

The Monitor

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

Vol. 18, No. 3

March 1994



The March 4 meeting will be a very busy regular business meeting, starting at 7:00 pm. For instance, we will be initiating several new members.

Following our business meeting, we will be honoring Norway. Jewell Wright, our cultural leader, has a wonderful program planned. As usual, we will also have refreshments. See you all there!

Chairman's Message

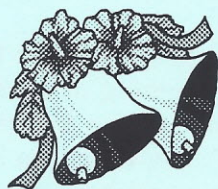
We enjoyed a good turnout for our pea soup and pancake supper. We even had a visitor from Sweden as well members from Sierra Kronan and prospective members. Jewell Wright had an interesting display of Swedish items and a really nice program.

It was nice to see our new members helping out. *Tusen tack* to everyone who helped in any way! Special thanks to Edna and Robert Anderson for all the Kiwi fruits they brought to share with us. They were delicious!

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*

The Children's Club

will be starting up again on February 28. For more information, please contact our Children's Club leaders Peggy Carlson, 967-9248, or Camilla Caldwell, 389-8175.



Congratulations to newlyweds Birgitta and Lars Östlund!

They were married on December 26 in their lovely new home, which Lars has worked so hard on for the past few years.

Our Homebound Members

would surely love to hear from you:

Audrey Fales
Hank & Muriel Hjersman
Ted & Alice Olson
Eivor Pfannkuch
Cecilia Segerstedt
George Uffens

In Memoriam

Gustav Mattson was born in Sweden in 1905 and had five brothers. He came to this country in 1923 and stayed with an aunt and uncle in St. Paul, Minnesota. When they moved to the warmer climate of Sacramento, Gus went with them. He worked for Southern Pacific, in a logging camp, on a Swedish fishing boat in San Francisco, in Berkeley and Oakland doing odd jobs, and as a machinist and carpenter for contractors all over

Sacramento. Times were hard.

Gus played the mandolin, guitar and violin. He played in the Swedish church when he first came to America and sang in his church's choir for many years.

Gus married in 1946. Widowed, he later remarried and had a son, two granddaughters, and four great grandchildren. He moved to the El Camino Gardens here in Sacramento in 1990.

Residents there say he enjoyed talking about Monitor Lodge, especially the annual Smörgåsbord. He also liked to tell them about old Swedish customs, such as the four advent candles on a juniper bush and the advent star in the windows in Sweden.

Gus was a dear friend and very active in our lodge. For instance, he was one of the Monitor Singers many years ago.

He still had two sisters-in-law, a nephew, and a cousin in Sweden. Many Monitor members attended the beautiful funeral services. We all miss our friend and lodge brother, Gus Mattson.



1994 PROGRAM BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ONE BUT CANNOT MAKE IT TO MEETINGS, CONTACT MARIANNE EK, OUR SECRETARY, AT 972-7485.

Happy Birthday to:



- 3/01 - Thor Barrows
- 3/01 - Astrid Horyza
- 3/02 - Dorothy Scherer
- 3/04 - Karin Dorey
- 3/05 - Ellen Herting
- 3/06 - Berthell Nelson
- 3/08 - Jack Doscher
- 3/12 - Kathleen Lagomarsino
- 3/13 - Henry Hjersman
- 3/14 - Laurine Copen
- 3/15 - Linda Johnson
- 3/17 - Kenneth Carlson
- 3/17 - Donn Stafford
- 3/17 - Trudi Kauffman
- 3/20 - Helen Jenson
- 3/24 - Gerda Anderson
- 3/24 - Faye Powell
- 3/26 - Lennart Thornros
- 3/29 - Joyce Burns
- 3/29 - Kjell Hakansson
- 3/30 - Frank Lindahl
- 3/30 - Arthur Niemoller

Member of the Month



This month, we have the pleasure of getting to know Birgitta Ellis a little better. This is her story:

Sweden, where the lakes are cool and clear, the rivers flow swiftly from the mountains, the snow covers the earth with its stillness during the winter sleep, and tiny *Vitsippor* emerge to tell again about the never-ending cycle of life. The land of the midnight sun. This is where I, Birgitta Wetterfors-Ellis was born on January 25, 1931, in Stockholm, the capitol. It is a lovely city, also called the city between the bridges. Art, music, and languages took much of our time, an influence I have always treasured. During the summers, we moved to the country in different parts of Sweden. Bi-

cycle trips with my parents and my sister were fun with picnics along the roadside or in the meadow where deer were grazing. It was one way of seeing one's country. My older brother often visited. I was fortunate to have loving parents who put the family first, including a good education and building an enduring faith. I am the only one in the family to emigrate to the United States.

During World War II, we got used to rationing of food, especially meat, coffee, bread, and butter. Many times we had to cover the windows with black paper, as the Germans flew over into Norway. The only good thing about being a neutral country was that we could help our neighbors with food through the Red Cross. There were several warnings about evacuating Swedish children to the countryside, out of the cities.

My faith in God, my Lord, got its foundation at home as well as at the Hedvig Eleonora and Oskar churches, where Erik Bergman was senior pastor (father of the famous movie director, Ingmar Bergman). Now I understand the influences upon my life this contact had. When I was 15, Pastor Bergman confirmed me. I will always remember those loving, caring times and especially at the Christmas parties in the parish hall. This foundation of early faith became the cornerstone and sustenance of my life in the United States. A culture change can sometimes cause a slow and steady culture shock. New understanding must take place. As my grandfather used to preach: love and justice must prevail.

After high school (*gymnasiet*), my education continued at the

Karolinska Hospital to become a physical therapist, a profession I love. It enabled me to care for other people. In 1955, after two years as a registered therapist in different cities in Sweden, I went to London and the East-West End to work at a chest hospital. England still has a place in my heart with its gentle and unobtrusive ways, the rolling green hills, and the unmistakable sense of humor. While in London, I made arrangements to work in California to help rehabilitate the blind twins Jimmy and Jennifer. Jennifer needed the most help to strengthen her muscles, because she has CP, and I assisted her to prepare for school. Sharing life with these dear children, eight years old at the time, enriched my life beyond measure.

In 1961, the family and I spent a week at Echo Lake. I was introduced to Russ while sitting on a rock with pink curlers in my hair. We were married in December 1962 in San Francisco's Swedenborgian church. It has been a rich experience to share my life with another person as well as getting to know three stepdaughters and raise our two sons. My continued fellowship in the church and renewed faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior has enabled me to accomplish what life has put before me. Our sons are grown now; their formal education is finished and they are embarking on new jobs. As little boys, they were members of the children's club in which I also participated. Teaching Swedish in the lodge has become an added joy — not to forget the Swedish chorus. Russ and I love to be with our grandchildren, two boys and two girls. We are having fun. Tack så mycket!

Want to go to Sweden?

You'll have the opportunity to win a trip to Sweden for two at our next meeting. We will be having lottery tickets for sale to help finance the Grand Lodge convention later this year. The tickets cost only \$1 each or \$5 for six. Other prizes include a 34" *dalahäst* and an original water color by Bertil Ekman. You need not be present to win.

Nål och Tråd

Tisdagen den 8 mars, kl. 19.00, hos:

Elizabeth Johnson
4332 T Street
Sacramento, CA 95819
Tel.: 452-2470

Tisdagen den 22 mars 1994, kl. 19.00, hos:

Eleanor Vine
7304 Sunsilver Lane
Sacramento, CA 95828
Tel.: 688-5296

We will be getting ready for the upcoming Scandinavian Festival.

And talking about the Scandinavian Festival...

...the next planning meeting will be held on **Monday, March 14, 7 pm**, at Sons of Norway, 770-776 Darina Avenue. It is very important for all volunteers to attend this meeting so we can assign duties. If you have any questions, call Ellen Harrod, 362-5273. She has taken on a big chunk of the planning again. We really appreciate all your work, Ellen!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 18

March Dues Anniversaries

Annalena Bronson
Lowell Carlson
Deidre Dahlberg
Richard & Helen Forsty
Eleanor Johnson
Harry & Elizabeth Johnson
Gibson & Dorothy Kingren
Leo Krastins
Carl Larson
Ted & Alice Olson
Wendy Strand
Kurt & Alice Swanfeldt
Maud Udvardy
Richard Westrup



If you have already paid, please ignore this reminder and thank you for your promptness.

Dues are \$14 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the March meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Roster Changes

Kenneth & Peggy Carlson
4408 Kenneth Avenue
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
(Same phone)

Please note: The Bullhead City, AZ, address listed for Joyce Burns in last month's newsletter is just a winter address. Joyce and her husband Bob will be back at 3 Rhone Court, Grand Junction, CO 81503, in March. The phone number there is (602) 758-5157.

We Need Letters!

We are running the risk of losing the popular SCOLA re-broadcast of the Swedish TV Channel 4 news in Swedish on our cable TV. The reason is that Swedish TV has not come up with the required written approval. This is one of very few opportunities for Swedish immigrants and descendants in America to get current Swedish news and cultural information.

Therefore, we need to get a letter-writing campaign going, asking that these rebroadcasts be continued. The letters should state that they come from Vasa Order members — preferably citing the number of people and their families our Vasa lodges represent — and cite the interest in and uses for these Swedish language programs. For instance, tapes of the programs would be excellent material for our Swedish study groups.

Letters (with 50 cents postage) should be addressed to:

Christer Ferm
Sveriges Television
Juridiska Avdelningen
TH-T2
10510 Stockholm, Sweden

Ingrid Kennedy has already sent a letter in Swedish. She has copies of her letter and is willing to share it as a sample.

Naturally, the letters can just as well be written in English. They can be very short; it's the number of people writing that counts. There could also be several signatures on one letter (e.g., if the Nål och Tråd group or a Swedish language class sends a letter).

For more information, call me at 723-6910.



— John Wright

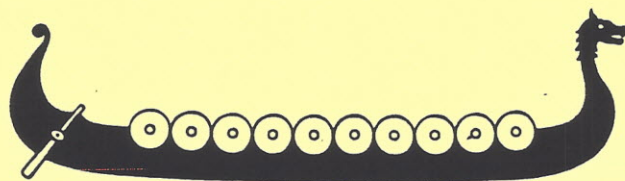
Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
2529 Eastern Ave #26
Sacramento, CA 95821

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

11th Annual
SCANDINAVIAN
FESTIVAL
Sacramento



Denmark • Finland • Norway • Sweden

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1994

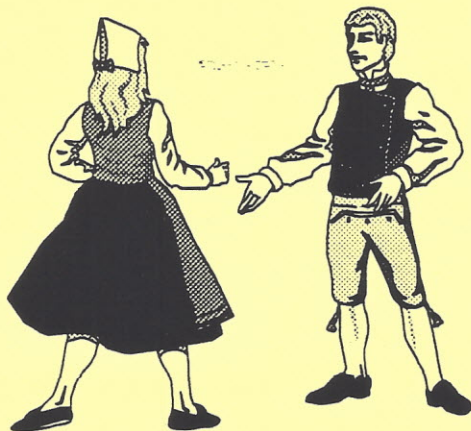
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

St. Ignatius Parish Center

3235 Arden Way

(Two blocks west of Watt Avenue)

Adults \$1 donation - Children under 12 free



- ♪ **Scandinavian Food (open-face sandwiches, Viking-on-a-stick, æbleskiver, pannkakor, etc.)**
- ♪ **Baked Goods Sale**
- ♪ **Scandinavian Crafts**
- ♪ **Music and Entertainment**
- ♪ **Door Prizes**
- ♪ **For information, call 489-5729, 483-4496, or 967-1830**

