



The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 19, No. 5

May 1995



THIS IS A REALLY BUSY month for Monitor members, starting with the *Mors Dag* family dinner at Wisteria Hall on Friday, May 5. We'll have refreshments at 6:00 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM. The dinner will cost \$5.00 for men and \$2.50 for women. The men in our lodge will be cooking the dinner and waiting on us women and mothers hand and foot. What a nice treat! They always come up with something good to eat as well as a nice program. The Children's Club will have pins to present to their members, and maybe they will perform for us also. We will conclude the evening with a short business meeting.

Chairman's Message

Time flies when you're busy and having fun. April certainly was a busy month and May is already upon us, promising to be busier yet. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend all the special events. There's a Swedish event every weekend: our monthly meeting on Friday, May 5; the "Sweden in Bloom" musical festival on Saturday, May 13; the Kingsburg 30th Annual Swedish Festival May 18-21; and our *Sillfrukost* on Saturday, May 27. [More information about each event elsewhere in this newsletter.]

What a turn-out we had for our 83rd anniversary celebration! It certainly was a treat not to be in the kitchen for a change. Hope you all had enough to eat. What can I say? It certainly wasn't Swedish food, but I hope you enjoyed it. Thanks for coming.

Inez Norling celebrated her 98th birthday with us. One of our new members, Lou Johnson, entertained with classical guitar music. We had quite a few out-of-town guests and a good time was had by all.

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*

Our dear former member Richard Forsty passed away April 9, deeply missed by his wife Helen, son James, grandchildren, two sisters, and one brother. Born in 1909 in South Dakota, Richard was a merchant seaman, auto mechanic, and carpenter. Besides being a member of Monitor for 37 years, he was also a member of Sierra Kronan Lodge in Roseville, the Sacramento Finlandia Club, and the Rocklin Historical Society. At his own request, there will be no funeral services. Remembrances may be made to the Scandinavian lodge of your choice or the American Heart Association.

Happy Birthday

to the following Monitor members:

- 5/03 - Deidre Dahlberg
- 5/04 - Debbie Nickless
- 5/05 - Betty J. Schoepf
- 5/05 - Louise Sims
- 5/05 - Don Johnson
- 5/06 - Elizabeth Coleman
- 5/11 - Christine Bodelson
- 5/12 - Charles Linn
- 5/12 - Myrtle Widmark
- 5/14 - LaVerne Gilbertson
- 5/15 - Nancy Misenti
- 5/16 - B. Kay Ericson
- 5/18 - Mirjam Auger
- 5/18 - Charles Nelson
- 5/18 - John Wright
- 5/25 - Frances Misenti
- 5/25 - George Uffens

★

For More Information about Monitor Lodge, Please Contact

- 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



Condensed Minutes from the April 11 Business Meeting

1. Margaret Carlson called the meeting to order and roll was called.
2. Seven membership applicants have not yet been initiated, some of whom have received invitations to previous initiations. The membership committee has a list of several people interested in learning more about our lodge. They will be contacted both personally and by letter.
3. Meeting minutes from March stand as published.
4. There were over 1,000 paid entrants to the Scandinavian Festival. Final dollar figures were not yet available.
5. We had 101 adults and 4 children attending the anniversary barbecue dinner. The lodge contributed \$320.41 towards the cost of members' dinners.
6. The meeting discussed and voted on 11 resolutions submitted for the District Meeting to be held in April in Eureka. Resolution subjects covered establishment of a District Hall of Fame; the amount of convention assistance from the District Lodge; annual scholarship announcement; biennial Membership Seminar; Cultural and Heritage Seminar; fund raising for a Visiting Fund; requirement for the District to maintain four specific funds; convention expenses for special appointees; instruction for newly elected district officers; establishment of district petty cash fund; and changes to the Sweden Day Bylaws.
7. Correspondence included several cards of anniversary congratulations from various lodges.
8. The secretary read a report from the Sweden Day planning committee. Entrance fee will be \$3.00. Each lodge will donate a gift for the raffle.
9. This year's crayfish party will be held at the home of Peggy and Ken Carlson.
10. Arrangements were discussed for the herring breakfast and the Mother's Day dinner.
11. The lodge will donate \$25 to the scholarship fund in remembrance of Richard Forsty.
12. Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were read.

— Brian Stockham, Ass't Secretary

Sillfrukost

This is a real Swedish herring brunch with all the trimmings. It's one event our new members don't want to miss! It takes place on Saturday, May 27 (program book has wrong date!), starting with refreshments at 10:30 AM. For planning purposes, this event is by reservation only. Make sure to call Eivor or Kurt Pfannkuch 673-5917 by 15 May.

Again this year, Eivor and Kurt have graciously offered the use of their beautiful back yard at 1921 Columbia Drive, Yuba City. It's a smooth and scenic drive up highway 99. Just before you get to Yuba City, turn right on Bogue Road, go about three blocks, and turn left on Columbia Drive. Please car pool and offer to take someone who can't drive. BRING CHAIRS AND TABLES!

HELP WANTED

All available men are needed for our **Mors Dag** dinner: kitchen help, set-up, serving, entertainment, clean-up—anything would be appreciated. For more information, check with Ernie Skorheim, 482-7039.



Other May Events

★ **Sweden in Bloom.** The 4th annual "Sweden in Bloom" musical festival will be held on Saturday, May 13, 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM, at the BPOE Elks Club, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. This nonprofit Swedish community event will be featuring some 6-8 performing groups from the United States and Sweden. There will also be special Swedish heritage exhibits and children's activities. For more information, call 415/591-3113.

★ **The Kingsburg Festival.** This is Kingsburg's 30th annual Swedish Festival and it will be held Thursday-Sunday, May 18-21. The event is sponsored by the Kingsburg Chamber of Commerce. June Hess at Svensk Butik, 209/987-5119, has more information.

◆ Member of the Month - Jill Stockham ◆

I was born in Stockholm, only child of Nils and Sigrid Arglander. My mother had been reading an American novel about a nurse named Jill and that's how I got my name. Mother never quite approved of the fact that I didn't give Swedish names to my own children.

Since I had lost my father at age five, one of the programs at that time enabled me to spend summers on a farm at Norrtälje. I started a "singing career" at age three singing to the grocery store owner for tomatoes. I advanced to singing from the top of piles of hay during the summers on the farm. By the time I was 8 or 9, I was singing on a well-known children's radio show and saved enough money to buy a big doll.

My professional singing career ended as ballet and gymnastics took priority. I was part of a gymnastics team, and we once performed for the King and Queen at the Stockholm Town Hall. I baby sat whenever possible. The money was welcome but I also loved kids. After high school, I had a year of business

school and then began working at a local trade union office.

In 1959, when I was 18, my mother and I went to America as au pair workers. We both worked for families in the TV entertainment industry. Mother worked for Jack and Mary Benny for quite some time before returning to Sweden.

In the meantime, I met my first husband—to my mother's dismay, since I never returned to Sweden to live. Over the next 12 years, we had three daughters and one son, living in the North Los Angeles area. My husband worked as an autobody man and later as a stuntman in movies such as "Planet of the Apes." When we divorced, I moved with my two youngest daughters to Big Bear Lake. I worked as a teacher's aid and later as a receptionist for Bear Valley Community Hospital.

This is where Brian and I met and we were married in 1981. We tired of shoveling snow and

moved back down to the "flatlands," settling in Canyon Country, north of L.A. Brian went to work for GTE and I worked part-time for a chiropractor.

In 1983, we joined the Swedish Hollywood Club, the oldest Swedish cultural club in Los Angeles and one of the last to still hold its business meetings in Swedish. We visited Sweden in 1984 (only my second trip back since coming here in 1959) and then again in 1986. In 1986, we became charter members of Nordic Heritage Lodge 741, one of several new Vasa lodges in the Los Angeles area.

We moved up here in 1989 and settled in Elk Grove, transferring our Vasa membership to Monitor Lodge where we've made many new friends. I recently completed school and am now a certified massage therapist. In my spare time I enjoy crafts, garage sales, cruises, and spending time with my family, including my grandchildren.

Member Initiation

Heads up, all prospective members! We will have member initiation ceremonies at the June 2 meeting. So if you have submitted your application and paid the necessary fees, make sure to put this date on your calendar. We will not have initiations again until the fall.

Deadline

for the June-July newsletter is **Friday, May 12**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, 638-3212.

Student Picnic

The beginners' Swedish class is joining the intermediate/advanced class for a potluck picnic at the Winterstein's adult education school park on Thursday, June 1, 6:00 pm. The school is situated on Northrup at Morse, going south from Arden on Morse. Former students and teachers are very welcome. *Välkomna!*

My class is progressing nicely. Their reading and dictation is good; speaking is harder. We hold our classes at 520 Calvados at Oxford Street. We do have fun. Our youngest student is 12.

Two of our students are going to the province of Småland, Sweden, this summer. Some of our focus is what to do and say in a foreign country. To be bilingual is an asset.

Trevlig sommar!

— Birgitta Ellis



Nål och Tråd

In May we can bring whatever we are working on and, of course, ideas are always welcome. Please bring the receipts for your supply expenses. We will meet on

Tisdagen den 9 maj kl. 7 e.m. hos
Dorothy Mogford
181 Whispering Pines
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Tel.: 635-4541

Tisdagen den 23 maj kl. 7 e.m.
hos
Inger Thornros
3849 Thornwood Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821
Tel.: 971-4010



Swedish Lesson

Sweden has recently discontinued general use of the 24-hour clock (which the US military still use). It will be more common now to see, for instance 10 e.m. instead of 2200 and 10 f.m. instead 1000. E.m. = *eftermiddagen* (afternoon or evening) and f.m. = *förmiddagen* (meaning before noon or morning).



Program Book

Announcing the names and addresses of our newest members in the April newsletter, we were missing a couple of phone numbers. Here they are:
Gloria Braswell 422-9329
Lou Johnson 272-1568



May Dues Anniversaries

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

Christine Bodelson
Kerstin Doze
Jeanne Hanson
Mimi Hjersman
Astrid Horyza
Charles Johnson
Jeanine Lokey
Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch
Thelma Range
David Swanson
Durl Van Alstyne

Please remember that our dues were recently increased. They are now \$18 a year and are payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the May meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.



Milestone

Our new member Violet Backman is really lucky. A long life seems to be in her genes and she is truly fortunate to keep her mother around longer than most of us. Violet's mother, Ester Carlson, just had her 100th birthday and attributes it partly to clean living: not drinking, not smoking, and eating moderately.

Ester Carlson was born in Sweden in 1895 and came to the United States with her husband and daughter Violet after World War I when life in Sweden was difficult. She lived most of her adult life in Everett, Washington, and, among other things, headed the Lucia program each year. She says the technology of the 20th century kept life interesting and

remembers especially her excitement at the arrival of electric lights and telephones.

— From *Spectrum*, 3/15/95



Postfestival Meeting

The traditional potluck following the Scandinavian Festival is scheduled for Monday, May 1, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Norwegian Activities

The sons and daughters of Norway have a big event coming up to celebrate both their national day and their 66 anniversary. On May 13, they will have a pea soup dinner with folk dancing demonstrations and general dancing starting at 6:30 PM at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue. Tickets are \$7 for adults. For more information, contact Tove-Lise Miller at 364-8704 or Florence Smith at 783-8830.

■ The Norwegian lodge has a very successful regular pancake breakfast at the Norway Hall every Sunday 9 AM - 12 noon. They serve pancakes, bacon or sausage, juice, and coffee for only \$3.

■ Looking ahead a bit, there will be a Norwegian Fair on Saturday, September 9, for antiques, tools, crafts, food, clothes, furniture, etc. If you're interested in buying or selling, call Thelma White, 363-7276, for more information.





Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
9026 Chantal Way
Sacramento, CA 95829

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 771
Sacramento, CA

DATED MATERIAL