

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 17, No. 7

August-September 1993

The September 3rd meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at Wisteria Hall. There will be discussion of future events, a Nominating Committee report, and initiation of new members. After the meeting, we will have the very popular *smörgåstårta* with coffee. This is one of Eivor Pfankuch's many specialties. However, it involves a lot of work and we cannot expect Eivor to do it all herself. Please give her a call if you can help. It will also give you the opportunity to learn how it is done.

Chairman's Message

I hope everyone had a nice summer and is looking forward to all our fall activities. I have been reading the past newsletters and meeting minutes and see that the lodge members have done a lot of interesting things while I was gone.

My thanks Vice Chairman Margaret Carlson for taking over and doing a great job. Thanks also to everyone for helping in all the activities. I look forward to seeing everyone again, so please come to the meetings.

While in Värmland, Sweden, I had the wonderful opportunity to be a guest at a Kill Dragspelsklubb evening session. It was in a private home with lots of music and delicious

Swedish food. I also talked on the phone with Viola Egardsson, secretary of Munkfors Lodge #658.

In the province of Södermanland, I attended a Katrineholm Sweden Day ceremony at an old *soldattorp* and their *spelmansstämma* closing at a *liten röd stuga* in the woods.

There are many events coming up, and the various chairmen will be contacting you for help. This is an opportunity to meet your fellow members and learn more about our Swedish cultural heritage while contributing your time and expertise. Taking part as an officer or on a committee is very rewarding, and it provides an opportunity to learn more about the lodge and its Swedish traditions.

— In Truth and Unity,
Myrtle Widmark

Program for Next Year

There will be a meeting at Myrtle Widmark's house to plan our program for next year. The date will be set at the September 3rd business meeting. Please come and bring (or call in) your ideas for future activities. Perhaps you know someone who could come and present a program, a place we could go, etc. We need ideas from all our members.



- 8/01 - Carl E. Larson
- 8/02 - Alice Swanfeldt
- 8/05 - Sigrid Thorsen
- 8/08 - Jeanne Hanson
- 8/08 - Durl Van Alstynne
- 8/09 - Paul Gullans
- 8/11 - Sue Bergman
- 8/15 - Lars Ostlund
- 8/17 - Elizabeth Bushnell
- 8/19 - Charles Badgley
- 8/20 - Ricki Niemoller
- 8/26 - Birgitta Anderson
- 8/28 - Jillian Stanley
- 8/29 - Dorothy Kingren
- 8/29 - Gail Nemy
- 9/04 - Erika Lewis
- 9/06 - Helen Tura
- 9/08 - Jean Anderson
- 9/12 - Peggy Carlson
- 9/12 - Muriel Hjersman
- 9/13 - Anne Fors
- 9/13 - Kurt Swanfeldt
- 9/16 - Arlie Veis
- 9/18 - David Anholm
- 9/19 - Carl A. Larson
- 9/20 - Helen Forsty
- 9/21 - Ethel Hubbell
- 9/21 - Eleanor Vine
- 9/23 - Britt Marie Anderson
- 9/24 - Jeanne Hagstrom
- 9/27 - Julius Holmquist
- 9/29 - Estrid Doscher



Member of the Month

Millie Johnson was selected lodge Member of the Month before we broke

for the summer. Here is her story:

My parents were both born in Sweden: my mother in Katrieholm in Södermanland and my father in the small farming town of Alekulla in Västergötland. They met after they came to the United States.

We lived about ten miles north of Boston and I worked at the First National Bank of Boston for several years. I joined the Mt Vernon Lodge #485. We were the first English-speaking lodge in the Boston area and we were mostly young people, with older sponsors to assist us. I was active on a Degree Team that performed at lodge installations. We were twelve women in long white gowns, and six men in tuxedos, who were escorted by us to the lodge stations to carry out installations. Our program ended with us ladies forming a cross as the lights were dimmed and to the music of "The Old Rugged Cross." It was quite dramatic!

Scandinavian dances were held every Saturday night in Boston as well as many parties and activities at the individual lodges. Herb and I met at one of these dances and were runners-up in a *hambo* dance contest that same evening. We were married when Herb, who was in the Air Force, came back from Europe at the end of World War II.

We have three children, daughters Gail and Christine,

and a son, Don Erik. Herb stayed in the Air Force for 22 years and I had the chance I had always wanted: to travel all over the United States. Herb and our family were sent to Mather Field and stayed from 1948 to 1954.

We joined the Scandinavian Folk Dance Club, taught by Adolph and Hildur Benson, Ruth Volkoff's father and mother. They were so nice to us and treated us like family. We learned over 100 dances from difference countries and gave many exhibitions. Every year, we participated in a Camellia Festival at the Eaglet Theatre. We were joined by the men-only Monitor Singers troupe. When Herb retired from the Air Force, we moved back to Sacramento and immediately joined Monitor Lodge. Our daughter Christine was Lucia and Don was a star boy. Don was also a member of the Children's Club.

A group of us started the Swedish language class, meeting in each other's homes. This eventually led to the Swedish classes now held in the evening Adult Education classes.

We met Swedish relatives on trips to Sweden and still keep in contact with them. Our Scandinavian vacations were always great experiences and we were thankful for having had our Swedish language classes.

Herb and I have certainly enjoyed our friends and activities in Monitor Lodge and hope we can continue for many more years.

Eivor Pfannkuch has books on Sweden available to Monitor members. They're on a variety of subjects and in both Swedish and English.

Dues Anniversaries

Here's a little reminder of dues anniversaries over the summer and in the coming month:

June:

Frank E. Lindahl
Frances Misenti
Nancy Misenti
Billy Nelson
Edmund Nelson
Ernest Skorheim
Juanita Skorheim

July:

Helena Forsty
Richard Forsty
Gustav Mattson
Donn Stafford
Lillian Stafford
Sigrid Thorsen

August:

Jean Anderson
Audrey Fales

September:

Laurine Copen
Camilla Holm
Gilbert Holm
Vicki Lydecker
Ann-Catrin Titus
Robert Titus

Dues are \$14 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge #218. You may pay them at the September meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gil Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.



Golden Gate Resort Center



The Golden Gate Resort Center (GGRC) is looking for a site for camping, picnics, meetings, etc. Some people met on July 24 to look at properties in the Oroville area but nothing was suitable. On Sunday, September 19, they will look at another piece of property at Markleeville. (By the way, the Reno lodge will be having a pancake breakfast the day before, on Saturday, September 18). If you are interested in this search for a site, you can get more information from Myrtle Widmark. If anyone knows of property that might be suitable, please contact chairman Phyllis Peterson at 415/726-9322 or Myrtle Widmark, who will then pass on the information.

Sweden Today

The August issue of *National Geographic* carries a comprehensive 34-page article on Sweden with magnificent, full-spread pictures. If you can obtain a copy of the magazine, you are sure to find this an interesting article — and you'll thoroughly enjoy the illustrations. Ingrid Kennedy will bring her copy to the September meeting to share.

Cultural Corner - TRAVEL IN OLD SWEDEN

This is the first of two installments on Swedish travel in the old days.

Who Travelled? Mobility in the old days was greater than commonly believed — despite the difficult topographical and climatic conditions, wild animals, outlaws, as well as bureaucratic restrictions (until 1860, a county governor's passport was required for journeys beyond one's home country). In the middle ages, the travellers included beggars, hobos, peddlers, tradespeople, job seekers and apprentices, lawmen, various officials and the King's representatives, career soldiers, travelling orders of monks and nuns, pilgrims, etc., etc.

Modes of Travel. The topography of Sweden never really favored travelling. Large tracts of land were covered by forests, water courses were often barred by waterfalls, and canal construction was limited. Not until the coming of steamboats (1820s-1830s) and the railways (1850s) did conditions change. In former days, there were only four modes of transportation, all slow, uncomfortable, tiring, and sometimes costly or dangerous: to walk, to ride on horseback, to go by carriage, or to sail. Most people walked.

Those who could afford it preferred to travel by carriage. Horses were supplied by the rural population and were changed at posting stations along the highways. (Stage coaches hardly existed in Sweden before 1850 and never became very important.) At each station a journal was kept in which each traveller had to put down his

name, standing, point of departure and destination, and the number of horses used. The peasants were finally released of their coaching duties to provide horses and manpower in 1878. The coaching services were then taken over by contractors. Most of the carriage travellers, however, belonged to the upper classes and in general the journeys were short.

Winter Roads. Sweden's cold and snowy winters provided good conditions for travel and transport and winter was the best time to travel. Winter roads ran across lakes, valley floors, and marshy terrains where summer roads were impassable. The winter roads were straighter, smoother, and shorter. Because of the easier transport in winter, many fairs were held during the winter season. Wars were largely waged in winter. The good conditions for sleigh travel in Sweden were praised by many foreign travellers, despite the fact that sleigh journeys could be risky: many drowning accidents and even road accidents occurred. As to upkeep of the winter roads, a distinction was made between clearance, demarcation, "running in," and snow ploughing. When a road was cleared of obstacles, it had to be demarcated with juniper shrubs and spruces. The winter road was made suitable for traffic by a process known as "running in" (the drive was run in with horse and sleigh) and cleared of excess snow. After the mid-18th century, snow ploughs became increasingly used.

*Excerpts from
Fataburen 1978: Resa i Sverige,
Skansen and Nordiska Museet Yearbook
Submitted by Ingrid Kennedy*

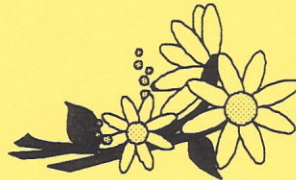
Nål och Tråd

The Nål och Tråd group is meeting on **14 September** at Ethel Johnson's house, 4344 53rd Street (phone 457-0966).

The **28 September** meeting will be held at the home of Karin and Viola Bodelson, 2529 Eastern Ave, #26 (phone 485-0815). Both meetings start at 7 pm as usual.

Friendship Committee

We are sorry to report that Muriel Hjersman has had a stroke and is in the Kaiser North hospital. Audrey Fales has had hip replacement surgery and (at printing time) is still in the hospital.



From the Editor

The deadline for the October issue of *The Monitor* is **Friday, September 17**. (The editor must put the newsletter together that weekend.) Please send your typed or hand printed input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova. Or give her a call at 638-3212 (evenings only).

Monitor Lodge No. 218

Vasa Order of America

2529 Eastern Ave #26

Sacramento, CA 95821

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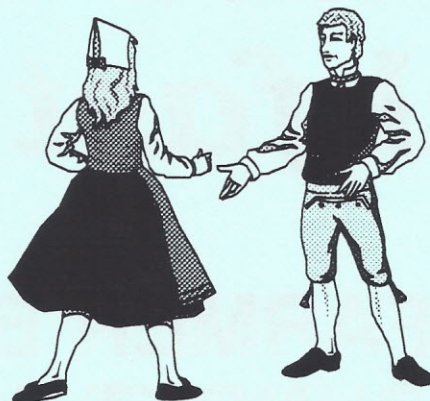
Vasa Order of America, Monitor Lodge #218, presents its annual

→ *Swedish Smörgåsbord* ←

on Saturday, November 13, 1993
at the Unitarian Church, 2425 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento

Times:

Bar opens – 5:30
Seating – 6:00
Food served – 6:30
Dancing – 8:30



Prices:

\$17.50 – Adults
\$5 – Children age 5-12
\$1 – Children under age 5
occupying a seat

■ SWEDISH FOOD AT ITS BEST ■
FRANK 'N DOLORES WILL PLAY
FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING
DOOR PRIZE

Reservations and advance ticket purchases ONLY – NO tickets sold at the door

Tickets are available from

Ethel Johnson, 4344 53rd St., Sacramento, CA 95820, phone 457-0966
Jean Anderson, 126 Hibiscus Ave., Sacramento, CA 95828, phone 682-7438

■ MONITOR LODGE SMÖRGÅSBORD ■
Saturday, November 13, 1993

Adults \$17.50 – Children age 5-12 \$5.00 – Under age 5 occupying a seat \$1

I need _____ tickets for _____ adults and _____ children. Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Write to MONITOR LODGE for tickets at

4344 53rd St., Sacramento, CA 95829 or 126 Hibiscus Ave., Sacramento, CA 95828
Phones 457-0966 or 682-7438 or 481-4056

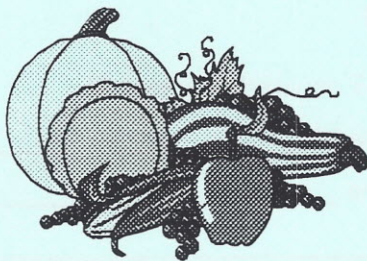
All seats are reserved and assigned, so please indicate with whom you want to sit.

Swedish Pancake Breakfast



**AT FARMER BOB'S
8571 SUNSET AVENUE
FAIR OAKS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9TH
8:30 – 11:00 AM**

**The price is \$3.50
and \$1.00 for children under 10**



Enjoy a delicious, plentiful breakfast of the famous thin Swedish pancakes with all the trimmings. It is served in a beautiful country, pumpkin patch setting. Farmer Bob's fresh fruits and vegetables are also available.