

Wisteria Hall
3830 "U" Street
Sacramento, CA

Monitor Lodge
No. 218
Editor: Marie Tillman



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization, since 1896

Vol. 16, No. 7



September, 1992

Our September 4th, 1992 business meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at Wisteria Hall. We are planning to conduct lodge initiation ceremonies and present the nominating committee report. More details will be given later by our upcoming events chairmen.

Our cultural leader will have an interesting program for us. After the meeting, with our coffee, we will be serving Swedish Smörgåstårter. Remember to wear your name badge and introduce yourself to our new members and welcome them to our lodge.

— Myrtle Widmark

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to Monitor Lodge with our Fall meetings and activities. I hope everyone had a good summer with picnics and traveling. It is always nice to have a change of pace in our lives and relax with family and friends.

Our June meeting Father's Day

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potluck dinner had a variety of food that was enjoyed by everyone. And, we welcomed our new members, John and Jewel Wright.

The Sweden Day gathering at Micki Grove and Midsummer at Elk

Monitor Lodge No. 218

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

MR & MRS TERRY TILLMAN
1605 TRUCKEE WAY
WOODLAND, CA 95695

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Grove Park with our beautiful May-pole was enjoyed by many from our lodge. Some listened to the concert by the Young Musicians from Sweden on June 28th, at Fremont Presbyterian Church, and were impressed with their talent.

We will be needing helpers at our upcoming events mentioned later in this newsletter. Please volunteer your services to those in charge. It is the combined efforts of all our members that makes these events successful.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again.

In truth and unity,
— Myrtle Widmark

VISITATION COMMITTEE

It was nice to see Paul and Laverne Gullans at the crayfish party. Laverne will be back at school teaching this Fall. Ruth Lundberg is doing well, and so is Charles Badgley. Donna Niemoller was seen limping at the crayfish party. She had surgery and spent five weeks in a wheel chair. Billie Nelson had her foot operated on this summer. Henry Hjersman is vastly improving. Holger Nordquist is recovering from surgery. Kjell Hakansson came home from a trip to Sweden and became ill. He is still recovering. Elizabeth Johnson is having back problems. Helen Tura is improving. Stanley Hagstrom is also improving after surgery he had this summer, although he might need another operation.

We hope to see you all at our Fall meeting.

— Gail Nemy

CRAYFISH PARTY, Annual Kräft Skiva

The approach of Fall and renewed lodge festivities was hailed by our annual crayfish party. Not even the Sacramento heat wave could deter our crayfish connoisseurs who turned out in droves for the Kräft Skiva at Birgit Dillard's.

It was good to see the many lodge members and Swedish language class students, plus several new faces including *Tina Askbrink* an exchange student from Norrköping, Sweden. Welcome Tina!

Bea's traditional crayfish, seasoned in dill and salt, were delicious. Home-cooked favorites and customary Swedish dishes complemented the crayfish, and no one left without loosening their belt a notch or two. Songs were sung, music played, and birthday best wishes made. We thank Birgit Dillard for once again hosting this spirited event.

— Terry Tillman

CORRECTIONS

New address:

Sue Bergman
112 Mitchell Circle
Duluth, MN 55811
(218) 720-3729

New phone numbers:

Leo & Lisa Krastins
(916) 383-7296

Jeannine Lokey
(916) 922-5242

True believers even claim to have discovered evidence of Viking mooring stones along the rivers of the area and possibly the site of an altar where a Viking priest celebrated mass.

Perhaps Minnesota had Vikings before the football team.

— Ted Olson

READER FEEDBACK

To better serve our *Monitor* readers, Marie and I have adopted a slightly larger type size for the newsletter. For a trial period we will experiment with this type in the hopes of improving readability. We welcome your constructive comments about this or other

adaptations, regarding readability, format, or general presentation. Please feel free to contact us at (916) 668-1646.

— Terry Tillman

VESTKUSTEN NEWSPAPER

Bridget Stromberg-Brink, the managing editor of *Vestkusten*, is offering a special introductory rate to Vasa members; a six month subscription for \$10. The newspaper, published in the Bay area twice a month, is written in English with some articles in Swedish. It has articles about events in Sweden as well as activities of local groups.

— Myrtle Widmark

Vestkusten

6 MONTHS \$10.00

1 YEAR TO SWEDEN
\$33.00

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

PHONE

LODGE

Check for \$ _____ Enclosed

Please return coupon to:

Vestkusten
237 Ricardo Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Do you speak Swedish?

Yes Some

No

(Cut out and mail in)

will not have a Swedish Cultural display there, we still recommend that members see the festival, it is a nice drive up there.

Turlock Scandinavian Festival

Dust off your clogs and plan to attend the festivities on September 26th and 27th. Our Valley Viking Singers will participate again this year, and lodge members who went last year thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

*Contact me for details on either of these festivals.

— Myrtle Widmark

THE KENSINGTON RUNESTONE

In 1898 a Minnesota Swede farmer, Olaf Ohman, claimed that he had uncovered a shaped rectangular stone in the roots of an aspen. This was on his farm near the village of Kensington, Minnesota. What was most unusual was that Ohman claimed that the stone contained an inscription in the Nordic runic alphabet.

No one agreed with Ohman so he found the stone made a convenient step for his granary. However, ten years later, a prominent Norwegian Scholar, H. R. Holand, declared it authentic and provided a translation:

"Eight Goths and twenty-two Norwegians on exploration journey from Vinland over the West. We had camp by two skerries one days journey north from this stone. We were and fished one day. After we came home found ten men red with blood and dead. Ave Maria save from evil."

Again there was disagreement. The Minnesota Historical Society and the Smithsonian Institution refused to accept the stone as genuine. Some neighbors said that Ohman and his father had faked the inscriptions.

However, even after almost a hundred years, there is still argument. Ohman had practically no education but he had a two page magazine article about runes. Ohman was a dour unsociable individual who was not inclined to seek attention. Recent examinations by experts claim that the letters, numbers, and words on the runestone are in correct form for the middle '1300s'. This usage was not fully understood until the '1960s'. Also it was customary to include the name of the author in runic inscriptions. The experts claim there is a concealed message, "Eivar composed me."



While scholars dispute the runes, people who live near Kensington like to believe their runestone is genuine. The runestone is now in the museum in the nearby county seat of Alexandria. The Ohman family home is preserved as Runestone County Park.

Lois Mullen
(916) 922-3303

— Karin Bodelson

DUES ANNIVERSARIES

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

September Dues:
Gilbert & Camilla Holm
Vicky Lydecker



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

Some dues for the summer are still outstanding. If you haven't paid, please do so.

— Ethel Johnson

THE CHILDREN'S CLUB

The Children's club will resume weekly meetings on **Monday, September 14th**. We will continue to meet at 4:00 pm at Coloma Community Center on T Street at 47th. Children of all ages are invited to join us for song, dance and crafts. Please call me at 967-9248 if you have any questions.

—Peggy Carlson

BIRTHDAYS

Ja, må de leva!

09/04 *Erika Lewis*
09/06 *Helen Tura*
09/08 *Jean Anderson*
09/12 *Peggy Carlson*
09/12 *Muriel Hjersman*
09/13 *Kurt Swanfeldt*
09/16 *Arlie Veis*
09/18 *David Anholm*
09/19 *Carl A. Larson*
09/20 *Helen Forsty*
09/21 *Ethel Hubbell*
09/21 *Eleanor Vine*
09/23 *Britt Marie Andersson*
09/24 *Jeanne Hagstrom*
09/27 *Julius Holmquist*
09/29 *Estrid Doscher*

Congratulations!

NEW MEMBERS

John and Jewel Wright
7116 Dawn View Ct.
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
(916) 723-6910

NEW ARRIVAL

Vår Dotter
Amanda Victoria Hinman, född 26 juli, 1992. Stolta föräldrar
Madeleine Hallstrom-Hinman och
Scott Hinman.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Hank and Muriel Hjersman celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in June. Congratulations from all of Monitor Lodge.



SWEDISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Here is your chance to learn Swedish! Classes will be held Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm at the Winterstein Adult Education Center at 900 Morse Avenue in Sacramento. We hope to offer 3, if not 4 levels starting at beginners and ending at advanced. The classes are offered in a relaxed setting with several social activities such as potlucks and a Christmas party. This year our teachers are *Ronny and Christi Kagstrom* and *Marie Tillman*. The cost is \$30 for 10 classes. Classes start **Thursday, September 10th**, 1992. Please contact Ronny and Christi at (916) 641-8770 or Marie at (916) 668-1646 for more details.

— Marie Tillman

SMÖRGÅSBORD

The Smörgåsbord, our biggest annual fund-raiser, will take place **Saturday, November 14th**. We need lots of help from everyone. There will be sign up sheets at the September lodge meeting or call me to sign up.

— Myrtle Widmark

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Swedish Pancake Breakfast has been scheduled for **Saturday, October 17th**, 1992, at Farmer Bob's, 8571 Sunset Avenue in Fair Oaks. You will enjoy eating your breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and orange juice outdoors in the country atmosphere. This is a great family affair as farmer Bob has pumpkins, wagon rides, a haunted house, and a farm store

where you can buy fresh vegetables and other foods. This is a great way to start your day!

— Myrtle Widmark

NÅL OCH TRÅD

Tisdagen den 8 September, kl 19.00, hos:

Karin and Viola Bodelson
2529 Eastern Avenue, #26
Sacramento, CA 95821
Phone: (916) 485-0815

Bring along whatever project you may be working on. Also, we would like to hear your ideas.

Tisdagen den 22 September, kl 19.00, hos:

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

CONSTITUTION

The new Grand Lodge constitutions have arrived for our lodge officers. Lodge members can order their own copies of the constitution in binders. Please contact *Ingrid Kennedy* or *Jean Anderson* to order yours. We also have extra binders alone, at \$5.00 each, if you would like to buy one.

MONITOR CHORUS

Marianne Ek, our Chorus director, welcomes all who enjoy singing to the group, The Valley Viking Singers. They will meet at 5:30 pm, on September 4th, before the business meeting. Come out and have fun singing with the group.

— Myrtle Widmark

FROM THE EDITOR



The deadline for the October issue of the Monitor is **September 15th**, 1992. Send your

typed or hand printed information to: Marie Tillman, 1605 Truckee Way, Woodland, CA 95695.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LODGE MEMBER

This is a new section of our newsletter which I know everyone will enjoy. Recall from our June lodge meeting when we honored the men, their names were put in a drawing to select the one special man who would receive flowers and a gift. This same esteemed individual is featured in this month's newsletter so we can all get to know a little more about his background and interests. Who is this special person?

It's **Leo Krastins!**

Leo was born in Europe in Latvia. His father was a farmer whose ancestors reach back to the Swedish vikings. Leo's mother was from the capital city Riga.

In 1944, at the age of 20 Leo left Latvia for West Germany, because Stalin was taking over. His sister was later arrested and sent to Russia, as well as his parents. In 1948 Leo left for Australia where he worked for the government in a sawmill for 18 months. He later left the mill to move to Melbourne where he worked with synthetic textiles preparing the warp for nylon stockings. Leo met his wife

Lisa in Melbourne and they married in 1952. In 1960 they moved to Sacramento where Lisa's sister lived.

Leo went to Sweden to visit in 1980 and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the country of his father's ancestors. He said he felt right at home. Right now Leo works for the Data Image Systems Corporation editing microfilm from county recorders' offices. Leo also takes Swedish classes through the Adult Education classes at Winterstein School. He likes to travel and climb mountains, and has been on top of 150 mountain summits! Many of you in the lodge probably know Leo best behind a camera. He has been our picture taker for the lodge historian and the lodge scrap book for many years. Lastly, Leo also collects stamps, specializing in Swedish ones. Leo finished this interview by sharing that he feels very Swedish because he believes in quality work, and strives for perfection and accuracy, traits that he sees in the Swedish culture.

P.S. Make sure that you attend our next meeting in September. Another name will be drawn, and he or she will be featured in our next newsletter.

— Eivor Pfannkuch,
Cultural leader

OTHER EVENTS

Prune Festival, Yuba City

This year's 1992 Yuba City Prune Festival is the weekend of September 12th and 13th, so mark your calendars. Though our lodge