

# The Monitor

## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 17, No. 6

June-July 1993



ur June 4th meeting will be a Swedish *Fars Dag* potluck. Refreshments are served at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30 and there will be entertainment at 7:30 before the business meeting. Women will bring their favorite Swedish dishes, each to serve at least 12 persons. We all know how the men love to eat. And this time it is the ladies' turn to entertain the men. It's a family affair with great food at no cost to anyone.



### ACTING CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Tack så mycket*, Ernie Skorheim and his entire hardworking crew for a wonderful *Mors Dag* dinner! They outdid themselves and even had a polka band entertaining us for quite a while. In fact, the band enjoyed themselves so much they hated to quit.

A lot of our regular members missed this event. We hope you can all make it to our fun sum-

mer activities. Please note times and places elsewhere in this newsletter. On the other hand, some long-time members we haven't seen for a while did come. We're glad you could make it.

A special thanks to the children's club for the May baskets they made for the mothers. They were filled with candy and handed out by the children.

This will be your last newsletter for a while, so save it to remind you of all our upcoming activities. Myrtle Widmark is enjoying her stay in Sweden and is expected back by the end of June. Have a safe and fun summer!

*In truth and unity,  
Margaret Carlson*

### WELCOME

to a new member in the Monitor family:

**Amanda Michelle**  
7 lbs 9 oz  
born Thursday, April 29  
at 8:14 pm

Congratulations to parents Marie and Terry Tillman!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4 June *Fars Dag* potluck and business meeting
- 5 June Sweden Day, Mickie Grove Park, Lodi
- 19 June *Midsommarfest* at the home of Ken and Peggy Carlson
- 21 Aug Crayfish party at the home of Lars Östlund and Birgitta Andersson

### THANK YOU, TED AND ALICE OLSON...

for hosting our *sillfrukost* again. As usual, it was quite a feast. Some people are putting in a lot of work, including Herb Johnson who drives all the way to Oakland to pick up the herring. Then there are all the people working frantically that morning to have everything ready for us when we arrive at the Olsons' beautiful place. Thanks again everybody!

### A SPECIAL TACK, TACK

from Margaret Carlson for the beautiful orchid corsage the men presented to her at the May meeting. It's so very nice to be appreciated!

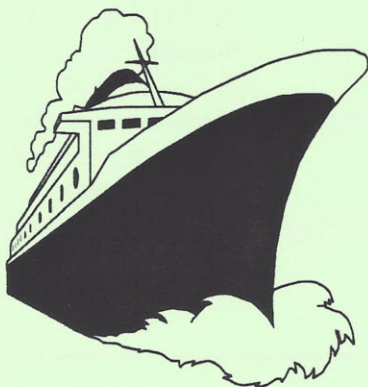
## CARIBBEAN CRUISE

There will be a Western Caribbean cruise for Vasa members and friends escorted by Gun and Roland Janson of Linnea Lodge #504 October 29-November 7.

Prices are

- From \$1296 for an inside cabin and
- From \$1457 for an outside cabin.

For details and itinerary, call Gun Janson at Vintage Travel, Yountville, 707/944-1314.



## MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Our latest member of the month is Ed Nelson and here is his story:

On a beautiful day in Wisconsin, two young people were picking berries: Ida Swenson from Värnamo and Edgar Nelson from Lindköping, Sweden. When they glanced up, their eyes met and it was love at first sight! They married and had three little *pojkar*, Lloyd, Edmund, and Leonard. By this time, they had settled in Joliet, Illinois. My father became ill and died when I was six years old. And when he was only 16, my brother Lloyd died.

Later, my mother became ill and Leonard and I were placed in a Swedish Lutheran orphanage while she was hospitalized. Years passed and I became a mechanic at McClellan Field here in Sacramento during World War II.

But back in Joliet, I had met my wife Billye. When she moved to Sacramento in 1943, I followed her and brought my mother. Billye and I were married in May 1944 in Reno. We have now been married 49 years and have two daughters, Carol Sams of Seattle, a musician married to Jerry, and Marie Green who is a speech pathologist, lives in Auburn, and is married to Raymond. Carol's children are Edmund Asa and Peter Raymond. Marie's children are Ryan Kelly and Erin Joy.

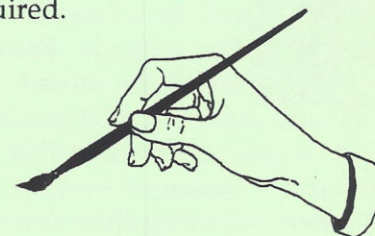
I attend the Arden Christian Church, and, besides Monitor Lodge, I am a member of SIRs #9, and the Bakers' Local #85. I love to play golf, bowl, travel, and be with friends and family. I retired from Wonder Bakery in 1982. In April, my brother passed away, leaving me the only survivor of Ida and Edgar.

I took a trip to Värnamo and met 12 cousins of my mother's family. The visit was a lesson in Swedish hospitality I will never forget. Several of my cousins have visited us here and we have become close.

Billye and I can be found at the home where we have lived since 1956.

## DALA PAINTING

Julie Anne will teach another one-day Dala painting class on Wednesday, June 16, from 9 am to 4 pm. It will be held at the home of Barbara Lutz, 708 Hillcrest Avenue, Roseville (phone 783-4401). The cost of \$25 per person can be paid that same day. If you plan to attend, please let Barbara know because a minimum of 10 people is required.



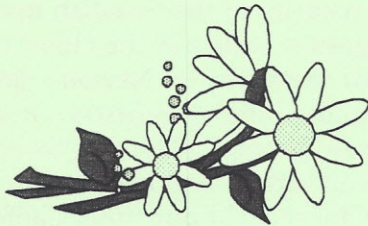
## SWEDEN DAY

This is on June 5th at Mickie Grove Park in Lodi—and get there early! There will be games and crafts booths 10:00-12:00 and a drawing at 12:00. "The Swedes" will have a program at 1:00 and will play dancing music afterwards. The children's club will also perform.

We're in charge of decorations, and we'll need all the help we can get.

Between 10:00 and 4:00, the Nord and Norden lodges will have a "Svenska Köket," serving fresh coffee, baked goodies, *varm korv*, and soft drinks. They will have a meatball luncheon plate from 11:30 to 1:30.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



6/01 - June Brown  
 6/02 - Audrey Olson-Smith  
 6/02 - Ruth Uffens  
 6/02 - Inger Thornros  
 6/08 - Gilbert Holm  
 6/12 - Eleanor Johnson  
 6/15 - Elizabeth Johnson  
 6/17 - Edmund Nelson  
 6/20 - Barbara Erickson  
 6/20 - Frank Stangl  
 6/22 - Margaret Linn  
 6/24 - Erika Barrows  
 7/05 - Martha Fredrickson  
 7/07 - Herb Johnson  
 7/10 - Eivor Pfannkuch  
 7/11 - Ernest Skorheim  
 7/15 - Camilla Caldwell  
 7/15 - Roy Sjogren  
 7/16 - Camilla Holm  
 7/17 - Ronald Haas  
 7/18 - Ivar Axberg  
 7/18 - Madeleine Hinman  
 7/24 - Ingrid Kennedy  
 7/31 - Leo Krastins

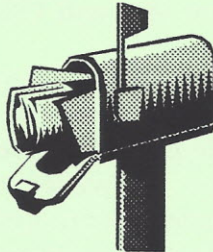
## SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL UPDATE

A special *Tack så mycket!* to everyone who baked, did craft work, or otherwise donated time and services to our recent Scandinavian Festival! Each of the five participating lodges has received a check for \$450. Plans are already underway for next year's festival.

- Ethel Johnson

## NEW ADDRESS

Lisa Bleasdale  
 842 Commons Drive  
 Sacramento, CA 95825  
 Phone 929-5472



## SUMMER DUES ANNIVERSARIES

### June

Don Carlson  
 Elizabeth Coleman  
 Ellen Harrod  
 Liesma Krastins  
 Frank Lindahl  
 Bernie Lundberg  
 Frances Misenti  
 Nancy Misenti  
 Billye & Edmund Nelson  
 Ernie & Juanita Skorheim  
 Juanita Skorheim  
 John & Jewel Wright

### July

Birgitta Ellis  
 Helena & Richard Forsty  
 Henry & Muriel Hjernsman  
 Gustav Mattson  
 Donn & Lillian Stafford  
 Sigrid Thorsen

### August

Jean Anderson  
 Audrey Fales

The dues are \$14 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No.218. They can be paid at our June meeting or mailed to Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821. Of course, if you have already paid, please disregard this reminder and thank you for your promptness.

## SCHOLARSHIP

At our May meeting, Mimi Hjernsman — on behalf of the Scholarship Committee — presented a \$300 scholarship to Janel Wright, daughter of John and Jewell Wright. Congratulations, Janel!

*IT'S TIME to be thinking about what you can do for your Lodge next year. The nominating committee will start looking for volunteers early this summer. We need all the help we can get. Please fill out the enclosed survey flyer and bring to a meeting or mail to Marianne Ek, our lodge secretary, as soon as possible. Her address is 1536 Greenhills Road, Sacramento, CA 95864.*

## FROM OUR CULTURAL LEADER

Congratulations to all the fellows who arranged a great Mother's Day dinner and entertainment! Rumors tell me it was quite a treat and I was sorry to miss it. I was in Palo Alto preparing for the "Sweden in Bloom" festival. It was a great success and I hope it will be repeated next year in the same beautiful park. The music and dancing were great and the *kaffestuga och korokiosk* had plenty of visitors. Unfortunately, they ran out of the wonderful almond pastry tarts (*mazariner*) before I had a chance to have one! All kinds of interesting Swedish things were sold by various vendors. One of the most beautiful displays for sale

was a collection of amber jewelry. Did you know that amber is fossilized tree resin 40-60 million years old and that amber was gathered on the shores of the North and Baltic Seas and traded with Greece and Rome centuries before Christ? Amber is still regarded as a rare and wondrous substance.

Hearing stories from our Monitor members about how their ancestors came here, often before or around the turn of the century, I thought I'd share some facts about the first immigrants from Sweden. Did you know...

- that the first Swedes to set foot in America arrived on Calmare Nyckel and Fogel Grip 18 years after the legendary Mayflower landed in 1620 and, therefore, that Sweden was one of the five countries to establish colonies in North America?

- that after 17 years (in 1655), Sweden lost the New Sweden colony to Holland, which in turn lost it to England in 1664?

- that more than four million Americans have Swedish ancestry?

- that 1¼ million Swedes emigrated to the United States between 1840 and 1930?

America needed people to settle its vast frontier territories and to provide labor for developing industries. In Sweden, the land had become overpopulated, so the best work a young man might find would be as a hired hand on someone else's farm without hope of advancement. Crops failed in Sweden for many years, and the country was described as "one great poorhouse." So, off to America! During the 1880s, a decade of agricultural crisis in Sweden, over 300,000

people left. By 1910, one out of every five Swedes lived in America. Although most of those who left Sweden were farmers, a majority of the Swedish immigrants settled in the cities, many of them like Ed Nelson's father in the lumber industry. It was said around 1930, that Swedish contractors had built a third of Chicago. In our time, California has attracted a growing number of Swedish immigrants. Some of you are members of Monitor Lodge because your forefathers left Sweden in the 1800s and some of us are emigrants of this century. However, we all share an interest in keeping our heritage alive.

In closing, this immigrant is flying to Sweden in a few hours. I'll see you at the June meeting with lots of news from "home"!!!

- Eivor Pfanckuch

## Monitor Lodge No. 218

Vasa Order of America

2529 Eastern Ave #26

Sacramento, CA 95821

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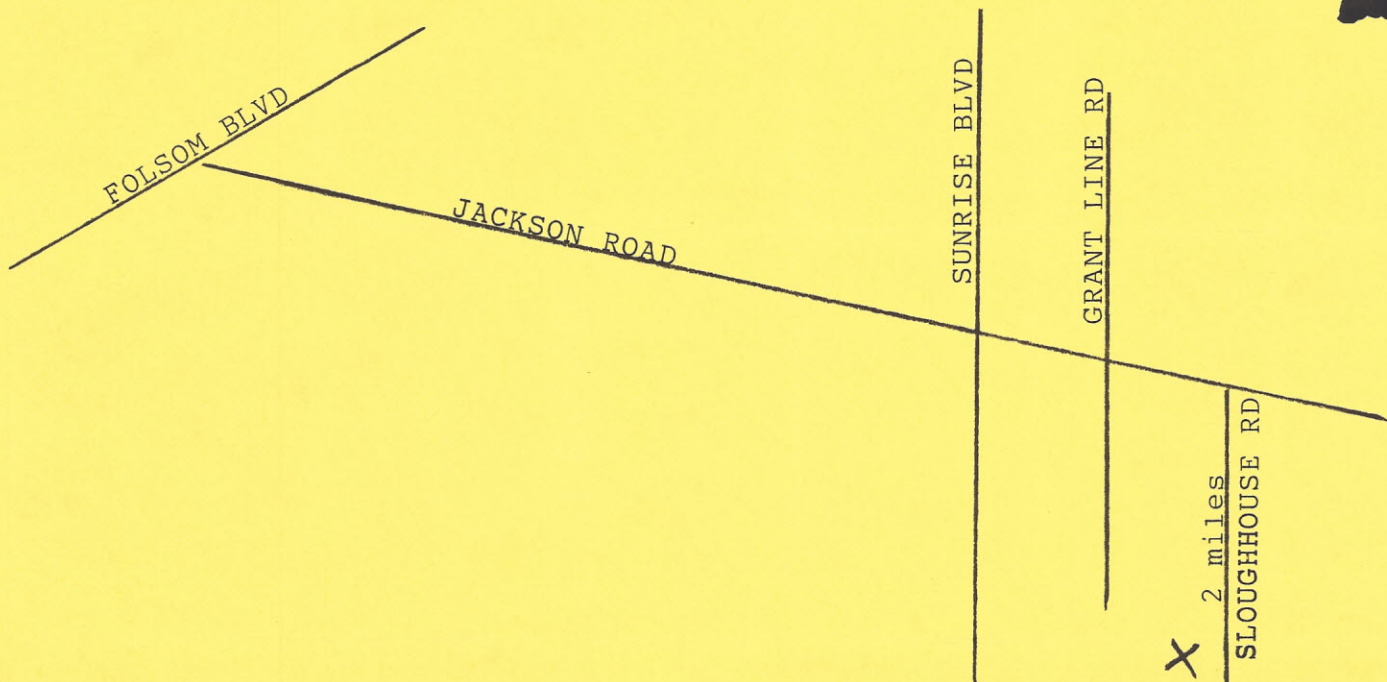
DATED MATERIAL



**Lördagen den 21 augusti, 6 em  
hos Lars och Birgitta  
7524 Sloughouse Road, Elk Grove**

Bring your best HUMÖR,  
a dish, a chair, and we need tables

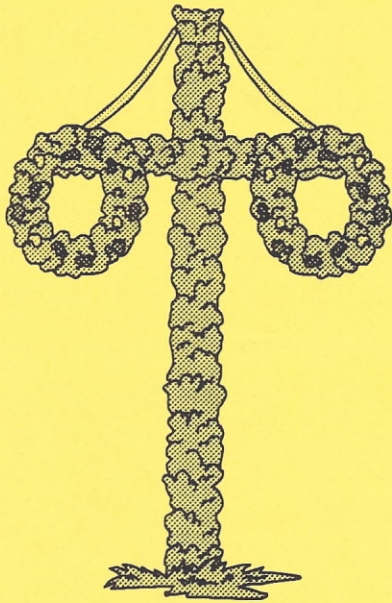
There will be a business meeting at 5 pm preceding the crayfish party. Please come early enough to attend this meeting to keep up-to-date on our very important business affairs. We'll try to make this meeting as short and sweet as possible.



**THE CHILDREN'S CLUB IS HOSTING OUR**

# ■ *Midsummerfest* ■

**Saturday, June 19th, 11 am  
at the home of Ken and Peggy Carlson  
8370 Sunset Avenue, Fair Oaks (967-9248)**



- Bring a dish to share and your own meat to barbecue.
- BBQ grills are available.
- The Children's Club will be selling soft drinks to defray costs.
- There are plenty of tables, but please bring a chair.

