

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. 9

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November, 1992

The November 6th business meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at Wisteria Hall. We will have initiations and review the Standing Rules for Monitor Lodge. The rules are printed in the newsletter for you to read over. There will be committee reports, a cultural program and refreshments.

We thank Dale Ingvarlsen for bar-tending our October meatball dinner, which everyone enjoyed. This was prepared by Margaret Carlson, Ed Dahlberg, Ernie Skorgeheim, Herb Johnson, and their helpers. We need new cooks to take over their jobs and they will teach us their recipes.

We also welcomed guests Yngve Svenson from Lindbergh Lodge #494 in Palo Alto, and Carl Gullans from Lindbergh Lodge #505 in New York. Carl was a guest of Paul Gullans. Dr. Serdahl gave us some interesting information about eyes.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Fall is here and many are out in their yards raking leaves and getting

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things in order for the Winter. We start thinking of the coming holidays and indoor activities.

We all look forward to our annual Smörgåsbord and this is an opportunity to volunteer your time to serve and to make some Swedish food for the table.

A special thanks to the Lodge Officers who will be working for you next year. Your support will help them make Monitor Lodge prosper.

*In truth and unity,
— Myrtle Widmark*

Monitor Lodge No. 218

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

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STANDING RULES FOR MONITOR LODGE

These rules supplement the Local Lodge By-Laws and may be revised by Monitor Lodge when necessary.

1. This Lodge shall be known as Monitor Lodge No. 218 located in the city of Sacramento, California, and all members shall have the same rights.
2. Regular lodge meetings shall be held a minimum of nine times per year.
3. A qualified candidate who seeks membership in the Lodge shall present an official application for membership together with one (1) dollar, which shall constitute part of the regular initiation fee of ten (10) dollars.
4. All properly presented and accepted applications for membership shall be referred to a Membership Committee, which shall be composed of three (3) local lodge members in good standing. Every member is an unofficial emissary authorized to recruit new applicants. The sponsor shall be responsible for their members.
5. The following shall be appointed:
 - A. Children's Club Leader(s)
 - B. Friendship Committee; Chaplain, Vice Chairman and other members as needed
 - C. Hospitality Committee (2)
 - D. Librarian
 - E. Membership Committee (3)
 - F. Newsletter Publisher
 - G. Nominating Committee (3); consisting of the Past Chairperson, Recording Secretary, and one member at large.
 - H. Public Relations Committee (2)
 - I. Scholarship Committee (3)
 - J. Sweden Day Delegates (2)
 - K. Telephone Committee; 2 members for each lodge program page.
 - L. Vasa Star Correspondent
6. Candidates for local lodge office shall be members in good standing having attended six (6) consecutive regular meetings.
7. All elected positions must be balloted separately and a plurality of votes is sufficient to elect. The presiding Chairperson may ask the members to pass a unanimous ballot, to be executed by the Secretary.
8. Duties of officers;
 - A. The Vice Chairman shall be co-chair of the Friendship Committee. They take office with the understanding of becoming Chairperson.
 - B. The Recording Secretary shall be on the Nominating Committee.
 - C. The Assistant Recording Secretary shall assist the Recording Secretary and assume the duties of the Recording Secretary in his or her absence. Duties of the Assistant Recording Secretary include the following:
 - taking notes during meetings and writing up minutes,
 - helping to write vouchers for bills during meetings,
 - typing membership cards and applications for newly initiated members,
 - notifying various officers of address changes, etc. (District Secretary, Vasa Star Circulation Manager,) and,
 - helping to distribute program books.

Sweden by the way), had two children and was active with their school activities. It was 26 years before she had a chance to return to Sweden as promised. Since then she has been back two more times.

Myrtle likes to travel and to go camping. Her main hobby is needlework of all kinds as well as baking and also attending Swedish Class. I asked Myrtle what she likes the best about going to visit the land of her ancestors. Besides the people, or course, she enjoys the beautiful scenery. She also finds it fascinating that there are so many different dialects being spoken in Sweden - a country covering an area no bigger than the state of California.

Thank you Myrtle for taking such a great interest in your heritage and for working to share with others about Sweden.

— Eivor Pfannkuch,
Cultural leader

★ THE WINTER WAR

(continued)

The Finns found that the Molotov cocktail also made an effective anti-tank weapon. The State Liquor Board provided 40,000 bottles. These were filled with a mixture of kerosene, tar and gasoline. A gasoline soaked rag around the neck was ignited and the bottle was thrown into air intakes or open hatches.

The winter of 1939-40 was record breaking cold. The weather became colder and colder down to 40 degrees below zero. The Russians were still in summer uniforms

and suffered. The Finns were mostly reserve forces who wore their civilian clothing. These were adapted to the weather. Bed sheets were used as a final camouflage covering. Finnish sharpshooters on skis were very effective in picking off Russians trying to warm themselves at campfires. One Finnish sniper is credited with 500 Russian dead.

Although Finland and Russia shared hundred of miles of border the first and largest invasion was in the Karelian peninsula nearest to Leningrad. However, there were several other invasion points. Here the Russians did not encounter the obstacles that the Finns constructed in Karelia but there were natural obstacles. There was deep snow on roads that stalled their tanks and trucks. It was necessary for soldiers to spend hours tramping the snow on the roads so that vehicles could move. Finn sharpshooters constantly harassed them with rifle and machine gun fire. The Russians had to finally cease their advance and establish defensive positions.

The Russian leadership was embarrassed by the failure of their troops to accomplish their objectives. Unsuccessful generals were transferred, demoted, and even executed. Marshal Semyon Timoshenko now became commander of the Finnish campaign and troops and armament from all of Russia were mobilized for the Finnish theater

(to be continued)

— Ted Olson

after children while their parents are out at work or studying.

No-one can say what Sweden will be like in the future. But if things develop as many think they will, then the towns will continue to grow while the countryside will become a place where people spend their spare time rather than a place where people live and work. And computers will replace even more people, who instead will have jobs providing services for others.

DISTRICT CULTURAL SEMINAR

Our District Cultural Seminar on October 10, was well attended by Monitor Lodge. Besides myself and Kurt, our Chairperson Myrtle Widmark was there and the Supervisor of the Children's club Camilla Caldwell as well as Audrey Fales, Ethel Johnson and Louise Sims. The District Cultural Leader, Lilian Rejbrand and her assistants had planned a very informative day. We learned about Christmas and other holidays in Sweden including the foods prepared for the different holidays. There were recipes shared and even workshops with hands-on demonstrations in making decorations for the various holidays.

We hope to share some of our information with the rest of you in Monitor starting in November. This is a good time to begin preparing for the Christmas holiday season. Following our business meeting on November 6, there will be a Christmas workshop where you will learn how to cure your own Christmas ham and decorate it, make Lucia buns, breads, etc.. Plan to attend

for a fun evening of fellowship and getting to know your lodge members.

Speaking of getting to know our members, read about our special member below.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LODGE MEMBER

This month we have the pleasure to learn a little more about our Chairperson, **Myrtle Widmark!** For the past two years, Myrtle has done an excellent job of guiding our lodge and we really appreciate her efforts. Her parents came from the province of Värmland in Sweden, her father from Ekshärad and her mother from Hagfors along the Klarälven River. Her parents met in Sweden but in 1909 Myrtle's father left for the United States and a few years later her mother followed and they were married in 1916 in Minneapolis. Myrtle's father worked at one time as a streetcar conductor there, but in 1920 they moved to Sacramento, where they had a small place with chickens and a cow.

Myrtle was born in Sacramento and went to Robla Grammar School and this year her class is celebrating its 50 year reunion. After Grant High School and Grant Technical School, Myrtle attended Sacramento State University and received her teaching credential, which she put to use during nine years of teaching school.

In 1952, Myrtle visited her relatives in Sweden for the first time and she told them she would be back in five years! However, after 1952 Myrtle got married to James Widmark (James' father was born in

- D. The Chaplain shall perform all duties as prescribed by the Ritual of the Order and is Co-Chair of the Friendship Committee.
- E. The Past Chairperson will chair the Nominating Committee.
9. Membership dues of the Chairperson, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and the Treasurer shall be paid by the Lodge while they are in office. A gratuity of twenty five (25) dollars shall be paid to the Recording Secretary at the end of the term. The Lodge pays the room rent for the Children's club. The Lodge pays the registration fees for the District Cultural Seminar for the Chairperson, Cultural Leader, Children's Club Leader, and a member of Nål och Tråd. The Lodge pays the registration fees for the District Membership Seminar for the Chairperson and two (2) members of the Membership Committee.
10. The Lodge has an interest in the Swedish Language classes.
11. Monies collected from the Coin March and the Name Badge fines shall be used by the Friendship Committee to purchase plants and cards.

REMEMBER

- ❖ Turn in your expense sheets, and present your lodge receipts to the Secretary before the lodge meeting begins.
- ❖ Submit your inventory list of lodge property to the Trustees.
- ❖ Wear your name badge at all meetings, and be sure to sign the attendance sheet. The Master of Ceremonies may fine members \$.25 for not wearing their badges.
- ❖ Blue Binders. We are trying to locate the blue binders used by the Lodge Committees several years ago. Do you have one? Please contact Myrtle if you know their whereabouts.
- ❖ Program Books. We would like your opinion about the lodge program books; how much you use it, do you use the information on other lodges, do you only use the Monitor Lodge part, or any other comments on them. Please contact Myrtle with your views, or bring them up at the next lodge meeting.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Sue Bergman
2310 W. Arrowhead Road
Duluth, MN 55811

Amy Glad
5408 Lawton Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618-1110

New Phone Number
Kjell & Kerstin Hakansson
(916) 544-0280

FROM THE EDITOR

The deadline for the December issue of the Monitor is **November 15th**, 1992. Send your typed or hand printed information to: Marie Tillman, 1605 Truckee Way, Woodland, CA 95695. — Marie Tillman

Personal Note: I have decided to resign as Newsletter Editor as of the end of this year. Terry and I will become parents this April and want to devote as much time as possible to our new arrival. Anyone interested in taking over this assignment should contact Myrtle Widmark or myself. Thank you for your trust and support, and for letting me be your editor.

DUES ANNIVERSARIES

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

November Dues:

Alice & Ivar Axberg
Ellen Herting
Erika Lewis
Marge Skicklig
Sofia Swanson

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

11/01 Anne Phelan
11/04 Viola Hallen
11/06 Louise Amundsen
11/06 Kersten Doze
11/07 Wendy Strand
11/10 Joyce Trnka
11/13 Donna Niemoller
11/16 Russell Ellis
11/16 Jeannine Lokey
11/19 Alice Axberg
11/19 Christi Kagstrom
11/22 Judy Beal
11/23 Kathy Goldsberry
11/24 Lillian Stafford
11/25 Terry Tillman
11/27 Barbara Olson
11/30 Thelma Range
Congratulations!

NÅL OCH TRÅD

There will only be one meeting in November.

Tisdagen den 17 November, kl. 19:00, hos:

Louise Sims (at Timberlake)
Entrance at 1051 Fulton Ave, Apt. 189, Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone; (916) 489-7331, **Call for the GATE ENTRY CODE**

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Our annual Swedish Pancake Breakfast, held on October 17th, was once again a big success. The turn out was excellent. Actually, we ran out of food and had to close down a little earlier than expected. All participants had a good time and the food was delicious. A big THANK YOU goes to Margaret and Peggy Carlson and everyone else that helped out. We are already looking forward to next year's pancake breakfast. — *Marie Tillman*

P.S. Don't forget to attend the **Smörgåsbord** on November 14th. Call Margaret or Peggy Carlson for ticket information.

Culture Corner

SWEDISH SOCIETY (continued)

For most of the period when Sweden was changing from a poor farming land to a rich industrial nation, the Social Democratic Party was in government. More recently, opposition has been increasing from the non-socialist parties, and election results are less

certain than they used to be. Today there is fairly equal support for the two political blocs.

A great many people take part in the general elections which are held every three years. Ninety percent of everyone aged 18 and over votes, a very high number compared with other countries.

In the elections to the Riksdag (Sweden's Parliament) you vote for one of a number of political parties. These then divide up the 349 seats in the Riksdag, which is Sweden's highest decision making body, according to the number of votes they have got. Then the government is formed by members of parliament from the leading party or parties in the Riksdag.

You don't only vote for members of the Riksdag at election time. You also choose the people who are going to run local government for the next three years. Sweden is divided up into about 280 municipalities and 24 county councils. The municipalities are responsible for many aspects of daily life, for example schools, pre-schools, care of old people, and sports facilities. The county council's main responsibility is the health service. Much of the tax people pay goes to the municipalities, with the county councils getting almost as much. Immigrants have the right to vote in the municipal and county council elections.

In other words, Sweden is a democracy, for it is the people who decide who is going to run the country.

At the same time, though, Sweden is still a monarchy, which means that it has a king or a queen. The present king is called Carl XVI Gustaf. It used to be the eldest son who inherited the

crown, but nowadays it is the eldest child. In the past, the Swedish king had much influence, but today his job is really to represent Sweden and to be a symbol for his country. Most Swedes think that the King and his family do good public relations work for Sweden, but there are also people who think that it's wrong that anyone should be born to such a position.

Sweden is a well-ordered country even if there isn't quite as much equality as people used to say there would be. There are still some people who are much richer than others. But hardly anyone goes without nowadays. Just about everyone has plenty to eat and lives in a modern, comfortable house or flat. And then nearly all grown-ups have got jobs. Sweden has the lowest unemployment in western Europe and there's even starting to be a shortage of people to work in industry. Machines and computers are certainly replacing people more and more, but at the same time production is growing.

You can also tell from the countryside that Sweden has become a modern industrial country. Many old houses are now abandoned or only used as summer houses by people who live in the towns. In the past, when most Swedes earned their living from farming and fishing and forestry, nearly everyone lived in the countryside. Now it's the other way round. More than three quarters of the population live in towns or other built-up areas and they work in industries producing cars, telephones, household goods, lighthouses, aeroplanes, electrical equipment and matches. Others work for the local municipality or county council, caring for the ill or the elderly, teaching, or looking