



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 18, No. 6

June-July 1994



The *Fars Dag* family Swedish potluck (*knytkalas*) will take place on June 3 at 6:30. Refreshments start at 6:00. We are asking all women to please bring your favorite Swedish dish big enough to serve 12 people or so. You all know how us Swedes like to eat! This is another free dinner, so we hope to see you all there.

As part of our Scandinavian series, we will be honoring Denmark at this meeting. Our cultural leader, Jewel Wright, usually has a nice program planned for us. We will have to wait and see what else the women have up their sleeves. We will have library books available and cookie recipe books for sale at \$1.50 each. At the business meeting that follows, starting at 8:00, we will be initiating new members.

Chairman's Message

Wow! What a *Mors Dag* celebration the men of our lodge gave us! Thank you so very much for a great evening: good food and a nice program. Special thanks to Ernie Skorheim, Chairman of the event, and Ed Dahlberg, Arlie Veis, and all the other men who helped make this *Mors Dag* such a success. They served over a hundred dinners!

Our Children's Club leaders Peggy Carlson and Camilla Caldwell were honored by our lodge.

They each received a nice, engraved plaque in appreciation for their long and dedicated work teaching our children and grandchildren the Swedish language, songs, dances, and customs. Congratulations!

Monitor Lodge always has the best spring and summer socials, such as our herring breakfast, midsummer festivities, and crayfish party (see details later in this newsletter). Since this is the last newsletter for the summer, be sure to mark your calendars now (especially if you are a new member) so you won't miss any of the fun.

I know several of our members are going back to Sweden this summer. Hope everyone has a fun and safe summer regardless of what you will be doing.

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*



DEADLINE

for input to our next newsletter is **Friday, August 12**, to reach our members well before the September meeting.

Congratulations!

to the following Monitor members:

- ★ Kurt Pfannkuch is the new District Vice Master
- ★ Eivor Pfannkuch is our District Cultural Leader
- ★ Peggy Carlson remains District Children's Club Leader
- ★ Myrtle Widmark is now the District Deputy to Sierra Kronan

They were all installed at the recent District Convention.

Sweden Day

We are happy to announce that John and Jewel Wright's daughter Janel has agreed to represent our lodge as Maid at the Sweden Day in Palo Alto on June 4. Thank you, Janel!

This annual celebration is an all-day event culminating in an optional barbecue dinner and dance (for an extra \$15). We're trying to get enough people together to reserve a van for the daytime activities. Please contact John Wright at 723-6910 if you need a ride and want to join a group.

SOME THINGS HARD TO ACCEPT IF YOU'RE SWEDISH

- ✓ Finding your new *dalahäst* was made in Hong Kong
- ✓ People referring to some of your favorite food as inedible

Scholarship Recipient



This year, our scholarship went to Summer Strickland, granddaughter of Bob and Edna Anderson. Summer seems to be exceptionally worthy: she not only excels in academics with a GPA of over 4.0 but also takes part in many extracurricular activities such as French, Math, and National Honor Societies; doing and teaching gymnastics; co-captain of the cheerleaders; and serving on the Class Executive Board—"a model student-athlete-citizen," says a school representative.

Due Anniversaries in June and July

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

Don Carlson
Elizabeth Coleman
Ellen Harrod
Henry & Muriel Hjersman
Frank Lindahl
Bernie Lundberg
Edmund & Billye Nelson
Ernie & Juanita Skorheim
Donn & Lillian Stafford
Sigrid Thorsen
John & Jewel Wright

Dues are \$14 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the June meeting or (since we're not having another meeting until September) by mail to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Sillfrukost



This is a reminder that our traditional Swedish herring breakfast is coming up fast: **Saturday, May 28**, starting at 10:30. We will be at the home of Kurt

and Eivor Pfannkuch, 1921 Columbia Drive, Yuba City. Here are the directions again: Drive north on highway 99, turn right on Bogue Road once you get to the Yuba City area, go about three blocks, and turn left on Columbia Drive. They could use some extra chairs and tables. They can also use help with all the preparations. Please call Kurt or Eivor to find out what you can do.

Help Wanted



1) We desperately need more telephone callers because previous callers need to be relieved and also because the lodge is growing and we have more people to call. Please volunteer to Elizabeth Johnson (452-2470) or Myrtle Widmark (481-4056). This is a good way to get to know other members and make new friends.



2) We need one or more people to help put our newsletter together and get it in the mail. Karin and Viola Bodelson have been doing this task for years now and would really appreciate a break or at the very least some assistance. They will be glad to show you exactly what to do: stapling, affixing address labels, sorting, etc., and taking the bundles to one of the main post offices. This would be a good job for a couple or people who are retired and wouldn't mind getting together once a month for a *kaffe med dopp* social while preparing the newsletter for mailing. Contact the Bodelsons for more information. Let's all take turns, so the same people don't have to do most of the work all the time!

Crayfish Party



Our *kräftkalas* this year will again be at the home of Lars and Birgitta Östlund. Please note that the correct date is Saturday,

August 20 (the date in the program book is wrong) at 6:00 pm. The address is 7524 Sloughhouse Road in Elk Grove.

If you're going south on Sunrise Blvd, take a left turn on Jackson Road, cross Grant Line Road, turn right on Sloughhouse Road, and go about two miles. Call the Östlunds at 682-2285 if you need additional directions.

Crayfish will be furnished but everything else is pot luck. Come and enjoy a real Swedish *kräftkalas* with special lanterns, music, aquavit, etc., in peaceful countryside surroundings. It will be an evening you won't forget.

Midsommarfest



This year we will celebrate midsummer on **Saturday, June 25** at the home of Tom and Annika Anderson, 12269 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove. Bruceville Road runs between and parallel to highways 99 and 5. The Andersons live across the street from the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center. (For further information, their phone number is 684-2204.)

We plan to start decorate *majstången* at 3 pm. The children, especially, are sure to enjoy a dip in the swimming pool. The dancing games around *majstången* will probably start around 5 pm. We should be hungry, tired, and ready to eat by 6:30. This is a potluck, so bring your favorite foods and drinks. A barbecue will be available for grilling. Some chairs would be helpful.

Member of the Month



Here is Helen Hoffman's story:

I was born in Detroit, Michigan, the second of four children, to Swedish parents who had migrated to America in 1818. My mother grew up in Horndal, Dalarna. My father was born in Svartvik on the island of Öland. He was a sailor in the Swedish Navy, as was his father.

When I was 8, we moved back to Sweden and my father worked in a steel mill in Sandviken in the province of Gästrikland. I entered school and had many friends who at that time thought anyone from America was wonderful. I learned Swedish very quickly and soon forgot English. I loved Sweden and recall a lot of my grandfather and his home in Horndal. Across the street was a *Folkets Hus*, a community house, where I used to sneak in to dance. We lived by a lake and I watched the farmers swim their cows across the lake to pastures. We washed clothes on a wash board by the shore.

We returned to America in 1932 on the ship *Kungsholm*. Like so many other immigrants, I remember watching for the Statue of Liberty as we came into the harbor. I was not seasick, like the rest of my family, and recall going up to 2nd or 1st class because the smell was so bad on the lower decks. Someone put me to work folding napkins in the dining room. At night, I ventured to the upper decks to dance.

Our family settled in Crystal Falls, Michigan. This was during the depression years and there was no work for my father. We managed on my mother's great

baking and cooking skills and my Dad's hunting.

Coming to America was harder for me than going to Sweden. At age 10, I was put in first grade for a year to learn English. The children were not friendly to foreigners. My sister and I finally blended in and graduated in the upper third of our class in 1941. We entered the Henry Ford Hospital School of Nursing. The war was on and my sister joined the Army. I went to work for a surgeon in Detroit. In 1947, I went to Glendale where I met my husband.

I married George F. Hoffman, M.D., after he had been in practice for a year here in Sacramento. After 30 years of marriage, he passed away suddenly of a heart attack in 1987. We had two sons: Mark is a flight surgeon in the Navy and David, who graduated from Sac State, is now working for Emigh hardware.

I went to Sweden in 1980 and was reacquainted with a cousin in Fredriksberg and another cousin in Stockholm. My son and I plan to visit Sweden again in October this year.

Picnic



Everyone is invited to the annual spring picnic held by the Swedish language students and teachers. We'll be at the Winterstein Adult Education Center park, 900 Morse Avenue (corner of Northrup), **Thursday, May 26, 6:30 pm.** Bring a potluck dish. There are grills available for your meat. We will be discussing the past year and plans for next year. Call 481-4056 for more information. See you there!



- 6/01 - June Brown
- 6/02 - Audrey Olson-Smith
- 6/02 - Ruth Uffens
- 6/02 - Inger Thornros
- 6/08 - Gilbert Holm
- 6/15 - Elizabeth Johnson
- 6/17 - Edmund Nelson
- 6/20 - Barbara Mecci-Erickson
- 6/20 - Frank Stangl
- 6/24 - Erika Barrows
- 6/30 - Ardeth Coster
- 7/05 - Martha Fredrickson
- 7/06 - Melvin Coster
- 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 - Madeleine Hallstrom-Hinman
- 7/24 - Ingegerd Kennedy
- 7/31 - Leo Krastins

Scandinavian Festival

A very special *Tack så mycket* to all Monitor members who donated baked goods, craft items, and—last but not least—their time and efforts to help make this year's festival such a success. The five lodges participating will be receiving a check for \$650 each as their share of the profits. Monitor's *Nål och Tråd* grossed approximately \$250 after making their 20% contribution to the festival. **Note:** April 1 is the date for next year's Scandinavian Festival and the St. Ignatius parish hall has already been reserved.

I want to thank all my friends in Monitor Lodge for cards, letters, and flowers at the time of Alice's passing. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

*In Truth and Unity,
Ted Olson*

Correction

The phone number in last month's newsletter to Ted Olson was the number to the facility where he is staying. You can call Ted directly at his own phone number 967-5538 (which is the same number as to his home). Ted is such a people-loving, sociable person, and he probably feels a bit lonely right now. Please remember him with phone calls, cards, and visits.

Talented Members

Two Monitor members took part in the final concert of the second annual Sacramento Bach Festival. Betty Schoepf, soprano, and Christine Bodelson, singing tenor, were part of the 100+ chorus in Bach's B-minor Mass which was presented Sunday evening, May 8, at Fremont Presbyterian Church. *The Sacramento Bee* critic gave it a rave review, and the church was packed.

Nål och Tråd

A special daytime meeting will be held in June, at which we plan to do some painting and possibly other crafts with Christmas sales in mind. We welcome all who wish to take part. Bring a "brown bag" lunch and enjoy.

Onsdagen den 12 juni, kl. 10 fm, hos:

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

Roster Changes

New addresses and phone numbers:

Lilmer Olson
2440 Garfield Ave #C-116
Carmichael, CA 95608-5122
(Same Phone)

William and Kristina Marsh
4846B Sunset Terrace
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Phone 961-9768

Lois Mullen
Phone 482-8101

Robert and Ann-Catrin Titus
Phone 443-7970

Judy Rae Beal
Phone 729-2530

Condensed Minutes from the May 11 Business Meeting

1. The meeting was opened at 7:20 by Chairman Margaret Carlson. Roll was called.
2. Seven membership applications were read. They will be voted on at the June meeting.
3. Correction to minutes of previous meeting: Funds would be transferred to savings account, not certificates of deposits.
4. Margaret had visited Ted Olson and urged members to keep in touch with him. Alice Swanfelt is staying with her daughter.
5. Jewel Wright reported that seven members had signed up for the Sweden in Bloom trip and a van would be provided.
6. Ethel Johnson reported that the sign-up sheet at the Scandinavian Festival provided names of 17 prospective members.

7. The Children will be hosting our Midsummer Picnic on June 25 [see page 2 for details].
8. Summer Strickland, granddaughter of Robert and Edna Anderson, is the scholarship recipient this year.
9. Myrtle Widmark reported on the District Convention.
10. There was a discussion on Monitor's donation for a door prize for Sweden Day. Eivor Pfannkuch will handle it.
11. Herb Johnson was voted an advance of \$100 for the *sillfrukost*. Lots of helpers are needed.
12. Volunteers are needed for telephone committee and to help mail out the newsletter.
13. Elizabeth Johnson will look into having Monitor listed in the telephone directory.
14. The delegates to the convention will be reimbursed \$25 each plus 11¢ per mile to the driver.
15. There was a discussion about filling positions of members unable to complete their terms: two trustees and a membership committee member. Will be discussed again at the next meeting.
16. Members voted to pay bills.
17. Financial secretary's and treasurer's reports were read. Eleanor Johnson has resigned her membership.
18. The meeting closed at 9 pm.

*Jean Anderson,
Assistant Secretary*

Want to Know More about Monitor Lodge?

Membership Committee:

Jean Anderson 682-7438
Ethel Johnson 457-0966

Chairman:

Margaret Carlson 742-9346

Vice Chairman:

Ingrid Kennedy 638-3212

Secretary:

Marianne Ek 375-1924