



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 19, No. 3

March
February 1995



OUR NEXT MEETING WILL be held on **Friday, March 3, starting at 7 pm.** We will be initiating new members who couldn't come to our January meeting. This is a business meeting only, but our cultural leader has a nice program planned and we will have special refreshments. We do need to take care of some important business, so please plan to attend.

Chairman's Message

Wow! What a fantastic February social! I can't believe the record crowd we had. We served well over 150 people, including children. And would you believe it, we didn't even run out of food!

I am sorry for the inconvenience and crowded conditions because we didn't expect that big a turn-out and had not set up enough seating places.

We really want to thank everyone who helped make it a success, including our wonderful pancake cooks Ed Dahlberg, Donn Stafford, and Herb Johnson. This time, Ernie Skorheim was at home really sick in bed, so he missed out on all the fun. (Hope you have made a quick recovery, Ernie.) We especially appreciate the help of our new member Dorothy Mogford and her husband, who isn't even a member yet. They worked in the

kitchen all afternoon and did the clean-up, too, along with Lillian Stafford. Thanks also to our very new members Dick and Gloria Eriksson who helped serve. That's the way to really get involved. Another new member, Helen Starkey, had been up until midnight the night before, making a batch of *limpa*, although she had to go to work the next morning. That's dedication! You are all appreciated, including our bartenders, Dale Ingvarsen and Gale Nemy who were kept really busy. So many members helped cook and prepare the food ahead of time, set up, serve, etc., etc. We are really starting out the new year with a bang. Thanks to all of you!

It was nice to have a formal, joint installation ceremony together with Sierra Kronan. Our District Master, Phyllis Peterson, along with our Grand Lodge Deputy, Helen Mingrim, and Myrtle Widmark did the honors. We even had guests from far away: Glen and Charlotte Carter from Eureka and Anita Sandberg from Sweden. We also enjoyed seeing some of our members who cannot always make it to our meetings. It makes everything worth while.

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*

Nål och Tråd

Our March meetings will be devoted to preparations for the Scandinavian Festival. We hope more Monitor members will join us: you are all welcome!

Tisdagen den 14 mars, kl. 19.00 (7 pm), hos:

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

Tisdagen den 28 mars, kl. 19.00, hos:

Chris/Karin/Viola Bodelson
2644 La Mesa Way
482-9762 or 485-0815



Raffles

■ We have tickets for the **Golden Gate Convention 50/50 Raffle**. They are \$1 each or six for \$5. See Gail Nemy at the next meeting or call her. She can be reached evenings at her home phone 481-0373. The drawing will be held during the convention banquet program, Saturday night, April 22.

■ Myrtle Widmark has **Sweden Day raffle tickets** for \$1 each or six for \$5. A total of \$500 will be given out in prizes (\$150 first prize, \$100 second prize, \$75 third prize, etc.) Myrtle will have the tickets at our next meeting and can also be reached at 481-4056.

Scandinavian Festival, April 1

With only a little over a month to go, we really have to step up preparations. Our remaining planning meetings will be held on **February 20** and **March 27, 7 pm**, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue.

Open-face sandwiches have become one of the most popular offerings at the Scandinavian Festival. Last year, approximately 400 people enjoyed our creations. It takes lots of work by lots of people—and it's lots of fun. If you'd like to help with the sandwiches, please sign up at Monitor's meeting on March 3 or call Chris Bodelson, 482-9762, or Karin Bodelson, 485-0815, to discuss when and how you can be part of the crew. Help is needed on Friday, March 31, 10 am-2 pm, at Chris Bodelson's house, 2644 La Mesa Way, and at the festival on Saturday, April 1, in shifts of any length between 8 am and 2 pm.

Monitor also has a craft table at the festival and we need articles to sell. Examples of things that our members have made to sell are totebags, aprons, magnets, key chains, *dalahäst* pins, floral head wreaths, wall hangings, cookie recipe books, wood ornaments, etc. We need members to help make articles for this year. How about all you wood workers, needlework members, etc., helping with articles to sell? Call our festival representative Ethel Johnson at 457-0966 or Craft Chairman Myrtle Widmark at 481-4056.

You can also call John or Jewel Wright directly if you can help with set-up, especially the night before the festival.

If you would like a nice, neat little job or want to take a break from your other duties, Ingrid Kennedy is looking to sign up people who can serve coffee in about one-hour shifts during the day. If so, call Ingrid as soon as possible at 638-3212.

We need lots of volunteers for lots of things. Please sign up well in advance either with the committee chairs directly or with our festival representative, Ethel Johnson. For general information, you can also call the festival coordinator, Ellen Harrod, at 362-5273.



- 3/01 - Astrid Horyza
- 3/02 - Dorothy Scherer
- 3/04 - Karin Dorey
- 3/04 - Laurine Coplen
- 3/05 - Ellen Herting
- 3/06 - Berthell Nelson
- 3/08 - Jack Doscher
- 3/12 - Kathleen Lagomarsino
- 3/13 - Henry Hjersman
- 3/15 - Linda Johnson
- 3/17 - Kenneth Carlson
- 3/17 - Donn Stafford
- 3/17 - Gertrude Kauffman
- 3/18 - Edwin J. Cook
- 3/20 - Helen Jenson
- 3/26 - Robert Johnson
- 3/24 - Gerda Anderson
- 3/24 - Faye Powell
- 3/26 - Lennart Thornros
- 3/28 - Daniel Backman
- 3/29 - Joyce Burns
- 3/29 - Kjell Hakansson
- 3/30 - Frank Lindahl
- 3/30 - Arthur Niemoller

Happenings . . .

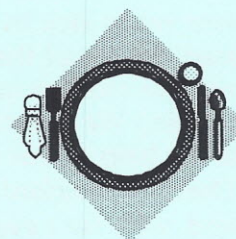
★ The Sons of Norway are having another **Torsk & Lutefisk dinner with Meatballs & Lefse** on March 25 at their hall on 770 Darina Avenue. Dinner will be served 5:00-7:30 pm, followed by dancing to live music at 8:00 pm. Suggested donations are \$13.50 for adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. For more information, contact Irene Karlstad 381-8934 or Pearl Lemkuil 483-4496

★ The Lindbergh Lodge in Palo Alto is sponsoring a *Viking Stomp* held at Moffett Field Officers' Mess on March 12, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm. This is a tea dance/luncheon with music from the big band era—all at a bargain cost of \$20. Lindbergh Lodge must have all reservations by 6 March. Checks should be sent to Bea Andrews, 610 Almont Ave., Los Altos, CA 94022, designating choice of Chicken Parmesan or Beef Burgundy.



New Cookbook

We are going to be working on a new cookbook. This one will be strictly Swedish recipes and not only *smörgåsbord* dishes. So put your thinking caps on and come up with all those good things you love to cook and eat or what your mother used to make. This is a project that *Nål och Tråd* is planning.



Member of the Month - Ronny Kågström

Ronny was born in Malmberget, Sweden. Malmberget is located approximately 100 American miles above the Arctic circle. In this part of the country, you not only get the midnight sun in the summer and long, dark days with northern lights in the winter, but you also live in the midst of mountainous tundra country where lapa herd their reindeer. Ronny grew up with skiing, skating, back packing, and other outdoor activities. He still tries to get in some skiing and fishing once in a while, but it's hard to squeeze it in on the calendar.



Ronny is married to Christi, whom he met while she was an exchange student living with his best friend's family. They have three children: Peter 7, Anna 5, and Laura 1 year old. He loves to spend time in the yard, building and repairing things and exploring how things work with the children. One of his and the children's favorite activities at home is to get down on the floor and *brottas* (wrestle).

The family likes to travel. They go to visit Ronny's family in Sweden as often as possible, usually every other year or so. All of Ronny's family (father, mother, brother, sister) still lives in Sweden in the town where Ronny grew up. Almost all of Christi's family lives here in California, except one sister in Montana, so the Kågströms try to "hit the road" every other month or so.

Ronny is currently splitting his time between two jobs—one as a financial manager at a company he has worked for the last eight years, the other as a consultant with school districts in need of business and financial advise.

INITIATION

of new members will take place at our next meeting, Friday, March 3. Prospective members need to be there by 6:45. When you arrive, please ask for someone from the membership committee so we know that you are present. If you are a prospective member ready for initiation and have any questions, call Jean Anderson at 682-7438.

For More Information about Monitor Lodge,

please contact either one of the following members:

- Membership Committee members Jean Anderson 682-7438, Ethel Johnson 457-0966, or Eivor Pfannkuch 673-5917
- Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-7824
- Vice Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330
- Chairman Margaret Carlson, 742-9346

From the Editor

The deadline for the April issue of *The Monitor* is **Friday, 17 March**. Please send your typed or hand printed input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, or call her at 638-3212.

Wishing

Jeanne Hagstrom
speedy recovery from
recent surgery!



Dues Anniversaries

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

John and Ruby Anderson
Annalena Bronson
Margaret Carlson
Louise and Thomas Center
Carol Churkin
Ardeth and Melvin Coster
Deidre Dahlberg
Elizabeth and Harry Johnson
Gibson and Dorothy Kingren
Leo Krastins
Carl A. Larson
Wendy Strand
Alice Swanfeldt
Maude Udvardy
Richard Westrup

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.



Ditt och Datt

✓ Would you like a membership card or a receipt for the dues? In either case, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope when you mail your dues to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy. Or just see Gail at the next meeting.

✓ Library books (in Swedish and English) are available at our meetings for you to look over or check out.

✓ SWEDEN DAY will be on June 3 at Cozzolina Park, Half Moon Bay.

► Condensed Minutes from February 12 Business Meeting ◀

1. Margaret Carlsson called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm and roll was called.

2. Two membership applications have been received.

3. Last month's pea soup social yielded a profit of \$584.50.

4. There has been talk about discontinuing Sweden Day. Bylaws resolutions will be presented at the Eureka convention.

5. There was a nice article about Monitor Lodge in the last issue of the *Vasa Star*.

6. Peggy Carlson proposed that pins be presented at the Mother's Day social to long-term members of the children's group.

7. The meeting discussed national anthems, volunteer sign-ups, door prizes, and other matters relating to the upcoming Scandinavian Festival.

8. A committee was formed to look into a proposal to increase lodge dues, consisting of Arlie Veis, Kurt Pfannkuch, Gail Nemy, and Betty Schoepf.

9. The annual *Smörgåsbord* entails an overwhelming amount of work and the profit was small last year. The meeting discussed replacing it this year with a scaled-down *smörgåsbord* at the Glögg Party in December.

10. Discussions are underway to have the lodge subsidize a catered barbecue at the April anniversary meeting. A vote will be taken at the next meeting.

11. Audrey Fales proposed that sponsors of new members help them become actively involved as "worker bees" and committee members.

12. Secretary Marianne Ek asked that she receive copies of all letters sent on behalf of the lodge. Copies of correspondence must be maintained in lodge files for history and continuity.

13. The Cultural Leader has received a request for a report on our lodge activities. It will become part of a book available to all lodges.

14. Ingrid Kennedy has order forms for anyone interested in a made-in-Sweden "affordable alternative" to the Swedish national costume for \$209.

15. Bills and financial reports were read.

16. Eleanor Vine has sent in a very nice historian's report to the district historian.

17. A proposal to provide two scholarships for the Language Camp was referred to the Scholarship Committee. There is now \$4,907.32 in the scholarship fund. Checks should be made out to the institutions, not to the recipients.

18. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

— Brian Stockham,
Assistant Recording Secretary



Program Book

Our 1995 Program Books are in and available at our meetings. If you need one mailed to you, please send a check for \$2.50 with your request to our Secretary, Marianne Ek.

However, several corrections need to be made:

✓ Under the list of officers, add Outer Guard John Wright.

✓ Sweden Day delegates are Myrtle Widmark and Audrey Fales.

✓ Correct the list of auditors to read:

Liesma Krastins (1 yr)

Arlie Veis (2 yrs)

Richard Westrup (3 yrs)

✓ Add Membership Committee:

Ethel Johnson (1 yr)

Jean Anderson (2 yrs)

Eivor Pfannkuch (3 yrs)

✓ Add Scholarship Committee:

Christine Bodelson (1 yr)

Jewel Wright (2 yrs)

Ronny Kagstrom (3 yrs)

✓ The *Sillfrukost* is set for May 27, not May 17.

✓ Our Midsummer fest on June 24 will be at the home of Tom and Annika Anderson.

✓ We also have the following recent address changes:

Robert and Ann Catrin Titus

564 38th Street

Sacramento, CA 95816

452-6504



Madeleine Hallstrom

Engelbrektsgatan 2

55338 Jönköping, Sweden

Dale and Mary Ingvarlsen

11651 Boom Pointer Way

Gold River, CA 95670

Lars and Birgitta Ostlund

12030 Cresthill Drive

Elk Grove, CA 95624

David Anholm's postal address is Yolo, CA 95696

Judy Beal's postal address is Repressa, CA 95671



Swedish National Dress

If you're interested in a dress, billed as an "affordable alternative" to the Swedish national costume, Ingrid Kennedy has received information with photo and order forms about a lightweight dress, ready-made in Sweden. It consists of a blue jumper with a side-seam pocket and yellow apron, both with embroidered daisies ribbon, and a long-sleeve white blouse with lace trimming on collar and cuffs. It comes in girls' sizes 1-14 and women's sizes S, M, L, and XL. The prize for girls' sizes ranges from \$112 to \$142. All women's sizes cost \$209. They promise 7-14 days for delivery (in time for the Scandinavian Festival perhaps?).



Scandinavian Trolls



When a Swede takes a walk through the forest at dawn, he sees the silhouettes of trolls everywhere. The Swedish forests are full of trolls but they are not limited to the forests—trolls seem to be everywhere.

Trolls are, like the Swedish *tomte*, supernatural and they generally do not make appearances in front of humans. But in contrast to the *tomte*, *näcken* (the evil spirit of the water), *skogsrådet* (siren of the woods), and other loners in the Germanic and Celtic cultures, trolls live in families or bands. And whether they are gigantic or dwarf-like, they are always very ugly. In the old tales

trolls could be both evil and kind. They would be incredibly generous with their riches when a human helped them but heartless when they robbed children, princesses, and cattle. The fact that they were not terribly bright lent them a human quality that also made them likable.



John Bauer (1882-1918) transformed the trolls of the folk tales into the fantasy creatures

we are now so familiar with. He was the son of a Jönköping butcher and had no artistic traditions from home. He was so talented, however, that he soon became Sweden's most widespread artist. Thanks to new color lithographic methods, his beloved illustrations in popular books like *Tomtar och Troll* reached virtually all Swedes. Other artists continued to give us an array of fantastic troll personalities, including Gustaf Tenggren (1896-1970) who was head of Walt Disney Studios when many of the fairy tale films were created.

Trolls are now very much an international phenomenon and some of their popularity must be attributed to Tove Jansson and her Finnish Moomin trolls. Tove drew her first Moomin troll on the wall of the outhouse at the family's summer cottage fifty years ago. It was the ugliest figure she could think of but the world quickly fell in love with the whole menagerie. In the original troll stories, it was the trolls who were supposed to be scary in an otherwise friendly environment. Tove Jansson turned that around with her friendly extended Moomin family that lives

in a tough world where environmental disasters follow each other. Moomin books make delightful reading in 31 languages, written for children but loved by all ages. The Finnish china manufacturer Arabia markets Moomin figures. Tove Jansson now writes only for adults, but hers and other trolls will live on. And you never know what new trolls are waiting in the shadows of the forest.

From Swedish Press, January 1993



Good News

Sweden is a good country to live in according to the United Nations Human Development Report. It has ranked the standard of living in 173 countries and Sweden comes fourth after Canada, Japan, and Switzerland. When it comes to equality between the sexes, Sweden comes out top even through Swedish women still only earn 90 percent of men's wages.

Contrary to common belief, Sweden does not have the highest rate of suicides in the world. Finland, Denmark, France, and Germany all have a higher percentage than Sweden.

— From Swedish Press, July 1994



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