roland Erickson, a long time member of Monitor Lodge. We extend our sympathy to his wife Dorothy and their family. The lodge charter was draped in his memory at our April meeting.

—Myrtle Widmark

DUES ANNIVERSARIES

If you have already paid, please ignore the listing of your name. Thank you for your promptness.

Anholm, David
Bodelson, Christine M.
Doze, Kerstin
Ek, Marianne
Erickson, Dorothy
Hanson, Jeanne
Hjersman, Mimi

Horyza, Astrid E.
 Johnson, Charles
 Lagomarsino, Kathleen
 Lokey, Jeannine
 Nemy, Gail
 Pfannkuch, Kurt & Eivor
 Range, Thelma
 Swanson, David
 Van Alstyne, Durl
 Wardlow, Peter

5/11 Christine Bodelson
 5/12 Charles Linn
 5/12 Myrtle Widmark
 5/14 LaVerne Gilbertson
 5/15 Nancy Misenti
 5/18 Charles Nelson
 5/25 Frances Misenti
 5/25 George Uffens
 5/27 Darlene Aylward

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

—Ethel Johnson

BIRTHDAYS

Hjärtliga gratulationer på födelsedagen! Congratulations!

5/3 Deidre Dahlberg
 5/5 Betty Schoepf
 5/5 Louise Sims
 5/6 Elizabeth Coleman
 5/7 Martin Thornros



FROM THE EDITOR

The next deadline for the Monitor is **May 15, 1992**. Remember that the next issue will cover June, July and August. Send your information to; 1605 Truckee Way, Woodland, CA 95695.

VÄRMLÄNNINGARNA - A Swedish Rhapsody

We still have a few seats left on our bus going to Sveadal for the musical "Värmlänningarna, A Swedish Rhapsody" on May 17. This will be a fun trip with music, singing, fun and games on the bus and lunch when we get there followed by the play. Monitor has reserved a cabin for a "hospitality room" there at the park. Please call me immediately at 673-5917 if you do not have your seat reserved and you want to go. The bus fare is \$15.00.

I know many of you are planning to attend the Music Festival also. Kurt and I will be staying for the After Glow Dinner Party so let us know if you want to join us - otherwise, please sign up for the bus trip.

This month I want to share some things about ethnic music

and dance in Sweden because of our upcoming events in May.

Music has existed for thousands of years in the Nordic countries. Archaeological finds include bronze horns estimated to be 3000 years old and 2000-year old bone flutes, very much like the flutes in use today. From the Viking age have come cow and ram horns. We can only guess at how they were used.

Until a few generations ago Sweden was primarily an agrarian society and folk music is deeply rooted in this rural life style. For example, the wooden flute and the horn were typical musical instruments of the summer mountain farms (fäbod). In order to free the land closest to the village for growing crops, young girls brought the cattle up into the mountains where they stayed over the summer producing cheese and butter. Long birch-bark horns were used to play a variety of tunes, each of which had a special function in the daily routine of the farm, such as calling the animals or communicating with the neighbor over on another mountain slope. A warning signal from the trumpet would also notify the home folks in the valley of an emergency.

By the way, today you can visit a "working fäbod" in Sweden in the summer and see how it was done in the old days and even hear the horn being played.

When we think of ethnic Swedish music, it is probably the

"spelman", fiddler, who comes to mind. He is the one who provided the music at social gatherings like dances, weddings and funerals. Most country fiddlers did not read music, but played by ear, learning their repertoire from older musicians. True folk music cannot usually be transmitted by written note. To capture the native spirit and folk character it must be passed on by ear from human to human.

Before the introduction of the violin, other bowed stringed instruments existed and Nordic folk music is definitely shaped by its intimate relationship to the bowing of strings. In Uppland, Sweden, a keyed fiddle (nyckelharpa), which dates back to the Middle Ages, became the popular instrument. Rather than being fingered as a violin, the strings are stopped by wooden pegs. In recent years the key fiddle has regained its popularity and there are several in California. One of our Vasa members plays the key fiddle and you will most likely see her at our convention and at the Music Festival playing this unusual instrument.

In the second half of the 19th century a stern pietistic movement made serious inroads in many parts of Scandinavia. Preachers condemned dancing and the fiddle as the work of the Devil, so that in many areas instrumental folk music was totally extinguished. Also, the migration from rural farm areas