

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. 8



October, 1992

**O**ur next meeting will be Friday, October 2nd, at Wisteria Hall. The bar opens at 6:00pm and at 6:30pm we will be serving a Swedish meat-ball dinner that includes mashed potatoes, vegetables, and a dessert. This promises to be a dinner that the whole family will enjoy. So, don't forget to invite your friends. The cost for the dinner is \$5.00 for adults, and children twelve and under are admitted free.

The business meeting, which follows the dinner, will include election of new officers and discussion of the 1993 tentative lodge program. In addition, we will have a guest appearance by Christian Serdahl, an Ophthalmologist. He will be speaking on Scandinavian Eye Diseases, and care of the eyes.

Gil and Camilla Holm, our long-time bartenders, are moving to Idaho. Consequently, we're looking for members to take over this venerable task, right away. Ideally, we like to form a list of relief bartenders who could then alternate turns at the

various lodge functions. Please volunteer if you'd like to help, or if you have a flair for mixing spirits.

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Monitor Lodge No. 218  
Vasa Order of America  
2529 Eastern Ave #26  
Sacramento, CA 95821

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The September meeting started off our fall season with the initiation of Laurine Copen and Ann-Catrin and Robert Titus. We all welcome these new members to our Vasa fellowship and lodge activities. The nominations of officers for next year were presented by Kurt Pfannkuch. Being an officer is an experience for everyone to have the chance to participate on the executive board. These members bring ideas to the meetings for all members to discuss. Let Kurt know that you are a volunteer for a position.

Our lodge has a Children's Club under the leadership of Peggy Carlson, Camilla Caldwell, and their assistants. The group is growing and they are learning about Swedish customs, language, music, crafts, etc.. It is a pleasure to see these children when they are performing at various events and also attending Monitor lodge dinner meetings. We welcome the children as they are a part of our Vasa family and will be our future leaders.

Any parents and grandparents that have children are welcome to join this group. If school activities take place on the meeting day, bring them to the other social functions.

The Pancake Breakfast is coming up on October 17th, and what a great way to start a Saturday morning. After breakfast the children will enjoy seeing the pumpkins, hay ride, and other sites. And, the grownups can go into Farmer Bob's store to purchase vegetables and other items.

Our annual smörgåsbord is on November 14th, and the committee is already working on plans.

These two functions need help from everyone, so contact the respective organizers to help out with the arrangements. Remember, we'll need members to help prepare dishes at home as well as at the event.

*In truth and unity,  
— Myrtle Widmark*

## VISITATION COMMITTEE

Joyce Trnka fell, injuring her ankle, and has had a cast on it. She expects the cast to come off soon. She misses everyone at the Lodge and is looking forward to attending meetings in the near future.

## NEW MEMBERS

*Robert and Ann-Catrin Titus  
942 35th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 443-7970*

*Laurine J. Copen  
4121 67th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95810  
(916) 456-7916*

## FROM THE EDITOR



The deadline for the November issue of the Monitor is **October 15th, 1992.**

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

11.

It must be borne in mind that North America extends from the Arctic islands south to the tropics of Central America. The southernmost part of Sweden is at about the same latitude as southern Ireland, and Ketchikan, Alaska. A substantial number of the birds seen in Sweden may be seen in North America only in Alaska or the northern provinces of Canada. On the other hand, some of those which are rare in Sweden may be found commonly in California. The Cattle Egret was seen just south of Sacramento less than 20 years ago, and have now been seen as far north as southern Canada, according to Urdardy. That is a long way from it's original home in tropical Africa. Bird populations can change rapidly, witness the Starling. It arrived in California's Honey Lake Valley in the 1940's and is now common in the cities and towns of our Central Valley. This same sort of bird population dispersion occurs in Sweden.

While you are looking for birds which remind you of the ones you saw in Sweden, take a little time to look at some of the attractive birds which live close to you. Our State bird, the California Quail with it's comma-shaped black plume, is a nice bird to meet. It has a larger relative, the Mountain Quail which has a long straight plume. They are more difficult to see because they prefer to run in their brushy habitat than to escape from you by flying. The Sandhill Cranes have a substantial wintering area west of Interstate 5, about 30 minutes driving time from Sacramento, and a viewing area has been set aside so that you can park and enjoy. These cranes summer in the far north so don't expect to see them after March.

*H. C. Hensman  
6 Apr 1991*

THERE'S A BIRD (cont.)

10.

HABITAT

Swedish Name	Scientific Name	American Name	Family	Comments
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INLAND CLIFFS AND CANYONS

Pilgrimsfalk	<u>Falco peregrinus</u>	Peregrine Falcon	Falconidae	Cosmopolitan
Ladusvala	<u>Hirundo rustica</u>	Barn Swallow	Hirundinidae	
(Some of the above might be best inserted here.)				
Havsörn	<u>Haliaeetus albicilla</u>	Gray Sea Eagle	Accipitridae	Accidental
Piplärksnäppa	<u>Calidris fuscicollis</u>	White-rumped Sandpiper	Scolopaciidae	Vagrant
Prärielöpare	<u>Tryngites subruficollis</u>	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Scolopaciidae	Accidental
Sotvingad mäs	<u>Larus atricilla</u>	Laughing Gull	Laridae	Accidental
Kentsk täma	<u>Sterna sandvicensis</u>	Cabot's Tern	Sternidae	Accidental
Alkekung	<u>Alle alle</u>	Dovekie	Alcidae	Vagrant

LODGE PROGRAM FOR 1993

**TENTATIVE 1993 PROGRAM**

JANUARY	8	7:00p	Business meeting, District Delegates Elected, Installation of Officers, Refreshments
FEBRUARY	5	6:30p	Peasoup and Pancake Dinner, Business Meeting, Sierra Kronan Guests
MARCH	5	6:30p	Moose Stew Dinner and Family Social Night, Decoration Workshop
	9 ?	7:00p	Business Meeting
	TBA		Camellia Festival
APRIL	2	6:30p	Business Meeting and Cultural Program, Anniversary Cake
	17		Scandinavian Festival, St John Vianney Church, 10497 Coloma Road, Rancho Cordova
MAY	7	6:30p	Mors Dag Family Dinner hosted by the Men, Social Evening
	11 ?	7:00p	Business Meeting
	22	10:00a	Sill Frukost at Ted Olson's
JUNE	4	6:30p	Fars Dag Family Potluck, Business Meeting
	19		Midsummer Fest, Children's Club (TBA)
JULY			VACATION, No Meeting
AUGUST	21	5:00p	Business Meeting
		6:00p	Crayfish and Potluck at Lars Ostlund's, 7524 Sloughouse Road, Elk Grove
SEPTEMBER	3	7:00p	Business Meeting, Nominating Committee Report, Smörgåstårta
	11-12		Yuba City Prune Festival, Chorus and Children's Club
OCTOBER	1	6:30p	Swedish Meatball Dinner followed by Business Meeting, Election of Officers for 1994
	TBA		Pancake Breakfast
NOVEMBER	5	6:30p	Business Meeting followed by Cultural Workshop
	13		Smörgåsbord
DECEMBER	3	6:30p	Glögg Party
	10	7:00p	Lucia Party
JANUARY	7	7:00p	Business Meeting, Annual Reports, District Delegates Elected
TBA = To Be Announced			

## DUES ANNIVERSARIES

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

### October Dues:

Louise Amundsen  
Edna & Robert Anderson  
Darlene & Michael Aylward  
Erika and Thor Barrows  
Jone Canady  
Lucy & Edward Dahlberg  
June Delle  
Karin & David Dorey  
Katherine Gagne  
LaVerne Gilbertson  
Amy Glad  
LaVerne & Paul Gullans  
Madeleine Hallstrom-Hinman  
Carol Kwolek  
Elaine Lincecum  
Barbara Mecchi-Ericson  
Lois Mullen  
Faye Powell  
Jillian Stanley  
Inger, Lennart & Martin Thornros



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

— *Ethel Johnson*

## BIRTHDAYS

Ja, må de leva!

10/01 *June Delle*  
10/03 *Lowell Carlson*  
10/03 *Bernie Lundberg*  
10/04 *Eva Allred*  
10/05 *Karen Johnson*  
10/06 *Dale Ingvarlsen*  
10/07 *Charles Campbell*  
10/08 *Barbara Lutz*  
10/09 *Ellerie Campbell*  
10/10 *Karin Bodelson*  
10/16 *Juanita Skorheim*  
10/18 *Ann-Catrin Titus*  
10/20 *Ethel Hoffman*  
10/23 *Lilmer Olson*  
10/24 *Marianne Ek*  
10/27 *Vicki Lydecker*  
10/28 *Katherine Gagne*  
10/29 *Gibson Kingren*

Congratulations!

## In Memorium



*Monitor Lodge lost a cherished member, Ruth Lundberg, on Monday, September 7, 1992. Funeral services were held the following Saturday, at the Lutheran Church on High Street in Auburn. She will be remembered as an active Lodge member, and a hard worker. Many of us recall the work she did as our Vasa Star Correspondent and as Editor for the Monitor. We give our support to her husband Bernie and children. The Charter will be draped in her memory at our October 2nd meeting.*

treaty. The Russians apparently did not trust their new partners and asked Finland for several territorial cessions to improve their defensive positions on the Finnish front. They asked Finland for bases on the Gulf of Finland and for territory to give Russia a 50 mile rather than a 20 mile buffer zone around Leningrad. There would be exchanges for Russian border territories in other areas. These demands were excessive. The Finns rejected the terms and prepared for the worst.

On Sunday afternoon, November 26, 1939, the first Russian shells were fired. The Russians were prepared for a blitzkrieg. Although it was the end of November, the troops were still in summer uniforms. The Russian high command had a time table of ten to twelve days to complete the operations. The political commissars assured the troops there would be little opposition since they were coming to rescue the Finns from the evils of capitalism and to extend the benefits of communism.

Finland had tried to emulate Sweden and Norway in a policy of permanent neutrality. When funds for the military were requested there was debate whether the money could be better spent to improve the standard of living. Russia and Finland had signed a ten year non-aggression pact. The Finns felt that gave them some protection. Only three months before the beginning of the war the Prime Minister of Finland stated, "We are proud of the fact that we don't have weapons and rifles rusting away in warehouses

and that we don't have uniforms rotting away in warehouses, but we have a high standard of living and an educational system we can be proud of."

The Finns had hastily prepared for defense. Roads were mined, trees were felled to block tanks. All the Finns could hope for was that delaying tactics would give time for help to come from other countries. They especially hoped for help from Sweden but that country would not relax its long history of neutrality. However, 8,000 volunteers came to Finland. Twelve of these were flyers who brought their war planes. There were 230 volunteers from England, 800 from Denmark, 800 from Norway, and 150 from Italy. There were 350 volunteers from the United States, but they arrived only two days before the war ended.

The Finns were woefully short of war material to meet the Soviet tanks. However, they rapidly developed tactics. These required almost suicidal individual bravery but they learned that a crowbar thrust into the treads of a tank could bring it to a halt. As crewmen emerged to attempt repair they were cut down by Finnish marksmen. The roads were few and narrow. As tanks attempted to move cross-country over the frozen marshes they found that the ice had been weakened or mined by the Finns.

(to be continued)

— *Ted Olson*

Göteborg that her "farmor" had often talked about. We in Monitor Lodge are very lucky to have Gail as a member. You'll often see her at the piano playing at the meetings or accompanying our choral group. Thank you, to a fine talented lady

— Eivor Pfannkuch,  
Cultural leader

**P.S.** Be sure to attend the next lodge meeting in October. Another name will be drawn and featured in the newsletter.

## LODGE WOODWORKERS - CALL TO ARMS

Attention all woodcarvers and woodworkers! Working with wood is a well known Swedish craft and it would be good for our lodge to have a group that would get together to share this experience. Beginners would have the opportunity to learn from those with experience. And, there are many designs that could be followed. The Nål och Tråd group has asked Ernie Skorheim to help them by carving some "Tomtar", which the group will paint and finish.

Several members have wood saws to cut out shapes. Decorative pieces like these could be sold at the Scandinavian Festival or, of course, kept for oneself. Ed Dahlberg had made the "Dalahäst" pattern which, when cut and painted, were finished as magnets. Any members interested in this venture should call Ernie at (916) 482-7039 or Ed at (916) 922-2820.

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## TRUSTEE'S INVENTORY

Please submit a report to the trustees of any lodge property you have at your home. This inventory is for their annual report.

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## ★ THE WINTER WAR

(Note: The Vasa Order includes many members of Finnish origin who share our Nordic heritage. Finland was an integral part of Sweden from the Middle Ages until 1809. While the Finnish people maintained their separate language and culture there has always been a special relationship between Sweden and Finland.)

 The Winter War is almost forgotten now except in Finland. That country still feels the effects.

While hostilities began on November 26, 1939, the real beginnings may have been in 1704 when Peter the Great of Russia seized the territory at the mouth of the Neva River to secure a port on the Baltic. Here he established his namesake city of Saint Petersburg, later named Leningrad but now again as Saint Petersburg. This was an event of the great northern war but Sweden was forced to cede that small part of Finland to Russia.

It was a small part. When Finland became independent after World War I, the important Russian City of Leningrad was only 20 miles from the Finnish border.

In 1939, Russia and Nazi Germany signed a non-aggression

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## NÅL OCH TRÅD

Tisdagen den 13 October, kl. 19, hos:

Inger Thomros  
3849 Thornwood Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
Phone (916) 971-4010

Tisdagen den 27 October, kl. 19, hos:

Muriel Hjersman  
640 40th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
Phone (916) 451-6940

We welcome all. Bring along your projects and ideas.

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## Culture Corner


### SWEDISH SOCIETY

One of the things I often hear from our lodge members is that they joined the lodge to learn more about the country of their ancestors and to learn about traditions that can be passed on to their families. As your Cultural Leader my main objective is to teach you something about Sweden. Even if you've never been there, you can enjoy and share your knowledge with others and, who knows, one day you may go there to visit.

The following article about Swedish Society can be very useful, particularly if, for instance, you are asked by someone to give a talk about Sweden. Or, you can use it just for your own enjoyment and personal knowledge. Also, I urge all

of our Monitor members, and especially those who have lived in Sweden, to volunteer their information and help. In this way, we can further our cultural heritage and promote programs of interest to our lodge. Please call me with your ideas.

### Swedish Society

 hundred years ago Sweden was a poor country which suffered from bad harvests, starvation and high unemployment. Hundreds of thousands of people left the country in order to try to make a better life for themselves. Most of them went to North America.

Today the situation is just the opposite. People from poor countries want to come to Sweden for a better life. Many of them come from countries ruined by war, and they dream of peace and of no longer being persecuted because of their political beliefs. Sweden has not been involved in any wars since the beginning of the 19th century. The country has also been neutral for a long time, which means among other things that it has decided to stay outside all military alliances, such as the Warsaw Pact and NATO, which most other European countries belong to. On the other hand, Sweden is an active member of the United Nations.

This long period of peace is one of the reasons why Sweden is so prosperous. Living standards are among the highest in the world. Refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and color televisions, as well as cars, are taken for granted by most people.

Children start school at the age of seven and everyone goes to the same kind of school. You have to go to

school for nine years, but most people go on for another two or three years after that. Lessons, books and school meals are free. There are also universities and colleges for young people as well as for older people who want to go back to study after they've been working a few years.

These days everyone with a job has at least five weeks' holiday a year, mostly in the summer. Paid holidays were one of the rights which the workers fought for through their local trade unions and their political party about 50 years ago. The trade unions have also achieved other things such as the 40-hour working week and better working environment. Nearly everyone with a job, whether they are factory or office workers or people in other professions, are members of a trade union. Local trade unions belong to bigger, national organizations, and it is usually these which meet the employers once a year to discuss pay rises.

In Sweden it is almost as common for women to go out to work as it is for men. One of the country's aims is to create greater equality between men and women. But it is usually still the men who get the top jobs and the women who do most of the housework and look after the children, even if things are very different from how they were just a generation or so ago.

It is quite natural for the Swedes that the health service is practically free and that parents receive child allowances and money so that one of them can stay home from work for a year to look after a new baby. They also take their pensions for granted, that is the money they receive every month from the state when they are old and do not need to

work any longer. The idea is that you can feel secure and know that you will get help when you cannot manage for yourself, either because you are old or ill.

All of this is very expensive, of course, and is paid for by the taxes. Most people who work full time earn between 115,000 and 160,000 kronor a year. In general you pay just over one third of that in tax, but the more you earn the larger share you pay. Many people think that taxes are too high and that the state has too much power, but not many of them are prepared to give up the security of social services.

**(to be continued)**

## DISTRICT CULTURAL SEMINAR

On **Saturday, October 10**, there will be a District Cultural Seminar in Stockton. The Seminar will be conducted by the District Cultural Leader, *Lilian Rejbrand*. The cost is only \$15.00, which covers coffee in the morning and lunch later on. You will learn about Swedish holidays and how they are celebrated in Sweden, how to make decorations etc., and even take home some materials to share with your friends who could not attend.

Send your check, right away, to Lilian at: 184 Belwood Gateway, Los Gatos, CA 95030. If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 674-1068.

## SCANDINAVIAN DANCING

The Sacramento Scandinavian Dancers are starting up again after the summer break. The first class

will be on **Sunday, September 27**, at 1:00p to 5:00p. A donation of \$8.00 per class can be paid on arrival, or in advance for the entire semester; September to December is \$20.00. The location is at the YWCA at 17th and "L" Streets in Sacramento. Call me for more information or *Lupie Barton* at (916) 456-7128.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR LODGE MEMBER

This month we are learning about one of our newer members who joined the lodge within this past year. Her name is **Gail Nemy**. Born and raised in Chico, Gail's Swedish connection comes from her father's side. Gail's "farmor" (father's mother) was born in Göteborg in 1867, while Gail's "farfar" (father's father) was born in Chicago the same year, his parents were both from Sweden.

After arriving in America, her great-grandfather changed their family name to Foster, sometime around the middle 1800s. Gail says that she's trying very hard to find out the family's original last name, and from where in Sweden her great-grandparents came. Unfortunately, all the documents say "born in Sweden" and nothing else. Gail's "farfar," Walter Foster is listed in a publication called, "The Swedes of Illinois." It tells in this book how, as a four year old, Walter was carried across the burning Chicago River bridge just an instant before it fell during the 1871 Chicago fire. As an adult, Walter Foster became head cutter of one of Chicago's first tailoring firms. Eventually, in the early

1920's, the Foster family moved from Chicago to Chico, California. This was where Gail's grandparents decided to build the farm house where she was later raised, surrounded by thirty acres of almond orchard.

Gail tells about how she and her two younger brothers all worked in the family almond orchard, from the time they started to walk. At age seven, Gail started to take piano lessons and kept it up through college. A year short of graduating from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Gail married and moved to the Bay Area where she raised three sons; Jeff, Stuart, and David. In 1971 she graduated from college after going back to finish up her last year. Gail says, "I was determined to graduate before my children finished college!"

Her oldest son, Jeff, is a Chief Financial Officer for the Chronicle Broadcasting Co. in San Francisco, and is married to Betsy Erickson, a former prima ballerina with the San Francisco Ballet. The middle son, Stuart, owns Nemy Cabinets and he and his wife Reneé have four children. David, the youngest son, and his wife Karen, live in San Leandro with their two boys. Gail says that being a grandmother is one of the great joys in her life.

Gail also likes classical music and ballet, history, travel, reading, and gardening. Gail has a California Real Estate license and is currently managing property for A G Spanos Construction. In 1987 Gail travelled in Sweden where she enjoyed seeing some of the cherished places in