



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

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May 1994

Chairman's Message



Spring has sprung and it's beautiful in the foothills where I

live! The grass is green, wild flowers bloom—and the allergy season is upon us. You can really tell spring is here when your weekends are filled up with all the wonderful Vasa activities coming up.

Our April meeting was a busy one: it was our 82nd anniversary, we honored past chairmen, Inez Norling celebrated her 97th birthday (and looked great!), Bee Dillard presented a fantastic egg display, and—and usual—the food was plentiful and delicious. We Swedes sure like to eat, don't we!

It was nice to see Don and Joyce Johnson again in our midst. They are now living in Sacramento, so we hope they will rejoin our lodge.

A BIG THANKS to everyone who helps make our meetings interesting and well attended!

*- In truth and unity,
Margaret Carlson*

Ted Olson is now at the Manor Care of Citrus Heights, located at 7807 Uplands Way in Citrus Heights, Room 207B. The phone number is 967-2929. I am sure he would appreciate a few visits.

Our Next Meeting

will be strictly a social, no business will be transacted. Our Mors Dag Family Dinner will take place on Friday, May 6, at 6:30 pm, with refreshments starting at 6:00 pm.

The men of our lodge will be cooking the dinner. They must pay \$5 to help cover the expenses, but the dinner is free for all women.

The Scholarship Committee will make its presentation. Finland is the country we will be honoring this evening. In addition, the men usually have something special planned.

A Business Meeting

will be held on May 11, 7:00 pm, at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street. Please come and help make our many important decisions.

Our Sillfrukost,

a real Swedish herring breakfast, will be offered on Saturday, May 28, starting with refreshments at 10:30 am. This year we will be at the Pfannkuch home, 1921 Columbia Drive, Yuba City. It's easy to find: Off highway 99, turn right on Bogue Road, go about three blocks, and turn left on Columbia Drive. The drive up is beautiful. Please car pool and offer to take someone who can't drive.

Alice Olson 1918 - 1994

Alice Archbold was born in Lafayette, Indiana. She graduated in 1940 with a degree in Education from Indiana University, School of Nursing. Her major interest was Public Health Nursing, and she was employed at a Hillsdale, Michigan, demonstration project of Public Health Nursing. In 1945, Alice received a Commission in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps and served until April 1946.

Alice married Ted Olson on April 6, 1946, in San Diego, California. They had two daughters, two sons, and six grandchildren. Alice was a life member of the California Parent-Teacher Association, member of the Presbyterian Church of Fair Oaks, and a member of the American Association of University Women.

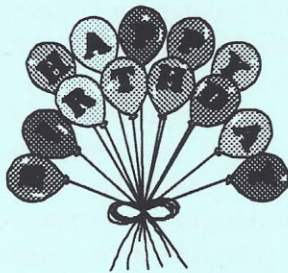
Alice participated in Monitor Lodge actively and in various capacities over many years. She was greatly loved and admired. Her passing is a true loss to us all. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Ted and the children and grandchildren.

Reminders...

✓ The Sweden in Bloom and third annual Swedish Music Festival will be held on Saturday, May 14, in Palo Alto. This event features 6-8 American and Swedish performing groups as well as cultural exhibits. We're hoping to have a van, depending on how many people would like to go. If you are interested, please call Kurt Pfannkuch.

✓ Kingsburg will have its 28th annual Swedish Festival May 19-22 with a parade, May-pole raising, folk dancing, pea soup and pancakes, a *smörgåsbord*, a Swedish pancakes breakfast, etc.

✓ This year's Midsummer Festival will be the 100th held at Sveadal. The Saturday, June 18, day-long celebration starts at 10 am with the traditional decorating of the Maypole.



5/03 - Deidre Dahlberg
 5/04 - Debbie Nickless
 5/04 - William Marsh
 5/05 - Betty J. Schoepf
 5/05 - Louise Sims
 5/06 - Elizabeth Coleman
 5/11 - Christine Bodelson
 5/12 - Charles Linn
 5/12 - Myrtle Widmark
 5/14 - LaVerne Gilbertson
 5/15 - Nancy Misenti
 5/18 - Mirjam Auger
 5/18 - Charles Nelson
 5/18 - John Wright
 5/20 - Göran Johansson
 5/25 - Frances Misenti
 5/25 - George Uffens

Member of the Month

This month's member, Eivor Pfannkuch, was born in Falun, Sweden, in the province of Dalarna. She spent her first four years with her parents on her maternal grandparents' farm in Rättvik Parish. The farm was in an area which, though sparsely populated, had been populated since around 1800 BC. There are still remnants of the old Bronze Age graves within a ten-minute walk from the farm.

When Eivor was four, the family moved 30 miles east to her father's parents' farm in Ovanåker, Hälsingland. She spent the next 12 years helping with the farm, milking cows, going to school, and spending her summers back at the old homestead in Dalarna. While she was growing up, she frequently heard about her father's three uncles who had emigrated to America and a seed was sown.



After attending business college in Västerås, Eivor worked for a while in the foreign office of ASEA, the largest company in Sweden. An opportunity came to take a job in Connecticut with a company that imported Swedish equipment so at age 19, she left home and sailed for America. As she crossed the stormy Atlantic, often battling seasickness, she felt a bond with so many other immigrants coming from Sweden over the past 100 years.



It was with great relief and anticipation that she stood on the deck of the M.S. *Kungsholm* and watched the Statue of Liberty emerge from the morning fog.



About a year later, Eivor met Kurt while on a ski trip in Vermont. After a

brief courtship, she returned with him to Hälsingland where they were married in the Ovanåker church. For about ten years, their Air Force career kept them moving around until they settled in Yuba City. During this time, they had two daughters, and Eivor and the girls made frequent trips back to her Swedish roots.

Twenty years ago, Eivor started working for Mary Kay Cosmetics as a beauty consultant and 14 years ago became a sales director, a career which has given her a lot of flexibility and opportunities to travel. Eivor and Kurt have purchased the old homestead in Dalarna and plan to retire there in the future for part of the year. Eivor's heritage has always been important to her as is evident by her enthusiasm over the past three years as Monitor's Cultural Leader and now as the District Cultural Leader. Just ask her about Sweden and she will light up and gladly share her knowledge of Swedish culture with you.

Nål och Tråd's new recipe booklet, "Cookies Just Like Mormor Used to Make," will be available at the Mor's Dag dinner social on Friday, May 6, for \$1.50.

Deadline for the June-July newsletter is May 13

■ Condensed Minutes from April 1 Business Meeting ■

1. The meeting was opened at 7:15 pm by Chairman Margaret Carlson. Former Monitor members Don and Joyce Johnson were visiting. Roll was called.

2. Membership applications will be read at the next meeting.

3. Correction to the minutes of the previous meeting: Camilla Caldwell is not resigning as co-leader of the Children's Club but merely asking for assistance.

4. The charter was draped in memory of Alice Olson who passed away March 21.

5. Eva Allred has suffered a bad fall, flat on her back, and Edna Anderson is recovering from cataract surgery. Herb Johnson had visited with the Hakansons. Kjell is improving. Kerstin's sister has passed away.

6. Plans for the Scandinavian Festival are coming along on schedule. The telephone committee has been calling all members for help and baked goods. There will be an article in the Sacramento Bee on April 10.

7. Cultural Leader Jewel Wright talked about Easter (*Påsk*) in Sweden and read a history of Monitor Lodge in honor of our 82nd anniversary.

8. Ability to charter busses or vans for Sweden Day and Sweden in Bloom depends on the number of people interested in going.

9. The treasurer has authorized to transfer Monitor funds from the checking account to certificates of deposits to obtain higher rates of interest.

10. Four district convention resolutions were read and voted on. They dealt with 1) various changes to Articles 5, 7, and 9; 2) an addition to Article 12 regarding support of charity; 3) qualifications of candidates for District Master and Vice Master in Article 9; and 4) establishment in Article 22 of a Hall of Fame for worthy members. Monitor delegates were instructed to vote No on resolutions 1, 3, and 4. The delegates will vote yes on resolution #2 only if the charity shall be determined by all district delegates at the annual meeting, rather than by the Executive Board alone as proposed.

11. A mother's Day dinner hosted by the men will be held on May 6. The *sillfrukost* on May 28 will take place at Eivor and Kurt Pfannkuch's home in Yuba City.

12. Raffle tickets are available for Sweden Day and the district convention.

13. Financial secretary's and treasurer's reports were read. Dorothy Erickson has resigned her membership.

14. The lodge voted to donate \$25 to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Alice Olson.

15. The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

- Jean Anderson,
Assistant Secretary

May Dues Anniversaries

If you have already paid, please ignore this reminder.

David Anholm

Christine Bodelson

Kay Doze

Jeanne Hanson

Mimi Hjersman

Astrid Horyza

Charles Johnson

Kathleen Lagomarsino

Jeanine Lokey

Eivor and Kurt Pfannkuch

Thelma Range

Durl Van Alstyne

Dues are \$14 a year. You may pay them at the May meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Dear Members,

I want to thank you very much for all the lovely cards and for the phone calls I received after my bad fall. They really brightened my day. With physical therapy and ultrasound treatments, I am doing quite well now. Tusen tack!

- Eva Allred

WE ARE SAD

to inform you that the SCOLA rebroadcasts in Sacramento of the Swedish TV Channel 4 news have been discontinued. If you would like further details, call John Wright at 723-6910.

Want to Know More about Monitor Lodge?

Chairman:

Margaret Carlson 742-9346

Vice Chairman:

Ingegerd Kennedy 638-3212

Secretary:

Marianne Ek 375-1924

Membership Committee:

Jean Anderson 682-7438

Ethel Johnson 457-0966



Happy Mother's Day!

Nål och Tråd

Tisdagen den 10 maj, kl. 19.00,
hos:

Jean Anderson
126 Hibiscus Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95828
Tel.: 682-7438

Tisdagen den 24 maj, kl. 19.00,
hos:

Chris Bodelson
2644 La Mesa Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
Tel.: 482-9762

**You're
Invited**

The Sons of Norway have invited our lodge members to their 65th anniversary and national day celebration. This double event will take place on **Sunday, May 15, at 3 pm**, at Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue, Sacramento.

You will be served yellow pea soup, salad, homemade bread, and dessert for \$6.00. A program, including entertainment, will follow. Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling one of the following: Tove-Lise Miller, 364-8704, Pearl Lemkuil, 483-4496, or Florence Smith, 783-8830.

Lost and Found

Found at the Scandinavian Festival: A plastic shopping bag from Dellenbygden, Hälsingland, containing Swedish candles, an electrical cord, adapter, etc. Call Ingrid Kennedy at home 638-3212 or at work 634-2461.

Roster Changes

Address changes:

Elizabeth Coleman
3116 La Campania
Alameda, CA 94502-6824
and
Judy Beal
8413 Thethys Way
Citrus Heights,
CA 95610-0852

New phone numbers:

Hans & Anne Fors 726-7176
William & Kristina Marsh
635-7131

Cultural Corner

This summer, there is an opportunity you can't miss if you have ever planned to visit Sweden. From June 10 through June 20, the Historical Societies in Voxnadalen will be standing ready to help you research your family background. Even more, they have planned an extraordinary week of events, including concerts, seminars, sightseeing, folklore, and traditional music.

All this is happening because we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first large Swedish emigration to the United States. The followers of the prophet Erik Jansson become outlaws in 1844 by burning the Holy Books of the Swedish Lutheran Church on the shore of Lake Viksjön. Who was Erik Jansson, who convinced over a thousand Swedish farmers and rural workers, most of them well established, to abandon their homes for an uncertain future in an unknown land? He was born in 1808 in Biskopskulla near Stockholm and came to Hälsingland in 1843 to preach his version of the

Gospel, denouncing Martin Luther, Arndt, and other authorities. He was an extraordinary, charismatic leader and many people listened to him. In Hälsingland, he was well received and some very influential local farmers followed him. More and more people attended his meetings and authorities were alarmed. In those days, Sweden had a law prohibiting religious meetings without a minister presiding. This law was in effect until 1858.

When Erik Jansson and his followers burned the religious books of the Lutheran Church, he became a wanted man. He promised his followers a new future in America. They sold their farms and belongings, pooled their resources, and emigrated. From the Alfta Parish alone, 600 people left, breaking up families and marriages to follow their leader. In 1846, they established their own colony, Bishop Hill, Illinois, under the undisputed leadership of Erik Jansson. In 1996, the 150th anniversary will be celebrated in Bishop Hill.

A flood of Swedes followed later: 1.2 million eventually emigrated to the United States, pursuing a new life but keeping the ties with the old country. These ties will be rejuvenated in June when all Swedish-Americans and Americans are invited to visit the provinces of Hälsingland and Dalarna and, of course, the rest of Sweden. The members of the Historical Societies are taking classes this winter to become your personal guides when you visit. In between other events to take place, they will help you, if you wish, to find your ancestors' homes and to meet relatives you might have.

— Submitted by Eivor Pfannkuch,
District Cultural Leader