



The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 18, No. 7

Aug-Sep 1994



Our first meeting for the fall season will be on Friday, September 2, starting at 7:00 PM.

We will not be having a dinner this time, but wonderful refreshments — *smörgåstårta!* — will be served after our business meeting. The cultural program will be honoring our Icelandic members this time.

The business program will include a report from the Nominating Committee, voting on new members, and a report from our Golden Gate Recreation Committee. Charles and Berthell Nelson will receive their 25-year pins.

Chairman's Message

Where did summer go!? This year it seemed to fly, at least for me, probably because I had to work part time and also had a lot of company.

The fall season is always a busy one for Monitor members, with some large money-making projects coming up, such as the pancake breakfast and the *Smörgåsbord*. We all need to be involved and support all the activities. The election of new officers and committee people also needs our attention. So when you get called to volunteer, please help out and don't "just say No."

Hope to see you all at our activities!

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*

Valley Viking Singers

Our Monitor choir wishes to thank all the people who have supported us by coming to the various events where we have performed. This support makes all the practice and preparations well worth while.

Our singers are always looking for more choir participants. No extra special talents are required: you only need to like to sing. We're part of Monitor Lodge and everyone is welcome to join us.

Next we will be performing at the Scandinavian Festival at Turlock on September 14 approximately between 11:30 and 12:30.

- Marianne Ek,
Choir Director



Swedish Classes

Here's a news flash for the intermediate and advanced Swedish language group:

Elizabeth Johnson has lined up rooms for us at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street. The first meeting of the season will be held on Thursday, September 8, 7-9 PM, in the Gold Run Room. Any questions? Call Elizabeth at 452-2470, Myrtle Widmark at 481-4056, or Karin Bodelson at 485-0815.

Beginners, please call Birgitta Ellis at 920-0696.

Purchase of Recreational Property

The Golden Gate Recreation Committee has been busy this summer looking to buy suitable property for the lodges to use for recreational purposes. The committee found 13 acres with an A-frame house, located off I-80 by taking Blue Canyon Road and left on Putt Road. If anyone is interested in looking at the property, call Don Carlson or Myrtle Widmark for directions. We are now selling shares at \$50 a share to raise enough money to buy this property. Depending on the number of share you buy, you may be able to camp free for the year.

Please come to our September meeting and hear more about this exciting project.

- Margaret Carlson,
Committee Member

Nål och Tråd

Come join us painting or doing you own thing. The September meetings are as follows:

Tisdagen den 13 september kl. 19.00 (7 PM) hos:

Karin and Viola Bodelson
2529 Eastern Avenue #26
Tel.: 485-0815

Tisdagen den 27 september kl. 19.00 (7 PM) hos:

Myrtle Widmark
3900 Silver Spur Way
Tel.: 481-4056

Minutes from June 3 Business Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Margaret Carlson and roll was called.
2. The lodge had received 13 applications for membership, which were voted on and accepted. Five applicants were initiated. [See "Roster Changes"]
3. Previous meeting minutes were approved.
4. The Friendship Committee reported that Viola Hallen had been ill.
5. The *sillfrukost* was attended by about 50 people and yielded a profit of \$89.
6. Cultural Chairman Jewel Wright reminded the members about Sweden Day in Palo Alto on June 4.
7. Marianne Ek has submitted another article to the *Vasa Star*.
8. The Children's Club will be hosting the Midsummer picnic at the home of Tom and Annika Anderson in Elk Grove on June 25.
9. Choir Director Marianne Ek reported that the Viking Singers will perform at the Turlock Scandinavian Festival and the Yuba City Prune Festival.
10. Unfinished Business:
 - a. The *Nål och Tråd* group donated \$300 to the Scholarship Fund from craft sales profits.
 - b. There was a discussion about having Monitor Lodge listed in the Sacramento telephone directory. It would cost about \$18 a month plus 20¢ per call. This was considered rather expensive and further discussion was postponed until the next meeting.
 - c. The Bodelsons are still seeking volunteers to help mail out the newsletters.

d. The chairman asked for volunteers to finish Ted Olson's term on the Membership Committee and also to replace Ted Olson and Muriel Hjersman as trustees. Helen Jensen will complete Ted's three-year term as trustee.

e. Margaret Carlson will be attending a Golden Gate Resort Committee meeting in Pleasanton on June 11.

11. The Crayfish Party will be held on Saturday, August 20, at the home of Lars and Birgitta Östlund. [Note that the date in the Program Book is wrong!]
12. Eivor Pfannkuch showed us a beautiful basket made and donated by Maud Loken for the lodge to use as a Sweden Day door prize.
13. A thank-you note will be sent to Farmer Bob for letting us have our pancake breakfasts on his property and, at the same time, notify him that we are planning another breakfast for October 15.
14. Eleanor Vine read an informative letter she had written to the Grand Lodge about Monitor Lodge in reply to their historian questionnaire in the *Vasa Star*. She was one of very few historians who had taken the time to answer the questionnaire.
15. The treasurer reported that she had transferred lodge funds into certificates of deposit and money market savings for higher interest rates.

- Jean Anderson,
Assistant Secretary



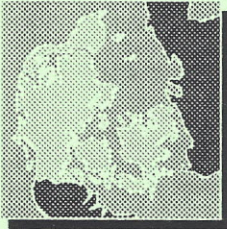
Hjärtliga gratulationer på födelsedagen to the following Monitor members:

- 8/01 - Carl E. Larson
- 8/02 - Alice Swanfeldt
- 8/05 - Sigrid Thorsen
- 8/07 - Louise Center
- 8/08 - Jeanne Hanson
- 8/08 - Durl Van Alstyne
- 8/09 - Paul Gullans
- 8/11 - Sue Bergman
- 8/15 - Lars Ostlund
- 8/17 - Elizabeth Bushnell
- 8/18 - Kristina Marsh
- 8/19 - Charles Badgley
- 8/26 - Birgitta Ostlund
- 8/28 - Jillian Stanley
- 8/29 - Dorothy Kingren
- 8/29 - Gail Nemy
- 9/04 - Erika Lewis
- 9/06 - Helen Tura
- 9/06 - Carol Churkin
- 9/08 - Jean Anderson
- 9/12 - Peggy Carlson
- 9/12 - Muriel Hjersman
- 9/13 - Anne Fors
- 9/16 - Arlie Veis
- 9/18 - David Anholm
- 9/19 - Carl A. Larson
- 9/21 - Ethel Hubbell
- 9/21 - Eleanor Vine
- 9/23 - Britt Marie Anderson
- 9/24 - Jeanne Hagstrom
- 9/24 - Maud Loken
- 9/27 - Julius Holmquist
- 9/29 - Estrid Doscher

DEADLINE
for contributions
to the
October newsletter is
FRIDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER

Member of the Month

Here is The Story of Arlie Veis:



My parents arrived in the United States from Denmark in 1912 with three small children. In

1916, Dad staked out a homestead in Montana, coincidentally on an Indian reservation. I was the last of four more children born on the ranch—with the help of a nurse midwife of good Norwegian stock. Most of our neighbors were Danish, Norwegian, and a few Swedes, too.

I spoke Danish until it came time to attend a small country school four miles away, where one teacher taught 11 children covering five grades. Life on the homestead was difficult and our house was not by any stretch of the imagination fitted for the notoriously cold Montana winters. We had a big pot-bellied stove that was kept stoked with lignite coal from a mine on the homestead, a task that had to be performed throughout the day and at least once during the night. I can remember turning first one side and then the other to the stove to try to keep warm. And the blankets were piled so deep on the bed I could scarcely turn over.

But we had good times, too. My dad had a nice tenor voice and at Christmas we all sat around singing. Dad had brought a book from Denmark with just the words, but he knew all the tunes. Our Christmas tree was made of ground cedar which grows abundantly on the prairie and this was attached to a cedar post. We had real candles set in

holders which were brought from Denmark along with other decorations. There were Saturday night dances at a community hall a few miles away. We smaller children had sliding contests across the well-waxed dance floor during intermission. In the summer, there were picnics and baseball games and, best of all, home-made ice cream.

During the dust bowl days, we moved into the town of Scobey, where I graduated from high school. Turning 18, I signed up for the draft and entered the armed services in March of 1943. I served three years, two of which in the South Pacific. I was with the first occupational forces to enter Japan after the armistice.

I had done my basic training in California and my Army Specialized Training Program at Stanford University, so I came back to California after the war. Here I met Ruth, my wife of 43 years and we had two children, Karin and Jon. I graduated from Strutz School of Watchmaking in 1947 and went to work for Devons Jewelers for 35 years, most of which as Service Manager of 12 stores. I retired in 1986.

The whole family joined Monitor Lodge in 1962. Our children became members of the Children's Club, which Ruth and I directed for five years. I was lodge chairman in 1968 and also served as Vice District Master that year and became District Master in 1969. I also served as treasurer as well as in other offices and I guess I've been on almost every sort of committee anyone could dream up. Music has always been a part of my life and I've sung in the same church choir for 48 years. I have also been a member of three Scandinavian choral groups.

Although I am 100% Danish (and often espouse that fact, especially to the Swedes), I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this Swedish organization and have never had any problem being a "Danish Swede." After all, my children are half Swedish and they, too, have been active members of Monitor Lodge. Karin is still a member and sings in our chorus. I am glad the Vasa Order accommodates all Scandinavians. I will continue as I have in the past to strive to make a positive contribution Monitor's success. (Just remember I'm a Dane.) Länge leve Kungen! — but I didn't say which one, so I'll toast them both.

— Arlie E. Veis

August-September Dues Anniversaries

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

Jean Anderson
Audrey Fales
Carl Larson
Laurine Copen
Camilla and Gilbert Holm
Vickie Lydecker
Robert and Ann-Catrin Titus
Milo Ahlstrand
Göran Johansson
John and Mai Loken
Kristina and William Marsh

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



Friendship



Several of our members need our thoughts, prayers, cards, and visits: Audrey Fales, Muriel Hjersman, Viola Hallen,

Alice Swanfeldt, and Helen Tura. Alice lost her husband and Audrey lost her first-born daughter early this summer. Our hearts go out also to the family of Ted Olson. Here are the addresses to two members in nursing homes:

Muriel Hjersman
Hillhaven Sherwood
Convalescent Hospital
4700 Elvas Ave., Rm 8 A
Sacramento, CA 95819
Office phone: 454-5752

Helen Tura
Brittany Health Care Center
3900 Garfield Ave., Rm 309
Carmichael, CA 95608
Office phone: 481-6455

Tusen Tack

from all of us to Lars and Birgitta Ostlund for another successful *Kräftkalas* at their beautiful, new country home. Good food, swinging music, and wonderful Swedish fellowship!

Remember, we still need help to put the newsletter together and mailed each month. Won't you please call the Bodelsons at 485-0515 and offer a couple of hours of your time.

Roster Changes

A sincerely welcome to several new members:

Daniel and Violet Backman
4025 Hancock Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821
487-7206

and
Harold and Beatrice Mattson
4413 Engle Road
Sacramento, CA 95821
481-2347

and
Dorothy Mogford
181 Whispering Pines
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
635-4541

We also have a couple of address changes:

Marianne Ek
3500 Green Meadow Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691
372-7824

and
Jeannine Lokey
919 North Terry Street
Golden, CO 80401
(No phone number yet)

Any other changes or corrections?

Midsummer

Our *Midsommarfest* was held at Tom and Annika Anderson's beautiful ranch home—a perfect place for the occasion.

We all enjoyed decorating *Majstången*, and there was dancing, lots of Swedish music, volley ball, a horse shoe tournament, sack races, dart board games, and the children especially enjoyed the swimming. Above all, the potluck was very Swedish, tasty, and plentiful. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. If you couldn't come, you really missed out on something special. This is something to never miss again!

A big TACK, TACK to the Andersons for a memorable day!

The Children's Club

is about to resume its activities. Here is the fall schedule:

- Children up to age 11 will meet at 4:15 on alternate Mondays, starting September 19, at the Coloma Community Center. For more information, call Christi Kagstrom at 641-8770.

- New this fall is a youth club for youngsters in junior high and high school to meet monthly starting Friday, September 2, at 5:00 PM before the regular lodge meetings.



At the September meeting, we will be brainstorming what

activities the participants want to have. Everyone, please come with lots of ideas plus a healthy appetite because pizza will be served.

— Peggy Carlson, Youth Club Director

Land of Lakes

The Swedish Lake Registry (*Sjöregistret*) has now confirmed not Finland but Sweden is the land of lakes. At 92,409 lakes, Sweden has 36,397 more lakes than Finland. The registry also has defined what constitutes a lake: depth is of no consequence, but a lake has to have an area of at least one hectare. About 39,000 of Sweden's lakes have not been named. Most of the lakes are located in the northern part of the country.

(From *Swedish Press*, April 1994)

For information about Monitor Lodge, call Jean Anderson, 682-7438, or Ethel Johnson, 457-0966; Vice Chair Ingrid Kennedy, 638-3212; or Secretary Marianne Ek, 372-7824.